

Lawrence Derek Ball

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Education

2013–2014 University of Exeter (CLES) MSc Conservation Science & Policy Distinction

Terrestrial Biodiversity and Conservation	78
Research Toolkit	67
Perspectives on Sustainable Development and Understanding Environmental Change	69
Policies for Environment and Sustainability	67
African Conservation and Policy Field Course	69

Dissertation Project 74
'Participatory GIS (PGIS) acquisition of pastoralist's local knowledge: socio-ecological dynamics of overgrazing at Wadi Sayq, Dhofar Governorate, Oman'
Supervisor – Dr Kirsten Abernethy

2008–2011 University of Kent (DICE) BSc Wildlife Conservation Upper Second Class Honours (2:1)

1st Year Subjects

Skills for Wildlife Conservation and Management	62
Animals and People	70
Life's Systems and Processes	60
Environmental Sciences	64
Survey and Monitoring for Biodiversity	60
Biodiversity I	59

2nd Year Subjects

Behavioural Ecology	65
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Global Biodiversity	63
Skills for Conservation Biologists	63
Tourism and Conservation	60
Design and Management of Protected Areas	67
Shaping of International Biodiversity Regulation	58

3rd Year Subjects

Species Conservation	68
Further Topics in Conservation Biology	61
Wildlife Management and Sustainable Use	67
Climate Change and Conservation	58
Conservation and Communities	62
Evolutionary Genetics and Conservation	69

Dissertation Project 66
'Investigating the Diversity, Abundance and Life Strategies of Dragonflies (Anisoptera) across Four Varying Habitat Types in Pacaya Samiria National Reservation, Peru'
Supervisor – Prof Stuart Harrop

Level 3 Btec Advanced Diploma in Tropical Habitat Conservation

2000–2006 George Abbot School

3 A Levels

Geography	B
Design Technology	B
Biology	D

1 AS Level

Physics	E
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11 GCSE's A*, A, 7B, C, D

Work Experience

Hyder Consulting – Graduate Ecologist April 2015–Present
Great Crested Newt eDNA and Phase 1 Habitat Assessments along proposed National Grid power line route in west Cumbria.

Utilita Energy – Customer Service Advisor October 2014–February 2015
I have worked with Access, JBS and CRM database systems at Utilita Energy which have included more than 205,000 customer accounts.

Bee-Elephant Enterprise Project (B.E.E.) – Digital Marketing September 2013–January 2014
I developed digital marketing and fundraising initiatives for an Enactus project which aimed to introduce beehive fences to small subsistence farming plots in rural Kenya to reduce conflict with elephants.

Thomson Ecology – Field Surveyor July–November 2012, March–September 2013
The main duration of my employment was based at the Guildford head office working in an administrative position alongside a principal ecologist on the high profile HS2 project. Key tasks included liaising with landowners, processing and organising survey results, planning survey timetables and logistics, and resourcing equipment and manpower. I have also gained one seasons' experience of reptile and water vole surveys and translocations, and bat, great crested newt and breeding bird surveys.

- Natural Environment Research Council – Research Assistant** **July 2013–August 2013**
Based at Kevo Subarctic Research Station, Finland I assisted in sampling dwarf birch populations for genetic analysis. A comparison is to be made between the genetic health of endangered populations in Scotland and widespread continuous populations in Finland.
- British Exploring Oman Expedition 2013 – Chief Scientist** **October 2012–September 2013**
Following the success of the 2012 expedition I gained the position of chief scientist for the 2013 expedition. I was responsible for designing, carrying out and writing up the scientific programme which would provide peer-review standard results and sound evidence to assist conservation action, yet remain accessible to expedition members with minimal ecological knowledge. I employed a range of surveys to assess the biological communities in both desert and cloud forest ecosystems over 2 months. Notable records included a new dragonfly for Arabia, DD reptile species, 7,927 bird sightings (118 species) over 151 hours of surveys and camera trap footage of the critically endangered Arabian leopard. Other responsibilities included budgeting for and sourcing scientific equipment, planning logistics, arranging meetings with governmental bodies and internationally renowned scientists, undertaking a 10 day reconnaissance visit, and training expedition members in survey techniques. Outputs include two 100+ page scientific reports on the biodiversity research, four national newspaper articles, two peer-review journal papers, countless blog posts and a magazine article. The cloud forest research area is now under consideration for protected area status.
- British Exploring Oman Expedition 2012 – Assistant Scientist** **January–June 2012**
Co-led the science programme with a specialist focus on dragonfly research, and contributed to science report.
- Rare Species Conservation Centre – Voluntary Keeper** **May–July 2011**
I gained endangered species husbandry and captive rearing and breeding knowledge through this work experience.
- RSPB Elmley Marshes Reserve – Volunteer Worker** **September 2010–July 2011**
Volunteering for the RSPB has developed my practical land management skills with a focus on wetland conservation and improved my public engagement skills and bird ecology and identification knowledge.
- Kent Wildlife Trust – Volunteer Worker** **December 2010**
- DICE Amazon Expedition – Student Researcher** **June–August 2010**
I carried out my undergraduate dissertation project in Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru.
- RSPB Mersehead Reserve – Volunteer Warden** **August 2009**
- Mountain Trek and Travel – Assistant Manager** **2007–2008, 2011–2012**
Working in a top-end outdoor pursuits retailer has provided me with superior knowledge of outdoor equipment use, fitting and maintenance.
- Frontier, Madagascar – Research Assistant** **April–July 2008**
I gained a Btec Advanced Diploma qualification by designing and carrying out a research project on dragonfly communities. Rapid biodiversity assessments were carried out in forest fragments and basic social science research was undertaken in the local community of Tsarakibany.
- The Shooting Company – Corporate Entertainment** **September 2006–June 2007**
- RSPB Radipole Lake Reserve – Roving Reserve Warden** **October 2006–April 2007**
- RSPB Titchwell Marsh Reserve – Volunteer Worker** **August 2006**
- Weymouth Sea Life Park – Biological Sciences Dept. Assistant** **July 2006**
- Weymouth Sea Life Park – Exhibit Guide** **June–August 2005**
Designing and performing amplified presentations on the animal exhibits at the age of 16 greatly improved my verbal presentation skills and built my confidence in public-facing roles. A variety of marine wildlife husbandry skills were also acquired.
- Maidenhead Aquatics – General Assistant** **July 2004**
- Surrey Wildlife Trust – Volunteer Worker** **2003–2006**
- After School Club – Play Leader** **September 2005–August 2007**
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Additional Qualifications and Certified Achievements

FAA – Level 2 Activity First Aid Award
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold
Durrell Conservation Academy – Level 1 Course
CSCS – Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Operative)
Trinity – Percussion Exams Grade 5
Full UK driving license and car owner

Skills

- Writing for various audiences
- Ecological surveying techniques for small and large mammals (including bats), birds, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians
- Participatory appraisal and ethnographic research
- Experienced in the use of Bushnell camera traps
- Experienced in advanced use of ESRI ArcGIS, Collector Application, and handheld GPS
- Experienced in using Microsoft Office, social media platforms and database software.
- Attended dormouse ecology and handling course
- Attended livestock husbandry course
- Experienced in 4x4 off-road driving

Personal Interests

- Avid science communicator via personal website and contributor to discoverconservation.org
- President and founder of TreKent Rambling Society (University of Kent Society)
- Member of the British Ecological Society, British Exploring Society and RSPB
- 4x4 off-road driving and basic mechanics
- Outdoor pursuits – walking, cycling, climbing
- Travel – Europe, Kenya, USA, Canada, Madagascar, Peru, Oman
- Keeping exotic pets
- Music and drumming

Publications

Ball L., Al Fazari W., Borrell J. (2015) Birds of Wadi Sayq, Dhofar, Oman: January–March 2012 and 2013. *Sandgrouse*, 37(1): 2-12.

Ball, L. (2014) An Investigation of Odonate Communities within Wadi Sayq, Dhofar Province, Oman (Insecta: Odonata). *Check List*, 10(4): 857-863, DOI: 10.15560/10.4.857.

Ball L., Borrell J. (2014) An Inventory of Herpetofauna from Wadi Sayq, Dhofar, Oman. *Check List* (submitted).

Ball, L., Garry, J., Hikmani, H., Robertson, A., Barros, C., Benett, A., Rose, J. (2013) *Observations in the Empty Quarter & A Rapid Biodiversity Assessment of Wadi Sayq, Dhofar*. Report for the British Exploring Society, Oman Empty Quarter Expedition.

Referees

Academic

Dr Kirsten Abernethy
(Lecturer in Environmental
Social Science)

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Academic

Dr Ilya Maclean
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Employer

Susan Redshaw
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Expedition Chief Leader)

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