

PhD Dissertation
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
College of Science
George Mason University

Candidate: Fiorella Briceño Huerta

Defense Date and Time: April 25, 2022 at 9:00am

Defense Location: Zoom

Title: Wild Meat Consumption in the Northeastern Peruvian Amazon: Implications for Conservation and Sustainability

Dissertation Director: Dr. Michael Gilmore

Committee: Dr. Mark Bowler, Dr. Brian Griffiths, Dr. Elizabeth W. Freeman, Dr. Cody W. Edwards

ABSTRACT

Hunting is one of the most critical drivers of animal population decline. Despite its significance, wild meat consumption in Amazonian cities is poorly understood. In Iquitos, the largest urban center of the Peruvian Amazon, there is access to many different animal proteins, but people are still consuming a great deal of wild meat. To create more effective conservation strategies of highly consumed species, accurate estimates of wild meat consumption are needed. By systematically sampling the entire city and interviewing heads of household, this dissertation answers the question: How much wild meat are people eating, and what is driving their consumption?