

# **Mapping Customary Boundaries and Resource Utilization among the Orang Asli of the Belum Temengor Forest.**

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# Introduction

- Two main indigenous groups occupy the Belum-Temengor forest; they are the Jahai and Temiar. According to the 2011 population census provided by the Department of Orang Asli Development and Welfare (JAKOA), there are 18 villages with approximately 2,346 individuals or around 457 families. The official settlements are RPS Air Banun, Kg. Tiang, and Kg. Kejar. However, today there are many other villages dotting this landscape.
- The people group themselves around their riverine area as one cohesive group, a tribe or band. And each group have rights to access natural resources within their area and if needed, to ask permission to access other areas. Nevertheless, one thing is true for all groups, the forest, her river, rivulets and the resources that grow within and above them are something they hold dear and with spiritual affinity.

# Methodology

- This is an action research project with the aim of incorporating indigenous peoples as co-managers in natural resource management of the Belum-Temengor.
- To understand Orang Asli notions of traditional land and resource use. In doing so we will document as well, how they adapt to competition within their customary landscapes.

- Three communities will be selected for the project. The proposed communities are; Kg. Selaor, Kg. Semerlor and Kg. Kejar.
- Participation will be on a voluntary basis.
- Ethnographic material on indigenous knowledge documented throughout the project period belongs to the indigenous communities and rights to use these knowledge will require the community consent. We will adhere to the principles of UNDRIP in particular on ownership of local knowledge and FPIC in engaging with the community.

# Aspiring Objectives

- The main activities will include:
- Mapping the physical boundaries of different indigenous groups within the Belum-Temengor forest.
- Documenting Indigenous oral history related to resource use and regulation.
- Documenting challenges in sustainable resource use.

# Some of our activities

- Meeting and voluntary participation from members from three villages:
- Baen and Jali from Kejar.
- Asok from Selaor.
- Apok from Semerlor.

- Have had five engagement where different documentary methods were explained and discussed.
- Mental map.
- Learning about GIS/GPS.
- Learning to record with a voice recorder.

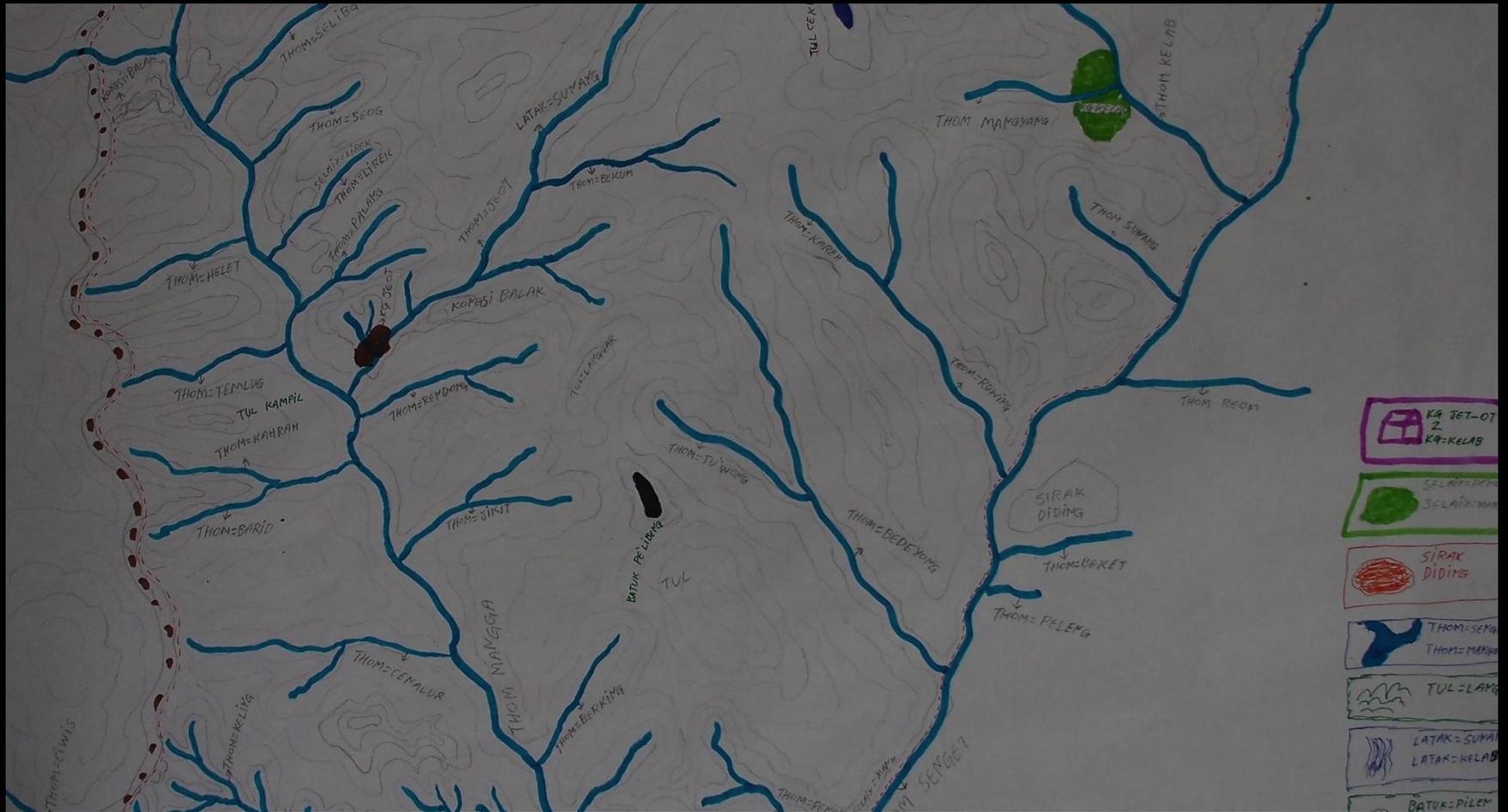
# Conceptualizing Space

- Translating oral knowledge to map
- Peer learning
- Exposure to concepts, methods and tools

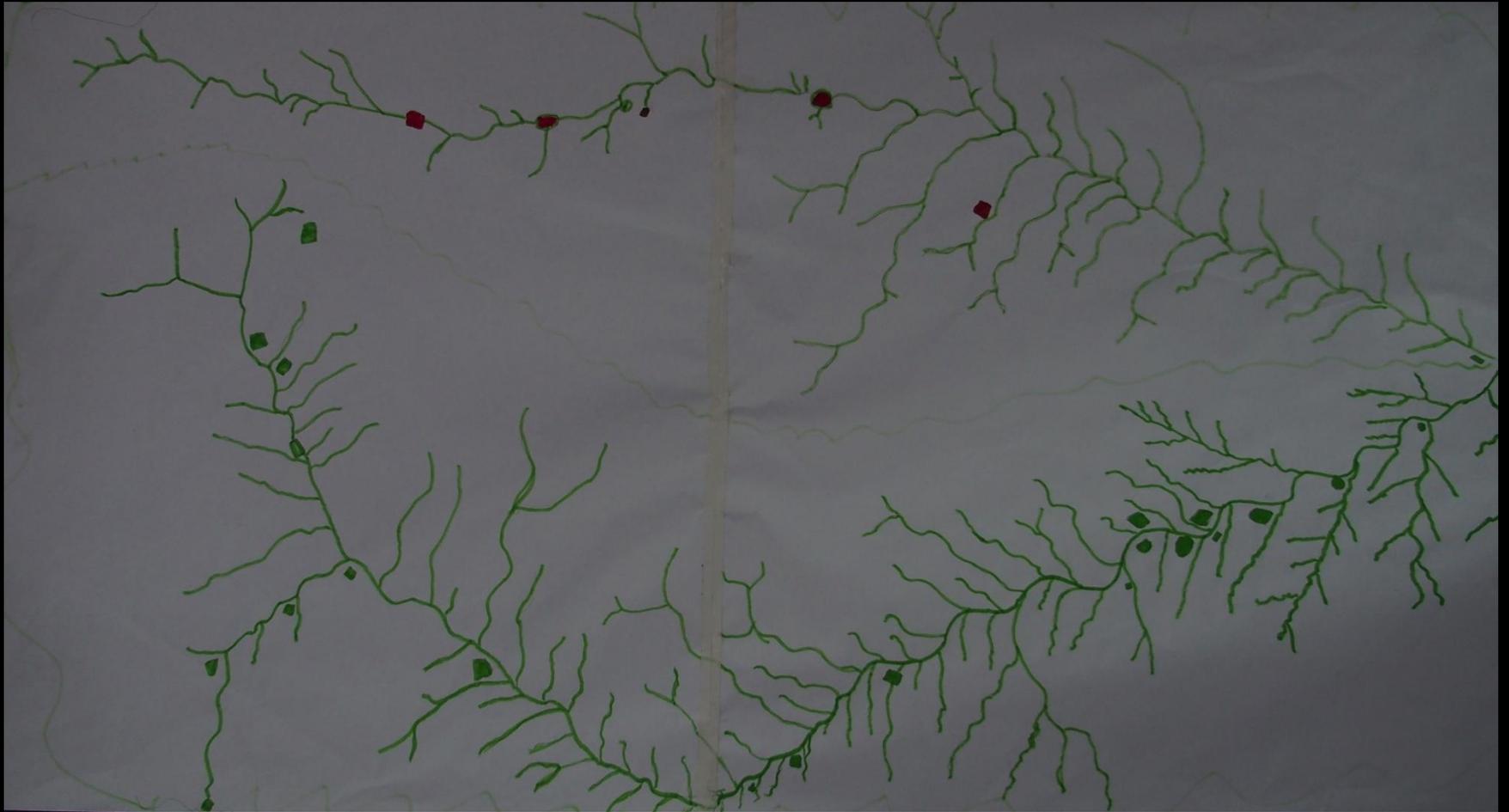




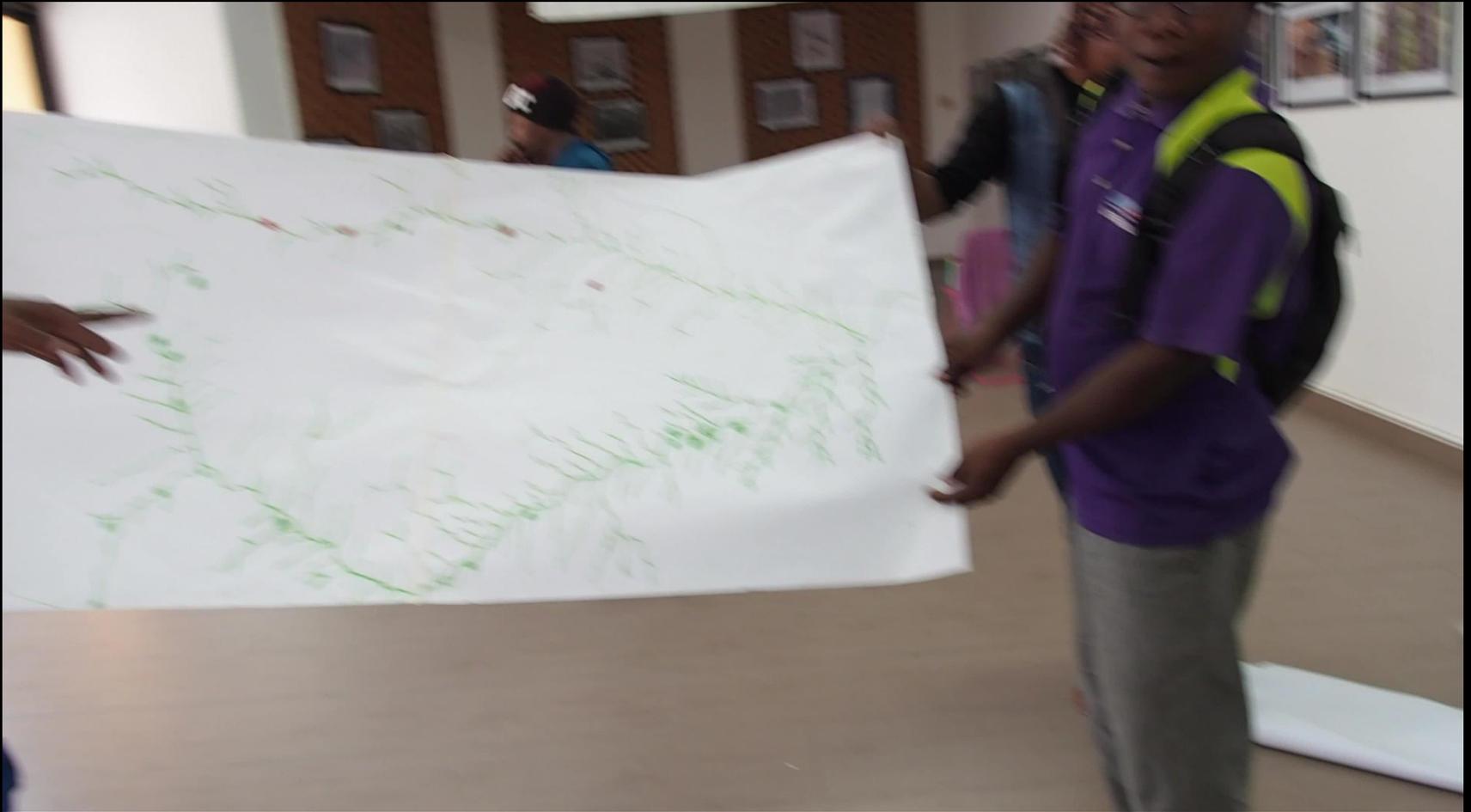
# Selaor



# Kejar/Tiang



# Peer Learning



# Asok from Selaor consulting with the kejar team on their landscape in The Royal Belum



# Jeff and Mujoy teaching about GIS and GPS



# What Next?

- Working closely with the community to develop maps for the following:
  - Resources
  - Settlements
  - Sacred sites

# Thank you

I would just like to add with a big Thank You for the support but more so for the possibility to collaborate on a common interests in the landscape.