1 Mammalian species abundance across a gradient of tropical land-use intensity: a

2 hierarchical multi-species modelling approach

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12 Abstract

Recent work in the tropics has advanced our understanding of the local impacts of land-use 13 change on species richness. However, we still have a limited ability to make predictions 14 about species abundances, especially in heterogeneous landscapes. Species abundances 15 directly affect the functioning of an ecosystem and its conservation value. We applied a 16 hierarchical model to camera- and live-trapping data from a region in Borneo, and estimated 17 the relative abundance (controlling for imperfect detection) of 57 terrestrial mammal species, 18 19 as a function of either categorical or continuous metrics of land-use change. We found that 20 mean relative abundance increased (by 28%) from old-growth to logged forest, but declined 21 substantially (by 47%) in oil palm plantations compared to forest. Abundance responses to above-ground live tree biomass (a continuous measure of local logging intensity) were 22 23 negative overall, whilst they were strongly positive for landscape forest cover. From oldgrowth to logged forest, small mammals increased in their relative abundance proportionately 24 25 much more than large mammals (169% compared to 13%). Similarly, omnivores and

insectivores increased more than other trophic guilds (carnivores, herbivores and frugivores). 26 From forest to oil palm, species of high conservation concern fared especially poorly 27 28 (declining by 84%). Invasive species relative abundance consistently increased along the gradient of land-use intensity. Changes in relative abundance across nine functional effects 29 groups based on diet were minimal from old-growth to logged forest, but in oil palm only the 30 vertebrate predation function was maintained. Our results show that, in the absence of 31 32 hunting, even the most intensively logged forests can conserve the abundance and functional effects of mammals. Recent pledges made by companies to support the protection of High 33 34 Carbon Stock logged forest could therefore yield substantial conservation benefits. Within oil palm, our results support the view that "wildlife-friendly" practices offer a low potential for 35 reducing biodiversity impacts. 36

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Key words: land-use change, abundance responses, selective logging, oil palm agriculture,
High Carbon Stock, hierarchical modelling, robust monitoring, multi-method sampling,
mammals, Borneo.

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42 **1. Introduction**

Land-use change is well-known as a major driver of ecological change, for example as a 43 leading cause of species endangerment at global scales (Vié, Hilton-Taylor & Stuart 2009). 44 However, there remains a limited capacity to make biodiversity predictions, in particular of 45 species abundances, at scales which are relevant to local stakeholders and policy-makers 46 responsible for making land-use decisions. There are at least three reasons for this: 1) a focus 47 on species richness rather than species abundances, 2) a failure to disentangle the 48 observational and ecological processes than generate datasets, and 3) the characterisation of 49 heterogeneous landscapes using categorical descriptors. 50

52 Much of the previous research on the biodiversity impacts of land-use change has focussed 53 on community-level parameters, and especially species richness (Gibson et al. 2011). In this 54 case, there is a developing consensus about the impacts of land-use change on species richness, such as the relatively lower impacts of selective logging relative to plantation 55 forestry, which in turn often retain more species than monoculture plantations (Scales & 56 57 Marsden 2008; Gibson et al. 2011; Barnes et al. 2014; Edwards et al. 2014). The more subtle impacts of land-use change on species abundances have been quantified less frequently, and 58 59 often only for single focal species (e.g. from capture-recapture studies) or a limited subset of species (e.g. Berry et al. 2010). This matters because abundance estimates give a finer 60 resolution of information on species responses to environmental change than species richness 61 62 measures, and may therefore facilitate better decisions surrounding trade-offs in land-use (Phalan et al. 2011). Importantly, species abundances may also be indicative of ecosystem 63 functioning (Ewers et al. 2015), as well as the trophic structure and interaction strengths 64 present in an ecosystem (Barnes et al. 2014). 65

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Across the studies in which abundance in tropical landscapes have been quantified, consistent 67 patterns across land-use types, and across taxonomic groups, have remained elusive (Sodhi et 68 69 al. 2009; Gibson et al. 2011; Newbold et al. 2014). The majority of past studies have based 70 their inferences about abundance on sparse data, often on a small subset of species in a community, and without controlling for the potentially confounding set of observational 71 processes which, in combination with the ecological processes at work, create observed 72 73 datasets (Royle & Dorazio 2008). Perhaps most importantly, changes in detection probability across treatment units, such as different land-uses, may confound any apparent changes in 74 abundance and must be controlled for (Archaux et al. 2011), something which has rarely been 75

done (e.g. see Newbold *et al.* 2014). The widespread failure to disentangle the observational
and ecological processes at work may, at least in part, explain the large variability in reported
abundance responses and, in the worst cases, may be a source of systematic bias in
inferences. As a result, there is still a limited capacity to make robust predictions about the
impacts of land-use change on species abundances (e.g. Newbold *et al.* 2014).

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82 Land-use change sometimes involves dramatic and rapid changes to a natural habitat, for example when a primary forest is converted to pasture. More often, land-use in the tropics 83 84 manifests itself as a gradient of disturbance intensity, rather than distinct land-use categories (e.g. Asner et al. 2009). For example, the intensity of selective logging may vary 85 considerably across a landscape, due to access constraints and natural variability in 86 87 marketable timber volumes (Berry et al. 2008). Similarly, plantations may vary in their proximity to remaining forests and in their structural properties, such as height and canopy 88 cover, as they mature (Luskin & Potts 2011). Continuous, as opposed to categorical, metrics 89 90 of land-use change are rarely used (Cushman et al. 2010), but may offer an opportunity to increase the predictive power and practical relevance of forecasts for conservation and 91 management, especially in highly heterogeneous landscapes. 92

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Land-use change has been especially acute in Southeast Asia, with the vast majority of
remaining forest now existing in a logged-over state (Margono *et al.* 2014; Gaveau *et al.*2014). Deforestation rates, in large part due to oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) plantation
expansion, are also the highest among the major tropical forest regions (Asner *et al.* 2009).
Palm oil producers, traders and buyers have increasingly recognised the reputational risk of
being associated with deforestation, and dozens of the largest companies have recently made
pledges to achieve "zero deforestation" within supply chains. In practice, the conservation of

High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest is likely to be the principal way these pledges will be
implemented, with HCS forest delineated on the basis of gross structural properties (HCS
Approach Steering Group 2015) or carbon-content (Raison *et al.* 2015). There is therefore an
urgent need to consider the potential value of HCS forest for conserving biodiversity, and in
particular the abundance of animal species.

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107 Here we investigate species relative abundances for a community of terrestrial mammals across a land-use intensity gradient in Borneo. To do this, we use a hierarchical model of the 108 109 mammal metacommunity in our study region which accounts for 1) changes in detection probability across space, 2) correlated detections in group-living species, 3) multiple 110 sampling methods (camera traps and live traps), 4) a clustered sampling design, and 5) habitat 111 filtering according to land-use and fine-scale habitat disturbance. We refer to "relative 112 abundance", since our measure can be used to make robust comparisons across space (e.g. 113 across land-use types), but not across species. We used either categorical or continuous 114 approaches to characterise the land-use gradient. In the former case, we used three categories 115 which match the major land-use options for a forested concession in the region: old-growth 116 forest, logged forest and oil palm plantation. In the latter case, we used satellite-derived 117 measures of above-ground live tree biomass (AGB) and local landscape percent forest cover. 118 AGB is directly proportional to carbon content (Martin & Thomas 2011) and is therefore 119 120 relevant for assessing the value of HCS set-aside areas for mammal species. Landscape forest cover is relevant to management decisions concerning the quantity of forest set-aside within a 121 concession, for example as High Conservation Value (HCV) areas or riparian reserves in oil 122 palm plantations (Koh, Levang & Ghazoul 2009). We also partitioned the mammal 123 community according to four ecological response traits – body size, conservation status, 124 native status and trophic guild – as well as into functional effects groups based on diet, and 125

126 present relative abundance and biomass responses of these sub-groups. For the first time, this

allowed us to robustly explore whether particular sub-groups of Southeast Asian mammal

species show differential responses to land-use change.

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130 **2. Materials and methods**

131 2. 1. Sampling design

We sampled mammals across the landscape encompassed by the Stability of Altered Forest
Ecosystems (SAFE) Project in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo (Ewers *et al.* 2011). This
heterogeneous landscape consists of old-growth forest within the Maliau Basin Conservation
Area and Brantian-Tatulit Virgin Jungle Reserve (VJR), repeatedly-logged forest within the
Kalabakan Forest Reserve and two adjacent oil palm plantations straddling the Kalabakan
Forest Reserve boundary (see Appendix S1 in Supporting Information for further description
of the study sites).

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We employed a clustered hierarchical sampling design, with 48 sampling points (23 m apart) 140 clustered together into each of 46 sampling plots (each covering 1.75 ha), in turn clustered 141 into 11 sampling blocks distributed across the land-use gradient (Fig. 1). This included 13 142 plots (in 4 blocks) in old-growth forest, 24 plots (in 4 blocks) in logged forest and 9 plots (in 143 3 blocks) in oil palm plantations. Sampling plots overlapped the SAFE Project sampling 144 145 design, and therefore benefitted from the deliberate control of potentially confounding factors (including latitude, slope and elevation) that was central to this project's design (Ewers et al. 146 2011). 147

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149 2. 2. Field methods

Of the 48 sampling points within each plot, a random subset of 13 points (range: 8 to 22) in 150 each of the 46 plots were selected for camera-trapping, giving 590 points sampled in total. 151 Camera-trapping methods followed Wearn et al. (2013), with cameras (Reconyx HC500, 152 Holmen, Wisconsin, USA) deployed strictly within 5 m of each random point. Camera-153 trapping took place between May 2011 and April 2014, during which most plots (40 of 46) 154 were sampled in multiple years (mean effort per plot = 635 trap nights). We excluded 18 155 156 points which had been camera-trapped for less than seven days, giving a total sampling effort of 29,121 camera trap nights (after correcting for camera failures). 157

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Of the 46 plots sampled using camera traps, 31 were also sampled using live traps. Two 159 locally-made steel-mesh traps (18 x 10 - 13 x 28 cm), baited with oil palm fruit, were placed 160 161 at or near ground level (0 - 1.5 m) within 10 m (mean = 4.8 m) of all 48 points in a plot. Each trapping session consisted of seven consecutive trapping days and some plots (14 of 31) were 162 sampled for multiple sessions across the study period (mean effort per plot = 1099 trap 163 nights). Traps were checked each morning and captured individuals were anaesthetised using 164 diethyl ether (following Wells et al. 2007), measured, permanently marked using a 165 subcutaneous passive inductive transponder tag (Francis Scientific Instruments, Cambridge, 166 UK), identified to species using Payne et al. (2007) and released at the capture location. 167 Trapping, totalling 34,058 trap nights, was carried out between May 2011 and July 2014, 168 169 during which there were no major mast-fruiting events (O. R. Wearn, pers. obs.). 170 We scored the habitat disturbance in a 5 m radius around each sampling point on a 1-5 scale, 171 representing a scale of low to high disturbance intensity. For example, a score of 1 was used 172

in intact, high canopy forest, whilst a score of 5 was used in open areas, such as on roads or

log-landing areas (full definitions are provided in Appendix S1). This variable was used to
model fine-scale variation in detection probability at the point scale.

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177 2. 3. Modelling approach

To estimate species relative abundance, we used a form of multi-species occupancy model 178 (Royle & Dorazio 2008). These models all require replicate samples in space and time, in 179 180 order to separate the latent ecological processes of interest from the observational processes by which the data are generated. We therefore transformed our data to the required form of 181 182 detections and non-detections within temporal replicates, or occasions, for each sampling point. Here we define an occasion, for live-trapping, as a single night's trapping at a point 183 (i.e. two trap nights, given that two traps were deployed per point) or, for camera-trapping, as 184 five consecutive calendar days (see Appendix S1 for further information on camera trap data 185 pre-processing). 186

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We here briefly describe the modelling approach we used (full details are provided in 188 Appendix S1), highlighting where it differs from related models in the literature (Yamaura et 189 al. 2011; Tobler et al. 2015). The observational process was characterised using the binomial 190 modelling approach of Royle & Nichols (2003), which uses the pattern of detections and non-191 detections across sampling occasions (i.e. the detection history) to provide information on the 192 193 probability of detecting a species. Importantly, this model also exploits spatial heterogeneity in this species-level detection probability to obtain a measure of relative abundance (local 194 abundance, as defined below), as well as the probability of detecting a single individual 195 196 animal (Royle & Dorazio 2008; Yamaura et al. 2011). We extended this approach to incorporate multiple species and multiple sampling methods, by estimating individual-level 197 detection probability for each species-by-sampling method combination. For group-living 198

species, we used a quasi-binomial model for the observational process (estimating an
additional overdispersion parameter in the process), to allow us to relax an assumption of
independent detections among individuals (Royle & Dorazio 2008). We considered two
point-specific covariates – land-use type and fine-scale habitat disturbance – acting on
individual-level detection probabilities. We also included a 2nd-degree polynomial term for
habitat disturbance, to allow for unimodal responses.

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Local abundance (λ) – the latent ecological parameter in the model – was characterized by a 206 207 zero-inflated Poisson mixed-effects model. Zero-inflation was incorporated at the land-use level, to allow species to be completely absent from certain land-use types, rather than just 208 occurring at low abundance (λ cannot be zero in a Poisson distribution). The local abundance 209 210 estimates provided by the Royle & Nichols (2003) model represent, for a given species, the number of individuals using a given sampling point. In this study, we refer to this abundance 211 measure as "relative abundance" rather than "true abundance" or density (individuals per unit 212 area) because, although we have controlled for imperfect detection, this measure is not 213 directly comparable across species. Local abundance will be a function of the effective 214 trapping area for each species, as is also true of occupancy estimates (Efford & Dawson 215 2012). Specifically, we would expect a positive relationship between the home range of a 216 species and its local abundance. However, local abundance likely serves as a robust measure 217 218 of relative density changes across the land-use gradient, given that we controlled for detectability by land-use category and habitat disturbance. Our relative abundance measure is 219 therefore spatially-comparable, and we restrict our inferences in this study to relative 220 abundance comparisons across space, but not in absolute terms across species. Local 221 abundance estimates are in units of individuals, irrespective of whether the species is group-222 living or not. 223

To account for our clustered sampling design, we used spatial random effects on local 225 abundance, with sampling points nested within plots, in turn within blocks. In this study, we 226 do not make inferences about the fine-scale variation in local abundance estimates. These 227 estimates will be a function of both broad-scale population dynamics and local-scale use of 228 habitat. We instead focus on the average local abundances (e.g. for a given land-use), having 229 230 accounted for non-independence using the random effects. A temporal random effect of year enabled us to account for varying abundance across the multiple years of our study. Given 231 232 this, we assume population and demographic closure over the time-scale of a year (i.e. that local populations do not go extinct or re-colonise, and that individuals are not dying, 233 recruiting or migrating), but that changes can occur between years. However, by analogy with 234 capture-recapture models, estimates may not be biased with a violation of closure, if changes 235 in occupancy and local abundance are occurring at random (MacKenzie et al. 2006). 236 237

We characterised the land-use gradient in two different ways and present the relative 238 abundance responses revealed by both approaches. The point-specific covariates on local 239 abundance were either 1) categorical land-use types (abbreviated in the Results as LU) or 2) 240 satellite-derived continuous metrics of AGB and percent forest cover (FCOV), both 241 calculated within 500 m radius buffers around each sampling point (see Appendix S1 for 242 further information). To allow for unimodal responses, we also included a 2nd-degree 243 polynomial term for AGB. We did not include a polynomial term for percent forest cover 244 because we had insufficient coverage of the covariate's full range within our sampled points, 245 which meant that we did not have sufficient information to resolve any particular non-linear 246 form of the response. 247

As in previous multi-species hierarchical models (Royle & Dorazio 2008; Tobler et al. 2015), 249 species-level parameters in the observational and ecological components of the model were 250 drawn from a common hyper-distribution for the metacommunity, rather than being modelled 251 completely independently. This allows for inferences to be made about the most infrequently 252 detected species by "borrowing strength" from the rest of the data, though this also involves 253 making a trade-off for well-sampled species which could have been modelled independently 254 255 (due to "shrinkage" of species-level parameter estimates towards the metacommunity mean). We made inferences from this model within a Bayesian framework, using JAGS (Just 256 257 Another Gibbs Sampler) version 3.4.0 (Plummer 2013) to obtain samples of the joint posterior distribution (see Appendices S1-S2 for details of software implementation and 258 model code). To test predictions about the overall effects (at the metacommunity level) of the 259 260 categorical and continuous predictors on local abundance, we used the posterior distributions of the relevant hyperparameters to compute the probability that they were greater (or less) 261 than zero. 262

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To explore if particular mammal community sub-groups showed differential responses to 264 land-use change, local abundance estimates for species were partitioned *post-hoc* according 265 to ecological response traits: body size (large or small, using a 1 kg body mass threshold; 266 63% and 27% of species, respectively), conservation status (threatened or non-threatened on 267 268 the IUCN Red List; 44% and 56% of species, respectively), native status (native or invasive; 95% and 5%, respectively) and trophic guild (carnivore, insectivore, frugivore, herbivore or 269 omnivore; 21%, 21%, 28%, 9% and 21% of species, respectively). We also defined nine 270 271 functional effects groups based on diet, i.e. all species implicated in each of: vertebrate predation, scavenging, invertebrate predation, fruit-eating, seed-eating, fungi-eating, leaf-272 eating, bark-eating and root-eating (see Appendix S1 for more information). Local biomasses 273

(the biomass of individuals using a given sampling point) were calculated by multiplying
local abundance estimates by body mass estimates for each species. As for abundance, our
measure of biomass is a spatially-comparable "relative biomass" measure, rather than
biomass density (biomass per unit area).

- 278
- 279 **3. Results**

280 A total of 4,381 live trap captures and 15,148 camera trap captures were made, for 57 mammal species. After reducing these data into detections or non-detections within sampling 281 282 occasions (17,025 live trap occasions and 5,428 camera trap occasions), this translated into 4,284 live trap detections of 23 species, and 7,772 camera trap detections of 53 species (19 283 species were common to both sampling methods). We also had a limited number of captures 284 (mostly ≤ 2 per species) for nine additional mammal species which we classified as obligate 285 arboreal species (listed in Appendix S1) and which we did not include in our abundance 286 models. 287

288

289 3. 1. Relative abundance responses to land-use type

290 Mean local abundance across the mammal community was marginally higher (+28%, CI: -5

to 66%) in logged forest compared to old-growth forest (Pr ($\beta_{Logged}^{\lambda,LU} > 0$) = 0.76), but much

lower (-47%, CI: -67 to 8%) in oil palm compared to the two forest land-uses (Pr

293 $(\beta_{OilPalm}^{\lambda,LU} < 0) = 1.00)$. These overall trends, however, belie substantial differences among

species groups (Fig. 2) and among individual species (Fig. 3; Appendix S3).

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From old-growth to logged forest, large mammals exhibited a modest (+13%, CI: -18 to 51%)

increase in mean local abundance, but small mammals increased substantially (+169%, CI: 67

to 292%). The mean local abundance of high conservation concern species was similar in

logged forest compared to old-growth forest (Fig. 2), but dropped precipitously (-84%, CI: -299 93 to -59%) in oil palm compared to the two forest land-uses. In contrast, the local abundance 300 of low conservation concern species was largely robust to the land-use gradient, whilst 301 invasive species increased substantially along the gradient of land-use intensity (Fig. 2). 302 There was a 27% chance of invasive species (one or more species) being present in old-303 growth forest (none were detected during sampling). From logged forest to oil palm, the local 304 305 abundance of invasives increased by 598% (CI: -19 to 5644%). The mean local abundance of all trophic guilds except frugivores increased from old-growth to logged forest, whilst the 306 307 local abundance of all guilds except carnivores declined in oil palm (Fig. 2).

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The trends in summed local abundances and biomasses (i.e. summed across species) for each 309 310 trait-defined group were largely similar to those for mean local abundance (Appendix S3). However, the relatively modest local abundance increases in herbivores (+14%, CI: -36 to 311 112%) and threatened species (+29%, CI: -10 to 83%) from old-growth to logged forest were 312 much more prominent in terms of summed local biomass (113% and 99%, respectively), due 313 to increases in large-bodied species in these groups (e.g. sambar deer Rusa unicolor, banteng 314 Bos javanicus and Asian elephant Elephas maximus). Similarly, large changes in mean local 315 abundance in omnivores (97%, CI: 24 to 211%) were not as strong in terms of summed local 316 biomass (49%, CI: -17 to 174%), because these abundance changes were partly driven by 317 318 small-bodied murid rodent species.

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The summed local biomasses of functional effects groups were maintained, or increased,from old-growth to logged forest, but from forest to oil palm substantial declines were

evident in all cases except vertebrate predation (Fig. 4).

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324 3. 2. Relative abundance responses to continuous metrics of land-use intensity

Local abundance was negatively affected overall by AGB (Pr ($\beta^{\lambda,AGB} < 0$) = 0.96) and 325 positively affected by forest cover (Pr ($\beta^{\lambda,FCOV} > 0$) = 1.00; Figs. 5-6). The effect of forest 326 cover was stronger than the effect of AGB (standardised hyperparameter estimates: $\beta^{\lambda,AGB}$ = -327 0.18, CI: -0.35 to -0.01; $\beta^{\lambda, AGB^2} = -0.10$, CI: -0.22 to -0.003; $\beta^{\lambda, FCOV} = 0.68$, CI: 0.38 to 0.98), 328 and this was also true at the species level in most cases (Appendix S3). There was evidence 329 of overall unimodal responses to AGB (Pr ($\beta^{\lambda,AGB^2} < 0$) = 0.96), albeit with a weak effect (as 330 331 confirmed visually), and this was also generally the case for individual species. Some species (e.g. long-tailed giant rat Leopoldamys sabanus, Low's squirrel Sundasciurus lowii, plain 332 treeshrew Tupaia longipes and sambar deer) exhibited stronger threshold responses, in which 333 increases in abundance with decreasing AGB were not maintained below ~ 90 Mg/ha 334 (Appendix S3). 335

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All ecological response trait groups except frugivores showed a negative relationship 337 between local abundance and AGB (Fig. 5A). The relationships were most strongly negative 338 339 in omnivores, small mammals and invasives (Fig. 5A), all groups which are dominated by murid rodent species. All ecological response trait groups except carnivores and invasives 340 showed a positive relationship between local abundance and forest cover (Fig. 6A). Mean 341 carnivore local abundance exhibited a unimodal response curve, being lowest at ~ 70% forest 342 cover (Fig. 6A). This reflects a shift from native forest-dependent predators, including the 343 344 yellow-throated marten (Martes flavigula) and Sunda clouded leopard (Neofelis diardi), to native and non-native carnivores tolerant of more open habitats, principally the leopard cat 345 (Prionailurus bengalensis), Malay civet (Viverra tangalunga) and domestic dog (Canis 346 familiaris). For the continuous metrics, we also calculated the mean across species of the 347

percentage change in local abundance along the land-use gradient (effectively giving each 348 species equal weight, irrespective of their absolute abundance). This measure exhibited 349 similar trends to the mean local abundance of each species group (Figs. 5B and 6B), except 350 there was stronger evidence in some groups of lower rates of abundance increases, or even 351 decreases in abundance, at lower values of AGB (< 90 Mg/ha), and there was no evidence of 352 a recovery in carnivore local abundance at low forest cover. These slight differences arise 353 354 because patterns in mean local abundance are determined primarily by abundance shifts in species with the highest local abundances. 355

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The summed local biomasses of the dietary functional effects groups were mostly negatively affected by AGB and, except in the case of vertebrate predation, were positively affected by forest cover (Appendix S3).

360

361 **4. Discussion**

Mammalian relative abundance (controlled for imperfect detection) was conserved, or 362 increased, from old-growth to logged forest overall, whilst it declined substantially from 363 forest to oil palm plantations. This was true of mean and summed local abundance, as well as 364 local biomass. Mammalian relative abundance (mean and summed) and biomass responses to 365 decreases in local landscape AGB due to logging were positive, albeit weakly unimodal, but 366 were strongly negative for decreases in local landscape forest cover. It was primarily losses in 367 forest cover, and not forest degradation, that negatively affected the conservation value of 368 local landscapes in our study region. 369

370

371 Few previous studies in the region have investigated abundance responses to land-use

372 change, but apparent trends across various taxonomic groups (based on uncorrected

abundance measures) have usually been similar to our results. Abundance in logged areas has
usually been found to be maintained at a community level (Wells *et al.* 2007; Slade, Mann &
Lewis 2011; Edwards *et al.* 2011), but substantially declines in oil palm plantations (e.g.
Turner & Foster 2008; Edwards *et al.* 2010). However, our study is the first time, to our
knowledge, that a robust assessment of animal relative abundance has been made along the
principal land-use gradient in Southeast Asia.

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380 4. 1. The conservation value of heavily-degraded forests

381 The evidence overall, taken together with our findings for mammals, increasingly supports the view that large, contiguous areas of logged forest in Southeast Asia not only conserve 382 similar levels of species richness to old-growth forest (e.g. Edwards et al., 2014), but also 383 conserve the community-level abundance of many groups. We note that this was true in our 384 study even in the absence of any significant spill-over effect from large, continuous areas of 385 old-growth forest (which were > 20 km away from our logged forest sites). This adds further 386 emphasis to the calls for increasing recognition of logged forest as an essential part of the 387 conservation estate (Edwards et al. 2011). These degraded forests have been the primary 388 source of new land for expanding plantations in the region (Margono et al. 2014), but could 389 represent a relatively low opportunity-cost option for conservation, given that much of their 390 timber value has been extracted (Edwards et al. 2014). Our study is also one of the few that 391 392 has been undertaken in repeatedly-logged forests (Edwards et al. 2011, 2014; Woodcock et al. 2011; Struebig et al. 2013), and the finding that terrestrial mammal community richness 393 and abundance is maintained even in these heavily-degraded forests further strengthens the 394 argument for low-cost conservation in such areas. There are signs that this argument is 395 gaining traction in the Malaysian state of Sabah, at least, with the government recently 396 setting-aside $> 3,000 \text{ km}^2$ of logged forest for conservation (Reynolds 2012). 397

The biggest caveat on the conservation value of heavily-degraded forest is that hunting is
strictly controlled. Bushmeat hunting is widely-practiced in logged-over forests (Bennett &
Gumal 2001), and can lead to local population extirpations of high-value mammal species
(Harrison *et al.* 2016). Brodie *et al.* (2015) found that the effect of hunting on large mammal
occupancy was stronger than that of logging for most of the species investigated. Hunting
pressure was very low across our study sites, due to inaccessibility and cultural factors
(Appendix S1).

406

4. 2. A trait-based view of mammal communities under land-use change 407 By assessing the whole terrestrial mammal community, we were also able to go further than 408 409 previous studies in the region and assess the relative abundance responses of important subgroups of mammals defined by their traits, as well as the potential functional effects of 410 changes in relative abundance across the community. We found that, for almost all response 411 trait groups, logged forests retained similar or higher local abundances (mean and summed 412 across species) and biomasses compared to old-growth forest. This was also true for the local 413 biomasses of functional effects groups we examined, a finding which is consistent with other 414 evidence that the functional role of vertebrates increases in logged relative to old-growth 415 forests (Ewers et al. 2015). Moreover, these group-level increases were largely maintained 416 even at very low levels of AGB in a local landscape, indicative of high levels of logging 417 disturbance. On the other hand, our results indicate that conversion to oil palm, and 418 reductions in forest cover, cause declines in the local abundance (mean and summed) and 419 biomass of almost all the trait-defined sub-groups we examined (not carnivores and 420 invasives), as well as in the local biomasses of almost all the functional effects groups (not 421

422 vertebrate predation).

Across the mammal sub-groups we assessed, small mammals exhibited the most dramatic 424 425 change in relative abundance (in terms of both mean and summed local abundance), increasing substantially in logged forest, and also in response to declining AGB, similar to 426 findings elsewhere in tropical forests (Isabirye-Basuta & Kasenene 1987; Lambert, Malcolm 427 & Zimmerman 2006). This may have important implications for plant recruitment, since 428 429 small mammals are significant seed predators in these forests (Wells & Bagchi 2005). For large mammals, the changes in relative abundance were not as dramatic as for small 430 431 mammals, though we note that in this case the change in local biomass was much greater than the modest change in mean local abundance suggested. Much of this increase in local 432 biomass was driven by a shift towards herbivore species with a larger body size. An increase 433 in herbivore biomass will likely have as strong effects on ecosystem functioning as an 434 increase in the abundance of small mammal seed predators, through changes in seedling 435 recruitment rates (Harrison et al. 2013) and nutrient cycling (Wardle & Bardgett 2004). 436 437 Across the trophic guilds, we found that omnivores increased markedly in logged compared 438 to old-growth forest, perhaps because wide dietary breadth confers dietary flexibility. This is 439 likely the case for most of the omnivorous species in our dataset, including the murid rodents, 440 441 bearded pig (Sus barbatus) and sun bear (Helarctos malayanus). 442 For insectivores, some studies on birds have shown a disproportionate sensitivity to 443

disturbance for this guild (Gray *et al.* 2007). We found that mammalian insectivores
increased in logged compared to old-growth forest. The abundance responses of insects, and

446 invertebrates more generally, to logging is poorly known in Southeast Asia, but we note that,

447 at our study sites, invertebrate biomass is apparently higher in logged forest compared to old-

growth forest (Ewers *et al.* 2015), potentially indicating that food resources for insectivorousmammals are higher.

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For carnivores, the increase from old-growth to logged forest we observed would be expected
based on a numerical response to the increased abundance of vertebrate prey. Most of the
carnivores we studied, and in particular the felids, focus on mammal prey such as murid
rodents (Grassman *et al.* 2005).

455

456 Frugivory is a trait which has often been associated with an increased susceptibility to disturbance (Gray et al. 2007), but it is not clear whether logging consistently causes a 457 decline in fruit availability or not (e.g. Wong, 1986; Heydon & Bulloh, 1997; Munshi-South 458 et al., 2007). Certainly, some key fruiting resources such as hemi-epiphytic figs are often 459 much reduced after logging (Lambert 1991), but the availability of small fruit on lianas and 460 understorey shrubs might increase in gaps or along edges (Davies et al. 2001). Frugivores 461 exhibited no change in relative abundance from old-growth to logged forest, but modelling 462 using the continuous AGB metric revealed a modest decline in relative abundance with 463 increasing logging disturbance. We note, however, that the summed local biomass of all 464 species engaging in fruit-eating did not decline, suggesting frugivory as a function may be 465 resilient to logging, even though specialist frugivores do not fare as well as other groups. 466 467

Finally, of crucial conservation relevance, we found that the relative abundance of high
conservation concern species was retained in logged forests, and that this group was resilient
even to high intensities of logging (low levels of AGB) in a given local landscape. We should
emphasise, however, that this does not necessarily mean that high conservation concern
species would persist in hypothetical landscapes consisting of homogeneously low AGB

areas; AGB values refer to an average over a local landscape, and will contain some patchesof less intensively logged forest, as well as areas that are heavily-disturbed.

475

476 4. 3. The promise of High Carbon Stock forest for conservation

Recent "zero deforestation" pledges within the palm oil industry represent an important 477 positive step towards the increased conservation of heavily-disturbed forests. Removing 478 479 deforestation from supply chains will, in practice, require a consistent definition of what constitutes a forest, and current dialogue has so far focussed on a carbon-based definition, in 480 481 particular a threshold of \geq 35-50 MgC/ha to define HCS forest (HCS Approach Steering) Group 2015; Raison et al. 2015). This is equivalent to an AGB of ~ 75-100 Mg/ha (assuming 482 that carbon constitutes 47% of live tree biomass; Martin & Thomas, 2011), which could, if 483 our findings apply more broadly in the region, yield major conservation benefits for 484 mammals over the business-as-usual. Indeed, none of the mammal sub-groups we assessed, 485 apart from frugivores, showed evidence of substantial relative abundance declines in forest 486 with low AGB, suggesting that an even lower threshold for delimiting HCS could yield even 487 larger conservation benefits. We emphasise, however, that the conservation potential of HCS 488 forests for mammals will only be realized with additional investment to manage hunting 489 490 pressure.

491

An important uncertainty remains surrounding the patch size at which HCS forest will be
delimited in practice. We modelled relative abundance responses to AGB within 500 m
buffers, but clearly this patch size is insufficient to maintain viable mammal populations. The
conservation value of HCS forest set-aside will also lie in its spatial extent and connectivity,
not just in the intensity of local logging disturbance.

498 4. 4. Mammal conservation in oil palm landscapes

Our conclusions concerning the conservation potential of oil palm are less optimistic. 499 500 Although the plantations in which we sampled may represent something of a best-case scenario for oil palm, with relatively high levels of landscape forest cover and relatively low 501 levels of hunting, our modelling of mammal relative abundance as a function of forest cover 502 indicates only a very limited potential for conservation gains by attempting a land-sharing, 503 504 'wildlife-friendly' approach (e.g. Koh, Levang & Ghazoul 2009) to this land-use. Increases in local landscape forest cover from 0 to 30%, the likely range which could realistically be 505 506 manipulated in oil palm landscapes, resulted in very limited relative abundance increases across species groups and across most individual species within the oil palm crop, suggesting 507 only a limited degree of spill-over from remnant forest patches. Among trophic guilds, only 508 509 carnivores showed some resilience to decreases in forest cover, but this was in large part driven by increases in free-ranging domestic dogs, which are considered a detrimental 510 invasive species across Asian landscapes (Hughes & Macdonald 2013). We did not sample 511 remnant forest fragments within the oil palm, but it is unlikely that the abundance and 512 richness of mammals in these areas would approach that of contiguous forest (Bernard et al. 513 2014), even if individuals present in the oil palm crop itself were also counted. Overall, this 514 indicates that a land-sparing approach might better serve mammal conservation in the region, 515 in which companies are encouraged to invest in the off-site conservation of large, contiguous 516 517 forest areas (Edwards et al. 2010), rather than attempting to increase mammal populations within their plantations by retaining small forest patches. As a caveat to this, there may be the 518 potential for 'win-win' solutions for both conservation and oil palm yield, such as in the bio-519 control of pest species, and in this case on-site conservation activities should be encouraged 520 (Foster et al. 2011). In particular, the high relative abundance of leopard cats we found within 521

the oil palm crop, and the low relative abundance of invasive murid rodents, suggests apossible role for this species in bio-control.

524

525 4. 5. Conclusions

Across a large assemblage of Southeast Asian mammal species, we have shed light on the 526 contrasting relative abundance responses to logging and conversion to oil palm. We have also 527 528 uncovered the relative abundance responses to the continuous metrics of logging intensity and forest cover loss. These results have direct relevance for conservation and management at 529 530 local scales. Specifically, they suggest that conservation efforts should be directed at safeguarding all remaining forest in the region, both old-growth and logged forests alike, and 531 that multiple-use landscapes (consisting of oil palm and small forest patches) will not be 532 effective for conservation. 533

534

The hierarchical modelling approach that we used, which can integrate data from multiple
sources, could be applied to other taxonomic groups and other land-use types. This could
pave the way for more robust biodiversity forecasting and more effective decision-making in
the face of biodiversity trade-offs across land-use.

539

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552	
553	Supporting Information
554	Appendix S1. Supplementary methods.
555	Appendix S2. Model code in BUGS (Bayesian inference Using Gibbs Sampling) language.
556	Appendix S3. Supplementary results.
557	
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725 Figures

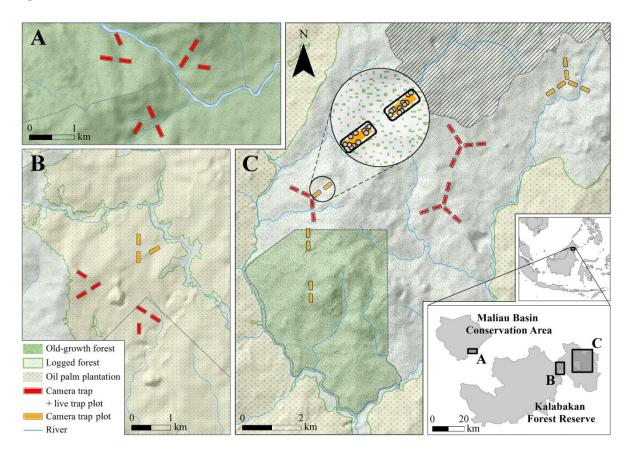


Fig. 1. Sampling design across a gradient of land-use intensities in Borneo, showing the plots 727 sampled using both camera traps and live traps (in red) and plots sampled only with camera 728 729 traps (in orange). The Kalabakan Forest Reserve connects to an extensive (>1 million ha) 730 area of contiguous logged forest to the north (hatched area). Insets show: an example of how cameras were arranged within plots; the location of the study within insular Southeast Asia, 731 732 and the spatial proximity of panels A to C within south-east Sabah, Malaysia. Land-cover surrounding the Maliau Basin and Kalabakan Forest Reserve (white areas in the inset map) 733 was a mosaic of logged forest and plantations. 734

735

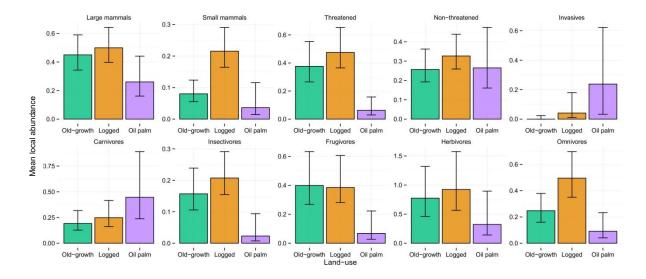




Fig. 2. Local abundance of mammals (average across species) across land-use categories,

partitioned by ecological response groups defined by body size (large and small mammals),

conservation status (threatened, non-threatened), native status (only invasives shown) and

trophic guild (five mutually-exclusive feeding guilds). Error bars indicate 90% credible

741 intervals.

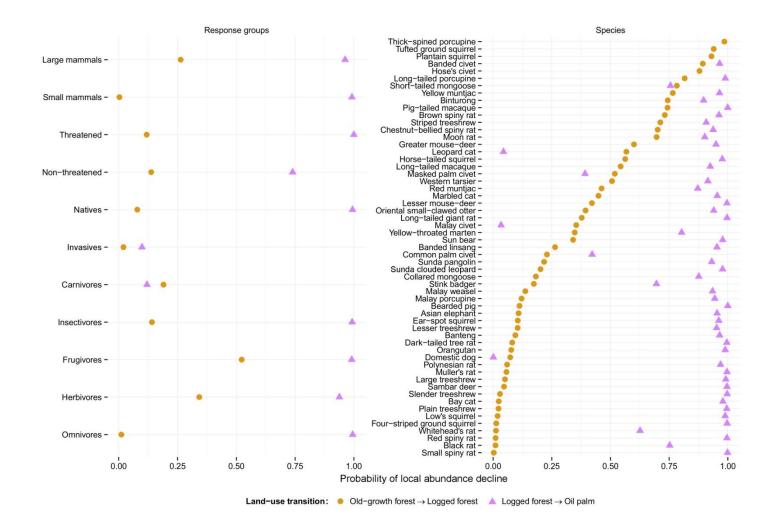


Fig. 3. Probabilities of a decline in local abundance from old-growth to logged forest (orange) and from logged forest to oil palm (purple), for
each ecological response group and each mammal species. We did not calculate the probability of decline from logged forest to oil palm for four
species which were not recorded in logged forest.

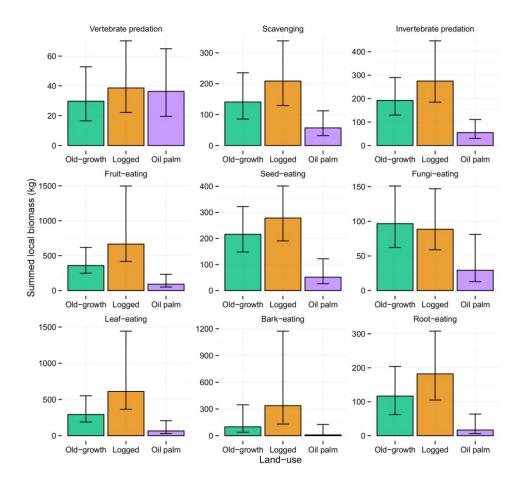


Fig. 4. Summed local biomass of mammals (a relative biomass measure) across land-use
categories, partitioned by functional effects groups based on diet. Error bars indicate 90%
credible intervals.

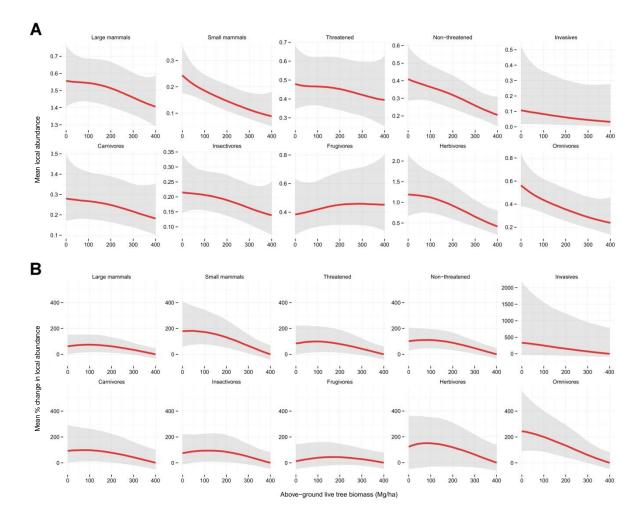
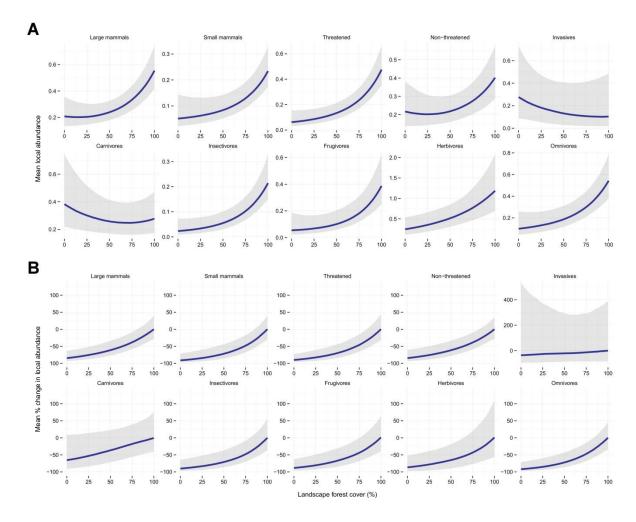


Fig. 5. Local abundance (A) and percentage change in local abundance (B) averaged across
mammal species, as a function of above-ground live tree biomass in a given local landscape.
Species are partitioned by ecological response groups defined by body size, conservation
status, native status (only invasives shown) and trophic guild. Percentage change refers to the
change relative to the abundance at AGB values typical of intact forest (400 Mg/ha). Forest
cover was fixed at 100%. 90% credible intervals (in grey) indicate uncertainty surrounding
median estimates (red line).



760

Fig. 6. Local abundance (A) and percentage change in local abundance (B) averaged across mammal species, as a function of forest cover in a given local landscape. Species are partitioned by ecological response groups defined by body size, conservation status, native status (only invasives shown) and trophic guild. Percentage change refers to the change in abundance as forest cover decreases from 100%. Above-ground live tree biomass was fixed at the average across oil palm locations. 90% credible intervals (in grey) indicate uncertainty surrounding median estimates (red line).