

Supervisor :

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Topic of the internship :

Samango monkey road kill mitigation : testing canopy bridge use by samango monkeys

Keywords :

Samango monkey, canopy bridges, road kill mitigation

Summary (150 words) :

The samango monkey (*Cercopithecus albogularis*) is South Africa's only exclusively forest dwelling primate and represents the southernmost extent of the range of arboreal guenons in Africa. In the *Red Data Book of the Mammals of South Africa*, samangos are listed as *vulnerable* and considered rare. The major direct threat samangos face in the Soutpansberg area are provincial roads. We have collected 16 samango monkey road kills and observed over a dozen road crossings by samangos on a particular stretch of road since 2012. Although these numbers might not appear high one needs to keep in mind that most road kills and road crossings are undetected. This project is aimed at testing different canopy bridges for samangos at the Lajuma Research Centre and to design a suitable, cost-effective bridge prototype to mitigate road fatalities, not only in the Soutpansberg area but also in other parts of the country where samangos occur.

Two bibliographic references:

van der Ree R, Smith DJ, Grilo C (2015) : *Handbook of Road Ecology*. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Goldingay RL, Rohwerder D, Taylor BD (2013): Will arboreal mammals use rope-bridges across a highway in eastern Australia? *Australian Mammalogy*, 35(1):30.

Techniques used:

Lorene will use camera traps mounted at the canopy bridges trialed at our research centre to investigate which other diurnal and nocturnal animal species would benefit from such structures. She will further assist in collecting behavioural data on samango monkey bridge use.

Specific skills required:

The skills required to collect the data will be learned on site. General skills to perform the data collection are patience, ability to follow instructions, physical fitness, enthusiasm and the ability to work independently as well as in a team.