

TROPIMUNDO



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THE UNITERSTY OF QUARMENTS























museum

















NAVOTEE









































TROPIMUNDO Awards Each year our students compete in a natural history photography contest (resulting in this calendar) and for academic excellence awards. We have an annual Best TROPIMUNDO Student Award and the Lorenzo Borella Memorial Award for the best TROPIMUNDO thesis.

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Welcome word from the Chair

For the second Corona-year in a row, we are happy to report that the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO) succeeded in sending out its students to the Semester 2 (S2) countries in the tropics in a COVID19-safe way. Despite part of the programme being taught through blended learning using online platforms, most of our students have been able to participate in the tropical field schools in Guadeloupe, La Réunion and Sri Lanka. The latter has done an amazing job hosting no less than 24 students in 2021 due to the lockdown of other S2 partners. Thanks to the organisation and excellent relationship between our Consortium Partners, we are able to work in this flexible way. TROPIMUNDO is determined to continue to honour the European Commission's only educational excellence label that we obtained (i.e. Erasmus Mundus) as well as the associated learning competences of our programme.

We and our more than 160 graduates will celebrate the 10th TROPIMUNDO anniversary in 2022 and look back and forward to past and future research on rainforests and woodlands, savannas, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs and tropical open ocean waters. Many of these MSc Thesis topics have made it into peer-reviewed journals and their student authors are now pursuing academic careers as lecturers and/or researchers.

TROPIMUNDO is also working towards enlarging its tropical focus to African savannas, the African Great Lakes, and coastal and island ecosystems in the Indian and Pacific Ocean. Our 12 teaching partners in Belgium, France, Italy, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Cameroon, Madagascar, Reunion Island, Sri Lanka and Malaysia and our >50 Associated Partners from the field of research, government, NGOs, SMEs, international associations may therefore expect a few additional Full and Associated Partners in Africa and the Pacific, pending ongoing negotiations (cf. photo taken at Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya). Together, we will continue to assure excellence in education, research and international networking in tropical biodiversity and ecosystems, a focus much needed in this era marked by a tropical biodiversity crisis.



Farid Dahdouh-Guebas

Université Libre de Bruxelles Vrije Universiteit Brussel TROPIMUNDO Founding and Managing Director

Credits/Contacts

Calendar info: This calendar was made using photographs courtesy of our students. All photographs were taken between 2014 and 2021. National holidays in Belgium, France, Italy, Cameroon, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, our study sites, were included and so were selected events of international importance.

Calendar Cover Illustration: Gersey VARGAS RIVERA: Merops leschenaulti (Vieillot, 1817). Curious young chestnut-headed bee-eater with glistening eyes, Bundala National Park, Sri Lanka. Information page photograph Above: Group photographs with mouth masks were the trend in 2021, both in the terrestrial forest scenery of La Réunion (left) and in the coastal scenery of Sri

www.tropimundo.eu info@tropimundo.eu

Did you know?

Did TROPIMUNDO was the first know Erasmus Mundus programme to offset the carbon emissions caused by its compulsory student and staff mobility ? In the meantime it has become an annual tradition.



101 Tonnes CO2

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in



January 2022



Needhi Kiruba THANGASAMY: *Top: Coenobita clypeatus* (Fabricius, 1787), A hermit crab with a damaged shell inspects a new housing opportunity that has just washed up on the beach, Elyakanda Beach, Sri Lanka.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---------|-----------|---------------|--------|--|---|
| DECEMBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | | | 1 New Year Hari Tahun Baru Malaysia | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Epiphany | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | FEBRUARY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 |

Tom BERNARD: *Top*: Indian White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* (Temminck, 1824). Yellow bird on a mango tree, Dambulla, Central Province, Sri Lanka. **Soline CUINAT-GUERRAZ**: *Bottom*: The Maroni River, Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, French Guiana.



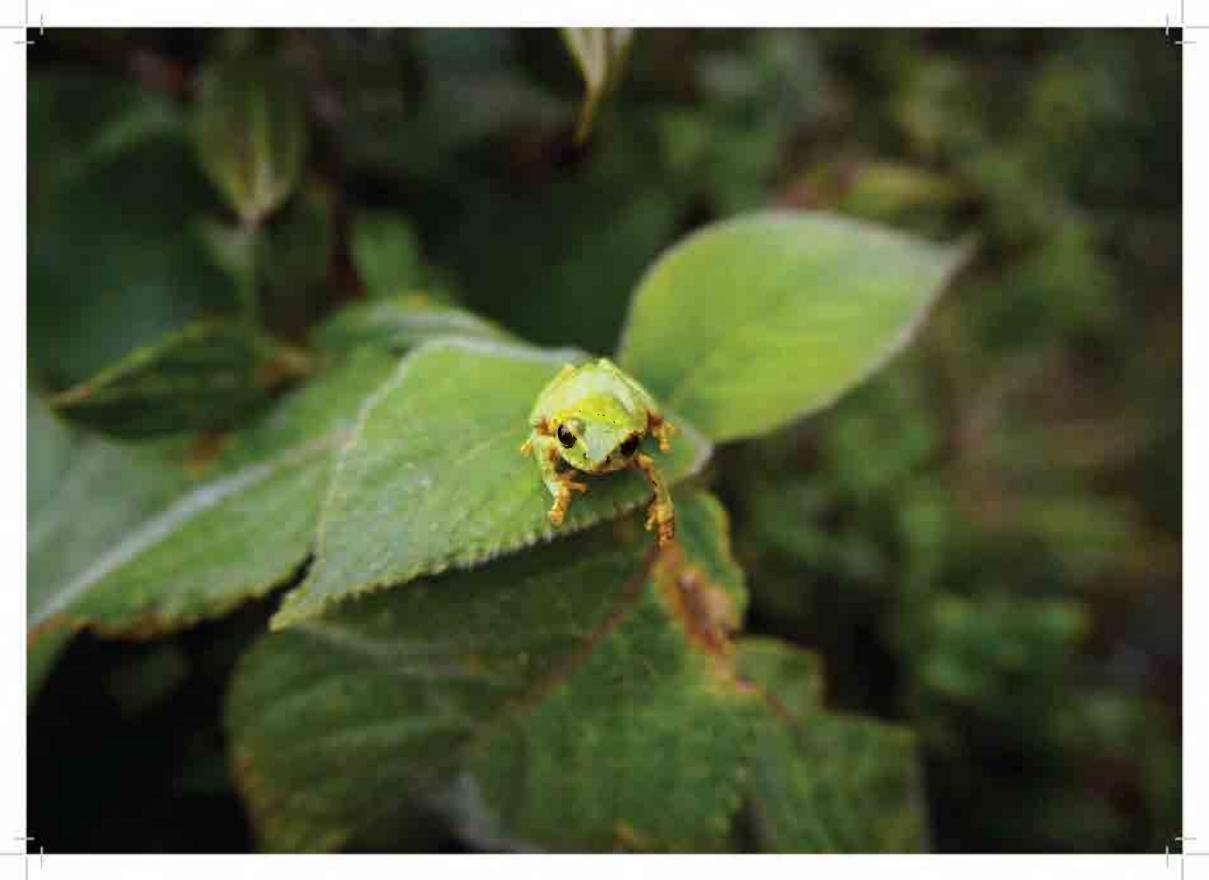
February 2022



Rachel LEONG AI TING: Top: View of the coastline atop Bukit Keluang, located in the town of Kuala Besut, Terengganu, Peninsular Malaysia.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | SUNDAY |
|--------|------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------|---|
| | Chinese New year | World Wetlands Day | 3 | 4 National Day in Sri Lanka | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | | | JANUARY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | MARCH M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Samuel OFORI: *Top*: This is a photo of an endemic land snail species *Acavus phoenix* (Pfeiffer, 1854) identified in the Sinharaja Rainforest during a field school exercise for Tropimundo students and lecturers. Martin HEYERES: *Bottom right*: *Aporia crataegi* (Linnaeus, 1758) The sun is shinning, the ox-eye daisy are blooming and the love season has started for the butterflies. The black-veined white is an elegant butterfly that can be seen during a spring trip to Wallonia, Belgium. Pol FERNANDEZ MATO: *Bottom left*: Shallow coral reef in Kapas Island, Malaysia.



March 2022



Anne Marieke DE GEEST: *Top*: Stuart's Shrub Frog *Pseudophilautus stuarti* (Meegaskumbura & Manamendra-Arachchi, 2005) in Horton Plains National Park. This small frog species is endemic to the cloud forests of central highlands of Sri Lanka.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | Maha Shivaratri Day Israa and Miaraj | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 International Women's Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Father's Day in Italy | 20 Spring Equinox |
| 21 World Forestry Day | 22 World Water Day | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Martyrs' Day in Madagascar | 30 | 31 | FEBRUARY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | | APRIL M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

Barbara MEYERS: *Top*: Carnival in Pointe-à-Pitre, one of the most important festivities in the Antilles, Guadeloupe.

Soline CUINAT-GUERRAZ: *Bottom*: *Paleosuchus trigonatus* (Schneider, 1801), Caiman in the dusk, Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, French Guiana.



April 2022



Soline CUINAT-GUERRAZ: Top: Terre-de-haut from Terre-de-Bas, Les Saintes, Guadeloupe.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| MARCH M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | | 1 | 2 Ramadan begins | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 World Health Day | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Good Friday | 16 | 17 Easter Lorenzo Borella Memorial Day |
| 18 Easter Monday | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Italian Liberation Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | MAY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Jacob KRAUSS: Inset: Junonia rhadama (Boisduval, 833). The brilliant blue butterfly can be seen fluttering about the gardens and open forests of Reunion island. The iridescent wings reflect the sunlight differently depending on the angle, giving them a range of hues. They are endemic to the Mascarene Islands.



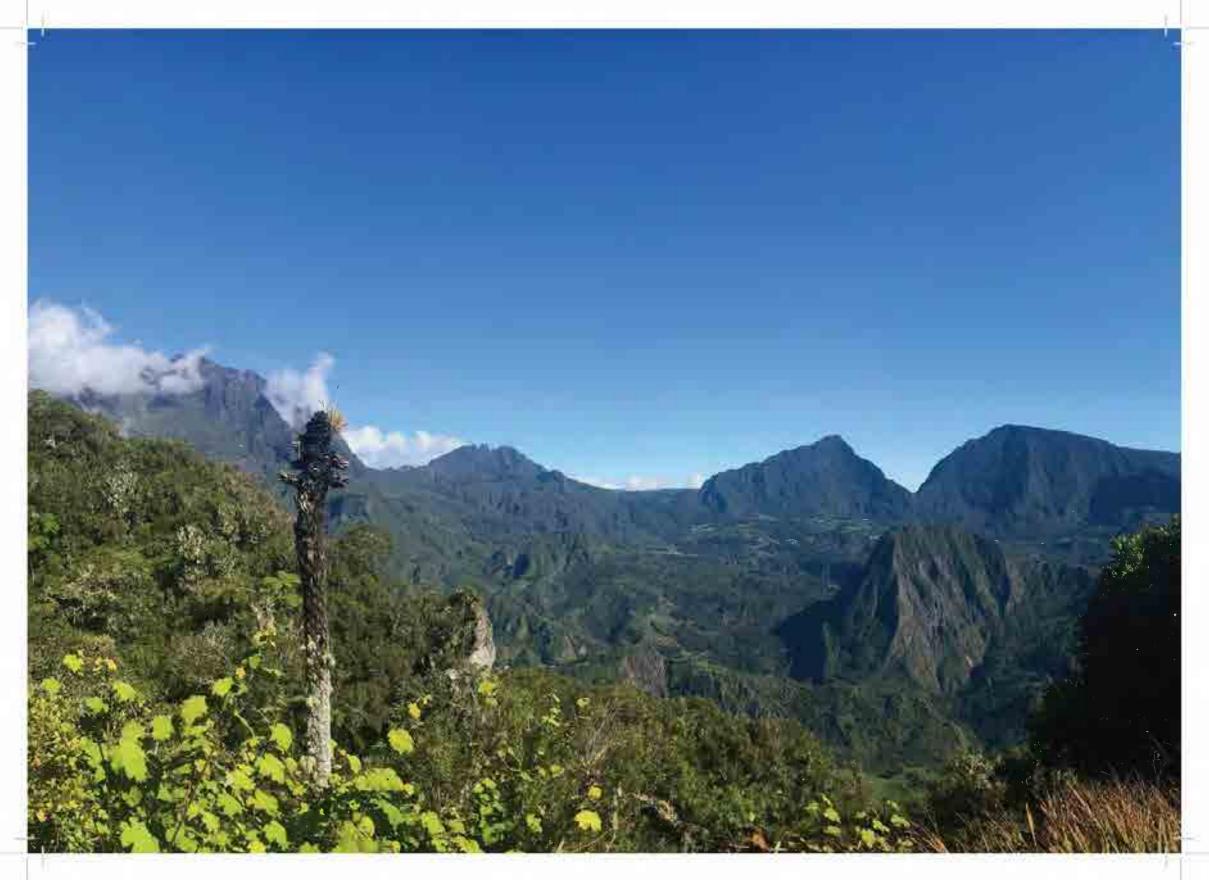
May 2022



Morgane SEROUX: Top: We can see Mirissa's fishing port, with sunrise light, Sri Lanka.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | Sunday |
|---------------------|---------|--|--------------|---|--|--|
| | | APRIL M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | | | | Labor day Ramadan ends |
| Hari Raya Puasa | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Mother's day in Belgium France Victory 1945 Buddha Birthday |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 World Migratory Bird Day | 15 Vesak Buddha Purnima |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 National Day in Cameroon Endangered Species Day | World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | 22 |
| 23 World Turtle Day | 24 | 25 | 26 Ascent | 27 | 28 | 29 Mother's Day in France |
| 30 | 31 | | | JUNE M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | | |

Anik SAHA: Top left: Pacific Reef-egret (Egretta sacra Gmelin, 1789), Pehentian Islands, Malaysia. Top right: Taphozous melanopogon (Temminck, 1841), Bukit Keuang, Terengganu, Malaysia. Eliza VAN DE SANDE: Bottom left: Nephila pilipes (Fabricius, 1793), Pulau Kapas, Malaysia. Kiruba THANGASAMY NEEDHI: Bottom right: Alcedo atthis (Linnaeus, 1758) In the late evening, a Eurasian kingfisher prepares to roost, perched on a branch overlooking the Nilwala river, Kirala Kele Sanctuary, Sri Lanka



June 2022

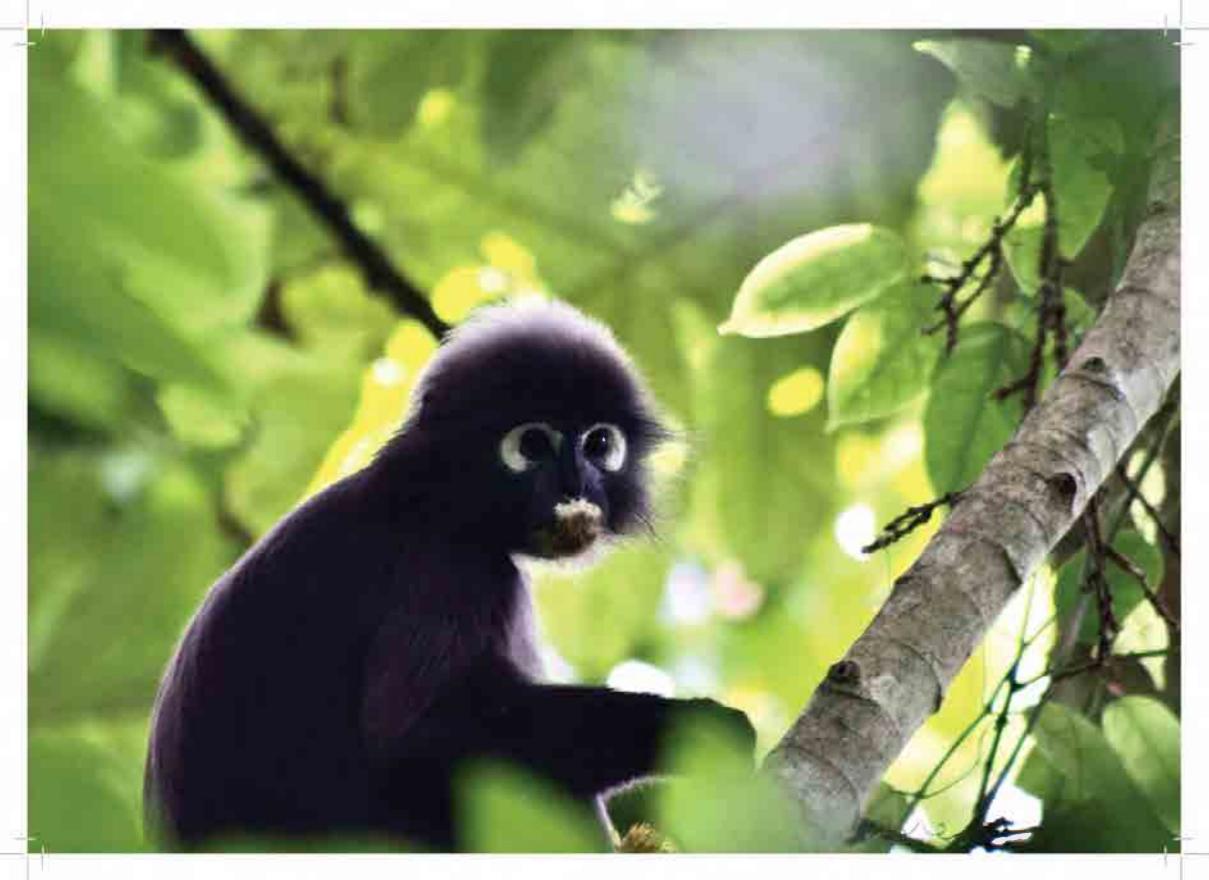


Jacob KRAUSS: Top: Salazie Lookout. When the old volcano collapsed, it formed the three "cirques" of Réunion, the most eastward of which is called Salazie, after the Malagasy word for "good encampment." The most humid of the cirques, the large amphitheater is covered in lush green slopes.

Gîte de Bélouve viewpoint-Trou de Fer (Salazie), La Réunion.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | SUNDAY |
|---|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--------|----------|--|
| MAY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | Peast of the Italian Republic | 3 | 4 | 5 Pentecost World Environment Day |
| Pentecost Monday | 7 | 8 World Oceans Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Father's day in Belgium |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Deadline for TROPIMUNDO applications self-funded | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Father's Day in France |
| 20 | Summer Solstice | 22 World Rainforest Day | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | JULY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Rachel LEONG AI TING: *Top: Cinnyris jugularis* (Linnaeus, 1766), Wildlife sighting amidst pandemic-induced lock-down conditions: Olive-backed sunbird perched on branch of common household garden plant, Singapore. Alvise DABALA: *Bottom: Furcifer pardalis* (Curvier, 1829) Chameleon rests on a tree in the university arboretum.



July 2022



Molly GILBERT: *Top*: Dusky Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus obscurus* (Reid, 1837) in the forests of Langkawi, Malaysia. These spectacled langur are endemic to Malaysia and Thailand.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|--|-----------|--|--------|----------|--|
| JUNE M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | | | AUGUST M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Eid al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) |
| T1 Feast of the Flemish Community in Belgium World Population Day | 12 | 13 | 14 French National Feast | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 National Day in Belgium | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | International day for the Conservation of Mangrove Systems | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

Maria Juliana VANEGAS GONZALES: Inset: Stenella longirostris (Gray, 1828) The fast motion of the vessel really captured the attention of this spinner dolphin. A pod of about 20 individuals followed the trajectory of the boat for 15 minutes or so at an impressive speed, while performing jumps and stunts, Mirissa, Sri Lanka.



August 2022



Eliza VAN DE SANDE Top: Taroko National Park, Taiwan.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--------|----------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | nternational Day of the World's Indigenous People | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Asumption Ferragosto in Italy | | 100 | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Muharram New Year | 30 | 31 National day in Malaysia | JULY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 | | | SEPTEMBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 |
| | | | 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

Deshika MUTHUTHANTHIRIGE: Inset: M. p. undifragus (Cramer) This butterfly belongs to Family Nymphalidae and the life cycle is composed of 1 to 5 instar stages before it pupates. Gaertnera vaginans, Mitragyna parvifolia, Mussaenda frondosa and Timonius flavescens can be considered as its larval food plants, Yagirala Rain Forest, Sri Lanka.



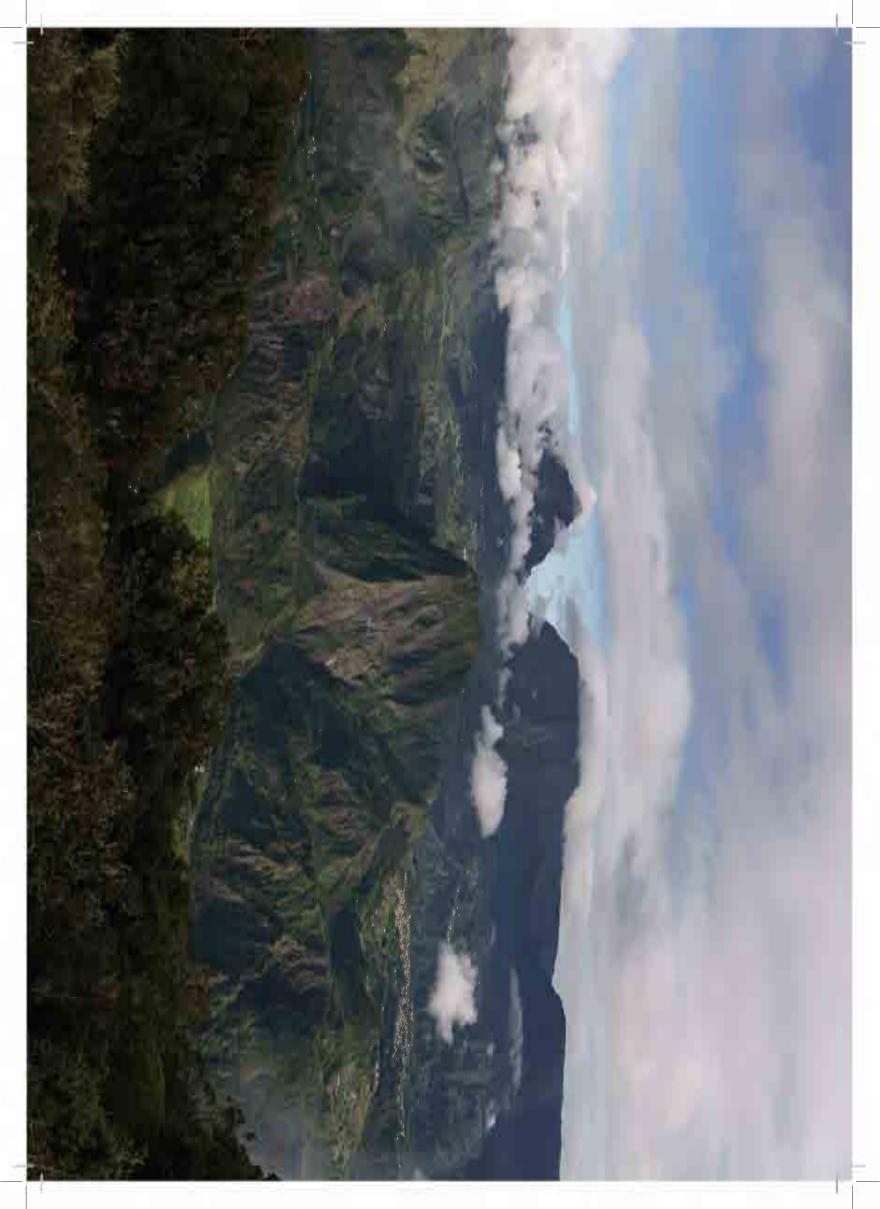
September 2022



Martin HEYERES: *Top*: *Eulampis holosericeus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Hummingbirds are famous birds of the Americas. In Guadeloupe, you can discover three of those incredible acrobats, here the green-throated carib. Sainte-Anne, Guadeloupe

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | | FRIDAY | Saturday | SUNDAY |
|--|---------|----------------------------|----|--|----------|---|
| AUGUST M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | International Day for the reservation of the Ozone Layer | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 International Peace Day | 22 | 23 Autumnal Equinox | 24 | World Rivers Day |
| 26 Feast of the French Community in Belgium Navaratri starts | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | OCTOBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Rachel LEONG AI TING: *Top*: Asian water monitor *Varanus salvator* (Laurenti, 1768) Wildlife sighting amidst pandemic-induced lock-down conditions: native to South and Southeast Asia, these large excellent swimmers live close to water bodies. Being carnivores, they feed on a range of food including fish, frogs, birds and rodents, Univeristy Malaysia Terengganu. *Soline CUINAT-GUERRAZ*: *Bottom*: *Bradypus tridactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Sloth on its way back to the tree, Kourou, French Guiana.



October 2022



Alvise DABALA: Top: Cirque de Salazie, La Plaine-des-Palmistes, La Réunion.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|----------------------|---------------|----------|--------|---|---|
| SEPTEMBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | 1 | | | | Dening call for TROPIMUNDO applications | 2 |
| World Habitat Day | 4 Navaratri stops | 5 Dussehra | 6 | 7 | 8 Prophet Muhammad's Birthday | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 World Food Day |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 United Nations Day | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | NOVEMBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |

Martin HEYERES: Top: Trachusa byssina(Panzer, 1798) Early summer in Belgium is a great time to discover European biodiversity such as this solitary bee that was resting in the morning light of the Ardennes. Pol FERNANDEZ MATO: Bottom: Boat in the middle of the sunset, Kapas Island, Malaysia.



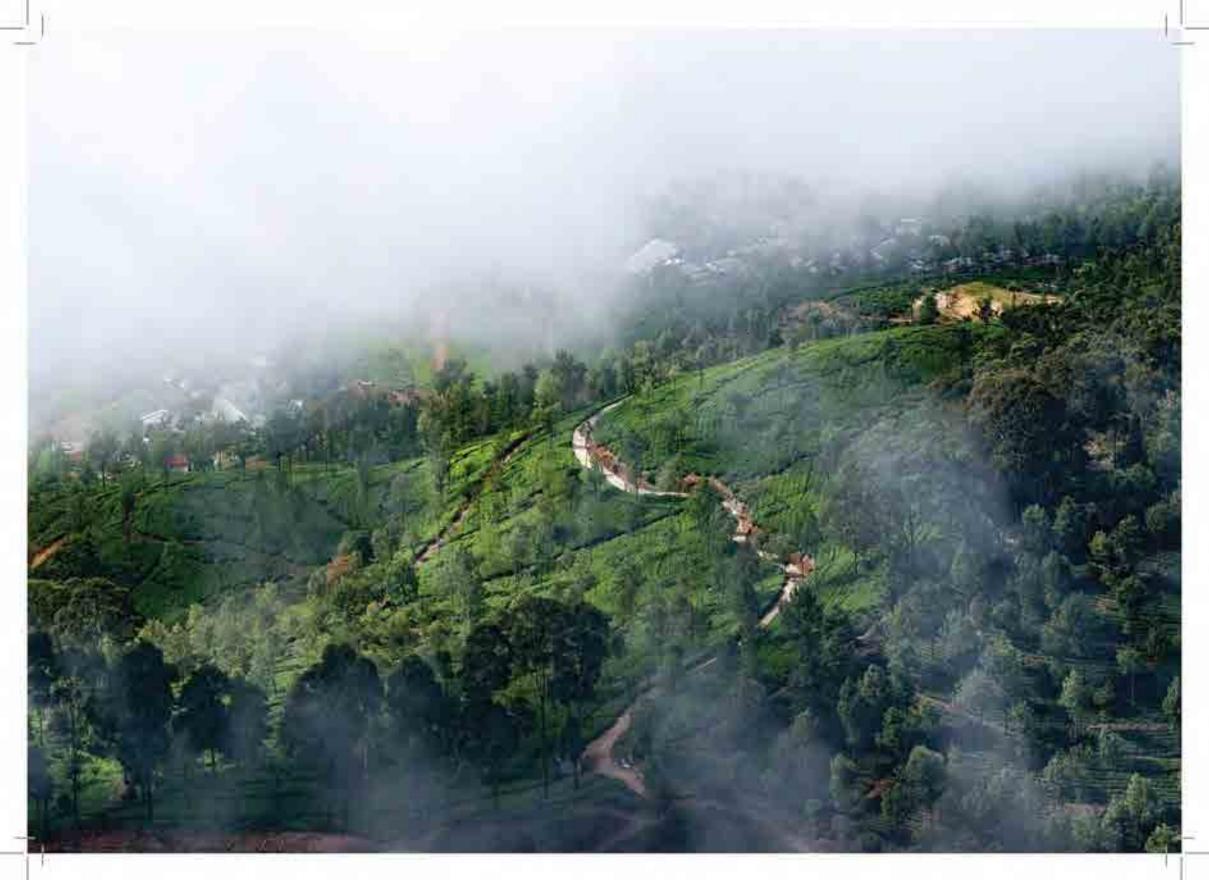
November 2022



Amalia MURGUEITIO CALLE: Top: Bubalus bubalis (Linnaeus, 1758)A wild water buffalo's morning bath, Yala National Park, Sri Lanka.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | SUNDAY |
|--|----------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|---|
| OCTOBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | All Saints day | Commemoration of the Faithful Departed | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Armistice 1918 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | International Day of Tolerance | | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Diwali Deepavali | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| World Fisheries Day | | | | - | | DECEMBER |
| 28 | 29 | Deadline for TROPIMUNDO applications | | | | M T W T F S S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Eliza VAN DE SANDE: Inset: Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia.



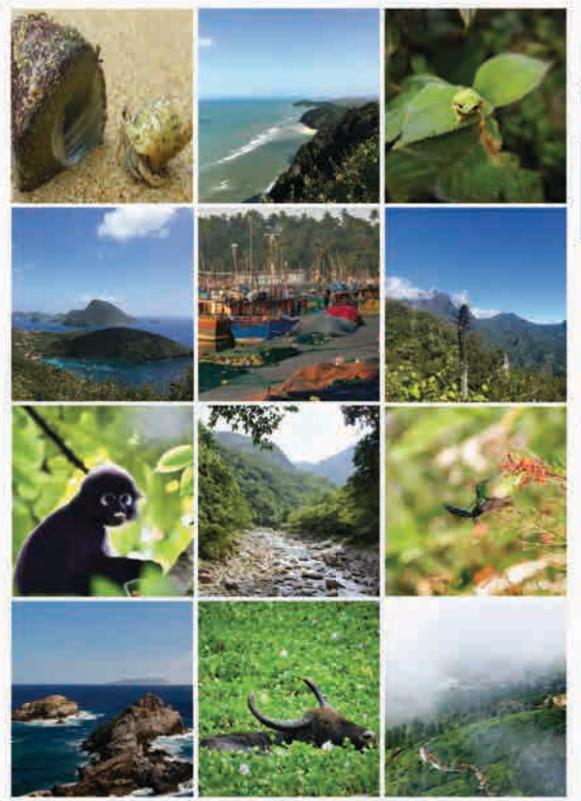
December 2022



Tom BERNARD: *Top*: Lipton's view, Central Province, Sri Lanka.

| Monday | Tuesday | WEDNESDAY | Thursday | FRIDAY | Saturday | SUNDAY |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---|
| NOVEMBER M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | | | 1 | 2 | Wildlife Conservation Day | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Saint Nicolas | 7 | 8 Immaculate Conception | 9 | 10 Human Rights Day | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 Winter Solstice | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas |
| 26 Santo Stefano | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | New Year's Eve | JANUARY M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |

Soline CUINAT-GUERRAZ: Inset: Ile du Diable, where Alfred Dreyfus was kept as a prisoner in 1895, Iles du Salut, French Guiana.





Calendar 2022



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