Project Update: September 2012

The field work and data analysis of this study is complete. The results indicate that hornbills were the most important visitors on five species of large-seeded plants as compared to mammals, pigeons and other small frugivores. The abundance of hornbills was higher in the less disturbed site (LD; no logging and low hunting pressures) as compared to heavily disturbed site (HD; logging and high hunting pressures). Abundance of hornbill food plants especially those which are also logged was higher in LD as compared to HD site. Scatter-dispersal of large seeds dispersed predominantly by hornbills was higher in LD as compared to HD. Abundance of recruits of three out of four species was higher in LD as compared to HD. One species showed significant interaction between size class and hunting with lower abundance of smaller-sized recruits in the HD as compared to LD.



Left: Brown hornbill foraging on fruits of large-seeded Alseodaphne petiolaris fruits. Right: Monitoring plots for recording arrival of scatter-dispersed seeds.