

## Deborah Brosnan Ph.D.

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Deborah Brosnan & Associates  
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**Focus:** High-level, effective strategic advising and creating innovative solutions to environmental risks for diverse clients, bridging technical, business and government.

**Areas:** National-international environmental actions, policy and regulation covering: climate change, and disaster risk reduction, marine and land use management, endangered species, sustainability and resilience. Experience throughout USA, Internationally and in developing island states and nations.

**Clients:** Examples include, *Private Sector* Roman Abramovitch, Apex Investments, Pivot Investors, FFL Investors. *NGO*: The Nature Conservancy, Family Forestry, Telluride Citizen Group, David and Lucile Packard Foundation. *Government*: US Department of Interior and its agencies Government of France, St Barths, European Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Aeronautics and Space Agency, NW Indian Commission.

### Academic Credentials

Ph.D. Oregon State University: Dissertation Effect of extreme events on marine ecosystem dynamics 1994

M.S., National University of Ireland Fisheries Science (Research Thesis). 1982

B.S. Honors in Zoology and Botany, University College Galway. 1978

### Appointments

President and Founder. Deborah Brosnan & Associates (current)

Independent consulting for smart solutions to environmental risks globally. Science based, strategically and solution focused 2014-present. HQ Washington D.C. and Office, St Barths. FWI.

Founder, CEO, Sustainable Ecosystems Institute (1994-2011)

A non-profit organization that integrated science and carried out scientific research to address environmental problems throughout the USA. Established and grew the organization recruiting a key team of 1,000 peer-nominated scientists (This team is now available to Deborah Brosnan & Associates).

### **Academic Appointments**

- Professor (Adj) of Biology, and Professor Global Change Institute and the Global Forum for Urban and Regional Resilience. Virginia Tech 2012- Present.
- University of California Davis, Environment and Policy Faculty. One Health Institute. 2011- 2015.
- Stanford University Visiting Scholar, Department. of Biology. 2009-2010 and 2002- 2003.
- Smithsonian Institution, Senior Visiting Researcher. 2013-2016.
- Visiting Professor, Northwestern School of Law.

### **Notable Professional Accomplishments**

Successfully resolved national environmental conflicts and challenges involving multiple interests and complex issues where financial and environmental stakes were high and costs escalating (e.g., California Redwoods, Everglades Restoration, Missouri River management, Spotted Owl and other high-risk/high-profile endangered species) and for multi-sector clients. My work and processes were independently evaluated as the subject of a Ph.D. dissertation (by M. McEathron), and won praise from all sides in the environmental debate for its effectiveness.

Designed and implemented a novel transparent peer review process to identify best available science and incorporate it effectively into regulatory decisions. The US Office of Management and Budget recommended my process for use by other US agencies.

Successful board and organizational leaderships, including Board chairs and leadership through strategic planning, board expansion and recruitment. Recruited (for my organization) 1,000 of nation's top scientists to serve as advisors and participants on environmental projects.

Served as Chair of US Department of Interior Blue Ribbon committee to design and review a code of scientific ethics affecting over 50,000 government employees, and successfully won their support.

Provided expert testimony before US Senate and US House Committees on science and the environment.

Trusted advisor to national and international governments, private and other sectors especially during major disaster events (e.g., SE Asia tsunami, Hurricanes, Oil spills) and in environmental regulatory crises. Delegate to major treaty negotiations, e.g., Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (signed March 2015), UN Platform on Risk Reduction (Geneva, 2014).

Designed and implemented “on the ground” solutions including the first Caribbean marine park “network” design; an innovative, first of its kind, nature-based solution to coastal development (for private clients); and sustainable design of a port to maintain natural resources and provide for human needs and sustainability in the midst of a volcanic eruption (Montserrat 1994-2000).

Negotiated and secured IDIQ and other contracts with US Government to provide scientific advice and input on environmental issues. I currently hold an MOU to act as advisor to US Geological Survey during disaster events (Have repeatedly responded in exercises and real events in less than 2 hours with expertise information and team.)

Regular Huffington Post Contributor:

[www.http://huffingtonpost.com/author/brosnan-132](http://huffingtonpost.com/author/brosnan-132)

Articles and Op-eds published in The Washington Post, New York Times. Author of peer-reviewed and technical articles and books (examples below)

Speaker at Professional and Public Meetings and Conferences.

Convened major conferences and multi-sector gatherings. As Co-Founder and Co-Chair for National Science and Policy Forum, brought together leaders in science, industry and civic sectors to tackle leading environmental challenges (Forum was highlighted for its innovation in AAAS Science Magazine).

### **Key Skills**

- Strong visionary, analytical and synthesis skills.
- Leadership.
- Problem-solving.
- Wide-ranging scientific knowledge and technical excellence.
- Integrity and credibility.
- Excellent communicator of technical information to non-experts.
- Proven expertise in strategic analysis, building trust, and negotiating successful solutions to complex environmental challenges that sustain the environment, save money, and create community and goodwill across sectors.
- Ability to strategically analyze and advise for investment decisions in uncertain environmental and regulatory situations.
- Ability and experience in working successfully with diverse cultures including Native Tribes, international entities and governments.
- Extensive environmental law, policy and regulatory expertise.
- Track record of creating cross-sector learning innovation, e.g., developed and taught “Science in the Courtroom” to US Judges. Co-developed “Ecosynthesis – Science and Law” taught to environmental lawyers at Lewis & Clark Law School.

### **Boards of Directors and Advisory Boards**

- Board of Directors and Advisors, Pivot, Angel Investing Group. 2016-present.
- President of the Board of Directors, Wild Geese Network of Irish Scientists. 2014- present.
- Board of Trustees and Past Chair- University of California Davis, Wildlife Health Center, SeaDoc Society. 2000-present.
- American Society of Civil Engineers. Member of Committee on Sustainability. 2016- present.
- National Courts and Sciences Institute. Science Board Member. 2014-present.
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences Committee on “Science During Crisis” 2017.
- Global Risk Forum, Davos, Board of Advisors. 2014- present.

- Board of Directors, PADI Project AWARE, a global SCUBA diving conservation organization.
- Science Advisor, Environmental Agency, St Barthelemy FWI. 2013- present.
- Commissioner, IUCN Commission on Ecosystems. 2014-Present.
- Conservation Committee, American Ornithological Society.2014-present.
- Joint USA- Italy Commission on hazards and disasters.2015-present.
- BBC The World, Science Advisor. 2006-2012.
- Oregon Health and Sciences University, Board of Advisors, Coastal Oceans Monitoring Program 2005 to 2013.
- State Appointed Public Trustee, Board of Directors, College of Forestry, OSU. 1997- 2005.
- Board Member NSF, appointed to develop National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) crafting vision, organizational structure and legalentity (2001).

### **Examples of Program/Project Leadership**

#### **1. Advising, Analysis and Evaluation.**

- Advisor to the Board: Private Company delivering climate-change emissions reducing products and technologies to established and emerging markets.
- Chief Scientific Advisor Pivot Investment Group :Identifying, analyzing and strategic planning for social-impact investments
- Energy technology evaluation for Investors seeking to expand into new markets and areas.
- Advised and participated in acquisition of largest tract of Colorado Wetlands, Telluride Colorado (Private-public partnership)
- Conducted evaluation of emerging technology for nuclear waste clean up.

#### **2. Solutions for Companies and Government in High Stakes and High Stress**

- Assisted a private natural resources (forestry) company acquired in a hostile takeover, Actions by the new owners affecting the environment led to logging permits being withdrawn over regulatory violations and shut down of activities, as well as major litigation from environmental and government sectors. I designed and implemented processes that helped to restore permits, build trust with environmental and regulatory sectors resulting in win-win outcomes and restoration of economic benefit.
- Resolved complex economically- driven, culturally-driven, and regulatory challenges surrounding a \$5.8 billion investment in S. Florida restoration that was stymied, and mired in litigation.
- Resolved an 11-year dispute over shipping, dredging and endangered species using a process that took a year to complete and without which the region would have lost all a high percentage of revenue and employment.
- Private-Public Partnership to Restore Major Marshlands. Led the initial feasibility evaluation and design, served as key advisor for implementation, and resolved several environmental impasses among private sector, environmental groups and governments during program execution. Outcome led to purchase of land at savings to partnership.

### 3. Environmental Planning and Design

- Advised and assisted several high-net worth individuals, private companies and private-public partnerships, and governments in design and implementation of environmentally sound solutions that balance environment, economics and culture and save clients money.
- Design and Implementation of a Marine Reserve: St Barths French West Indies. Sustainability Design for private hotel group (\$49 million effort);
- Designed ecosystem based solution for high-net worth client that saved half-a-million dollars in construction costs and ongoing reduced maintenance costs.
- As a member of the leadership team designed GIS Based interactive tools for mitigating Sea Level Rise for NASA and The Nature Conservancy.
- Hazard Solutions: Conducted an economic and environmental analysis for California Tsunami Hazard Planning. Designed a new port and town, sensitive to natural resource dependency in order to mitigate a volcanic eruption.

### **Additional Community Work**

Founded Tsunami Reef Fund (2005), linking international scientists and professional divers with local communities affected by the tsunami. Provided economic and scientific assistance locally in marine debris clean-up and reef recovery. Travelled throughout the affected region in SE Asia to establish the program and additional long-term linkages and projects.

### **Other Fellowships and Awards**

Inducted into “Ireland 100” for services to US higher education and learning. 2015 Science-artist in residence, Cill Rialig, Ireland. August, 2015.

Senior Whiteley Fellow, University of Washington. 2010.

Red Cross Hero’s Award for saving lives when a 747 airplane I was traveling in crashed 2000

### **Languages**

English, French and Gaelic

### **Publications**

Over fifty academic publications and reports in top level journals and books. OpEds on the front pages of Huffington Post, Opinions published in the Washington Post, New York Times.