



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

School of Environment  
and Sustainability

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BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



### **How is your research tackling some of the major challenges facing humanity in the 21st century?**

As you all well know, the biodiversity crisis is one of the greatest challenges of this century. Strong actions to mitigate drivers of biodiversity loss and to develop adaptive management strategies are vitally needed.

The long-term objective of my research is to contribute to predicting the impacts of global change on biodiversity at different levels – species, community, and habitat. I aim to experimentally assess the link between habitat loss, native plants decline and increasing impact of invasive species in temperate grasslands.

### **What motivated you to do what you now do?**

I like the word how it is, in its natural beauty and diversity. The beginning of my journey towards saving nature started in my childhood. I was blown away by nature magic and wisdom and my curiosity was constantly supported and inspired by my parents. My love for nature led me to pursue Master's degree and then PhD in Biology. Perhaps, there is no single path to becoming a conservationist. However, perseverance, knowing where you want to be, and what you want to work on are the most important steps. Interaction with nature, helping vulnerable species and a sense of achievement are my key motivators to be involved in biodiversity research and conservation actions.

### **What is your favourite course to teach and why?**

I like teaching Field Course in Env & Sust. What I have learned during my professional career is that your academic qualifications are surely important, but they are not enough. You need practical experience, first-hand exposure to work in the real world.

Teaching in the field gives me an excellent opportunity to get to know my students in greater depth. During the field course students engage in partnerships with local communities and help them to address their needs. It's very rewarding to be a part of this endeavour.



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**What has been the biggest positive outcome of working from home?**

I think that one of the positive factors of working from home is that people got the opportunity to slow down and focus on their lives. We all had a chance to think - who we are, who we want to be, what are the most important things in our life. In social terms, it is like a magnifying glass. You suddenly begin to see everything around you much more clearly than before. After all, it seems that everything virtual becomes even more virtual, and everything real becomes even more real.

**What do you prefer to read when you are not reading work-related material and why?**

As a matter of fact, I really enjoy reading in my spare time... I have read since my early childhood, and some of my best friends are books. I prefer to read historical books. I believe history is the great teacher. I found true stories of history very amazing and I believe it is one of the most enjoyable entertainments. I can learn the right way of life by reading historical books and it also helps me to have an exciting time.