

BIOGRAPHY | *Kristine McDivitt Tompkins* |

Kristine McDivitt Tompkins is the president and cofounder of Tompkins Conservation and the former CEO of Patagonia, Inc. For over twenty-five years she has worked to protect wild beauty and biodiversity by creating national parks, restoring wildlife, inspiring activism, and fostering economic vitality as a result of conservation. Through Tompkins Conservation and its nonprofit partners, and in collaboration with governments and fellow philanthropists, Kris and her late husband Douglas Tompkins have helped protect more than 14 million acres of parklands in Chile and Argentina, making them among the most successful national park-oriented philanthropists in history.

Born in southern California, Kris spent most of her childhood on her great-grandfather's ranch, which was formative in fostering her connection to the natural world. After graduating from the College of Idaho where she ski-raced competitively, she returned to California and worked for her friends from her teenage years, Yvon and Malinda Chouinard, helping to build their young company, Patagonia, Inc. Eventually Kris became the CEO of the innovative "anti-corporation" and a leader in the outdoor apparel industry.

In 1993, Kris retired from Patagonia and married Doug Tompkins (founder of The North Face and cofounder of Esprit), and the two of them turned their entrepreneurial talents toward saving nature. Tompkins Conservation (and its precursor foundations) focuses on creating new national parks because they are the most durable and best-loved category of protected area, offering an unparalleled array of ecological, cultural, and economic benefits. Complementing parklands expansion, the Tompkins Conservation team has also executed an ambitious program of "rewilding" in its project areas—reintroducing missing species and processes to degraded areas and helping whole landscapes return to good health.

In January of 2018, Kris, on behalf of Tompkins Conservation, and then Chilean President Michelle Bachelet signed decrees to create five new national parks and expand three others, adding a total of more than 10 million acres of new national parklands in Chile. For scale, that is more than three times the size of Yosemite and Yellowstone combined, or approximately the size of Switzerland. Prompted by a donation of roughly 1 million acres of land from Tompkins Conservation, the public-private partnership is the largest-ever expansion of a national park system catalyzed by a gift of private land to a country.

In 2018 Kris was the first conservationist ever to be honored with the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, which she accepted on behalf of herself, Doug, and Tompkins Conservation's quarter century of work. She is also the recipient of the Lowell Thomas Award from The Explorer's Club of New York, the Annual Tourism Award at the World Tourism Market in London, the BBVA Foundation's Biodiversity Conservation Award of Latin America, and the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal from the Garden Club of America. Additionally, Kris and Doug have received Scenic Hudson's Visionary Conservationist Award, the African Rainforest Conservancy's New Species Award, and Latin Trade's "Environmental Leader of the Year" award, among others.