

Melissa Chapman

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Education

- 2018 – 2023 📖 **Ph.D., UC Berkeley** Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.
Dissertation: *From individual decisions to international agreements: Addressing biodiversity loss in an age of algorithms*
- 2010 – 2014 📖 **B.Sc. Yale University** Ecology and evolutionary biology.
Thesis: *Assessing patterns of malaria risk: Environmental and social determinants of endemicity across Burkina Faso and Kenya.*

Positions

- starting July 2025 📖 **ETH Zürich** Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Environmental Policy
- 2023-present 📖 **National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)** Director's Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2023-present 📖 **Climate Change AI (CCAI)** Core team
- 2022 – 2023 📖 **International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)**
Visiting Research Scholar
- 2021 – 2023 📖 **Data Intensive Social Science Lab** Teaching Fellow
- 2020 – 2023 📖 **Resources Legacy Fund** Lead scientific writer for California's Pathways to 30x30 Initiative
- 2015 – 2018 📖 **Woodwell Climate Research Center** Research Assistant II

Peer-reviewed Publications

[[Google Scholar](#)] | [[ORCID](#)]

Peer-reviewed articles

- 1 Chapman, M., Goldstein, B., Schell, C., Brashares, J. S., Carter, N. H., Ellis-Soto, D., Faxon, H. O., Goldstein, J. E., Halpern, B. S., Longdon, J., Norman, K. E., O'Rourke, D., Scoville, C., Xu, L., & Boettiger, C. (2024). Biodiversity monitoring for a just planetary future. *Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adh8874>
- 2 Jung, M., Alagador, D. A., Chapman, M., Hermoso, V., Kujala, H., O'Connor, L., Schinegger, R., Verburg, P., & Visconti, P. (2024). An assessment of the state of conservation planning in Europe. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2023.0015>
- 3 Oestreich, W., Mckenna, M., Go, M., Chapman, M., & Oliver, R. (2024). Listening to animal behavior to understand changing ecosystems. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2024.06.007>
- 4 Oliver, R., Chapman, M., Ellis-Soto, D., Brum-Bastos, V., Cagnacci, F., Long, J., Loretto, M.-C., Patchett, R., & Rutz, C. (2024). Access to human mobility data is essential for building a sustainable future. *Cell Reports Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crsus.2024.10007>

- 5 Oliver, R., **Chapman, M.**, Emery, N., Gillespie, L., Gownaris, N., Leiker, S., Nisi, A., Ayers, D., Breckheimer, I., Blondin, H., Hoffman, A., Pagniello, C., Raisle, M., & Zimmerman, N. (2024). Opening a conversation on responsible environmental data science in the age of generative AI. *Environmental Data Science*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/eds.2024.12>
- 6 Sprenkle-Hyppolite, S., Griscom, B., Griffey, V., Munshi, E., & **Chapman, M.** (2024). Expert-informed leakage-free global carbon dioxide removal potential of trees in agriculture. (*In press at Carbon Balance and Management*).
- 7 **Chapman, M.**, Boettiger, C., & Brashares, J. S. (2023). Leveraging private lands to meet 2030 biodiversity targets in the United States. *Conservation Science and Practice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.12897>
- 8 **Chapman, M.**, Xu, L., Lapeyrolerie, M., & Boettiger, C. (2023). Bridging adaptive management and reinforcement learning for more robust decisions. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2022.0195>
- 9 Hasting, Z., **Chapman, M.**, Ocloo, X., Stenger, K., & Hunt, L. (2023). Trends in agroforestry research over four decades *co-first author. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*. <https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.2022.0015>
- 10 Kurz, D., Middleton, A. D., **Chapman, M.**, Van Houtan, K. S., Wilkinson, C., Withey, L., & Brashares, J. (2023). Including rural america in academic conservation science. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2023.1227227/full>
- 11 Moravek, J., Andrews, L. R., Serota, M. W., Dorcy, J. A., **Chapman, M.**, Wilkinson, C. E., Parker-Shames, P., Van Scoyoc, A., Verta, G., & Brashares, J. S. (2023). Centering 30x30 conservation initiatives on freshwater ecosystems. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2573>
- 12 Scoville, C., Faxon, H., **Chapman, M.**, & et al. (2023). Environment, society and machine learning. *Handbook on the Sociology of Machine Learning*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197653609.013.8>
- 13 Ellis-Soto, D., **Chapman, M.**, & Locke, D. (2023). Uneven biodiversity sampling across redlined urban areas in the united states. *Nature Human Behavior* (*In press*).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-023-01688-5>
- 14 Montealegre-Mora, F., Laperolierie, M., **Chapman, M.**, Keller, A., & Boettiger, C. (2023). Pretty darn good control: When are approximate solutions better than approximate models? *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11538-023-01198-5>
- 15 Calhoun, K. L., **Chapman, M.**, Tubbesing, C., McInturff, A., Gaynor, K. M., Van Scoyoc, A., Wilkinson, C. E., Parker-Shames, P., Kurz, D., & Brashares, J. (2022). Spatial overlap of wildfire and biodiversity in california highlights gap in non-conifer fire research and management. *Diversity and Distributions*, 28(3), 529–541.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13394>
- 16 **Chapman, M.**, Wiltshire, S., Baur, P., Bowles, T., Carlisle, L., Castillo, F., Esquivel, K., Gennet, S., Iles, A., Karp, D. et al. (2022). Social-ecological feedbacks drive tipping points in farming system diversification. *One Earth*, 5(3), 283–292.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2022.02.007>
- 17 Dowd, S., **Chapman, M.**, Koehn, L. E., & Hoagland, P. (2022). The economic tradeoffs and ecological impacts associated with a potential mesopelagic fishery in the california current. *Ecological Applications*, e2578. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2578>

- 18 Lapeyrolerie, M., **Chapman, M.**, Norman, K. E., & Boettiger, C. (2022). Deep reinforcement learning for conservation decisions. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.
🔗 <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2106.08272>
- 19 Estein, C., **Chapman, M.**, Schell, C., Lowy, N., & Gerson, J. (2022). Demystifying the graduate school application process. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*.
🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1002/bes2.2029>
- 20 **Chapman, M.**, Oestreich, W. K., Frawley, T. H., Boettiger, C., Diver, S., Santos, B. S., Scoville, C., Armstrong, K., Blondin, H., Chand, K. et al. (2021). Promoting equity in the use of algorithms for high-seas conservation. *One Earth*, 4(6), 790–794.
🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.05.011>
- 21 **Chapman, M.**, Scoville, C., Lapeyrolerie, M., & Boettiger, C. (2021). Power and accountability in reinforcement learning applications to environmental policy. *The Thirty-Sixth Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021)*. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2205.10911>
- 22 Kitzes, J., Blake, R., Bombaci, S., **Chapman, M.**, Duran, S. M., Huang, T., Joseph, M. B., Lapp, S., Marconi, S., Oestreich, W. K. et al. (2021). Expanding neon biodiversity surveys with new instrumentation and machine learning approaches. *Ecosphere*, 12(11), e03795.
🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.3795>
- 23 Nagy, R. C., Balch, J. K., Bissell, E. K., Cattau, M. E., Glenn, N. F., Halpern, B. S., Ilangakoon, N., Johnson, B., Joseph, M. B., **Chapman, M.** et al. (2021). Harnessing the neon data revolution to advance open environmental science with a diverse and data-capable community. *Ecosphere*, 12(12), e03833. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.3833>
- 24 Ordway, E. M., Elmore, A. J., Kolstoe, S., Quinn, J. E., Swanwick, R., Cattau, M., Taillie, D., Guinn, S. M., Chadwick, K. D., **Chapman, M.** et al. (2021). Leveraging the neon airborne observation platform for socio-environmental systems research. *Ecosphere*, 12(6), e03640. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.3640>
- 25 Roe, S., Streck, C., Beach, R., Busch, J., **Chapman, M.**, Daioglou, V., Deppermann, A., Doelman, J., Emmet-Booth, J., Engelmann, J. et al. (2021). Land-based measures to mitigate climate change: Potential and feasibility by country. *Global Change Biology*, 27(23), 6025–6058. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15873>
- 26 Scoville, C., **Chapman, M.**, Amironesei, R., & Boettiger, C. (2021). Algorithmic conservation in a changing climate. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 51, 30–35. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2021.01.009>
- 27 **Chapman, M.**, Walker, W. S., Cook-Patton, S. C., Ellis, P. W., Farina, M., Griscom, B. W., & Baccini, A. (2020). Large climate mitigation potential from adding trees to agricultural lands. *Global Change Biology*, 26(8), 4357–4365.
🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15121>
- 28 Griscom, B. W., Busch, J., Cook-Patton, S. C., Ellis, P. W., Funk, J., Leavitt, S. M., Lomax, G., Turner, W. R., **Chapman, M.** et al. (2020). National mitigation potential from natural climate solutions in the tropics. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 375(1794), 20190126. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0126>
- 29 Oestreich, W. K., **Chapman, M.**, & Crowder, L. B. (2020). A comparative analysis of dynamic management in marine and terrestrial systems. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 18(9), 496–504. 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2243>
- 30 Samndong, R. A., Bush, G., Vatn, A., & **Chapman, M.** (2018). Institutional analysis of causes of deforestation in reddy pilot sites in the equateur province: Implication for reddy+

in the democratic republic of congo. *Land Use Policy*, 76, 664–674.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.02.048>

- 31 Cunningham, C., Chen, W. C., Shorten, A., McClurkin, M., Choezom, T., Schmidt, C. P., Chu, V., Bozik, A., Best, C., **Chapman, M.** et al. (2014). Impaired consciousness in partial seizures is bimodally distributed. *Neurology*, 82(19), 1736–1744.
<https://doi.org/10.1212/FWNL.0000000000000404>
- 32 Galvin, B. D., Li, Z., Villemaine, E., Poole, C. B., **Chapman, M.**, Pollastri, M. P., Wyatt, P. G., & Carlow, C. K. (2014). A target repurposing approach identifies n-myristoyltransferase as a new candidate drug target in filarial nematodes. *PLoS neglected tropical diseases*, 8(9), e3145. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0003145>

White papers

- 1 Xu, L., Rolf, E., Beery, S., Bennett, J. R., Berger-Wolf, T., Birch, T., Bondi-Kelly, E., Brashares, J., **Chapman, M.**, Corso, A. et al. (2023). *Reflections from the workshop on AI-assisted decision making for conservation*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2307.08774>

In review

- 1 **Chapman, M.**, & Faxon, H. (n.d.). *The colonial infrastructures of contemporary conservation data (workshop manuscript)*.
- 2 **Chapman, M.**, Jung, M., Boettiger, C., Ringwald, L., Leclère, D., Gusti, M., Augustynczyk, A., & Visconti, P. (n.d.). *Meeting European conservation and restoration targets under future land-use demands (in review)*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/ynqfx>
- 3 Ellis-Soto, D., **Chapman, M.**, & Koltz, A. (n.d.). *Addressing data disparities is critical for biodiversity assessments and conservation policies in the United States (in review)*.
- 4 Hulkund, N., Oliver, R., **Chapman, M.**, & Beery, S. (n.d.). *Data sharing policies and considerations must influence machine learning research directions in ecological applications (in review)*.
- 5 Locke, D., Ellis-Soto, D., & **Chapman, M.** (n.d.). *Historic residential segregation impacts biodiversity data availability disparately across the tree of life (in review)*.
<https://doi.org/10.32942/X2D04V>
- 6 Scoville, C., Amironesei, R., Xu, L., & **Chapman, M.** (n.d.). *Participation and contestability in dynamic natural resource management (workshop manuscript)*.

Selected Presentations

- 2024
- **Chapman, M.** Can AI help us make more informed conservation decisions? *Aspen Global Change Institute (AGCI), AI and Biodiversity Workshop, Invited Talk*
 - **Chapman, M.** Addressing the social and political dimensions of biodiversity data. *North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB), Vancouver 2024*
 - **Chapman, M & Faxon, H.** The colonial infrastructures of contemporary biodiversity data. *Data Justice Workshop, Barcelona 2024*
 - **Chapman, M & Faxon, H.** The colonial infrastructures of contemporary biodiversity data. *World Biodiversity Forum, Davos 2024*
 - **Chapman, M.** Do biodiversity data biases risk entrenching social inequity into policy strategies? *Resources for the Future (Invited talk)*

Selected Presentations (continued)

- **Chapman, M.** From individual decisions to international agreements: addressing biodiversity loss in the age of algorithms. *Oregon State University (Invited Seminar)*
- **Chapman, M.** From individual decisions to international agreements: addressing biodiversity loss in the age of algorithms. *National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (Invited Roundtable Seminar)*
- **Chapman, M.** From data to decisions: toward a just and sustainable planetary future in the age of AI. *University of Oregon (Invited Seminar)*
- **Chapman, M.** From individual decisions to international agreements: addressing biodiversity loss in the age of algorithms. *Stony Brook University (Invited Seminar)*
- **Chapman, M.** AI is transforming the way we confront climate change and biodiversity loss. *GreenBiz Sustainability Conference (Invited keynote panel)*
- 2023 ■ **Chapman, M.** AI for equitable climate action. *GLOCAL Innovation Grant Kick-off (invited keynote speaker)*
- **Chapman, M.** Human histories shape the biodiversity data that decide our future. *GEO BON Conference, Montreal 2023)*
- **Chapman, M.** From individual decisions to international agreements: Addressing biodiversity loss in an age of algorithms. *University of California Santa Barbara (invited departmental seminar)*
- **Chapman, M.** Addressing biodiversity loss in an age of algorithms. *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (invited seminar).*
- **Chapman, M.** From individual decisions to international agreements: Addressing biodiversity loss in an age of algorithms. *University of California Berkeley (Wildlife seminar)*
- 2022 ■ **Chapman, M, Jung, M., and Visconti, P..** Multiscale prioritization of conservation and restoration measures to meet 2030 biodiversity targets in the EU. *IIASA Summer Symposium [Slides]*
- **Chapman, M, Boettiger, C, and Brashares, J.** Potential contributions of private lands to U.S. 2030 biodiversity targets. *ESA 2022 [Slides]*
- **Chapman, M.** Climate mitigation and biodiversity contributions of land conservation and management (as part of a panel on "Ecologists Perspectives on COP26") *ESA 2022. [Slides]*
- **Chapman, M.** Governing AI Applications To Monitoring and Managing Our Global Environmental Commons. *AAAI/ACM conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2022). [Slides]*
- 2021 ■ **Chapman, M., Schell, C., Brashares, J.** "30x30: The New Conservation". Break-throughs Magazine Virtual Series. **[Recording]**
- **Chapman, M..** Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature. California Biodiversity Network Bioinformatics and Conservation Planning round table.
- **Chapman, M., Boettiger, C.** From data to decisions: Algorithms, power, and effective ocean management. UN FAO global forum on AI for a digital blue Planet. **[Recording]**
- 2020 ■ **Chapman, M..** Large climate mitigation from adding trees to agricultural lands. The Nature Conservancy Seminar Series (Invited Talk).
- **Chapman, M..** Large climate mitigation from adding trees to agricultural lands. Woodwell Climate Research Center Friday Seminar Series (Invited Talk).

Selected Presentations (continued)

- **Chapman, M.**, et al. Tipping points in diversified farming systems. Ecological Society of America 2020 Meeting. Contributed Talk. [**Recording**]
- 2018 ■ **Chapman, M.**, and Walker, W. (2018). A Global Analysis of Woody Aboveground Carbon Storage in Crop and Pasture lands. AGU Fall Meeting. (Presentation)

Working Groups and Assessments

- 2024-2025 ■ USGS North American Biodiversity and Climate Assessment (Chapter Lead Author)
- NSF/NCEAS Biodiversity Data & Conservation Science working group
- 2024 ■ Data Justice Workshop (Invited paper/presentation)
- Resources for the Future: Climate Change and Natural Capital Workshop
- 2022-2024 ■ Ethics and Practices of Algorithmic Conservation Reading Group (**link**) *Co-founder/organizer*
- 2023 ■ Environmental Data Science Innovation Summit (ESIL)
- 2023, 2024 ■ Environmental Data Science Summit (NCEAS)
- 2022 ■ AI-Assisted Decision-Making for Conservation (Harvard Center for Research on Computing and Society)
- 2019-2021 ■ Ecological Forecasting Initiative *Student Working Group Co-chair and Co-founder*
- 2021 ■ UC Berkeley Data and Environment Working Group *Co-founder*
- Bioinformatics and Community Science Round Table steering committee, California Biodiversity Network
- Culturally Relevant Education in Environmental Data Science (CREEDS) Workshop
- 2020 ■ SESYNC Cyberinfrastructure Summer Institute
- NIMBioS Adaptive Management Tutorial
- People, Land, and Ecosystems: Leveraging NEON for Socio-Environmental Synthesis
- 2019 ■ National Ecological Observation Network (NEON) Science Summit
- Advancing Integrated Process-Based Modeling of Socio-Environmental Systems (SESYNC)
- Graduate Student Workshop on Socio-Environmental Synthesis (SESYNC)
- Ecological Forecasting Initiative Summer Course
- 2017 ■ Mathematical Ecology Working Group: Woods Hole, MA

Fellowships and Grants

- 2023 ■ **NCEAS Director's Postdoc Fellowship**, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (approx. \$140,000)
- **Peccei Award**, International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) (approx. \$7,000)
- **Moore Foundation**, (research funding written into larger grant) (approx. \$7,000)

Fellowships and Grants (continued)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Departmental Research Fellowship, University of California Berkeley (\$17,000)
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Summer Fellowship, Funded through the National Academy of Science (\$7,000) Data Science Teaching Fellowship, Funded through the UC Berkeley Social Science Data-Lab (\$5,000) Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES-22) Conference Student Award, Funded through the National Science Foundation (\$1500) Environmental Data Science Summit travel grant (\$800), NCEAS (delayed to 2023 due to COVID)
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SESYNC Graduate Student Pursuit: Co- PI (project link) (approx. \$35,000)
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berkeley Center For Technology, Society, and Policy Fellowship (project link) (\$4,000)
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSF National Research Traineeship Environment and Society: Data sciences for the 21st Century (\$32,000) NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention.
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship: Kiswahili (\$35,000 over two awards)

Teaching and Mentoring

Mentor & Co-organizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change AI In-Person Summer School (2023)
Co-organizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change AI Virtual Summer School (2023, 2024)
Data Science Fellow & Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Berkeley Social Science Data Lab; (1) Data wrangling (2) Deep learning in Python (3) Introduction to R, and (4) Data visualization (2022-2023)
Graduate Student Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Berkeley; ESPM 157: Data Science for Global Change Ecology (2020)
Graduate Student Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Berkeley; Fung Fellowship Conservation and Technology Course (2022)
Guest Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Santa Barbara; Data Science (2023) Stanford University; Introduction to conservation planning and practice (2023) University of California Santa Barbara; Introduction to Remote Sensing (2023) Stanford University; Introduction to conservation planning and practice (2022) Trinity College; U.S. Environmental Policy, Partisanship, and the Global Climate Crisis (2022) UC Berkeley; Conservation and Technology (2022) Middlebury Institute of International Studies; International Marine Science and Policy (2022) Middlebury Institute of International Studies; Ecological Analysis (2022)
Research Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP) (2020-2022)

Teaching and Mentoring (continued)

	Undergraduate Honors Thesis Program (2019-2022)
Technical Mentor	IPAM; Public Policy Course (2017)
Undergraduate Instructor	Yale University; Physics I (2014)
	Yale University; Organic Chemistry II (2013)

Policy Documents and Briefs

2024	Land protection and restoration tools to effectively meet 2030 conservation targets in the United States, USDA Internal Brief [PDF available upon request]
2022	Pathways to 30x30 California: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature, Scientific/Technical Writer [PDF]
	Conserving California: Advancing Science in Support of 30x30, Scientific Writer and Facilitator [PDF]
	California's Pathways to 30x30: Conserving Freshwater Ecosystems, Legislative Summary; Lead Scientific Writer [PDF]
	California's Pathways to 30x30: Expanding Access to Nature, Legislative Summary; Contributing Scientific Writer [PDF available upon request]
	California's Pathways to 30x30: Working Lands and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs), Legislative Summary; Contributing Scientific Writer [PDF available upon request]
	California's Pathways to 30x30: Partnering with California Native American Tribes, Legislative Summary; Contributing Scientific Writer [PDF available upon request]
2021	Advancing 30x30 and Protecting Biodiversity, Lead Scientific Writer [PDF]
2018	Prioritizing Areas for Reforestation of Private Lands in the Brazilian Amazon. Policy Brief. [PDF]
2016	Analysis of National Circumstances in the Context of REDD+ and Identification of REDD+ Abatement Levers in Papua New Guinea Report produced by the Wildlife Conservation Society. [PDF]

Professional Service and Outreach

2024	Climate Change AI Innovation Grants Chair
	Session organizer at World Biodiversity Forum
	Session organizer at North American Convention for Conservation Biology
2023-2024	Climate Change AI Core Team
2022	Graduate Programs Committee student representative (ESPM, UC Berkeley)
2021-2022	Graduate Admission Committee student representative (ESPM, UC Berkeley)
2018-2021	UC Berkeley Graduate Student Association (GSA)
2019-2021	Letters to a Pre-scientist: <i>Volunteer</i>
2018-2021	Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS): <i>Instructor</i>