

BEFTA Protocol

Protocol for Carnivore surveys

04/10/2013

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Background

Methods follow those already developed as part of existing SMARTRI research.

Methods

A team searches each 50mx50m block and full 150x150m block for any traces of small carnivores (faeces/hair etc).

The presence of any trace is recorded and, if possible, assigned to species.

Timings of surveys are:

1. June 2013
2. Jan 2014
3. July 2014
4. Feb 2015
5. July 2015
6. Jan 2016

Camera traps (Reconyx) have also been set in centre of a subset of the plots (G07-09, G14-16, C 10-12, and C17-19), one trap per block, from May to November. Locations within the plot were chosen to give a good view of the surrounding area. Camera traps are downloaded every month and species and human activity recorded.

Status

Surveys for the presence of small carnivores will continue throughout the project on the dates listed above. Camera traps will be removed for use in other research in December 2013, but will be re-deployed in the BEFTA plots later in the project.