
Personal data

Name **Sandra Méndez Fajardo**

Academic degree PhD in Engineering from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá /Colombia

Nationality Colombian

Date of Birth 4th April 1976

Civil status married

Home Address Kirchhalde 17
CH-8592 Uttwil / Switzerland

Phone Office: +41 71 280 32 74
Mobile: +41 78 693 89 04

E-Mail Office: sandra.mendez@ecopartner.ch
Private: sanmendezfa@gmail.com



Professional background and key qualifications

More than 20 years of professional experience as Project Manager, Senior Expert and Scientist in solid waste and resource management in Colombia. Special expertise in design of social-technical systems, stakeholder participation and systems approach in policy development, community adoption of technologies related to Solid Waste Management, including management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), composting, management of toxic wastes and sanitation.

17 years of professional experience as University Professor in the fields of Solid Waste Management, Sustainable Development and Systems Thinking

Several years of experience in workshop design and moderation

Higher Education

- 2012 - 2016** *PhD in Engineering*. Title: Systemic decisions for the sustainable WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) management in developing countries [Supervisor: Prof. Rafael A. González Rivera Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, Co-Supervisor: Prof. Claudia R. Binder, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland] at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá/Colombia.
- Visiting Doctoral Student* at Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa) St. Gallen/Switzerland, Technology and Society Lab in 2014 and 2015 financed through the Sustainable Recycling Industries Programm (SRI) of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (seco) of Switzerland (total 11 months)
- Short-term researcher* at Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, Germany in 2015 financed by the DAAD
- 2004 - 2006** *MSc in Civil Engineering* with emphasis in environmental sciences and solid waste management, at Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá/Colombia
- 1994 - 2000** *BSc in Civil Engineering* at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá/Colombia

Awards

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|-------------|---|--|
| 2017 | Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Bogotá / Colombia | Doctoral Thesis awarded with highest honors
"Systemic decisions for more sustainable WEEE management in developing countries" |
| 2012 | Foundation <i>Siembra</i> and Water and Sewage Company of Bogota (EAAB)
Bogotá / Colombia | Goldenseal Environmental Responsibility
Project: Community appropriation for the conservation of streams in Usme |

Employment Record

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|----------------------|--|--|
| 2018 - actual | Ecopartner Ltd. & Skat Consulting Ltd. & Skat foundation
St Gallen / Switzerland | <i>Senior Expert</i> in systemic design of policies and solutions for waste management in developing countries |
| 2017 | World Resources Forum Association
St Gallen / Switzerland | <i>Senior Expert</i> in the elaboration of a guideline for systemic development of policies WEEE management |
| 2001 - 2016 | Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Bogotá / Colombia | <p><i>Assistant Professor</i> in Solid Waste Management, Environmental Impacts Assessment and Sustainable Development within the Department of Civil Engineering</p> <p><i>Expert</i> in projects on resource management, design of policies and regulations for the Ministry of Environment of Colombia</p> <p><i>Expert</i> in public licitations of the Distrital Institute on Sports and Recreation of Bogota (IDRD)</p> <p><i>Coordinator</i> of engineering and interdisciplinary projects focusing on social and sustainable development, resource management, and community empowerment in Bogotá, Amazonas and Putumayo, Colombia</p> <p><i>Advisor</i> in environmental policy and strategic plan within the University and for the development of environmental regulations on National level</p> |
| 2000 - 2001 | Water and Sewage Company of Bogota (EAAB)
Bogotá / Colombia | <i>Consultant</i> in the systematization of the organizational processes for the implementation of SAP R3 |

Mayor Projects

- 2019 - 2021** Project manager "Sustainable management of organic municipal waste in the Municipality of Pérez Zeledón, Costa Rica"
- 2014 - 2015** Senior researcher in the national WEEE (Waste of Electronic and Electrical Equipment) policy development in Bogota/Colombia
- 2012 - 2014** Senior researcher in the project "Harvesting of rain water in the Javeriana University´s campus"
- 2013** Senior researcher in the project "Exploratory case study of solid waste management in the Javeriana University´s campus"
- 2010** Advisor in the revision of the "Reglamento Ambiental y de Saneamiento (RAS), Title F, Solid Waste Management" for the Ministry of Environment.
Advisor in the design of the "Reglamento Ambiental y de Saneamiento (RAS), Title J, Technological Alternatives in Water and Sanitation for the Rural Sector" for the Ministry of Environment.
- 2007 - 2008** Junior researcher in the project "Environmental Impact Assessment of Brass-Threaded Unions through Product Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)"
- 2007 - 2009** Junior researcher in the project "Design of strategies for the appropriation of sanitary technologies in indigenous communities in the Amazon, Colombia"
- 2006 - 2007** Junior researcher in the project "Content of Cadmium in rice, lentils and beans in Colombia"

Workshop and Course Design and Moderation

- 2019** Trainer and Senior Expert at the EWAM (eWaste Academy for Managers) in Costa Rica. 3 day workshop on "Building a roadmap for a regional strategy". Organized by UNU as part of the project "Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in Latin American Countries" of ONUDI-GEF.
- 2018** 5-day Course "WEEE Management: Cooperation and the systemic design of solutions". Universidad de Cuenca, CEDIA, Empa, Skat Foundation. Cuenca, Ecuador
- 2014 - 2016** Methodological support for the participatory design of the National Policy for WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Management in Colombia
- 2010 - 2012** Participatory design and implementation of the social program PROSOFI, involving Javeriana University community, USME population in Bogota, public organizations of USME, the USME Hospital, and other 2 universities of Bogota.
- 2007 - 2009** Participatory methodology to select and design technologies for the wastewater and solid waste management in the indigenous Ticuna community. The Amazon, Colombia
- 2009** Participatory methodology to evaluate and improve the composting plant for the five towns of The Sibundoy Valley, Putumayo, Colombia

Countries of working experience

Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Germany

Memberships

ACIS (Asociación de Investigadores Colombianos en suiza)

International Society of Systems Sciences, ISSS

ELAPDIS (Escuela Latinoamericana de Pensamiento y Diseño Sistémico)

Languages

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Spanish		mother tongue	
English	B2	C	C
German	A2	A2	A2

Mayor international conferences in the last 6 years

2017	September Geneva, Switzerland	World Resources Forum: Acelerating the resource revolution. Presentation: "Systemic polica design for a more sustainable WEEE management: The case of Colombia"
2015	August Berlin, Germany	59th meeting of the ISSS: Governing the Antropozenne. Presentation "Agent-Based Modelling on WEEE management: the case of Colombia"
2014	October Arequipa, Peru	World Resources Forum. Presentation: "Actor-Network Theory in decision making for WEEE management"
2013	October Davos, Switzerland	World Resources Forum. Presentation: "The Actor-Network Theory as a Strategy to Analyze and Design Sustainable Hazardous Waste Management Systems"
2013	October Sardinia, Italy	Solid Waste & Landfill Symposium Sardinia. Presentation: "Solid waste management and the role of educational institutions: a school-context"

Mayor publications

- Main Author: **Chapter "Improving sustainability of E-waste management through the systemic design of solutions: the cases of Colombia and Ecuador"**. In Handbook of Electronic Waste Management. International best practices and case studies; Elsevier: Cambridge; pp 443-478, 2020
- Main Author: **"A practical guide for the systemic design of policies for WEEE management in developing countries"**. Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) Program, Switzerland. 2017
- Main Author: **Chapter "Actor-Network Theory on Agent-Based Modelling"**. Book Social Systems Engineering: the design of complexity. John Willey & Sons. 2017
- Main Author: **Actor-Network Theory on Solid Waste Management: A University case study.** International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation. IGI Global. 1942-535X ed: v.6 fasc.4 p.13 - 25, 2014
- Main Author: **PROSOFI, an academic model to support the integral development of poor communities.** Revista Educación en Ingeniería ISSN 1900-8260 Vol. 8, N°. 15, pp. 69-82 January/June 2013