



Position Profile

# PRESIDENT

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Turtle Conservancy

📍 Ojai, CA





# WHO WE ARE

The Turtle Conservancy is a passionate community of scientists, conservationists, artists, thought-leaders, key-influencers, business people, and philanthropists committed to saving the world's turtles and tortoises as a fundamental part of Earth's biodiversity.

The Turtle Conservancy is a global organization that creates and maintains protected areas and habitats for turtles and tortoises around the world.

The Turtle Conservancy is a zoological center with an extensive assurance colony of endangered turtles and tortoises, and a research center with one of the world's most important scientific collections of turtle and tortoise specimens.

The Turtle Conservancy is a public nonprofit with a sound financial base, already a leading global turtle and tortoise conservation organization, now poised to further expand its impact.





## WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that all forms of wildlife have intrinsic value, and by saving turtles and tortoises—and at the same time all the brethren species in their habitats—we can save ourselves.

We believe that, in achieving conservation goals through a multidisciplinary approach, art can be as important a tool as science.

We believe that we reach our goals when we reach out to a wider circle of people who become committed to wildland and wildlife conservation and philanthropy.

We believe that inclusiveness and diversity happen organically when you have an organization of individuals with multi-faceted backgrounds and interests.





## WHAT WE DO

We conserve species in their natural habitats through a combination of land acquisition, land management, and support for partners to acquire and/or manage turtle and tortoise habitat.

We provide care for live animals to act as both assurance colonies and ambassador species.

We are an internationally-renowned science and research facility for chelonian conservation.

We elevate global chelonian conservation actions through education, awareness, outreach, and high-impact scientific research publications.

We mitigate the illegal trade of turtles and tortoises through monitoring, support for confiscations, and advocating for improved legislation.





# WHO WE NEED

## We need a President...

...who has a personal connection to and passion for wildlife and conservation, and although a candidate's work experience does not necessarily need to include expertise with turtles and tortoises, we need a candidate with the passion and capacity to become that expert.

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...who is humble, open-minded and willing to learn, yet at the same time owns a confident presence that demonstrates credibility and engenders the respect of others, both internally and externally.

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...who can work alongside the Turtle Conservancy's founder and CEO Eric Goode because he/she shares the TC's core values and is deeply committed to its mission (the President will report to the Board of Directors).

...who can cultivate and maintain positive Board relationships, assist in Board recruitment, and support Board networking and events.

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...who is excited to work with the CEO and a select group of board members to raise revenue that builds on our existing endowment so that both revenue streams combined allow the Turtle Conservancy to achieve its existing and future goals and ambitions.

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...who can join the strategic planning team and work with it to develop and update plans to reach the Turtle Conservancy's core goals, and who also can work with the finance team to develop our annual budget that is derived from the strategic plan.

...who can 1) oversee Programs, Development, Communications, People and Operations; 2) mentor and inspire others and lead a high performing team; 3) oversee performance reviews and compensation practices; and 4) secure and oversee professional services.

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...who values compensation commensurate with qualifications and experience and who is excited about living in or near Ojai.



# WHO YOU WORK WITH



**ERIC GOODE** has had an obsession with turtles, tortoises and reptiles since his childhood growing up in Ojai and later Sonoma. He has a parallel passion for art and in the 80's founded a nightclub for artists in New York called Area. He became a successful New York hotelier and restaurateur with The Bowery Hotel and Waverly Inn, among others. He founded The Turtle Conservancy in 2009, and a few years ago started work on a film that initially was about the illegal wildlife trade but then morphed into *The Tiger King*.



## AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDING...



**ANDERS RHODIN** is Chair of the Turtle Conservancy board and a prominent global turtle and tortoise specialist. He is founder of Chelonian Research Foundation and co-chair of the Turtle Conservation Fund. He is also Chair Emeritus and current Executive Vice Chair of the IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group.



**RICK RIDGEWAY** is on the board of the Turtle Conservancy and is a noted outdoor adventurer, writer and advocate for conservation initiatives. In 2020 he “retired” as the VP of Public Engagement at Patagonia. He has written seven books, and National Geographic honored him with its “Lifetime Achievement in Adventure” award.



**RUSS MITTERMEIER** is the Chief Conservation Officer of Re:Wild and a globally renowned primatologist and herpetologist. He was previously President of Conservation International for 25 years. He has conducted fieldwork for 50 years in more than 20 countries. In 2018, he was awarded the prestigious Indianapolis Prize for his leadership in global conservation efforts.



**CULLEN GEISELMAN** is a renowned conservationist who sits on the Board of Directors of the Turtle Conservancy, Cullen Trust for Health Care, Houston Zoo, and several other Texas based non-profits promoting health and the environment. She continues her work with bats serving on the board of Bat Conservation International, collaborating with students and researchers in Africa and Latin America.



# HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US

Peruse the Turtle Conservancy Website

[TURTLE CONSERVANCY](#)

Watch 60 Minute's profile on Eric Goode's work in Madagascar:

[THE RACE TO SAVE THE TORTOISE](#)

Check out the Profile on Eric Goode in the New Yorker:

[SLOW AND STEADY SAVES THE SPECIES](#)

Watch our PSA series – a campaign to elevate turtles to the status of elephants, pandas, and other symbols of the environment:

[PSA COMPILATION](#)

Read about capturing the power of celebrity and art at the “Turtle Ball” gala in NYC:

[THE TURTLE BALL](#)

Read Rick Ridgeway's new memoir *Life Lived Wild*:

[LIFE LIVED WILD](#)

Study the Turtle Conservancy's annual magazine and pay attention to how it reflects our values and culture:

[THE TORTOISE](#)





# HOW TO APPLY

Before Applying for the Position of President of the Turtle Conservancy we ask you to do the following:

- 1 Please read this document carefully and review our website, including our projects, magazine articles, books, outreach, references, and bios of our board members and staff.
- 2 Imagine yourself working alongside Eric and others on the team, listening to them, collaboratively working in your ideas, and then engaging and inspiring a wide assortment of people to support our global mission to save turtles and tortoises and through them, our globally shared biodiversity.
- 3 Please take the time to self-reflect on what you can bring to this position.

If you are intrigued and interested, as well as qualified and experienced, then please write us a letter with an up-to-date C.V. and mail it to:

**The Turtle Conservancy**  
**Attn: CEO Search**  
**PO Box 1289, Ojai, CA 93024**

