

**HOW COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXISTENCE LUTUNG KELABU  
*Trachypithecus cristatus* (Raffles, 1821) AS A TOURIST ATTRACTION OBJECT IN A  
SMALL ISLAND? (Case: Pahawang Island, Indonesia)**

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**ABSTRACT**

Lutung is one of the endangered animals in a small island, besides this animal also has the potential as a tourist attraction. The purpose of this study was to determine the community perception of the existence of langurs in Pahawang Island, Indonesia. Data collection using direct observation and interviews with local communities, and then the data that has been collected is analyzed using descriptive analysis. The results obtained in this study showed that 93% of the community said langurs were pests. People also think that this animal can be hunted with a percentage of 59%. This is due to the lack of community knowledge about conservation tourism by 43%. The need for education related to the existence of protected langurs and alternatives to be managed as tourist attractions. This can help how people know that these animals must be preserved. These animals can increase income by establishing conservation tourism.

Key words: Small islands, pests, langurs, tourist attractions, conservation tourism.

**INTRODUCTION**

Perception is the experience of objects, events, relationships obtained by inferring information and interpreting messages (Rahmat, 2003). According to Simbolon (2007) perception also has the meaning of individuals who judge or interpret through their senses so that the meaning of the environment is perceived. Likewise, public perception as stated by Laksono and Mussadun (2014), that the perception is related to the process of assessing a person or group of people on objects, events, involving the experiences of individuals or groups of people who inhabit in event area. Example is the perception of the importance of wildlife education (Dewi et al., 2019).

The importance of education about wildlife is something that needs to be learned to be able to coexist and minimize conflicts between animals and humans. Kuswanda's research (2014); Hill et al. (2002); Attia et al. (2018) that animal and human conflicts are usually caused by the increasing number of human populations. In addition, according to Jogasara et al. (2012) the change of forest land into agriculture, plantations, settlements and even development in various industrial sectors is also a factor in the occurrence of conflicts. Satriani and Yuriko (2020) said that conflict can also take the form of hunting, killing, and embezzling animals

which are considered disturbing and this is considered correct in solving problems by some parties. Santoso et al. (2019) argues that the conflict that occurs is actually detrimental to all parties to the conflict. In line with the research of Pratiwi et al. (2020) that conflicts usually harm not only animals but also humans. However Kamim's research (2018), it is incriminating that the conflict between animals and humans causes the survival of animals in their natural habitat to be disturbed. One of the conflicts that occurred according to Wahyuni et al. (2020) is the conflict of the langur (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) with humans in a small island.

Lutung has a small body, usually around 58 cm in size, has a gray fur color, the tip of the fur looks white or silver. They usually live in groups, and eat plants, especially fruit. Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation Number 106 of 2018 states that these animals are protected, with the IUCN saying that existence is threatened (near threatened), while in CITES is classified as Appendix II (to maintain their survival from inappropriate use, their trading status must be controlled). Kuswanda and Barus (2018); Nasichah et al (2018); Mekonen (2020) said that in order to be able to continue to preserve the existence of animals, it is necessary to mitigate conflicts that don't harm animals and humans. According to Febryano and Rusita (2018), one of the appropriate conflict mitigations is to form or develop conservation-based educational tours related to existing animals. The purpose of the study was to determine the public's perception of the existence of the gray langur *Trachypithecus cristatus* (Raffles, 1821) as a tourist attraction on a small island.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The study was conducted in November – December 2019, on Pahwang Island, Marga Punduh District, Pesawaran Regency, Lampung Province (Figure 1). The method used in this research is direct observation and interviews with island communities. The community sample was determined by random sampling technique as many as 30 respondents, with the help of research questionnaires. The data collected is in the form of community perception data regarding the presence of the gray langur (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) as one of the tourism potentials that can add to the diversity of tourist attractions on this island.

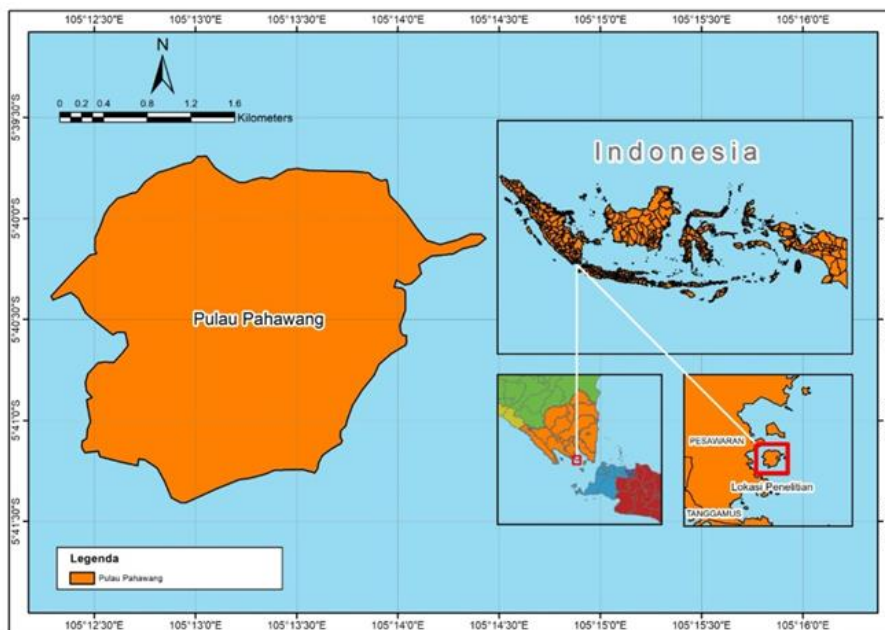


Figure 1. Research Location.  
**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**a. General Condition of Research Site**

Pahawang Island is one of the most popular tourist destinations, and this island is located in the Lampung area (Al-Khoiriah et al., 2017). More precisely, it is located in the Punduh clan, Pesawaran Regency, Lampung Province, Indonesia (Febryano et al., 2014). Administratively, Pahawang Island is divided into several hamlets, namely Suak Buah, Penggetahan, Jeralangan, Kalangan, Cukuh Nyai, and Pahawang. When viewed from its geographical location, it is close to Punduh Pidada Bay with lines 5°41'53" – 5°39'02" South Latitude and 105°11'44" - 105°14'59" East Longitude. The island is divided into two, namely Pahawang Besar and Pahawang Kecil which have an area of about 1,084 hectares (Hakim et al., 2018).

Land cover characteristics of Pahawang Island include settlements, agroforestry, mangrove forests, clan forests and ponds (Afifah et al., 2020). This area also has a diversity of cultures originating from the original Lampung tribe, the Sundanese and a small part from the Coastal Lampung, Bugis, and Javanese and other immigrant communities (Jainah and Marpaung, 2017). In addition, this island has high maritime potential (Nurhasanah and Persada, 2019), and has the potential as a place for seaweed cultivation which is supported by a fairly large area with waves that are not too big (Dede et al., 2014).

Pahawang Island, which is located in Lampung Bay, has quite diverse and productive areas ranging from coral reefs, seagrass, fisheries and mangrove forests (Mardani et al., 2017). In addition, this island also has the potential for animals in the form of gray langurs (Safitri et al., 2020). Fisheries on this island are also said to be abundant because of the visible indicators that the coral reefs are still in good condition (Yuliana and Rahmasari, 2020). In addition, the existence of mangrove forests also plays an important role, especially for the existing green belt and the presence of mangrove forests can add to biodiversity (Mustika et al., 2017).

**b. Lutung in Pahawang Island**

Lutung with the Latin name *Trachypithecus cristatus* is one of the animals that live or have a habitat on Pahawang Island. The distribution of the presence of langurs on Pahawang Island is 23 groups with each distribution in agroforestry and mangrove forests. These animals live in groups, and are classified as arboreal animals that live their lives in trees. To be able to see these animals is usually the best time to start in the morning at 05.00 WIB and in the afternoon at 16.30 WIB. According to the IUCN (2015) langurs live in groups with an average of seven to eight individuals in each group. Sulistyadi et al. (2013) argue that these animals live their lives or carry out activities throughout the day, with the highest activity found in the morning. Sontono et al. (2016) support the statement that langur activity begins in the morning to forage for food.



Figure 2. *Trachypithecus cristatus* in Pahawang Island.

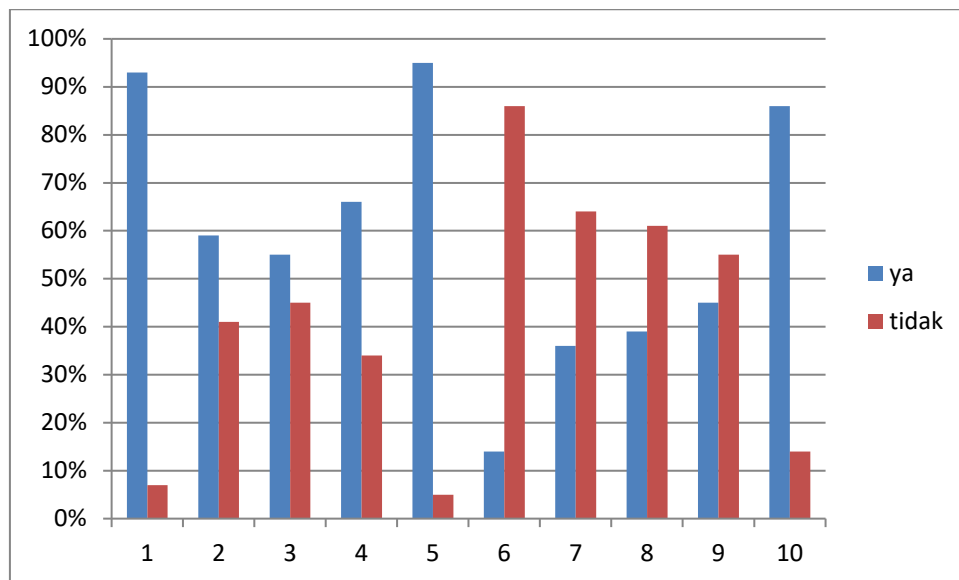
### c. Public Perception of the Existence of Lutung as a Tourist Attraction

The population of langur (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) which is categorized quite a lot and spreads in Pahawang Island, makes this animal considered a pest by the local community. The survey results prove that 93% of the community said the animal was a pest (Figure 3). The reason that langurs are considered pests is because they often enter settlements, in addition to eating agricultural plants. In addition to eating, usually langurs also shed fruit plants that are flowering. Some of the plants targeted by langurs are durian (*Durio zibethinus*), manga (*Mangifera indica*), rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum*), hamlet (*Lansium domesticum*), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), jengkol (*Archidendron pauciflorum*), cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*), areca nut (*Areca catechu*), and petai (*Parkia speciosa*). According to Eliana et al. (2017) commonly eaten by langurs include durian flowers (*Durio zibethinus*), areca nut (*Areca catechu*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), hamlet fruit (*Lansium domesticum*), rambutan fruit (*Nephelium lappaceum*), petai flower (*Parkia speciosa*), jengkol flower (*Archidendron pauciflorum*), coconut flower (*Cocos nucifera*) and clove flower (*Syzygium aromaticum*). This makes people disturbed because of its existence.

Disruption of the community due to the presence of langurs makes people think that they are allowed to hunt langurs. The results of the survey said that around 59% of the people thought that langurs were allowed to be hunted, besides that it was a surprising statement that 55% of the people had hunted langurs. Agroforestry land in Pahawang Island can be regarded as one of the sources of community food. There are various community stories that develop, this animal is hunted because it causes the yield of agroforestry land to decline. So that people don't get maximum yields, and are threatened with loss. Hunting is carried out in fact, there is a lack of public knowledge about protected animals, as well as the applicable sanctions.

Public knowledge regarding the protected status of langurs can be measured from the survey results that 66% of the public don't know that these animals are protected by the government. Whereas in this case according to Law Number 5 of 1990, Government Regulation Number 7 of 1999, and PERMEN LHK Number 106 of 2018, the animal is one of the protected animals. In addition, according to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Natural Resources), the status of the langur is near threatened, which means approaching extinction. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) says that langurs are classified as Appendix II, in which trade or buying and selling of these animals must be controlled to prevent animals from being endangered. At that time, the village government (limited information and access outside the island) had not provided

education regarding the prohibition of langur hunting. From the results of surveys or interviews conducted not only the people in Pahawang Island who hunt langurs, but people outside the island also participate in hunting langurs for their personal interests.



Description:

1. Langurs are considered pests by the community
2. People think that langurs can be hunted
3. People who have chased langurs
4. Knowledge about langurs classified as government protected animals
5. Knowing the whereabouts of the langurs
6. It is important or not the existence of langurs on Pahawang Island
7. Lutung is a unique animal
8. The langurs on Pahawang Island are preserved
9. There is no ban on langur hunting on Pahawang Island
10. Lutung Becomes Alternative Tourism on Pahawang Island

Figure 3. Public Perception of the Existence of Lutung (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) in Indonesia Pahawang Island.

As much as 95% of the island's people know the location of the langurs (Figure 3), it also becomes easy to hunt the langurs. These locations are usually scattered in every hamlet in Pahawang Island, including Suak Buah, Cukuh nyai, Pahawang, and Penggetahan. Most of these locations are close to agroforestry and mangrove areas. In addition to being found in agroforestry, langurs are also found in mangrove forests because the location is still in the home range category of langurs. Activities that are usually carried out are foraging for food, as well as grooming. This is not an interesting thing for most people.

From 14% of the general public that the langurs are not important or interesting. This proves that people do not see positive things or are not aware of the potential that exists. What isn't interesting about the community includes the incompatibility of animals with humans, ranging from pests, then the community has a history or hereditary story that langurs actually live like humans who can cry when they are hurt, and can get angry when someone disturbs them. This is what makes people reluctant to be attracted to these animals.

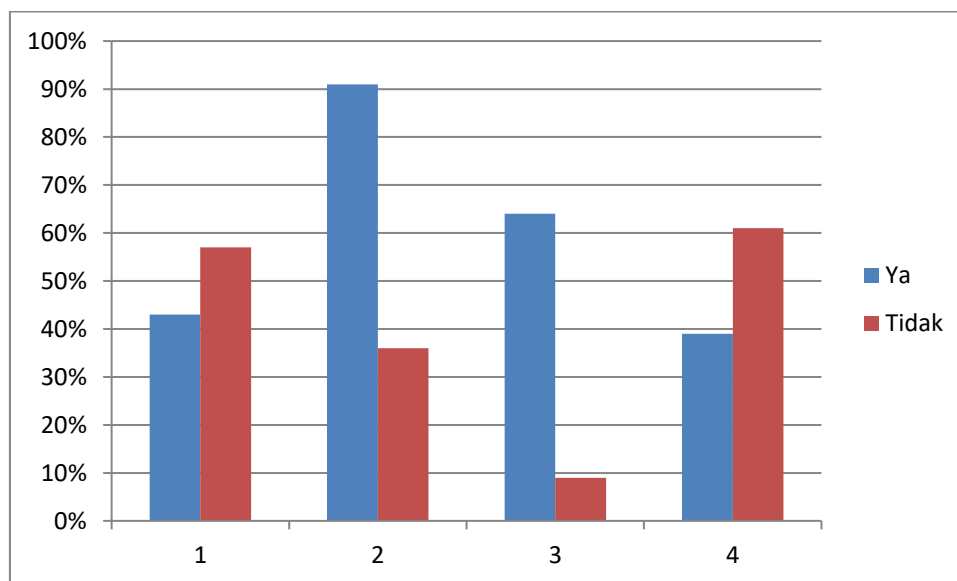
The community also believes that this animal is not a unique animal. The survey results prove that 64% of the people agree with it. Though this animal has its own uniqueness. Starting from living in groups, how to eat, the habits of animals that don't want to go down to the

ground, grooming, and the black color, which if you look closely, the fur tends to be silver or gray in color. For animal observers this is a unique and amazing thing. Therapy is different from the people of Pahawang Island, who are even less concerned about preserving these animals.

The survey results state that 61% of local people do not preserve the langurs. This is because people do not feel the positive impact of these animals. The absence of a hunting ban that was socialized by the village government at that time made people pay less attention to animals. The survey results said that 45% of the people were not aware of the ban or sanctions imposed by the government when the langurs in Pahawang Island were threatened.

From the data obtained, it can be seen that there must be a change in public perception from negative to positive. One of them is to increase people's income through these animals that do not violate government regulations. So in this case, it is recommended that the langur as an alternative tourism in Pahawang Island. Survey results say that 86% of the island's people agree with this.

Some of the perceptions expressed by the public regarding the existence of animals on Pahawang Island, most of them don't know that these animals have tourist attractions. The existence of this tour also supports the conservation of langurs, which keeps the animals living side by side with the island community. Several things need to be measured, starting from community knowledge about conservation tourism, the potential of langurs as tourism objects, ecotourism, and community involvement in langur tourism (Figure 4).



Description:

1. Knowing conservation-based tourism
2. Pahawang Island is used as an ecotourism area
3. New tourism potential (langurs as a tourist attraction)
4. Community involvement in langur tourism

**Figure 4. Measurement of Pahawang Island Community Knowledge About Conservation-Based Lutung Tourism.**

The knowledge of the Pahawang Island community about conservation tourism is 43% (Figure 4). This figure is sufficient to support the establishment of tourism. In addition, there should be socialization about conservation tourism which will also greatly help human

resources on this island. Conservation-based tourism is tourism that moves side by side with conservation activities. These conservation activities are both engaged in nature and animal conservation. This tourism is also closely related to ecotourism.

As many as 91% of the community turned out to be very agree if Pahawang Island was used as an ecotourism area. The people's high enthusiasm for various aspects of tourism is indeed the selling point of this island. Telling the public that the potential of this island is huge. Not only beach tourism, but langur tourism also has a lot of potential in this island. From this, 64% of the people agree that there will be langurs as a tourist attraction.

More than half of the people who agree with the existence of conservation-based langur tourism (ecotourism) have made a few changes in people's thinking. The existence of positive thinking, where these animals have the potential as tourism can help reduce community and animal conflicts. However, the survey results also show that 39% of the people who want to participate in the development of this tourism. This should be a benchmark for lacking human resources, in this case education is needed to convey the existing potential, then encouragement from village governments, local governments, stakeholders related to tourism, as well as special interest tourism activists need to conduct counseling to be able to develop potential which exists.

### CONCLUSION

93% of Pahawang Island people think that langurs are part of pests, so people also think that these animals can be hunted. This is due to the lack of public knowledge about the status of animal protection and the sanctions given. People are also not aware of the potential of animals as a tourist attraction. And the need to increase human resources is also needed in this case then encouragement from the village government, local government, stakeholders related to tourism, as well as special interest tourism activists need to do counseling to be able to develop the existing potential.

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