



Short Biography / Curriculum Vitae – Igor Berkunsky

Dr. Igor Berkunsky is a conservation biologist and Principal Investigator at CONICET (Argentina's National Scientific and Technical Research Council). He holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from Universidad Nacional de La Plata and has over 20 years of experience leading conservation research and applied projects in South America, focusing on threatened amphibians, grassland birds, and Neotropical parrots.

He currently serves as director of the Multidisciplinary Institute on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development (IMEDS-UNICEN) and leads the Amphibian Reproduction Lab at the University of the Centre of Buenos Aires Province.

Dr. Berkunsky has published over 90 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has led multiple conservation programs including the reintroduction of the Red-and-Green Macaw in Argentina, the conservation of the Blue-throated Macaw in Bolivia, and currently, the in situ and ex situ conservation of the Darwin's blackish toad (*Melanophryniscus nigricans*). He has extensive experience in species action planning, habitat restoration, translocations, and community-based conservation. He actively collaborates with Amphibian Ark, Aves Argentinas, and international NGOs.

He is a member of the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, a former editor for *Nuestras Aves* journal, and currently serves on the editorial board of *Ornitología Neotropical*.

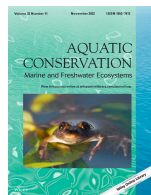
Selected Scientific Publications (last 5 years)

1. Trofino-Falasco C, Pizzarello MG, Simoy MV, Aranguren MF, Cepeda RE, Di Giacomo AS, Marinelli CB, Moran G, Neyra MC, Vera DG, **Berkunsky I** (2025) Landscape characteristics influencing habitat use of grassland birds in the Pampas ecoregion. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 20 (1): 23. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-02842-200123>
2. Tejedor F, Trofino-Falasco C, Cortelezzi A, Gullo B, Gárgano L, Santiago M, **Berkunsky I** (2025) First report of the interaction between the toad (*Melanophryniscus nigricans*) and the leech *Helobdella cordobensis* in the Tandilia Mountains. *Cuadernos de Herpetología* 39 (1): 00-00 (en prensa) [https://doi.org/10.31017/CdH.2025.\(2024-027\)](https://doi.org/10.31017/CdH.2025.(2024-027))
3. Vera DG, **Berkunsky I**, Rolón MCJ, Trofino Falasco C, Tettamanti G, Harkes M, Jones S, Velasco MA, Di Pietro DO, Kacoliris FP (2025) Establishing conservation priorities for reptiles in the south of the Pampas ecoregion of Argentina. *Austral Ecology* 50 (4): e70049. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aec.70049>
4. Aranguren MF, Simoy MV, Pizzarello MG, Trofino-Falasco C, Velasco MA, Leber V, Franzoia Moss D, Dopazo J, **Berkunsky I** (2025) Mountains as key areas for carnivore connectivity in Neotropical grasslands. *Mammalian Biology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42991-025-00478-y>
5. Di Pietro DO, Kacoliris FP, Vera DG, Martínez-Aguirre T, Velasco MA, Arellano ML, **Berkunsky I** (2025) Impacts of climate change on the endemic and threatened herpetofauna from Pampas grassland, Argentina. *Herpetological Journal* 35: 9-22 <https://doi.org/10.33256/35.1.922>
6. Di Pietro DO, **Berkunsky I**, Vera DG, Velasco MA, Tettamanti G, Cabrera MR, Williams JD, Kacoliris FP (2023) Conservation Priority Areas for Narrow-Range Reptiles of the Pampas Grassland, East-Central Argentina. *South American Journal of Herpetology* 28(1):64-77 <https://doi.org/10.2994/SAJH-D-21-00046.1>
7. McClure C, **Berkunsky I**, Buechley E, Dunn L, Johnson J, McCabe J, Oppel S, Rolek B, Sutton L, Gumbs R (2023) Conserving the evolutionary history of birds. *Conservation Biology* (on-line first). <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14141>
8. Aranguren MF, Velasco MA, Trofino Falasco C, Pizzarello MG, Vera DG, **Berkunsky I** (2023) Mammals of the Tandilia Mountain system, current species inhabiting Pampean highland grasslands. *Neotropical Biology and Conservation* 18:13-29. <https://doi.org/10.3897/neotropical.18.e98374>

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Perfil de Scopus: <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=24465041800>



9. Vera DG, Di Pietro DO, Trofino Falasco C, Tettamanti G, Iriarte L, Harkes M, Kacoliris FP, **Berkunsky I** (2023) Identifying key conservation sites for the reptiles of the Tandilia mountains in Pampas highlands. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 71: 126321. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2022.126321>
10. Velasco MA, **Berkunsky I**, Di Pietro DO, Arellano ML, Williams JD, Kacoliris FP (2022) The critically endangered El Rincon stream frog: population viability and management actions in Patagonia, Argentina. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 32:1842-1851. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.3893>
11. Kacoliris FP, Velasco MA, Arellano ML, **Berkunsky I** (2022). Amphibians and Waterbirds as Bridges to Conserve Aquatic, Wetland and Terrestrial Habitats in Patagonia. In: Mataloni G, Quintana RD (eds) *Freshwaters and Wetlands of Patagonia. Natural and Social Sciences of Patagonia*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10027-7_15
12. Kacoliris FP, **Berkunsky I**, Acosta JC, Acosta R, Agostini MG, Akmentins SM, Arellano ML, Azat C, Bach NC, Blanco GM, Calvo R, Charrier A, Corbalán V, Correa C, Cuello ME, Deutsch C, Di Pietro D, Gastón S, Gómez AR, Kass C, Kass N, Lobos G, Martínez TA, Martínez-Aguirre T, Mora M, Nieva-Cocilio R, Pastore H, Pérez-Iglesias JM, Piaggio Kokot L, Rabanal F, Rodríguez-Muñoz MJ, Sanchez LC, Tala C, Úbeda C, Vaira M, Velasco MA, Vidal M, Williams JD (2022) Current threats faced by amphibian populations in the southern cone of South America. *Journal for Nature Conservancy* 69:126254 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2022.126254>
13. Martínez Aguirre T, Dopazo JE, Arellano ML, Cortelezzi A, **Berkunsky I** (2021) Two New Species of the Genus *Melanophryniscus* (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae) from Pampa Grasslands of Argentina. *Russian Journal of Herpetology* 28:108-116. <https://doi.org/10.30906/1026-2296-2021-28-2-108-116>

Popular Science Publications

1. **Berkunsky I**. 2024. Los sapitos de las sierras: guardianes de las sierras bonaerenses. En Williams JD, Tetamantti G, Povedano HE (Eds) *Anfibios de Buenos Aires*. La biblioteca del Naturalista: La Plata, Argentina (124 pp).
2. Neyra MC, **Berkunsky I**, Grilli PG, García Fioretti I. 2024. Loica Pampeana, sobreviviente de los últimos pastizales de la Pampa Austral. *Revista Aves Argentinas* 69: 2–12. <https://scholar.google.com.ar/scholar?oi=bibs&cluster=7182050254688273424&btnI=1&hl=es>
3. Balbiano A, **Berkunsky I**, Masello JF. 2018. Loros en peligro: las amenazas que enfrentan actualmente las poblaciones de loros Neotropicales. *Biodiversidad Neotropical* 1:1–4. <https://fundacionazara.org.ar/biodiversidad-neotropical/>
4. Balbiano A, **Berkunsky I**, Masello JF. 2017. Alerta: Loros en Peligro. *Boletín Biológica* 38: 43–46. [http://www.revistaboletinbiologica.com.ar/pdfs/N38/teoria%20\(38\).pdf](http://www.revistaboletinbiologica.com.ar/pdfs/N38/teoria%20(38).pdf)