

MILENA BEEKMANN

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Research interest

I am pursuing PhD research on the interlinkages between climate and biodiversity changes in peatlands and forest landscapes in the Congo Basin, focusing on both the direct and indirect impacts of climatic changes on ecosystem health and carbon stocks, through a socio-ecological perspective. Using multidisciplinary methodologies, the study will combine local ecological knowledge and scientific monitoring tools, aiming to generate meaningful knowledge for socio-ecological resilience and adaptive capacity in the landscape, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society and local communities.

Education

- From December 2022 **PhD Programme, La Sapienza University Department of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology**
-Ongoing research on the interlinkages between climatic and ecological changes in the Congo Basin, with planned field work in the Republic of Congo. Supervision by Prof. Carlo Rondinini, La Sapienza University and Dr. Sandrine Gallois, Autonomous University of Barcelona.
- 2013 to 2016 **Master's degree in Environmental Affairs, Sciences Po Paris Paris School of International Affairs**
-Bilingual (English, French) modules included: climate change science (16/20), ecosystem services and biodiversity policies (14/20), environmental economics (17,5/20), quantitative skills (16/20);
-Papers include: "Assessing epistemic, reflexive and stochastic scientific uncertainties", "The relationship between the CBD and the UNFCCC: synergies or conflicts between the Rio conventions", "Reform proposal: A WTO Green Club for fighting climate change";
-Training in how to give powerful oral presentations.
- 2012 to 2013 **Exchange year, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin**
-Department of social and political sciences: classes in sociology, geography and philosophy.
- 2010 to 2012 **Bachelor, Sciences Po Paris**
-Trilingual (English, German, French) curriculum: classes in social and political sciences, law, macro and micro-economics, mathematics and scientific humanities. Module on the international politics of climate change.
- 2007 to 2010 **Baccalaureate, Maximilien Perret High School**
-Classes on geography, economics, literature and natural sciences with highest qualification.

Work experience

- 2017 – present **Associate Project Officer, United Nations Environment Programme**
-Member of the Great Apes Survival Partnership and Wildlife Unit in Nairobi, Kenya;
-Supported the implementation of field projects, e.g. the 9 million EUR "Vanishing treasures" programme on mountain gorilla conservation and ecosystem-based livelihood adaptation: led production of scientific outputs, organised field missions (e.g. Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan) and wrote donor reports;
-Contributed to the development of a 15 million EUR IKI programme proposal for the sustainable management of the Congo peatlands: organised an appraisal mission to the Republic of Congo and led the elaboration of the two UNEP-FAO country mission reports;
-Organised scientific conferences and workshops, e.g. the International Primatological Society (800 participants);
-Improved strategic engagement with partners, including academia, conservation NGOs and UN agencies;
-Coordinated the peer review process of the "Report to the CITES Standing Committee on the Status of Great Apes".
- June to Dec 2016 **Sustainable Consumption and Production Intern, United Nations Environment Programme**
-Coordinated a network of 105 partner organisations (including UN agencies, US Environmental Protection Agency, European Commission, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China): supported the admission of 20+ new members, promoted multi-stakeholder engagement and organised 4 webinars (150 participants).
- Jan to Dec 2015 **UNFCCC COP21 team member, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
-During UNFCCC-COP21, drafted daily reports for the Presidential and ministerial offices and diplomatic network;
-Contributed to the coordination of the French diplomatic network and created communication materials (analysis reports, weekly articles, synthesis notes) on key technical issues in climate discussions;
-Helped organise 4 high-level ministerial meetings in the preparatory phase of COP21 (200 participants).
- June to Dec 2014 **Research intern, Scientific journal "Atmospheric Pollution"**
-Developed the editorial and research strategy of a special edition on climate change, conducted literature review and selected authors;
-Conducted 17 interviews with leading scientists, government and NGO representatives (e.g. IPCC Co-Chair Youba Sokona, indigenous land right expert Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, French Development Agency Climate Division Head Pierre Forestier).

Feb to April 2013	Intern, Berlin Senate Environment Department -Contributed to data collection, analysis and dissemination for a participatory mitigation plan on noise pollution.
June to Aug 2011	Intern, National newspaper "Le Monde" -Wrote an article about South Korea " An unknown dragon ", published on 3/9/2011 (in French); -Helped journalists to prepare opinion pieces and articles.
Other work experience	Library assistant, language teacher, waitress, translator (French, English, German).

Awards

- As a volunteer for the French development NGO "Il était une fois dans l'Oued", I was awarded a 1000 EUR grant to support a small-scale farming project in Niger (2011).
- As a high-school student, I was awarded a Brigitte Sauzay scholarship for a 6-month Franco-German exchange programme.

Trainings

December 2020	Durrell Academy "Endangered species recovery" course on small population biology and conservation.
March 2020	Sorbonne University "Biodiversity and global change" class on evolutionary ecology and integrated knowledge.
October 2018	University of Bergen "Natural resource management and system-thinking" on system dynamics, economics and policy design.
September 2017	First aid training by the French Red Cross.
September 2016	Stockholm Environment Institute "Food systems and land-use in Southeast Asia" on environmental and socioeconomic implications of food systems transformation.

Conferences or events

September 2019	African Primatological Society, Entebbe.
July 2019	WWF-Luc Hoffmann Biodiversity Revisited essay competition.
August 2018	International Primatological Society, Nairobi.
May 2015	"Make it work" pedagogical project: 3-days innovative student-led COP21 simulation and artistic experiment.

Volunteer experiences

2017 - 2020	Kenya Mathare Slums Community Association Contribute to fundraising strategies for the renovation of the Mathare slum community centre and organise a monthly children activity programme.
2017	Oxfam Helped organise a 2-day sport and charity "Trailwalker" event which raised 439,000 EUR and gathered 600 people.
2016	United Nations Environment Programme As an intern, initiated a sustainable canteen initiative at the two UN campuses and organised discussions with 46 UN staff (including the Executive Director) on leading environmental challenges and programmatic response.
2016-2017	Youth movement "Generation cobayes" Led a 5-person team to develop awareness campaign on sustainable agriculture and environmental health.
2013-2014	Sciences Po Paris Helped manage a collaborative, student-led coffee shop providing students with organic products.

Skills

French	Mother tongue
English	Bilingual
German	Bicultural
Swahili	Operational
Russian	Operational
Coding in LaTeX	Intermediate

Publications

- Book "Safeguarding Mountains - A Global Challenge: Facing emerging risks, adapting to changing environments and building transformative resilience in mountain regions worldwide". Mountain Research and Development, 40(4):P4-P7 (2020).
- United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Getting Climate-Smart with the Mountain Gorilla in the Greater Virunga Landscape: A Species and Climate Change Brief for the Vanishing Treasures Programme. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme (first author - [link](#));
- United Nations Environment Programme (2017). 2017 Global Review of Sustainable Public Procurement. Paris: United Nations Environment Programme ([link](#));
- Milena Beekmann (2015). Small island states, climate change sentinels. Atmospheric Pollution, N°227 ([link](#) – in French).