

German Obando-Vargas

PROFILE

REDD+ Forest Carbon accounting specialist with thirty years of experience, dedicated to developing and conserving natural resources, mainly in Latin America, developing market instruments based on scientific knowledge and cutting-edge technologies. Extensive experience in research and development, tropical forest monitoring with emphasis on biodiversity, water resources, deforestation and carbon stocks, applications of Geographic Information Systems for the implementation of Forest Policies (REDD) such as legality verification systems (FLEGT), Payments for Environmental Services Programs (Water and Carbon) and assessment of restoration opportunities (ROAM).

Core Competencies

- implementation of REDD+ programs focusing primarily on methodological aspects associated with measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of results of emission reduction programs.
- Implement measurement and reporting by ER programs jointly with operational teams and carbon finance specialists in developing countries in Latin America.
- Implement third-party validation and verification processes of REDD+ carbon fund programs jointly with operational teams and carbon finance specialists in developing countries in Latin America.
- Experience applying greenhouse gas accounting methodologies in the AFOLU sector, including remote sensing-based assessments and terrestrial inventories.
- Support the continuous MRV capacity building of ER programs in developing countries in Latin America.
- Familiarity with land use carbon projects and Jurisdictional Programs under the FCPF Carbon Fund, Verified Carbon Standard, ART-TREES forest carbon certification standards.
- Development and application of monitoring tools applied to AFOLU-REDD+.
- Field experience in the AFOLU sector, including REDD+.
- Familiarity with FCPF carbon accounting methodologies

EDUCATION

TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)
Master Scientiae, Natural Resources Management. Turrialba, COSTA RICA
4th December, 1997

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF COSTA RICA
Forestry Engineer Cartago, COSTA RICA
23th February, 1990

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

UNDP
Global Team
Costa Rica - Remote
August 2023 - Present
AFOLU Consultant: Provide technical support to the Ministry of Costa Rica in the Sustainable Trade and Carbon Market areas of action Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership.

FUNBAM
Costa Rica
Costa Rica
December 2022 - Present
MRV Consultant: Provide technical support to meet the MRV goals of the REDD Strategy in Costa Rica and guide the team of field specialists.

WORLD BANK
SCCFM
WASHINGTON, DC - Remote
June 2019 - Present
MRV Consultant: Coordinate and provide technical support on forest carbon accounting to MRV Teams of Latin-American, Africa, and Asia countries included in the Carbon Fund of FCPF.

UNDP
UNDP Costa Rica
COSTA RICA
May 2021 – December 2022
MRV Consultant: Provide technical support to meet the MRV goals of the REDD Strategy in Costa Rica and guide the team of field specialists. Responsible for advising the REDD + Secretariat, technical committees, FONAFIFO, SINAC, and the Forests and Climate, and Nature, Climate and Energy group of UNDP.

GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Aug 2021 – Dec 2021
Environmental management, MRV and registry of REDD + initiatives: Technical support to the Technical Unit for REDD + Management in i. strengthening national capacities in the MRV of the RE Program and the REDD+ strategy, ii. Implementation of the Registry System for REDD + initiatives.

GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA
NATIONAL FOREST FINANCING FUND
COSTA RICA
June 2017 – Dec 2020
MRV Specialist: Coordinate and provide technical support to the Costa Rican REDD + Secretariat for the implementation of the improvements plan of Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) of Costa Rica, included in the latest version of the Emission Reduction Program Document (ER- PD), submitted to the World Bank Carbon Fund. Preparation of REDD+ Results report 2014-2015 of Costa Rica and JNR Program of Costa Rica (currently under validation and verification process).

GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Jun – Jul 2020
MRV Specialist: Development of the Forest Reference Level (FRL), following the criteria and guidelines established by the UNFCCC.	
GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Set 2018 – Feb 2019
MRV Specialist: Development of the Forest Reference Level (FRL) and design of the Nicaraguan Safeguards Information System (SIS), following the criteria and guidelines established by the UNFCCC.	
GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA	NICARAGUA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Aug 2017 – Jun 2018
MRV Specialist: Provide technical support to the Technical Team of the Government of Nicaragua (MARENA, INETER, INAFOR) for the preparation of the Forest Reference Level (FRL) of the Nicaraguan Emission Reduction Program, presented to the Carbon Fund of the FCPF.	
GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA	COSTA RICA
NATIONAL FOREST FINANCING FUND	Feb 2017 – Dec 2018
MRV Specialist: Provide technical support to the Costa Rican REDD + Secretariat for the implementation of the plan to improve the Forest Reference Level (FRL) of Costa Rica, of the Emission Reduction Program (ER-PD), submitted to the Bank's Carbon Fund.	
GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA	COSTA RICA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY	Feb 2017 – Dec 2018
AFOLU Specialist: Technical support for developing policy options for meeting the medium and long-term mitigation objectives in Costa Rica (INDC).	
IUCN	Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and Dominican Republic
IUCN Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean	Aug 2013 – Jan 2017
Head of Forest Governance and Economic Unit: Conduction of project portfolio of the Unit, in forest governance, business climate, forest landscape restoration, investment, sustainable forest management, and forest resources monitoring within the contexts of REDD + and FLEGT	
LIBELULA, NGO	PERU
LIBELULA	Jul – Nov 2013
Tropical Forest Specialist: LULUCF's assessment team appointed to estimate GHG mitigation measures (2021 and 2050) in Peru.	
EARTH UNIVERSITY	COSTA RICA
EARTH Deanship	Jan 2012 – Jul 2013
Tropical Forestry Professor: Forestry research and development. Forestry Advisor of EARTH University. Advisor to the National REDD + Strategy of Costa Rica. Development of Costa Rica Project Idea Note submitted by the country to the FCPF's Carbon Fund.	
ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS	
National University, International Institute for Wildlife Conservation and Management	Heredia, COSTA RICA
Modern statistics with freeware R and without P values.	Jun 2018
INGEO	San Jose, COSTA RICA
ERDAS fundamentals and Multispectral classification	Dec 2011
GEO Technologies	San Jose, COSTA RICA
ArcGIS (introduction I and II)	Apr 2008
National University, International Institute for Wildlife Conservation and Management	Heredia, COSTA RICA
Biodiversity Estimators	Dec 2007
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)	Turrialba, COSTA RICA
Geographic Information Systems	May 1994

AWARDS AND SKILLS

AWARDS:

- Academic Excellence Award Forest Engineering program, Executive Board FEITEC, XVIII Anniversary Celebration, Technological Institute of Costa Rica.
- Academic Excellence Award class of 1996-1997, Graduate School, Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center.
- La Nacion's Ancora Prize for Science, 2004-2005 for developing a GPS device's land-use map for illegal felling in real-time control.

Languages: Spanish (Native), English.

Software: Windows and MAC OS user. MS Office and Google Suits. Collaborative tools (MS TEAMS), Advanced user of licensed and open-source Geographic Information Systems software (ArcGIS, IDRISI, QGIS), Remote sensing software (ERDAS, IDRISI), statistical and Monte Carlo analysis tools (XLSTAT, Info stat, R), utilitarian software (Sepal tools, Collect Earth Desktop, Collect Earth Online, Global Mapper, Google Earth).