

#### 447. PROFESSIONALISM - WHY LAWYERS GET PAID MORE THAN CONSERVATIONISTS

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Have you ever wondered why, as a conservationist, you don't get paid more, or why you are not always taken seriously? Ecology (including conservation) is not listed by the EU as a profession. Do you agree with this? You shouldn't, ecologists and conservationists are highly skilled and highly educated. Ecologists (including environmentalists and conservationists) are incredibly important professionals in the current scenario of economic downturn and global climate change – it will be their skills that enable ecosystem services and integrity to be maintained – and thus maintain life on earth. Conservationists need to be recognized as professionals, and it is vital that this is universal across the whole of Europe. They need to work to a system of standards, competency and best practice, and professional bodies have a role to oversee standards, codes of conduct, guidance, knowledge sharing, networks and continuing professional development. They need to contribute effectively to gaps in professional knowledge and practices - for example, Ecological Impact Assessment Guidelines, survey methodologies and databases of conservation evidence and good practice.

#### 448. FIRE, LANDSCAPE, AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: A MULTISCALE ASSESSMENT OF A COMPLEX RELATION

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In this work we address the complex relation between fire regime the physical environment, landscape patterns and socioeconomic context in a multiscale analysis. Specifically we address the question: What scalar factor blocks mediate the relation between fire patterns and landscape and socioeconomic dynamics? To address this we used a climatic stratification of mainland Portugal, based on cluster analysis of spatial data, and measure the competing explanatory power of each block (landscape structure and/or? composition and socioeconomic) within each defined strata through variation partition methods. As expected the scale has a major role in the outcome of the model prediction and in the variance explanatory power of the variables. At the regional scale and depending on the region variables relate with high fire occurrence could have the exact contrary connection in another region. At the local scale traditional fire relate variables i.e. road density, primary production performed poorly compared with landscape structure variables (interspersion index, large patch index). By contributing to a better understanding of the characteristics and drivers of fire regime, results of this research should improve risk assessments at multiscale context and provide the foundations for land management strategies aiming the mitigation of the consequences of wildfires. João Torres is currently funded by FCT through grant SFRH/BD/24560/2005.

#### 449. BRINGING IT BACK FROM THE BRINK - A PROGRAMME FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE BALKAN LYNX

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Following the massive declines of Eurasian lynx in Europe during the 20th century, 3 of the 4 surviving relict populations have begun impressive recoveries. In addition, many populations have been re-established through reintroduction. Only the relict in the southern Balkan mountains on the border of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo has apparently not recovered. Although there is very little data available, all indications support its classification as a Critically Endangered subspecies (*Lynx lynx martinoi*). Since 2005 an international partnership of Macedonian and Albanian institutions together with Swiss, Norwegian and German partners, has been working to develop a research and conservation programme. This programme aims to improve data on the distribution and population status of lynx through the collection of local knowledge and camera-trapping. In addition, the programme facilitates the proclamation of a network of protected areas along the border regions within the IUCN Green Belt Initiative. In collaboration with the relevant authorities in Albania and Macedonia a cross border conservation strategy for the lynx has been developed. The results confirm that lynx are still present, but also indicate that its population size is probably very low.

#### 450. TECHNICAL RECLAMATIONS VS. SPONTANEOUS SUCCESSION IN LIMESTONE QUARRIES: ARE WE CURING LANDSCAPE SCARES OR BURYING ITS CHANCE?

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The view of post-mining sites is changing rapidly among conservationists. The conservation potential of limestone quarries is well documented, but wider public still sees quarries as "scares in the landscape". This is mirrored in prevailing restoration routine, technical reclamations, consisting of covering by topsoil and sowing of herb mixtures and or afforestation. No comprehensive multitaxa study has assessed the potential of reclaimed mined-up sites for biodiversity conservation. We compared communities of vascular plants and several invertebrate groups (*Araneae*, *Auchenorrhyncha*, *Blattodea*, *Chilopoda*, *Coleoptera*: *Carabidae*, *Dermaptera*, *Diplopoda*, diurnal *Lepidoptera*, *Heteroptera*, *Isopoda*: *Oniscidea*, *Opiliones*, *Orthoptera*) of technically reclaimed and spontaneously restored limestone quarries in the Bohemian Karst, the Czech Republic. We recorded 692 species of targeted groups. A large proportion of conservation concern species (69 red-listed species, 96 rock and forest steppe