

## XIANG ZHAO

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/xiang-zhao-4ba08113a/>

Bio Page: <https://wilsonconservationecology.com/our-people/labmembers/xiang-zhao/>

+61 0427 878 046

x36.zhao@hdr.qut.edu.au

### EDUCATION

---

- 06/2021 - 2024**      **HDR Student (Conservation Science)**  
Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia
- Thesis Topic:** Conservation Planning in Terrestrial Antarctica in a Changing Climate
- Details:** This ongoing PhD project aims at using conservation planning and decision-making theory to form resources prioritization for conserving biodiversity in terrestrial Antarctica. The planned four chapters of this research include (1) human activity distribution model; (2) cost-effective biodiversity monitoring design; (3) climate change adaptation and climate resilience; and (4) agile governance.
- Supervisor:** Prof. Kerrie Wilson (principal) and Prof. Michael Bode
- 
- 07/2013 - 07/2017**      **Bachelor of Environmental Engineering**  
Dalian University of Technology, Dalian, China  
Environmental Engineering, top 15%, GPA 84.6/100
- Thesis Topic:** **Copper-based Catalysts for Selective Catalytic Oxidation of Ammonia**
- Details:** This project was conducted in the Key Laboratory of Industrial Ecology and Environmental Engineering Industrial at the University. In this one-year graduation thesis, I investigated the performance of a series of copper-based catalysts to accelerate the reaction of selective catalytic oxidation of ammonia. Ammonia is a malodorous gas pollutant and a source of PM 2.5.
- Supervisor:** Prof. Zhenping Qu and Dr. Hui Wang

### SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

---

- Ecological modelling and statistical analysis in R
- Spatial mapping and analysis in R and ArcGIS Pro
- Field work: community household survey, stakeholder engagement, and field survey
- Environmental monitoring includes water quality, air quality, noise, environmental chemistry monitoring, etc.
- Project management
- Bilingual: Mandarin and English

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

- 2021**      **Research Assistant – Dr. Kathinka Fürst**
- Responsibilities:** I drafted a 34-page marine NGOs capacity building initiative proposal. This proposed project aims at building a regional platform to accelerate the career development of young leaders from local marine NGOs in China, India, and ASEAN countries. The proposal is available upon request.
- 
- 12/2017 - 12/2019**      **Team member – Overgrazing Livestock Problem in Panda Habitats Research Team (Four-people)**  
Biodiversity and Sustainability Lab, Duke Kunshan University, China
- Responsibilities:** This project includes one-year fieldwork and one-year desk work (data analysis and journal paper writing). We looked at the overgrazing livestock problem in Panda's habitats located in Southwestern China. We worked with the local community and conducted household surveys to understand the history, future, and drivers of this problem. My responsibilities have included:
- writing project proposal for funding application
  - managing finance and liability of the project's funding
  - fieldwork planning and data collection, community survey design and digitalization, and volunteer team management
  - analyzing data and writing a journal paper
- 
- 10/2017**      **Intern - School of Environment, Tsinghua University, Shijiazhuang**
- Responsibilities:** The project I worked on was "PM 2.5 sources census in Hebei Province". My responsibilities have included:
- working with researchers from Tsinghua University, Nankai University, and government servants of Shijiazhuang Environmental Protection Bureau to build a census system of PM 2.5 sources in Shijiazhuang city
  - providing technical support to two counties of Shijiazhuang city to complete the census.

**2014 - 2016**      **Research Assistant – Key Laboratory of Industrial Ecology and Environmental Engineering, Dalian**  
**Responsibilities:** In this three-year lab work, I studied the performance of copper-based catalysts in selective catalytic oxidation of ammonia. This study aims at using cheap metal (base metal) to make catalysts to eliminate ammonia in industrial gas emissions. My graduation thesis for my bachelor's degree was developed from this work.

**01/2017 - 03/2017**      **Research Intern - The Nature Conservancy, Beijing**  
**Responsibilities:** The project I worked on was "River Health". This project aims at introducing and building a river health assessment system to evaluate the ecosystem health of two main rivers in China. My responsibilities have included:

- analyzing China's policies of retirement of small hydroelectric power plants.
- collecting and analyzing worldwide good practices of river health assessment and drafting 20,000 words report.
- organizing a team to translate a 12,000 words project proposal from Chinese to English.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

**08/19 – 06/21**      **Backpacking in Australia**  
**Responsibilities:** Travelled, worked, and volunteered in Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Queensland

**01/18 - 05/19**      **Assistant program coordinator – Department of Executive Education and Government Training, Duke Kunshan University, China**  
**Responsibilities:** In this position, I had two roles. One role was independently coordinating environmental protection training programs for NGOs, the private sector, and governments. Another role was supporting business non-degree executive education programs. In this position, I have:

- Coordinated environmental protection training programs, including:
  - [The Blue Pioneer Program](#) is a 2-year marine NGOs training program, funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (the U.S.), the Paradise Foundation and the Yintai Foundation (China). Trainees and the academic supervisor of this program were received by the King and Queen of Norway in October 2018 in Shanghai.
  - The Energy Observer Youth Field Trip Program funded by a China Southern Power Grid Company Limited
- Coordinated training programs under cooperation with the national and local level governments, including:
  - The sustainable development of western China under the One Belt and One Road context workshop, held by the National Development and Reform Commission of China and DKU.
- Supported executive education programs, worked with customers from Boeing, Roche, Shenzhen Airport.
- Communicated and cooperated with stakeholders from academics, NGOs, and private sectors.
- Recruited, trained, and supervised more than 10 interns.

**06/2017 - 09/2017**      **Intern - Master of Environmental Policy Program, Duke Kunshan University, China**  
**Responsibilities:** During my internship, I independently designed and coordinated a two-week summer camp for recruiting purposes which received hundreds of applications. And I also supported a governmental forum and several training programs.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

---

**08/2015**      **Volunteer - World Economic Forum, Dalian Summer Davos, China**

**03/2015 - 07/2015**      **Team Member - Care for Autism Team, AIESEC DUT, Dalian, China**  
**Responsibilities:** We were a six-people team aiming at raising the awareness of the public to help autistic kids and their families. The geographical scope of this project is within Dalian City, Liaoning Province, China. My responsibilities have included:

- working with autism care organizations to design social integration activities for kids and their family
- recruiting volunteers and helping them to design special events for kids and their family
- working with volunteers and the team to raise funds for autism care organizations

## **CONFERENCE, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

---

**06/2021 - Now**      **QUT Postgraduates Research Award Scholarship and QUT HDR Tuition Fee Sponsorship, the Queensland University of Technology, Australia**

**07/2019**      **USD 1,475 (2,000 AUD), Travel Grant from the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation and Conservation**

**Leadership Program of Birdlife International, UK**

I have received this travel grant to attend the 29<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Conservation Biology in Malaysia.

**2018**

**£10,000 (17,570 AUD), Young Conservation Leadership Award 2018, Birdlife International, UK**

Our four-people team and our “Protect giant panda habitat from overgrazing in Pingwu County, China” was selected as one of the ten projects in 2018 globally.

**2014 - 2016**

**RMB 10,000 (2,000 AUD), National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Training Program, China**

I have received this grant to support my research on the copper-based catalyst.

**05/2016**

**Academic Visiting - The University of Kitakyushu, Japan**

I visited the University of Kitakyushu and gave a talk on using copper--based catalysts to deal with industrial waste gas pollution.