

## Summer 2024 Undergraduate Research Internship

### Project Name

Influence of Community Forestry on the Dynamics of the Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems

### Faculty Mentor

Conghe Song (Geography)

### Project Description

This project aims to understand how community forestry shapes and is being shaped by the socio-environmental systems. The study site is in the Middle Hills of Nepal. We have completed the field campaign in the summer of 2023. The summer intern working on this project will primarily be working with the data collected. Therefore, a sound statistical background is expected. The objectives of the project are to address the following research questions: (1) How have community forestry institutions influenced people's livelihoods? (2) How did out-migration influence community forest management? (3) How has community forestry practice influenced local land-cover/land-use change? (4) What are the consequences of community forestry in ecosystem services with respect to carbon sequestration and freshwater availability? and (5) Has community forestry served as a safety net for participants during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown? An interested intern can choose to work with any one of the objectives. However, Objectives (3) and (4) require GIS and modeling skills in addition to statistical skills.

### Scope of Work for Internship

The intern will work on the first objective of the project: how have community forestry influenced people's livelihood? They may also work on different aspects of the project depending on their interests.

### Expected Deliverables

Analysis of previously-collected data.

### Preferred Skills

- Stata and/or R