

# Mammal diversity and occupancy in protected areas of Northeast India

---

Degree project / Research-training



## Project description

Northeast India states are part of the Himalaya and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots but biodiversity in the region faces several threats including deforestation, poaching and climate change. Protected areas (PAs) in the landscape can be vital to provide refuge to mammal populations but knowledge on mammal diversity and abundance within these areas is unknown for most of the cases. The level of protection also varies considerably between PAs and the overall PA network efficiency is unclear.

## Goal

As part of a doctoral project camera-trap surveys have been conducted in six PAs of Northeast India and we now aim to understand how PA area, distance to PA boundary, level of protection and environmental characteristics influence mammal diversity and occupancy within PAs.

## Tasks

The first task will be the **construction of a database** based on camera-trap information collected during previous field expeditions. The student will then have the opportunity to **use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to measure PA characteristics** including environmental factors. Finally, it will be possible to assist with the development of occupancy models to **correlate mammal presence and PA characteristics**.

## Previous experience

Basic knowledge of R language and experience with GIS software will help complete the proposed tasks.

## Contact us for more information or discussion

André Silva - [andre.silva@ebc.uu.se](mailto:andre.silva@ebc.uu.se)

Mats Björklund - [mats.bjorklund@ebc.uu.se](mailto:mats.bjorklund@ebc.uu.se)

*Department: Animal Ecology, IEG, UU*

*Place: EBC, Uppsala*

*Start: According to agreements*

*Application: Contact the researchers!*