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transformation processes among contemporary
Indonesian hunter-gatherers**

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Food Security Among the Orang Rimba In Jambi

Transformation Processes among Contemporary Indonesian Hunter-Gatherers

by Ekoningtyas Margu Wardani

1. The Orang Rimba in Central Jambi can culturally still be considered hunter-gatherers even though most of them have adopted other forms of livelihood like rubber cultivation in addition to hunting and gathering. (this thesis)
2. In order to improve the governmental development policies for the Orang Rimba, it is crucial to learn from the past experiences on how the Orang Rimba have been dealing with outside interventions. (this thesis)
3. According to the Food Security Atlas of Indonesia (2015) the Orang Rimba are highly insecure in terms of food. This statement does not sufficiently recognize the value of traditional food and ways of food procurement, while at the same time it underestimates the challenges caused by external factors and actors. (this thesis)
4. The Orang Rimba are not a homogenous population. Policies aimed at their development should take into account the intra-cultural variation. (this thesis)
5. Rather than following the recommendations from outsiders as to whether tropical hunter-gatherers are better off in- or outside the forest (Levang et al. 2005), the Orang Rimba are capable of choosing and deciding their own fate.
6. Most tropical forest-dwelling hunter-gatherers have comparable practices of food sharing and food exchange. They confirm the statement made by Thomas Headland that: 'The best place to store food is in other people's stomachs.' (Minter and Headland in press)
7. After years of diminishing interest in hunter-gatherers, researchers of a great variety of disciplines (anthropology, archaeology, child development studies, economics, law, ecology etc.) have recently rediscovered the relevance of knowledge about hunter-gatherer communities, including their knowledge and practical skills, for understanding the foundations of human society (see for instance the Conferences on Hunting and Gathering Societies).
8. For their food security hunter-gatherers in tropical forests cannot merely depend on the natural resources available in rainforests through hunting and gathering, as was often assumed. They have had to establish symbiotic, although generally asymmetrical, relationships with their farming neighbors through an exchange of commodities and services. (in line with Headland 1987)
9. Education in a single discipline is insufficient if one is to conduct research among forest-dwelling communities. In order to fully understand the living conditions of such people one needs to master research skills and avail oneself of knowledge from a range of disciplines like anthropology, ecology, and economics.
10. Staying in Leiden for an Indonesian is never difficult since one can find various types of Indonesian food, Indonesian culture, and Indonesian friends everywhere. Leiden feels like home far away from home.