Oryx

New Issue: January 2022

By Emma Muench, 5th January 2022

From Bermuda to Cabo Verde, Hawaii and Comoros, the special section of our January 2022 issue highlights conservation research on islands, including articles on trees, snails, birds, reptiles, bats & more! Our accompanying Briefly spotlight features recent news on conservation across different islands, and the lead article and cover feature by Pike et al. takes us to Santa Cruz Island, investigating how body size, sex and high philopatry influence the use of agricultural land by Galapagos giant tortoises. The Editorial by George Holmes explores the role of rumour and gossip in biodiversity conservation. The issue also features a second special section on people & wildlife, with articles on human coexistence with elephants, crocodiles and leopards.

Find out more about this issue's content, including our Editor's picks, below:

Conservation on islands

- Body size, sex and high philopatry influence the use of agricultural land by Galapagos giant tortoises – *Pike et al.* (see blog post here)
- The conservation and ecology of the British Virgin Islands endemic tree, *Vachellia anegadensis* – *Bárrios et al.* (see blog post here)
- Habitat preferences of the Critically Endangered greater Bermuda land snail *Poecilozonites bermudensis* in the wild – *Copeland & Hesselberg* (see blog post here)
- Plants critical for Hawaiian land snail conservation: arboreal snail plant preferences in Pu'u Kukui Watershed, Maui – *Meyer et al.* (see blog post here)
- A myna problem: alien species no obstacle to recovery for the Mangaia kingfisher – *Thacker et al.*
- Using GPS tracking for fruit bat conservation – *Mandl et al.* (see blog post here)
- Globally important refuge for the loggerhead sea turtle: Maio Island, Cabo Verde – *Patino-Martinez et al.* (see blog post here)
- Range eclipse leads to tenuous survival of a rare lizard species on a barrier atoll – *Richmond et al.*

People and wildlife

- Marginal farmers carry the burden of damage caused by Asian elephants *Elephas maximus* in Bardiya National Park, Nepal – *Prins et al.*
- Integrating local perspectives into conservation could facilitate human–crocodile coexistence in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar – *Than et al.*
- The peri-urban leopards of Kathmandu: assessing determinants of presence and predation on domestic animals – *Bista et al.*

Behind the cover

The isolation of islands and their often high proportion of endemic species have both entranced natural historians and posed unique challenges for conservation. The main theme of this issue examines some of these matters, including the conservation and ecology of island endemics, the influence of invasive species, and the role of islands and atolls as refugia. The lead article examines patterns of space use by two Critically Endangered Galapagos tortoise species, *Chelonoidis porteri* (pictured above) and *Chelonoidis donfaustoi*, on farms on Santa Cruz Island. As agricultural areas expand, interactions between wild animals and people are increasing, and understanding the nature of such interactions is vital for managing human–wildlife coexistence. The tortoises on Santa Cruz Island spend extended lengths of time in the agricultural zone, outside the National Park that comprises 88% of the island, leading to an emerging human–wildlife conflict. This cuts across to the second theme in this issue, on people and wildlife. (Photograph © Tui de Roy/NaturePL)

Some curious cows inspect one of the GPS tagged tortoises in the highlands. Photo: Ainoa Nieto-Claudin. Read Kyana Pike's blog post here.

Editorial

Tell your friends: taking rumour and gossip seriously, but not literally, in biodiversity conservation – *George Holmes*

'Conservationists should take rumours and gossip seriously, because they both reflect and form part of the politics of conservation. They should attune themselves to rumour and gossip, listen for them, and learn to interpret them within the local context. Of course, rumours also spread and evolve because of the sheer joy and guilty pleasure of sharing a story. Gossiping is not just political, it is also fun, and understanding the serious and trivial performances in rumour requires understanding the local rules and context of gossip. Rumours should be taken seriously, but not too seriously. Tell your friends.'

Livingstone's flying foxes at a roost site on Anjouan. Photo: Dahari. Read Isabella Mandl's blog post here.

Other content

- Protecting an icon: Javan rhinoceros frontline management and conservation – *Wilson et al.*
- Threat analysis for more effective lion conservation – *Bauer et al.*
- A systematic review of potential habitat suitability for the jaguar *Panthera onca* in central Arizona and New Mexico, USA – *Sanderson et al.* (see blog post here)
- Fencing affects African wild dog movement patterns and population dynamics – *O'Neill et al.*
- Camera trapping reveals area of conservation significance for large and medium-sized mammals on the eastern Tibetan Plateau – *Xu et al.* (see blog post here)
- Factors affecting presence and relative abundance of the Endangered volcano rabbit *Romerolagus diazi*, a habitat specialist – Osuna et al.
- Reintroduction of illegally extracted *Melocactus violaceus* (Cactaceae) in Brazil – *Caitano et al.*

Editor's picks

- A myna problem: alien species no obstacle to recovery for the Mangaia kingfisher – *Thacker et al.*
- Globally important refuge for the loggerhead sea turtle: Maio Island, Cabo Verde – *Patino-Martinez et al.*
- Marginal farmers carry the burden of damage caused by Asian elephants *Elephas maximus* in Bardiya National Park, Nepal – *Prins et al.*
- Camera trapping reveals area of conservation significance for large and medium-sized mammals on the eastern Tibetan Plateau – *Xu et al.*

Sea turtle returning to see after laying her eggs. Photo: Diana Patino-Martinez. Read Juan Patino-Martinez's blog post here.

Conservation news

- Launch of situational crime prevention toolkit to address illegal wildlife trade – *Gluszek et al.*
- Two-thirds of Bornean endemic Dipterocarp species threatened with extinction – *Barstow & Bartholomew*
- Nubian flapshell turtle found in northern Uganda – *Luiselli et al.*
- Human–carnivore conflict management in the central High Atlas mountains of Morocco – *Alami et al.*
- Beliefs that Indian pangolins have mystical powers threaten the species – *Kantimahanti*
- Collaborative work brings hope for threatened harlequin toads – *Valencia et al.*
- *Quercus sichourensis* and *Pinus squamata* fruit for the first time in ex situ cultivation – *Tao et al.*
- An integrative approach for fungal conservation in southern Brazil – *Costa-Rezende et al.*
- New toolkit to support teachers to teach about Philippine biodiversity – *Layusa et al.*
- Supporting rangers: a 5-year Action Plan from the Universal Ranger Support Alliance – *Biegus*
- The Tony Whitten Conservation Award 2021 – *Balmford et al.*

Book reviews

- Strange Natures: Conservation in the Era of Synthetic Biology
- Bears of the World: Ecology, Conservation and Management

Emma Muench

Emma joined the Oryx team in 2018, having previously completed a BSc in Geography at the University of Sussex and an MSc in Conservation Science at Imperial College London. She has a keen interest in marine conservation and has experience working on sea turtle, coral reef, and tropical fish monitoring projects. Her previous research includes an ethological study on the impact of human enrichment on the welfare of captive giant Pacific octopus, and an investigation into the barriers to increased conservation involvement in European zoos.