

Verónica Arias Cabanilla  
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Quito, Ecuador



## **PROFESIONAL PERFILE**

Professional with more than 20 years of experience in public, private and NGOs. Areas: Public Policy, Environment, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Nature Based Solutions, International, Management. Master's degree in international environmental law. Professor at Universidad San Francisco de Quito. Consultant and Advisor.

I like challenges, constantly learning, exploring new initiatives, sharing knowledge and positively influencing people by building capabilities and teams.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**CONSULTANT FOR CORPORATE SECTOR, GOVERNMENT, MULTILATERAL BANKS.**  
Quito-Ecuador. 2011- present.

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.**  
**Senior Advisor.** Nov 2023-jan 2024

- Provide strategic advice to the ministry regarding global trends, international agreements, best practices and international funding opportunities during UNFCCC COP28.

**COALITION OF CAPITAL CITIES OF THE AMERICAS FACING CLIMATE CHANGE - CC35-**  
**Executive Director.** Quito-Ecuador. May 2019- May 2023

- Manage relationships with member cities and development of programs to contribute the Paris Agreement goals in five areas: training, legislation, financing mechanisms, communication, technical assistance.
- Support cities to engage in relevant global initiatives to achieve conservation 30x30 goals under the Biodiversity Convention.
- Incorporation of strategic allies from the academic and private sectors to provide technical assistance, tools, and linkages with other sources of knowledge.
- Establish and maintain relationships with cities governments, partners, and stakeholders in the Americas, identifying opportunities to exchange knowledge.
- Representation at UNFCCC, UNCBD, UN-MCR2030 and city networks (LGMA, C40, ICLEI, others).

**GIZ- DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT**  
**Senior Advisor on Climate Change.** Quito-Ecuador. July 2021- July 2022

Program for scaling up nature-based climate change adaptation measures in rural areas of Ecuador, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

- Governance mechanism structure and shared leadership at national and local levels.
- National coordination among consortium member organizations (IUCN, CATIE, GIZ).
- Alignment of the program with the national policy on climate change, NDCs.
- Nature-based solutions for climate and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Sustainable Land Use, agriculture, coffee and cocoa value chains.
- Support in conservation, restoration and management measures of Ecuadorian landscapes.
- Climate financing mobilization

#### **METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF QUITO.**

**Secretary of Environment.** Quito-Ecuador. 2014- 2019

- Lead multidisciplinary teams for the development of policies and environmental management of the capital of Ecuador, achieving the proposed goals in the area. Award for best practices in the public sector, 2016. "Government Leaders ", IDE. 2016.
- Lead city`s environment and climate change role at international level (ICLEI), Women for Climate Program (C40 initiative). WWF City Challenge global award, 2017.
- Approval of 8 municipal ordinances for environmental protection; successful reforestation campaign of 1 million trees; 450,000 people raised awareness about inclusive recycling and plastic reduction; declaration of 150,000 hectares for conservation and the first Climate Action Plan for 2050 in Quito and Latin America.
- Organization of the International Forum on Sustainable Development during Habitat III, 2016, hosting more than 15,000 people.

#### **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY- ECUADOR.**

**Ecuador Representative.** Quito, Ecuador. 2000- 2011

- Mobilization and raising of funds between 2.5 to 3 million for Galapagos, and from USAID's Parks in Peril Program for the Andes and Amazon programs.
- Implementation of the first water fund in Ecuador and Latin America, a replication model for other cities in the world, and a flagship for the organization.
- 10 million euro "tri-national Andean" initiative of the German government for the climate change adaptation program in protected areas of the Amazon basin in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

#### **ECUADOREAN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (CEDA).**

**Co- Founder and Executive Director.** Quito-Ecuador. 1996-2000

- Create and manage the organization, bylaws, board, regulations, fundraising, recruitment of personnel.
- Structuring of training courses for junior lawyers and policy makers.
- Development of national environmental laws (Special Regime for Galapagos, Environmental Management Law, Biodiversity Bill, incentives, and conservation tools).

## EDUCATION

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**HARVARD BUSINESS AND KENNEDY SCHOOL.** Nueva York, Quito. Sept-2018-July 2019.

**Bloomberg Leadership Program. Diplomat in Cities Leadership.**

**ESCUELA DE GOBERNANZA Y LIDERAZGO POLITICO. IDE.** Quito-Ecuador. 2009.  
**Political Leadership Diplomat.**

**THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. Master in Internacional Environmental Law. (L.L.M.)**  
Washington College of Law, Washington D.C. 1993 -1994.

**PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA DEL ECUADOR. Juris Doctor.**  
Law School. 1987-1992.

## LENGUAGES

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Fluent speaker and writing: Spanish, English.

## RECOGNITIONS AND MEMBER OF STRATEGIC COUNCILS

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Most influential and committed Latin woman in climate action.

- <https://sachamama.org/los-100-latinos>

- Woman of the year 2020. Home Magazine.

- <https://www.ecuavisa.com/entretenimiento/revista-hogar-premio-mujeres-del-ano-ceremonia-virtual-MIEC682916>

- Senior fellow at Global Americans think tank on USA-Ecuador international relations.

- Counselor of the CEI (Strategic Infrastructure Council of Ecuador).

- Mentor of the Forum of Women Mentors of Ecuador.

- Ambassador of the AUTENTIKAS Program of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to promote the exchange of experiences between professional women.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**University San Francisco de Quito.** Law School. Professor of International Environmental Law, Environmental Management. 2001, 2015- Present.

**Ecuadorian Center for Environmental Law.** Intensive courses in Environmental Law. Trainer. 1997 -2013.

**University of the Americas.** UDLA. School of Jurisprudence. Thesis guide teacher 2013.

**EKOS Magazine.** Columnist on sustainability and environmental issues. January 2024-Present.

**Strategic Infrastructure Council of Ecuador.** Research and analysis of the environmental component situation. January 2024- present

## **COMMUNICATION**

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**Guest speaker and opinion leader** on environmental issues permanently in national and international media.

**Director and producer of the TV and digital Program** Environmental Perspectives with opinion leaders for education and citizen awareness about the planet

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063988244188>

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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View updated posts on LinkedIn. Maria Veronica Arias

- Environmental atlas of the Metropolitan District of Quito. 2016.
  - Various publications from the Quito Environment Secretary. 2014 to 2019.
  - Manual of regulations and jurisprudence on the rights of nature. Ombudsman's Office. 2013. Study on the Ecuadorian legal framework on ecological flows. CEDA web site. 2012.
  - Water funds. The case of Quito as a mechanism for protecting the hydrographic basin that provides ecosystem services. The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity (TEEB) Report. Biodiversity Convention.2010.
  - State of the art - legal analysis of advances in Ecuador under the Biodiversity Convention Report.2010
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