

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Increasing deforestation and forest fragmentation have reduced the area and quality of animal habitat, one of which impacts the Malayan tapir species (*Tapirus indicus*) in Sumatra. Based on Global Forest Change (data from 2001-2018), the condition of forest cover in Sumatra, especially the Bukit Barisan Wildlife Reserve (BBWR), has lost 14%. This, of course, will be a severe threat to animals' survival, especially the Malayan tapir. Maintaining the forest and natural habitat is essential for preserving the Malayan tapir throughout its distribution area.

Based on these conditions, it is necessary to save and protect in terms of the availability of suitable habitat for Malayan tapir. This, of course, requires scientific information to formulate an effective strategy and an appropriate conservation action plan. One of the critical foundations in the preparation of this document is the availability of information on the prediction of habitats, which are categorized as suitable (suitable) for Malayan tapirs. To predict the suitable area for the Malayan tapir habitat so that it can be more intensively protected and managed so that an efficient method is needed as a reference for prediction based on habitat similarities.

The wide range of the Malayan tapir home range and the difficulty of knowing directly these animals' presence resulted in the slow handling of these animals. There are currently several modeling methods that have been developed, one of which is the Maximum Entropy Model (Maxent). Maxent requires presence data combined with environmental variables to predict. Suitability of landscape and distribution mapping of Malayan tapirs (Phillips et al. 2006).

## 1.2 Problem Formulation

Based on the background that has been described, the problem that can be formulated in this research is how the suitability of the Malayan tapir habitat in the Bukit Barisan Wildlife Reserve (BBWR) is?

## 1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this study was to determine the suitability of the Malayan tapir habitat landscape in BBWR.

## 1.4 Research Benefits

It is hoped that scientific information regarding the prediction of landscape suitability at the BBWR can be used as a basis for compiling strategic documents and action plans for conservation in research locations and other locations.

