

## **BIODIV-AFREID-Top-up**

### **Biodiversity changes in African forests and Emerging Infectious Diseases: should we worry? Top-up**

This project was a top-up for partner RBINS to the original project B2/191/P1/BIODIV-AFREID “: Biodiversity changes in African forests and Emerging Infectious Diseases: should we worry?”, coordinated by H. Leirs (UAntwerp) and with partners Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS – E. Verheyen), Institut de Recherche pour le development (IRD – M. Peeters) and Robert Koch Institute (RKI – F. Leendertz). The top-up for RBINS consisted of a budget that provided 7 months staff costs to curate archived specimen collection and make them available to other partners for performing laboratory experiments to test for zoonotic viruses. MSc Tine Cooreman was hired and in total made 4075 sample available for this research. In addition, partner researchers were trained in molecular DNA work, the DNA and RNA was purified from a selection of samples (further testing done by partners) and a manuscript on coronavirus surveillance in zoo mammals was published.

#### **Keywords**

Archived specimens

Zoonoses

Coronavirus

DNA

Valorisation