

Lucila Castro

Lucila Castro, Biologist.
Argentine representative of *Pacific Biodiversity Institute*.
Member of the High-Andean Conservationist Group
(GCFA)
Cordoba, Argentina.



Education & Experience

I got my degree at the National University of Córdoba in 2012 with an orientation in conservation. I did my thesis in Mar Chiquita lake, in Córdoba province, Argentina, working with 3 species of flamingos in habitat use, feeding behavior and interactions.

At present time I am the Argentine representative of the NGO Pacific Biodiversity Institute, we are working in big wild lands and biodiversity in South America, a multifaceted project that implicates partnership with several local institutions.

Since 2010 I am a member of the High-Andean Flamingo Conservationist Group (GCFA), which gathers scientists and conservationists specialists from Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina working in flamingo and wetland conservation.

I am also member of the scientific committee in the “Anibal Montes” Natural History Museum, Miramar, Córdoba, Argentina.

Currently I am also member of the group "Wildlife" in the project for the Environmental Basis of Rural Space Land of the Province of Córdoba, Argentina.

During my career I did several practices in undergraduate teaching in the: Animal Diversity II and Introduction to Biology at the Department of Biodiversity and Ecology, also Animal Diversity in the Department of Biodiversity, both at the Faculty of Exact Sciences, Physics and Natural Sciences at the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. Also, I worked as a laboratory assistant, in the department of Biological Chemistry at the same University.

At the beginning of my career as a biologist I worked for 3 months in Australia at the University of Melbourne (Melbourne) doing fieldwork, and in Macquarie University (Sydney) as an internship at the laboratory.

My current interest is conservation and ecology. I am planning my PhD for next year, working in protected areas and fauna conservation.

Candidate's Statement

I am involved in the ISSLR since 2011, I was an assistant in the Conference carried out in Miramar, Córdoba, Argentina. This was a very important event for me as a biology student. I was involved in different topic related to Salt Lakes that gave me a broader vision of what they imply.

I had the pleasure of participating in the international meeting held in China, in July 2014, where I made a presentation about flamingos and Mar Chiquita Lake (Córdoba Province, Argentina) including some of the results obtained in my degree thesis. I was awarded with a very important prize given by the Journal of Biological Research –

Thessaloniki for the best presentation given by a young scientific. Also I was selected to join the board of the ISSLR starting in 2015, fact that made me feel honored and happy.

I strongly believe that the Salt lakes are one of the most amazing ecosystems on earth, and we need to know more about them to be able to work in their conservation. Together we can understand better how the different lakes works in different parts of the world. I think that is very important having in the board someone young to be able to learn more from people with more knowledge, so all the knowledge could pass from generation to generation. In my opinion the best way to learn is with the experience.

As a new member of the ISSLR some of the goals in which I will like to help, and some humble opinions are:

-Helping in the developing-web media as a very important tool for the Society goals, it is important for all the ones that are studying salt lakes, but also for the local population.

-Keep always young professionals involved: we are the future.

-Promoting saline lakes research by publishing more scientific papers but also other kind of publication available for the general public, schools and nature lovers. Videos can be really helpful.

-Get involve more scientific from different parts of the world.

-Add workshops at the end of each international conference to debate relevant topics like: wetland conservation, science and people, how to face climate change as an International Society. I think we can learn a lot participating in this conference while we are listening to our colleagues, but also I think, as scientists, we need to find a place where we can discuss relevant focusses, share opinions, compare results and rich to some conclusions.