

Thomas M. Kerr
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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior climate policy and sustainable finance leader with more than 25 years of experience designing climate policy frameworks and mobilizing private capital through multilateral development banks, governments, and global platforms. Proven track record in carbon pricing, adaptation and resilience finance, and climate policy across emerging markets. Extensive experience working at the intersection of public policy, financial institutions, and global coalitions to translate climate ambition into investable outcomes in emerging markets.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

World Bank Group

Principal Climate Policy Officer, Sustainable Finance Team

International Finance Corporation (IFC) | July 2025 – Present

- Built IFC's Adaptation & Resilience (A&R) finance value proposition, embedding adaptation due diligence into FIG investment processes and sector eligibility guidance.
 - Designed and launched A&R finance pilots in West Africa and India, establishing pathways for client engagement and future IFC investments.
 - Led cross-functional collaboration across IFC and the World Bank to align A&R finance with country policy frameworks and emerging MDB best practice.
 - Developed options to strengthen IFC's Green Equity Approach to scale equity climate finance while reducing fossil fuel exposure; tested approaches with external partners including SBTi and S&P.
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Lead Climate Change Specialist, South Asia

World Bank | May 2021 – June 2025

- Led the World Bank's regional climate program for South Asia, overseeing climate investment strategy, policy engagement, and Paris alignment across the portfolio.
 - Advised governments on policy reforms to unlock private climate investment, including support to India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to design a national carbon market.
 - Authored CCDRs for Nepal and Sri Lanka and provided strategic oversight across all South Asia CCDRs; led innovative public-private market consultations for the India CCDR finance chapter and developed guidance to strengthen finance chapters globally.
 - Partnered with cities and the private sector to deliver results-based carbon finance for mitigation and adaptation investments in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal.
 - Provided cross-support on carbon finance and decarbonization policy in the Middle East and North Africa, including drafting an updated Nationally Determined Contribution for Iraq.
 - Co-author of global flagship publications, including *Reality Check: 25 Policies Advancing a Low-Carbon Future* (2023) and *Rising to the Challenge* (2024).
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Manager, Global Thematic and Industry Engagement

International Finance Corporation (IFC) | May 2018 – May 2021

- Led IFC's global thematic engagement on climate change, clean energy, health, and the digital economy, supporting IFC investment teams with strategic client/stakeholder engagement across sectors.
 - Directed IFC's engagement with the G7, G20, United Nations, World Economic Forum, and other MDBs to advance private sector solutions to development and climate challenges. Co-led the 2018 Argentina G20 Investor Forum with World Bank FCI colleagues.
 - Built coalitions, including IFC's Impact Principles, and advanced thought leadership to position IFC as a leader in private sector climate finance and market creation.
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Principal Climate Policy Officer

International Finance Corporation (IFC) | June 2013 – April 2018

- Led IFC's private sector climate policy engagement, climate finance strategy, and government outreach to mobilize private investment in emerging market climate solutions.

- Directed development of flagship IFC publications, including *Climate Investment Opportunities* (2016) and *Creating Markets for Climate Business* (2017), serving as lead spokesperson.
 - Designed and led the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition, partnering with governments and global companies to advance carbon pricing and influence G20 and UNFCCC dialogues.
 - Advised governments on policy reforms to attract private capital, including an innovative effort funded by the Bank's NDC Partnership to deliver a roadmap for Cote d'Ivoire to achieve its NDC target to double renewable energy goal by 2030 via private sector enabling policies.
 - Convened structured public-private dialogues at UNFCCC and other venues and delivered investment-oriented policy recommendations.
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World Economic Forum

Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Initiatives

May 2011 – May 2013

- Created and managed the Green Growth Action Alliance (G2A2), a G20/B20-endorsed coalition chaired by Mexican President Felipe Calderón to mobilize private finance for green investment in emerging economies.
 - Advanced in-country "proof point" financing solutions to de-risk and scale solar power in India, climate-smart agriculture in Vietnam, and renewable energy in Kenya.
 - Shaped the global climate and green growth agenda through high-level dialogues, publications, and media engagement at Davos, UN climate talks, and other global platforms.
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International Energy Agency (IEA)

Senior Energy Analyst, Energy Technology Policy Division

2006 – 2011

- Led the IEA's low-carbon energy technology roadmap program, defining pathways, policy requirements, financing needs, and international collaboration to meet global climate goals.
 - Provided analytical and policy input to the Major Economies Forum and Clean Energy Ministerial, working closely with G20 energy ministries and laying the groundwork for the IEA Clean Energy Ministerial Secretariat.
 - Raised over €2 million in voluntary contributions from governments and the private sector to support new analytical and convening initiatives.
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air and Radiation

Chief, Energy Supply and Industry Branch

2000 – 2006

- Managed eighteen staff in national climate market transformation programs promoting renewable energy, combined heat and power, and voluntary corporate climate targets.
- Led analysis of electricity and natural gas markets to demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy and efficiency investment.
- Created the Green Power Partnership and CHP Partnership, catalyzing corporate demand for clean energy through technical assistance and public recognition.

Team Leader, Landfill Methane Outreach Program

1994 – 1998

- Founded and scaled a national and international program to accelerate landfill gas energy recovery through policy, finance, and technical guidance.
 - Designed and implemented landfill gas utilization projects in Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, and China in partnership with the World Bank, UNDP, and USAID.
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Earlier Experience

Project Advisor, SCS Engineers / Sentech, Inc. (1998 – 2000)

Environmental Impact Analyst, U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation (1993 – 1994)

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center

LL.M., International Environmental Law and Policy, 1995

Thesis: *Mobilizing Private-Sector Capital for Cost-Effective Greenhouse Gas Mitigation*

DePaul University College of Law

Juris Doctor (J.D.), Environmental Law, 1993

University of Michigan

B.A., Economics, 1988

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & RECOGNITION

- Adjunct Professor, George Washington Law School, *Climate Change Law & Policy* (January 2026-present)
- Recipient, 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Certificate (IPCC Landfill Methane Methodology Contributor)
- Advisory Council Member, Smith Enterprise Risk Consortium, University of Maryland
- Former Vice Chair, Programs, American Bar Association Committee on Sustainable Development, Ecosystems and Climate Change
- Member, Illinois State Bar (inactive)