

Introduction

The study area, located in north-central Mongolia, host a variety of habitats dominated by Alpine landscapes and forest-steppe where forests, mainly of *Larix sibirica* and *Pinus sibirica*, are jeopardized with steppes of *Festuca spp.*, *Artemisia spp.* and *Euphorbia spp.* The low human pressure and the extent of the areas left to natural evolution allows the survival of a complex and particularly well-structured animal community.

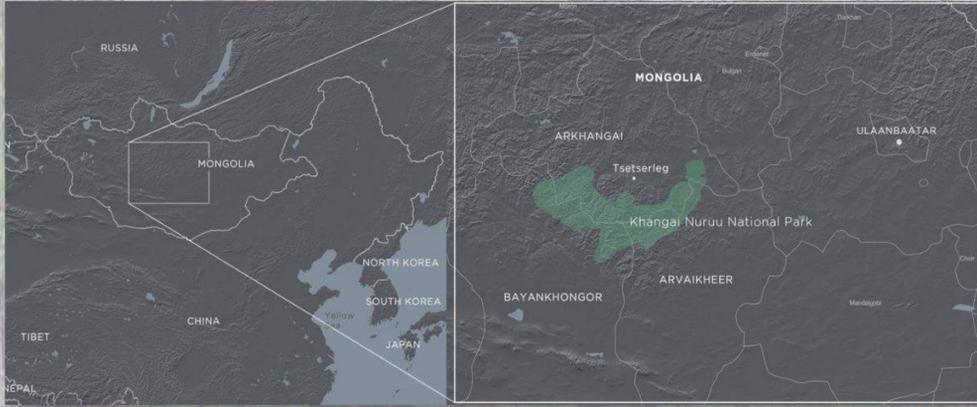


Figure 1 Regional map of central and northeastern Asia (left) and inset map of central Mongolian provinces and the Khangai Nuruu National Park (right)



Figure 2 *Capreolus pygargus*

Methods

The camera trap models we used consisted in Reconyx, Bushnell, Browning and IR Plus. We deployed 1 camera per site, on 45 sites. We designed a grid of camera traps spaced at the minimum distance of 0.7-2 km with a view of covering the larger area possible with available camera traps, without leaving major gaps of un-sampled suitable habitat. The cameras were placed by 2 or 3 teams, on the forced passages, animal trails and marking points, depending from the terrain accessibility.

Figure 3 *Lynx lynx isabellinus*



Conclusion

The total number of species we recorded was high. Nevertheless, every species was detected at a very low density except the Red Fox and the Siberian Roe Deer, which despite was detected in few sites, it was recorded in a relatively high number of events (>45). The habitat diversity and the abundant food source for ungulates and carnivore, make us assume that the most of the species should to occur at a higher density. We may speculate that hunting could be the greatest limitation for the wild species population growth.



Figure 5 *Pica, Ocotona alpina*

SPECIES DETECTION

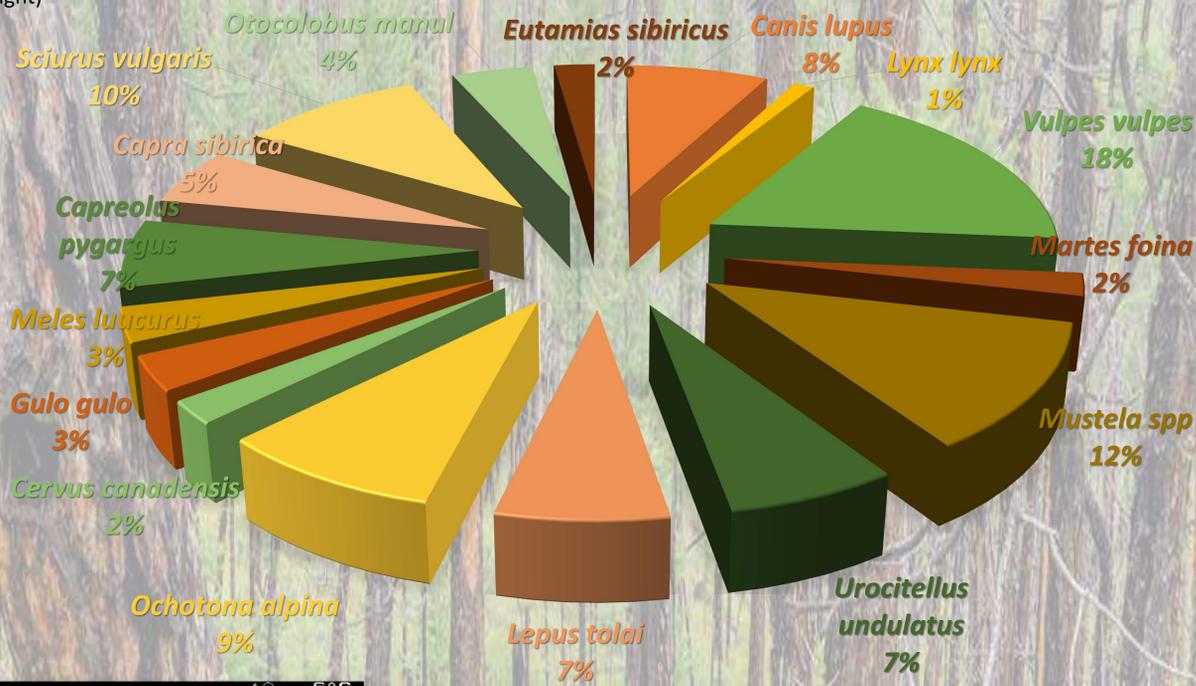


Figure 4 the graphic shows in details species detected by camera traps

Results

The results are underlining how the mosaic of the different landscapes are supporting a high differentiate large mammal diversity, with analysis for guild with 9 herbivores and 11 carnivores, as well as an impressive number of species for each taxon with 3 Artiodactyla, 4 Scuridae, 2 Lagomorpha, 2 Felidae, 2 Canidae and 7 Mustelidae.

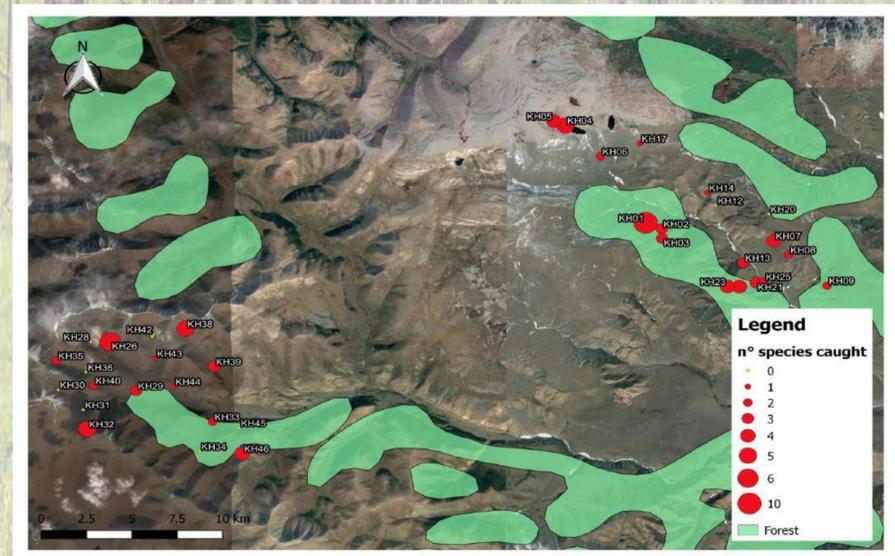


Figure 6 From 5th to 25th August 2018, 45 camera traps were placed and left unattended until mid-October 2018, cumulating an effort of approximately 2000 camera nights-trap

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