Project Update: May 2017

Between January and May 2017, we have made encouraging progress towards our first two project objectives.

In March 2017, Dr Arjun Gopalaswamy came to visit HiP from India. He is an expert in statistical ecology and his visit involved helping me to apply a novel spatially explicit capture recapture (SECR) model to estimate the population size of elephants on HiP. The model will use my field data on positively identified elephants encountered at particular locations during field monitoring. Arjun mentored me on the intricacies of the method, we discussed how to prepare my data for the model, and we conducted some field trips.

Then in May 2017, Mr Jonathan Whitaker visited HiP for a week to offer his computer science expertise to help improve a software programme we are developing to speed up the process of identifying individual elephants from photos. This information will feed into the population estimation model.