DALILA N. LARA

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EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Data Science (MEDS) (06/23)
Bren School of Environmental Science & Management - University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB)
 Highlighted Coursework: Machine Learning, Data Visualization, and Communication, Data Management, Shiny App, Statistics, Geospatial Analysis, Text Sentiment Analysis

Bachelor of Arts, Biological Anthropology – UCSB (06/22)
Bachelor of Arts, Global Studies – UCSB (06/22)
 Leadership: Executive Co-Chair & Co-Founder – Promise Scholar Advisory Board, (10/18–6/22)
 Study Abroad: University of California Study Abroad Program, Florence, Italy (8/21–12/21)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, R, SQL, Bash, HTML
Tools: Shiny Apps, Tableau, ArcGIS, QGIS, GitHub, Git, Zotero, Microsoft Office, Slack, Zoom, Teams
Languages: Bilingual, Spanish & English

MASTER'S CAPSTONE PROJECT

Informing Forest Conservation Regulations in Paraguay (1/23–6/23)
Client: Paraguay's National Forest Institute (INFONA) and Robert Heilmayr Ph.D.
- Collaborated with a team of 4 to create a machine learning model predicting future deforestation patterns, delivering data-driven forecasts to support the development of effective forest laws.
- Co-led the development of an interactive R-Shiny web application to present project results and enable informed decision-making regarding forest protection.

DATA SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

Post Graduate Intern, National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) – Remote, CA (12/23 – 12/24)
- Generated comprehensive reports for **SolarAPP+**, analyzed implementation across 200+ jurisdictions in the United States to assess the tool's success across residential Solar and Solar and Storage projects.
- Account specialist for SolarAPP+, assisted 900+ contractors with setup and guiding jurisdictions adoption.
- Led outreach efforts in Minnesota and Illinois, facilitating partnerships with organizations implementing jurisdictions incentives and supporting **SolarTRACE** permitting inspection, and interconnection initiatives.

UCSB -Smithsonian Scholars Program, Graduate Fellow, Hybrid, CA (9/22 – 8/23)
- Oversaw a 5-week online R-Data Science course for 25 undergraduate students covering data analysis, visualization, and best practices.
- Created and led workshop sessions around field equipment (e.g., camera traps) for students on Santa Cruz Island, CA, to deploy, collect, and analyze data.
- Mentored 15 students during fieldwork at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, guiding them in applying data science methodologies to real-world environmental challenges.

Data Science Intern – Smithsonian OCIO Data Science Lab, Remote, CA (6/21–8/21)
- Developed Unix Shell scripts to process genetic DNA sequences and construct gene trees.
- Analyzed large genomic datasets (600+ samples) using R and Python to gain insights into the evolution of the genus *Syntrichia*.

Data Science Intern – National Park Services (NPS), Remote, CA (3/21–6/21)
- Analyzed shorebird population data (1990–2012) on the West Coast using R to gain insights into migration.
- Designed and produced infographics to communicate scientific results to non-technical audiences, making the data accessible and actionable for decision-makers.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Community Involvement: Assistant Manager - UC Santa Barbara Hub, Santa Barbara, CA (8/19–6/23);
Science Teaching Assistant - Mameli Elementary School, Italy (8/21–10/21)