



Ginger Deason is currently the Foundation Representative for Ecuador and Guatemala at the Inter-American Foundation (IAF) and has over 15 years of experience in grassroots community development, training, and environmental education. Before joining the IAF, Ginger pursued a doctorate focusing on climate change and sustainable tourism. For her doctoral research, she worked with Indigenous groups in southern Mexico on community-based adaptation

planning and tourists' perceptions of climate change impacts. Previously, she was a Field Coordinator for Heifer International where she managed grants and sustainable agriculture projects with a focus on capacity-building within rural groups. Ginger was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala in the mid-1990's and later worked for the agency in a variety of capacities in Guatemala, Ecuador, and Washington, D.C. She also managed grants and programmed environmental education outreach at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Ginger holds a Ph.D. in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management and a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management, both from the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State University. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Latin American studies from Auburn University. Ginger lives in Maryland with her husband and two dogs, where she enjoys birding, gardening, and, this year, cicada-watching.