

Curriculum Vitae

Inés Geovana Carreño Rocabado (Geovana)

Agroecologist, Tropical Forest Ecologist and Environmental Educator

Personal data

Date of birth	21 January 1974
Family	Married, 2 children.
Degree	PhD, MSc, BSc
Nationality	Bolivian
Address	Las Palmas del Este # 25 (Zona este) Santa Cruz de la Sierra. C.P. 3560 Bolivia.
Language	Spanish (mother language), English (Fluent), Portuguese (good reading), Dutch (basic).
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Strengthens and topics of interest

I work in three broad areas: Tropical forest ecology, looking at the impacts such as deforestation and its ecological and social consequences; Agroecology, both from a scientific perspective developing local adapted productive and food systems models, and from practical perspective supporting local agroecological initiatives; Environmental education (education for sustainable development), and within it, urban ecology, as tools to support and scale up transitions and transformations to sustainability.

As a consultant I identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and develop strategies and tools based on a theory of change to support biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and food systems transitions. I work to improve the use and application of scientific knowledge in policies, field practices, and people's behaviors to build pathways for change toward sustainability. I primarily use systems thinking in my work and, when necessary, I focus intensively on data-based problem-solving.

Moreover, I consider myself an amateur artist who seeks the combination the beauty of painting with the natura conservation.

Education

2009-2013	PhD in Production Ecology and Resource Conservation (Wageningen Univ., The Netherlands)
Thesis	<i>Land used intensification, ecosystem processes and functional biodiversity.</i> Promotor/supervisors: Prof. Frans Bongers, Prof. Laurens Poorter, Prof. Marielos Peña
2004-2006	MSc in Ecology and Natural Resources Management (INECOL, A. C.-Mexico)
Thesis	<i>Coffee plantation and ferns biodiversity</i> Supervisors: Dr. Klaus Mehltreter. Co-supervisors: Dr. José García, Dra. Claudia Moreno
1992-2000	Bachelor in Agricultural Engineering (Autonomous University Gabriel René Moreno, Bolivia)
Thesis	<i>Age estimation and population demography of tree ferns in Amboró National Park</i> Supervisors: Dr. Timothy Killeen, Dr. Damian Rumiz, and MSc Margaret Fergusson.

Current position

2025-present. Leader of Geovana Lab (www.carreno-rocabado.com ; self-employment)

2025 -present. Leader of the knowledge management committee in the Comunidad Agroecológica Boliviana-CAB. Santa Cruz-Bolivia (volunteer position).

2021-present. Creator, coordinator and principal researcher in the collaborative research project REBOS -Forest Response to Fire- along the Chiquitania region in Santa Cruz-Bolivia.

Previous position and work experience

2024-2025 (October-December; January): Senior consultant at GIZ- Bolivia into the project “ProResiliente”. Responsible to elaborate a “Multi-scale analysis of agroecology’s contributions and benefits for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Bolivia”.

2024 (May to August): Senior consultant at ARMONIA NGO. Responsible Developer of Laney Rickman reserve’s environmental education strategy and plan (Loreto, Beni)

2023 (August to December): Senior consultant at CIFOR-ICRAF. Responsible to manage arbolSAF system: tree data management platform and interactive online tool (<https://arbolsaf.cifor-icraf.org/arbolsaf/principal>)

2023 (June to November): Senior consultant at GIZ – Bolivia into the project of Resilient landscapes in the Chiquitania region. Responsible to conceptualize and coordinate a regional meeting with livestock sector along the Chiquitania region to consolidate transitions toward regenerative and sustainable productive systems.

2023 (July): International consultant at CIFOR-ICRAF to validate arbolSAF a tree species database platform and online tool. Ucayali, Perú.

2021-2023: Short-Term Consultant at the World Bank for an assignment with Agriculture and Food PG LAC. Responsible to develop a diagnosis and participatory strategy about “Incentives and good practices to transit toward sustainable models of productive systems in the Chiquitania region” and “Strategy to capacity building for local communities”

2021-2022: Associate Forest Ecologist Researcher at ICRAF. Data manager and tool developed for cocoa agroforestry tree component in Peru: arbolSAF tree data platform management and interactive online tool

2017-2021: Associate research and focal point for Bolivia at CIFOR-ICRAF (ad-honorem position).

2021-2023: Senior Researcher in the project of “Transnational Flow of Agricultural Knowledge – TFOAK”, University of Winnipeg. PI researcher Royden Loewen. I lead research in oral history of agriculture in four sites of Bolivia where the Mennonite Central Committee worked from the 70’s until the present.

2020 (August to October): Consultant at ICRAF Latin American Region. In coordination with senior researcher V. Robiglio, I was responsible to perform an evaluation of the scientific data quality, reorganizing and designing paths to improve the data. I also developed a conceptual design that includes a web tool to facilitate the use of the data for different stakeholders involved in agroforestry systems for restoration.

2019-2020: Consultant Researcher at the Bolivian Catholic Univ, regional Santa Cruz.

Whitin the Belgian VLIROUS P3 project of Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Bolivia I cleaned and restructured a large based-line database and analyses for publication in the topic of productive systems.

2017-2019: Associate research at Natural History Museum Noel Kempff Mercado. I led three research proposals (AGRYBOS, ReSSIste and MOEBA) to compete for international and local funds. I supported the inter-institutional linkage of the museum (ad-honorem position).

2014 – 2017: Postdoctoral Researcher at World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and associate research at CATIE, Costa Rica. Leader researcher in evaluation of sustainable farming system and trees on farm contribution in Nicaraguan family farming system. www.paisajecentinela.org.

2013-2014: Consultant at Foundation Natura Bolivia. Expert in biomass estimation and greenhouse gas emissions into the Project of “Reciprocal agreements for water in the Municipality of San Carlos, Bolivia” (six-month contract)

2007-2009: Researcher at Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal -IBIF, Bolivia. Responsible to implement in Bolivia the project of effects of functional biodiversity on ecosystem processes, ecosystem services and sustainability in the Americas: an interdisciplinary approach lead by the Dr. Sandra Díaz.

2002-2004: Founder and general coordinator of local NGO REMA-Bolivia, a young entrepreneurship that worked with primary and secondary school community, park rangers and local communities in urban and rural tropical contexts. Its domain were environmental education, conservation, and science communication. I was responsible of fundraising, project coordination, employees training, workshop facilitation, and editor of the institutional bulletin. We worked in four sites with more than 500 teachers and 5000 students.

Publication and Outreach

Summary

- I have a total of 12 scientific peer-reviewed/book chapter publications: 3 first-author, 4 second author. My H-index is 12 with a total of 1477 citations (Google Scholar; 21-07-2024).

Peer review papers

- van der Sande M., N. Boxem, A. Kool, and **G. Carreño-Rocabado** (submitted to Annals of Botany) Size- and bark-dependent fire survival and resprouting of tropical trees and lianas
- Hartung, M., **Carreño-Rocabado, G.**, Peña-Claros, M., & van der Sande, M. T. (2021). Tropical Dry Forest Resilience to Fire Depends on Fire Frequency and Climate. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 4. <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/ffgc.2021.755104>. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2021.755104>
- Djukic, I., et al. 2018. Early-stage litter decomposition across biomes. *Science of the total environment*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.01.012>
- Carreño-Rocabado G., M. Peña-Claros, F.Bongers, S. Díaz, F. Quétier, J. Chuvina, y L. Poorter. 2016. Response of community functional properties to land-use intensification in tropical ecosystems. *Ecological Application* 26: 174-189. <https://doi.org/10.1890/14-0340>
- Finegan, B., M. Peña-Claros, A. de Oliveira, N. Ascarrunz, M. S. Bret-Harte, G. Carreño-Rocabado, F. Casanoves, S. Díaz, P. Eguiguren Velepucha, F. Fernandez, J. C. Licona, L. Lorenzo, B. Salgado Negret, M. Vaz, y L. Poorter. 2015. Does functional trait diversity predict above-ground biomass and productivity of tropical forests? Testing three alternative hypotheses. *Journal of Ecology* 103:191-201. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.12346>

- Carreño-Rocabado G. 2013. Linking land-use intensification, plant communities and ecosystem processes in lowland Bolivia. PhD thesis. Wageningen University.
- Carreño-Rocabado G., M. Peña-Claros, F. Bongers, A. Alarcón, J.-C. Licona, and L. Poorter. 2012. Effects of disturbance intensity on species and functional diversity in a tropical forest. *Journal of Ecology* 100:1453-1463. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2745.2012.02015.x>
- Bakker, M. A., G. Carreño-Rocabado, and L. Poorter. 2011. Leaf economics traits predict litter decomposition of tropical plants and differ among land use types. *Functional Ecology* 25:473-483. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2435.2010.01802.x>

Book and book chapters

- Cerda R., L. Orozco-Aguilar L., N. Sepúlveda, J. Ordoñez, **G. Carreño-Rocabado**, F. Amores, W. Caicedo, S. Oblitas, and E. Somarriba. 2019. Tropical agroforestry and ecosystem services: trade-off analysis for better design strategies. Page in Mosquera-Losada M. R and Prabhu R., editors. *Agroforestry for sustainable agriculture*. Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing, Cambridge, UK
- Somarriba, E., **G. Carreño-Rocabado**, F. Amores, W. Caicedo, S de Pélichy, R. Cerda y J. Ordóñez, J.C., 2018. Trees on farms for livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity and carbon storage: evidence from Nicaragua on this “invisible” resource. In *Integrating Landscapes: Agroforestry for Biodiversity Conservation and Food Sovereignty* (pp. 369-393). Springer, Cham.
- **Carreño-Rocabado, G.** 2013. Linking land use intensification, plant functional and ecosystem processes in lowland Bolivia. PhD thesis. Wageningen University. ISBN: 978-94-6173-533-1
- Feinsinger, P., S. Álvarez, **G. Carreño**, E. Rivera, R. L. Cuellar, A. Roldán, L. García, M. Cañizares A. Alegre, F. Daza, M. Figuer. 2007. The key word is “local”: place-based research by local people as a potential tool in Latin American conservation.

Web development

Developer of 3 webpages:

- **Geovana Lab.** Portfolio of main working areas, projects, collaborators and resources. www.carreno-rocabado.com
- **Mi Santa Cruz mi Naturaleza.** Portfolio for urban Ecology and environmental education. www.misantacruzminaturaleza.org
- **Tools to evaluate biodiversity.** Portfolio of metrics and sources to help with biodiversity studies. www.biodiversitytools.com
- **Agroecología en Bolivia.** Platform to visibility experiences with agroecology along Bolivian context. www.agroecologiaenbolivia.org (in progress)

Databases

- I have published 6 databases and created the project Trees on farms in Nicaragua-Honduras Sentinel Landscape in the repository of <https://data.worldagroforestry.org/dataverse/trees-on-farms>
- ArbolSAF a database platform. CIFOR-ICRAF.

Teaching and Supervision

- Online course “La agroecología un enfoque para transitar a sistemas productivos y de alimentación sostenible, resilientes y equitativos”. Plataforma de Educación Rainbow. "<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzvR-sA7Njs&t=254s>
- I lead and contribute to more than 20 courses for master and bachelor's degree with the topic of forest ecology, data base management, agroecology, and environmental education.
- I co-supervise one PhD candidate, eight master students and three bachelor students with their thesis's degree.

Congress and Meetings

- **2025 (April)** Organizer and speaker in the “Conversatorio sobre la Agroecología y sostenibilidad en tierras bajas de Bolivia”. Santa Cruz 5 abril in the Feria AgropeCruz 2025.
- I have organized three symposia in national and international meetings, presented more than 30 works in different fields related with ecology, food systems and environmental education.

Arbitration for Scientific Publications at:

Basic and Apply Ecology, Journal of Apply Ecology, Journal of Vegetation Science, Applied Soil Ecology, Ecological Application, Ecological Research, Functional ecology, Tropical Ecology, International Journal of Agriculture sustainability, The graduate school for Production Ecology and Resource Conservation, WUR. Bosques magazines and Lilloa magazine Foundation Miguel Lillo.

Member of societies and platforms

- Board member 2025 from the Comunidad Agroecológica Boliviana
- Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología (SOCLA)
- The Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology part of the Global Landscapes Forum community
- One Million Voices Agroecology map as Termitero initiative
- Agroecology Coalition as Termitero initiative

References

Daniel Leguia, PhD (GIZ) email: daniel.leguia@giz.de

Royden Loewen, PhD (Winnipeg University) email: r.loewen@uwinnipeg.ca

Valentina Robiglio, PhD (CIFOR-ICRAF LATAM) email: v.robiglio@cifor-icraf.org