



Psychology Research Seminar Programme

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES | UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

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Host: Dr Kristin Descovich



PRIMATES, PEAT-LANDS, CATS AND CONSERVATION: SAVING THE BORNEAN PEAT-SWAMP FORESTS

Abstract

The tropical peat-swamp forests (TPSF) of Borneo are some of the most biodiverse in the world, though many species exist at lower densities than in lowland mineral soil forests. Here we present a review of the primate and large mammal knowledge from TPSF and highlight the differences in the behavioral ecology and densities compared to mineral soil forests. TPSF supports guilds of up to nine primate species including the two Asian apes, two nocturnal species and the Bornean endemic proboscis monkey as well as the Sunda clouded leopard and 3 small cat species. We note that densities of primates and felids in TPSF are generally lower than in mineral soil forests, perhaps related to the overall plant biodiversity levels in TPSF being substantially lower than in lowland mineral soil forest. Additionally the wide range of differences in behavioural ecology are marked compared to mineral soil forests, highlighting the adaptability of primates. We present case studies on how primates and felids are showing adaptations to the TPSF habitat including feeding ecology and fragmentation. Tropical lowland forests on peat or mineral soils are priority areas for biodiversity conservation and a complete understanding of behavioural and population ecology are needed to inform conservation management plans targeted for TPSF.

Seminars are free of charge and held on

Thursdays @ 4:00 pm Room 3A94

Refreshments are served upon arrival * All are welcome

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/natural-sciences/research/seminars/psychology/springresearchseminar/>