

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

Field & conservation practice

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

Content & storytelling

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

Digital & creative

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Event Coordinator — Nature Photographers Network

Jul 2023 – Present · Remote

- 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.

Editor, Editorial Team — Paws Trails Explorers Magazine

2017 – Present · Remote

- 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.

Independent Naturalist, Environmental Interpreter & Photographer (freelance practice)

2021 – Present · Costa Rica & Argentina

- 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.

Naturalist Guide (staff position) — **Ecoturístico La Tarde**

2021 – Present · Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

- 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

Editorial Design & Scientific Communication
— **Instituto de Botánica Darwinion (CONICET)**

2018 – 2022 · Argentina

- 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.

Environmental Interpretation & Education — **Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (CONICET)**

2007 – 2018 · Argentina

- 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.

Research Project Administrator — **Instituto de Genética y Biología Molecular (CONICET)**

2002 – 2007 · Argentina

SELECTED CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Amphibian diversity monitoring — **Otamendi Nature Reserve, Argentina**

2007 – 2015

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

Amphibian diversity monitoring — **Ribera Norte Municipal Nature Reserve, Argentina**

2015

Biodiversity monitoring with Argentina's National Parks Administration.

Environmental interpretation trails — **Estación Biológica Corrientes, Argentina**

2007 – 2011

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

Environmental education with rural schools — **Estación Biológica Corrientes, Argentina**

2009 – 2010

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

Biodiversity survey — Ecocampus Quinta Esencia, Argentina

2011

Survey of environments, fauna and flora.

Reforestation project — La Cotinga Biological Station, Costa Rica

2021

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