

Catherine E. Semcer

Work Experience

Property and Environment Research Center, Research Fellow – Bozeman, MT 9/18 – Present

- Principal researcher for the organization's Wild Africa Initiative exploring means through which entrepreneurs and investors can be empowered to build an Africa that is verdant, prosperous, independent, and free.
- Author and deliver testimony before national and state legislative bodies, and a federal advisory committee, on the ways in which markets, property rights and the sustainable use of biodiversity enhance and expand conservation opportunities and outcomes in Africa.
- Author papers, articles and op-eds on subjects including: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on African wildlife conservation; the greening of the global economy; the role of peace building and humanitarian efforts in recovering endangered species; and, the conservation impacts of hunting.
- Serve as a subject matter expert and resource to congressional staff, members of the federal civil service, US foreign service, and the media on African conservation matters.
- Cultivate and maintain a working knowledge network of African government officials, diplomatic staff, and agency personnel as well as members of the African business community.

Consultant

5/13 - 9/18

- Provided outsourced executive services to a non-profit, conservation organization that leveraged the experience of US military veterans to deliver training, advisory, assistance and procurement expertise to African anti-poaching units. Personally responsible for doubling organizational revenue and developing business with private sector partners in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Negotiated and executed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Ethiopia / Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority. Served as the primary liaison to representatives of US and African governments.
- Served as the senior consultant on a project furthering training and integration of the Android Tactical Assault Kit/Android Team Awareness Kit (ATAK) with elements of the US military and federal law enforcement.
- Delivered support, including development of training materials, to a US Government client, advancing the integration of multiple technologies.

Sierra Club, Senior Representative – Washington, DC

4/01 – 5/13

- Produced a consistent track record of professional advancement within the organization from Associate Washington, DC Representative (4/01-4/04) to Washington, DC Representative (4/04-7/09) to Senior Washington, DC Representative (7/09-5/13).
- Organized NGO engagement in USDA and DOI led efforts to conserve the Greater sage grouse. Recognized by the USDA-NRCS for “outstanding contributions” to their Sage Grouse Initiative.
- Served on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Climate Adaptation Working Group to identify the mission, scope and guiding principles of the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.

- Furthered the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Sustainable Ranges Initiative by convening and coordinating the engagement of representatives of conservation NGOs with DOD and armed service representatives. Helped produce regular round-table forums and a series of range tours that directly exposed NGO representatives to environmentally linked encroachment cases, impacts on military readiness, service training requirements and specific training exercises. Facilitated ongoing dialogue to troubleshoot encroachment issues and deliver solutions that were cooperative in nature and encouraged and/or enhanced training opportunities and military readiness. Succeeded in influencing national defense and natural resource policy, inspiring the development of local and regional partnerships and delivering unconventional solutions at the installation level.
- Produced and managed a multi-year, multi-million dollar-program with a six-person team delivering a targeted, national level campaign. Achieved success in producing the desired dialogue and creating an environment more favorable to the organization’s policy goals.
- Organized and co-led extended, raft-based, media tours to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska.

McKinsey & Company, Team Assistant – New York, NY

3/96 – 4/01

- Conducted research and analysis to improve the effectiveness of a leading conservation organization’s internship program.
- Co-led a team in designing and implementing a strategic planning matrix for a major philanthropic organization to share with its beneficiaries.
- Led an internal organizational study that resulted in greater retention of administrative staff, more efficient use of human resources, and more effective team outputs.
- Pursued the role with an entrepreneurial mindset allowing for increased work responsibilities and better leveraging of talent present throughout the office’s administrative department.

Education

Muhlenberg College – Allentown, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts Major: Philosophy/Political Thought **Minor:** Environmental Studies

Honors and Activities: Deans List; Muhlenberg Scholar; Sustainability Policy Advisor to Student Council; Conservation Club (President); Student Newspaper (Staff Writer): WMUH 91.7 FM (On-Air Personality); Outing Club

Professional Affiliations

- Member, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland
- Research Fellow, African Wildlife Economy Institute, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- Member, Southern African Wildlife Management Association
- Member, African Studies Association
- Member, The Royal African Society

Legislative Testimony

- US Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works; Hearing on: Stopping the Spread – Examining the Increased Risk of Zoonotic Disease from Illegal Wildlife Trafficking. Washington, DC. July 22, 2020.
- California Senate, Committee on Natural Resources and Water; Hearing on SB 1175 – Animals: Prohibitions on Importation and Possession of Wild Animals: Live Animal Markets. Sacramento, CA. May 26, 2020.
- US House of Representatives, Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans & Wildlife; Hearing on H.R. 2245, Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing Importation of Large Animal Trophies Act. Washington, DC. July 18, 2019.

Other Testimony

- US Department of the Interior, International Wildlife Conservation Council; Washington, DC. October 16, 2019.
- US Department of the Interior, International Wildlife Conservation Council; Dallas, TX. March 14, 2019. (Testimony delivered via surrogate due to travel conflict.)

Written Comments for the Record

- 83 FR 45275. US Department of the Interior, International Wildlife Conservation Council. September 25 and 26, 2018. Falls Church, Virginia. Reforms to Botswana's Wildlife Sector Deserve US Support.

Select Publications

Refereed / Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Semcer, C. and Pozewitz, J.. The Wilderness Hunter: 400 Years of Evolution. *International Journal of Environmental Studies*. 70.3 (2013): 438-447. Print.

Refereed / Peer Reviewed Journal Letters

A. Hart. **et. al.** *In press.* Media Misinformation Threatens Conservation. *Conservation Biology*.

A. Dickman, **et. al.** August 30, 2019. Trophy Hunting Bans Imperil Biodiversity. *Science Magazine*.

Editor Reviewed and Other Articles

C. Semcer. June 1, 2020. Wildlife Trade and A World Health Crisis. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. March 30, 2020. Coronavirus Pandemic Highlights the Vulnerability of African Wildlife Conservation. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. January 22, 2020. Greening Globalization. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. December 4, 2019. Will The Circle Be Unbroken: On The Future of East Africa's Great Migration? PERC Reports. 38(2). Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. September 6, 2019. Conservationists Should Support Trophy Hunting: Why I Joined 132 Researchers in Signing and Open Letter in Science Magazine. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. April 1, 2019. Reopening Botswana to Trophy Hunting Depends On US Support. Conservation Frontlines.

C. Semcer. January 1, 2019. Politicizing Conservation: The Zimbabwe Elephant Conundrum. Conservation Frontlines.

C. Semcer. December 14, 2018. The Return of the King: An Entrepreneurial Approach to Conserving African Lions. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. July 13, 2018. The Elephant Permit in The Room. PERC Reports. 37(1). Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. February 20, 2018. When Wildlife Is a Zero Sum Proposition. Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

C. Semcer. December 13, 2017. Peer-To-Peer Anti-Poaching: How DNA Indexing and Block chain Technologies Could Help Conserve Rhinos. PERC Reports. 36(2). Property and Environment Research Center. Bozeman, Montana.

Opinion Pieces

Dickman, A., and C. Semcer. February 5, 2020. Saving Africa's Lions Will Rely On Evidence Around Trophy Hunting, Not Emotion. The Hill. Washington, DC.

C. Semcer. December 14, 2018. Endangered Species Act Can't Save Giraffes – It Doesn't Stop War or Feed Hungry Refugees. The Hill. Washington, DC.

Public Presentations and Workshops

Webinar Moderator, Property and Environment Research Center; Covid-19 And The Vulnerability of African Wildlife Conservation. Bozeman, MT. June 16, 2020.

Webinar Presenter, Center for Civil Society, eBaithak; Trophy Hunting; Does Hunting Wild Animals Save Them; New Delhi, India. May 15, 2020.

Presenter, African Wildlife Consultative Forum. Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. November 11, 2019.

Guest Lecturer, Baylor University, Hankamer School of Business, Free Market Forum. Saving Africa's Wildlife: The Failure of Hunting Bans & Success of Entrepreneurial Solutions. Waco, TX. October 17, 2019.

Caesar Kleberg Keynote Presenter, Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society; Reno, Nevada; October 3, 2019.

Presenter, University of Oxford Conservation-Geopolitics Forum; The US Endangered Species Act as A Tool for De-Facto Sanctions; Oxford, UK. March 22, 2019.

Presenter, International Wildlife Conservation Film Festival; Anti-Poaching, Mozambique; New York, NY. October 23, 2016.

Presenter, 3rd International Conference on Women and Sustainable Hunting; The Role of Women in Securing Hunting's Future; Wageningen, The Netherlands; July 3, 2016.

Presenter, African Wildlife Consultative Forum. Limpopo, South Africa. November 10, 2015.

Workshop Co-Director, Developing Conservation Blueprints for a Changing World. 19th Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Portland, Oregon. October 12, 2012.

Plenary Presenter, 18th Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society; *From Preservation to Adaptation: Safeguarding Our Natural Resources in the 21st Century*. Plenary Presentation, Waikola, Hawaii. November 6, 2011

Interviews and Media Appearances

Udark Magazine. L. Fendt. Covid-19 Hits Conservation Efforts. May 13, 2020. (Reprinted in Smithsonian, Slate, and Mother Jones.)

Financial Times. A. Roussi. Poaching Fears Rise After Coronavirus Empties Kenya's National Parks. May 1, 2020.

New York Times. A. Roth. Poachers Kill More Rhinos as Coronavirus Halts Tourism to Africa. April 8, 2020.

John Batchelor Show. Carbon Markets and the Great Migration. January 14, 2020.

John Batchelor Show. Trophy Hunting in Africa. September 20, 2019.

CBS News. T. Mooney. Congress Considers Crackdown On Trophy Hunting. July 19, 2019.

EconTalk. Poaching, Preserves, and African Wildlife. February 18, 2019.

Intelligence Squared US. Hunters Conserve Wildlife. May 4, 2016.

Christian Science Monitor. K. Trunong. Giraffe Killing Produces More Outrage. But Can Legal Hunting Help? August 4, 2015.

New York Magazine. M. Shoul. Hunting Rebecca Francis. August 2, 2015.