

communities in the buffer zone, highlighting the urgent need for conservation interventions to protect the remaining langur populations.

The discovery of a new population in Khe Lim Forest suggests that additional populations of grey-shanked douc langur may still exist in other unsurveyed forest areas. We recommend a comprehensive survey of the entire Khe Lim Forest, and enhanced outreach efforts with local communities in the buffer zones. This approach will help establish conservation measures to protect other unknown, isolated populations of the grey-shanked douc langur.

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Building bridges for threatened primates in the Arc of Deforestation

The municipality of Alta Floresta in the state of Mato Grosso in the Brazilian Amazon is home to > 600 bird and 98 mammal species, including the rare Grove's titi monkey *Plecturocebus grovesi*, also known as the Alta Floresta titi. The municipality lies within the Arc of Deforestation, where urban expansion and road construction have resulted in the isolation of forest in patches.

Of the 12 primate species in Alta Floresta, six are common in urban areas (the Critically Endangered *P. grovesi*, Endangered *Ateles chamek* and *Mico schneideri*, Vulnerable *Alouatta puruensis* and *Alouatta discolor* and Least Concern *Sapajus apella*), where they face habitat fragmentation, collisions with vehicles and electrocution from power grid lines, with disproportional effects on strictly arboreal species such as *P. grovesi*, *A. puruensis*, *A. discolor* and *A. chamek*. In October 2024, our Reconecta Project, in partnership with Alta Floresta's city hall, local universities, NGOs, private companies and landowners, launched the Alta Floresta Não Atropela (Alta Floresta Without Roadkill) programme. We installed seven artificial canopy bridges to provide safe road crossings for arboreal species, and monitored the bridges with camera traps. To increase driver awareness, we placed a wildlife crossing sign next to each bridge, and we carried out school-led education campaigns engaging > 1,200 children and the wider community.








During October 2024–January 2025, our camera traps captured 540 bridge crossings by arboreal mammals. The



Top: an artificial canopy bridge under construction in Alta Floresta. Bottom: a black-capped capuchin *Sapajus apella* female with her juvenile crossing the completed canopy bridge. Photos: National Zoo Conservation Biology Institute.

black-capped capuchin *S. apella* was the first species to use a bridge, crossing just 2 days after installation. Other species included *M. schneideri* and various rodent and marsupial species. The canopy bridges are designed to be sturdy and safe, constructed from durable, readily available materials such as concrete poles, steel cables, ropes and nylon mesh. We are developing a guidance document, based on our design, for DNIT (Departamento Nacional de Infraestrutura de Transportes), Brazil's Federal Transportation Agency, to support implementation on federal highways.

The second phase will begin in June 2025, with six additional canopy bridges planned in areas near power lines. The local power company will insulate the lines to mitigate risk of electrocution, and wildlife underpasses, complete with fencing and signage, will be installed to reduce vehicle collisions with terrestrial species.

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Rediscovery after 100 years: first confirmed sighting of the Gombak bent-winged firefly in Kuala Lumpur

The genus *Pteroptyx* is notable among firefly genera because of extensive research on its species. Certain species within the genus gather on mangrove trees, creating a bioluminescent display along intertidal rivers, making them iconic ecotourism spots. Ongoing research on firefly taxonomy has led to the division of *Pteroptyx* into three groups, with one group exclusively comprising species characterized by deflexed elytra, commonly referred to as bent-winged fireflies (Jusoh et al., 2018, *Zootaxa*, 4456, 1–71). Of the 14 bent-winged firefly species, nine inhabit mangrove ecosystems, but the habitats of the remaining five (*Pteroptyx decolor*, *Pteroptyx gombakia*, *Pteroptyx masatakai*, *Pteroptyx sulawesensis* and *Pteroptyx truncata*) are unclear, as these species were described solely based on museum specimens, with insufficient ecological data.

On 9 January 2025, when examining *Colophotia* firefly specimens collected during experiential learning events at Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur (Muharraran et al., 2024, *Oryx*, 58, 9), author WJT observed a male specimen that did not fit within the *Colophotia* genus, specifically lacking a median carina on ventrite 7. This specimen had short, flat, hairless incurving lobes along the posterior margin of the ventrite. Further examination revealed a metafemoral comb on the third leg, deflexed elytra, and a short, narrow postero-lateral projection, shorter than the emarginated median posterior projection. These morphological characteristics confirmed the specimen as *P. gombakia*, the Gombak bent-winged firefly, originally described by Ballantyne in 2015 based on a single specimen collected in the Gombak Valley, Kuala Lumpur, in 1921.

This is the first confirmed sighting of a live Gombak bent-winged firefly in a century. It is also the first record of the species in Bukit Kiara and the first known occurrence outside mangrove habitats. Currently, it remains uncertain whether this species exhibits congregating behaviour, and the limited number of collections implies it may be solitary.

This finding underscores the need for regular species monitoring, particularly given the threatened status of the Bukit Kiara habitat amid urban development. The discovery increases the known firefly species count in Bukit Kiara from eight to nine, emphasizing the critical role insect collections play in documenting species distributions and supporting conservation. We recommend further field studies to support a national Red List assessment for fireflies in Malaysia.

We thank Friends of Bukit Kiara and Jabatan Landskap Negara for granting access to the study site, and the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia for funding this research (FRGS/1/2023/WAB11/MUSM/02/1). MyABS permit (320809) was obtained for specimen collection.

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New threat to the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, India

Namdapha Tiger Reserve in the north-east Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh is the only stronghold of the Critically Endangered white-bellied heron *Ardea insignis*, of which 8–10 individuals remain in India. The Reserve is the heron's only known breeding location in the country (Mondal & Maheswaran, 2014, *BirdingASIA*, 21, 13–17) and may be a place from where the birds disperse to nearby localities in search of new territories (Reddy et al., 2021, *Indian Birds* 17, 115–118).

From late 2024 onwards, there has been an increase in the number of local villagers collecting stink bugs *Coridius nepalensis* and *Coridius singhalanus* (Hemiptera: Dinidoridae), known locally as *Gandhi puk*, for consumption and sale. Local people have indicated they can sell the insects for USD 35–125 per kg, depending upon the variety. This potential income has motivated more people to collect the bugs, and this increased anthropogenic disturbance is causing white-bellied herons to desert their foraging grounds.

On a visit to Namdapha during 4–16 January 2025, as part of our research project on the white-bellied heron, supported by the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, we traversed the majority of the Noa-Dihing and Namdapha Rivers within the Reserve, but saw no white-bellied herons. We have sighted herons along these river stretches on all previous trips in the last 20 years. We were surprised to find instead groups of 3–4 people per km turning boulders in search of stink bugs.