Session 3: Without good data our models have limited value

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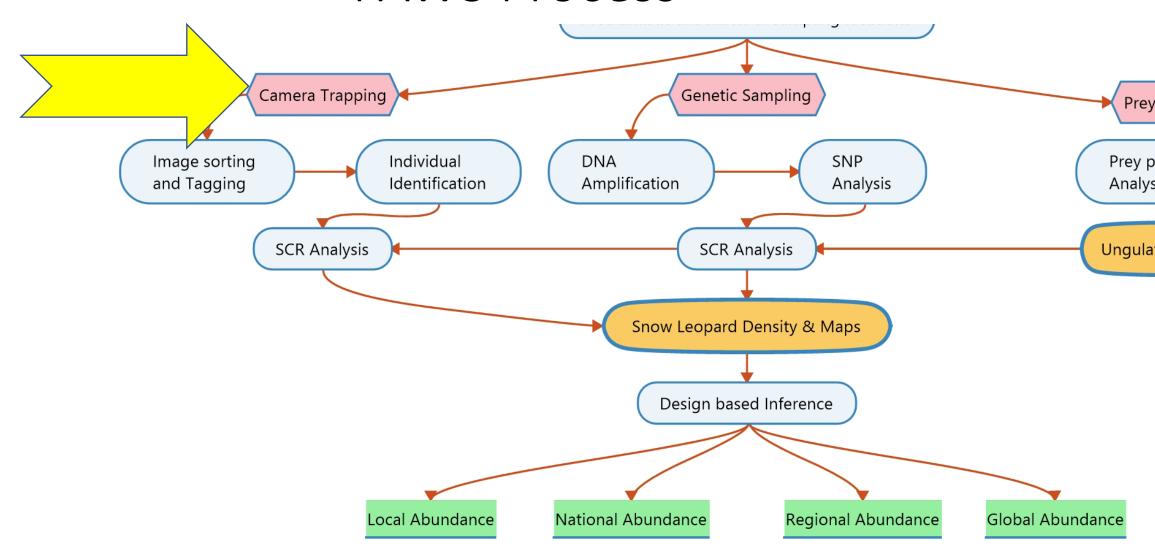




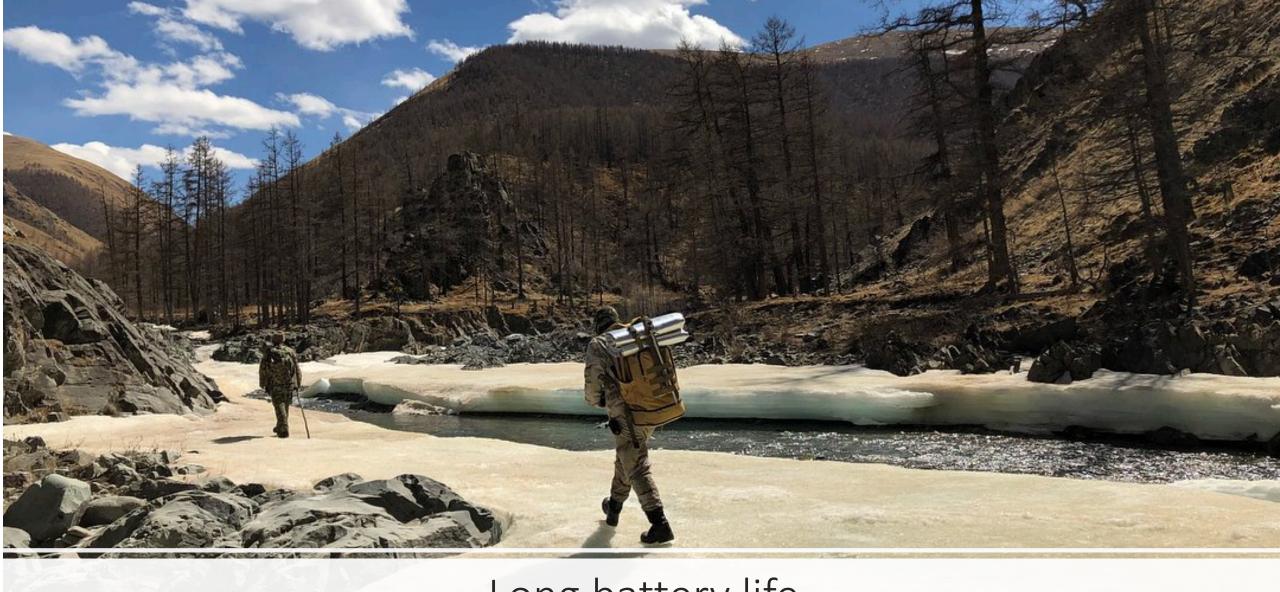




PAWS Process



How to do we maximize the value of our camera trap data?



Long battery life

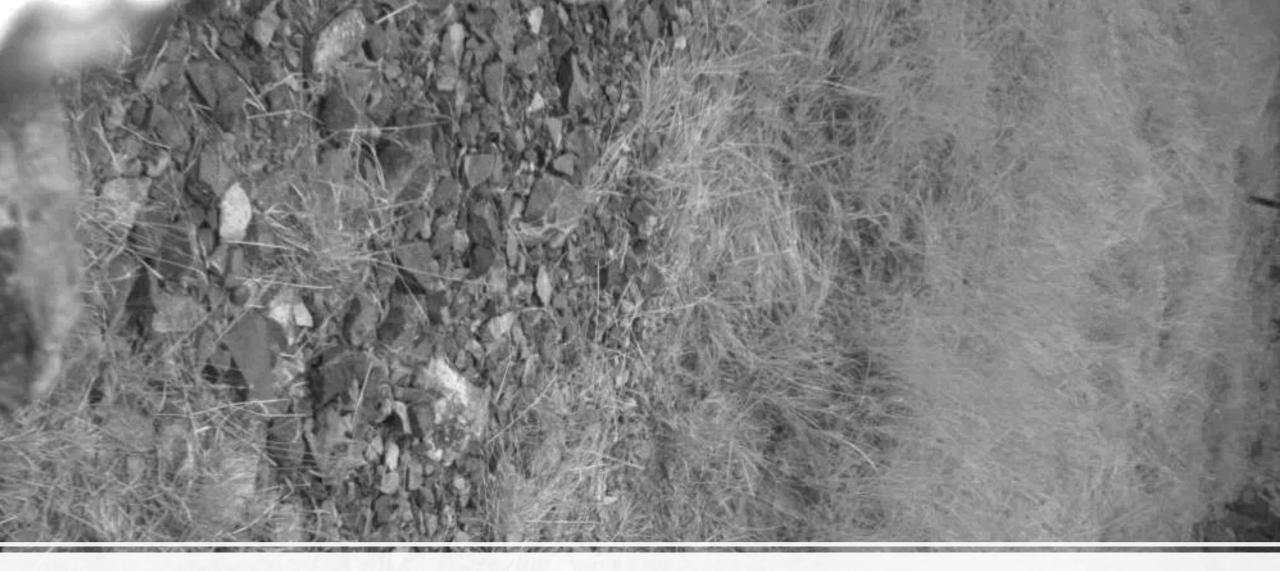


Tolerant to extreme weather conditions









Durable casing



Teams are still using camera traps from 2008





No Flash

Fast Shutter Speed! (<0.5 seconds if possible)



3-5 pictures per trigger!

No Delay between triggers!

High sensitivity





Video by SLCF Mongolia/SLT

Not directly towards the sun





Mindful of vegetation growth

Marking location- allows multiple angles.



No marking sites?- travel routes!





Easy to install but mindful of theft

Sharp images to identify individuals





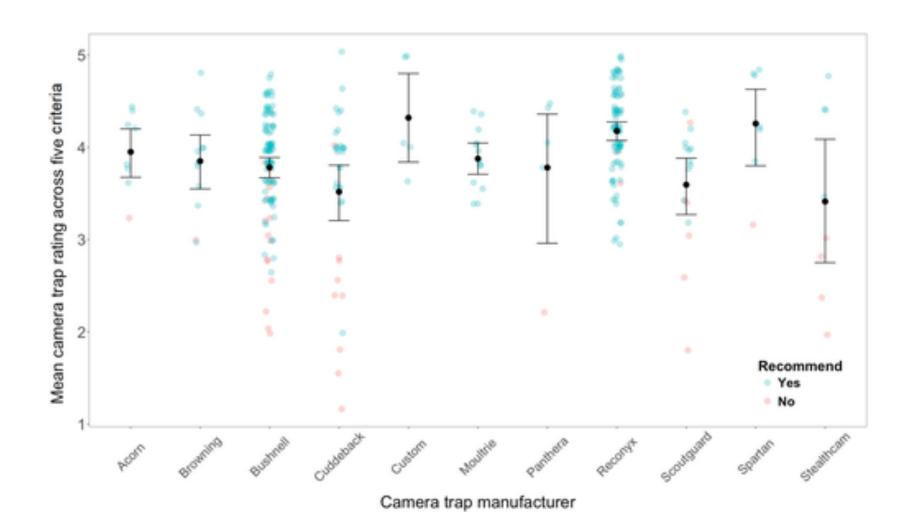






Costs?

Camera trap manufacturers across five criteria – reliability, image quality, sensor quality, usability and value for money – and whether respondents overall would recommend the camera trap to others.





Field tested



Site Selection



Survey for snow leopard signs!



Set up

- No target species get missed
- Animals don't walk too close or too far
- No obstacles such as grass, rocks
- Marking locations (multiple angles)
- Easy to install
- Meets SRC recommendations!

Camera traps

- Long battery life
- Tolerant to extreme weather conditions
- Durable casing
- Fast shutter speed (Rapid fire!)
- No Flash (use infra red)
- Balance Costs/Number CTs/Quality pics





Choose the location that seems most promising in terms of likelihood of funneling snow leopards to a point where the camera focuses at relatively low human traffic, safe from potential avalanches, landslides, sudden rush of stream or other calamities, preferably with less vegetation that can obstruct or trigger unnecessary captures.



Set up the camera on no sleep mode (camera stays on all day and night), no delay between triggers, 5 photos per trigger in rapid fire mode, high sensitivity mode that uses heat and motion sensor, and battery type that matches the batteries installed (typically, NiMH work best).



Drive, walk or ride to the closest point from the suggested coordinate and hike within 2-3km around the point of interest and look for locations with possible snow leopard scrapes or urine markings. Typically overhanging rocks, saddles, canyons or vertical walls are considered to be good sign-posts for snow leopards.



Find a rock to tie the camera on, at a height of about 50cm above ground level. Avoid aiming the camera in a way that it can be triggered or the lens and sensors get damaged by direct sun rays during the day. Tie the camera using bungee cords so it looks straight towards the possible marking site, scrape or track the animal is likely to take. Use walk-test mode to ensure camera covers area of interest.

Before leaving, ensure to walk in front of the camera to trigger it once. Always walk in front of the camera at each follow up visit to record if it has been working. Dismantle the additional installation rocks after removal of the camera to prevent misuse by passersby or potential poachers.





PAWS GSLEP guidelines

The bottleneck!!!

Individual ID of hundreds and hundreds of pictures!