



Susan Antenen

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Ms. Antenen has 30 years of on-the-ground terrestrial, coastal and estuarine conservation experience in New York, Hawai'i, California, and Mongolia. Her role has been to develop and implement landscape-scale conservation programs, lead inter-agency committees, and manage effective partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Antenen helps CBI strategically apply our ecological expertise, spatial analysis, and priority setting skills to the most pressing conservation and management challenges of the Sierra Nevada: climate change, fire and fuels, forest health, renewable energy, and wildlife habitat and connectivity. Through funding development, collaboration with diverse organizations and public agencies, policy development, and public outreach, she helps CBI function as a "bridge" between research and decision-making relating to climate adaptation, forest management, renewable energy development, and other land use at local, regional, and national levels.

EDUCATION

B.A., Goddard College, 1975

RECENT AWARDS

2010 – The Nature Conservancy – California Innovation Award

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2010 to Present. **Sierra Project Coordinator, Conservation Biology Institute,**
Corvallis, OR

2008 – 2009. **Southern Sierra Project Director, The Nature Conservancy,** San
Francisco, CA

2002 – 2008. **Mongolia Project Director, The Nature Conservancy,** New York, NY

2006. **Interim Maui Program Director, The Nature Conservancy,** Pukalani, Hawaii

1990 – 2005. **Director of Science and Stewardship; Director of Conservation;**
Conservation Planner; and Project Director, The Nature Conservancy, Long Island,
NY



1979 to 1990. **Director of Forest Project & Environmental Educator, Wave Hill, Bronx, NY**

1978. **Seasonal Naturalist, Ohio Department of Natural Resources**

1975 – 1977. **Seasonal Naturalist, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation**

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Project Manager of Southern Sierra Partnership’s *Framework for Cooperative Conservation and Climate Adaptation in the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains – Resource Legacy Fund, California.* Coordinated cooperative conservation planning by Audubon California, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Sierra Business Council, and The Nature Conservancy which incorporated climate change qualitatively and quantitatively, including projections of potential vegetation responses to future changes using eleven downscaled global climate models and an ensemble approach. The Partnership characterized biodiversity and ecosystem services, examined climate change projections, assessed existing and future threats to biodiversity, identified adaptation strategies, and developed a climate-adapted regional conservation design for 7 million acres of public and private lands. Managed overall project, coordinated the process with the technical team, was lead writer of final report, and conducted outreach.

Conservation Representative on Steering Committee of the San Joaquin Valley Green Print -- San Joaquin Council of Governments, California. Establish goals and direction for eight county “smart growth” planning initiative to develop an integrated information base and framework for sustaining the region’s rich agricultural and natural resource values and functions and long-term economic vitality. Provide leadership in relating conservation strategies to social, economic, public health, and emission reduction goals and policies.

Agency liaison for *Wind, Wings and Wilderness: Decision-Support for Minimizing Impacts of Wind Energy in Eastern Sierra and Tehachapis – Packard Foundation.* Lead CBI’s outreach to federal and state agencies to ensure that the project delivers spatial data and assessments and decision-support that directly aids their permitting for wind energy and infrastructure projects and other land use planning needs.

Mongolia Project Director -- The Nature Conservancy. Served as the Conservancy’s point person for establishing new Mongolia country program and launching a temperate grassland conservation initiative on the vast Eastern Steppe. Investigated enabling conditions, defined niche for the Conservancy, and coordinated legal due diligence. Raised funds and organized learning exchanges between Mongolia and the US.

Coordinator of Mongolia Grassland Protected Area Gap Analysis -- The Nature Conservancy. Established a joint technical team between the Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature to undertake the country’s first protected area gap



analysis to identify under-represented grassland habitats and species. Helped the Ministry of Nature and the Environment secure a Global Environmental Facilities grant to expand the analysis across the entire country which led to recent designation of new protected areas. This project introduced new approaches to the use of GIS and spatial analysis in Mongolia.

Planning Lead for East Maui Feral Pig Control Plan Update -- The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i. To conserve endangered endemic rare bird and plant species in Hawai'i, collaborated with the East Maui Watershed Partnership to update joint plan for accelerating pig control in 12,000 acres of tropical montane forest and improving pig and fence monitoring.

Founder and Director of The Nature Conservancy's Long Island Coastal and Estuarine Conservation Program, New York. Established one of the Conservancy's first temperate coastal / estuarine ecosystem restoration programs in the US which included "in the water" strategies. Under her leadership, the Conservancy initiated projects and strategies to restore dynamic coastal processes and essential filter-feeding shellfish (hard clams and bay scallops) to the Long Island's south shore barrier islands and bays and Peconic Estuary. Over time, these projects helped New York State and municipalities institute new policies, baybottom sanctuaries, and management practices which have improved protection of natural shorelines and increased populations of shellfish and rare beach nesting species of bird and plants.

Chair of the Natural Resource Sub-Committee In the Peconic Estuary – National Estuary Program, New York. Led the development of the habitat and biodiversity plan for the 283,000 acre estuary which catalyzed conservation commitments by five Towns, Suffolk County, State and Federal government.

Chair of the Wetlands Committee of Vector Control and Wetlands Management Plan, Suffolk County, New York. Brought Towns and conservation groups into the planning process and facilitated planning for wetland health, functions and biodiversity as key components of the draft Plan (2005) which was addressing mosquito control and West Nile Virus.

Manager of Nature Conservancy's cooperative agreements with New York State Parks on Long Island and Suffolk County Parks. Annually updated resource inventories, maps, and management recommendations for conserving rare species and natural communities (pine barrens, oak woodlands, freshwater wetlands, maritime grasslands, and salt marshes and beaches). This included overseeing the Conservancy's program which seasonally protected rare beach-dependent species, particularly piping plover, least tern, and seabeach amaranth, on public beaches and helped agencies address land use conflicts between recreation and rare species.

Fire Management Planner, The Nature Conservancy, New York. Initiated the use of prescribe fire on Long Island to achieve conservation goals. Prepared prescribed fire management plans for three grassland and pine barren sites on Long Island and served on



fire crews. Represented the conservation community on the Long Island Wildfire Taskforce following major wildfire in the LI Pine Barrens.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Regional Planning for Climate Change in the Southern Sierra: Lessons Learned. Invited presentation, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC. June 2011.

Framework for Cooperative Conservation and Climate Adaptation in the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains. Invited presentation, Geos Institute, Fresno, CA, June 2010

Conservation of Mongolia's Eastern Steppe. Invited presentation. Conservation Symposium at joint Grassland and Rangeland Congresses. Hohhot, China. July 2008.

Waters for Life: Mongolia's Freshwater Ecosystems and Their Conservation Across Borders. Invited presentation. The Asia Foundation. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, November 2007.