

TAYLOR S. COOK

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Science & Management, 3.9 GPA (June 2025)

Business & Sustainability and Conservation Planning Specialization

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Leadership: Net Impact, Master's Group Project Committee Student Representative

Highlighted Coursework: Carbon Accounting, Financial Management, Conservation Planning, Advanced Data Analysis, Business and Sustainability, GIS, Energy Economics & Markets.

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (May 2015)

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

SUSTAINABILITY & POLICY EXPERIENCE

Conservation Finance Alliance – Graduate Finance Associate, Remote (3/25–Present)

- Contribute to the development of a Nature Stewardship Certificate standard by conducting market research and assisting in framework development that aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Support the advancement of a Nature Market Accelerator by conducting a landscape analysis of startups and initiatives to inform proposal development and strategies to scale nature-positive finance.

UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute – Graduate Student Researcher, Santa Barbara, CA (8/24–3/25)

- Conducted GIS analysis, mapping, and interpretation of spatial data to understand California sandy beach and surf zone ecosystems, including key species distributions and climate change impacts.
- Used MaxEnt to run species distribution models for California grunion, leveraging citizen science data to predict habitat and distribution changes under future climate scenarios.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Private Sector Finance Graduate Intern, Remote (6/24–9/24)

- Conducted market research and benchmarking on sustainability commitments across global financial institutions, ensuring alignment with key reporting frameworks to inform team priorities and strategy.
- Prepared client-facing materials and drafted key deliverables to engage external stakeholders and support WWF's strategy on Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) Commodities.
- Performed due diligence and ecosystem research on financial institutions' corporate climate strategies and financed emissions disclosures, evaluating alignment with WWF's science-based climate goals.

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

Conservation Program Coordinator, Remote (9/23–7/24)

- Led the coordination of over 20 programmatic work plans and two strategic plans, ensuring alignment with stakeholder requirements, organizational priorities, and conservation objectives.
- Supported cross-functional coordination and budget progress tracking across program initiatives, applying project management skills critical to advancing conservation outcomes.
- Prepared and submitted grant reports and internal briefings, enabling effective monitoring, adaptive management, and proposal development across conservation initiatives.

Research Officer, Maui, HI (3/22–9/23)

- Led fieldwork and data analysis using Excel and programming software to monitor reductions in sediment and nutrient pollution in West Maui, contributing to conservation management.
- Drafted over 10 grant reports for major stakeholders, including NOAA, DOH, and NFWF, ensuring alignment with funding requirements and project progress for conservation initiatives.
- Established and maintained strategic partnerships with local communities, government agencies, and NGOs, enhancing cross-sector collaboration and shared environmental goals and initiatives.

APPLIED CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

East Maui Watershed Partnership – Field Assistant/GIS Technician, Makawao, HI (9/19–10/21)

- Utilized ArcGIS to analyze spatial data and meet monthly deliverables, collaborating with partner organizations to ensure timely project milestones and alignment with conservation goals.
- Developed detailed maps using ArcGIS and GPS to identify invasive species locations, providing critical insights for large-scale conservation planning and project implementation.

Blue Ventures – Marine Conservation Intern, Ataúro, Timor-Leste (10/19–12/19)

- Conducted scientific dive surveys and ecological monitoring across 10+ coral reef and seagrass habitats, gaining proficiency in species identification and diving protocols for local conservation planning.
- Supported community-based marine management by contributing to fisheries planning discussions, co-organizing beach clean-ups, and facilitating cross-cultural language exchanges.

Maui Invasive Species Committee – Invasive Species Field Associate, Hana, HI (8/18–1/19)

- Executed field operations and surveys to implement conservation management plans, focusing on invasive species eradication and aligning efforts with broader conservation goals.
- Maintained accurate records of treatment and control activities, utilizing GPS data for analysis to inform conservation planning and track project progress in line with long-term conservation objectives.

MASTER’S CAPSTONE PROJECT

A Bioeconomic Evaluation of Distant Water Fishing Management Strategies in Liberia (1/24–Present)

Role: Project Manager | **Client:** Conservation International

Perform a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate the market and non-market impacts of Distant Water Fishing in Liberia, analyzing economic and environmental trade-offs across scenarios to inform policy decisions.

GRADUATE COURSE PROJECTS

Projecting California Grunion Habitat and Distribution in a Changing Climate (9/24–12/24)

Developed species distribution models and habitat projections using citizen science and USGS sea-level rise data to assess California’s MPA network in conserving indicator species under different climate scenarios.

Carbon Footprint and Net Zero Strategy for Dune Coffee (9/24–12/24)

Led a GHG inventory (Scope 1–3) and developed a Net Zero strategy based on GHG Protocol standards, with emissions reduction pathways consistent with Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) guidance.

Can we rely on private capital markets to address environmental and social problems? (1/24–3/24)

This project examined whether private capital markets can drive positive environmental and social change, assessing the role of investor-driven funding in sustainability.

Discovering Biodiversity Credits - Master’s Business and the Environment Course Project (9/23–12/23)

Showcased analytical skills through interviews with industry experts, understanding biodiversity credit challenges, standardization, and identifying opportunities in the current market.

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Data Analysis & GIS: R programming, Quarto, ESRI ArcGIS, ArcGIS Story Maps, Github, QGIS, GHG Protocol

Technology & Management: Asana, GitHub, GaBi, Salesforce, Expensify, Smartsheet

Design & Communication: Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Photoshop, WordPress, Canva

Certifications: Modeling Risk and Uncertainty – eCornell University (2024); Financed Emissions: Hitting Targets While Not Missing the Point – FORVIS (2023); Resilience-Based Management Course – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (2023)