

UC SANTA BARBARA

Bren School of Environmental
Science & Management



A healthy coral reef off the coast of American Samoa
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Managing Risk in Our Changing Climate

Chubb Insurance and the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

As we adapt to our changing world that faces increasingly extreme natural disasters, insurance companies are looking to environmental and data scientists for guidance on developing smart risk management strategies. The Bren School and Chubb continue to identify a variety of synergies over their now 10+ year relationship by investing in cutting-edge environmental research that strives to plan for a sustainable future.

Master's Group Projects

A signature of the Bren School program, Master's Group Projects provide a unique opportunity for students to gain unparalleled experience performing professional-level work, while applying their technical expertise to real-world environmental challenges. Student teams of 3-5 with a Bren faculty advisor tackle specific problems posed by a client organization to produce meaningful findings and recommendations.

Since making their generous \$25,000 gift in 2009, Chubb has enabled 79 Master's students and 18 Group Projects to address pressing local and global environmental challenges ranging from water and forestry management to sea level rise. As one of the largest providers of commercial property and casualty insurance, Chubb's gift also targets critical risk management concerns that are personally relevant. A 2019 Master's Group Project, Naturally Insured, worked with Bren School and Chubb partner, The Nature Conservancy, to examine



how investment in natural infrastructure projects along vulnerable tourism and resource-rich coastal areas may have positive long-term benefits toward adapting to sea level rise and mitigating insurance risk. Their findings provided strong evidence for landowners to invest in natural infrastructure projects, such as coral and mangrove restoration, as opposed to grey infrastructure, such as concrete seawalls, while also providing insurance companies like Chubb further guidance on evaluating property risk.

Strategic Environmental Research Initiative (SERI) on Fire

Climate modeling allows scientists to predict what sort of future environmental circumstances we may contend with, and they can be very useful in developing the risk management strategies employed by companies like Chubb. In order to make the crystal balls of climate modeling a little less hazy, the Bren School's SERI Fire team try to take a holistic approach to evaluating risks from events like wildfires by examining how climate, water, fire, forests, and human actions all interact, change, and influence one another.

A research collaboration between the Bren School and Chubb seeks to better understand future potential wildfire risk in regions of critical interest to Chubb. By utilizing SERI Fire's integrated climate modeling tool known as RHESSys, the SERI Fire team will simulate the use and impact of various land and fuel management strategies in these areas.

The Bren School strives to solve environmental problems and train effective environmental leaders, and the crucial philanthropic support of companies like Chubb helps make this possible. In return, Chubb gains access to cutting-edge research, in addition to a talented pool of potential employees. To date, four Bren alumni have, or currently, work at Chubb. By continuing to partner with the Bren School, Chubb cultivates productive relationships with our renowned community of solutions-focused environmental leaders.



To learn more about opportunities for partnering with the Bren School, please reach out to:

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