



**BIG HALL OF KSDA NUSA TENGGARA TIMUR
FIELD OF KSDA REGION II**

ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

**POPULATION MONITORING, PREY ANIMALS, AND
HABITAT ASSESSMENT OF GOLO MORI
DRAGONS
YEAR 2024**

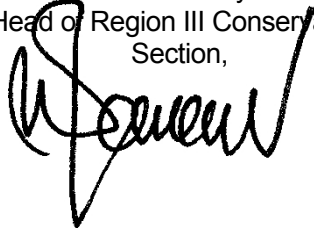


Labuan Bajo, December 2024

ATTESTATION SHEET

On behalf of the Head of the East Nusa Tenggara Natural Resources Conservation Center, hereby declares approval for the Report on the Results of Monitoring Activities of Populations, Prey Animals, and Komodo Habitat Studies in Golo Mori Year 2024 as an accountability material for the implementation of activities.

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FOREWORD

We praise and thank God Almighty for His blessings and grace, so that the Report on the Results of the Implementation of Population Monitoring Activities, Prey Animals, and Komodo Habitat Studies in Golo Mori Year 2024 can be compiled properly.

This report was prepared with the aim that it can be taken into consideration in determining a decision and can be used as a source of information for various parties in need. With all humility, we hope that this Activity Implementation Report is useful for all parties in need.

Compiler,

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL SHEET.....	i
FOREWORD.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
TABLE OF FIGURES.....	iv
TABLE OF TABLES.....	v
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	vi
I. INTRODUCTION	
A. Background.....	1
B. Purpose.....	2
C. Legal Basis.....	3
II. METHODOLOGY	
A. Place and Time of Implementation.....	3
B. Komodo dragon population monitoring.....	3
C. Prey Animals.....	6
D. Habitat Assessment.....	7
E. Tools and Materials.....	9
F. Implementation Team.....	10
G. Activity Implementation Time.....	11
H. Cost Source.....	11
III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
A. Komodo dragon population monitoring.....	12
B. Prey Animals.....	14
C. Habitat Assessment.....	15
D. Data Processing Methods.....	13

IV. CONCLUSION	
A. Conclusion	17
B. Suggestions	18
OVERVIEW.....	19

LIST IMAGES

		Page
Image	1. Location map of Komodo dragon monitoring, prey animals and habitat assessment	3
Image	2. Golo Mori komodo dragon monitoring sampling design map ...	4
Image	3. Placement of camera trap, bait box and hanging bait	5
Image	4. Schematic of the combined path and line method	8
Image	5. Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	8
Image	6. Komodo dragon distribution map	13
Image	7. Prey animal dung density graph	15
Image	8. Golo Mori Important Value Index (INP) graph	15
Image	9. Lizards and dogs caught in a camera trap.....	16

LIST TABLE

	Page
Table 1. Tools and Materials	10
Table 2. Activity Implementation Personnel	10
Table 3. Komodo Dragon Attendance Data.....	12

LIST ATTACHMENT

	Page
Documentation of Activity Implementation.....	-
Work Map Attachment	-
Appendix of Golo Mori Komodo Dragons Distribution Map	-

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Komodo monitor lizards are the largest lizards in the world, with adult males reaching 3 m in length and weighing 87 kg (Jessop *et al.*, 2006). As a predator in its ecosystem (Auffenberg, 1981; Ciofi, 2002; Jessop *et al.*, 2006; 2007), the availability of prey and habitat conditions is one of the factors ensuring the survival of this reptile.

Currently, the distribution of Komodo monitor lizards is limited to five small islands in eastern Indonesia, with four island populations located within Komodo National Park (TNK) and another fragmented population on the island of Flores (Ciofi & De Boer, 2004). The limited distribution makes it necessary to conduct long-term monitoring to determine the status of Komodo dragon populations in areas where they are expected to live.

Prey availability and habitat assessment are crucial factors for the survival of Komodo dragons. Prey inventory is a step taken to identify and calculate or estimate the availability of animals that are food sources for komodo dragons such as timor deer, wild boar, long-tailed monkeys, civets and buffaloes as well as poultry species. Meanwhile, habitat assessment focuses on analyzing the environmental conditions that support the Komodo dragon's life, including vegetation, water sources, and other abiotic factors. By understanding the importance of prey availability and habitat conditions, management authorities can design more effective strategies to protect not only the Komodo dragons, but also the entire ecosystem in which they live. This creates a more holistic and sustainable conservation approach.

The Golo Mori area in Manggarai Regency is a potential location for komodo dragons (BBKSDA NTT - KSP, 2023), therefore monitoring of komodo dragons, prey animals and habitat assessments need to be conducted. The results of this activity will provide a comprehensive picture of the environmental carrying capacity of the komodo dragon population and its distribution, so that it can be the basis for policy making and habitat assessment.

The results of this activity will provide a comprehensive picture of the environmental carrying capacity of the Komodo dragon population and its distribution, which is expected to be the basis for making more effective policies and strategies related to Komodo dragon populations, prey animals, and habitats.

B. Objectives

The objectives of the activity include:

1. To estimate the site occupancy, density, probability of detection and abundance of Komodo dragon lizards in the study area;
2. To determine the density index per hectare of ungulate prey;
3. To determine the Index of Importance (INP), which is a parameter to measure plant dominance in the study area.

C. Basis Law

1. Law number 32 of 2024 concerning Amendments to Law number 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Biological Resources and Ecosystems;
2. Law Number 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry;
3. Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 on the Preservation of Plant and Wildlife Species;
4. Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/12/2018 on the Second Amendment to Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018 on Protected Plant and Animal Species;
5. Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation Number 15 of 2021 concerning Organization and Work Procedures of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry;
6. Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Number 17 of 2022 on the Organization and Work Procedure of the Technical Implementation Unit of the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation;
7. Budget Implementation List (DIPA) IN FLORES Year 2024

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Place and Time Implementation

Population monitoring activities, prey animals and habitat studies of Komodo monitor lizards (*Varanus komodoensis*) will be carried out on December 9 to 18, 2024 in the Golo Mori area which is administratively included in the Golo Mori Village area, Komodo District, West Manggarai Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province.

Activity



Location map of Komodo dragon monitoring, prey animals, and habitat assessment activities

B. Komodo dragon population monitoring

1. *Site occupancy* method

Analysis of the estimated value to be obtained using the *site occupancy* model approach, with the help of the PRESENCE 2.4 program (Hines, 2006; <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/software/presence.html>). The analysis model used is the Royle/Nichols Heterogeneity model (Royle and Nichols, 2003). The analysis is based on a modification of the closed population *mark-recapture* method by MacKenzie *et al.* (2002; 2006). The model estimates population size based on temporally replicated presence/absence data at several study sites. The model assumes that heterogeneity in detection probability between each study site occurs due to heterogeneity in abundance, meaning that higher detection probability values indicate a tendency for higher abundance values as well (Royle and Nichols, 2003).

The *single season* model was chosen because data collection is conducted over a short period of time on a regular basis without any long breaks in time that could disrupt data collection efforts, so weather conditions are relatively the same (MacKenzie *et al.*, 2002). The basic assumptions that must be met in the *single season* model include: (1) the study site is free from changes during the sampling duration, (2) the probability of occupancy is the same for all areas, (3) species can be identified well, (4) the probability of detection of a species in one area is independent of other areas (MacKenzie *et al.*, 2002; MacKenzie & Kendall, 2002).

2. Determination of sampling design

At the Komodo dragon monitoring location in the Golo Mori area, 30 sampling points were determined with consideration of 1) reference from the 2017 Flores expedition activities, 2) the use of a 500m grid (*core home range area*), 3) the size of the area to be studied, 4) representation of habitat types preferred by Komodo dragons, 5) information from the community (direct encounters, and 6) resources, accessibility, and time.



Figure 2. Komodo Golo Mori monitoring sampling map

3. Use of camera traps

Camera traps have been the main tool used in survey methods to monitor large mammal predators (Karanth & Nichols 1998; Trolle & Kery 2003; Karanth *et al.* 2004; Rosellini *et al.* 2008;

Thorn et al. 2009). *Camera traps* are generally used to monitor populations of species that are very difficult to observe directly, especially because the animals are highly sensitive to human presence (Hariyadi et al. 2008; Karanth & Cellam, 2009). In principle, *camera traps* are used to detect the presence of the target animal under study. Although *camera traps* are generally used for mammal population monitoring, they can be used to detect the presence of large reptiles (Ariefiandy et al. 2013).

The *camera trap* model used was *Blaze Video A-252*. The *camera trap* position (A) was attached to the tree trunk at a height of 40 cm from the ground and placed at a distance of 3-4 meters from the bait box. (B) and bait hanging bait (C) with purpose to spread the indicator to attract the presence of Komodo dragons (Figure 1). *Camera trap* was programmed to take 3 pictures each time an animal was detected and 1 video with a duration of 15 seconds. Interval time interval for taking pictures and videos was set at 15 minutes to avoid taking pictures and videos of the same animal continuously. continuously.

At each sampling location, monitoring was carried out for 3 consecutive days with the assumption of repeating 6 sessions. Each day is divided into 2 sessions, the 1st session at 06.00 - 12.00 and the 2nd session 12.01 - 18.00.

- 18.00. The results of the data collection are written in the form of *Tally Sheet* (attached) as an analysis material in data processing.

Placement of *camera traps*, bait boxes, and hanging baits

C. prey

A variety of methods have been used to conduct direct data collection on animals (Buckland et al. 2001). However, for some species there are problems with capture techniques, so indirect trapping by finding signs of their presence (pellets, droppings, nests, tracks, etc.) can provide better data.

Dung counts using line transect, quadrat sampling, or line transect-based sampling methods have been used extensively to estimate the numbers, often to provide population density indices, of a wide variety of vertebrate species including deer, kangaroos, elephants, possums, pigs and goats (Forsyth et al. 2003; Marques et al. 2001). The advantage of this method is that it is not influenced by avoidance behavior or the presence of dense vegetation that reduces the probability of encounter.

The transect method is not difficult to implement in the field, and multiple species can be recorded at the same time. This method can be applied to monitor Komodo monitor lizards' ndicato prey animals, namely Timor deer (*Cervus timorensis*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

The working method of this method is that the transect points are first determined randomly, the camera trap placement point can also be used as a reference to determine the transect points. In this study area, the number of transects is determined as many as 30 points scattered in the study area, assuming that each camera trap has 1 transect. The length of each transect is 150 meters with a total of 30 plots, resulting in 900 observation plots, each plot is 5 meters apart with the size of each plot 3.14m². The results of the data collection are written in the form of a *Tally Sheet* (attached) as an analysis material in data processing.

The data output from this method is a prey density index value (not a ndicato value) calculated by dividing the number of dung groups in all transects by the number of transects to obtain an average dung per transect.

average dung per transect which is then converted to dung group density per hectare.

D. Study Habitat

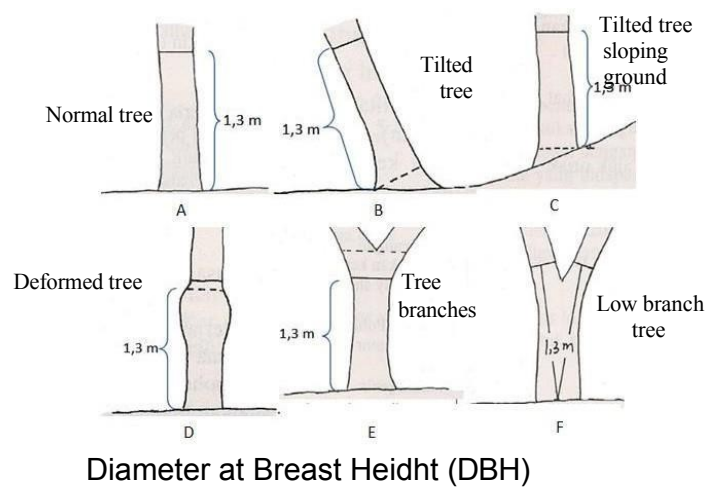
1. Vegetation data collection

The sampling method used is the plotted line method. The sampling method of plant vegetation analysis is guided by Sundra (2018), namely the transect line is drawn perpendicularly from the base line and also uses a non-destructive method, which is a method carried out without destroying the object being measured. Transect is a narrow path across the land to be studied. The aim is to determine the relationship between vegetation changes and environmental changes.

The process of collecting vegetation analysis data begins with determining the location assisted by GPS to determine the geoposition, then a transect line is made with a length of 60 meters. In the transect, it is divided into 3 quadrants with an area of 20x20 meters. In the 20x20 meter quadrant, tree stands were measured using a sewing meter for the calculation of Diameter at breast height (DBH). Furthermore, within the quadrant, a plot of 10x10 meters was determined to determine pole stands, 5x5 meters for sapling and shrub stands, and 2x2 meters for seedlings and understorey plants. Plot analysis of each stand was conducted indicator tive. All data were recorded on the observation sheet and the plants found were documented to facilitate identification. The following are examples of images of the use of transects, quadrants and plots that have been carried out:

Figure 4. Schematic of the combination method of paths and plot lines

The measurement of Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) refers to Manuri (2011). The following is a DBH measurement scheme that has been carried out:



2. Vegetation Data Analysis

INP (Index of Important Value) is one of the important parameters in vegetation analysis to assess the dominance of a species in an ecosystem.

INP is calculated by combining three basic parameters namely:

- a. density Relative : Proportion number of individuals of a species compared to the total number of individuals of all species
- b. Relative Frequency: The proportion of a species' distribution compared to the distribution of all species.
- c. Relative Dominance : The proportion of area or volume of a species compared to the total area of all species.

The calculation formula for obtaining INP is as follows:

- a. Diameter (d) = $\frac{\text{Perimeter (m)}}{\pi}$
- b. Base Area (LBDS) = $\frac{1 \cdot \pi \cdot d^2}{4}$
- c. Density (K) = $\frac{\text{number of species}}{\text{Sample area}}$
- d. Relative Density (KR) = $\frac{\text{Density of a species}}{\text{Density of all species}} \times 100\%$
- e. Dominance (D) = $\frac{\text{LBDS of a species}}{\text{Sample size}}$
- f. Relative Dominance (DR) = $\frac{\text{dominance of a species}}{\text{dominance of all species}} \times 100\%$
- g. Frequency (F) = $\frac{\text{Number of plots found of a species}}{\text{Number of plots made}}$
- h. Relative Frequency (FR) = $\frac{\text{frequency of a species}}{\text{frequency of all species}} \times 100\%$
- i. Important value index (INP) = KR+ DR+ FR

E. Tools and Materials

Tools and materials used during the activity are:

No	Name of Tools and Materials	Usage
1.	Work Map	As a reference for location and determination of location of the Komodo monitor lizard population monitoring
2.	GPS	Saving the geographical coordinates of the Komodo monitor lizard population monitoring location.
3.	Compass	Determination of cardinal directions
4.	Digital camera/smartphone	Documenting the results of the activity
5.	Camera Trap	Documenting every Komodo dragon recorded by a camera with a PIR (Passive infra Red) sensor with triggers in the form of movement or heat with a Bushnell type camera. or heat with Bushnell type
6.	Binoculars	View the condition of the Komodo monitor lizard habitat population monitoring area

7.	Tallysheet, field notebook and writing pad	Document field data
8	Bait meat	As bait to bring komodo lizards to the site Observation
9	Nylon Rope	To tie the bait that is wrapped in plastic
10.	Plastic bags and bait boxes	To store the meat and to spread the stench of rotting meat to attract dragons.
11.	Timer	To determine the observation time
12.	Prey Animal Transect Rope	To count animal droppings in the plot area.
13.	Meter Tape	To calculate the circumference of trees
14.	Meter	Measuring the area of the vegetation analysis data collection plot

Table 1. Tools and Materials

F. Team Implementation

The personnel implementing this activity are planned to be 7 (seven) people as listed below:

No	Name/NIP	Position
1	2	3
1.	Sahudin 198305222002121002	PEH Implementing concurrently Head of Labuan Bajo Resort
2.	Andreas Avelinus Dos 196808032002121001	Implementing PEH at Labuan Bajo Resort
3.	Rio Antariksa Sandes 199207162010121001	Implementing Forest Ranger at Labuan Bajo Resort
4.	Maria Angelica Br Tarihoran 199810212020122006	Junior Forest Ranger at Labuan Bajo Resort
5.	Arakib Rausanfikr Wuran, A.Md 199008212023211013	Skilled Forestry Instructor at Region III Conservation Section
6.	Adrianus Miluanto Mujur 19770502 200812 1 001	Facilities and Infrastructure Maintainer at Region III Conservation Section Region II Natural Resources Conservation
7.	Antonius J.T. Kleden 199006042024211020	Manggala Agni at Labuan Bajo Resort
8.	Robertus Ase Dae	PPNPN at Region III Conservation Section

Table 2. Activity Implementation Personnel

G. Implementation Time Activity

Plan The activity will be carried out for 10 (ten) days starting from December 10 to 20, 2024.

H. Source Cost

Costs are sourced from DIPA In Flores FY. 2024 amounting to 72,550,000 (Seventy Two Million Five Hundred Fifty Thousand).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Population Monitoring Komodo Dragons

From the results of 30 points installed, there are 19 points that capture the presence of Komodo dragons as shown in table 3. and map (figure 6.):

Type: 0; did not capture the presence of Komodo dragons, 1; captured the presence of Komodo dragons.

Table 3. Komodo dragon presence data



Figure 6. Komodo dragon distribution map

Here are some images that capture the presence of Komodo dragons in the *camera trap*:



From the results of data analysis using *presence software*, the value of the proportion of komodo dragon occupancy area is 0.57 ± 0.08 (95% CI 0.42-0.73), meaning that around 57% of the studied area was inhabited by komodo dragons at the time of the study. The average estimated density of Komodo dragons per *camera trap* was 0.86 ± 0.19 (95% CI 0.56-1.31), indicating that about 1 Komodo dragon could be found per camera trap. While the detection probability value is 0.33 ± 0.08 (95% CI 0.42- 0.43), the detection probability value indicates that during the study the possibility of detecting the presence of dragons in each session is 33%. When combined with the estimated value of the proportion of the occupancy area of 57%, then when the study was conducted if a camera trap was installed for 6 sessions of 3 days of monitoring, the possibility of seeing a komodo dragon was only 33%, this means that it is relatively difficult to find a komodo dragon directly during the activity. Meanwhile, the estimated population abundance of Komodo dragons was 25.7 ± 5.6 (95% CI 16.76-39.49). This means that at the time of this study, the abundance of Komodo dragons was in the range of 20-30 individuals.

B. Komodo Prey Animals

Prey animal dung density in Golo Mori is based on transect results using the *faecal count* method with a total of 1,800 monitoring plots. Animals observed included deer, goats, wild boar, cattle, buffalo, monkeys, civets, and horses. Figure 7 shows that the highest dung density was found in buffaloes, with a value of 286.60 dung/hectare, indicating a high population or activity of buffaloes at the site. Furthermore, monkeys have a high dung density of 167.20 dung/hectare. Deer also recorded a significant value of more than 79.62 dung/hectare.

Meanwhile, animals such as wild boars, cows, goats, civets and horses showed much lower dung densities, with values below 50 dung/hectare. This suggests that their population or activity is relatively less than that of buffaloes, monkeys and deer. This data provides an overview of the distribution and presence of prey animals in Golo Mori, which can be used for conservation and ecosystem management purposes.

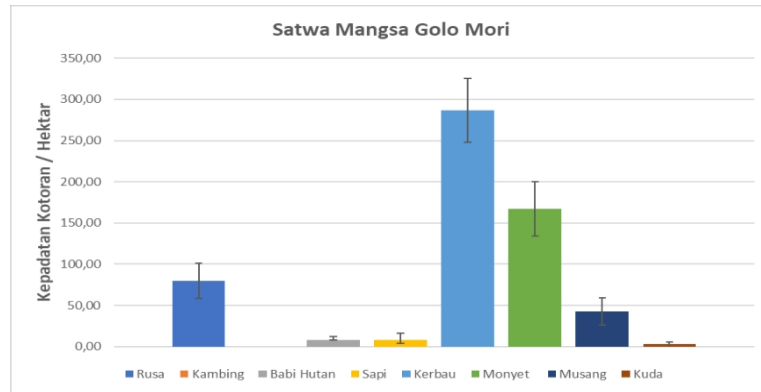


Figure 7. Prey animal dung density graph

C. Habitat Study

The graph in Figure 8 shows the Importance Index Value (INP) of vegetation analysis results based on four growth level categories, namely Seedling (Sensus), Stake (Sompe), Pole (Sompe), and Tree (Kedondo). The highest INP value was found in the Tree (Kedondo) category with a value of 75.82%, indicating significant dominance at this vegetation level. The Pole (Sompe) category took second place with a value of 43.94%, followed by Stake (Sompe) at 40.21%. Meanwhile, the Seedling (Sensus) category had the lowest INP value, at 26.98%. These results indicate that the level of dominance and presence of vegetation is higher in the tree phase, while the level of regeneration through seedlings is still relatively low. This can provide an overview of the structure and dynamics of the vegetation community at the study site.

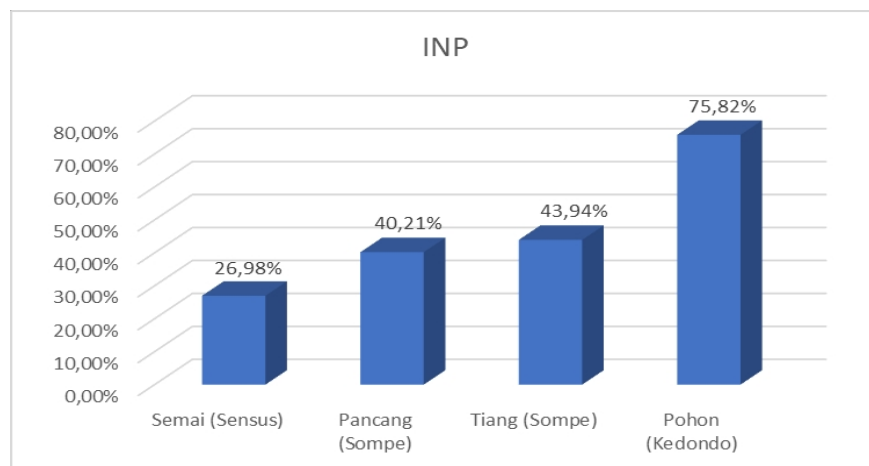


Figure 8. Golo Mori Important Value Index (INP) graph

In addition to data on Komodo dragon populations, prey animals and habitat studies, there are potential threats to Komodo dragon survival, including the presence of dogs and monitor lizards (Figure 9), which have the potential to become competitors for prey availability and predators of young Komodo dragons. In addition, there is a plan to develop an SEZ area right in the Komodo dragon habitat area, so that mitigation efforts are needed both in the process of developing the area and after changes in its landscape.



Figure 9. Lizards and dogs caught in camera traps

IV. CLOSING

A. Conclusion

Of the 30 camera trap installation points, 19 camera traps detected the presence of Komodo dragons. While the value of the proportion of the Komodo dragon occupancy area ranges from 0.57 ± 0.08 , meaning that around 57% of the area studied was inhabited by Komodo dragons at the time of the study. The average estimated density of Komodo dragons per *camera trap* is 0.86 ± 0.19 , this value indicates that about 1 Komodo dragon can be found per camera trap. While the detection probability value is 0.33 ± 0.08 , the acquisition of the detection probability value shows that during the study the possibility of detecting the presence of dragons in each session is 33%. The estimated value of the proportion of occupancy area is 57%, so when the study was conducted if a camera trap was installed for 6 sessions of 3 days of monitoring, the possibility of seeing a komodo dragon was only 33%, this means that it is relatively difficult to find komodo dragons directly during the activity. Meanwhile, the estimated population abundance of Komodo dragons was 25.7 ± 5.6 . This means that at the time of this study, the abundance of Komodo dragons was in the range of 20-30 individuals.

Animals such as wild boar, cattle, goats, weasels and horses showed much lower dung densities, with values below 50 dung/hectare. This indicates that their population or activity is relatively less compared to buffaloes, monkeys and deer with values above 50 dung/hectare. This data provides an overview of the distribution and presence of prey animals in Golo Mori, which can be used for conservation and ecosystem management purposes.

The highest INP value was found in the Tree category (Kedondo) with a value of 75.82%, indicating significant dominance at this vegetation level. The Pole (Sompe) category took second place with a value of 43.94%, followed by Stake (Sompe) at 40.21%. Meanwhile, the Seedling (Census) category had the lowest INP value, at 26.98%.

The presence of dogs and monitor lizards is a potential threat to prey animals and small Komodo dragons as well as the planned development of the Golo Mori SEZ area.

B. Suggestions

1. There needs to be involvement of related parties to control competing predators, namely dogs and monitor lizards.
2. Mitigation efforts are needed both in the process of developing the area and after landscape changes occur.
3. Regular monitoring needs to be carried out to determine the dynamics of the Komodo dragon population.
4. Dissemination of information to the public and educational elements related to the conservation of Komodo dragons and their habitat.

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Documentation of Activity Implementation



Camera Trap, Bait Box, and Hanging Bait Installation

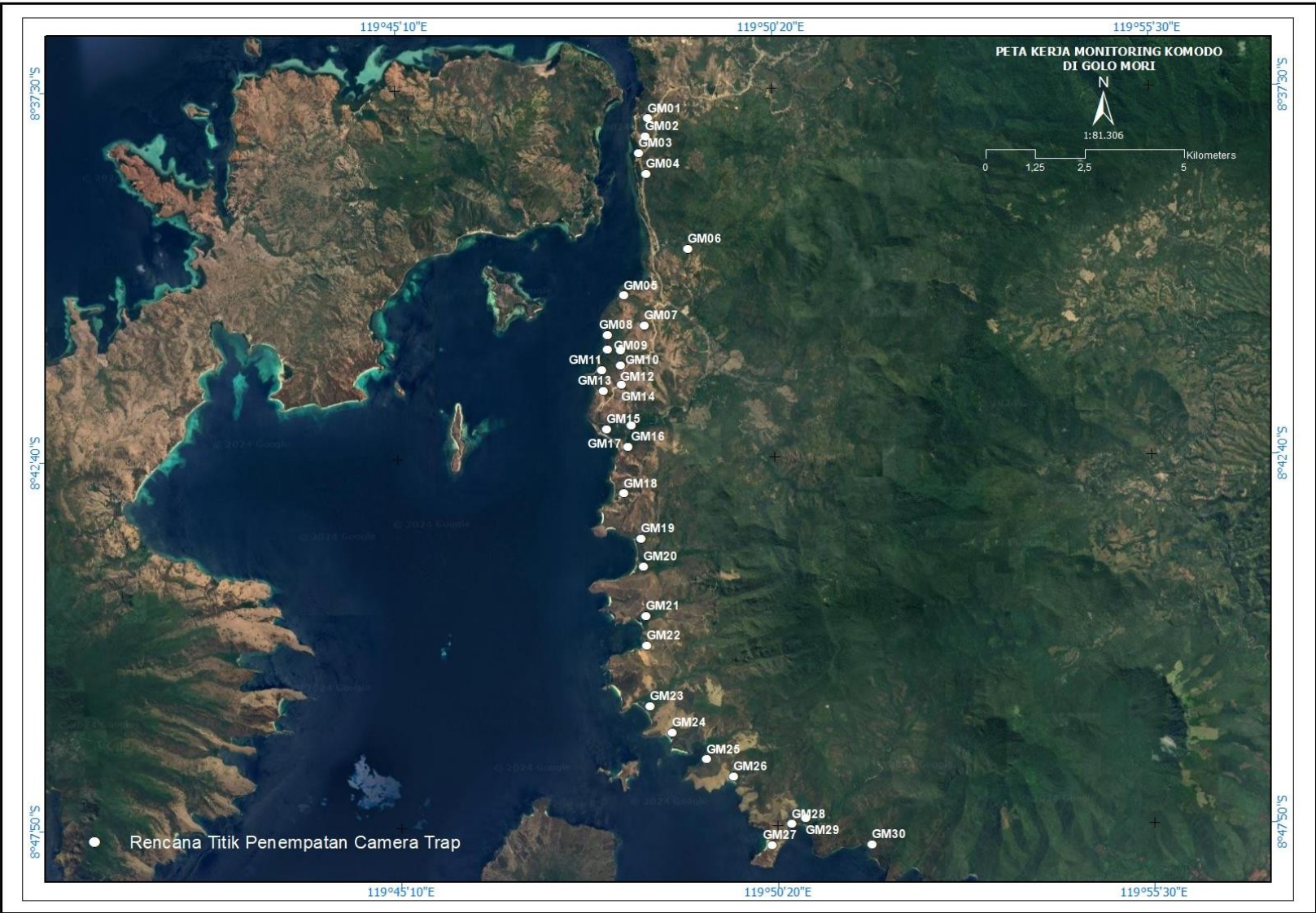


Prey Animal Transect



Habitat Assessment

Appendix Work Map of Population Monitoring, Prey Animals, and Habitat Assessment of Golo Mori Komodo Dragons



Appendix Golo Mori Komodo Dragons Distribution Map

