Photographic evidence of dholes in Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT
For many years the dhole was believed to have been undetected in Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park (GGPNP). Nevertheless, in 2012 and 2013, we were able to photograph this elusive creature. We report the photographic evidence of the endangered dhole (Cuon alpinus) using camera trap in GGPNP.

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The dhole or Asiatic wild dog (Cuon alpinus), listed as Endangered by the IUCN, distributed across most parts of South, East, and Southeast Asia (Zhang & Chen, 2011), including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Thailand (Kamler et al., 2015). In Indonesia, dholes are found in Sumatra and Java, although no population estimate is currently available for Indonesia (Kamler et al., 2015). However, a tiny population is assumed by Srivathsaa et al. (2020), with large protected areas in Sumatra as essential core areas for dholes in Indonesia (Havmoller et al., 2022).

The existence of dholes in Sumatra was known in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (Allen et al., 2020), within production forest and surrounding area in Jambi Province (Maddox et al., 2007), Bukit Betabuh Protected Forest, Bukit Bungkuk Nature Reserve, and Bukit Rimbang Bukit Baling Wildlife Reserve (Widodo et al., 2020), Kampar, Kerumutan Wildlife Reserve, Peranap, Bukit Rimbang Bukit Baling, and Tesso Nilo National Park (Sunarto et al., 2015), Ulu Masen Ecosystem (Radinal et al., 2019). Whereas in Java was known in Alas Purwo, Meru Betiri, Baluran, and Bromo Tengger Semeru National Parks, Kawah Ijen Nature Tourism Park (Durbin et al., 2004; Iyengar et al., 2005; Pudyatmoko, 2018), Mount Slamet (Sulistyadi, 2012), Ujung Kulon National Park (Rahman et al., 2018), Papandayan Nature Reserve, Gunung Sawal Wildlife Reserve, Gede Pangrango and Halimun Salak National Park (Qodri et al, 2020; Kao et al, 2020).

Java is one of the islands with the highest human population density in the world (Dskowitzky et al., 2019). The island is home to 141 million people, equal to 1,115 people/km² (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2020). The high demand for natural resources for agricultural land has resulted in the widespread conversion of large areas of natural habitat (Sodhi et al., 2010) and the isolation of protected areas throughout Java (Kamler et al., 2015). Dholes in Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park (GGPNP) have anecdotal evidence (Kao et al., 2020). Although Havmoller et al. (2022) stated, we failed to detect dholes in GGPNP during a camera trap study in 2018. These authors did not conduct the survey, but they cited the papers by Arlo et al. (2018). Here, we report the first dhole recorded by a camera trap from 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2013 in GGPNP (Figure 1). Two photographs of dholes were captured on 11 November 2012 at 04.04 PM in the Sukabumi area of GGPNP (Figure 2) and 5 February 2013 at 01:25 PM in the Bogor area of GGPNP (Figure 3).

We believe that its evidence will be added to the distribution of dhole in an elusive and increasingly threatened carnivore. Studies on dhole presence and habitat utilization inside and outside protected areas are
highly needed for future conservation management in Java.

Figure 1. Map of Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park, Indonesia

Figure 2. Dhole captured in Sukabumi area

Figure 3. Dhole captured in Bogor area

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