**Francesca Anne Ridley (Chess)**

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**Bio**

I first became interested in academic research while studying for my FGASA Level 1, entry level field guiding qualification in South Africa. My research interests broadly span the global human activities that threaten species with extinction and the role of policy in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss. Specific projects have covered international trade in endangered species, tropical deforestation, and mapping the threats to species globally.

My current PhD research explores how knowledge on threats to species is distributed geographically and methodologically, comparing research need with research effort to highlight biases and gaps in the evidence base. Furthermore, I examine the mechanisms by which evidence is used to inform decision-making in conservation policy and practice, with the aim of smoothing the movement of knowledge across the science-policy interface.

**Skills**
I have developed a range of qualitative and quantitative skills during my training and research practice including: linear mixed effects models, GLMM, structural equation modelling, multivariate modelling, text-mining, sentiment analysis and topic modelling, machine learning, and spatial mapping and geocomputation using R, QGIS, and ArcGIS.

**Publications:**

Ridley, F.A., McGowan, P.J. and Mair, L., 2020. The scope and extent of literature that maps threats to species: a systematic map protocol. Environmental Evidence, 9(1), pp.1-9.

\*Mair, L., \*Ridley, F.A., Fleming, L.V. and McGowan, P.J., 2019. A risk assessment framework to improve the efficiency of CITES. Biological Conservation, 239, p.108260. \*Shared first authorship