

WANDER to WONDER

by MARTINA NICOLLS



The world will never starve for wonder, but only for want of wonder. G.K. Chesterson

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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE	4
MAP	
CAMBODIA	
MONOCLED COBRA	
CHANGEABLE LIZARD	
YELLOW MOTH	12
YELLOW-THROATED MARTEN	14
ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN	18
PAINTED JEZEBEL	22
LONG-NOSED WHIP SNAKE	25
BRAHMAN CATTLE	26
THE AUTHOR: MARTINA NICOLLS	31





editor's note

Welcome to the 27th edition of WANDER to WONDER

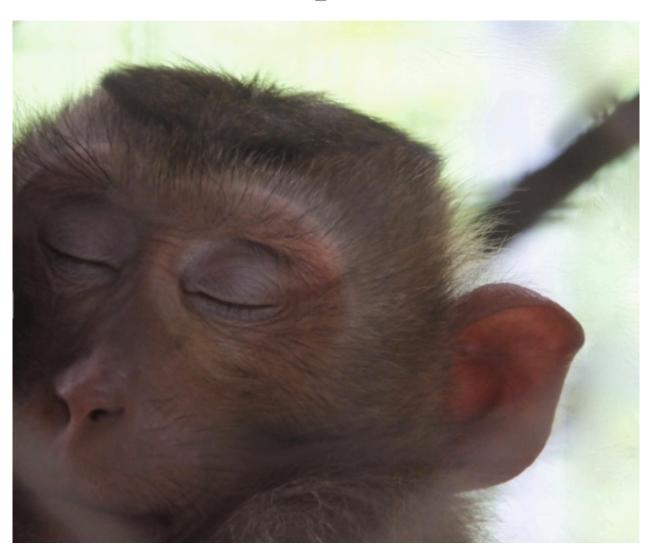
This edition of Wander to Wonder focuses on Cambodia's animals.

Until next edition, with another theme,

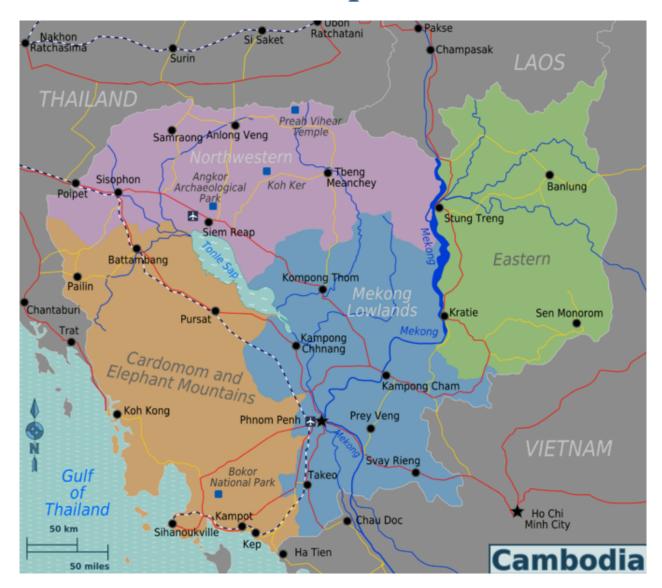
Martina

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map



cambodia

The Kingdom of Cambodia is located in the southeast of the Indochina peninsula. To the north and west of Cambodia is Thailand, with Laos to the northeast. To the south and east is Vietnam. Its capital is Phnom Penh. It has 25 provinces. Battambang is the country's fourth largest city and Siem Reap is its fifth largest city.

Cambodia has a diverse ecosystem, with the Cardamom Mountain rain forests, the Central Indochina dry forest, the Southeast Indochina dry evergreen forest, the Southern Annamite Range tropical forest, Tonle Sap swamp forest, and the Tonle Sap-Mekong peat swamp forest.





monocled cobra

The Monocled Cobra (*Naja kaouthia*) is a venomous snake. It can be brown, yellow, grey, blackish, or albino, with or without banded markings. It becomes paler as it ages. It has a black spot on each side of its hooded head. It has a pair of fixed anterior (front) fangs. It measures 134-150 centimetres (53-59 inches) in length.

The Monocled Cobra is native to south Asia and south-east Asia, from Indian to China, throughout Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, and Nepal, and south to Vietnam and Cambodia. It can live in a range of habitats, such as rice fields, swamps, and mangroves, as well as grasslands, shrublands, and forests. The Monocled Cobra is terrestrial.

It is oviparous. The female lays 16-33 eggs, which hatch after 55-73 days.









changeable lizard

The Changeable Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*) is an agamid reptile. It is in the family of Agama Lizards. It is also known as the Oriental Garden Lizard and the Eastern Garden Lizard.

It ranges in colour from light-brown to greyish. It has a short crest above its neck with small spines, which continue to the tail. There are light-grey lines radiating from its eyes. Like chameleons, the Changeable Lizard can move its eyes in different directions.

Its fourth toe on the hind (back) leg is longer than the other toes. The male has swollen cheeks and, when it is mating season, its head turns bright orange and its throat turns black.

It measures about 37 centimetres (14.5 inches) in length.

The Changeable Lizard is widespread in Asia, from Iran to China and south to Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. It can be found in parks and gardens in low bushes.

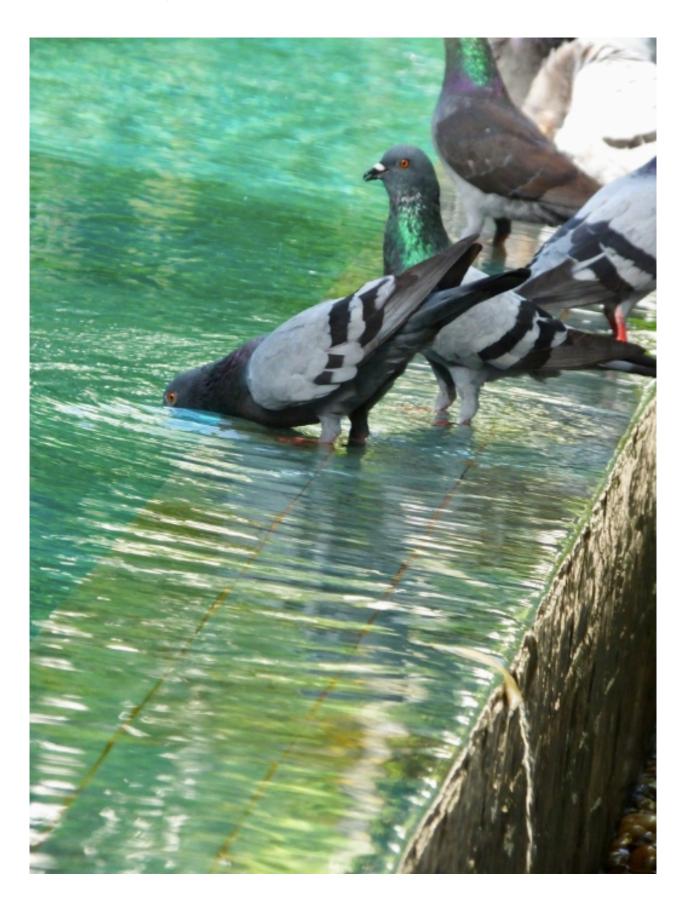
It is an insectivore, because it mainly eats insects. It also eats other lizards and mice.

The female Changeable Lizard lays eggs in a hole in a tree, or in the ground, covering them with soil. She is oviparous. She lays 5-16 eggs, which hatch after 6-7 weeks.









yellow moth

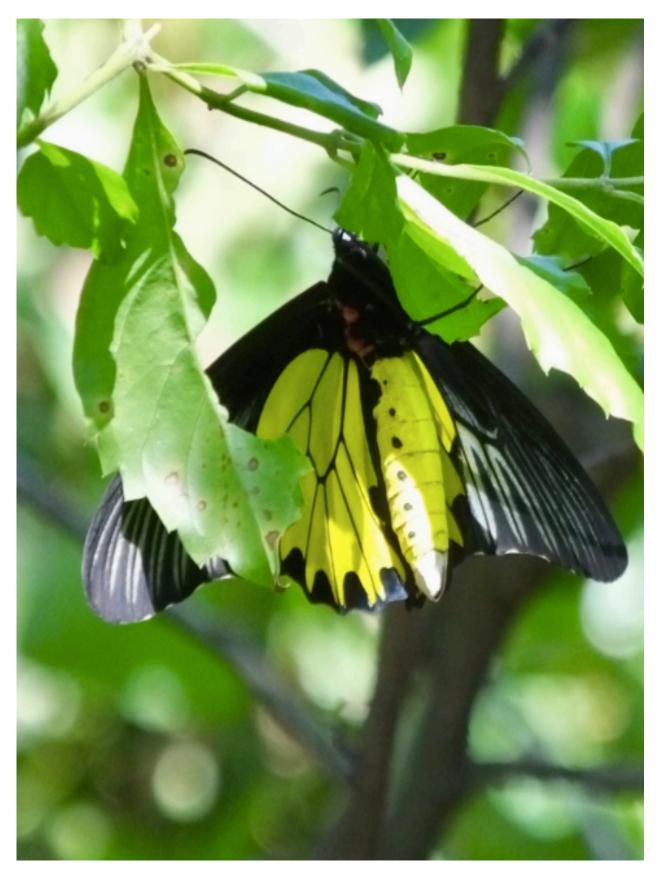
The Yellow Moth (*Dysphania sagana*) is a nocturnal insect in the Geometridae family. It is bright yellow with blackish edges and two bands of semi-transparent white spots on its forewings. Its hindwings are bright yellow with small black spots. Its head, thorax, and abdomen are yellow. It measures about 8 centimetres (3 inches) in length.

The Yellow Moth is found in Asia in southern Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, the Malaysia Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo.

The female lays eggs, which hatch into caterpillars. Each caterpillar makes a casing around itself, called a cocoon. It undergoes metamorphosis and emerges from the cocoon as an adult moth.







yellow-throated marten

The Yellow-Throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) has black, white, brown, and golden-yellow short fur. The top of its head is blackish-brown, and its cheeks are red-brown with white hair tips. Its sides and belly are bright yellow, while its chest and throat are golden-orange. Its chin and lower lips are white. Its front paws and lower front legs are pure black.

It has an elongated body, small pointed head, a long neck, and a long tail. Its tail is not very bushy. The soles of its feet are covered in coarse, flexible hairs. It measures about 70 centimetres (27.5 inches) in length. Its tail is more than half its body length.

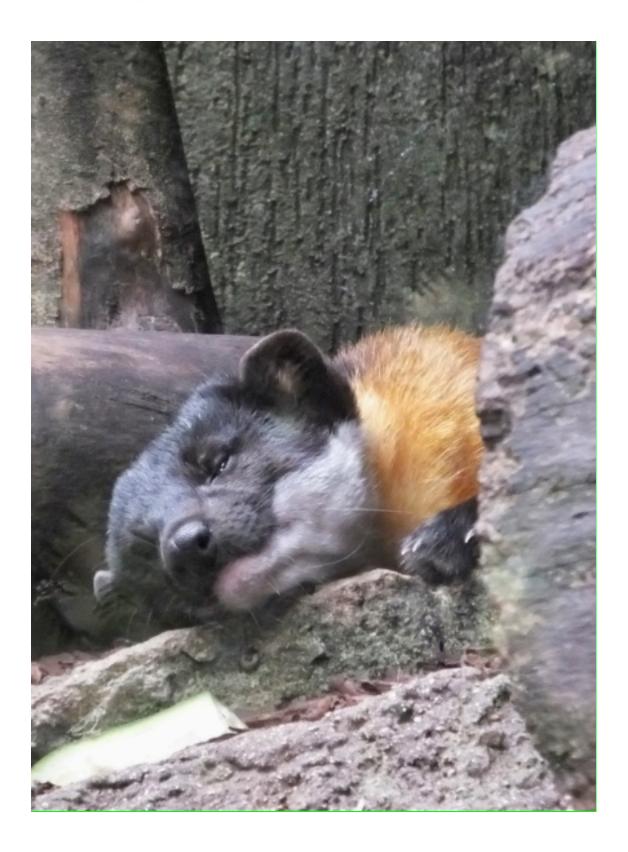
The Yellow-Throated Marten is native to Asia in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Himalayas, India, Nepal, Korea, China and eastern Russia. In south Asia, it is found in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Malay Peninsula. It prefers forests.

It is diurnal, active during the day. It is omnivorous, eating birds, bird eggs, snakes, fruit, rats, mice, rabbits, and even small deer. It hunts on the ground, but it can climb trees. It usually hunts in pairs or small packs. It can jump from branch to branch, with jumps of about 8 metres. It has an unpleasant smell, which deters animals from eating it. However, Black Bears and Siberian Tigers like to eat Yellow-Throated Martens.

The female Yellow-Throated Marten is pregnant for 7.5 to 9.5 months before giving birth to 2-3 live young, called kits.



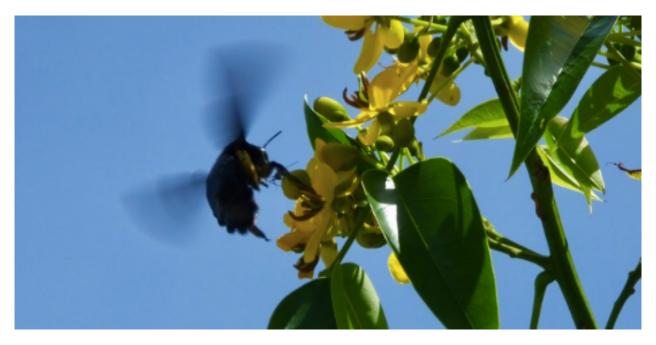
















oriental magpie-robin

The Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) is a small passerine songbird. It is related to the Flycatcher. It is black and white with an upright long tail. The male has black upperparts, black head and black throat, with a white shoulder patch. Its underparts and the sides of the long tail are white. The female has greyish-black upperparts and greyish white chest. It measures about 19 centimetres (7.5 inches) tall.

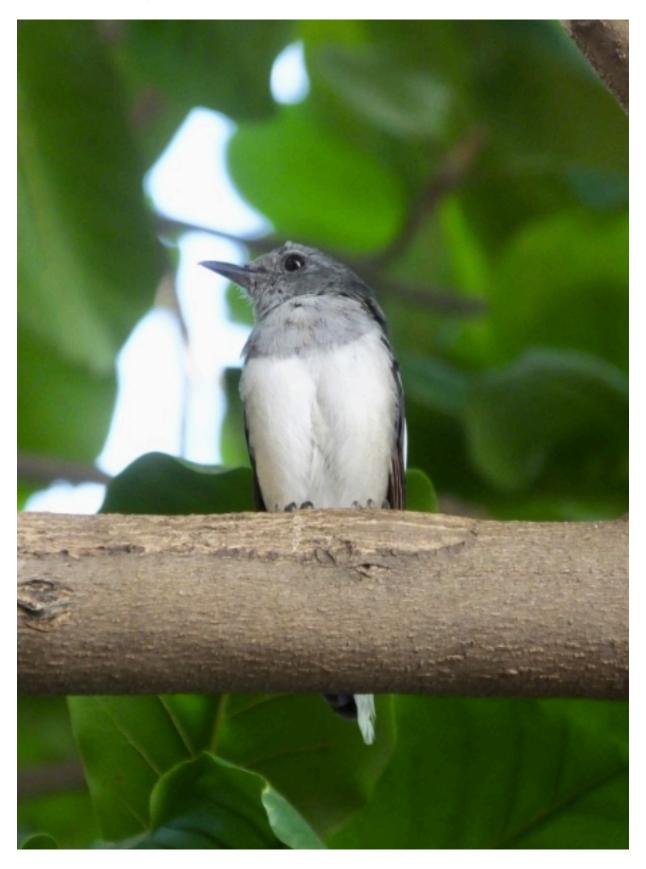
The Oriental Magpie-Robin is native to India and south-east Asia, in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, south China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It prefers tropical forests, open woodlands, and gardens near human habitats.

It forages amongst leaf litter on the ground for food. It eats insects, larvae, caterpillars, flower nectar, lizards, leeches, centipedes and small fish.

It nests in tree hollows or niches in walls or building. The female makes a nest lined with grass. She lays 4-5 eggs, which hatch after 8-14 days. Only the female sits on the eggs. The female mainly feeds the chicks.



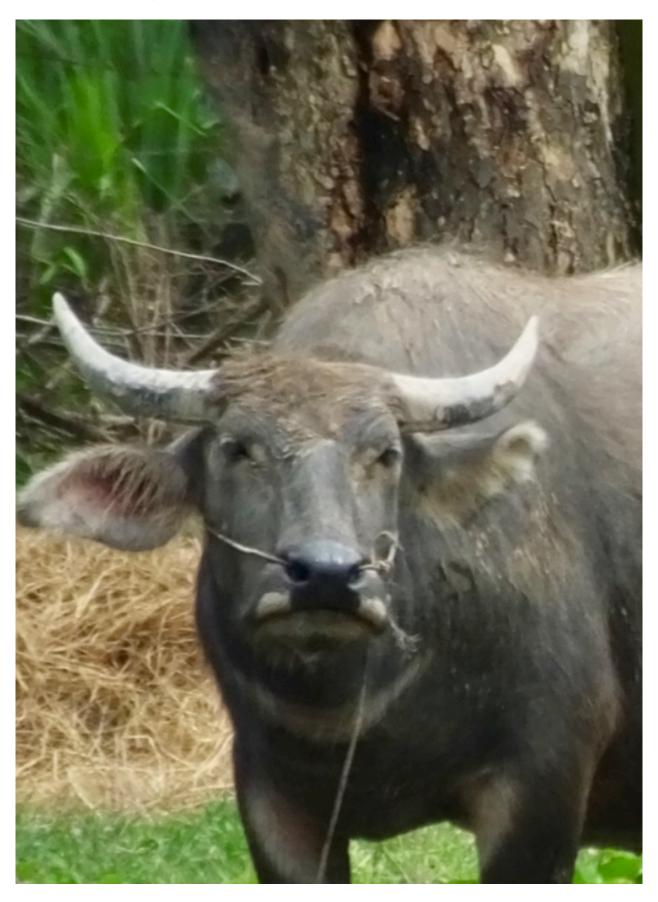












painted jezebel

The Painted Jezebel (*Delias hyparete*) is a medium-sized butterfly in the Pieridae family – the white, yellow, or orange butterflies. It has a dark body with medium length antennae. The female has yellow, white, and orange-red wings with black lines. Males are paler. The female's bright colours are on the underside of the wings. The upper side is white with black veins (lines). The bright colours deter predators.

It measures about 2.5 centimetres (1 inch) with a wingspan of about 4-5.5 centimetres (1.5-2 inches). It is native to India, south-east Asia, and the South Pacific islands. It likes open woods and gardens.

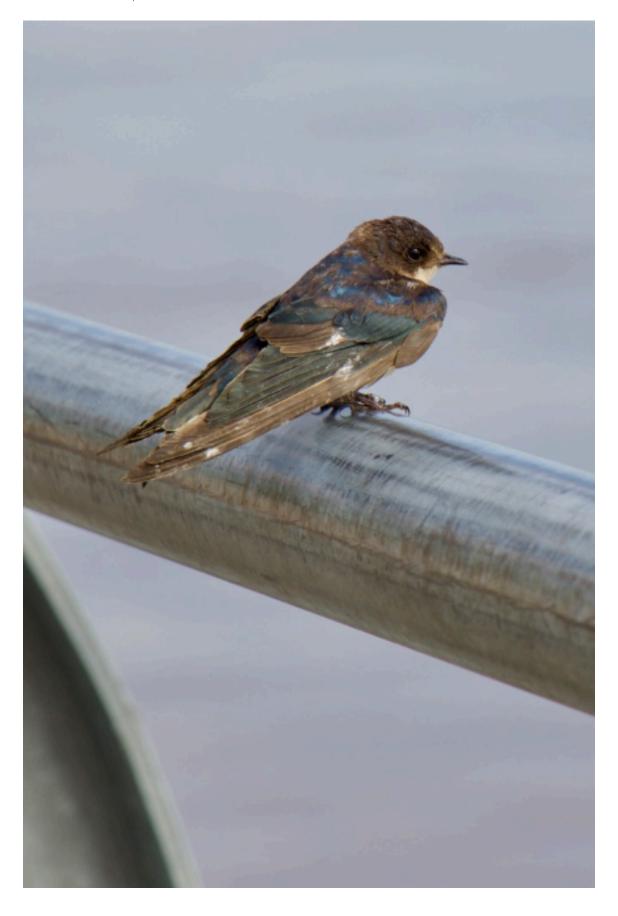
It is a high flyer, preferring to fly around tall trees to sip the nectar from flowers. Occasionally, it feeds on nectaring flowers closer to the ground.











long-nosed whip snake

The Long-Nosed Whip Snake (*Ahaetulla nasuta*) is a mildly venomous arboreal snake, often called the Green Vine Snake, but it is not the same as the South American Green Vine Snake (*Oxybelis fulgidus*). Ahaetulla means eye plucker, because it strikes the eyes of its prey.

The Long-Nosed Whip Snake is slender and bright green with a pointed nose. It has black and white scale markings, which are mostly hidden, and only shown when it expands its body to deter predators. It measures about 150 centimetres (59 inches).

It is native to Asia, in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. It is arboreal, living in trees. It is diurnal, active during the day. It feeds on frogs and lizards.

The Long-Nosed Whip Snake is viviparous, giving birth to live young.





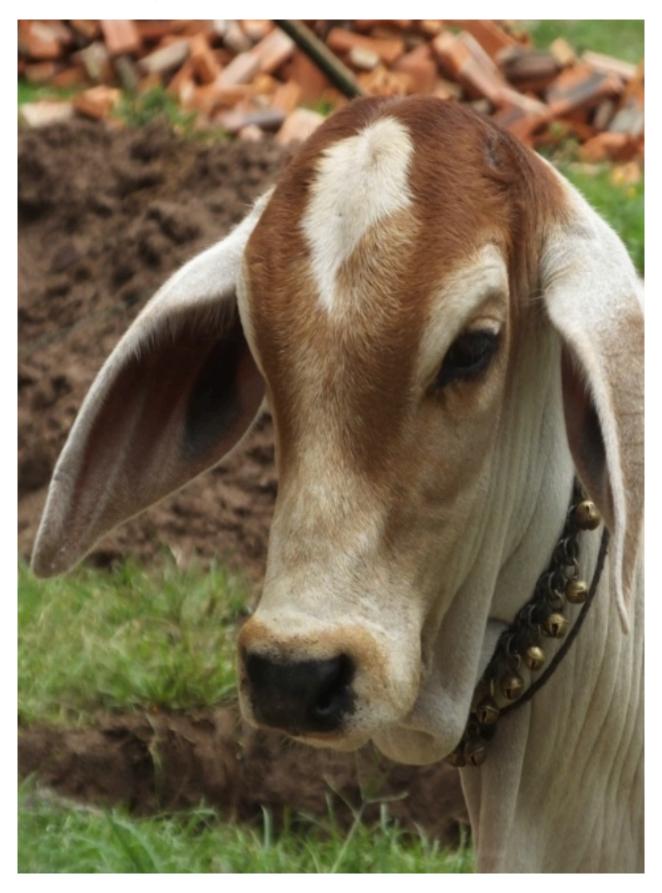
brahman cattle

Brahman Cattle (*Bos indicus*) are a medium-sized breed of Zebu cattle. They are also called Humped Cattle. The Brahman is a distinctive-looking cattle breed with large upward-curved horns. It has a large hump over its shoulder and neck, very large ears, and loose skin (called dewlap) around its throat and underbelly. It is varied in colour, from light grey to sandy-coloured or creamy-white. Its short fur is thicker in winter.

Brahman Cattle are native to India and has been introduced to many neighbouring countries. It is a grazer, eating grass. The breed lives, on average, for about 25 years.



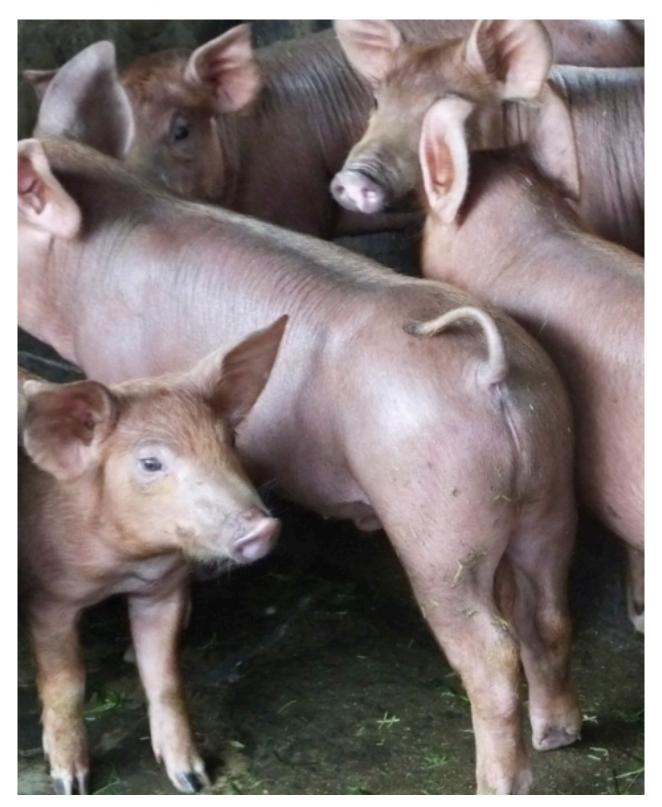












the author: Martina Nicolls

I am an author and humanitarian aid consultant with over 30 years' experience in the management, implementation, and evaluation of international aid development projects, particularly in post-conflict environments and countries with transitional governments, such as Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Darfur, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Kosovo, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka, and also Mauritius, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia – and others. I provide technical advice on areas such as peace-building and conflict mitigation, education, poverty reduction, human rights, child labour, data quality and financing models.

But mostly I am a wanderer. Wherever I am and wherever I go, I take photographs and I write. My books include:

Similar but Different in the Animal Kingdom (2017) A Mongolian Lament (2015) The Komodo Verses (2012) Liberia's Deadest Ends (2012) Bardot's Comet (2011) Kashmir on a Knife-Edge (2010) The Sudan Curse (2009)

MARTINA NICOLLS

martina@iimetro.com.au

http://www.martinanicolls.net

http://martinasblogs.blogspot.com

https://www.facebook.com/Martina-Nicolls-მარტინა-ნიკოლსი-1450496988529988/timeline/





