Executive Director
Tabitha Stadler

Tabitha Stadler is the Executive Director of Environmental Protection in the Caribbean's International operations including creating the vision, strategic plan and overseeing all aspects of mission implementation. She began this role in 2019 and splits her time between South Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Stadler's career spans more than 30 years and encompasses leadership positions responsible for environmental education, science, research, and policy. She most recently served as Interim Sanctuary Director and Assistant Sanctuary Director at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary where she was responsible for operation of the Sanctuary's Blair Visitor Center as well as supervising public and youth education, the volunteer and membership programs, and marketing for the 13,000-acre Sanctuary.

She previously worked ten years with the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, serving most recently as principal investigator and project manager for the three-year "Restoring the Rookery Bay Estuary" project where she developed and secured funding and oversaw all aspects of its successful implementation, which included hydrologic modeling, habitat mapping, and social science research.

Prior to that position, she served as the coastal training program coordinator for Rookery Bay, a managerial position involved with over-seeing the 110,000-acre Reserve and charged with working regionally to provide science-based information, skills, and technical assistance to targeted audiences, including elected officials.

Stadler's career also includes positions with Pathfinder, Inc. as director of academic development; Newland Communities as an environmental consultant; the Science Journalism Center at the University of South Florida as assistant to the director; Tampa BayWatch, Inc., as education coordinator for the Tampa Bay Manatee Watch project; and GeoBlue Coastal Management Solutions, as owner/operator.

Tabitha Stadler earned a master's degree in science communications from the University of South Florida, and a bachelor's degree in maritime/environmental studies from Eckerd College. Her education also includes a study abroad program at the Study Center of London, undergraduate work in marine science at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, and graduate coursework in environmental ethics from Four Corners School of Outdoor Education in Monticello, Utah.

Her career is distinguished by numerous awards, including a Florida Wildlife Research Institute Award in Cooperative Science for facilitating scientific collaboration and developing partnerships, and a United States Coast Guard Auxiliary award for achievement in marine biology.

Tabitha has served on the board of directors for Pathfinder, Inc., in addition to committee involvement with the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance, Center for Watershed Protection's annual conference, Southwest Florida Watershed Council, the Environmental Education Alliance of Southwest Florida, and the Collier County Florida Sea Grant Advisory Committee. She was Florida state lead for environmental education with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and a founder of the Greenscape Alliance which focuses on stormwater management through best practices in landscaping in Collier County, Florida.