

# Geographical Fieldwork Grants

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## ● Recipients 2018

### ●●● **Letitia Cookson (University of Sheffield): 'Managing selective logging to protect the Amazon's biodiversity'**

This project aims to develop a landscape scale-logging strategy that can retain biodiversity at a minimal opportunity-cost for the logging industry. The team aims to gain an in-depth understanding of how charismatic insect indicator species respond to varying logging intensities in north-eastern Peru, and then model the best ways to geographically distribute reduced-impact selective logging.

### **Adrian White (University of Oxford): 'Oxford University Finnmark Expedition'**

This multidisciplinary expedition aims to investigate how changing climate is affecting the arctic landscape and its inhabitants. The team will employ photographic and tree surveying techniques to study the landscape and conduct in-depth interviews to gain insight into local people's perceptions of the changing environment.

### **Alexander Hyde and Samuel Gillan (University of Sheffield): 'Ala Archa 2018'**

Ala Archa 2018 was a four-week expedition to a remote valley in the Tian Shan mountain range in Northern Kyrgyzstan to investigate how climate change is affecting glaciers in the region. The team of five students measured glacial retreat rates over the last 1,000 years by dating landforms at the glacier's terminus, and recorded levels of meltwater and ablation during the summer season using ice stakes and pressure transducers in outwash channels.

### **Jason Guy (University of Sussex): 'Biogeographical optimisation of multi-use landscape-scale conservation corridors'**

Research is required to guide the establishment of conservation corridors that optimise trade-offs between sustainable use of forest and the need for strict protection in the Chocóan rainforest, Ecuador. This project will develop a model, based on field-calibrated data for focal taxa, to optimise the design of a multi-use conservation corridor to connect reserves and protected areas in north west Ecuador.

### **Abigail Gwynn (University of Exeter): 'Project Rungan 2019'**

Project Rungan 2019 will undertake research on the population and distribution of flora and fauna in the Rungan forest of Indonesian Borneo - one of the largest unprotected regions in Kalimantan. Different survey techniques including camera trapping, orangutan nest surveys and bat echolocation detection will be employed to show how organisms are using the this habitat. The data will be used to inform protection of the area from development, primarily from logging, gold mining and oil palm plantations.



**Nicholas Sundin (Newcastle University): 'Attitudes to international actors in the Cyprus conflict'**

This project investigates how international actors are perceived to be influencing the peace process in Cyprus. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with politicians in Cyprus, and with Cypriots on both sides of the dispute, to investigate whether the UN, EU and UK presences are perceived as constructive or divisive in fostering intercommunal harmony.

**Jessica Melrose (University of Glasgow): 'Investigating Perceptions and Vulnerabilities of Environmental Hazards in Trinidad'**

Through key informant interviews, questionnaires and focus groups, this project will investigate how the population of Trinidad perceives each of the different hazards associated with the island, as well as investigating how vulnerable different communities are based on their geographical location.

**Christopher McMahon (University of Glasgow): 'University of Glasgow Uganda Expedition 2018'**

This expedition aims to better understand the geology and geography surrounding the Rwenzori mountains on the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The expedition team will work with local academics and students to undertake geological mapping, geographical landscape analysis and mineral data collection.

**Abbey Wong (King's College London): 'Cloud water reduction in the Peruvian Andes: Forest ecology'**

In response to the biological importance and lack of understanding of tropical montane cloud forests (TMCF), this team will investigate the relationship between TMCF ecosystems and cloud reduction in the Kosnipata Valley, Peru. Data will be collected from within the world's first cloud-water reduction site. Using weather sensors and other collection methods, this project will investigate the hydrological stores of epiphyte mats and leaves through analysing proportional mass changes, and differences in soil moisture and temperature.

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## ● Recipients 2017

### ● ● ● **‘University of Glasgow Egypt Marine Expedition 2017’** Arabella Borgstein (Glasgow University)

This expedition plans to contribute to conservation efforts in the Red Sea by completing four research projects on the reefs of El Quseir, which will build on previous Glasgow Egypt Marine Expedition work and contribute to our knowledge of marine ecosystems conservation.

### **‘Assessing effectiveness of ‘land-sharing’ conservation strategies in Chocoan Rainforest, Ecuador’** Sylvana Urbina (Sussex University)

This project will assess the conservation success of a sustainable livelihood project in an Ecuadorian biodiversity hotspot. Using the Sustainable Cacao Project as a case study, the team will undertake field biodiversity surveys for multiple taxa across different land uses.

### **‘Cloudforest Conservation Group: Expedition Cloudbridge 2017’** Lucy Wells (Exeter University)

Building on the work of Expedition Cloudbridge 2016, the team aims to discover the most effective method of moth sampling and further the knowledge of the species that are present on the reserve in southeast Costa Rica. Epiphyte and organism interaction will also be studied. Findings will be used to highlight the importance of maintaining the reserve.

### **‘The glacial geomorphology of Skaftafell National Park glaciers, Iceland’** Sasha Charles (Durham University)

This expedition aims to collect geomorphological data from Skaftafell National Park to produce three undergraduate dissertations. The four person team will undertake studies of glacial deposits, debris entrainment and basal ice characteristics of the Svínafellsjökull glacier. Techniques such as field sketching, cross-profiling, sedimentological logging and analysis and ground truthing will be used to achieve the objectives.

### **‘Innovative Processes and Urban Changes in Shanghai’** Jancheng Yang (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This project looks how redevelopment, technological innovation and professional practice are shaping Shanghai’s urban environment. The team will use qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews and surveys, combined with selected quantitative analysis such as socio-economic indexes and transportation usage estimates.

### **‘Economic Geography of Entrepreneurship in Western Nepal’** Manoj Paudel (London School of Economics and Political Science)

After the earthquake of 2015, the government of Nepal has tried to foster economic growth by encouraging entrepreneurship. This project looks at the effectiveness of government programs in stimulating entrepreneurial activity across different geographies and aims to provide insights on the economic geography of entrepreneurship in low-income and less-urbanized countries.

**‘Investigating ecological responses to changing environments, Costa Rica’** Max Henderson (Newcastle University)

The aim of the project is to improve future wildlife management strategies by improving understanding of the wider ecological effects of environmental change on tropical ecosystems, with a focus on vulnerable indicator species.

**‘Project Loholoka 2017’** Thomas Marceau (Exeter University)

Project Loholoka 2017 will study the same humid coastal forest in Madagascar as Expedition Loholoka 2014. This forest in south-east Madagascar currently has no conservation measures in place, although preliminary studies suggested the area is rich in biodiversity. The Project Loholoka 2017 team will be replicating the surveys conducted three years ago to see how the biodiversity of the forest has changed, whilst testing the amphibians surveyed for chytrid fungus. The findings will inform the work of local conservation groups, locals and the Madagascan government of how Loholoka’s ecosystem should be managed.

**‘Interpreting Informal Human Geographies’** Larissa Heinisch (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This project will investigate informality in developing cities, with the objective of tracing top-down and bottom-up urban processes at the intersection of housing (socio-spatial), livelihood (socio-spatial-economic) and resilience (socio-political). Through physical documentation, ethnographic interviews of actors effecting the community and integrative research processes, the project aims to understand and analyse the urbanization impacts of people living in Vila Prudente, an urban community in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**‘Geomorphological processes of a glaciated region, Svalbard’** Holly Chubb (Newcastle University)

The over-arching aim of this project is to understand the geomorphological and glaciological processes operating on land-terminating glaciers in Svalbard. Additional goals include assessing glacial retreat rates, the effect of debris on melt, and the efficiency of the glacial hydrological system. The team will be employing field methods such as measuring water chemistry, taking ablation readings and taking stream velocity measurements. These data sets will then be analysed in laboratories to further understand their significance on the system. The data collected during this expedition is aimed to be used as primary data for our Stage 3 Dissertation at Newcastle University in 2018.

**‘Notice The Nomads’** Anoushka Carter (Exeter University)

Rural poverty triggered by a combination of unemployment, low incomes, desertification, climate change and natural disasters have led to many opting to leave their traditional way of life for urban centres. The implications of these changes have been severely underreported. This research expedition aims to investigate the causes, effects and consequences of rural to urban migration of nomadic pastoralists from



the Mongolian steppe to the so-called 'Ger' district of the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, using a mixed methods approach.

**'Annapurna South Glacier Scientific Expedition'** James Linighan (Newcastle University)

The team plan to conduct research on Annapurna South Glacier (ASG) to evaluate the controls on ice surface melt rates. The evolution and spatial distribution of ice cliffs and melt ponds on the glacier surface will be studied, using high-accuracy dGPS measurements, the Structure from Motion (SfM) technique and radar datasets.

**'Assessing Vulnerabilities, Hazards and Risks in Dominica'** Caroline Yormesor (Portsmouth University)

The aim of this project is to link knowledge to practice by enhancing risk reduction and management in alignment with key focal areas outlined by the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA), Dominica Red Cross and Dominica's Office of Disaster Management. Data on landslide hazards will be collected and risk and hazard maps created.

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## ● Recipients 2016

### ● **'University of Glasgow Iceland Expedition'** Martha Thomson (University of Glasgow)

The purpose of this expedition is to continue with the support provided by University of Glasgow for the development of a Nature and Heritage Centre at Skálanes, Iceland. Ten projects will be developed and delivered by a team of six undergraduates. These range from questionnaires on motivations to take part in ecotourism, to soil sampling to determine the benefits of afforestation as a CO<sub>2</sub> sink.

### ● **'Evaluating the effects of climate change on Svalbard glaciers'** James Linighan (Newcastle University)

The response of four glaciers in Svalbard to climate change will be examined in detail in this project. Data will be collected on the land-terminating glaciers Longyearbreen, Platabreen and Larsbreen, in order to observe the response of melt rates to air temperature, surface debris cover and wind. The calving front of the marine-terminating glacier Tunabreen will be observed over a one month period using time-lapse photography, in order to collect data on iceberg calving. Air and ocean temperatures will be measured to determine their relationship to calving events.

### ● **'Camera trap survey of Semenawi Bahri protected area, Eritrea'** Essayas Abraha (Forestry and Wildlife Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Eritrea)

Semenawi-Dehubawi Bahri tropical woodland is one of the most biodiverse areas in Eritrea, however very little is known about the mammals found in the region. This project aims to study the composition and distribution of the mammalian species by conducting the first camera trap survey of the area, and build local capacity for conservation by training local rangers in camera trap usage and mammal identification. Publication of the results in international scientific journals and relevant national institutions will help raise awareness about Eritrea's biodiversity.

### ● **'Bison Investigation in the Boreal Cordillera'** Fingal Loh (University of Cambridge)

In 1986, 34 wood bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) were re-introduced to Lake Aishihik in the southwest Yukon, Canada. The herd has now grown to about 1,200 (2014 estimate). To examine the impact of bison on successional pathways, this project will assess changes to vegetation in the surrounding region, based upon archived satellite and aerial imagery, and vegetation and scat surveys.

### ● **'A Microbial Safari: Quantifying Bacteriophage Diversity in Tanzania'** Isabel Frost (University of Oxford)

Phages are the viruses specific to bacteria. Though much is known about the diversity of the macro-organisms with which we co-inhabit this planet, as yet, much of the microscopic world remains a mystery. With the exception of Europe and North America, bacteria, and the viruses that prey on them, have not been widely sampled. We wish to obtain such samples from Tanzania, to investigate their potential for fighting

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bacterial infections. These will be made available to other scientists doing similar research, thus broadening our knowledge of tropical phages.

● **'Madagascar Medical Expedition 2016'** Stephen Spencer (East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust)

This expedition will determine the burden of the parasitic disease schistosomiasis in Madagascar. In 2015, a 94% prevalence of Schistosomiasis was found in six schools in the Marolambo district of Madagascar. This expedition will return to the area to investigate the morbidity of Schistosomiasis in in school-aged children, using questionnaires, bedside tests and child development assessments.

● **'Emerging Geographies of Everyday Life in a Changing Urban Context'** Daniela Schofield (London School of Economics and Political Science)

This project seeks to produce an understanding of daily human interactions in a rapidly changing urban space. The team comprises of four students on the MSc Urbanisation and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Department of Geography and Environment. Whilst each member's focus differs, together they shed light on human geographical realities of everyday life in an understudied, yet increasingly influential, city of the Global South: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This study will use mixed qualitative methods ranging from interviews to focus groups. Findings will be disseminated through individual MSc dissertations and a group report.

● **'Mixed-methods evaluation of the 'Socio Bosque' scheme in Ecuador'** Harriet Wilson (King's College London)

This study will analyse the extent to which social and environmental improvements have been made by the Socio Bosque programme within Napo province, Ecuador. The use of a mixed-methods approach, employing contemporary remote sensing and python technology, ecological measurements, and interview techniques will address the three main research objectives: examining the impacts of the Socio Bosque programme on poverty alleviation in the Napo region, the maintenance of carbon sequestration, and catchment water quality within and outside Socio Bosque lands.

● **'The impacts of Fair Trade Town status on craft workers in Bolgatanga, Ghana'** Jake Stenson (University College London)

This project aims to examine how gaining Fair Trade Town status has impacted the livelihoods of craft workers in Bolgatanga and their experiences and opinions of the Fair Trade Towns movement. This will be done by semi-structured interviews and focus groups with local craft workers. Furthermore, semi-structured interviews will be undertaken with other local actors in the Fair Trade Town movement such as workers at NGO TradeAID and local business ministers. Quantitative analysis will also be used to gauge whether Fair Trade Town status has improved incomes or export levels.

● **'Incognita Patagonia: Exploring the Last Patagonian Icefield'** Evan Miles (Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge)

Incognita Patagonia is a project that combines exploration, scientific research, mapping and climbing. It aims to explore the area of the Cloue Icefield on Hoste Island at the tip of South America, and to traverse the icefield, documenting the peninsula's glaciers and geomorphology. The project will develop a freely available high-quality map of the zone based on satellite imagery and field surveys. Finally, the team will take advantage of the journey to the remote Cloue peninsula to check and maintain the meteorological network established by the late Charlie Porter.





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## ● Recipients 2015

### ● **'Andravory Biodiversity Exploration Expedition 2015'** James Sawyer

The Sorata Massif is an unprotected area located in the North of Madagascar. The massif contains an isolated rainforest block (known locally as 'Andravory'). This area contains unique habitats and several unclimbed peaks which remain unexplored. Trekking unsupported, this experienced team of mountaineers and scientists from Madagascar, Philippines and the UK will aim to access on foot and survey this unknown area in order to prove the biological worth of the area.

### ● **'Vulnerable Cities: Disaster Mitigation and Resilience in Urban Philippine Communities'** Justin Cagaoan (King's College London)

The objectives of this project will examine the social aspects that contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR). A summary of the findings and the implications of these will be sent to organisations and in-country team members involved with the research. The research aims to benefit the host country by providing findings that can contribute to DRR policies in the Philippines.

### ● **'Tourism development on the Thai Islands of the Andaman Coast'** Nina Willment (Royal Holloway, University of London)

This project will focus on the role of tourism development on the Thai Islands of the Andaman Coast focusing specifically on the islands of Koh Lanta, Koh Phi Phi and Koh Hae. This project will be extremely beneficial for research within the tourism discourse. It concentrates on a large variety of indicators in relation to tourism development on a tourist route previously understudied in Thailand.

### ● **'The Edge Effect: Mapping the Impact of Forest Fragmentation'** James Borrell (Queen Mary University of London)

This expedition will go to an isolated mountain in Northern Madagascar, known locally as Avatra Dilana Marolambo. This is an area where habitat fragmentation has altered the geography of the landscape by increasing the proportion of 'edge' habitat, potentially altering the species community composition. The project aims to build upon previous research by investigating edge effects in the forest fragments surrounding Avatra Dilana Marolambo, using Malagasy herpetofauna as indicator species.

### ● **'Calculating ablation at ponds on Himalayan debris-covered glaciers'** Cameron Watson (Leeds University)

This project will use remote sensing (RS) and field-based surveying methods to quantify the importance of supraglacial pond development and associated ice cliff melt to the surface water storage budget of a debris-covered glacier. This will inform estimates of future runoff availability and seasonality, and improve understanding of a key debris-covered glacier ablation mechanism. RS investigations will be carried out for

the Everest region of the Himalaya, with field work campaigns focused primarily on the Khumbu Glacier, Nepal.

● **'Interaction between ice loss and glacier hydrology, Russell Glacier, Greenland'** Abbigale Bennett (University of Newcastle)

This project will evaluate the impact of surface roughness on melt rates at Russell Glacier; assess the effect of debris on surface melt rates; investigate the impact of debris cover on the water and sediment flux of supraglacial streams; investigate the characteristics of Russell Glacier's hydrological system using dye tracing; quantify glacier ice loss rates into a proglacial lake and assess the influence of glacier outburst floods on proglacial lake geomorphology using sediment section logging and geomorphological mapping.

● **'Gendered perceptions of agricultural and environmental change, Cordillera Blanca, Peru'** Cecily Church (University of Cambridge)

This team of four Cambridge students are travelling to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru, to investigate inter and intra household – and in particular gender-related – differences in perceptions and knowledge of agriculture and environmental change. The data will be collected over 4 weeks and formatted into a report for the Andean Alliance, a local NGO. The aim is to work in cooperation with the Andean Alliance and the community itself, to inform community discussions on development and environmental concerns.

● **'University of Glasgow Iceland Expedition 2015'** Charli Brzeski (University of Glasgow)

This expedition aims to increase knowledge of the changing biodiversity, ecosystem and culture of Skálanes and to benefit the centre's key principles of education, environmental responsibility and sustainable tourism. The studies carried out aim to assess the extent of human impact on this fragile environment and the contingencies which may need to be implemented in other similar environments. Methods will range from linear transects using GPS and ArcGIS technology, observational counts, water sampling, temperature and humidity measurements and questionnaires/interviews.

● **'Impacts on reefs and ecosystem health in the Red Sea'** Guy Henderson (University of Glasgow)

This 7 week expedition will be an exciting opportunity for both the students and academic advisors involved. This expedition builds on the previous expeditions and expands into new techniques to produce new data. This year, the team have a new study focus of the ecological health of the reef ecosystems and how changes are being shown by organisms across the reef. They will use the time in the field to answer key ecological questions in four main study areas. Specifically, investigating diurnal variation in bold shy behaviour of the freckled Hawkfish; environmental stressors on shoaling behaviour in damselfish; carbon sequestration and calcification rates in coralline algae; and apply biodiversity indices to scleractinian coral cover. They will also continue with public outreach work both at home and in the field with schools and environmental NGO's.

● **'Mainstreaming gender equity into water projects in Syrian refugee host communities in Jordan'** Laura Mapstone-Scott (King's College London)

The purpose of this project is to conduct an integrated gender analysis of water access and management in Syrian refugee host communities (urban Jordanian towns housing a high percentage of refugees) to inform a three-year Oxfam project to rehabilitate WASH infrastructure in the Balqa and Zarqa governorates. The assessment will use ethnographic interviews, focus groups and questionnaires with stakeholders to examine how water is owned, managed and distributed by water users in these areas.



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## ● Recipients 2014

● **Dr Natalya Reznichenko** (Durham University) 'Reinterpreting the palaeogeomorphological record in the Alai Valley, Northern Pamir'

The main purpose of the expedition was to investigate the genesis of landforms of former mountain glaciation and mass movement of the Koman and Achiktash catchments in the Alai Valley, Northern Pamir of Central Asia, in order to identify the past glacial extent, reconstruct its deposition, identify large mass movement deposits and their relation to glacial deposition, and collect samples for dating these landforms (cosmogenic, lichenometry and Schmidt Hammer).

● **Dr Ilya Maclean** (University of Exeter) 'Spatial priorities for papyrus endemic bird conservation'

Papyrus swamps, the most common freshwater wetland in East-central Africa, are under severe threat from drainage, harvesting and habitat degradation. Several bird species are endemic to these wetlands and are among the least adequately protected in the region. The overarching aim of this project was to provide the evidence base that would enable the effective conservation of birds endemic to papyrus swamp. Specific objectives were to (1) repeat a survey carried out 12 years ago, mapping the presence and absence of birds associated with papyrus swamps in SW Uganda; (2) to map the density of birds in a subset of these swamps (3) to quantify the factors that affect bird densities and map densities across the study area; (4) to develop meta-population models to identify (a) critical thresholds of habitat loss beyond which regional extinction is greatly enhanced, and (b) which swamps contribute most to reducing this risk; (5) to work closely with local conservation organisations to ensure that information is used to guide conservation policy and practise.

● **Samuel Crofts and Joseph Cooper** (University of Sussex) 'Habitat use by bats in tropical lowland and mountain forest'

The first objective was to compile species lists for the two reserves visited, (Santa Lucia and Nenquipare). Secondly, the team aimed to build on existing research carried out assessing the effectiveness of bats as indicators of disturbance in primary and secondary forest. In addition to this, we aimed to see the impacts small-scale agriculture has on bat populations. The impact of any disturbance was most likely to be seen on the Phyllostomidae family of bats, the most abundant within forest ecosystems. In terms of sampling the

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project was a success with 16 species found in Santa Lucia and 26 at Nenquipare therefore the reserves are now informed about what species of bat are present.

● **Tesni Woodfall and Rebecca Weighell** (University of Sussex) 'How are women in Bangladesh adapting to Climate Change?'

The purpose of this project was to see how women in Bangladesh are affected by Climate Change, focusing on water and sanitation and migration. Thanks to the active facilitation by Uttaran the team were able to complete the large majority of their research aims. Many more focus groups than expected were carried out, from a wider range of participants from the community. As the research developed and they worked alongside the community, the team members realised a need to slightly alter their research questions to make them more suitable for the research area and participants.

● **Christopher John Thorpe-Dixon** (Plymouth University) 'A comparative biogeographic study of the Sadas, Northern Western Ghats.'

The principal objective was to complete the biological data set for the biogeographical study. As in 2013 an undergraduate student from the UK took part in the fieldwork and encouraged to develop their own network of contacts in India, with shared interests. The Western Ghats are one of the world's three most threatened biodiversity hotspots. The lateritic plateaus are an unknown component in the heterogeneous landscape and may make a considerable contribution to the high levels of endemism in the regional biota. The plateaus are highly stressed and possibly isolated environments leading us to expect their biota to be highly evolved to cope with an environment that ranges from xeric to hydrophilic. To answer the primary question 'are all the plateaus the same'? Three focal taxa were used; amphibians, aquatic coleoptera and ants, to assess the factors regulating the distribution of species.

● **Augusta Thomson** (University of Oxford) 'Evolving Relationships: New Media and Mongolian Women Across the Gobi'

The purpose of this project was to research Mongolian women's' and girls' uses of mobile technologies across the Gobi Desert. Before entering the field the team had planned to use loose surveys and interview questions to gain insight into the pervasiveness of cellphones, radios, televisions, and Internet devices across the Gobi; with the aim of understanding how these new devices might be used by rural herder populations to mobilize against mining companies and become more connected and active in civic engagement. They were also interested in tracing the impacts of new mobile technologies on women's perceptions of self and community. Over the course of five weeks significant data relating to the subject was

collected, and a total of sixty women and girls, from Dornogovi Province to Govi Altai Province, were interviewed. Despite some transportation mishaps the team completed their itinerary, and managed to collect data from across the Gobi Desert, as intended. They have also compiled footage for a documentary film.

● **Natalie Bakker** (King's College London) 'Hydrological and Ecological Impact of Environmental Change at Mangabe, Madagascar'

The expedition to the Mangabe area of Madagascar aimed to investigate environmental land use/land cover changes, and research the influence of this on local hydrology and ecology. This will fill in the gap of environmental knowledge in this area, and can be used to determine optimal management strategies for local communities. Remote sensing and GIS techniques were used to quantify land use/land cover changes, after which an accuracy assessment was carried out in the field. Furthermore, the water budget and leaf area index were studied. A Malagasy student joining the team will tie findings of environmental changes to local ecological changes. The expedition team collaborated with Madagasikara Voakajy, an NGO specialised in biodiversity conservation, as well as receiving help from various universities and the P4GES project.

● **Hannah Smith** (University of Exeter) 'Expedition Loholoka 2014'

This expedition had three main aims; to conduct a full biodiversity survey of the Loholoka forest, understand the needs of the local people and to gain conservation status for the forest. In terms of our biodiversity survey, the team surveyed for amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds, but did not survey for insects due to time restraints and a lack of specialist knowledge. They worked with the local people to understand their needs and requirements from the forest so that a practical action plan could be created. Meetings were held with the leaders from local communities to decide on an action plan for the future, all necessary and important measures were addressed and solutions were established. No scientific research has ever been carried out in this forest before, however reconnaissance trips reported threats to the forest such as charcoal production. The team mapped these threats along with others such as illegal logging, hunting, slash and burn and zebu farming. The forest holds significant species such as the Crested Ibis, White Fronted Brown Lemur and Fish Scale Gecko, these are clear indications that the forest should be considered for future conservation management schemes.

● **Robert Waugh and Nicola Andrews** (University of Glasgow) 'The University of Glasgow River Survey Expedition'

The aim of the Peru expedition 2014 was to accurately map the exact locations and carry out habitat surveys of 4 tributary rivers of the Madre de Dios, which run through the MLC reserve whilst carrying out habitat

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surveys. Using these maps the team studied mammals, aves, lepidoptera and amphibian distribution and abundance throughout the river system as well as recording the movement of carbon throughout the system. The tributaries pass through areas of differing human disturbance history, which will allow analysis of how disturbance affects wildlife and the ecosystem as a whole.

● **Prince Frank** (Queen Mary, University of London) 'Assessing abiotic and biotic responses within a mangrove ecosystem'

This research project comprised three individual dissertation projects that collectively aimed to build a greater understanding of Barbuda's mangrove environment. The three project aims were: 1) to map the spatial distribution of juvenile reef fish within Codrington Lagoon; 2) to assess the health of mangroves by focusing on water quality and carbon storage and comparing the results to international guidelines for mangrove health; and 3) to investigate the water quality and mangrove environment of various sites situated throughout Codrington Lagoon, using ostracod and foraminifera as bio-indicators.

● **Erin Evans** (University of Glasgow) 'University of Glasgow Exploration Society: Iceland Expedition 2014'

This expedition aimed to increase biological and geographical knowledge of this fragile high latitude environment, directly aiding management plans for the Reserve and developing the students' research and fieldwork skills; the various projects complemented each other and developed the students' skills and the Reserve's knowledge of the land which is suffering ecological stresses. The team consisted of six undergraduate students from various disciplines. Spending six weeks in the field over the summer of 2014, they lived and worked together under the 24 hour sunlight. The six research projects undertaken ranged from biological research, considering the relationships and behaviour that ground nesting birds' nests and wood mice have with the invasive lupin, and an entomological project also relating to the colonising plant. An archaeological project considered the material heritage of sites across Skálanes, which will then be compared to Viking sites on Shetland; and finally human and cultural-based geography projects considered the identity of the Icelandic people, specifically focusing on media and linguistic influences and the geographical and political topic of whaling, with the use of a public-perception study. These projects were conducted in co-operation with the staff at Skálanes, and all project aims were successfully completed.

● **Katie Reinhardt** (Oxford Brookes University) 'Effects of climate change on behaviour of *Nycticebus javanicus*'

The purpose of this project was to determine the influence(s) of climate on behaviour and microhabitat use on the Javan slow loris [*Nycticebus javanicus*] in Cipaganti, Java, Indonesia. Working through the Little







series of 17 interviews with the staff of Bujubuli Secondary Vocational School, and representatives from the implementing bodies that deal with education at Kyaka II. Within the field of refugee studies secondary education has often been overlooked in favour of primary education, which is seen as a basic need. This project has fulfilled the aim of addressing the importance of secondary education for refugees; something that is too often neglected. The team were able to effectively conduct an in-depth qualitative case study that gives a real insight into Bujubuli Vocational Secondary School. Particularly, how a secondary education can help the young refugees' academic and psychosocial development, increasing their sense of agency and aspirations.

● **Katherine Collins** (Queen Mary, University of London) 'Historical glacier fluctuations and landscape evolution in the Zemmgrund, Austria'

The aim of this project was to explore how the landscape of a high-mountain valley of Zemmgrund has evolved over the last few centuries, since the maximum extent of the 'Little Ice Age'. Three glaciers, Waxeggkees, Hornkees and Schwarzensteinkees, are located at the head of the valley and have produced spectacular landform-sediment assemblages that have hitherto not been studied in detail. The overall project aimed to elucidate the pattern of historical glacier fluctuations and understand the evolution of this high-alpine landscape. It was achieved through four closely-linked individual research projects that form the bases for undergraduate (BSc) dissertations.

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## ● Recipients 2013

● **Rachel Blow** (Newcastle University and The Centre Ecologique de Libanona). 'Exploration of biodiversity and historic sites, Vohitsiombe Mountain, SE Madagascar'

The mountain of Vohitsiombe in South Eastern Madagascar is special for hosting both threatened endemic wildlife and unique historical and geological sites. The aim of the expedition is to collect data on the biodiversity of the area so that a conservation management plan can be put in place. We will also be collecting data on the ruins of the region's largest Manda Settlement.

● **Ben Toulson** (University of Exeter). 'Expedition Samloem 2013: Exploring Koh Rong Samloem's Hidden Treasures – Cambodia'

The island's dry forests and mangroves are rich in both flora and fauna species. Recent small studies have revealed new species of orchid and a new subspecies of terrapin was discovered earlier this year. Working with a number of groups including Marine Conservation Cambodia, The Seahorse Trust and Koh Rong Samloem Island Resorts Co Ltd the expedition team will perform the first ever thorough terrestrial survey of Koh Rong Samloem, aiming to aid conservation efforts for the island through their findings

● **Lydia Bach and Emily Waddell** (University of Glasgow). 'Glasgow and Suez Canal University Marine Expedition – Egypt'

The project will investigate how coral reefs cope with the effects of climate change and human pressures. The team will compare different Marine Protected Areas with unprotected areas, focusing on main target species. There are two strands of enquiry: to investigate the socio-economic supply chains of the local fisheries, in particular those relating to Bedouin tribes people; to investigate the ability of coralline algae to adapt to more variable environments - these are highly susceptible to climate change and important contributors to reef structure.

● **Anna Bidgood** (University of Oxford). 'Oxford University Geological and Educational Outreach Expedition South-West Greenland'

The expedition is to be undertaken in South West Greenland in a poorly studied, geologically enigmatic area dominated by a 'fossil' magma chamber. The team of four will produce two geological maps and document the geological history of the area using both observation and examination of rocks in the laboratory. The team will document the expedition using a blog and photographs to produce material detailing the geology of the area and the science involved in gathering this information to aid the Education Through Expeditions team in making field science more accessible to schools.





● **Samantha Kendall** (Royal Holloway). 'Water and Livelihoods within the Imlil catchment area, Morocco'

Over the last decade the semi-arid region of Imlil has experienced increased climatic extremes culminating in the driest summer on record in 2012. A reconnaissance trip in August 2012 found that although lengthy droughts were having substantial impacts on the local community subsistence activities, such as farming. However, people were adapting to changes in climate and beginning to innovate with water management. The research will assist the Imlil community in their development of water management strategies in the face of climatic change.

# Geographical Fieldwork Grant

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## ● Recipients 2012

- **Megan Albon** (University of Cambridge). 'Does Participation Safeguard Subsistence? Assessing Participatory Forest Management in Ethiopia'

The project focused on the reasons behind the adoption by decision makers of a participatory approach to forest management and the extent to which participatory discourses and policies translate in to meaningful participation for local forest users.

- **Emily MacDonald and Katie Thomson** (University of Glasgow). 'The University of Glasgow Bolivia Expedition 2012'

The project aimed to create a biogeographical map of The Reserva Barba Azul which plots distribution of biodiversity in relation to key geographical features including habitat boundaries & limits of experimental burn treatment plots.

- **James Sawyer**. 'The Negros Interior Biodiversity Expedition (NIBE) 2012'

The expedition carried out targeted surveys of the understudied faunal and floral groups of the Interior of the North Negros Natural Park.

- **Kenton Rodgers** (University of Cumbria). 'Measuring the Community Benefits of Pristina's Urban Forest, Kosovo'

The project focused on the value, benefits and conservation of trees in an urban and community context, including trees in parks, gardens, streets and all areas where they add value to the locality. There is a historic, biodiversity and cultural value to trees in this context. Trees provide a strong and valued linkage between past, present and future in the urban landscape. The team engaged with the community in the use of the i-Tree Eco (UFORE) model to demonstrate the value of this natural capital to the community, local businesses and policy makers.

- **Eden (Henry) Cottee-Jones** (Oxford University). 'The conservation biogeography of the Moluccan Woodcock and other endemics, Indonesia'

The project team travelled to the island of Obi, Northern Moluccas, Indonesia to assess the conservation status of the Moluccan Woodcock (*Scolopax rochussenii*), a terrestrial shorebird endemic to Wallacea. Despite its distinctive size and appearance, virtually nothing is known about this species, the largest woodcock on earth. Indeed the Moluccan Woodcock is so poorly known that prior to 2010 it had only ever been recorded on eight occasions, the last being in 1982. In March of last year, two roding Moluccan Woodcock were unexpectedly observed in the lowlands of Obi Island. This area is under intensive pressure from mining and logging activities, and it is critical that further field studies follow up on this exciting "rediscovery" to assess the conservation status of the Moluccan Woodcock and develop strategies to ensure its future survival.



● **Heather Griffith** (University of Glasgow). 'University of Glasgow Iceland 2012 Expedition'

An undergraduate research expedition to the Skálanes reserve in Eastern Iceland. The expedition aimed to increase bio-geographical knowledge of this fragile high latitude environment, directly aiding management plans for the reserve.

● **Isabel Reid** (Oxford University). 'Spatial ecology of reptiles in Mahamavo, Madagascar'

The team undertook an integrated study of several facets of the spatial ecology of dry forest reptiles in Madagascar. The undergraduate team from Oxford University worked with Malagasy undergraduates on this project.

● **Alistair Allen** (Glasgow University). 'Glasgow University Peru Expedition'

The expedition aimed to carry out biodiversity inventories in order to assess the relative conservation value of regenerating tropical rainforest compared to undisturbed tropical rainforest in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. Inventory work focused on canopy-dwelling species of birds, mammals, amphibians and butterflies using a combination of ground-based visual encounter surveys and sound recording, camera trapping and canopy access.

● **Hannah Wright** (Durham University). 'The Glacial landsystem at the world's largest sandur system, Iceland'

The team travelled to Iceland to carry out a multifaceted study of the glacial landsystem at Skeiðarárjökull, Southern Iceland. The team worked on Skeiðarársandur, the largest sandur system in the world, an active system, which has experienced surging in 1991 and a jökulhlaup flood in 1996. The four individual projects, which account for each team members dissertation research, piece together the glacial landsystem to infer which processes have played a major role in the evolution of this system.

● **Christopher Knight** (University of Portsmouth). 'Living with typhoons: disaster management in rural Taiwan'


The project examined the likely impacts of typhoons on rural communities in mountainous southern Taiwan, to assess the effectiveness of associated disaster preparedness and crisis response measures.

● **Augusta Thomson** (Oxford University). 'Pilgrimage as Medium of Exchange: The Material Culture of Kailash, Tibet'

The anthropological research project and expedition involved a journey from Nepal to Tibet to partake in the pilgrimage, or Kora, around Mount Kailash (Mount Meru) in Tibet, considered to be the most sacred site in the world in Tibetan Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, and Bon faith traditions. The principle research focus was to document the material culture of pilgrimage from a Tibetan Buddhist perspective and to investigate how the Kora unites pilgrims from diverse cultural backgrounds and faiths in a complex material culture exchange.

● **Frazer Sinclair**. 'Green Diamond of Sierra Leone'

The Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) in eastern Sierra Leone is a global biodiversity hotspot, supporting healthy populations of many internationally threatened animal species. The project aimed to build the capacity of forest rangers to effectively patrol the park by providing training on map, compass, and GPS reading and establish a system of ranger based data collection to generate standardised, quantitative,



unbiased information on the distribution of illegal activity and focal animal species within the Park. A database shall be constructed for the storage, analysis, and dissemination of field data, with the assistance of the GRNP's GIS and data officer. Information outputs from this database shall allow park managers to monitor threats, assess the success of management strategies, and allocate resources effectively.

● **Volcanofiles** (University of Cambridge). 'Multiparameter volcano monitoring campaign at Villarrica, Chile'

This project builds upon the 2011 field campaign where the team successfully deployed an array of gas monitoring instruments at the Chilean volcanoes Lascar, Villarrica and Puyehue. During this campaign they established a partnership with the regional observatory, Observatorio Volcanológico de los Andes del Sur (OVDAS). Villarrica volcano is currently monitored by OVDAS with a real-time seismic amplitude measurement system. However, no gas monitoring stations are in place resulting in a large gap in the monitoring programme which therefore limits the information available for hazard assessment and eruption forecasting. The 2013 fieldwork strengthened collaboration with OVDAS through a joint exercise in local capacity building and exchange of expertise to foster the potential for long-term research opportunities benefiting both organisations.

# Geographical Fieldwork Grant

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## ● Recipients 2011

● **Stefan Lachowycz** (Oxford University). *Late Quaternary volcanism and climate of southern Patagonia – Argentina*

The Austral Volcanic Zone of Southern Patagonia produces large explosive eruptions with regional impacts. The project sought to reconstruct the past 20,000 years of volcanic history of the region. By comparing eruption history to palaeoclimate records and analysis of glaciovolcanic deposits, the team aimed to understand how ice volume change has influenced the rate and style of volcanic activity.

● **Kelby Hicks** (University of Cambridge). *Field Measurements of Active Volcanoes in the Southern Chilean Andes*

Volcanic monitoring techniques were carried out at three active volcanoes in the Southern Chilean Andes. The data collected characterised the activity at the three volcanoes, providing the basis for a valuable comparative study. The project also incorporated past datasets.

● **Elsbeth Robertson** (University of Bristol). *Understanding the science and risk of volcanism in Kenya*

Volcanic deformation in four of Kenya's Rift volcanoes could pose a threat to the population. The team sought to find out which processes are causing the deformation, with an aim to aid future volcanic risk assessments and hazard mitigation.

● **Thomas Doherty-Bone** (Natural History Museum). *Amphibians of Mamfe revisited: following up Sanderson's 1933 expedition*

Mamfe in Cameroon, Central Africa, has a time series of Amphibian data extending from the 1930's to the 1970's when Sanderson made his expedition to the then British Cameroons. In the wake to the amphibian decline crisis, the team sought to resample those localities for the 21st century, in order to rediscover the endemic caecilian *Idiocranium russeli*, discovered in Mamfe by Sanderson, and unseen since.

● **Lauren Evans** (University of Cambridge). *Barriers for conservation? Elephants, people and electrified fences – Kenya*

In African human occupied landscapes, electrified fences are constructed to prevent human-wildlife conflict, and prevent crop-raiding. This project aimed to provide a better understanding of the use, effectiveness and impacts of electrified wildlife fences from ecological, social and political perspectives.

● **Craig Turner** (Zoological Society of London). *Saving the Pygmy Sloth from Extinction*

The critically endangered pygmy sloth is geographically restricted to Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Panama. This project sought to create baseline data for the declining population





Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in water services raised numerous concerns and social agitation in Latin America, but there is scant literature on the re-publicised post-PPP governance. The project aimed to fill the gap, focusing on the Argentine case, testing the efficiency of the new water service through quantitative performance indicators (related to the Dutch and Swedish water governance experience) and qualitative interviews with key operators and consumers. The team questioned the influence of the conception of water as a human right on the new governance model.

● **David Lewis** (Oxford University). *Wilfred Thesiger and the C21st Danakil Desert*

This project retraced a section of Thesiger's 1933-34 journey down the course of the Awash River in Ethiopia. The team explored the role played by mobile pastoralism in shaping a Danakil tribe's everyday life.

● **Cor Marijs** (Oxford University). *Oxford University Expedition to Karnataka, India*

The project investigated the complex relationships between development and the environment in Karnataka.

● **Lin Yang** (Oxford University). *Assessing human drivers of Chinese energy use and policy*

The team conducted an analysis of the government, households, corporate and non-profit sectors to assess how their interactions shape policy making and implementation.

● **Thomas Stevenson** (Oxford University). *Law and Language in the Absence of the State*

The project documents the traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution employed by semi-stateless "Hill Tribes" in lieu of formal criminal justice in Thailand.

● **Olly Parsons** (Royal Holloway University of London). *Mapping Ugunja: Community mapping and its uses in rural Kenya*

Working in partnership with the Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC) the team aimed to evaluate how interactive and community mapping can be used to enhance rural development in and around Ugunja, western Kenya.

● **Rosa Goodman** (University of Leeds). *Total forest carbon stocks in three western Amazonian forest types*

The team carried out comprehensive inventories in three forest types – open, bamboo-dominated; closed, mature; and early successional - in the western, Peruvian Amazon to determine total forest biomass

● **Lydia Bach** (University of Glasgow). *Systematic ecological surveys of the Barba Azul Reserve, Bolivia*

The project monitored the effects on habitat and biodiversity of new land management practices

● **Emily Waddell** (University of Glasgow). *Biodiversity inventories to assess the value for conservation of regenerating compared to primary tropical rainforest in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru*

The project team carried out biodiversity inventories to assess the value for conservation of regenerating compared to primary tropical rainforest in the Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. Inventory work focused on birds, mammals and amphibians in combination with a basic botanical survey to quantify differences in forest structure.

● **Lauren Nadler** (University of Glasgow). *Impact of marine protected areas on South Sinai coral reefs*

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The project examined the differences in coral reef health and species diversity between coral reefs with different management policies on the Red Sea coast of South Sinai, Egypt

● **Shinta Puspitasari** (University College London). *Ecological resilience of beetle diversity in tropical islands in the face of human activities: A case study from Thousand Islands Marine National Park, Indonesia*

The Thousand Island Marine National Park (TIMNP) represents islands varying in landuse and anthropogenic disturbance levels. Pitfall and flight interception traps were used on 10 islands to sample beetle assemblages, analysing the influence of anthropogenic disturbance, island size and isolation on diversity and composition of beetles. Environmental parameters (temperature, humidity and vegetation) were also recorded to analyse links between these factors and beetle species compositions.

● **Ninette Rowland** (University of Edinburgh). *Project Kobokara, Madagascar 201*

The project studied the herpetofauna, the critically endangered astrochelys radiata populations, the associated vegetation, livestock management and the levels of human disturbance in Kobokara

● **Camilla Gallagher** (University of Aberdeen). *After logging in a Bolivian forest: how some species respond*

The project sought to compare equivalent areas of logged and unlogged forest. Four individual projects, each carried out by one team member, focussed on a particular species.

## Other Projects supported by the Society

● **Paul Hart** (British Armed Forces). *British Services Antarctic Expedition 2012*

The team explored remote areas of the Antarctic Peninsula, seeking to further the bounds of human exploration and knowledge

● **Low Toulmin**. *Search for 'White Hall': Plantation of Revolutionary General Andrew Williamson*

This project sought to document and investigate the archaeology, history and geography of the site of 'White Hall', the plantation of General Andrew Williamson (c. 1730-1786), near Greenwood, South Carolina, USA. This site was tentatively identified in a 1978 archaeological survey, but had received no historical research, mapping or excavation. The project aimed to confirm that this is indeed the correct site of the 'White Hall' plantation.

● **Marie Hamard** (Oxford Brookes University). *Barito River Initiative for Nature Conservation and Communities (BRINCC Expedition)*

The BRINCC Expedition was a pilot project to study the threatened forest ecosystems lining the Murung River in the Northern part of Central Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo

● **Peter Coals** (Oxford University). *Investigation of a potentially new giant sengi (Rhynchocyon) from Northern Mozambique 2011*

The project team collected voucher specimens of a giant Elephant-Shrew or Sengi (Rhynchocyon) in order to describe what could be a new species

# Geographical Fieldwork Grant recipients

## ● 2010

- **Matilda Biddulph** (University of Durham). Glacier on a volcano, Durham University 2010 - Iceland
- **Rupert Bainbridge** (University of Newcastle). Icelandic Jökulhlaup Project 2010
- **Dr. Katie Szkornik** (Keele University). Holocene sea-level change in the Dyfi estuary, west Wales, UK
- **Jack Hawkins** (Queen Mary University of London). The effect of climate change on glacier margins in Svalbard- Norway
- **Ricky Stevens** (Queen Mary University of London). Dynamics of a marginal glacier in an actively volcanic region - Iceland
- **Peter Forman** (University of Durham). Approaching future development issues in South Africa
- **Stephen Woroniecki** (University of Edinburgh). The effects of changing climate for rural Andean communities – Peru
- **Heather Kingsley** (University College London). Potential for a conservation-based economic future in Yichun, Manchuria – China
- **Gemma Nicholas** (University of Nottingham). Working in Tandem Research Team – Tanzania
- **Mihran Vandanyan** (Oxford University). Oxford University Expedition to Qarahunge – Armenia
- **Toby Nowlan** (University of Edinburgh). Expedition Vaquita 2010 – USA, Mexico
- **Olivia Morton** (University of Brighton). Spiny Forest Expedition 2010 – Madagascar
- **Frazer Sinclair** (University of Edinburgh). Borneo Gallwasp Project 2010
- **Andrew Griffiths** (University of St. Andrews). Kazakhstan vulture survey expedition 2010
- **Ninette Rowland** (University of Edinburgh). Project Angavo, Mandrare Valley, Southeast Madagascar. Edinburgh University 2010
- **Emma Stoye** (Oxford University). Climate Change Adaptation for Agroforestry Systems in the Peruvian Amazon
- **Peter Coals** (Oxford University). Ecological baseline survey and training local conservation workers – Mozambique

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- **Joanne Kingsbury** (University). University of Glasgow, Exploration Society, Bolivia Expedition 2010
  - **Simon Maddock** (University of Bangor). The Herpetofauna of the unstudied canopies of New Guinea
  - **Paul Davison** (University of Bangor). Does Anuran species richness change across a tropical forest edge? – India
  - **Merja Helve** (University of Aberdeen). Manu Expedition: symbiosis, behavioural responses and plant adaptations – Peru
  - **Jamie Radford** (University of Cambridge). University of Cambridge Lepidoptery Expedition to Ecuador 2010
  - **Joanna Wawrzyczek** (University of Aberdeen) Comparison of the abundance of *Apodemus gurkha*. between natural habitats and areas under human influences – Nepal
  - **Lisa Becker** (University of Aberdeen). Conservation Impacts on Mangrove Forests in Alkan, Philippines
  - **Sarah Thompson** (University of Swansea). Geophysical assessment of hydrological processes and their role in glacial outburst floods