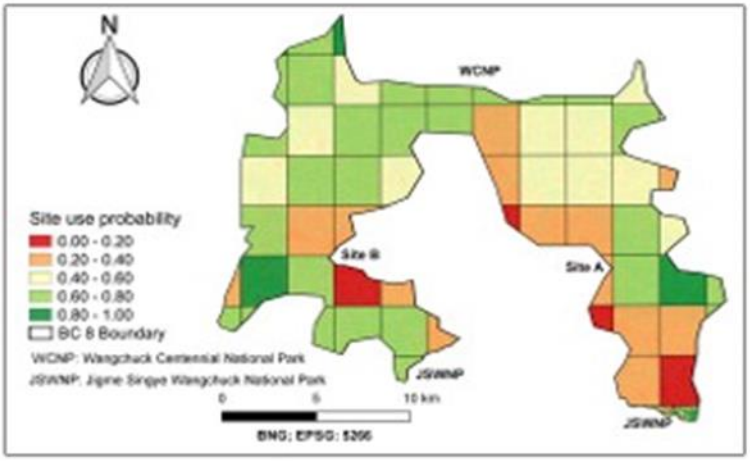
Project Update: November 2018

After the completion of fieldwork in June 2018, rigorous analytical works were carried out. Based on the sign survey and camera trapping works, occupancy modelling of three primary prey species, i.e., sambar, barking deer, and wild boar was conducted. Single-season, single species occupancy modelling performed in Programme Presence yielded varying occupancy estimate for three species, with barking deer having the highest occupancy estimate (ψ ± SE) 0.52 ± 0.09, followed by sambar (ψ ± SE) 0.49 ± 0.03 and wild boar (ψ ± SE) 0.45 ± 0.07. We positively identified two tigers in the BC 8 and habitat use probability map was produced through general linear models. BC 8 appears very conducive for tiger movement enabled by uniform prey occupancy.

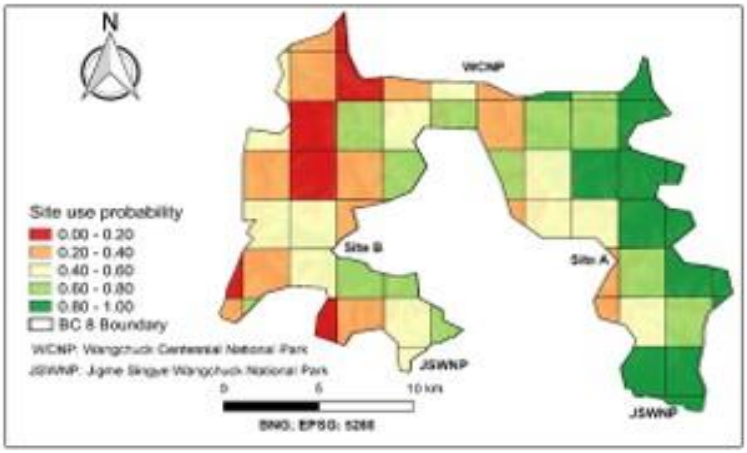
However, social survey indicated high incidences of livestock depredation by the tiger (76.49% of the total kill in the past 2 years were by tiger). Nomads were more vulnerable than agro-pastoralists, and predation was higher during the winter. Over 80% of the respondents were not aware of biological corridors and over 30% perceived negative attitude towards tiger conservation and corridor management. A masters thesis has been submitted based on these findings, and copy of the same has been submitted to the department of forests and park services for reference. Effort will be put to publish the findings in peer reviewed journals and information dissemination will be made through various mediums.

A. Occupancy probability of Sambar:



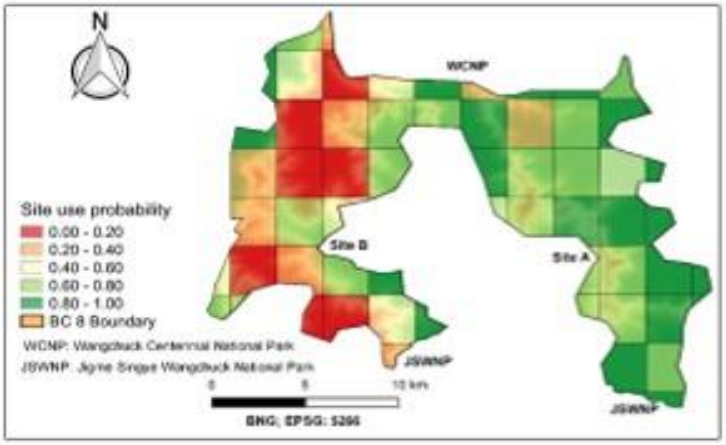
ψsiteA (SE) = 0.44 (0.06)
ψsiteB (SE) = 0.57(0.07)

B. Occupancy probability of Barking deer:

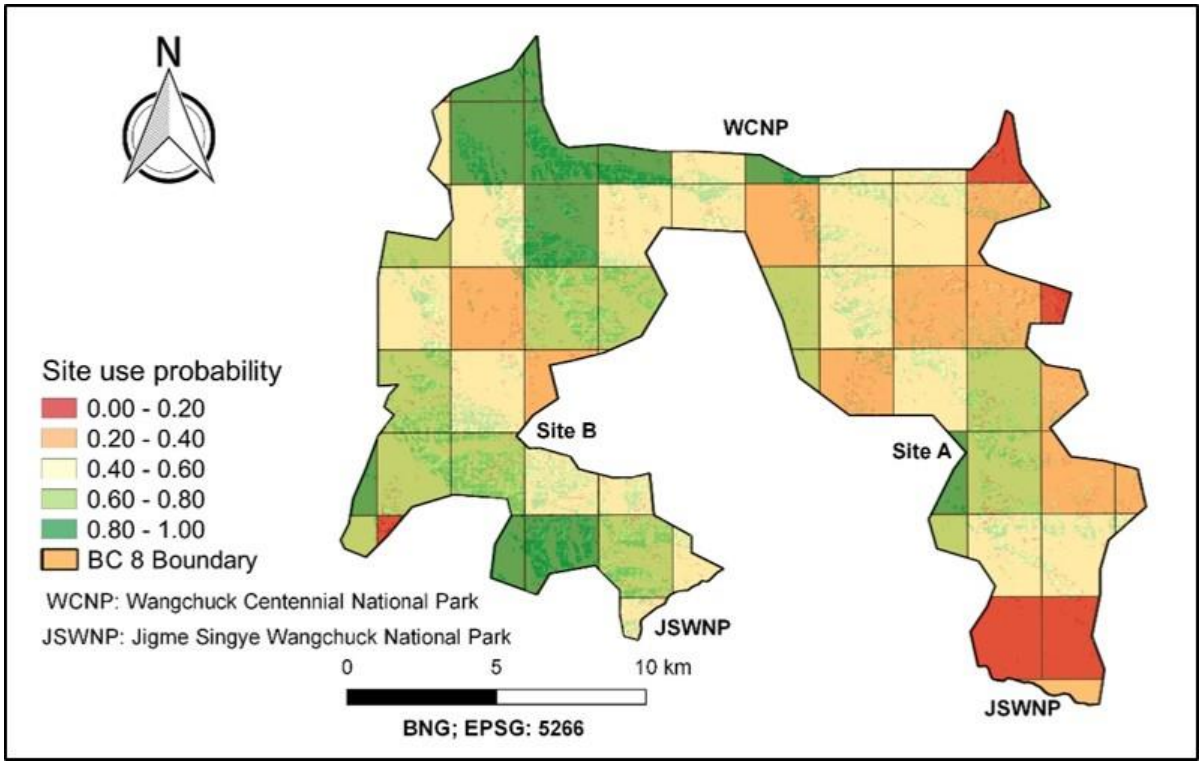


ψsiteA (SE) = 0.62 (0.06)
ψsiteB (SE) = 0.35(0.07)

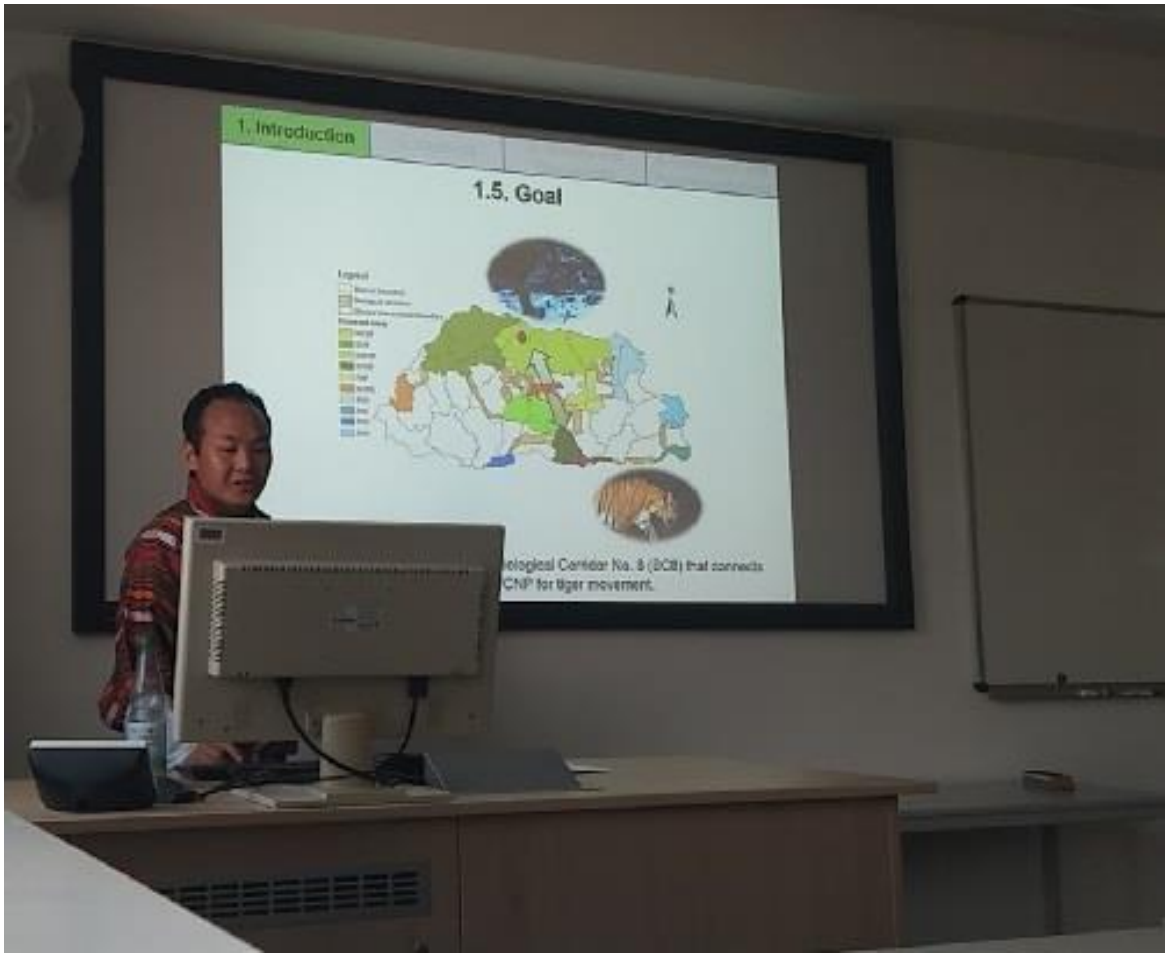
C. Occupancy probability of Wild boar:



ψsiteA (SE) = 0.64(0.09)
ψsiteB (SE) = 0.24 (0.08)



Thesis defence audience



Thesis presentation