



Workshop: An introduction to camera traps for research and biosecurity surveillance 10th February 2025, The Palms Country Club, Muntinlupa City

Facilitators

[Dr Michael \(Mike\) Walsh](#); [A/Prof Victoria \(Viki\) Brookes](#); [Ms Madalene \(Maddie\) Oberin](#); and [Prof Jenny-Ann Toribio](#)

Co-organized with the [Field Epidemiology Training Program Alumni Foundation, Inc. \(FETPAFI\)](#)

Timetable

1:00 pm	Meeting Preliminaries and Participant Introductions	Betsy, Jenny-Ann
1:10 pm	Introduction to Camera Traps and Their Applications	Mike
1:40 pm	Planning and Deployment of Camera Traps	Viki
2:00 pm	Field Demonstration	Mike, Viki
3:00 pm	Break (20 mins)	
3:20 pm	Data Retrieval and Analysis	Mike
3:50 pm	Projects – ideas and collaboration	Mike, Viki, Maddie
5:20 pm	Wrap-up	Jenny-Ann

Materials and Resources

- **Venue Requirements:**
 - Indoor space for presentations with whiteboard and pens.
 - Outdoor area for field demonstrations.
- **Equipment:**
 - 3 camera traps, batteries, straps for fixing camera-traps outside (brought by facilitators).
- **Handouts:**
 - Resource link for additional learning (provided by facilitators).

Objectives

This workshop will:

- Introduce participants to the purpose and applications of camera traps in research and biosecurity surveillance.
- Familiarize participants with ethical considerations and environmental impact of camera trap use.
- Teach the foundations of effective planning, deployment, and setup techniques for camera traps.
- Provide hands-on experience with setting up and troubleshooting camera traps in a field setting.
- Provide guidance for data retrieval, organisation, and analysis for ecological and biosecurity applications.
- Facilitate discussions on integrating camera traps into research and surveillance.
- Encourage collaboration and the development of project ideas for camera trap use in the Asia-Pacific region.

The following outcomes are envisaged:

- Participants gain foundational knowledge and practical experience of camera trap functionality, design, and applications in diverse contexts.
- Development of collaborative projects to address biosecurity and research challenges.
- Participants leave with resources for further learning and connections to peers for future collaboration.

Session 1: Introduction to Camera Traps and Their Applications (40 minutes)

Objective:

Provide an overview of camera traps, their purpose, and their applications in research and biosecurity surveillance.

- **Topics:**
 - What are camera traps? Overview of their functionality and design.
 - Applications in ecology and epidemiology (e.g., biodiversity monitoring, disease surveillance, and behavioural studies).



- o Examples of successful projects using camera traps (expanded on in S5).
- o Ethical considerations and minimizing environmental impact.
- o Discussion: Share local contexts where camera traps could be useful (10 minutes – to be expanded on in S5).

Session 2: Planning and Deployment of Camera Traps (20 minutes)

Objective:

Teach participants how to plan and deploy camera traps effectively.

- **Topics:**
 - o Site selection and considerations for optimal placement (e.g., habitat type, animal behaviour).
 - o Basic settings for camera traps: resolution, sensitivity, and timing.
 - o Setting objectives for data collection: identifying target species and goals. Discuss ethics requirements.

Session 3: Field Demonstration (60 minutes)

Objective:

Provide hands-on experience in setting up camera traps.

- **Activity Plan:**
 - o **Outdoor Demonstration (45 minutes):**
 - Divide participants into three groups (one camera trap per group).
 - Walk participants through the process of setting up a camera trap in the field, considering placement, camouflage, and anchoring techniques.
 - o **Practical Troubleshooting (15 minutes):**
 - Discuss and address common issues (e.g., weatherproofing, avoiding false triggers but maintaining sensitivity).

Session 4: Data Retrieval and Analysis (30 minutes)

Objective:

Discuss how to retrieve and analyse data from camera traps.

- **Topics:**
 - o Retrieving images and organizing data.
 - o Identifying and classifying species from images.
 - o Using data for ecological and biosecurity analysis.
 - o Basics of reporting and sharing results.

Session 5: Integrating Camera Traps into Research and Surveillance Programs (90 minutes)

Objective:

Discuss how to incorporate camera traps into broader research and surveillance initiatives.

- **Topics:**
 - o Current and previous projects (MW, VB, MO)
 - o Integrating camera traps with other data collection methods (e.g., GPS, drones, or surveys).
 - o Collaboration opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Activity:**
 - o Breakout groups: Develop project ideas for camera-trap use in biosecurity or research. Share back to the group (5 minutes per team).

Session 6: Wrap-Up and Q&A (10 minutes)

Objective:

Summarize workshop outcomes and provide time for participant questions.

- **Topics:**
 - o Key takeaways and best practices.
 - o Challenges and opportunities for camera-trap use in the Philippines.
 - o Feedback collection: Short written or verbal survey on the workshop.