

ANA MARIA GARZON

Independent sustainability consultant | Sustainability standards best practice and data governance

Puntarenas, Costa Rica | ana@insightsfuture.com

insightsfuture.com/

Summary

I am a non-profit management professional passionate about supporting sustainability initiatives in delivering impact by harnessing the conditions created by the digital age. I develop strategies, frameworks, learning resources, and workshops that enable organizations to operate more effectively using improved information management systems and data governance. My experience spans 19 years and includes corporate and public sector experience in the United States, Costa Rica, and the UK. I have developed expertise in operations management, certification system design, standards revision, assurance management innovations, and digital capacity development. I am fully bilingual in English and Spanish and have intermediate French proficiency.

Work experience

Principal Jan 2019 - present

[InsightsFuture, Costa Rica \(home office\)](#)

Lead and grow a consultancy to support sustainability standards in developing essential information infrastructure and tools that maximize audit processes and data value creation to achieve sustainability goals. This work is carried out through the application of a data governance framework developed with ISEAL Alliance and in collaboration with other sustainability standards and data practitioners.

Adviser Jan 2019 - Aug 2019

[ISEAL Alliance, Costa Rica \(home office\)](#)

- Designed best practice framework, tools, and guidance resources for the implementation of data governance programs for sustainability standards systems
- Advised ISEAL Alliance and the Forest Stewardship Council on technical and engagement strategies and work plans for a multi-year project to develop an Information and Data Standard for Sustainability

Innovations Manager Sept 2016 - Dec 2018

[ISEAL Alliance, London, United Kingdom](#)

- Co-led a year-long public consultation process for the revised version of ISEAL's Assurance Code of Good Practice (v2, 2018)
- Designed technical content and delivered workshops to ISEAL members to promote innovations in standards such as risk management, continual improvement systems, and digital innovation
- Designed, developed, and published the Data Skills Lab, a data literacy platform to support improved data skills for over 20 sustainability standards organizations

Operations Manager May 2011 - June 2016

[Rainforest Alliance/Sustainable Agriculture Network, San Jose, Costa Rica](#)

Portfolio

- ISEAL Alliance Assurance Code of Good Practice - v2 compliance checklist
- Guidance note: Information Management for Effective Assurance (ISEAL Alliance, 2017)
- Guidance note: Building a Risk Management Plan for Assurance (ISEAL Alliance, 2018)
- Data governance: Understanding Your Data Value Chain (ISEAL Alliance, 2019)
- Data governance: Developing a Data Inventory (ISEAL Alliance, 2019)
- Data governance: Developing Your Data Governance Policy (ISEAL Alliance, 2019)



Assurance Guidance Note:
Information Management for Effective Assurance

ISEAL Alliance | March 2018

- Supported program management and governance to support optimal functioning of the Rainforest Alliance certification program
- Led the implementation of an accreditation model for Rainforest Alliance certifiers, including the development of policies and operational requirements to scale operations from one certifier to ten globally
- Supported the revision of the Sustainable Agriculture Standard and Standard for Sustainable Cattle Production Systems through outreach, consultation questionnaires, and feedback analysis and reporting
- Managed the development of information systems tools and policies to enable improved information management for the program across five geographies

Operations and Outreach Coordinator Dec 2009 - Apr 2011

[Rainforest Alliance, San Jose, Costa Rica](#)

- Spearheaded policy efforts that launched the Technical Operations Committee to promote seamless operations between standard-setting and assurance functions
- Supported the planning and organization of technical committee and board meetings to execute activities required for certification program expansion

Program Associate Apr 2007 - Dec 2009

[Rainforest Alliance, San Jose, Costa Rica](#)

Supported the organization of program activities for the new Sustainable Agriculture Network Secretariat including board and technical meeting content planning and delivery

Campaign Director Oct 2002 - May 2005

[Earth Share of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA](#)

Designed fundraising content and delivered fundraising speeches for 60 workplace charitable giving campaigns to raise over US\$2.1 million for environmental non-profit groups in Washington state

Education

Master of Public Administration Sept 2005 - June 2007

[University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, Seattle, Washington, USA](#)

International non-profit management focus

Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration Sept 1995 - June 1999

[University of Washington, Foster School of Business, Seattle, Washington, USA](#)

Certificate of International Studies in Business

Skills

Management skills: Non-profit management, operational system development, strategic planning, program design, project management, policy development,

Technical skills: Sustainability certification and assurance, technical writing, data management, data governance, digital strategy development, digital capacity development, data literacy and skills training, technical framework development

Training and facilitation: Workshop design, planning, and facilitation; public speaking

Languages and cultural competencies: Fluent in written and spoken Spanish (Colombian native); French spoken proficiency; Written and simultaneous translation (English/Spanish); 14 years living and working in multi-cultural environments in the United States, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom