Project Update: December 2014

Primary activities

Camera trapping

Project study aims are to investigate species relations of Kerinci Seblat wild cats with their respective prey species in Kerinci Seblat NP, West Central Sumatra. On top of that the overarching goal of the study is to understanding intra guild predator relations of Sumatran big, medium, small sized felids considering that they have significant roles as top predator and co-predators in their habitats and to investigate habitat variables and their potential prey species influencing their distribution.

First study area of the research is in Bungo District. We started the survey in late June 2014 in eastern forest block of KSNP. The forest is bordering with palm oil plantation. Total of 80 stations, all paired cameras, were set. Unfortunately two stations of four camera traps was stolen by vandals to be suspected entering the forest as bird poachers or agar wood collectors.

Our main activity to this date is setting up camera trap, check to replace batteries and memory cards as well

The following Table 1 is the schedule of field---work conducted between June---November 2014 by research.

Table 1 Activities of camera trap teams

No	Date	Purpose of Survey	Brief Result(s)
1.	11-24 June 2014	Camera trap placement	- Set 20 stations (40 camera trap units) - team consisted of 6 people - located in Hulu Pemunyian/ Bungo
2.	2-14 July 2014	Camera trap placement	- set 60 stations (120 camera trap units) - three teams of 6 people, total 18 people - located in Bukit Bujang/ Hulu Batang Ule (Bungo)
3.	9-18 August 2014*	Camera trap check	- checked 40 cameras (K001---K040), replaced batteries and changed memory card - replace broken/ stolen cameras with new ones considering new---safer positions
4.	1 – 8 September 2014	Camera trap check	- checked 40 cameras (K041---K080), replaced batteries and changed memory card - replace broken/ stolen cameras with new ones considering new positions
5.	24 Sept-6 October 2014	Camera trap withdrawal	- 25 CT stations were taken out from forest - 1 unit was broken (adding to previously stolen means 5 are missing)
6.	15 – 23 October 2014	Camera trap withdrawal	- Two teams of 7 people took out 51 CT stations - two cameras were destroyed, seven CT were broken summed in total of 14 units either stolen or broken (8% from total camera units)
7.	4 – 11 November 2014	Camera trap placement	- Two teams of 5 people out to set 30 camera trap stations in second study site in Sipurak

Field staff capacity building and training

In line with project aims, we conducted two in house trainings for field staff on camera trap field data management and basic IT communication (emails, web and photography). Even though majority of team members have vast field experience, they are mainly trained in field data collection, setting up camera traps, sign recording but not having further training on how to manage field data into something more useful ready for advance analyses.

1. First training was on data management. Field staff were trained how to use free image extractor information software in order to extract camera trap image information onto excel database format. This training involves photo categorization, file/ folder management following standardized format to be feed to project's master database.
2. The second training was introducing team member to a good way of email communication and field photography to support field activities documentation.

Preliminary result

Total of 80---paired camera trap stations (160 units) in Bungo have been set and ended their 100 day period at end of November 2014. Unfortunately within 1 month camera trap deployment we lose two stations (4 units) and 6 units are broken or stop working/ taking no data. Initially we identified 32 species were recorded with human disturbance presence 28 captures (photos) in 11 stations. Our preliminary result shows that clouded leopard is detected in 12 out of 74 stations (16%), golden cat is detected in 11 out of 74 (15%), tiger is 13/74 (17%) and smaller cats were detected in 3% of trapping stations. Identified prey species are wild boar, muntjak, rusa (sambar deer), lesser mouse deer, greater mouse deer, porcupine, bearded pig and red langur.

Partners

1. *Kerinci Seblat National Park Management Authority*
2. *Fauna & Flora International Indonesia Programme*
3. *University of Jambi*
4. *Forum HarimauKita (Sumatran Tiger Conservation Forum)*

Annex 1 Map of clouded leopard and golden cat camera trap study area in Bungo District, Jambi