

Peter Zahler

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CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

Director of Field Conservation, Zoo New England: 2023-Present.

Helping Zoo New England become internationally recognized for the quality of its conservation, management, and research activities. Strategically focus the zoo's core conservation programs and partnerships internationally and regionally while advancing conservation solutions in partnership with other conservation organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies.

Overseeing Zoo New England's local rare species management programs and their related community engagement projects as well as the growing portfolio of international wildlife conservation projects (including a four-year, million-dollar community-led program in Pakistan). Help the department to restore populations of rare species in New England and engage local human residents in the conservation management work. Help build and support a new generation of conservation leaders globally through grant programs, graduate scholarship programs, and direct mentoring support.

Helping develop a new institutional strategic plan that prioritizes conservation as the overarching goal of the institution. Working with staff across the organization to provide oversight and leadership for field conservation, education, and outreach programs and help ensure that a consistent and clear message in support of wildlife conservation permeates institutional operations and the experiences of zoo visitors.

Vice President for Conservation Initiatives, Woodland Park Zoo: 2018-2022.

Served as a member of the Executive Leadership Team to further the mission of the organization by leading and coordinating all institutional wildlife conservation efforts. These included supporting an international network of over 40 field programs, projects and partnerships to save wildlife globally, from Malaysia through Tanzania, Congo, Peru, and the Pacific Northwest.

Coordinated all wildlife conservation efforts toward the creation of a social movement for conservation that included field projects, influencing the zoo visitor experience, coordinating with education and interpretation programs, and supporting social media and storytelling that advanced personal engagement in conservation by zoo visitors.

Regional Director/Deputy Director/Assistant Director, WCS Asia Program: 2005-2017.

Provided supervision and support to Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) country programs and projects in Russia (including programs in Arctic Beringia and the Russian Far East), China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea; responsible for overseeing roughly 150 staff in the region. Identified new landscapes and species conservation opportunities, designed new programs and projects, established conservation priorities, and provided guidance to project development and implementation. This includes the creation and management of four new country programs (Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Arctic Beringia) and providing technical advice on field research, monitoring, protected area creation and management, anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking mitigation, community-led conservation initiatives, policy, and conservation education efforts aimed at both community outreach and school-based curriculum.

Raised funds and coordinating financial and administrative support including budget, legal, and HR management for regional programs and projects with budgets totaling approximately \$6 million/year. Promoted wildlife, forest, and grasslands conservation in Asia among national governments, international agencies, and other non-governmental organizations; directed international attention to important sites for conservation; and influenced policies that promote the long-term persistence of wildlife and wild places throughout Asia. Responsible for coordination among projects and between WCS projects and other institutions including governments and their agencies as well as NGO and multilateral partners.

Director, WCS Training and Capacity Building Program: 2015-2018.

Managed the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Graduate Scholarship Program and the WCS Research Fellowship Program, and chaired the executive committee for the Conservation Leadership Program (CLP, a partnership between WCS, FFI, and BirdLife). This includes designing new initiatives, raising funds, managing a budget of approximately \$5 million, managing the review process, overseeing the grant decisions, partnering with universities, and providing direct support to scholars and grantees. Among other outcomes provided 5-8 graduate scholarships a year (~100 total) to young conservation leaders in the developing world to receive Masters or PhDs at top-flight universities around the world.

Senior Advisor for Conservation Strategy, WCS Health Program: 2017-2018.

Responsible for providing guidance on program strategy and field project design and alignment with clear conservation outputs and outcomes; writing proposals and outreach materials; and supporting global field and one-health initiatives while helping to identify new opportunities and mainstream all activities into the WCS global conservation approach.

Coordinator, WCS Snow Leopard Program: 2013-2018.

Responsible for all projects and activities related to snow leopards (including China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan), including outreach and field initiatives related to the species, national and international policy initiatives, and managing relations with donors and international/multilateral organizations (e.g., IUCN, CMS, CITES, World Bank, GSLEP) related to snow leopard conservation.

Secretariat, WCS Science Council: 2015-2018.

Responsible for assisting in the development and roll-out of the WCS Science Council and management of activities and outputs of the Council; responsible for helping the council to identify key science strategies and ways to fully incorporate science into the WCS 2020 Strategic Plan.

WCS Afghanistan Country Program Director – 2006 – Kabul, Afghanistan: Designed, opened, and led the USAID-funded project “Biodiversity Conservation in Afghanistan.” Designed the program, wrote the project proposal, hired staff, developed budgets and workplans and assisted in the implementation of the 14 project components with ~70 staff. These included wildlife and rangeland surveys, community led conservation, developing the country’s first eight environmental laws and regulations, training and capacity building, helping create Afghanistan’s first two protected areas, including Band-e-Amir and Wakhan National Parks, and designing a four-country transboundary protected area in the Pamirs between Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and Tajikistan. Arranged follow-on funding from USAID (total \$24.8 million) and GEF (\$7.4 million). Continued supervising the program through 2018.

WCS Mongolia Country Program Director – 2003-2004 – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: Co-designed and led the \$1 million USAID-funded GCP II project “Eastern Steppe Living Landscape: Sustaining Wildlife and Traditional Livelihoods.” Designed program, co-wrote the proposal, opened office, hired and managed staff, developed budgets and work plans, and assisted in design, training, and implementation of all aspects of project including scientific research, protected area and buffer zone management planning, sustainable development projects, international conferences and workshops, community outreach, conservation education, and liaising with ministries, government agencies, NGOs, and private enterprises. Continued supervising the program from 2004 to 2018.

WCS Central Asia Projects Coordinator – 2002-2004 – Bronx, New York: Identified, reviewed, and designed potential new projects, wrote funding proposals, liaised with donors and potential partners throughout the Central Asian states. Continued to coordinate projects in the region through 2018.

WCS Pakistan Country Program Director – 1996-2004 – Gilgit, Pakistan: Designed, developed, implemented, and managed a community-led program on sustainable resource use, conservation education, and biodiversity preservation in the Diamer and southern Gilgit Districts of Northern Pakistan, leading to 65 new community resource management institutions and 22 community managed IUCN Category VI protected areas (Conservancies) covering 10,000 km². Program included community and

school-based conservation education and curriculum design, resource mapping, development of 65 community management plans, and ~100 village wildlife rangers. Also developed/managed field surveys on the status, distribution, and conservation of the endangered flare-horned markhor (which went from rapidly declining to doubling in population in 15 years) and other threatened species such as Ladakh urial and woolly flying squirrel; designed survey methodologies, trained field personnel, and managed research. Continued supervising the program from 2004 to 2018.

WCS Technical Advisor for Asiatic Cheetah Conservation in Iran – 2002-2003 –Tehran, Iran: Advised the UNDP-GEF project for conservation of the Asiatic cheetah. Reviewed data collection and management procedures, coordinated project development and publications, and performed surveys for cheetahs, other large carnivores, and ungulate prey species in the Dasht-e-Kavir desert of Iran.

UNEP Afghanistan Task Force Project Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme Post-Conflict Assessment Unit – 2002 – Kabul, Afghanistan: Designed, managed, and implemented country-wide post-conflict environmental assessment program including remote sensing analyses; five field missions on protected areas, forests, wetlands, and contaminated areas covering over 70 sites; review of administrative capacity and international conventions and funding mechanisms.

WCS Conservation Consultant – 2001 – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Advised the World Bank/FAO Central Asia Transboundary Biodiversity Program. Designed and developed a workshop for biologists and managers in the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan on assessing and choosing conservation targets, determining protocols, and developing conservation plans across the transboundary landscape.

National Geographic Society Expedition Project Co-Leader and Science Director – 1999-2000 – Cusco, Peru: Helped design the project, wrote the proposal, and co-led a 19-scientist research expedition to the unexplored Cordillera Carabaya in the Andean highlands. Performed a pilot survey of the area, hired specialists, handled on-site logistics, managed staff for biodiversity and archaeological surveys, and trapped for rare and endangered mammals of the puna region of southeastern Peru. Helped to relocate a lost Inca city, discovered new species, and worked with National Geographic Explorer Television and National Public Radio (NPR) Expeditions personnel to create shows on the expedition and its findings.

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

1981-present – Helped design, develop, supervise and/or implement field research projects on wildlife species including snow leopard, Asiatic cheetah, Amur and Malayan tiger, argali, urial, ibex, markhor, Mongolian gazelle, saiga antelope, Asiatic wild ass, Himalayan musk deer, Tibetan antelope, wild yak, Siberian marmot, wolverine, various small mammals, and a range of shorebirds. Examples include:

2010 – **Eastern Steppe, Mongolia:** Co-led a field survey of the endangered white-naped crane (*Grus vipio*) in eastern Mongolia. Surveyed for breeding birds and nest success and assessed wetland drying as compared to previous survey work. Collected data on Avian Influenza persistence in waterfowl.

2001 – **Gilgit, Pakistan:** Designed, trained local surveyors, and led initial field work for a 60-valley survey of flare-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*), Ladakh urial (*Ovis orientalis vignei*) and other threatened wildlife species in Southern Gilgit and Diamer Districts of Northern Pakistan.

1992-2001 – **Gilgit, Pakistan:** Rediscovered the endangered woolly flying squirrel (*Eupetaurus cinereus*) and performed research on its status, distribution, and ecology. Captured specimens, took tissue sample for DNA analysis, radio-collared and tracked individuals and collected behavioral data.

1999-2000 – **Cusco, Peru:** Co-leader and scientific manager of a 19-scientist team research expedition to the unexplored Cordillera Carabaya in the Andean highlands; trapped for rare and endangered small mammals and mesocarnivores of the puna region of southeastern Peru.

1986, 1988, 1996 – **Bethel/Cape Romanzof, Alaska:** Performed research on the ecology, breeding biology, and management of the bristle-thighed curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also performed research on the birds of the Bering Sea region, surveyed mammals

and breeding birds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and assisted on a survey of the breeding birds in the Andreafsky Wilderness Area.

1985 – **Masaguaral, Venezuela:** Served as on-site lead researcher for extended study of the social behavior, breeding biology, and ecology of the hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*) for WCS (WCI). Banded and collected observational data. Also assisted on a behavioral study of the opossum.

1983 – **Pawnee National Grasslands, Colorado:** Performed field research on the behavior, ecology, and management of the mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*); banded, and tracked individuals.

1982 – **Portal, Arizona** Performed research on the behavior and ecology of the southern grasshopper mouse (*Onychomys torridus*); performed surgery for implantation of transmitters and radio-tracked individuals; also performed laboratory study on the species' hormonal basis of behavior.

1981 – **Ithaca, New York** Performed field and laboratory research on the migratory patterns of North American wood warblers (*Parulinae*) under the auspices of Dr. Steve Emlen.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS:

McCarthy T., Mallon D., and P. Zahler. 2024. What is a snow leopard? Biogeography and status review. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards (2nd Edition)*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.

Sanderson E.W., Breitenmoser U., Bürki R., Breitenmoser-Würsten C., Fisher K., Lanz T., Mallon D., McCarthy T., and P. Zahler. 2024. Global strategies for snow leopard conservation: A spot-joining synthesis. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards (2nd Edition)*. Elsevier Pub, NY.

Zahler P and R. Paley. 2024. Building governance structures and institutions for community conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards (2nd Edition)*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.

Zahler P. and R. Victorine. 2024. Linear infrastructure and snow leopard conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards (2nd Edition)*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.

Rosen T. and P. Zahler. 2024. Snow leopards and transboundary conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards (2nd Edition)*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.

Moheb Z., Nelson M.F., Ostrowski O., Zahler P., Bowlick F.J., and T.K. Fuller. 2023. Factors influencing the diurnal spring distribution of sympatric urial and Siberian ibex in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Wakhan National Park, Afghanistan. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 43: June 2023, e02423.

Moheb, Z., Fuller, T.K., and P. Zahler. 2023. Snow leopard-human conflict as a conservation challenge – A review. *Snow Leopard Reports*, 1: 11-24.

Moheb Z., Rajabi A.M., Jahid N., Ostrowski S., Zahler P. and T.K. Fuller. 2022. Using double-observer survey methods to monitor spring urial and ibex populations in the Hindu Kush of Wakhan National Park, Afghanistan. *Oryx*, 1-7.

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Zahler P. and J. Wingard. 2018. Central Asia regional report. In: European Union: *Larger than tigers: Inputs for a strategic approach to biodiversity conservation in Asia*. European Union Biodiversity for Life, capacity4dev.eu, 1-105.

Moheb Z., Mostafawi S.N., Zahler P. and T.K. Fuller. 2018. Markhor and Siberian ibex occurrence and conservation in northern Afghanistan. *Caprinae News*, IUCN/SSC Caprinae Specialist Group, 4-7.

Khan M., Siddiqui P.A., Raza A., and P. Zahler. 2018. Status of flare-horned markhor (*Capra falconeri falconeri*) in Jutial Conservancy, District Gilgit, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan. *International Journal of Biology and Biotechnology*. 15(2): 343-349.

McCarthy T., Zahler P., Mallon D., Jackson R., and K. McCarthy. 2017. Snow leopard status is spot on. *Nature*. doi: 10.1038/d41586-017-08378-z.

- McCarthy T., Mallon D., Jackson R., Zahler P., and K. McCarthy. 2017. *Panthera uncia*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017: e.T22732A50664030.
- Zahler P. and L. Denier. 2017. The road to extinction: How the boom in Asia's transportation sector threatens biodiversity. In: Hillman, J.E. (Ed). *Is Asia Reconnecting?* Center for Strategic and International Studies/ Rowman and Littlefield.
- Sanderson E., Mallon D., McCarthy T., Zahler P., and K. Fisher. 2016. Global strategies for snow leopard conservation: A synthesis. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.
- Zahler P. and R. Paley. 2016. Building governance structures and institutions for community conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.
- Jowkar H., Ostrowski S., Tahbaz M., and P. Zahler. 2016. The conservation of biodiversity in Iran: threats, challenges and hopes. *Iranian Studies*, 49(6): 1065-1077.
- Zahler P., Wilkie D., Painter M., and J.C. Carter. 2016. The role of conservation in promoting stability and security in at-risk communities. In: Bruch C., Muffett C. and S. Nichols (Eds). *Strengthening post-conflict peacebuilding through natural resource management: Vol. 6: Governance and institutions*. United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva.
- Rosen T. and P. Zahler. 2016. Snow leopards and transboundary conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.
- Zahler P. 2016. Linear infrastructure and snow leopard conservation. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.
- McCarthy T., Mallon D., Sanderson E., Zahler P., and K. Fisher. 2016. What is a snow leopard? Biogeography and status. In: McCarthy T. and D. Mallon (Eds) *Snow leopards*. Elsevier Publishing, NY.
- Kretser H.E., Wong R., Robertson S., Pershyn C., Huang J., Kang A., and P. Zahler. 2015. Building enforcement networks to identify wildlife crimes with mobile app technology. *Biological Conservation*, 189: 33-38.
- Wingard J., Zahler P., Victorine R., Bayasgalan O. and B. Buuveibaatar. 2014. *Guidelines for addressing the impact of linear infrastructure on migratory large mammals in Central Asia*. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Technical Report, Bonn, Germany.
- Snow Leopard Network. 2014. *Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version*. Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA (Contributor)
- Ostrowski S., Rahmani H., Ali J.M., Ali R., and P. Zahler. 2014. Musk deer survival in the eastern forests of Afghanistan. *Oryx*, 48(4): 323-328.
- Zahler P. and T. Rosen. 2013. Endangered mammals. In: *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*. Second Edition, Vol. 2. (S.A. Levin, Ed.) Academic Press, San Diego, CA.
- Buuveibaatar B., Young J.K., Berger J., Fine A., Lhagvasuren B., Zahler P., and T. Fuller. 2013. Factors affecting survival and cause-specific mortality of saiga calves in Mongolia. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 94(1): 127-136.
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- Khan M., Rosen T. and P. Zahler. 2012. Status and conservation of the Asiatic black bear in Diamer District, Pakistan. *International Bear News*, 21(1):13-14.
- Kretser H., Johnson, M., Hickey, L.M., Zahler P, and E. Bennett. 2012. Supply and demand for wildlife trade products available to U.S. military personnel serving abroad. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. 21(4): 967-980.

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- Townsend S. and P. Zahler. 2007. Marmot survey in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia. Pp. 118-128. In: *The marmots of Eurasia: Origin and current status*. Institute of Zoology Uzbek Academy of Sciences, International Marmot Network. Tashkent.
- Xie, Y., Kang, A., Wingard, J., and P. Zahler. 2007. *The Pamirs Transboundary Protected Area*. WCS Report on the 2006 International Workshop on Wildlife and Habitat Conservation in the Pamirs. Urumqi, China.
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- Jenkins C.L. and P. Zahler. 2002. Using geographic information systems to identify hotspots of amphibian biodiversity in the Andes of southern Peru. Pp. 247-254. In: *Proceedings of the Congress on Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andes and the Amazon Basin*. INKA e.V. Munich, Germany.
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- Zahler P. and C. Dietemann. 1999. A note on food habits of the eagle owl (*Bubo bubo turcomanus*) in Northern Pakistan. *Forktail*, 15: 98-99.
- Zahler P. and A. Karim. 1999. New distribution, elevation, habitat, and diurnal refuge for the Kashmir flying squirrel (*Eoglaucomys fimbriatus*). *Mammalia*, 62(4): 588-591.
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POPULAR SCIENCE ARTICLES, BLOGS, AND BOOKS:

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SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conference. September 2024. “A Few Big or Many Small? Zoo New England’s Perspective on Achieving Conservation, Reaching Various Audiences, and the Brilliant Chaos of Democracy.” Speaker and Panelist.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conference. September 2023. “In Your Own Backyard: How to Use Flagship Species, Out-of-the-Box Partnerships, Research, and Habitat Restoration to Recover Threatened Species and Preserve Local Biodiversity.” Session designer and lead facilitator.

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conference. September 2021. “AZA and Climate: Keeping Pace with the Change.” Session designer and lead facilitator.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP 12. Manilla, Philippines. October 2017. “Central Asian Migration and Linear Infrastructure Atlas.” Co-authors: E. Sanderson and K. Fisher.

Pathways Conference, Estes Park, CO, USA, September 2017. “Large carnivore-livestock conflict in Wakhan, Afghanistan.” Co-authors Z. Moheb, T.K. Fuller, H. Kretser, N. Mostafawi.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Central Asian Migratory Mammals Initiative. Vilm, Germany, April 2017. Lead and facilitator: “Atlas of range-wide mapping and priority setting of CAMI species (distribution and movement corridors) and linear infrastructure threats across Central Asia.”

United Nations Development Program and Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic. New York, USA. October, 2016. International Snow Leopard Day. Speaker and Panelist.

United States Forest Service International Workshop on Camera Trap Methodology. Bukhara, Uzbekistan, November 2015. Workshop Organizer and Facilitator.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Saiga Antelope COP 4. Tashkent, Uzbekistan, October 2015. “Guidelines on linear infrastructure for saiga and other migratory ungulates in Central Asia.”

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Central Asian Migratory Mammals Initiative. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, October 2014. “Enforcement mechanisms for the conservation of migratory large mammals in Central Asia: multi-agency task forces and SMART.”

World Parks Congress. Sydney, Australia, November 2014. “Connecting the dots: integrating protected areas into landscape-level conservation to preserve nomadic migratory spectacles in the Daurian Steppe.” Co-authors: D. Wilkie, O. Baysgalan.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP 11. Quito, Ecuador, November 2014. “Addressing the impact of linear infrastructure on ungulates in Central Asia – lessons learned from Mongolia.” Co-authors: R. Victorine, J. Wingard, O. Bayasgalan.

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP 10. Bergen, Norway, October 2011. “Conservation of *Ovis ammon* in Tajikistan and options for transboundary conservation and cooperation.” Co-authors: T.

Rosen, S. Ostrowski, S. Michel, and K.H. Safarov.

Pathways to Success Conference. Estes Park, Colorado, USA, September 2010. “Conservation during global conflict: Using human dimensions approaches to curtail U.S. military personnel demand for wildlife products in Iraq and Afghanistan.” Co-authors: H.E. Kretser, M.F. Johnson, E. Bennett, L.M. Hickey, J. Mallory.

International Conference on Range-wide Conservation Planning for Snow Leopards. Beijing, China, March 2008. Conference Co-Host and Co-Organizer; Speaker on “Transboundary protected areas for snow leopard conservation.”

International Conference on Transboundary Conservation in the Pamirs. Urumqi, China, September 2006. Conference Organizer, opening and closing remarks, facilitator, introductions throughout.

Society for Conservation Biology - Asia Section Conference. Katmandu, Nepal. September, 2005. “Native small mammals in Central Asian grasslands: Friend or foe.” Co-Authors: A.T. Smith, L. Hinds

International Workshop on Gobi Bear Management. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. November, 2004. Conference Co-Organizer, keynote speaker, facilitator.

International Workshop on Mongolian Saiga Antelope Conservation. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. October, 2004. Conference Co-Organizer, facilitator, closing remarks.

International Mongolian Gazelle Research Symposium/Management Workshop. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. October, 2004. Conference Organizer, opening and closing remarks, facilitator, introductions.

International Workshop on Brandt’s Vole Management. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. September, 2004. Conference Co-Organizer, opening and closing remarks, facilitator, introductions throughout.

International Workshop on Mongolian Gazelle Sustainable Harvest and Management. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. October, 2003. Conference Organizer, opening and closing remarks, facilitator, introductions.

Conservation of Biodiversity in the Andes and the Amazon Basin. Cusco, Peru. September, 2001.

1. “The National Geographic Research Expedition to the Cordillera Carabaya, Peru: Project overview and recommendations for conserving biodiversity.” 2. “A widening divide in Peru’s conservation effort: Manu, Tambopata-Candamo, and the Transoceanic Highway.” 3. “Biodiversity and the case for preservation status of the Sibilcocha Watershed.” 4. “Using Geographic Information Systems to select hotspots of amphibian and reptile biodiversity in the Andes of southern Peru.” Co-Author: C. Jenkins.

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment Conference. Rigi, Switzerland. September, 2000.

1. “A four-step approach to the protection of mountain biodiversity affected by land use: The wedding of conservation and culture.” 2. “The effects of roads through tropical mountains: Peru’s Transoceanic Highway and the threat to one of Earth’s most biodiverse ecosystems.” 3. “Encroachment of complex ecosystems into high alpine zones in response to climatic warming: A case from the Andes.”

Society for Conservation Biology Conference. Missoula, Montana. July, 2000. “Flying squirrels and conservation in the Himalayas: Combining research, education, and Muslim culture.”

PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE:

1984-2003: Worked as freelance writer, editor, or copyediting supervisor for major publishing companies. Responsible for planning and development of educational products and managing those products from manuscript to bound book. Wrote material for reference books, science textbooks, interactive multimedia CD-ROM projects, and test review books. Publishers include Princeton Review, Children’s Television Workshop, Macmillan, McGraw Hill Science, Holt, Scott Foresman, and Harcourt.

IUCN MEMBERSHIPS:

Commission and SSG Memberships:
IUCN Species Survival Commission
IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group
IUCN SSC Caprinae Specialist Group
IUCN Antelope Specialist Group

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
IUCN SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group
IUCN Small Mammal Specialist Group

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Wildlife Conservation Committee/SAFE Programs – Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA):

Serve on Wildlife Conservation Committee and various sub-committees; draft or re-write position papers, e.g., on wildlife trafficking and climate change (main author). Member of SAFE Snow Leopard Program and Wildlife Conservation Committee Liaison for the SAFE Red Siskin Program.

Sabin Snow Leopard Grants Program: Director

Lead program for the annual review and funding of proposals for in situ snow leopard conservation work in snow leopard range countries in partnership with the Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.

Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN): Graduate Scholarship Committee

Serve on committee to review and choose ~15-30 young wildlife conservation and wildlife veterinary leaders of tomorrow from lower income countries and Native American communities each year to receive graduate scholarships for Masters or PhDs at top-flight universities around the world.

Cornell University K. Lisa Yang Center for Wildlife Health: Advisory Council

Serve as an inaugural member of the Center's Advisory Council; provide guidance on direction of research and ways to combine wildlife health studies and conservation.

WildCats Alliance: Project Review Group

Review proposals and choose projects to grant for wild cat conservation around the world.

National Geographic Society: Explorer

National Geographic Explorer; National Geographic Expert Reviewer.

Alliance for International Women's Rights: Board Member

Board Member; Secretary: supported women in the developing world, with a focus on emerging women leaders in Afghanistan.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

2015-Present: Adjunct Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

1999: Masters in Environmental Conservation, University of Massachusetts Amherst

1990: Bachelor of Science, Cornell University