





PAOLA MERELLI

I'm interested in working on projects that support biodiversity conservation, particularly in forest ecosystems. Currently, I'm involved in a project focused on ecological corridors connecting European protected areas.

The current human lifestyle has a profound impact on the Earth system, and its unsustainable trajectory is undeniable. My vision is to contribute to a transformed society, one where our species no longer dominates, but rather co-evolves with the community of life.

PERSONAL INFO

 Italian citizenship

 Available to work all over the world

 August 3rd 1999

CONTACT

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/paola-merelli-676113259/>

 Developer account ID in GitHub:
<https://github.com/Paola-Merelli>



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Research Fellow

University of Bologna | Department of Biological Geological and Environmental Sciences | April 2024 - ongoing

- Identification of multi-species Ecological Corridors and Analysis of Protected Areas connectivity.
- PRINN founded project

Academic tutor

University of Bologna | | October 2024 - March 2025

- Academic tutor for "Ecosystem Health" course in the first cycle degree programme (L) in Biology of Human and Environmental Health (cod. 5909)

Research Group Member

University of Bologna | One Health Artificial Intelligence research hub | October 2023 - ongoing

- engaging in collaborative projects that integrate expertise in health, ecology, and artificial intelligence

Research Assistant

Iracambi Research Center, Minas Gerais, Brasil | October 2023 - June 2024 | Hybrid mode

- assisting various research projects aimed at monitoring, conserving and restoring the Brazilian Atlantic Forest

Internship

Iracambi Research Center, Minas Gerais, Brasil | March 2023 - June 2023 | On-site

- Development of experimental protocols for forest monitoring and conservation studies.
- Field data collection through forest plot and camera trap positioning.
- Species identification
- Data processing and statistical analysis.
- implementation of environmental awareness projects for students in the local community.

Internship

University of Bologna | prof. Duccio Rocchini Research group | October 2022 - February 2023 | On-site

- The relationship between beta-diversity measured by the Rao'S Q index and land cover changes in space and time.
- Development of a code in R programming language for the analysis of biodiversity and land cover change in space and time from satellite images



EDUCATION

Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

Master's degree in Science and Management of Nature (LM-60). International Curriculum: Global Change Ecology & SDGs | October 2021 - October 2023

- Internship for the final thesis in Iracambi Research and Conservation center (Minas Gerais, Brazil) to conduct a scientific research on reforestation monitoring
- Thesis title: Monitoring the reforestation of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest: from biodiversity hotspot to biodiversity "hopespot"
- Grade obtained: 110/110 cum Laude

University of Milano-Bicocca

Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences | October 2018 - July 2021

- Thesis title: "miR-34 modulates wing polyphenism in the arthropod *Nilaparvata lugens*"
- Grade obtained: 110/110 cum Laude



SKILLS

Languages

- English - C1 - CLA unibo
- French - B2 - Baccalaureate diploma
- Spanish - B2 - Dele
- Portuguese - B1 - independent study

Computer

- Software: R, Rstudio, R Markdown, qGIS, arcGIS, Google Earth Engine, LaTeX.
- Programming languages: R, Python, Julia.
- Machine learning algorithms: linear regression, k-means, decision tree, random forest.

CONFERENCES

Paola Merelli, Michele Di Musciano, Pierfilippo Cerretti, Andrea Cristiano, Dario Nania, Marco Musiani, Michela Pacifici, Carlo Rondinini, Alessandro Chiarucci, Roberto Cazzolla Gatti - Connect to Conserve: planning protected areas to maximize connectivity. SCB 2025 Biodiversity and Global Changes: A Conservation Perspective - 6 - 9 May 2025, L'Aquila, Italy.

Oral Communication

Paola Merelli, Lara Oliveira Clemente, Roberto Cazzolla Gatti - Monitoring the Rewilding of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest on Tree and Mammal Diversity: From a Biodiversity Hotspot to a Biodiversity "hope spot". ECCB 2024 - 7th European Congress of Conservation Biology held in Bologna, Italy, July 17th - 21st.

Poster session