Project Update: September 2020

Activities:

- Mapping mammal distribution and abundance survey using LEK. *Conducted.*
From March 2020 - July 2020 we have been conducting surveys in four regions around Mount Lawu: Wonogiri, Magetan, Ngawi and Karanganyar. Interviewing 162 key respondents from 41 villages. In these interviews we collected information from local people are still active in the forest nearby their village. Among the respondents are ranger, hunter, or villagers that collect goods from forest.

- Identification of important sites for threatened and protected species. *Ongoing.*
From the information collected in August 2020 we made a map indicating the location where local people encounter wild mammals. From this map, we draw the forest areas that have high value of conservation following the indicators: Habitat for highly threatened mammals (CR, EN, VU), high richness of mammal species, and also containing primary forest.

Starting September 2020, we are currently conducting field surveys assessing the indicated important habitat. In this field survey we assess the forest status and profile and ground checking of the sign of threatens mammals.

In this activity, we are involving three local experts: one hunter, one forest guide and one local mammal enthusiast. They know the forest area well and have a good knowledge on the mammals.

- Development of recommendation and education program. *Up and coming.*
This activity will soon be conducted after the field survey finish.

Challenge and difficulties:

After Covid-19 hit us in March 2020, we stopped the survey and interview from April - June 2020. We had to stop the project operation for 3 months to help reduce the spread of the virus. As the situation got easier, in July 2020 we started the interviews again with full Covid-19 precaution (wearing masks and face shield, keep distance and make sure that we are tested negative for Covid-19).

During interview, often local people did not recognise the picture solely and had difficulties to recall their memories. To tackle this issue, we had to provide more information about the mammal common characteristics and behaviour. This method helped them so much on recalling and recognising the animal.

Current findings:

Mapping mammal distribution and abundance survey using LEK.
- Local people recognised and indicated the existence of 31 mammal species in Mount Lawu
- Two species listed as critically endangered (CR): *Manis javanica, Nycticebus coucang.*

- Four species listed as endangered (EN): *Presbytis comata*, *Hylobates moloch*, *Sus verrucosus*, *Cuon alpinus*.
- Six species listed as vulnerable (VU): *Trachypithecus auratus*, *Macaca fascicularis*, *Cervus timorensis*, *Panthera pardus melas*, *Lutrogale perspicillata*, *Petinomys genibarbis*.
- The threatened mammals are still encountered by local people in almost all forest area around Mount Lawu. The southern part of the mountain is the most frequent mammal encounter by local people

Identification of important habitat
- Forest areas in the southern part of Mount Lawu are considered to have high value of conservation following the criteria: threatened mammals (CR, EN, VU) are encountered by locals within the area, have the highest richness of mammal species based on local knowledge, and also containing primary forest

Involvement of local stakeholders:

Local stakeholders are highly involved in the project. Started from designing the project and the data collection. Prior to the data collection, we discussed the issue and the project planning with Perhutani (the local authority of the forest management). They gave us many inputs about location and the respondent to be involved.

During data collection, we interacted with local people (villagers, hunters, ranger, guide, villages officials). They were quite enthusiastic and quite surprised about the knowledge that they own about mammals. We hope, this is a good sign of awareness toward mountain mammals among local people. We also involve some of the local experts in field survey. During field survey, local expert guide us to explore the forest and show us the sign of mammals. We also explain to them what we have found and discuss any finding to give the local expert broader views about mammal species and their importance.

Next activities and plan:

| September – Mid October 2020	Continue forest survey and field mammal survey
October – November 2020	Data analysis Analytical workshop with local stakeholder
December 2020	Recommendation for habitat management and education program
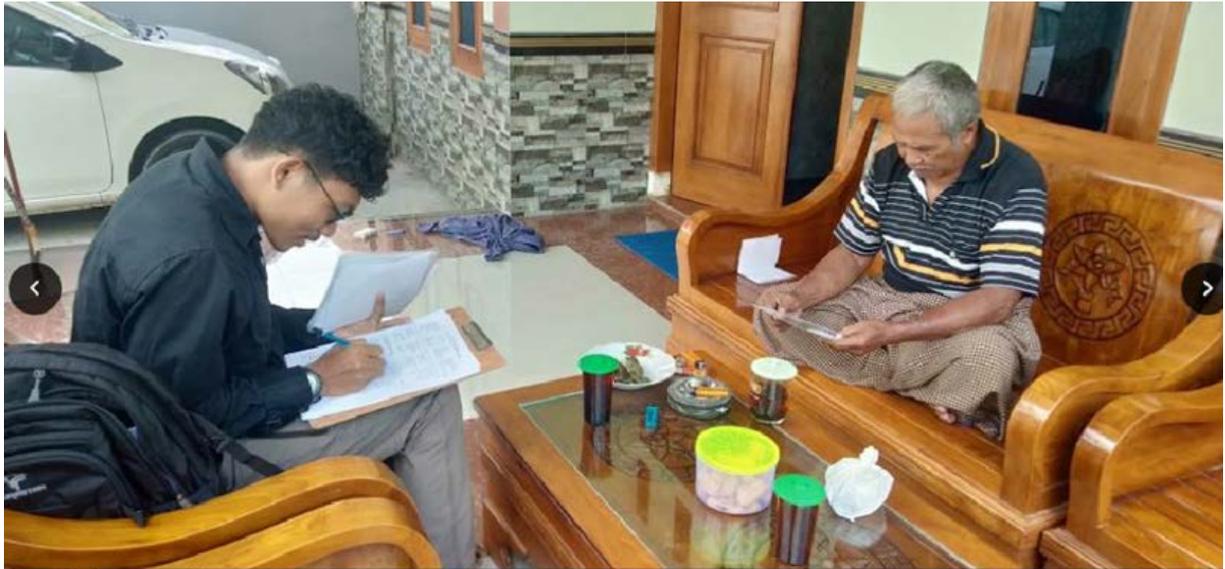
Video profile of the project
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3m4WW4W0d98&t=30s).

Sample of documentation 1 (data collection).
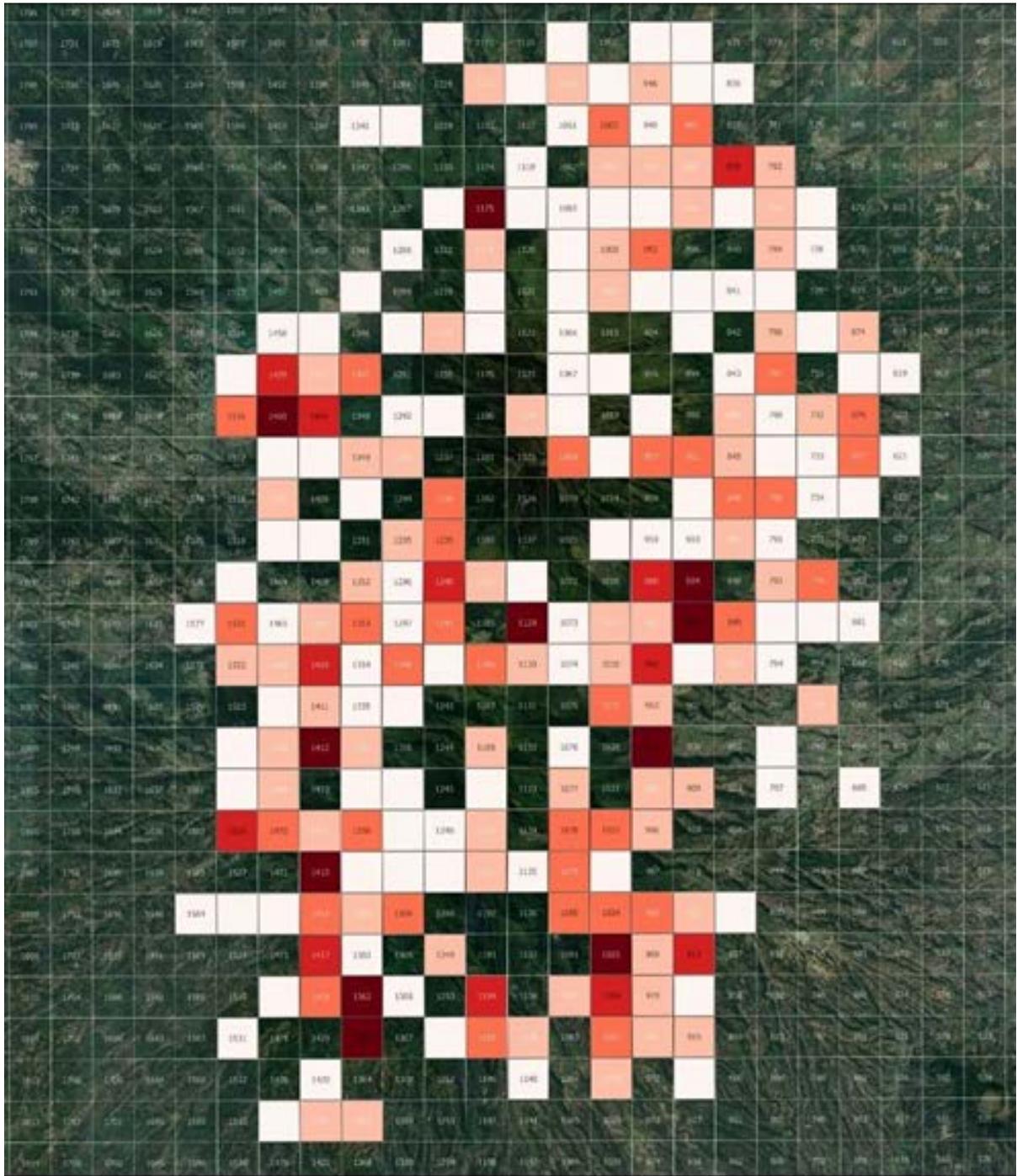
Initial distribution map of threatened species