



Bruce A. Byers, Ph.D.

Ecological Consulting & Communication

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Dr. Bruce Byers is an ecologist, writer, and international ecological consultant, and with more than 35 years of professional experience in more than 40 countries. His work focuses on the relationship between humans and nature, and at the interface of ecology and sustainable development, combining his academic background in ecology and evolution with extensive experience in applied social sciences. His creative nonfiction writing tells stories of science and conservation from around the world. Bruce Byers Consulting, the independent consulting business he founded in 1994, provides technical assistance to government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector in the United States and worldwide, carrying out assessments, analyses, evaluations, and applied research that lead to the design of effective strategies and programs in complex ecological and social contexts. Bruce has extensive experience in biodiversity conservation, forestry, natural resources management, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and environmental communication, outreach, and behavior change. He has led many multi-disciplinary and international teams in this work, and his numerous presentations and publications synthesize complex information and communicate clearly to diverse target audiences and stakeholders.

EDUCATION:

PhD, Biology, 1980, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

MA, Biology, 1977, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

BA, (with Distinction), 1973, Human Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

GEOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE:

Albania, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe

LANGUAGES:

English (native); Spanish (professional working knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

International Ecological Consultant and Writer. September 2010–present, Falls Church, Virginia. Independent consultant providing assistance to diverse clients on a range of conservation and natural resources management issues in the U.S. and overseas, through assessments and evaluations; applied research; strategic planning; project and program design; and environmental communication, outreach, and behavior change strategies. Writer of essays, books, and blogs to inform and inspire action to improve the human-nature relationship. Please click on hyperlinked titles below to view publications in website library: <http://www.brucebyersconsulting.com/library/>

- Visiting Scientist at the University of California-Berkeley's Point Reyes Field Station (April 2022)
- Visiting Scientist at the University of California-Santa Barbara's Sedgwick and Santa Cruz Island Reserves, to research and write about the Channel Islands UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (October 2021)
- Writer in Residence, The Mesa Refuge, Point Reyes Station, California. Conducted research for a book of creative nonfiction essays about the Golden Gate UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (June 2021)
- Team Leader/Program Design Specialist for USAID/India Integrated Biodiversity-Forestry Program Design (Panagora Group, December 2020-March 2021)
- Senior Evaluator and Biodiversity Expert for IUCN Programmatic Evaluation (Baastel, January-June 2020)
- Visiting Scholar, U.S. Forest Service, Andrews Experimental Forest, McKenzie Bridge, Oregon. [Ten Questions in the Andrews Forest](#), *The Forest Log* (Spring Creek Project, Oregon State University; October 2019)
- Senior Technical Advisor, [USAID/Jordan Biodiversity Analysis](#) (DAI BRIDGE Project, August-October 2019)
- Senior Technical Advisor, [USAID/Mozambique Tropical Forests and Biodiversity Analysis](#) (DAI BRIDGE Project; February-April 2019)
- Resident Ecologist, Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Otis, Oregon. ([Howard L. McKee Ecology Residency](#), October 2018-January 2019)
- Biodiversity Conservation Expert for strategic review of USAID/Vietnam Green Annamites Project (ECODIT; June-August 2018)
- Central America Strategic Planning and Evaluation Expert, US Forest Service International Programs Office (METI, Inc.: August 2017-March 2018)
- Evaluation Consultant, Final Evaluation of the Peru Forest Sector Initiative for the US Forest Service International Programs Office (METI, Inc.; November 2016-September 2017)

- Team Leader, “Strengthening the Information Base of Natural Habitats, Biodiversity and Environmental Services in the Shire Basin,” a GEF-funded component of the Shire River Basin Management Program, Malawi (LTS International; March 2015-December 2017)
- Team Leader, [USAID/Ukraine Biodiversity Analysis](#). (ECODIT; March-June 2017)
- Team Leader, [Midterm Evaluation of USAID-Mozambique Coastal City Adaptation Project](#) (ECODIT; August 2016-January 2017)
- Team Leader, [Guatemala Tropical Forests and Biological Diversity Assessment](#) for USAID-Guatemala (DevTech; December 2015-April 2016)
- Honduras Evaluation and Strategic Planning Consultant, strategic scoping and planning for the US Forest Service International Programs Office (METI, Inc.; August 2015-January 2016)
- Senior Biodiversity, Forestry, and Climate Change, Integration Support for Climate Resilience Screening (ISCRS) Project (ECODIT; August 2015-February 2016)
- Evaluation Specialist, evaluation of [US Forest Service International Programs Training Workshops on Forest Carbon Measurement in Mexico and Latin America](#) (METI, Inc.; November 2014-July 2015)
- Team Leader, [Rwanda Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment](#) for USAID-Rwanda (ECODIT; September-November 2014)
- Member, Public Affairs Committee, Ecological Society of America (August 2014-August 2017)
- Technical Team Leader and Biodiversity Conservation Specialist for an assessment of [Vulnerability and Resilience to Climate Change in Southern Honduras](#), focusing on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and sustainable development, under USAID’s African and Latin American Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) Project (Tetra Tech; July 2013-July 2014)
- Team Leader, final performance evaluation of USAID-Malawi Biodiversity Projects and lead author of [Malawi Biodiversity Projects Evaluation Report](#) (ECODIT; March-June 2013)
- Consulting Author, Coastal East Africa Case Study for the World Wildlife Fund’s “In Pursuit of Prosperity” initiative to promote environmental sustainability as a central tenet in US foreign policy. (WWF-US, June 2013)
- Research Team Leader of a multi-disciplinary science team describing a fire scar on a 210-million-year-old fossil tree from the Triassic Period, the first fossil fire scar ever reported. (Bruce Byers Consulting; June 2013-June 2014)
- Visiting Professor, Colorado College; presented lectures on ecosystem services, climate change and biodiversity, and ecological worldviews and environmental ethics (March 25-29, 2013)
- Lead Researcher for historical and ecological study of John Muir’s 1911 trip to view *Araucaria araucana* in Chile. (Bruce Byers Consulting; February 2013)

- Lead Consultant in a study of [Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Biodiversity and Forestry Assessments and Programming](#) for USAID's African and Latin American Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) Project (Tetra Tech; November 2012-June 2013)
- Team Leader, [Mozambique Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment](#) for USAID-Mozambique (METI, Inc., for US Forest Service International Programs; August-October 2012)
- Team Leader, [Tanzania Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment](#) for USAID-Tanzania (METI, Inc., for US Forest Service International Programs; June-July 2012)
- Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, developed a Performance Management Plan for the USAID West Africa Regional Office's STEWARD (Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development) Program, with work in Sierra Leone and Ghana (METI, Inc., for US Forest Service International Programs; May 2012)
- Team Leader, Study to Identify Strategic Options for Biodiversity Programming in the USAID Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau, 2012-2017 (METI, Inc., for US Forest Service International Programs; April 2012)
- Biodiversity Specialist, study of impacts of biofuels on biodiversity under sustainability criteria of the European Union 2009 Renewable Energy Directive (Winrock International; March-July 2012)
- Lead Researcher for study of John Muir's 1911 trip to view *Araucaria araucana* in Chile. (Bruce Byers Consulting; February 2012)
- Forestry Specialist, Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) in Albania, Macedonia, Moldova, and Serbia Member of inter-agency scoping teams assessing forestry, agriculture, water, and hydropower issues. (METI, Inc., for US Forest Service International Programs; October 2011-February 2012)
- Team Leader, [Kenya Tropical Forests and Biodiversity Assessment](#) (ECODIT). Led team conducting an assessment for USAID/Kenya (July-September 2011)
- Technical Writer for proposal for USAID/Colombia BIO-REDD+ Project (IRG; June 2011)
- Chief of Party, [Ukraine FAA-119 Biodiversity Analysis](#). Led a team conducting a country-wide biodiversity analysis for USAID/Ukraine. (ECODIT; March-June 2011)

Senior Associate, ARD Inc. July 2004–August 2010, Arlington, Virginia. Biodiversity conservation and natural resources management specialist.

- Program Director, USAID Prosperity, Livelihoods, and Conserving Ecosystems (PLACE) Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC). Responsible for communications and maintaining relationships with USAID and the ten implementation partners, including NGOs, a university, and several small businesses. Under this umbrella contract, ARD implemented nine projects worldwide, dealing with biodiversity conservation, sustainable forestry, provision of ecosystem services, ecotourism, and ecologically sustainable agriculture, with a total value of \$77 million (October 2008-August 2010); Deputy Program Director (September 2006-October 2008)

- Senior Technical Advisor and Manager, [USAID/Colombia Conservation Landscapes Program](#), a \$1.5 million contract to improve the conservation of six national parks by working in the parks and surrounding areas with local communities, NGOs, and the Colombian National Parks Agency (November 2008-June 2010)
- Senior Technical Advisor/Manager and Lead Technical Writer for the Biodiversity (FAA 119) section of the report, [USAID/Kosovo Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment \(ETOA\)](#), August 2009.
- Biodiversity Specialist on two-person team to prepare [USAID/Bolivia Tropical Forestry and Biodiversity Assessment Final Report](#), October 2008.
- Team leader of a comprehensive final evaluation of the USAID Global Conservation Program, a ten-year \$72 million investment by USAID in landscape-scale, threats-based conservation; author of [Evaluation of the Global Conservation Program \(GCP\): Final Evaluation Report. May 2008](#). (June 2007–May 2008)
- Author of an ARD White Paper on ecosystem services, [Ecosystem Services: What Do We Know and Where Should We Go? Jan. 2008](#). (November 2006-December 2007)
- Senior advisor and lead technical writer in revision of the USAID guide for landscape-scale, threats-based, participatory biodiversity conservation programming: [Biodiversity Conservation: A Guide for USAID Staff and Partners. Sept. 2005](#). (October 2004–September 2005)
- Senior Advisor/Manager and Lead Technical Writer in a review of USAID’s recent experience in conducting biodiversity and tropical forestry analyses; reviewed more than 30 USAID FAA 119, FAA 118/119, and ETOA reports. Author of the report on this review, [Tropical Forestry and Biodiversity \(FAA 118 and 119\) Analyses: Lessons Learned from Recent USAID Experience and Guidelines for USAID Staff. Sept. 2005](#). (October 2004–June 2005)

Independent Ecological Consultant. September 1994–December 1996 and January 1998–June 2004, Falls Church, Virginia. Independent consultant providing assistance to diverse clients on a range of conservation and natural resources management issues in the U.S. and overseas.

- Conducted research on fire, forest succession, and population dynamics of the Colorado Firemoth, *Schinia masoni*, under a contract with the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. (June-August 2003, June-July 2004)
- Developed performance monitoring plan for the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). (November 2003–January 2004)
- Environmental Education and Communication Specialist on assessment team for a watershed conservation and management project in Bolivia, for USAID Bolivia and The Nature Conservancy’s Bolivia Program (August 2003)
- Taught Conservation Biology at the University of Colorado Mountain Research Station (June 2002, June 2003)
- Developed and synthesized case studies in the use of education, communication, and outreach to solve conservation problems for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center, and wrote synthesis report [Education, Communication, and Outreach Success Stories: Solving](#)

[Conservation Problems by Changing Behavior](#). (January-June 2003)

- USAID/Namibia Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment. Team Leader (March-April 2003)
- USAID/Mozambique [Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment, December 2002](#). Team leader of three-person team of consultants (October-December 2002)
- Assisted the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) to develop its conservation strategy for Phase II, and wrote the strategic plan document (September–October 2002)
- Conducted a [biodiversity \(FAA 119\) analysis for USAID/Serbia and Montenegro](#). (April 2002)
- Facilitated a workshop for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in Bogor, Indonesia, on “Actions to be supported by GEF to create an enabling environment for achieving sustained biodiversity conservation across the landscape,” and co-authored workshop report (April 2001)
- Led team of consultants in a strategic planning study for the African Miombo Ecoregion for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Southern Africa Regional Program and WWF-US; wrote [summary report](#) (February–June 2001)
- Evaluated the WWF Southern Africa Regional Program, ecologist on three-person evaluation team. (October 2000)
- Led a review and strategic planning process to help USAID update and refocus its Global Forestry Program; wrote report [Rethinking USAID's Global Bureau Forestry Program](#). (May–October 2000)
- Reviewed the strategies and approaches being used in forest and biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin for the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) (April–December 1999)
- Wrote [Understanding and Influencing Behaviors in Conservation: A Guide](#), a how-to manual for field practitioners, incorporating many rapid appraisal and social assessment techniques for use in conservation and natural resources management, published in April 2000 by the Biodiversity Support Program, Washington, D.C. (English and French)
- Led a seven-person team of biologists and natural resource policy and management specialists in FAA 118-119 Environmental Threats and Opportunities Assessment for USAID/Namibia (April–September 1996)
- Lead consultant to a multi-year Biodiversity Support Program project on environmental communication, education, and behavior change; author of [Understanding and Influencing Behaviors in Conservation and Natural Resources Management](#). (September 1994–December 1996)

Fulbright Senior Scholar and Visiting Professor, University of Zimbabwe. January–December 1997, Harare, Zimbabwe. Visiting professor in the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe, taught conservation biology and conducted research on community-based conservation and sustainable use and management of natural resources. A 2001 publication in *Human Ecology* describes the results of my research: [Linking the Conservation of Culture and Nature: A Case Study of Sacred Forests in Zimbabwe](#) (*Human Ecology* Vol. 29, No. 2, pp. 187-218).

Environmental and Biodiversity Conservation Advisor, AAAS Science and Diplomacy Fellow in U.S. Agency for International Development. September 1992–August 1994, Washington, D.C. Fellow sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Provided technical assistance on biodiversity conservation and environmental planning and management to USAID’s Bureau for Research and Development, Office of Environment and Natural Resources, and Africa Bureau. Overseas field work in Kenya, Malawi, Madagascar, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Conducted a qualitative evaluation of a USAID-Madagascar Integrated Conservation and Development Project in 1994, [NGOs and the Integration of Conservation and Development in Madagascar](#).

Director, Environmental Studies Program, The Naropa Institute. Boulder, Colorado; 1991–1992. I was the first director of a newly developed Environmental Studies Program at the Naropa Institute (now Naropa University).

Assistant Professor, University of Colorado. January 1981–August 1992, Boulder, Colorado. I taught a variety of courses on ecological themes, including an interdisciplinary course in the Natural Sciences Program called “Nature and Society.”