

Curriculum Vitae

Ruth S. DeFries

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology
Columbia University
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Current Appointment

Co-founding dean, Columbia Climate School (2021-present)
Denning Family Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University (2008-present)
(designated Denning Family University Professor in 2016)
Co-director, undergraduate program in Sustainable Development, Earth Institute (2010-present)

Research Interests

Role of tropical landscapes in climate adaptation and mitigation, conservation, food security, and human livelihoods;
Ecosystem services from tropical agriculture and forests;
Characterization of deforestation and anthropogenic land use change with remote sensing;
Application of science to policy for sustainable development;
Conservation, climate and livelihoods in central India.

Education

Ph.D. (1980)
Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
B.A., *summa cum laude* (1976)
Washington University, St. Louis, MO (major in earth science)

Fellowships and Honors

MacArthur Fellowship (2007)
Member, National Academy of Sciences (elected 2006)
Member, National Academy of Engineering (elected 2024)
University Professor (highest faculty rank), Columbia University (2016)
Web of Science, Highly Cited Researcher, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 (environment/ecology) and 2018, 2022 (cross field)
Corresponding Fellow, British Academy (elected 2023)
Marsh Award for Climate Change Research (2021)
Distinguished Scholar Award, American Association of Geographers (2015)
Honorary Doctorate, McGill University (2016)
Honorary Doctorate, University of Leuven Belgium (2017)
Breakthrough Paradigm Award (2014)
Fellow, California Academy of Sciences (elected 2017)
Fellow, Ecological Society of America (elected 2012)
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2010)
Fellow, American Geophysical Union (elected 2009)
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (elected 2008)
Fellow, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program of the Ecological Society of America (2001)
Fulbright Award for Research in India (2007)
Phi Beta Kappa

Previous Appointments

Chair, Earth Institute faculty, Columbia University (2018-2021)
Chair, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (2011-2014)

Associate Professor and Professor (Aug 1999 - 2008)
University of Maryland, College Park
Joint appointment in Department of Geography (50%) and Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (50%)

Associate Research Scientist (Aug 1991 - Aug 1999; 1991-97 60%; 97-99 80%)
Department of Geography, University of Maryland, College Park

Visiting scientist (June - Aug 1998)
Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Plant Biology, Palo Alto, CA

Senior Project Officer (June 1983 - Aug 1991)
National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

Research Associate (Feb 1981 - March 1983)
Environmental Science and Engineering Group
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India

Hydrologist (Oct 1979 - Oct 1980)
United States Geological Survey, Baltimore, MD

Journal Articles (*=first author is student or postdoc supervised by DeFries)

- Guruzada, M., McDermid, S., DeFries, R., Davis, K., Singh, J., and Singh, D. in press. El Niño and Positive Indian Ocean Dipole Events Negatively Affect Production of Key Kharif Cereal Grains across India. *Environmental Research Letters*.
- Buma, B., Gordon, D., Kleisner, K., Bartuska, A., Bidlack, A., DeFries, R., Ellis, P., Friedlingstein, P., Metzger, S., Morgan, G., Novick, K., and Hamburg, S. 2024. Expert review of the science underlying nature-based climate solutions, *Nature Climate Change*.
- Cooley, S., Pinto, N., Becerra, M., Alverado, G., Fahlen, J., Rivero, O., Frinker, G., Dantos, A., Aguilar-Amuchestegui, N., Reygadas, Y., Gan, J., DeFries, R., and Menge, D.. 2024. Combining spaceborne lidar from GEDI with local knowledge for monitoring fragmented tropical landscapes: a case study in the forest-agriculture interface of Ucayali, Peru. *Ecology and Evolution*.
- Karl, K., DeFries, R., Baethgen, W., Furtado, M., Potent, J., Leal, E., Contreras, E., and Rosenzweig, C.. 2024. Toward a holistic and data-driven framework to evaluate livestock-derived protein systems, *One Earth*, 7.
- Chakraborti, R., Davis, K., DeFries, R., Rao, N., Joseph, J., & Ghosh, S. 2023. Crop switching for water sustainability in India's food bowl yields co-benefits for food security and farmers' profits. *Nature Water*, 1, 864-878.
- *Choksi, P., Agrawal, A., Bialy, I., Chaturvedi, R., Davis, K. F., Dhyani, S., Fleischman, F., Lechner, J., Nagendra, H., Srinivasan, V. and DeFries, R. 2023. Combining socioeconomic and biophysical data to identify people-centric restoration opportunities. *npj Biodiversity*, 2(1), 7.
- Srivathsa, A., Vasudev, D., Nair, T., Chakrabarti, S., Chanchani, P., DeFries, R., Deomurari, A., Dutta, S., Ghose, D., Goswami, V. R. 2023. Prioritizing India's landscapes for biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. *Nature Sustainability*, 1-10.
- Tambe, S., Ballal, A., Tomar, R., Wyborn, C., DeFries, R., Ganguly, S., & Masters, L. 2023. Bridging science, policy and practice for sustainability: Towards a conceptual framework. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 145.
- *Choksi, P., Kotian, M., Biniwale, S., Mourya, P., Korche, D., Agarwala, M., Khanwilkar, S. Ramesh, V., DeFries, R. 2023. Listening for change: Quantifying the impact of ecological restoration on soundscapes in a dry tropical forest. *Restoration Ecology*, e13864.
- *Ramesh, V., Hariharan, P., Akshay, V. A., Choksi, P., Khanwilkar, S., DeFries, R., & Robin, V. V. 2023. Using passive acoustic monitoring to examine the impacts of ecological restoration on faunal biodiversity in the Western Ghats. *Biological Conservation*, 282, 11071.

- DeFries, R., Ahuja, R., Friedman, J., Gordon, D., Hamburg, S. P., Kerr, S., Mwangi, J., Nouwen, C., Pandit, N. 2022. Land management can contribute to net zero. *Science*, 376(6598), 1163-1165.
- *Schoen, J., A. Neelakantan, S. Cushman, T. Dutta, B. Habib, Y. Jhala, I. Mondal, U. Ramakrishnan, P. Reddy, S. Saini, S. Sharma, P. Thatte, B. Yunnan and R. DeFries. 2022. Synthesizing connectivity analyses for co-management of a globally important human-dominated tiger (*Panthera tigris*) conservation landscape. *Conservation Biology*. 36(4):13909.
- Löfqvist, S., Kleinschroth, F., Bey, A., de Bremond, A., DeFries, R., Dong, J., Fleischman, F., Lele, S., Martin, D., Messerli, P. 2022. How social considerations improve the equity and effectiveness of ecosystem restoration. *BioScience*, 73(2), 134-148.
- *Ramesh, V., Gupta, P. R., Tingley, M., Robin, V. V., & DeFries, R. 2022. Using citizen science to parse climatic and land cover influences on bird occupancy in a tropical biodiversity hotspot. *Ecography*, 9, e06075.
- Meyfroidt, P., A. de Bremond, C. M. Ryan, E. Archer, R. Aspinall, A. Chhabra, G. Camara, E. Corbera, R. DeFries, S. Díaz and et. al 2022. Ten facts about land systems for sustainability. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119 (7).
- Liu, T., Mickley, L. J., Patel, P. N., Gautam, R., Jain, M., Singh, S., DeFries, R., Marlier, M. 2022. Cascading delays in the monsoon rice growing season and postmonsoon agricultural fires likely exacerbate air pollution in North India. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 127(24), e2022JD036790.
- Norstrom, A., 37 other authors, & DeFries, R. 2022. The programme on ecosystem change and society (PECS) - a decade of deepening social-ecological research through a place-based focus. *Ecosystems and People*, 18(598-608).
- Mondal, P., R. DeFries, J. Clark, J. Fanzo, N. Flowerhill, Md. Arif, A. Harou, S. Downs, and J. Fanzo. 2021. Multiple cropping alone does not improve year-round food security among smallholders in rural India. *Environmental Research Letters* 16, no. 6 (2021): 065017.
- *Choksi, P., D. Singh, J. Singh, P. Mondal, H. Nagendra, J. Urpelainen, and R. DeFries. 2021. Sensitivity of seasonal migration to climatic variability in Central India. *Environmental Research Letters*.
- DeFries, R., M. Agarwala, S. Baquie, P. Choksi, S. Khanwilkar, P. Mondal, H. Nagendra, and J. Urpelainen. 2021. Improved household living standards can restore dry tropical forests. *Biotropica* 54 (6): 1480-1490.
- Tambe, S., L. French, C. Wyborn, L. Scarlett, R. DeFries, H. Nagendra, H. Kulkarni, et al. 2021. India's environmental policy standoff: Reimagining the interface of science, policy, and practice. *International Forestry Review* 23, no. 2: 1-11.
- *Clark, B., R. DeFries, and J. Krishnaswamy. 2021. India's commitments to increase tree and forest cover: Consequences for water supply and agriculture production within the Central Indian Highlands. *Water* 13: 959.
- *Khanwilkar, S., C. Gould, R. DeFries, B. Habib, and J. Urpelainen. 2021. Firewood, forests, and fringe populations: Exploring the inequitable socioeconomic dimensions of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) adoption in India. *Energy Research and Social Science* 75, no. 1021012 (2021): 1-13.
- Jain, M., R. Fishman, P. Mondal, G. Galford, N. Bhattarai, S. Naeem, U. Lall, B. Singh, and R. DeFries. 2021. Groundwater Depletion Will Decrease Cropping Intensity in India. *Science Advances* 7, no. 9.
- Neelakantan, A., et al. 2021. Pathways towards people-oriented conservation in a human-dominated landscape: The Network for Conserving Central India. *Ecosystems and People* 17.
- Singh, D., Karambelas, A., Chhatre, A., DeFries, R., Kinney, P., & Davis, K. 2021. A systems lens to evaluate the compound human health impacts of anthropogenic activities. *One Earth*.
- Williams, P., Wynne, R., Thomas, V., & DeFries, R. 2021. Mapping smallholder forest plantations in Andhra Pradesh, India using multitemporal Harmonized Landsat Sentinel-2 S10 data. *Land Degradation and Development*, 1-15.
- Heilpern, S., K. Fiorella, C. Canas, A. Flecker, L. Moya, S. Naeem, S. Sethi, and R. DeFries. 2021. Substitution of Inland Fisheries with Aquaculture and Chicken Undermines Human Nutrition in the Peruvian Amazon." *Nature Food* 2:192-197.
- Heilpern, S., R. DeFries, K. Fiorella, A. Flecker, S. Sethi, M. Uriarte, and S. Naeem. 2021. Declining Diversity of Wild-Caught Species Pits Dietary Nutrient Supplies at Risk. *Science Advances* 7, no. 22.
- DeFries, R., M. Agarwala, S. Baquie, P. Choksi, N. Dogra, G.S. Preetha, S. Khanwilkar, et al. 2020. Post-Lockdown Spread of Covid-19 from Cities to Vulnerable Forest-Fringe Villages in Central India. *Current Science* 00113891, no. 119.1.
- Baquie, S., J. Urpelainen, S. Khanwilkar, C. Galletti, N. Velho, P. Mondal, H. Nagendra, and R. DeFries. 2020. Migration, Assets, and Forest Degradation in a Tropical Deciduous Forest of South Asia. *Ecological Economics* 106887.

- Jayadevan, A., R. Nayak, K. Karanth, J. Krishnaswamy, R. DeFries, U.K. Karanth, and S. Vaidyanathan. 2020. Navigating Paved Paradise: Evaluating Landscape Permeability to Movement for Large Mammals in Two Conservation Priority Landscapes in India. *Biological Conservation* 247 (2020): 1908613.
- Lipper, L., R. DeFries, and L. Bizikova. 2020. Shedding Light on the Evidence Blind Spots Confounding the Multiple Objectives of SDG 2. *Nature Plants* 6 (2020): 1203-10.
- Liu, T., L. Mickley, M. Marlier, R. DeFries, M. Firoz Khan, M.T. Latif, and A. Karambelas. 2020. Diagnosing Spatial Biases and Uncertainties in Global Fire Emissions Inventories: Indonesia as Regional Case Study. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 237: 111557.
- Liu, T., L. Mickley, S. Singh, M. Jain, R. DeFries, and M. Marlier. 2020. Crop Residue Burning Practices across North India Inferred from Household Survey Data: Bridging Gaps in Satellite Observations. *Atmospheric Environment* 8, no. 100091 (2020).
- Nayak, R., K. Karanth, T. Dutta, R. DeFries, U.K. Karanth, and S. Vaidyanathan. 2020. Bits and Pieces: Impact of Linear Institutions on Forest Structural Connectivity in India. *Land Use Policy*. 99:104618.
- *Neelakantan, A., R. DeFries, E. Sterling, and S. Naeem. 2020. Contributions of Financial, Social and Natural Capital to Food Security around Kanha National Park. *Regional Environmental Change* 20, no. 26.
- *Osuri, A., S. Machado, J. Ratnam, M. Sankaram, N. Ayyappan, S. Muthuramkumar, N. Parthasrathy, et al. 2020. Tree Diversity and Carbon Storage Co-Benefits in Tropical Human-Dominated Landscapes. *Conservation Letters* e12699.
- *Osuri, A., A. Gopal, T.R.Shankar Raman, R. DeFries, S. Cook-Patton, and S. Naeem. 2020. "Greater stability of carbon capture in species-rich natural forests compared to species-poor plantation." *Environmental Research Letters* 15:034011.
- Singh, S., A. Jones, R. DeFries, and M. Jain. 2020. The association between crop and income diversity and farmer intra-household dietary diversity in India. *Food Security*: 1-22.
- *Neelakantan, A., R. DeFries, E. Sterling, and S. Naeem. 2020. Contributions of financial, social and natural capital to food security around Kanha National Park. *Regional Environmental Change* 20 (26).
- *Davis, K., A. Chhatre, N. Rao, D. Singh, S. Ghosh-Jerath, M. Pobleto-Caenave, N. Pradhan, and R. DeFries. 2019. Assessing the sustainability of post-Green Revolution cereals in India. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*:1-8.
- Marlier, M., T. Liu, K. Yu, J. Buonocore, S. Koplitz, R. DeFries, L. Mickley, D. Jacob, J. Schwartz, B. Wardhana, and S. Myers. 2019. Fires, smoke exposure, and public health: An integrative framework to maximize health benefits from peatland restoration. *GeoHealth* 3: 1-12.
- *Davis, K., A. Chhatre, N. Rao, D. Singh, and R. DeFries. 2019. Sensitivity of grain yields to historical climate variability in India. *Environmental Research Letters* 14:064013.
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- Anderson, C., R. DeFries, R. Litterman, P.A. Matson, D. Nepstad, S.W. Pacala, W. Schlesinger, R. Shaw, P. Smith, C. Weber, and C. Field. 2019. "Natural climate solutions are not enough: Decarbonizing the economy must remain a critical priority." *Science* 363 (6430):933-934.
- Smith, M., DeFries, R., Chhatre, A., Ghosh-Jerath, S., Myers, S. 2019. Inadequate zinc intake in India: Past, present, and future. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*. 40 (1):26-40.
- Liu, T., M. Marlier, A. Karambelas, M. Jain, S. Singh, M. Singh, R. Gautum, and R. DeFries. 2019. Missing emissions from post-monsoon agricultural fires in northwestern India: regional limitation of MODIS burned area and active fire products. *Environmental Research Communications* 1 (01 1007).
- Cutsworth, D., Mickley, L., Sulprizo, M., Liu, T., Marlier, M., DeFries, R., Guttikunda, S., Gupta, P. 2018. Quantifying the influence of agricultural fires in northwest India on urban air pollution in Delhi, India. *Environmental Research Letters* 13.
- *Davis, K., Chiarelli, D., Chhatre, A., Richter, B., Singh, D., DeFries, R. 2018. Alternative cereals can improve water use and nutrient supply in India. *Science Advances* 4, 1-11.
- DeFries, R., Chhatre, A., Davis, K., Dutta, A., Fanzo, J., Ghosh-Jerath, S., Myers, S., Smith, M. 2018. Impact of historical changes in coarse cereals consumption in India on micronutrient intake and anemia prevalence. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 39, 377-392.
- Dutta, T., Sharma, S., DeFries, R. 2018. Targeting restoration sites to improve connectivity in a tiger conservation landscape in India. *PeerJ*:e5587 DOI 10.7717/peerj.5587.
- *Karambelas, A., Holloway, T., Kinney, P., Fiore, A., DeFries, R., Kiesweter, G., Chris, H. 2018. Urban vs rural health impacts attributable to PM2.5 and O3 in northern India. *Environmental Research Letters* 13, 064010.

- Rao, N., Min, J., DeFries, R., Ghosh-Jerath, S., Valin, H., Fanzo, J. 2018. Healthy, affordable and climate-friendly diets in India. *Global Environmental Change* 49, 154-165.
- *Velho, N., DeFries, R., Tolonen, A., Srinivasan, U., Patil, A. 2018. Aligning conservation efforts with resource use around protected areas. *Ambio*, 1-12.
- *Chang, X., DeFries, R., Liu, L., Davis, K. 2018. Understanding dietary and staple food transitions in China from multiple scales. *PLoS One*.
- *Liu, T., Marlier, M., DeFries, R., Westervelt, D., Xia, K., Fiore, A., Mickley, L., Cusworth, D., Milly, G. 2018. Seasonal impact of regional outdoor biomass burning on air pollution in three Indian cities: Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune. *Atmospheric Environment* 172, 83-92.
- Wood, S., Smith, M., Fanzo, J., Remans, R., DeFries, R. 2018. Trade and the equitability of global food nutrient distribution. *Nature Sustainability* 1, 34-37.
- DeFries, R. and H. Nagendra. 2017. Ecosystem management as a wicked problem. *Science*, 356, 265-270.
- *Schwartz, N., M. Uriarte, R. DeFries, K. Bedka, K. Fernandes, V. Gutierrez-Velez and M. Pinedo-Vasquez. 2017. Fragmentation increases wind disturbance impacts on forest structure and carbon stocks in a western Amazonian landscape. *Ecological Applications*, 1-15.
- *Schwartz, N., M. Uriarte, R. DeFries, V. Gutierrez-Velez and M. Pinedo-Vasquez. 2017. Land-use dynamics influence estimates of carbon sequestration potential in tropical second-growth forest. *Environmental Research Letters*, 12, 074023.
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- *Agarwala, M., S. Ghoshal, L. Verchot, C. Martius, R. Ahuja & R. DeFries. 2017. Impact of biogas interventions on forest biomass and regeneration in southern India. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 11, 213-223.
- DeFries, R., J. Fanzo, P. Mondal, R. Remans & S. Wood. 2017. Is voluntary certification of tropical agricultural commodities achieving sustainability goals?: A review of the evidence. *Environmental Research Letters* 12, 033001.
- DeFries, R., Mondal, P., Singh, D., Agrawal, I., Fanzo, J., Remans, R., Wood, S. 2017. Synergies and trade-offs for sustainable agriculture: Nutritional Yields and Climate-Resilience for cereal crops in central India. *Global Food Security*.
- *Cattau, M., Marlier, M., DeFries, R. 2016. Effectiveness of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) for reducing fires on oil palm concession in Indonesia from 2012 to 2015. *Environmental Research Letters* 11, 105007.
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- *Agarwala, M., DeFries, R., Qureshi, Q., Jhala, Y. 2016. Changes in dry tropical forests in Central India with human use. *Regional Environmental Change* 16.
- *Cattau, M., Harrison, M., Shinyo, I., Tungau, S., Uriarte, M., DeFries, R. 2016. Sources of anthropogenic fire ignitions on the peat-swamp landscape in Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Global Environmental Change* 39, 205-219.
- *Clark, B., DeFries, R., Krishnaswamy, J. 2016. Intra-annual dynamics of water stress in the Central Indian Highlands from 2002-2012. *Regional Environmental Change* 16.
- DeFries, R., Sharma, S., Dutta, T. 2016. A landscape approach to conservation and development in the Central Indian Highlands: Introduction to the Special Issue. *Regional Environmental Change* 16.
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- *Fagan, M., R. DeFries, S. Sesnie, J. Arroyo, and R. Chazdon. 2016. Targeted reforestation could combat declines in connectivity for understory birds in a tropical habitat corridor. *Ecological Applications* 26: 1456-1474.

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- Anderman, T., R. DeFries, S. Wood, R. Remans, R. Ahuja, and S. Ulla. 2015. Biogas cook stoves for healthy and sustainable diets? A case study in Southern India. *Frontiers in Nutrition - Nutrition and Environmental Sustainability* 2:28.
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- *Jain, M., S. Naem, B. Orlove, V. Modi, and R. DeFries. 2015. Understanding the causes and consequences of differential decision-making in adaptation research: adapting to a delayed monsoon onset in Gujarat, India. *Global Environmental Change* 31:98-109.
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- DeFries, R. 2014. *The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis*. Basic Books. 288 pp.
- Silver, C and DeFries, R. 1990. *One Earth, One Future: Our Changing Global Environment*. National Academy Press. Washington, D.C. 196 pp. (translated into French, Portuguese, Arabic, and Japanese)

Science-Policy Interface/Advisory Committees/Working Groups (selected)

- Founder and director, Network for Conserving Central India, 2012-present
- Board of Trustees, Environmental Defense Fund, 2010-present
- Board of Trustees, U.S. World Wildlife Fund, 2016-present
- Board Member, Science for Nature and People Program (SNAPP), The Nature Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Society, 2015-present
- Member, National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration, 2018-present
- IIASA Science Advisory Committee, 2017-2023
- Council member, National Academy of Sciences, 2019-2023
- Co-chair, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Committee on Advancing a Systems Approach to Studying the Earth: A Strategy for the National Science Foundation (2020-2022)
- Advisory Board Member, Planetary Health Alliance, 2016-2019
- Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment, 2019-present
- Member, Science and Technology Advisory Committee, International Monetary Fund, 2017-2019
- Editorial Board, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2007-present
- Editorial Board, *Environmental Research Letters*, 2017-present
- Editorial Board, *World Development Perspectives*, 2018-present
- Editorial Board, *Global Food Security*, 2020-present
- Member, Technical Committee, High Carbon Stock Study for Sustainable Palm Oil Manifesto, 2014 – 2015
- Member, Scientific Steering Committee, Our Common Future Under Climate Change, 2015
- Lead author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fifth Assessment, 2010 – 2014
- Member, National Research Council, Board on Environmental Change and Society, 2011-2018

Member, Scientific Committee for Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), International Council for Science, 2008-2018

Member, National Science Foundation Advisory Board for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, 2013-2018

Member, National Research Council, Committee on the Assessment of NASA's Earth Science program, 2010-2012

Chair, Ecosystems, Land Use, and Biodiversity Panel of Decadal Survey for the Earth Sciences, National Research Council, 2005-2007

Vice-chair, National Research Council, Committee on Earth Studies, Space Sciences Board, 2008-2011.

Member, America's Climate Choices: Science Panel, National Research Council, 2008-2010

Member, Terrestrial Carbon Group, 2007-2011

Executive Editor, *Environment* magazine, 2006-2011

Editorial Board, *Regional Environmental Change*, journal published by Springer-Verlag, 2003 – 2011.

Coordinating Lead Author, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2001-2005

Member, Global Observations of Forest Cover, Forest/Land Cover Implementation Team, 2001-2015

Ph.D. Students (primary advisor)

Awarded:

- S. Khanwilkar, "Social and Ecological Insights Across Landscape, Community, and Household Scales: Forest Health, Governance, and Livelihoods in Central India" (awarded 2023)
- P. Choksi, "Ecological Restoration in Rural Livelihoods in Central India" (awarded 2023)
- V. Ramesh, "Environmental Drivers of Bird Species Occupancy in a Tropical Montane Biodiversity Hotspot" (awarded 2023)
- B. Clark (co-advised with C. Palm), "Crops, Canopies, and Waiting for Rain: Water for Small-plot Agriculture in the Tropics" (awarded 2019)
- A. Neelakantan, "Moving people for tigers: Resettlement, Food Security and Landscape-level Conservation in Central India" (awarded 2018)
- N. Schwartz (co-advised with M. Uriarte), "Earth, Wind, and Fire: Interactions between Land Use and Natural Disturbance in a Dynamic Amazonian Landscape" (awarded 2017)
- M. Agarwala, "Forest Degradation and Governance in Central India: Evidence from Ecology, Remote Sensing and Political Ecology Forest Degradation in Tropical Deciduous Forests" (awarded 2014)
- M. Cattau, "Tropical Peat Swamp Forest Loss in Indonesia: Linking Landscape Connectivity, Seed Dispersal, and Carbon Storage" (awarded 2016)
- M. Jain (co-advised with S. Naem), "Adaptation to Climate Variability in Social Agro-ecological Systems" (awarded 2014)
- M. Fagan, "The Changing Matrix: Reforestation and Connectivity in a Tropical Habitat Corridor" (awarded 2014)
- M. Marlier (co-advised with K. Griffin), "Contributions of Biomass Burning to Air Quality Degradation" (awarded 2013)
- V. Gutierrez-Velez, "Oil Palm Expansion and Land Cover Changes in the Peruvian Amazon: Implications for Forest Conservation and Fire Management" (awarded 2013)
- M. Macedo, "Tropical Deforestation and the Land-Water Interface" (awarded 2011)
- K. Wurster, "Using MISR to Assess the Impact of Charcoal Production on Forest Regeneration Rates in Southeastern Senegal" (awarded 2010)
- S. Zeigler, "Incorporating Landscape in Population Viability Analysis: Improving Generic Modeling Platforms for Endangered Species Conservation" (awarded 2010)
- D. Morton, "Savannization of a Tropical Forest Frontier: Carbon Consequences of Climate and Anthropogenic Fire from a Height-Structured Ecosystem Model" (awarded 2008)
- J. Dempewolf, "Fire Dynamics and Woody Cover Changes in the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem 2000 to 2005: A Remote Sensing Approach" (awarded 2007)
- L. Anderson (co-advised), "Analyzing the Impact of Participatory-Developed Conservation Policies in the Negril Environmental Protection Area, Western Jamaica" (awarded 2007)
- M. Songer, "Dynamics of Non-Timber Forest Product Extraction in a Protected Tropical Dry Forest Area in Southeast Asia" (awarded 2006)

Current:

J. Schoen, “Carnivore Movement Ecology for Conservation Prioritization” (advanced to candidacy)
M. Levin, “Walking on Sunshine: Aligning Wildlife Conservation and Solar Energy Development” (advanced to candidacy)
R. Bakshi. “Evaluating Ecological Outcomes of Governance and Management in Forest and Non-Forest Commons in India” (advanced to candidacy)
A. Vanamamaalai