

JESSICA H. CASTRO-PRIETO

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

CURRENT ADDRESS: PO Box 9020708, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0708

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BIRTH DATE: December 15, 1980

EDUCATION:

Graduate

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus

MS degree in Biology (Ecology)

Thesis title: "A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay"

Graduation: May 2009

GPA: 4.0

Undergraduate

Universidad de la Republica (UdelaR), Facultad de Ciencias, Montevideo-Uruguay

Licenciature in Biological Science-Ecology concentration

Thesis title: "Proposal for Implementing the First Marine Protected Area in Uruguay"

Graduation: December 2004

SPECIALIZED COURSES:

September 2005: "Integrated Resource Management in the Tropics". University of Göttingen and Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), Germany.
Instructor: Martin Worbes.

Marzo-Agosto 2004: Ecological Theories and Conservation Biology. UdelaR, Science Faculty. Instructor: Alejandro Brazeiro.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2010-present: Puerto Rico Aquatic Gap. Gap Analysis Project-International Institute of Tropical Forestry. Forest Service at San Juan Puerto Rico. Position: contractor. PI. PhD. William Gould.

2010-present: Culebra's Leatherback Sea Turtle Database, Puerto Rico. Chelonia Inc and Fish and Wildlife Service. Position: contractor.

2009-2010: Protected areas in the USVI. Gap Analysis Project-International Institute of Tropical Forestry. Forest Service at San Juan Puerto Rico. Position: volunteer. PI. PhD. William Gould.

2009: Collaboration in the protocol: "*Amenazas y técnicas de manejo para prevenir la destrucción y/o degradación de las playas de anidaje de las tortugas marinas en Puerto Rico*". Prepared by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico.

2009: Collaboration in the progress report: "*Status survey of hawksbill sea turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) at Desecheo Island, Puerto Rico*". Summary report for 1999-2009 prepared by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico.

2009: Collaboration in the preliminary report: "*Index nesting surveys of marine turtle populations at the Culebra Archipelago, Puerto Rico: hawksbill nesting surveys*" prepared by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico

2009: Collaboration in the project: "*Fortalecimiento del proceso de implementación del Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas (SNAP): especies prioritarias para la conservación en Uruguay*". Sistema Nacional de Áreas protegidas de Uruguay. Serie de Informes N°16.

2009: Master thesis: "A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay".

2008: University of Puerto Rico, Department of Biology. Position: Research Assistant. Impact of economic globalization on human demography, land use and natural system in Latin America and Caribbean. Co-PI: Ph.D. Mitch Aide.

2006- 2008: Co-PI. Management and Control of Australian pine *Casuarina equisetifolia* at Mona Island.

2005: Collaboration with the Direccion Nacional de Medio Ambiente, Uruguay (DINAMA) in the process of including a protected area as a Biosphere Reserve (MAB-UNESCO).

2005: Field assistant in the *Phrynosoma williamsi* Project, Uruguay. PI: Lic. Federico Achaval, Lic. Sabrina Clavijo, Ph. D. Martín Bessonart and Lic. Larisa Magnone (Facultad de Ciencias, Uruguay).

2005: Field and research assistant. Culebra Island, Puerto Rico. Project: "Proyecto Tinglar (*Dermochelys coriacea*)", Chelonia Inc. & DNER. Project coordinator: Carlos Diez.

2005: Collaboration in the final report: Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) Sea Turtle Nesting Surveys, Culebra Island, Puerto Rico. Prepared by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico.

2004: Field assistant in the Carey Project, Marine Reserve of Mona Island, Puerto Rico. PI: Ph. D. Robert van Dam (Chelonia Inc.) and MS Carlos Diez (Department of Natural Environment Resources, Puerto Rico).

2003-2004: Internship in the Protected Areas Division of the Environmental Ministry of Uruguay for the undergraduate thesis research. Director: Lic. Víctor Cantón.

2003: Field assistant in the Freshwater turtles nesting survey, Taim Natural Reserve, Brazil. PI: Ph. D. Alex Bager (Catholic University of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Soul, Brazil).

2002: Field assistant in the Carey Project, Marine Reserve of Mona Island, Puerto Rico. PI: Ph. D. Robert van Dam (Chelonia Inc.) and MS Carlos Diez (Department of Natural Environment Resources, Puerto Rico).

2000: Field and research assistant NGO CID/ Karumbe. Sea turtle Project, Uruguay. PI: MS Milagros López-Mendilaharsu.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2006-2007: University of Puerto Rico, Department of Biology.

Position: Teaching Assistant of General Biology-II, Department of Biology.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS:

Languages: Spanish (first language).

English. Competence in reading, writing and speaking

Portuguese. Competence in reading.

Computer skills: Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Sigmaplot, PcOrd, Statistic, ArcGis.

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP:

2008: Fellowship from Decanato de Estudios Graduados e Investigación (DEGI), University of Puerto Rico. Scholarship for thesis presentation and dissertation (PBDT) from August 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2008: Travel grant to the study area sponsored by UPR-DEGI. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2007: Travel award to the study area sponsored by Center for Applied Tropical Ecology and Conservation (Crest-Catec), University of Puerto Rico. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2007: Award from Decanato de Estudios Graduados e Investigación (DEGI), Beca para el Apoyo a la Investigación y el Desarrollo Profesional de los Estudiantes Graduados. University of Puerto Rico. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2007: Idea Wild Grant. Purchase of equipment for the thesis' research. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest*

network in Uruguay.

2007: Rufford Small Grant to purchase materials, equipments and field assistant for the master field research. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2007: Scott Neotropical Fund (SNF)-Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to purchase materials, equipments and field assistant for the master field research. *A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay.*

2006: Grant from the Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership. *Management and Control of the exotic Australian pine Casuarina equisetifolia at Mona Island Marine Reserve, Puerto Rico.*

2006: Grant from U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service. *Management and Control of the exotic Australian pine Casuarina equisetifolia at Mona Island Marine Reserve, Puerto Rico.*

2005: Scholarship from Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) to participate in the Summer Course: “*Integrated Resource Management in the Tropics*”, Gottingen, Germany

PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS:

2010: Primer Congreso de Zoología del Uruguay. 5-10 de Diciembre. Montevideo-Uruguay. Maria J. Andrade and **Jessica Castro**. Características de la comunidad de mamíferos de Rivera: estrategias para su conservación.

2010: Annual Meeting Association of American Geographers, Washington DC, United States. Maria Jose Andrade-Nunez, **Jessica Castro-Prieto**, Carlos Zambrana-Torrel, Matthew Clark, and Mitch Aide. Future land-use scenarios in Uruguay: forest plantations, agriculture, and protected areas.

2009: Xth International Congress of Mammalogy (IMC-10), Mendoza Argentina. Fallabrino. A., D. Hernández, MJ. Andrade, **J. Castro**, H. Coitiño, M. Cosse, A. P. Arevalo & F. Montenegro. Status of the Xenarthras in Uruguay

2007: 29 Symposiums of the Department of Natural Environment Resources. Puerto Rico. Maria Jose Andrade and **Jessica Castro Prieto**. Management and Control of Australian pine *Casuarina equisetifolia* at Mona Island.

2005: II Jornada de Conservacao e Pesquisa de Tartarugas Marinhas no Atlantico Sul Occidental, Rio Grande. RS. Brasil. Livro de Resumos. López-Mendilaharsu M., M. Laporta, A. Estrades, M. N. Caraccio, C. Lezama, V. Calvo, A. Bauzá, A. Aisenberg, P. Miller, M. Rios, **J. Castro**, M. Hernández, D. Pérez-Etcheverry, M. V. Pastorino, F. Gagliardi, V. Ferrando, M. Morales, I. Lopez, A. Domingo & A. Fallabrino. 2005. Actividades de Karumbé entre el 2004 y 2005. Pag. 148

2005: Act.VIII Jorn. Zool. Uruguay. **Castro J.**, M. J. Andrade, M. Rios y A. Fallabrino. Cerro Verde: ¿La Primer Área Marina Protegida en Uruguay?. Pag. 41.

2005: 3rd Symposium of Protected Areas from South America. Catholic University and O’Boticario Foundation. Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Mariana Rios, Maria Jose Andrade, **Jessica Castro**, and Alejandro Fallabrino. Cerro Verde: First Marine Protected Area proposed for Uruguay".

- 2005:** III Jornadas de Conservación y Uso Sustentable de la Fauna Marina, Montevideo, Uruguay. **Castro J.**, M. J. Andrade, M. Rios, A. Fallabrino. Cerro Verde y el Manejo Participativo: Hacia la Primera Área Marina Protegida en Uruguay. Pag. 21.
- 2005:** III Jornadas de Conservación y Uso Sustentable de la Fauna Marina, Montevideo, Uruguay. López-Mendilaharsu. M., M. Laporta, A. Estrades, M. Hernández, M. N. Caraccio, C. Lezama, V. Calvo, V. Quirici, A. Bauzá, A. Aisenberg, P. Miller, M. Rios, **J. Castro**, D. Pérez-Etcheverry, M. V. Pastorino, A. Domingo & A. Fallabrino. 2005. Proyecto Karumbé 2005. Pag. 23.
- 2004:** Resúmenes de la II Reunión Sobre Investigación y Conservación de Tortugas Marinas del Atlántico Sur Occidental-ASO, San Clemente del Tuyú, Argentina. López-Mendilaharsu. M., M. Laporta, A. Estrades, M. Hernández, M. N. Caraccio, C. Lezama, V. Calvo, V. Quirici, A. Bauzá, A. Aisenberg, P. Miller, M. Rios, **J. Castro**, D. Pérez-Etcheverry, M. V. Pastorino J. Rapetti, A. Domingo & A. Fallabrino. Karumbé 2004. Pag. 25.
- 2004:** Proceedings of the 24^o Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation . U.S. Dep. Commer. NOAA Tech. Memo. **Castro J.**, M. Laporta, F. Scarabino, M. López-Mendilaharsu, A. Fallabrino & G. Riestra. Presence of Unusual Epibionts on Juvenile Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*): ¿Are they Evidence of Brumation in Uruguayan Waters?
- 2003:** VII Zoological Congress“. UdelaR, Science Faculty, Uruguay. **Castro J.**, M. Laporta, F. Scarabino. “Are Green Sea Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) Hibernating in Uruguayan Waters?”.

PUBLICATIONS AND SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

- Andrade, M., **Castro, J.**, Zambrana, C., Aide T. M. & Clark, M. Land-use scenarios in Uruguay: the future for a protected areas network. In prep.
- Castro, J.**, Solórzano, M. & Gould, W. Protected areas in the USVI. Gap Analysis Project-International Institute of Tropical Forestry. In prep.
- Castro, J** & Aide, T. M. A multi-scale analysis of habitat use for medium and large mammals in a subtropical riparian forest network in Uruguay. In prep.
- Andrade, M. J. y **Castro, J.** 2009. Mamíferos grandes y medianos: relación con hábitat y paisaje. Uruguay Ciencia 8: 26-28.
- Andrade, M. J. y **Castro, J.** 2009. En la intimidad de la vida salvaje. Diario El País. Uruguay. Published on August 08, 2009.
<http://www.elpais.com.uy/090811/pciuda-434998/informe/en-la-intimidad-de-la-vida-salvaje>
- Castro, J.** & Andrade, M. Case Study: Proposal of Cerro Verde as the first marine protected area in Uruguay. 2006. In: Managing Protected Areas. A Global Guide. Lockwood, M. Worboys, G. & Kothari, A. Eds. Cromwell Press, Trowbridge, UK.

Andrade, M. J., **Castro**, J., Laporta, P. & López-Mendilaharsu, M. Cerro Verde: First Marine Protected Area Proposed for Uruguay. Proceedings of First International Marine Protected Areas Congress, Geelong, Australia 23-27 October 2005.

Castro, J. 2004. Propuesta para la Implementación de la Primer Área Marina Protegida en Uruguay. Justificación y Zonificación. Licenciatura en Ciencias Biológicas. Pasantía en la Profundización Ecológica. Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay. 29 pp.

Andrade, M. & **Castro**, J. 2004. Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) sea turtle Nesting Survey at Mona Island, Puerto Rico. Internal report. Department of Natural Environment Resources of Puerto Rico. (DRNA).

Castro, J., Laporta, M., Scarabino, F., López-Mendilaharsu, M., Fallabrino, A., Riestra, G. 2004. Presence of unusual epibionts on juvenile green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Proceedings of the 24th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, San Jose-Costa Rica.

Andrade, M., **Castro**, J & Ríos, M. 2004. Cerro Verde: Characterization of a Priority Conservation Area. Internal Report. Protected Areas Division of the Environmental Ministry, Uruguay. Report presented to the Environmental Ministry-Protected Areas Division, Uruguay