Crocodile Surveys in Mesangat Lake, East Kalimantan, Indonesia, October-December 2010

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Survey Aims

1. Assess the population size and distribution of both species in the area
2. Obtain data on crocodile location in the rainy season for further studies of seasonal movements
3. Obtain information on general biology and feeding ecology of both species
52 spotlight surveys over 26 nights
28th October - 4th December 2010

2 boats going to different locations
21:00 - 02:00hrs

Crocodile capture
...by hand
...with a net
...or accidentally on fish hook by local fishermen

Captured crocs were measured, weighed
and had stomach flushed

PI T tags

external bead tags

1 tail scute with individual number clipped

Camera traps with bait (fish)

Croc eye shine

Preliminary results
Preliminary Results - Summary

- 155 eyeshines spotted
- Both species present
- Some evidence for space partitioning:
  - T. schlegelii in flooded forest
  - Both species in open areas
- Different nesting seasons
- Prey shift with crocodile size

Future Work

- Surveys in dry season (2011)
- Seasonal differences in distribution and diet
- Nesting behaviour
- Long-term study of biology, ecology and behaviour of both species

Conservation Implications

- Mesangat Lake - unique habitat
- Two endangered croc species
- Main threats: habitat loss (human development), others?
- Information on biology, ecology and natural habitat - background for future conservation activities
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Field assistants:
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  Daud Lenjau, Sunardi, Deni Wahyudi, Kahang Aran

Fishermen in Mesangat and Senambah