

## **II and III Workshop ‘Women Scholars in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges in Latin America’**

After the success of the first Women Scholars in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability workshop, two additional workshops have been designed to bring together Latin American women scholars and practitioners working in environmental sciences and sustainability. The goal of these workshops is to provide an informal space to examine gender-specific issues at work, share experiences, and build a collaborative network to empower and strengthen women’s impacts in Latin American countries.

**Workshop II** will take place in **Ecuador on August 7<sup>th</sup>**, preceding the XII International Congress of Wildlife Management in the Amazon and Latin America (CIMFAUNA) at the University of San Francisco de Quito in Cumbayá.



**Workshop III** will take place in **Argentina on September 17<sup>th</sup>**, preceding the VI Binational Meeting of Ecology Chile-Argentina at the Cataratas de Iguazu National Park, in Puerto Iguazu, Misiones.



**Organizers:** Southern Cone Conservation Leadership Initiative (<https://conservacionconosur.wordpress.com>) and the Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) at the University of Florida

**Sponsor:** Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

**Other Contributions:** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Environmental Conservation Program

### Facilitators:

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### Workshop description:

Attracting and supporting women in leadership roles in sustainability and environmental science is a necessary step to finding solutions to many of the challenges facing society today. Moreover, anticipating some of the challenges and opportunities faced by other women may help younger professionals to make an impact by shortening the journey and learning how to navigate in a rapidly changing world. In March 2015, we took an important step in this effort by bringing together more than 30 women from different generations across Latin America, in an innovative workshop entitled '**Women Scholars in Environmental Sciences and Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges in Latin America**'. We are now ready to replicate this effort in Ecuador and Argentina, in partnership with the XII International Congress of Wildlife Management in the Amazon and Latin America in Quito and the VI Binational Meeting of Ecology Chile-Argentina in Misiones, respectively.

The Southern Cone Conservation Leadership Initiative (SCCL) is an interdisciplinary initiative of the University of Florida's Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program, which organized the first women scholar workshop at the University of Florida (UF) in Spring 2015. The consensus among participants was that more of this type of meeting is needed. The warm environment, openness, and trust generated in the workshop made us aware that numerous spaces exist for women to share their research and professional experiences, but few spaces where they can take a moment to reflect and connect with their own experiences as women. The report from the workshop (available in English<sup>1</sup> and Spanish<sup>2</sup>) has encouraged other women to develop similar events in their workplaces, such as at the UF Department of Geology, and the UF Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department. The workshop also inspired participants to share their experiences, such as Suzana Padua (president of IPÊ-Brasil) who wrote an article in Oeco's website<sup>3</sup>. Now, some of the participants have decided to take the lead by becoming organizers and facilitators for the upcoming workshops in their home countries in Latin America.

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<sup>1</sup> English version: [https://conservacionconosur.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/women\\_report\\_final\\_final.pdf](https://conservacionconosur.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/women_report_final_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Spanish version:

[https://conservacionconosur.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/informe\\_versionespanol\\_final.pdf](https://conservacionconosur.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/informe_versionespanol_final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Suzana Padua's article about the workshop: <http://www.oeco.org.br/colunas/suzana-padua/29236-a-mulher-na-conservacao-e-na-sustentabilidade/>

**Program:**

The workshops aim to explore the following topics:

- a. Core gender issues such as identity, power relations, and social constructions of gender and women, and how these relate to the work of women professionals in sustainability and environmental sciences.
- b. Goals and challenges faced by professional women working in sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and other areas of environmental sciences.
- c. Opportunities and strategies that lead to success of women in this arena.
- d. Developing mechanisms to catalyze future collaborations among participants (e.g., research, mentoring), either by region or by professional interests, and expansion of the network.

**Language:** Both workshops will be developed in Spanish

**Cost:** None

**Application:** To apply, please review the requirements and fill out the following online form (deadline June 30, 2016): <http://goo.gl/forms/lxlc5urB6G0CITrt1>

**More information:** <http://wp.me/p6hKSi-aZ>

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