

# INTRODUCTION

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Camera trapping in wildlife management and research is a growing global phenomenon. The technology is advancing very quickly providing unique opportunities for collecting new biological knowledge. In recent years, ecologists using camera traps have discovered new species to science (e.g. Rovero *et al.* 2008), rediscovered others (e.g. the saola, *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*, in Vietnam, Anon 2013) or extended the known range, recorded new behaviours and successfully conveyed these findings to a wider audience by using the pictures (e.g. Bahaa-el-din and Henschel undated; WWF-Canon Global Photo Network undated). The number of publications reporting the use of camera traps has also increased at a feverish pace (Rowcliffe and Carbone 2008; Rovero *et al.* 2013), although the adoption of camera traps travels at a far greater speed than journals can publish research findings. The camera trapping methods and analyses book edited by O'Connell *et al.* (2011) report on an international camera trapping symposium within the 9th International Mammal Congress, yet there have been very few fora where the technical and practical issues, best practices for particular applications, constraints and good news stories about camera trapping in a range of applications were discussed and debated.

There was recognition amongst scientists, practitioners and two wildlife societies that bringing together international users and experts would be a valuable contribution in the sharing of knowledge and experience, and towards fast tracking the refinement of camera trapping methods for wildlife research and management. This book collects the presentations of this unique symposium and workshop held in September 2012 and subsequently renamed the First Interna-

tional Camera Trapping Colloquium. It was not possible for the editors to include all of the presentations or any of the poster papers; however, we believe that a broad and valuable range of topics on contemporary camera trapping has been provided. The book has 32 scientific papers and one overview representative of the presentations given at the colloquium.

The book is set out in four sections, corresponding to topics of most interest identified in a survey of camera trapping wildlife managers and scientists:

- 1 camera trapping for animal monitoring: case studies;
- 2 camera technology, constraints and pitfalls;
- 3 camera trapping survey design and deployment; and
- 4 camera trapping data management and image analysis.

This book includes papers that describe the multitude of ways that camera traps are used in wildlife projects. There are examples of how the devices can be used to involve communities in citizen science and education through to purely scientific investigations of animal presence abundance and behavioural ecology. As humans are visual beings, camera trap images capture the interest of people of all cultures and are powerful tools for informing and educating them about wildlife. Several papers describe the how camera trapping has introduced a new role for non-scientific people to play in wildlife management. It has also been described as a powerful tool in educating and rallying support for conservation programs without the need for language. Conversely, some authors raise questions about the downsides of camera trapping, posing some inter-