

The University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies &
The Tropical Conservation and Development Program proudly present:

The Bacardi Lecture Series
Envisioning a Sustainable Tropics

***Certification of goat & sheep
fibers as a tool for conservation
in the Patagonian steppe***

Susan Walker, WCS Argentina

Bio

Susan Walker has lived in the Patagonian region of Argentina for the last 22 years. She helped build and co-directs the Patagonian and Andean Steppe program of the Wildlife Conservation Society in Argentina. She received a BA in Anthropology from the University of Tennessee and an MS and PhD in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida. Prior to settling in Argentina, she worked on wildlife research and conservation projects in Belize, Thailand, and Florida.

Abstract

The Patagonian steppe has been over-exploited for livestock production over the last 150 years. This has led to drastic declines in native herbivore species and heavy persecution of carnivores, as well as threatening livelihoods of local people. Wildlife friendly certification of fibers from goats and sheep could provide an incentive to help reduce conflict between wildlife and livestock. I will discuss the potential for and the challenges of implementing certification as a conservation tool. What can be gained for Patagonian wildlife and for livestock producers? Is economics the ultimate driver of the conflict? To what extent will buyers pay the true added value of these fibers?



January 22 @ 10:40 am
Grinter Hall, Room 376

Light refreshments to follow the Lecture