

## Meet the STOREM project team at the National University of Costa Rica

The National University (UNA) is a public institution of higher education located across the country of Costa Rica. Currently, we are participating in the STOREM project through the development and implementation of an Academic Master's Degree in Tourism and Sustainable Development (MATDS) from the Chorotega Regional Campus (SRCH) in the province of Guanacaste. The new Academic Master's Degree, in addition to being the first for our SRCH, will provide an innovative and specialized curricula for the needs of tourism in the Caribbean region. With this new Master's degree, we seek to attract people involved in the tourism sector from different background areas and who have a particular interest in the sustainable development of communities, protection of the environment and the promotion of tourism companies.



Coordination of the project at SRCH is led by Dr. Alfonso Lara Quesada. In this role, Dr. Lara is the link with the general coordination of the STOREM project and coordinates the team that develops the MATDS at UNA. Additionally, Dr. Lara is a participant in the project "Strengthening the Association of Beekeepers APIS Chorotega" through participatory strategies of beekeeping management and innovation. All this while teaching biology and microbiology courses for the Hydrological Engineering program at SRCH campus.

The administrative and financial management, the monitoring of the project work plan, the elaboration of courses in the MATDS and the coordination of the construction of the master's curriculum design document are led by Laura Obando Villegas, MSc., professor and academic at UNA in the business administration program. The Prof. Obando is also the main author of an article related to the process of creating the master's degree that is under review for her participation in an international seminar in December 2020 in Brazil.



The preparation of the technical and theoretical documentation in the project, the development of courses, and coordination of the lines of research in STOREM are led by Dr. Juan Carlos Picón Cruz, associated with the undergraduate degree in Tourism Management, and specialist in sustainable development. Dr. Picón is recognized in the field of tourism and has participated as a speaker and lecturer in different national and international academic events related to tourism, environment and society. In addition, he is the author and co-author of various scientific articles, books, chapters, documentaries (approx. 30 publications) and Professor at UNA (2018).

The continuous development of the technical and theoretical documentation of the project, and the design of programs and organization of outreach events has been led by Dr. Esteban Barboza Núñez, Professor at UNA. Dr. Barboza is Coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Chair at SRCH, where he also teaches courses in literature and cultural studies. He is the author of several books and articles on literature and tourism.

A large part of the success in the development of this academic master's degree is due to the support, advice and extensive experience provided by Dr. Alexandre Panosso Netto, professor and researcher at the School of Communication and Art of the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, international academic with extensive and recognized experience in building international master's and doctoral programs. In addition to his contributions in shaping the structuring of the master's curriculum, he has collaborated with the design of courses, the definition of the theoretical bases and the design of the program regulations. Dr. Panosso is a Master in History and a Doctor in Communication Sciences.

The translation of documents in English and Portuguese into Spanish and vice versa, the elaboration of databases and preparation of official documents of the STOREM project are led by the assistant undergraduate student Bryan Romero Grijalba. Romero is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree with an emphasis in Finance from UNA and was selected for courses such as Business English at the University of Albany, USA.