

# Chima C. Okpa

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## EDUCATION

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M.P.S., Geospatial Information Science  
Current University of Maryland

B.S., Geographical Information Systems  
December 2015 University of Maryland

### Selected Coursework:

Global Poverty and Economic Development, Statistics, Microeconomics, Geographic Information Systems & Spatial Analysis, Remote Sensing: Digital Processing & Analysis, Computer Programming

### Research Experience:

June 2015-July 2015

- Participated in the University of Maryland College Park Summer Research Initiative (SRI)
- Interpreted 30m Landsat imagery to determine land cover change across a temporal scale; utilized data to validate the accuracy of forest monitoring systems; Supervised by Matthew Hansen Ph.D.
- Drafted a paper titled “Deforestation Monitoring in Rondônia (Brazil), 2001-2013.”
- Presented at the SRI Symposium
  - “Deforestation Monitoring in Rondônia (Brazil), 2001-2013.”

## SKILLS

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**Foreign Language:** Spanish (novice), Hebrew (novice)

**Technical:** ESRI ArcGIS Pro, PCI Geomatica, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Python Programming, Earth Engine, LAStools, Image Classification, Cartography, QGIS, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, Bootstrap

**Membership:** American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Tyukavina A., Hansen M.C., Potapov P.V., Stehman S.V., Smith-Rodriguez K., **Okpa C.**, Aguilar R. (2017) Types and rates of forest disturbance in Brazilian Legal Amazon, 2000-2013. Science Advances, vol. 3, no. 4, e1601047.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Global Land Analysis and Discovery Lab (G.L.A.D.)**

July 2016 – Present

Faculty Specialist

- Update land cover classification for FAO ‘Global Land Cover SHARE database’ to harmonize global land cover definitions
- Use of Landsat & MODIS imagery and NDVI to determine agricultural expansion in Brazilian tropical rainforest
- Disturbance recognition of primary, secondary, woodland, and plantation land cover in Cameroon and DRC

**Earth Data Incorporated, Chestertown, Maryland**

February 2016 – April 2016

GIS Analyst

- Identification and digitization of key map features using ArcGIS ArcEditor tools
- Performed detailed attribution of features from panchromatic image and city contour maps
- Successfully used image analysis to classify buildings of interest, physical landforms, and boundaries across high density areas
- Conducted spatial review and daily self QC to maintain accuracy and precision of work

**Department of Geographical Sciences, College Park, Maryland**

June 2015 – August 2015

Remote Sensing Intern

- Analyzed Landsat imagery to identify areas of deforestation across study area
- Statistical analysis of simple random sample of pixels classified as 'forest loss' and 'no forest loss'
- Conducted quality analysis of data sets using Excel
- Cross validated satellite products GFW and PRODES to distinguish potential discrepancies
- Detected trends based on cultural, spatial and temporal patterns

**Office of Enrollment Services & Operations, College Park, Maryland**

October 2014 - May 2015

Data Entry Assistant

- Cross analyzed student data records in OPTIX database
- Approved applicant document for processing
- Managed the flow of sensitive documents

**WindAid Institute, Trujillo, Peru**

August 2014

Project Intern

- Effectively collaborated with engineers and project managers to improve renewable energy
- Applied wind energy to provide a reliable source of electricity to developing communities in Peru
- Designed, assembled, and installed wind generators in fisherman community
- Educated the local public about green technology and the benefits of clean renewable energy

**LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Bethel Campus Fellowship, University of Maryland College Park**

September 2012 – May 2014

*Executive Board Member*

- Coordinated campus events of over 300 attendees
- Related with individuals of diverse cultures

*Treasurer*

- Supervised and presented budgets, accounts and financial statements to the Executive Board
- Presented revised financial forecasts based on actual spending

**Terp Service Park Restoration, Hyattsville, MD**

May 2014

- Aided in the installation of a rain garden
- Collaborated with a team in the removal of non-native invasive species