

Caoimhe O'Brien Moran

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Personal Statement

I am a zoologist with a Master's degree in conservation and biodiversity. For the past eight years, I have gained much experience through my university education, employment and volunteer effort, in a variety of environmental research and conservation projects. I am a confident field-worker, but I also have meticulous attention to detail when managing data and writing reports, I work well both independently and in teams and have experience supervising students and volunteers, as well as in public speaking and presenting to groups. I am seeking a challenging position in marine research.

Education

MSc. Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Exeter

2011 – 2012

Grade: Merit

Research Project: *Investigating the effectiveness of MPAs for the sea turtle populations of the Belizean Barrier Reef (70%)*

Note: *A research paper incorporating my project findings is currently in preparation.*

Modules: Marine Conservation • Africa Field Course • Ecological Census Techniques • Quantitative Biology

BSc. (Hons) Zoology, University College Cork

2006 – 2010

Grade: 1st Class Honours (top ranking student)

Research Project: *Aggressive behaviour among captive capybara at Fota Wildlife Park, Cork (70%)*

Previous Employment

Doñana Biological Station (CSIC), Seville, Spain

September 2015 – Present

- Research Assistant, Laboratory of Stable Isotopes

I am currently working as a research assistant as part of the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme. My work includes preparing, washing and weighing organic samples for stable isotope analysis, primarily focusing on a study of the trophic ecology of seabirds in the Arctic Circle.

Eishtec, Waterford

July 2015 – Present

- Technical Support Agent for EE mobile network

Freedom Surf School, Tramore, Co. Waterford

June 2015 – August 2015

- Ecologist/Eco-hike leader (part-time)

I provide tailor-made coastal ecology talks & tours on demand for primary and secondary school student groups. Tours are 1 hour in duration and cover an introduction to salt-marsh and dunes ecosystems, importance of wetland habitats for migratory birds and EU conservation legislation. Rocky seashore exploration includes species identification, and the adaptation of seashore fauna and flora to different shore heights. I gave a public talk on shark biology & sharks in Irish waters at Tramore Promenade Festival, July 2015.

Coastwatch Europe, Ireland

October 2014

- Coastal Survey Volunteer

Coastwatch conducts annual citizen science surveys to give an overview of the state of the coast. As part of Coastwatch's 2014 survey season, I collected data on the biodiversity and pollution of beaches in my area along 500m belt transects. I participated in the Climate Change & Coastwatch Results workshop in Dublin in March 2015.

Operation Wallacea, Buton, Indonesia

June 2014 – August 2014

- Primatologist

I coordinated fieldwork and collected data for a long-term study on the behavior of the Buton macaque and the association between habitat loss and increased crop-raiding behavior. This involved 60 hours of fieldwork per week in a rainforest habitat conducting behavioural scan samples. I was also responsible collating and managing all data, for supervising two undergraduate dissertation students, training volunteers in ethological techniques, and producing the end of season report.

AquaTT, Dublin

April 2013 – June 2014

- Scientific Project Assistant

I worked on a number of national and EU FP7 marine and environmental projects, carrying out desktop research, database management and admin support. Primarily, I supported the MSFD-related STAGES project which aimed to identify relevant research projects which could help define standards of 'Good Environmental Status' for marine habitats in Europe. I proof

read reports, edited databases in excel, produced text and figures for end of project reports, liaised with external partners and assisted with organizing the STAGES final workshop.

National Biodiversity Data Centre, Carriganore, Waterford

March 2013 – April 2013

- Marine Database Volunteer

I worked on a database of historical sightings of rare fish, cross-checking data entries in MS Excel against original hard-copy records to ensure accuracy before the database was digitized and published online.

Mammal Research Institute PAS, Bialowieza, Poland

September 2012 – November 2012

- Research Assistant Intern

My duties included tracking stone marten & European bison using VHF radio telemetry, and using GPS to map the animals' denning sites and daily range, respectively. I proof-read draft scientific papers, assisted with small mammal surveys and with setting up camera traps for a study on wolf-ungulate trophic ecology. I cleaned bones for display in the MRI museum. I participated in the Invasive Species Management workshop and the European Bison Conservation international conference.

Reginald's Tower National Monument, OPW, Waterford

June 2011 – September 2011

- Tour guide

Freedom Surf School, Tramore, Co. Waterford

September 2010 – June 2011

- Ecologist/Eco-Hike Leader

Irish Seal Sanctuary, Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford

September 2010 – October 2010

- Assistant animal handling volunteer

I prepared feed for sick and injured grey and common seal pups, and assisted with carrying out medical checks on pups. I cleaned enclosures, and greeted visitors to the sanctuary.

Travel Ireland Language School, Waterford

July 2010

- ESL Teacher

Archelon, Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, Zakynthos

June 2009 – July 2009

- Turtle monitoring and public awareness volunteer

I participated in morning surveys, identifying the tracks of female loggerhead turtles and locating and recording data on turtle nests. I assisted with tagging nesting turtles during night surveys; and with nest relocation where the nest was judged in danger of destruction. I carried out public awareness work and informed tourists about turtle ecology and conservation.

Certificates & Courses

Introduction to Grass Identification workshop, NBDC/Ms Lynda Weekes	June 2015
Introduction to Habitat Mapping course, NBDC/Dr George Smith CIEEM	March 2015
Funding Procurement for Horizon 2020 training course, AquaTT	March 2014
PADI Open Water Diver	October 2013
ENG 11 Seafarer Medical Certificate	September 2013
Personal Survival Techniques STWC 95, Certificate No.: 131801	August 2013
EuroGIS-GPS training course, Ambios Ltd.	September 2012
Outdoor First Aid training course, ITC certified, valid until October 2014	October 2011

Skills & Memberships

- Software: MS Office, ArcGIS 10, QGIS 1.7.3, R 2.14.1
- Equipment: GPS, Depth sounder, YSI multi-parameter instrument, VHF radio-telemetry, compass
- Field and Office: First Aid, data collection and entry, database management, working in teams, working independently, working on boats, adaptable, guide and presentation skills, logistics and planning, field survey techniques, focal sampling, scan sampling, desktop research, report writing, managing volunteers, supervising undergraduate dissertation students, working in hot, humid conditions at sea and in tropical rainforest, fieldwork in cold temperate forest, working well in field camps with basic living conditions.
- Full clean driving licence
- Memberships: Irish Whale & Dolphin Group, Irish Wildlife Trust, ASAB (UK).

References are available on request.