

Geographical Fieldwork Grant

Royal
Geographical
Society
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

● 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