

Institution: University of Kent

Unit of Assessment: Anthropology and Development Studies (UoA 24)

a. Context

The School of Anthropology and Conservation (SAC) has a strong record of academic research with impact that has a global reach. Research in the School has direct and indirect impacts. Here we specifically focus on applied work by the (c) Conservation Social Science, and (d) Conservation Biology research groups, under the umbrella structure of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE). However, this applied research operates within the wider interdisciplinary environment of the School, alongside research by groups (a) Socio-Cultural Anthropology, including the Centre for Biocultural Diversity (CBCD), and (b) Biological Anthropology. Research in these groupings also has impact, in terms of shaping public debates, and widening the policy choices and development of public and private sector organisations.

DICE was established in 1989 with a mission to carry out critical, applied and policy-oriented conservation management research. As such it provides practical solutions to conservation challenges at a variety of scales (global, local, national, regional). The aim of DICE is to be a 'one stop shop' for conservation, both identifying critical issues and developing effective interventions, by ensuring that the underpinning research is characterised by integrating natural and social sciences. This is vitally important because we recognise that biodiversity conservation requires a thorough engagement between natural and social science approaches in order to be socially just and to rise to current challenges. The DICE team comprises leading researchers working in the fields of ecology, ethology, evolutionary biology, policy studies, economics, political ecology, environmental anthropology, ethnobiology, rural development and conservation planning. These have impact on conservation knowledge and wider conservation strategies; impacts are delivered via the development of field methodologies, analytical tools, management plans, informing policy at a variety of scales, and leading debates at the global scale.

The main target user groups for SAC are government departments, international organisations, NGOs, charities, and the private sector, in the UK and internationally. More generally, members of the school are active in terms of broader public engagement, aiming to influence and reframe wider public debates. Over the period 2008-2013 the main types of impact are: changing policy in government departments and international organisations, and capacity building in the Global South (DICE/research groups c and d); shaping public debates (group b); and shaping policy debates (group a).

b. Approach to impact

The School encourages colleagues to engage in research with impact in the broadest sense. Our approach to impact is via the following four pathways.

Shaping policy debate: We strategically support research which has the capacity to shape policy debates. This is demonstrated in the range of partners in grant-funded projects; by participation in and the delivery of plenary and other papers at keynote conferences hosted by leading international NGOs and national and international conservation agencies; by direct presentations and workshops given to local communities at home and abroad; by roles as consultants; by participation on advisory groups of experts; and through regular press coverage and citation of research at all levels. For example, in research group (a) Socio-Cultural Anthropology, **Bowman's** Yugoslavia research led to two major international conferences funded by the FCO, the British Council and others on the wars and their aftermath, giving rise to FCO briefing sessions. Examples of the constituencies we have engaged include NGOs such as the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF, 1998-2013), working through CBCD, which provides research opportunities for our students; places staff with us for training (1998-2013); collaborates in research and in a number of HMG Darwin awards; and utilises our tools and methods in its own activities (2005-2013), for example in developing effective buffer zones around the Crocker Range park in Sabah (**Ellen**). CBCD has also supported UNFAO through the GIAHS programme (**Harrop**, plus other anthropology and honorary staff), and has much experience of advocacy work in the area of environmental justice (**Alexiades**).

Shaping public debates: Work by research group (b) Biological Anthropology has had a significant impact on public debates, e.g. **Lycett's** work on links between evolution and culture; **von Cramon-Taubadel's** work on diet and jaw size; and **Mahoney's** 2012 Press Release in *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, reported by Science Live, Forbes, Dental Tribune International, Dentistry.co.uk. Dentist News, Dentistry News Today, Dental Magazine, LabSurfer. We also host the annual Stirling Lecture and the annual DICE lecture, and co-sponsor (with Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew) the Annual Distinguished Ethnobotanist Lecture. These are high profile public lectures that aim to shape and change approaches to understanding anthropology, conservation and ethnobotany.

Changing policies of public and private sector organisations: In terms of research on conservation, colleagues in research groups (c) Conservation Social Science and (d) Conservation Biology, under the auspices of DICE, influence the conservation community at the national and international levels. We do this by working directly with decision-makers based within relevant government agencies, international organisations and NGOs. We have a dedicated Business Development Manager tasked with raising the profile of SAC and with encouraging enterprise activity. Impact development is also supported and encouraged by the University of Kent Innovation and Enterprise Unit, which helps colleagues translate their research into commercial ventures, consultancy and training. The clearest and strongest examples of this type of 'research with impact/research to policy transmission' are provided in our impact case studies from **Smith, Griffiths, Harrop** and **Groombridge**. This work is supported by a broader range of applied research with policy changing impacts. Specialists from DICE advise on UK and Scottish government bodies in respect of specific species and habitats e.g. orchids (**Roberts**), butterflies (**Davies**), and herpetofauna (**Griffiths**). **Tzanopoulos'** work on scale sensitivity of drivers of change and habitat loss and fragmentation (through a 7th Framework project SCALES) resulted in an invitation by the European Environment Agency (EEA) to a workshop; this ultimately led to the establishment of an advisory group to provide recommendations for the future revision and development of the EUNIS habitat classification system (used by EU States to report the status of protected areas within NATURA 2000). **Harrop's** work has had significant impact on marine biodiversity management via three INTERREG grant-funded projects (CHARM 1, 2 and 3) and the Balanced Seas project. The CHARM projects have resulted in an online *Channel habitat atlas for marine resource management* which operates as an aid for planning and decision-making in an area under strong anthropogenic pressure; this is used to inform key decisions on the use and resource management of the English Channel. They operated as a partnership project between the University of Kent, Kent County Council, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and were established in order to analyse data and research in order to identify and recommend Marine Conservation Zones to the UK Government. They brought together colleagues from both DICE and socio-cultural anthropology.

Capacity building in the Global South: Colleagues in groups (c) and (d) are intentionally engaged in capacity building in biodiversity rich areas of the Global South, as a core element of the DICE mission. The world leading quality of the applied research by colleagues in DICE led to a global reputation amongst conservation practitioners. For example, DICE has been part of a British council DELPHE Round Four grant in partnership with the University of Njala and the Environmental Foundation for Africa (NGO) in Sierra Leone. Its postgraduate programmes have trained in excess of 500 individuals from over 80 countries. Most of them now run conservation projects in their home countries or have moved into influential conservation leadership roles across the world. Several former students have won international awards for their outstanding contributions to reversing the loss of biodiversity in their home countries. For example, Benson Okita is now the Rhino Coordinator for the Kenya Wildlife Service and in 2008 was awarded the highly prestigious Moran of the Burning Spear by the President of Kenya for his work. Winners of the Whitley Award for global conservation include Patricia Medici (2008) and Daniel Lejaroi Letoiye (2013). Winners of the Future for Nature Award include Patricia Medici (2008) and Samia Saif (2013). Edin Sabuhoro won the IUCN/WCPA Young Conservationist Award and President Obama Young African Leader award in 2008 and 2010 respectively. Other prizes awarded to former postgraduate students include Hugo van der Westhuizen, Bruno-H. Schubert Prize (2012); Sanjay Gubbi, Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award 2011; Belinda Stewart-Cox, OBE (2011).

Impact template (REF3a)**c. Strategy and plans**

The School of Anthropology and Conservation will continue to support and develop excellent academic research that has the capacity to deliver impact in terms of shaping public and policy debates, policy change and capacity building in the Global South.

1) Improved Reach

We are engaging in greater levels of communication with the University media office to ensure that our work obtains maximum public exposure. The School has also set up a Facebook page and Twitter account to ensure that we are using a range of social media to draw attention to our work. We will allocate a share of overheads from each funded research project to create a budget expressly to improve reach. In addition to our own capacity, partnerships with the U.C. Irvine Social Science Gateway and the Human Relations Area Files will increase our capacity for impact. We support and encourage colleagues to maintain links and partnerships with international organisations, government agencies, private sector and NGOs. We aim to provide financial support to allow colleagues to run workshops dedicated to developing impact in the future.

2) Improved Reporting

Staff will be encouraged to record impacts, indirect or direct, arising from their research, funded or not, based on direct knowledge, queries of past partners and some research. The SAC Director of Research will oversee the development of these reporting systems in readiness for REF 2020.

3) Improved Significance

Staff will be asked, and training provided, to identify possible impacts from their research, and how they might implement impact strategies. The SAC Director of Research is already engaged identifying key impact case studies for support and development over the next REF period. In so doing, SAC aims to improve the significance and reach of its impact. With specific reference to applied research on conservation, our grant-securing strategy is now geared to winning larger grants across its in-house disciplines and a wide range of academic and practitioner/ NGO/ institutional partners, with a view to creating greater potential not only for rigorous research but also for direct and demonstrable impact. Thus far DICE has been successful in securing NERC Knowledge Exchange grants (**Griffiths**), and NERC Follow-On grants (**Roberts**), which are specifically geared towards impact related activities; we aim to build on this success over the next REF period. Our capacity building strategy was recently enhanced by the employment of a dedicated person responsible for raising capacity building scholarships, and ensuring that the strong international reputation of DICE is enhanced. Furthermore, an academic member of staff (**Smith**) is now expressly dedicated to developing and supporting the network of DICE alumni. This will enhance our capacity to monitor and increase the impact of DICE via its alumni, as they occupy key positions of responsibility in conservation practice.

d. Relationship to case studies

The development and selection of our four case studies is directly related to our impact strategy, specifically our agenda of changing policy at the national and international levels. Colleagues are actively encouraged to engage in partnerships with external funders and key agencies that are able to effect change. In this regard, our four impact case studies detail research that has resulted in important transformations in approach, decision-making and policy. Harrop's case study on agricultural heritage systems is an example of how our work has changed the policies of international organisations. Groombridge's case study on 'Saving Species' is indicative of the ways we change national level policy making and engage in capacity building in the Global South. Smith's study on the management and design of protected areas also demonstrates how our work changes policy at the national and regional levels, and how we are committed to capacity building in the Global South. Finally, Griffiths' case study on the development of new amphibian and reptile protocols is indicative of the ways our work can shape approaches to conservation and change policy at UK Government level, as well as amongst quasi-governmental organisations, NGOs and the private sector. The underpinning research in all four studies is published in leading refereed journals that cross disciplines from the natural to social sciences, and combine qualitative and quantitative methods. Each case study is corroborated with evidence provided by representatives of conservation NGOs, and/or government or international agencies that design and implement policy.