

# Camera Traps

## Progress Report III

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*Continuation of the 1 year camera trap project in the TWA Seblat Conservation Area.*

The latest report from the patrol and camera trap project in the TWA Seblat Conservation Area. On January 20th the camera traps were moved to new locations in the TWA Conservation area and the current data detailed below was retrieved.

A new model camera (Bushnell 119678c) was purchased with the ability to record videos at full HD video. With this latest round of camera placements it was our plan to hike by foot from various camps within the TWA Seblat Conservation area and find game trails that were hidden from view of the major trails being used by poachers and loggers to prevent theft of the cameras. Despite the increase in security with slings and security boxes another camera trap was stolen in December.

We found game trails with obvious signs of Tapir's, forest cats and many more species and distancing ourselves from known tracks used by poachers and illegal loggers. The plan for the next collection of data is towards the end of February with new locations being chosen on a late patrol in March.

Below is a schedule for the next 6 months regarding the placement of camera traps and the collection of data.



Placing a camera trap in new locations through January





For patrol and camera trap work is the below schedule and plan for the year of 2015.

Schedule Patrol Camera Traps 2015																												
Work	January				February				March				April				May				June				July			
	Week				Week				Week				Week				Week				Week				Week			
Week 1,2,3 or 4 of the month	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Place camera trap			Y								Y								Y								Y	
Change cards							Y							Y								Y						
Follow Patrol / check cameras / SPT			Y								Y								Y								Y	
Exclusion																					Y							
Buy new camera		Y								Y									Y							Y		
Collect data and report				Y				Y				Y			Y				Y				Y					Y
Finish Budget proposal for 1 more year													Y															

Schedule for 6 months

During the one week patrol in January we found 3 new locations to place camera traps and also discovered a tiger snare, which was destroyed at the time we found it.



Spotting a tiger snare

# Data Nov - Dec

As part of the collected data from the months of November and December some good results came in from the locations and game trails chosen for the camera traps. The teams successfully completed two months of data collection in various locations throughout the TWA Seblat Conservation Area. The species included:

- Civet Cat (see video)
- Forest Cat (see photo)
- Red Muntjac (see video)
- Long-tailed Macaque
- Wild Pigs

Two videos below were recorded from the camera traps of a civet cat and a red muntjac.



Red Muntjac > [https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?)





Video Civet Cat > [https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?)



Photo Forest Cat

# Moving Forward

With the experience now of following the elephant patrol and placing the camera traps for the past 9 months it has become obvious that the current activities carried out by the patrol unit can be improved to protect the TWA Conservation Area. As part of a test in



Illegal logging location

January to see if the prospect of aerial drones might be able to help improve the aspects of the regular patrol units I took along a personal aerial drone I use for my landscape photography in Sumatra and the Indonesia archipelago to take some aerial shots of the TWA Seblat conservation area. Three locations were scouted and in the very first scout location illegal logging locations were spotted from the air. This



shows a huge potential to help improve the effectiveness of the



Aerial drone photo with an illegal logging location spotted in the center of the photo.

current patrol units being able to assess areas from the air and immediately process the photos at the location and take action if required.

My plan to move forward is to provide a proposal to help build on the current government patrol units to make them more successful and more effective. This proposal will be a step up from the current camera trap project to help provide better protection for the TWA Conservation Area. This I hope will be able to begin mid year possibly July before the month of Ramadan, which generally sees a rise in animal poaching in protected areas throughout Sumatra.