

British Airways Travel Bursary Recipients

Royal
Geographical
Society

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Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Year: 2007

Principal Investigator: Flavie Vial, University of Glasgow

Project Title: Quantifying the impact of livestock grazing on vegetation and rodents in Bale Mountain National Park, Ethiopia

Abstract: The Bale Mountains contain the largest extent of Afro-alpine habitat in Africa including the continent's most extensive pocket of Afro-alpine grassland, which is essential habitat for the rarest canid species, the Ethiopian wolf. Over the last 20 years pasture depletion at lower altitudes has resulted in the park itself being used to graze increasingly high numbers of livestock, posing a threat to the persistence of the Ethiopian wolf population. Overgrazing also poses another ecological threat to the area. Bale Mountains National Park is the source of water for five major rivers on which an estimated 12 million people depend. This project aims to establish critical links between vegetation condition, livestock grazing pressures and rodent diversity in the park through field investigations and through the construction of exclosures in which livestock grazing is excluded. Establishing exclosures is an investment that will exceed the duration of the project and will provide the park with important infrastructure to support the development of future natural resource management. The project also is also working closely with local communities and NGOs to gain better understanding of the spatial and temporal patterns of natural resources use as well as the seasonal movements of pastoralists and livestock in the region.

Year: 2007

Principal Investigator: George Owoyesigire, Oxford Brookes University

Project Title: Assessing the interaction between habituated chimpanzees and local people around Kibale National Park, Uganda

Abstract: Tourist destinations that offer viewing of endangered wildlife, such as the mountain gorilla and the eastern robust chimpanzee have generated substantial revenue for Uganda. To date however, there has not been any comprehensive study to evaluate the implications of habituating large bodied and potentially dangerous animals like chimpanzees, especially their interaction with local people who live within and outside the protected areas. Kibale forest is located in Western Uganda and covers an area of 796 km² (UWA 2003). It is a medium altitude tropical moist evergreen forest, with the highest density and diversity of primates in Africa (Struhsaker 1997). The forest is surrounded by local people who are mainly agriculturalists (Purna et al. 2004). The overall goal of this study was to assess the interaction between local people and habituated chimpanzees around Kibale National Park. The primary objectives were: 1) To assess the level of human-chimpanzee interaction (cause and nature of conflicts); 2) To examine the extent of support for chimpanzee conservation amongst local people; 3) To assess awareness levels of chimpanzee habituation activities within the park (amongst local people, leaders and civil servants); 4) To suggest ways in which human-chimpanzee conflicts could be minimized (if any); and 5) To draw up appropriate recommendations for future planning for primate habituation, development of tourism and educational programmes.

Year: 2007

Principal Investigator: Mai Strunge-Nielsen, University of Oxford

Project Title: The role wealth and taste preference plays in bushmeat hunting around Marojejy National Park, Madagascar

Abstract: In order to evaluate the level of hunting and consumption of bushmeat and reasons for participation in such, structured interviews took place in 15 villages within a 10km

zone of Marojejy National Park, North East Madagascar. Hunting was found to take place on a considerable scale with 31.8% of respondents admitting to hunting by members of their household. Participation in hunting was found not to be influenced by wealth, neither was it influenced by the number of members in households or the number of months a household experience food scarcity. Taste preference was found to have little influence on the consumption of wild meat and showed no influence on participation in hunting. Results suggest that hunting of wild meat in this region primarily is based on opportunity, rather than necessity. There are indications however that hunting of lemur takes place in a somewhat organised fashion. Further studies are needed in order to determine the exact influence of opportunity on hunting behaviour. In addition, motivations for hunting of individual species needs to be establish, as each reason calls for a different solution.

Year: 2006

Principal Investigator: Shova Thapa, University of Sussex

Project Title: Benefits of nature conservation: implications of economic instruments to reduce human-wildlife conflict and the role of institutions in providing social-ecological resilience: A case study from Royal Bardia National Park, Nepal.

Abstract: Part of a wider project, this research aimed to find out the impacts of incentive measures and management approaches used to resolve park-people conflict and to explore innovative and management strategies for resource conservation. The specific aims of the research were: 1) To verify and improve the knowledge of the community behavior of resource exploitation (exploration of the cases when communities are motivated towards extraction as well as the causes which initiate the conflict); and 2) To initiate collective leaning of stakeholders (communities, park managers, INGOs and NGOs managers) on system components and dynamic processes with respect to the social-ecological system of Royal Bardia National Park.

Year: 2006

Principal Investigator: Gabriel Eshun, University of Leicester

Project Title: Ecotourism, post colonialism and natural resource management in Ghana

Abstract: This research aimed to explore the interrelationship between Ghana's signatory to the international convention(s) on biodiversity and how that has resulted in new and modified policies, prompting community based ecotourism development initiatives (CBE) for the conservation of the country's biodiversity and for the development of its rural communities. Also the research investigated the effects (environmental/conservation, socio-cultural, and economic) of ecotourism development on Kakum National Park in Ghana, and explored issues of community participation and conflict resolution.

Year: 2006

Principal Investigator: Padma Marepalli Rohilla, Queen's University Belfast

Project Title: Conservation and redevelopment of colonial heritage in Delhi and Pondicherry

Abstract: The research aimed to test the applicability of a value-based, stakeholder participatory approach to conservation and redevelopment of colonial built heritage in Delhi and Pondicherry.

Year: 2006

Principal Investigator: Michael O'Regan, University of Brighton

Project Title: ICT and the independent traveler: mobility and connections

Abstract: The aim of this research was to examine how, to whom and why independent travellers or "backpackers" communicate their mobility thus enabling a greater understanding of the uses people make of new and emerging information communications technology (ICT) and their effects on the traveller and the travel experience.

Year: 2005

Principal Investigator: Kathryn Cavanaugh Tanner, Cambridge University

Project Title: From Tanzanian shores to Hindu temples: what is the meaning, value and demand for Tanzanian seashells in India?

Abstract: This study focused on the socio-economic and global dimensions of trade issues related to Tanzanian seashells in India. In contrast to most commodity chain studies, the seashell trade of Tanzania feeds the demands of the Indian economy, as opposed to a North American or European market. Through an examination of networks and economic exchange, the seashell trade was followed from the coral reef systems of Tanzania to the markets of India

Year: 2005

Principal Investigator: Pamela Richardson

Project Title: Linking tourism, gender and agriculture in Barbados: a policy approach to intersectoral linkages

Abstract: The research investigated the gender patterns of local agriculture and the supply chains that provide the tourist industry with agricultural products. Agriculture in Barbados is predominantly female, whereas the hotel supply chains are traditionally male dominated. The research attempted to find ways to better integrate female farmers into the supply and marketing chains and promote fairer incorporation of females in tourism food supply networks through policy change.

Year: 2004

Principal Investigator: Rachel Dodds, University of Surrey

Project Title: Sustainable tourism in Malta and Mallorca

Abstract: As mass tourism is the main form of tourism, there is a need to identify why more environmental and social measures are not being undertaken to address the impacts from the international tourist movements which take place between industrialised countries. The aim of this research was to determine if 15 years after academics, government and industry have subscribed to the notions of sustainability, it is being achieved in practice and if not, what are the reasons for such a failure of policy implementation and what are the potential mitigating strategies to overcome these implications and problems in the future.

Year: 2004

Principal Investigator: Louisa Ponnampalam, University College London

Project Title: Spinner dolphins Sha'ab Samadai Reef, Egyptian Red Sea

Abstract: In light of Egypt's concern to protect its wildlife resources and of the potential value of dolphins to the Egyptian tourism industry, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) supported this study to undertake a detailed study on the ecology and behavior of spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) at Sha'ab Samadi Reef, with an emphasis placed on the potential impacts of dolphin tourism on this population. The results helped to facilitate conservation and management efforts to ensure its survival, thus supporting the sustainable development of the dolphin-watching tourism industry in Egypt.

Year: 2004

Principal Investigator: Kathryn Cavanaugh Tanner, Cambridge University

Project Title: The marine shell trade of Tanzania: sustainable tourism or biological disaster?

Abstract: This project investigated marine shells, which have been widely traded with and exported from Tanzania for 100's of years. Historically, these shells have been used as currency, as sacred objects during rituals, and as decorative possessions. Today, they are primarily harvested in order to sell to tourists. The marine shell trade contributes to two problems: (1) the biological decline of key predatory species for coral reef health, and (2) the disparity in economic gains between the resource collectors and the ultimate buyer. This project conducted surveys of tourists, markets, and villages to examine the sustainability of the marine shell trade tourism industry. Field sites included Dar es Salaam, Bagamoyo, Kilwa, Mafia Island and Pemba Island, chosen for their crucial roles in both tourism and marine shell trade industries.

Year: 2003

Principal Investigator: Jan Mosedale, University of Exeter

Project Title: Transnational tourism corporations (TNCs) and the globalization of tourism: a Caribbean case-study

Abstract: The objectives of this research was to: 1) develop an understanding of the economic globalisation of tourism, with special emphasis on TNCs; 2) analyse socio-spatial practices and strategies of TNCs incorporating an examination of the spatial structure of inter-and extra-firm networks; 3) assess the embeddedness of TNCs within the cultural, political and structural fabric of St Lucia; and 4) evaluate the capacity of the St Lucian government to regulate TNC economic activity, with special emphasis on sustainable development.

Year: 2003

Principal Investigator: Stephen Simpson, University of York

Project Title: 'Sea and learn on Saba' - developing eco-tourism through practice

Abstract: This project aimed to report and develop eco-tourism through an event, 'Sea and Learn on Saba', in Saba, Lesser Antilles, Caribbean. Through participation as a guest lecturer at the Saba event, the P.I. was able to observe the eco-system industry in practice. The aims of the research were to: 1.) study the coordination of the event by observation; 2.) to use interviews and questionnaires to determine the opinions on ecotourism of the many interest groups; 3.) to analyse the responses; and 4.) to produce a report on the current status of ecotourism using the Sea and Learning on Saba event and Saba as case studies. The project also aimed to develop and report a model of ecotourism event organisation for future planners.

Year: 2003

Principal Investigator: Amanda Webber, Oxford Brookes University

Project Title: Ape tourism in Budongo Forest Reserve

Abstract: Ape tourism has the potential to both achieve conservation and generate income for local communities. However, conflict between local people and internationally protected wildlife threatens to undermine the success of potential sustainable tourism initiatives. Perhaps the most common, global and ancient example of this human-wildlife conflict is crop raiding. This project aimed to investigate the development of acceptable and effective conflict mitigation strategies for a range of primate species, including Chimpanzees. This project: 1)

Used GIS technology to develop predictive tools for identifying the actual risk of crop raiding; 2) Examined factors that determine farmers' perceptions of the risk of crop damage and their understanding/expectations with regards to intervention strategies; 3) Developed investigative tools for use at other sites, and to assist wildlife authorities and local people to progress towards the development/ implementation of intervention strategies; and 4) Evaluated the effectiveness of different conflict mitigation developments e.g. live traps and buffer crops.

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Year: 2003

Principal Investigator: Maharaj Vijay Reddy, University of Exeter

Project Title: Culture and ecosystems in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Abstract: This project aimed to explore ways in which sustainable ecotourism both challenges and sustains cultural and eco-systems in the Andaman and Nicobar Island. In particular it focused on the immediate challenges facing community based sustainable tourism development. These challenges were identified through expert interviews, a review of earlier research works and personal observation, set in context of the considerable debates on ecotourism, sustainable tourism, and conservation. The project also aimed to test the Local Sustainability Indicators designed for the Andaman and Nicobar settlements, to measure the indicators and to carry on monitoring.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Leyla Knittweis, University of Newcastle

Project Title: Towards sustainable development of international tourism in the Andaman islands

Abstract: The islands of the Andaman archipelago are a popular destination for domestic tourists and some international tourists. The aim of this project was to develop a tourism management plan for the Andaman Islands, to assist with the development of a sustainable tourism industry. The project was undertaken in close collaboration with the Institute of Ocean Management based in Chennai, where a group of scientists developed an integrated coastal zone management plan for the Andaman Islands on behalf of the Indian government.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Richard Yarnell, University of Brighton

Project Title: Fire as a management tool

Abstract: This research project investigated the timing, extent and patchiness of burning to aid savannah management. Field work was conducted at Mankwe game reserve, with findings applicable to other game parks and reserves in Southern Africa. The aim of the project was to provide information to allow burning to be applied in a sustainable way to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, where the results will benefit tourism and wildlife conservation. Fire, as a management tool, is also an example of human-induced spatial and temporal habitat modification and provides a means to investigate community responses to environmental change.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Amita Vaux, King's College London

Project Title: Assessment of 'ecotourism' in Gujarat

Abstract: This study analysed how the 'ecotourism' label is being used and perceived in Gujarat and the environmental and social implications of existing initiatives. Intensive case studies of tourism ventures including an analysis of Nal Sarovar bird sanctuary were

conducted to assess how conflicting ecotourism issues have been resolved. To promote external organisations such as governments, NGOs and corporations as facilitators of initial grassroots proposals, the project also assessed a community-based tourism scheme looking critically at other agencies involved and their influences upon the initiative.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Tyler, University of Oxford

Project Title: The contribution of marine parks and marine protected areas to local fisheries

Abstract: This research investigated the extent to which marine parks enhance local fisheries. The study measured the dispersal of commercially important reef fish between Chumbe Island Coral Park and adjacent fished reefs. Dispersal was measured by tagging fish to record their movements. This approach was new in Zanzibar. Local communities were involved in the research, though holding meetings, conducting interviews with fishermen and having a fish tag return reward system.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Allison Phillips, Oxford Brookes University

Project Title: An investigation of the factors impacting on habituation levels of Chimpanzees in the Budongo forest, Uganda

Abstract: The chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) has been classified as Endangered by the IUCN. Research sites aim to effectively 'guard' chimpanzees with the almost constant human presence. This study asked a series of research questions with the aim of gaining an understanding of what factors impacted most strongly on habituation levels. It also focused on the effect that habituation has on chimpanzee behavior such as number of glances given towards the observer and distance maintained. The results of the study were used to discuss the broader issue of using habituation for eco-tourism as a conservation tool, bringing in such factors as disease risk to chimpanzees from humans, and stress levels.

Year: 2002

Principal Investigator: Esther Bertram, Royal Holloway University

Project Title: Survey of shipborne tourism in polar and sub polar regions

Abstract: This research surveyed shipborne tourism in polar and sub Polar Regions. This survey contributed to a study of current management objectives at tourist landing sites that are required but not yet developed. The project analysed the way governments manage growing tourist numbers and assessed best practice with possible application for the Antarctic and South Georgia. Also, this project explored the expectations and desires of the passengers aboard the ship and interviewed key stakeholders on the Islands visited.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Andrea Colantonio, Royal Holloway University of London

Project Title: Foreign tourist investment, environment and social responsibility in the urban Caribbean: Havana in the special period (from 1989 to present)

Abstract: This project investigated the nature of the potential contribution of foreign investors' activities in the tourist sector to the environmental management and socio-economic improvement of Havana's assets and Cuba as a whole. The hypothesis was that the attraction of foreign tourist investment and public-private partnerships with foreign capital have become a top-priority policy objective in Cuba. There are aims at ensuring social stability while enhancing the country's environmental and socio-economic assets. This study

tested theoretical propositions that call for a greater financial and technical contribution of foreign investors for environmental improvements and social regeneration in Havana.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Simon Jackson, University of Newcastle

Project Title: Relating a calculated wave exposure index and current speed to coral reef assemblages in order to detect impacted reefs

Abstract: This project evaluated equations to calculate a wave exposure index and tidal current speed that use easily acquired data for the purpose of predicting what the composition of the coral reef benthos should be for monitoring purposes. This investigation compared three estimates of wave exposure with community structure data collected in Thailand and the Caribbean from line intercept transects. Comparison was by multivariate statistics. The main objectives were; 1) to develop the equation for the wave exposure index to account for the decrease in wave energy with depth; 2) review equations for predicting tidal currents and see if applicable; 3) carry out fieldwork and data analysis to test if these factors can be used to predict the composition of coral reef benthos and; 4) confirm suitability to use the equations in different parts of the world by comparing with data already collected at Mu Koh Surin, Thailand.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Akbar Keshodkar, Oxford University

Project Title: Re-defining Islam: negotiating the conception and practice of Islam in Zanzibar

Abstract: This project investigated how the practice and conception of Islam in Zanzibar is changing in the presence of contemporary travel discourse. The focus was the effects of the presence of foreign travelers on the contemporary social and cultural development in Zanzibar, within different social and economic categories and at different levels in society (e.g. the religious level, the level of secular education, and amongst kinship and gender relations on the Island). The project also examined how the presence of these tourists leads to the commodification of local values and people in Zanzibar.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Mauricio Talebi Gomes, University of Cambridge

Project Title: Food and digestive efficiency of Woolly Spider Monkey: a comparative analysis between natural environment and captivity

Abstract: The objectives of this study were to assess the physicochemical properties of natural diet, feeding ecology, food selection and socio-ecology of wild southern muriquis (monkeys endemic to Brazil), and comparatively examine the relationship between body size, nutritional composition of diet (physicochemical analysis), passage rate of digestion, digestive efficiency and energetics of captive muriquis. This study's overall conclusions, integrating direct input from field and captive research, were considered from a conservation perspective, since the management of captive muriquis has been problematic and generally unsuccessful.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Shirley Fung, University of Newcastle

Project Title: Study on the impacts of marine litter on visitor experience at Manukan Island, Tunku Abdul Rahman Park, Sabah, Malaysia

Abstract: This study determined how marine litter on recreational beaches affects visitor experience, and how the different types of visitors vary in the way they perceive marine litter. The study had wider implications given that marine litter is a global issue and the repercussions it could impose on coastal tourism, the most rapidly growing sector of the tourism industry worldwide. The objectives of the study were to: 1) collect data on the sources, types, quantities and distribution of litter at the study sites; 2) examine the benefits that visitors seek when visiting the study site and how the attainment of these benefits are modified by the amount of litter seen during the visit and; 3) determine if country of visitor origin influences visitor perception of litter on beaches.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Ilya Maclean, University of East Anglia

Project Title: Sustainable ecotourism in Ugandan wetlands

Abstract: Ecotourism, if implemented sustainably, can potentially aid biodiversity conservation by providing an economic incentive to discourage human activities that are detrimental to wildlife. The aims of this research project were twofold: 1) to establish the levels of incentives needed to encourage wetland conservation and; 2) to establish effective ways in which ecotourism can be used as an effective means of conserving wetlands sustainability.

Year: 2001

Principal Investigator: Annelise Baugh Hagan, University of Cambridge

Project Title: Time-scales involved in coral reef recovery in the Seychelles

Abstract: This project conducted baseline mapping to describe the condition of the reef communities and species present. Diving was undertaken twice a day with the selection of dive sites being determined by weather conditions. The project encompassed two main aims: 1.) to assess recovery rates of bleached corals in the western Indian Ocean; and 2.) to suggest the origins of recolonising larvae.

Year: 2000

Principal Investigator: Vernon West, Fauna & Flora International

Project Title: Mpingo carvings study

Abstract: The expedition investigated the supply chain to the carvings market at Mwenge, in Dar Es Salaam. Mpingo, the East African Blackwood tree, is vulnerable to commercial extinction (some estimate that there will be no harvestable wood left in Tanzania in as little as 20 years time), threatening the ability of poor rural communities to use it to meet their basic needs. As the tourism industry to East Africa expands, the demand of this market is expected to increasingly drive the over-exploitation of mpingo. Therefore, the Mwenge carvers market is not only a critical sustainable tourism issue, but is expected to increasingly determine mpingo's exploitation in the future. Mwenge is the largest outlet in East Africa, therefore it needs improved promotion to increase sustainable tourism, and one suggestion from the expedition was for the Government to introduce development grants/loans. The project highlighted the need for education of the consumers and replanting programmes to ensure sustainability.

Year: 2000

Principal Investigator: Kathryn Yusoff, Royal Holloway University of London

Project Title: The visual mapping of Antarctica

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Abstract: As an object of discourse, Antarctica's existence is often ambiguously located in the media and science between images of 'frozen' history and global environmental catastrophes. The visual mapping of Antarctica actively challenged the assumptions of selective and exclusive mapping techniques employed by the commercial media, science and geography. The project was thus based around evaluating people's perceptions of Antarctica. The research was interview-based and involved the production and curation of images created by non-artists through a variety of recording methods. Ultimately, the project aimed to demonstrate that the visualisation of Antarctica is critical to emotional investment, without which the protection of Antarctica is not assured.

Year: 2000

Principal Investigator: Jonathan Lyell, University of Kent

Project Title: Analyzing conservation behavior in ecotourism, Belize

Abstract: The (eco) tourism industry within Belize comprises a number of stakeholders: local communities, the tourists, government departments, NGOs and private businesses. Of these, little attention or research has been made to the role of government departments, NGOs and private businesses within the ecotourism industry. This study aimed to bridge this gap in the existing knowledge and update the information about the attitudes of tourists visiting Belize. The main objectives were to: 1) examine the conservation behavior of tourists to Belize; 2) investigate the conservation behavior of the stakeholders in the ecotourism industry; and 3) examine additional methods to improve the structure and sustainability of the Belize ecotourism industry.

Year: 2000

Principal Investigator: Daisy Tyson-Taylor, University of Newcastle

Project Title: Assessing tourism: Bunaken Island, Indonesia

Abstract: Cater and Clark (1997) proposed a provisional set of features that tourism should reflect in order to be sustainable: 1) meeting the needs of the host population in terms of improved standards of living in the short and long term; 2) satisfying the demands of increasing tourist numbers and continuing to attract them to achieve this; and 3) safeguarding the environment to achieve the two foregoing aims. Focusing on the first two objectives this project collected and reviewed the current management practices for Bunaken Island, Sulawesi and in so doing commented on whether requirements for sustainability of tourism are being met. An assessment of social and economic effects of tourism on the local community as well as the potential impact of increasing tourism was also undertaken.