

Call for Nominations

Board of Advisors

University of California, Berkeley

Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity



The Institute

The University of California, Berkeley, Institute for Parks, People, and Biodiversity advances science and solutions to halt climate change, conserve biodiversity, and improve the experience of nature for all. The Institute conducts new scientific research and helps managers and policymakers apply the results to conservation of ecosystems around the world, especially in national parks and other protected areas. Visit the Institute website for more information: parks.berkeley.edu

Public protection of land and water serves important roles for climate change resilience and carbon solutions, endangered species, tropical forests, health and well-being, education, thriving economies, Indigenous cultures, and environmental justice. For these critical issues and other emerging questions, the Institute connects field managers and government policymakers to the high-level interdisciplinary research capabilities of the University of California, Berkeley. Institute researchers also communicate science-based solutions to motivate public action and cultivate future conservation leaders. With new scientific insights, the Institute aims to advance meaningful progress for nature and people. The Institute is funded entirely by grants, contracts, and philanthropy.

Death Valley National Park, California. Photo: U.S. National Park Service

Goals

- Halt climate change, through carbon solutions and resilience measures
- Conserve biodiversity, through protection and restoration
- Improve the experience of nature for all, from cities to wilderness

History

The idea that special places would be conserved for the benefit of all people was first applied in the granting of the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoia trees to the State of California by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. The first national park followed soon with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. Author Wallace Stegner observed “National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.” Today, virtually every country in the world has some form of national protected areas system and their inspiration, if not some of their paradigms of management, are drawn from the American model.

The University of California, Berkeley, has played a vital role in shaping national park stewardship over the last century, by educating conservation leaders, applying the best science and framing new paradigms. As the planet faces the enormous challenge of climate change, national parks and other reserves have been recognized as an essential investment in communication, monitoring, mitigation, and adaptation. It is with this history and imperative, that UC Berkeley launched the Institute for Parks, People and Biodiversity in 2017 and hired the retiring 18th Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis to serve as the inaugural Executive Director. In its first two years, the Institute assisted China and Chile with their national parks, launched *Parks Stewardship Forum*, an open-access publication for conservation professionals, incubated and launched the California Outdoor Engagement Coalition and shaped the conservation agenda for the governor of California.





A girl celebrating *Encuentra tu Parque* (Find your Park), Valley Forge National Historical Park. Photo: U.S. National Park Service

Our Commitment to Relevancy, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We recognize that the history of conservation has involved exclusion of people of color, removal of Indigenous people from their homelands, and domination of conservation agencies and non-governmental organizations by people who are of European descent and wealthy. All of our programs, actions, and goals are focused on reversing this trend. The future of our national parks is based on a constituency that reflects the diversity of our nation. The application of western science to the stewardship of our national parks must be coupled with traditional ecological knowledge applied in partnership with the traditionally associated people.



Our Values

Denali National Park, Alaska. Photo: Patrick Gonzalez

■ National Parks and other reserves benefit people and nature

We are just beginning to understand the multiple values of parks, which include biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, species refugia, public health, education, recreation, and thriving economies. We will invest in greater understanding of these benefits so that they can be supported and shared.

■ Everyone should have equitable access to nature

Decades of demographic and survey data show that access to nature is not equal across race, ethnicity, location, and economics.

■ National Parks and other reserves are a natural solution to climate change

The establishment and effective management of national parks and other protected areas has been demonstrated as one of the most cost-effective solutions to climate change and must be scaled up to have maximum impact.

■ Science provides usable knowledge for the management of parks

Scientific inquiry and published results must be translated into usable knowledge for application by field professionals.

■ Innovation and growth are essential to tackling complex problems

Complicated problems require us to be open to new ideas, innovation, and a willingness to change direction when necessary.



What we seek

Amazon rainforest, with local resident Juan Peña, Reserva Comunal Yanesha, Perú. Photo: Patrick Gonzalez

The opportunity

Former National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis now serves as the Chairman of the Board of Advisors and brings 40 years of national and international experience in the management of national parks. Join Director Jarvis on this mission to use our national parks and other protected areas to help the planet!

You are or can be an effective board member who is also a...

- Strategic thinker with business and/or nonprofit acumen and applicable expertise from working at the intersection of environment, law, partnerships, public lands, policy, public health, and/or education.
- Fearless innovator who is willing to challenge assumptions and approaches new ideas and challenges with a sense of possibility, openness, and positivity.
- Team player with the ability to work cooperatively and effectively with others to set goals, resolve problems, and make decisions that enhance organizational effectiveness and change management efforts.
- Coalition-builder with a holistic and community-centered vision who can forge new alliances and networks.
- A true collaborator who expresses genuine interest in others' well-being and proactively models commitment to relevancy, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Committed supporter who fully engages during and between meetings and events, contributes time, financial support, or other means, and shows up for the organization, other members, and the cause.



What you bring

African elephants, Amboseli National Park, Kenya.

Photo: Kenya Wildlife Service

The ideal advisory board members:

- Provide clear advice and direction to the Institute Executive Director on strategic direction, new opportunities and management challenges.
- Support the Institute as one of your top three voluntary and charitable commitments.
- Commit to assisting in raising philanthropic funds for the operation of the Institute.
- Commit to a multi-year term of representing the best interests of the organization, its staff, partners, and students.
- Actively collaborate with current board members and cultivate new members.
- Are willing to devote sufficient time to their duties and responsibilities, which include (among other duties): attendance at three board meetings per year with at least one in person, serve on board committees, attend occasional additional functions (lectures, donor events, volunteer events, etc.).
- Be prepared to serve to the end of their three-year term for up to four consecutive terms.
- Serve as an informed and compelling ambassador to expand the Institute's influence and effectiveness with individuals, the public, and other organizations.



Yosemite National Park. Photo: U.S. National Park Service

To Apply

Submit a letter of interest and résumé to jonbjarvis@berkeley.edu by June 15, 2023.

Berkeley Institute for Parks,
People, and Biodiversity

Cover Photo: Yosemite National Park. Photo: David Mark