

Eriks Brolis
Conservation Business Lead
Global Lands Team, The Nature Conservancy
Natural Climate Initiative

Eriks is working to promote commercial innovation to achieve large-scale restoration of degraded lands as a natural climate solution. He is focused on developing new business models, incentivizing private capital into restoration, and linking to work across the Conservancy on restoring and improving management of forested landscapes. Eriks brings over a decade of experience in entrepreneurial ventures focused on business-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Prior to joining TNC, he founded a consultancy and business incubator that supported enterprises working on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy projects. His work included developing business plans for agricultural supply franchises in Cambodia, commercializing innovative composting technologies, and expanding the deployment of biogas systems in rural Uganda. From 2006-2011 Eriks was a co-owner of Namaste Solar in Colorado; helping to grow the startup into a leading solar integrator generating more than \$20 million in annual revenue with over 75 employees. Concurrently, he was elected to serve as President of the Board for the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association where he successfully helped enact bipartisan legislation and regulation to grow the nascent solar industry, including the groundbreaking 30% by 2020 Renewable Portfolio Standard. Eriks holds a Masters Certificate in Natural Resource Management / Agroforestry from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the College of William and Mary.