

Foreword

It's incredibly poignant that as I write this, the display cases on the stairs in the main atrium of the David Attenborough Building are showcasing some of the aspects of Tony's incredible life. I knew of Tony, what he did and his impact on conservation in Asia, well before I knew him personally as my boss for eight years at Fauna & Flora International, but the breadth of what he did is incredible.

My favourite display case is one highlighting Tony's love of snails and how it extended to a menagerie of gastropod forms to decorate his home. He and I would regularly swap photos of all things snail-related, from me to him, or peafowl-related, him to me. In fact, Tony and I would swap all sorts of random things by email, text or whatever, even to our last communications on the day he died. I can't look at a common snail in my garden without thinking of Tony, as I attended a talk he gave on snails, during which he mentioned how we all no doubt pick up snails in our garden, eating our lettuces or whatever, and would throw them over the garden fence into our neighbour's garden. I must admit I do, but now with a clear conscience because if Tony said its OK, then it must be OK, but I do always say in my head "Sorry snail, but its Tony's fault!"

Further cases in the David Attenborough Building highlight the incredible contribution Tony made to the conservation literature, either directly through the books he wrote or indirectly through those that he funded during his time at the World Bank. There are not many field conservationists working today who haven't at one time either owned or used one of these field guides, particularly in Asia, but around the world and certainly no ecologist worth their salt in Indonesia wouldn't have read the Ecology of.... series. As Tony would say and as Jane mentions, how can you love something if you can't name it or know what it needs.

And that brings me to this Supplement issue of the Raffles Bulletin of Zoology, a more fitting a tribute to Tony and what he believed, would be hard to imagine. The papers it contains are Tony in a nutshell and, as he did, they champi-

on all those neglected species and landscapes, often overlooked by mainstream conservation, but still no less important. I wrote the following to a colleague recently when she asked me about the Kanthan Cave Trapdoor spider (*Liphistius kanthan*):

"This spider is 'classic Tony'. It's obscure, no one had really heard of it, but it's exciting, it makes a trap door, it has trip wires, it's a creepy, crawly, and who cares about them? It's also a perfect species for Tony to use as an exemplar of what conservation is all about. It lives in just one place, so the actions of just one company could wipe it out with just one blast, yet that one company is beholden to humankind to recognise the responsibility that it has to protect it. And Tony being so pragmatic, he wouldn't say the company should just shut down the site and move on, no, he recognised that the world needs cement, but not at any cost, and certainly not if it wipes out a species, the world it needs 'good' cement. And a little bit of research, a bit of planning and some actions would allow the company to mine limestone, make cement, but also enable the species to survive. Throw into that mix the important of the site to various faiths, it was a conservation issue made for Tony to champion. He did that by securing funds for research, he badgered the cement company, he camped out in their offices until he was put in front of the right people, he arranged a professional photographer to go and photograph it, he eventually created a partnership between FFI and the company, to do serious planning."

The papers here are all about that, so I and all my colleagues at Fauna & Flora International are delighted that we have been able to support this and are proud of what Tony has inspired amongst other conservationist!

Dr Stephen Browne
Director of Operations, Asia-Pacific
Fauna & Flora International

