

## WILDLIFE MONITORING USING CAMERA TRAPPING AT SALT LICK AREAS IN ULU MUDA FOREST RESERVE, KEDAH

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**ABSTRACT** - Camera trapping is advantageous in obtaining images of wildlife species for detection and monitoring since it records automatically with minimal human interaction. The technologies expand with motion-detection function to capture any movement of object or species pass by the camera for identification compare to the conventional method of detection and monitoring using footprint, dung, scent, sound and other indirect signs. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) have deployed camera traps at salt lick areas in Ulu Muda Forest Reserve Kedah in two programmes. First programme was conducted at artificial salt lick namely Jenut Kalir, Jenut Che Song, Jenut Buluh, Jenut Akar from September 2017 until May 2018. Second programme ran from Mac until May 2021 at Jenut Jawa, a natural salt lick. There were 15 species present in the 5,806 images captured from both programmes. Five species were present in both programmes namely *Sus scrofa*, *Elephas maximus*, *Rusa unicolor*, *Muntiacus muntjac* and *Tapirus indicus*. Two additional species were detected in second programme namely *Lutrogale perspicillata* and *Varanus salvator*. Previously, an Ulu Muda Scientific Expedition held from 2003 to 2004 had captured 13 species using camera trap with nine similar species. Besides direct observation using camera trap images, PERHILITAN currently working on indirect observation using water samples and leeches to detect wildlife presence. In addition, environmental DNA (eDNA) and invertebrate-derived DNA (iDNA) are two methods recommended in the subsequent programme to monitor wildlife.

**Keywords:** Camera trap, salt lick, Ulu Muda forest reserve, species