Isaac Brito Morales Ph.D.

Senior Associate Scientist
Conservation International, Arlington, United States
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Work and Research

Conservation International
Senior Associate Scientist, Moore Center for Science — Jul 2024 – Present
Associate Research Scientist, Moore Center for Science — 2021 – Jun 2024

University of California, Santa Barbara
Research Associate, Marine Science Institute — Nov 2024 – Present
Affiliated Researcher, Marine Science Institute — 2022 – Oct 2024

University of Queensland (UQ)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Mathematics and Physics — Feb 2021 – Sep 2021

Centro de Ecologia Aplicada
Project Manager — 2010 – 2016

Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción
Lecturer in Experimental Design — 2008 – 2009

Education

University of Queensland (UQ), Ph.D. Biological Sciences — 2016 – 2021

Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción, B.Sc. 1st Class Hons, Marine Biology — 2003 – 2008

Awards and Honors

Science Faculty, Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción, Academic Excellence — 2008

Grants and Fellowships

Save the Blue Five – IKI Project (International Climate Initiative, BMUV/Germany)
Co-lead on climate change vulnerability and conservation planning for highly migratory megafauna — 2023 – Present

Belmont Forum / Ocean Front Change Project
Contributor to international project on climate and dynamic ocean features — 2021 – 2024

Chilean National Research and Development Agency (ANID), Ph.D. Grant — 2016

Peer-Reviewed Publications

In Press and Published

Buenafe KCV, Dunn DC, Metaxas A, Schoeman DS, Everett JD, Pidd A, Hanson JO, Bentley LK, Kim SW, Neubert S, Scales KL, Dabalà A, **Brito-Morales I**, Richardson AJ. 2025. Current approaches and future opportunities for climate-smart protected areas. *Nature Reviews Biodiversity*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1038/s44358-025-00041-0.

Hannah L, Irvine A, **Brito-Morales I**, Fuller S, Davies T, Tittensor D, Reville G, Shackell N, Hennicke J, Stanley R. 2024. To save the high seas, plan for climate change. *Nature*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-01720-2.

Sanz-Martín M, Hidalgo M, Puerta P, García Molinos J, Zamanillo M, **Brito-Morales I**, González-Irusta JM, Esteban A, Punzón A, García-Rodríguez E, Vivas M, López-López L. 2024. Climate velocity drives unexpected southward patterns of species shifts in the Western Mediterranean Sea. *Ecological Indicators*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2024.111741.

Schoeman DS, Sen Gupta A, Harrison CS, Everett J, **Brito-Morales I**, Hannah L, Bopp L, Roehrdanz P, Richardson AJ. 2023. Demystifying global climate models for use in the life sciences. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2023.04.005.

Buenafe KCV, Dunn D, Everett J, **Brito-Morales I**, Schoeman DS, Hanson JO, Dabalà A, Neubert S, Cannicci S, Kaschner K, Richardson AJ. 2023. A metric-based framework for climate-smart conservation planning. *Ecological Applications*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2852.

Brito-Morales I, Schoeman DS, Everett J, Klein CJ, Dunn D, García Molinos J, Burrows MT, Buenafe KCV, Dominguez RM, Possingham HP, Richardson AJ. 2022. Towards climate-smart, three-dimensional protected areas for biodiversity conservation in the high seas. *Nature Climate Change* 12, 402–407. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01323-7.

Arafeh-Dalmau N, **Brito-Morales I**, Schoeman DS, Possingham HP, Klein CJ, Richardson AJ. 2021. Incorporating climate velocity into the design of climate-smart networks of marine protected areas. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13675.

Brito-Morales I, Schoeman DS, García Molinos J, Burrows MT, Klein CJ, Arafeh-Dalmau N, Kaschner K, Garilao C, Kesner-Reyes K, Richardson AJ. 2020. Climate velocity reveals increasing exposure of deep-ocean biodiversity to future warming. *Nature Climate Change* 10, 576–581. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0773-5.

Brito-Morales I, García Molinos J, Schoeman DS, Burrows MT, Poloczanska ES, Brown CJ, Ferrier S, Harwood TD, Klein CJ, McDonald-Madden E, Moore PJ, Pandolfi JM, Watson JEM, Wenger AS, Richardson AJ. 2018. Climate velocity can inform conservation in a warming world. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 33, 441–457. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2018.03.009.

In Preparation, Review or Revision (drafts available upon request)

Isaac Brito-Morales, Boris Dewitte, Floriane Sudre, Christoph A. Rohner, Elliott L. Hazen, Kylie L. Scales, Matthieu Le Corre, Audrey Jaeger, Sophie Laran, Olivier Bousquet, Ana M. M. Sequeira, Tammy E. Davies, Daniel C. Dunn, Ronel Nel, Lee Hannah, Vincent Rossi. Megafauna show pervasive yet distinct affinity to ocean fronts: the urgent need for adaptive conservation in a warming world. *Nat. Commun.. In Review*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.06.17.660201

Isaac Brito-Morales, Lee Hannah. Static tools in a dynamic ocean: why marine protection must evolve to survive climate change. *In preparation* (draft available upon request).

Lee Hannah, Jennifer Sunday, **Isaac Brito-Morales**, Jessica Couture, Juliano Palacios-Abrantes, Patrick Roehrdanz, Pablo Marquet, William Cheung. 30x30 for Climate Change: One if by Land, Two if by Sea. *In preparation* (draft available upon request).

Teaching

Instruction

Instructor, UCSB, ESM240 Climate Change Biology (graduate course) 2023, 2025
– Designed and delivered graduate-level lectures, developed assignments, supervised projects, and evaluated coursework.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Advanced Analysis of Scientific Data 2019 – 2020
– Led tutorials, guided statistical analyses in R, and supported graduate students in project-based coursework.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Analysis of Scientific Data 2019 – 2020
– Assisted in course delivery, supervised lab exercises, and graded assignments.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Pharmacy – Data Analysis & Professional Practice 2019 – 2020
– Supported student learning in applied data analysis and professional practice modules.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Probability & Statistics in Engineering 2019
– Delivered tutorials, provided feedback, and guided engineering students through applied statistics.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Environmental Data Analysis 2018
– Assisted undergraduate students with statistical methods and data analysis.

Teaching Assistant, UQ, Biostatistics & Experimental Design 2018
– Supported course instruction and mentored students on experimental design.

Academic Service & Leadership

Organizer, Climate and Ocean Modeling Workshop: Applications of Regional Ocean Models for Marine Megafauna Conservation in the Southeast Pacific
CERFACS, Toulouse, France — Workshop Website 2025

Organizer, Climate Change and Marine Megafauna Workshop
Save the Blue Five / Conservation International, David, Panama — Workshop Website 2025

Invited Workshop Contributor, Ocean Front, Megafauna and Climate Change
Acadia University 2024

Invited Workshop Contributor, Ocean Front and Climate Change
Nelson Mandela University 2023

Conference Presentations

Invited

Encuentro del Pacífico Sudeste, Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá, *Cambio climático en el océano: la dimensión ignorada en conservación* 2024

Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, *Climate velocity in the ocean and its implications for conservation*, S-69: Promoting Resilience Through Climate-Smart Fisheries and Conservation Management 2023

Contributed

Sustainability, Research & Innovation Congress, Helsinki, Finland, *Ocean Front Change, Belmont Forum Session: Oceans 2018 End-term* 2024

Species on the Move, Bonita Springs, Florida, US, *Managing dynamic ocean front ecosystems for species on the move* 2023

IMPAC5, Vancouver, Canada, *Climate velocity in the ocean and its implications for conservation* 2023

Ocean Sciences Meeting, *Challenges and opportunities for managing ocean front ecosystems in a warming world* 2022

Species on the Move, Kruger National Park, South Africa, *Life below the ocean surface increasingly threatened by climate change* 2019

Mentoring

M.A. in Environmental Science and Management, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB, Sarayu Ramnath & Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales
"Save the Blue Five – IKI climate change assessment and conservation planning for highly migratory species" 2025 – Present

M.A. in Environmental Science and Management, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, UCSB, Sarayu Ramnath & Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales
"Climate change assessment and the role of ocean fronts in structuring megafauna–fisheries interactions" 2025 – Present

Mundus Masters Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Kristine Camille Buenafe — "Benefits and costs to pelagic fisheries of conservation-sensitive, climate-smart closures in the Pacific Ocean" 2021

Mundus Masters Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Rosa Mar Dominguez — "Conservation of the high seas: designing climate-smart reserves in the Indian Ocean" 2020

Mundus Masters Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Rafaela de Albuquerque Ribeiro — "Designing climate-proof marine protected areas: a case study in South America" 2019

References

Prof Anthony Richardson (anthony.richardson@csiro.au)
Prof David Schoeman (dschoema@usc.edu.au)
A/Prof Jorge Garcia Molinos (garciamj@tcd.ie)

Languages Spoken

Fluent Spanish; Fluent English