

Project Update: November 2016

Conservation activities

We have managed a short lecture for fish farmers in hall of Fishery Department of Padang Pariaman regency on 10th September 2016. We explained about biology of otters in Indonesia in general, specifically about small-clawed otter, and what we have done in research and conservation activities. In the afternoon, we conducted a focus group discussion. First, we listed all of available methods on how to protect fish ponds from otter. We have collected various methods, from scientifically sound methods to myth-like methods. Subsequently, fish farmers gave score to each method in three aspects; effectiveness, money efficiency, and otter safety.

Based on this discussion, we designed a leaflet on how to protect fish ponds from small-clawed otters. We printed and distributed them to Fishery Department and fish farmers. Fishery Department and fish farmers appreciated our contribution. This is the first available material on how to protect fishponds from small-clawed otters in the region.

Home range of small-clawed otter

To date, we are not able to reveal home range of small-clawed otter yet. Actually, we successfully installed implant transmitter on a male small-clawed otter. Unfortunately, we lost its radio signal after 2 days of release. Furthermore, current trapping methods are not effective to catch new individuals of small-clawed otter.

In order to tackle this problem we would like to use camera traps coupled with latrine-sites survey, as well as to find new individuals for radio tagging.



Leaflet distribution to fish farmer



Head of Fishery Department receives leaflets



Focus Group Discussion on how to protect fish ponds from otters



Short lecture on Biology of otters