**REPORT ON EXPEDITION/PROJECT/CONFERENCE**

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| **Expedition/Project/ Conference Title:** | 12th International Mammalogical Congress |
| **Travel Dates:** | 09/07/2017 – 14/07/2017 |
| **Location:** | Perth, Australia |
| **Group member(s):** | Lisa V Gecchele |
| **Aims:** | To attend and present a poster to IMC 12 |
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| **OUTCOME (not less than 300 words):-** | |

In July 2017 I had the chance to attend the 12th International Mammalogical Congress (IMC) that took place in Perth (AU); it is arguably the most important conference for mammalogists and takes place every four years.   
Twelve hundred delegates attended last year’s meeting, including some of the leading experts in the field of mammalogy. This represented an invaluable opportunity for me to hear their talks and learn about their research.

As I am the only person in my department working on carnivores, it was particularly important for me to be able to attend this meeting as it represented an exceptional opportunity for me to meet other researchers working in my same field, learn about their work and network. Furthermore, since the meeting was held in Australia, I had the chance to hear about research on topics I do not normally get exposed to in Europe, namely marsupial ecology and conservation. I also presented a poster illustrating the partial results of my project; it was crucial to me to receive good feedbacks and advice by other carnivore experts. Receiving inputs from other fellow researcher really renew my enthusiasm and my drive in my project, which has been crucial to me at that point in my PhD.

Although I would have preferred attending such an important conference at a later stage of my PhD, and hence I was slightly worried that my work would not have been appreciated since I could only present incomplete data, I was very happy to have been proven wrong as this represented a great opportunity for me to present my work and attend such an important conference.

On a personal note, I also had the chance to go visit Rottnest Island the day after the conference ended; this tiny island a few miles off the Perth coast that is home to the largest wild population of quokkas (a very small and extremely cute type of kangaroos), along with a number of other endemic wildlife species. I rented a bike and cycled around the island, having an absolutely great day, despite the terrible Australian mid-winter weather.   
To me this was the perfect ending to a great personal as well as academic experience, and I wish to sincerely thank the James Rennie Bequest committee to give me this opportunity.