



ILLEGAL TRADE OF **PRIMATE**

IN PALEMBANG - SOUTH SUMATERA





Slow loris
(*Nycticebus coucang*)

Introduction

Palembang City - South Sumatera, is one of the main hubs in wildlife trade network in Indonesia. Like the other big cities, Palembang also has bird (animal/pet) markets. Although the bird markets are small, any kind of wildlife can be found there. Besides for local buyers, the traded wildlife are also smuggled to some big cities in Java Island, especially Jakarta and Yogyakarta.

Between March and May 2012, ProFauna Indonesia with the support of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL), conducted a survey in Palembang to uncover the primate trade in the capital of South Sumatra Province. The survey results were expected to be used by related stake holders or law enforcement agencies in order to enforce the law and curb the trade.

Every month, dozens of slow lorises are traded

In Palembang, there are two bird markets: *Cinde* and *16 Ilir*. *Cinde* bird market is smaller than the *16 Ilir*. There are only seven stalls selling various kinds of birds in *Cinde* market. ProFauna team did not find any primate trade in this market. The majority of the traded animals included singing birds and poultry. Apart from that, the team also found parrots being sold there like: the Eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*), the black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*), the rainbow lorikeet

(*Trichoglossus haematodus*) and the chattering lory (*Lorius garrulous*).

16 Ilir market was pretty crowded even though there were only nine stalls. Most stalls sold various kinds of fish and poultry. There was only one stall selling mammals and primates. On weekend, there are many temporary street vendors selling animals by the market. Most of the street vendors came from the villages nearby Palembang.



16 Ilir market

Despite the small size, 16 Ilir market is notorious as one of the hubs of the illegal wildlife trade in Sumatra. It was easy to find the following mostly traded primates: slow loris (*Nycticebus sp*), long-tailed monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*), gibbon (*Hylobates syndactylus*), Bornean white-bearded gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*), and the Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*). It was easy as well to find the commonly traded mammals such as deer (*Tragulus sp*), pangolin (*Manis javanica*), and the Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*).



A siamang traded
in 16 Ilir market, Palembang

In 16 Ilir bird market, there was only one trader who specialized in selling both primates and mammals. The trader was named Ujang, went by one name as most Indonesians. Most of the traded animals in Ujang's stall were protected by law. Besides working as trader in the market, Ujang also acted as a dealer to smuggle wildlife to bird markets in Java Island. For the protected primates, especially the slow loris (*Nycticebus sp*), Ujang smuggled them to Pramuka market in Jakarta. While for the eagles, he sent the illegal package by bus destined to Java.

The prices of the traded primates in 16 Ilir market varied which depended on sexes, ages, protection status, and supply. The more rare a species, the more expensive the price. Similarly, the younger the primate, the higher prices they can make. The most expensive is the price for a rare primate which is still young.

A slow loris can cost 150,000 IDR (15 USD, 1 USD = 10,000 IDR), a siamang cost 2 millions, and a long-tailed monkey varied between 100,000 and 150,000 IDR. The younger primates, the more expensive they are than the adult monkeys.



Referring to Ujang's stall in 16 Ilir market, at least he was able to sell 20 slow lorises and 3 Javan langurs each month. He admitted to ProFauna's team that he could sell 50 slow lorises within one month. Most slow lorises are smuggled to Jakarta. The price for a siamang depended on the supply. However, Ujang could sell at least one siamang in a month.

Table 1. Number and species of the traded animals in 16 Ilir market on March 2012 visit

No	Common names	Scientific names	Total	Price (IDR)
1	Slow loris	<i>Nycticebus sp</i>	23	150.000-200.000
2	Siamang	<i>Hylobates syndactylus</i>	1	2.000.000
3	Javan langur	<i>Trachypithecus auratus</i>	3	150.000
4	Long-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	1	100.000
5	Mouse deer	<i>Tragulus sp</i>	5	700.000
6	Asian palm civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphrodytus</i>	7	50.000-100.000
7	Crested serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	3	200.000
8	White-bellied sea eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	1	250.000
9	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1	150.000
10	White-fronted scops-owl	<i>Otus sagittatus</i>	1	150.000

Table 2. Number and species of the traded animals in Cinde market on March 2012 visit

No	Common names	Scientific names	Total	Price (IDR)
1	Electus parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	3	1.500.000
2	Black-capped lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>	5	1.500.000
3	Rainbow lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	7	800.000
4	Chattering lory	<i>Lorius garrulus</i>	4	800.000
5	White-rumped shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	15	400.000
6	Orange-headed thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	6	400.000-1.000.000

The cages used to confine the traded primates in 16 Ilir market were inappropriate. The cages measured 50 cm x 40 cm x 40 cm. In the cramped cages, there were too many individuals. The team found 10 slow lorises cramped in a small cage. During the survey held in March 2012, the team also saw a young siamang look very stressed and suffered in a small cage.

The traded primates came from Nature Conservation areas

The primates traded on *16 Ilir* market in Palembang came from various regions in South Sumatra and also came from other provinces such as Jambi Province. At the majority, the primates came from the bordering areas of the *Bukit Barisan Selatan* National Park. The regions included Muara Dua, Pagar Alam, Lahat, and Ogan Komering Ilir.

Especially for the Sumatran surili (*Presbytis melalophos*), traders in *16 Ilir* market admitted that they liked to sell the ones coming from the regions of Pagar Alam, Lahat, and Muara Dua because the primate had more attractive hair color which caused the prices to be more expensive.

The trade of primate meat and brain

The traded primates in Palembang were sold not only for pet animals but they were also consumed for their meat and brain. The species which was sold for the meat and brain was the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*). Buyers of these by-products were the sailors /crew members from China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Korea. When their ships docked in Palembang ports, they would go to *16 Ilir* market to buy the monkeys. The poor monkeys were usually butchered in the bird market or

sometimes they were taken and killed in their ships.

The sailors would then only take the monkey brain, which was believed as source of energy. The consumers liked the juvenile monkeys better. The prices of these monkeys were higher than the monkeys for pet animals. As an illustration, a juvenile monkey was sold for 100,000 IDR to 200,000 IDR if it was kept as pet animal but the price could go higher as much as 350,000 IDR if it was to be butchered and taken its brain.



A monkey skull before cut in half for the brain.

Within a week, there were at least 10 monkeys for sale in Palembang, either sold alive or to be butchered and taken their brain.

Besides holding survey to the monkey meat trade in Palembang, ProFauna team also conducted a survey in Jakarta. The location of monkey meat trade Jakarta was centered on Mangga Besar street, Lokasari - West Jakarta. The monkey meat was sold in the form of satay and shredded

meat. The satay was sold in the food vendors on Mangga Besar street.

The sellers of the monkey meat there, usually also sold other wildlife delicacies like meat from monitor lizard, snakes, and bats. Besides the monkey meat, the sellers also served monkey brain per request.

According to a monkey satay seller in Jakarta, the monkey meat had many benefits: monkey satay for energy supplement, shredded monkey meat for appetizer, and monkey brain for aphrodisiac effects.



A long-tailed macaque slaughtered for the brain.

Trade of primate

The prices of the monkey meat by products varied depending on the type. A dish (10 sticks) of monkey satay was 40,000 IDR. A pack of the shredded monkey meat was 25,000 IDR. A dish of monkey brain started from 300,000 IDR to 500,000 IDR. In order to check if the delicacies were really made from monkey meat, ProFauna Indonesia brought them to the laboratory of Eijkman Institute and it resulted that the monkey satay was really made from the monkey meat while the shredded monkey meat turned out to be monitor lizard meat.

There were 4 food vendors selling these delicacies. According to one of the sellers, the monkeys came from the regions in Banten - West Java. He

admitted that he spent at least three monkeys in a week. It was estimated that there were about 50 monkeys butchered for satay and the shredded meat for the consumption in Jakarta.

Buyers of the monkey brain in Palembang differed from the ones in Jakarta. If the buyers in Palembang were sailors from China, Taiwan, and Korea whose ships docked in the ports; the consumers in Jakarta were mostly men because they believed in the aphrodisiac effects. It was believed that eating monkey brain mixed with traditional wine could treat male impotence.





A food stall in Jakarta selling monkey satay

Table 3. Type and price of monkey meat by-products in Jakarta

No	Types	Prices (IDR)
1	Satay	40,000-100,000 per dish
2	Shredded meat (turned to be monitor lizard meat)	25,000-50,000 per pack
3	Brain	300,000-500,000

Lack of Law Enforcement

According to the wildlife law in Indonesia, the trade in protected species is a crime. Referring to Law No. 5 year 1990 concerning the Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, article 21 paragraph 2 (a); it is prohibited to capture, injure, kill, keep, own, pet, transport, and trade alive protected animals. Article 40 paragraph (2) of the law states that the maximum

punishment is 100 million fine and 5 year imprisonment.

Ironically, some protected primate species such as slow loris and siamang are still sold freely on the *16 Ilir* market in Palembang. The trade should have been strictly curbed. Not to mention that most of the protected primates were poached from the protected nature conservation areas which should have been safe havens for them.

Lack of Law Enforcement

Although the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) is not yet protected by law, the capture of the primate has been regulated. According to Law Number 41 Year 1999 on Forestry, article 50 paragraph 3 letter m mentioned:

Long-tailed macaque
(*Macaca fascicularis*)



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Everybody is prohibited from issuing, carrying, or transporting plants and or wildlife that are not protected by law from the forestry area without permission of the related authority

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Violators of Law No. 41 of 1999 are liable to a maximum of one year imprisonment and a fine of 50 million IDR. ProFauna believes that most of the traded monkeys are poached from the forestry areas instead of captive bred. Therefore, the trade of the monkey meat should be regulated with a certain catching quota and permission. Meanwhile, the catching quota in 2012 as issued by the Forestry Department are only five individuals.

ProFauna Recommendation

The illegal trade of primates and other protected wildlife in 16 *lir* market in Palembang market was very high. The animals were also smuggled to big cities in Java. The enforcement agencies should curb the trade firmly as the trade violates the Law number 5 year 1990.



Slow loris
(*Nycticebus coucang*)



The trade of monkey meat and brain in Palembang and Jakarta was very alarming because it was cruel and it was also believed that the traded monkeys were poached from the forestry areas. For this reason, the local government should issue a regulation that prohibits the trade of primate meat and other body parts.

The trade of wildlife protected by law is a crime. According to Law Number 5 year 1990 concerning the Conservation of the Natural Resources and the Ecosystem, offenders of protected wildlife trade and keeping are liable to five year prison term and 100 millions Rupiah fine.



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