



## Gary Decker

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### Summary

A Mediator and Program Associate at Meridian Institute since June 2013. Extensive work in politics at the national and local levels. Experience in the areas of sustainable business and resource extraction, leadership, forest policy and management, land use, climate change, and food security. Experienced working with governments, civil society, the private sector, and technical communities at the local, national, and global levels. Holds a B.A. from Goucher College in Political Science and an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in International Relations and International Economics. Holds a Secret security clearance from the U.S. Department of Defense.

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### Meridian Experience

#### Meridian Institute

2013–Present

Meridian Institute designs and facilitates collaborative processes that help diverse parties identify critical issues, build relationships and trust, construct innovative solutions, and implement durable decisions. These collaborative processes address challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels, and involve leaders from government agencies, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and international institutions. Meridian also assists organizations in conducting strategy development and planning.

#### Mediator and Program Associate

Manage and facilitate policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects involving teams of facilitators. Conduct convening assessments, design collaborative processes, plan and facilitate meetings, help participants develop consensus documents, and conduct implementation activities. Selected highlights are summarized below:

- Member of the Meridian team working on a suite of projects for the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). Contract activities for this project focus on providing strategic advice and support to NICFI; facilitating dialogues and partnerships with other governments and stakeholders; and conducting technical and policy analyses. To fulfill the needs of this contract, Meridian assembled a team of high-caliber organizations and experts to conduct groundbreaking economic, scientific, and policy-related analytical work and actively practice problem-solving approaches on a broad range of issues related to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). These issues include the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of

carbon stocks (REDD+), green growth/development, “climate smart” landscapes, and sustainable land use. Many of these projects are connected to the international-level negotiations occurring under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Previous Experience

### Search for Common Ground, Sustainable Business Practice

Tanzania 2011

#### *Field Representative*

Implemented a conflict resolution program to promote responsible natural resource extraction. The program was designed to alleviate obstacles to constructive communication and mitigate violence between local communities, police forces, private security personnel, and an international gold mining corporation. Assisted in the delivery of a three-day training session for regional and local police personnel on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Trained in-country Search for Common Ground staff on conflict resolution and facilitation techniques.

### Office of United States Congressman John Sarbanes

Maryland 2007–2010

#### *Community Outreach Specialist*

Served as liaison between state and local government officials, the community, business leaders, and the Congressman. Delivered public speeches and presentations to promote the policy initiatives of the Congressman. Researched salient topics to turn community needs into policy initiatives.

### Office of United States Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger

Washington, DC 2007

#### *Legislative Intern*

Prepared memos for the Congressman and staff based on Congressional hearings and briefings. Drafted Congressional remarks and constituent responses.

## Education

### Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

M.A., International Relations and International Economics  
Concentrations: Conflict Management and International Law  
Certificates in Mediation and Problem-Solving Workshops  
2012

### Goucher College

B.A., Political Science  
Minor: International Relations  
2007

**Publications**

Decker, Gary. (2012). "What's in a Revolution? The Timing of the Tunisian Revolution." *Tunisia: Understanding Conflict 2012*. Washington, DC: Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.