



# BIODIVERSITY

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## Making the Connection: Safe Drinking Water and Biodiversity Conservation

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Poor, sick, desperate people act in ways that degrade natural environments. In turn, healthy functioning ecosystems are necessary for human well-being and development. Since at least the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, environmentalists have recognized the need for sustainable development – development that does not compromise the well-being of future generations. More recently, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment highlighted the connection between healthy ecosystems and providing safe drinking and basic sanitation to the world's poor.

The drinking water and sanitation services we take for granted in the United States are lacking for over two billion people around the world. More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people don't have access to basic sanitation. The result is a global health and environmental crisis. Eighty percent of all diseases in the developing world are water- and sanitation-related. Millions die every year as a result – six million in 2003 according to the World Health Organization.

And children suffer most from water-borne diarrhoeal diseases, with millions dying and countless others failing to achieve their potential due to debilitating water-borne diseases. Women and girls bear the burden of securing water (the average African woman walks six kilometers a day just to obtain water), often precluding them from attending school. Inadequate sanitary facilities in schools are a major cause of girls dropping out when they reach puberty.

Contaminated water and poor sanitation have also been identified as a significant barrier to economic development, breeding a cycle of disease, ignorance, poverty and insecurity in some of the most troubled areas of the world. The failure to provide safe drinking water and safely dispose of wastewater also has disastrous environmental consequences as desperate people destroy fragile wetlands and freshwater ecosystems in their quest to survive.

### Conservation Groups Make the Connection

Increasingly, conservation groups are recognizing the connection between their work and development. They are collaborating in new and exciting ways to protect biological diversity while at the same time meeting basic human needs for safe drinking water and sanitation. In June 2006, major conservation groups met with international aid organizations to

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explore shared goals and identify pilot projects. Hosted by Conservation International (CI), the meeting brought together nontraditional allies such as World Wildlife Fund, World Conservation Union, The Nature Conservancy, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Population Services International, WaterAid and Water For People.

Among other things, the groups agreed to collaborate on a white paper exploring the connections between biodiversity conservation and providing safe drinking water and sanitation services. An initial draft of this paper was circulated and discussed at an ad hoc session at the 2006 annual retreat of the Environmental Grantmakers Association. A revised version has been prepared for publication and circulation to interested parties. The groups also agreed to identify pilot projects for collaborating in biodiversity hot spots to provide safe drinking water and sanitation to the people living nearby, while at the same time putting in place necessary biodiversity conservation measures.

Individual environmental organizations are also making the connection. Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), with an initial grant from the Wallace Genetic Foundation, recently launched a new international safe drinking water program. NRDC has developed a “Global Safe Water” project with dedicated staff, a new fact sheet posted on NRDC’s global drinking water web site (<http://www.nrdc.org/international/safewater.asp>) and has joined in advocating for increased foreign aid for drinking water and sanitation projects.

Melanie Nakagawa of NRDC announced this new project at a Washington, DC press conference hosted by Water Advocates on World Water Day on March 22, 2007, saying: Water issues are “the most pressing environmental health problem on the planet. The good

news is that it is ultimately solvable.” NRDC is currently researching ways to expand its core work on environmental protection, including protection of special natural places in developing countries, by collaborating with aid organizations in bringing safe drinking water and sanitation in developing regions.

Conservation International recently prepared a new strategic plan for CI’s freshwater biodiversity program. Recognizing the pervasive threats to freshwater biodiversity around the world, the plan acknowledges that “[f]resh water is also vital for human livelihood and survival—it must be readily available, clean and otherwise suitable for multiple purposes (e.g., agricultural irrigation, human consumption).” CI’s plan calls for new collaborations with aid organizations with an explicit goal: “CI will conduct, in collaboration with development partners, two projects that link the provision of safe drinking water to the conservation of freshwater biodiversity – each project designed to emphasize how maintaining freshwater habitat complements water security for people, and vice versa.”

### Connecting Across Sectors: The Global Water Challenge

Another exciting new initiative is the Global Water Challenge (GWC), a project of the United Nations Foundation and Better World Fund ([www.globalwaterchallenge.org](http://www.globalwaterchallenge.org)). Led by Paul Faeth, former Managing Director of World Resources Institute, the GWC convenes organizations interested in water and sanitation issues. The intent of the GWC is to raise awareness and to invest in projects that can provide models for broad replicability. The GWC hopes to leverage its own funds to invest in





projects around the world that are implemented by on-the-ground organizations like CARE or Water for People.

The GWC will incorporate monitoring and evaluation into each of its projects in order to spur continuous improvement. The GWC currently has 17 members including corporations, donors, health agencies, and development organizations, a number of which are also members of the Millennium Water Alliance, a collaboration of aid organizations with the goal of helping 500 million people obtain water and basic sanitation by 2015.

Since its launch earlier this year, the GWC has helped broker a multi-million dollar project to bring safe drinking water to schools in Kenya's Nyanza Province. Funding for this and early GWC projects and GWC operating costs has been provided by the Gates Foundation, Wallace Genetic Foundation, the Coca-Cola Company, Cargill, Dow Chemical Company, and Procter & Gamble.

The UN Foundation's new GWC initiative has been enhanced by increased enthusiasm and commitment by civic and faith-based organizations. As Rotary International's global polio eradication campaign nears its conclusion, Rotary is turning its attention to the global drinking water and sanitation issue. Rotary's President has asked each of its 33,000 clubs to sponsor drinking water and sanitation projects in the coming year.

Similarly, a variety of faith-based groups (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) gathered in 2005 at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC to coordinate better their pastoral outreach and projects to provide safe

water and sanitation. Church World Service's advocacy arm in Washington, DC has launched a water working group to coordinate broader support from faith communities for foreign aid funding for safe drinking water and sanitation.

### Connecting with Congress

Meanwhile, the US Congress has taken major steps to increase the federal government's focus on safe drinking water and sanitation. Congress passed in 2005 with overwhelming bipartisan support the "Paul Simon Water For The Poor Act," which:

- Elevates the safe drinking water and sanitation crisis in developing countries to a priority of US foreign policy;
- Requires the Department of State to submit to Congress each year a "safe water and sanitation strategy," which must be developed through an inter-agency consultative process and must include "specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, and timetables..." "to provide affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries;"
- Requires annual progress reports to Congress on implementation of the strategy;
- Encourages the federal government to "mobilize and leverage the financial and technical capacity of businesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society in the form of public-private alliances;" and
- Requires a "Water for Peace and Security Report" to Congress "on efforts that the United States is making to support and promote programs that develop river basin, aquifer, and other watershed-wide mechanisms for governance and cooperation."



Environmental groups like NRDC, CI and others are joining forces with aid organizations like CARE and Church World Service to encourage full funding of the Act through increasing foreign aid appropriations for the US Agency for International Development for sustainable drinking water and sanitation projects. A diverse coalition of lawmakers – from Republican Kansas Senator Sam Brownback to Democratic Congressman Earl Blumenauer of Portland, Oregon, and Congressman Donald Payne of Newark, New Jersey – has emerged to champion the Act and the NGO constituency supporting it is no less diverse.

### The Global Warming Connection

Conservationists and humanitarians are finding further common cause in combating global warming and in providing for adaptation to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. As Dr. David Blockstein of the National Council for Science & the Environment recently said in the Washington Post, “Climate change is turning environmental issues into public health issues.” Global warming will exacerbate the world’s safe drinking water crisis.

The United Nations Development Program estimates that a 2- 3 °C increase above pre-industrial temperatures could put billions more people at risk of water shortages. Global warming will also have indirect consequences for water supplies with increased flooding contaminating water systems and water shortages leading to mass migrations and conflicts over limited water supplies. The impacts will be greatest on those least capable of coping – poor countries that already lack sustainable access to safe drinking water.



The European Union has recognized the need to help poor countries cope with the impacts of global warming on drinking water supplies, proposing an “adaptation fund” financed with levies on greenhouse pollution from industrialized countries. Helping the developing world adapt to global warming’s impacts is critical to their agreement to join a binding international agreement on climate change – a precondition set by the United States for participation. An adaptation fund will help build consensus for global cooperation to reduce global warming, as well as help the world’s poor adjust to the unavoidable impacts.

### Making the People-Nature Connection

For too long, conservationists have allowed themselves to be characterized as misanthropes. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report, *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being*, has helped reestablish the foundation for making the connection between healthy people and healthy ecosystems. Conservation groups, aid organizations and their funders are creating new opportunities to collaborate to make the people-nature connection that links the well-being of people with the fate of fragile ecosystems.

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## CGBD WORKING GROUPS

### *Climate and Energy*

April was spent preparing for the 2007 Climate and Energy Funders Group Annual Meeting, to be held at the Presidio in San Francisco on May 2-4. The meeting will be the most well attended Climate and Energy Funders Annual meeting to date, reflecting the rising profile and urgency of the issue. The Annual Meeting will highlight key state, regional, and federal policy opportunities. The Meeting will also highlight the economic opportunity associated with solving the climate crisis, by stressing the investment and job opportunities in the booming green technology industry.

The Funders Group has hosted a series of calls (the next one will be in late May/early June) on Global Warming in the 2008 Primaries, where funders can get an update on work to educate the candidates in the presidential race. The next conference call will address strategies for raising the visibility of the global warming issue in the run up to the 2008 presidential primaries, especially in New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Iowa.

In February, the Climate and Energy Funders Group continued its focus on California, holding the second of its two briefings - The Global Warming Solutions Bill (AB32): Seizing the Opportunity. The briefings covered how funders can capitalize on the exceptional opportunity to help shape California's landmark legislation on climate change, as well as move a number of other agendas, including clean air, smart growth, as well as land and forest conservation, among others.



### *Marine Conservation*

The Marine Working Group convened its annual meeting in the Portland, Oregon, with over 50 funders in attendance and a guest list of over 20. The meeting concentrated on implementation and enforcement, with a strong regional focus on the Northwest and British Columbia. Although the program was ambitious, funders remained actively engaged throughout. Discussions were particularly spirited regarding the topics of (1) dedicated access privileges and (2) the future of marine aquaculture.

At the meeting's conclusion, participants provided a list of topics that they would like to see addressed on the Working Group's monthly conference calls. Issues listed included:

- MSA implementation
- International Whaling Commission developments
- Congressional action on offshore aquaculture
- Oil and gas drilling impacts
- Congressional activity on the Marine Mammal Protection Act
- The Arctic
- Ocean literacy
- Human health and the ocean
- Renewable energy
- Noise pollution
- Land/sea interface

### *Gulf of California*

Over the past quarter, the Gulf of California (GOC) Funders Collaborative has gotten off the ground with Marina Cazorla's start as Coordinator in January. Ma-



rina is working with the David and Lucile Packard, Marisla, and Sandler Family Foundations, as well as other funders, to develop collaborative funding packages for a variety of projects.

A major initiative is underway for private lands conservation in all five states of the Gulf – Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit – which aims at developing a large-scale, multi-donor, collaborative strategy over the next five years. The effort was kicked off in March with a successful Packard-sponsored workshop in Ensenada organized by Resources Law Group for conservation NGOs. Over twenty representatives from Mexican NGOs from the entire region participated in the strategy and priority-setting session. The group’s work will be presented to the Gulf of California funders at a full-day conservation strategy workshop in Los Altos on May 8-9.

There have been several positive announcements from Mexico over the last quarter, with President Calderon making a major speech in February stating his administration’s intent to improve coastal planning and complete a national coastal zoning plan within the next two years. A few days later, Calderon announced the designation of the Bahia de los Angeles biosphere reserve, a step that many in the Gulf had been working towards for some time.

Also in February, a new regulation (or “Norma”) was issued, protecting three species of shark (the great white, the whale shark and the basking shark), the giant manta ray and its smaller relative, the mobula ray. These animals cannot be targeted in any fishery and if caught accidentally must be released in good condition. In March, Ernesto Enkerlin of

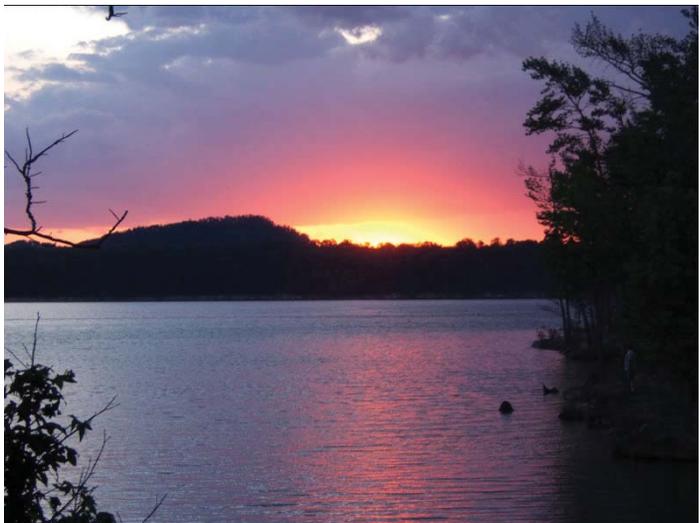
the Mexican Protected Area Commission announced that President Calderon had protected 110,000 acres of the north shore of Laguna San Ignacio, precisely the area that was proposed seven years ago for development of the highly contested Mitsubishi salt plant.

*Land and Freshwater Conservation*

In May, the Working Group will launch the first of what it hopes will be a regular series of conference calls on freshwater biodiversity conservation topics. The first call will focus on the connection between conserving biological diversity and meeting basic human needs for safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Topics suggested for future calls include:

- Water Conservation
- Climate Change and Water Management
- Water Markets
- Energy and Water Management
- National Legislation
- Dynamic Flow Regimes
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing
- Water Adjudication and Allocation
- Water Trusts and Land Trusts
- Nonpoint Source Water Pollution

*Conservation Science*



The steering committee of the Conservation Science Funders has completed work on the strategic framework to guide the group in the coming year and beyond. In early April, the framework was sent to all

members of the Conservation Science Funders and a request was made for nominations for additional funders to join the group. As with all CGBD Working Groups, non-CGBD members are welcome to participate.

Several members are investigating the possibility of hosting a workshop this fall in San Francisco, tentatively entitled Environmental Tools for the 21st Century. The workshop would focus on discussion and reviewing the latest technological tools for decision-making, data-sharing, and general advancement of conservation science.

### *Health & Environmental Funders Network*

HEFN staff and leadership have been actively reaching out into the philanthropic community to highlight information and grantmaking opportunities around health and environment. HEFN partnered with Grantmakers in Health in developing several sessions in February at GIH's 2007 annual meeting in Miami, Florida, including sessions focused on building funder collaboratives, confronting racism and health disparities, disaster planning, and using intuition in grantmaking.

Also in February, HEFN similarly partnered with the Environmental Grantmakers Association to develop a session at the EGA Federal Policy Briefing on prospects for moving chemical policy reform ahead in the new Congress. This session dovetailed with HEFN's January funder call focused on prospects to move environmental health legislation forward in this Congress.

In March, HEFN coordinator Kathy Sessions participated in a panel at The Funders Network on Smart Growth and Livable Communities' annual meeting, highlighting grantmaking resources and opportunities on environmental health for place-focused funders.



Also in March, HEFN continued its work on women's health and the environment by hosting a funder conference call on the opportunities to engage women in environmental health issues. The call featured a short presentation by progressive pollster and political strategist Celinda Lake. In April, HEFN staff and leaders convened in Pittsburgh for a major conference on women's health and the environment supported by the Heinz Endowments and the Johnson Family Foundation, as well as for related strategy meetings on women's health and environment.

Looking forward, HEFN has begun planning for a major funder convening on health and environment late in 2007.

### *CGBD MEMBER NEWS*

The **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** (DDCF) has embarked on a \$100 million grant-making initiative to help build a clean-energy economy that can reduce the threat of global climate change to people and the environment. Focused on practical approaches to reducing carbon emissions, DDCF's five-year Climate Change Initiative will support the development of policies that speed the deployment of existing climate-friendly technologies and the creation of new technologies that can increase energy efficiency and produce clean energy at a large scale.

From carbon pricing to building codes to incentives for efficiency and technological innovation, DDCF has identified technology policy as an area where a major commitment of philanthropic resources can make a big impact on climate change.

DDCF has adopted a three-part strategy to award up to \$100 million in grants over the next five years to nonprofit



organizations, research institutions and universities working to develop policies and technologies that will build a clean-energy economy. Over the course of the initiative, the foundation will solicit specific grant proposals from organizations to pursue different aspects of its climate strategy.

About two-thirds of the initiative's funds will be spent on efforts to encourage the rapid deployment of existing clean-energy technologies and spur the development of new technology breakthroughs. To complement this policy work, the foundation will also support analytical efforts to design optimal pricing policies for greenhouse gases. As the third component of its strategy, the foundation will support efforts to help society adapt to the changing climate.

Wilburforce Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of **Dr. David Secord** as Program Officer for Alaska and British Columbia.

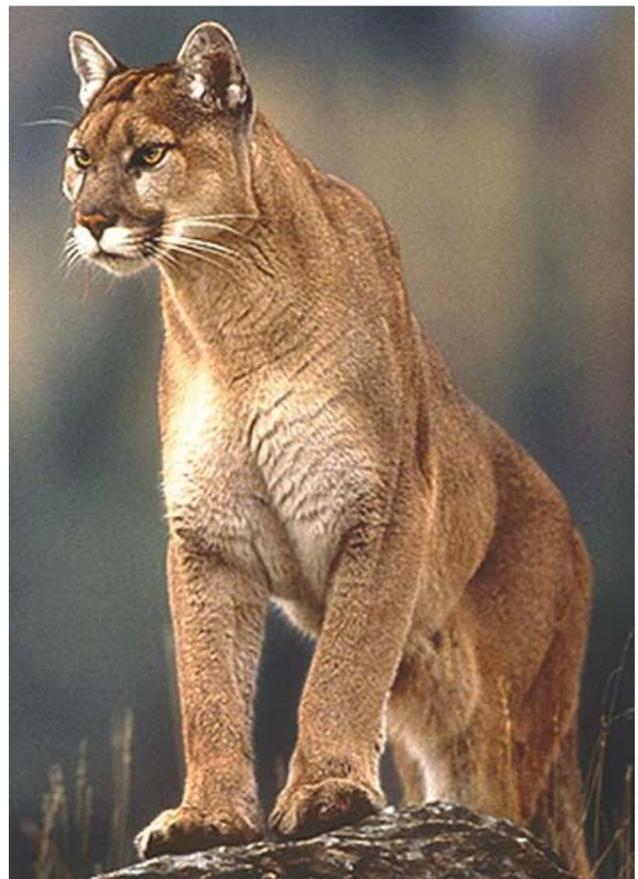
Dave has spent most of his career building interdisciplinary environmental programs. He currently is Director of the Program on the Environment at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, where he also teaches in the School of Marine Affairs. His recent research has focused on understanding how marine intertidal animals and plants reproduce and interact, and applications of ecological and evolutionary insights to applied environmental problems. He is deeply engaged in the ways that natural sciences, social sciences and communications come together to address complex conservation challenges.

From 1996 to 2004, Dave co-founded and coordinated the Environmental Science and Studies Programs at the new UW Tacoma campus, which won the Brotman

Award for Instructional Excellence in 2004. In addition, he was a principal investigator and founding steering committee member of the University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network, which was featured in Science Magazine in 2006. Dave created an innovative new field course to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, leading UW students on an expedition examining the ecological, economic, historical, cultural, climate, political, and ethical aspects of energy development in the Arctic. He has also designed study abroad programs on several continents that examine integrated scientific and human issues.

In 2004, Dave was a Fellow of the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program, and in 2006 he was a Fellow of the International Canadian Studies Institute. He has a BA in Ecology and Evolution from Pomona College, and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Washington.

**Angela Bednarek** has joined the Lenfest Ocean Program at The Pew Charitable Trusts as a Senior Outreach Associate. Prior to joining the Trusts, Angela was a foreign affairs officer and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Diplomacy Fellow at the US Department of State in the Office of Environmental Policy. While at the State Department, she was responsible for coordinating and negotiating US and State Department positions on the Global Environmental Facility, OECD,



the environmental impacts of World Bank projects and a number of international chemicals agreements. In addition, she served as the U.S. Representative to the United Nations Dams and Development Project Government Advisory Consultative Group.

From 2002 to 2004, Angela was a Fellow at the Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York where she worked on sustainable development issues. She has also worked as a consultant for the Tennessee Valley Authority. She has conducted research in environmental policy, adaptive management, dam removal and management, tropical ecology and aquatic ecology.

Angela received her Ph.D. in biology in 2002 from the University of Pennsylvania. She received her Masters of Science in biology and aquatic ecology from the University of Louisville and her Bachelor of Science in biology and studio art from the University of Notre Dame.

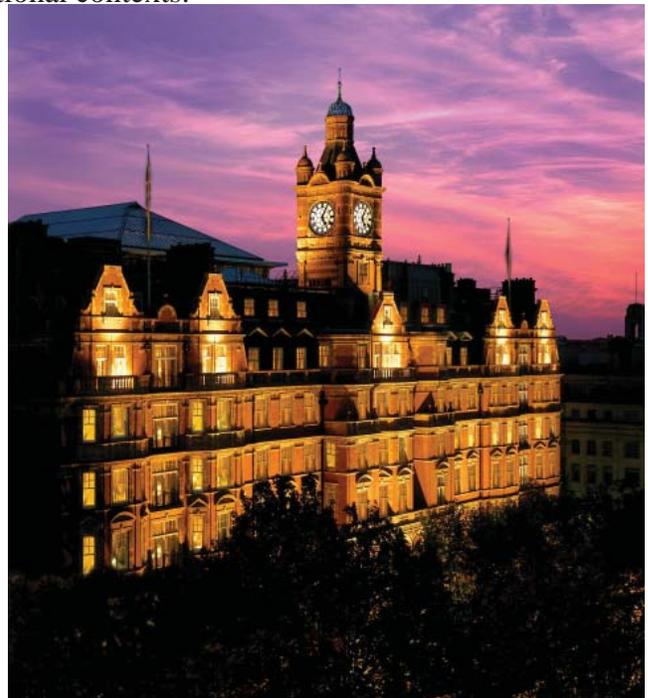
Both **David Hulse** and **Dan Miller** are leaving the MacArthur Foundation in August. David is returning to Vietnam as the Representative for Ford Foundation. Dan is entering a Ph.D. program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

As Representative, David will direct Ford Foundation's grant activities in Vietnam and will manage their Hanoi office, which has 15 staff and an annual budget of \$11 million. Their current program includes Development Finance, Education and Scholarship, Environment and Development, International Cooperation, Media, Arts and Culture, and Sexuality and Reproductive Health. The Hanoi office also manages a



special program on the dioxin-related disabilities and birth defects as a result of chemical spraying by the US during the Vietnam War and a small program in Thailand that provides support for women's rights, health social services, and strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS.

Dan has been accepted to the Ph.D. Program in Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. His studies will focus on understanding the trade-offs involved in international efforts to enhance the mutual flourishing of both human and natural communities, with particular attention to role of the donor institutions in shaping outcomes. He plans a comparative research project, which will allow him to build on his previous experience in Indonesia as well as his work at the MacArthur Foundation in multiple national contexts.



On July 2, **Hooper Brooks**, the Surdna Foundation's Program Officer for the Environment, will be moving to a new post as Director of International Programmes at the London based Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. The Director of International Programmes is a newly created position and Hooper will be responsible for representing the organization internationally and developing and managing the Foundation's International portfolios.

**Sergio Knaebel**, Program Officer of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation's marine and coastal conservation program for the Gulf of California, Mexico, is leaving the Foundation in early May. Sergio has accepted a job as Strategy Analyst and Environment Director with the Sandler

Family Supporting Foundation. One of Sergio's primary roles will be to work with the foundation's leadership to develop a strategy and structure for the expansion of environmental giving. Sergio will also be helping to analyze investments and growth in a set of other areas of interest.

**Kai Lee**, Ph.D., Rosenberg Professor of environmental studies at Williams College, will join the Packard Foundation in June 2007 as program officer for Science in the Conservation and Science Program.

Kai's role at the Foundation will focus largely on supporting the development and application of an ecosystem-based management framework for coastal-marine conservation and fisheries management. Kai will also work closely with Conservation and Science Program Director Walt Reid to develop a long-range grantmaking strategy to strengthen the contribution of science to public and private sector decision-making concerning conservation and the environment.

Kai has served as professor of environmental studies and adjunct professor of political science at Williams College from 1991 through 1998, becoming Rosenberg Professor of environmental studies in 2000. He was also the director for the Center for Environmental Studies at Williams from 1991 to 1998 and 2001 to 2002. Prior to joining Williams College, Lee was a visiting professor at Kyoto University, served as a member of the Northwest Power Planning Council in Washington State, and taught from 1973 to 1991 at the University of Washington in Seattle. Lee holds a Ph.D. in physics from Princeton University and an A.B., magna cum laude, in physics, from Columbia University.

The V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation (VKRF) has appointed **Sarah Hansen** as Associate Director and Se-



nior Program Officer. Sarah served as Executive Director of the Environmental Grantmakers Association from 1998 to 2005 and has extensive experience in environmental issues, the primary grantmaking area of VKRF. Sarah will work closely with **Martin Kaplan**, Managing Director and Trustee of the Foundation, and Dr. Lois E.H. Smith, Co-Managing Director and Trustees.

**Pic Walker** is leaving the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to pursue a career assisting companies to develop and implement more environmentally friendly strategies.

**Jon Jensen** of the Gund Foundation has been reappointed to the board of trustees of the Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. Jon is a founding board member of the affinity group, and his final two years of his previous term he served as chair of the board.



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