

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: Venture Capital & Private Equity, Business and the Environment, Conservation Planning, Advanced Data Analysis, Financial Management, GIS, Carbon Accounting

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 research and assisting in framework development for conservation initiatives.
- Support the advancement of the Nature Market Accelerator, including proposal writing, stakeholder presentations, and strategic communications to advance conservation finance goals.

UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute – Graduate Student Researcher Remote (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)

- Produced in-depth research and benchmarking on sustainability commitments of major U.S. and select European financial institutions, informing team priorities and engagement strategy.
- Developed resources and drafted key deliverables (e.g., presentations) to support WWF's strategy on Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) Commodities.
- Conducted due diligence to align financial institutions' commitments with WWF's programmatic goals.

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

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

- Spearheaded the management and organization of 20+ programmatic work plans, ensuring alignment with grant objectives and sustainable project deliverables.
- Aligned two program-wide strategic plans with organizational goals and grant requirements.
- Collaborated on multi-million-dollar budgets, emphasizing resource optimization to drive success.
- Administered grant reports that facilitated project tracking and proposal preparation.

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

- Led fieldwork and data analysis efforts using Microsoft Excel and statistical software to assess environmental quality, specifically tracking reductions in sediment and nutrient pollution in West Maui, contributing to conservation impact measurement.
- Drafted over 10 grant reports for major stakeholders, including NOAA, DOH, and the NFWF, ensuring alignment with funding requirements and project progress for conservation initiatives.
- Established and maintained strategic partnerships with community groups, 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.
- Created detailed maps using ArcGIS and GPS to identify invasive species locations, fence lines, and feral animal activity, contributing to effective environmental management strategies.
- Developed expertise in native flora and fauna while assessing the impact of invasive species, 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

Fishing for Change: A Bioeconomic Approach to Manage Distant Water Fishing 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.

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.

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)

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)