

Suppakorn Patumrattanathan 2015: Ecology of Fishing Cat(*Prionailurus viverrinus*) by Community Participation on Its Conservation in Kui Buri District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand. Doctor of Philosophy (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resources Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resources Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Naris Bhumpakphan, Ph.D. 162 pages.

The aims of this study were ecological observation, population census and distribution range of Fishing Cat at Kui Buri District PrachuapKhiri Khan Province. The relationship and effect between community livelihood and Fishing Cat survival were also observed. The data collection included radio telemetry, camera trap, and in-depth interview and intensive group interview to community stakeholders. The community participatory was assessed by participatory rural appraisal techniques and SWOT analysis was employed for community participatory conservation evaluation.

The result of ecological study of fishing cat from radio telemetry and camera trap shown that, more than 27 fishing cats presented in the area of 17.90 km<sup>2</sup> in Khao Dang and Don Yai Nu Sub-district, Kui Buri District, PrachuapKhiri Khan Province. The adult male fishing cat had 82-85 cm. in length, 12.6-14.3 kg in weigh and covering 1.5 - 2.3 km<sup>2</sup> home range. While adult female fishing cat had 75 - 78 cm in length, 6.8 - 9.4 kg in weigh and covering 0.8 - 1.9 km<sup>2</sup>home range. From the fishing cat dropping analysis found that, the main foods are rodents 36.4% , bird 27.7 %, fish 25.4 %, snake 5.4 %, shell 1.8 %, crap 1.8 % and frog 1.4 %,respectively. Unfortunately, some cats were killed by local people because they hunted chickens, ducks, and hunting in the fishing pond of the community area, which bring conflict problem to fishing cat survival. There is a trend of population reduction and the home range is continuously decreased, thus this animal species may be extinction in the near future. The fishing cat ecology data and conflict problem solution are useful and more importance for a fishing cat conservation. The community participation on fishing cat management, education funding support, and suitable land-use management should be campaigned for conservation of this species in the area. It is a seriously need for community participation and government support on economic, social, and culture of community livelihood in the areas. Knowledge gains and strongly community base support will lead to conserve for long-term existing of fishing cat.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature