

SAMUEL ADEYANJU, PhD

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PROFILE

Human-environment social scientist working at the intersection of conservation, livelihoods, women's empowerment, and agroforestry value chain development. My research uses qualitative and participatory methods, including ethnography, interviews, focus groups, and case studies, to examine how rural livelihoods, common-pool resource governance, gender and equity, and conservation interventions interact in West Africa, linking community-level evidence to international conservation and climate policy. As a Postdoctoral Researcher at McGill University, I examine the human dimensions of natural climate solutions, including whether voluntary carbon market social safeguards are delivered in practice. I bring extensive field-research experience across Ghana and Nigeria.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

([Google Scholar Citations = 257](#))

10. **Adeyanju, S.**, Pienaaah, C.K.A., Bulkan, J., Ros-Tonen, M., Sunderland, T. (2026). Environmental, economic, and sociocultural outcomes of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) in Ghana: A systematic review. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 9, 1961815. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2026.1961815>
9. Pienaaah, C.K.A., **Adeyanju, S.**, Amoak, D., Baddianaah, I., Luginaah, I., 2026. Illegal extractivism and the challenges of governing the commons: Evidence from the Wechiau community hippo sanctuary, CREMA, Ghana. *Extr. Ind. Soc.* 28, 102011. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2026.102011>
8. **Adeyanju, S.**, Ros-Tonen, M., Bulkan, J., Baatuuwie, B. N., Sunderland, T. (2026). Evaluating socioeconomic and equity outcomes in livelihood interventions: Insights from Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) in northern Ghana. *Curr. Res. Environ. Sustain.* 11, 100337. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsust.2026.100337>.
7. Ros-Tonen, M., Reed, J., **Adeyanju, S.**, et al. (2026). Integrated landscape approaches: A pathway towards just sustainable development?. *Prog. Dev. Stud.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/14649934251413867>
6. Reed, J., Ros-Tonen, M., **Adeyanju, S.**, et al. (2024). From conflict to collaboration through inclusive landscape governance: Evidence from a contested landscape in Ghana. *Glob. Environ. Change.* 88, 102909.
5. **Adeyanju, S.**, Bulkan, J., Onyekwelu, J. C., et al. (2022). Drivers of biodiversity conservation in sacred groves: A comparative study of three sacred groves in South-west Nigeria. *Int. J. Commons* 16(1), 94–107.
4. **Adeyanju, S.**, Adesuyi, O., Offiah, C., Fasalejo, O., Ogunlade, B. (2022). Where are the foresters? The influx of forestry graduates to non-forestry jobs in Nigeria. *XV World Forestry Congress*, 2022. Seoul, Korea.
3. **Adeyanju, S.**, Ajilore, O., Ogunlalu, O., Onatunji, A., & Mogaji, E. (2022). Innovating in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Case Studies from Nigerian Universities. In: Chan, R., Glass, C., Bista, K. (eds) *Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Global Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges*. STAR Scholar Book Series, 104-120.
2. **Adeyanju, S.**, O'Connor, A., et al., (2021). Learning from Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Ghana and Zambia: lessons for integrated landscape approaches. *Int. For. Rev.* 23(3): 273-297.
1. **Adeyanju S.**, Mogaji E., Olusola J., Oyinlola M. (2020). Factors Influencing Students' Choice of a Federal University: A Case Study of a Nigerian Federal University. In: Mogaji E., Maringe F., Ebo Hinson R. (eds) *Higher Education Marketing in Africa*. (pp 135-163). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

OTHER WRITINGS

7. **Adeyanju, S.**, O'Connor, A., Pienaaah, C.K.A., 2026. Community conservation in Ghana has evolved, but policy and funding need to catch up. *The Conversation*. [Link](#)
6. **Adeyanju, S.** (2025). Equity in community-based conservation– a global call to action. *Commonwealth Forestry Association Newsletter Essay*. [Link](#)
5. **Adeyanju, S.**, O'Connor, A. (2022). Replacing short-term projects with long-term processes: Lessons learned from CBNRM in Ghana and Zambia. *Forest News*. [Link](#)
4. **Adeyanju, S.** (2021). An Analysis of Students' Perception of University Sustainability Programs and Image. *Preprints*, 202107057 [PDF](#)
3. **Adeyanju, S.** (2018). Advancing education in Africa through the Mastercard Foundation scholar's program. *UBC Forestry Branchlines* pg. 6. [Link](#)

2. **Adeyanju, S.** (2017b). Illegal Logging in the Republic of Congo. *Open Case Studies on UBC Wiki*. [Link](#)

1. **Adeyanju, S.** (2017a). A case study on Bimbia Bonadikombo Community Forest (BBCF), Southwest Region of Cameroon: Emergence, Impacts, and Improvements. *Open Case Studies on UBC Wiki*. [Link](#).

WORK IN PROGRESS

In preparation

2. A systematic map of the contributions of local residents to protected area law enforcement. Led by Dr. William Sharkey (formerly at the University of Edinburgh, GB). For submission to *Global Environmental Change*

1. A Vision for African-led Conservation Research. Led by Nomsa Nkomo (University of Cape Town, ZA) and Dr. Timothy Kuiper (Nelson Mandela University, ZA). For submission to *Conservation Science and Practice*

Under review

3. 'Women have no work apart from shea': Shea Value Chain Development Interventions, Women's Capital Assets and Empowerment in Ghana (PhD chapter). Under review in *Forest Policy and Economics*

2. The Anthro in the Anthropocene: Resource Extraction and Survival in Semi-Arid Ghana. Led by Cornelius Pienaaah (Western University, CA). Under review in *Environmental Science and Policy*

1. Gendered Inclusion and Exclusion in Community-Based Conservation Governance: Participation and Power in Northern Ghana. Led by Cornelius Pienaaah (Western University, CA). Under review in *Society & Natural Resources*

EDUCATION

PhD in Forestry – Supervised by Professor Terry Sunderland

09/2021 to 08/2026

University of British Columbia, Canada

Dissertation Title: People, Projects, and Poverty: The Multidimensional Impact of Livelihood Interventions in Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) in northern Ghana.

MSc Forestry – Supervised by Dr. Janette Bulkan

09/2017 to 03/2020

University of British Columbia, Canada

Thesis Title: Drivers of biodiversity conservation in sacred groves: A comparative study of three sacred groves in South-west Nigeria.

B (Agric.) Tech in Forestry and Wood Technology

11/2011 to 07/2016

Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher – Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal

2026 – Present

- Developing a research program on the human dimensions of natural climate solutions, examining whether voluntary carbon market social safeguards are delivered in practice by comparing registry project documents with independent audit findings for forest carbon projects in West Africa.
- Member of the Ecosystem Policy & People research group led by Dr. Brian E. Robinson.

PhD Researcher – The University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver

2021 – 2026

- Conducted a mixed methods [PhD research](#) on the effectiveness of livelihood interventions for rural poverty reduction in Ghana.
- Led data collection across three Ghanaian regions, engaging 200+ stakeholders and managing a team of four assistants, demonstrating strong project management, stakeholder engagement, and research coordination skills.

Outreach Assistant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

2020 – 2021

- Spearheaded region-specific research for the FAO Forestry Education Project in Tanzania, as the Africa and Forestry subject specialist, and contributing to the [development of 26 forest education modules](#).
- Supported the Forestry Department in the successful execution of high-level global events such as the 25th session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO25) joined by over 600 participants from 123 member countries.
- Acted as team liaison on FAO-led initiatives, including the Forest and Farm Facility contributing technical insights to project discussions and ensuring timely communication and reporting to supervisors.

- Co-authored a [literature review](#) on integrated landscape approaches in both Ghana and Zambia. Led the research process from data collection to publication, demonstrating strong analytical, organizational, and writing skills.
- Presented findings in conferences and in a [blog article](#) to engage non-academic audience, showcasing my ability to translate research into accessible insights for policy and development stakeholders.

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE AT UBC VANCOUVER

Fall 2023, **Visualizing Climate Change** (CONS 210 – 3 credits)

Fall 2022 & Winter 2023, **Land One: First-year Integrative Seminar** (FRST 110 / LFS 110 – 4 credits)

Winter 2022, **Foundations of Conservation** (CONS 200 – 3 credits)

Winter 2020, **Aboriginal Forestry** (CONS 370 – 3 credits)

Fall 2019, **Community Forests and Community Forestry** (FRST 370 – 3 credits)

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Foundations of Conservation
- Human Dimensions of Conservation
- Community Forests and Community Forestry
- Forests and Society
- Agroforestry Value Chains and Rural Economic Development
- Natural Resources Management and the African Continent

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 Guest lecture: Assessing the Impact of Shea Value Chain Development Interventions on Women in Ghana.
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Natural Resource Planning (FRST 559 Master of International Forestry Graduate course)
- 2023 Guest lecture: Unpacking forestry from local to global: My experience
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Land One: First-year Integrative Seminar (FRST 110 / LFS 110 Undergraduate course)
- 2022 Guest lecture: Historical and Contemporary Conservation Approaches in Africa: An Introduction
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Foundations of Conservation (CONS 200 Undergraduate course)
- Guest speaker: Feasibility of online learning during the pandemic
School of Education and Urban Studies (Research and Scholarship Webinar Series),
Morgan State University, USA
[YouTube](#) (January 25)
- 2021 Guest lecture: Learning from Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) in Ghana and Zambia: Lessons for integrated landscape approaches
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Natural Resource Planning (FRST 559 Master of International Forestry Graduate course)
- Guest speaker: Amplifying Master's and Doctoral research from African Universities through Institutional Repositories and ProQuest Dissertation & Theses Global (PQDT) database
ProQuest, UK
[YouTube](#) (September 8)
- 2020 Guest lecture: Drivers of biodiversity conservation in sacred groves in south-west Nigeria
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Aboriginal Forestry (CONS 370 Undergraduate course)
- 2019 Guest lecture: Drivers of biodiversity conservation in sacred groves in south-west Nigeria
Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia
Community Forestry (FRST 370 Undergraduate course)

RESEARCH SKILLS

Mixed Methods Research

- Qualitative Methods & Analytical Tools – Case Study Research, Ethnographic Research, Interviews, Focus Groups, Participatory methods, Thematic Analysis, NVivo
- Quantitative Methods & Analytical Tools – Surveys, Microsoft Excel, Qualtrics
- Literature and Systematic Reviews

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Panelist, [Global Landscapes Forum \(Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020\)](#), Vancouver October 2020

- Presented on “Engaging Youths to Restore African Landscapes,” linking youth-led restoration efforts to the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Panelist, [Global Landscapes Forum \(GLF Kyoto 2019\)](#), Vancouver May 2019

- Served as panelist and presented research on landscape-scale interventions in Nigeria. Contributed to discussions on the role of local knowledge in achieving global sustainability goals.

Delegate, [UNECE Committee on Forest and Forest Industry \(COFFI2018\)](#), Vancouver November 2018

- Delivered the [youth keynote speech](#), emphasizing the importance of youth inclusion in forest policy and practice. Led the youth delegation, ensuring meaningful representation at the high-level event.

Delegate, [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\) COP23](#), Bonn Nov. 2017

- Served as a panelist at the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA) Press Conference, presenting perspectives on the role of forestry in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025

National Sustainability Society (NSS) 2025 Annual Conference, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA | October 20–23.

International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) 2025, Brisbane, Australia | June 15 – 19.

2024

26th International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress, Stockholm, Sweden | June 22 – 30. Two poster presentations.

2023

9th Forests & Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) Annual Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya | October 12 – 16.

2021

Commonwealth Forestry Conference (CFC) 2021, Vancouver, Canada | August 16 – 18.

2019

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Transforming Approaches Conference, Vancouver, Canada | August 21 – 23.

Conferences attended

Yale International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF) Annual Conference, Connecticut, USA | February 2 – 3, 2024.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP / SERVICE

Reviewer for academic journals, including *Current Research in Environmental Sustainability*, *Discover Sustainability*
Convener, Black History Month Initiative, Faculty of Forestry, UBC. 2022-2024 [Link](#)

Advisory Group Member, Commonwealth Forestry Association, United Kingdom. 2021-present. [Link](#)

President/ Head of Special Events for Climate Change, International Forestry Students Association, UBC. 2017-2019.
[Link](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

2023-26 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, The University of British Columbia (C\$150,000)
2023-26 SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award, UBC (C\$105,000)
2024-25 International Development Research Centre John G. Bene Fellowship (C\$22,100)
2023-24 Killam Doctoral Research Travel Allowance, The University of British Columbia (C\$2,000)
2023-24 Killam Doctoral Scholarship (Honorary), The University of British Columbia (C\$60,000)
2022-25 UBC Faculty of Forestry Internal Awards - PhD (C\$15,160)
2021-25 Four Year Doctoral Fellowship, The University of British Columbia (\$30,333 + tuition)
2019 UBC Go Global Self-Initiated Research Award (C\$2,000)
2018 UBC St John's College Charles C C & Sophia Wong Memorial Fellowship (C\$2,500)
2017-20 UBC Faculty of Forestry Internal Awards – MSc (C\$2,900)
2017-20 Mastercard Foundation Scholars Award, The University of British Columbia (C\$100,000)
2014-16 Deans Honours List, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria

MEDIA COVERAGE

Sacred Groves (Or Commons with A Difference). *In Common Podcast*. [Link](#). September 6, 2022.
“How sacred groves protect deities, culture and biodiversity”. *Landscape News*. [Link](#). April 7, 2022.
“This Nigerian Studies How to Save Sacred Forests and Their Monkeys”. *Forbes*. [Link](#). December 25, 2021.