



VALERIA TOWNS

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PROFILE

Born in Mexico City in 1985. Master in Biological Sciences and field biologist, experienced in the study of mammal populations and ecology of tropical rainforest. With more than seven years undergoing strategies for the conservation, restoration and in the sustainable management of the Lacandon rainforest in Mexico.

Participant in several national and international congresses and conferences of wildlife management and ecology research, focused in the development of strategies for tropical forest mammal conservation. Teacher of graduate and undergraduate students in biodiversity, natural resource management and community ecology in the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and training public servants in environmental themes.

Member of the Academic Council of the UNAM and member of the Scholar Planning Commission. Graduated with honors from the Biology Graduate Program and awarded with the Gustavo Baz Prada Award to the social service, for taking part in the environmental education activities with children and young in Chiapas communities.

In 2010 commenced the large mammal monitoring program of Natura y Ecosistemas Mexicanos A.C using camera traps. To date this is one of the biggest sampling efforts in the country and the data gathered has given information on the behaviour and ecology of mammal communities in Mexican rainforest.

EXPERIENCE

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY LAB. IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCES (UNAM) — 2006-2008

Research assistant on wildlife biological clocks.

BIOCHEMISTRY LAB. (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION) — 2007-2008

Research assistant applying molecular biology tools for wildlife gene sequencing.

MESOAMERICAN BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR — 20012-20013

Consultant in the development of mammal management conservation tools in remnants of rainforest owned by communities.

NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS COMMISSION (MEXICO) — 20013-20014

Advisor in the development of a monitoring and management program for scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*) in the Usumacinta basin.

MESOAMERICAN BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR — 20013-20014

Consultant in the development of wildlife monitoring strategies as indicators of ecosystem health in productive systems of the biological corridors.

NATURA Y ECOSISTEMAS MEXICANOS A. C— 2007 TO DATE

Coordinator of the program of wildlife monitoring in the Lacandon rainforest.

EDUCATION

National Autonomous University of Mexico — Biologist 2009

National Autonomous University of Mexico — Master in biological Sciences 2013

PUBLICATIONS

- Elaboration of a Study for the payment of environmental services and biodiversity conservation in the Ejido Galacia, Marques de Comillas, Chiapas. 2010. Natura y Ecosistemas Mexicanos for the National Forestry Commission, Mexico.
- Centro Geo ed. 2010. Fasciculos de Información de 29 ejidos de cuatro municipios de Chiapas. Centro Geo Divulgación. México.
- Towns V. 2013. The monitoring of large mammals in Chiapas rainforest. National Autonomus University of Mexico. Master Thesis. Mexico. 107p.
- Leon-Perez, R. Towns, V. Águilar-Fernandez, R. Ortiz Rosas, R. Carabias, J. y De la Maza, J. 2013. Restoration and wildlife conservation as an economic income alternative. Proceedings of the IV International Wildlife Management Congress. pp 64-69
- Towns, V. Leon, R. De la Maza, J. Sánchez-Cordero, V. 20013. Aportaciones al listado de los mamíferos carnívoros del sur de la Reserva de la Biosfera Montes Azules, Chiapas. Theyra. 4(3):627-6240

SKILLS

Use of R statistical software, GIS, the R-GIS interface, expert in occupancy modeling. English, French and Lacandon Maya speaker. Passionate rock climber. Philosophy reader