

Liam De Bosscher

Terrestrial Ecologist (*ornithologist*) · Biodiversity Specialist

UAE-based · Open to GCC & international roles

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Belgian national · UAE resident

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Terrestrial ecologist with 3+ years of applied experience across desert ecosystems, mangroves & other coastal ecosystems, deciduous forests, cloud forests and tropical rainforest in the UAE, Kenya, Colombia, and Europe. Skilled in ecological baseline surveys, habitat assessments, species surveys, bioacoustic monitoring, remote sensing (QGIS), and statistical analysis (R, Python). Experienced with developing biodiversity monitoring frameworks aligned to various frameworks (CBD, IUCN, VCS, CCB); proven at leading field teams and communicating findings to senior stakeholders and clients. Currently based in the UAE, with strong working knowledge of UAE ecosystems.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ecologist / Biodiversity Specialist · Forestbase, UAE & Colombia, Aug 2024 – Present

For-profit NBS developer managing a 50,000 ha REDD+ and ARR carbon project in the Colombian Amazon.

- Design & development of biodiversity conservation project (incl. design of biodiversity monitoring plan)
- Conducting preliminary habitat assessments, species surveys & habitat sensitivity analysis against international frameworks
- Led field team of 4 people, trained staff in conducting systematic biodiversity data collection using bioacoustic sensors and vegetation transects across multiple biomes; strong species identification skills across flora and fauna.
- Designed and facilitated participatory community workshops on biodiversity monitoring and conservation supporting FPIC, compliance and local capacity building.
- Performed statistical analyses in R to assess species richness, biodiversity indices, distribution patterns, and habitat quality across heterogeneous landscapes.
- Conducted GIS-based land cover analysis, habitat mapping, and landscape-scale connectivity assessments using QGIS and satellite imagery.
- Prepared investor-facing technical documentation for Fortune 500 clients including Microsoft, contributing to a project pipeline valued at over \$10 million; experienced communicating technical findings to non-specialist audiences.
- Collaborated across disciplines with forest engineers, agronomists, legal teams, and business development
- Conducted bird surveys in various ecosystems of the UAE as part of formal EIAs.

Bird Banding Intern · Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN), Belgium, Aug 2023 – Aug 2024

- Conducted systematic banding across coastal, forest, urban and agricultural habitats (owls, raptors, shorebirds, passerines, gulls), collecting morphometric data for national long-term population monitoring.

Volunteer Field Ecologist · Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), Belgium, Oct 2017 – Mar 2025

- Conducted monthly systematic waterfowl counts on a designated river channel, contributing to long-term national biodiversity monitoring datasets. (transects)
- Monitored multiple 1 km² breeding bird plots across agricultural, grassland, urban and forest habitats for the General Breeding Bird Atlas Belgium. (point counts & territory mapping)

Excursion leader · Jeugdbond voor Natuur & Milieu (JNM), Belgium, 2017, 2020 and 2021

- Bird guide on 3 different hiking trips (Belgium, Poland & Switzerland) of 15-20 people

EDUCATION

MSc Global Change Ecology · Ghent University, Belgium, Sep 2021 – Aug 2023

Thesis: The Effects of Global Change on a Cooperative Breeding Species in Kenya · VLIR-UOS funded

Analysed a 20-year longitudinal dataset of breeding success and reproductive output in a cloud forest bird species in Kenya, testing responses to precipitation, temperature, habitat disturbance, forest cover, forest composition, and distance to forest edge. Conducted independent fieldwork in Kenya including nest monitoring, mist netting, and passive acoustic recording using Song Meter Mini devices across cloud forest fragments representing a gradient of habitat disturbance. Applied mixed effects models, time series analysis, and multivariate community analysis in R to disentangle the relative contributions of climatic and structural forest variables to demographic outcomes. Research contributed to a forthcoming publication in Ecology Letters.

Supervised by Dr. L. Cousseau & Prof. Dr. L. Lens

BSc Biology · Ghent University, Belgium, Sep 2017 – Aug 2021

Thesis: Biodiversity and Body Condition in Forest-Bird Communities (Flemish Ardennes)

Conducted systematic surveys and vegetation/habitat assessments across mixed broadleaved forest stands; computed biodiversity indices and analysed relationships between forest structure, land use, and bird community composition and condition using statistical modelling in R.

Supervised by Dr. Bram Catfolis | Promotor: Prof. Dr. Luc Lens & Prof. Dr. Diederik Strubbe

PUBLICATION

Cousseau L., Renaud V., De Bosscher L. et al. — "Elevated Predation Risk Reveals Hidden Benefits of Cooperation." Ecology Letters (forthcoming).

TECHNICAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

GIS & Remote Sensing: QGIS · land cover classification · landscape connectivity analysis · satellite imagery

Data & Analysis: R (RStudio) · Python · statistical modelling · species richness & biodiversity indices · ecological modelling

Field Methods: Ecological baseline surveys · habitat mapping · vegetation assessment · bioacoustic monitoring · bird banding · transect surveys

Frameworks: EIA reporting · IFC Performance Standard 6 · Critical Habitat Assessment · Cancun Safeguards · biodiversity monitoring design · CBD · IUCN Red List · VCS (Verra) · CCB Standards

Software: MS Office (advanced) · Google Workspace · QGIS · QField

Languages: Dutch (native) · English (professional working) · French (elementary) · Spanish (beginner)