

CURRICULUM VITAE

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dr. Andrew Taber is experienced in leading and inspiring biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, capacity building, and policy strengthening initiatives around the world. He currently heads an international non-governmental organization working in remote mountain regions to protect the environment, build climate change resilience, improve local livelihoods, and sustain indigenous cultures. He has directed forestry programs in climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable forest management, and impacts of international trade and investment. Accomplishments include guiding the creation of globally important protected areas and private reserve networks. He is a scientific authority on Neotropical wildlife, ecosystems, and landscapes with experience spanning terrestrial and marine systems. Dr. Taber has broad skills in natural resource management, particularly in consort with native peoples; and has worked with local and national governments, as well as international agencies and processes, to improve environmental and development policy. His leadership, administrative, and fundraising experience spans non-governmental and international research organizations. He has managed grant programs and innovative finance initiatives with the private sector. Dr. Taber has trained and mentored conservation and development practitioners, researchers, and students; and bolstered and learned from indigenous leaders and holders of traditional knowledge.

LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2011-Present, Executive Director. The Mountain Institute (TMI). Based in Washington, D.C. USA with offices in Kathmandu, Nepal, and Lima, Peru. Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Work with the Trustees to set institutional strategy, build organizational resources, communicate program activities and accomplishments, assure financial and professional integrity, and maintain an active and engaged board.
- ❖ Build organizational visibility and promote The Mountain Institute's voice in protecting mountain ecosystems, revitalizing communities, and sustaining cultures in a fast changing world.
- ❖ Collaborate with the international community to advance the mountain conservation and sustainable development agenda at local, national, and global levels (UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc.), and through the Mountain Partnership—The Mountain Institute currently chairs the Steering Committee.
- ❖ Oversee building and maintenance of partnerships with local communities, governments, the research community, other non-governmental organizations (e.g., local to IUCN), and international agencies (e.g., FAO, UNEP, UNDP).
- ❖ Work with staff and the Trustees to lead and execute strategies to enhance funding for projects, programs, and non-restricted uses.
- ❖ Oversee and support program directors and staff in the execution of projects, assuming responsibility for results, effectiveness, and accountability to donors as well as to mountain community beneficiaries. Measure the effectiveness of the Institute's work on an ongoing basis, reporting quantitative and qualitative results to donors and the Trustees.
- ❖ Foster open, constructive relationships and communication between headquarters staff, field-based staff, and Trustees and advance the sharing of ideas, concerns, and commitment for the Institute's values and mission. Lead recruiting, training, and career development for staff. Foster an atmosphere of collegiality, participation, equal opportunity, and merit-based advancement.

2010-2011, Deputy Director General. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). Based in Jakarta, Indonesia. Responsibilities included:

- ❖ Leadership and management of global forestry research programs on climate change mitigation and adaptation, livelihoods of forest dependent people (including tenure and rights), forest resource management, impacts of international trade and investment, and biodiversity conservation and development trade-offs.
- ❖ Supported Director General in oversight, monitoring, evaluation, and operational guidance of projects in over 30 countries and *ca.* 180 staff.
- ❖ Oversaw alignment with the center's strategies, change management, and science quality.
- ❖ Ensured impact orientation of research, including supervision and coordination of ex-ante and ex-post impact assessment of projects.
- ❖ Institutional representation and engagement with over 70 partners, including national governments, research institutes, and international and civil society organizations.
- ❖ Supervised annual planning processes and associated monitoring and reporting systems.
- ❖ Organized and supported meetings of the Program Committee of CIFOR's Board as well as the annual staff meeting.
- ❖ Represented and promoted CIFOR in national, regional, and international fora.
- ❖ Contributed to resource mobilization, donor cultivation, and identification of funding prospects.
- ❖ Oversaw research support from information services, human resources and finance and administration units; as well as provided leadership and direction to regional offices.
- ❖ Coordinated design of a transformational forest management and conservation research program (*ca.* US\$70 million/year) linking four CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) centers and numerous external partners.

2005-2009, Executive Vice President for Programs. Wildlife Trust (WT). Based in New York.

Responsibilities included:

- ❖ Coordinated and oversaw applied research, training, outreach, management and policy initiatives. Key programs included marine mammal conservation in the US and Caribbean; conservation medicine, ecological health and emerging diseases; and applied conservation biology.
- ❖ Coordinated the Wildlife Trust Alliance, a network of local conservation practitioners and non-governmental organizations from fifteen countries around the globe (Americas, Africa, Asia), in its work to conserve nature through innovative science, landscape conservation, policy, education and capacity building. Initiatives included development of red-list criteria for ecosystems for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Mentees included one Cosmos Prize and three Rolex and eight Whitley Award winners, among other international recognitions.
- ❖ Strengthened biodiversity conservation training programs in twelve developing world universities, and supervised and mentored graduate students.
- ❖ Undertook biodiversity conservation and sustainable development program assessments.
- ❖ Represented WT in fora, alliances, and coalitions including the Consortium for Conservation Medicine and IUCN's World Conservation Congress; as well as served on the board of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) based at Columbia University.
- ❖ Oversaw program management, provided board stewardship (*e.g.*, Program Committee), coordinated program evaluations and led strategic planning teams.

2003-2005, Director, Amazonian Conservation Network. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Based in Brazil. Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- ❖ Designed and implemented a six-country network spanning major wildlands conservation projects across the greater Amazon and tropical Andes to improve conservation practice through sharing lessons learned, developing conservation tools, applying adaptive management (for wildlife and landscapes), community-based approaches, and promoting policy change.
- ❖ Supported seven landscape conservation projects covering 220,000 km² in Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela.

2003, Coordinator of Brazil Program. WCS. Based in Brazil. Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- ❖ Supported site-based conservation programs for the Mamirauá and Amanã Sustainable Development Reserves in Amazonas State—a global benchmark for community-based approaches for conservation and development.
- ❖ Provided guidance and support for the creation of the 14,000 km² Piagaçu-Purus Sustainable Development Reserve, Amazonas.
- ❖ Expanded conservation programs in the Pantanal focused on reconciling human-jaguar conflict, carnivore conservation, and sustainable ranching.
- ❖ Coordinated in-country institutional registration, established country-program office, and hired core staff.

1998-2003, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Program. WCS. Based in New York.

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- ❖ Supervised, managed, and administered a complex biodiversity, wildlife and wildlands conservation program with some 70 projects in 17 countries, over 200 field staff, and many institutional partnership (*e.g.*, with indigenous peoples' organizations).
- ❖ Worked to conserve wildlife and wildlands over a total project area of 250,000 km², including some of the most biologically diverse areas in the Neotropics.
- ❖ Led design and implementation of regional strategic planning processes.
- ❖ Co-led design team to establish WCS's flagship Living Landscapes Program.
- ❖ Restructured regional program into five management units: Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, Northern Andes, Brazil, Central Andes, and Southern Cone.
- ❖ Launched conservation initiatives for the Patagonian steppe, Amazon-Andes, SW Atlantic marine system and a global capacity-building support program for local non-governmental organizations.
- ❖ Over five years tripled annual operating budget from US\$2.3 to 7 million.
- ❖ Participated in numerous strategic planning, conservation application, and wildlife research workshops and meetings.
- ❖ Program representation to the media, donors, government officials, and institutional partners.

1990-1998, Bolivia Country Program Director. WCS. Based in Bolivia. Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- ❖ Establishment, in-country registration, staffing, and management of the Bolivia Program.
- ❖ Led Bolivian Government and Izoceño native people team, with GEF support, to design and establish the Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park (34,400 km²; *ca.* 44,000 km² with indigenous managed territorial lands). At the time of establishment, this was the third largest protected area in the Western Hemisphere and one of the first to be fully co-managed by indigenous people.
- ❖ Designed and led community-based natural resource and protected area management, conservation education, and capacity-building program for the Gran Chaco involving 7,000 Native Americans from three indigenous groups.
- ❖ Led applied research and management program to conserve ungulates, carnivores, and primates in strict protected areas, private logging concessions, ranches, and Indigenous community lands.
- ❖ Led design team and supervised applied research to mitigate impacts of logging on wildlife as part of the USAID funded BOLFOR sustainable forestry project.
- ❖ Led development of mitigation measures for the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline including establishing a trust fund for the Kaa-Iya Park and a technical assistance and land-titling program for native peoples.
- ❖ Led biodiversity conservation training program that supported over 40 senior theses, five M.Sc. students and three Ph.D. students over eight years.
- ❖ Led integrated management planning team for the Rios Blanco y Negro Wildlife Reserve (with Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza).
- ❖ Advised the Bolivian government's National Protected Areas System and General Directorate for Biodiversity on programs, laws, and policies related to biodiversity, forestry, protected areas, wildlife management, and community-based conservation.

1987-1990, Research Fellow, Chacoan Peccary Conservation Program. WCS. Based in Paraguay.

Responsibilities and accomplishments included:

- ❖ Undertook the first long-term ecological field study and range-wide status survey on the Chacoan peccary in Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina.
- ❖ Developed a conservation action plan for Chacoan peccary in Paraguay.
- ❖ Supported CITES Appendix I listing for the Chacoan Peccary.
- ❖ Member, Taguá Conservation Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Paraguay.
- ❖ Documented the biodiversity importance of the Gran Chaco, and promoted its conservation in the scientific and popular press.
- ❖ Guided establishment of private lands conservation program, Moisés Bertoni Foundation.
- ❖ Trained research assistants, led field courses and worked with local government and non-governmental organizations.

SHORT-TERM CONSULTANCIES AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- ❖ United Nations Development Program. Design team member for five-year project to strengthen Bolivia's protected areas. GEF and Swiss government funded (US\$8 million).
- ❖ Protected areas and wildlife management advisor, Defensores del Chaco National Park, Conservation Data Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Asunción, Paraguay.
- ❖ Led needs assessment for Esteros de Iberá Provincial Reserve, Corrientes, Argentina. WCS and Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina.
- ❖ Consultant behavioral ecologist for the Trials of Life Series, The Natural History Film Unit, BBC, Bristol, England.
- ❖ Behavioral ecology field study on the Mara (*Dolichotis patagonum*), Patagonia, Argentina. Doctoral thesis project, Oxford University, England.
- ❖ Numerous biodiversity surveys, rapid assessments, and wildlands expeditions across the Americas from Patagonia to Alaska.
- ❖ Applied research on wildlife management issues (e.g., bush meat use) and a wide variety of mammal and bird species including: ungulates (peccary, tapir and deer), large carnivores (jaguars), marine mammals, and seabirds.

MAJOR GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

- ❖ Currently oversee fundraising at The Mountain Institute that annually raises *ca.* US\$3 million from multi- and bi-lateral agencies, foundations, and other sources.
- ❖ Coordinated design and initial implementation of the CGIAR Research Program 6: Forests, Trees, and Agroforestry -- Livelihoods, Landscapes, and Governance. This is a ten-year program with an initial budget for the first three years of US\$232.9 million.
- ❖ Established Asian elephant conservation endowment at Wildlife Trust with an initial seed grant of US\$1 million.
- ❖ Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Establishing grant for WCS's Amazon-Andes Conservation Program. US\$7.7 million.
- ❖ USAID/Global Bureau. Co-led design team to establish WCS's Living Landscapes Program. US \$3.4 million.
- ❖ ENRON, SHELL, PETROBRAS, and World Bank. Mitigation of social and environmental impacts of the Bolivia-Brazil gas pipeline in the Gran Chaco. Advanced recognition of indigenous land rights and protected area co-management, and led to establishment of US\$1 million protected area endowment and US\$3 million indigenous people development fund.
- ❖ European Union. Madidi National Park Conservation Project, La Paz, Bolivia. WCS, CARE, and Institute of Ecology. €1 million.

- ❖ USAID/Bolivia. Kaa-Iya Project: Izoceño Capacity Building, Wildlife Conservation and Natural Resource Management, Bolivian Gran Chaco. US\$4 million.
- ❖ USAID/Bolivia: Wildlife component coordinator, Bolivian Sustainable Forest Management Project. With Chemonics, Tropical Research and Development and Conservation International. WCS subcontract US\$700,000.

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- ❖ Chair of the Steering Committee of the United Nation Mountain Partnership, an alliance of 57 countries and 215 NGOs, research centers, and other organizations dedicated to advancing mountain conservation and sustainable development.
- ❖ Member (ex-Chair), Peccary Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN.
- ❖ Member, Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas Specialist Group, World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN.
- ❖ Past positions: board member of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Earth Institute, Columbia University; Vice Chair of the Pigs, Peccaries and Hippos Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- ❖ D.Phil., Zoology, Balliol College, Oxford University, England.
- ❖ B.A. (Honors), Natural History and Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, California, USA.

PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA OUTREACH

I have authored over fifty publications including scientific articles (in high impact factors journals), book chapters, edited books, popular magazine articles, and technical reports (list available on request). In addition, I have given numerous presentations at international congresses, symposia and workshops; and have interacted with the media through interviews and press events.

PERSONAL

- ❖ United States Citizen.
- ❖ Married to Maria Dolores Ayerza (Argentine citizen, fine arts) with three daughters: Elisa (25), Maia (22), and Victoria (20).
- ❖ Language skills: English (native) and Spanish (fluent).