

Samuel A. Levy

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Bio

I am a talented and diligent professional with over 10 years' experience in the environmental sector. I am relish opportunities to solve complex problems and have extensive experience delivering projects on time, using a wide array of skills including public speaking, people management, as well as statistical analysis, coding, and report writing.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of birth: 21st June 1993
Nationality: British (UK) & German. US Permanent Resident

EDUCATION

2019 – 2022	ETH Zürich <i>PhD, Department of Humanities, Social & Political Sciences</i> Dissertation: Can companies end deforestation? The limitations and potential opportunities of zero-deforestation commitments in the Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado https://doi.org/10.3929/ethz-b-000539299 . Supervisor: Prof. Rachael Garrett (University of Cambridge/ETH Zürich)
2017 - 2019	Boston University <i>PhD Student, Department of Earth & Environment</i> (transferred to ETH Zürich)
2015 - 2016	University of Oxford <i>MSc Environmental Change & Management</i> (Distinction)
2011 - 2014	University of Cambridge <i>BA (Hons) Social Anthropology</i> (2.1)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026	Rainforest Alliance – Senior Scientist, Accountability Framework initiative Leading research and development for the AFi team, focused on emerging issues related to conservation, deforestation, and commodity supply chain policy, as well as leading engagement with industry, NGO, and government partners in key geographies such as South America and Australia.
2025	Rainforest Alliance – Science & Policy Specialist, Accountability Framework initiative Leading and supporting several workstreams for the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi), including research projects to improve AFi's strategy and future relevance for supply chain sustainability, as well as to improve AFi's core products, including our offerings for partners such as CDP, SBTi, and the GHG Protocol. Role includes managing researchers, leading AFi's engagement with critical partners and clients, including institutional funders and policymakers, writing policy documents, representing AFi at public speaking events, and leading on AFi's strategy in South America.
2023- 2024	Rainforest Alliance – Science & Policy Fellow, Accountability Framework initiative Leading and supporting the Accountability Framework initiative's work on defining, assessing, and analysing non-forest natural ecosystems and their conversion for commodity production as well as leading AFi's engagement in South America. Responsibilities include: managing researchers from diverse institutions, conducting research, writing policy documents, and engaging policymakers across the world
2022 – 2023	New York University – Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Environmental Studies Led project on conservation impacts of Indigenous land tenure formalization in Indonesia
2017	Global Canopy, Oxford, UK – Researcher (Supply Chains) Conducted research into the commodity-driven tropical deforestation on a number of initiatives including the Forest 500 and Trase. Responsibilities included data analysis using QGIS and R, report writing and desk-based research.
2016-2017	Proforest Ltd, Oxford, UK – Environmental Consultant Work with corporate clients in the paper, palm oil and soy sectors to help achieve sustainable and equitable procurement of commodities and help improve supply chain management. Responsibilities included: Auditing sustainability reporting amongst suppliers for a major multinational consumer goods company, report writing and data analysis.
2016	University of Oxford, Oxford, UK – Research Assistant, Oxford Ecosystems Lab Member of Ecosystem lab, assisted in analyses of the effects of El Niño on carbon cycling in tropical forests.
2013 – 2016	Forestry Commission England, London, UK – Project Manager, Forest survey (Oak Processionary Moth) Carried out Forestry Commission tree health field surveys, primarily for oak processionary moth caterpillars, contracted through Acres Wild Woodlands Ltd. throughout London, as the leader of a team of 11. Responsibilities included: managing/coordinating the surveying for SW London, working closely with both public and private landowners, Checking and analysing data recorded by team, leading design of training materials, and conducting training of over 50 members of personnel.

2009 - 2014

Coombe Forestry Ltd, London, UK – Sustainable Forester

Worked part-time for a sustainable woodland company helping to manage FSC woodlands and produce sustainable products from them. Responsibilities included: producing sustainable firewood and charcoal; assisting tree felling and engaging with members of the public at large events e.g. Richmond Park Open Day

FIELD EXPERIENCE

2019-2020

Pará, Brazil – Expedition leader

Co-led team of 8 field assistants to carry out questionnaire on household/farm-level production, assets, supply chain linkages and perceived wellbeing for 360 randomly selected farms in four municipalities in Pará state.

2019

Pará, Brazil - Expedition leader

Made local contacts as basis for larger field season in late 2019 as well as trialled surveys with soy & cattle farmers using mobile survey platform KoboToolbox. Project: “Assessing the Influence of Zero-Deforestation Supply-Chain Commitments on the Conservation of Ecosystems” (NSF award #1739253) PIs: Dr Rachael Garrett, Dr Kimberly Carlson, Dr Nelson Villoria

2018

Matopiba region, Brazil – Expedition Leader

Surveys & interviews with soy and cattle farmers as well as experts from industry, government, and civil society. Project: “Assessing the Influence of Zero-Deforestation Supply-Chain Commitments on the Conservation of Ecosystems” (NSF award #1739253) PIs: Dr Rachael Garrett, Dr Kimberly Carlson, Dr Nelson Villoria

2018

Acre & Rondônia, Brazil – Field Assistant

Surveys & interviews with various types farmers. Project: “Improving agricultural practices for sustainable development” (NSF award #1602747) PI: Dr Rachael Garrett

2016

Java & West Kalimantan, Indonesia – Masters research (independent)

Semi-structured interviews with experts from industry, government and civil society as well as field work at a palm oil plantation and 3 surrounding villages using surveys, interviews & ethnographic methods. Advisors: Dr Tom Thornton & Dr Constance McDermott

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2023

Mongabay “EU bill and new green policies spur progress on Brazil’s cattle tracking” <https://tinyurl.com/4t4ybekk>

Anthropocene “Do zero-deforestation commitments by the world’s largest slaughterhouses work? Actually, yes.”

<https://tinyurl.com/3zt2zyv3>

2022

Mongabay “Pay or punish? Study looks at how to engage with farmers deforesting the Cerrado”

2021

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8uext3>

Swissinfo “Why is the Amazon still at risk despite ‘zero deforestation’ commitments? tinyurl.com/27bdnq46

PUBLICATIONS

2024

Levy, S., A.V. Garik, & R.D. Garrett “The challenge of commodity-centric governance in sacrifice frontiers: Evidence from the Brazilian Cerrado soy sector Brazilian Cerrado” *Geoforum* 150 (March 1, 2024) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2024.103972>

2023

Hänggli, A. **Levy, S.A.**, F. Cammelli, J. Brandão, X. Rueda, C. I. Bovolo, D. Armenteras & R.D. Garrett “A systematic comparison of deforestation drivers and policy impacts effectiveness across the Amazon biome” *Environmental Research Letters* (May 10, 2023) <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/acd408>

Levy, S.A., F. Cammelli, G. Gibbs, J. Munger & R.D. Garrett “Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon could be halved by scaling up the implementation of cattle zero-deforestation commitments” *Global Environmental Change* 80 (May 1, 2023) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2023.102671>

2022

Garrett, R. D., J. Grabs, F. Cammelli, F. Gollnow, **S.A. Levy** “Should Payments for Ecosystem Services be used to implement zero-deforestation supply chain policies? The case of soy in the Brazilian Cerrado” *World Development* 152 (April 1, 2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105814>

Cammelli, F., **S. A. Levy**, J. Grabs, J. Valentim & R.D. Garrett, “Effectiveness-equity tradeoffs in enforcing exclusionary supply chain policies: Lessons from the Amazonian cattle sector” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 332 (January 15, 2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.130031>

Grabs, J., F. Cammelli, **S.A. Levy** & R. D. Garrett. “Designing effective and equitable zero-deforestation supply chain policies,” *Global Environmental Change* 70 (January 1, 2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2021.102357>

2021

Garrett, R.D., F. Cammelli, J. Ferreira, **S. A. Levy**, J. Valentim & I. Viera “Forests and sustainable development in the Brazilian Amazon: History, trends and future prospects” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 46 (April 22, 2021): 2.1-2.28. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-012220-010228>

Garrett, R. D., **S. A. Levy**, F. Gollnow & X. Rueda “Have food supply chain policies improved forest conservation and rural livelihoods?” *Environmental Research Letters* (January 28, 2021) <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abe0ed>

2019

Garrett, R. D., **S. A. Levy**, K. M. Carlson, T. A. Gardner, J. Godar, J. Clapp, P. Dauvergne, et al. "Criteria for Effective Zero-Deforestation Commitments." *Global Environmental Change* 54 (January 1, 2019): 135–47.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.11.003>.

2018

Garrett, R. D., X. Rueda, **S. A. Levy**, J.F. Bermudez Blanco, S. Shah. "Measuring impacts of supply chain initiatives for conservation: focus on forest-risk food commodities." *Meridian Institute*. Washington, D.C. (June 1, 2018).
<https://www.evidensia.eco/resources/273/measuring-impacts-of-supply-chain-initiatives-for-conservation-focus-on-forest-risk-food-commodities/>

OTHER SKILLS

LANGUAGES English (native), Portuguese (advanced)

DATA SKILLS R (advanced), Python (intermediate), ArcGIS (advanced), QGIS, (advanced) Google Earth Engine (advanced), Open Data Kit (advanced)

REFERENCES

Dr Leah Samberg – lsamberg@ra.org (Rainforest Alliance/AFi)

Prof Rachael Garrett – rgarrett@ethz.ch (Cambridge University & ETH Zürich)

Gordon Purdie – gordon@acreswildwoodlands.co.uk (Acres Wild Woodlands Ltd./Forestry Commission England)