

# Diego Zárrate Charry



PhD Student

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## *Research Interests*

My experience has been focused in modeling mammal species distributions as a means to conduct conservation planning in tropical ecosystems in South America. I have been part of several conservation projects in Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador using flagship species to identify priority conservation areas. Also, I have worked on assessment and valuation of environmental services to increase the capacity and management strategies for National Parks. My main research interest is to develop species and ecosystem conservation strategies in my home country. The major threats in Colombia are landscape transformation and fragmentation, so the issues of habitat conservation and connectivity are critically important. For more information about my background see my Non-Profit Organization webpage at [www.procat-conservation.org](http://www.procat-conservation.org).

## *Small Carnivores Research*

I have worked mostly with medium and big mammals in Colombia, trying to understand the effect of landscape management, natural coverage transformation, and fragmentation in species presence and abundance. Also, I have been researching the importance of agricultural units for carnivores' habitat, and how they can be integrated in connectivity analysis to maintain habitat patches connected and improve the properties of complementary matrix for the Caribbean region. At this moment we are creating carnivore distribution models to identify priority conservation patches, and possible connectivity scenarios to improve management and research strategies in one of the most transformed areas of my home country.