

Sebastian Winkler

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Mexican, German, French, Swiss National | Married, 1 child

Languages

Spanish & German (Native) | English & French (Fluent) | Italian

Driving transformative change along with leading business development and proven expertise in advancing environmental action across the UN, govt./private sector, and civil society | Adept at establishing systemic multi-stakeholder change processes utilising advanced financial, fundraising and management techniques for long-term sustainable outcomes |

Professional Career

2010 – present

Earthmind | Senior Associate | Geneva

Providing Advisory Services in long-term assignments and leadership positions managing teams (10+ direct reporting lines) to reform and re-position organisations & processes, such as:

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme | Senior Advisor | Geneva | 2019 – 2022

Political and strategic advice to the UN on (1) establishing a multistakeholder NbS Coalition to increase cohesion and a collective sense of direction, to enhance political momentum and delivery for NbS, (2) design UN Common Approach to Biodiversity coordinating 51 agencies in the UN EMG and (3) draft the UN Decade of Ecological Restoration Action Plan.

Global Crop Diversity Trust | Head of Partnerships | Bonn | 2018 – 2019

Direct overall corporate fundraising operations. Secure up to 7-digit budgets annually to achieve \$400M endowment fund by 2020. Implement innovative finance instruments

European Environment Bureau | NGO Focal Point for OECD | Brussels | 2017 – 2018

Updated OECD members with prevailing environmental and development policies and research processes and setting science-based targets to inform policy making. Coordinated civil society input on environmental reviews and being the environmental voice to the OECD.

Gabriel Resources | Sustainability & Strategy | Brussels & Romania | 2010 – 2017

Leadership support to largest gold mine for applying EU policy and resolving sustainability issues while setting new social and environment sector-wide standards.

Forest Trends | Senior Policy Advisor Business & Biodiversity | Brussels & D.C. | 2013 – 2017

Co-designed Business and Biodiversity Offset Standard. Advised and trained governments, companies, and civil society experts for applying and mainstreaming biodiversity offsets to achieve no net loss.

Ministry of Environment | Senior Advisor, Biodiversity & Climate Change | Madrid | 2010

Advised Spanish EU Presidency team as lead negotiator for Aichi biodiversity targets.

2022 - 2025

CIC-International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation | Director General | Budapest

Established in 1930 the CIC is among the first International Environmental Organisation composed of States, NGOs, individual experts providing scientific and policy input on wildlife conservation. With 12+ direct reporting lines modernised CIC operations, strengthened its finances, led the drafting and adoption of the CIC 2030 Strategy aligned with the GBF, and gave a greater voice to indigenous peoples and local communities.

2010 – 2017

Global Footprint Network | VP Programme and Outreach | Geneva & Brussels

Enhanced business effectiveness by establishing corporate office in Geneva & Brussels
Managed the communication team and brokered strategic partnerships leading to 3B media impressions on Earth Overshoot Day and 2.5M people a year utilise a personal on-line footprint calculator while also adapting national footprint metrics for local and corporate use.

1997 – 2010**International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) | Geneva & Brussels**

Outstanding career path in the largest environmental network organization with 1'000 members from government and civil society along with 10'000 volunteer experts holding positions such as:

Senior Policy Officer, Regional Office Europe | Head Countdown 2010 | Brussels | 2005 – 2010

Jointly with the Director established IUCN's European Regional Office with up to 45 staff and 3 sub-regional offices (South & East Europe, West & Central Europe, Caucasus)

Established Countdown 2010 Secretariat in less than 1 year with 6 staff leading the largest multi-stakeholder network around the international 2010 biodiversity target with more than 1'000 partners representing governments, cities, private sector and NGOs.

Senior Policy Officer Biodiversity, Climate Change and Trade | Geneva | 2003 – 2005

Reformed and strengthened IUCN's policy processes and presences by ensuring greater engagement from IUCN members and volunteer experts to mainstream the sustainability agenda into other fora such as trade, development, human rights, health, and food.

Acting Head Conservation Finance & Partnerships | Geneva | 2000 – 2003

Led change management process of Donor Relations & Fundraising Unit to Conservation Finance and Partnerships doubling the core unrestricted income to Euro 19M annually. Co-founder of the Conservation Finance Alliance and scaling-up sector-wide conservation funding.

Special Assistant to the Director General | Geneva | 1998 – 2000

Supported DG and Senior Management to move organisation from silo to matrix management and negotiated with government representatives to allow IUCN to become the first environmental observer organisation in the United Nations General Assembly.

Environmental Economist | Geneva | 1997 - 1998

Among the first environmental economists hired by IUCN to establish its Economics Service Unit with regional hubs in Africa, Asia and LAC. Established IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Unit and drafting of first private sector engagement guidelines. Secured funding and managed IUCN first Innovation Fund to promote greater cooperation among internal Divisions and IUCN Members

Additional Experience:

ICMM, GIZ, WFP, GRI, Mexican Ministry of Environment, Central American Development Bank

Board Member

2018 – present

Resurgence – the Urban Resilience Trust | UK

2011 – present

Global Nature Fund & Living Lakes Network | Germany

2010 - present

Senior Associate Earthmind | France, UK & Switzerland

2013 – 2017

Bioregional Americas | Canada

2011 - 2016

Internews | UK & USA

Education & Credentials

2000

Harvard Business School | World Bank Executive Development Programme | USA

1995 – 1996

University Trier | MA Environmental Management | Germany | Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) | Postgraduate Certificate Environmental Engineering | CH

1993 – 1995

Institute of Social Studies (ISS) | Doctorands Regional Development Planning | Doctorands in Politics of Alternative Development Strategies | NL

1992 – 1993

University of Guelph | Honours B.A. Political Science (Major Environmental Economics) | CA

1991 – 1992

Institute of Political Studies (SciencePo) | Certificate in Political Science | Erasmus Program | F

1990 - 1993

University of Constance | BA in Administrative Science and Economics | D