Spatial Data Scientist and Team Lead

Blas M. Benito

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Profile

Computational ecologist (PhD) and geographic information systems expert (MD) with over 17 years of international R&D experience.

My expertise spans plant and soil science, spatial modeling, machine learning, and scientific software development, with a focus on data-driven solutions.

As team lead at Biome Makers Inc, I have a track record of delivering impactful solutions. My expertise, coupled with strong team leadership skills,has driven innovation within the company.

I seek opportunities to lead dynamic teams and build data-driven solutions to address sustainability challenges in AgTech and related domains.

My ultimate goal is creating a lasting impact in the field of environmental problem-solving.

Education

2010 – **PhD in Computational Ecology**.
University of Granada.
Granada, Spain.

2009 – **UNIGIS International Masters Degree in Geographical Information Systems**.
University of Girona.
Girona, Spain.

2006 – **Masters Degree in Management and Environmental Auditing**.
University of Cadiz.
Cadiz, Spain.

2003 – **Degree in Biology with specialization in Ecology**
University of Granada.
Granada, Spain.

Experience

2021 – Present
Biome Makers Inc
Valladolid, Spain
Sacramento, US

Data Scientist & Team Lead
Product Engineering: innovative soil microbiome mapping product; automated model for systematic soil sample selection.

Data Engineering: integration of environmental data-cubes to enhance company products.

Leadership: founder and lead of the Environmental Data Team.

High Performance: commended across all performance assessments.

2019 – 2021
University of Alicante
Alicante, Spain

Data Scientist & Researcher
Publication Excellence: 15 papers published, including a "Most Downloaded Paper" recognition.

Software Development: R package spatialRF for spatial modeling (8.000 downloads); developed efficient time-series data imputation algorithm; improved the team's coding practices.

2016 – 2019
Bergen University
Bergen, Norway

Researcher & Developer
Project Management: €199,000 research project by the Norwegian National Science Foundation.

Publication Recognition: Published 6 papers, one as "Editor's Pick" with a "Most Downloaded Paper" award.

Software Development: 3 time-series R packages: memoria, distantia, and virtualPollen (53.000 downloads).

2014 – 2016
Aarhus University
Aarhus, Denmark

Researcher
Publication Excellence: Published 8 papers, including one with a "Most Downloaded Paper" award.

Project Management: Executed a €300,000 research project.

2010 – 2014
Institute for Earth System Research
Granada, Spain

Researcher and Team Lead
Intellectual Property: patented 'MODELER', a model repository for the Earth Sciences.

Funding acquisition: secured and executed contracts totaling €280,000.

Team Lead: Climate Team of the Global Change Observatory of Sierra Nevada.

Skills

Innovative problem solving – attention to detail – adaptability – high-level communication – English proficiency – software development and documentation – quantitative analysis and spatial modeling – machine learning – data engineering and integration – GIS proficiency – automated modeling pipelines.