

Multi-species occupancy modeling of ground-dwelling mammals in central Laos: a case study for monitoring in tropical forests

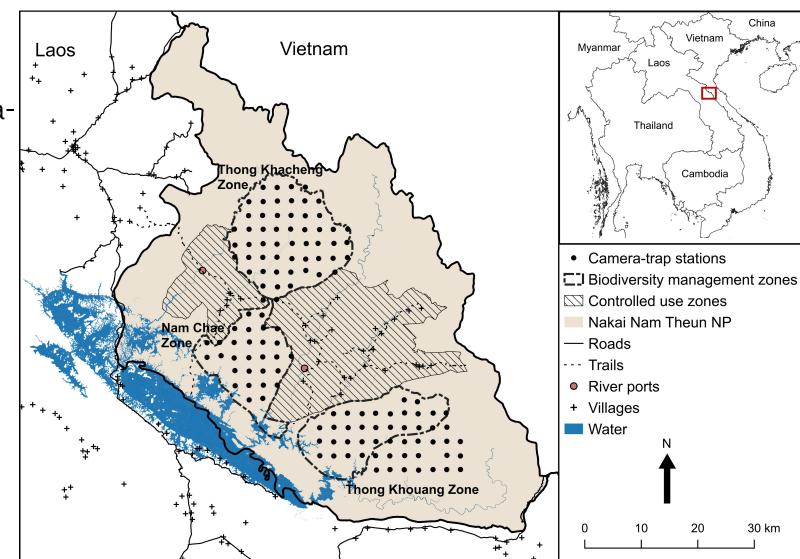
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INTRODUCTION

- The **tropical forests of mainland Southeast Asia** are among the **most biodiverse and threatened** forest systems globally
- Unsustainable hunting and habitat loss have led to widespread mammal population declines in Southeast Asia
- Robust monitoring of population trends over time and space is a key component of national park management strategy
- Systematic camera trap surveys are the best method for population monitoring of terrestrial forest mammals
- Multi-species occupancy models provide robust estimates of species occurrence, abundance, richnessand distribution at the community level

METHODOLOGY

- Landscape-scale systematic camera-trapping survey in Nakai-Nam Theun National Park in 2020 (20,794 camera-trap days for 131 operational stations 255 cameras)
- A multi-species occupancy analysis
- Objectives:
 - Estimate occupancy and species richness within three Biodiversity Priority Zones: Nam Chae, Thong Kacheng, Thong Kouang
 - Assess anthropogenic and ecological factors
 influencing species distribution in the national park
 - Establish this methodology as part of the long-term wildlife monitoring program for the national park



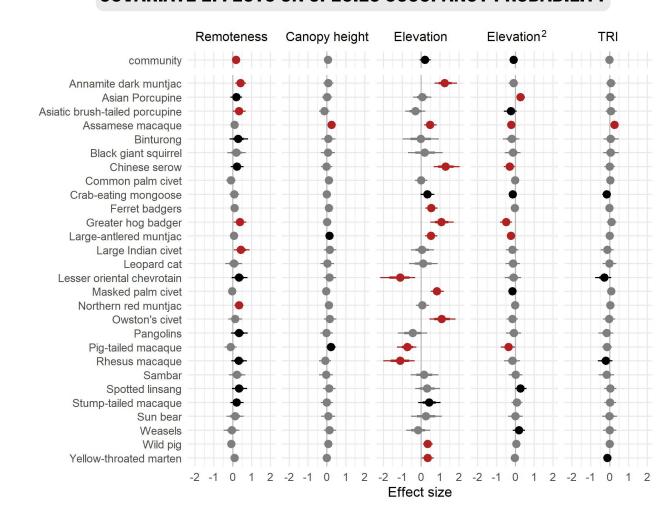
MAIN FINDINGS

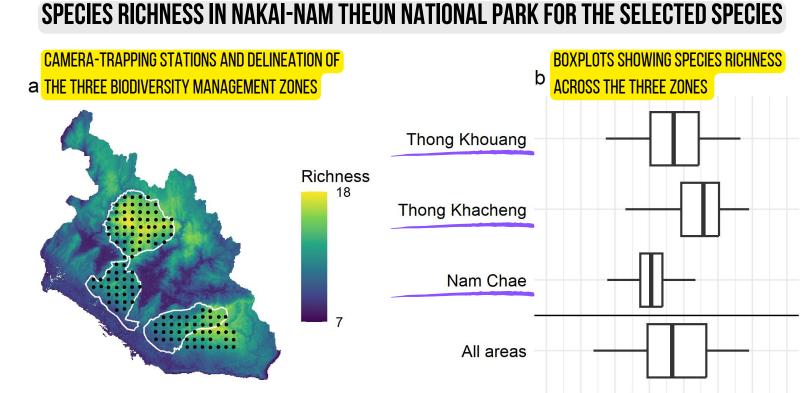
- Total of 40 terrestrial mammals were detected, including 5
 Annamite endemics and 18 threatened species
- 28 species with sufficient detections to be included in the multi-species occupancy analysis
- Overall species richness increased with remoteness and elevation
- mean (SD) predicted species richness:
 - Thong Kacheng Zone: 14.85 (± 1.59)
 Thong Kouang Zone: 13.46 (± 1.67)
 - Nam Chae Zone: 12.04 (± 1.1)

CONCLUSIONS

- Nakai-Nam Theun National Park is a priority area for biodiversity conservation in the Annamites
- The national park holds globally significant populations of Annamite endemics, including two of some of the largest remaining populations in the world of Endangered
 Owston's civet and Critically Endangered Large-antlered
 Muntjac
- This wildlife monitoring program with a systematic largescaled camera-trap survey should be replicated in the long-term every 3-5 years as part of Nakai-Nam Theun National Park management strategy

COVARIATE EFFECTS ON SPECIES OCCUPANCY PROBABILITY





12 14 16 18 20

Richness