

A camera-trap record of Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* from Wangchuck Centennial National Park, Bhutan

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Abstract

This note presents the first known camera-trap record of Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* from Wangchuck Centennial National Park in north-eastern Bhutan, extending its known distribution in the country. The camera-trap record occurred in a mixed conifer forest at an altitude of 2995 m asl.

Keywords: camera-trapping, distribution, mammals, Prionodontidae, small carnivore

In Bhutan, the Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* has been previously recorded in Jigme Dorji National Park, in the north-western part of the country (Thinley et al. 2016), Gedu Territorial Forest Division, south-western Bhutan (Dhendup & Dorji 2018), and Tashigang Territorial Forest Division, south-eastern Bhutan (Norbu et al. 2022).

Wangchuck Centennial National Park (Fig. 1) spreads across low-lying subtropical valleys to high snowcapped mountains. It is the largest protected area in Bhutan, with an area of 4914 km² and altitudes ranging from 1370 to 7500 m asl. Its diverse habitats encompass broad-leaved forest, Blue Pine *Pinus wallichiana* forest, mixed conifer forest, fir forest, juniper forests, and alpine meadows.

As a part of a Tiger *Panthera tigris* monitoring programme, a pair of camera-traps was installed within 40 squares – each 4 km × 4 km in size – of a

grid across the park. Most of the cameras were positioned along known wildlife trails (ridgelines) to maximize the chance of Tiger capture.

At one of the camera-traps, a Spotted Linsang was photographed (Fig. 2) on 15 January 2025 at 04h58 in a mixed conifer forest (27°50'47"N, 91°4'33"E, 2995 m asl). This record provides the first evidence of Spotted Linsang in Wangchuck Centennial National Park, adding a new mammal record for the locality.

According to Duckworth et al. (2024), the difficulty in directly observing Spotted Linsang or noting indirect signs of its presence has made the species seem scarcer than it is in large parts of its range. Camera-trapping has gone some way toward correcting this, but even this technique may be under-recording the species (Duckworth et al. 2024).

Acknowledgements

We sincerely acknowledge the Department of Forest and Park Services for their coordination in the Tiger monitoring survey conducted under the Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme, an IUCN project. We also extend our gratitude to the park management for their valuable support during the survey. Lastly, we thank the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and contributions, which helped improve this manuscript.

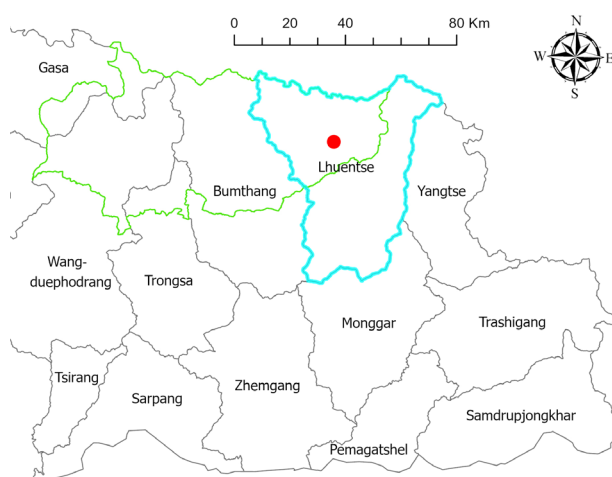


Fig. 1. The location of Wangchuck Centennial National Park (green outline) in north-eastern Bhutan. The red dot indicates the site where a Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* was camera-trapped, in a part of the park within the administrative boundaries of Lhuentse district (blue outline).



Fig. 2. A camera-trap (Reconyx HC500 Hyperfire) photograph of a Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor*, recorded on 15 January 2025 at 04h58. (Photo: wcnp/dofps.)



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