

Project Update: December 2014

From February to November 2014 the sampling season was carried out and covered four localities in Sarawak, which included Bako National Park, Kuching Wetland National Park, Maludam National Park and Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary. Boat surveys were carried out during the early morning and late evening to spot the proboscis monkey groups and collect the faecal samples; now over 150 faecal samples have been collected. Samples collected were stored in -20°C freezer and genomic DNA from about 100 samples has successfully been extracted. In addition, we have successfully sequenced the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) D-loop region (gene) of proboscis monkey. Currently, we are in optimising the parameters to obtain sequence result from another mtDNA and nuclear gene. Besides, we also in planning to sample some populations of the proboscis monkey in Sabah. Hopefully, by having some samples from the Sabah and the result from those additional genes, we aspect that we are able to see the larger overview of the proboscis monkey population structure in Malaysian Borneo.



Left: Collecting faecal. Middle: Faecal of proboscis monkey. Right: Proboscis monkey in Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary