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**Initial recording of
Lutra sumatrana behaviour
in U Minh Thuong National Park,
Mekong Delta
Vietnam**

(An observation of 10 days - April 2007)



L. sumatrana in U Minh Thuong National Park – 4/2007 (Main photo)

Introduction:

Site: 8,000 hectares of U Minh Thuong
National Park – Mekong river delta –
Vietnam.

Recording: *Lutra sumatrana* and *Aonyx
cenerus* on 1999. Distribution in whole U
Minh area (include U Minh Thuong & U Minh Ha)

Forest fire 2002 – Destroyed 3,000 hectares
of *Melaleuca* forest on peatland.

Current mangement tool: Keep water
flooded.

Study site

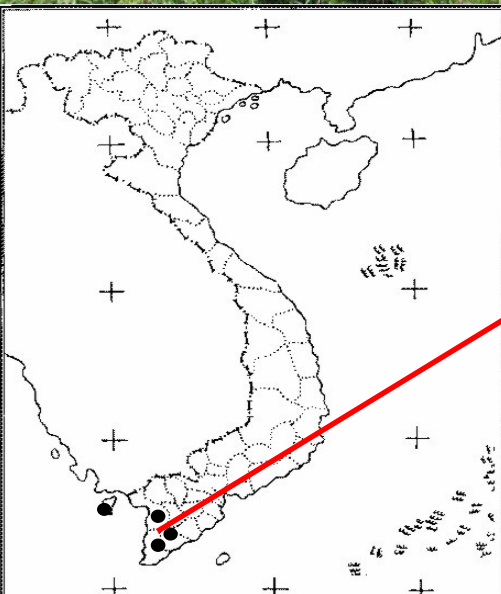
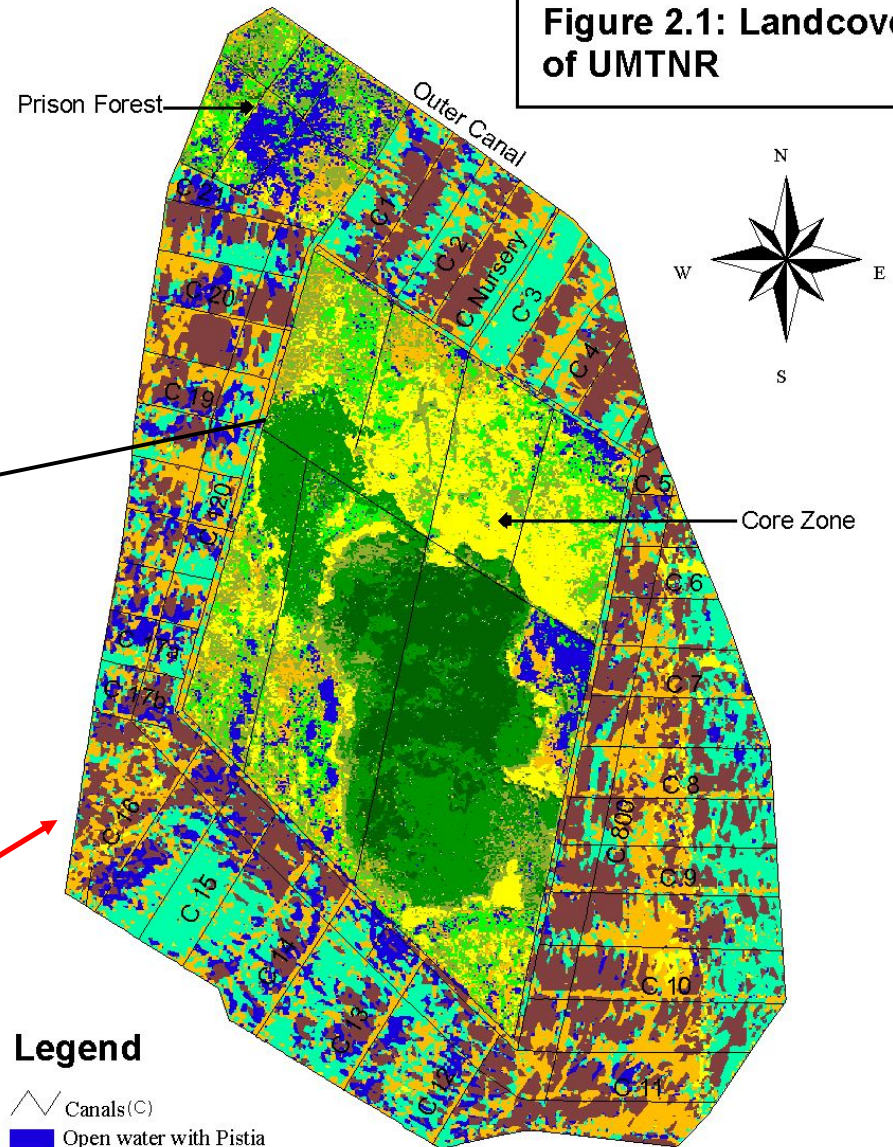


Figure 2.1: Landcover of UMTNR



Legend

- Canals (C)
- Open water with Pistia
- Mature Melaleuca on deep peat
- Less mature Melaleuca on shallow peat
- Young (replanted or regrown) Melaleuca mixed with grasses (Phragmites or Eleocharis)
- Melaleuca (various ages) on clay
- Phragmites in core zone; grass (most likely Phragmites) in buffer zone
- Eleocharis in core zone; grass (most likely Eleocharis) in buffer zone
- Agricultural land (rice paddy and upland areas)
- Trees (most likely Melaleuca) in the buffer zone

2 0 2 4 6 Kilometers

Projection: UTM Zone 48N
Datum: WGS84

A.- Result:

L. sumatrana 's behaviour

1.- Foraging:

Food species:

a) ***Clarias macrocephalus*** (Yellow catfish) OR
Clarias batrachus (white catfish)

b) ***Channa lucius*** (thick-skinned catfish) & ***Channa striata*** (striped catfish)

c) ***Anabas testudineus*** (rice field fish) &
Trichogaster pectoralis (Stripped rice fish)

Channa striata : Common/ abundant species



LIST OF FISH

Channa striata
C. macrocephalus

~~*Channa lucius*~~
C. striata

Anabas testudineus
Trichogaster
pectoralis

Anabas testudineus

Common species, used/eaten
alternatively



2.- Time/weather conditions of foraging

- Time: 6:00 and 7:30 AM & 4:30 and 5:30 PM

L. sumatrana is active at favoured times even in close proximity to humans at UMT NP.

- Weather: Light rain in the afternoon between 4:00 and 5:00pm, particularly under thick cloud cover

3.- Habitats (at UMT NP)

- *Melaleuca cajuputi* forest edge.
- Clear water with a flooded depth of 1 to 1.5 metres.
- Scattered clumps of *Phragmites* sp.
- Floating vegetation such as *Pistia stratiotes*



Habitats (at UMT NP) where *L. sumatrana* often recorded
Phragmites vallatoria



Pistia straiotes

Nymphaea nouchali



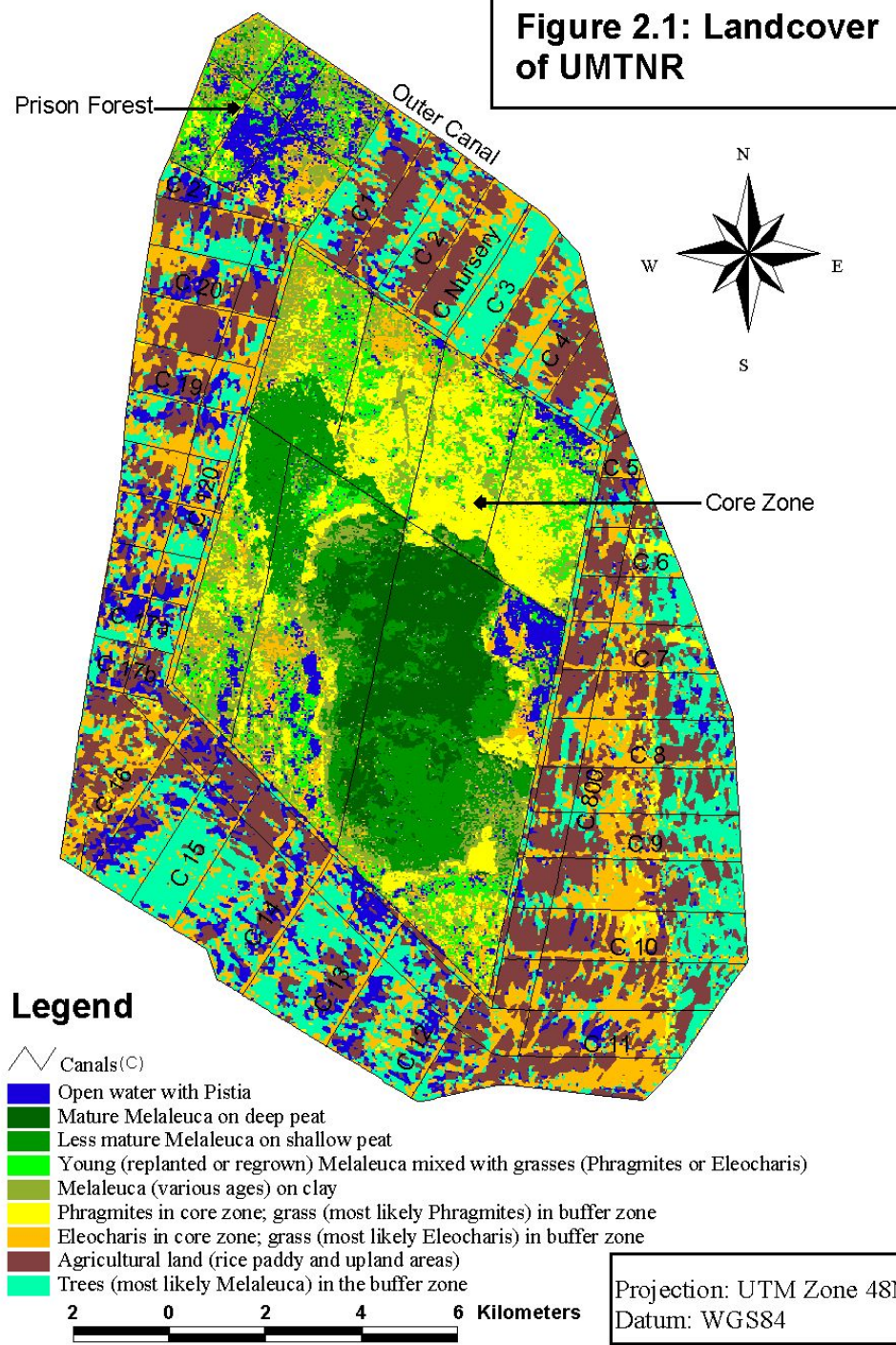
3.- Breeding time

- Recording:
 - Twince otters baby observed in Jan. 2002 (Interviewed)
 - One infant and female on February 2007 (Interviewed)
 - One sub-adult and female – April 2007 (Observed)
- Assumption: Breeding delivery during November to December.



Phragmites sp. on the dykes & Flooded condition

Figure 2.1: Landcover of UMTNR



B.- Suggestion



- Long term study on *L. sumatrana* in kind of DNA analysis; population size; testing all initial findings of species behaviours.
- Set up a monitoring system for the park as training park rangers on recording otter species activities, especially at the end of the year (fish pond harvesting on buffer zone of the park)
- Develop propaganda to local communities on protection species through poster/ leaflets and training for pupils of local school.



Thank you

