

CV – Juan Pablo Castañeda Sánchez

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Summary

Juan Pablo is a seasoned development professional with over 20 years of experience in project design, appraisal, implementation, and management across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Oceania. He currently serves as the Director of the Research Institute of Natural Sciences and Technology ([IARNA](#)), where he applies his expertise in sustainable development, ecological economics, and the integration of finance and policy instruments.

For over a decade, Juan Pablo held leading roles in both lending and non-lending operations with the World Bank. Contributions centered on technical assistance, environmental economic analysis, and knowledge management, particularly in mainstreaming natural capital and valuing ecosystem services within national policy frameworks. As a member of the Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice ([ENB](#)), and part of the secretariats for the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services ([WAVES](#)) and the Global Program on Sustainability ([GPS](#)), he supported global sustainability initiatives addressing conservation, climate change, resilience, and development finance.

Widely recognized as one of the pioneers in environmental-economic accounting in Latin America, Juan Pablo's leadership on the topic dates to the early 2000s following the publication of the [first national study](#) on the subject in Guatemala. He has successfully led multidisciplinary teams in both urban and rural settings and fostered strong collaboration with stakeholders, including government officials, indigenous leaders, academics, and development practitioners.

His experience spans public institutions, international organizations, universities, research institutes, and NGOs. Fluent in English and Spanish and holds an MSc in Ecological Economics from the University of Edinburgh, with additional graduate studies in economics and a BSc in architecture and planning. Areas of expertise include environmental assessment, urban planning, sustainable cities, green infrastructure, green finance, and environmental impact assessment.

Professional experience

2023-Up to date, Director, Research Institute on Natural Sciences and Technology

As Director of the Research Institute on Natural Sciences and Technology (IARNA) at Rafael Landívar University, I lead a multidisciplinary team of over 25 researchers under a research agenda rooted in the principles of integral ecology. Our work focuses on regenerative economics, ecological economics, policy institutions and finance, conservation finance, biodiversity, and climate change. In the past two years, IARNA has undergone a strategic shift—from primarily publishing books to significantly increasing the number of peer-reviewed journal articles. This structural change has not only enhanced the quality and rigor of our research but also strengthened our contributions to global scientific dialogue. As a result, the institute's academic output has grown substantially, raising our international visibility and reinforcing IARNA's role as a leading center for sustainability research in Guatemala. This transformation is supported by a strong culture of interdisciplinary collaboration, applied research, and active engagement from faculty and students alike.

2012 – 2023, Environmental Economist, World Bank

Part of the Environmental and Natural Resources Global Practice at the World Bank, served as a core team member of the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) Program and the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS). Contributed to analytical work and policy dialogue with partner countries, promoted the use of natural capital approaches, and facilitated collaboration across Global Practices and sectors to integrate

sustainability into planning and finance. Represented the World Bank in international technical meetings, including under the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEE). Worked directly with countries on implementing natural capital strategies, supporting policy analysis, and leading training and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Coordinated efforts with UN partners (UNEP, UNDP, UN DESA), Multilateral Development Banks, and other organizations. Also played a key role in developing strategies to bridge data and policymaking for sustainable development, identifying new financing opportunities, and actively contributing to cross-cutting initiatives within the World Bank. The following is an illustrative list of projects:

- Costa Rica natural capital accounting project
- Colombia natural capital accounting project
- Indonesia Sustainable Natural Capital Management project
- Uganda natural capital accounting project
- Zambia natural capital accounting project
- Ecosystem services assessment toolkit knowledge product
- Forest accounting sourcebook knowledge product
- Environment CPIA coordinator
- Global Oceans Partnership project
- Integrated Forest Ecosystem Management Kyrgyz Republic
- Uganda FCPF REDD READINESS
- 2nd DPL to Support Inclusive Green Growth and Sustainable Development in HP
- Indonesia Integrated Landscapes Programmatic AAA
- Sustainable Management of Indonesia's Oceans and Coastal Resources
- Changing Wealth of Nations 2020
- WAVES Methodology Development and Policy Applications for Ecosystem Accounting
- Green Growth and Sustainable Development Programmatic Approach in Colombia
- Green growth: towards a strategy for Uruguay
- Latin America regional community of practice on natural capital project

2005–2012, Senior Researcher and Project Manager

Full time positions as part of two well-known and respected think tanks IARNA (national research institute) and ICEFI (regional think tank)

- Environmental accounting coordinator in the Guatemalan Central Bank (2005-2011), as part of a broader project on environmental economics funded by the Dutch cooperation.
- Researcher on environmental-economic issues (2005-2011), specifically as researcher at Universidad Rafael Landívar, Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (IARNA), Guatemala.
- Researcher on environmental fiscal policy (2011-2012), more specifically during a period working with the Institute of Central American Fiscal Policy Institute (ICEFI).
- Capacity Building and Knowledge sharing (2005-2012), leading capacity building processes related to environmental economics internally at the faculty and university levels and externally in Central and South America. Led the NFP program for environmental statistics strengthening program for Colombia and Ecuador.

1996–2012, Independent work

I have worked independently in many projects involving project management in different topics and supervising multidisciplinary teams, often working directly with government institutions. Worked individually and as part of multidisciplinary teams on topics related to economics, the environment, climate change and sustainable development. Illustrative list of work during this period:

- Project Management Green National Accounting Initiative. Count with the Environment Project funded by The Netherlands Development Agency. Member of steering committee and Component LEADER to implement the System of Environmental and Economic Accounts of the Nation (SEEA) with Guatemala's Central Bank. Universidad Rafael Landívar, Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (IARNA), Guatemala.

- Project management. Basic Environmental Statistical Information Generation, IVO Colombia, funded by NUFFIC. Served as Academic Coordinator, developing a year-long program to strengthen capacities environmental statistics for the Colombian Department of National Statistics. Co- responsible for project planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment. (Nov07 - Dec08).
- Project Management. Public and socio-environmental natural resource management in the rural context, IVO, Ecuador, funded by NUFFIC. Developed this training module and taught a course on policies and economic instruments for rural natural resource management (Nov 2007).
- Assessment of water related economic instruments in Central America. The Future of Taxation in Latin America and the Caribbean, A project of the Latin American & Caribbean Research Network, Funded by IDB (Jul2011-Feb2012).
- Assessment of legal norms on the public investment national systems in Central America from a risk perspective, Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en America Central (CEPRENAC), funded by AECI (Mar-Nov 2011)
- Towards a System of Environmental Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome. Funded by FAO (Apr-Jul 2011).
- Methodology and estimation of the contribution to GDP of Izabal ´s Protected Areas. WWF, Guatemala, funded by USAID under the CCAW Program. (Jul-Nov 08).
- CAFTA investment strategies in public goods for rural development. ICEFI (Central American Fiscal Studies Institute) funded by IDB. Collaborative work for IDB (Sep-Dec 05).
- 2003–2004, Project Manager, INCORP, S.A. – FIBREX, S.A. Guatemala. Responsibilities included project design, appraisal and management, working with multidisciplinary teams.
- 2001–2003, Project Manager, Struktura Architects, Ltd., Belize, C.A. Consultancy and project management for specific projects such as: Northern and Western Border Immigration and Customs Buildings, Urban Renewal Project for Orange Walk Town, and The Museum of Belize in Belize City. Worked with government institutions
- 2001, Environmental Advisor, Aquest Minerals Corp., Ltd., Huehuetenango, Guatemala. On the San Ildefonso Ixtahuacán Gold Exploration Project, provided geological mapping and data base management services using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and served as advisor on environmental issues regarding a mining exploration project.
- 2000, Environmental Advisor and Manager, Commercial Department, TIPIC, S.A. Transformadora Industrial, Pittsburgh, PA, Des Moines, IA, Based in Guatemala. Environmental Advisor and special projects management.

Teaching

- Ecological economics (2007-2011), Course lecturer, Postgraduate school, Faculty of Economics. Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
- Economic Instruments for Environmental Management (2008-2012), Course lecturer, Postgraduate school, Faculty of Humanities. Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
- Ecological-economic geography (2010-2011, 2022), Course lecturer, Postgraduate school, Faculty of Architecture
- 2010, Lecturer/Teacher, Postgraduate school, Del Valle University, Guatemala. Environmental economics course. Universidad del Valle de Guatemala
- 2008-2009, Lecturer/Teacher, Rafael Landívar University, Guatemala. Environmental Economics course. Universidad Rafael Landívar

Education

- MSc Ecological Economics (2005) University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Thesis.
- BS Architecture (1994) Universidad de San Carlos, Guatemala. Focus on planning and Project management.

Languages

Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (reading)

Publications, illustrative list

The following is a selection of recent publications and reports. Additional information can be found in the following link: www.scholar.google.com/jpcastaneda

- 2025 [Integrated Spatial Cost-Benefit Analysis of Large-Scale Mangrove Conservation and Restoration in Indonesia](#). B van Zanten, LMK Brander, JP Castaneda, D Herrera, D Kaczan, ... *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 13, 1459034
- 2024 [Determinantes de la aplicación de estrategias y prácticas de adaptación al cambio climático para pequeños productores agrícolas del suroriente de Guatemala](#). C Galdámez, P Pineda, A Cordon, M Zamora, JP Castañeda. *Revista Académica Eco*, 85-126
- 2024 [Estudio sectorial de la cadena de la madera](#). C Sandoval, JP Castañeda. *Revista de Investigación y Proyección Eutopía* 3, 1-43
- 2024 [Embodied Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Latin America: A Case Study of Guatemala Towards Energy Justice](#). BA Gálvez-Campos, JM Goyzueta Villegas, JP Castañeda Sánchez
- 2023 [Forest Accounts of Kyrgyz Republic](#). D Dade, JP Castaneda Sanchez, SF Ismailakhunova, B Georgy Ysabekov, ...
- 2023 [Feasibility of Measuring Tourism Sustainability in the Kyrgyz Republic](#). D Dade, JP Castaneda Sanchez, S Ismailakhunova, V Markhonko, ...
- 2023 [Landscape Restoration Opportunities in the Naryn River Basin, the Kyrgyz Republic](#). D Dade, JP Castaneda Sanchez, P Agostini, L Raina
- 2022 [The health impacts of Indonesian peatland fires](#). L Hein, JV Spadaro, B Ostro, M Hammer, E Sumarga, R Salmayenti, .. *Environmental Health* 21 (1), 62
- 2022 [The Economics of Large-scale Mangrove Conservation and Restoration in Indonesia](#). JP Castaneda, BT Van Zanten, LM Brander, D Gutierrez Torres, ...

Media and lectures, illustrative list

The following is a selection of recent appearances in media and academic forums. Additional information can be found at the following link: www.linkedin.com/in/jpcastaneda

- Entrevista en video Plaza Pública: «Esta no es una crisis climática, es una crisis socioambiental» Entrevista <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xudozibsvjo&t=2s>
- Entrevista escrita Plaza Pública: «Esta no es una crisis climática, es una crisis socioambiental» <https://www.plazapublica.com.gt/ambiente/reportaje/esta-no-es-una-crisis-climatica-es-una-crisis-socioambiental>
- Entrevista escrita Prensa Libre: Cuentas verdes, nuevo orden ambiental <https://www.prensalibre.com/revista-d/juan-pablo-castaneda-economia-ambiental-cuentas-verdes-waves-bm-0-1159084258/>
- Diálogo en foro Universidad Francisco Marroquín: Análisis económico sobre el calentamiento global <https://newmedia.ufm.edu/video/analisis-economico-sobre-el-calentamiento-global/>
- Diálogo en foro Universidad de South Wales: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arW0jrAzqBg>

Professional references

- Dr Michael Vardon, ANU
- Dr Ottoniel Monterroso, UICN
- Dr Matias Piaggio, World Bank
- Dra Glenn-Marie Lange, World Bank