

Andrea Pacheco

Interdisciplinary Environmental Scientist

Forest and Nature Conservation Policy | Wageningen University and Research

[Google Scholar](#) | [Website](#)

Education

- Dr. rer. nat.
2017 – 2022 Environmental economics/Macroecology
Thesis title: Influence of land tenure on global environmental change: effects on deforestation and biodiversity in Brazil
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv)/Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg
Final grade: magna cum laude
- M.Sc.
2015-2016 Management and Conservation of Tropical Forests and Biodiversity
Thesis title: Climate Change Governance: the case of land-use based emissions MRV systems in Central America and the Dominican Republic
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Costa Rica.
Final grade: 91.48 (out of 100)
- B.A.
2009-2013 Major: International Development Studies
(Second Major: Art – Photography, Minor: Biology)
Houghton College, New York, USA
Final grade: 3.648 (out of 4.0) (cum laude honors)

Professional experience

- Sep 2025-present Post-doctoral researcher
Forest and Nature Conservation Policy, Wageningen University and Research
Conducting: 1) systematic review of the causally-rigorous human impacts on biodiversity, and 2) a text-analysis of government interests at the science-policy interface
- Sep 2022-Sep 2025 Post-doctoral researcher
Institute for Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn
Using econometric, geospatial, and synthesis methods to research the impact of non-food biomass trade on biodiversity outcomes in Brazil and Central Africa as a part of the EU-funded project, “Creating Leverage to Enhance Biodiversity Outcomes of Global Biomass Trade” (CLEVER).
- Feb 2022-Dec 2024 Fellow for the IPBES Nexus Assessment
Co-authoring parts of the thematic assessment on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate. Specifically working on Chapter 6, “Options for delivering sustainable approaches to public and private finance”.
- Oct 2017 – Sep 2021 Scientific employee/Doctoral researcher
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) (Leipzig, Germany)
Conducted research over large spatiotemporal scales using econometric analyses, spatially explicit models, and synthesizing results across scales to understand the effects of land tenure on environmental conservation outcomes in Brazil.
- Aug 2016 – May 2017 Research assistant
Latin-American chair of environmental decision-making for global change / LEDSenLAC: Low-emissions Development Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean (Turrialba, Costa Rica)
Data cleaning, social-network analysis, interviews, and support for ongoing research on drought and risk governance in Costa Rica as well as climate change mitigation strategies in Latin America.

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| Aug. 2014 – Dec 2014 | Consultant – MOPAWI (Tegucigalpa/La Mosquitia, Honduras) Interviews and writing reports of the non-profit's work in conservation and indigenous people's rights over 30 years. |
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Peer-reviewed publications

- Oliveira, G.M.; Ziegert R.; Pacheco, A; ... (2024) Blind spots in the EU's Regulation on Deforestation-free products. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 8, 1382-1383. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-024-02465-x>
- Wunder, S., Fraccaroli C., Bull J.W., ... Pacheco, A. (2024) "Biodiversity credits: learning lessons from other approaches to incentivize conservation" <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/qgwfvc> (pre-print, under review)
- Pacheco, A., & Meyer, C. (2022). Land tenure drives Brazil's deforestation rates across socio-environmental contexts. *Nature Communications*, 13(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-33398-3>
- Zarbá, L., Piquer-Rodríguez, M., Boillat, S., ... Pacheco, A.,... Grau, R. (2022). Mapping and characterizing social-ecological land systems of South America. *Ecology and Society*, 27(2). <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-13066-270227>
- Perino, A., Pereira, H. M., Felipe-Lucia,... Pacheco, A., ... Bonn, A. (2022). Biodiversity post-2020: Closing the gap between global targets and national-level implementation. *Conservation Letters*, 15(2), e12848. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12848>
- Desvars-Larrive, A., Dervic, E., Haug, N., A., Pacheco, A., ... Thurner, S. (2020). A structured open dataset of government interventions in response to COVID-19. *Scientific Data*, 7(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-020-00609-9>
- McDonald, R. I., Mansur, A. V., Ascensão, F., ... Pacheco, A., ... Ziter, C. (2020). Research gaps in knowledge of the impact of urban growth on biodiversity. *Nature Sustainability*, 3(1), 16–24. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0436-6>

Software skills

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| R/RStudio | <u>Advanced</u> : Data wrangling and manipulation (<i>base</i> and <i>tidyverse</i> , <i>sqldf</i>), Spatial data analysis using both large vector databases and gridded environmental layers (<i>sf</i> , <i>rgdal</i> , <i>raster</i>), statistics/econometric analysis (matching with <i>cem/matchIt</i> , <i>margins</i> , meta-analyses using <i>metaphor</i> , <i>stats</i> , regression analysis using <i>glm</i> , <i>mice</i> and <i>miceadds</i>), data visualization (<i>ggplot</i>) |
| High-Performance Computing | <u>Intermediate</u> : writing/running scripts for job parallelization of computationally intensive analyses (<i>Slurm Workload Manager</i>) |
| Github/Gitlab | <u>Intermediate</u> : basic version control of personal scientific projects (https://github.com/pacheco-andrea). |
| Python | <u>Beginner</u> : can follow basic scripts for spatial data analysis |

Languages

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| English | Full proficiency (C2-level) |
| Spanish | Native speaker |
| Portuguese | Advanced (C1-level) |
| German | Basic communication (B1-level, Telc certificate) |

Teaching & Supervision

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| 2023-2025 | Master's thesis supervision (Joshua Voss), "Agricultural intensification impacts on biodiversity in Brazil's Amazon and Cerrado" |
| 2023 | Lecture on "Property rights and theories of collective action", UFMG, Belo Horizonte, Brazil |

Participation in courses and workshops

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| Sep. 2017 | Potsdam Summer School: Human Environments in a Changing World (Potsdam, Germany) |
| Nov. 2016 | II International Course: Theory, tools, and processes for implementing and planning climate change mitigation and adaptation: leadership, decision-making, and governance for mobilizing from knowledge to action. Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) (Turrialba, Costa Rica) |
| Jun. 2016 | Workshop on Forest Degradation: Elements for its definition, methods, and tools. UN-REDD Program, SilvaCarbon, CATIE, and the office of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment, and Mining of Honduras (SERNA) (Tegucigalpa, Honduras) |
| Apr. 2012 | Symposium: Natural Resources and Development in Africa Institute for African Development (Cornell University, New York) |

Scholarships/Grants

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| Sep 2025-Aug-2027 | Awarded ca. €80,000 annually to carry out postdoc project proposal from the Wageningen Graduate School's Postdoc Talent Programme: "Human Impacts on Biodiversity" |
| Jan -Dec. 2024 | Awarded €35,000 from the University of Bonn's Transdisciplinary Research Area: Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Futures as a part of the 2023 call for postdoctoral researchers in order to establish the working group Ag2Bio: towards robust and meaningful evaluations of agricultural impacts on biodiversity |
| Aug 2022 | Awarded 1000€ from the iDiv Female Science Career Fund to participate in the conference symposium "Integrating Land System Science and Conservation Science for deeper insights into conservation challenges and opportunities" of the 6th European Congress of Conservation Biology in Prague, Czech Republic. |
| Nov 2017 | Awarded 2000€ from the iDiv Science Policy Shadowing Programme to meet with various land-tenure-data stakeholders in Washington D.C. including contacts at the World Bank, the World Resources Institute, and the Rights and Resources Initiative. |
| Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2016 | Full scholarship from United States Agency of International Development through the Regional Program of Climate Change for a Master's degree in Management and Conservation of Forests at CATIE, Costa Rica |
| Aug. 2009 – May. 2013 | Scholarship awards from Houghton College to complete undergraduate studies: Barnabas Student Leadership Award, Dean's Honor List, Student Activity Scholarship, HC Excellence Scholarship, HC Performance Art Scholarship. |

References available upon request