

Tana' Ulen, Customary Forest: A legacy of Indigenous Kenyah Dayak people for forest conservation

by

Ndan Imang

Center for Social Forestry (CSF)

University of Mulawarman

Samarinda, INDONESIA

Email: ndan_imang@yahoo.co.id





Sites

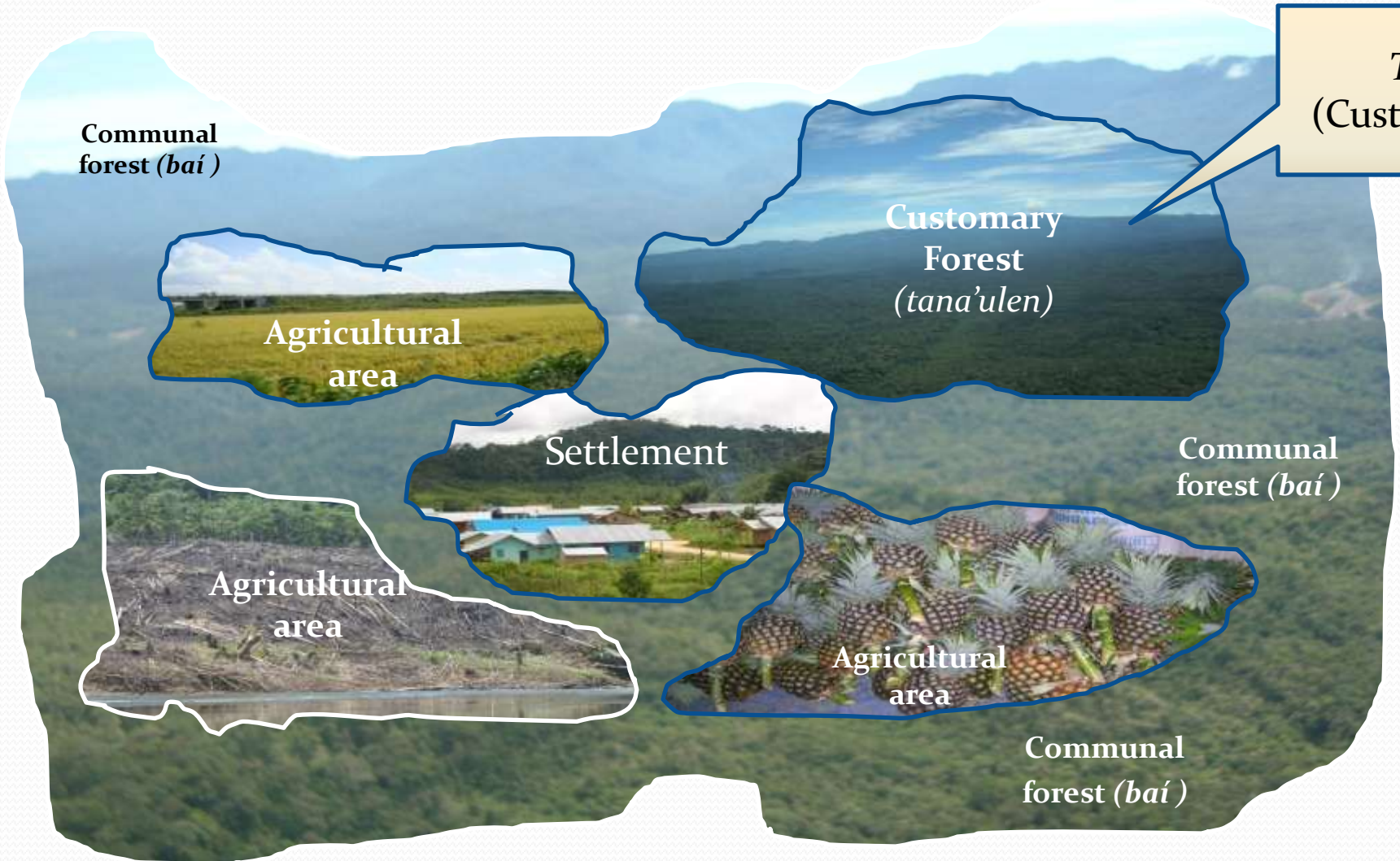


Who are the Kenyah Dayak?

- The Dayaks are indigenous people of East Kalimantan, even in West and Central Kalimantan
- Population: 350.000 (11% of East Kalimantan population)
- Practicing, and highly depending on Swidden agriculture



Typical Village territory utilizations by the Kenyah Dayak



(Customary Forest)



- Primary forest
- Rich of timber
- Size various 80-500 ha
- Located at most 2-3 km away the village



Purposes of Tana' Ulen (Customary Forest)



- in ancient era, *Tana' Ulen* is a certain area for the aristocratic family for hunting and fishing
- To provide timber for communal purpose: Church, Customary Hall, boat
- Provide timber for emergency needs: coffin, house burnt
- Water reservoir for village
- Environmental service
- Wild animal protection

Regulation of *Tana' Ulen*



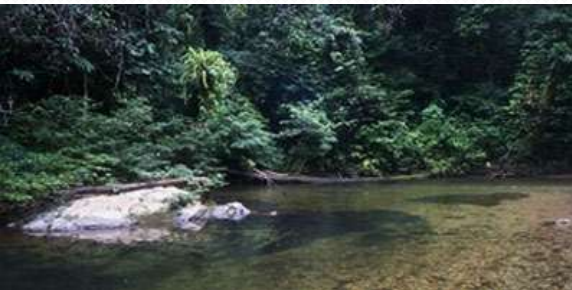
- Cutting timber is strictly prohibited
- land clearing for agricultural is prohibited
- (previously) wild hunting was prohibited → now it is allowed
- Collecting NTFP and fishing-hunting in limited amount is permitted

Potential Threats to *Tana' Ulen*



- Logging activity
- Coal mining (1.500 concession in East Kalimantan Province)
- Succession of generation and village leader
- District fraction (*Pemekaran Wilayah*)

Future challenge and strategy to Sustain *Tana' Ulen* (1)



- To get legal recognition from government by following up the Constitution Court (*Mahkama Konstitusi*) decision which explicitly recognizes the authority of customary community on customary forest x Forestry Law No. 41, 1999.
- To draft written Regulation on *Tana' Ulen*, and at least recognized (signed) by Regent (*Bupati*)
- To explain the history and importance of *Tana' ulen* to young generation (successor)

Future challenge and strategy to Sustain *Tana' Ulen* (2)

- Strictly punish anyone violates customary law
- National and International support on *Tana' Ulen* by actively conducting research on *Tana' ulen*

Thank you

