

CECILIA MONTAUBAN

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HIGHLIGHTS AND BACKGROUND

Ecologist & post graduate researcher with several academic & leadership awards and over seven years' experience in environmental work including international fieldwork in Peru, Canada, Romania, Cuba, Spain, Costa Rica, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Belize and the UK. Recently selected and fully sponsored to attend a conservation course in Kenya - aimed at training and building a network of early career conservationists with a proven commitment to bat conservation - and elected as Regional Manager. Dual Peruvian & Dutch citizen, and with native bilingual fluency in English & Spanish.

EDUCATION

- PhD Life Sciences** (fully funded by Imperial College President's PhD scholarship) **2021-2025**
Imperial College London & Natural History Museum of London **London, United Kingdom**
- Led 20 weeks of bat surveys across four expeditions in Zambia and Ghana investigating land-use change effects on bat biodiversity. Conducted bat trapping, acoustic surveys, faecal & wing tissue collection, and roost surveys.
- MRes Ecology Evolution and Conservation** **2019 - 2020**
Imperial College London **London, United Kingdom**
- Graduated with Distinction, with the highest grade in my cohort (Awarded Imperial College Southwood Prize)
- BSc Environmental Science & Geography** (fully funded by International Leader of Tomorrow Award) **2009 - 2014**
University of British Columbia **Vancouver, Canada**
- Science, Systems and Sustainability Summer Program at the University of Iceland (2014). Grade: 90%
 - Forestry and Conservation Summer Program at Nanjing Forestry University in China (2013). Grade: 93%

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Freelance Ecologist** **April 2020 – Present**
Sole Trader **Across UK**
- Conduct protected species surveys, primarily for bats - including advanced surveys (mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking and IR camera surveys). Hold NE Level 3 & 4 bat licences, and Level 1 dormouse and GCN licenses.
 - Diligent data collector and report writer, including ID of sound files and IR recordings for roost characterisation.
- Research Assistant** **January 2021 - Present**
University of Sussex **Brighton, UK**
- Trialled the use of SNP genetic markers to examine population structure and diversity of threatened bat species.
 - Conducted DNA extraction, primer development for amplification, genetic sequencing and bioinformatics.
 - Investigated the threshold of DNA quality for the method, and the feasibility of using less invasive sampling.
- Research Assistant and Masters Student Intern** **July 2019 – March 2020**
Natural Science Museum of Granollers **Granollers, Spain**
- Led field team of 3-5 conducting bat trapping, roost surveys and acoustic sampling for my MRes project
 - Assisted with fieldwork for a study on ecosystem services and pest suppression of *Chilo suppressalis* provided by bats in rice fields, and investigating the occupancy of bat boxes to increase pest control in the Ebro Delta
 - Conducted lab work at UiT, including DNA extraction, PCR sequencing and bioinformatics for bat tissue & faeces.
- Ecologist** **January – July 2019**
Arup **London, UK**
- Led protected species surveys, specialising in mammal and amphibian surveys.
 - Helped coordinate events (e.g 'Bats and Artificial Lighting Symposium' with Bat Conservation Trust).
 - Designed biodiversity net gain plans for railway development project through habitat enhancements.
- Ecologist and Project Coordinator** **August 2016 – December 2018**
RSK Environment Ltd **Hemel Hempstead, UK**
- Conducted ecological surveys for protected species (bats, dormice, badgers, water voles, reptiles and newts).
 - Assisted with developing and designing mitigation and compensation strategies for development schemes.
 - Managed team of 20-30 subcontractors; including survey and equipment planning, and reporting QA.

- Small Mammal Survey Leader** **July - August 2017**
Operation Wallacea **Transylvania, Romania**
- Led surveys and taught small mammal monitoring techniques to high school, undergrad and masters students, including live trapping capture-mark-recapture techniques, species identification and ecology.
 - Collected data for study of the effect of traditional farming practices on taxa biodiversity and abundance.
- Wildlife Biologist** **June 2014 - August 2016**
Golder Associates Ltd. **Vancouver, Canada**
- Conducted wildlife surveys (amphibian breeding surveys; bat acoustic monitoring; small mammal trapping; bird nesting surveys; botany assessments; camera trapping of large mammals; and raptor aerial helicopter surveys).
 - Assisted with EIAs for large oil and gas, mining, transmission lines, and hydroelectric developments.
 - Involved in project bidding, survey sampling design, resourcing and field data analysis and reporting.
- Research Assistant - Ecology and Aquatic Restoration** **September 2013 – May 2014**
UBC Geography Department **Vancouver, Canada**
- Analysed remote satellite imagery to determine stream channel dynamics limiting spawning success of white sturgeon population following dam construction in collaboration with multidisciplinary cross-sector team.
 - Used ArcMap software to create 2D and 3D landscape models and produced habitat classification maps
- Environmental Intern** **January – July 2009**
Ausenco Limited **Lima, Peru**
- Helped coordinate wildlife surveys in highland area of Northern Peru, including all equipment calibration
 - Assisted in wildlife and water quality surveys; technical report writing, professional translation (Spanish to English)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Belize Bat Research Surveyor** **April – May 2022**
American Natural History Museum **Lamanai, Belize**
- Participated in two-weeks of intensive bat fieldwork alongside 68 bat biologists from 35 institutions of 13 countries as part of a long-term research project led by Dr. Nancy Simmons (AMNH) and Dr. Brock Fenton (UWO)
 - Led bat mist netting teams, and trained colleagues on survey techniques, bat handling and Neotropical bat species identification. Received training on pit-tagging, and successfully pit-tagged ~50 bats of ~20 species.
- GBatNet Student Representative** **February 2022- Present**
Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks **USA and worldwide**
- Selected as 1 of 9 international post-graduate students to undertake GBatNet collaborative research, implement outreach and communication, and receive technical training, professional development and mentoring.
 - Fully sponsored to attend and present at the International Bat Research Conference in Texas in August 2022, and undertake 3 days of pre-conference capacity building training and research project planning.
- Latin American Regional Manager** **January 2020 - Present**
Global South Bats **Across Latin America, Africa, Caribbean**
- Managing the creation and implementation of a strategic plan for our newly founded organisation aimed to empower and train bat researchers and conservationists across Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean.
 - Liaise between the Board of Directors and country ambassadors to grow and promote our network and reach of the NGO; and deliver research, capacity building and community engagement and education projects.
- Trustee and Committee member** **September 2019- August 2022**
Tambopata Reserve Society **Madre de Dios, Perú**
- Overseeing the small grants program application for \$1000 annual grants for local biology students conducting ecological research in the Amazon's Tambopata Nature Reserve.
- Field Surveyor and Acoustic Analysis** **January 2017- Present**
London and surrounding counties + Wiltshire Bat Groups **Multiple locations, UK**
- Active member across five bat groups in south of England, undertaking surveys on the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project, woodland trapping surveys, box check monitoring, seasonal roost monitoring (maternity and hibernation counts; and swarming) and delivering field training. Proficient in trapping, ID, handling and ringing.

Bioblitz Field Researcher**December 2020****Independent Research at Sylvan Falls****Golfito, Costa Rica**

- Participated in first bat bioblitz session led by bat expert naturalist and author Fiona Reid, documenting species diversity in an un-surveyed area of Costa Rica through trapping, roost surveys and acoustic monitoring.
- Developed skills in advanced trapping (including triple high nets and hand nets) and in bat taxonomy systematics.

Bat Roost Monitoring Volunteer**June 2018 and January 2019****Romanian Centre for Bat Research and Conservation****Banat and Transylvania, Romania**

- Assisted with monitoring of some of Europe's largest maternity and hibernation bat colonies.
- Developed skills in sampling techniques and species identification methods for cave-dwelling bat colonies, including acoustic recordings, manual and photographic counts, and infrared recording.

Bat Conservation Volunteer**December 2018****Proyecto CubaBat****Matanzas, Cuba**

- One-week expedition conducting bat trapping in cave and forest habitats in Matanzas province to monitor local cave bat population numbers and activity in foraging habitats, and to assess effects of recent hurricanes.
- Trained in roost surveys of large cave bat colonies and recording species composition and behaviour.

BAT FIELD TRAINING COURSES

- Global South Bat Course on Ecology, Diversity, Conservation and Ecosystem Service** – in Mombasa, Kenya, 2020
- International Bat Course: Systematics, Ecology and Conservation of Amazonian Bats** - in Iquitos, Peru, 2018
- Advanced Bat Survey Techniques: Trapping, radiotracking and infrared camera surveys** – in Sussex, UK, 2018
- Bat Tree Habitat Key: Ecology and surveying of tree roosting bats** - in Somerset, UK, 2018

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Bat Conservation International Scholarship & Promoting Diversity in Conservation Award (2022)** **\$3,500**
- Imperial College President's PhD Scholarship (2021 – 2025)** – full PhD tuition and annual stipend **£100,500**
- European Bat Research Symposium Best Oral Presentation (2021)**
- Southwood Prize Imperial College London (2020)** – Awarded to student with highest MRes grade. **£100**
- International Leader of Tomorrow Award (ILOT) (2009 – 2014)** - full BSc tuition scholarship. **\$115,000**
- UBC Faces of Today (2014)** - 1 of 8 award winners (of 40,000 students) at Leadership Conference.
- International Community Achievement Award (2014)** - Recognition for extracurriculars. **\$3,000**
- UBC Student Leader Recognition (2012, 2013 and 2014)** – Recognition by UBC President.
- Dean's Honour List Award (2013, 2014)** – Academic Excellence in Faculty of Science.
- Go Global Travel Fund (2013, 2014)** – China and Iceland summer academic field programs. **\$2,000**
- UBC Presidents Entrance Award (2009)** – Academic & Leadership recognition (superseded by ILOT). **\$5,000**

PUBLICATIONS

- Montauban C, López-Baucells A et al. (2021) Bat echolocation plasticity in allopatry: a call for caution in acoustic identification of *Pipistrellus* sp. *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 75:1–15.
- Montauban C, López-Baucells A et al. (2021) Bats as natural samplers: First record of the invasive pest rice water weevil *Lissorhoptus oryzophilus* in the Iberian Peninsula. *Crop Prot* 141:105427.

PRESENTATIONS

- Oral Presentation at 3rd Latin American & Caribbean Bat Conference** – Merida, Mexico (September 2022)
- Oral Presentation at 19th International Bat Research Conference** – Austin, Texas (August 2022)
- Oral Presentation at European Bat Research Symposium** – University of Turku (May 2021)
- Humans, Evolution and Ecology First Year Seminar Lecture** - University of Toronto (Oct 2020, Jan & Sept 2021)
- Oral Presentation at IV Peruvian Bat Symposium** – PCMP (Oct 2020)
- Presentation at 1st and 2nd World Twitter Bat Conferences** – UWE Bristol (May 2020, May 2021)
- Ecology module for BA Landscape Architecture students** – University of Greenwich (Feb 2020, Jan 2021)