
SUMAN ACHARYA

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation, climate resilience, forest-based ecosystem services, forest economics, human-dimensions of natural resources, sustainability, application of GIS and remote sensing in natural resource management, landscape ecology, quantitative and qualitative methods, land use and land cover change analysis.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	Anticipated 2023
Anthropology and Environmental Policy	
Department of Anthropology	
University of Maine	
Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Climate Studies	2021
Climate Change Institute	
University of Maine	
Master of Arts (MA)	2020
Anthropology and Environmental Policy	
Department of Anthropology	
University of Maine (GPA: 3.85)	
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)	2016
Forestry	
Institute of Forestry	
Tribhuvan University, Pokhara, Nepal	
First Class with Distinction	
Technical Certificate Level (I. SC.)	2012
Forestry	
Institute of Forestry	
Tribhuvan University, Pokhara, Nepal	
First Class with Distinction	

AWARDS & HONOURS & Additional Funds

Wenner-Gren PhD Research Grant (\$18, 464) (Passed only first round)	2021
Chase Distinguished Research Award (\$18,000)	2021
Lambda Alpha Graduate Research Grant Award (\$2,000)	2021
Graduate Student Government, Degree Related Grant (\$798)	2021
University of Maine, HEERF III Emergency Student Funding (\$2,000)	2021
Graduate Student Government (GSG), Emergency Grant (\$1,306)	2021
Student Crisis Fund, Office of International Program, UMaine (\$1,300)	2020
Churchill Exploration Fund, Climate Change Institute, UMaine (\$2,000)	2020
International Travel Grant, Anthropology Department, UMaine (\$800)	2020
Sandy and Bobby Ives Research Award (\$500)	2019
Thurgood Marshall Tuition Scholarship, University of Maine	2018

BSc Research Grant from NTNC, Nepal (NPR. 35,000)	2015
BSc Forestry Tuition Scholarship (Government of Nepal)	2012-2016
ISC Forestry Tuition Scholarship (Government of Nepal)	2010-2012

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Acharya, S.** (2021) Roles of Renewable Energy Technologies in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: A Brief Review from Nepal. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 151 (2021): 111524. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2021.111524>
- Acharya, S.**, Sharma, H.P., Bhattarai, R., Poudyal, B., Sharma, S., & Upadhaya, S. (2021) Distribution and Habitat Preference of Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Mid-Hills of Nepal. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 13(8), 18959-18966. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.3952.13.8.18959-18966>
- Poudyal, B., Upadhaya, S., **Acharya, S.**, & Khanal Chhetri, B. B. (2021). Assessing Socio-Economic Factors Affecting the Implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Mechanism. *World*, 2(1), 81-91. <https://doi.org/10.3390/world2010006>
- Khanal, P., Wagle, B. H., Upadhaya, S., Ghimire, P., & **Acharya, S.** (2020). Perceived Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategy of Indigenous Community (Chepang) in Rural Mid-hills of Nepal. *Forestry: Journal of Institute of Forestry, Nepal*. <https://doi.org/10.3126/forestry.v16i0.28353>
- Lamichhane, S., Aryal, C.M., Karki, J., & **Acharya, S.** (2020) Natural and Anthropogenic Correlates of Habitat Use of Wild Ungulates in Shuklaphanta National Park, Nepal. *Global Ecology and Conservation*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01338>
- Ghimire, P., Raut, N., Khanal, P., **Acharya, S.**, & Upadhaya, S. (2020) Species in peril: Assessing the status of Pangolin trade in Nepal. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.5698.12.8.15776-15783>
- Bhattarai, R., Sharma, P., Wagle, B., Adhikari, A., & **Acharya, S.** (2020) Revision and Compilation of Health Management Plan of Khair (*Acacia catechu*). *Grassroots Journal of Natural Resources*. <https://doi.org/10.33002/nr2581.6853.03012>
- Sharma, H. P., Rimal, B., Zhang, M., Sharma, S., Poudyal, L. P., Maharjan, S., Kunwar, R., Kaspal, P., Bhandari, N., Baral, L., Dhakal, S., Tripathi, A., Karki, N., Khadki, B., Thapa, P., Acharya, B. K., **Acharya, S.**, Baral, K., & Katuwal, H. B. (2020). Potential Distribution of the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Different Land Covers of Nepal: Implications for Conservation. *Sustainability*, 12(3), 1282. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12031282>
- Acharya, S.**, Rayamajhi, S., Sharma, S., Upadhaya, S., Joshi, S., & Lamichhane, S. (2018). Anthropogenic Threats to Survival of the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*) and their Habitat in Kavrepalanchowk. *Journal of Biodiversity & Endangered Species* 6:3 <https://doi.org/10.4172/2332-2543.1000218>
- Sharma, S., & **Acharya, S.** (2018). Human-Rhesus macaque conflict at Pumdivumdi/ Tallokodi, Pokhara, West Nepal. *Banko Janakari*, 27(2), 46-50. <https://doi.org/10.3126/banko.v27i2.21222>

JOURNALS UNDER REVIEW

- Adhikari, D., Lamichhane, S., Gautam, D., Sharma, S., & **Acharya, S.** (2021) Locals Perception of Climate Change Impacts and Practices of Adaptation Strategies in Trans-Himalaya of Nepal. *Journal of Forest and Livelihood*. (Under review)

Ranabhat, S., Upadhaya, S., **Acharya, S.**, Adhikari, B., Thapa, R., Gautam, D.R., Ranabhat, S., & Sharma, S. (2021) Watershed Level Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Practices in Mid-Hills of Nepal. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*. (**Working in reviews from journal**)

Gahatraj, S., Bhattarai, S., **Acharya, S.**, Gauchan, A. (2021) Indigenous knowledge for climate change adaptation: Insights from Nepalese mountain region. *Small-scale Forestry* (**Under Review**)

REVIEWERS

Journal for Nature Conservation (x5)

Climatic Change (x2)

Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global change (x1)

Geo Journal (x1)

Journal of Animal Diversity (x1)

Human Ecology (x1)

B.Sc. DISSERTATION

Acharya, S. (2016). Assessment of conservation threats and habitat management of Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Balthali VDC of Kavre Nepal.

Advisor: Professor Dr. Santosh Rayamajhi

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Maine

Fall 2019-Spring
2021

Introduction to Anthropology:

Human Origins and Prehistory (ANT 101) and Diversity of Cultures (ANT 102)

- Lecture and manage the class during instructor absence.
- Support students in a regular office hour.
- Assist in management of class, tests, and mentoring students.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2018-2019

University of Maine

Physics for Engineers and Physical Scientists

(4 recitation section, 25 students each)

(4 lab section, 25 students)

- Lectured, mentored students, instructed in lab and graded assignments on the fundamentals of Physics.
- Support students in a regular office hour.

Teacher (Part time)

Self-Help Environmental Awareness Camp, Pokhara, Nepal

2010-2016

- Coordinated and lectured school level teaching on environment, climate change, wildlife, and forestry.
- Assist informal classes to women's groups, farmer's groups and public in lecturing about environment, forestry, and climate change issues.

Taught environmental education to students of grades 9 and 10 at Kavre Secondary School.

2015

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Employer Organization: Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project Nepal,
Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Nepal

Funded by: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Position: District Climate Change Specialist

Duration: June 2017 to July 2018

Duties & responsibilities:

- Provide technical advice for ensuring effective implementation of strategies for climate change adaptation, and alignment with activities and policies on climate change in general.
- Build coordination and collaborative ownership of stakeholders on climate change initiatives and activities, process, outputs, and outcomes at all levels, particularly in Project districts.
- Prepare the participatory data in the assigned project districts to contribute to the preparation of the annual work plan and budget.
- Prepare assigned district level trimester performance reports indicating the achievement of work plan targets and corresponding expenditures, as well as knowledge products.
- Develop and maintain strategic partnerships and promote networking with IFAD project portfolio stakeholders in climate change adaptation, mitigation, and capacity development in assigned Project districts.
- Support the district team in the identification, prioritization, and implementation of activities, process, outputs, and outcomes proposed in the Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA), informed by GIS and landscape analysis.
- Support in capacity building on adaptation targeting participating districts and community groups.
- Support IFAD projects knowledge management (KM) Officers to establish and manage a Climate Change-Community of Practice for knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation across the IFAD portfolio, and support the organization of training and workshops for CC adaptation knowledge dissemination to all stakeholders.
- Monitor climate change adaptation, maladaptation and mitigation issues across the community and district level Program.
- Assist in Monitoring and Evaluation and KM of LAPA formulation and implementation, with particular attention to climate change, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), and climate change adaptation policy engagement.
- Support in the assessment of national as well as project policies and processes, providing recommendations to improve project performance, and to make field implementation practical and effective at the farmer level, for integration into CCA and GESI Curriculum and Enhanced LAPA manual.

Employer Organization: Asian Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources
(ANSAB)

Position: Climate Change Officer

Duration: February 2016 to May 2017

Duties & responsibilities:

- Assist in assessing and establishing the baseline value of watershed-level forest carbon stock, calculating forest carbon of individual community forests to support carbon payment.
- Support in program planning and implementation.
- Disseminate information to rural residents on climate change, cause, effects, and adaptation ways that can be applied to adopt it.
- Disseminate information on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) among rural residents.
- Conduct trainings and different events related to climate change.
- Preparation of proposal, active participation in field survey, data collection and analysis of collected data.
- Prepare report of different events, trainings, and other activities.
- Management in capacity building activities like coordination and collaboration with different partners including governmental, non-governmental, international, and private organizations on climate change issues.

Employer Organization: Green Governance Nepal (GGN)

Position: Research Assistant

Duration: Project Basis

Projects accomplished:

- Prime minister Agriculture Modernization Project – “Study on possibility of promotion of agroforestry pocket areas of Jhapa district, Nepal”.
- District Forest Sector Plan for Bhojpur district, Nepal.

Employer Organization: Federation of Community Forestry Users Group (FECOFUN), Kavre, Nepal

Position: Field Technical Officer

Duration: February 12, 2013, to December 15, 2015 (During University Vacations)

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Inventory of Community forests
- Preparation of Community Forest operational plans.
- Data entry, analysis, and documentation of reports.
- Coordination with local organizations to conduct stakeholder workshops.

Employer Organization: Radio Hemja

Position: Environment Journalist

Duration: January 2014 to December 2016 (**Part time**)

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collection of news related to environment, forestry, climate change and wildlife.
- Play news related to environment, forestry, climate change and wildlife.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Acharya, S. (2020). Review on the Roles of Renewable Energy Technologies in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

2020

- Among Rural Communities of Nepal. International Knowledge Forum. Netherlands Alumni Association of Nepal, Kathmandu Nepal.
- Acharya, S. (2020).** Review on the Roles of Renewable Energy Technologies in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Among Rural Communities of Nepal. Borns Symposium. Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, 2020
- Acharya, S., Mann, A., Mereghetti, A., & Reed, C. (2019).** Changing resources in a changing climate: chronicles of livelihood adaptability in the Gulf of Maine. University of Maine Student Symposium. University of Maine, USA, 2019
- Acharya, S. & Sharma, S. (2018).** Assessment of conservation threats and habitat management of Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Balthali VDC of Kavre Nepal” on South Asian Conference on Small Mammals “Small Mammals: Sustaining Ecology and Economy in the South Asia”. 2018
- Sharma, S. & Acharya, S. (2016).** Human-Rhesus Macaque conflict in (Pumdivumd/Tallokodi), Pokhara, West Nepal. Seventh National Conference on Science and Technology organized by Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Kathmandu. 2016

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Acharya, S. (2021).** Nepal’s Forest Management, Conservation, and Livelihood: Pros and Cons. Conservation Anthropology (ANT 250), University of Maine. September 20, 2021.
- Acharya, S. (2018).** Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA): climate change adaptation tool in Nepal. Lecture, Ecological Anthropology, University of Maine, USA.

SHORT TERM EXPERIENCES: TRAININGS, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

- Six months GIS Course organized by Institute of Forestry (IOF), Pokhara Nepal. February 9 - July 7, 2015.
- Training of Trainers (ToT) on Climate Change Adaptation and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Integration organized by Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project, DPCU Rolpa. September 5 – 9, 2017.
- Coordinated and participated: Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Information Management Training organized by Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project, DPCU Dailekh. November 22 – 26, 2017.
- Coordinated and facilitated: Climate Change Adaptation and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Capacity Building Training organized by Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) Project, DPCU Dailekh. March 15 – 18, 2018.
- Training on use of Statistical Tools in scientific research by Institute of Forestry (IOF), Pokhara Nepal. December 12 – 12, 2015.
- Training entitled Significance of Statistical Tools in Research Design and Proposal Writing organized by Communication for Conservation (CFC) Nepal. August 4 – 5, 2013.
- Wildlife Technique Training by Resources Himalaya. October 10 - 11, 2015

- Coordinated and participated The Students' Training on IEE/EIA Report Writing. March 14 – 24, 2013.
 - Participated on Forest Inventory and Check List establishment, IOF, Pokhara. February 14 – 27, 2013
 - Training workshop on Capacity Building on Climate Change, Carbon Financing and REDD/REDD+ issues by YAE, Nepal. August 29 - September 2, 2015
 - Nepal Climate Convergence. November 18 – 19, 2015
 - Wildlife week programs 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKIOOReDeHo>

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Acharya, S. (2014). Introduction to pangolins in Nepal. Bimba, 20, 69-71. Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal.

MEDIA

The Kathmandu Post (February 22, 2015) Pains of Pangolin.

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2015-02-21/pains-of-the-pangolin.html>

- Radio interviews highlighting the status and need of biodiversity conservation in Nepal in several districts of Nepal.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6E1yNUtbTM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2ULUqaYSsE&t=494s>

LANGUAGES

Nepali (Native)
English (Fluent)
Hindi (Fluent)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society
Member, Himalayan Conservation and Research Institute
President, Self Help Environment Awareness Camp (SHEAC).
Member, Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN).
Member, Bat Friends, Pokhara, Nepal
Member, Society for Wildlife Research and Conservation (SOWREC).
Member, Asian pangolin conservation group, Nepal

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND SOFTWARE

Basic ArcGIS, SPSS, GPS, Compass, Map Reading, NVivo
Microsoft Office and Graphics Packages.

COUNTRIES VISITED

NEPAL, USA, India

COLLABORATORS

University of Maine, USA

- Cynthia Isenhour (Anthropology), Rajeev Bhattarai (School of Forest Resources)

University of Hamburg, Germany

- Prem Raj Neupane (Forestry)

Iowa State University, USA

- Suraj Upadhaya (Natural Resource Ecology and Management)

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Watershed Department, USA

- Sanjeev Joshi (Agriculture)

University of Georgia, USA

- Sabhyata Lamichhane (Forestry)

Institute of Forestry, Nepal

- Santosh Rayamajhi (Forestry), Pragya Khanal (Forestry)

Department of Forest, Nepal

- Sonia Sharma (Assistant Forest Officer)

REFERENCES

1) Name: Cynthia Isenhour, PhD (PhD advisor)

Position: Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology & Climate Change Institute
Cooperating Faculty, School of Economics & Mitchell Center for Sustainability
Solutions, University of Maine

Email: cynthia.isenhour@maine.edu

Phone: +01-303.807.6515

2) Name: Paul Mayewski, PhD

Position: Director, Professor

Climate Change University, University of Maine

Email: paul.mayewski@maine.edu

3) Name: Prem Raj Neupane, PhD

Position: Senior Researcher

World Forestry, University of Hamburg, Germany

Email: prem.raj.neupane@uni-hamburg.de

Phone: +49 17682581895

Address: Germany