

Mahesh Poudyal

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS · POLITICAL ECOLOGY · INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE · MIXED-METHODS RESEARCH · DATA VISUALISATION

PERSONAL PROFILE

An environmental social scientist with academic background in **ecological economics and political ecology**, I have more than a decade of data-driven policy-oriented research experience in socio-economic and political aspects of biodiversity conservation, natural resource governance and utilisation; evaluation of conservation and development projects; park-people and human-wildlife conflicts; customary land and tree tenure systems; and gender, poverty, and rural livelihoods.

Proficient in **quantitative and qualitative social science research**, with publication record in high-impact interdisciplinary journals.

An efficient project manager with experience of applying for research grant funding and leading significant portions of large interdisciplinary and multi-partner research projects.

Teaching and supervisory experience at undergraduate and postgraduate levels covering broad ranges of topics related to conservation social science, including qualitative and quantitative social research methods, and environmental policy and governance.

EDUCATION

- 2010 **PhD in Environment and Politics** UNIVERSITY OF YORK, UK
Thesis title: "Tree Tenure in Agroforestry Parklands: Implications for the Management, Utilisation and Ecology of Shea and Locust Bean Trees in Northern Ghana."
- 2005 **Master of Resource Management** SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, CANADA
Thesis title: "A study of the reasons for an increase in poaching of the one-horned Indian rhinoceros in Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal."
- 2002 **B.Sc. in Environment, Economics and Ecology (1st Class Honours)** UNIVERSITY OF YORK, UK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- JAN/FEB 2021 **Resilient Leaders Elements, Leadership in Action Programme** KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
This intensive experiential programme covered concept of leadership and different styles of leadership; learning about one's leadership skills and styles through team-based leadership activities, and feedback from peers and facilitators.
- 2012 **Teaching in Higher Education** SWEDISH UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, UMEÅ, SWEDEN
The course covered theoretical and practical aspects of pedagogy at university level, including designing teaching activities/sessions and selecting appropriate teaching methods, and interacting with students and giving feedback.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- APR 2019 — Present **Research Associate** DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
I am a Researcher Co-I in the Nature4SDGs project (nature4sdgs.org). I coordinate research & project management within Nature4SDGs, and provide necessary support to the PIs, Co-Is and other PDRAs. I am leading the writeup on a paper on resource governance and supporting several others within the project. In addition to research, I have lectured on natural resources and changing livelihoods to undergraduates, supervised undergraduate students in their field course in India and co-supervised Masters' dissertation projects.

- AUG 2017 — JUN 2018** **Postdoctoral Fellow** ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION (ESPA) PROGRAMME, EDINBURGH
I co-edited a book (<https://is.gd/lhjaPT>) synthesising nine years of research outputs from the ESPA programme (espa.ac.uk), managing relationships with 18 lead authors and several co-authors, and with the publishers. I provided academic support for synthesis and impact activities for selected ESPA-funded projects, and reviewed end-of-project reports.
- SEP 2013 — JAN 2017** **Postdoctoral Research Officer** SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCE AND GEOGRAPHY, BANGOR UNIVERSITY
I led the socio-economic work package of the ESPA-funded P4ges project (p4ges.org), managing 4 research assistants during the project. I led the design of the household surveys; coordinated data collection in rural Madagascar; and led socio-economic data management and archiving within the project, with two datasets archived with ReShare UK. I have published three peer-reviewed papers as the lead author & contributed to three others from this project.
- SEP 2011 — SEP 2013** **Postdoctoral Fellow** DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, SWEDISH UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
I contributed to the studies of forest commons in Sweden, and in community forestry in general. I led the action-research component to analyse and encourage shareholders' participation in the governance of a forest common in northern Sweden. This work has resulted in two peer-reviewed papers.
- APR 2011 — AUG 2011** **Research Fellow** FORESTACTION-NEPAL
I coordinated the collaboration between ForestAction-Nepal and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in the development of joint research proposals. I also led the analysis of existing survey data on Swedish Forest Commons, resulting in one peer-reviewed paper.
- MAY 2010 — MAR 2011** **Research Associate** ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF YORK
I led the work package to study "Shea tree dynamics and fruit production in the parklands" in EC 6th Framework Project INNOVKAR (<http://bit.ly/INNOVKAR>), focusing particularly on the farmers' behaviour in managing the agroforestry parklands. I coordinated the field-data collection on shea trees in collaboration with project partners in Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Uganda) and led data management and analysis. I was the deputy leader of the work package on "Adaptation and resilience of shea tree facing climate", coordinating the compilation of existing shea distribution data across the continent for climatic modelling. I also fulfilled the administrative and financial reporting obligations for this project to the EC for Environment Department, University of York.
- MAY 2007 — FEB 2010** **Post-graduate Researcher (part-time)** ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF YORK
Roles and responsibilities as listed above (May 2010 – March 2011), undertaken concurrently with my PhD research.
- OCT 2003 — DEC 2004** **Research Assistant** RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
I was a Co-I in a successful grant application to study the economics of one-horned rhinoceros poaching in Nepal (c. €100K from the Dutch Government). I played a leading role in designing the household survey questionnaire and discrete choice experiment; and coordinated the administration of surveys and choice experiment. I also played a leading role in data analysis and report write-up; co-authored two peer-reviewed journal articles and presented findings at various conferences.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2019—2021** **Project management for Nature4SDGs project at King's College London.**
I coordinate research & project management within Nature4SDGs, and provide necessary support to the PIs, Co-Is and PDRAs. I am also responsible for communicating project progress with the Co-Is and organising periodic (virtual) meetings and webinars.
- 2007—2011** **Project administration for EU 6th Framework INNOVKAR Project (INCO-CT-032037) at the University of York.**
I dealt with all aspects of project management and reporting (finance, administration, technical/ scientific synthesis) to the lead partner, CIRAD, and to the EC Research and Innovation.

TEACHING, SUPERVISION & MENTORSHIP

2021

- Supervising two human geography Masters dissertations at King's College London

2019/2020

- Lectured on 'Livelihoods in Kerala, India' as part of the human geography undergraduate field course module at King's in 2019. For the same course, I was part of the fieldtrip to Kerala in India and supervised six students in their field research.
- Supervised two human geography Masters dissertations at King's College London, both successfully completed their dissertation in Sep 2020.

2011—2017

- Delivered half-day course on 'Social Research Methods' at the ESPA Summer School 2016, Scotland, for 30 participants – covering qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research, survey design and implementation, and research ethics.
- Lectured on community-based conservation in the 'Conservation Science' module to Masters students at Bangor University in Autumn Term 2016.
- Co-designed and delivered a one-week intensive course in 'Community-based conservation and behavioural change' as part of the Durrell Conservation Academy Mauritius's Post-Graduate Diploma (16-20 June 2014, Mauritius, 10 participants). The module broadly focused on the socioeconomic aspects of biodiversity conservation, covering topics such as evolution of community-based conservation; property rights and common-pool resources; understanding behavioural change and measuring illegal behaviour; conservation interventions; valuing nature; and qualitative and quantitative social research methods.
- At Bangor University, I hosted and mentored two junior researchers from the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar – Alexandra Rasoamanana (April 2015) and Rina Mandimbiniaina (April/May 2016), training and supporting them in data management and analysis, and in communicating research via posters and presentations. I also provided research mentorship to Patrick Rafidimanantsoa (ESPA Fellow, 2014-2016) (w/ Prof Julia Jones, Bangor; Dr Mark Mulligan, KCL and Prof Bruno Ramamonjisoa, Antananarivo).
- I co-supervised one PhD Student (Per Sandström) in the Department of Forest Resource Management, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå (w/ Dr Gun Lidestav and Dr Johan Svensson) during 2011-2014. Per successfully defended his thesis in February 2015.
- Lectured on 'Gender and Forestry in the Global South' (Masters/PhD Course at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå in 2012).

2003—2010

- As a graduate student (SFU, Canada and York, UK), I gave lectures and ran tutorials on courses such as 'Global Change [human dimensions]', 'Environment, Law and Policy', and 'Forest Management', all from social science perspectives.

PUBLICATIONS

I have published over **10 peer-reviewed papers**, **6 book chapters** and **co-edited a book**. In recent years, I have also communicated my research to wider audience via **blogs**, news media and twitter. I have Google h- & i10-index of 9 and around **300 citations since 2016** (<https://is.gd/zucOyb>), with one of my 2016 papers cited over 100 times so far.

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Poudyal, M.**, O.S. Rakotonarivo, J.H. Razafimanahaka, N. Hockley, J.P.G. Jones (2018) "Household economy, forest dependency & opportunity costs of conservation in eastern rainforests of Madagascar", *Scientific Data* 5: 180225. <https://is.gd/34GLAc>
- Poudyal, M.**, J.P.G. Jones, O.S. Rakotonarivo, N. Hockley, J.M. Gibbons, R. Mandimbinaiaina, A. Rasoamanana, N.S. Andrianantenaina (2018) "Who bears the cost of forest conservation?", *PeerJ* 6:e5106. <https://is.gd/urR36z>
- Rafidimanantsoa, H., **M. Poudyal**, B. Ramamonjisoa, and J.P.G. Jones (2018). "Mind the gap: the use of research in protected area management in Madagascar." *Madagascar Conservation & Development* 13 (1). <https://is.gd/V5pYJN>
- Jones, J.P.G., R. Mandimbinaiaina, R. Kelly, P. Ranjatson, B. Rakotojoelina, K. Schreckenber, **M. Poudyal** (2018) "Human migration to the forest frontier: implications for land use change and conservation management", *Geo: Geography and Environment* 2018:e00050. <https://is.gd/HFxK1d>
- Rakotonarivo, O.S., J.B. Jacobsen, **M. Poudyal**, A. Rasoamanana, N. Hockley (2018) "Estimating welfare impacts where property rights are contested: methodological and policy implications", *Land Use Policy* 70: 71-83. <https://bit.ly/2PP4NYI>
- Poudyal, M.**, B.S. Ramamonjisoa, N. Hockley, O.S. Rakotonarivo, J.M. Gibbons, R. Mandimbinaiaina, A. Rasoamanana, J.P.G. Jones (2016) "Can REDD+ social safeguards reach the 'right' people? Lessons from Madagascar", *Global Environmental Change* 37: 31-42. <https://is.gd/T4pqEW>
- Sandström, S., **M. Poudyal**, S. Berg Lejon, and G. Lidestav (2016) "Absent neighbours and passive shareholders – The issue of residency and involvement in the management of a forest common", *Journal of Forest Economics*, 24: 205-217. <https://bit.ly/3cHITAJ>
- Poudyal, M.**, G. Lidestav, P. Sandström, and S. Sandström (2015) "Supporting community governance in boreal forests by introducing participatory-GIS through action research", *International Journal of Action Research* 11(3): 236-264. <https://bit.ly/31Ffuj5>
- Lidestav, G., **M. Poudyal**, E. Holmgren, and E.C.H. Keskitalo (2013) "Shareholder perceptions of individual and common benefits in Swedish Forest Commons", *International Journal of the Commons* 7(1): 164-182. <https://bit.ly/3dn5xfC>
- Poudyal, M.** (2011) "Chiefs and trees: tenures and incentives in the management and use of two multipurpose tree species in agroforestry parklands in Northern Ghana", *Society and Natural Resources* 24(10): 1063-1077. <https://bit.ly/3ds5n6Z>
- Poudyal, M.**, K. Rothley, and D. Knowler (2009) "Ecological and economic analysis of poaching of the greater one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Nepal", *Ecological Applications* 19(7): 1693-1707. <https://bit.ly/3cL0sib>
- K.D. Rothley, D.J. Knowler, **M. Poudyal** (2004). "Population model for the greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Royal Chitwan National Park, Nepal", *Pachyderm* 37: 19-27. <https://bit.ly/Pachy04>

BOOK SECTIONS

- McDermott, C. L., E. Acheampong, S. Arora-Jonsson, R.A. Asare, W. De Jong, M. Hirons, K. Khatun, M. Menton, F. Nunan, **M. Poudyal**, & A. Setyowati (2019). "SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions: a political ecology perspective", in P. Katila et al. (Eds.) *Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People*, pp. 510–540). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Mace, G., K. Schreckenberg, and **M. Poudyal** (2018) "Ecosystem services for human wellbeing: trade-offs and governance", in K. Schreckenberg, G. Mace and **M. Poudyal** (eds) *Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation: Trade-offs and Governance*, pp 305-316. London: Routledge.
- Cooke, P. and **M. Poudyal** (2014) "Local implications of forest tenure reform: section context and overview", in R. Bluffstone and E.J.Z. Robinson (eds) *Forest Tenure Reform in Asia and Africa: Local Control for Improved Livelihoods and Forest Management*, pp 109-112. New York: RFF Press.
- Poudyal, M.**, B. Adhikari, and J. Lovett (2014) "Community-Based Leasehold Forestry in Nepal: A Genuine Tenure Reform in Progress?", in R. Bluffstone and E.J.Z. Robinson (eds) *Forest Tenure Reform in Asia and Africa: Local Control for Improved Livelihoods and Forest Management*, pp 196-211. New York: RFF Press.
- Adhikari, B., D. Knowler, **M. Poudyal**, and W. Haider (2013) "Park-people conflicts, rhino conservation and poverty alleviation in Nepal", in P.J.H. van Beukering et. al. (eds) *Nature's Wealth: The Economics of Ecosystem Services and Poverty*, pp 37-55. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Poudyal, M.** and J.C. Lovett (2010) "Biodiesel as the potential alternative vehicle fuel: European policy and global environmental concern", in J.C. Lovett and D.G. Ockwell (eds) *A Handbook of Environmental Management*, pp 408-430. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

EDITED BOOK

- Schreckenberg, K., G. Mace, and **M. Poudyal** (eds.) (2018) *Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation: Trade-offs and Governance*. London: Routledge.

DATASETS

- Poudyal, M.**, O.S. Rakotonarivo, A. Rasoamanana, R. Mandimbiniaina, N. Spener, N. Hockley, J.P.G. Jones (2018) Household survey and discrete choice experiment for investigating the opportunity cost of conservation restrictions in eastern Madagascar. [Data Collection]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive. <https://is.gd/6d9U9I>
- Poudyal, M.**, A. Rasoamanana, S.N. Andrianantenaina, R. Mandimbiniaina, N. Hockley, J.H. Razafimanahaka, V. Rakotomboavonjy, J.C. Rabakoson, J. Ambinintsoa, M. Randrianarisoa, J.P.G. Jones (2018) Household-level agricultural inputs-outputs, off-farm income and wild-harvested products survey in eastern Madagascar. [Data Collection]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Archive. <https://is.gd/esv7UD>

OTHERS

- Poudyal, M.** (2017) "Ensuring participatory and pro-poor Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes: Insights from ESPA research", ESPA Policy and Practice Briefing April 2017, Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) Programme Directorate, Edinburgh, UK. <https://bit.ly/PESESPA>
- Lovett, J.C., and **M. Poudyal** (2006) "Terraforming Africa", *African Journal of Ecology* 44: 302-304.

UNDER REVIEW/IN PREPARATION

- Dröge, S., **M. Poudyal** et al. "Constraints on rice cultivation in eastern Madagascar: Which factors matter to smallholders and which influence food security?", currently under review in *Human Ecology*
- Poudyal, M.**, B. Kelly and B. Bastide. "Land use changes and shea regeneration dynamics in fields and fallows of West Africa", draft manuscript in preparation for submission to *Agroforestry Systems*

 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS / PRESENTATIONS (2012 ONWARDS)

- 2—5 DEC 2016 **Poudyal, M.**, B.S. Ramamonjisoa, O.S. Rakotonarivo, N.S. Andrianantenaina, N. Hockley, J.M. Gibbons, R. Mandimbiniaina, A. Rasoamanana, and J.P.G. Jones (2016) “Who bears the cost of forest conservation?” 2ND ANNUAL FLARE MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, UK
- 26—27 NOV 2014 **Poudyal, M.**, J.P.G. Jones, N. Hockley, S. Rakotonarivo, B. Ramamonjisoa, R. Mandimbiniaina, and A. Rasoamanana (2014) “Who bears the cost of forest conservation under REDD+?” ESPA 2014 ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING, NEW DELHI, INDIA
- 8—13 SEP 2013 **Poudyal, M.**, G. Lidestav, S. Sandström, and P. Sandström (2014) “Experiences of introducing tools for better communication about land uses: The case of forestry within Vilhelmina Upper Forest Commons”, Proceedings from the IUFRO 3.08 & 6.08 Joint Conference, pp 300-305. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SMALL-SCALE AND COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY, IUFRO 3.08 & 6.08 JOINT CONFERENCE, FUKUOKA, JAPAN
- 16—19 SEP 2014 **Poudyal, M.**, S. Sandström, G. Lidestav, and S. Berg Lejon (2014) “Absent neighbours and passive shareholders – the issue of residency and involvement in the management of a forest common.” IASC 3RD EUROPEAN MEETING: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION – THE USE OF COMMONS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY, UMEÅ, SWEDEN
- 27—29 NOV 2012 **Poudyal, M.** and G. Lidestav (2012) “Analysing participation in Swedish forest commons: where women stand?” IUFRO 6.08 – GENDER AND FORESTRY CONFERENCE, WONDO GENET FORESTRY COLLEGE, ETHIOPIA
- 21—23 MAY 2012 **Poudyal, M.** and G. Lidestav (2012) “Increasing shareholder participation in forest commons’ governance: what are the chances and challenges?” RURAL AT THE EDGE – THE 2ND NORDIC CONFERENCE FOR RURAL RESEARCH, JOENSUU, FINLAND

 INVITED SEMINARS / TALKS

- 14/10/2020 KCL EcoSoc’s webinar on ‘Environmental justice and race’, King’s College London. “Conservation and environmental justice in the Global South”.
- 25/07/2018 Faculty of Natural Resources & Environment, University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana. “Who bears the cost of forest conservation?”.
- 22/03/2018 Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, India. “Who bears the cost of forest conservation?”.
- 25/10/2017 Centre for Sustainable & Resilient Communities (CSRC), University of Huddersfield. “Forest conservation in the tropics: global benefits with local costs?”.
- 21/06/2017 ForestAction-Nepal. “Ensuring participatory and pro-poor PES schemes: Insights from ESPA research”.
- 28/06/2016 ESSA-Forêts, Université d’Antananarivo, Madagascar. “Can REDD+ social safeguards reach the ‘right’ people? Lessons from Madagascar”.
- 05/05/2016 School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh. “Challenges in implementing payment for ecosystem services in the tropics: a case of REDD+ in Madagascar”.
- 28/04/2016 Conservation@Bangor, Bangor University. “Community feedback in research projects”.

24/10/2014 ESPA Social Science Event, London. “Confidentiality in data management: the need for data firewalls within projects and for external users”.

GRANTS AND CONSULTANCIES

2019—2021 Researcher Co-I “Nature’s contribution to poverty alleviation, human wellbeing and the SDGs (Nature4SDGs)”, funded through the Towards a Sustainable Earth (TaSE) programme by UK Research & Innovation councils, the Department of Biotechnology, India and the Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, Formas. UK portion of the grant c. **£324K**.

2019 Centre for Sustainable Landscape and Forestry, University of Edinburgh. As a ‘Strategic and Funding Development’ consultant, I supported in the development of a funding proposal to NERC’s Landscape Decisions PCT call. Feb 2019 (c. **£2000**).

2017 Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) Programme. Consultant contract to provide ‘a rapid review of ESPA literature on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)’. Mar/Apr 2017 (c. **£4000**).

2012 Kungl. Skogs- och Lantbruksakademien (KSLA) conference grant, at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden. (**SEK 10K**)

2003 Co-I “Economic Incentives and Poaching of the One-Horned Indian Rhinoceros in Nepal”, funded through the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management (PREM) programme of the Netherlands government. PREM Project #06 (<http://bit.ly/PREMRhino>), c. **€100K**.

AWARDS

2005—2008 Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS), for the PhD degree at the University of York, UK (Approx. £18K over three years)

2005—2008 Research Studentship, Environment Department, University of York, for the PhD degree at the University of York, UK (Approx. £27K over three years)

2002/2003 Graduate Fellowships, for Master of Resources Management at Simon Fraser University, Canada (Approx. CAD 10K for one year)

1999—2002 Overseas Students’ Trust Fund (OSTF) Scholarship, for BSc in Environment, Economics, and Ecology at the University of York, UK (Approx. £52K over three years)

OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES

FIELD RESEARCH Extensive field research skills and experience across disciplines and using multiple methods, including permanent plot sampling, PRA, RRA, questionnaire surveys, economic valuation methods including discrete choice experiments, field observations and recording (text, audio and visual) – with experiences in the Global South (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Madagascar, Nepal, Uganda) and the North (Sweden, Canada).

LANGUAGES **English** – fluent (speaking, reading, writing); **Nepali** – native language; **Hindi** – speak, read, and write with basic competence; **French** – beginner.

Proficient user of:

- Microsoft Office, Open Office for word processing, data management and presentation
- R, SPSS, STATA and NVivo for data analysis and visualisation
- Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Google Meet for video conferencing, webinars, and remote teaching
- GitHub for project versioning, collaboration and self-publication of webpages
- HTML and CSS for web design; and WordPress, Jekyll, Hugo for web publishing

Competent user of QGIS for mapping and spatial data analysis

COMPUTING & IT

Basic knowledge of Python programming language for data analysis and visualisation

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

AFFILIATIONS

Research Fellow, ForestAction Nepal (<https://forestaction.org>)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Member of Editorial Board, *Scientific Data* journal

REVIEWING

Reviewer for several academic journals including Area Development and Policy, Ecological Economics, Environmental Conservation, European Journal of Wildlife Research, Forest Policy and Economics, Forests, Journal of Forest Economics, Geoforum, Land Use Policy, Madagascar Conservation and Development, Natural Resources Forum, Rural Sociology, Journal of Rural Studies, World Development.

MEMBERSHIPS

International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE)
Britain-Nepal Academic Council (BNAC)
South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

REFERENCES

References are available upon request.