Project Update: January 2016

From 11th-18th December 2015, I went to Mondulkiri Protected Forest, eastern Cambodia, to train a student from the Royal University of Phnom Penh and local staff from WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Cambodia on green peafowl survey methods (Picture1). During the training we visited six locations in the centre section where we set point and line transects on which we practiced bird calling recognition, using equipment (GPS and compass), and estimate the distance of calling birds. The objective of this training was to prepare a plan for the student and the WWF staff to collect data from January-March 2016. This collaboration will provide information on density of green peafowl in Mondulkiri Protected Forest and assist the student in obtaining his MSc.

The preliminary data analysis from this training found that green peafowl were detected mostly close to Srepok River. No visual detection was made and only five calling birds were recorded over one line transect (three individuals at line transect 3 T3) and one listening post (two individuals at post P1). On other two transects (T1 and T2) and two listening posts (P2 and P3) no detections were recorded (Figure1). The forest type of Mondulkiri Protected Forest mostly comprise dry dipterocarp forest (>90%) and high grass coverage on ground level (Picture2). The intensive survey will start from January-March 2016 when the birds' mating season make them frequently call. The survey will be conducted by and MSc student of Royal University of Phnom Penh and WWF Cambodia so that the result of this survey will provide additional information for the region to be added with the one already collected by the Conservation Ecology program at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (Thailand) to estimate a density and clarify the status of green peafowl both in Mondulkiri Protected Forest and in mainland Southeast Asia.

Picture1. The student of Royal University of Phnom Penh and local staff of WWF Cambodia were trained to collect data on green peafowl calling by using compass, GPS and estimate calling distance.

Picture2. The area of Mondulkiri Protected Forest mainly is dry dipterocarp forest where high coverage by tall grass on ground level.

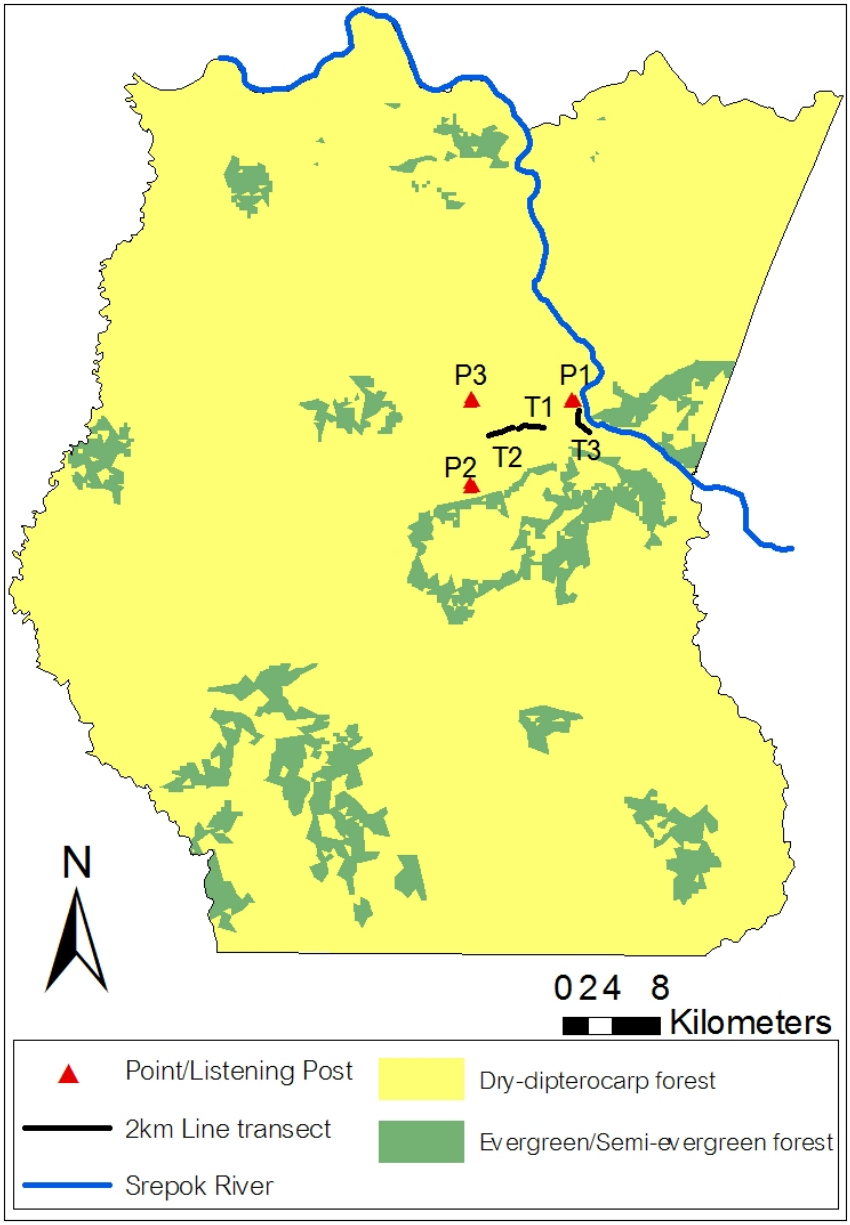

Figure1. Map of Mondulkiri Protected Forest, the training was conducted using three line transects (T1, T2 and T3) and three listening posts (P1, P2 and P3) at the centre section to collect data for density estimation.