

EVA HOLUPCHINSKI

CLIMATE PROGRAM/PROJECT MANAGER | CLIMATE POLICY
PLANNER | COORDINATOR | ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

PROFILE

Accomplished and organized coordinator with 10+ years of experience managing climate and natural resource-related projects, workshops, conferences and webinars. Driven to contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation solutions. Experience in communications, public speaking, research and tool development. Masters in Environmental Sciences. Bilingual English & Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Climate Policy Planner

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | Saint Paul, Minnesota 2023 - present
Coordinator

USDA Caribbean Climate Hub, Forest Service | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico 2019 - 2023

- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** Planned, coordinated and evaluated logistics for projects focused on climate risks, adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and forestry in underserved US Caribbean islands. Created annual work plan with goals, objectives and resources. Maintained an informed and focused team by creating and sharing a weekly overview of upcoming events, objectives and deadlines. Schedule and develop agendas for recurring meetings. Kept record of metrics such as number of outreach and education events, presentations provided, deliverables completed, tools developed and USDA stakeholders reached. Juggled and prioritized many projects and responsibilities according to factors such as time sensitivity and observed need for support.
- **OUTREACH & EDUCATION:** Coordinated workshops for farmers, ranchers and landowners on climate change adaptation in US Caribbean agriculture and forestry. Planned and hosted in-person and virtual events for the US Caribbean region. Communicated with minority and underserved farmers and USDA stakeholders about extreme events, adaptation, and USDA programs and resources. Convened panel with USDA agency representatives and Extensionists for open exchange with farmers and land managers. Coordinated workshops promoting capacity building for a sustainable wood industry with hurricane-downed trees. Communicated wood-related initiatives in official USDA video entitled: Wood Products: Turning hurricane debris into treasure. Published information on social media accounts that support underserved communities in agriculture and forestry.
- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** Provided orientation to stakeholders by responding to calls, emails and through online and in-person outreach/education events. Advocated between farmer, ranchers and agencies through interviews, focus groups, surveys and outreach events and communicate farmer challenges/USDA initiatives. Integrated farmer perspectives into presentations to USDA agency leaders, highlighting challenges related to compounding disasters.
- **PUBLIC SPEAKING, PRESENTATIONS, MEETING FACILITATION:** Public speaking at workshops, webinars, meetings and conferences to government agencies, farmers, academia, and farmers and forest landowners. Presentations on climate change, drought, agricultural adaptation, climate projections, online tools and resources in Spanish and English. Poster presentations on drought in the US Caribbean. Facilitation of meetings and webinars.

SKILLS

Coordination & Project Management
Organization & Logistics
Public Speaking & Facilitation
Climate Change & Adaptation Awareness

EDUCATION

M.S. in Environmental Sciences

University of Puerto Rico

2022

B.S. in Natural Sciences

Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

2013

University credits

Saint Mary's University of
Minnesota

2008

LANGUAGES

English



Spanish



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- **DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES & NON-PROFITS:** Fostered partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), local and federal government agencies and nonprofits to support underserved communities through theoretical and technical workshops, orientations for online tools and resources, and webinars. Coordinated OneUSDA workshops focused on climate change, drought and USDA programs and assistance. Co-developed successful National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant proposal with partners to address climate literacy, adaptation and equity for underserved communities (Project title: Enabling climate-smart decisions for agriculture and forestry in the U.S. Caribbean). Panelist in USDA-Hispanic American Cultural Effort (HACE) Employee Resources Group webinar with Deputy Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, Gloria Montaña Greene about Spanish communication and Hispanic culture in USDA.
- **REPORTING, UPDATES, WRITTEN RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATION:** Tracked team's monthly and quarterly metrics and accomplishments. Created monthly and quarterly reports for National USDA Climate Hub program leadership, International Institute of Tropical Forestry. Developed 5-year program review report for USDA Caribbean Climate Hub steering committee and National USDA Climate Hub program leadership. Coded focus groups and interviews in Dedoose platform for social science analysis of hurricane effects, response and recovery in agriculture and forests in the US Caribbean. Developed bilingual (Spanish and English) science delivery products including USDA blogs, fact sheets, online resources, reports, videos, newsletters, and co-authored peer-reviewed scientific publications. Wrote scripts for videos to promote sustainable use of hurricane-downed wood among farmers, forest landowners and citizens. Revised Spanish language technical guides for agricultural adaptation to climate change, such as Managing climate variability: Efficient use of water, pest control and crop diversity.
- **TOOL DEVELOPMENT AND GIS SUPPORT:** Co-developed online decision-support tools for climate adaptation in tropical agriculture and forestry. Authored step-by-step user guide for new bilingual online tool. Created maps showing drought exposure, drought-related agricultural losses in GIS platform for research paper
- **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**
 - **PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION UNDER PRESSURE:** When asked, I stepped in to serve as a last-minute conference project manager for the 3rd Climate Change in the Caribbean Conference: Promoting Climate Justice and Climate Resiliency in USVI & Puerto Rico in April 2022. For over a year, my supervisor was meeting independently with other government agencies to help plan the conference, but the group had never identified any personnel to lead the coordination and logistics, leading to a lack of timeline, deadlines, structure and meeting agendas. This lack of project management had resulted in ineffective monthly meetings where decisions were not taken, and little progress was made toward the definition of conference themes, topics, speakers, moderators, translation and technical support. With less than two months until the date of the conference, the conference planning team asked me to help them coordinate the conference. I swiftly created a shared planning document with project timeline and deadlines, a list of responsibilities by agency, and a planning hub where the planning team would track their efforts to recruit speakers and moderators for each of the sessions. Pleased to bring my management experience to the conference coordination, I significantly increased the team and meeting's effectiveness. The bilingual conference included 27 plenary and breakout sessions in which 123 moderators and speakers from the federal, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and Hawai'i governments, communities, academia, and NGOs shared their perspectives on climate change, equity, environmental and climate justice, and sustainable development. The conference was successful and attended virtually by about 900 participants.
 - **LAUNCHED A PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING NETWORK** focused on drought research, monitoring, communication and adaptation for Puerto Rican and US Virgin Island climate service providers, researchers, federal and local government leaders, and agricultural advisors. I coordinated the Caribbean Drought Learning Network activities, reports, and communications in collaboration with the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and the National Weather Service (NWS).

Project Organizer

USDA Caribbean Climate Hub | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2017 - 2019

- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** Coordinated 28 focus groups and individual interviews for post-hurricane assessments on agriculture and forested lands in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Focus groups were organized by sector, including military veteran farmers, agroecological farmers, fruit tree producers, ranchers, coffee, poultry, plantain, USDA agency employees, agricultural extension employees and the Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands state departments of agriculture. Organized and managed assessment data and records in central location.

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- **DEVELOPMENT, DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF WRITTEN MATERIALS:** Co-authored Fourth National Climate Assessment, US Caribbean Chapter. Translated portions of the National Climate Assessment to Spanish for the Spanish summary. Authored research map publication on droughts of the 21st century in Puerto Rico. Developed fact sheets on drought impacts to US Caribbean agriculture and livestock. Co-authored fact sheets on drought impacts to coastal estuary, tropical forest and freshwater ecosystems.
- **REPORT DEVELOPMENT:** Created workshop and meeting reports.

Research Assistant

USDA Caribbean Climate Hub | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2017 - 2017

- **GIS ANALYSIS AND MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT:** Analyzed 16 years of US Drought Monitor drought data via Geographic Information Systems. Created a variety of maps relating to drought, agricultural production, NRCS conservation practices and agricultural losses in Puerto Rico. Revised English and Spanish reports, fact sheets and other resources.
- **ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION:** Managed remote meeting power points and attendee communication in virtual meetings. Handled information tables at agricultural outreach activities in Puerto Rico.

Research Assistant

University of Puerto Rico / NASA | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2016 - 2017

- **SURVEY/INTERVIEW DEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT:** Developed social science survey (bilingual, Spanish and English) to evaluate perceptions on coastal activities for beach and coastal visitors.
- **OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION:** Conducted social science research in NASA-funded project entitled Human Impacts to Coastal Ecosystems in two Puerto Rican watersheds via 100 Spanish language interviews on beaches and coastal areas.

Research Assistant

Long Term Ecological Research / International Institute of Tropical Forestry | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2015 - 2016

- **OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION:** Coordinated 25 (Spanish and English) interviews with elected officials, land use planners, land managers, and organization and community leaders. Led interviews for the International Institute of Tropical Forestry study which evaluated the institutional arrangements that influence land use governance in Northeast Puerto Rico surrounding El Yunque National Forest, the only tropical rainforest under U.S. jurisdiction.
- **RECORD-KEEPING:** Transcribed and translated 25 Spanish and English interviews from audio recordings.

Teaching Assistant

University of Puerto Rico | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2014 - 2015

- **COORDINATION, LOGISTICS & RECORD-KEEPING:** Coordinated and recruited scientists to present at the weekly Environmental Sciences Seminar for the University of Puerto Rico, Environmental Sciences program. Created and shared weekly email invitations and promotional flyers using Mailchimp email marketing program and Apple Pages. Evaluated and scored University student assignments. Kept record of student attendance.

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Office Administrator

Sierra Club - Puerto Rico Chapter | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2013 - 2014

- **NON-PROFIT ADMINISTRATION:** Selected as representative of the Puerto Rico Chapter in National Sierra Club Council of Club Leaders at their National Headquarters in San Francisco in October 2013. Managed and supported new and existing volunteers. Administrated Sierra Club memberships in HELEN computer system, kept record of membership payment and status. Supported zero waste campaign and campaign for recreation in the newly conserves Northeast Ecological Corridor. Represented Sierra Club at the non-profit Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND IMPROVEMENT:** Created internship plan, recruited and supervised two interns. Increased frequency of volunteer trainings and activities. Implemented new volunteer-of-the-month program. Created consolidated weekly environmental news and activities emails and introduced chapter to Mailchimp, an email marketing program. Migrated old website content to new website platform and managed new chapter website. Designed graphic art for Zero Waste Campaign merchandise, and handled purchase order with company overseas.

English Mentor

Center for Language Across the Disciplines (LAD) at the Universidad del Sagrado Corazón | San Juan, Puerto Rico

2010 - 2013

- **COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION:** Supervised English laboratory class for intermediate level university students who were native Spanish-speakers. Revised and evaluated students' English language papers and oral presentations.
- **SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND IMPROVEMENT:** Originated innovate program orientation presentation for all future courses linked with the University program for a more structured, systematic program.

Office Intern

Sierra Club - Puerto Rico Chapter | Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

2012 - 2013

- **CONSERVATION, OUTREACH & EDUCATION:** Supervised conservation lobbying group delegation to the Puerto Rico legislature as part of the campaign for the designation of the Northeast Ecological Corridor as a protected natural reserve. Coordinated Spanish and English educational presentations for schools and institutions island-wide about the habitat of the critically endangered Leatherback Sea Turtle. Collaborated with several institutions for the educational presentation tour. Recruitment of and communication with Sierra Club volunteers. Expanded Sierra Club member and friend database in online 'HELEN' system.

Volunteer

Emerson Bilingual School, | Minneapolis, Minnesota

2009

- **ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUTH:** Attended to Spanish and English-speaking students in Emerson bilingual school by helping them with reading and assignments.

Volunteer

Sierra Club - North Star Chapter | Minneapolis, Minnesota

2009

- **ACTIVISM AND CONSERVATION:** Collaborated in two phone banking sessions to advocate political activism and environmental conservation.

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Summer Camp Counselor

McCarthy Gym Day Camp - University of St. Thomas | Saint Paul, Minnesota

2009

- **OUTDOOR EDUCATION WITH YOUTH:** Designed and carried out outdoor / indoor educational curriculum for youth ages three to seven. Supervision of summer camp group throughout the week for two consecutive summers.

Volunteer

Sustainable Forestry & Rainforest Enrichment Project Las Casas de la Selva | Patillas, Puerto Rico

2009

- **RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION:** Monitored lizard population in research plots. Assisted in DBH tree growth measurements. Maintained forest roads to avoid erosion issues. Assisted visiting volunteer groups with forest projects.

Library Aide

Merriam Park Public Library | Saint Paul, Minnesota

2008 - 2009

- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** Responded to library patrons requests for help locating library materials. Welcomed patrons to library. Provided orientation about how to solicit a library card or pay a fine. Sorted, alphabetized and shelved returned library materials.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Mercado-Díaz, J.A.; **Holupchinski, E.**; Álvarez-Berrios, N.; Gould, W.A.; Miller, P.; Mote, T.; Ramseyer, C.; González, G. 2023. Fostering knowledge-exchange and collaboration among drought-related initiatives in the Caribbean. Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc. DOI 10.1175/BAMS-D-23-0054.1
- **Holupchinski, E.** (December 2022). Exploring Drought and Annual Rainfall in Puerto Rico (thesis publication). University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. Río Piedras, Puerto Rico.
- McGinley, Kathleen A.; Gould, William, A.; Álvarez-Berrios, Nora L.; **Holupchinski, Eva**; Díaz-Camacho, Tania. 2022. READY OR NOT Hurricane preparedness, response, and recovery of farms, forests, and rural communities in the U.S. Caribbean. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. 82(2): 103346-. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2022.103346>.
- **Holupchinski, E.**, Álvarez-Berrios, N., Quiñones, M., and Gould, W.A. 2019. Droughts of the 21st Century in Puerto Rico. Scale 1:260,000. IITF-RMAP-04. Río Piedras, PR: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry.
- **Holupchinski, E.**, Álvarez-Berrios, N., Gould, W.A., Fain, S. 2019. Drought Impacts to Crops in the U.S. Caribbean [Fact sheet]. USDA Caribbean Climate Hub and USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers. Retrieved from: <https://www.usgs.gov/land-resources/climate-adaptation-science-centers/drought-impacts-crops-us-caribbean>
- **Holupchinski, E.**, Álvarez-Berrios, N., Gould, W.A., Fain, S. 2019. Drought Impacts to Livestock in the U.S. Caribbean [Fact sheet]. USDA Caribbean Climate Hub and USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers. Retrieved from <https://www.usgs.gov/land-resources/climate-adaptation-science-centers/drought-impacts-livestock-us-caribbean>
- Gould, W.A., E.L. Díaz, (co-leads), N.L. Álvarez-Berrios, F. Aponte-González, W. Archibald, J.H. Bowden, L. Carrubba, W. Crespo, S.J. Fain, G. González, A. Goulbourne, E. Harmsen, **E. Holupchinski**, A.H. Khalyani, J. Kossin, A.J. Leinberger, V.I. Marrero-Santiago, O. Martínez-Sánchez, K. McGinley, P. Méndez-Lázaro, J. Morell, M.M. Oyola, I.K. Parés-Ramos, R. Pulwarty, W.V. Sweet, A. Terando, and S. Torres-González, 2018: U.S. Caribbean. In Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, pp. 809–871. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.CH20
- Álvarez-Berrios, N., Soto-Bayó, S., **Holupchinski, E.**, Fain, S., & Gould, W. (2018). Correlating drought conservation practices and drought vulnerability in a tropical agricultural system. Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems, 33(3), 279-291. doi:10.1017/S174217051800011X
- USGCRP, 2018: Impactos, Riesgos, y Adaptación en los Estados Unidos: Cuarta Evaluación Nacional del Clima, Volumen II: Informe Resumido [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, B.C. Stewart, and A. Lustig (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 187 pp. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.RiBSpanish
- **Holupchinski, E.**, Álvarez-Berrios, N., Quiñones, M., and Gould, W.A. (2019, July). Droughts of the 21st Century in Puerto Rico. Poster session presented at the Annual Meeting for Luquillo Long Term Ecological Research, San Juan, Puerto Rico.