

JOAQUIN ALONSO

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PROFILE

Ecologist, natural resources manager and environmentalist specialized in endangered land management. Recent efforts focus on developing an ecosystem service valuation tool, aviation and conservation nexus analysis in the Darién Region of Panamá for the US State Dept, capacity-building in communities through conservation, education and outreach program development in Sumatra (Indonesia). Professor at the University of Puerto Rico for the Natural Sciences Department.

EDUCATION

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – MASTER’S OF SCIENCE (M.S.)
Environmentally endangered land management and ecosystem service valuation

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO - BACHELOR’S OF SCIENCE (B.S.) BIOLOGY
Zoology; Amazon River Dolphin behavior study

EXPERIENCE

PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, HUMACAO CAMPUS- PRESENT
Biology Department, Natural Sciences (Biology, Ecology courses and associated field laboratories) .

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, HARIMAU CONSERVATION; SUMATRA, IN – 2015-PRESENT
Developing and implementing community-based ecological inventory and monitoring project; naturalist and ranger training program; ecological education curriculum in small village communities in northern Sumatra. Developing eco-valuation tool to improve valuation of ecosystem services in PR. Analyzing nexus between existing law enforcement aviation programs and conservation efforts in the Darién Region (UNESCO) of Panama, for the US State Department and Government of Panama.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, INC; FL – 2014-2015
Lead scientist, collaborated in the design and implementation of the Water Conservation Area Invasive Species Monitoring Project. Conducted ecological monitoring and complex field campaigns in sensitive South Florida wetlands and land environments. Provided technical assistance and field support for clients in the area of ecosystem regulation, conservation and restoration ecology.

ECOLOGIST, NPS INVENTORY & MONITORING (DOI); FL – 2009-2014
Project Manager for the Everglades National Park Vegetation Map, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP). Additionally, collaborated in the design and implementation of several intricate ecological programs conducting assessments related to indicators or “vital signs” at a regional scale in South Florida and the Caribbean units of the National Park Service. These included monitoring wildlife populations and flora inventories. Reviewed, analyzed and reported data and information related to ecological conditions.

BIOLOGIST II, MIAMI DADE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION (DERM) – 2006-2009
Overseeing Miami-Dade’s Environmentally Endangered Lands Program. Design, implementation and evaluation of management and restoration plans for private land owners in order to obtain tax incentives. Conducted environmental assessments of construction projects to determine potential impact on endangered ecosystem resources following Chapter 24 of the Miami Dade County Code, Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Army Corps of Engineer (SAJ) standards. Implementation of Natural Forest Community standards and procedures to ensure protection and restoration.

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WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, WILDLIFE TRUST; FL – 2005-2006

Tracking and monitoring rehabilitated manatees for the Manatee Rehabilitation Program (MRP); data collection of manatees' behavioral patterns, ecosystems interactions and health assessments; preparation and completion of records and reports and entering information into database system. Participated in several health assessments manatee captures.

NATURALIST, MIAMI DADE PARKS AND RECREATION ; FL – 2004

SCUBA Dive-master and naturalist; guiding ecology and wildlife oriented kayak and canoe interpretive tours through out the marine preserve and coastal hammock. Trail maintenance, removal of exotic plants. Wildlife documentation. Participated in the sea turtle nest relocation program and sea turtle educational presentations. Part of team responsible for the restoration efforts at Bear Cut Preserve.

ZOOLOGIST, AMERICAN ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ; 1995-2003

Hispanic media representative for the Busch Garden's Zoo. Technician responsible for large collections of exotic animals, such as, rhinos, bears, hooved-stock, primates, elephants, various species of crocodilians and exotic birds, public presentations and guest interactions.

CARIBBEAN STRANDING NETWORK, HUSBANDRY TECH, PR – 1992-1995

Responsible for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine animals, including manatees, sea turtles, marine birds, and cetaceans. Conducted studies of population parameters and aerial census. Participated in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of the first Antillean manatee to be reintroduced to the wild (1993-1995). Volunteered to participate in the captures of wild manatees for the Sirenia Project for satellite tracking, working with the USFWS and USGS teams off the coasts of Boqueron and Guayanilla in Puerto Rico (2003-2004).

OMACHA FOUNDATION, AMAZONIA COLOMBIA (INTERSHIP) – 1994

Study of the behavior of the Amazon River basin dolphin species, *Inea geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*. Documented behavior, population parameters and identification of individuals. Data entry of daily observations and outreach programs for local communities regarding dolphin conservation.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Expertise designing and coordinating implementation of intricate ecological projects. Experience developing relations with points-of-contact and appropriate entities on regional activities to address conservation-related goals and objectives. Experience in conservation project strategy and evaluations. Ability to work closely as liaison with partners, including government authorities community leaders and other stakeholders. Strong background in education and communication. Developed outreach programs aimed at capacity building of communities in environmentally sensitive lands. Ability to analyze scientific issues and their impacts using current trends in scientific disciplines and innovative technologies and techniques and presenting the information of relevant environmental issues to a varied audience. Researcher, naturalist, passionate conservationist. Developed and implemented environmental educational curriculums for community schools in Former adventure travel blogger for Discovery Channel Latin America, travel writer, and explorer. Leader, educator, manager, encouraging high performance and integrity above all.