WANJA WAWERU

GIS ANALYST

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Ann Arbor, MI

ABOUT ME

Few things excite me more than using geospatial technology to build climate resiliency. These tools have the power to help us better understand society and identify ways to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. As an undergrad, I developed a passion for sustainable development and dove into the world of water resource management. In graduate school, I honed my understanding of geospatial analysis and environmental justice to understand how to use my skills to serve the public. Today, I am realizing my passions in the floodplain management space.

EXPERIENCE

MAY 2022 - PRESENT
The Polis Center
Indianapolis, IN

GIS ANALYST

As a member of the Geoinformatics team, I work on the FEMA Risk MAP program. This initiative is focused on updating flood maps in Indiana counties and is a collaboration between Polis and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

SEPT 2021 - APR 2022
US Forest Service, Geospatial Technology & Applications Center
Salt Lake City, UT (Remote)

VSFS INTERN

At GTAC, I interpreted over 300 plots across the Island of Hawaii for the Landscape Change Monitoring System (LCMS) project, a remote sensing-based system for mapping and monitoring changes related to vegetation change, land cover and land use.

JUNE 2021 - APR 2022
US EPA, Climate Science & Impacts Branch
Washington, D.C. (Remote)

PATHWAYS INTERN

At CSIB I supported the communication team's development of content for the main climate change webpage, and updated sector and region-specific climate impacts information. I also conducted an analysis on vulnerability to extreme heat in four US cities using information from the Climate Indicator project.

EDUCATION

AUG 2020 - APR 2022
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

M.S. GEOSPATIAL DATA SCIENCE

As a graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Environment and Sustainability I took a variety of courses relating to GIS, remote sensing, data analysis, climate adaptation, and ecology. My research and thesis focused on flood risk and social vulnerability in the contiguous United States.

AUG 2016 - MAY 2020
Columbia University
New York, NY

B.S. EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

My undergraduate studies were primarily focused on water resource management and climate risk. Outside of classes, I was a member of the Columbia Space Initiative's rocketry team and instructor in Sprout Up, an environmental education program for 1st & 2nd grade students.

AWARDS

Awards & Fellowships

- Dow Sustainability Fellow (2021)
- UNCF STEM Scholar (2016)
- Ron Brown Captain (2016)

SKILLS

- ArcGIS Pro ●●●●○
- QGIS ●●●●○
- ERDAS Imagine ●●●○○
- Python ●●●○○
- R ●●●○○