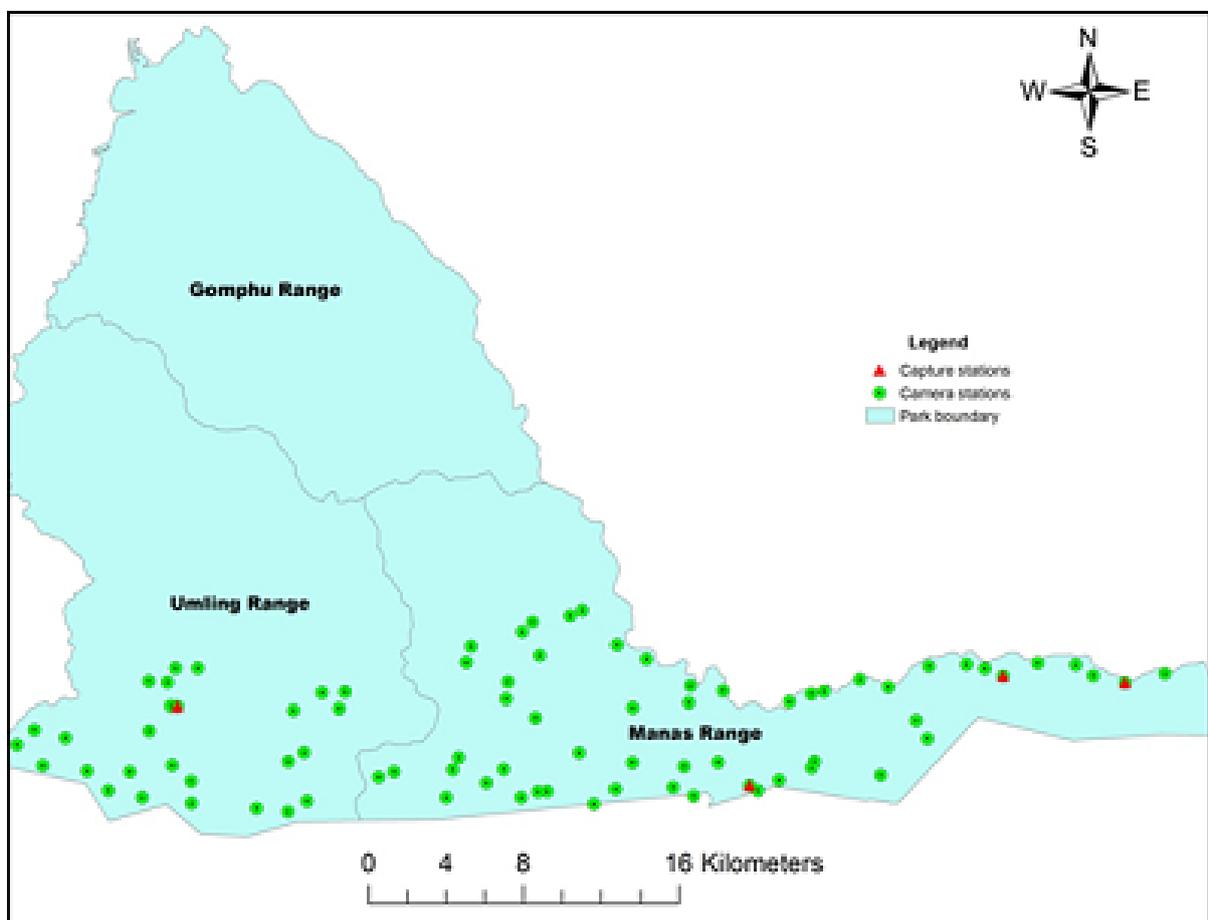


Project Update: July 2015

For the purpose of studying cat species, the park areas is divided into four zones - East, Central, West and North. In the first phase we have covered only three zones - East, Central and West zones (see map). A total of 166 cameras were placed at 83 camera stations (two cameras in each stations) within the 2.5 km x 2.5 km grid size. With 45 trap nights per station, the total effort was 3735 trap nights. However, the clouded leopard was captured only in five stations (see map). Through this preliminary observation we could see very low capture rate and scanty distributions in the lower region of the park. This needs to be confirmed after installation of the camera traps in the northern zones. The literature suggest that it is found up to elevation of 3000 m in Bhutan mostly confined to dense evergreen forest and sub Himalayan tropical forests.

In the next phase we will install camera traps in the north zones. The line transect survey will be carried out simultaneously after the monsoon season.



Map showing camera stations and capture stations of clouded leopard in the lowlands of Royal Manas National Park.



Clouded leopard captured by camera trap in RMNP