

CO51-5 SUNARTO, MAJU BINTANG.HUTAJULU, Duwi Yulipan, Victoberry, Isman Affandi, Wilson Novarino, Asep S. Adikerana, Habib Subagyo, and Frank Lambert Conservation International Indonesia, Jl. Pejaten Barat No 16A, Kemang, Jakarta 12550, Indonesia (S). Kantor Balai Taman Nasional Bogani-Naniwartabone, Kotamubago, Sulawesi Utara, Indonesia (MBH). Jurusan Biologi FMIPA Universitas Andalas, Kampus Limau Manis Padang, Sumatera Barat 25163, Indonesia (DY, V, IA, WN). BirdLife Indonesia, Jl. Dadali No. 32 Tanah Sareal, Bogor 16161 Indonesia (ASA, FL). Balai Geomatika-BAKOSURTANAL Jl.Raya Jakarta Bogor Km.46, Cibinong 16911, Indonesia (HS). (sunarto@conservation.org)

IMPORTANT BIODIVERSITY AREAS IN TIMBER CONCESSIONS AROUND KERINCI SEBLAT NATIONAL PARK, SUMATRA: MISSING CONSERVATION TARGETS?

We conducted biodiversity surveys in nine timber concession areas bordering Kerinci-Seblat National Park (KSNP), Sumatra. Aims of the survey were to identify the indication of biodiversity richness in the concessions and formulate recommendations for an improved management of the concession areas in regard of the biodiversity. The survey focused on documenting the distribution of mega-fauna in the concession areas. The presence of each target species or its clue was recorded with GPS reading taken for each record. General description of the habitat was also made in each point. Target survey areas within the concessions were selected based on, among others, forest cover and closeness to KSNP boundaries. We documented significant biodiversity rich areas in the concessions surveyed. Siamang, sun-bear, Malayan tapir and Sumatran tiger were documented in all concession areas. Meanwhile, Asian elephant, Sumatran rhino and agile gibbon were found in some concession areas. Based on these results, we recommended an improved management of KSNP and extension of its coverage to include the biodiversity rich-areas in the concessions.

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