Maria A. Maily

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Research interests

My curious nature leads me to explore and connect multidisciplinary fields and interests. Working in Geographical Information Sciences has given me the opportunity to combine these interests: collecting and modelling data, effectively visualising it to improve decision making, while bringing history alive in an effort to learn from it to create a better, more sustainable future.

Education

MSc in Geographic Information Science   *Sep 2022 – Ongoing*
University of Edinburgh - *Edinburgh, Scotland*

Subjects: Spatial Modelling and Analysis, Principles of Geographic Information Sciences, Technological Infrastructure for GIS, Research Practice and Planning. These provided the necessary technical skills for spatial analysis, including ArcGIS, Python, HTML/CSS, SQL, Linux.

Planned: Introduction to Environmental Modelling, Visual Analytics and Object-Oriented Software Engineering.

Provisional Results: Python parser and visualisation (TIGIS) - 78%, Oracle/SQL (SMA) - 70%, Project Presentation (RPPP) - 75%, Tranquility Assessment (PGIS) - 69%

Dissertation: Early-stage topic discussions about the Viking age landscape in Iceland, in relation to economic networks and settlement locations based on available resources.

MSc in Marine Resource Development and Protection   *2015 – 2016*
Heriot-Watt University - *Edinburgh, Scotland*

Subject: GIS for Environmental Scientists, Practical Skills in Surveying, Environmental Monitoring, Resources and Sustainability, and Applied Research Skills.

These subjects and associated projects helped develop individual and teamwork skills across various tasks: project planning under constraints (time, resources and budget), data collection and analysis, communication and effective presentation of findings.

Dissertation: Development of Shark Conservation and Species Action Plans for the Cayman Islands. The project consisted of data collection, analysis, mapping, and writing action plans based on the findings to inform policy and implementation roadmaps.

Grade: 2:1

BA in Politics and International Relations, and in Media,   *2012 – 2015*
Culture and in Communication   *Macquarie University* - *Sydney, Australia*

Subjects: Global Environmental Politics, Global Political Economy, Science, Society and Environment; Migration, Human Rights and Diversity; and The Planet Earth.

These formed the basis of theoretical knowledge of the workings of political decision-making and deepened the understanding of environmental, political, societal, and economical challenges.

Grade: GPA: 2.57 (out of 4)

Research experience

Flood Management in Edinburgh   *MSc GIS: Group Project*

Research question: How can green spaces be transformed to reduce flooding as well as social and environmental deprivation?

Project deliverables included project management, data gathering and analysis, project presentation, technical report and webpage development. As team leader, my main priority was the management and facilitation of communication. Other responsibilities included creating ArcGIS maps, constructing the literature review, and developing the project's webpage.

Species Action and Conservation Plans (Cayman Islands) *MSc MRDP: Dissertation*
Research question: What steps should be taken to better protect local elasmobranch species?
Local spatial data was gathered through tagging and Baited Remote Underwater Videos. This was used to create and refine Species Action Plans for the six local shark species and a Elasmobranch Conservation Plan.

Blue Carbon Study (Orkney) *MSc MRDP: Group Project*
Research question: What is the extent of blue carbon habitats and the distribution of priority marine features in Gutter Sound, Orkney?
Field work activities included designing and conducting remote-operated vehicle and dive surveys. The collected images, videos and core samples were used to create maps that visualise the biotope featured and allowed for an estimation of the carbon budget. My main contribution was to visualise the data gathered in ArcGIS.

Removing Churchill Barriers (Orkney) *MSc MRDP: Group Project*
Research question: What are the social, economic, environmental and technological factors of replacing the Churchill Barriers with bridges and tidal turbines?
A seashore study was conducted as part of the fieldwork, stakeholders and specialists were consulted to refine the analysis and advice on turbines and the predicted outcome.

Industry experience

Sainsbury's *Nov 2018 – Aug 2022*
Trading and Online Assistant *Edinburgh, Scotland*
Effectively coordinating tasks in the team and training team members.

Macquarie University Fish Lab *April 2018*
Temporary Research Assistant *Remote*
Analysing yolk consumption and body development.

Department of Environment *Jun 2016 – Aug 2016*
Research Intern *George Town, Cayman Islands*
Gathering data for the ongoing shark, turtle, snapper and iguana studies. This work was aided by public outreach, citizen science efforts and stakeholder meetings.

Project Abroad, Shark Conservation *Jun 2014 - Aug 2014*
Research Volunteer *Pacific Harbour, Fiji*
Fieldwork such as tagging and reef surveys were conducted along with outreach activities.

Skills

Technical
Programming: Python, SQL, HTML/CSS   *Data Analysis*: ArcGIS, Jupyter, Oracle
Office Software: LaTeX, Microsoft   *Operating System*: Linux, Windows

Personal
Time Management, Curiosity, Communication, Teamwork, Attention to detail

Languages
English (fluent), German (fluent), French (beginner)

Other interests

Books and podcasts about history and popular science. Arts and crafts. Puzzle-solving. Bread baking. Scuba diving.