

PANDASIA Project Collects Wildlife Samples in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand



During the dry season from 2–11 February 2026, Work Package 2 (WP2) of the PANDASIA Project, led by Dr. Boripat Siriaroonrat and a multidisciplinary team of experts, conducted intensive fieldwork in Por Subdistrict, Wiang Kaen District, and Mae Fah Luang Subdistrict, Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai Province. The mission focused on collecting biological trace samples from wildlife at key forest–community interfaces. This fieldwork received strong cooperation from local personnel and agencies, including community volunteers, leaders, local administrative organizations, subdistrict health promoting hospitals, district livestock offices, and staff from the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, all of whom supported the work at every stage.



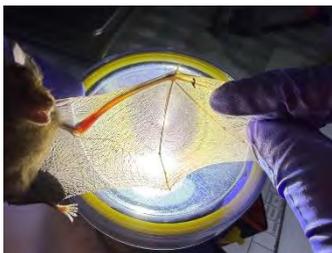
Exploring Headwater Forests and Interface Hotspots of the Bat Team

PANDASIA Research Team Surveys Bat Diversity and Habitats in Northern Thailand

Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aingorn Chaiyes, together with Dr. Dome Prathumthong, a mammalogist from the National Science Museum Organization, the bat research team planned surveys using specialized equipment such as bat detector to study bat diversity and population dynamics between wet and dry seasons. The team undertook physically demanding efforts to transport equipment while climbing cliffs and traversing the slippery waterfall route to study bat populations that is vital to local livelihoods and agriculture. Beyond intact forest habitats, the team also surveyed bats that have adapted to roost in buildings at the Mae Fah Luang Provincial Police Station, as well as bats foraging in macadamia plantations. These observations highlight key human–bat interfaces where space is shared. Understanding the nature of these interactions and the potential risks of pathogen transmission in such environments is essential for raising awareness and preparing for future emerging infectious diseases.

PANDASIA Research Team Engages Local Residents in Small Mammal Surveys

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kittipong Chaisiri and Dr. Paisin Lekcharoen, together with their field team led the small mammals surveys in Por Subdistrict, Wiang Kaen District, and Mae Fah Luang Subdistrict, Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai Province. They conducted detailed sampling of rodents and insectivorous mammals, including rats, squirrels, shrews, and tree shrews. Traps were deployed across diverse environments from community forests and cave-adjacent forests inhabited by bats to agricultural areas such as maize fields, orchards, and rice paddies, as well as other land-use sites including community waste disposal areas and schools. This activity was supported by strong community participation, with residents assisting in surveys within and around their homes. Such collaboration enabled the research team to gain a clearer picture of biodiversity patterns and pathogen diversity in relation to different land-use types.



PANDASIA Seeks Local Collaboration in Sampling Companion Animals and Promoting Rabies Vaccination

Work Package 2 Team (WP2) collaborated with district and provincial livestock officers to collect samples from companion animals, particularly dogs and cats that live in close proximity to people and are more likely to encounter wildlife. The team also provided rabies vaccinations and deworming services, promoting animal welfare and reducing the risk of pathogen spillovers from forests to humans. In addition, the team exchanged perspectives and data with the biodiversity and academic team of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, fostering balanced nature-dependent livelihoods and sustainable resource management. It is expected that the knowledge generated through the PANDASIA Project will be transferred to local communities for long-term benefit. The team plans to return for additional fieldwork during the rainy season to comprehensively capture seasonal variations, ensuring a complete and robust dataset.

