

PAULA ANDREA CASTANO QUINTERO

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am a bilingual social, environmental and sustainability research, lecturer and consultant with international qualifications acquired in Colombia, Spain and the United Kingdom. I am a Certified Sustainable Development Manager and an Associate IEMA Membership. I have knowledge and experience in quantitative and qualitative research as well as in the areas of Climate Change, Net Zero, Sustainable Development, Sustainability and the Circular Economy. I can be linked to interdisciplinary, international and multicultural research groups and work teams to carry out collaborative, social, sustainability and environmental researches and projects. I am organised, adaptable, and detail-oriented. I have the ability to manage my own time and be flexible to handle multiple priorities, managing a varied workload to meet deadlines. I am committed to contributing everything I am and everything I know to help make this world a little better because I was in it.

SKILLS

- Interdisciplinary thinking.
- Teamwork.
- Verbal and written communication in English and Spanish.
- Resilience.
- Quantitative and Qualitative data collection, entry and analysis.
- Methodology design.
- Attention to detail.
- Ability to write skilfully and accurately summarise and synthesise information and evidence from a wide range of sources.
- Time management.
- Communication to different types of stakeholders.
- Skills in editing or proofreading other people's written work.
- Advanced computer user skills related to carrying out research and data analysis.
- Preparation of material for presentations and reports.
- Generation of comprehensive reports and presentations.

CAREER HISTORY

December 2020 to July 2024:

- I have carried out external consultancies for the Chair of the Environment of the University of Cordoba (CMA-UCO): Preparation of Andalusian Biosphere Reserves decennial reports, assessment of the Andalusian Biosphere Reserves management and preparation of scientific articles.

Volunteering:

- Tree Musketeers. Environment Education - I helped to grow, plant and care trees in Hackney, London, UK. I was a supervisor on tree planting days. - **Oct 2023 – July 2024**
- The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London. **Sept 2023 – May 2024**. I was a volunteer teacher assistant. I helped in the teaching and learning processes of both English

and sustainability in ESOL classes for young people (16 to 20 years old). I led groups of volunteers to plant trees.

- The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London. **Nov 2021- April 2022**. I was a volunteer mentor in the Mentoring Programme. I helped to a student of Applied Sciences.

Chair of the Environment of the University of Córdoba (CMA-UCO). Cordoba, Spain. 06/2014 - 11/2020.

Researcher and technician for project formulation, management and development.

My main responsibilities were:

- Formulation, coordination, management, development and evaluation of projects.
- Research in the environmental field and its relations with the storage of radioactive waste.
- Writing and publication of scientific articles.
- Scientific dissemination.
- Preparation of monitoring reports of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and other protected areas.
- Evaluate the management of the Andalusian Biosphere Reserves according to the monitoring program of the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- To help to improve digital resources of local companies situated in protected areas.
- Preparation of reports on environmental sustainability for companies.
- Design and management of online training courses.
- Relationship with several types of stakeholders.
- To prepare educational material for national and international Masters degrees.
- To collaborate as invited speaker in master's degrees
- To co-direct the student's final master's degree project.
- Preparation of content for web pages.
- Promotion of Andalusian Geological Heritage.
- Implementation of "Clover", the university environmental program of the University of Cordoba.
- Administrative support.
- To identify and obtain funding to deliver initiatives.

Achievements/results of my work:

- Elaborated the methodology to assess the level of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Spanish Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Assessed and disseminated the Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Development Goals associated with the management of the "El Cabril" Repository in Enresa (Spanish National Enterprise for Radioactive Waste)
- Elaborated the theoretical model for the participation bodies of the Andalusian Biosphere Reserves (concept, essential qualities, and evaluation indicators).
- Prepared educational material on socioenvironmental conflicts management for International Master's Degree on Recreation in Nature between Lithuania and Latvia (an European Erasmus+ project).
- Raised the number of scientific articles published for CMA-UCO from 3 to 10.
- Increased the number of reports on Biosphere Reserves prepared for CMA-UCO and approved by UNESCO from 2 to 5.
- Co-Director of the end-of-master's work "Responsible Consumption: A training proposal to help the youth of Cordoba (Spain) to reduce their impact on the climate conflict".
- Helped to 60 students to obtain "Expert in Radioactive Waste Management" qualification.

City Hall of Pereira. Pereira, Colombia. 06/2006 – 02/2010

Teacher of Natural Sciences and Environmental Education

My main responsibilities were:

- Teaching in both environmental and natural sciences fields (biology, chemistry, physics and environmental sciences), to teenagers (aged from 11 to 18).
- Preparation of teaching material on environmental and natural sciences field.
- To prepare and implement the School Environmental Project.
- To prepare and implement the Environmental Project for the facilities.
- Manager of the School Environmental Project.
- Manager of the Environmental Project for the Facilities.
- To prepare and implement the biodiversity conservation project.
- To prepare and carry out informative and educational activities on the environment for students, teachers, staff and the local community.
- To produce management reports.

Achievements/results of my work:

- Awarded as one of the best teachers in the city of Pereira for 2007.
- Created the student school environmental group.
- Created the student school scientific group.
- Improved the environmental performance of the facilities.
- Engaged students, teachers, staff and the local school community with the school environmental project.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Teacher assistant Level 2. The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, London, United Kingdom. 2024.
- English Functional Skills Level 2. The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, London, United Kingdom. (07-2023).
- Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). Membership Grade: Associate Member. London, September 2023.
- Certified Sustainable Development Manager. Chartered Institute of Professional Certifications. 26 July 2023.
- Doctor (PhD) in Natural Resources and Sustainable Management. University of Cordoba (Spain).
- Expert in Management and Treatment of Radioactive Waste. University of Cordoba (Spain).
- Master in "Global Change: Natural Resources and Sustainability". University of Cordoba (Spain).
- Degree in Environmental Science. University of Cordoba (Spain).
- Specialist in Pedagogy and Human Development. Popular Catholic University of Risaralda (Colombia).
- Diploma in Pedagogy (Expert in pedagogy). Technological University of Pereira (Colombia).
- Environmental Manager. Technological University of Pereira (Colombia).

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I am passionate about science, research, and teaching. I regard them as the pillars for solving the different problems and challenges we face as society. When I am in college and in a library, I feel like I am at home. I am a person who loves working and helping to fix problems. I also like to help people develop their talents and potentials and give their best in everything they do.