Isaac **Brito-Morales, Ph.D.**

Senior Associate Scientist · Research Associate
Conservation International, Arlington, United States
ibritomorales@gmail.com isaakbm.github.io ORCID +1 (805) 350-6678 GitHub LinkedIn

Work and Research

Senior Associate Scientist — *Arlington, United States*
Conservation International, Moore Center for Science — *Jul 2024 – Present*

Associate Research Scientist — *Arlington, United States*
Conservation International, Moore Center for Science — *2021 – Jun 2024*

Research Associate — *Santa Barbara, United States*
University of California, Santa Barbara, Marine Science Institute — *Nov 2024 – Present*

Affiliated Researcher — *Santa Barbara, United States*
University of California, Santa Barbara, Marine Science Institute — *2022 – Oct 2024*

Postdoctoral Research Fellow — *Brisbane, Australia*
University of Queensland, School of Mathematics and Physics — *Feb 2021 – Sep 2021*

Project Manager — *Chile*
Centro de Ecologia Aplicada — *2010 – 2016*

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

Education

Ph.D. Biological Sciences — *Brisbane, Australia*
University of Queensland — *2016 – 2021*

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

Awards and Honors

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

Grants and Fellowships

Save the Blue Five – IKI Project — *International*
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 — *International*
Contributor to international project on climate and dynamic ocean features — *2021 – 2024*

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

Peer-Reviewed Publications

In Press and Published

Sanz-Martín M, Olguin-Jacobson C, Bolin JA, Quiles-Pons C, **Brito-Morales I**, García Molinos J, Hidalgo M, Alabia ID, Gissi E, Provost MM, Micheli F, Arafeh-Dalmau N. 2026. Identifying marine climate refugia to advance climate-smart conservation. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. In press. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2026.04.007.

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, Yulia Egorova, Lee Hannah, Guillermo Ortuño Crespo, Nur Arafeh-Dalmau. Evolving area-based conservation for a dynamic ocean. *In review*.

Ian Omedes Bassat, Manuel Hidalgo, Carla Quiles-Pons, Jorge García Molinos, **Isaac Brito-Morales**, Nur Arafeh-Dalmau, Javier Soto-Navarro, Marina Sanz-Martín. Multifaceted thermal exposure reveals climate refugia shortfalls in the Mediterranean marine protected areas. *In review*.

Lee Hannah, Sarayu Ramnath, Kylie L. Scales, Vincent Rossi, Ana Sequeira, Tammy E. Davies, Elliott Hazen, Daniel Dunn, Peter I. Miller, Sophie Laran, Valeria Falabella, Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales, **Isaac Brito-Morales**. Ocean fronts concentrate fishing pressure on threatened megafauna. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*. *In review*.

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. *Communications Biology*. *In review*. Preprint DOI: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.06.17.660201

Teaching

Instruction

Instructor
Santa Barbara, United States

UCSB, ESM240 Climate Change Biology (graduate course) — *2023, 2025*

- Designed and delivered graduate-level lectures, developed assignments, supervised projects, and evaluated coursework.

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Advanced Analysis of Scientific Data — *2019 – 2020*

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Analysis of Scientific Data — *2019 – 2020*

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Pharmacy – Data Analysis & Professional Practice — *2019 – 2020*

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Probability & Statistics in Engineering — *2019*

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Environmental Data Analysis — *2018*

Teaching Assistant
Brisbane, Australia

University of Queensland, Biostatistics & Experimental Design — *2018*

Academic Service & Leadership

Organizer
Toulouse, France

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

Organizer
David, Panama

Conservation International, Climate Change and Marine Megafauna Workshop — *2025*

Invited Workshop Contributor
Wolfville, Canada

Acadia University, Ocean Front, Megafauna and Climate Change — *2024*

Invited Workshop Contributor
Gqeberha, South Africa

Nelson Mandela University, Ocean Front and Climate Change — *2023*

Conference Presentations

Invited

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

Climate velocity in the ocean and its implications for conservation
ASLO, S-69: Promoting Resilience Through Climate-Smart Fisheries and Conservation Management
Palma de Mallorca, Spain
2023

Contributed

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

Managing dynamic ocean front ecosystems for species on the move
Species on the Move
Bonita Springs, United States
2023

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

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

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

Mentoring

Sarayu Ramnath & Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales
Bren School, UCSB; Save the Blue Five – IKI climate change assessment and conservation planning for highly migratory species
Santa Barbara, United States
2025 – Present

Sarayu Ramnath & Lenaya-Aiden Gonzales
Bren School, UCSB; climate change assessment and the role of ocean fronts in structuring megafauna–fisheries interactions
Santa Barbara, United States
2025 – Present

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

Rosa Mar Dominguez
Mundus Masters Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems; conservation of the high seas: designing climate-smart reserves in the Indian Ocean
International
2020

Rafaela de Albuquerque Ribeiro
Mundus Masters Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems; designing climate-proof marine protected areas: a case study in South America
International
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