

## ROBERT E. FORD, MPH, Ph.D

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NOTE: Long CV online at: [http://geobobford.com/VITAE\\_long.pdf](http://geobobford.com/VITAE_long.pdf)

### Position Desired:

Senior Management Chief of Party (COP)--**HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT** or technical officer in monitoring and evaluation, or technical support specialist on climate change, global health, biodiversity, agriculture, environment, or as a trainer/educator, outreach coordinator, or knowledge management specialist.

### Key Qualifications: experience related to higher education:

- Fluent in Spanish and was born, raised and grew up Central America (Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica); grandparents lived 50 years in El Salvador and parents spent 20 years there. Still have many family and friends in El Salvador.
- Fulbright Scholar (Honduras) and many years collaboration with higher education in Central America for biodiversity, agriculture (e.g. Zamorano, UNAH), and for public health research and extension, i.e. via NASA/ESSE grant program with SERVIR-Mesoamerica based in Panama, and as part of my many years as a professor at Loma Linda University School of Public doing health extension training in the region.
- Carried out biodiversity assessments and research around the Golfo de Fonseca for USAID/MIRA project where the three countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua interact.
- Led many US students on travel-study tours to Central America from 1980s - 2000s with linkages established with several NGOs, government agencies, and higher education institutions sector in the region (see [NASA/ESSE](#) Project; also as part of post-Hurricane Mitch rehabilitation cooperation.
- Strong ecosystem field research study experience in arid/semi-arid and montane areas of Africa as well the lowland tropical coastal zone and highland cloud forests of Central America.
- Well-developed skills in management, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, writing, web-design, and informal/formal training for communications and outreach--including design of online education.
- Was the first academic dean/administrator of the first private university in Rwanda so well experienced in curriculum design, academic effectiveness measurement, and faculty/student research support.
- Specialized technical skills in the use of GIS/RS, social media, web-based tools for knowledge management (KM), decision-making, surveillance, and the assessment of the interconnections between biodiversity conservation and other areas of ecosystems services and natural resource management.
- Many years experience as a classroom and online instructor and field research studies mentor.

### SUMMARY: Recent Research and Field-based Experience (Africa, Latin America)<sup>1</sup>

- Helped launch the [MyCOE](#) - *My Community, Our Earth - Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development* project - with partners such as ESRI Inc, USADI, AAG, NASA, the National Geographic Society, FAO, CGIAR, NASA/NSF, etc. It started in 2002 as part of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and continues until today with the major focus being outreach to higher education in Africa, Middle East and

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<sup>1</sup> From June 2010 to March 2012 I took time-off to build a home on my small ranch near Zion National Park in southern Utah - See BLOG <http://geobobford.blogspot.com/> and started a consulting and photography business.

Mesoamerica. These projects included field-based student and faculty support workshops and research collaborations setup across Africa and Central America culminating in several public-private partnerships that continue to this day, e.g. CARPE/Congo Basin Forest Conservation Initiative, NASA/SERVIR-Mesoamerica and others. The collaboration is based in Panama (under the AAG--Association of American Geographers) but serves the entire region as an outreach for US institutions of higher education to Latin American ones (and recently ones in the Middle East). A new one just started focused on West Africa.

- 2004-2007 (two months each summer): field research in Honduras/Belize under a [NASA/ESSE](#) grant while I was a professor of Sustainable Development at Loma Linda University. Separately I was the PI for a separate sub-contract via USAID/IRG/Honduras doing biodiversity assessments in Honduras and Belize to assess the status of *manatees* and their protection and a survey of *Herpetofauna* in the southern/Pacific coastal region (Golfo de Fonseca) of Honduras. This work built on a year (1998) when I was a Fulbright Scholar at the National University of Honduras.
- April - November 2012: Contract with the [Frankfurt Zoological Society \(FZS\)](#) under the EU-funded [Upemba National Park Conservation Project](#)--with Steve Schill of [The Nature Conservancy](#). The contract is providing technical assistance in building GIS/Remote Sensing/GPS-based tools to support a new *General Management Plan* that will lay the groundwork for rehabilitation of the two parks in Katanga--*Upemba* and *Kundelungu*--see more on [BLOG](#) or [GeoBob's Consulting](#) webpage.
- Jan-June 2010 (6 months): Interim Program Director, Grauer's Gorilla Landscape Conservation and Development Program for Landscape 10 ([CARPE](#)). Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI), DRC/Congo (Goma, North Kivu). See also other Africa activities [HERE](#) e.g. with NUR (Rwanda).
- Nov 2008 - Dec 2009 (12 months): Research Professor and Adviser to the Director, Center for GIS and Remote Sensing Training and Research (CGIS), National University of Rwanda, PO Box 212, Huye, Rwanda: <http://www.cgisnur.org/> more here <http://geobobford.com/rwanda.html>
- Feb-Oct 2008 (9 months): Senior Development Consultant with [GPCI \(Geographic Planning Collaborative, Inc.\)](#) Running Springs, CA.

Helped implement the [AGEDI project in Abu Dhabi](#) (Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative) which included work with the **Gulf Cooperation Council** and **UNEP** and assisted in the reorganization of the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Helped develop a plan for a new knowledge management system, assisted outside partners from the Columbia University Earth Institute/CIESIN to design a revised (Arabian Gulf-focused) environmental Performance Index (EPI) to assist in international policy analysis, and monitoring.

- August 1999 - July 2003: Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade ([EGAT](#)), Office of Natural Resources Management (NRM), Land Resource Management Team ([LRMT](#)).

Significant tasks at USAID included:

- Co-manager of the RAISE IQC and an Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG) entitled [GISD](#) (Geographic Information for Sustainable Development) which was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development ([WSSD](#)) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 14 - September 7, 2002.
- Led in the re-design of the Hillside Agriculture program for Haiti (1999-2000) and served as a technical adviser to the desertification and climate change teams jointly run by USAID and the US State Department (2001-2003). During his tenure with USAID he also worked on many Special Initiatives such as ICT (Information and Communications Technology) focusing on Geospatial Information Systems (GIS), launched a sustainable tree-crops program focused on coffee and cocoa, and provided technical advice to key environmental conventions (COPS) for USAID/State Department such as the [UNCCD](#), [UNFCCC](#).

➤ **1975 - Present: Dry Lands, Agro-ecosystems, and Conservation Research, Publications and Consulting:**

- Started career in 1975-1978 doing applied field research among the Fulani, Mossi, and Kurumba farmers and pastoralists of northern Burkina Faso/southern Mali under a USAID/funded project (via UC Riverside and ICRISAT). Worked closely as the social scientist in support of more technical agronomists/soil scientists from regional and global CGIAR and related research centers based in Africa (IITA, ICRISAT, CILSS, ORSTOM) who were trying to better understand adaptation to drought after the Sahelian disasters of 1973-1978.
- Did follow-up field studies in Senegal, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso in 1991 (to assess long-term adaptation of dry lands ecosystems and effects on human well-being); I have several major publications that are related to these issues (see those listed below).
- During the 1980-90s participated in several short term consultancies for World Vision International, CRS, ADRA/International and others assessing food security across Africa (Ghana, Malawi, Burkina Faso), South America (Peru, Bolivia) and in Haiti.
- Worked four years in Rwanda (1983-1987) as a university administrator (academic dean) but also served as director of field extension and continued research on to land management, agro-ecosystems, and population/agricultural change.
- With USAID/EGAT (1999-2003) one of my primary tasks was to continue support to partnerships doing research and implementation among smallholder pastoralists and farmers in dry lands, e.g. via the CRSP networks as well as helping launch the USAID Global Coffee Initiative with several projects launched in Central and South America in collaboration with SCAA (Specialty Coffee Assoc. of America) which works extensively with agricultural training institutions in Latin America.
- Have lived for many years in the dry lands of Utah where I was a professor at three local universities (Utah State University, Westminster College and BYU). In those posts I worked a lot on dry lands issues in Utah and globally and led several travel-study tours of students and teachers to Mexico and Central America.
- I currently live in southern Utah and I am active in conservation issues in the “red rock region” of Utah, Arizona and Nevada. I am also a member of the Planning Commission of the Town of Rockville.

**Other significant career experience and interest in dry lands, conservation and NRM issues:**

- Helped plan, fund, and manage a major international conference entitled: **GASSIA** (Geospatial Applications in Support of Sustainable International Agriculture)--held May 19-31, 2002 at EROS Data Center (USGS) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- Symposium Chair and Presenter: **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene** 52nd Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA December 3-7, 2003. Panel entitled: *Medical Information Systems and the Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative in Africa*. Robert Ford presented summary and state-of [GISD](#) project and initiative.
- ICSE/SORISTEC Conference Participant (International Consortium for the Study of Environmental Security). Held January 6-9, 1993 in Chantilly, France. Geopolitics of the Environment and the New World Order: Limits, Conflicts, and Insecurity. I presented a paper entitled: *Analysis of Famine Vulnerability in Sahelian Africa: is 'Environmental Security' the right paradigm?*
- Research grant received from David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University, 1991-1992 (\$5,100), plus College of Family and Social Sciences (\$3000); Field research, study entitled: *Human agency and ecological change in Yatenga, Burkina Faso*.
- External doctoral defense member, University of Laval, Quebec City, Canada June 1991. Dissertation by Paule Simard: *Travail, autonomie et developpement des femmes Bambara*.
- Expedition member with National Geographic Society to arid lands of PROC (China) in association with the Academia Sinica. Part of first NGS expedition back to deserts of China and established associations with various arid land researchers in Asia studying pastoralism.
- Field research project (eighteen months) under contract with University of California on USAID/211-d grant project in Burkina Faso with ICRISAT, IITA, ORSTOM, CILSS, studying adaptation to drought by pastoralists and farmers during and after the Sahelian Drought and specifically looking at “agro-sylvo-pastoralism” as a system.

## Select publications:

- [ESSE21 - LULC Module](#) - Cases of Coastal Zone Change from Mesoamerica. Online Learning Module done with the ESSE21 Project of NASA.
- Lovich, R.E., T.S. Akre, M. J. Ryan, N.J. Scott, and R.E. Ford. 2006. *Herpetofaunal survey of Cerro Guanacaure, Montaña La Botija and Isla Del Tigre protected areas in southern Honduras*. Report prepared for the United States Agency for International Development. 33pp.
- Robert E. Lovich, Thomas Akre, Mason Ryan, Sofia Nunes, Gustavo Cruz, Gerardo Borgas, Norman J. Scott, Saul Flores, Wilfredo Del Cid, Adan Flores, Cesar Rodriguez, Ileana R. Luque-Montes, ROBERT FORD. Herpetofaunal Records from Southern Honduras. *Herpetological Review*, 2010, 41(1), 112–115. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.
- Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske, Leon D. Olivera-Gomez, Robert E. Ford. Detection of free-ranging West Indian manatees *Trichechus manatus* using side-scan sonar. *ENDANGERED SPECIES RESEARCH*. Vol. 8: 249–257, 2009. The following supplement accompanies the article above - FIGURES.
- *Distribution, Habitat Usage and Relative Abundance of Antillean Manatee (TRICHECHUS MANATUS MANATUS) on the North Coast of Honduras*. This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the technical team Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske, Saul R. Flores Rivera, Cynthia Taylor, and Robert E. Ford for International Resources Group (IRG).
- **Ford, Robert E. 1998.** Settlement Structure and Landscape Ecology in the Sahel: the Case of Northern Yatenga, Burkina Faso. In *Rural Settlement Structure and African Development*. Edited by Marilyn Silberfein. Boulder: Westview Press. Pp. 129-165.
- **Ford, Robert E. 1995.** The Population-Environment Nexus and Vulnerability Assessment in Africa. *GeoJournal*. 35(2): 207-216.
- **Ford, Robert E. 1993.** Marginal coping in extreme land pressures: Ruhengeri, Rwanda. In *Population Growth and Agricultural Change in Africa*. Edited by B.L. Turner II, Robert Kates, and Goran Hyden. Center for African Studies, University Press of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.
- **Ford, Robert E. 1992.** Humans and the Sahelian environment: Human-Environment Interaction in Sahelian North Yatenga, Burkina Faso. *Research and Exploration*. National Geographic Society. **8(4):460-475**.
- **Ford, Robert E. 1990.** The dynamics of human-environment interactions in the tropical montane agrosystems of Rwanda: implications for economic development and environmental stability. *Mountain Research and Development*. Vol 10(1):43-63.
- **Ford, Robert E. 1982.** *Subsistence Farming Systems in the Semi-arid Northern Yatenga (Upper Volta)*. University of California, Riverside. University Microfilms: Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## Geographic Experience (Africa, Latin America, Asia):

- **Long term living abroad:** Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua (20+ years); Democratic Republic of the Congo (8 months); Japan (one year); France/Switzerland (9 months); Rwanda (5 years); UAE/Abu Dhabi (8 months).
- **Short term work:** Haiti, Peru, Bolivia, Uganda, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Eritrea, Malawi, South Africa, China, Australia, Mexico, Guatemala, Marshall Islands, and Thailand.

## Education:

- **Ph.D.** Geography/Earth Science, University of California, 1982 Riverside, CA
- **M.P.H.** Health Education, Loma Linda University, 1973 Loma Linda, CA
- **M.A.** Social Anthropology, Loma Linda University, 1971 Loma Linda, CA
- **B.A.** History and Religion, Pacific Union College, 1968 Angwin, CA

## Teaching Experience:

- Loma Linda University CA (1973-83 and 2003 - 08): School of Public Health--Integrated Development, Comparative Health Systems, Population Dynamics, Program Planning and Evaluation, Medical Geography/Anthropology, Remote Sensing/GIS Applications; School of Science/Technology--International Sustainable Development, Social Policy & Social Research, GIS/Remote Sensing, Field Research Methods, Biodiversity and Conservation, Cultural Ecology.

- Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah (1988 - 1992): African and Latin American Regional Studies, East Asia (Pacific Rim), Regional Geography, Economic Geography, International Relations, Human and Physical geography, Natural Resource Management, Political Geography, Cultural Ecology.
- Utah State University, Logan Utah (1987-88 and 1992-94): Human and Physical Geography, Human Dimensions of Global Change, African & Latin American Development Studies, International Range Management, Research Methods, Cultural Ecology, Environment, Resources & Development Policy.
- Westminster College of Salt Lake City (1994 - 1999): Environmental Studies, Honors Studies, Earth System Science, International Relations, Travel-Study Tours in Latin America, Methods of Modeling and Visualizing Global Change.

## LIST OF REFERENCES:

- **Tim Foresman**, PhD. Formerly, Chief Environmental Scientist for the United Nations (UNEP). Tel. 443-622-9464 Email: [foresman@earthparty.org](mailto:foresman@earthparty.org) Web: [www.earthparty.org](http://www.earthparty.org) International Center for Remote Sensing Education.
- **Fernando R. Echavarría**, PhD. Office of Space and Advanced Technology, OES/SAT, SA-23. 1990 K Street NW, Suite #410, Washington DC 20006-1103. Tel. 202-663-2395. Email: [echavarriafr@state.gov](mailto:echavarriafr@state.gov).
- **Patricia Solis**, Director of Outreach and Strategic Initiatives. Association of American Geographers. Washington, District of Columbia · Jan 2003 to present.. Email: [psolis@aag.org](mailto:psolis@aag.org) 1710 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-3198  
Voice: 202.234.1450 Fax: 202.234.2744 .
- **Jose Herrero, (previous) North Coast Director, USAID/MIRA Project** (*Manejo Integrado de Recursos Ambientales*). Email: [pepenordico@yahoo.com](mailto:pepenordico@yahoo.com) Tel. (504) 442-0178: Colonia El Naranjal, Calle La Ceiba, No. 172, La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras--currently advising other donors from Scandinavia on projects in Honduras.
- **Felipe P. Manteiga, Foreign Service Officer, USAID** (retired). Contact: [fmanteiga@gmail.com](mailto:fmanteiga@gmail.com) 4403 W Lambright Tampa, FL 33614. Postal Address in the DR EPS X-24351 P.O. Box 025650 Miami, FL 33102-5650 VOIP [7274665647](tel:7274665647) cell [1 8296471021](tel:18296471021) Skype fpmanteiga
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- **Steven R. Schill, Ph.D.** Conservation Scientist. *Caribbean Program Office*: The Nature Conservancy, 5089 Highway A1A, Suite 200 Vero Beach, FL 32963 Office (772) 231-6876 Ext. 209 Fax (772) 231-5534 - *Utah Home Office*: 571 E. 3050 N. Provo, UT 84604 Mobile (435) 881-7838 Email [sschill@tnc.org](mailto:sschill@tnc.org) Skype *steveschill*.
- **Michael McBride**, Emeritus Board Member Smithsonian and The Nature Conservancy; founder of the Alaskan Center for Coastal Studies and [Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge](http://www.kachemakbaywildernesslodge.com), co-founder Bateleurs International with LightHawk International. See [BIO](http://www.bio.org): Contact: **Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge**, China Poot Bay, Box 956, Homer, Alaska 99603 Phone 907-235-8910 Email: [michael@alaskawildernesslodge.com](mailto:michael@alaskawildernesslodge.com). In winter he lives in Utah (Tel. 435-773-2291).
- **Felicia Akinyemi, PhD, (formerly): Deputy Director: Centre for Geographical Information Science and Remote Sensing Training and Research**, National University of Rwanda. **Dean Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Sciences, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kigali**). Webpage: <http://www.kist.ac.rw/index.php/staff/94> Phone: 0727111060 - Email: [felicia.akinyemi@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.akinyemi@gmail.com)