

# GRADEN ZANE LAMBERT FROESE

*Social-ecological scientist and boundary spanner*

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## CURRENT POSITIONS AT A GLANCE

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- 05/2025 – **CEO**  
Present *Freshwater Life*
- Building a global network of local partners saving species and restoring relationships.
- 12/2024 – **External Scientific Collaborator**  
Present *University of Lausanne (UNIL)*
- Publishing rights-based conservation research, and giving it legs in policy.
- 10/2025 – **Trustee**  
Present *The Little Environmental Action Foundation (LEAF)*
- Guiding the founders on how to simplify and scale the restoration of biocultural relics.

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## EDUCATION

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- 08/2017 – **PhD, Environment**  
04/2023 *Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University*
- Dissertation titled “Paraecology for Community Bushmeat Hunting Monitoring, Modelling, and Management”.
  - Created a novel community bushmeat hunting monitoring programme implemented by twenty local paraecologists I trained, employed, worked with, and learned from.
  - Mentored and coordinated research contributions from one undergraduate and six master’s students at Duke, and three Gabonese master’s students.
- 09/2010 – **BSc, Honours Conservation Biology (with distinction)**  
12/2014 *Faculty of Science, University of British Columbia (UBC)*
- 4.0 GPA in upper level courses including Biostatistics, Ecological Methodology, Biological Diversity and Forest Management, and Evolutionary Ecology.
  - Planned and performed independent research for undergraduate thesis successfully defended and published.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

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- 12/2019 – **Nsombou Abalghe-Dzal Association (NADA)**  
11/2025 *Makokou, Gabon & Remote*
- Co-founder and boundary spanner.
  - Designed, conducted, and published, in collaboration with Gabonese researchers, paraecologists and local rights-holders, holistic research into the functioning and scalability of our mission: “Sustainable and equitable governance and management of ancestral lands and biocultural diversity, established and maintained by Gabonese Indigenous Peoples and local communities”.
  - Mentored Gabonese graduate students and early-career researchers in study design, implementation, analyses and writing.
  - Associate researcher with Gabonese government branch the Research Institute for Tropical Ecology (IRET); collaborated across administrations to improve policy for bushmeat hunting governance and rural peoples’ land rights.
  - Collaborated with international universities and rights-based conservation NGOs and policy actors and attended global meetings (e.g., COP15); networked for and provided legal and scientific analyses and support to rural communities.
  - Wrote grants and reports to donors in English and French; volunteer translator for the ICCA Consortium.
  - Collaboratively designed website, share participatory applications online in Shiny.
  - Supported the community of Massaha to save their ancestral forest from logging and turn it into what will be Gabon's first ever community conserved area.
  - Created a new participatory GIS and community biocultural mapping approach that has thus far worked with 37 communities to map >700,000 ha with ~150 ancestral villages and ~80 sacred sites and informed Gabon’s national mapping methodology.
- 11/2015 – **Karen State Conservation Initiative (KWCI)**  
05/2016 *Chiang Mai, Thailand & Kawthoolei, Burma*
- Technical assistant.
  - Created protocols for data collection, management, and analyses, and trained employees of the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN).
  - Built a modelling framework to assess differences in large mammal populations across space and time to inform conservation investments.
  - Lead weeks long camera-trapping surveys in a highly remote location and facilitated meetings as preliminary steps in the establishment of a community protected area.
  - Wrote reports for funders and liaised between them and Karen conservationists.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Ibola Dja Bana Ba Massaha, Ekazama Koto, S., Walters, G., [...] & **Froese, G.** (In press). Community biocultural mapping reveals historical occupation and enables defense of African rainforests. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02334-2> [forthcoming]
- Rosin, C., Schulfer, N., Zedler, P., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Ocampo-Peñuela, N. (2025). Global priorities for developing higher education capacity in biodiversity conservation. *Biological Conservation*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2025.111221>

- Ingram, D., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Coad, L. (2025). Regional patterns of wild animal hunting in African tropical forests. *Nature Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-024-01494-5>
- Yoh, N., Mbamy, W., Gottesman, B., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Buřivalova, Z. (2024). Impacts of logging, hunting, and conservation on vocalizing biodiversity in Gabon. *Biological Conservation* (296): 110726. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110726>
- Mbamy, W., Beirne, C., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Poulsen, J. (2023). Linking crop availability, forest elephant visitation, and perceptions of human-elephant interactions within villages bordering Ivindo National Park, Gabon. *Oryx*, 58(2): 261-268. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605323000704>
- Ntie, S., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Otsaghe, J. (2023). First records of leucism in two species of duiker (Cephalophinae) in Gabon. *Biodiversity Observations* (13): 233–238. <https://doi.org/10.15641/bo.1390>
- Froese, G.**, Ebang Mbélé, A., [...] & Poulsen, J. (2023). Fluid hunter motivation in Central Africa: effects on behaviour, bushmeat, and income. *People and Nature* 5(5): 1480-1496. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10502> [**Rachel Carson Prize 2023 shortlist**]
- Froese, G.\***, Ebang Mbélé, A.\* , [...] & Poulsen, J. (2022). Coupling paraecology and hunter GPS self-follows to quantify village bushmeat hunting dynamics across the landscape scale. *African Journal of Ecology* 60(2): 229-249. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12956> [**Dean's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Manuscript**]
- Whitworth, A., Beirne, C., Flatt, E., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Forsyth, A. (2021). Recovery of dung beetle biodiversity and traits in a regenerating rainforest: a case study from Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula. *Insect Conservation and Diversity* 14(4): 439-454. <https://doi.org/10.1111/icad.12470>
- Nuñez, C.L.\* , **Froese, G.\*** , [...] & Poulsen, J. (2019). Stronger together: comparing and integrating camera trap, visual, and dung surveys in tropical forest communities. *Ecosphere* 10(12): e02965. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.2965>
- Hagemann, L, Arandjelovic, M, Robbins, M., Deschner, T., Lewis, M., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Vigilant, L. (2019). Long-term inference of population size and habitat use in a socially dynamic population of wild western lowland gorillas. *Conservation Genetics* 20: 1303-1314. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-019-01209-w>
- Beirne, C., Meier, A., Mbele, A., Menie Menie, G., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Poulsen, J. (2019). Participatory monitoring reveals village-centered gradients of mammalian defaunation in central Africa. *Biological Conservation* 233: 228-238. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.02.035>
- Froese, G.**, & Mustari, A. (2019). First assessments of previously unstudied maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* nesting grounds in Southeast Sulawesi reveal severely threatened populations. *Bird Conservation International* 29(4): 497-502. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0959270918000333>
- Hagemann, L., Boesch, C., Robbins, M., Arandjelovic, M., Deschner, T., Lewis, M., **Froese, G.**, & Vigilant, L. (2018). Long term group membership and dynamics in a wild western lowland gorilla population (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) using non-invasive genetics. *American Journal of Primatology* 80(8): e22898. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.22898>

- Brodie, J., Helmy, O., Pangau-Adam, M., Ugiek, G., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Mustari, A. (2018). Crossing the (Wallace) line: Local abundance and distribution of mammals across biogeographic barriers. *Biotropica* 50(1): 116-124. <https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.12485>
- Moo, S., **Froese, G.**, & Gray, T. (2017). First camera trap surveys in Karen Sate, Myanmar reveal high diversity of globally threatened mammals. *Oryx*, 52(3): 537-543. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605316001113>
- Froese, G.**, Contasti, A., [...] & Brodie, J. (2015). Disturbance impacts on large rain-forest vertebrates differ with edge type and regional context in Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 31(6): 509-517. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266467415000450>
- Martin, T., Kelly, S., **Froese, G.**, [...] & Kelly, D. (2015). New records from Buton Island, Indonesia. *BirdingASIA* 23(1): 128

\*Co-first authorship.

Peer-reviewed twelve articles for the following journals: African Journal of Ecology, Biodiversitas, Ecology and Evolution, Global Change Biology, Journal of Asian Ornithology, Journal of Ethnobiology, Nature Communications, Oryx, People and Nature, and Tropical Conservation Science.

## PRESENTATIONS AND GUEST LECTURES

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| 2025 | Colloque scientifique international du programme RESSAC: Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>   |
| 2025 | Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DGFAP): Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>   |
| 2025 | IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.  |
| 2025 | Congo Basin Forest Partnership: Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>  |
| 2025 | Université de Lausanne (Brouillon d'idées): online. <i>En français.</i>   |
| 2024 | 124 <sup>th</sup> Kyoto University African Studies Seminar (Wildlife and Local Knowledge in Central Africa): Kyoto, Japan.                      |
| 2024 | Center for International Forestry Research and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF): online. <i>En français.</i> |
| 2024 | Mulago Foundation 2024 Fellows 5 Minutes of Fame: Imlil, Morocco.   |
| 2023 | Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) 31th International Congress for Conservation Biology: Kigali, Rwanda.                                    |
| 2023 | International Association for the Study of the Commons XIX Biennial IASC Conference (with Alex Ebang Mbélé): Nairobi, Kenya.                    |
| 2023 | Duke (University Program in Ecology Seminar): Durham, USA.  |
| 2022 | Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées (DGFAP; with Alex Ebang Mbélé): Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>                    |
| 2021 | Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology: online.  |
| 2021 | Université de Lausanne (master's course in nature conservation; with Alex Ebang Mbélé): online. <i>En français.</i>                             |
| 2021 | Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD Gabon): Makokou, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>   |

2021	Atelier national de la définition de la méthodologie de cartographie participative pour le Plan National d'Affectation des Terres (PNAT; with Médard Mamouaka Bayadi): Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>
2021	University of British Columbia (UBC; Sunderland Lab): online.
2020	Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET): Libreville, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>
2020	Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN; with Alex Ebang Mbélé): Makokou, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>
2020	Direction Provincial de l'Ogooué-Ivindo des Eaux et Forêts (with Alex Ebang Mbélé): Makokou, Gabon. <i>En français.</i>
2020	UBC (master's course in international forestry): Vancouver, Canada.
2020	UBC (Wildlife Coexistence Lab): online.
2019	Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group (with Alex Ebang Mbélé): Yaoundé, Cameroon. <i>En français.</i>
2018	Duke (Rubenstein Arts Center The Art of a Scientist; with Yiou Wang): Durham, USA.
2018	Duke (Nicholas School PhD Symposium): Durham, USA.
2018	Duke (undergraduate course in marine megafauna): Durham, USA.

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#### PERSONAL AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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2023	Mulago Foundation Henry Arnold Fellow (\$100,000*).
2022	Dean's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Manuscript (\$1,000).
2022, 2020 & 2018	Myra & William Waldo Boone Fellowship (\$72,915 total).
2021	International Dissertation Research Travel Award (\$2,300).
2020	Duke Master in Interdisciplinary Data Science Program Innovations in Graduate Education Fellowship (\$3,000).
2020	Competitive Summer Research Fellowship (\$5,500).
2019	NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship – Doctoral (63,000 CAD); ranked 15th out of 171 applications in Evolution and Ecology.
2019	James B. Duke International Research Travel Fellowship (\$25,850).
2018	NPAC Small Grants (\$1,400).
2014	NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (4,500 CAD).
2014, 2013, & 2012	Guy Chance Scholarship in Conservation Biology (2,350 CAD total).
2010	UBC President's Entrance Scholarship (2,500 CAD).

\*As unrestricted funding for NADA, included in the total below.

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#### GRANTS WRITTEN AND AWARDED (>\$850,000)

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2025	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) GEF-7: Community cartography and participatory monitoring of biocultural heritage in the headwaters of the Nyanga and Ngounié (\$215,182).
2024	Applied research in ecology and social sciences in support of sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa (RESSAC; within the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)): Community governance and management of hunting (€250,000).

2023	Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI): Recognizing and securing the governance and traditional management of areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (\$105,632, with ~\$75,000 further committed).
2023	Small-Scale Initiatives Program (PPI; within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) France): Territories of life as community conserved areas: a new horizon for conservation in Gabon (€34,000).
2023	Otterfonds: funding for the above (€29,475).
2022	Paul K. Feyerabend Foundation: Learn and act together to document, manage, and defend rural communities' territories of life in northeastern Gabon (9,800 CHF).
2022	Luc Hoffmann Institute (now Uneathodox): Future of Conservation NGOs Innovation Challenge (€5,000).
2022	Little Environmental Action Network (LEAF): Community tree planting to restore biocultural giants of an overexploited Gabonese rainforest (£3,453).
2022	ICCA Consortium Membership (non-monetary).
2021	Seed of Good Anthropocenes (non-monetary).

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### OTHER RESEARCH

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- 05/2016 – **Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology**  
04/2017 *Loango National Park, Gabon*
- Conducted a year-long field study of chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) and gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) population dynamics using a non-invasive genetic sampling technique over a 100 km<sup>2</sup> study area in coastal Gabon.
  - Organized logistics and prepared samples for exportation to Germany in collaboration with the Gabonese government.
- 01/2015 – **Colombia Gradients Project, Universidad ICESI**  
06/2015 *Farallones de Cali, Colombia*
- Lead bander that established monitoring program of tropical bird community in previously unstudied national park.
  - Mist-netted, banded, and colour-banded over 100 species; determined and sampled age, sex, morphometrics, breeding phenology, ectoparasites, and blood.
  - Trained and supervised Colombian university students in skills including bird identification and safe netting, handling, and sampling techniques.
- 09/2012 – **Brodie Conservation Ecology & Research Lab, UBC**  
12/2014 *Vancouver, BC & Buton Island, Indonesia*
- Independently initiated a study in Sulawesi using camera traps and occupancy modelling to assess the impact of anthropogenic disturbances on spatial abundance patterns of endemic wildlife including the lowland anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*).
  - Lived in rural villages and camped for long periods in remote, hilly rainforest.
  - Hired, trained, lived with and learned from a team of local assistants.
  - Conducted standardized social surveys over a number of villages assessing the status and threats to previously unstudied nesting sites of the maleo (*Macrocephalon maleo*).
  - Collected and preserved fruits for an evolutionary ecology study.
- 09/2012 – **Iona Island Bird Observatory**  
12/2014 *Iona Island, BC*
- Mist-netted, banded, and collected morphometric, age, fat, and sex data birds.

08/2012

**Cetus Research & Conservation Society**

*Robson Bight Michael Bigg Ecological Reserve, BC*

- Monitored populations of orcas and other cetaceans in relation to vessel traffic.
- Managed large data sets.
- Conducted human-wildlife conflict outreach with local boaters.

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**OTHER WORK**

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01/2010 –  
12/2015

**Independent Environmental Photojournalist and Educator**

*Vancouver Island, BC*

- Photographed the critically endangered Vancouver Island Marmot for ARKive.
- Flickr account of environmental photography with over 100,000 views.
- Ran conservation and ecology workshops with elementary school children.

05/2011 –  
08/2012

**Municipality of North Cowichan**

*Duncan, BC*

- Collected and manipulated hydrological GIS data.
- Monitored water flow in mountain streams.

07/2010 –  
08/2010

**Nanook Lodge**

*Stuart Island, BC*

- Lived in isolated location on BC's central coast.
- Fertilized salmon eggs and prepared fry for river release.

*CV disponible en français sur demande*