

Rebeca Biancardi Aleu

Climate adaptation; urban ecosystems; nature-based solutions; sea level rise; Sub-Saharan Africa

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE (selected)

Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) – Italy

Researcher at Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies - RAAS Division (June 2024 – current)

- Italy-Croatia Interreg Project [AcquaGuard: Nature-based Solutions for Flood Prevention](#)

Researcher at Information Systems for Climate science and Decision-making – ISCD Division (February 2023 – March 2024)

- Conducted research and managed Horizon Europe Projects including [TransformAr](#), [Climax Po](#), [Nevermore](#), and [Valorada](#)
- Leading role in developing strategic documents e.g The National Park of Cinque Terre Adaptation Plan
- Climate analyses using model data for climate projections
- Co-authored the first European Assessment Report on Sea Level Rise and Coastal Adaptation in European basins

EU Commission, DG Environment Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation Unit – Brussels

Bluebook traineeship, Country desk Southeast Asia and ASEAN (March 2022 – August 2022)

- Country desk for Southeast Asia and ASEAN in bilateral and regional environmental cooperation
- Managing official briefings for Commissioner visits in Southeast Asia and ASEAN meetings
- Represented DG ENV in preparatory meetings for joint committees and subcommittees of Southeast Asia
- Provided support for Latin American files, including official embassy visits (spanish as a working language)

African Climate and Development Institute – South Africa

Research consultant (July 2020 – December 2021)

- Conducted primary research and data analysis for the [Urban Ecolution Programme](#) and [Peri Urban Resilient](#) Ecosystems projects.
- Co-authored 3 manuscripts for internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals.
- Presented findings at conferences, including the FAO First Africa Forum on Urban Forests.
- Contributed to the organization of the Interdisciplinary Solution for Underserved Areas Conference.

Stockholm Environment Institute HQ – Sweden

Guest Researcher (January 2020 – June 2020)

- Contributed to the research project [Enhancing Trust in Government for Effective Water Governance](#) (EnTruGo).
- Investigated participatory processes in water governance and their impact on marginalized groups in Sweden and South Africa.
- Co-authored 1 manuscript for an internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal and coordinated collaboration between the two research institutions taking part (SEI and ACDI).

University of York, UNEP-WCMC, African Conservation Centre on the Development (May 2019-December 2019)

- Provided support to synthesizing workshop data from [Development Corridors Partnership](#) Project.

African Climate and Development Institute, University of Cape Town – South Africa

Research consultant (October 2018 – March 2019)

- Contributed to the IFAD Project Multi-Country Climate Risk Analysis.
- Collected, compiled, and analyzed data on climate risk in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Conducted fieldwork in Mozambique, interviewing stakeholders and gathering data on climate change impacts and community organization.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative – United Kingdom

Researcher (June 2016 – August 2016)

- Carried survey on LGBTQIA+ rights across countries of the Commonwealth.

EDUCATION

Master of Advanced studies in GIScience and Unmanned systems for integrated natural resource management: major in Green infrastructure and Ecosystem services (2021 – 2022) awarded with Distinction University of Padua (Italy)

Dissertation: ‘Mapping conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources of the Pacific’ in collaboration with Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT). Supervised by Dr Eugenio Salvatore Pappalardo.

MSc African Politics with Distinction (2017 – 2018)

SOAS, School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London (United Kingdom)

Dissertation: ‘DRC Elections and the Politics of *Glissement*’. Supervised by Professor Stephen Chan.

BA Politics and International Relations (2014 – 2017)

Royal Holloway, University of London (United Kingdom)

Dissertation: “A Failed Liberal Project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Analysis of the EU Security Sector Reform” Supervised by Dr Julia Gallagher.

CERTIFICATES

High-Level Course on Sea Level Rise and Coastal Adaptation (October 2023), Future Earth Research School, FERS (Italy)

PERSONAL SKILLS

Languages: Italian (mother tongue) | Spanish (mother tongue) | English (proficient) | French (basic-intermediate)

Research skills: Professional command of GIS (QGIS-GRASS, ArcGISpro) | Analyse climate data using climate data operators (CDO) (e.g. temperature, precipitation, sea levels) | Working proficiency of SPSS | Good analytical skills and ability to visualize data | Horizon Europe Projects and LIFE projects: proposal writing and implementation.

Soft skills: Teamwork | Analytical mindset | Project Management | Problem-solving | Strategic Thinking | Leadership | Written and Verbal Communication | Active Listening | Adaptability | Cultural awareness.

PUBLICATIONS

Published

Thorn, J.P., Nangolo, P., **Biancardi Aleu, R.**, Shackleton, S., Marchant, R.A., Ajala, O., Delgado, G., Mfuno, J.K., Cinderby, S. and Hejnowicz, A.P. (2022). Exploring the benefits and dis-benefits of climate migration as an adaptive strategy along the rural-peri-urban continuum in Namibia. *Regional Environmental Change*, 23(1), p.10.

Biancardi Aleu, R., Kløcker Larsen, R, Methner, N. (2022). Participation and marginalization in water governance: probing the agency of powerholders. *Ecology and Society*, 27(4).

Thorn, J. P. R., **Biancardi Aleu, R.**, Wijesinghe, A., Mdongwe, M, Cinderby, S., Shackleton, S., Marchant, R. (2021). Mainstreaming nature-based solutions for climate resilient infrastructure in peri urban sub-Saharan

Africa. Landscape and Urban Planning 216: Volume 216:104235.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2021.104235>

In review

Galluccio, G., Bisaro, A., Fiorini Beckauser, E., **Biancardi Aleu, R.**, Hinkel, J., Casas, M. F., Espin, O., Vafeidis, A. T., and Campostrini, P.: Sea Level Rise in Europe: Adaptation Measures and Decision Making Principles (in review). State Planet Discuss. [preprint], <https://doi.org/10.5194/sp-2023-35>.

In preparation

Biancardi Aleu, R., and Ballerini, C. (in prep) Mapping conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources of the Pacific.

Thorn, J. P. R., Wijesinghe, A., **Biancardi Aleu, R.**, Shackleton, S., and Marchant, R. (in prep) A comparative analysis of changes in climate, land use and ecosystem service provisioning in two drought- and flood-prone sub-Saharan African peri-urban settlements

Thorn, J. P. R., **Biancardi Aleu, R.**, Wijesinghe, A., Shackleton, S., and Marchant, R. (in prep) Scenarios of land-use change and the role of ecological infrastructure in supporting climate resilience in Namibia.

CONFERENCES

Italian Society of Climate Sciences 2023: Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise | *Chapter presenter*

FAO Conference 2021: First African Forum for Urban Forest | *Paper presenter*

INTERSOL 2020: 4th EAI International Conference on Innovations and Interdisciplinary Solutions for Underserved Areas | *Paper presenter*

Last updated June 2024