

PERSONAL INFORMATION DR. PARITA SURESHCHANDRA SHAH

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Citizenship: Kenyan



Date of birth: 20th August 1974

Gender: Female

Religion: Hindu

PERSONAL STATEMENT

MY VISION IS TO SEE THE WORLD SAVING ITS BIODIVERSITY THROUGH BENEFIT SHARING, USE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/06/2011-17th October 2018 TUTORIAL FELLOW, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA

18th October 2018 – Present LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA

- Teaching Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate and Masters Students in the areas of Environmental Impact Assessment, Biogeography, Tropical Ecosystems, Natural Resource Conservation and Management, Climate Change and Biodiversity, Foundations and Philosophy of Biogeography, Map and Aerial Photo Interpretation and Ecotourism
- Chair, College of Humanities and Social Sciences Environmental Sustainability Committee (March 2017- till date)
- Member, College Environmental Sustainability Committee representing Faculty of Arts (2015-till date)
- Member, Central Environmental Sustainability Committee (March 2017- till date)
- Patron, University of Nairobi Geographical Students Society (UNGSS 2017- till date)
- Member, University of Nairobi Research Week Committee (February 2018 – till date)
- Member, Research Week Committee for the African Women's Study Centre, University of Nairobi (February 2018 – till date)
- Member, Research and Publications Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi (June 2019 – till date)
- Member, Anti-Plagiarism Committee, Faculty of Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi (January 2020 – till date)

31/08/1998-30/05/2011 OSHWAL ACADEMY, NAIROBI, KENYA

- Head of Geography and Environmental Coordinator
- Academy Representative, Karura Forest Environmental Education Trust

EDUCATION

- 2016 PHD in Biogeography - University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 2008 MA in Environmental Planning and Management - University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 1998 BA in Geography - University of London, UK

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journals

- 2019a **Shah. P.** and Mukhovi. S. M., Benefits of protected areas to adjacent communities: The case of Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. *Africa Journal of Physical Sciences Vol 3:1-12.*
- 2019b **Shah. P.** and Ayiemba. E. H. O., Convention on biological diversity and rural-urban connections with reference to Kenya. *International Journal of Research in Environmental Studies Vol 6: 14-26.*
- 2019c **Shah. P.** and Makhambera. L., Impacts of plant invasive species on local farming communities around Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve, Malawi. *Journal of Sustainability, Environment and Peace 1(3):68-75.*
- 2018 **Shah. P.** and Krhoda. G., Determining compliance of transboundary cooperation for biodiversity management in the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, East Africa. *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology Vol. 5(1):26-45.*
- 2015 **Shah. P.** and Irandu. E., Ecotourism: The case of Karura Forest, Nairobi. *African Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Vol. 2(2):21-40.*
- 2014a Irandu. E. and **Shah P.**, The role of ecotourism in promoting women empowerment and community development: Some reflections from Kenya. *Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Management Vol. 2(6):245-259.*
- 2014b **Shah. P.**, Mwaura. F., and Moronge. J., Gender perspective in water conservation in schools in Kenya: The case of a junior school. *Hekima Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi Vol. VI(1):42-51.*

Book Chapters

- 2018 **Shah. P.**, The urban future of food and nutrition security. In: Oluoko-Odingo. A; Ayiemba. E. H. O. and Muthama. J. N., *Food security, renewable energy and water: Insights on sustainability.* Next Generation Researchers Team, University of Nairobi Chapter 2018. *Ch. 5, 51-66.*
- 2016 Irandu. E. and **Shah P.**, Development of cultural heritage tourism in Kenya: A strategy for diversification of tourism products. In: Dessier. A. and Njuguna. M., *Conservation of natural and cultural heritage in Kenya.* University College London (UCL) Press. *Ch. 10, 154-171.*

Books

- 2012 **Shah. P.**, Mwaura. F., and Moronge. J., Auditing educational institutions – A case study of Oshwal Academy Primary School, Nairobi. Kenya. *Lambert Academic Publishing, Germany.*

Policy Briefs

- 2020** **Shah. P.**, Domestication of the Ramsar Convention in Kenya. In: Ogot. *et. al.*, *Towards realizing of Vision 2030: Kenya Policy Briefs*. Office of the DVC Research, Innovation and Extension. University of Nairobi. Vol 1(1): 13-14.
- 2012** **Shah. P.**, Speranza. C, Opiyo. R., and Ngaina. J., Options for improving the communication of seasonal rainfall forecasts to smallholder farmers – The case of Kenya. *German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) Briefing Paper 12/2012*.

Researched works

- 2016** **Shah. P.**, Domestication and application of biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Kenya. PhD Thesis, University of Nairobi.
- 2013** Department of Education, Giraffe Centre., Environment for Sustainable Development: Education Pack for Secondary Schools in Kenya. Giraffe Centre (AFEW).

Proceedings

- 2020** **Shah. P.**, Food production and challenges – The case of Machakos County, Kenya. In: Kulke E. and Sontag. C. (Ed.), “Science meets Business – Logistics and Retail of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Kenya and Tanzania” - *Proceedings of the Workshop in Nairobi*, pp. 37-48, ISSN 0947 – 0360.
- 2018** Krhoda. G. and **Shah. P.**, Innovations for a Better Tomorrow: Human-Wildlife Interface in Kenya. In: Ogot. M. (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 2nd Innovation Research Symposium*, 6th March, Nairobi, pp. 65-71.
- 2014** **Shah. P.** and Irandu. E., Ecotourism as a strategy for promoting conservation of biodiversity in Tana River County. In: Ayiamba. E., Owuor. S., Omambia. A. and Bhanderi. P. (Ed.), *Proceedings of the National Scientific Conference on the Tana River County: Sustainable Resource Utilization and Environmental Management*. 25-27th February, Mombasa, Kenya, pp. 44-50.
- 2013** Walubwa. J. and **Shah. P.**, Improving Housing Durability in Informal Settlements Using Affordable Building Materials - The Case of Kibera, Nairobi. In: Emuze. F. A. (Ed.), *Proceedings of the SB 13 Southern Africa: Creating a Resilient and Regenerative Built Environment*. 15-16 October, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, pp. 24-31.

Reviewer for International Journals and Books

- 2019** UN Environment., *Global Environment Outlook – GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People*. Nairobi. DOI 10.1017/9781108627146.
- 2001-2002** UNEP., *Pachamama Teachers’ book*. Evans Brothers Limited.

Modules

- 2017** *Climate change and biodiversity*. Master of Science in Climate Change, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, University of Nairobi.

Manuals/Guides

- 2003** Giraffe Centre., *Giraffe Centre (African Fund for Endangered Wildlife) Nature trail guide book*. AFEW.

Newspaper Articles

2017 **Shah. P.**, Kenya must act fast to solve water and food security problems. *Seeds of Gold - Nation leadership forum discussion on food and water crises*. Saturday Nation, 29th April, Pg 29.

Blogs

2020 **Shah. P.**, The power of education and awareness towards COVID-19 crisis. <https://uonresearch.org/blog/the-power-of-education-and-awareness-towards-the-covid-19-crisis/> 21st April.

Peer Reviewed Papers Presented at Conferences

2019a **Shah. P.**, Towards successful achievement of SDG Goal 12 in GCC countries: Interventions towards food security and water. Paper presented at the 10th *Gulf Research Meeting* at the University of Cambridge, 15-18th July.

2019b Kamweru. G. and **Shah. P.**, Assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practices on solid waste management in Nakuru County. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Nairobi International Multidisciplinary Conference (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019c Mugo. L., Ikporukpo. C. and **Shah. P.**, Environmental degradation and its management in Lake Kenyatta. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Nairobi International Multidisciplinary Conference (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019d Davdra. A. and **Shah. P.**, Jewels under threat – Lake Nakuru’s catastrophes. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Nairobi International Multidisciplinary Conference (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019e Mboya. G. and **Shah. P.**, Africa’s wilderness under threat – the case of wild dogs in Kenya’s Kajiado County. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Nairobi International Multidisciplinary Conference (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019f **Shah. P.**, Environmental education and awareness – The present and future key to sustainable management of Kenyan lakes. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Nairobi International Multidisciplinary Conference (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019g **Shah. P.**, Women’s education: Key to environmental conservation. Paper presented at the 2nd *Annual Status of African Women Conference*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2019h **Shah. P.**, Kenya’s ideal vision towards achieving food security. Paper presented at the 2nd *Innovative Research Symposium*, University of Nairobi, 8th March.

2018a Nyangweso. C., **Shah. P.**, Thenya. T. and Odwe. G., Gender disparity in traditional knowledge in wildlife conservation. A case of Enkudero SAMPU Conservancy, Kajiado County, Kenya. Paper presented at the 1st *Annual Status of African Women Conference*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2018b **Shah. P.**, Women’s recognition in the society: The case of Maa women around Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. Paper presented at the 1st *Annual Status of African Women Conference*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

2018c **Shah. P.**, Role of gender in water conservation in urban schools: The comparison between public and private junior schools in Kenya. Paper presented at the 1st *Annual Status of African Women Conference*, University of Nairobi, 23rd – 25th October.

- 2018d** Makhambera. L. and **Shah. P.**, Impacts of invasive species on communities around Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve, Malawi. Paper presented at the *12th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International* in Goa, India, 29th May-1st June.
- 2018e** **Shah. P.**, The urban future of food and nutrition security. Paper presented at the University of Nairobi- *Education for Sustainable Development in Africa, Sustainable Urban Development Sustainability Workshop Series*, 19th April.
- 2018f** **Shah. P.** and Krhoda. G., Innovations for a better tomorrow: Human-wildlife interface in Kenya. Paper presented at the *Innovative Research Symposium*, University of Nairobi, 5th March.
- 2015** **Shah. P.**, Climate change and its impact on the livelihoods of the population around Arabuko Sokoke Forest. Paper presented at the *Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Regional Conference* in Kisumu, Kenya, 9-10th Sept.
- 2014a** **Shah. P.** and Irandu. E., The potential and challenges of promoting ecotourism in Kenya's Wetlands". Paper presented at the 1st African Conference on *Sustainable Tourism on Building communities, saving nature* organized by the Strathmore University, Centre for Tourism and Hospitality and AFEW, Kenya.
- 2014b** Owuor. S., Mbatia. T., and **Shah. P.**, Conservation of Karura Forest Reserve and its role in providing environmental services to Nairobi city. Paper presented at the *Round Table Workshop on Resilient Cities* at Makerere University, 1st-3rd Oct.
- 2014c** Irandu. E. and **Shah P.**, The role of ecotourism in promoting women empowerment and community development: Some reflections from Kenya. Paper presented at the Conference on "*Understanding oneself and the others: New domestic and international tourism practices and the promotion of heritage and tourism in East Africa*" at the National Museums of Kenya, 16-17th June.
- 2014d** **Shah. P.** and Irandu. E., Ecotourism as a strategy for promoting conservation of biodiversity in Tana River County. Paper presented at the National scientific conference on *Tana River County: Sustainable Resource Utilization and Environmental Management*, 25-27th February.
- 2013a** Walubwa. J. and **Shah. P.**, Improving Housing Durability in Informal Settlements Using Affordable Building Materials - The Case of Kibera, Nairobi. Paper presented at the *SB 13 Southern Africa: Creating a Resilient and Regenerative Built Environment* at Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-16 October.
- 2013b** **Shah. P.**, Chinwe. I., Opiyo. R. and Ngaina. J., Options for improving the communication of seasonal rainfall forecasts to smallholder farmers – The case of Kenya. German Development Institute (DIE). Paper presented at the *Scientific Panel on Science-Policy Forum Research Results Dissemination Conference at the joint areas of case studies East Africa, NCCR North-South Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL development (CETRAD)*, 6-7th May.

Papers presented at Conferences, Workshops, Seminars and other gatherings

- 2018a** **Shah. P.**, *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and rural-urban connections with reference to Kenya*. Paper presented at the University of Nairobi – African Universities Association (ARUA) Workshop, 10th December.
- 2018b** **Shah. P.**, *Food production and challenges – The case of Machakos County, Kenya*. Paper presented at the Workshop on "Science meets business – Logistics and retail of fresh fruits and vegetables in Kenya and Tanzania", Nairobi Safari Club, 11th–12th October.

- 2017** **Shah. P.**, *Sustainable biodiversity management in urban areas*. Paper presented at the University of Nairobi - Education for Sustainable Development in Africa, Sustainable Urban Development Sustainability Workshop Series, 9th April.
- 2013** **Shah. P.**, *Sustainable urban housing – Comparison between the slums of Kibera (Nairobi, Kenya) and the condominiums of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)*. Paper presented at the Sustainable communities managing urban futures – Workshop for supporting sustainability in Daresalaam, Tanzania, 12th-22nd March.
- 2012** **Shah. P.**, *The role of the Kenyan Government in safeguarding Lake Naivasha*. Paper presented at the 50th Conference for the African Studies (CAS@50: Cutting Edges and Retrospectives), University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 5-8th June.

Facilitated Lectures

- 2019** *Air pollution- A silent killer* at the County Council of Nairobi and National Environment Management Authority, 4th June.
- 2017** *Environmental audits of educational institutions* at the University of Nairobi Main Campus (to campus administrators), 23rd June.
- 2012a** *Spatial and quantitative analysis* at the Intensive Course of North-South-South LIFT UP (Living with Informal Settings, Tackling Urban Poverty) Network at Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development, Addis Ababa in Ethiopia coordinated by University of Jyväskylä, 5-11th December.
- 2012b** *Dynamics of pastoralist heritage: Comparison between a dry land and a wetland in a dry land* at the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA) in Nairobi, 7-9th November.
- 2012c** *Food security and early warning systems* at the Embu Agricultural Staff Training College (EAST College) in Embu, 2nd-13th April.

Facilitated Researches

- 2011-2013** *Climate change and research* through University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited (Lead Consultant – Prof. S. Wandiga)
- 2009** *Environmental research strategy* through Habitat Planners for NEMA (Lead Consultant – Dr. F. Mwaura)

Facilitated trainings and mentorships

- 2020** Policy brief training session at the University of Nairobi on 25th February 2020 (Lead – Prof. Warris, Director Research at the DVC Research, Innovation and Enterprise office)

Attendance to Courses, Trainings and Workshops

- 2019a** *Applying the mitigation hierarchy to manage biodiversity impacts – An overview of international good practice*. National Museums of Kenya, 5th March.
- 2019b** *United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 4*, United Nations, Nairobi, 11th–15th March.
- 2019c** Environmental Impact assessments for upstream oil and gas operations. UN Environment, Geneva (online), 30th April.

- 2019d** *PANGeA-Ed (Partnership for Africa's Next Generation of Academics) Training and Skills Development Programme Workshop on How to Get Published?* University of Nairobi, 28-30 May.
- 2018** *Issues pertaining to rural-urban transitions*, Staff training at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 2nd -19th May.
- 2017a** *United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 3*, United Nations, Nairobi, 27th November-6th December.
- 2017b** *Grants writing workshop* by Ministry of Education, Moi University, Nairobi Campus, 17-19th October.
- 2017c** *Education for Sustainable Development in Africa*, Sustainable Urban Development Sustainability Workshop Series, University of Nairobi, 4th August.
- 2017d** *Issues pertaining to human-wildlife conflicts and agricultural food chains*, Staff training at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany 12-19th March.
- 2017e** *Integrated Population-Health-Environment (PHE) programs for a more sustainable Eastern and Southern Africa* organized by the University of Nairobi, Kenya and Pathfinder International in Kisumu, Kenya, 23rd January-1st February.
- 2016** *United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 2*, 23rd - 27th May.
- 2013a** *Global change and sustainable environment – Health and environment*. Third Summer School organized by the University of Bern, Switzerland in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, 30th August-10th September.
- 2013b** *Mainstreaming environment and sustainability in African Universities (MESA)* by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, 13-14th May.
- 2013c** *Sustainable communities managing urban futures – Workshop for supporting sustainability* in collaboration with Alto University Professional Development (Alto PRO), VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), UNEP, University of Nairobi and the Asian Institute of Technology in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 12th-22nd March.
- 2012** *Integrated ecosystem wildlife management* by AFEW in Nanyuki, Kenya, 7-9th May.
- 2011a** *Writing policy briefs* organized by the German Development Institute, University of Nairobi and Centre for Training and Integrated Research in Arid and Semi Arid Lands' Development (CETRAD).
- 2011b** *Research and grant proposal writing* organized by University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited.

Membership to Professional Bodies

Environment Institute of Kenya

Associate Lead Expert No 1826 - Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audits, National Environment Management Authority

Member of Karura Forest Trust Committee -2008 – 2014

Supervision of Masters' Thesis (Completed)

- 2019a** Bubicha Mohamed Jaldesa (C50/5303/2017): Economic valuation of consumptive water use service: A case study of Mount Marsabit watershed ecosystem, Kenya. University of Nairobi.
- 2019b** Kamweru Grace Nyaguthii (C50/84004/2016): Assessment of households' knowledge, attitudes and practices on solid waste management in Nakuru town. University of Nairobi.
- 2019c** Solomon Wangela.W (C50/68884/2013): Effects of dimension stone quarrying activities in Ndarugo area of Kiambu County, Kenya. University of Nairobi.
- 2018a** Mohamednoor Adan (C50/84465/2016): *Land use changes and human-wildlife conflict in Garba Tula Sub County, Isiolo County, Kenya.* University of Nairobi.
- 2018b** Nyangweso Christine (C50/87684/2016): *Factors associated with traditional knowledge, attitude and practices towards wildlife conservation amongst local communities in Enkusero Sampu Conservancy in Kajiado County, Kenya.* University of Nairobi.
- 2015a** Sembe Khayeli Judith (C50/72433/2008): *Effects of the Rothschild Giraffe on the biophysical and socio-economic environment: A case of Giraffe Centre Sanctuary in Nairobi County.* University of Nairobi.
- 2015b** Manoa David Owino (C50/73968/2014): *Assessment of predator-proof bomas as an evidence-based conservation tool in Loitokitok Sub-County, Kenya.* University of Nairobi.
- 2014a** Wangare Kirumba (C50/72433/2008): *Domestication of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Kenya - Case study of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Kenya.* University of Nairobi.
- 2014b** Kanyi Judyth (C50/P/9199/2005): *Factors affecting environmental best practice compliance among retail fuel service stations in Thika East Sub-County, Kenya.* University of Nairobi.
- 2014c** Laura Makhambera (C50/63123/2013): *An assessment of environmental impacts of plant invasive species on Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve (MMFR) in Southern Malawi.* University of Nairobi.

Awards and Honorariums

- 2017** Appreciation by Jain Social Group for biodiversity conservation through community involvement, education, research and environmental management
- 2016** Oshwal Youth League Award for being the highest Degree qualifier in Education Category

REFEREES

- 1. Prof. E. Ayiamba,**
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies-University of Nairobi,
P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi Mobile +254720235479
- 2. Prof. E. Irandu,**
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies-University of Nairobi,
P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi Mobile +254733267025/+254716297142
- 3. Prof. Francis Mwaura,**
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies-University of Nairobi,
P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi Mobile +254722906460