

MISS KATIE SPENCER

PhD Biodiversity Management, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE),
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EDUCATION

University of Kent - September 2019 – March 2023

PhD Biodiversity Management

- **Thesis title:** *“Determining the relative threats of exploitation and environmental change to Bornean mammalian megafauna: with a focus on the Bornean sun bear”*
- **Supervisors:** Dr M Struebig, Dr T Humle and Dr S Cheyne

Nottingham Trent University - September 2015- September 2016

MSc Endangered Species Recovery and Conservation (Distinction)

- Modules include: Species Recovery Methods & Techniques, Conservation Priorities, Captive Breeding & Husbandry, Conservation Genetics, Statistics and GIS.
- Dissertation title *“Investigating the impact of livestock guarding dogs on predator and prey abundance on rural farmland in South Africa”*

University of Liverpool - September 2011- July 2014

BSc (Hons) Zoology 1st Class

- Optional modules undertaken in 3rd year: Conservation Biology, Animal Behaviour, Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease & Comparative Physiology

Kingsley College - 2006 – 2011

A-levels

Biology A*, Business Studies A, Chemistry C

GCSE's

13 – (4 A*s, 4As, 3Bs & 2C)

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

University of Kent (Canterbury, UK)

Postgraduate Outreach Ambassador – November 2019 – Present

I act as a representative for the university to deliver a variety of activities and taught sessions to school students, encouraging them to consider higher education and subjects not in the curriculum.

Operation Wallacea (Honduras, Mexico, Indonesia)

Megafauna scientist – June – August 2017, 2018 and 2019

I was responsible for leading daily megafauna surveys (signs and direct observations) and camera-trap surveys to collect data on mammal abundance and distribution during three field seasons with Operation Wallacea. My role involved leading groups of school and university students in the field, data entry and management, delivering lectures, and logistical support in remote field locations. Additionally, I have gained experience with other taxa including assisting bird, bat, small mammal and herpetofauna surveys.

Nottingham Trent University (NTU)

Graduate intern / Research assistant – January 2017 – February 2017

The aim was to publish a scientific paper (focusing on human-carnivore conflict) with the data collected for my master's thesis. In addition to re-analysing my data and producing a manuscript, I also gained teaching experience to undergraduate students.

RELEVANT CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Great crested newt and reptile survey assistant, University of Kent – November 2019- March 2020

I assisted a long-term monitoring project of newt populations, including identifying individuals and taking biometric data. I also assisted on several reptile surveys which involved recording species and habitat management.

Postgraduate Research Project, Mogalakwena Research Centre, Limpopo, South Africa - 17th May – 11th August 2016

I spent three months in rural South Africa collecting data for my master's thesis. I investigated the impact of livestock guarding dogs on predator ecology, in collaboration with Cheetah Outreach. I used non-invasive methods (camera-trapping and spoor identification) to estimate the occupancy of carnivores on farmland including leopard, cheetah, brown hyena, jackals and caracals.

Postgraduate volunteer project, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK - January – February 2016

Team Leader of volunteer project "Conservation of Planet Earth", which was organized by Nottingham Trent University. This project aimed to teach underprivileged school children about the environment, wildlife and conservation. I was responsible for preparing classroom content and activities, delivering lessons managing a small team of volunteers.

Research Assistant Volunteer, Wildlife Sense, Kefalonia, Greece - July 2015 (2 weeks)

I assisted with the location and protection of turtle nests; including taking various necessary scientific measurements and assessing for possible relocation. I also performed behavioural surveys on harbor turtles and night-time emergence watches which involved tagging female turtles that emerged out of the sea. I also engaged with the public daily to discuss the work we were doing.

Various field trips as part of Undergraduate degree - 2011-2014

I participated in three field trips during my undergraduate degree - one being a three-week tropical ecology field course at Kibale National Park in Uganda where I gained my first field work experience and understanding of human-wildlife conflict.

SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES

- Extensive experience conducting camera-trap surveys and other field techniques including: mist netting techniques (birds and bats), small mammal trapping, radio-tracking and spoor identification. Gained through conducting my own MSc research and assisting conservation expeditions across the world.
- Over 12 month's field experience in remote locations; 9 of which in tropical environments.
- Teaching experience from primary school to postgraduate level
- Scientific communication skills - including oral presentations, scientific reports and social media
- Experience with statistical programmes including R and SPSS
- Experience with Geographic Information Systems (ArcMap).

PUBLICATIONS

Spencer, K., Sambrook, M., Bremner-Harrison, S., Cilliers, D., Yarnell, R.W., Brummer, R. and Whitehouse-Tedd, K., 2020. Livestock guarding dogs enable human-carnivore coexistence: First

evidence of equivalent carnivore occupancy on guarded and unguarded farms. *Biological Conservation*, 241, p.108256.

AWARDS

Grants:

- ARIES NERC DTP - £15,009 per annum + university fees

Talks and posters:

- Highly commended poster prize at the British Ecological Society Festival of Ecology: "The bear necessities in Borneo – determining threats to sun bears in Kalimantan" – December 2020

TALKS AND POSTERS

- Talk at the Student Futures and Research conference: "My PhD Experience"(March 2021)
- Poster at the British Ecological Society Festival of Ecology: "The bear necessities in Borneo – determining threats to sun bears in Kalimantan" (December 2020)

REFERENCES

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