

BENJAMIN BLACK

Curriculum Vitæ

I am a PhD student currently working within the **ValPar.CH** and **NASCENT-Peru** projects as part of the research group Planning of Landscape Urban Systems (PLUS) at ETH Zürich.



EDUCATION

- Oct. 2020 | Present **Doctor of Civil Engineering** ETH Zürich  Zurich, Switzerland
- Sep. 2018 | Jun. 2020 **MSc in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management (MESPOM)** Central European University, University of Manchester, Lund University, University of the Aegean  Hungary, Greece, UK
Awards: *Outstanding academic achievement (highest GPA in cohort: 4.00/4.00)*
- Sep. 2010 | Jun. 2014 **BSc with 1st Class Honours in Biological Sciences** Edinburgh Napier University  Edinburgh, Scotland
Awards: *University medal (highest average mark on degree route); Lawrence Ho student prize; Dennis Aw award.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- May 2013 | Apr. 2015 **Volunteer Development Officer & Conservation Support Assistant** The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)  Central Scotland
Activities: *Planned, developed and delivered the Ochils Landscape Partnerships volunteering program and two TCV community health projects. Engaged with, and ensured the safety and wellbeing of a diverse cross section of volunteers, many with physical or mental disabilities as well as young adults/children.*
- Oct. 2015 | Dec. 2015 **Independent Consultant Srae Y Community ecotourism project** World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)  Mondulkiri, Cambodia
Activities: *Undertook site visits to assess the status of the project and prepared a report, detailing strategies to make the project operational and sustainable. Planned and delivered a series of training sessions to project staff and stakeholders from other communities engaged in ecotourism.*
- April. 2015 | June. 2017 **Project Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator** Elephant Livelihood Initiatives and Environment (E.L.I.E)  Mondulkiri, Cambodia
Activities: *Managed a diverse team (Bunong Indigenous minority, and Khmer) of 48 staff. Oversaw the operation of an ecotourism project receiving 4000+ visitors a year. Facilitated ongoing capacity building of staff and development of the volunteer program. Compiled budgets, handled cash flow to staff and submitted detailed financial reports. Produced reports for the board of directors and Cambodian government. Developed relationships with other environmental and conservation organisations in the region.*
- Jan. 2018 | Aug. 2018 **Student Affairs Manager** The School for Field Studies Center for Conservation and Development Studies in the Lower Mekong  Siem Reap, Cambodia
Activities: *Coordinated safety and risk management as well as logistics for all centre activities including multi day field trips to remote locations in Cambodia and Vietnam. Medical 'point person', facilitated first aid training for staff. Performed pastoral role: ensuring student well-being, resolving group management issues and facilitating cultural adaptation.*

CONTACT INFO

-  Doctoral researcher
-  ETH Planning of Landscape and Urban systems
-  Zurich, Switzerland
-  bblack[at]ethz[dot]ch
-  blenback.github.io
-  0000-0002-8113-2114
-  ben-black-9889a1150
-  blenback
-  Blen_Back
-  <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Benjamin-Black-5>

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Advanced: R (Shiny, Quarto), Dinamica EGO and Netica
- Intermediate: ArcGIS, QGIS, CSS and Git
- Basic: Python and HTML

LANGUAGES

- English: Native
- German: B1
- Khmer: Conversational

Jul. 2019
|
Aug. 2019

Biodiversity and SMART Intern

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Activities: *Produced protected area species inventories in line with Darwin Core standards utilising OpenRefine, R scripting and API services to expedite the collection of external data from the IUCN, EDGE ranking and CITES. Assisted in the training of new community biodiversity rangers in the process of SMART data collection in the field.*

📍 Phnom Penh, Cambodia



WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

Three hour workshop as part of Landscape 2024 conference

Berlin, Germany

Sep. 2024

AWARDS

NAture-positive SCenarios for ENvironmental Transitions: Peru (NASCENT-PERU)

Swiss Re Foundation

Zürich, Switzerland

Jun. 2023

Funded project under the SwissRE Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Scenarios Modelling Initiative

🔗 GitHub repository

PRESENTATIONS

Broadening the scope of future visions for nature positive futures in Peru

Swiss Re Institute Resilience Summit 2023

🌐 Website

Zurich, Switzerland

Nov. 2023

Characterising non-stationarity in predictive models of land use in Swiss mountain parks to inform scenarios for deliberative transformation

International Mountain conference 2022

📄 Slides

Innsbruck, Austria

Sep. 2022

ValPar.CH: Integrating land use change, Ecosystem Service and Biodiversity modelling to simulate pathways for a functioning Ecological Infrastructure for Switzerland

11th International Environmental Modelling and Software Society conference

📄 Slides

Brussels, Belgium

ASIDE

Links to work:

Reproducible Research with R and Quarto: Workflows for data, projects and publications

Jul. 2022

Combining filter and embedded approaches to improve variable selection in land use change Cellular Automata models

11th International Environmental Modelling and Software Society conference

 Slides

Brussels, Belgium

Jul. 2022

Ex-ante identification of policy interventions to secure a functioning ecological infrastructure: A participatory Bayesian Network approach in Switzerland

3rd Ecosystem Services Partnership Europe Regional conference

 Slides

Tartu, Estonia

Jun. 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Archetypes of social-ecological-technological systems for managing ecological infrastructure

Wicki, S., Black, B., Kurmann, M., Grêt-Regamey, A.

 Slides

N/A

2023

Broadening the horizon in land use change modelling: Normative scenarios for nature positive futures

Black, B., Adde, A., Farinotti, D., Guisan, A., Külling, N., Kurmann, M., Martin, C., Mayer, P., Rabe, S., Strait, J., Zekollari, H., Grêt-Regamey, A.

N/A

2023

Re-considering the status quo: Improving calibration of land use change models through validation of transition potential predictions

Black, B., van Strien, M. J., Adde, A., Grêt-Regamey, A.

 In review

N/A

2023

Counterfactual assessment of protected area avoided deforestation in Cambodia: Trends in effectiveness, spillover effects and the influence of establishment date

 Environmental Modelling & Software

Black, B., Anthony, B. P.

N/A

2022

 *Global Ecology and Conservation*

 Data