

Socialization of Dugong and Seagrass from Teluk Bogam Conservation

By: Idham Farsha (*Marine Species Site Coordinator Kobar*)

Pangkalan Bun—various kinds of local art attractions, costumes, and ornamental vehicle from some Unit of Regional Board Organization/ *Satuan Organisasi Perangkat Daerah* (SOPD), community organization, community group, college and high school students, were held at Pawai Nasi Adab in order to celebrate the anniversary of Kotawaringin Barat District on Wednesday (4/10) in Pangkalan Bun, Kotawaringin Barat District, Central Kalimantan. On this event, people of Teluk Bogam introduced dugong as the theme of their attractions.

M. Syairani as a culturist from Kotawaringin Barat explained that Nasi Adab event came from Banjar Empire culture, which was brought by the fourth Sultan Banjar, Adipati Antakusuma Prince, at 16th century which made Kotawaringin Barat as his central government. Nasi Adab was a form of people' dedication to the kingdom at that time, they would give cone-shaped rice (*nasi tumpeng*) using sticky rice to be brought to the palace. Since Indonesia got its independence, Pangkalan Bun became a District, and one preserved culture that's still being carried on until today is Nasi Adab Parade.

This was the first time Teluk Bogam people picked dugong as their main theme in Nasi Adab Parade. This thing could not happen without Idham Farsha, site coordinator of WWF-Indonesia who made Teluk Bogam as a pilot site between three other villages (Kubu, Sungai Bakau, and Keraya) at implementing program of Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project (DSCP) Indonesia.

The parade cars from Teluk Bogam had dugong ornaments, and one of the car put on a banner with words "Stop Hunting Dugong" along with motto "Preserve Dugong, Protect Seagrass, Abundant Fishes, and Prosperity to All of Us".

It all began from Kodim 1014 Headquarters in Pangkalan Bun at Pangeran Antasari street, where all of parade participants passed the main stage in front of the house of Kotawaringin Barat former regent. At the main stage, they read a text that "Dugong is often found and seen at Teluk Bogam. Dugong is one of vulnerable and protected species that is arranged by government regulations. Dugong is an important part in marine ecosystem food chain cycle, Protect and Love Dugong To Preserve Marine Ecosystem".

According to Jurham Effendy, Village Secretary in Teluk Bogam, Nasi Adab Parade is one of the best moment at the end of 2017, to socialize about dugong and seagrass protection to the community thoroughly, considering that all this time, socializing process was only held only to Teluk Bogam people. Besides, through participation from Teluk Bogam people in Nasi Adab Parade, hopefully there would be a change in community's point of view about Teluk Bogam which was first known as dugong hunting hotspot, becoming the protector of dugong.

“We hope through this socialization, people of Kotawaringin Barat, especially from Teluk Bogam village, would completely realize not to do any hunting for dugongs, and harness any of dugong’s body parts,” said Jurham.