

# Lawrence Derek Ball

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## Research Experience

- Sep 2015 - current**      **ESRC PhD studentship - Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent**  
A thesis entitled '*The socio-ecological dynamics of pastoralism and overstocking in Dhofar, Oman*', supervised by Dr Joseph Tzanopoulos and Professor Douglas MacMillan. I secured funding from ESRC and the Anglo-Omani Society for a 14-month fieldwork period and arranged collaborations with Dhofar University and the Oman Botanic Gardens. We investigated the socio-economic drivers and ecological impacts of overstocking in Jabal Qamar, western Dhofar. More specifically, I used an exploratory mixed-method approach to understand change in socio-economic processes motivating livestock ownership, rural livestock management practises and livestock keepers' attitudes towards overstocking. I conducted ordination and mixed-effects models to quantify the impact of overstocking on vegetation communities and used cluster and indicator-species analysis to describe several new habitat variants. I also developed a novel method to quantify forest loss using species distribution models and remote sensing techniques. Once complete, the results of this project will be communicated to policy-makers and rural livestock keepers in Oman.
- Dec 2015 - Jan 2016**      **Researcher - Expedition Angano, Madagascar**  
I was involved in coordinating an expedition funded by the Zoological Society of London and the Royal Geographical Society to Northern Madagascar to quantify the extent to which forest 'edge effects' affect biodiversity, using herpetofauna as indicator species.
- April - Aug 2014**      **MSc thesis - Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter**  
A thesis entitled '*Participatory GIS acquisition of pastoralist's local knowledge: Dynamics of overgrazing at Wadi Sayq, Dhofar, Oman*', supervised by Dr Kirsten Abernethy and Dr Karen Anderson, in collaboration with the Oman Office for Conservation of the Environment. I used participatory GIS techniques and interviews to carry out a detailed spatial analysis of historical and current grazing regimes, to understand livestock keepers' attitudes towards livestock depredation and to map depredation events at Wadi Sayq. I incorporated camera trap data to examine coincidence of grazing areas and carnivore habitats.
- July - Aug 2013**      **Research Assistant - Natural Environment Research Council**  
Based at Kevo Subarctic Research Station in Finland, I assisted in sampling dwarf birch populations for a comparative genetic analysis between threatened populations in Scotland and large populations in Finland.
- Jan - March 2012/13**      **Chief Scientist - British Exploring Society 2012 and 2013 Dhofar Expeditions**  
I led (2013) and co-led (2012) the science programmes on two 2-month youth-development expeditions to the Empty Quarter Desert and Wadi Sayq in Jabal Qamar. In collaboration with the Oman Office for Conservation of the Environment, we conducted rapid biodiversity assessments and published three peer-reviewed papers. Our results helped to lobby against the construction of a road and supported a successful application for Wadi Sayq to gain protected area status.

## Education, Courses and Skills

- Sep 2013 - Aug 2014**      **MSc Conservation Science & Policy - Distinction - Centre for Ecology and Conservation, University of Exeter**  
This course examined the policy-oriented aspects of conservation and supplemented my undergraduate education by focusing on global challenges of sustainable development, climate change and social justice. A field course to Kenya provided an opportunity to see how conservation projects operate within policy contexts. See *research experience* section for a summary of my thesis.
- Sep 2008 - May 2011**      **BSc Wildlife Conservation - Upper Second Class Honours (2:1) - Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent**  
My final year research project, supervised by Professor Stuart Harrop, investigated the diversity, abundance and life strategies of dragonflies across varying Amazonian habitats in the Pacaya Samiria Nature Reserve, Peru.
- April - June 2008**      **Btec Advanced Diploma - Frontier Madagascar Expedition**  
I gained a Btec Advanced Diploma qualification by designing and carrying out a research project on dragonfly communities.
- 2000 - 2007**      **George Abbot School**  
A levels: Geography B, Design Technology B, Biology D  
GCSE's: 11 (A\*, A\*, 7 x B, C and D)  
Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- 2018**      R for Environmental Science statistics course
- 2016**      Ethnographic Research Course
- 2016**      An Introduction to Elementary Arabic Language
- 2015**      Social Science Research Ethics Course
- 2015**      Rapid Reading Course
- 2015**      Networking and Personal Impact Course
- 2015**      Fundamentals of Statistics course
- 2012**      FAA Level 2 Activity First Aid course (expired)
- 2011**      Livestock husbandry course
- 2010**      Durrell Conservation Academy Level 1 course

**Software:** Microsoft Office | R for Statistical Computing | ESRI ArcGIS Desktop/Pro, incl. Spatial Analyst extension, model builder and Collector for mobile devices | USGS EarthExplorer | ESA SNAP | GRASS GIS | ENVI | CmapTools | Mendeley Reference Management Software

**Specialist Research Skills:** Descriptive and basic statistical analysis | Multivariate analysis of ecological communities | Oman flora and fauna identification | Biodiversity survey design, implementation and analysis for plants, birds, invertebrates, terrestrial mammals, bats and herpetofauna | Remote sensing | GIS design, data collection, analysis and production of cartographic outputs | Social science survey design, implementation and analysis for interviews, questionnaires, focus groups and participatory methods | Literature review and synthesis of discussion

**Teaching Experience:** I taught fieldwork methods to both Oman expedition teams who started with minimal ecological knowledge. I have also taught on an undergraduate GIS module and assisted two Malagasy Masters students with their fieldwork. I have also coordinated pond-dipping classes with primary school students.

**Other skills:** Writing for various audiences | Off-road driving and basic mechanics | Health, safety and risk assessment | Keeping exotic pets | Grade 5 percussion and drum kit

## Employment and Voluntary Work

- April - Sep 2015**      **Graduate Ecologist - Hyder Consulting**  
I conducted Great Crested Newt eDNA sampling and Phase 1 Habitat Assessments along a proposed National Grid power line route in west Cumbria. Despite the short period of employment I quickly developed positive relationships with my co-workers and became a valued member of the team.
- Sep 2013 - Jan 2014**      **Digital Marketing - Bee-Elephant Enterprise Project (B.E.E.)**  
I developed digital marketing and fundraising initiatives for an Enactus project which aimed to reduce human-elephant conflict in Kenya using beehive fences.
- July - Nov 2012 and Mar - Sep 2013**      **Field Surveyor - Thomson Ecology**  
I worked in an administrative position on the HS2 project liaising with landowners, managing survey logistics and collating data. I also conducted bat, great crested newt and breeding bird surveys, and reptile and water vole translocations.
- May - July 2011**      **Voluntary Keeper - Rare Species Conservation Centre**  
I cared for a range of endangered captive mammal species.
- Sep 2010 - July 2011**      **Volunteer Worker - RSPB Elmley Marshes Reserve**  
Volunteering for the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts at a young age built my practical land management, species identification and public engagement skills and fueled my passion for nature.
- Dec 2010**      **Volunteer Worker - Kent Wildlife Trust**
- Aug 2009**      **Volunteer Reserve Warden - RSPB Mersehead Reserve**
- 2007/08 and 2011/12**      **Assistant Manager - Mountain Trek and Travel**  
Working in outdoor pursuits retail provided me with excellent knowledge of outdoor equipment use, fitting and maintenance which has proved invaluable on expeditions.
- 2007**      **Volunteer Reserve Warden - RSPB Radipole Lake Reserve**  
**2006**      **Volunteer Reserve Warden - RSPB Titchwell Marsh Reserve**  
**2006**      **Biological Sciences Dept. Assistant - Weymouth Sea Life Park**  
**2005**      **Exhibit Guide - Weymouth Sea Life Park**  
I designed and performed amplified presentations on animal exhibits at the age of 16 which boosted my confidence in public-facing roles and verbal presentations.
- 2004**      **General Assistant - Maidenhead Aquatics**  
**2003 - 2006**      **Volunteer Worker - Surrey Wildlife Trust**

## Grants, Awards, Fellowships and Memberships

- ESRC South East Doctoral Training Centre Studentship - approx. £42,000  
Anglo-Omani Society Grant - £2,000  
License for the Utilisation of TanDEM-X Data for Scientific Use  
Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
Fellow of the Zoological Society of London  
Member of the British Exploring Society  
Member of the RSPB  
President and founder of TreKent Rambling Society (University of Kent student society)

## Media

- 2018** Falcon Productions 37 minute feature film - Madagascar: Life on the Edge
- 2014** Biosphere Magazine Issue 3 - In the Mountains of Oman, In the Field with Lawrence Ball
- 2014** Muscat Daily - Grazing Threatening Dhofar Mountains Ecosystem
- 2013** Times of Oman - Wadi Sayq in Southern west of Oman an important spot for biodiversity
- 2013** Muscat Daily - OCE calls for immediate protection of Wadi Sayq
- 2013** Oman Daily Observer - DICE alumni join British expedition on leopard survey
- 2013** Discover Conservation - Lawrence Ball: Dragonflies of the Amazon

## Conference and Event Roles

- 2018** Poster presentation - Student Conference on Conservation Science, Cambridge
- 2012 - 2017** Workshop speaker - RGS Explore Expedition Planning Weekend, London
- 2017** Invitation from Omani Embassy to celebrate 47th Oman National Day, London
- 2017** Conference assistant - RGS Annual Oman Natural Heritage Lecture, London
- 2017** Introduced film screening - Amphibian Conservation Research Symposium, Kent
- 2016** Guest lecturer - Dhofar University visiting researcher lecture, Dhofar

## Publications

**Ball, L.,** Tzanopoulos, J., MacMillan, D.C. (2018) Challenging the paradigms of pastoralism: the modern livestock keepers of Dhofar, Oman. (in prep.)

**Ball, L.,** Tzanopoulos, J., MacMillan, D.C. (2018) Quantifying the impacts of overstocking in Dhofar, Oman. (in prep.)

Borrell, J.S., Scherz, M.D., **Ball, L.,** Starnes, T., Rakotondratsima, M, Reabearivony, J. (2017) The influence of edge effects on the distribution of herpetofauna in the Ampotsidy mountains, Madagascar. (in prep.)

Scherz, M.D., Vences, M., Borrell, J., **Ball, L.,** Nomenjanahary, D.H., Parker, D., Rakotondratsima, M., Razafimandimby, E., Starnes, T., Rabearivony, J. and Glaw, F. (2017) A new frog species of the subgenus *Asperomantis* (Anura, Mantellidae, Gephyromantis) from the Bealanana District of northern Madagascar. *Zoosystematics and Evolution*. 93(2): 451-466.

**Ball, L.** and Borrell, J.S. (2016) An inventory of herpetofauna from Wadi Sayq, Dhofar, Oman. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. 8(12): 9454-9460.

**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.