

Cynthia Bandurek

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATIONS · ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING · SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Ecologist · Field Naturalist · Conservation Photographer

Costa Rica — available for international remote work cynthiabandurek.com cynthiabandurek@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Ecologist, field naturalist and conservation communicator with 20+ years of experience working at the intersection of biodiversity, environmental interpretation, science communication and visual storytelling. Background spanning conservation and biodiversity projects, environmental education, interpretation trail design, scientific publishing, institutional communication and editorial design in Argentina and Costa Rica.

Combines scientific knowledge with narrative and visual communication to make biodiversity accessible, engaging and meaningful for diverse audiences, with a particular focus on often-overlooked species and ecosystems. Works internationally and remotely across communications, editorial, education and natural history.

CORE EXPERTISE

Conservation & science communication

Conservation and biodiversity communication · Public engagement · Environmental interpretation · Environmental education · Natural history communication

Content & storytelling

Environmental storytelling · Editorial writing and editing · Digital content creation · Visual storytelling · Photography and multimedia · Educational content

Field & conservation practice

Biodiversity surveys · Amphibian monitoring · Natural history · Field interpretation · Habitat and species documentation · Ethical wildlife practices

Digital & creative

WordPress · Institutional web content · Social media · Editorial and graphic design · Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Lightroom

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jul 2023 – Present

Remote

Event Coordinator

Nature Photographers Network

- Coordinate international webinars and educational events for a global nature photography community.
- Communicate and coordinate with international speakers, presenters and contributors.
- Manage event planning, scheduling, registration, promotional materials and related communications.
- Collaborate remotely with photographers, educators, writers and conservation professionals to develop and deliver educational content for an international audience.

2017 – Present

Remote

Editor, Editorial Team

Paws Trails Explorers Magazine

- Develop and edit content on wildlife, biodiversity, natural history, conservation and nature photography for an international nature-focused publication.
- Work with contributors and visual material to shape stories that communicate biodiversity to a broad audience.
- Contribute subject expertise in Latin American wildlife, natural history and conservation.

2021 – Present

Costa Rica &
Argentina

Independent Naturalist, Environmental Interpreter & Photographer

Freelance practice

- Lead nature-based experiences combining natural history, environmental interpretation, photography and biodiversity education.
- Communicate ecological concepts and species behaviour to visitors and photography students.
- Produce visual and written content on biodiversity, conservation and natural history, specialising in macro photography of arthropods, amphibians, reptiles and other often-overlooked organisms.
- Apply ethical wildlife photography practices that prioritise natural behaviour and minimal disturbance.

2021 – Present

Osa Peninsula, Costa
Rica

Naturalist Guide

Ecoturístico La Tarde · Staff position

- Guide international visitors through tropical ecosystems, providing environmental interpretation and natural history education.
- Facilitate experiences centred on observation, curiosity and respect for wildlife.

■ INSTITUTIONAL CONSERVATION & SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

2018 – 2022

Argentina

Editorial Design & Scientific Communication

Instituto de Botánica Darwinion (CONICET)

- Contributed to *Flora Argentina*, one of the institution's major botanical reference projects.
- Developed editorial layout and design for scientific publications and performed scientific image editing.
- Translated complex scientific information into accessible editorial and visual formats for scientific and public-facing communication.

2007 – 2018

Argentina

Environmental Interpretation & Education

Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (CONICET)

- Designed and implemented environmental interpretation trails and conducted surveys of natural areas and biodiversity.
- Developed environmental education activities with rural schools and led guided tours at the Museum's Native Plant Garden.
- Participated in museology and in the design and assembly of permanent and temporary exhibitions, plus cultural extension activities.
- Worked within the institutional communications area, including web design and visual support materials.

2002 – 2007

Argentina

Research Project Administrator

Instituto de Genética y Biología Molecular (CONICET)

■ **SELECTED CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

2007 – 2015

Amphibian diversity monitoring — Otamendi Nature Reserve, Argentina

Long-term biodiversity monitoring in collaboration with Argentina's National Parks Administration.

2015

Amphibian diversity monitoring — Ribera Norte Municipal Nature Reserve, Argentina

Biodiversity monitoring with Argentina's National Parks Administration.

2007 – 2011

Environmental interpretation trails — Estación Biológica Corrientes, Argentina

Spatial design and implementation of interpretation trails within a sustainable development plan.

2009 – 2010

Environmental education with rural schools — Estación Biológica Corrientes, Argentina

Educational programmes, guided activities and field-based environmental education.

2011

Biodiversity survey — Ecocampus Quinta Esencia, Argentina

Survey of environments, fauna and flora.

2021

Reforestation project — La Cotinga Biological Station, Costa Rica

■ **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- *Small World* — Nature Vision Magazine / Nature Photographers Network
- *Masters of Stillness: The Hidden Life of the Helmeted Iguana* — Paws Trails Explorers Magazine
- *Arthropod Conservation* — Paws Trails Explorers Magazine
- *The Biological Crisis of Amphibians* — Paws Trails Explorers Magazine
- *The Magic World Hidden in Costa Rica's Tropical Lowland Rainforests* — Paws Trails Explorers Magazine

■ **AUTHOR & EDUCATOR**

Author — *The World of Small*

Author and editor of a book combining evolutionary biology, natural history, visual storytelling and art to encourage connection with often-overlooked forms of life.

Author — *Macro Photography in Nature: An Ethical Approach*

Educational ebook on ethical wildlife photography and communicating the natural world through macro photography.

Environmental & photography educator

Online macro photography course · Workshops in Argentina and Costa Rica (2018–2023) · International webinars and talks, including a 2016 international presentation on photography as a tool to raise awareness of environmental issues · Environmental interpretation and education programmes.

■ **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION & INTERNATIONAL ROLES**

Nature First Ambassador — Alliance for Responsible Nature Photography

International Photography Contest Juror — 2022–2025

■ EDUCATION

Field Naturalist

Escuela Argentina de Naturalistas — Asociación Aves Argentinas ·
2005–2006

Ecology Technician

CENT N.º 82 — Government of Buenos Aires · 1996–1998

■ LANGUAGES

Spanish — native

English — professional working proficiency