

Subject: Monthly Activity Report for AGREEN

Date: August 31, 2020

Site: Long Semadoh, Sarawak, Malaysia

Title: Environment – Forest systems as an important the source of protein



The Lun Bawang community of Long Semadoh still practices game hunting in their communal forests.

Being indigenous, they are permitted by law to hunt for their own consumption but are prohibited from selling game meat.

Hunting is a skill passed down through “on-the-job” training as young boys follow older male relatives on hunting expeditions.

While there are no fixed hunting season in Long Semadoh, hunting expeditions are usually organised before the paddy planting and harvesting season to stock up protein. Game meat are then usually processed into *narar* (smoked meat) for storage. In the bygone era of longhouses,

game is usually portioned and shared with every household in the same house.

The favourite game meat is definitely the wild boar. Apart from immediate consumption and smoked, wild boar meat is also made into *telu'*; where the board meat is cut into small pieces and lacto-fermented with salt and cooked rice. The excess fat from wild boards is also rendered and stored as lard.

Apart from the Bornean bearded pig, the community regularly brings home the Bornean Sambar deer, Bornean Yellow and Red Muntjac, and mousedeers. Their customs dictate that they just take what's needed for their own sustenance, and they take whatever game that they can get on an expedition.



Left: Young wild boar being processed by first singeing off all of its hairs on woodfire

Centre: Bounty from the night's hunt; Bornean Yellow Muntjac

Right: Bamboo cannister as the holding container for lacto-fermented wild boar. The bamboo cannisters are traditionally buried in the ground or kept in the water of the paddy fields to keep the temperature low for long periods of fermentation and storage.

Traditional Hunting Equipments



Above: Blowpipe spears made from hollowed out solid wood
Left: Blow pipe darts made from bamboo and palm piths. The tips of the dart used to be laced with poison from the "tajem" or "ipoh" tree.

With the rifle being introduced by the British colonialists in the early 20th century, almost no one hunts with the blowpipe anymore.

Current Hunting Equipments:



Left: *Bakang* – Rattan-weave contraption to be carried on the backs to bring back heavy loads of game. With the flexible weave and rope reinforcements, hunters can carry loads of up to 80Kg.
Top Right: Young Lun Bawang hunter, Lucas Liun with a rifle and *bakang*.
Bottom Right: Lun Bawang *karef* (machete) and *yu perwe* (craft knife) that's used for skinning game.

A traditional method of hunting using dog packs are still practiced today, although the wild game is usually dispatched with the rifle from a close distance, instead of the traditional spear.



Above: Lun Bawang hunting party with their pack of dogs



Left: Protein from the environment also comes in the form of the highly-prized *luang* (semah mahseer). Fishing, using the net is usually done in accordance to the weather changes and moon phase.

In summary, the forests and its systems provide important sources of protein, whether in the form of large game animals or fishes from the water systems in the highland valley of Long Semadoh; with the important caveat that the traditional skills required to procure these food sources and the customs of food-source conservation are passed down to the younger generations.