

## **Transboundary Conservation Initiative Supported by CEPF**

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grantee Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (XTBG) has been awarded the project “*Hunting for solutions in Southwest China*” in 2015. The project focuses on Xishuangbanna, which is part of the important Nam Ha – Xishuangbanna – Phou Dendin corridor in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.

Overhunting has driven many species to extinction and continues to threaten the existing species in this biodiversity hotspot; and Xishuangbanna in Southwest China is of no exception. The goal of this project is to enhance efficiency of existing hunting regulations and promote more responsible hunting through inter-generational knowledge transfer in the communities.

XTBG is investigating factors that encourage compliance with hunting regulations at local community level; conducting extensive education outreach for adults and children to introduce mammal, bird, and turtle diversity in Xishuangbanna, and the threats these animals are facing, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity and conservation.

Chelonian (turtles and tortoises in general) is a critically understudied taxon in the region. Therefore, the project team is conducting a preliminary field survey on Chelonian species and assessing how it responds to hunting.

As an approach to facilitate cross-border biodiversity conservation, “***Training for Joint Monitoring and Protection of Wildlife across China-Laos Boundary***” has been successfully held on 28 May – 1 June 2018 at XTBG.

This training was organized by XTBG and Science Institute of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve (XNNR), with the support of Southeast Asia Biodiversity Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and international grants including CEPF.



*Group photo*

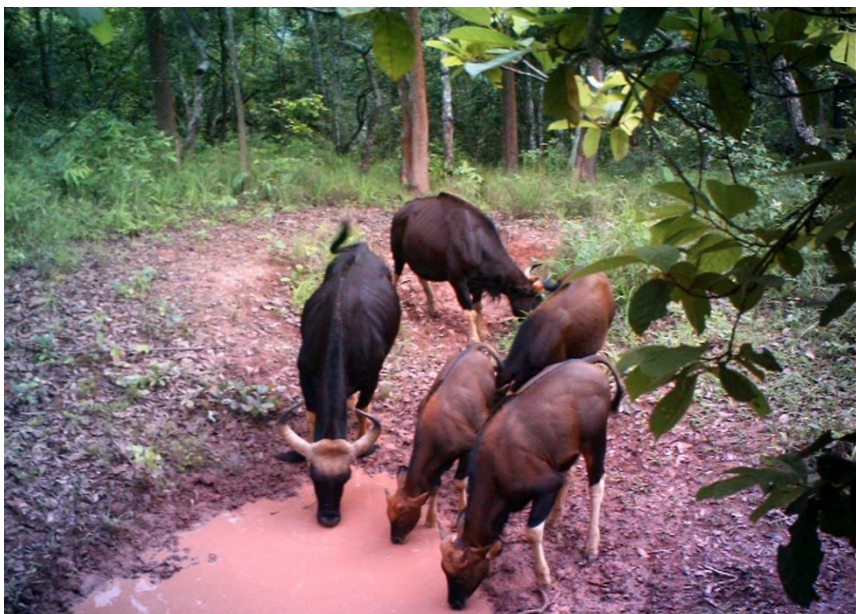
The training aimed to 1) building the capacity of related government departments, nature reserves and research institutions in both China and Laos in respect to field research and monitoring; 2) encouraging collaboration among nature reserves across the China-Laos boundary; and 3) improving the effectiveness of joint-force survey and monitoring, particularly for the Asian Elephant.

Five scientists from XTBG, including Professor Richard T. Corlett, and two well-respected practitioners from XNNR have given lectures. The topics covered biodiversity conservation in the Greater Mekong Region, identification techniques on Chelonians and birds, methodologies on wildlife monitoring, and cross boundary monitoring on Asian Elephants etc. The participants also took this rare opportunity to discuss and share their experience in nature reserve management.



*Trainees are setting up infra-red cameras at the field research station in Bubeng.*

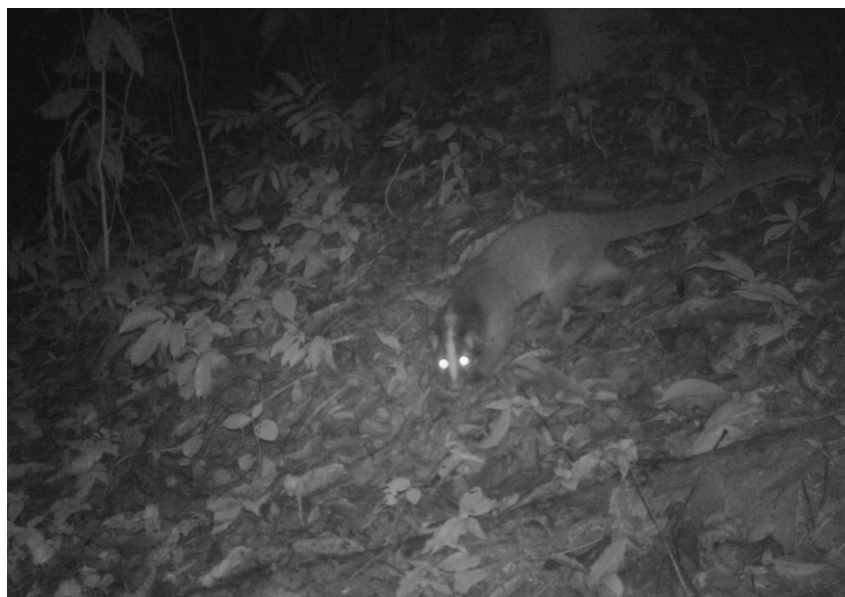




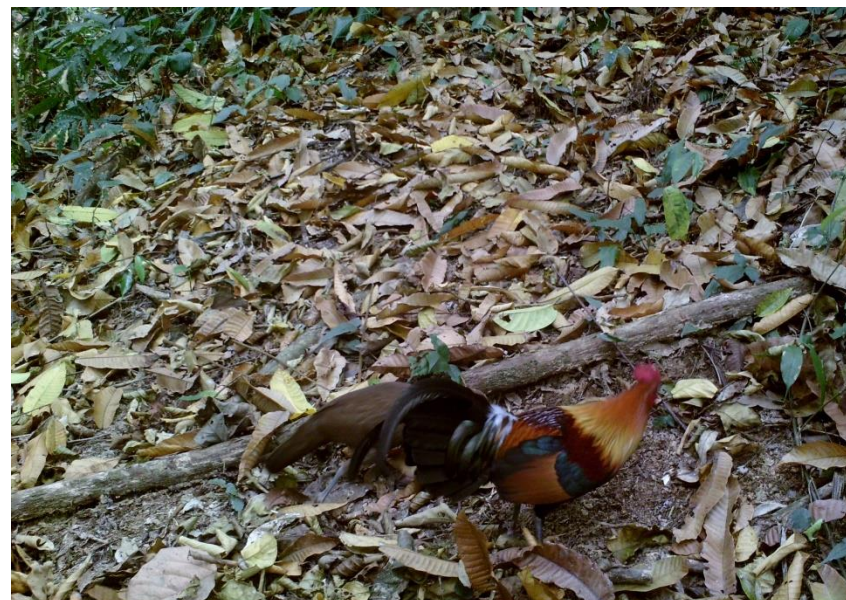
Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)



Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*)



Masked Palm Civet (*Paguma larvata*)



Red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*)

Wildlife images captured by infra-red cameras in Xishuangbanna.



*Species identification skills are shared during the training.*

Many species in the China-Laos cross boundary region have become endangered. It is vital to conduct field surveys and monitoring programs with standardized methods to ensure their protection. The present training contributed an important step to systematic survey and monitoring of biodiversity. All participants expressed their appreciation for this rare opportunity, and hope that such event can be held regularly to strengthen collaboration between the two countries.

Original article in Chinese:

[http://www.xtbg.ac.cn/xwzx/zhxw/201806/t20180603\\_5020863.html#](http://www.xtbg.ac.cn/xwzx/zhxw/201806/t20180603_5020863.html#)