

Indonesia

Way Kambas NP 26 – 31 July 2018

Tangkoko NP 1 – 3 Aug 2018

Introduction

After reading quite a bit badly about different experiences from Way Kambas NP on Sumatra – Indonesia, I was very surprised how things seems to have improved alot.

The booking process with <https://ecolodgesindonesia.com/lodges/satwa> was as smooth as velvet. Fast responding and no hassle. I used the guide Hari who is the only one if you want to do mammalwatching in Way Kambas. He is booked with birding groups every now and then, make sure he is free! but this was the first time in 6 month he did a mammalwatching tour.

Me and my companion Mark had free hands to do whatever we liked during our 5 days tour. We put together a nice tour with early morning drives with an hour spotlighting before dawn and then out until around 11:00 with packed breakfast. Back to the lodge for rest and lunch and then afternoon/evening tour from 15:30 until whatever we liked. We were back home usually around 22:00. We had packed dinner most evenings.

We did two rivertrips in the afternoon. Otherwise we did spotlighting from the car on two different roads and also walking in the forest for primates and smaller stuff.

You still need to have a park ranger with you inside the park but it was totally hassle free. They stayed way behind and didn't bothered us at all.

Very well organized and good priced. We paid everything before the tour. Then we just decided from day to day what to do depending on what our targets were. Nice food and convenient lodge makes this a very nice experience. Far away from things I have read before.

Hari is a great guide! He knew his Way Kambas.

Overall a very nice week in this Nationalpark!

Targets for me were Sumatran Surili, Agile Gibbon, Siamang, Pen-tailed treeshrew and Marbled cat.

Like other has already stated, the forest is thick! Spotlighting is not easy. You can't see very far inside and it was surprisingly few animals on the road. Still we did see alot of interesting stuff, you just have to give it some time. They are there...

Tangkoko NP is well known and I will not give it any further comments.

Nice convenient accommodation at Satwa Ecolodge.



Spotlighting is a challenge due to thick undergrowth. But there is also parts where you can see longer inside the forest.



Well, over to my species-list for this tour...

1. Sumatran treeshrew --- Day 2,4. Seen only in Satwa Lodge garden running around during midday.



2. Pen-tailed treeshrew --- Day 1,5. If there is a Pen-tailed treeshrew capital of the world I guess Way Kambas is the place. Seen by Hari twice and Mark but not me. Very frustrating! There is a part of the road, around 100m long where they are resident. Hari use to see them here. Sometimes they freeze in the spotlight and then you can have a great sighting. Unfortunately not this time.

3. Sunda slow loris --- Day 2,4. Seen in the village just outside the park. Charming creature.



4. Crab eating macaque --- Day 1,2,3,5. Common. Especially along the river.



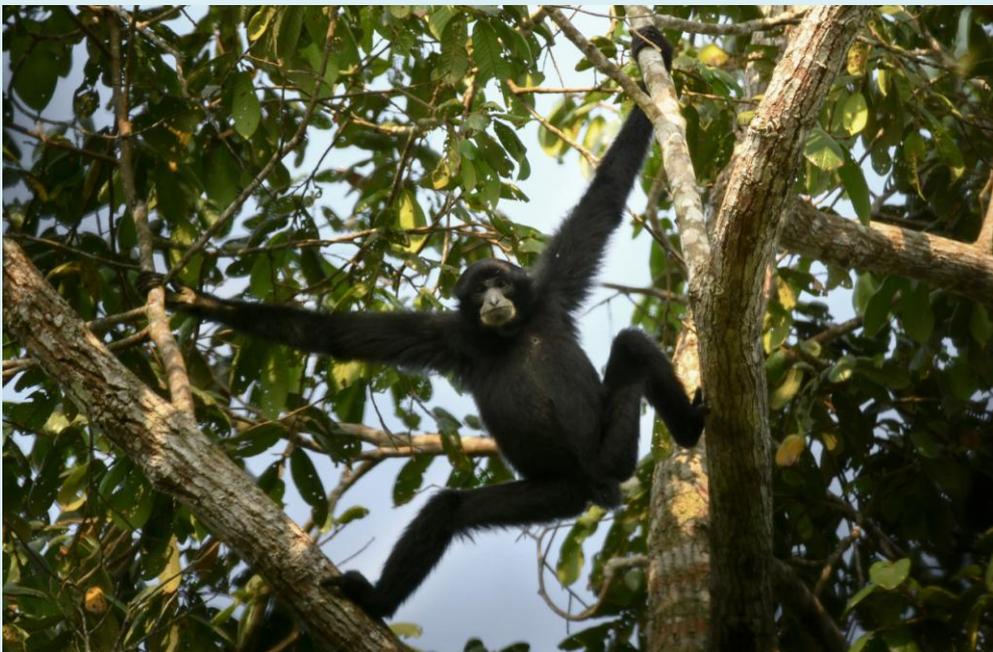
5. Pig tailed macaque --- Day 2,3. Seen on two occasions inside the park.



6. Sumatran surili --- Day 1,3,4. Beautiful primate! Very shy and we had to struggle a lot to get close enough for good photos. They see you long before you see them... We walked slowly inside the forest in the mornings and finally we managed to get what we wanted.

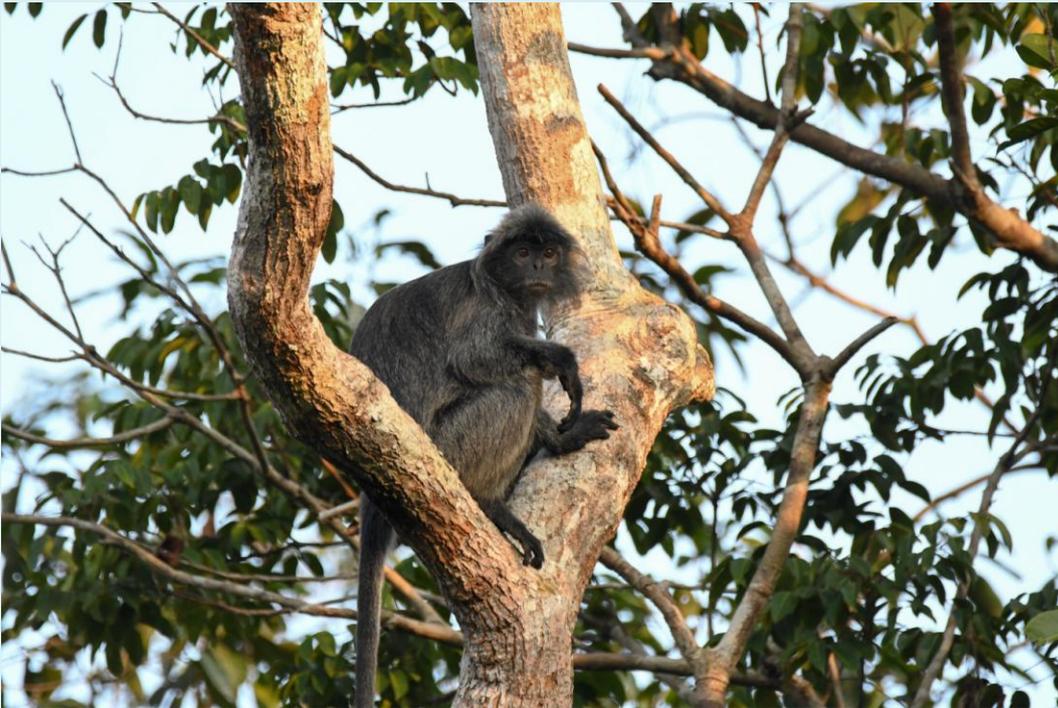


7. Siamang --- Day 2,3,5. Much more cooperative primate. Fantastic song and easy to see. Common. Seen both from the road and when walking in the forest.



8. Agile gibbon --- Day 3,4. If the Sumatran surili is a shy primate, this one is a fu**ing nightmare to get close. You can hear them sing in the morning but by the time you step into the forest, they are already in Thailand... We spent a lot of time searching for them and saw them on distance. Also one very nice sighting quite close of one Gibbon hanging in a branch looking towards us for 5 seconds. A few more seconds and I would have the photo I wanted but unfortunately it decided to swing to Thailand as well...

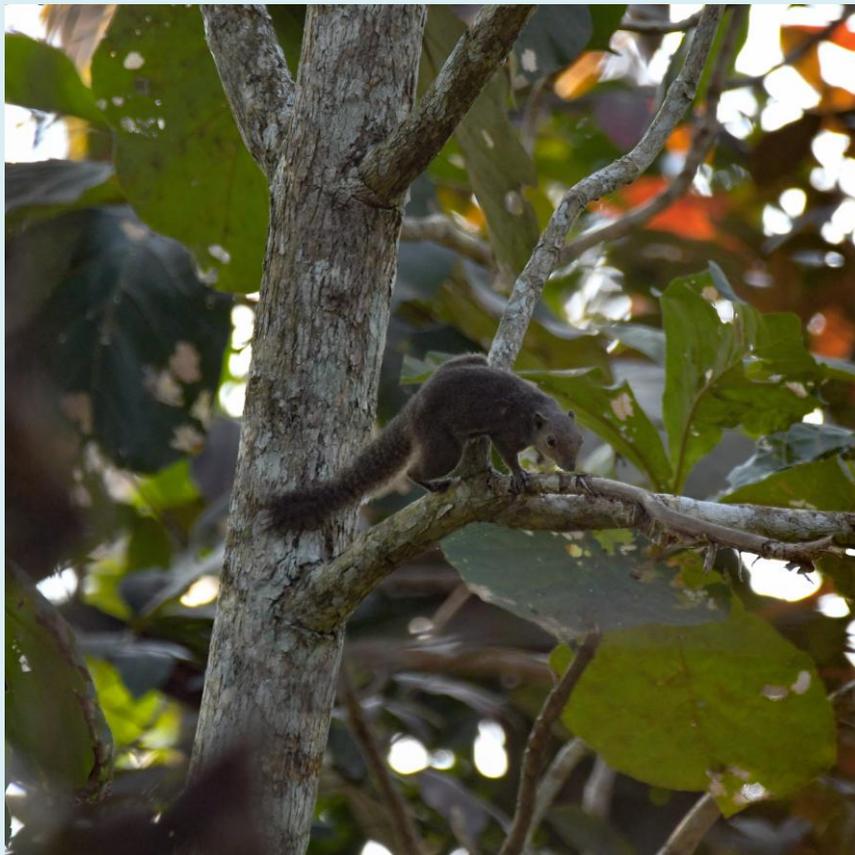
9. Silvered langur (Silvery lutung) --- Day 3,4,5. Very common along the river in the late afternoon.



10. Black giant squirrel --- Day 3. Seen only on one occasion. Nice squirrel.



11. Plantain squirrel --- Day 2,3. Common.



12. Prevost squirrel --- Day 1,2,3,4,5. The most common squirrel in Way Kambas. This population have a particular good looking color pattern. Very striking good looking squirrel.



13. Three striped ground squirrel --- Day 5. Another eye-catching squirrel seen only on one occasion when it ran over the road.



14. Black eared squirrel (Black eared pygmy squirrel) --- Day 5. This tiny squirrel is not easy to see. They are resident around some big tree trunks close to one of the bridges. You can hear them calling but oh man, they are hard to see. Finally we got a good look at one.



15. Black striped squirrel --- Day 2,3. Very similar to Plantain squirrel. They have the same stripes but instead of a pale color belly this one have a gray belly.



16. Slender squirrel --- Day 3. Quick glimpse of a small greyish squirrel was probably this species.

17. Cream coloured giant squirrel --- Day 3. Seen by guide only.

18. Horsfield's flying squirrel --- Day 1,2. Seen on two occasions. Both times in trees in the village outside the park. Close distance but impossible to take photo as they couldn't sit still for more than 0,034 seconds. Nice sighting.

19. Colugo --- Day 1,3. It's always a pleasure to see this weird species. No matter how many times you have seen them.



20. Eurasian wild boar --- Day 2,3. Seen both on the road and along the river.



21. Lesser mouse deer --- Day 1,2,3,4. By far the most common mammal when spotlighting. They are everywhere along the road.



22. Greater mouse deer --- Day 3. Only one individual seen along the river when spotlighting.

23. Indian muntjac (Red muntjac) --- Day 2,3,4,5. Common but hard to see in the thick bush.



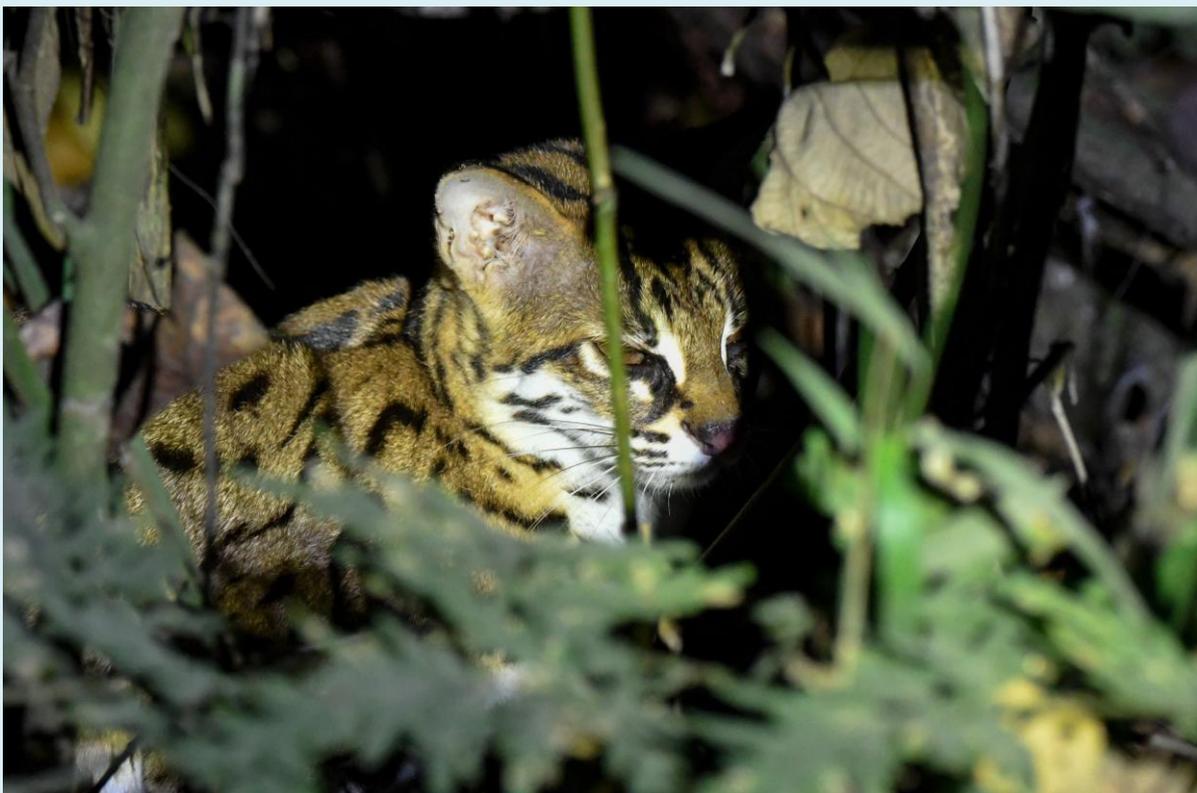
24. Sambar deer --- Day 1,2,3,4. Common.



25. Sumatran elephant --- Day 4. Way Kambas have a small population of this critically endangered subspecies of the Asian elephant. One group moves around the outskirts of the park and we encountered them one night.



26. Sunda Leopard cat --- Day 3,4. Nice sighting one early morning when spotlighting. Another one only a brief sighting of more or less the eyeshine.



27. Common palm civet (Asian palm civet) --- Day 5. One seen at night in the Satwa Lodge garden.

28. Masked palm civet --- Day 1,2. Only two seen. Surprisingly few civets in Way Kambas or is it just hard to get through the thickness...



29. Minute fruit bat (Forest short-nosed fruit bat) --- Day 3. Seen roosting at the Way Kambas river station.



30. Trefoil horseshoe bat --- Day 2. One pale coloured bat hanging on a vine over the road was probably this species.

31. Lesser false vampire bat --- Day 3. Seen roosting at the Way Kambas river station.



32. Lesser sheath-tailed bat --- Day 3. Seen roosting under one of the bridges you pass inside the park.



Also an unidentified rodent along the river was seen as well as different snakes, lizards and amphibians.

Stuff I missed

No sign of Marbled cat was the biggest disappointment. There is a fair chance but not this time. Also the Pen-tailed treeshrew was a huge miss for me as the others at least saw a glimpse of it.

Yellow throated marten seems to elude me wherever I go. Hari, my guide haven't seen any the last two years but before that, they were common along the road. He didn't knew what's happened to them.

Sumatran rhino. There is actually a mother with a calf who have moved from the core area to the "public" area this summer. So, you never know what crossing the road...

Clouded Leopard. They are around. Hari showed me some fantastic pictures from clients.

Sun bear. Also an odd chance as well as Malayan Tapir.

Malayan porcupine. Quite common but not this time.

Sumatran tiger. No.

Otter civet could also show up.



Boat along the river is a good complement to the road.

Tangkoko NP

1. Celebes crested macaque --- The stars of this nature reserve.



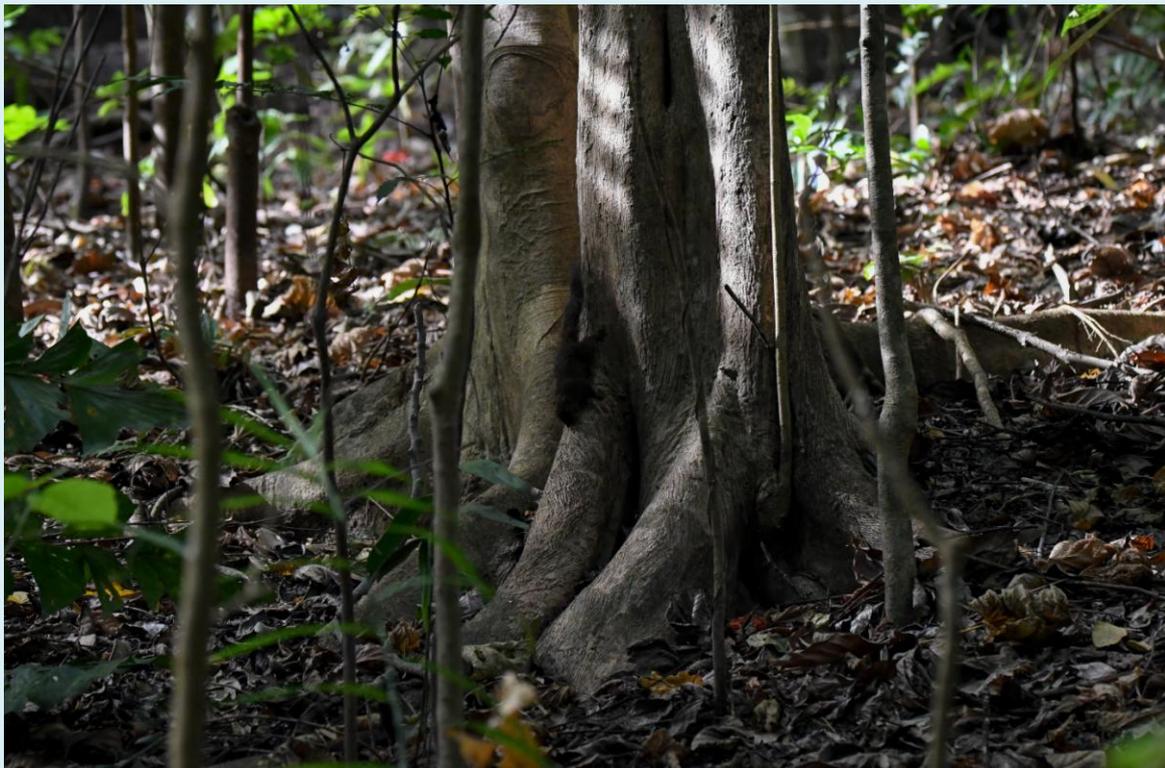
2. Spectral tarsier --- The other star of this nature reserve :)



3. Bear cuscus --- The third star of this nature reserve. 5 individuals seen in one day.



4. Celebes dwarf squirrel --- Endemic to central and northeastern Sulawesi. Quite easy to see in Tangkoko but shy.



5. Witish dwarf squirrel --- Endemic to Sulawesi and adjacent small islands. Easy to recognize with the light gray markings behind the head.



Stuff I missed

Sulawesi dwarf cuscus. My guide hadn't seen any the last 2 years in and around Tangkoko. I didn't make an effort for them.

Andreas Jonsson

Contact: andreas_19@hotmail.com