

Puerto Rican Ecology Mixer at the Annual ESA Conference ^[1]

Submitted by [Gretchen Díaz-Muñoz](#) ^[2] on 23 August 2013 - 2:18pm



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About twenty Puerto Rican ecologists assisted to the first organized event convened by Ciencia Puerto Rico at the Ecological Society of America's Annual Ecological meeting [3] in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Just like in the majority of these scientific meetings, a huge amount of researchers assisted to the general meeting. However, having around 4,000 attendees, it is not always easy to find fellow Puerto Rican scientists. Because of this, a new idea was born: having a gathering of Puerto Rican scientist at the Ecological meeting. On this occasion, the activity took place in Barrio Tequila Bar at Nicollet Mall in the heart of the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota. After the event, the group of ecologists delighted the streets with a taste of Puerto Rican music by playing "panderos" and singing folk songs!.



Someone traveled to Minneapolis with "pandero" in hand! Photo: Stephanie Cryz Maysonet

Among the assistants to this event, there were Boricuas who worked or studied at various Puerto Rican institutions, among them, the University of Puerto Rico (represented by different campuses: Río Piedras, Mayagüez, Bayamón and Humacao), and the Universidad Metropolitana. In addition, Boricuas working at universities in the United States came from Michigan, Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, North Carolina, and Missouri. Also, a few colleagues from Latin America who have made Puerto Rico their second home also attended this event.

The event coordinator, Diana Guzmán Colón [4], presented her research on the density of mongoose (*Herpestes aeropunctatus*) in El Yunque National Forest and Northeastern Ecological Corridor at the ESA meeting. Other researchers also presented their work on diverse topics such as invasive species, urban ecology, natural habitat restoration, biodiversity, landscape ecology, and marine ecology.



Puerto Rican ecologists and friends. Photo: Stephanie Cruz Maysonet

You can hear an interview with Diana and some of these Puerto Rican ecologists and learn about these diverse projects that were presented at ESA in the [14th episode](#) ^[5] of [Biología Boricua](#) ^[6], a podcast series created by [Luis Villanueva](#) ^[7].

See you all in the second gathering of ecologists at the ESA annual meeting in Sacramento, CA!

Thanks,

Comité organizador:

Diana Guzmán Colón

Luis Villanueva Rivera

Stephanie Cruz Maysonet ^[8]

Gretchen Díaz Muñoz

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