**Minor research project:**

Pragmatics in guereza colobus monkey *(Colobus guereza)* communication

For a master student interested in gaining experience in (experimental) fieldwork, a (non-funded) research project position is available at the Budongo Conservation Field Station, Uganda. Fieldwork will be conducted starting in November 2018 under supervision of Dr. A.M. Schel at Utrecht University. She will travel to Uganda with the student and will offer training on field methods for two weeks at the start of the fieldwork period. Fieldwork is at least 3 months, but can be longer on request.

Scientific framework:

Although some animal calls appear to function as highly informative ‘word-like’ signals, it was recently suggested that many signals are not produced as context-specific as previously claimed, and that listeners’ adaptive responses are more fundamentally dependent on additional cues to infer the underlying cause of calling (i.e. pragmatic inference). This study will investigate which cues guereza colobus monkeys (*Colobus guereza*) take into account when responding adaptively to conspecifics’ vocal eagle alarms and dawn chorusing. These vocalizations are acoustically very similar, but produced in different contexts, leading to highly differential responses that are needed from recipients. A playback experiment is conducted to find out whether call-acoustics or additional cues (e.g. daytime) cause listeners to respond adaptively.

If you are interested in doing your master research project on pragmatic inference in wild black-and-white colobus monkeys in Uganda, please contact Anne Marijke Schel a.s.a.p: [A.M.Schel@uu.nl](mailto:A.M.Schel@uu.nl)