Indonesia Efforts in Accelerating Orangutan Repatriation From Thailand to Conserve from Illegal Trading (Repatriation between 2004-2017)

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Abstract

The aims of this article are to explain orangutan’s repatriation process from Thailand and analysis Indonesia efforts in orangutan’s repatriation process. Generally, orangutan repatriation process according to IUCN Guideline for Management of Confiscated Animals. The initial assessment include on species identification, IUCN conservation status and priorities, health check, fitness to survive, reason for confiscation, and country of origin and arrival. Repatriation of great apes may be difficult, both politically and logistically, but this is needed to encourage the restoration of great ape ecosystems. During this repatriation, Many challenges are faced by Indonesia includes international distrust, lack of commitment and funding, and military coups.

Keywords: Indonesia Efforts, Orangutan Repatriation, Illegal Trading

1. Introduction

Worth between USD$ 7-23 billion annually, the international illegal wildlife trade (IWT) has become the fourth largest criminal market in the world. In the Asia-Pacific region, the live pet trade is an increasing driver of biodiversity loss. This is an acute problem in developing countries such as Southeast Asia which does not have the regulatory capacity to manage their natural assets. Instead of promoting the economy, poor resource management leads to acts of corruption, and conflict (UNDOC). Excessive exploitation of smuggling and trafficking in wildlife decreases the population of certain species which can harm a country's economy (Takandjandji and Sawitri, 2016).

Indonesia must anticipate the advancing of international wildlife crimes-new international crimes-through international forums including cybersecurity, protection of objects and cultural reserves from illegal trade, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing) and wildlife and other forest products illegal trading. International cooperation is required to be more comprehensive considering the significant losses (Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2017). Repatriation is one of the ways to obtain Indonesian wildlife species for the special benefit of conservation organizations. Orangutan repatriation scheme between Indonesia and Thailand start from an investigation by the Thai Royal Forestry Police Division on November 22, 2013, that found smuggled over 115 orangutans at the Safari World Zoo in Bangkok Thailand. Safari World Zoo claims that young orangutans are one of the successes of breeding programs. However, after a DNA test conducted by the Orangutan Foundation, about 72 orangutans were smuggled into Thailand. Although Thailand ratified CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) in 1983, it did not protect endangered species, which were smuggled from Indonesia. (Ariastiti 2008).

Repatriation of orangutans through Indonesia and Thailand cooperation is one of the international collaborations in mainstreaming transnational crime. Both individuals and the organization, repatriation process is usually a difficult experience. In this case, Repatriation of great apes may be difficult, both politically and logistically, but this is needed to encourage the restoration of great ape ecosystems. Besides that, for anticipate of the adverse effects of re-introduction to the release area must be carried out, including a clear commitment to restore these habitats when great apes have been repatriated (B. Beck et al. 2007). The acceleration of the orangutan repatriation process from Thailand has become an opportunity and challenge for Indonesia to conserve their resource assets.

2. Orangutan’s Repatriation Process From Thailand

After report from the Thailand Royal Forestry Police Division on November 22, 2003, that 115 orangutans had been exploited at the Bangkok Safari Park. CITES then uploaded it in CITES Article (1V) inviting the response of Indonesia NGOs and the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) to send letters to conduct negotiations regarding repatriation. In 2007, Before repatriation, confiscated animal must get 6
Initial assessment for legal document according to IUCN Guideline for Management of Confiscated live Organisism include species identification, IUCN conservation status and priorities, health check, fitness to survive, reason for confiscation, and country of origin and arrival. The initial assessment is shown by the following chart.

Orangutan has identified in the status of protected animals included in the Appendix I by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna). While based on the IUCN document (International Union on Conservation Nation) shows that orangutans are classified as critically endangered species whose status is considered emergency and must be conserved. Orangutans also include protected wildlife that must always be preserved and supported by their existence according to the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No.P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018. This criteria show that importance of orangutan repatriation should be implementate.

Indonesia has support by Kao Pratubchang Conservation Center and the Orangutan Foundation Thailand for Orangutan Health checks and DNA. Repatriation health check in primate is very important to do because of their close relations to human especially zoonotic potential. The result of this health check will be use in transportation planning (Boonyarittichaikij et al. 2006). Boonyarittichaikij et al. (2006) found that several of 55 orangutan have low BRC and low hematocrit which indicate anemia stress.

Indonesia government chartered military aircraft owned by the Indonesia’s Navy facilitates transportation in the logistics process. These transportation activities are in accordance with the IATA (International Airline Transportation Association) and IUCN Guidelines standards also export and import permit release from Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). BOSF Indonesia has supported and provided on-purpose build metal and aluminum moving cages which have a value of over 6000,000 baht (WWFT 2006).

3. Indonesia Efforts in Orangutan Repatriation From Thailand
The complexity conflict of interstate and intrastate has become challenge to the field and to method of conflict resolution (Mapendere 2010). In this case, Indonesia using variety of diplomacy include one track and second track diplomacy for increasing commitment on repatriation because of many challenge are faced.
by Indonesia such as international distrust, lack of commitment and funding, and military coups. Variety diplomacy was identified as the best methods for conflict resolution (Mapendere, 2010). Through this repatriation scheme, Indonesia and Thailand have successfully repatriated 48 orangutans (2006), 6 orangutans (2007) and 14 orangutans (2015).42

3.1 One Track Diplomacy
De Magalhaes (1988) describes Official Diplomacy or One Track Diplomacy, "an instrument of foreign investment through the use of intermediaries mutually recognized by the respective parties". For rising commitment in orangutan repatriation, Ministry of Forest and Environment launch an Action Plant for Orangutan called “Strategi dan Rencana Aksi Konservasi Orangutan 2007-2017” that include orangutan conservation through repatriation. Indonesia through Ministry of Forest and Environment and Embassy in Thailand are negotiating with Thailand Government for Repatriation Process.

3.2 Second Track Diplomacy
The Second Track Diplomacy is officially carried out by international organizations that have membership in several countries to influence public opinion. Montville (1991) defines Track Two Diplomacy as, "unofficial, informal interaction between adversary groups, to influence public opinion, organize human and material resources in ways that might help resolve their conflict". The role of second track diplomacy does not mean replacing one track diplomacy, but as a supporter and influence on one track diplomacy decisions.

Two Track Diplomacy was initiated and promoted by Profauna Indonesia which carried out activities include (1) NGO coalition negotiated and urged the Thai and ASEAN governments through petitions to accelerate the repatriation process. At the suggestion of PM Thaksin at the Conference of Parties, ASEAN formed the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). Through the Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) and the International Primate Protection League (IPPL), the NGO coalition held a press conference and influenced more than 60 international organizations and signed in protest against the smuggling of orangutans by the Thai Government. (2) Profauna Indonesia's campaigns and demonstrations as the Second Track Diplomacy determine the repatriation of Indonesia orangutans at the Thai Embassy officer. Political communication that can influence international decisions in destroying patterns of attitudes, thoughts and other actors (Charles et al. 1985).

4. Conclusion
Repatriation of confiscated orangutan must follow in several regulation especially IUCN guideline include six initial assessment process and transportation permit by CITES. For accelerating repatriation process, Indonesia using one track and second track diplomacy. Althoug my challenge are faced, the repatriation still run smoothly.

References


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