

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: Cabon Accounting, Monitoring & Evaluation, Conservation Planning, Advanced Data Analysis, Applied Population Ecology, GIS, Environmental Modeling.

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (May 2015)

Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conservation Finance Alliance – Graduate Finance Intern 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, with a focus on material sustainability, informing team priorities and engagement 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' sustainable finance initiatives, focusing on nature-related risk frameworks and aligning with WWF's 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 development and management of multi-million-dollar budgets, ensuring alignment with programmatic outcomes and optimizing resource allocation across teams.
- 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.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

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.

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 data and USGS CoSMoS outputs to assess California’s MPA network in conserving grunion under different climate scenarios.

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

Led a comprehensive carbon accounting analysis for a local coffee roaster, quantifying Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions to develop tailored net-zero recommendations aligned with sustainability goals.

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,

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)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

GreenBiz 25, Phoenix, AZ (2/25 – 2/25)

Blue Economy Summit, Santa Barbara, CA (1/25)

Maui Nui Makai Network, Hana, HI (7/18–7/23)

U.S. Forest Service, Cordova, AK (8/15)

Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova, AK (8/15)