



Mariana Rivera Torres

Associate Facilitator | Consensus Building Institute, Inc.

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mariana Rivera-Torres is an associate with six years of experience in facilitation, international development, and collaborative decision-making. Mariana has a rich background in domestic and international social and environmental issues, including transboundary water governance, climate adaptation, education and health promotion, water and sanitation, and environmental conservation. She brings cross-cultural understanding and a keen interest in promoting cooperation to solve complex environmental and socio-economic challenges. Mariana has a master's degree in Water, Society, and Policy from the University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment. Her graduate research focused on U.S.-Mexico conflict and cooperation in the Colorado River Basin. She served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala from 2015-2017 and completed her bachelor's degree at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service.

EXPERIENCE

- 2020- present **Consensus Building Institute** San Francisco, CA
Associate Facilitator
Facilitate and assist with complex, multiparty natural resources policy processes with a primary focus on water resources planning and conflict resolution.
- 2018- present **Center for Climate Change Adaptation Science and Solutions** Tucson, AZ
Research Assistant
Conducted research on U.S.-Mexico conflict and collaboration in the Colorado River Basin to inform meaningful engagement with Mexican stakeholders. Provided research, planning, and facilitation support for the Colorado River Conversations workshop and scenario-planning workshop series. Prepare materials for reports, presentations, and submission to peer-review journals for publication.
- 2018-2020 **Watershed Management Group** Tucson, AZ
Latinx Outreach and Environmental Education Fellow
Provided organizational and facilitation support for community engagement strategies focused on water conservation, river restoration, and climate resilience. Developed and facilitated curriculum for schools, teachers, and community groups.
- 2018-2019 **Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy** Tucson, AZ
Research Assistant
Facilitated a participatory process to design and implement green infrastructure projects in low-income communities in Tucson. Collaborated with local NGOs, public artists, University of Arizona faculty and students, and high school students and staff. Supported research on green infrastructure and equity.
- 2015-2017 **United States Peace Corps** Guatemala

Volunteer and trainer

Completed a three-month pre-volunteer service training program; coordinated and facilitated inter-institutionally at state, county, and community levels to strengthen environmental and public health policies and practices in public schools; organized and co-facilitated a suite of collaborative processes – including monthly workshops with school principals, teachers, parents, women groups, government officials, and NGO representatives. Topics included: water and sanitation, food security, biodiversity and conservation, gender equity, ecotourism and conservation, project design management, and leadership. Participated in the Project Advisory Committee, designing and facilitating trainings for new Peace Corps Volunteer.

2013- 2015 **Partners for Haitian Children** Washington, DC.

Fundraising Intern

Organized fundraising campaigns, events, managed social media, and online software.

2012-2013 **Northwestern University, Global Engagement Studies Institute** South Africa

Scholar

Collaborated with local leaders in developing a social entrepreneurship project addressing HIV/Aids awareness. Gained a deeper understanding of community development work.

EDUCATION

2018-2020 **University of Arizona** Tucson, AZ

Master of Science in Water, Society & Policy

2011-2015 **Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service** Washington, DC

Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, International Economic Development

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- **Cloud Forest Conservation Initiative:** Board Member, 2017—Present.
- **La Cañada National Park:** Board Member, 2018–Present.

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native), English (Fluent), and French (Advanced)

SELECTED WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS

Water Forum II Negotiations, California, 2020-present. Provide strategic planning and facilitation support for the Water Forum II renegotiation process. Coordinate and prepare for a series of multi-stakeholder groups. Prepare materials, coordinate meetings, support project and task management, and ensure transparent and consistent communication.

Bilingual Consensus Building Training. Co-facilitated a bilingual training for the Self-Help Enterprises' Rural Communities Water Managers Leadership Institute in California. The training

sought to promote a basic understanding of the Mutual Gains Approach, the consensus building process, and collaborative communication skills.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Coordination in the Vina, Butte, Corning, and Wyandotte Creek Subbasin, California, 2020-present. Provide strategic planning, stakeholder and facilitation support on countywide community engagement for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. Prepare materials, coordinate meetings, support project and task management, and communicate with various stakeholder groups.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Inter-Basin Coordination in the Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek Subbasin, California, 2020-present. Provide strategic planning and facilitation support for inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley. Prepare materials to support information-sharing, coordinate meetings, support project and task management, and communicate with key stakeholders.

Water Reuse Action Plan Pilot Project, Arizona and Texas, 2021-present. Provide strategic planning and facilitation support to EPA, River Network, and the National Park Service as they launch a pilot project to support integrated approaches to water resources management in the San Antonio River (TX) and Verde River/Rio Salado (AZ). This pilot project seeks to identify opportunities for collaboration among diverse stakeholders, gauge interest in potential Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) efforts. And broaden participation to include previously underrepresented communities.

Colorado River Conversations Project, Arizona, 2018-2020. Provided research, planning, and facilitation support for three scenario-planning workshops and a multi-day conference. Conduct research on U.S.-Mexico conflict and collaboration in the Colorado River Basin to inform meaningful engagement with Mexican stakeholders. Prepare materials for reports, presentations, and submission to peer-review journals for publication. The [project](#) is led by the University of Arizona's Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions. It is focused on developing an interdisciplinary science-based conversation to contribute ideas for future management of the river and provide an informational foundation for the renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

Growing Water Smart, Arizona, 2020. Facilitated a multi-day workshop, led by the Sonoran Institute and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Babbitt Center. The [workshop](#) included diverse stakeholder groups across Arizona, dedicated to help communities integrate water and land use planning to promote sustainability and resilience.

Recharge the Rain, Arizona, 2018-2020. Collaborated with Watershed Management Group and Arizona Project WET, working with fourteen schools to promote climate adaptation and community resilience through water harvesting and green infrastructure projects. Developed and implemented educational curriculum on water conservation, climate resilience, and river restoration for local community groups.

SELECTED FOREST PROJECTS

NW Forest Planning Dialogues, California, 2020–present. Provide facilitation and project management support for a series of dialogues on the Northwest Forest Planning area (Northern

California, Oregon, and Washington). The dialogues will bring together public and private stakeholders to promote collaborative forest planning and support decision-making.

La Cañada Natural Park, Mexico, 2018-present. Collaborate with multi-stakeholder groups on the establishment of a Natural Park in Mexico City. Support the Executive Director with strategic planning. Participate in monthly Advisory Board meetings.

Chimel Community-based Forest Conservation, Guatemala, 2015-2017. Provided facilitation and planning support to a local ecotourism committee. Supported the creation of a cloud forest conservation and ecotourism plan. Maintained communication and collaboration with local and international NGOs to design and implement community-based restoration and eco-tourism activities.

Community Forest Conservation and Education, Guatemala, 2015-2017. Collaborated with local public and non-governmental agencies on the design and implementation of a series of forest conservation and education activities including environmental camps, local reforestation efforts, and teacher-training workshops in Guatemala.

OTHER

Community Food Bank Virtual Facilitation Training. Co-designed and co-facilitated a Spanish virtual facilitation training for Latinx Community Leaders in Tucson, Arizona. The five-session workshop was designed through a “trainer for trainers” approach to foster online facilitation and public engagement tools and techniques.

Avina Foundation Labor Migration Workshop, Online, 2020. Supported Fundación Avina in the design and implementation of a workshop focused on Labor Migration throughout Latin America.

Healthy Schools Project, Guatemala, 2018-2020. Provide facilitation and coordination support to inter-institutional state, municipal, and community committees focused on strengthening health promotion policies and practices in public schools. Organized and co-facilitated 24, 5-hour workshops for 163 school principals, teachers, parents, government and NGO representatives. Topics included: water and sanitation, food security, biodiversity and conservation, project design management, and leadership. Co-designed and co-facilitated 3-day "Communication for Development" training with the Guatemalan Ministries of Health and Education, UNICEF, and Peace Corps.

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

- Pablos, Nicolás Pineda, Stephen Mumme, Mariana Rivera-Torres, María Elena Vega, and Oscar Ibañez Hernández. “Professional Expertise in the Management of International Freshwater Commissions: The Case of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.” *Environmental Science & Policy*, 114 (2020): 43-51.
- CLE Law of the Colorado River. Scottsdale, Arizona, 2020. Panel presentation, “Recent Trends in the U.S.-Mexico Colorado River Relationship.”
- Colorado River Conversations Conference. Tucson, Arizona, 2019. Panel presentation, “Evolving Approaches to U.S.-Mexico Water Management.”
- Science and Diplomacy Conference. Tucson, AZ, 2019. Panel presentation. “Hydrodiplomacy in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region”