Jessica L. Hitt

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SUMMARY

A passionate and driven scientist and project manager with over a decade of experience. A solutions-oriented team leader and member with diverse skills, including strategic program visioning and day-to-day management, outreach and communications, and client management. Successful track record of budget management, coalitions building and network management, and product delivery.

WORK EXPERIENCE

EcoAdapt: Climate Change Adaptation Organization
Program Manager & Lead Scientist January 2009 - Present

- Program manager of the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE), a cutting-edge climate adaptation program and community of practice focused on building the field through knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- Project manager for numerous adaptation projects, delivering technical and research expertise; activities include authoring or overseeing the development of reports, analysis, case studies, training materials, and other resources.
- Experience maintaining and cultivating key partner relationships as wells as successfully leveraging partners' support (time, resources, expertise) to further programmatic goals.
- Lead business development and fundraising efforts by identifying and cultivating new opportunities with demonstrated success.
- Serve as thought leader in the field of climate adaptation through extensive presentations and public speaking experience for diverse audiences and foci at different knowledge levels ranging from government officials to community leaders to private sector employees. Regularly present at national conferences, workshops, and webinars. (See section on recent presentations below).
- Stay abreast of climate change science and the rapidly changing field of adaptation as wells as other primary related fields including wildlife and natural resource management, urban planning, public lands and conservation issues, environmental justice, federal and state policy, knowledge management, and more.
- Vast hands-on experience facilitating, managing, and coordinating stakeholder and partnership groups in numerous configurations including: in-person or online events, national conferences, peer-to-peer learning facilitation, as well as capacity building workshops and training.
- Responsible for shaping strategic goals, work plans, monitoring progress, and evaluating success.
- Represents organization on national and international steering committees, in senior-level meetings, and on working groups. (See section on Committees and Boards below).
- Manage program and project budgets, in addition to fulfilling grant and contract reporting requirements such as financial and progress updates on schedule and within budget.
- Recruit, hire, train, and manage cross-functional program teams comprising staff and consultants ranging in expertise and experience in offsite locations.
- Senior Organizational leader, involved in strategic planning, communications, program management, and DEI committees.
- Created and managed the EcoAdapt-Allianz Youth Climate Change Leadership Program, aimed at educating inner-city DC youth on the science of climate change and empowering them to take conservation and climate action in their communities. Developed yearlong program curriculum, materials, and activities that introduced the students to the outdoors, climate change, and incorporated many additional subjects such as mathematics, economics, civic engagement, government, and science.

Lara Hansen Consulting: Washington, D.C. – Climate Change Adaptation Consulting Firm
Research Assistant August 2008 - January 2009

- Assisted with development of curricula and provided logistical support for the climate adaptation workshop sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation's to train their climate change grantees in conjunction with International Union of Concerned Scientists' (IUCN) World Conservation Congress. Assisted with synthesis report for meeting outcomes and lessons learned (Client: WWF-Canada/MacArthur Foundation)
- Conducted an extensive literature review to support senior staff in the development of a climate change adaptation strategy on ocean and coastal resources for the Ocean Protection Council (Client: State of California Natural Resources Agency)

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): Washington, D.C. – International Conservation Non-profit
Global Climate Change Program Intern August 2007 – August 2008

- Assisted in the development and coordinated logistics for Climate Camp 2008 in San Francisco, CA, a weeklong workshop of 230 conservation practitioners from 45 countries organized to guide the creation of adaptation strategies for field offices.
- Served as assistant coordinator of the WWF-Allianz Southeast Climate Witness Program, a $500,000 project that conducted climate modeling of the southeastern United States and included outreach to 24 students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
- Provided written summaries of briefings, hearings, and media events on Capitol Hill to senior climate staff.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Environmental Affairs Board, Associated Students: Santa Barbara, CA
Statewide Affairs Chair October 2003 – June 2007

- Chaired panel to develop a LEED plan for UCSB campus; worked with administration to set benchmark of LEED certifying 25 campus buildings in five years; student director of the LEED-EB project targeting the Student Affairs building.
- Worked closely with coalitions and advocates throughout the UC system to develop campaigns and organize strategies. Activities included strategy sessions, trainings, materials development and other technical assistance.
- Served as student lobbyist in a variety of state and local forums, including city council meetings, waste management board meetings, coastal commission, and lobbying visits with Congressmen in Sacramento.

EDUCATION

University of California Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara, CA September 2003 – December 2007
BA in Environmental Studies

SELECT COMMITTEES, BOARDS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) invited technical peer reviewer for the IPCC AR6 WGII report Chapter 18: Climate Resilient Development Pathways. Requested as part of the U.S. Government's official review. December 2020.
- UN Environment's Global Adaptation Network (GAN): Steering Committee Member (2015-Ongoing)
- Climate Resilience Fund's Coordination and Collaboration in the Resilience Ecosystem funding competition. Technical/Scientific Grant Reviewer. (2018, 2020).
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office's Communication, Education & Engagement (CEE) –Building U.S. Communities' and Businesses' Resilience to Extreme Events funding competition. Technical/Scientific Grant Reviewer. 2019.
- National Adaptation Forum: Program Committee Member and Tools Café Lead Organizer (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021).
- Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCNRS), U.S. Department of Interior Advisory Committee. (2016-2017).
- California Adaptation Forum: Program Committee Member (2016, 2018, 2020).
- Interagency Land Management Adaptation Group (ILMAG), U.S. Geological Survey lead interagency committee. (2014-2016).
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals: (ASAP) Information Exchange Affinity Group Chair (2013-2015) and Prize for Progress Selection Committee (2017).

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- Gregg RM, **Hitt J**, Hansen LJ, Kershner J. 2019. Written Testimony for the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on Climate Change and Public Lands: Examining Impacts and Considering Adaptation Opportunities. Presented by Dr. Lara J. Hansen, February 13, 2019.
- Herring D, Gardiner E, Hansen L, Nordgren J, Dahlman L, Fox J, Hall N, **Hitt J**, Lynch L, Sherman R. 2018. Resilience Ecosystem Workshop Summary Report. January 18, 2018. Washington DC.
- **Hitt J**. Author of adaptation case studies available on CAKE (http://www.cakex.org/directory/jessica-hitt). (2009-present)
- **Gregg RM**, Feifel KM, Kershner JM, Hitt JL. 2012. The State of Climate Change Adaptation in the Great Lakes Region. EcoAdapt, Bainbridge Island, WA.
- **Gregg RM**, Hansen LJ, Feifel KM, Hitt JL, Kershner JM, Score A, Hoffman JR. 2011. The State of Marine and Coastal Adaptation in North America: A Synthesis of Emerging Ideas. EcoAdapt, Bainbridge Island, WA.
- Fox HE, Kareiva P, Silliman B, **Hitt J**, Lytle DA, Halpern BS, Hawkes CV, Lawler J, Neel M, Olden JD, Schlaepfer MA, Smith K, Tallis H. 2009. Why do we fly? Ecologists' sins of emission. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 7(6):294-296

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

Presentations, Lectures, and Moderation:

- Filling the Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Gap through the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) - An Online Platform to Connect Practitioners, Share Ideas, and Move the Field of Practice Forward. National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER). (August 2021)
- Knowledge Exchange Across the Field of Adaptation & Lessons Learned. Opening Plenary Presentation. National Adaptation Forum. Invited Panelist. (April 2019).
- Connecting Decision-Makers with Scientific Information using an Open-Access, Online Platform: the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE). American Geological Union. Washington, DC. (December 2018).
- Enhancing Adaptation Knowledge Exchange Across the United States: Connections to Regional and National Adaptation Forums. Inaugural Southwest Adaptation Forum. Tucson, AZ. (October 2018)

- Enhancing Decision Making and Discoverability of Adaptation Information Through Interoperability Among Key Knowledge Brokers. Great Lakes Adaptation Forum. Ann Arbor, CA. (September 2018)
- Learning networks and initiatives: the role of learning networks and initiatives in enhancing adaptation action. 2nd Global Adaptation Network Forum. Abu Dhabi, UAE. (March 2018)
- Adaptation Knowledge Networks - Lessons from the Regions: The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE). Invited Presentation. Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). Colombo, Sri Lanka. (October 2016)
- The value of face-to-face contact in learning exchanges. Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). Panel Moderator. Colombo, Sri Lanka. (October 2016)
- Mapping Adaptation Communities and a Typology of Adaptation Knowledge: Who are the different actors in knowledge exchange and what are the different types of adaptation knowledge? Invited Presentation. Global Adaptation Network Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting. (October 2015)

Facilitation Experience:

- Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network Climate Change Adaptation Planning Virtual Workshop. (December 2020).
- Coastal Impact Mitigation and Adaptation Toolkit Review Workshop. Lead Facilitator. Victoria, BC. (October 2018).
- Transfer of Adaptation Takeaways to Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS). California Adaptation Forum. Sacramento, CA. (August 2018).
- Resilience Ecosystem Workshop Facilitator. NOAA, EcoAdapt, and Climate Resilience Fund. Washington, DC (January 2018)
- Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning Workshops (Spring 2017)
- UN Environment's GAN Peer-to-Peer Learning Exchange. India, Sri Lanka, Malawi. (Fall 2016)
- Southern California National Forests Workshops: Riverside, CA (January 2016)
- Fuels Treatments in a Changing Climate Science Review Panel Meeting: Portland, OR (June 2015)
- Climate Adaptation Activities in the Southeast United States Working Group: St. Louis, MO (May 2015)
- Acting on Climate Today - Adapting Communities of Color for Climate Change Realities: Ferguson, MO (May 2015)
- Southern California National Forests Workshop: San Bernardino, CA (May 2015)

SELECTED GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

- Climate Adaptation Registry. NOAA Communication, Education, and Engagement: 2019, 2020.
- Climate Adaptation Registry. Climate Resilience Fund: 2018-19, 2019-21.
- Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange General Support. Kresge Foundation: 2017-18; 2019-20, 2021, 2022-23.
- Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange General Support. Wilburforce Foundation: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.
- Safeguarding Climate Adaptation Resources &, Tools in a Shifting Political Climate. Munson Foundation. 2018.
- Knowledge Exchange General Support. Kettering Family Foundation. 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021.
- Creating Innovative & Sustained Access to Climate-Informed Resources in a Shifting Political Climate. National Geographic Foundation: 2017-2018.
- CAKE – USGS Vulnerability Assessment Database. United States Geological Survey: 2014-2019.
- Youth Climate Change Leadership Program. Allianz Foundation for North America. 2009, 2010.

RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS

***Computer Skills*:** Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook; Mac OS X; experience in various website (HTML) and content management systems (Drupal); extensive experience with online project management software such as BaseCamp, Google Sites, Asana, Jira, Pivotal, and others; and extremely well versed and comfortable using a variety of online outreach and social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Vimeo, Constant Contact, HootSuite, and many others.

Training:

- Trailiant Workplace Diversity, Inclusion & Racial Sensitivity, Unconscious Bias, and Microaggressions in the Workplace Trainings. 2020.
- UC Berkeley, Project Management Course: Course provides step-by-step introduction to the project management process, work plan development and management, program scoping, and budgeting. 2018.
- Leadership Training, Training Resources for the Environmental Community. 2012–2013
- Fundraising and Development, Training Resources for the Environmental Community. 2010

Languages: Spanish – Basic; Italian – Proficient
Lived: Bologna, Italy; Washington, DC, USA; Singapore, Singapore; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Mexico City, Mexico
Skills: Scuba – PADI Open Water, Deep Dive, Nitrox