

Geographical Fieldwork Grant

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Geographical
Society
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Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● 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.



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.