

Project Update: May 2018

Elubo border was visited and permit obtained from the immigration and custom services to commence the project. Field data collection followed from December 2017 to May 2018. For each vehicle, owners/drivers was provided with letter that contains the consent form. When consent was obtained, mud/soil and all visible plant materials were brushed and scraped off from different part of vehicles using stiff-bristled brush, forceps and tweezers. The mudguards, tyres and rims, wheel arches, flap (front and back) and the cabin were all be inspected and cleaned.

Over 180 different motor vehicles, including cars, buses and trucks were sampled. Laboratory processing and germination trial for each month followed immediately after fieldwork. Soil materials collected have been used in germination trial to assess the germination potential of the seeds collected. Initial results from the germination trial indicate the presence of seeds in the soil material collected from the vehicles. Another activity that the project has embarked on was the capacity building for university students. We have trained 10 students in bat field experimentation. Three honours students have been trained to help execute the project. The students were equipped with knowledge and skills required to carry out fieldwork in an accurate and reliable manner. This includes how to approach people, make request, conduct survey, and problem-solving strategies to address fieldwork related issues.

The images below shows brushing of soil material from vehicle, soil sample sorting in the laboratory and sample of seeds germinating from soil collected from vehicles



