



Kristy J. Buckley

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Summary

A Senior Mediator and Program Manager at Meridian Institute with a broad range of experience in process design, collaborative problem solving, consensus-based decision making, and community relations. Brings substantive expertise across a diverse array of disciplines, including international law and policy; climate change; forestry (REDD+); agriculture; internet governance; and corporate social responsibility. Prior to joining Meridian, served as the Director of Strategic Development at an environmental organization and independently consulted on strategic development and communications. Holds a B.A. in International Relations from George Washington University and an LL.M. in International Law from the University of Kent, Brussels School of International Studies. Currently a Ph.D. candidate in Sustainable Development Diplomacy at Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

Meridian Experience

Meridian Institute

2007–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

Senior Mediator and Program Manager

Manages and facilitates policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conducts convening assessments, designs collaborative processes, plans and facilitates meetings, helps participants develop consensus documents, and conducts implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Serves as project manager and co-lead facilitator to assist the 15 Centers of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) conduct an internal assessment process. Conducted interviews with Director Generals, Board Chairs, and Research Program Directors to collect feedback on options for designing the CGIAR research portfolio; convened and facilitated a working group to further explore and refine portfolio design options; and provides ongoing process design

and facilitation support to CGIAR.

- Serves as project manager and lead facilitator for a three-year project with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) to explore consensus building in the UNFCCC through 2015. Activities include convening negotiators twice annually at Conference of the Parties (COP) events and non-COP events with the aim of facilitating discussion and generating ideas for: 1) better understanding the key factors involved in reaching multi-lateral consensus; 2) building negotiator capacity and consensus-building skills; and 3) identifying ways in which the UNFCCC process itself might be changed or better supported to enable agreement. The project regularly publishes *Policy Briefs* based upon negotiator discussion and feedback.
- Served as project manager to develop a comprehensive landscape assessment for the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, a coalition of 20 philanthropic foundations committed to supporting a shift towards sustainable food and agriculture systems. Conducted a literature review to identify critical issues facing sustainable food and agriculture systems; completed interviews with foundation directors; developed an online survey to assess donor priorities; conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis; and served as lead author on the final report. The final report features a foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales and was presented in May 2015 at the International Dialogue: Understanding, Learning and Innovating - The Agriculture and Food Systems Sustainability Challenge in Milan, Italy.
- Served as a core team member of a Winrock International-led multi-year task order contract with the U.S. Department of State to produce a series of Options Assessment Reports (OARs) on critical issues around Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), including the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+) and land use-related topics that were under discussion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Managed Meridian's contributions to this effort to design and facilitate consultation processes that led to the development of two OARs: [*Analysis of Approaches for REDD+ Verification*](#) and [*Land Use in a Future Climate Agreement*](#). The program informed negotiators, practitioners, and policy-makers on REDD+ by producing analytic papers on key REDD+ topics in areas relevant to the UNFCCC as well as the implementation of REDD+.
- Served as project manager and facilitator for a three-year series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and objective analyses on the nexus between agriculture and climate change, in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and other relevant forums. Helped to convene a team of expert authors to develop an independent, objective analysis of key issues on agriculture and climate change, informed by consultations with UNFCCC negotiators, experts, and civil society organizations. This process resulted in the publication of two key reports: *Agriculture and Climate Change Policy Brief: Main Issues*

for the UNFCCC and Beyond (2011) and *Agriculture and Climate Change: A Scoping Report* (2011).

- Served on the Meridian facilitation team working with the U.S. Pacific Command, University of Hawaii, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Agency for International Development to facilitate enhanced coordination and collaboration regarding disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Served as project manager and lead facilitator for stakeholder consultations and community consensus building aimed at developing a suite of governance policies for the “dot eco” (.eco) top-level internet domain. Facilitated negotiations and consensus building among a diverse Community Council, comprised of high-level representatives from environmental NGOs and international observer organizations. The project required an in-depth understanding of the internet governance policies of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the relevant regulatory agency.
- Served as lead facilitator for a series of strategic planning meetings of the U.S. Forest Service’s Interagency Task Team in their development of a National Strategic Framework for Agroforestry. The Strategic Framework identified the most important future emphasis areas for agroforestry research, development, and technology transfer, both nationally and in priority regions and watersheds. It will be used to develop goals for, and guide the future activities of, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agroforestry Center.
- Served as co-facilitator for the Forum on Readiness for REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation). This Forum sought to effectively engage public, private, nongovernmental, and indigenous stakeholders in finding ways to build capacity in developing countries; foster South-South collaboration; and link local activities with United Nations policy guidance. The project required substantive expertise in REDD+, forestry, climate change, and international policy negotiations.
- Served as part of the Meridian facilitation team for the United States Climate Action Partnership, which led a group of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, major utility chief executives, and leaders of national environmental organizations through deliberations to develop a consensus set of principles and policy recommendations for U.S. legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Served on a strategy and facilitation team for the Microsoft Critical Infrastructure Protection project. Conducted stakeholder engagement and expert-informed issue mapping of critical infrastructure protection in the electric utility industry.
- Please see www.merid.org/staff/kbuckley for a full list of projects completed.

Previous Experience

Climate Institute

Washington, DC 2006–2007

Director of Strategic Development

Directed organizational and program development through networking, research, proposal writing, marketing, event planning, and outreach to government officials and corporate executives.

Advocates, Inc.

Framingham, Massachusetts 2003–2007

Nonprofit Development & IT Consultant

Conducted nonprofit development through grantwriting, online fundraising, and web design. Carried out IT consulting regarding video-streaming, website management, and trouble-shooting.

George Washington University

Washington, DC 2003–2005

Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Provided administrative assistance to the director and senior staff. Responsibilities included processing application fees,

tuition deposits, and requests for admission decision appeals. Assisted in the development of the university's online admissions application.

Central American Reach-Out Association

Washington, DC 2002–2005

Cofounded this organization to offer students an international education experience focused on direct development, cross-cultural learning, and a lifelong commitment to service. Led and coordinated international service projects in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico.

The Cohen Group

Washington, DC 2001

Strategic Advisory Research Intern

Researched worldwide economic and political developments for this international business consulting firm, headed by former U.S. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen. Prepared press and meeting briefings, event speeches, and correspondence.

Education

Wageningen University

Ph.D. Candidate, Sustainable Development Diplomacy

Research focus on multi-stakeholder collaborations in climate smart agriculture policy.

Degree expected in 2016

University of Kent Law School, Brussels School of International Studies

LL.M., International Law with International Relations

2006

George Washington University

B.A., International Relations

2004

Publications

Thesis: Road to the Forests: Post-Conflict Forest Management and Development in the Democratic Republic of Congo. University of Kent Library. 2007.

The Final Frontier: Free Trade, Corporate Capitalism and International Environmental Law. Presented at Environmental Change and Global Citizenship Conference, University of Oxford, 2006. Seeking Environmental Justice. Rodopi Publishers, 2008.

The Externalization of Justice. Presented at Evil and Human Wickedness Conference, Salzburg, Austria. Framing Evil: Portraits of Terror and the Imagination. 2006.