

## **NANCY MARÍA CALCINA FLORES**

She is a Medical Technologist by profession and a specialist in Hematology, born and based in Arequipa, Peru. Her academic background and professional work are in the health sciences, but her connection to conservation began through an experience that was very close to her family.

In 2019, a puma attacked livestock belonging to one of her uncles in a high-Andean area of Arequipa, resulting in the loss of around thirty llamas. This event led her to better understand the complex relationship between local communities, their livelihoods, and wildlife, while also introducing her more closely to the work of the Andean Cat Alliance.

Her involvement in conservation developed naturally over time. For several years, she supported camera-trap monitoring activities on her family's land, as well as the organization and review of records using TrapTagger. She later participated in activities in other communities, camera-trap installation, and logistical support for initiatives such as CATCrafts and the In the Field 24/7 program.

With the establishment of the Andean Cat Alliance Peru, she also took on volunteer responsibilities in administrative areas, supporting document organization, receipt review, and other tasks needed for project implementation. She is currently a collaborating member of AGA and continues to learn and contribute in different areas.

For her, the Andean cat represents a different way of understanding conservation. Her family roots in the Andes give this work a special meaning, allowing her to connect more closely with its landscapes and communities and to contribute, through her own skills, to the conservation of such a unique and still little-known species.