

Curriculum vitae

SCB Officer candidate – Secretary for Global Board of Governors

MARIT L WILKERSON, PhD

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Policy advisor and conservation scientist connecting people with nature with fourteen years combined training and experience in conservation ecology and socio-economic development as a donor, policy advisor, researcher, communicator, and practitioner across three continents

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Washington, DC

Climate Smart Agriculture Specialist in Bureau for Food Security

Jan 2017-present

Portfolio centers on global science policy issues and programming needs for effective integration of climate change into food security efforts. Focus on decision-making, adoption, and behavioral change

EDUCATION

PhD

University of California, Davis, Graduate Group in Ecology, 2007-2013.

Dissertation title: "Invasive plants in conservation linkages: from conceptual model to understanding real-world patterns"

Conservation Management training certificate, completed in 2011

BS/BA

University of Texas, Austin, Biology with a focus in Ecology, Evolution & Behavior/Plan II Honors, both summa cum laude & Phi Beta Kappa, 2002-2006

RECENT EMPLOYMENT

United States Agency for International Development

Washington, DC

Environmental Advisor for Bureau for Africa

Sept 2016-Jan 2017

United States Agency for International Development

Washington, DC

Climate Change Advisor for Bureau for Africa and AAAS S&T Policy Fellow

Sept 2014-Aug 2016

University of California

Davis, CA and

University of Queensland

Brisbane, AUS

Research Associate & Visiting Research Fellow

Sept 2013-Aug 2014

University of California

Davis, CA

Research Fellow & PhD Candidate

Sept 2007 - Aug 2013

SELECTED SERVICE

Interim Secretary for Board of Governors, Society for Conservation Biology

2015-present

Founding member of Urban Conservation Working Group, SCB

2016-present

Co-Chair, AAAS Fellows Biodiversity Affinity Group

2015-2016

Co-Chair, Scientific Committee, ICCB 2015, SCB

2014-2015

Financial Officer (current), SCB Chapters Committee

2012-present

Prior position: Conference Coordinator

Group mentor, Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship

2008-2012

President (final position), SCB-Davis Chapter

2007-2012

Prior positions: Executive Planning Committee member for NACCB 2012; Vice-President, Secretary & Volunteer Coordinator

Marit Wilkerson, PhD
CV

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

2014 Urban conservation, socioeconomics, and ecosystem services (global concepts)
2010-2012 Content analysis and targeted interviews on wildlife corridors in conservation planning (USA) and on skills for non-academic conservation careers (USA)
2009-2013 Matrix effects on invasive plants in large-scale conservation linkages (Riverside & San Diego Counties, CA)
2009-2013 Landscape ecology of invasive plants in agricultural hedgerows (Yolo County, CA)
2009-2011 Climate change vulnerability analysis (Willamette Valley, OR)
2008-2013 Restoration of native forbs for pollinator services (Yolo County, CA)
2007-2012 Trophic interactions in working landscape (Laikipia District, Kenya)
2005 Demographic study of invasive plant species (Harvard Forest, MA)

SELECTED COMMUNICATIONS and OUTREACH

“Development, Rwanda, and Agricultural Innovations.” 2016. **Day-long hackathon** co-facilitated with USAID Senior Scientist for senior industrial design students, James Madison Univ, Harrisonburg, VA.
“Pathways to Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa.” 2016. [Symposium](#) co-organized with Integra, LLC and the Wilson Center, Wilson Center, Washington, DC.
“Different Ways of Knowing: Faith and climate change, morality and conservation.” 2015. [Blog entry](#) published on Sci on the Fly, AAAS S&T Policy Fellow science & science policy blog.
“Processes and ideas to affect local change for conservation.” 2015. **Invited presentation** for [SCB](#) policy webinar series, online.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Ten completed and *in review* publications across 9 peer-reviewed journals, 1 book chapter, and multiple white papers for development organizations & conservation NGO’s
Public presentations given regularly primarily in int’l forums, e.g., since 2014, 7 invited talks given via [SCB](#) conferences, CSIRO offices, int’l development symposia, universities, and webinars

RELEVANT SKILLS

Strategic planning & organizing: Rigorous training in theory of change, logical frameworks & results chains for implementation planning; stakeholder engagement processes & techniques; Planning, organizing & running small (<20 attendees) to large (<1000 attendees) conferences & workshops

Financial: Budget planning & management up to \$2 million; Grant & contract development and evaluation; Fundraising solicitations & coordination

Management: Tracking and overseeing progress of individuals across concurrent projects; Advanced project design & management training and experience; Advanced ability to develop and communicate vision of mission and implementation

Communication: Advanced science communications, inc. social and mass media & research translation for public audiences; Basic cinematography; Intermediate creative writing

Language: Advanced Spanish (writing, reading, and speaking)