

Thomas H. Walker

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Tom Walker is an environmental economist and policy analyst with over 25 years of domestic and international experience in the analysis, implementation and management of environmental initiatives. Most recently, Mr. Walker served as a United Nations diplomat in Geneva, where he directed the establishment of the *Follow-Up Programme for Environmental Awards* at the **United Nations Compensation Commission**. His primary responsibility at the UNCC was to create the vision and build consensus for a new UN program overseeing \$4 billion in compensation awarded to restore ecosystems damaged during the 1991 Gulf War. Under Mr. Walker's leadership, the UNCC promoted innovative ecological restoration approaches for the repair of severe damage to almost 400 square kilometers of desert and 600 kilometers of Persian Gulf coastline caused by the detonation of over 700 oil wells and the release of millions of barrels of oil to the Persian Gulf. In addition, Mr. Walker worked effectively to gain acceptance for the use of innovative market-based approaches for remediating military and refugee damages across thousands of square kilometers of the region's desert ecosystems. In successfully putting a long-term framework in place for the UNCC program, Mr. Walker worked collaboratively with diplomatic and environmental representatives of the governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iran and with the members of the UNCC Governing Council -- the arm of the UN Security Council in Geneva -- to establish the ecological frameworks and goals for the program and to advise the countries on appropriate implementation measures. Mr. Walker's leadership has led to the acceptance by all parties of a new ecological restoration paradigm linking release of UNCC funds to achievement of ecological and economic benchmarks, as determined through a systematic program of independent scientific, technical and financial reviews.

Prior to joining the UNCC, Mr. Walker served as a Principal and Managing Director at Industrial Economics, Inc. -- a 100-person environmental consulting firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. As a member of IEC's senior management team, he had oversight responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of the company including, at various points in his career, responsibility for the firm's information systems, contract administration, professional staff recruitment, employee performance evaluation and professional development. In addition to these responsibilities, Mr. Walker served as head of the firm's environmental policy practice area and managed a substantial consulting practice of his own for government, non-profit, and private clients. A sampling of his consulting engagements at IEC includes the following projects:

- For the **Open Space Institute**, directed economic and financial analyses designed to help regulators and the public evaluate whether Plum Creek Timber's extensive real estate development proposal for its lands in the North Maine Woods provided conservation value sufficient to offset the adverse impacts of new second home and resort development. The approach designed by Mr. Walker was built around quantitative analyses comparing the economic value of Plum Creek's conservation commitments with its financial returns from real estate development, thus placing in the public domain more complete information to support negotiations over enhancements to the conservation proposals. In the early stages of the process, prior to joining the UN, Mr. Walker also played a prominent role in OSI's outreach efforts to environmental groups, regulators, the regional news media, and Plum Creek.

- Directed the development of expert testimony on the economic value of environmental damages caused by oil drilling on the lands of **Candlewood Timber Group**, a startup company investing in sustainable, green-certified tropical hardwood forestry. Mr. Walker led a financial modeling approach that demonstrated, through a detailed evaluation of markets for sustainable timber, how loss of Forest Stewardship Council certification impaired Candlewood's ability to implement its environmentally sustainable business plan, leading to loss of sales in high value European hardwood markets and an overall reduction in the value of the business.
- Coordinated the scientific and economic analyses of IEc staff and approximately 20 external experts to support the deliberations of the **United Nations Compensation Commission** on claims for environmental damages resulting from the 1991 Gulf War. The studies under Mr. Walker's direction -- which addressed a wide array of ecological, economic and social issues -- led to a series of multi-billion dollar ecological restoration and natural resource damage awards, representing the first time an international war reparations tribunal provided compensation for environmental damages. Mr. Walker's role included assembling the expert teams, organizing fieldwork in the claimant countries to support the UNCC review process, developing innovative approaches for valuing the environmental damages and implementing restoration, and defending the analyses before UNCC Panel of Commissioners that adjudicated the claims.
- Served as lead consultant and project manager for Project Silesia, a seven-year, multi-million dollar environmental risk reduction program in Poland and the Czech Republic. For this initiative, funded by the **U.S. Agency for International Development** and the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, Mr. Walker assembled and managed an international team of consultants charged with estimating human health and ecological risks, identifying cost-effective risk management strategies, and building consensus on environmental reforms for the major polluters in the region. Mr. Walker's contributions included shaping the initial vision for a geographically-based comparative risk program, overseeing implementation of the environmental health and ecological analyses, and organizing the outreach and consensus-building efforts with government and industry.
- Acted as Program Manager for \$10 million of consulting assignments with **Economic Methods and Risk Assessment Division** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Serving in this role over a ten-year period, Mr. Walker demonstrated his strong program and technical management skills, directing the work of over 40 subcontractors and consultants on 82 task orders with over 400 deliverables. Representative assignments included development of a new materials management strategy for the EPA, an analysis of the lifecycle costs and benefits of alternative approaches for managing electronic wastes, and a review of the effectiveness of voluntary programs for managing wastes.

Mr. Walker holds a B.A. *cum laude* in Economics and Political Science from Yale College and an M.F.S. in Natural Resource Economics from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Outside of his professional activities, Mr. Walker has been involved in a variety of community and non-profit initiatives. He served as chair of the Lincoln Conservation Commission, a Massachusetts town board that regulates wetlands development and manages the town's extensive conservation land holdings. In addition, Mr. Walker was Vice Chair of the Rural Land Foundation, a non-profit organization that has been a pioneer in conservation-oriented real estate development.