

Project Update: August 2021

Camera Trap

Camera trapping was conducted by separating the study area into two blocks (first block: 67 and second block: 74). The camera trap survey was conducted from 9 April to 16 May 2021 (Fig 1).

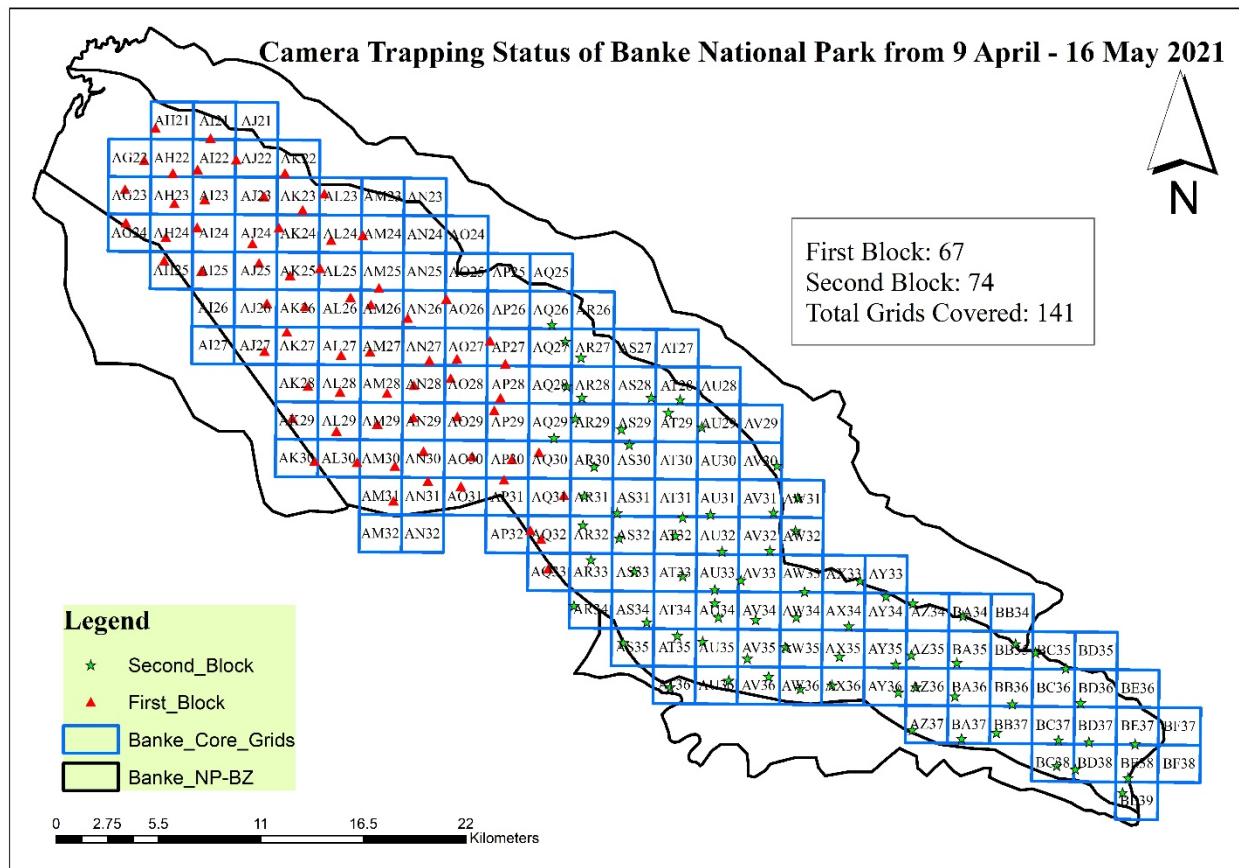


Figure 1: Grid size 2*2 km² overlaid over study area for camera trap survey

Distribution map of Common Leopard in Banke National Park (BaNP)

After the camera trapping, we have identified the photographs of the leopard and assigned the distribution location of common leopard in BaNP (fig. 2). Recently we are working on individual leopard profile of BaNP and based on the capture and recapture rate of leopard we will further proceed for density estimation. The detailed part of this research will be shared through scientific communications including diet composition.

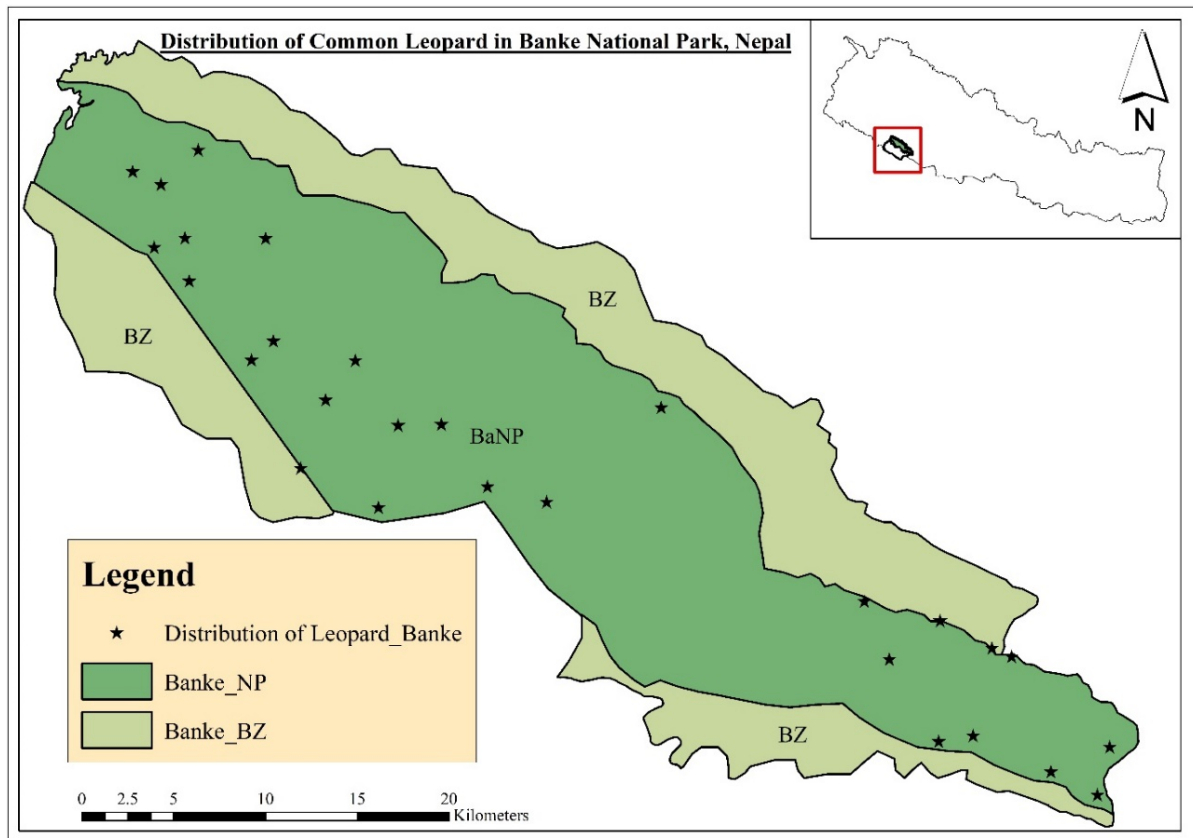


Figure 2. Distribution map of Common Leopard in Banke National Park (BaNP)

Individual ID Profile

Individuals are identified based on the rosette pattern around the body and limbs. Time captured was also noted in case of difficulty to distinguish leopard when the image captured were blurred. Individual identification profiles (Fig 3) are ongoing.

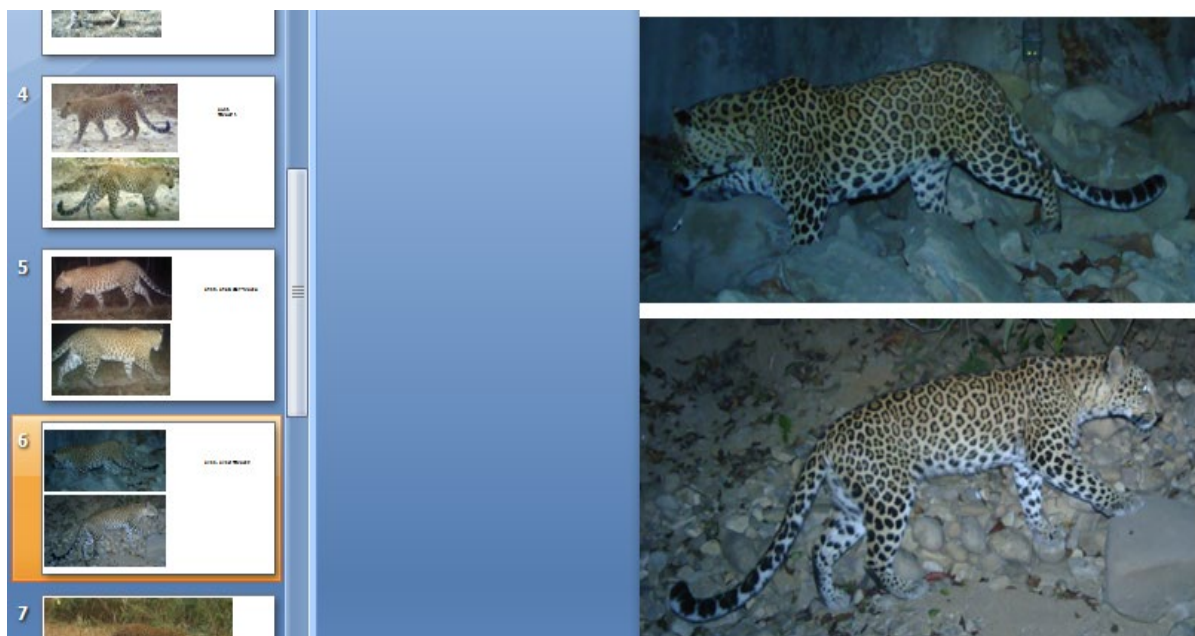


Figure 3: Maintaining individual leopard profile

Scats collection

During camera trap survey we also searched for scats. Scats were searched for along the human trails, roads where tigers and leopards are likely to pass. Collected scats were kept in plastic bags with GPS location and other information of habitat type, grid id and status of scats. Pugmarks and scraps were searched and measured for the verification of scats (Fig 4).



Figure 4: Measuring the indirect signs (Scraps) to distinguish felids scat

Tiger scat collection locations are not shared but few scat collection locations with habitat are shown in Table 1 for leopard from BaNP. In total we have collected 55 scats of tiger and 67 of leopard.

Table 1: Leopard scat collection location

SN	Grid Id	Easting	Northing	Scat Status (Very Fresh/Fresh/Old)	Pugmark (Y/N)	Habitat type
1	AP27	586655	3119646	Old	N	MF
2	AN26	582220	3121524	Old	N	MF
3	AN27	853586	3120011	Old	N	MF
4	AN27	580991	3120131	Old	N	MF
5	AP29	585630	3169073	Old	N	MF
6	AQ30	858932	3113791	Old	N	MF
7	AQ30	589973	3113099	Old	N	MF
8	AM 30	580850	3115139	Old	N	MF
9	AL29	579093	3116433	Old	N	MF

10	AL29	579220	3116137	Old	N	MF
11	AL30	578513	3115404	Old	N	MF
12	AL30	578253	3114591	Old	N	MF
13	AO30	584269	3114317	Fresh	N	MF
14	AO30	586011	3113697	Old	N	MF
15	AO28	584277	3118321	Old	N	MF
16	AO29	586352	3116615	Old	N	MF
17	AQ26	589054	3121234	Old	N	RF
18	AQ27	589707	3120330	Old	N	MF
19	AQ29	589195	3115175	Old	N	MF
20	AR28	590813	3117574	Old	N	MF
21	AQ30	588813	3114658	Old	N	MF
22	AS28	593792	3117366	Old	N	MF
23	AS28	593792	3117366	Old	N	MF
24	AT29	593605	3116334	Old	N	MF
25	AS31	592017	3110930	Old	N	RF
26	AS31	591836	3110960	Old	N	RF
27	AS34	593620	3106866	Old	N	MF

Scat analysis

Throughout the research period scats were collected opportunistically for both felids. Thus, collected scats were dipped into Lysol for the easy removal of hair. We had randomly selected the 20 hair samples from each scat sample and prepared the permanent slides (fig 5) and prepared temporary slide for some samples. We are first working with leopard scats.

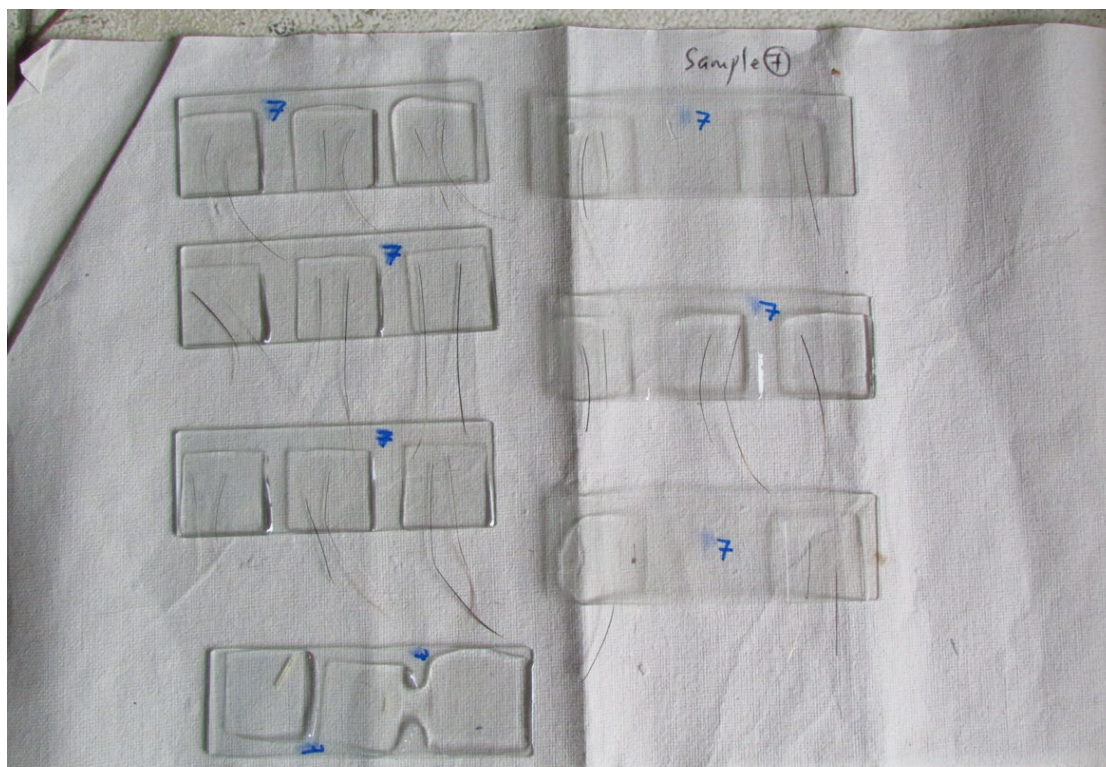


Figure 5: Preparing permanent slide for identification of prey items through hair sample present in leopard scats.



Left: A Camera Trap installed in the field. Right: Team members installing camera trap in the field.



Left: Unusual camping sites by poachers in BaNP along the way to Querine. Right: A hiding place made by hunters used for poaching wildlife in the churia range.



Left: Token of love distributed during project period in school. Right: People illegally taking firewood from the jungle.



Prize distribution after drawing competition.



Token of love shared after completing the school awareness program.



Field visit in Malaya Post, Dang of BaNP to ask for collaboration with BaNP staffs to conduct school awareness program and community interactions.



Facilitating school awareness program by BaNP staff members.