

Michael J. Simsik, Ed.D.

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OBJECTIVE: To apply my management and technical skills to assist organizations with a mission to eradicate poverty or enable sustainable environmental management, or both, with the objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of people in developing countries.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Regional Team Leader, West Africa Regional Energy Program, 10/2022 — present

Employer: Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
1099 14th Street, NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20005
(Duty Station: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire)

Lead the regional compact development team on all aspects of the development of a \$200+ million regional energy compact focused on Cote d'Ivoire and developed in collaboration with the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and their regional energy entity, the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) of Cotonou, Benin. Developing systems, processes, and reporting procedures to facilitate monitoring, assessment, and communication to monitor Compact development and ensure that it meets the objective of developing a project that facilitates the creation of a regional energy market. Liaise between MCC Technical Leads and host government and regional entity collaborators on project management, contract, and public diplomacy issues requiring resolution as well as coordinating to keep milestones on target. Serve as a Diplomatic Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan.

Resident Country Director, MCC-Burkina Faso, 03/2020 — 10/2022

Employer: Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
1099 14th Street, NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20005
(Duty Station: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)

Led the Resident Country Mission (RCM) and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) team on all in-country aspects of the pre-implementation of the \$450 million energy-focused Compact between MCC and the Government of Burkina Faso (the MCA). Created systems, processes and reports that facilitated ongoing monitoring, assessment, and communication to monitor Compact pre-implementation progress in-country and at the Washington level. Liaised between MCC Technical Leads and MCA on any project management, contract and public diplomacy issues that required multiple party advice or coordination to keep milestones on target. Tracked large scale infrastructure and services contracts signed between private entities and MCA. Worked out of the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou, also serving there as a Diplomatic Attaché and a member of the Senior Embassy Country Team. Managed the day-to-day management of the MCC RCM, including supervising local staff, arranging a large volume of MCC missions and other official U.S. government missions, monitoring budget and resources and liaising with US Embassy on

intra-Mission services. Oversaw donor coordination and maintained information on other donor activities, academic studies, and private sector experiences to the technical aspects of key activities reflected in the Burkina Faso Compact. Maintained knowledge about how the Compact fits within Burkina Faso's National Socio-Economic Development Plan (PNDES) and other donor programs, and was able to provide advice, technical briefings, and presentations to the Government of Burkina Faso, the MCC, US Government Agencies and others. Represent MCC at high-level meetings of senior U.S. government officials, senior foreign government officials, MCA program directors, Ambassadors, and high-level US government delegations.

Country Team Leader, Burkina Faso, 07/2017 — 03/2020

Employer: Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

1099 14th Street, NW, 7th floor, Washington, DC 20005

Provide overall leadership of the MCC compact development process and MCC multi-disciplinary compact development team for Burkina Faso. Serve as the principal liaison and lead negotiator vis-à-vis the host country government and all levels of the host country government (including the Embassy in Washington, DC, and government officials at the regional and community levels); and responsible for managing relevant aspects of external relations with US Embassy, other USG agencies, MCC board representatives, other multilateral and bilateral donors, NGO community, and program stakeholders. Serve as the main point-of-contact within MCC on all matters pertaining to the compact development process of the country; Establish timelines for the overall process and each component piece and ensure timely deliverables. Ensure quality, completeness, consistency, and accuracy of major internal documents related to compact, external documents (e.g., press releases, fact sheets, CNs, etc.) and legal agreements (e.g., Compact, 609(g) agreement, etc.); Guide the implementation of 609(g) agreements (project preparation funding agreements) and due diligence plan and budgets to ensure judicious and timely use of those resources. Monitor host country context of relevance to the compact development and implementation process including sector policy, development indicators, private sector and donor activity as well as security. Review teamwork products and provide final quality control and clearance before vetting with senior management. Develop annual travel plan and budget, and coordinate and approve travel of country team members and consultants. Brief senior management on the progress of the team and programmatic issues, as requested. Chair weekly Country Team meetings, including resolving issues and keeping members on-track. Raise to senior management any issues requiring management intervention.

Chief of Party, Four Country Cotton Partnership (C4CP) Project, 07/2015 – 07/2017

Employer: International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)

1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526

(Duty Station: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso)

Responsible for providing overall vision, leadership and guidance of the USAID-funded West and Central Africa Four Country Cotton Partnership (C4CP) Project, which addresses issues of sustainable agricultural productivity, establishing and strengthening partnerships, and increasing benefits to women working in the cotton sector in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali. Liaise internally with project staff and externally with USAID, host governments, other donors, and stakeholders. Lead the IFDC team and serve as the primary point of contact with USAID regarding day-to-day activity implementation and management matters relating to the contract. Responsible for overall project planning, implementation, and management. Ensure the smooth functioning and coordination of all project functions: program development and implementation,

project finances and administration, outreach and reporting, monitoring and evaluation. Ensure the technical quality and appropriateness of the technical services provided through the project and the quality of the results generated. Responsible for all project personnel and serve as the IFDC representative to relevant donor, line ministries, other donors and multinationals, technical agencies and other participating organizations. Responsible for assuring that all assistance provided under the contract is technically sound and appropriate for the needs to be addressed; and for adequately managing and supervising the work of all experts/personnel provided under the agreement. Serve as the primary point of contact for information on the progress and status of all activities under the contract. Establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms to ensure that activity progress and specific implementation concerns are regularly and promptly reported. Manage the preparation and presentation of proposed implementation plans and all reports.

Chief of Party, 12/2013 — 07/2015

Employer: Conservation International

2011 Crystal Drive, Suite #600, Arlington, VA 22202

(Duty Station: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, DRC)

Responsible for representing Conservation International (CI) as well as providing overall leadership and management of the Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC) project and delivery of program results in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega Landscape of Eastern DRC. Served as the technical lead in project implementation while also providing technical direction and management expertise in leading the CAFEC team in the achievement of program deliverables and outcomes. Also served as the main point of contact for coordination with CI headquarters office and the Africa & Madagascar Field Division. Liaised with project partners and donors including USAID and the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Chief of Operations, Africa Region, 11/2012 — 12/2013

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps

1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526

Provided oversight to the management of day-to-day operations of Peace Corps programs in sub-Saharan Africa, which included 26 countries, over 3,000 Peace Corps Volunteers, approximately 75 U.S. Direct Hire staff and 800 Host-Country National staff, and an annual appropriated budget of \$75 million. Provided direction and leadership in the implementation of agency activities and strategic objectives throughout the Africa Region to maximize the impacts of Peace Corps Volunteers in the field. Developed regional strategic plan and assisted in budgeting exercises to align agency initiatives with field driven priorities. Provided thought leadership on improving performance of field programs while addressing key issues. Effectively collaborated with members of the Africa Region Senior Staff and supported them in executing a strategy for managing talent and resources. Ensured that posts in the Africa Region had the resources needed to effectively support the work of staff and volunteers, while also ensuring that agency resources were efficiently managed. Ensured compliance of posts in Africa with agency policies, standards and procedures, as well as conforming to recommendations of evaluations and audits conducted by the Peace Corps Office of the Inspector General. Provided effective leadership, capacity building and line management for 12 Country Desk Officers covering the Africa Region. Provided leadership and creative problem solving in intra- and inter-agency decision-making bodies including working groups on compliance, partnerships, policy, volunteer recruitment, and the Global Health Service Corps initiative. Strengthen the agency's profile and reputation by

representing it at numerous meetings and events both internationally and domestically, including the White House, U.S. government agencies, foreign Embassies, and at professional conferences. Also provided support to posts including serving as Acting Country Director of Peace Corps-Burkina Faso for three months.

Country Director, Peace Corps-Mali, 04/2008 — 11/2012

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Bamako, Mali)

Represent the Peace Corps as a senior member of the U.S. Mission country team in Mali. Responsible for the management and oversight of 64 staff, a \$4.1 million annual budget, and as many as 200 Peace Corps Volunteers. Provide leadership on strategic planning and collaborate with Malian Government Ministries and host-country partner organizations in the development and execution of work agreements. Approve and facilitate Volunteer projects and programming to assure Volunteer productivity and host country support. Establish and maintain relationships with host country government officials and local authorities, representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), staff at the U.S. Embassy, and colleagues at Peace Corps-Washington. Work with individuals and organizations to identify resources to enhance and promote the Peace Corps program. Secured \$1.1 million in funding from USAID/Mali for the creation of a four-year Food Security Program within Peace Corps-Mali. Also oversee management of grants and contracts. Establish and maintain relationships with the Chief of Mission, Regional Security Officer, and others within the U.S. Mission that foster the cooperation and coordination necessary to achieve Peace Corps' goals and ensure the safety of Volunteers. Serve on the USG inter-agency committees on the Global Health Initiative (GHI) and the Feed the Future (FtF) initiative, and report on Peace Corps contributions towards both GHI and FtF goals. Organize and attend representational events raising public awareness of the work of Peace Corps in Mali.

Programming and Training Officer, 07/2006 - 04/2008

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Bamako, Mali)

Assisted the Country Director in the administration of the Peace Corps program in Mali. Provided direct oversight, supervision, and support to 6 Locally Engaged Staff (LES) and 1 U.S. Direct Hire (USDH) while also assisting in the supervision of 150 Volunteers in the elaboration, management, and evaluation of development projects and training programs. Project development included study of issues to be addressed, formulation of goals and objectives, site visits and evaluation of all aspects of Volunteer assignments. Responsibilities included: maintenance of quality programming and training; providing management support and oversight to program and training staff; evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the organization in programming and training; and the development of strategies and action plans to meet training, programming, and Volunteer support needs. Also served as Acting Country Director for 4 months and Acting Administrative Officer for 7 months.

Associate Peace Corps Director, 06/2005 – 07/2006

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Antananarivo, Madagascar)

Responsible for the overall management of the environmental program for the Peace Corps in Madagascar. Identified, developed, and supported sites and projects for 40 Volunteers that reflected and served environmental needs as identified by the Government of Madagascar. Program activities focused on agriculture and food security, as well as natural resource management. Refined the existing project plan to better target Volunteer efforts and improve program impacts. Clarified existing projects while also identifying new ones. Liaised with program partners including Malagasy government agencies, international and Malagasy NGOs, United Nations organizations, and technical specialists at Peace Corps-Washington in support of sector-specific work performed by Peace Corps Volunteers. Assisted Volunteers in carefully dealing with issues of corruption whenever they occurred at their sites.

Program Leader, 11/2003 – 05/2005

Employer: Cornell University Cooperative Extension – New York City (CUCE-NYC)
40 East 34th Street, Suite 606, New York, NY 10016

Provided leadership to 4 staff in the programming of sustainable agriculture in the Urban Food Systems Program. Managed projects linking producers to urban markets via sale of produce and value-added products at farmers' markets and community-supported agriculture (CSA). Also worked with high school educators on incorporating aquaculture and hydroponics technologies into science curricula. Led program staff in strategic planning to identify new program initiatives in urban agriculture. Identified funding opportunities and developed grant proposals. Collaborated with campus-based faculty and staff, as well as with collaborating community-based organizations, in developing applied research, extension and educational initiatives in community agriculture. Served on the advisory boards of the Cornell University Community Food and Agriculture Program and the New York City Regional Food Network.

Environmental Team Leader, 01/2002 – 10/2003

Employer: Cornell University Cooperative Extension – New York City (CUCE-NYC)
40 East 34th Street, Suite 606, New York, NY 10016

Managed the implementation of environmental projects and public education programs related to natural resource management and environmental revitalization within the Environment Issues Program at CUCE. Collaborated with Cornell University faculty on the implementation of two applied research studies on urban forestry and youth engagement in environmental actions. Served on the national leadership team that developed *Garden Mosaics*, a youth science education program conducted via horticulture and community gardening. Assisted the Environmental Program Leader on the development of grant proposals. Managed one staff member and 3 student interns.

Coordinator, 06/2001 – 12/2001

Employer: University of Massachusetts, Graduate Student Grants Service
Office of Research Affairs, Research Administration Building, Amherst, MA 01003-9242

Facilitated educational workshops on grant proposal writing and grant seeking techniques to graduate students. Served as campus representative for the Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award of the Fulbright-Hays Program, responsible for recruiting and screening applications to this program. Also conducted research and compiled information later used to respond to the needs of postdoctoral scholars.

Conference Coordinator, 01/2001 – 05/2001

Employer: University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth College
504 Goodell Building, 140 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9333

Organized an undergraduate research conference for 300 student presenters from 18 institutions of public higher education in Massachusetts. Duties included outreach to and coordination with university faculties, administrators, and students. Developed and presented workshops on research, abstract and thesis writing, and presentation skills, that were delivered to students in advance of the conference. Supervised an undergraduate student assistant.

Researcher, 08/2000 – 12/2000

Employer : Le Cercle des Amis du Vonizongo-Exploitation Pilote Intégrée
(Friends of the Vonizongo – Integrated Pilot Project)
Ankazobe District, Madagascar

Conducted a research project in collaboration with a Malagasy non-governmental organization on the linkages between the livelihood practices and socio-economic status of rural people, and the condition of local biodiversity in the highlands of Madagascar. Collaborated with Malagasy colleagues on the planning and organization of this research project. Trained NGO staff in participatory research and rapid rural appraisal techniques. Developed and implemented research protocol and questionnaires. Conducted oral interviews with different actor groups relevant to livelihoods, natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation. Coordinated and facilitated meetings and training sessions with local authorities concerning the research. Recruited and supervised a team of 5 Malagasy people to work as surveyors to administer questionnaires to 60 households for the socio-economic aspect of this study. Also recruited and supervised a Malagasy interpreter while conducting a total of 30 focus group and in-depth individual interviews.

Coordinator, 08/1999 – 05/2000

Employer: University of Massachusetts, Graduate Student Grants Service
Office of Research Affairs, Research Administration Building, Amherst, MA 01003-9242

Facilitated educational workshops on grant proposal writing and grant seeking techniques to graduate students. Served as campus representative for the Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award of the Fulbright-Hays Program, responsible for recruiting and screening applications to this program.

Technical Training Coordinator, 02/1999 – 05/1999

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Antananarivo, Madagascar)

Designed and implemented an environmental training program for 15 Peace Corps trainees in Madagascar. Training focused on agriculture, forestry, and environmental education. Duties included preparation of lesson plans and trainee progress reports, facilitation of sessions, and participation in staff meetings. Other duties included: co-facilitation of cross-cultural awareness training with local staff and preparation and delivery of community-based and hands-on experiential training, in collaboration with local farmers.

Evaluator, 09/1997 – 06/2000 (except Spring 1999)

Employer: University of Massachusetts, Center for Immigrant and Refugee Community Leadership and Empowerment (CIRCLE), Hills House South, 111 Infirmity Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9329

Coordinated the evaluation activities of an innovative statewide partnership between newcomer communities, the University of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts state Office of Refugees and Immigrants. Evaluated the activities of undergraduate courses and curriculum that link undergraduates from the university with established community leaders and newcomer youth in a mentorship program run by the Center. Evaluated curriculum, which included: community development, leadership development, participatory action research, participatory evaluation, and cultural awareness and identity. Evaluated the effects of this program in various newcomer communities throughout Western Massachusetts.

Recruiter, 09/1996 – 01/1999

Employer: University of Massachusetts, College of Natural Resources
Stockbridge Hall, 80 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9246

Planned, publicized, and presented informational meetings and other public outreach events about the Peace Corps throughout the Five-College area of Western Massachusetts. Liaised with campus career services in the organization and presentation of informational sessions on their respective campuses. Interviewed applicants and evaluated their readiness for volunteer service. Reported to the Dean of the college, as well as to colleagues at the Peace Corps Boston Regional Recruiting Office.

Rural Development Technical Advisor, 01/1995 – 06/1996

Employer: Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc 27, 1196 Gland, Switzerland
(Duty Station: Fort Dauphin, Madagascar)

Planned, implemented, evaluated, and provided oversight of rural development and agricultural activities undertaken by the Andohahela Reserve Integrated Conservation and Development Project (ICDP). Worked closely with Malagasy counterparts on the development and management activities carried out by 15 rural extension agents. Conducted site visits to villages targeted by project activities to assess outcomes. Developed and implemented training plans strengthening the technical capacity of extension agents and served as project liaison to other Malagasy government institutions and non-government organizations collaborating with the ICDP.

Environmental Training Coordinator, 08/1994 – 12/1994

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Antananarivo, Madagascar)

Designed and implemented technical training programs for 14 prospective Peace Corps volunteers. Technical areas included environmental education, forestry, national park management, and natural resources management. Duties included preparation of lesson plans and trainee progress reports, facilitation of sessions, and participation in staff meetings.

Environmental Training Coordinator, 05/1994 – 08/1994

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Maseru, Lesotho)

Designed and implemented technical training programs for 5 prospective Peace Corps volunteers in Lesotho. Technical areas included forestry and water resources management. Duties included preparation of lesson plans and trainee progress reports, facilitation of sessions, and participation in staff meetings.

Agricultural Training Coordinator, 01/1994 – 05/1994

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps
1111 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20526
(Duty Station: Bamako, Mali)

Designed and implemented an agriculture technical training program for 18 prospective Peace Corps volunteers in Mali. Technical areas included agriculture, fruit tree production, and vegetable gardening. Duties included preparation of lesson plans and trainee progress reports, facilitation of sessions, and participation in staff meetings. Developed behavioral learning objectives for training and methods for assessing trainee acquisition of skills. Monitored and assessed trainee learning and made recommendations on trainee suitability for volunteer service in Mali.

Technical Trainer, 04/1993 – 09/1993

Employer: CHP International, Inc., 1040 North Boulevard, Oak Park, IL 60301
(Duty Station: Perryville, AR)

Designed and delivered technical training curriculum on agriculture, forestry and rural development for 40 prospective Peace Corps volunteers at a state-side technical training at the Heifer Farm in Perryville, AR. Developed behavioral learning objectives for training and methods for assessing trainee acquisition of skills. Created lesson plans for each session and used experiential techniques for delivering them. Monitored and assessed trainee learning and made recommendations on trainee suitability for volunteer service in Africa.

Forestry Trainer, 05/1992 – 08/1992

Employer: CHP International, Inc., 1040 North Boulevard, Oak Park, IL 60301
(Duty Station: Thies, Senegal)

Designed and implemented technical training program for 14 prospective Peace Corps volunteers in the Peace Corps-Senegal forestry program. Assumed full responsibility for all aspects of the forestry training program including designing learning objectives and curriculum, and then delivering the training and assessing trainee learning. Assisted other trainers on the design and delivery of sessions related to agriculture and environmental education.

Research Assistant, 01/1992 – 05/1992

Employer: University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources
430 East University Avenue, Samuel T. Dana Building, Ann Arbor, MI 44109
(Duty Station: Tanougou, Benin)

Liaised with colleagues from the Department of Rural Sociology at the National University of Benin on the implementation of research on the feasibility of ecotourism activities in farming

communities adjacent to the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve in northwestern Benin. Developed survey methodology and then delivered them during 128 interviews to both individuals as well as focus groups. Managed all aspects of the field research including recruiting, hiring, and supervising 3 local language interpreters and surveyors. Simultaneously conducted master's thesis research assessing villager interest in incorporating agroforestry land-management activities into traditional agricultural cropping systems and implementing reforestation to mitigate problems related to environmental degradation.

Teaching Assistant, 09/1991 – 12/1991

Employer: University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources
430 East University Avenue, Samuel T. Dana Building, Ann Arbor, MI 44109

Led weekly discussion sessions in an undergraduate course entitled “Applied and Behavioral Sciences in Natural Resources,” focusing on human dimensions of people-environment dynamics as well as environmental conflict resolution and environmental justice. Clarified and reviewed course materials for students and assisted them with assignments.

Forestry Trainer, 05/1991 – 08/1991

Employer: CHP International, Inc., 1040 North Boulevard, Oak Park, IL 60301
(Duty Station: Thies, Senegal)

Designed and implemented technical training program for 12 prospective Peace Corps volunteers in the Peace Corps-Senegal forestry program. Assumed full responsibility for all aspects of the forestry training program including designing learning objectives and curriculum, and then delivering the training and assessing trainee learning.

Teaching Assistant, 01/1991 – 05/1991

Employer: University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources
430 East University Avenue, Samuel T. Dana Building, Ann Arbor, MI 44109

Led weekly discussion sessions in an undergraduate course entitled “Applied and Behavioral Sciences in Natural Resources,” focusing on human dimensions of people-environment dynamics as well as environmental conflict resolution and environmental justice. Clarified and reviewed course materials for students and assisted them with assignments.

Forester, 05/1990 – 08/1990

Employer: Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Highway 49 and Highway 88, Martell, CA 95654

Delineated special treatment areas and tree stands and then marked timber for harvest. Conducted post-harvest tree inventories to ensure company compliance with state and national environmental regulations. Monitored and assessed tree removal and seedling planting activities. Assisted in public education efforts to raise awareness of company reforestation efforts and responded to public inquiries concerning forest management.

Extension Agroforester, 11/1988 – 12/1989

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps (assigned to the Oil Palm Research Station, Government of Benin Ministry of Agriculture)
Pobè District, Benin

Managed a 20,000-tree nursery and 5 agroforestry research trials while supervising work crews of one to six people. Coordinated out-planting of seedlings into former groves of oil palms cleared for improved fallow.

Extension Agroforester, 05/1986 – 10/1988

Employer: U.S. Peace Corps (assigned to the Southern Benin Fuelwood Plantation Project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN)
Zè District, Benin

Conducted education and outreach to local farmers concerning forestry, agroforestry, soil conservation and resource management. Managed 6 tree nurseries producing 50,000 trees during two planting seasons. Developed project proposals and received funding for three rural development projects. Provided technical and logistical support and oversight to farmers raising trees. Solicited and obtained funding for 17 micro-enterprise development projects from USAID, the US Embassy, and Trickle-Up. Successfully managed projects and sensitively addressed issues of corruption whenever they arose.

Forester, 05/1985 – 01/1986

Employer: American Forest Products Company
Highway 49 and Highway 88, Martell, CA 95654

Delineated special treatment areas and tree stands and then marked timber for harvest. Conducted post-harvest tree inventories to ensure company compliance with state and national environmental regulations. Monitored and assessed tree removal and seedling planting activities. Worked on fire patrols. Conducted lab tests determining wood moisture content. Assisted in public education efforts to raise awareness of company reforestation efforts and responded to public inquiries concerning forest management.

Forestry Field Technician, 05/1984 – 08/1984

Employer: University of California, Blodgett Forest Research Station
4501 Blodgett Forest Road, Georgetown, CA 95634

Conducted several field research activities including thinning timber and applying herbicides on research plots, working on prescribed burns for a fire ecology and project, observed and measured vegetation attributes, and surveyed and marked property boundaries.

EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts, Amherst - May 2003

Ed.D. Degree, Education Policy, Research and Administration

Dissertation: "Priorities in Conflict: Livelihood Practices, Environmental Threats, and the Conservation of Biodiversity in Madagascar"

Focus: International and Environmental Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor - December 1992

M.F. Degree, Forestry — GPA: 3.7/4.0

Thesis: "Farmer Participation in a Pre-Project Assessment of Receptivity to Agroforestry: A

Feasibility Study in the Village of Tanougou, Republic of Benin, West Africa”
Focus: Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Use

University of California, Berkeley - June 1985
B.S. Degree, Forestry

TRAINING

post-Doctorate course work on management and entrepreneurship

Pace University, Lubin School of Business, New York, NY, September 2004 — May 2005

Won university award for best business plan in 2005, which proposed providing low-interest loans to innovative entrepreneurs with creative ideas about how to simultaneously address social issues in their communities while also improving the quality of the natural environment.

ArcGIS, Spatial Analysis, and Building Geodatabases

ESRI, Inc., Redlands, CA, June 2003
Completed one-week training course.

ArcGIS 8.1 Training for Educators

Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Marlboro College Graduate Center, Brattleboro, VT, June 2002
Completed 32-hour course.

Agroforestry Techniques in Tropical Regions

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria, July 1989
Completed two-week course.

COMPUTER SKILLS

PC and Macintosh Operating Systems, Microsoft Office, Outlook, SharePoint, Internet

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker), French (fluent, oral and written)

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS MANAGEMENT

Co-Principal Investigator, “Using Geospatial Tools to Build Local Capacity for Natural Resource Management in the Fort Dauphin District of Southeastern Madagascar,” Funded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Netherlands, 49,988 Euros (\$75,000), 03/10/09 – 02/04/10

Principal Investigator, “Marketing Specialty Crops to Ethnic Markets in New York City,” Funded by the New York Farm Viability Institute, \$10,000, 12/01/04 – 11/30/05

Principal Investigator, “New Farmer Development Project,” Funded by the USDA Risk Management Agency, \$9,900, 10/01/04 – 09/30/05

Principal Investigator, “Learning to Mentor: A Training of Trainers Course for Small Scale Farmers,” funded by Cornell University Small Farms Program, \$3,500, 09/01/04 – 08/31/05

Technical Advisor, “Fort Dauphin Watershed Management Project,” Funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society, \$2,800, 07/01/04 – 06/30/05

Principal Investigator, “New Farmer Development Project,” Funded by the USDA Risk Management Agency, \$12,000, 10/01/03 – 09/30/04

Co-Principal Investigator, “Developing Youth Leadership in Environmental Action,” Funded by Federal Hatch Funding, \$96,000, 10/01/03 – 09/30/06

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Simsik, M. J., (2012). Lemurs, Landscapes and Livelihoods: The Political Ecology of Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar, Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany.

Simsik, M. J., (2012). “Benin,” “Mali,” “Sierra Leone,” “University of California,” “University of Michigan,” and “World Bank” in *The Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change, 2nd Edition*. Edited by George S. Philander. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.

Andriamanambina, H. P. & Simsik, M. (2009). “Land Cover Change in Relation to Agricultural Extensification in Southern Madagascar.” The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability. Volume 5, Number 4, pp. 285-308.

Simsik, M. J., (2008). “The Political Ecology of Biodiversity Erosion on the Central Highlands of Madagascar,” in Kaufmann, J., (Ed.), Greening the Great Red Island: Madagascar in Nature and Culture. Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), Pretoria, South Africa.

Simsik, M. J., (2008). “Benin,” “Mali,” “Sierra Leone,” “University of California,” “University of Michigan,” and “World Bank” in *The Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.

Simsik, M. J., (2007). “Adaptive Management,” “Botswana,” “Dian Fossey,” “League of Conservation Voters,” “Political Ecology,” and the “Sagebrush Rebellion” in *The Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California.

West, P.C., Fortwangler, C. L., Agbo, V., Simsik, M., and Sokpon, N. (2003). “The Political Economy of Ecotourism: Pendjari National Park and Ecotourism Concentration in Northern Benin,” in Brechin, S.R., Wilshusen, P.R., Fortwangler, C.L., and West, P.C., (Eds.), Contested Nature: Promoting International Biodiversity with Social Justice in the Twenty-First Century. State University of New York Press, Albany, NY.

Simsik, M. (2003). “Priorities in Conflict: Livelihood Practices, Environmental Threats, and the Conservation of Biodiversity in Madagascar,” Doctoral Dissertation. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Simsik, M. (2002). "The political ecology of biodiversity conservation on the Malagasy Highlands," *Geojournal*, 58:233-242. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Netherlands.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND RECOGNITION

- Annual Performance Awards – Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) – 2018-2021
- Merit Step Increase – U.S. Peace Corps, 2009 and 2010
- Winner of the Second Annual Pace University Business Plan Competition with a proposal for green entrepreneurship in Africa, 2005
- Travel Scholarship, Small Farm Program, Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, (to attend the Northeast-Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education regional conference in Burlington, VT, 2004)
- Domestic Scholarship, Society for Conservation Geographic Information Systems, 2003
- Elizabeth Sackett Scholarship, Women's National Farm and Garden Association-Metropolitan Branch, 2002
- University of Massachusetts Graduate School Diversity Scholarship, 2000
- Joseph W. Keilty Memorial Scholarship, Univ. of Massachusetts School of Education, 2000
- University of Massachusetts Graduate School Travel Grant, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002
- Society of American Foresters Conference Travel Grant, 1999
- American Evaluation Association Student Travel Scholarship, 1998
- Research Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1992
- Merit Award, University of Michigan, 1991

SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Boards and Organizations

- Editorial Board, Journal of Extension, 2005-2011
- Advisory Board, Cornell University Community Food and Agriculture Program, 2004-2005
- Advisory Board, New York City Regional Food Network, 2004-2005
- Board member, Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP), 2002-2005
- Board member, New York Soil and Water Conservation District, 2002-2003
- Board member, Jamaica Bay Task Force, 2002-2003
- Board member, New York City Asthma Partnership, Outdoor Environmental Sub-Committee

- Board member, Open Accessible Space Information System (OASIS), 2002-2003

Committees

- Joint U.S. Mission Awards Committee, U.S. Mission in Mali, 2006 to present
- U.S. Embassy Self-Help Fund Committee, U.S. Mission in Mali, 2006 to present
- Special Immigrant Visa Committee, U.S. Mission in Mali, 2006 to present
- Member of the Environmental Education Grant Proposal Review Committee, E.P.A. Region 2 (2005)
- Member of Travel Grant Proposal Review Committee and the Graduate Student Scholarship Award Committee, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2000-2001)

Elections Monitor

- Burkinabe Electoral Commission, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso – December 2020
- Malian Electoral Commission, Bamako, Mali - 2007
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Yerevan, Armenia - 2003
- OSCE, Pristina, Kosovo (former Yugoslavia) - 2000
- OSCE, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation – 1999