



KYRA LUNDERSTEDT

Landscape Sustainability Strategist

CONTACT



Johannesburg, South Africa

linkedin.com/in/kyra-lunderstedt

QUALIFICATIONS

MSc, Environmental Science

Rhodes University
2013-2016

Environmental Science **Hons.**

Rhodes University
2012

BSc, Environmental Science & Geography

Rhodes University
2009-2011

COURSES

- Extended GIS
- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
- Systems Dynamics and Thinking
- Ecological Modelling
- Savanna Ecology
- Wetland Ecology
- Veld Management

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Geographical Information Systems
- Community Participatory Mapping
- Botanical Identification
- Knowledge Management
- Participatory Monitoring Evaluation Reflection & Learning (PMERL)
- Impact communication

PROFICIENCY

- MS Office
- G-Suite
- ESRI ArcGIS Software
- Google Earth Pro
- PRIMER (Statistical Software)
- Vensim (Systems Dynamics Software)

STRENGTHS

- Systemic & spatial thinker
- Creative & artistic
- Written & verbal communicator
- Organised
- Efficient
- Team player
- Solutions-oriented

PROFILE

I am a qualified Environmental Scientist, with more than 9 years working experience. I have technical expertise in landscape systems and approaches, specifically in understanding synergies between biodiversity, climate change, sustainable land management and it's intersection with social and economic sustainability and wellbeing. I have worked across diverse landscapes, engaging with a diverse range of people and governance structures, from protected areas to communal areas including topics in the wildlife economy, land degradation, restoration, and sustainability. I like to apply social-ecological systems thinking, knowledge management, reflection and learning and my creativity and empathy into my work to achieve positive and integrated outcomes for projects and landscapes. It is through my passion for ecosystems that I serve both on the committee of the Thicket Forum and as Chairperson of the Council of the Botanical Society of South Africa. In addition, I am an artist and enjoy using my creative skill to enhance the presentation of information that bridges the gap between science and communication.

EXPERIENCE & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Independent Consultant

2022-

- Strategy and Integration Lead: Sustainable Finance Coalition. Supporting the incubation of naturescape finance solutions.
- UNDP BIOFIN Project- Led in the development of a Wildlife Economy Sustainability Standard through extensive stakeholder engagement. Researched benefits and incentives for wildlife economies to practice sustainability as part of a business case.
- Part of a core team developing a UNEP Global Programme on the Wild Biodiversity Economy.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2019- 2022

Project Assistant, GEF5 Sustainable Land Management Project

- Responsible for technical, strategic, administrative and monitoring support and coordination for the project.
- Part of a core team who developed the Sustainable Wildlife Economies Project » where I co-designed the methodology, provided technical contributions and trained graduates.
- Co-developed an SLM Progress Calculator and contributed technically to a National SLM Finance Strategy.
- Supported the development of the GEF5 SLM project website, implemented PMERL, managed the project twitter page » and organized conferences when required »
- Participated in the Cross-sectoral Extension Group with SANBI, DFFE, SANParks and WWF.

Rhodes Restoration Research Group

2017-2019

GIS & Knowledge Manager: Tsitsa Project » | Researcher: Subtropical Thicket

- Co-authored the Subtropical Thicket Biome Research and Praxis Strategy to align research priorities to critical needs to ensure the conservation of the unique biome.
- Led on a Knowledge Management Strategy and proposed a better integration with PMERL for the Tsitsa Project.
- Conducted community participatory mapping exercises and reporting using Google Earth to map natural resource management priorities in catchments and traditional sites.
- Spatial mapping and reporting of illegal deforestation and identification of intact sites for avoided degradation planning with the local compliance authorities.

Independent Consulting | Botanical and GIS specialist |2016-2017

Pandaw River Expeditions

2016

Guest relations officer and shore manager (Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos)

Rhodes Restoration Research Group

2013-2015

Intern and researcher

- Conducted field work, maintained records and reported on carbon & biodiversity baselines of the Addo, Baviaans and Fish River Project on over 100 plots.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

United Nations Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification (UNCCD) COP15

I was fortunate to organize and present a side event in Abidjan in May 2022 on a tool I co-developed called the Sustainable Land Management Progress Calculator (SLM PC). The side event was presented in partnership with WOCAT through the government of South Africa. »

6TH GLOBAL EbA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETING, 2022

Presented a poster on the lessons learned in the UNDP-GEF5 SLM Project »

THICKET FORUM

Presented annually from 2012-2019 and won best student presentation in 2016 on my MSc research quantifying degraded subtropical thicket structure and composition at various spatial and temporal scales in Addo Elephant NP.

SOCIETY OF ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

2019- I presented at the International Conference held in Cape Town. Here I presented findings on illegal deforestation in the Subtropical Thicket Biome from commercial agriculture and the solutions exercised to avoid degradation toward Land Degradation Neutrality.

KNOWLEDGE SYMPOSIUM- EU PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

In 2019 I was invited to present on the GEF5 SLM Project and the lessons learned in project implementation.

AFR100- 3RD PARTNERSHIP MEETING 2018

In 2018 I was one of only two South Africans to attend the 3rd AFR100 Partnership Meeting held in Nairobi Kenya, where I facilitated a Parallel Session on Mobilizing technical partners.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

AFRICAN YOUTH IN LANDSCAPES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, participant

In 2022, I was accepted to be part of the above program organized by the Global Landscapes Forum and the Youth in Landscapes Initiative. »

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA, Chairperson on the Council (2022/23)

Since 2021, I was elected as a volunteer member of the Council to support the Botanical Society's vision to know, grow, protect, and enjoy South Africa's rich botanical heritage. » I also partake in activities with CREW- the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers.

THICKET FORUM, Deputy Chairperson, 2022

Through my commitment to the forum, I lead in developing an updated Thicket Forum website ». The intention of this endeavor was to attract increased awareness and interest in the Subtropical Thicket Biome toward its sustainable use, conservation and coordinated research. In 2021, I supported in sourcing presenters and maintaining the forum YouTube channel » and image online. I have served as a committee member since 2019.

DOCUMENTS

MSc Thesis: Quantifying Degraded Subtropical Thicket Structure and Composition: a multi-scale approach »

Subtropical Thicket Research & Praxis Strategy: Part 1 »

Outcomes of two workshops to develop a Research & Praxis Strategy for The Thicket Biome: Part 2 »

Journal article: Lessons from Covid-19 for wildlife ranching in a changing world »

