

Donald Akanga

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Geography, Environment, & Spatial Sciences	Michigan State University	2018 – present
M.S Geospatial Science	University of North Alabama	2018
B.S Environment & Community Development	Kenyatta University, Kenya	2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My broad research interests include remote sensing, spatial statistics, and GIS applications to climate change as well as nature-society interactions. Current research focuses on remote sensing and Earth system modeling specifically using the Community Land Model (CLM) to examine past and future carbon cycling in Michigan's Kalamazoo River Watershed.

POSITIONS HELD

Aug. 2018 – present	Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan State University <i>Ecological Remote Sensing and Modeling (ERSAM) Lab</i>
May-Aug. 2018	GIS Intern, Lawrenceburg Utility Systems – <i>Gas, Water and Sewer Department</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Data collection and management using ArcGIS and QGIS
Aug.2016-May 2018	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of North Alabama <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Lab Instructor: Remote Sensing (GEO 454), Geographic Information Systems (GEO 384), Physical Geography: Weather and Climate (GEO 111)</i>○ <i>Guest Lecture on Image Enhancement (GEO 454)</i>○ <i>GIS Lab Assistant</i>
Sep.2015-May 2016	Acting Nursery Manager, Komaza Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Tree nursery operations management</i>○ <i>Drafted Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for company scaling</i>
Jan.2014- Sept. 2015	Project Management Associate, Komaza Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Coordinated Kiva Fundraising Project; raised \$435,000</i>○ <i>Conducted Komaza's Environmental Impact Audit</i>○ <i>Planned and executed Wood Market Survey</i>○ <i>Led Sorghum Project, Implemented Human Centered Design (HCD) prototype</i>
Jun.2013-Jan 2014	Project Management Intern, Komaza Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Planned and executed Agroforestry Salvage Harvest program</i>
May – Aug.2012	Eco-Rating Intern, Ecotourism Kenya, Nairobi

CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUNDING

2017/2018	University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences	\$1,016
2017/2018	University of North Alabama Office of International Affairs	\$800
2017/2018	University of North Alabama Department of Geography	\$600
Spring 2017	University of North Alabama, Center for Sustainability	\$500
Fall 2017	Freddie Wood Grant Travel Grant	\$300

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2018	Phi Kappa Phi Spring 2018 Graduation Photo Contest	Winner
2017	Southeast Division of AAG (SEDAAG) Graduate Student Paper Competition	Finalist
2014	Certificate of Excellence – Komaza Kenya	
2012	Student Leader, Kenyatta University Students Association	
2011	Bayer – United Nations Young Environmental Envoy Program	Finalist
2010	Bayer – United Nations Young Environmental Envoy Program – Kenya	Finalist

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION

2018	Akanga DO. Analysis of spatiotemporal occurrence of agricultural drought in Kenya using Modis satellite data. American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual meeting. New Orleans, LA - speaker.
2017	Akanga DO. Analysis of agricultural drought occurrence in Kenya using Modis data. Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) annual meeting. Starkville, MS – speaker.
2017	Akanga DO. Examining the spatial occurrence and distribution of agricultural drought in Kenya. Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA) annual meeting. Atlanta, GA – Speaker.
2017	Akanga DO. Master of Science in Geospatial Science Opportunities at the University of North Alabama. International Cartographic Conference (ICC) biennial meeting. Washington, DC– Exhibitor.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Phi Kappa Phi – Honor Society
- American Association of Geographers (AAG) - Member
- Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) – Member
- Kenya Scholars and Studies Association – Member
- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) – Project Management Institute
- Certified Environmental Impact Assessment & Audit Associate Expert – National Environment Management Authority - Kenya

VOLUNTEERISM

2013 – present	Transforming Young Stars of Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Youth leader and mentor</i>○ <i>Program management consultancy</i>
April 2018	American Association of Geographers 2018 annual meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Conference Assistant</i>
2010	International Conference on Biodiversity, Land Use & Climate Change Nairobi, Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Conference Assistant</i>