

Nick Harvey Sky

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Interdisciplinary conservation scientist committed to robust natural and social science research and its translation into effective and socially just policy. I believe that this work is key to tackling both the nature and climate crises.

Education

University of Manchester (2016 - March 2021) – PhD

Chester Zoo – Conservation Scholar

*Integrated species conservation and metapopulation management: the eastern black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) as a case study*

NERC-funded Doctoral Training Programme studentship in partnership with Chester Zoo. This was an interdisciplinary PhD that spanned a range of natural, social science and philosophical research methods to study the conservation of black rhino and other large herbivores. I am continuing to work on publishing the chapters from my thesis.

- **10 months of fieldwork in Kenya**, which required securing research permits and strong project management skills.
- **Maintaining relationships and partnerships** with a range of stakeholders including private reserves, government agencies, lab managers and scientists across UK, Kenya and USA.
- **Chapter entitled ‘Preserving wildness or saving species: the disconnect between conservation goals and actions’** used an online survey to investigate the views of conservation and zoo members on the aims and methods of large herbivore conservation. This utilised mixed methods, quantitative and qualitative data analysis include coding and thematic analysis. I have used a subset of these data to write a manuscript I have recently submitted to Conservation Science and Practice.
- **Chapter entitled ‘Hyperreal nature and conservation’** looked at the risk of conservation being used influenced by capitalist interests and proposed solutions to ensure it is socially just.
- Genetic metabarcoding, enzyme immunoassays, demographic modelling and statistical analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.
- Extensive use of Excel, R, QGIS, remote sensing data, Qualtrics and other survey software.

St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford (2015 – 2016) – MSc (Oxon.)

Distinction - MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management

- Courses included **international environmental law, environmental economics, social theory and conservation governance**.
- I received a **distinction** for a dissertation entitled **‘Rewilding the Highlands: Coupling rewilding and land reform to achieve ecological and social restoration’** that utilised semi-structured interviews and discourse analysis of key documents to investigate attitudes towards rewilding in stakeholder groups. Qualitative data analysis included coding of responses and thematic analysis.

Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge (2012 – 2015) – BA Hons. (Cantab.)

Double First - Natural Sciences (Biological)

Employment history

Citizens advice (May 2023 – Present) – **Policy Researcher**

- **Research on energy policy**, the effects of current and proposed policies, and recommendations for changes.
- **A strong focus on a just transition** to net zero.
- **Quantitative and qualitative analysis** of publicly available data, client cases and commissioned survey research.
- **Contribute to authoring policy reports** that are influential with politicians and receive good press coverage.

British Ecological Society (June 2021 – Present) - **Policy Officer**

- **Proactive, non-campaigning policy work** aimed at improving the use of evidence in UK and Welsh policy making.
- **Conducted research** involving both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. I was the sole researcher and author of a BES report entitled **Trends in UK Funding for Ecology**. I launched this at an online webinar to around 200 people and a pre-launch meeting with **important research funders** including the Natural Environment Research Council.

- **Contributed to a report on the UK target to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030**, requiring extensive writing and editing. I met with key stakeholders and helped to facilitate and organise the work of early career researcher authors and a steering group of senior academics and conservation professionals.
- **Restarted and facilitated a Welsh Policy Group** made up of academics, public agency staff, NGO staff and ecological consultants. The group worked closely with the Welsh government and public bodies and aims to ensure that Welsh environmental policy is informed by appropriate ecological information and understanding.
- **Ran workshops and training** on the science-policy interface, including at the BES Annual Meetings 2021 and 2022
- **Authored blogs and other communications** on policy topics that I identify as of interest to the BES membership, involving writing about complex scientific topics in ways that are easy to understand and engaging.

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) (September – November 2018) – *Intern*

- **Authored a policy brief** regarding public money for public goods in agricultural subsidies which involved interviewing stakeholders and in-depth research. This was published on the Scottish Parliament's website.

Umphafa Private Nature Reserve – Kwazulu Natal, South Africa (July – August 2014) - *Voluntary Intern*

Publications

First author publication

- Harvey Sky, N., Jackson, J., Chege, G., Gaymer, J., Kimiti, D., Mutisya, S., Nakito, S., Shultz, S., (2022) **Female reproductive skew exacerbates the extinction risk from poaching in the eastern black rhino**. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 289(1972), p.20220075.

Co-author publications

- Britnell, J.A., Lewis, R.N., Elsner-Gearing, F., Harvey, N., Stanbrook, E. and Shultz, S., 2021. **Species stereotypes as a result of unconscious research biases compromise conservation efficacy**. *Biological Conservation*, 261, p.109275.
- Shultz, S., Britnell, J.A. and Harvey, N., 2021. **Untapped potential of physiology, behaviour and immune markers to predict range dynamics and marginality**. *Ecology and Evolution*, 11(23), pp.16446-16461.

Policy briefs

- Pardoe A., Johnstone W., Roper J., Harvey Sky N., Begum F., 2023 **Winter Warning**. Citizens Advice, London, UK.
- Harvey Sky, N., 2023. **Trends in UK Funding for Ecology**. British Ecological Society, London, UK.
- Bailey J. J., Cunningham, C. A., Griffin, D. C., Hoppit, G., Metcalfe, C. A., Schéré, C. M., Travers, T. J. P., Turner, R. K., Hill J. K., Sinnadurai, P., Stafford R., Allen D., Isaac N., Ross B., Russi D., Chamberlain B., Harvey Sky N., McKain S. 2022. **Protected Areas and Nature Recovery. Achieving the goal to protect 30% of UK land and seas for nature by 2030**. British Ecological Society, London, UK.
- Harvey, N., 2018. **Agriculture and Land Use – Public Money for Public Goods?** Scottish Parliamentary Information Centre, Edinburgh, UK.

Grants and presentations

Grants and awards

- **Manchester Doctoral College Best Contribution to Internationalisation Award 2019** for the creation of partnerships in Kenya, the USA and the UK. I worked closely with private reserve managers, research institutions and governmental agencies in Kenya to facilitate my research, allow it to be more useful to practical conservation and publish my research in collaboration with Kenyan scientists.
- **US\$4950 Student Grant from the International Rhino Foundation** February 2018 – February 2019 to support the diet aspect of my PhD.
- **£1000 DTP Bursary Grant** to attend and talk at the International Congress for Conservation Biology 2019.

Conference presentations

- **2022 BES Annual Meeting** – Edinburgh – December 2022. Poster Presentation *Diet switching can indicate marginal habitat and vulnerable populations for savanna herbivores*.
- **2021 BES Annual Meeting** - Liverpool – December 2021. Oral presentation *Female reproductive skew exacerbates the extinction risk from poaching in the eastern black rhino*.
- My first author work was presented at **2021 International Congress for Conservation Biology** – Online - December 2021. *Diet switching and population performance: seasonal changes in diet, microbiome and nemabiome in black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*)*.
- **SCB Social Science Working Group Twitter Conference** – June 2021. *Species conservation in the Anthropocene* – June 2020. *The changing aims of conservation in a world of increasing human intervention*.

- Work I contributed towards presented as a poster at **ISWE (7th Conference of the International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology)** - Kruger National Park, South Africa - October 2019. *Comparing the performance of native hormone versus group-specific metabolite assays for assessing faecal glucocorticoid metabolites in African herbivores.*
- **2019 International Congress for Conservation Biology** - Kuala Lumpur - July 2019. Oral presentation *The changing aims of conservation in a world of increasing human intervention.*
- **Future Directions in Conservation Science** - Chester Zoo - April 2017. Poster presentation *Conservation physiology of the eastern black rhino (Diceros bicornis michaeli).*

Teaching and Communication

Teaching and mentoring

- **Teaching assistant for a Social Statistics with R course** for third year sociology undergraduates in 2021.
- **Practical demonstrator on a Statistical Computing with R course** for first year zoology undergraduates in 2018 and 2019.
- **Policy training workshops** at BES Annual Meetings 2021 and 2022. These workshops focused on protected area policy, important future topics for environmental policy, and how ecologists can engage with policy making.
- **Lecturer for the Open University Myanmar TIDE Project.** This project aimed to improve the teaching skills and knowledge base of academics from 20 universities across Myanmar. In November 2019 I travelled to Yangon and delivered a 4 ½ hour workshop for five different classes through an interpreter on the basics of conservation. I delivered an expanded conservation course in 2021 over the internet with recorded webinars and interactive activities.
- **Invited lecturer at the University of Stirling.** Lectures regarding the science-policy interface and how the Scottish Parliament works, including the committee system and the role of parliamentarians. Delivered to third-year undergraduates on the Environmental Science BSc course in 2018 and 2019.
- **Demonstrator on ecology field courses** in 2018 and 2019 based in and around Manchester for first year zoology undergraduates, and a virtual field course in 2020 for second year undergraduates. This included supervising short research projects, including one on feral ponies in Snowdonia, North Wales.

Outreach and mentoring

- **Founder and coordinator of a mentoring programme for the Society for Conservation Biology's Social Science Working Group** which connects conservation social science students with professionals in the field and aims to develop both knowledge and networks. We are now on the third round of this programme, with the first two receiving excellent feedback.
- **Mentor for the Social Mobility Foundation in the 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2022-23 academic years.** I corresponded regularly via email with year 13 students who will be the first person from their family to attend university.
- **Volunteer for Action for Conservation,** a charity that educates and inspires secondary school children about conservation and the natural world.
- **Contributor of conservation and environmental politics articles** to online magazines and blogs including Left Food Forward, the Adapt Network, Lifeology, and Science on a Postcard.

Professional Organisations

- **Member of the Society for Conservation Biology Social Science Working Group.**

IT and software skills

- **Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint** - Expert
- **R** – Expert
- **Qualtrics** – Proficient
- **QGIS** – Proficient
- **Python** – Rudimentary

Languages

- **English** – Native speaker
- **Norwegian** – I have been undertaking courses at the University of Westminster for 18 months. I will be starting the Intermediate course in September