

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME **SCHAFFNER MONIKA, DR.**

DATE OF BIRTH September 22, 1975
in Kathmandu/Nepal

NATIONALITY Swiss

ADDRESS Tannenbühlweg 2
3652 Hilterfingen
Switzerland

PHONE SWITZERLAND +41 79 325 6555

PHONE NEPAL +977 9810 273742

EMAIL connect@monikaschaffner.biz

SKYPE schaffnermonika



EDUCATION

09/2003 - 12/2007

**University of Bern, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research NCCR North-South:
PhD in Integrative Geography (Dr. phil.-nat.)**

PhD thesis: A Material Flow Analysis to Assess River Water Quality Degradation and Mitigation Potentials in Developing and Transitional Countries. A Case Study in Thachin River Basin, Thailand.

- *Project manager Thachin River Basin project:* Applied research, designed and implemented in collaboration between the Department of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries SANDEC at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology EAWAG and the Asian Institute of Technology AIT in Bangkok.
- *Research team leader and capacity building:* Four Master students of University of Bern and AIT, research and field assistants. Coordination of research work, supervision and guidance in study design, methodology, analysis and writing.
- *3 years working residence in Bangkok:* Office space with the NCCR team at AIT.
- *Study:* Analysis of nutrient pollution in a lowland river system in Central Thailand via a nutrient flow model: Model setup, secondary/tertiary data compilation, expert consultation workshops with government officials and researchers, modeling (current state, mitigation scenarios). Presentations at scientific conferences (Thailand; Nepal; Vietnam) and at meetings with the Thai government.
- *Results:* Key nutrient pollution sources are intensive aquaculture and rice farming, pig farming is relevant in regional hotspots. Effective mitigation potentials: Improved aquaculture sludge / drainage management; balanced fertilizing on rice.
- *Within SANDEC:* Broad insight into WASH / environmental sanitation technologies. *Within the NCCR network:* Interdisciplinary and intercultural knowledge exchange.

09/1996 - 01/2003

University of Bern: Master of Science in Geography (Liz. phil.-nat.)

Minor degree in Religions Science. Exam theme: Buddhism in the Himalayas

Minor degree in General Ecology. Exam theme: Sustainable Tourism in the Himalayas

Master thesis: Drinking Water Quality Assessment & Improvement in Jhikhu Khola Watershed, Nepal.

- *Research project manager:* Study design, field survey and data analysis within the framework of the People & Resource Dynamics in Mountain Watersheds of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas PARDYP project at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD.
- *Fieldwork implementation and coordination* with a team of field assistants; tandem with students of Kathmandu University (complementary study objectives).
- *1 year working residence in Kathmandu:* Office space as part of PARDYP at ICIMOD.

- *Study:* Field survey of local water supply systems (traditional springs, taps, dug wells, rainwater harvesting; 39 sites; three sampling periods over one year). Methodology based on the WHO Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality: Interviews with local water users, sanitary site inspection, water analysis for microbiological & physio-chemical quality; dissemination of results to local communities and district government agencies through individual feedback, report sheets and workshops.
- *Results:* High microbiological contamination in pre- and monsoon and at traditional springs. Rainwater harvesting jars provide potentially best quality if well maintained. Key contamination causes: Water extraction by unclean buckets, surface pollution seepage, inadequate sealing. Remediation measures: Hygiene awareness-raising, improved site protection, water treatment in case of elevated risk.
- *Knowledge exchange* with practitioners (SKAT, SKH, ENPHO, CEWAT) and researchers (ICIMOD, Kathmandu University, University of Bern).

08/1990 – 06/1995

Gymnasium Neufeld (Matura Typus B - Languages), Bern

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

07/2017 - current

Company founding: connecting spaces

01/2017 - 09/2018

Association for the Protection of Shorelines of Lakes Thun & Brienz: Mandate as Head Office Manager, Thun (15%)

Project management and coordination, strategy development, contacts management (media, sponsors, partners), fundraising, marketing, design and organization of events.

11/2016 - 08/2017

Topthesis.ch: Lector/editor for scientific publications

Conceptualizing, editing and proofreading support for Bachelor-, Master- and PhD-theses.

09/2016 - current

Meteotest: Business development & sourcing of new projects in Nepal

In the fields of weather forecast, wind & solar power potential, air pollution control.

09/2016 - 12/2016

Kam For Sud: Project Mandate in Upper Mustang, Nepal

Upper Mustang Climate Change Adaptation Project: Field visit, participatory selection of adaptive measures, design of a fruit orchard including irrigation system and marketing.

07/2016 - 08/2018

Expert/Examiner for the Swiss Federal Vocational School Leaving Examinations

Taking and grading written and oral exams in the subject of Ecology (70 candidates/year).

03/2016 - 04/2016

R. & U. Schaffner (Engineering, Development, Environment): Editing support

Phase I Report: Developing a participatory approach for roadside protection in Nepal.

01/2016 - 06/2016

Sabbatical period to assess & develop my future field of professional activity.

05/2014 - 12/2015

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Water Division, Water Quality Section, Bern: Senior Project Manager (80%)

- *Co-Team leader for the National Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program:* Responsible for strategy development, program management and coordination, evaluation, reporting. Chair of two national expert working groups with national/cantonal government actors, researchers and contracted experts.
- *Co-responsibility for the Section's strategic and budget planning (2 Mio. CHF/yr):* Budget planning and overview, preparation of calls, negotiation and conclusion of contracts, project monitoring, quality assurance of timing, reporting and outputs.
- *Coordination of the Section's strategic communication* to decision-makers and the public: Compilation, co-editing and revision of thematic publications and State-of-Environment reports (print/online), in collaboration with the technical experts.
- *Continued:* National Reference Centre NRC for Water to the European Environment Agency EEA (see below); chair of thematic international workshop focus-sessions.

- 06/2008 - 04/2014 **FOEN, Water Division, Water Management Section, Bern: Project Manager (75%)**
- *NRC for Water to the EEA*: Ensuring visibility, and fulfillment of Swiss requirements within the European Environment Information and Observation Network EIONET.
 - *Coordination of Swiss data reporting to the EEA*: Data acquisition, compilation and methodological adaptation, in collaboration with data owners from FOEN, other federal and cantonal agencies, water associations, researchers, private consultants.
 - *Reporting on Swiss compliance under the WHO Protocol on Water & Health*.
 - *Coordination and compilation of the Water Chapter of the biannual State of Environment Report* (print/online features) for the Water Division, as a thematically overarching responsibility across a team of 40 colleagues.
 - *Task Group Leader for Bathing Water Quality Assessment*: Development of Swiss guidelines in accordance with the EU Bathing Water Directive, with the Federal Office for Public Health and cantonal counterparts (methodology, implementation).
 - *Project manager, contract leader*: Development of a Swiss River Typology.
 - *Member of the working group*: Integrated Water Management in Switzerland.
- 01/2008 - 03/2008 **University of Bern: Short-term contract as a research assistant (100%)**
Revision and editing of journal articles on methodology and results of PhD thesis.
- 03/2002 - 08/2003 **Evaluationen (Environment consulting), Bern: Scientific employee (20 - 40%)**
Policy evaluation, environmental monitoring and awareness-building projects.
- 09/1996 - 08/2003 **U. Schaffner & Assoc. (Engineering, Development, Environment): Employee (10%)**
Administrative support; insight into environmentally sound road construction and bio-engineering projects in developing countries (Nepal, Bhutan, Ethiopia).
- 11/2001 **Bhutan Water Partnership, Bhutan: Internship (100%)**
Assessment of the set-up of the national river water quality monitoring program.
- 06/1999 - 06/2000 **Puls (Environment consulting), Bern: Scientific employee (20 - 30%)**
Landscape & biodiversity conservation projects (literature review, interviews, reports).
- 08/1995 - 10/1995 **Swiss Centre for Applied Ecology Schattweid, Wolhusen: Internship (100%)**
Insight into applied environmental projects (soil fertility, environmental sanitation).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 11/2015 - 12/2015 *Führen in der Stabs- & Projektleitung* (5 days): **Administrative and project leadership**
- 09/2015 *Effizientes Netzwerken* (1 day): Efficient professional **networking**
- 06/2014 - 11/2014 *Vorbereitung auf die Führung* (5 days): Basic **principles of leadership**
- 06/2013 - 10/2013 *Der Schritt in die Führung* (4 days): Introduction to **leadership, professional assessment**
- 05/2012 *Geschickt verhandeln & argumentieren* (2 days): **Negotiation** and chairmanship
- 02/2012 - 03/2012 *Auftrittskompetenz im Beruf* (1.5 days): Competences in **professional expression**
- 06/2011 *Bundesrats- & Parlamentsgeschäfte* (1 day): Affairs of the Federal Council & Parliament
- 04/2011 *Briefe & E-mails formulieren* (1 day): Skills in **written correspondence** (letters, emails)
- 01/2011 *Projektmanagement* (2 days): Principles in **project management**
- 03/2009 *Ganzheitlich kommunizieren* (3 days): **Holistic communication** in a professional context
- 06/2006 / 08/2004 *Integrated Training Courses in Sustainable Development, NCCR North-South: Vientiane/Laos* (5 days) and *Schwarzsee/CH* (5 days): Knowledge exchange; creating added-value for **projects in the interdisciplinary global setting** of NCCR North-South.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

- 07/2016 - 08/2018 **Firewoman** at schamanic rituals (visionquests, sweatlodges)
- 11/2013 - present Practice in **alternative healing**: Hawaiian Lomi Lomi Nui massage
- 05/2007 - 05/2011 **Long-distance running** (Alpine Half- / Marathons)
- 08/1999 - 11/2002 **Board member of WWF - Cantonal Division, Bern**
Insight into political lobbying; organization of public events (e.g. sponsoring races).
- 05/1994 - 11/1998 **Member of the Swiss National Athletes Team in Orienteering**
Junior World Championships 1995; World University Championships 1996, 1998.
- 08/1986 - present **Member of the Swiss-Nepalese Society**
Interest in this social, cultural and information exchange due to my birth and childhood in Nepal, which included primary schooling in the American International Lincoln School.

LANGUAGES

- German** (native proficiency)
- English** (full professional proficiency)
- French** (professional working proficiency)
- Nepali** (working proficiency)
- Spanish** (elementary proficiency)
- Thai** (basics)