



**São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Scenarios and Modelling on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Support Human Well-Being**

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I was born in Hermosillo, the capital city of the northern Mexican state of Sonora. Hermosillo is located in the Sonoran Desert and it is hot (up to 50°C) and dry (280 mm). This desert is part of the Great Deserts of North America and its flora, fauna and landscapes are part of the bio-cultural heritage of native groups and all the population. When I was in high school I decided to study a career in Biology, so I traveled to southern Mexico (state of Jalisco) to get my BS degree in Biology. I lived in Jalisco for ten years and started working with cacti. Some years ago, I came back to my natal city and started teaching, and then I decided to go back to school because I wanted to learn more about the ecology of the beautiful desert, so I got my MS degree and now I am working to get my PhD. My main research interests include the use of remote sensing and GIS techniques to assess the impact of land use change on arid riparian ecosystems, and applying the social-ecological systems framework to identify the drivers of land use change and understand the human and ecological dynamics of these coupled systems. My current project includes mapping the provision of ecosystem services at the watershed level using models, and register how social dynamics such as the change on land tenure and subsistence activities are shaping the provision of two specific services in an arid riparian ecosystem in the central part of Sonora. I am also interested in the work of civil organizations and I collaborate with local and binational NGOs bringing information to rural and urban communities about social-environmental issues.