

# Samuel Merson



My recent research has focused upon Madagascar's largest carnivore the fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*). I aim to understand the threats to their conservation through a mixture of sociological and ecological research. I'm specifically interested in the threat of bushmeat consumption, and understanding its drivers and variance across Madagascar. I've worked with Malagasy communities in improving our understanding of the retaliatory killing of fosas for poultry depredation. Furthermore, a large part of my research has been spent in Madagascar's western deciduous forests. There I've established large-scale camera-trap surveys to examine the impacts of habitat degradation and exotic species on fosas. Before my focus upon Malagasy carnivores I worked on Florida manatees investigating the impacts of winter and its related stress upon their hindgut microbial communities. I'm originally from Brisbane, Australia, although I currently reside in the United Kingdom completing my PhD in the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit at The University of Oxford.

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