

Michael Owen

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Relevant experience

Indufor Washington, DC 2017–Present
Consultant (previously Analyst, Summer Associate, and Intern)

Software projects

- Led development of a multi-tenant application that enables remote monitoring of landscape-level forest cover. Acts as a scalable, secure platform with role-based authentication, real time analytics, and external reporting tools.
- Built a network mapping tool using force-directed graphs to trace historical financial flows and relationships among key donors, intermediaries, and grantees implementing Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP & LC) tenure and forest management projects.
- Designed and built an interactive database and corresponding API to analyze official development assistance and philanthropic grants in the forest and conservation space. Activity transactions, and corresponding documentation are analyzed and tagged using a combination of text-parsing and natural language processing. Original published analysis led to a historic pledge of \$1.7B at COP26 by bilateral and private donors.
- Developed screening tools to facilitate the selection process to fund the Inclusive Conservation Initiative (\$113M GEF project). System generated reproducible reports highlighting threats and global environmental benefits of projects.

Other projects

- Provided quantitative analysis in evaluations for CDP, NWF, USAID, GEF, the World Bank, and CLUA, assessing grants on conservation, development, and sustainable supply chains in tropical forests, drylands, and other biomes.
- Led analysis and coauthored reports for Rights and Resources Initiative, Rainforest Foundation Norway, and USAID on topics including donor funding effectiveness for Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights, the financing of IP & LC tenure and forest management, and investor perceptions of land and resource tenure risks.

World Food Programme Dakar, Senegal 2019
Research Assistant, Vulnerability Analysis and Monitoring

- Supported in-country World Food Programme staff on analysis and spatial data processing related to food security-climate linkages in Senegal as part of the ACToday project.

NASA New York, NY 2018–2019
Research Assistant, Earth Science Division

- Researched global flash flood risk and response, as well as the use of Earth Observation Systems to improve decision making in complex disaster and humanitarian contexts.
- Led exploratory remote sensing-based analyses of climate exposure and sensitivity for refugee camps in East Africa, based on lessons learned from Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Technical Skills

Programming: Typescript/Javascript, Python, R, C
Web: React/Next.js, Astro, MySQL, Tailwind CSS, D3

Other: Git, Google Earth Engine, ENVI, ArcGIS, \LaTeX
Language: Spanish (Professional Working Proficiency)

Education

Columbia University, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences New York, NY
Master of Arts, Climate & Society
American University Washington, DC
Bachelor of Arts, International Relations, Environmental Science