

COMPOSITION AND CONSERVATION VALUE OF WILDLIFE HUNTED BY LOCAL PEOPLE IN DAKRONG NATURAL RESERVE, QUANG TRI PROVINCE

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Summary

The present study aimed to evaluate the composition and conservation value of wild animals hunted by local people in Dakrong Natural Reserve, Quang Tri province. A total of 76 people, including forest rangers, local people, and hunters, were selected for the interview in order to collect information about the species hunted. The field surveys were conducted on 4 sites to determine the species and number of individuals of each species hunted. The results showed that 40 species of wildlife were hunted by the community, including 25 species of mammals, 9 species of amphibians and reptiles, 1 species of bird, and 5 species of fish, in which many species were listed from vulnerable to endangered in national and international levels. Four mammal species including *Martes flavigula*, *Melogale personata*, *Callosciurus erythraeus*, and *Leopoldamys sabanus* have been recorded for the first time in Dakrong Natural Reserve through the analysis of wildlife samples hunted by local people. The results of the field surveys also recorded 31 species of wildlife hunted, in which 15 species of mammals within a total of 79 individuals were identified to have the high economic values and account for the majority of the hunted species. The hunting season and yield of hunting mainly focused on the rainy season. The wild animals were mostly hunted from Dakrong Natural Reserve. The populations of wildlife species were mostly reduced because of hunting for sale and habitat loss and estimated low. Some species have become rare or very rare, such as *Manis javanica*, *Rusa unicolor*.

Keywords: *Hunting, hunter, wildlife, population, conservation.*