

Community based conservation and research on carnivores in Human dominated landscape of central Hills Sri Lanka

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Project conducted by: Save Fishing cat conservation Project/ Small cat advocacy & Research Organization

Time period: 2024 November to 2025 December

Rufford funding received : 2024 November 22

Necessary permission obtained after delay 2025 May

Project Update

Pilot survey-

Pilot survey has been completed with the assistance of forest officers, park management team before and soon after getting the necessary permission from Forest department Of Sri Lanka

Our official written permit got delayed many months due to political changes and changes in the department authorities. Which deeply affect on the timeline of our study.



Bopaththalawa farm associated landscape

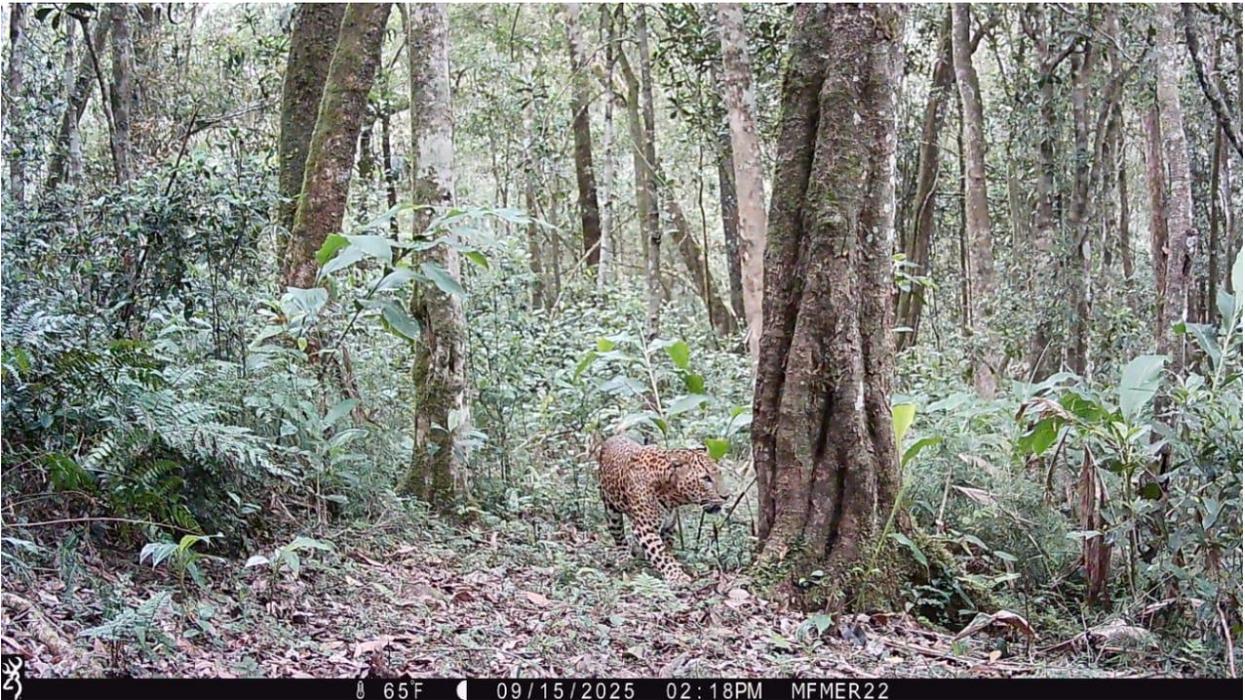
Camera trap survey

We have purchase new camera traps from Browning company and mixing with our existing camera traps we have started to setup camera traps from 2025 May 1st and keep continuing up to now.

Camera traps were checked in 30 day routine in both study sites.



Setting up camera traps in different study areas



Sri Lankan Leopard



Rusty spotted cat

Camera trap images captured during pur field work

Questionnaire survey

We have already conducted the questionnaire survey in Raksha study site by completing 150 households. and Bopathtahalwa area still need to be covered in coming months.



Conducting social surveys

Vegetation survey

This survey is currently ongoing with the each camera trap setting. This task will be completed by the end of the project.

Consultation programs for officials, youths

We have conducted 5 school programs, one youth camp and 2 consultation programs for the targeted communities by far. More programs will be conducted in the future.





Youth camp 2025



School awareness programs and training sessions 2025 October



Workshop about Wildlife , myths and conservation at Sabaragamuwa University 2025



Community meeting at Sulugune village starting new community based conservation initiatives



Another school awareness session on biodiversity conservation on September



Webinar series about wild cat which I also acknowledged about Rufford foundation





Materials used in our programs

Project objectives need to be completed

- Remaining field work camera trap
- Compiling the data and proceed with the publication
- Complete remaining social survey
- Conduct few more youth , community based awareness and other related sessions.