

**DR MATT BECKER** Our advice for future biologists and wildlife conservation professionals is probably similar to most fields is be as hard working and persevering as you can because it's a difficult field. There's a lot of challenges in it but if you know what you love and you know what you want to do you will be successful if you put the work into it.

**PROFESSOR SEAN O'DONNELL** You have to really examine yourself and feel confident that you have internal drive in a sense I like to call it a fire in your belly that you feel really, really dedicated and excited about what you're doing, because that passion and that energy that comes from within is what's going to drive you through the difficult spots.

**DR DIANE GENDRON** I always tell the student not being afraid of doing some voluntary work before they decide what they really want to study as a master or PhD, because you have to be at sea to know if you really want to be so many hours or on land or working on the lab or microscope or genetics, so voluntary work really helps to decide.

**DENVER HOLT** There's an ever increasing number of NGOs or non-government organisations, whether it's a non-profit or not, in the United States in particular, and I've encouraged a number of students, start your own research institute. I mean you can raise the money, it's not hard to do, more and more governments now are contracting out to, you know, whether it's consulting companies or NGOs and you can start your own research institute, make a decent living at it and conduct a research that you want and work on the species that you want and then you'll be more excited about it so.

**ADAM FOX** I think the biggest piece of advice would be to to be able to get as much experience especially if you want to do fieldwork, get out there in the field, volunteer, you know, be somebody's research tech but, you know, do it early on so you know you actually enjoy it. There's lots of people I know who, who thought they wanted to be field scientists and then turned out they'd much rather be in a lab with microscopes all day but getting that early on I think is really good.

**DR FEMKE BROEKHUIS** Try and focus on other areas, you know, think outside the box. I mean this kind of work is not just about ecology or a zoology or a behaviour, there's a lot of, it's a very interdisciplinary field so you can get into it through doing genetics or through technology or through behaviour.

**DR MATT BECKER** Try and get an array of different projects, different species, different places, different issues, different

ecosystems, and that way you'll have quite a realm of experience and knowledge and choices to decide what you like and what you want to do.

**PROFESSOR OLA FINCKE** Take advantage of every opportunity you can to go to the tropics before a lot of it disappears.

**PROFESSOR SIMON POLLARD** I've always felt that no matter what type of research you're involved in whether it's physiology, whether it's ecology, whether it's animal behaviour, you do need to understand your animals and have a sense of how they live, where they live and what they do where they live. And with those insights it makes it a lot easier to design experiments around the questions that you're asking to again provide insights into evolution and biology and the strategies that these animals have evolved.

**DR FEMKE BROEKHUIS** I think one of the most important things is networking and finding, just talking to people and creating opportunities so doing internships or doing dissertations or volunteering on projects and really trying just get yourself out there.

**DR DIANE GENDRON** For those students who really wants to continue research, I believe choosing the professor is important, choosing the university is important, but it's also important to have your own hypothesis, that's what drives science.

**DENVER HOLT** And I encourage just do research, you know, you can set up questions on your own, you can go out and figure ways how to answer them, takes a little bit of time but I think you can do research no matter where this path in life takes you.

**PROFESSOR CLAUDIO SILLERO** Of course you need to go back to the lab and you need to make sense of your data and you have to use it to test a meaningful hypothesis. But by collecting the data yourself and trying to think or interpret the way your subject matter goes about in everyday business then I think you bring a better understanding and potentially results in better science.

**DR MATT BECKER** The pros of working in the field are obviously if you love wild animals in wild places you're immersed in them 24/7 and so to people like ourselves that's as good as it gets.

**PROFESSOR SIMON POLLARD** These are the animals in their naturalistic setting; these are the conditions under which they've evolved. They're much more likely to be expressing relevant evolutionarily relevant naturalistic behaviours when they're in the field, and that's what makes the difficulties of doing fieldwork I think really pay off in the end.

**DR MATT BECKER** The cons are you pretty much do nothing but work on wild animals in wild places which is good but also you're fairly narrow in your scope of activities in your life.

**PROFESSOR OLA FINCKE** Any cons? Oh yeah all the insect bites we have. The, you know, threat of getting malaria or leishmaniasis. It's hot, it's sweaty, it's, but it's wonderful I love it. I wouldn't have it any other way.

**PROFESSOR SIMON POLLARD** You're at the mercy of the weather of course which is unpredictable and doesn't always work in your favour. Sometimes the animals don't behave in ways that are expected or don't show up where you'd like them to. You're kind of at the mercy of factors that are beyond your control.

**DR MATT BECKER** It's a hard job as I know that sounds ridiculous but it's a lot of hard hours, lot of long hours. A lot of frustrations both with trying to find the animals, keep up with them, collect the information you need. Keep your vehicles going, keep the funding going and dealing with the whole array of environmental and political challenges that most researchers face. But that said the pros outweigh the cons and that's why we're here.

**PROFESSOR SIMON POLLARD** You don't always know how you're going to get where you're going and you may not even really know where you're going to end up. it's just important to kind of keep your antennae out if you will, like an army ant and yet [animal noise] be open to there's the fieldwork creeping in! And be open to exploring different possibilities, because sometimes pathways are not what you anticipated and you need to be open to that.

**PROFESSOR OLA FINCKE** I would encourage you to get to see the natural world as much as you can.

**PROFESSOR CLAUDIO SILLERO** Biology's a wonderful discipline, because it's not only a trade that will enable you to carry out meaningful jobs, but also brings a different lens for you to interpret the world around us. So I think biology rocks and I support every young person to follow biology as a career.