

# Eleanor Warren-Thomas

ewarrenthomas.com

Inter-disciplinary conservation science researcher focussed on tropical forest landscapes but with wide interests.

**Current post** **Post-doctoral Research Associate, Department of Biology, University of York.**  
10/2017 - present (until 10/2019)

Newton Fund UK-Indonesia project: “Enhancing the benefits of tropical peatland restoration for supporting local communities and ecosystem processes”.

Work has included: establishing and leading biodiversity, vegetation and water table field data collection in peatlands of Sumatra; modelling theoretical habitat connectivity in response to peat land cover change; analysing ecological field data; scenario modelling of tropical peat land use change and restoration outcomes; close collaboration with social scientists, remote sensing specialists, and greenhouse gas emissions scientists; overall coordination of project activities including workshop organisation; and facilitating communication among project collaborators. Publications currently in progress.

Principal Investigator: Prof Jane Hill

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**Education** **PhD, University of East Anglia.**  
**“Habitat loss, biodiversity and economics in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot”**  
10/2013 - 09/2017

Investigated the role of rubber plantations as a driver of deforestation/biodiversity loss in Southeast Asia; conducted cost-benefit analysis of forest conservation using carbon finance/REDD+ versus rubber plantation and timber profits in Cambodia, including implementation, transaction and opportunity costs; setup and ran a field data collection campaign to investigate biodiversity co-benefits and rubber yield impacts of rubber agroforestry in Thailand; investigated avian functional diversity responses to rubber agroforestry. Two manuscripts published (*Conservation Letters*, *Nature Communications*) and a third currently in review (*Journal of Applied Ecology*).

Supervisors: Prof Paul Dolman (University of East Anglia), Prof David Edwards (University of Sheffield)

**MSc Conservation, University College London.** (Distinction)  
09/2010 – 09/2011

**BA (Hons) Biological Sciences, University of Oxford.** (First Class)  
10/2007 – 06/2010

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- Publications**
1. **Warren-Thomas, E.** *et al.* Rubber agroforestry in Thailand provides biodiversity benefits without reducing yields. *Journal of Applied Ecology*. (in review)
  2. Crowson, M., **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Hill, J.K., Hariyadi, B., Agus, F., Saad, A., Hamer, K.C., Hodgson, J.A., Kartika, W.D., Lucey, J., McClean, C., Nurida, N.L., Pratiwi, E., Stringer, L.C., Ward, C. & Pettorelli, N. (2018). A comparison of satellite remote sensing data fusion methods to map peat swamp forest loss in Sumatra, Indonesia. *Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation*.

## Publications

3. **Warren-Thomas, E.M.**, Edwards, D.P., Bebbler, D.P., Chhang, P., Diment, A.N., Evans, T.D., Lambrick, F.H., Maxwell, J.F., Nut, M., O’Kelly, H.J., Theilade, I. & Dolman, P.M. (2018). Protecting tropical forests from the rapid expansion of rubber using carbon payments. *Nature Communications*, 9(1), 911.
4. Rockwell, C.A., Guariguata, M.R., Menton, M., Quispe, E.A., Quaadvlieg, J., **Warren-Thomas, E.**, et al. (2017). Spatial distribution of *Bertholletia excelsa* in selectively logged forests of the Peruvian Amazon. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*. 1-14.
5. Zou Y., Sang W., **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Axmacher J.C. (2016). Geometrid moth assemblages reflect high conservation value of naturally regenerated secondary forests in temperate China. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 374, 111–118.
6. Rockwell C.A., Guariguata M.R., Menton M., Arroyo Quispe E, Quaadvlieg J, **Warren-Thomas E.**, et al. (2015). Nut Production in *Bertholletia excelsa* across a Logged Forest Mosaic: Implications for Multiple Forest Use. *PLoS ONE*. 10 (8): e0135464.
7. **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Dolman, P.M. & Edwards, D.P. (2015). Increasing Demand for Natural Rubber Necessitates a Robust Sustainability Initiative to Mitigate Impacts on Tropical Biodiversity. *Conservation Letters*. 5 (4), 230-241.  
**(2nd most accessed Conservation Letters paper in 2015)**
8. Zou, Y., Sang, W., Wang, S., **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Liu, Y., Yu, Z., Wang, C. & Axmacher, J.C. (2015). Diversity patterns of ground beetles and understory vegetation in mature, secondary, and plantation forest regions of temperate northern China. *Ecology and Evolution*. 5 (3), 531–542.
9. Upton, K., **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Rogers, I., Docherty, E. (2014). Amphibian Diversity on Floating Meadows in Flooded Forests of the Peruvian Amazon. *Herpetological Review*. 45 (2), 209–212.
10. **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Zou, Y., Dong, L., Yao, X., Yang, M., Zhang, X., Qin, Y., Liu, Y., Sang, W. & Axmacher, J.C. (2014). Ground beetle assemblages in Beijing’s new mountain forests. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 334, 369–376.
11. **Warren-Thomas, E.**, Menton, M., Huamán, J., Frisancho Vargas, R., Wadley, E., Price, N., Axmacher, J.C. (2013). Frog Communities in Fire-Disturbed Forests of the Peruvian Amazon. *Herpetological Bulletin*. 123, 14-24.

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### Conference presentations & talks

#### Joint BES/gtö Symposium – Unifying Tropical Ecology: Strengthening collaborative science

04/2019

Talk: Sumatran peatlands and their forests: can peat restoration improve biodiversity and rainforest connectivity?

#### 55th Annual Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation, Kuching, Malaysia

07/2018

Talk: “Biodiversity loss and carbon emissions from forest conversion to rubber in Asia: can carbon finance help, and what can rubber agroforestry offer?”

Poster: “Connectivity of peat swamp forests in Sumatra”

**Conference presentations & talks**

**Department of Animal and Plant Sciences, University of Sheffield**

01/2017

Invited talk: "Rubber plantations in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot"

**Conservation Asia 2016, Joint Meeting of Society for Conservation Biology Asia section/Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Asia-Pacific chapter, Singapore**

06/2016

Talk: "Rubber plantations in the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot: what are the stakes for conservation?"

**Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Asia-Pacific Chapter Annual Meeting 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

04/2015

Talk: "Can carbon markets stop the loss of Indo-Burmese forests?" (**Student talk prize**)

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**Teaching Experience**

**GIS and statistics training - Jambi University, Indonesia**

07/2019

Design and delivery of interactive training workshops for undergraduates, recent graduates and university staff: basic statistics in R, introduction to spatial data in QGIS, and experimental design.

**Undergraduate tutorials and project supervision - University of York**

01/2019 - present

Delivered tutorial sessions to small groups of biology and bioscience undergraduates, and co-supervised a 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate research project.

**Teaching Assistant, Ireland Field Ecology Course - University of East Anglia**

09/2015 and 09/2016

Residential field course for 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate ecology students. Responsibilities included: creating learning aids, teaching bird identification, statistics seminars, project supervision and pastoral care.

**Visiting Lecturer - University of East Anglia**

11/2014 and 11/2015

Lectures for 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate/MSc students on the REDD+ and community forestry.

*Student feedback: "she was very engaging... and showed infectious enthusiasm for her research.", "Very natural when presenting", "... an excellent communicator".*

**Demonstrator - University of East Anglia**

10/2014

Assisted lecturers in workshops and discussion groups for ecology undergraduate students.

**Course Tutor - Villiers Park Educational Trust**

06/2014 - 11/2015

Wrote and delivered education programmes for three week-long residential courses for A level students. Courses were titled "Biology: Ecology and Evolution" (06/2014), and "Environment and Society" (11/2014 and 11/2015). Pastoral care of students was also a key responsibility.

**Teaching Experience** **Carbon Assessment and Forest Structure Survey Team Leader - Operation Wallacea**  
07/2012 - 08/2012

Led teams of student volunteers to conduct tree surveys in challenging terrain of Cusuco National Park, Honduras. Students ranged from A-level to 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate.

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**Academic citizenship** **Committee Member - British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group**  
02/2019 - present

**Reviewer for Nature Scientific Reports, Agroforestry Systems, Biological Conservation, Regional Environmental Change.**  
Ongoing

**UEA Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Annual Rebellion Conference**  
03/2015  
Member of organising committee for two day conference.

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**Engagement, Policy & Impact** **Member of the Zoological Society of London SPOTT Rubber Technical Advisory Group**  
11/2018 - present

**RCUK Policy Internship, Research Service, National Assembly for Wales**  
09/2016 - 12/2016

NERC funded placement with the Environment and Transport Research team. Produced research briefings and blogs, responded to time-critical enquiries from Assembly Members, and supported Assembly Committee work. Wrote briefings on climate change, woodlands, transport and planning.

**International Rubber Study Group Sustainability Forum, Singapore**  
05/2016

Attended an invitation-only industry forum on sustainability efforts in the natural rubber sector.

**BBC, The Times, Science Magazine, Süddeutscher Zeitung, Mongabay and others**  
04/2015

Interviewed by news outlets and sustainability consultancies following publication of research highlighting the role of rubber plantations in driving forest and biodiversity loss in Asia.

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**Funding & Awards** **British Ornithological Union - Small Ornithological Research Grant**  
04/2016

Award to part-fund 5 months of field research in southern Thailand for PhD research (£1,923).

**Natural Environment Research Council Doctoral Studentship Grant**  
10/2013

Grant number NE/L50158X/1 provided fees, Research Training Support Grant, Fieldwork Grant and full stipendiary support for 3.5 years of doctoral study.

**Natural Environment Research Council Master's Degree Scholarship**  
09/2011

Award provided fees for a one-year taught master's degree, and full stipendiary support.

**Funding & Awards** **Royal Geographic Society Geographical Fieldwork Grant (supported by Rio Tinto) (£1500)**  
**Mike Soper Bursary Fund (£400); St Hugh's College Travel Grant (£1000)**

04/2009

Funding for fieldwork that assessed the impact of fires on forest structure and amphibian diversity in the Peruvian Amazon.

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**Skills** R; QGIS; ArcGIS

Spanish language (working knowledge); Indonesian language (basic communication)

Ecological field survey methods (birds, butterflies, ground beetles, reptiles, amphibians, above-ground forest carbon stocks, vegetation structure, water tables)

Active BTO bird ringing trainee

UK Driving License

Higher Education Mental Health First Aid trained