

Rebecca Traldi

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Geographical Sciences**, University of Maryland **2018-**
Dean's Fellowship Recipient 2018
- M.Sc. International Development and Management**, Lund University **2011-2013**
Specialization in Rural Development and Livelihoods
Master's Thesis: "Exploring farming systems in Vietnam's Northwest uplands: State politics, global economy, and local perception." Pass with Distinction.
- B.A., Diplomacy and World Affairs**, Occidental College **2007-2011**
Graduated with Honors, Phi Beta Kappa
Undergraduate Thesis: "Economic Development, Globalization, and Developing States: Infiltration, Appropriation, and National Defense." Pass with Distinction.
- STUDY ABROAD**, Chinese University of Hong Kong **2009**

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- University of Maryland**, College Park, MD 8/18-present
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geographical Sciences
- World Wildlife Fund-US, Washington. D.C.**
Senior Program Officer, Sustainability Research & Development, Private Sector Engagement 7/17-present
- Developing and managing new partnerships between WWF and the private sector in support of WWF's conservation mission
 - Advising companies from retail, food and beverage, and technology sectors on strategy and policy development related to supply chain sustainability and monitoring and evaluation of sustainable agriculture programs; managing two full-time Program Officers
 - Leading technical workstreams focused on deforestation risk assessments, specialty crop sustainability, and biomaterials
- Program Officer Specialist*, Supply Risk Analysis Research Lead, Private Sector Engagement 1/15 – 7/17
- Led an international, 10+ person research team and ensured delivery of multiple complex research projects related to the environmental and social risks of agricultural commodity production globally, with combined budgets of over 400,000 USD annually
 - Designed and implemented process improvements, including multi-disciplinary training programs for research staff, methodology development, and project management, resulting in improved quality control for an online database with over 9,000 pages of research
 - Accelerated positive impact of the [Supply Risk Analysis](#) platform by creating new decision-making tools; liaising with internal and external experts and collaborators to define research objectives and create proposals; and communicating results
- Researcher*, Agriculture Supply Chain, Private Sector Engagement 01/14 – 1/15

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- Directed a nine-person research team from 11/14 onwards, including project management, planning, monitoring progress towards deliverables, and reviewing research products, resulting in the delivery of over 50 reports to a key project partner over a two-month period
- Analyzed economic, environmental, and social risks of agricultural commodity production in North America, Latin America, and Asia; synthesized large amounts of information regarding international markets, labor issues, and environmental impacts of agriculture through a variety of datasets and tools; enabled enhanced understanding and prioritization of key supply chain risks for corporate partners
- Contributed to the development of a livestock water risk analysis model for WWF's Water Risk Filter, and facilitated its use in two projects; took charge of all spatial data collection, management, and analysis using ArcMap; processed a wide variety of datasets for use in an Excel-based agricultural water risk model; created maps and infographics of key results

Intern, Science-Policy Interface. The Natural Capital Project, World Wildlife Fund-US

07/13 – 11/13

- Coordinated between project leads, the communications team, and specialists in modeling and policy to generate key project deliverables for activities in Jambi, Sumatra, Miyun, China, and Belize, including case-studies (writing, editing, layout, graphics), reports to donors, and website content; topic areas included cost-benefit analysis, climate adaptation, scenario development, and ecosystem service valuation
- Updated the "InVEST in Practice" series of brochures to include developments in InVEST modeling tools, illustrating potential applications for policy and environmental management; conducted research on ecosystem services tools for the private sector and M&E
- Organized a two-day workshop on Incorporating Nature's Value into Infrastructure Decisions, attended by the Natural Capital Project, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the InterAmerican Development Bank

Amazon Conservation Association, Washington D.C.

Research Assistant

11/13 – 12/13

- Investigated varied topics including community benefit distribution mechanisms for conservation (e.g. REDD, PES), adaptive management in conservation, the roles of biological research stations, indigenous peoples' livelihoods in northern Bolivia, and Brazil nut harvesting

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Hanoi, Vietnam

Master's Research Fellow

08/12 – 12/12

- Supported the *Agroforestry for Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in North-West Vietnam* (AFLI) project and *RUPES II Vietnam* (payments for environmental services) activities, including capacity assessment
- Collaborated with national and international staff on research design, literature review, primary data collection and analysis, report-writing, editing, and co-authoring Working Papers
- Attended international conferences regarding climate change and conservation agriculture in Southeast Asia

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Simelton, E., Dam, V.B., Catacutan, D., Do, T.H., Traldi R. and Dinh, N. L., 2014. Recommendations for capacity building programme on payment for environmental services in Vietnam (in Vietnamese). *Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development* (2): 101-109.

WHITE PAPERS AND RESEARCH PRODUCTS

Binder, S., Rosenthal, A., Miteva, D., Pattanayak, S., Johnson, J., Traldi, R., Anderson, M., Pennington, D., and Bhagabati, N. 2013. Ecosystem services and human well-being: A Case Study in Jambi Province, Sumatra, Indonesia. The Natural Capital Project and World Wildlife Fund.

InVEST in Practice: A Guidance Series on Applying InVEST to Policy and Planning. The Natural Capital Project. 2013.

Brochures are tailored to policy contexts, including spatial planning, payments for watershed services, carbon offsets, coastal marine spatial planning, strategic environmental assessments, and environmental impact assessments and offsets.

Maxwell, D., McKenzie, E. and Traldi, R. 2014. Valuing Natural Capital in Business. [Taking Stock: Existing Initiatives and Applications](#). The Natural Capital Coalition.

Simelton, E., Dam, V.B., Catacutan, D., Do, T.H., Nguyen, T.H., and Traldi R., 2013. [Local capacity for implementing payments for environmental services schemes: lessons from the RUPES project in northeastern Viet Nam](#). Working Paper 163. Hanoi, Vietnam. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Southeast Asia Regional Program. *Published in the Vietnamese Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development*.

Traldi, R., Rosenthal, A., Arkema, K., and Panuncio, M. 2013. Using a natural capital approach for climate adaptation planning in Placencia, Belize (case study). The Natural Capital Project and World Wildlife Fund.

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PRESENTATIONS

“Exploring farming systems in Vietnam’s Northwest uplands: An analysis of global, state and local level forces.” *The Institute for Security and Development Policy’s Roundtable Discussions on Scandinavian and Asian models of Forestry Practices, April 2013*

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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Resident Advisor , <i>Occidental College, Office of Residence Life, Los Angeles, CA</i>	08/08 – 12/10
▪ Supported over 300 residents in three different residential communities. Responsibilities included conflict mediation, organizing events, and administrative support and customer service.	
Intern , <i>Office of State Representative Robert Freeman, Easton, PA</i>	06/09 – 08/09
Copy-Editor , <i>Global Perspectives (Undergraduate International Relations Journal)</i>	09/08 – 05/09
Volunteer , <i>Common Ground Relief, New Orleans, LA</i>	12/07

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ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Language: Conversational in Swedish, French, and Chinese (Mandarin)
Computer: Proficient in Word, PowerPoint, and Excel; Knowledgeable in ArcGIS; background in Access and SPSS
Training: Project and personnel management, leadership, partnership development