

MARIA FERNANDA CUARTAS

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Career interests: Latin American biodiversity and conservation; protected area design and management; sustainable development; endangered species conservation.

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, May 2008

Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences
Duke University, Durham, NC

CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT, May 2008

Master's project: Assessing management effectiveness and protected area status in Latin America.

Concentration: Conservation science and policy.

Activities: Nicholas School Student Council International Students Representative.

Summer research: Assessment of ecotourism policy in 4 Colombian National Parks. Secured grant funding to support international research.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, May 2003

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL

Major: Natural resources and Environmental sciences.

Honors: Phi Theta Kappa, National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Dean's List.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean,

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington DC

Managed more than 150 environmental projects in Latin America and Caribbean with special emphasis on endangered species and protected areas, with portfolio of approximately \$1M. Reviewed projects programmatic and financial reports to determine project compliance and recommend disbursement of funds. Coordinated grants application process for four programs. Reviewed and provided recommendations to the review committee to identify priority funding projects. Generated reports for a variety of internal and external audiences and partners including the US FWS, USAID, NPS and NOAA. Worked with the National Park Service to select participants for the Parks-Flight Migratory Bird Program. 2003-2007

Mid-Atlantic Program Associate, The Wilderness Society, Washington, DC

Aided in development of a Mid-Atlantic region wildlands network. Performed initial research to support West Virginia protection efforts, concentrating on economic values of protected areas. Contributed to written material discussing economic valuation of protected areas. Summer 2003

Assistant Coordinator, Corporacion Autonoma de Cundinamarca (State of Cundinamarca Environmental Authority), Bogota, Colombia.

Part of 12 person group that helped structure and develop first Regional System of Protected Areas (SIRAP) in the state; system encompassed 108 towns and engaged community members in planning structuring process. Conducted an economic, social, and physical assessment on existing and newly created protected areas. Created databases for existing wilderness areas and potential national and international funding sources to support SIRAP. 2002-2003

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attended ecology and conservation of Mangroves and ecotourism seminars, Bogota, Colombia, 2002.

Proficient in ArcGIS and Spanish.

PADI Certified SCUBA diver.