

Gabriela Fleury

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PROFILE:

Researcher focusing on holistic Eastern and Southern Africa carnivore conservation. Interested in landscape connectivity, human-wildlife interactions, intersectional conservation and the social landscape. International experience working in South Africa, Kenya, and Namibia for over five years. Domestic and international experience has cultivated leadership abilities, organizational skills, language skills, and an ability to adapt to new surroundings. Experience running a research program while teaching others in a remote wilderness setting.

EDUCATION:

Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa 2015–2016

Master of Science in Conservation Biology, funded Rotary International Global Grants Program

Focus: *Land-cover change, intersectional and community-based conservation*

Thesis: *Environmental change in Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape, South Africa: twenty years after resettlement*

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, US

2010–2014

Bachelor of Science in Geographic Science; concentration in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability

Focus: *Human dimensions of carnivore conservation*

Thesis: *Lion-livestock conflict mitigation in the Amboseli region of Kenya*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

Verschueren S., Torres-Urbe C., Briers-Louw W., **Fleury G.**, Cristescu B., Marker L. (2021) “Flashing lights to deter depredation on small stock in the communal farmlands of Namibia.” Conservation Evidence Journal. [[link](#)]

Harris N, Wilkinson C, **Fleury G.**, Nhleko ZN (2021).” Reimagining human-wildlife “conflict” through the lens of responsibility, equity, justice, and inclusion (REJI)” (*under review, Frontiers*).

Fleury G., Hughes C. (2021) “An Educational Video Game to Foster Coexistence: Operation Ferdinand.” Carnivore Damage Prevention News (CDPNews) [[link](#)]

Fleury G., Hoffman M.T., Todd S. (2020) “Land reform and its impact on the arid South African environment: Riemvasmaak as a case study.” African Journal of Range and Forage Science. [[link](#)]

RESEARCH GRANTS AND HONORS:

Forbes 30 Under 30 in Science [[link](#)] 2021

Small Grant, University of New South Wales, Total funding: \$5,000 2021

Fulbright Study/Research Grant to Botswana*, Total funding: \$25,000 2020-2021

**postponed due to COVID-19.*

Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Honors Society 2021

Rufford Small Grant, Rufford Foundation, Total funding: \$7,000 2018

Young Explorer Conservation Grant Finalist, National Geographic Society 2017

Rotary International Global Grant Scholar to South Africa, Total funding: \$30,000	2015–2016
Outstanding Poster Presentation, Arid Zone Ecology Forum, South Africa	2016
Valedictorian of JMU Department of Integrated Science and Technology	2014
Outstanding Thesis in Geography Award, James Madison University	2014
Phi Beta Kappa, James Madison University	2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Rainforest Trust, Warrenton, VA, US Oct. 2018 – Present

Conservation Programs Officer - Africa

Skills: Management of multi-million dollar protected area projects within Sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with local, on-the-ground organizations (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Cameroon, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya), management of Rainforest Trust's Guardians program to build capacity of rangers and wardens within Rainforest Trust's projected areas worldwide, questionnaire design, spatial analysis (ArcGIS Pro, QGIS, Global Forest Watch), FileMaker Pro database development, writing for peer review, interaction with corporate sponsors, donors, nongovernmental and quasi-governmental bodies and rangers.

Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otjiwarongo, NAMIBIA June 2017 – June 2018

Human-Wildlife Conflict Research Manager

Skills: Human-wildlife conflict research team leadership, writing for peer review, landscape-level planning, problem-solving, experimental design, descriptive and inferential statistical analysis (e.g. R), spatial analysis (ArcMap/QGIS), community-based conservation, questionnaire design and data collection, conflict resolution, staff and student supervision, interaction with public and governmental bodies, grant-writing, departmental management (Ecology).

Bright Frog Game Studios [[link](#)] Lynchburg, VA, US Apr. 2016 – Present

Co-Founder of Game Studios and Project Lead for Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Video Game

Skills: Innovative thought, experimental design, writing for peer-review, team supervision, working with interdisciplinary partners, literature review, website development, social media project promotion, video editing, fundraising.

Big Life Foundation, Amboseli, KENYA/Lynchburg, VA, US Oct. 2016 – May 2017

Predator Compensation Fund Research Associate and Intern Supervisor

Skills: GPS navigation, manual driving, basic field mechanics, tracking and identification of large East African mammals, data collection and descriptive analyses, intern supervision.

Action for Cheetahs in Kenya, Nairobi, KENYA/Lynchburg, VA, US Apr. 2016 – Jan. 2017

Development Associate

Skills: Independent work, community-based conservation, grant-writing, organization of grant writing workshops, fundraising, student mentorship.

Cape Leopard Trust, Northern Cape, SOUTH AFRICA Mar. 2016 – Apr. 2016

Research Assistant, Predator Ecology and Coexistence Experiment

Opera on the James, Lynchburg, VA, US
Development and Marketing Internship

Sep. 2014 – Dec. 2014

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Chatham, MA, US

Jun. 2014 – Sep. 2014

Resident Interpretive Internship, Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS:

Lions! At the Disco, Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in Southern Africa.” Presentation (virtual), University of California, Irvine.	2021
Lions! At the Disco, Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in Southern Africa.” Presentation (virtual), Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation	2021
“GIS in Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation.” Presentation and Panel for ESRI’s Women in GIS webinar	2021
“Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in Southern Africa”. Panel event (virtual), Rutgers University Wildlife Society.	2021
“Lions! At the Disco, Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in Southern Africa.” Presentation (virtual), Humboldt State University, Conservation Unlimited. [link]	2020
Environmental Education and Intersectional Conservation Panel. International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence. Oxford University, Oxford, England. <i>*postponed due to COVID-19.</i>	2020
“Fellows and Guardians Programs at Rainforest Trust.” Presentation at the 2020 Integrated Conservation Conference, Athens, Georgia.	2020
“Fellows and Guardians Programs at Rainforest Trust.” Poster presentation, Capacity Building for Conservation Global Conference, London, England.	2020
“Environmental change in Riemvasmaak, Northern Cape, South Africa.” Presentation at the Pathways Africa 2018 Conference, Windhoek, Namibia.	2018

INVITED PUBLIC SCIENCE TALKS:

“Rainforest Trust and Carnivore Conservation,” Alpha FMC donor presentation	2021
“Diversity in Conservation Biology”, Keynote Speaker, BioDiverse Festival	2021
“Diversity in Conservation Biology,” Forbes Under 30 Service Day, Forbes	2021
The Future of STEM Perspectives from Nonbinary Researchers, Cell [link]	2021
“Conservation Conversations, Nagging Naturalist Podcast [link]	2021
“Servals”, Nagging Naturalist Podcast [link]	2021
“Conservation Technology,” Geekoscopy [link]	2021
“Diversity in STEM” Panel, International SECAD Conference	2021
“All about Cheetahs”, Podcast Recording, @JusttheZooofUS [link]	2021
“Bushmeat Poaching in Eastern and Southern Africa”. Podcast Recording, Into the Wild Podcast, @IntoTheWildPod [link]	2021
“A Conservation Biologist”, Podcast Recording, Chasers Podcast [link]	2021
“Human-Wildlife Conflict” Podcast Recording, Assigned Scientist at Bachelor’s, @ASAB pod [link]	2021

STUDENT MENTORSHIP AND COLLABORATIONS:

Period:	Name:	Level:	Outcomes:
2021	Sophie Pittaluga	BSc	Mentored William & Mary student in integrative socio-ecological research techniques
2021	Hugo Ferreira Pontes	PhD	Mentored as an LGBTQIA+ person as STEM
2018-Present	Jennifer Doong	BSc	Completed independent giraffe research project
2019-Present	Abigail Thiemkey	BSc	Graduated BSc Zoology, MSU Employed USDA, human-wildlife conflict Employed at Cheetah Conservation Fund.
2017-2018	Teddy Chikwane	BSc	Graduated Conservation Science, National University of Science and Technology, Namibia Employed as data analyst with Thumeza
2017-2018	Usu Kazondunge	BSc	Graduated Conservation Science, National University of Science and Technology, Namibia
2017-2018	Rosalia Angula	BSc	Graduated Conservation Science, National University of Science and Technology, Namibia

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP:

Guest Presenter , Science Friday, National Public Radio	Nov. 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active in Science Friday Kids' 'Ask an Expert' panels	
Chair , Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Rainforest Trust	Aug. 2020 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lead a seven-person team to spearhead inter-and-intraorganizational activities to improve Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Rainforest Trust	
Organizing Committee Member , Black Mammalogists Week	July 2020 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Coordinated international virtual panels for Black Mammalogists Week in collaboration with Amy Poeler's Smart Girls and the National Geographic Society○ Co-leading fundraising efforts and created promotional videos for the Black Mammalogists Week' BIPOC Student Scholarship, collaboratively raising over \$60,000 for the scholarship endowment.	
Conservation Science Presenter , "Skype a Scientist" School Outreach	Apr. 2019 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Regularly do outreach presentations about carnivore conservation to elementary schools, focusing on science communication with underrepresented students in science.	
Founder of "Breaking Bio", Interview Series [link]	Sep. 2019 – Dec 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Founded and implemented a Youtube channel interview series focused on promoting the work of underrepresented scientists in STEM.	
Presenter , applications of SMART monitoring software and QGIS in Nepal's Conservation Strategies. Presentation at Taragaon Museum, Kathmandu, Nepal.	May 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Taught twenty-seven Nepalese early-career conservationists how to use SMART conservation software and basic mapping skills in QGIS.	
Presenter , Pathways Africa Conference, Windhoek, Namibia	Jan. 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Interactive presentation of different carnivore-livestock conflict prevention techniques, collaborating with representatives from sixteen African countries.	

OUTREACH AND OPINION PIECES:

Underrepresented Conservationists Panel, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2021
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Fleury G. (2021) “Interspecies Diplomacy.” Cell. [link]	2021
“LGBTQIA+ Allyship, visibility, and inclusion in STEM Panel, Elsevier Pride	2021
“Out in GIS.” Presentation/Panel, LGBTQIA+ in STEM, ESRI User Conference	2021
Human-Wildlife Interactions Presentation/Panel, Rutgers Wildlife Society Chapter	2021
Be Fearless Summit Mentorship Program in Science/Technology	2021
Black & LGBTQ+ in STEM Mentorship Panel, Howard University	2021
Michigan State University Mentorship Panel, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife	2021
Human-Wildlife Interactions Presentation, James Madison University	2021
Video Game Design for Conservation, Natural History Society of Maryland	2021
Diversity in Conservation Presentation [link]	2020
Inter-organizational meeting including conservation representatives from WWF, WCS, FFI, Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, and Rainforest Trust	

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Human-Wildlife Co-existence, Science Friday, National Public Radio [link]	2021
Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2021, James Madison University [link]	2021
Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2021, Rainforest Trust [link]	2021
Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2021, WDVM TV [link]	2021
Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2021, Fauquier Times [link]	2021
Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2021, Warrenton Lifestyles Magazine	2021
Conservation Highlight: 500 Queer Scientists [link]	2021
Women and GIS: Mapping their Stories, Volume 3. ESRI Press. [link]	2021
Conflict Exploration: European Wolves, Interview by Exploring Conservation Conflicts as a Human Dimensions of Wildlife Practitioner [link]	2019
“Why Climate Change is Rotary’s Business” Interview by Rotary International [link]	2019
Notes from The Field: Protecting the Rainforest [link]	2019
Human-Carnivore Interactions in Namibia, Cheetah Conservation Fund [link]	2018
E-Shepherd Collar Deployment in Namibia, Cheetah Conservation Fund [link]	2018
Rotary International Grant to South Africa, James Madison University [link]	2014
Lion and Livestock Conflict Mitigation, James Madison University [link]	2013

RECENT TRAINING:

<i>Conservation and Protected Areas Management in Africa</i>	Nov. 2021
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne/IUCN	
<i>Conservation Essentials: Vital Skills for Managing Conservation Projects</i>	Nov. 2020
University of Wisconsin-Madison	

SELECT SKILLS:

Software: Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X environments, Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook), R, Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS Pro, QGIS), FileMaker Pro, MARXAN, Python.

Field: Community based conservation, manual and automatic driving license, basic field mechanics, bush camp skills (camp stove cooking, safety protocols), GPS navigation, orientating and map-reading, use of in-field data collection apps (e.g. CyberTracker, SMART tools), rifle (.270) and shotgun handling (20 and 12 gauge), foot patrols, vegetation structure surveys, transect surveys, camera trapping, game counts, large scale population surveys, hair, scat, bone

and track identification for southern African mammals, behavioral observation, large mammal, raptor, and non-venomous snake handling and restraint, sociological surveys, organizing, administering and evaluating training workshops, questionnaire and survey design.

Other: Management (up to departmental level), supervision, coordination and mentorship of junior staff, volunteers, interns and students (up to Masters level), strategic decision-making, experimental design, conflict resolution, spatial and statistical data analysis, interdisciplinary collaboration, writing for peer review, grant-writing and fundraising, leadership of grant and project proposal writing and conflict resolution workshops, working with diverse interest groups, engagement with private donors and the media, writing and presenting scientific information for a diverse audience.

Languages: Afrikaans (conversational), Setswana (conversational), French (conversational), Portuguese (intermediate), English (fluent)