

Karina Atkinson

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Experience

April 2010 – Present – Co-Founder and Executive Director of “Fundación Para La Tierra”, Paraguay

- Management of all Para La Tierra projects and staff.
- Registration of the organisation, selection of Board of Directors, creation of constitution and business plan for registration in Paraguay.
- Meeting with donors, accounting, and report writing, managing a budget of >\$200,000 per year.
- Management of two operational sites in different parts of Paraguay, including education, community, and scientific programs, with a staff of nine people and up to 20 volunteers.
- Project development including grant writing and management:
 - 2010 – US Fish and Wildlife Service: Conservation & Research at Rancho Laguna Blanca
 - 2011 – Lush Charity Pot North America: Scientific Inventory & Education Program at Rancho Laguna Blanca
 - 2012 – Rolex Awards For Enterprise: Turn Para La Tierra into a model conservation organisation
 - 2013 – Google Grants
 - 2015 – Erik Hoskings Trust: Bursary for “Field Guide to the Birds of Laguna Blanca”
 - 2016 – International Fund for Economic Development: Education materials
 - 2014, 2017, and 2019 – Crowdfunding campaigns: raising a total of \$26,000
 - 2017 – Donna dell’Anno: Furthering the mission of Para La Tierra in Paraguay
 - 2018 – International Primate Society: Lawrence Jacobsen Award for Education: Training “parabiologists” in primatology.
 - 2019 – Lush Charity Pot North America: Fostering an Appreciation for the Wetlands of Ñeembucú Complex in Paraguay
- Collaboration and communication with national and international NGOs.
- Protected area management including training, trail building, museum development, education, community engagement and forest guard activities.
- Creation of the largest and best maintained single site scientific reference collection in Paraguay.
- Establishment, coordination and teaching of the Masters Course “Earth Expedition – Paraguay, Eco-Leadership” with Miami University in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

March 2009 – April 2010 Virology Technician, Aviagen, Edinburgh, Scotland

- Tested chicken sera and blood for viruses using a variety of laboratory techniques.

June 2008 – February 2009 Ecosara – Project Leader, Atlantic Forest Project, Paraguay

- Coordinated the international volunteer and internship program at ProCosara, San Rafael.

November 2008 Fauna Paraguay – Tour Assistant, Paraguay

- Assisted on tourist trips around Paraguay, visiting remote locations and communities.

June 2006 - August 2006 Lab Assistant, Dyax Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts

Selected by Scottish Enterprise for the Tomorrows Leaders International Programme.

Awards and Memberships

- Young Laureate 2012 – Rolex Awards For Enterprise: Environment
- Young Alumnus of the Year 2013 – University of Glasgow
- Global Conservation Fellow 2015 – Miami University
- TedX University of Glasgow invited speaker 2016 - Exploration
- Donna dell’Anno 2017 (Woman of the Year) – Valle de Aosta
- Sun Foundation Clean Water Celebration ‘Making Waves’ Award 2017 - Chicago
- Member of IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, and World Commission on Protected Areas, and Board of Directors of the Sociedad de Mastozoología del Paraguay
- Reviewer for Therya, the journal of the Asociación Mexicana de Mastozoología
- Level 1 Investigator with CONACyT Paraguay

Education

2013 – 2016

Miami University, MA Zoology (4.0 GPA)

2003 - 2007

University of Glasgow, BSc (Hons) Genetics

Additional Information

Fluent in Spanish, co-authored 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and authored six popular media articles.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Pett, B. L., Sarvary, J., Davis, H. P., Smith, P., **Atkinson, K.** (2019). Records of morphological abnormalities of anuran limbs from Paraguay. *Cuadernos Herpetologia*. 33(2):79-82
- Owen, R. D., Sánchez, H., **Atkinson, K.**, McMahon, L., Jonsson, C. B. (2019). New and noteworthy records of rodents (Mammalia, Rodentia, Cricetidae and Echimyidae) from Paraguay. *Check List* 14 (5):721–730
- Atkinson, K.**, Smith, P., Dickens, J., Lee-Zuck, C. (2018). Rediscovery of the ‘Lost’ Snake *Phalotris multipunctatus* (Serpentes: Dipsadidae) in Paraguay with Behavioural Notes and Reference to the Importance of “Reserva Natural” Laguna Blanca for its Conservation. *Current Herpetology*, 37(1):75-80
- Pheasey, H., Smith, P., **Atkinson, K.** (2018). Observations on the diet and behaviour of captive *Monodelphis* (*Mygalodelphys*) *kunsi* Pine, 1975 (*Didelphimorphia* *Didelphidae*) from Paraguay. *Mammalogy Notes | Notas Mastozoológicas Sociedad Colombiana de Mastozoología* 4 (2)
- Atkinson, K.**, Smith, P., Sarvary, J. (2017). New and noteworthy snake species records (*Colubridae* and *Dipsadidae*) for the Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, eastern Paraguay. *Check List* 13(1):2027
- Smith, P., Ríos, S. D., Petko, O. N., Smith, R. L., **Atkinson, K.** (2017). The hawkmoths (*Insecta*, *Lepidoptera*, *Sphingidae*) of Rancho Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, Paraguay with documentation of five new country records. *Revista del Museo da la Plata* 2(2):77-96
- Smith, P., **Atkinson, K.**, Brouard, J. P., Pheasey, H. (2016). Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro: Paraguay’s first Important Area for the Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles? *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 23:25-34
- Smith, P., Ríos Díaz, S., Petko, O., **Atkinson, K.** (2015). The giant butterfly moths (*Insecta*, *Lepidoptera*, *Castniidae*) of Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, Paraguay with a new country record. *Boletín de la Sociedad Entomologica Aragonesa* 57:304-306
- Atkinson, K.**, Smith, R., Smith, P. (2014). *Epicrates crassus* (Eastern Rainbow Boa) Diet. *Herpetological Review* 45:710
- Smith, P., Cacciali, P., Scott, N., del Castillo, H., Pheasey, H., **Atkinson, K.** (2014). First record of the globally-threatened Cerrado endemic snake *Philodryas livida* (Amaral, 1923) (*Serpentes*, *Dipsadidae*) from Paraguay, and the importance of the Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca to its conservation. *Cuadernos de Herpetologia* 28:169-171
- Pheasey, H., Smith, P., Brouard, J. P., **Atkinson, K.** (2014). *Vanzosaura rubricauda* (Red-tailed Vanzosaur) bifurcation and trifurcation. *Herpetological Review* 45:138-139
- Smith, P., Scott, N., Cacciali, P., **Atkinson, K.** (2013). *Rhachidelus brazili* Boulenger, 1908: First records from Paraguay and a clarification of the correct spelling of the generic name. *Salamandra* 49:56-58
- Smith, P., Scott, N., Cacciali, P., **Atkinson, K.**, Pheasey, H. (2013). Confirmation of the presence of *Philodryas nattereri* Steindachner, 1870 (*Squamata*: *Dipsadidae*) in Paraguay.

Smith, P., Rios, S., **Atkinson, K.**, Mielke, O., Casagrande, M. (2013). New Paraguayan Specimens and First Confirmed Phenological Data for *Catharisa cerina* Jordan 1911 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae). *Revista Brasileira de Biociencias* 11: 349-351

Cacciali, P., Smith, P., Kallberg, A., Pheasey, H., **Atkinson, K.** (2013). Reptilia, Squamata, Serpentes *Lygophis paucidens* Hoge, 1952: First record for Paraguay. *Check List* 9: 131-132

Smith, P., Rios, S., **Atkinson, K.**, Mielke, O., Casagrande, M. (2012). *Almeidaia aidaea* Mielke & Casagrande (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae): First Record for Paraguay. *Entomological News* 123: 38-40

Smith, P., Cacciali, P., **Atkinson, K.**, Pheasey, H., Motte, M. (2012). New distributional records of amphibians for Departamento San Pedro, Paraguay (Amphibia). *Check List* 8:903-907

Smith, P., Pheasey, H., **Atkinson, K.**, Miller, J., (2012). Records of the Phyllostomine bats *Tonatia bidens* (Spix, 1823) and *Lophostoma silvicolum* d'Orbigny, 1836 (Chiroptera, Phyllostomidae) associated with human dwellings in Paraguay. *Chiroptera Neotropical* 18:1139-1143

Smith, P., Pheasey, H., **Atkinson, K.**, Ramakers, J., Sarvary, J., (2012). The Didelphimorphia (Didelphidae) of Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, Paraguay. *Acta Zoológica Lilloana* 56:141-153

Smith, P., Cacciali, P., **Atkinson, K.**, Kallberg, A., Pheasey, H. (2011). Nuevos registros de Gymnophthalmidae (Reptilia: Sauria) en la Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, Paraguay y una clave para las especies Paraguayas. *Notulas Faunisticas* 81:1-6

Smith, P., Owen, R.D., **Atkinson, K.**, del Castillo, H., Northcote-Smith, E. (2011). First records of the Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo *Cabassous unicinctus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Cingulata: Dasypodidae) in Paraguay. *Edentata*, 12:53-57