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**COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN SABAH AND SARAWAK
NATIVES' BELIEF ON CROCODILE HUNTING**

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ABSTRACT

Generally the crocodile are respected by the local community and in some culture the harassing of crocodile is considered as taboo. The number of crocodile attack in Sabah and Sarawak has intensely increased year by year. This study, focuses on the belief of native of Sabah in Sungai Segama, Lahad Datu and Sarawak in Batang Lupar, Sri Aman on crocodile hunting, natives in the Lahad Datu and Sri Aman chosen as respondents due to this location has a great number of population of crocodiles in the river and the increase of human crocodile conflict in both states for the past few years. This study aims to determine the belief of natives of Sabah and Sarawak which native has a firm belief on crocodile, type of this study is correlational study, which the researchers interested in highlighting of the belief of native that can influence the perception on crocodile in Sabah and Sarawak. In this study, the researcher used the cross-sectional study which is to gather data, for this study our sample size is 60 both respectively in Sabah and Sarawak and 120 collectively from both states.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This chapter will provide an introduction to the comparative study between Sabah and Sarawak which focuses on the belief of native of Sabah in Sungai Segama, Lahad Datu and Sarawak in Batang Lupar, Sri Aman on crocodile hunting. The flow of this chapter will start with background of study, followed by the problem of statement, research questions, research objectives, scope of the study, hypotheses, significant of the study, definition of terms used in the study last but not least the chapter summary.

1.2 Background of study

Generally the crocodile are respected by the local community and in some culture the harassing of crocodile is considered as taboo (Cox & Gombek, 1985). The number of crocodile attack in Sabah and Sarawak has intensely increased year by year. Crocodile attack on human involves in physical injury, fatal injury and loss of people's life is likely to trigger natives' perception and attitude towards crocodile and lead them to find initiatives to hunt down the crocodile. The indigenous people of Sarawak had developed specific rules or taboos that recovered crocodiles and regulated human relationships with the potentially deadly species (Hose & MacDougall, 1901). Scholars around the world has conducted various studies regarding the topic of human crocodile conflict. However when we narrow down in Malaysia specifically in Sabah and Sarawak itself, there is research conducted highlighting on this specific topic on natives' perception toward crocodile however there are no specific previous research conducted in Sabah based on this topic. Not everyone sees and assumed the crocodiles as dangerous animals as in Sarawak, some of the natives have tolerant

attitude towards the crocodile and claims that the crocodile as their ancestor because of their belief. Therefore, we conducted a comparative study between Sabah and Sarawak on belief of natives towards crocodile hunting.

1.3 Problem statement

According to Dr. Graham Webb (2010), the populations of saltwater crocodile in both Sabah and Sarawak states have recovered significantly due to the success of the conservation of the endangered species. The presence of the crocodile in the river balance the fish population as crocodiles eat common fish and any fish that becomes dominant is put back in its proper amount (McNeely & Sochaczewski, 1988). The increase in population of the crocodile is good to the ecosystems. Though, it create new problem such as increase in human-crocodile conflict. According to Sarawak Forestry Corporation, there are 86 crocodile attacks since 2005 to 2016 in Sarawak only and increasing each year. Out of this figure, 42 resulted in fatalities.

CITES is Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora that is responsible to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants. Recently, the Saltwater Crocodile in the Sarawak state of Malaysia have been transferred from CITES Appendix I which means that there is no trade of any crocodile caught in the wild, only captive breeding is allowed to CITES Appendix II where the trading and hunting of the crocodile is permissible, but depends on the quotas. The permit and license to hunt and trade the crocodile will be issued by the Sarawak Forestry Department starting on 18th August 2017.