



MARIA RAFAELA RETAMAL DIAZ

Universidad de Concepción

Chile

Maria Rafaela is an Environmental Biologist who has specialized in Integrated Watershed Management, first through a masters program at CATIE, Costa Rica, and she currently is finishing her Ph.D. program in the broader subject of Environmental Sciences. As a biologist, she participated as a consultant and junior researcher in different environmental projects. During her M.Sc. thesis, she was part of a multi-national project in which she valued the water ecosystem services provided to two municipalities in Honduras. In this process, she realized that economic tools for sustainable water conservation was not sufficient to ensure the management goal, and because of that she suggested a legal and financial framework to develop a “Payment for Ecosystem Services” (PES) Scheme in these two municipalities. In pursuit of her research vocation, she enrolled in the Environmental Sciences Ph.D. Program and worked in the subject of water governance and climate change, considering participation as a core definition of water governance with multi-scale and multi-level analytical frameworks.