

Dear colleagues,

We hope that you had a good and rewarding year 2017 and were able to accomplish all your plans and fieldwork. 2017 has been a very busy and successful year for us. We enjoyed supporting so many ongoing and new projects, having attended great conferences and having personally met many of you. We also made some good progress with new product developments.

e-obs news

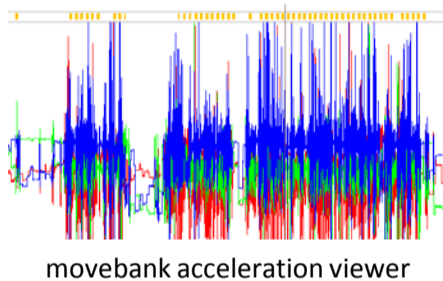
UMTS: In order to expand coverage in countries such as the US and Australia, we are now able to also offer UMTS (3G) modules for our GPRS-product line.

25g GPRS / UMTS tag: We have been working on a smaller and lighter GPRS /UMTS tag for quite a while and we are now finally ready to announce our new “Bird Solar UMTS 25g” tag. Our main goal has been to offer a considerably smaller and lighter UMTS/GPRS bird tag while maintaining outstanding performance, durability and quality. Development is in its final stages and we hope to have it ready for the spring tagging season. Please feel free to inquire for details.

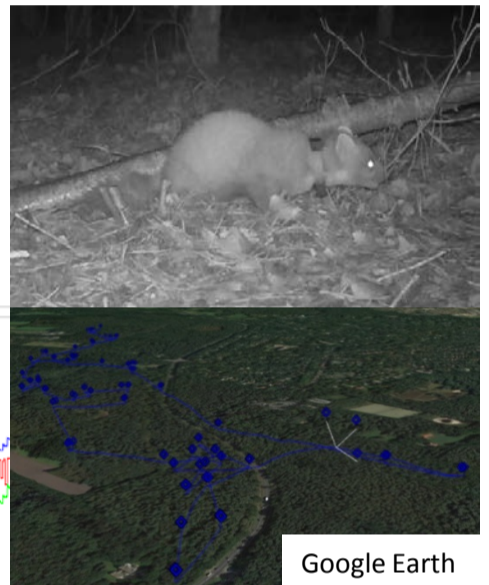
On-Track: Since we announced our smallest collar so far last year, the new Collar 1AA weighing around 55g has been used in several pilot studies including on marten and lemurs. Trials are ongoing and going well. We and the Collar 1AA are ready for new deployments in 2018!

The data shows one night in a collared marten’s life with a 24h ACC observation window and ACC-informed GPS focused on its active phases.

During this night 168 (56*3) GPS fixes have been acquired in an area of ~6km².



movebank acceleration viewer



Google Earth

The research aims at establishing the spatio-social population structure and at relating marten activity to forest management. With more super active nights like this, we expect about 4 months of recording.

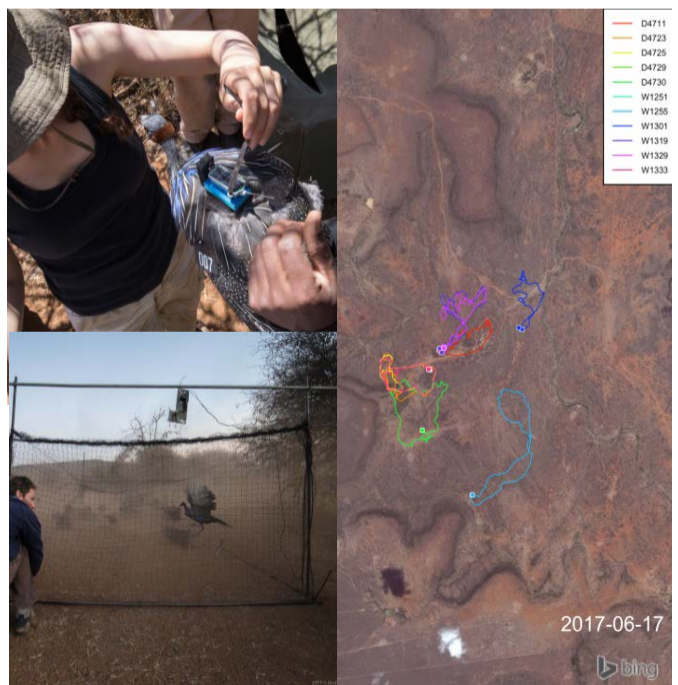
e-obs community

We are involved in numerous great projects with fascinating animals, unique approaches and outstanding researchers. We want to play our part not only by delivering state of the art technology and reliable tags and collars but also by getting the word out about your work, helping to connect different research groups and facilitating dialogue and discussion. In order to stay in touch please check out our homepage as well as our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

From the field (by Damien Farine)

The social lives of vulturine guineafowl

Coordination and cohesion are important aspects of sociality in group-living animals. Using high resolution, e-obs GPS-tracking technology, we aim to investigate individual movement decisions, collective behaviour and interactions between different groups of wild vulturine guineafowl (*Acryllium vulturinum*), in Kenya. Our first findings indicate that our study species follows a molecular fission-fusion pattern. Namely, groups maintain stable membership, but overlap with other conspecific groups during the day and share communal roosts at night. Furthermore, by GPS-tracking the members of an entire social group, we aim to elucidate within-group decision-making mechanisms.



Lastly, we would like to let you know that your expertise and feedback is highly welcome in order to improve existing and future products. Please do not hesitate to contact us about your ideas and plans, we are happy to help wherever we can.

We wish everyone successful last weeks in 2017, a happy Christmas time and all the best for the upcoming year. We are looking forward to hearing from you in 2018,

Your e-obs Team