

MICHAEL ROSS

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SUMMARY

Experienced media consultant and accomplished writer with a strong track record writing successful grant applications, speeches, op-eds, reports, and briefing papers on a wide range of issues, especially in the areas of conservation, humanitarian affairs and foreign policy. Extensive experience, demonstrated in journalism, conservation, external relations, and humanitarian affairs:

- Wrote and edited competitive applications in 2013 that secured \$35 million in USAID funding for World Wildlife Fund's work in Congo Basin. As lead writer and editor, also helped to secure WWF's selection as implementing agency of Global Environment Facility—the first time a conservation NGO has received this coveted status.
- Conceived, wrote, and placed numerous opinion pieces for WWF leaders in top tier publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Authored speeches delivered at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Brown Universities, among other major venues.
- Served as foreign correspondent for nearly two decades in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, receiving Pulitzer Prize nomination.
- Gained over one decade of managerial experience as Chief of Bureau in Beirut for *UPI*, Chief of Bureau in Cairo for *The LA Times*, and as Director of Media Relations for WWF.

EXPERIENCE

OCEAN CONSERVANCY, WASHINGTON, DC:

- **Senior Technical Writer**, 2014-2015: Authored and/or edited numerous funding proposals that secured six and seven-figure foundation grants for key initiatives, including marine plastics pollution, post-BP disaster restoration in the Gulf of Mexico and marine protected areas.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, Washington, D.C.

- **Senior Writer for Conservation Strategy and Science**, 2007-2014: Worked with scientists and department leaders across fund's conservation program, communicating the value of their work to policy-makers, potential donors, and other non-scientific audiences. Served as lead writer and editor for a number of grant applications that secured \$49.6 million in funding commitments in FY2013 and 2014. Served as senior member of campaigns team, writing op-eds appearing in *The Washington Post* and other publications and crafting key messaging for highly successful campaign against illegal wildlife trade.
- **Director of Strategic Communications**, 2002-2007. Devised communications strategies for key U.S. priorities. Developed rapid response communications plan, oversaw all crisis communications, and wrote speeches for chief executive officer and other senior leaders.
- **Director of Media Relations**, 1998-2002. Supervised ten-member staff, oversaw development of communications strategies, acted as fund spokesman, and managed \$1,000,000 annual budget.

U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, New York, New York

- **External Affairs Officer for North America**, 1995-1998. Conceived and implemented public affairs strategy in United States with responsibilities for media relations, public outreach, and private sector fund raising. Collaborated closely with Korean American students to raise more than \$750,000 for North Korean famine relief. Liaised with U.S. government agencies and congressional staff and briefed members of Congress on relief issues.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

LOS ANGELES TIMES, Los Angeles, California, 1985-1995. Served as Cairo Bureau Chief and Senior Middle East Correspondent from 1985 to 1989; covered Iran-Iraq war, U.S. bombing of Libya, South Yemeni civil war, and Middle East peace process, among other major stories. Transferred to Washington bureau of newspaper in 1989 and covered Congress for six years, focusing on foreign policy, intelligence, and security issues.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, New York, New York, 1972-1985. Joined UPI in Madrid and served in Rome, Brussels and Beirut, covering the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war. Served as senior foreign desk editor in New York, as Beijing bureau chief in China from 1982 to 1984, and in Tokyo from 1984 to 1985 as senior editor for Asia. Traveled across continent, receiving Pulitzer Prize nomination for coverage of ethnic violence erupting across India in aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination.

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1977 Academic Year

Ford Foundation Fellowship, Study of Arms Control and Conventional Weapons Proliferation in the Middle East

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, Hempstead, New York, 1967-1969

AFFILIATIONS

Chairman, Congressional Standing Committee of Correspondents, 1994-95

President, Foreign Correspondents Association of Beijing, 1984