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# 8th European Federation for Primatology Meeting and 2019 Primate Society of Great Britain Winter Meeting (EFP-PSGB)

**Our Primate Heritage, Our Primate Legacy**

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Organisers: School of Anthropology and Museum  
Ethnography (University of Oxford), Department of Social  
Sciences (Oxford Brookes University)

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## Abstracts

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## Female Dispersal Patterns in Western Lowland Gorillas

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Evaluating the factors influencing the patterns of female dispersal in mammals is critical to understanding its importance for male and female reproductive strategies and the evolution of social systems. In western lowland gorillas, *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*, females leave their natal group (natal dispersal) but also move between reproductive groups multiple times in their life (secondary dispersal), an interesting strategy that is believed to represent female choice for the protective abilities of the male. In this study, we assess factors of feeding competition, mate competition and male competitive ability potentially influencing female secondary dispersal in western gorillas using a 20-year observation period at the Mbeli clearing in the north of the Republic of Congo. We found that females are more likely to stay with young males in the beginning of their tenure than transfer and more likely to disperse away from older males that reach the end of their tenure or are closer to their death. Female secondary transfer was not influenced by the size of the group nor the number of adult females. These results are consistent with similar reported effects on female reproductive success in the same population and suggest that female dispersal strategies are influenced by male competitive ability and not by feeding or mate competition.

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## Utilising Drone Technology in Primatology for 3D Mapping

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Emergent Unmanned Aerial System (or drone) technology allows the 3-dimensional mapping of forest landscapes, allowing a new perspective of arboreal primate habitat use. Utilising UASs in primatological studies enables the assessment of habitat quality for different arboreal primate species, the identification of discreet forms of anthropogenic disturbance (such as historical selective logging), and detailed investigation of canopy use by arboreal primate species. Combining 3D canopy structure with microclimate measurements, we can see how canopy structure buffers solar radiation and how arboreal species may be affected by future climate change. We present data on a study of the arboreal primate community in a lowland section of the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem in northern Sumatra, focusing on how 3D canopy structure effects ranging (siamang, *Symphalangus syndactylus*), different primate species' population densities (lar gibbon, *Hylobates lar*, siamang and Thomas langur, *Presbytis thomasi*) and habitat selection (orang-utan, *Pongo abelii* and siamang) and how UAS technology can be utilised in other future studies; the potential opportunities, challenges and pitfalls.

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## **Does Conservation Need or Want Habitat Suitability Research?**

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Over the past few years we have concentrated research efforts, as part of LEAP - the Landscape Ecology and Primatology Programme - on understanding how animals' habitat requirements shape their distribution patterns, and how climate and landscape changes will influence their future distributions and survival. Much of the work shows how species will struggle in the future and shows the areas that remain suitable for these species. However, we remain sceptical about how much of this information will be used effectively to support the conservation of these species. In so many cases, primate conservation actions are focused on saving the animals and their habitats on the ground through forest protection and anti-poaching activities. In this short discussion-based presentation we will address the question: With such urgent actions needed on the ground to conserve species, is there really a place for the use of science that predicts long-term effects and future distributions? We will show examples of situations in which long-term planning effectively uses scientific studies on distribution patterns and examples in which we feel there is no use for long-term projection studies in ensuring species-conservation. This presentation is aimed at promoting discussion on this general subject in order to find ways to improve how long-term planning is used effectively in conservation strategies.

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## **Coffee for Conservation: Promotion of Organic and Wildlife Friendly Practices Among Farmers at Cipaganti, Java, to Protect Local Biodiversity**

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There is an urgent need for a global transition to sustainable farming systems that provide social and economic equity and protect ecosystem services on which agriculture depends. Java is home to 60% of Indonesia's population and harbours many endemic species, thus managing agriculture alongside human well-being and biodiversity is vital. We implemented a project meant to integrate the needs of local farmers and to protect and increase biodiversity. Within a community of ~200 coffee farmers in Cipaganti, Java, we started promoting organic and Wildlife Friendly (WF) practices in February 2019 with the aim of developing a long-term sustainable relationship between farmers and biodiversity. We firstly investigated, via interviews, the issues encountered by 28 farmers who had converted to organic production in 2016. We used this information to establish a problem-solving plan for transition to community-wide organic practices. Informants identified three main issues: a decrease in productivity, solutions for removing grass without herbicides and high costs of materials at the beginning of production. We uncovered additional issues which needed solving to meet the standards for organic and WF certifications, including banning hunting activities and increasing coffee quality for international export. We worked alongside the heads of the coffee farming community to establish an action plan to meet WF and organic certifications. We are providing equipment, shade trees to increase coffee and soil quality and training to farmers, as well as financial help to have a supply chain of organic