

Project Update: March 2009

Introduction

The project is carrying on with data collection of its first round. The project is assessing the relationship between forest fragmentation and hornbill distribution (as forest indicators) concurrently with extent of fragmentation using GIS tools and the impact on the targeted species.

Methods

Data are collected on targeted species abundance across fragmented forest through a gradient of intensive farming systems within the central region in Uganda. Point counts are undertaken at a distance of 200 m from one point to another. The points are located on transect of 1 km through forests of chosen sites. Site selection is still carrying on until the end of our first round of the project. Each point is assessed for 10 minutes only and we move to another point i.e. for the ornithological team. The distance is measured by the GPS according to the nearest point of the waypoints. Sites are selected using the Biomass Map of Uganda, followed up by visits undertaken to determine site suitability sites where there is too much degradation.

Other updates

- A bird database has been developed.
- An interview guide is being used in collection of socio-economic data.
- Geo-referencing of sites is being used.

Below are pictures taken on the day of our trip in two forests of Wakiso District.

Future activities

- Producing a project map.
- Project updates will continue.
- Choosing representative from the youth for capacity building.

