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PhD Candidate, Joint Appoint VU University Amsterdam (Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology) and McGill University (Department of Anthropology)

EDITION

My research has critically examined the political, socioeconomic and cultural factors gauging land access shifts and environmental change in Madagascar.

I am experienced in the fields of corporate engagement in sustainability and biodiversity conservation, local uses of biological diversity and the theorization of land as heritage.

Having carried out extensive empirical research in Madagascar, I am particularly concerned with the rights-based approaches to conservation and local realities of both mining and protected area implementation, as well as the equitability of global conservation and climate mitigation schemes such as REDD+ and biodiversity offsetting. Building on progress that has already been made, I am committed to better understanding the sometimes tense relationship between global discourses of sustainable development and conservation policy and local conceptions of sustainability, livelihoods and heritage.

I have field experience working for small NGOs engaged in conservation and development, and special insight into the complexities of inter-cultural communication involved.

I am strongly committed to finding innovative ways in which to bridge academic research and development practice, and engaging youth in fostering awareness of conservation and local communities.

EDITION

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Having studied in both the US and Canada, I am keenly aware of pressing environmental issues facing the North American region, particularly in relation to climate change, Canadian mining abroad, American Indian communities, and environmental justice.

I have been involved in youth movements surrounding the Kyoto protocol, human rights, gender issues, and the rights of American Indian groups.

Relating my current PhD research to real-world applications, my goal is to engage with and better inform policy debates, user groups and the public/private sector of the Canadian mining industry's activities abroad in relation to nature conservation, environmental change and local land rights.

Being a young scholar, I hope to act as a youth councillor as it is my conviction that North American youth play a crucial role in shaping development thought and practice; I aim to network with youth groups so as to provide a meaningful way for youth voices to be heard in wider IUCN policy debates.