UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT CHARACTERISTICS IN ULU TEMBELING REGION

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science

Faculty of Architecture, Planning and Surveying

February 2015

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulation of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Human-Elephant Conflicts (HEC) becomes a major concern among natural resources managers. The numbers of HEC reported each year contribute to thousands of ringgit of loses to local farmers who depend on agriculture as their main income. Being an agriculture region in Pahang, Ulu Tembeling is facing HEC thus pressuring local community to sustain their income. Being geographically marginalized, the problems arise and worsen when HEC cases were not attended accordingly and the intensity of the conflict has never been measured. This thesis is conducted in order to identify the extent of the HEC throughout the Ulu Tembeling region. Spatial distributions of the conflicts are charted in order to establish the exact spatial distribution and thus help resources managers toward planning and managing the natural resources. Data were collected through Snow Ball Sampling technique and supported by ground trotting for verification. Spatial data were located and plotted onto topographical map and questionnaire survey forms were designed based on Data Collection and Analysis Protocol for HEC by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-African Elephant Specialist Group. Descriptive analyses were employed to quantify the extent of the HEC therefore providing crucial information for Ulu Tembeling HEC. The study found that the intensity of the conflict amounted to RM 54,040.00 of loss during a one year study period; representing 26.25 % of trees damage which affected incomes of individuals who are barely above poverty line. Spatial distributions of the conflict found most to be concentrated at Kampung Sat and Kampung Mat Daling and perhaps crop raiding elephant entry point were from nearest forest reserve complex which are located next to victims rubber plantation. HEC was found to be intense among a female and calf herd which is correlated with intermediate rubber plant stage, perhaps due to crop palatability compared to other stages while most intense HEC was during the night with duration less than three days, most of HEC has been found to occur during the dry season. Elephants, resources and victims involved in the conflict pose particular characteristics which provide a clearer understanding toward HEC in Ulu Tembeling region. Existence of reliable HEC record and data are useful for wildlife and resource managers dealing with increasing human-wildlife conflicts. It is recommended that Ulu Tembeling region to have a standardized data record on HEC so the issues can be resolved appropriately.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise to Allah for giving me strength, help, and guidance in completing this thesis successfully.

Special thanks and gratitude to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Jamalunlaili Abdullah for his supervision and guidance in conducting this thesis. His patience and dedication during supervision taught me a lot. His guest for searching a piece of knowledge and wisdom keeps my interest in completing this thesis.

I would also like to thank Mohd Salleh Daim for his constructive advices and comment on my thesis. His hardwork and patience inspired me to strive for the best.

My gratitude also goes to all Ulu Tembeling local communities for being supportive during my study period. Experiences and knowledge that I have gained are much appreciated. To all my friends and those who are involved directly and indirectly in this study, your support and help are much appreciated.

I would also like to express my appreciation to my family for being by my side during hardship and sorrow especially to my beloved wife Intan Suhana Idris and my lovely sons Zaim Zuhairi, Amir Amzar and Iman Ismail.

Lat but not least, my appreciation also goes to my mum, Che Minah Mat Sim, my sister Nurrul Che Eme, and most of all, my appreciation goes to my father, Embong Ismail for being my guru for 30 years of my life in this world.

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