

# SAMANTHA H. CHENG, Ph. D.

Samantha.Cheng@asu.edu

+1(480)727-3109

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. in Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology** (2010-2015)

- University of California, Los Angeles.

**B.A. Organismal Biology and Ecology** (2005-2009)

- Scripps College (Claremont University Consortium)

## EMPLOYMENT

---

**Assistant Research Professor** – School of Life Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University

**Associate Director for Conservation Evidence** - Center for Biodiversity Outcomes, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University

Oct 2017 – present

- Research agenda focuses on use of evidence for conservation decision-making, public values of conservation, monitoring and evaluation of conservation outcomes in knowledge partnerships, biodiversity of tropical marine ecosystems, population genetics and genomics of cephalopod fisheries

**Postdoctoral Fellow** – SNAPP, NCEAS, University of California Santa Barbara

Jan 2016 – Sept 2017

- Conducted research on impacts of conservation on human well-being, and improving evidence-based conservation practices and tools as part of the SNAPP Evidence-Based Conservation working group ([www.snapppartnership.net/groups/evidence-based](http://www.snapppartnership.net/groups/evidence-based))
- Built and launched interactive data visualization platform, Evidence for Nature and People Data Portal ([www.natureandpeopleevidence.org](http://www.natureandpeopleevidence.org)) to communicate data on conservation-human well-being linkages
- Coordinated and liaised with working group partners, including NGOs, academic institutions, data scientists and developers
- Planned, coordinated, and convened workshops with representatives from NGOs, government agencies, academic institutions, and developers

**Consultant** - Program on Forests (PROFOR), World Bank Group, Washington DC, USA

Jun 2016 – present

- Lead systematic assessment of knowledge on contribution of forest resources to poverty alleviation using systematic evidence synthesis methods

**Consultant, Monitoring & Evaluation** – Conservation International, Arlington, VA

Nov 2013 – present

- Conducted evidence synthesis project on conservation's impact on human wellbeing
- Lead evidence synthesis project assessing effectiveness of international wildlife trade policies and programs to inform CI strategies
- Provided expert guidance for using evidence synthesis methodologies for evidence-based conservation practices to BRIDGE program (CI, USAID, Smithsonian) through webinars, seminars, and discussions

## AWARDS & HONORS

---

**Fulbright Fellowship**, Indonesia (2009-2010)

**National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship** (GRFP) (2011-2014)

**APEC ASPIRE Award**, US Finalist (2013)

# SAMANTHA H. CHENG, Ph. D.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

---

Willette DA, **Cheng SH**. (2017). Delivering on seafood traceability under the new U.S. import monitoring program. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-017-0936-4>

**Cheng SH**, Ahlroth S, Onder S, Shyamsundar P, Garside R, Kristjanson P, McKinnon MC, Miller DC. (2017) What is the evidence for the contribution of forests to poverty alleviation?: A systematic map protocol. *Environmental Evidence* **6**: 10

Miles MC, **Cheng SH**, Fuxjager MJ. Biogeography predicts macro-evolutionary patterning of gestural display complexity in a passerine family. *Evolution*. doi:10.1111/evo.13213

Willette DA, Simmonds SE, **Cheng SH**, Esteves S, Kane TL, Nuetzel H, Pilaud N, Rachmawati R and Barber PH. 2017. Using DNA barcoding to track seafood mislabeling in Los Angeles restaurants. *Conservation Biology*. doi:10.1111/cobi.12888

**Cheng SH**, Robinson JE, Cox N, Biggs D, Olsson A, Mascia M, McKinnon M. 2017. Evaluating the effectiveness of international wildlife trade programs and policies on species conservation and livelihoods: an evidence map. *Betty and Gordon Moore Center for Science Working Paper 1*. Arlington, VA: Conservation International

Althor G, McKinnon MC, **Cheng SH**, Klein C, Watson J. 2016. Systematic Review Protocol: Does the social equitability of community and incentive based conservation interventions in non-OECD countries, affect human well-being? *Environmental Evidence* **5(26)**. DOI: 10.1186/s13750-016-0078-3

McKinnon MC, **Cheng SH**, Butterfield R, Dupre S, Edmond J, Garside R, Glew L, Holland MB, Levine E, Masuda YJ, Miller DC, Oliveira I, Revenaz J, Roe D, Shamer S, Wilkie D, Wongbusarakum S, Woodhouse E. (2016) What are the effects of nature conservation on human well-being? A systematic map of empirical evidence from developing countries. *Environmental Evidence* **5(8)**: 1-25

McKinnon MC, **Cheng SH**, Garside R, Masuda YJ, Miller DC. (2015) Map the evidence. *Nature* **528**: 185-188

Anderson FE, Bergman A, **Cheng SH**, Pankey MS, Valinassab Y. (2014) Lights out: the evolution of bacterial bioluminescence in Loliginidae. *Hydrobiologia* **725(1)**: 189-203

**Cheng SH**, Anderson FE, Bergman A, Mahardika GN, Muchlisin ZA, Thuy DB, Calumpong HP, Mohamed KS, Sasikumar G, Venketesan V, Barber PH. (2014) Molecular evidence for co-occurring cryptic lineages within the *Sepioteuthis* cf. *lessoniana* species complex in the Indian and Indo-West Pacific Oceans. *Hydrobiologia* **725(1)**: 165-188

Muchlisin ZA, Zulkarnaini B, Purnawan S, Muhadjier A, Fadli F, **Cheng SH**. 2014. Morphometric variations of three species of harvested cephalopods found in northern sea of Aceh Province, Indonesia. *Biodiversitas* **15(2)**: 142-146

Barber PH, **Cheng SH**, Erdmann MV, Tenggardjaja K, Ambariyanto (2011) Evolution and conservation of marine biodiversity in the Coral Triangle: Insights from stomatopod Crustacea in Phylogeography and Population Genetics of Crustacea in Crustacean Issues: CRC Press

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND SERVICES (ACTIVE)

---

**Editorial Board Member** - Environmental Evidence (journal)

**Evidence Synthesis Technology Working Group** – co-lead

**Conservation Genetics Working Group** - Society for Conservation Biology

SAMANTHA H. CHENG, Ph. D.

**Cephalopod International Advisory Council**