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2011

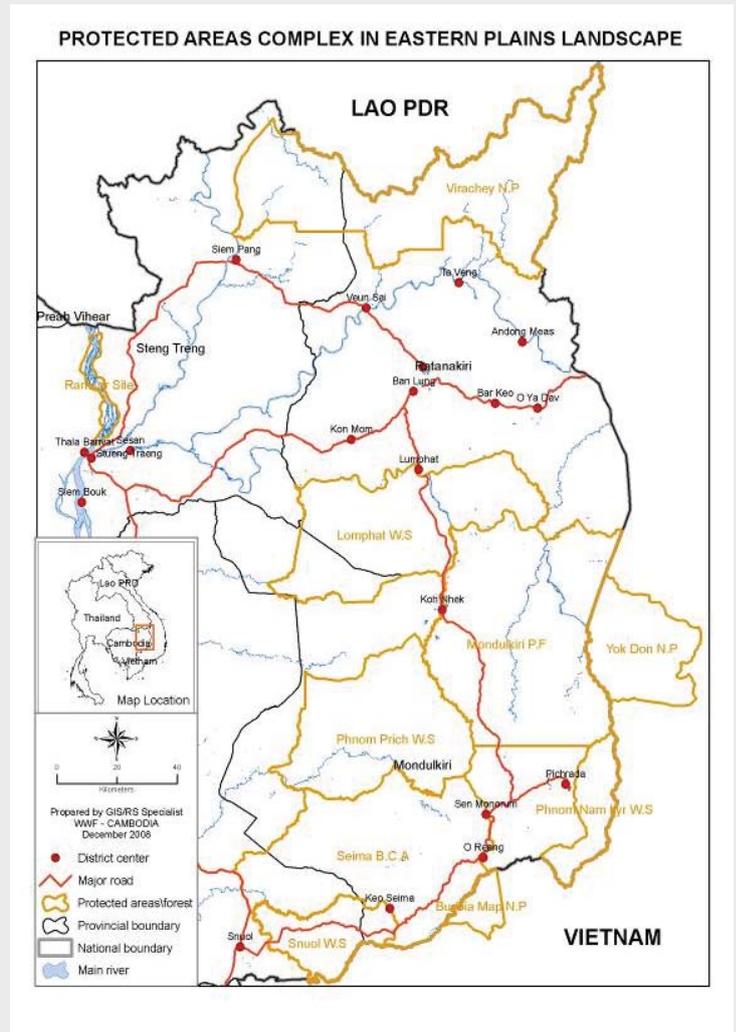
Banteng Population in Cambodia: The Established Baseline Density

Between 2009-2011 in dry seasons, the research team of WWF-Cambodia conducted the first vigorous surveys on population abundance of large mammals which includes wild cattle, deer, and wild pig in the Eastern Plain Landscape (EPL) of Cambodia covering an area of approximately 6,000km².

Banteng: Globally Endangered Species

Banteng (*bos javanicus*) is a species of wild cattle that historically inhabited deciduous and semi-evergreen forests from Northeast India and Southern Yunnan through mainland Southeast Asia and Peninsular Malaysia to Borneo and Java.

Since 1996, banteng has been listed by IUCN as globally endangered on the basis of an inferred decline over the last 30 years of more than 50%. Banteng is most likely the ancestor of Southeast Asia's domestic cattle and it is considered to be one of the most beautiful and graceful of all wild cattle species.



In Cambodia, banteng populations have decreased dramatically since the late 1960s. Poaching to sell the meat and horns as trophies constitutes a major threat to remnant populations even though banteng is legally protected.



Monitoring Banteng Population in the Landscape

Knowledge of animal populations is central to understanding their status and to planning their management and conservation. That is why WWF has several research projects in the EPL to gain more information about the biodiversity values of PPWS and MPF. Regular line transect surveys are conducted to collect data on large ungulates like banteng, gaur, and Eld's deer--all potential prey species for large carnivores including tigers.

The Population estimate uses distance-based line transect sampling which comprises a set of methods in which distances from a point to detections of animals are recorded. This is also a standard method used for estimating tiger prey abundance in protected areas in the Indian subcontinent.

110 line transects (randomly distributed across 3,406km²) were surveyed for a total of 1,310km² generating 325 encounters with large mammals including banteng.

Besides banteng, the research also monitors the abundance of other large mammals including wild pig and muntjac in the landscape. These large mammals are all very important prey species of tiger.



The Result

The research team estimates the population of banteng in the EPL between 2,700-5,700 individuals with the accurate confidence of 95%. This is the world's largest population of banteng given the estimated global population is approximately 5,900-11,000, with estimates of 100-200 individuals in a number of protected areas in Thailand and Java.

The research is to understand the current levels of tiger prey species such as banteng, wild pig, and muntjac as part of the government's strategy to restore the Eastern Plains as the priority tiger landscape in Cambodia. The current findings provide strong evidence of the global significance of the landscape for conservation of the species.

For the tiger to recover, one of the most important things it needs is a good source of prey. If protection measures are guaranteed in the long term, wildlife can recover relatively quickly within the next 10-20 years.

Further Information

The Full Report:

Establishing baseline ungulate densities in Mondulkiri Protected Forest and Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary.

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August 2011

Is Available At: <http://www.mediafire.com/?crb2lxz0z3age>