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2 Trade-driven trapping dampens the biodiversity benefits of forest restoration in Southeast Asia.

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52 **ABSTRACT**

53

54 Tropical forest restoration stands to deliver important conservation gains in lowland Southeast Asia,
55 which has suffered some of the world's highest rates of forest degradation and loss. This promise,
56 however, may be undermined by defaunation driven by ubiquitous wildlife trapping in the region,
57 particularly for forest birds that are part of the multi-million-dollar pet trade. To date, quantification of the
58 impacts of trade-driven trapping on rates of biodiversity recovery from forest restoration has been limited.
59 Here, we use a unique long-term survey dataset to ask how trade-driven trapping may interfere with the
60 expected recovery of avian community under forest restoration, at a flagship ecosystem restoration site in
61 the lowland rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia. We show that tropical forest restoration is associated with
62 the increases in the abundance of 88% of bird species over time. However, impacts of trapping within
63 more accessible areas of the forest meant that this recovery was dampened for 74% of bird species,
64 relative to levels expected as a result of the magnitude of forest recovery observed. Most species (80%)
65 showed increasingly positive relationships between abundance and site remoteness over the period, a
66 pattern that was found for both species targeted for the pet trade (85% of species) and those trapped
67 opportunistically or as 'bycatch' (78% of species). We emphasize the urgency of tackling the emerging
68 threat of pet trade to Southeast Asia's avian diversity, not least to ensure the effectiveness of efforts
69 towards forest restoration.

70

71 **Keywords:**

72 Birds, conservation, nature-based climate solutions, reforestation, tropical rainforest, wildlife trade

73

74 **1. INTRODUCTION**

75

76 Tropical forests worldwide have undergone widespread loss and degradation (Barlow et al., 2018;
77 Edwards et al., 2019), with severe consequences for biodiversity, people, and critical ecosystem services
78 (Gibson et al., 2011; Watson et al., 2018). While the protection of existing old-growth forests is
79 paramount, restoration of degraded lands can also deliver important conservation gains (Chazdon and
80 Brancalion, 2019; Lewis et al., 2019; Strassburg et al., 2020). This is particularly true for Southeast Asia
81 (Sodhi et al., 2010; Wilcove et al., 2013), where only 8.4% of the historical old-growth forest remains
82 intact (Potapov et al., 2017). The future of biodiversity in this region, among the richest in the world,
83 depends on the effective and timely restoration of its forest habitats (Cosset and Edwards, 2017; Edwards
84 et al., 2014, 2009; Senior et al., 2019). Increasing calls for, and uptake of forest restoration in Southeast
85 Asia (Chazdon et al., 2017; Edwards et al., 2019; FAO and UNEP, 2020) offers some hope for the
86 region's biodiversity. The realization of which, however, hinges on ensuring the recovery of biodiversity
87 in forests undergoing restoration.

88

89 Across Southeast Asia, wildlife trapping driven by the pet trade is a threat to biodiversity, particularly for
90 forest birds (J. A. Eaton et al., 2015; Harris et al., 2017; Symes et al., 2018). The pet bird trade in
91 Southeast Asia is estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually (Gokkon, 2018; Marshall
92 et al., 2019; Parry, 2019) and affects thousands of species (Scheffers et al., 2019), particularly species
93 targeted for singing competitions and pet-keeping (Jepson, 2010; Shepherd, 2006). Market and household
94 surveys in Indonesia suggest that the pet bird trade is ubiquitous across the country and that most traded
95 birds are sourced illegally from the wild (Shepherd et al., 2004). There is evidence that the scale of trade
96 has increased over the past decade (Marshall et al., 2019), driven in part by increased accessibility of
97 forest areas due to forest loss and degradation (Harris et al., 2017). Limited field evidence has linked
98 trade-driven trapping to widespread decreases in wild bird populations (Harris et al., 2017).

99 Consequently, in forests undergoing restoration, trade-driven trapping may dampen the recovery of avian
100 diversity in areas being managed for ecosystem restoration (Harris et al., 2015; Harrison et al., 2016). To
101 date, however, empirical understanding of the extent to which this may be happening is lacking.

102

103 In this study, we evaluated the recovery pattern of avian diversity under forest restoration over time in a
104 region that has been increasingly impacted from exposure to trade-driven trapping. We conducted bird
105 surveys at a flagship ecosystem restoration site in the now heavily modified lowlands of Sumatra,
106 Indonesia, sampling across gradients of forest condition and trapping pressure. Our surveys were in two
107 time windows that spanned almost ten years of forest restoration activities and that coincided with
108 intensifying trade-driven trapping in Southeast Asia (Marshall et al., 2019). We examined how
109 community-wide species abundance changed over time, and how the expected abundance recovery of
110 forest species under restoration was affected by concomitant intensifying impacts of trapping pressure.
111 We additionally assessed how changes in species abundance over time varied with species' market
112 demand and ecological traits, and whether species' current IUCN Red List status evaluations captured the
113 threats posed by trapping.

114

115 2. METHODS

116

117 2.1 Study site

118 We conducted our study in the Harapan Rainforest ('Harapan' hereafter), which straddles the provinces of
119 Jambi and South Sumatra in Sumatra, Indonesia (2°08' S, 103°22' E, 50–80 m a.s.l.; Fig. 1). Harapan was
120 established as Indonesia's first ecosystem restoration concession in 2007 and as of 2018, it covered 98
121 555 ha of lowland dipterocarp forest in various stages of recovery after commercial selective logging
122 ceased in 2005. It has been jointly managed by a consortium of conservation organizations with heavy
123 financial investment and on-the-ground presence since 2008, with the main goal of recovering
124 biodiversity in the post-logging forests (Harrison and Swinfield, 2015; Hua et al., 2016). Rich in
125 biodiversity representative of the Sundaic lowlands, it is also recognized as an Important Bird and
126 Biodiversity Area (IBA; BirdLife International, 2017). Since its establishment, Harapan has faced
127 mounting conservation challenges: it has lost ~25 000 ha of forest cover to illegal logging and
128 encroachment, and another ~30 000 ha was damaged by El Niño-related drought and fires in 2015 (Fig.
129 SII). Despite these challenges, Harapan's remaining forests have largely demonstrated signs of recovery
130 through natural regeneration and active tree planting efforts (Fig. 1).

131

132 Wildlife trapping and hunting, especially of birds, has been persistent in Harapan (pers. comm. with local
133 bird trappers and Harapan staff, 2018), aided by a network of seasonally navigable roads and rivers that
134 allows access to most places within Harapan (Fig. 1). There is anecdotal evidence that bird trapping has
135 intensified in recent years, most likely linked to easier access to forest because of continued deforestation
136 and forest fragmentation (pers. comm. with Harapan staff, 2018). Trappers use various methods to capture
137 live birds for the pet market, including mist nets, live bird traps, and birdlime. In recent years, the use of
138 shotguns in Harapan to kill hornbills has also been recorded (pers. comm. with bushmeat hunters, 2018),
139 often targeting the Critically Endangered helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*; BirdLife International 2020)
140 that is prized for its ivory-like casque (Beastall et al., 2016).

141

142 2.2 Bird community surveys

143 We surveyed bird communities in Harapan in 2009-2011 ('early period' hereafter; Lee & Lindsell 2011;
144 Hua et al. 2016) and again in 2018 ('current period' hereafter) using point counts. We positioned point
145 count stations ≥ 200 m apart along line transects that covered a range of forest conditions and remoteness
146 from human settlements ('remoteness' hereafter). We used remoteness from human settlements as a proxy
147 for the trapping pressure on birds because more remote areas are less accessible to trapping, and less cost-
148 effective for trappers given the difficulty of keeping trapped birds alive on longer journeys to markets
149 (Harris et al., 2017). In total, we surveyed 636 stations in the early period (Fig. 1). Of these, a subset of
150 287 stations were spared from significant forest degradation or loss within a 300-m buffer between the
151 early and current periods and were, in turn, experiencing forest recovery (Fig. SII), as assessed through
152 remote sensing analysis (see 'Quantifying forest condition' below). Consequently, we considered these
153 stations appropriate for assessing the effects of forest recovery and bird trapping without the confounding

154 effects of habitat disturbance. We resurveyed 144 of these eligible stations in the current period, using a
155 stratified random sampling design to ensure that they covered a range of forest conditions and remoteness
156 (Fig. 1).

157

158 For both early and current periods, we conducted unlimited-radius point counts that allowed for the
159 correction of imperfect detection in estimating species abundance. We employed 10-minute counts in the
160 early period and 12-minute counts in the current period. During each point count, we recorded all birds
161 seen or heard (excluding flyovers), along with their time of initial detection in minutes since the onset of
162 the point count period. The latter information allowed us to use removal models to estimate and correct
163 for species' detection probability (Farnsworth et al., 2002). We conducted all surveys between 05:50 -
164 10:30 on days without rain or strong wind, and we recorded the time of the onset of each point count in
165 minutes since sunrise ('survey time' hereafter). The early-period surveys were conducted by Harapan's
166 biodiversity team led by DCL (551 point count stations; Lee and Lindsell, 2011) and by FH in a separate
167 research project (85 point count stations; Hua et al., 2016), while surveys for the current period were
168 conducted by HSSCS (144 point count stations).

169

170 We took two measures to minimize the potential bias in bird community characterization caused by
171 different observers conducting the early and current surveys. First, we used observer identity as a random
172 effect covariate for detection probability in our removal models (see below). Second, because the subset
173 of early data collected by Harapan's biodiversity team may have been associated with lower detection
174 probabilities for at least some species (particularly small or otherwise inconspicuous species) compared
175 with that collected by FH, we compiled a list of these potential 'prone-to-miss species', for which we
176 retained early-period data collected by FH only. We labeled a species as prone-to-miss if its detection rate
177 (i.e., number of times it was detected out of the pool of point count stations) in the survey data collected
178 by Harapan's biodiversity team was $\leq 20\%$ of that in the survey data collected by FH (Table S11).
179 Additionally, among the species observed, we excluded nocturnal and wetland species, along with mobile
180 and low-density species such as raptors, for which our survey method may not be appropriate.

181

182 **2.3 Quantifying forest condition**

183 We measured changes in forest condition across the study periods using the metric of top-of-canopy
184 heights ('TCH' hereafter), which we estimated from a time series of Landsat imagery using a model
185 derived from LiDAR training data through a machine learning approach. The LiDAR dataset was
186 collected on October 24, 2014 and covered 3,626 ha (3.7%) of our survey area (Fig. SI2). We processed
187 the LiDAR data to a 0.5-m-resolution TCH model as described in Swinfield et al. (2019), and aggregated
188 and resampled the TCH values to a 30-m resolution to align with Landsat imagery. We used all Landsat
189 imagery covering Harapan within 1 year of the bird and LiDAR surveys to predict TCH (Asner et al.,
190 2018; Csillik et al., 2019). For this purpose, we converted the surface reflectance values of Landsat
191 imagery to five vegetation indices (VIs) considered consistent between remotely sensed scenes and
192 suitable for estimating vegetation height (Appendix A; Jin & Sader 2005; Xue & Su 2017). We used the
193 VIs from two discrete sets of Landsat images two years apart (in 2013 and 2015, i.e. within 1 year of the
194 LiDAR surveys; Hastie et al. 2009) to train a random forest model for predicting TCH over 75% of the
195 LiDAR areal coverage (Appendix A), using package 'randomForest' (version 4.6; Breiman and Cutler,
196 2018) under program R (R Development Core Team, 2018). Validation using the remaining 25% of
197 LiDAR data showed good model performance (Fig. SI2). We then predicted TCH over the entire survey
198 area using the VIs derived from the 2009 and 2018 Landsat images (i.e., within 1 year of the bird surveys)
199 and the above random forest model. For a given point count station in a given period, we averaged the
200 predicted TCH values over all the pixels within a 100 m radius of the station, to represent the TCH of the
201 forest area around the station ('mean TCH' hereafter).

202

203 **2.4 Quantifying forest accessibility and remoteness**

204 For each point count station, we used its Euclidian distance from the nearest roads, rivers, or forest edges
205 to represent its remoteness from human settlements, which we in turn used as a proxy for the trapping
206 pressure on forest birds (Harris et al., 2017). The use of a proxy was necessary due to the difficulty of
207 directly measuring trapping pressure across large landscapes. Given that most roads and rivers in Harapan
208 were navigable by motorbikes or boats, which allowed relatively easy access from nearby human
209 settlements, we assumed that the primary determinant of a location's trapping pressure would be the effort
210 taken to access it on foot. For each point count station, we therefore estimated this effort by calculating its
211 Euclidean distance from the nearest 'easy-access point' (i.e. roads, rivers, or forest edges), using the map
212 of Harapan in the package 'FNN' (version 1.1.3; Beygelzimer et al. 2019) under program R (R
213 Development Core Team, 2018). We assumed that habitat conditions inside the forest and the seasonality
214 of river water levels did not influence the effort taken to access a particular location.
215

216 **2.5 Species market demand, ecological traits, and IUCN Red List status**

217 We classified all bird species recorded in our surveys into two trade guilds representing their relative
218 market demand, based on the best available market survey data for the region (Shepherd et al., 2004): (1)
219 targeted species (high demand) – species that are highly prized and in high demand for their singing
220 abilities (songbirds), ornamental attractiveness (cage birds) or body parts (e.g. helmeted hornbills); and
221 (2) opportunistically trapped species (generic demand) – this includes all other species that are not
222 specifically targeted for the above reasons, but that are nonetheless trapped as 'bycatch' and sold in the
223 market whenever possible. This classification scheme thus considered all species as in demand at the
224 market, albeit to different extents. This scheme was based on insights from our informal interviews with
225 trappers and local conservationists, which suggested that all trapped birds, if still alive, would be supplied
226 to the market. Compared with opportunistically trapped species, we expected that the abundance of
227 targeted species would be more prone to the negative impacts of trapping.
228

229 Additionally, we classified all bird species recorded in our surveys into two ecological guilds representing
230 their dependence on undisturbed forest conditions, based on the Birds of the World database (Billerman et
231 al., 2020): (1) forest-dependent species – species that prefer primary or mature secondary forests; and (2)
232 generalist species – species that are able to survive in or prefer heavily degraded natural forests,
233 plantations, open areas, or human-dominated landscapes. Compared with generalist species, we expected
234 that the abundance of forest-dependent species would increase more markedly over time as the forest
235 condition improved under restoration (Latja et al., 2016; Owen et al., 2020). Finally, for all bird species
236 recorded in our surveys, we recorded their current IUCN Red List categories, along with descriptions of
237 the threats they face (IUCN, 2019).
238

239 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

240
241 **2.6.1 Bayesian community abundance models.** We used community-level abundance models (Royle,
242 2004; Yamaura et al., 2012, 2011) under the removal-model framework (Farnsworth et al., 2002) to
243 estimate the abundance of each species during each study period and its relationship with forest condition
244 and remoteness. Because of our focus on measuring changes in species abundance over time, we limited
245 our analysis to species that were observed during both surveys. Thus, of the 190 species we detected
246 during either study periods (177 and 143 species during the early and current periods, respectively), we
247 retained 130 species that were detected in both periods for our final analysis (Table SI2).
248

249 To account for imperfect detection under the removal-model framework (Farnsworth et al., 2002), we
250 divided each point count into four time intervals (t ; intervals were 2.5 and 3 min for the early and current
251 periods, respectively). We tallied the number of individuals for each species that were newly detected
252 during each interval t , which we expressed as $Y_{i,j,k-t}$ for species i at point count station j during study
253 period k . Similarly, we used $\lambda_{i,j,k}$ to represent species i 's true mean abundance at point count station j
254 during study period k , i.e. that expected under the forest condition and remoteness represented by the

255 point count station. We modeled $\lambda_{i,j,k}$ as a linear function of mean TCH and remoteness on a log link
 256 (Formula 1).

257
 258
$$\log(\lambda_{i,j,k}) = \beta_{0\ i,k} + \beta_{1\ i} \times \text{mean TCH}_{j,k} + \beta_{2\ i,k} \times \text{remoteness}_{j,k} \quad \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

259
 260 To parameterize Formula 1 in a community-level abundance model (Royle, 2004; Yamaura et al., 2012,
 261 2011), we assumed species-level coefficients follow a normal distribution that characterized the
 262 community-level response; we denoted the mean of the normal-distributions for these community-level
 263 coefficients as $\beta_{0c\ k}$, β_{1c} , and $\beta_{2c\ k}$, respectively. We fixed the coefficient for mean TCH ($\beta_{1\ i}$) across the
 264 two study periods, as the response of a species to habitat quality is unlikely to drastically change within
 265 ten years unless there was extreme selection pressure (e.g. Grant et al., 2017). However, we allowed the
 266 coefficient for remoteness ($\beta_{2\ i,k}$) to change across study periods, as we hypothesized that relationships
 267 between species abundance and forest remoteness may have changed over time with increased trapping.
 268 We modeled the actual (i.e. realized) abundance of species i at point count station j during study period k ,
 269 $N_{i,j,k}$, as a Poisson draw from the mean $\lambda_{i,j,k}$ (Formula 2).

270
 271
$$N_{i,j,k} \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_{i,j,k}) \quad \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

272
 273 As individual birds were detected (thus ‘removed’) during each successive interval within a point count,
 274 the abundance of birds that remained to be detected during each interval, $N_{i,j,k-t}$, is calculated as in
 275 Formula 3:

276
$$N_{i,j,k-1} = N_{i,j,k}$$

 277
$$N_{i,j,k-2} = N_{i,j,k-1} - Y_{i,j,k-1}$$

 278
$$N_{i,j,k-3} = N_{i,j,k-2} - Y_{i,j,k-2}$$

 279
$$N_{i,j,k-4} = N_{i,j,k-3} - Y_{i,j,k-3} \quad \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

280 where the observed count for each interval $Y_{i,j,k-t}$ is modelled as a binomial variable with $N_{i,j,k-t}$ trials and
 281 detection probability $p_{i,j,k}$, assuming that for species i at point count station j during study period k , this
 282 probability was consistent across all intervals (Formula 4).

283
$$Y_{i,j,k-t} \sim \text{Binomial}(N_{i,j,k-t}, p_{i,j,k}) \quad \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

284 We modeled $p_{i,j,k}$ as a linear function of the survey time (i.e. the time at which the point count took place,
 285 measured in minutes after sunrise; scaled and centered) on a logit link, treating the identity of observer m
 286 as a random effect (we considered all Harapan staff as one observer; Formula 5).

287
$$\text{logit}(p_{i,j,k}) = \alpha_{0\ i,m} + \alpha_{1\ i,k} \times \text{survey time}_{e,j,k} \quad \dots\dots\dots (5)$$

288
 289 We fitted all models in a Bayesian framework using JAGS (Plummer, 2003) with the packages ‘rjags’
 290 (version 4-10; Plummer 2016) and ‘r2jags’ (version 0.6-1; Su and Yajima 2015) under program R (R
 291 Development Core Team, 2018). We used uninformative priors, and we ran the model with 100,000
 292 iterations on three chains, with a burn-in of 90,000 and a thinning value of 5. We evaluated the
 293 convergence of the model using the Rhat value (mean Rhat of our model = 1.002), which should ideally
 294 be close to 1 (Plummer, 2012). From the posterior distributions of the model, we derived, for each species
 295 in each survey period, the median values and 95% Bayesian credible intervals (BCIs hereafter) for mean
 296 abundance $\bar{\lambda}$ averaged across all point count stations (denoted hereafter as $\bar{\lambda}_E$ and $\bar{\lambda}_C$ for the early and
 297 current periods, respectively), as well as for all model coefficients. Comparing the current versus early
 298 periods, we additionally derived the median values and BCIs for the relative change between $\bar{\lambda}_C$ and $\bar{\lambda}_E$

299 (denoted as $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ hereafter) and in the coefficient for remoteness (denoted as $\Delta\beta_2$ hereafter), for each species
300 as well the community average.

301

302 **2.6.2 Assessing the impacts of trapping pressure on avifaunal recovery.** We first assessed the impacts
303 of trapping pressure on avifaunal recovery using $\Delta\beta_2$ obtained above. A more positive $\Delta\beta_2$ would indicate
304 that over time, species abundance became increasingly associated with less accessible areas (i.e., areas of
305 lower trapping pressure). We additionally assessed how these changes may have influenced species
306 abundance recovery over time due to improved forest conditions associated with restoration. To do this,
307 we calculated, for each species, a counterfactual current $\bar{\lambda}$ (denoted as $\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ hereafter) representing the
308 expected change in species abundance in the absence of any changes in β_2 (effect of remoteness) between
309 the early and current survey periods. We additionally derived the median values and BCIs for the relative
310 change between $\bar{\lambda}_E$ and $\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ (denoted as $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ hereafter), for each species as well the community
311 average. We derived $\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ by predicting species' λ for each point count station under the current TCH
312 and remoteness conditions, but with β_2 (i.e., the effect of remoteness) fixed at the level estimated for that
313 species in the early period (Formula 6).

314

$$315 \log(\lambda_{\text{counter } i,j,2}) = \beta_{0,i,2} + \beta_{1,i} \times \text{mean TCH}_{j,2} + \beta_{2,i,1} \times \text{remoteness}_{j,2} \quad \dots\dots\dots (6)$$

316

317 We then calculated the difference between $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ and $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$, where a negative difference represented the
318 deficit in abundance recovery ('recovery deficit' hereafter) attributed to the potential increase in trapping
319 pressure over time. Finally, we visualized this difference (i.e., $\Delta\bar{\lambda} - \Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$) across Harapan for each
320 species as well as the entire community to identify a 'risk zone' of recovery deficit, where species
321 abundance recovery linked to forest recovery could not compensate for the decline in species abundance
322 caused by trapping. Here we used the above fitted models (Eq. 1 & Eq. 6) to derive posterior mean
323 estimates of $\bar{\lambda}_E$, $\bar{\lambda}_C$ and $\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ across a raster grid of Harapan, using the current values for TCH and
324 Euclidian distances from each grid cell to the nearest easy-access points.

325

326 **2.6.3 Relating the impacts of trapping pressure to species traits and IUCN Red List categories.** We
327 assessed how estimated impacts of trapping pressure differed between guilds defined by species' market
328 demand and ecological traits, using four metrics that represented species-level impacts of trapping
329 pressure: the effect of remoteness (β_2) in the current period, the change in remoteness effect over time
330 ($\Delta\beta_2$), the change in species overall abundance over time ($\Delta\bar{\lambda}$), and the difference between $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$
331 and $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$. We assessed the proportion of species in each guild that exhibited different responses in
332 each of these metrics and used analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare the means of each metric
333 between guilds. Finally, we compared $\Delta\beta_2$ with species' current IUCN Red List categories to understand
334 if and to what extent the threat of trapping had been commensurably represented by these assessments.

335

336 3. RESULTS

337 3.1 Species' abundance changes over time

338 We observed broadly improving forest condition at Harapan over the study period, as represented by
339 overall positive changes in TCH (Fig. 1) in areas that did not experience anthropogenic disturbances (Fig.
340 SII). Of the 130 bird species analyzed, we found broad increases in their abundance over time.
341 Specifically, 36% of species showed significantly positive $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ (95% BCI for $\Delta\bar{\lambda} > 0$), meaning that their
342 average abundance increased significantly over time, while an additional 53% showed tendencies of
343 positive $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ (median for $\Delta\bar{\lambda} > 0$, although its 95% BCI overlapped with zero; Fig. 2a). While no species
344 showed significantly negative $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ (95% BCI for $\Delta\bar{\lambda} < 0$), 12% showed tendencies of negative $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ (median
345 for $\Delta\bar{\lambda} < 0$, although its 95% BCI overlapped with zero; Fig. 2a). On the community level, the mean $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$
346 across all species was 0.67 (95% BCI: -0.28 to 1.62; Fig. 2a; this represents the mean increase in bird

347 individual numbers for the area covered by a single point count station). Despite the consistent changes in
348 overall forest condition and species abundance, we did not find a clear relationship between them: the
349 community-level coefficient for mean TCH, β_{1c} was -0.02, with a 95% BCI of -0.42 to 0.39.

350 **3.2 Impacts of trapping pressure on species abundance and recovery**

351 We found negative impacts of our proxy measure for trapping pressure on species abundance for the
352 majority of species studied. In the early study period, only 5% of species analyzed showed significantly
353 positive β_2 , the effect of forest remoteness on species abundance (95% BCI for $\beta_2 > 0$), with 39% showing
354 tendencies of positive β_2 (median for $\beta_2 > 0$, although it's 95% BCI overlapped with zero), but these
355 proportions increased to 9% and 68%, respectively, in the current period (Fig. SI3). On the community
356 level, this effect increased from -0.04 (95% BCI: -0.47 to 0.37) with β_0 -2.90 (95% BCI: -3.58 to -2.24) in
357 the early period to 0.25 (95% BCI: -0.68 to 1.17) with β_0 -2.13 (95% BCI: -3.10 to -1.11) in the current
358 period. Most species also showed increases in their degree of association with forest remoteness over
359 time, with 6% of species showing significantly positive $\Delta\beta_2$, and an additional 74% showing tendencies of
360 positive $\Delta\beta_2$ (Fig. 2b). Overall, on the community level, $\Delta\beta_2$ exhibited a tendency to increase over time
361 ($\Delta\beta_{2c} = 0.30$, 95% BCI: -0.73 to 1.31; Fig. 2b). Concomitant to these signatures of trapping pressure, we
362 found that forests in Harapan had also become more accessible over time: the Euclidean distance of the
363 least accessible point count station from the nearest easy-access point decreased from 6.7 km in the early
364 period to 2.7 km in the current period.

365 The impacts of trapping pressure had a dampening effect on the recovery of avian species abundance
366 compared to what would have been expected because of improved forest condition. Specifically, this
367 recovery deficit (i.e., negative difference between $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ and $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$) was significant (95% BCI < 0) for 7%
368 of the species analyzed, with an additional 67% of species showing tendencies of being significant
369 (median < 0 , although it's 95% BCI overlapped with zero; Fig. 2c), whilst at the community level it was
370 -0.05 (95% BCI: -0.26 to 0.24; Fig. 2c). This recovery deficit was primarily driven by reductions in bird
371 abundances in areas of higher accessibility across Harapan, thus defining a community-level 'risk zone'
372 within 1 km from easy-access points (Fig. 2d). On the species level, the remoteness at which the risk
373 zones ended differed across species (Fig. SI4).

374 **3.3 Relevance of species' market demand, ecological traits, and IUCN threat status**

375 Targeted species on average showed stronger signals of the negative impacts of trapping pressure on
376 population abundance, relative to opportunistically trapped species. A higher proportion of targeted
377 species exhibited positive β_2 in the current period (Fig. 3a), positive $\Delta\beta_2$ (Fig. 3b), and greater recovery
378 deficit as represented by negative difference between $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ and $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ (Fig. 3c). Correspondingly, a lower
379 proportion of targeted species exhibited positive changes in mean abundance between study periods ($\Delta\bar{\lambda}$;
380 Fig. 3d). It should be noted, however, that these differences were not statistically significant (Fig. 3).
381 Contrary to our expectations, we did not find a difference in the remoteness at which the risk zones ended
382 for targeted versus opportunistically trapped species: for both guilds, this remoteness was around 1 km
383 from easy-access points (Fig. SI5). We did not find notable differences in the above metrics between
384 forest-dependent and generalist species (Fig. SI6).

385 Comparing the effect of forest remoteness between study periods (the estimated mean of $\Delta\beta_2$) for each
386 species with their current IUCN Red List category revealed that the threat of trapping on species
387 populations has generally not been captured well by IUCN threat assessments (IUCN 2019; Fig. 4). For
388 the 104 species that exhibited significantly positive or tendencies of positive $\Delta\beta_2$ (indicative of
389 increasingly negative impacts of trapping on abundance), most of them are currently classed as Least
390 Concern (51% of species) or Near Threatened (25% of species; Table SI2), and trapping is formally
391 recognized by IUCN as a threat for only 10 of them; along with one additional species that exhibits
392 negative $\Delta\beta_2$.

393 4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

394 Using a unique community-level dataset spanning almost ten years from a flagship site of tropical forest
395 restoration in the lowlands of Sumatra, we provide evidence that escalating bird trapping driven by the pet
396 trade has the potential to hamper the conservation success of forest restoration. We show that while most
397 species exhibited signs of abundance recovery under forest restoration at Harapan (Fig. 2a), the
398 intensifying negative signatures of trapping pressure on species abundance (Fig. 2b & Fig. SI3) have
399 dampened this recovery (Fig. 2c) and limited it to less accessible areas (Fig. 2d). We also show that
400 species particularly prized in the pet trade were generally more negatively affected (Fig. 3). Finally, we
401 show that although trapping is likely to impact a large number of species in Southeast Asia as shown in
402 our study site, the current IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2019) considers few of them as being affected by
403 trapping (Fig. 4). Our findings highlight the urgency of tackling the emerging threat of pet trade to
404 Southeast Asia's avian diversity, not least to ensure the effectiveness of the often expensive efforts of
405 forest restoration.

406 Given appropriate conditions and recovery time, tropical forest restoration can allow biodiversity to
407 recover, potentially to levels close to those found in primary forests (Crouzeilles et al., 2016; Gilroy et al.,
408 2014; Rozendaal et al., 2019). However, this is possible only if the recovering biodiversity is not
409 jeopardized by factors outside the scope of restoration. Particularly for restoration initiatives aimed at
410 achieving conservation goals, tackling other threats to safeguard the hard-won biodiversity gain of
411 restoration is paramount. In the case of Harapan, financial and personnel resources supporting
412 conservation have totaled approximately 20 million USD with an annual operating cost of 1.48-2.5
413 million USD (Buergin, 2016; Diana and Jong, 2018; Silalahi et al., 2017). It is encouraging that this
414 investment is associated with broad recovery in avian populations (Fig. 2a), but the level of recovery is
415 likely to be far lower than would have been achieved had the avifauna not been subjected to sustained
416 trapping (Fig. 2c). As many bird species play key roles in the regeneration and functioning of forest
417 ecosystems (e.g. through seed dispersal, Morrison & Lindell 2012; de la Peña-Domene et al. 2014),
418 declines driven by trapping could lead to cascading ecological impacts that further limit the effectiveness
419 of forest restoration (Gardner et al., 2019).

420 Our study adds to the growing evidence that trade-driven trapping of forest birds constitutes a grave threat
421 to Southeast Asia's forest avifauna (Symes et al., 2018), especially in Indonesia. Evidence from market
422 surveys (Chng et al., 2018, 2015; Shepherd, 2006) and communications with local experts, Harapan field
423 staff and the trappers themselves suggest that bird trapping is generally indiscriminate in its methods, in
424 part because markets accept most species (Shepherd et al., 2004) and there is high mortality of birds along
425 the supply chain. These factors together incentivize trappers to maximize capture rates (Jepson and Ladle,
426 2005; Shepherd et al., 2004). As trapping depletes local bird populations, the economic incentive for
427 indiscriminately trapping any species will likely intensify, with or without increases in market demand
428 (Beastall et al., 2016; Courchamp et al., 2006; Shepherd, 2012; TRAFFIC, 2018); possibly explaining
429 similar risk zone's remoteness we observed for both targeted and opportunistically trapped species (Fig.
430 SI5). The impacts of trapping on wildlife populations are further exacerbated by the rapid loss of forest
431 habitat across Southeast Asia, which not only directly threatens biodiversity persistence (Margono et al.,
432 2012), but also facilitates trapper access by expanding the road and trail network (Harris et al., 2017;
433 Hughes, 2018). Multiple threatened species detected in our surveys showed significant negative impacts
434 of trapping pressure, along with several species, for which trapping has yet to be formally recognized as a
435 conservation threat (Fig. 4 & Table SI2). As an example, aside from the Endangered Greater Green
436 Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati* for which the threat of trapping has been well recognized (Eaton et al.,
437 2017), our models suggested that the Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus* (Least Concern),
438 Sooty Barbet *Caloramphus hayii*, and Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus* (both Near Threatened)
439 were also negatively affected, significantly, by trapping (Table SI2). In addition, a large number of
440 species of lower conservation concern exhibited significant, or near significant, negative signals of

441 trapping pressure (Fig. 4 & Table SI2), possibly indicating looming population declines if the current
442 trend continues.

443 Two caveats to our findings warrant discussion. First, because our early and current bird surveys were
444 conducted by different surveyors, the observed difference in species abundance between study periods
445 may have in part been an artifact of observer effects. While we have taken measures to alleviate this
446 potential problem, these measures cannot fully rule out the possibility that differences in observer
447 detection abilities may have contributed to the increased species abundance found in the current period.
448 This issue, however, is often inevitable for studies or monitoring efforts that cover a large temporal span.
449 Second, while we were able to assess the increases in TCH for low forest canopies (typically < 15 m)
450 accurately, the potential TCH increases of tall forests were more challenging to assess due to the well-
451 known saturation of tree height predictions using LiDAR data (Hansen et al., 2016; Swinfield et al.,
452 2019). This bias should be at least in part responsible for the observed weak relationship between species
453 abundance and mean TCH. Nonetheless, as our inferences focused on the relationship between species
454 abundance and remoteness as a proxy for trapping pressure (i.e., β_2), we note that neither of the above
455 caveats undermines our central finding that trapping pressure hampered the conservation gains of forest
456 restoration for avian diversity at Harapan.

457 The threats that trapping poses to forest birds call for urgent conservation intervention. Here we provide
458 several practical recommendations for Southeast Asia. First, effective anti-trapping/poaching patrols and
459 law enforcement (Miller et al., 2019), including penalties to lawbreakers as deterrents (Leupen et al.,
460 2018; López-Bao et al., 2015), coupled with alternative livelihood schemes should be adopted to decrease
461 trapping incentives. Employing local communities and where possible, bird trappers in patrolling and as
462 birdwatching guides could provide them with economic incentives to forego trapping and/or engage in
463 conservation, and to cultivate a genuine long-term interest in supporting conservation (Widmann and
464 Widmann, 2008). Second, to provide the basis for devising conservation actions, region-wide threat
465 assessments on the severity and extent of trade and trapping should be conducted on all bird species in
466 Southeast Asia, and check if localized threats we detected reflect the broader situation. Such assessments
467 should use a combination of market- (Harris et al., 2015) and field-based surveys to inform site-specific,
468 targeted conservation interventions (as an example, see Eaton et al. 2015b) These interventions could
469 include *in situ* management of species (Pain et al., 2006) and habitat (including nest site provisioning; e.g.
470 Kurniandaru 2008), conservation breeding (Collar et al., 2012), and possibly, commercial captive
471 breeding or ‘ranching’ (J. A. Eaton et al., 2015) of key, high-profile species such as the White-rumped
472 Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus* (Palko et al., 2011). These assessments should also pre-emptively cover
473 species not yet found in large quantities in markets and should consider potential taxonomic changes
474 (Eaton et al., 2016). More broadly, efforts should be made to better understand and address the underlying
475 drivers of wild bird trapping (Burivalova et al., 2017; Marshall et al., 2019) through a collaborative,
476 multi-stakeholder approach, such as that showcased by the Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group
477 (Shepherd and Cassey, 2017), and to explore behavioral change interventions that target consumers and
478 other components of the trade supply chain (Veríssimo, 2013).

479 Forest restoration is urgently needed in many tropical regions that have experienced extensive
480 deforestation and forest degradation (Edwards et al., 2019), including Southeast Asia (FAO and UNEP,
481 2020; Wilcove et al., 2013). However, its effectiveness to recover biodiversity could be compromised by
482 wildlife trapping and more broadly, exploitation, as our study demonstrated. The increased accessibility
483 of degraded forests compounds this challenge (Hughes, 2018). The realization of the conservation
484 promise of forest restoration (Strassburg et al., 2020), therefore, hinges critically on not only effective
485 restoration actions but also on how effectively we can manage local stakeholder partnerships and protect
486 these forest areas from other anthropogenic threats.

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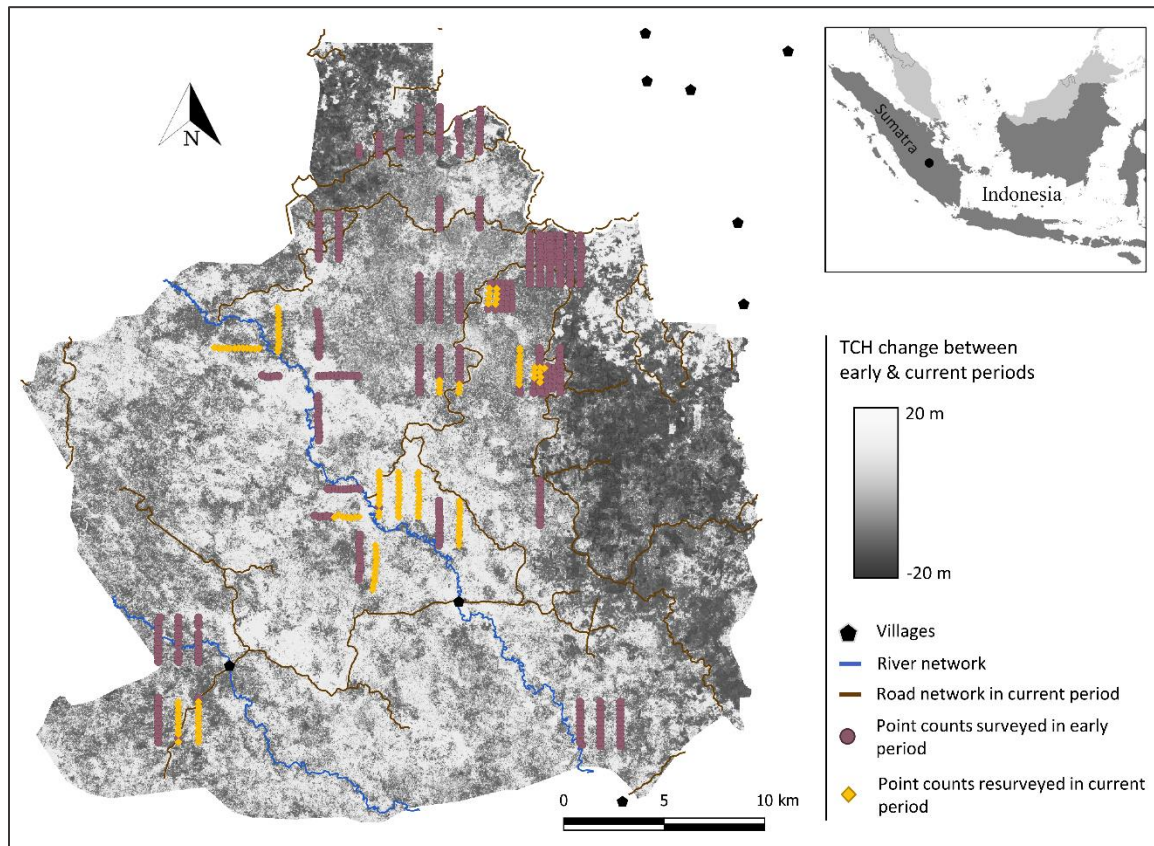
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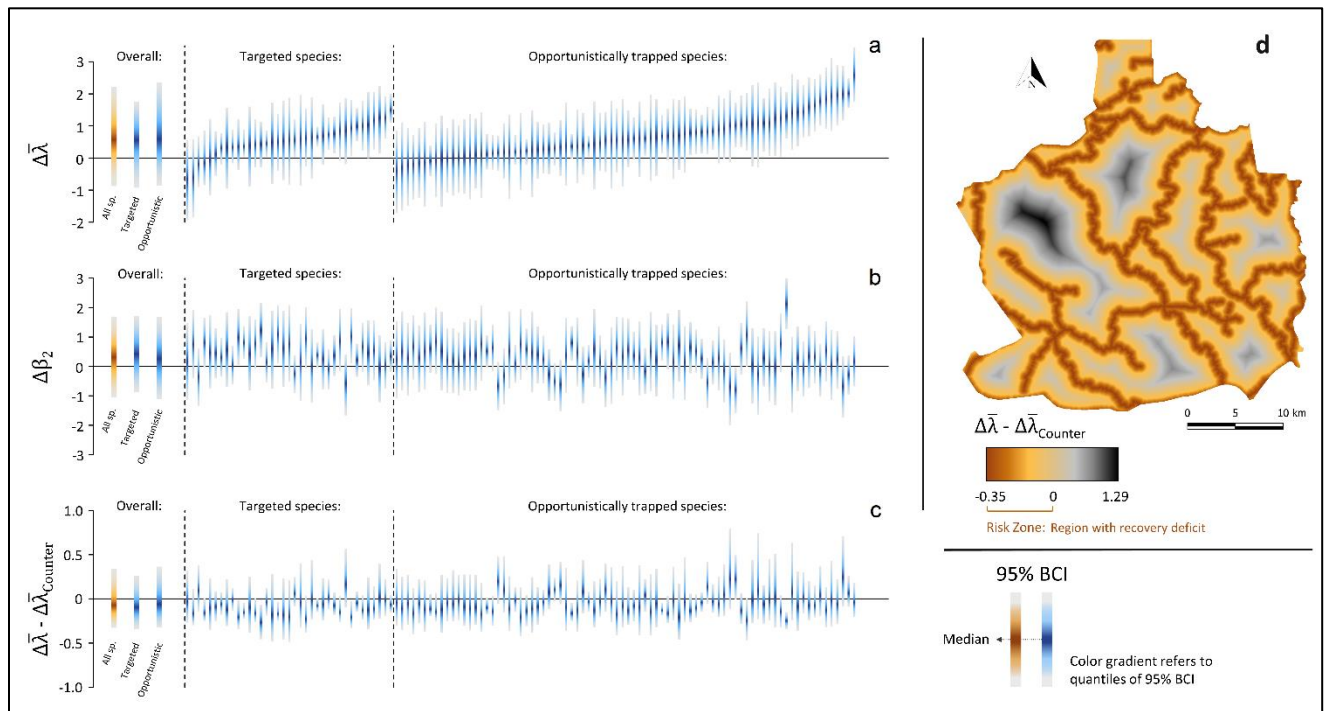
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706 FIGURES



708 Fig. 1. Distribution of point count stations and changes in forest condition over time at Harapan
 709 Rainforest. Point count stations surveyed during the early period (2009-2011) are displayed in purple;
 710 those surveyed during both the early and current (2018) periods are displayed in yellow. The map also
 711 displays changes in forest condition as represented by TCH (top-of-canopy height) in meters, estimated
 712 from Landsat imagery using a LiDAR training dataset. The road and river network and village locations
 713 in and around Harapan in the current period are also displayed.

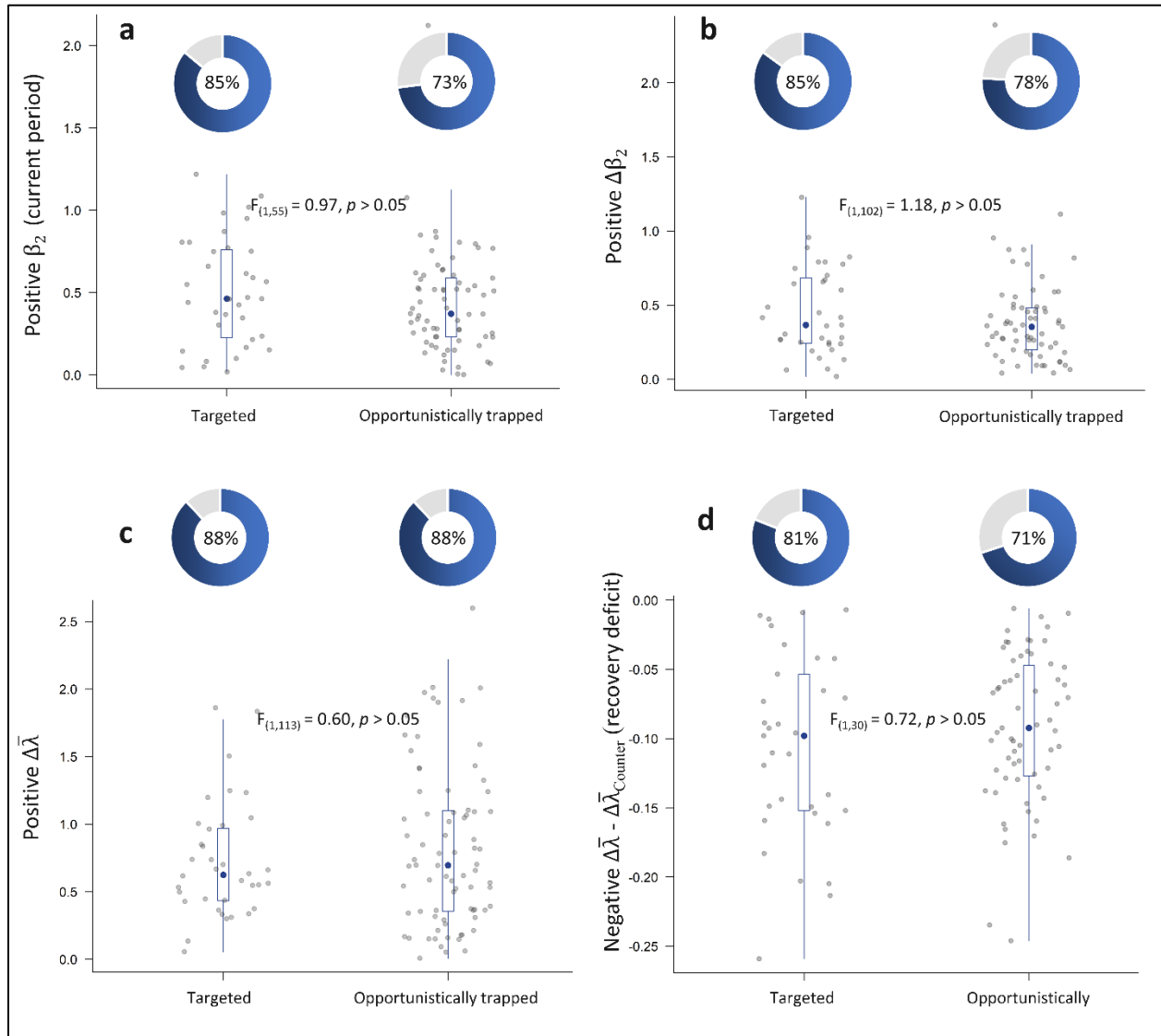
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 720 Fig. 2. The recovery pattern of bird species abundance in Harapan and the impacts it sustained from the
 721 trapping pressure. (a) Changes in mean species abundance between the early and current periods ($\Delta\bar{\lambda}$). (b)
 722 Changes in the effect of remoteness on species abundance between the early and current periods ($\Delta\beta_2$); y-
 723 axis is standardized, and a unit change in remoteness is equal to a Z score of 1021 m. (c) The difference
 724 between $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ and $\Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ (i.e., changes in mean species abundance between early and counterfactual
 725 current period); negative values of $\Delta\bar{\lambda} - \Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$ indicates recovery deficit - dampened abundance
 726 recovery because of intensifying trapping pressure. (d) Model-predicted spatial patterns of the
 727 community-level recovery deficit ($\Delta\bar{\lambda} - \Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$), mapped in relation to the current easy-access point
 728 network (road, river, and forest edges) at Harapan. For panels (a)-(c), values were provided for the entire
 729 community and separately for the targeted and opportunistically trapped guilds (left-most section, as well
 730 as separately for individual species belonging to the targeted and opportunistically trapped guilds (middle
 731 and right-most sections, respectively; each bar represents one species); across all three panels, species are
 732 ordered in the same order of decreasing $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ within each guild.

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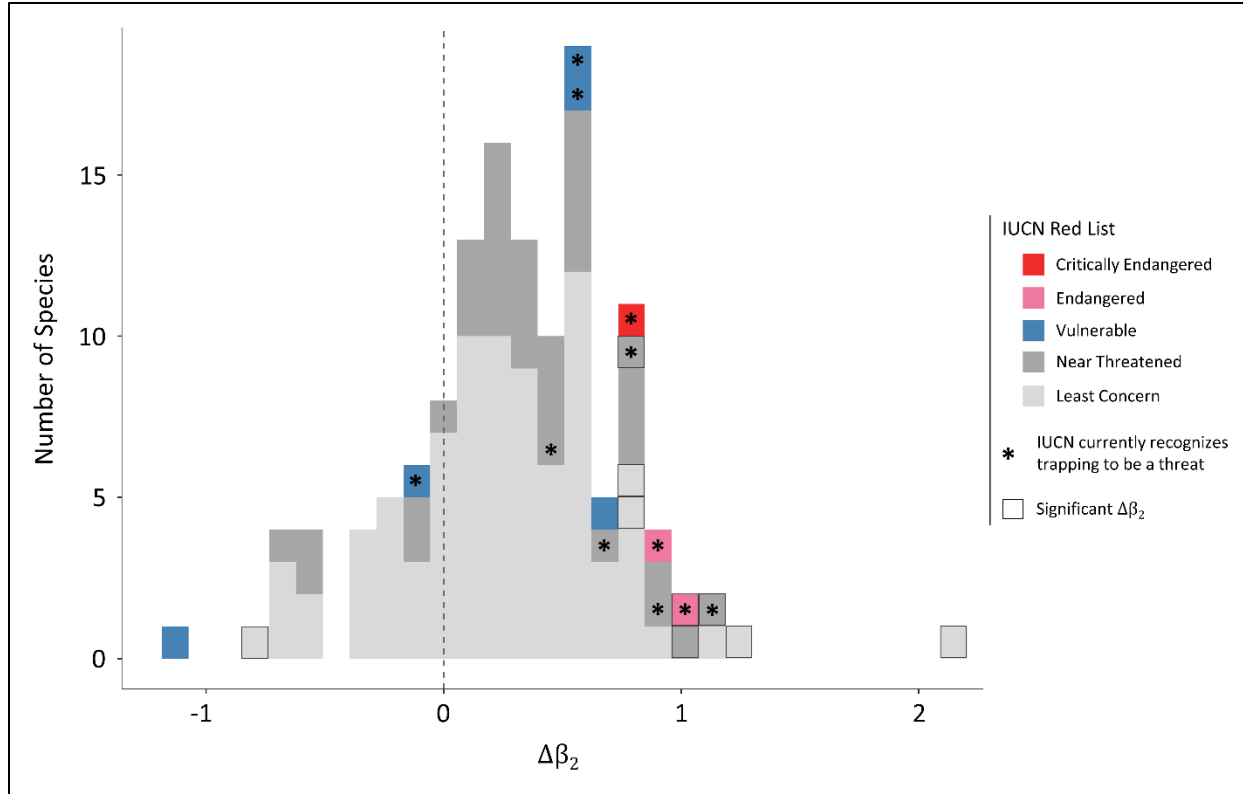
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Fig. 3. Comparison between the targeted and opportunistically trapped species with regard to the negative effects of trapping pressure on their abundance, as represented by (a) positive β_2 in the current period, (b) positive $\Delta\beta_2$ between the early and current periods, (c) positive $\Delta\bar{\lambda}$ between the early and current periods, and (d) negative $\Delta\bar{\lambda} - \Delta\bar{\lambda}_{\text{Counter}}$. For each of the above four metrics, comparisons concerned (1) the proportion of species in each guild that exhibited responses indicative of more severe negative effects of trapping pressure (pie chart in the upper portion of each panel), as well as (2) ANOVA test of the metric values between the two guilds as represented by jittered box plots (lower portion of each panel; each point represents an individual species).



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750 Fig. 4. The extent to which the threat of trapping pressure on our study species was captured by the IUCN
751 Red List assessments. We represented the threat of trapping pressure by $\Delta\beta_2$ between the early and current
752 periods, with species binned into 0.1-wide $\Delta\beta_2$ intervals. Those species whose $\Delta\beta_2$ were significantly
753 different from zero (95% BCI not overlapping with zero) are highlighted, as are species currently
754 recognized by IUCN to be threatened by hunting/trapping.
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