

A TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION (TBA) E A FCUL (CBA e DBA): UMA REFLEXÃO SOBRE 15 ANOS DE PARCERIA

José Alberto Quartau (representante da TBA no Centro de Biologia Ambiental)

Tive o privilégio de ser o representante da Tropical Biology Association (TBA) na nossa Faculdade, primeiramente associada ao Departamento de Biologia Animal e ultimamente ao Centro de Biologia Ambiental, durante cerca de década e meia.

Como muitos saberão, a TBA é uma instituição não governamental e sem fins lucrativos, sediada na Universidade de Cambridge (Inglaterra) e em Nairobi (Quênia) e que estabeleceu e tem usufruído de uma série de convénios com instituições de carácter ecológico e ambiental quer em África, quer no sudeste asiático (anexo 6).

Esta Associação foi criada em 1993 por um grupo de biólogos do Reino Unido com vista à organização de cursos breves de campo sobre a biodiversidade tropical e a sua conservação. Tais cursos, dirigidos a jovens biólogos europeus, africanos e asiáticos têm, por norma, integrado um extenso painel de professores de renome internacional.

Decorrem todos os anos em parques e reservas de grande importância conservacionista a nível mundial, compreendendo trabalhos de campo, aulas teórico-práticas e pequenos projectos de investigação de que têm resultado diversas publicações (anexos 3 e 4).

A motivação dos alunos, a inequívoca originalidade dos cursos e o seu carácter internacional têm propiciado ambiente privilegiado para a convivência entre jovens biólogos de países e de continentes distintos e o estabelecimento de colaborações ulteriores (anexo 1).

Para além do Centro de Biologia Ambiental, que representa a nossa Faculdade, a TBA tem ainda como associados 47 outros departamentos de investigação sobre a Conservação da Biodiversidade, e que estão sediados em diversas Universidades e Institutos de 11 países Europeus, dos EUA e da Austrália (anexo 5). Devem igualmente ser mencionadas, por outro lado, as relações estreitas de parceria com cerca de duas dezenas de instituições africanas que igualmente participam na organização dos cursos (anexo 6).

Foi por minha iniciativa, em 1994, que a nossa Faculdade passou a ser membro da TBA, através do então Departamento de Zoologia e Antropologia, tendo desde logo um dos

nossos alunos finalistas sido seleccionado para frequentar um desses cursos na reserva florestal de Kibale, no Uganda.

Como principal “output” da nossa ligação à TBA, que durante grande parte da sua existência nunca implicou qualquer despesa para a FCUL, ressalta a formação através desses cursos tropicais de mais de três dezenas de alunos da nossa Faculdade e que tiveram lugar em parques e reservas de países como o Uganda, a Tanzânia, Madagáscar e Bornéu (anexo 2). É gratificante saber que muitos destes nossos alunos prosseguiram a sua formação na área da biodiversidade tropical com pós-graduações, nomeadamente doutoramentos, e que hoje se encontram a trabalhar em instituições de inequívoco mérito, nomeadamente da Holanda, de Inglaterra, da Espanha e da Costa Rica. Igualmente recompensador é o facto de ter sido através da TBA que estes nossos alunos tiveram o seu primeiro contacto com a magnificência e o esplendor dos ecossistemas tropicais. Praticamente todos, sem excepção, me haviam de confidenciar que os cursos haviam ultrapassado as suas expectativas. Ainda neste particular, é pertinente transcrever as impressões do próprio Charles Darwin, quando pela primeira vez pisou uma floresta tropical, a 29 de Fevereiro de 1832: “Delight itself, however, is a weak term to express the feelings of a naturalist who, for the first time, has wandered by himself in a Brazilian forest. The elegance of the grasses, the novelty of the parasitical plants, the beauty of the flowers, the glossy green of the foliage, but above all the general luxuriance of the vegetation, filled me with admiration” (In *The Voyage of the Beagle*).

Po último, quero aproveitar o ensejo para agradecer o apoio sempre prestado por sucessivos presidentes do Departamento de Biologia Animal e do nosso Centro e desejar votos do maior êxito ao Professor Dr. Jorge Palmeirim, o nosso novo representante da TBA.

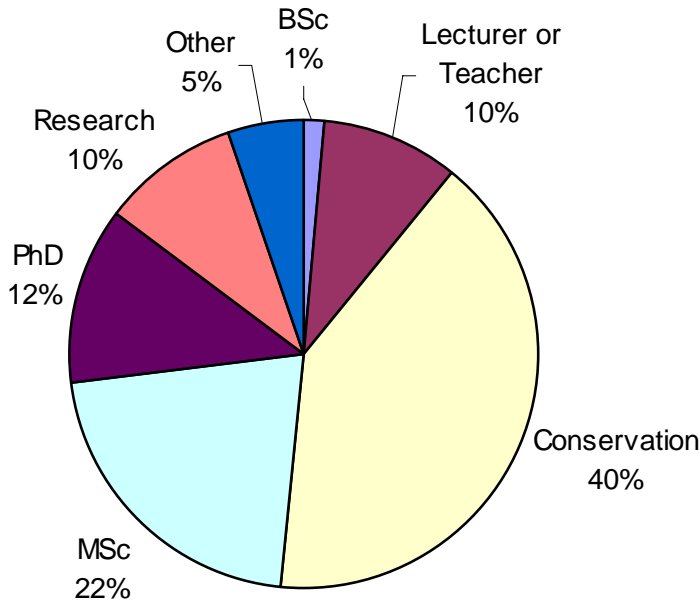
Anexos: quadros 1-6.



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Making an impact . . .

Where are they now? 97% of our African alumni remain in contact with us and all but 2% of these remain in conservation-related fields.



... an excellent opportunity to build on my network of people of different races and nationality, concerned and involved in biodiversity research and teaching.

Ghanaian participant, Tanzania 2008

Without exaggeration I have got a lot more knowledge from the TBA course than from my last 4 years in the university.

Course participant, Kenya 2007



As an African, it made me proud to see African students excelling on an equal footing with their European counterparts.

Swazi teacher on Uganda course 2009



The STP workshop assisted me to get a very good job as through that workshop I gained confidence to a high extent particularly from my presentation.

2005 workshop participant



The most enjoyable aspects were the opportunity to work and discuss our ideas with completely different people from African and European countries, the contact with culture and people from Madagascar...

Portuguese participant, Madagascar 2009

The international nature of the course provided an excellent learning environment for the participants. They learned from instructors as well as each other. It was a super opportunity for all involved.

Course teacher, Uganda 2006

Dr Henry Ndangalasi (below left), a TBA alumnus from 1995, returns to teach on the course at Amani Nature Reserve in 2008





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Portuguese TBA alumni, 1994 – 2009

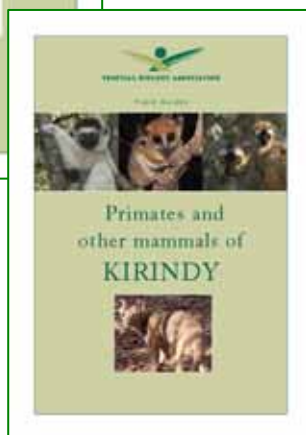
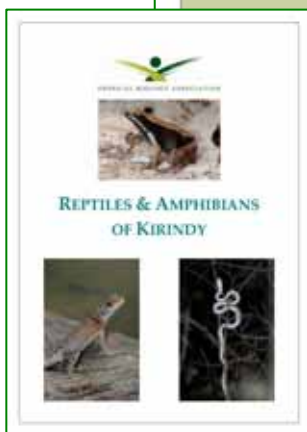
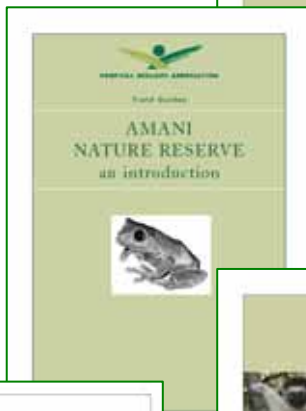
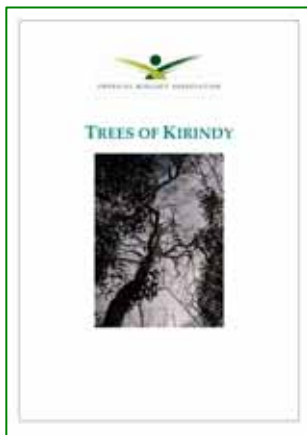
Last Name	First name	Gender	Course	Current Institution	Highest/current qualification
Amaro Mateus	Ana Rita	Female	09/4 Kirindy	Leiden University, Netherlands	PhD
Bichao	Maria Helena	Female	94/1 Kibale		BSc
Carvalho	Mariana	Female	00/2 Amani		MSc
Coelho dos Santos	Ana Margarida	Female	02/4 Kirindy	Imperial College London, UK	PhD
de Melo Alves	Ana	Female	06/2 Kibale	University of Barcelona, Spain	BSc
Fernandes Duarte	Ana Leitão	Female	03/1 Kibale	University of Groningen, Netherlands	BSc
Ferreira	Joana	Female	08/3 Kirindy	University of Lisbon	BSc
Flanagan	Deirdre	Female	06/1 Amani	University of Lisbon	BSc
Gouveia Maldonado	Cristina	Female	09/1 Kibale	University of Lisbon	
Lerias	Rui Pedro	Male	96/1 Kibale		BSc
Lourenço	Pedro	Male	01/2 Kibale	University of Groningen, Netherlands	PhD
Lourenço	Sofia	Female	97/2 Kibale		MSc
Marques	Ana Teresa	Female	02/2 Kibale	University of Lisbon	MSc
Marques	João	Male	99/3 Amani	University of Lisbon	PhD
Matias	Rafael	Male	00/3 Amani		BSc
Mira Martins	Bruno	Male	09/3 Danum		
Novo Kaztenberger	Marco	Male	08/2 Kibale	Estación Biologica de Doñana (EBD-CSIC), Spain	MSc
O Beldade	Patricia	Female	95/3 Kibale	Leiden University, Netherlands	PhD
Palmeirin	Ana Filipa	Female	09/3 Danum		
Patricio	Pedro	Male	08/1 Amani	University of Lisbon	
Pereira	Miguel	Male	01/1 Amani		MSc
Pires Marialva	Marta	Female	09/4 Kirindy	Leiden University, Netherlands	
Proença	Vânia	Female	03/4 Kirindy	University of Lisbon	PhD
Reis	Joaquim	Male	98/2 Kibale	Portuguese Institute for Nature Conservation	PhD
Rocha	Ricardo	Male	07/2 Mpala/ Naivasha	Imperial College London, UK	BSc
Rodrigues	Joana	Female	98/2 Kibale	DICE, University of Kent, UK	BSc
Rosa	Patricia	Female	97/1 Kibale	Portuguese Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	PhD
Simoes	Ana Rita	Female	06/4 Kirindy	Universidade de Aveiro	BSc
Teixeira Martins	Ana Rita	Female	06/3 Mpala/ Naivasha	University of Lisbon	BSc
Trindade	Ana	Female	99/2 Amani		BSc
Valente	Luis	Male	05/1 Kibale	Madrid Botanic Gardens, Spain	PhD
Vasconcelos	Raquel Campos	Female	04/3 Kibale	University of Lisbon	PhD
Velloso	Miguel	Male	95/3 Kibale		MSc
Verissimo	Diogo	Male	05/2 Kibale	Global Vision International, Costa Rica	MSc
Verissimo	Nuno	Male	09/4 Kirindy	Goettingen University, Germany	MSc



TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Tropical Biology Association Publications, March 2010

One of the outputs from TBA activities has been the development of a series of practical guides to essential skills and introductions to the natural history of the sites where TBA courses are held. These include detailed accounts of some of the flora and fauna encountered by participants on TBA field courses and instructional handbooks resulting from STP workshops.



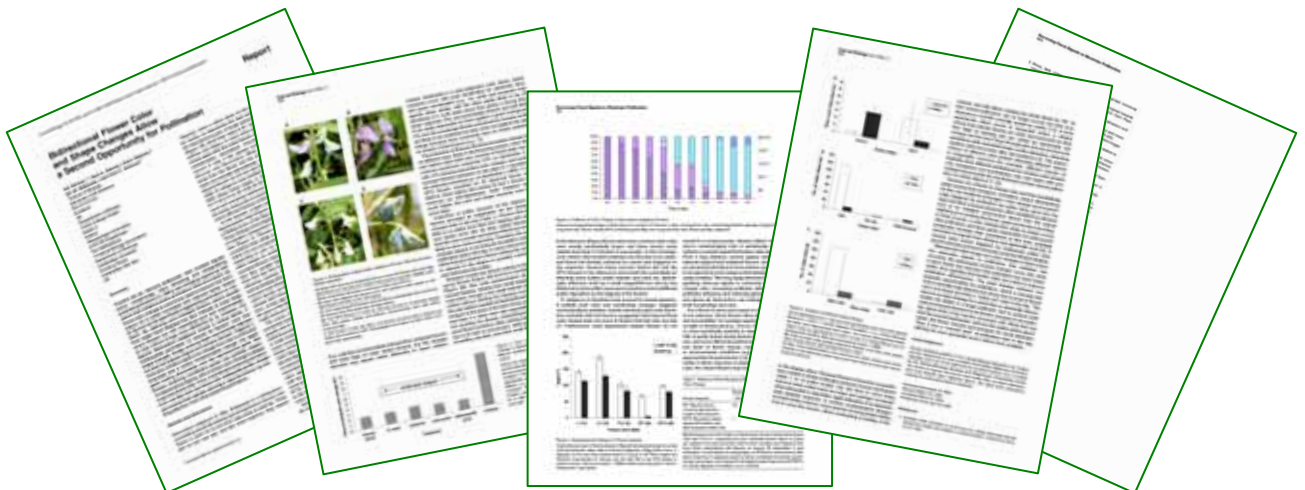


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Publications from TBA activities, March 2010

Published papers are among the outcomes of TBA's activities. Designing, carrying out and writing up research projects is an integral part of the TBA month-long courses. Some students go on to get their papers published, as are some of the class exercises, while staff and teachers on the courses may collect data that they use in their own research publications. Other TBA activities, such as research collaborations, also result in publications.

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TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Tropical Biology Association subscribing member institutions, February 2010

AUSTRALIA

School of Life and Environmental Sciences, **Deakin University**, Melbourne

AUSTRIA

Institute of Zoology, **Karl-Franzens University**, Graz
Institute of Ecology, **University of Innsbruck**
Institute of Zoology, **Paris-Lodron University**, Salzburg
Faculty of Life Sciences, **University of Vienna**

DENMARK

Institute of Biological Sciences, **University of Aarhus**

FRANCE

Centre d'Études Biologiques de Chizé, **CNRS**, Chizé

GERMANY

Department of Sociobiology, **German Primate Centre**, Göttingen
Institute of Systematic Botany, **University of Munich**
Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, **University of Würzburg**

IRELAND

Department of Botany, **National University of Ireland**, Galway,
Environmental Science Unit, **National University of Ireland**, Galway
Department of Zoology, **Trinity College Dublin**
School of Natural Sciences, **Trinity College Dublin**
Department of Zoology, **University College Dublin**

NETHERLANDS

Community and Conservation Ecology, **University of Groningen**
Institute of Biology, **University of Leiden**
Resource Ecology Group, **Wageningen University and Research Centre**

POLAND

Institute of Environmental Sciences, **Jagiellonian University**, Cracow
Environmental Biology Departments, **Warsaw University**

PORTUGAL

Centre for Environmental Biology, **University of Lisbon**

SWEDEN

Department of Biology, **Gothenberg University**
Department of Ecology, **Lund University**
Centre for Research and Natural Resources, and the Department of Systems Ecology, **Stockholm University**

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel
Department of Integrative Biology, **University of Basel**
Department of Biology, **University of Bern**
Department of Biology, Ecology and Evolution, **University of Fribourg**
Department of Ecology and Evolution, **University of Lausanne**
Institute for Integrative Biology, **ETH Zurich**
Zoology Institute, **University of Zurich**

UNITED KINGDOM

School of Biological Sciences, **University of Aberdeen**
School of Biological Sciences, **University of Bristol**
School of Applied Sciences, **Anglia Ruskin University**, Cambridge
Department of Plant Sciences, **University of Cambridge**
Department of Zoology, **University of Cambridge**
Institute of Evolutionary Biology, **University of Edinburgh**
School of Geosciences, **University of Edinburgh**
Faculty of Biological Sciences Graduate School, **University of Leeds**
School of Biological Sciences, **University of Liverpool**
Department of Biology, **University College London**
Institute of Zoology, **Zoological Society of London**
School of Biology, **University of Nottingham**
Department of Plant Sciences, **University of Oxford**
Department of Zoology, **University of Oxford**
School of Environment and Life Sciences, **Salford University**
Department of Biological Sciences, **Imperial College**, Silwood Park
School of Biology, **University of St Andrews**

USA

Faculty of Arts and Sciences, **Yale University**



TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Creating institutional links and building relationships

The TBA works closely with universities, government departments, NGOs and other organisations throughout Africa and in Malaysia. Long-lasting collaboration ensures that critical skills gaps are identified and addressed and underpins the enduring impact of TBA activities.

Kenya

Egerton University
Kenya Wildlife Service
Kenyatta University
Moi University
The National Museums of Kenya
Nature Kenya



NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

WHERE HERITAGE LIVES ON



NatureKenya
The East Africa Natural History Society



Madagascar

Centre National de Formation, d'Etudes et de Recherche
en Environnement et Foresterie
Faculty of Sciences, University of Antananarivo
Ministre Eaux et Forets and Ministre de l'Environnement
Peregrine Fund Project

Tanzania

Amani Nature Reserve
Tanzania Forestry Research Institute
Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of
Nature Resources and Tourism
Sokoine University of Agriculture
Tanga Catchment Forestry (formerly East Usambara
Catchment Management Project)
Wildlife Conservation Society



Uganda

Makerere University Biological Field Station
Makerere University Institute of Environment and
Natural Resources
Nature Uganda
Uganda Wildlife Authority

Borneo

Danum Valley Field Centre
The Royal Society South East Asia Rainforest Research
Project
Sabah Forestry Department

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

