

Francisca Saavedra

CURRICULUM VITAE

Address:

University of Florida
Tropical Conservation & Development (TCD)
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Education

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| August 2000 | Ph. D. Biology
University of Maryland, College Park MD
Dissertation title: Potential impact of climate change on the phenology and reproduction of <i>Delphinium nuttallianum</i> (Ranunculaceae).
Advisor: Dr. David Inouye |
| December 1993 | M.S. Geography
University of Florida, Gainesville FL
Thesis title: El Morado National Park, an attempt to explain the composition and distribution of a mountain flora in the central Andes of Chile.
Advisor: Dr. Cesar Caviedes |
| November 1991 | Licenciada en Ciencias Biológicas
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago Chile |

Professional Appointments

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| 2025-01 – present | Climate Investment Funds (CIF) - Nature, People, and Climate (NPC) Program
Short-term Consultant
<i>Research CIF Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM), a mechanism that channels direct finance support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Comprehensive literature review of CIF's DGMs and expert interviews, examination of strengths and weaknesses, evaluation of climate change and social impacts, and advancement of climate finance justice, evaluation of gaps, and generation of recommendations. Prepared peer review publication.</i> |
| 2023-03 – present | University of Florida
Tropical Conservation & Development Program
Courtesy Faculty and Consultant
<i>Researched the institutional landscape of higher education contributing to Biocultural Conservation: literature review, expert interview, and authored a summary report. Established partnerships and professional relationships with Universities, NGOs, and financial institutions, nationally and internationally; Scheduled professional development and training opportunities (panel series) for students and faculty. Led the co-creation of a multi-institutional academic network focused on biocultural approaches. Led and organized this network to publish scientific, general public pieces</i> |

to support Indigenous Peoples' negotiations at COP16 and influence academic reforms. Co-led grant application to build large-scale programs to train future practitioners of community-led biocultural conservation and restoration.

- 2024-10 – present Amazon Conservation Team (ACT)
USA, Brazil, and Ancestral Tides Programs
Consultant and Volunteer
Worked with ACT's vice-president and different national programs to unify impact data units and measurements. Helped and advised on the need to invest in better Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) processes, and website optimization. Helped ACT Ancestral Tides Program build new partnerships with local communities and foundations. Helped ACT build new partners with funding organizations (IUCN-NL, Arramat, CIF) and other NGOs (e.g., If Not Us Then Who).
- 2021-05 – 2022-08 University of Maryland
College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences
Biological Sciences Graduate Program (BISI)
Interim Associate Director
Co-led interdepartmental BISI Program that enrolled ~150 graduate students. Built effective partnerships and collaborations with departmental Chairs, Faculty, Directors, and Staff. Developed a multi-year strategic plan for Graduate Teaching Assignments and the role of the BISI Assistant Director. Managed Graduate Teaching Assistant Program (~ 80-100 GTAs) efficiently to maximize student professional development and teaching needs of Programs.
- 2012-02 – 2022-08 University of Maryland
College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences
Biological Sciences Undergraduate Program (BSCI)
Assistant Director
Co-lead BSCI Program. Managed college and departmental budgets of over \$ 4 million per year. Taught ecology, conservation biology, and professional development courses. Mentored hundreds of students. Reviewed, selected, hired, managed, supervised, and mentored all the Teaching Assistants Fellows (TAs) (~150-200 per semester). Co-led efforts to improve undergraduate education by changing the culture of teaching and learning (student-centered approach).
- 2010 – 2012-01 Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC)
Forest Ecology Lab
Research Staff
Researched and managed a forest project to assess climate change impacts. Engaged HSBC bank employees volunteers in field studies and simultaneously taught about climate change and sustainability
- 2009 The Mountain Institute
Executive Program Assistant
Participated in fundraising and outreach to scientists and embassies
- 2007-03 – 2007-07 University of Maryland
Health Professions Advising Office
Academic Adviser
Organized database, analyzed admission data, and provided data-driven advice to students interested in health professions

2001 – 2003	Georgetown University Department of Biology (Fall 2001, 2003) Environmental Science (Spring 2002) Faculty Adjunct Professor <i>Taught Conservation Biology and co-taught Introduction to Environmental Sciences</i>
2001 – 2001	Conservation International Center for Applied Biodiversity Science Postdoctoral Fellow <i>Researched climate change impact on biodiversity with a special focus on modeling climate impacts in California and South Africa</i>
2000 – 2007	University of Maryland Department of Biology, Dr. David Inouye Lab Faculty Research Assistant <i>Contributed to data collection and data analysis. Published dissertation, peer review papers, and book chapters</i>
1992 – 1994	Smithsonian Institution Research Internships <i>Applied GIS to conservation and forest dynamics studies</i>

Publications

2026	Saavedra, F., Sauls, L., Correia, J. & Ramachandran, A. (submitted). Enacting Climate Finance Justice for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities? An Initial Analysis of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism. <i>Climatic Change</i> .
2026	Saavedra, F., Buschbacher, R., Nemogá-Soto, G., Alvira, D., Athayde, S., Campbell, J.M., Chavez Michaelsen, A.B., Corntassel, J.G., Correia, J.E., Dacks, R., Dunn, C.P., Ferreira da Fonseca Junior, S., Gavin, M.C., Hoffman, B., Ignace, M., Kassam, K.A., Loiselle, B., Maffi, L., Moola, F., Porzecanski, A.L., Stepp, J.R., Stringer, D., Ungar, P., Winter, K.B., & Zandvliet, D. (in press). On Tap, Not on Top: An urgent call for Academia to support Indigenous Science and Equitable Conservation. <i>Earth Stewardship</i> . DOI: 10.1002/eas2.70038
2025	Ungar, P., Alvira, D., Jacanmijoy Mutumbajoy, D.W.N., Matapi-Yucuna, U., Macas Zighe, F., Buschbacher, R., Chavez, A., Rosado-May, F.J., van der Hammen, M.C., Zandvliet, D. and McCreedy, E. 2025. Cuatro Recomendaciones para la Academia sobre el Diálogo de Saberes y la Conservación Biocultural. <i>Ecología Política</i> #69 https://www.ecologiapolitica.info/cuatro-recomendaciones-para-la-academia-sobre-el-dialogo-de-saberes-y-la-conservacion-biocultural/
2023	Saavedra, F. 2023. Biocultural Conservation in Higher Education: Organizational Review and Consultation Report. University of Florida, Tropical Conservation and Development Program. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15149806
2023	Chavez, A.B, Saavedra, F. and Buschbacher, R. 2023. How Academia can Contribute to Biocultural Conservation. University of Florida, Tropical Conservation and Development Program. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15256730
2003	Inouye, D. W., Saavedra, F. and Lee-Yang, W. 2003. Environmental influences on the phenology and abundance of flowering by <i>Androsace septentrionalis</i> (Primulaceae). <i>American Journal of Botany</i> 90: 905-910. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.90.6.905

- 2003 Saavedra, F., Inouye, D., Price, M. and Harte, J. 2003. Reproductive response of *Delphinium nuttallianum* (Ranunculaceae) to a subalpine climate warming experiment. *Global Change Biology* 9: 885-894. . <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2486.2003.00635.x>
- 2002 Saavedra, F. and Douglass L. 2002. Using mixed models in SAS for ecological analyses. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, 83, 180-182.
- 2002 Saavedra, F. 2002. Testing climate change predictions with the subalpine species *Delphinium nuttallianum*. In S. Schneider and T. Root, editors. *Wildlife Responses to Climate Change: North American Case Studies*. Island Press, Washington, D.C., USA.
- 2000 Saavedra, F. 2000. Potential impact of climate change on the phenology and reproduction of *Delphinium nuttallianum* (Ranunculaceae). Ph.D. dissertation, University of Maryland.
- 1996 Saavedra, F., Arroyo, M.K.A. and Hoffmann, A.J. 1996. The breeding system of *Hippeastrum advenum* (Ker.Gawl) Herb. (Amaryllidaceae), an endemic bulbous geophyte of the mediterranean-type climate region in central Chile. *Botanische Jahrbucher* 118(1):1-8.
- 1994 Teillier, S., Hoffmann, A.J., Saavedra, F. and Pauchard, L. 1994. Flora of El Morado National Park (Region Metropolitana, Chile). *Gayana Botanica* 51(1): 13-47.
- 1993 Saavedra, F. 1993. El Morado National Park, an attempt to explain the composition and distribution of a mountain flora in the central Andes of Chile. M.S. Thesis, University of Florida.

Presentations

- 2023 Saavedra, F. 2023. Let's talk story: Biocultural Conservation in Higher Education. Presentation Tropilunch, Tropical Conservation and Development Program. University of Florida.
- 2019 Thompson, K.V., Bertke, M., Cooke, T.J., Presson, J., Saavedra, F., Sheehan, P., Marbach-Ad, G. 2019. Guided by Evidence: Changing the Disciplinary Culture of Teaching and Learning. Presentation Accelerating Systemic Change Network Transforming Institutions Conference.
- 2019 Lemke, H.D., Bertke, M., Carleton, K.L., Haag, E.S., Kirschtel, D., Marbach-Ad, G., Paczolt, K.A., Saavedra, F., Shapiro, L.H., Thompson, K.V. 2019. Instruction and educational background influences tree thinking skills and misconceptions across the undergraduate biology curriculum. Presentation International Association for Research in Science Teaching.
- 2012 Brinks, J., Parker, G., Saavedra, F., Kahn, N., Lombardo, J., Miller, D., Bebber, D. 2012. Above Ground Carbon Budgets for Intact and Recently Logged Forests of the Mid Atlantic Coastal Plain. Presentation British Ecological Society Annual Meeting. Birmingham, UK.
- 2012 Parker, G., Brinks, J., Saavedra, F., Kahn, N., Lombardo, J., Miller, D., Bebber, D. 2012. Annual and short variation in tree and forest growth assessed with band dendrometers. Presentation British Ecological Society Annual Meeting. Birmingham, UK.
- 2001 Williams, C. and Saavedra, F. 2001. Spatial and temporal variation in the mating system of *Delphinium nuttallianum*. Presentation, Ecological Society of America, Madison, WI.

- 1999 Saavedra, F. 1999. Effect of snowpack on the phenology and reproduction of *Delphinium nuttallianum* (Ranunculaceae) and the potential impact of climate change. Presentation, Ecological Society of America, Spokane, WA.
- 1997 Saavedra, F. & Caviedes, C. 1997. The Andean flora of Chile at the semiarid-humid boundary. Presentation, Ecological Society of America, Albuquerque, NM.

Teaching Experience

- 2012 – 2022 University of Maryland
College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences
Ecology courses:
Principles of Ecology and Evolution, BSCI160, (x4)
Principles of Ecology and Evolution Lab, BSCI161, (x5)
Principles of Ecology, BSCI360, (x1)
Biology of Conservation and Extinction, BSCI363, (x5)
Mentoring courses:
Introduction to the University, UNIV100, (x3)
Grand Challenges of Our Times, UNIV110, (x2)
Undergraduate Teaching Fellow Seminar, BSCI279P, (x20)
College Park Scholar Courses:
Scholars Colloquium III - Life Sciences, CPSP 218L, (x1)
- 2001 – 2003 Georgetown University
Department of Biology (Fall 2001, 2003) & Environmental Science (Spring 2002)
Ecology courses:
Introduction to Environmental Science, 100 level course, (x1)
Conservation Biology, 300 level course, (x2)

Committees

- 2021 Search Panel Chair, Assistant Director BISI
- 2012 – 2022 BSCI Committee at the Leadership Team: program planning and coordination
- 2012 – 2022 CMNS Advising: participate on regular meetings
- 2017 – 2022 IUSE Steering committee: planning and execution of the IUSE grant
- 2012 – 2022 Biological Science Program: interviewing and selection of BSCI instructors and staff
- 2018 Kirwan Undergraduate Education Award: participated in the selection committee
- 2018 College Park Scholar Director, Life Science: participated in interview, and recommendation process
- 2016-8 – 2016-12 Campus-wide Learning Outcomes Assessment (LOA) Coordinator: CMNS representative
- 2016 – 2017 Bancker/Key: participated in selection and interview (Spring 2016), interview (Spring 2017)
- 2014 Reed-Yorke Health Profession Advising Office: participated in the interview and selection process

Grants

Research and Education:

- 2025 The Spencer Foundation, Small Grants (grant prepared by Western and non-Western natural, social, and educational scientists for a large-scale program to transform educational systems by integrating a biocultural approach) (submitted)
- 1998 National Wildlife Federation Climate Change and Wildlife Scholars Program (grant to conduct research and publish a book chapter)
- 1992 – 1994 Tropical Conservation & Development Program, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida (grant to complete Ph.D. program)
- 1992 Red Latinoamericana de Botánica Research Fellowship, Universidad de Chile (grant to complete Master's degree)

Teaching and Sustainability:

- 2020 Teaching Innovation Grant, University of Maryland (grant to adapt teaching material to online teaching)
- 2017 – 2018 Sustainability Fund, University of Maryland (grant to bring the Whole Earth exhibition to UMD)
- 2015 Chesapeake Project Faculty Fellows, University of Maryland (grant to learn about sustainability and explore unique opportunities to integrate it into courses)
- 2015 Elevate Fellow, University of Maryland (grant to redesign the course Principles of Ecology and Evolution)

Event Organization

- 2025 Organizer, Biocultural Conservation Panel Series, Multi-institutional Biocultural Conservation Group
- 2024 Co-organizer, COP16 Green Zone Expert Panel (role of academia in the implementation of conservation measures that effectively uphold the rights, responsibilities, knowledge and sovereignty of IP&LCs)
- 2023 – 2024 Co-organizer, Biocultural Conservation Panel Series, University of Florida
- 2021 – 2022 Co-organizer, BISI Incoming Graduate Student Orientation
- 2017 – 2018 Organizer, Whole Earth art-science exhibition, University of Maryland
- 2012 – 2014 Co-organizer, Bioscience Day Teacher's Symposium, University of Maryland
- 2001 Co-organizer, Climate Change and Biodiversity Book Proposal, with Drs. Lee Hannah and Thomas Lovejoy
- 1999 Co-organizer, Ecological Society of America workshop: "A Change in the Weather: How will plants and animals respond to climate change?", with Stephen Schneider, Stanford University
- 1999 Co-organizer, International Congress on Ecosystem Health session: Climate Change and Ecosystem Health, with Stephen Schneider, Stanford University

Certifications and Training

2022	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate, Cornell University
2015	POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) 3-day Workshop
2008-09 – 2009-05	PAJA Advanced Seminar in Jungian Studies (80 hrs continuing education)

Professional Memberships

1999 - present intermittent	Society of Conservation Biology
1997 - present intermittent	The Ecological Society of America