Project Update: July 2015

Behavioral/Physiological Data Collection

While we have no tangible results yet, we have collected approximately 330 faecal samples, 200 saliva samples, and 350 hours of data. We have also partnered with Dr Celine Bret who is conducting research with Macaca Nigra Project here in Tangkoko on *M. nigra* social systems and health. This collaboration allows us to triple the amount of saliva samples we can collect and (pending some preliminary tests) may also be beneficial in regards to faecal sample numbers. Not only is she collecting cortisol, but she is also collecting c-peptides from urine and faecal samples to examine parasitology. She is focusing on Rambo 2 (tourism, crop guarding, and research exposure) and Pantai Batu (research only). Her results will compliment and add to my research goals significantly.

Our saliva collection problem is officially solved. Grape/currant remains the popular flavour and we now have 19 monkeys distributed across three groups who will take, chew, and return the swabs. We also determined that one of our collection methods (collecting behaviour from all monkeys when tourists are present or after crop guarding) would be more effective if we switched from all occurrence to 1 min scan sampling. We have already trained with this method as of May 1st 2015. However, our data collection app for this sampling method was not working successfully. I hired a coder to repair it and this collection will begin July 1st 2015.

My English and Ecology lessons are a popular weekly event, and (pending funding approval) I am already planning to return to Batu Putih in the summer of 2016 to continue this educational portion of my research. We found that the guides want a higher level of understanding, asking for citations and journal article abstracts. In order to provide a basis for this, my research sponsor, Macaca Nigra Project, will hold two workshops for the guides to help improve their knowledge of *Macaca nigra* and the ecology in general. We intend to supply them not only with presentations, but also a booklet of important abstracts relevant to Tangkoko. Finally, the director of Tangkoko Conservation Education, Mathilde Chanvin visited Indonesia in June. I setup a schedule with her that will allow me to participate in educational outreach at local schools.