

Resume
Michael A. Verdone
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Personal Statement

I am a Ph.D. economist with work experience at the intersections of the environment, economics, and development. I enjoy using economic tools and theory to work with NGOs, governments, academic institutions, and other partners to find creative and collaborative solutions to pressing environmental, social, and development problems.

Most Recent Professional Experience

BBC Research and Consulting, Denver, Colorado 2016 – Current
Associate

I work with BBC's water, energy, and natural resource practice. BBC has analyzed the development, use and regulation of natural resources for government and industry over the past four decades. Our work ranges from examining the socioeconomic impacts of new resource developments to creating sophisticated demand models for some of the largest water providers in the Western United States. We also work with non-profits like the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, World Resources Institute, and USAID to support the design and evaluation of conservation plans and projects. I have also contributed course content for Yale University's Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative.

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Geneva, Switzerland 2011 – 2015
Program Officer

I was the lead economist on projects in Ghana, Rwanda, and Uganda to estimate the environmental and economic impacts of forest restoration projects. Our work helped Ghana secure and invest \$50M in to forestry activities to reduce the country's emissions and in Rwanda led to passing of legislation to lower institutional barriers to meeting the country's restoration targets.

I also developed a method to estimate the climate and economic impacts of achieving the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to restore 350 million hectares of degraded land. The work helped secure restoration commitments from several countries and the results were reported by the Guardian newspaper (<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/natural-capital-way-forward-iucn>).

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 2008 – 2011
Research Assistant

I developed a combination of methodologies including numerical optimization, Monte Carlo analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and game-theory modeling, to explore the economics of restoring degraded land. The methodologies were used to understand how the risk preferences of smallholder farmers in rural sub-Saharan Africa affected the attractiveness of adopting different sustainable land management practices. My work also explored how payments for ecosystem services incentivized smallholder farmers to fallow their fields more often, thereby improving soil fertility and food security. The work from my dissertation was published in several peer-reviewed journals.

Education

Ph.D. Colorado State University

Natural resource and environmental economics, March 2016

M.A. University of Colorado

Applied economics, December 2007

B.A. Colorado State University

Economics, December 2005

Peer-reviewed Publications

Verdone, M.A., Seidl, A.S. 2017. Time, space, place and the Bonn Challenge global forest restoration target. *Ecological Restoration*. Forthcoming.

Verdone, M.A., Seidl, A.S. 2016. How do the risk preferences of smallholder farmers affect the attractiveness of restoration activities? Evidence from four areas of Rwanda. *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics* 8(9), 200-214.

Gourevitch, J.D., Hawthorne, P.L., Keeler, B.L., Beatty, C.R., Greve, M., Verdone, M.A. 2016. Optimizing Investments in national-scale forest landscape restoration in Uganda to maximize multiple benefits. *Environmental Research Letters* 11(11).

Christin, Z.L., Bagstad, K.J., Verdone, M.A. 2016. A decision framework for identifying models to estimate forest ecosystem service gains from restoration. *Forest Ecosystems* 3(3).