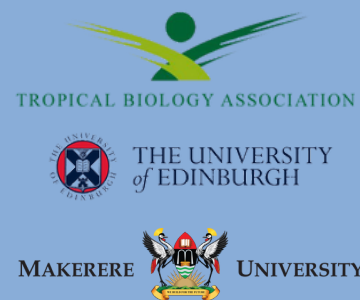


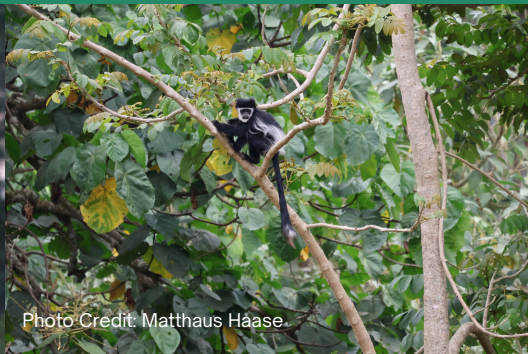
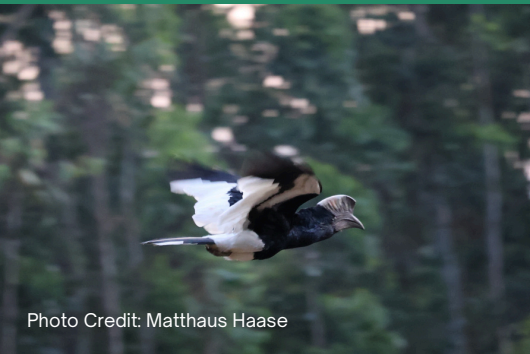
# TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION FIELD COURSE 2024



## RESEARCH PROJECT



A month-long, intensive field course for early career professionals in conservation, biology, and ecology.



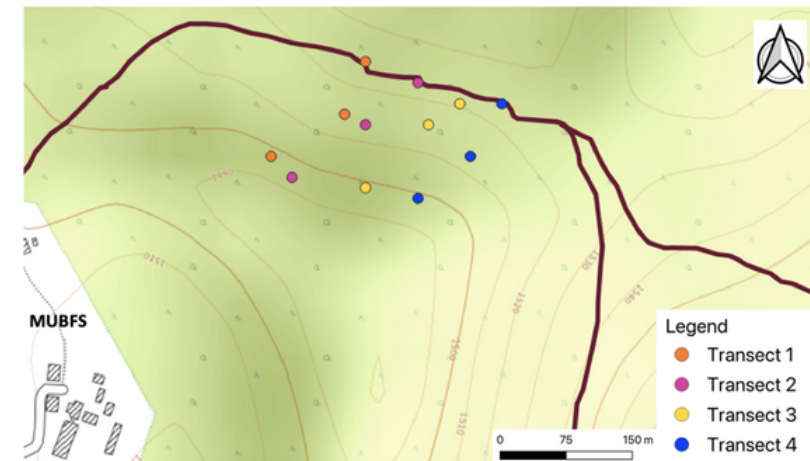
## PROJECT DESIGN

The culmination of our learning on this course, a two-week research project designed and carried out in pairs.

We investigated how soil and leaf litter properties affect the biomass and richness of leaf-litter invertebrate communities.

We sampled invertebrates using pitfall traps along transects and measured a range of leaf-litter characteristics.

Transects starting at Karambi Road, Kibale forest, Uganda



## AIMS

The Tropical Biology Association field courses train and inspire future conservation leaders by providing hands-on experience in tropical ecosystems. The course content focuses on: skill development, species identification, conservation awareness, collaborative working, and practical research applications.

Dates: 10/07/24 - 10/08/24

## LOCATION

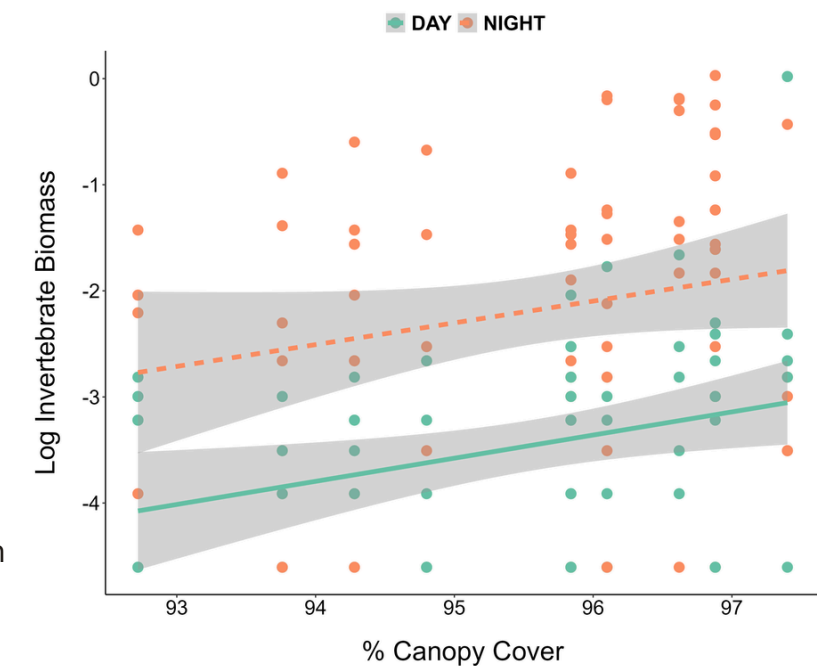
Makerere University Biological Field Station, Kibale National Park, Uganda

## KEY FINDINGS

We found that invertebrate biomass increased with canopy cover and soil moisture.

Invertebrate biomass was higher at night than during the day.

We were surprised that leaf litter thickness had no effect on invertebrate richness or biomass, since we expected niche space to increase with litter thickness.



## CONTENT

**Field Workshops:** bird identification by observation and call recognition, invertebrate sampling techniques, and forest ecology.

**Seminars:** supplementing field work to solidify understanding of the processes and interactions observed in the field.

**Field Exercises:** 1. invertebrate leaf herbivory, 2. forest carbon stocks estimation, 3. student-designed project on floral characteristics in different habitats.

**Talks:** evening lectures delivered by core teaching team, visiting academics, and representatives from local and national organisations.



Map: <https://www.kibaleforestnationalparkuganda.com/uganda-national-parks/>

