

Balam Castro Torres

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Barcelona

Geographer since 2014, specialized in natural resource management and sustainable territorial planning, and particularly focused on geospatial technologies for cartographic design and production. Wide experience as spatial analyst with GIS and remote sensing tools. My work involves utilizing data visualization and design tools to create impactful and informative products for many kinds of users. Additionally, I have a proven track record in planning and executing fieldwork in both rural and urban settings. My early career as a full-stack developer, fuelled by a fascination about technology, has further enhanced my technical skills not only for geography but also for web development. Known for my proactive approach in problem-solving and communicating ideas to any audience due to my oral and writing skills. Also been recognized for cultivate trust and cohesion among the people I have worked with. Personally, I am convinced that creativity and resilience to face any problem are my main traits.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2024. **GeoData Evaluator**. Telus international. Barcelona, Spain.

- Responsible for researching and evaluating data to improve response quality of different search engines related to maps, images, knowledge, etc.
- Verifying and comparing information in a web-based environment, ensuring accuracy and relevance of the queries and results.

2021 - 2023. **Content Moderator**. Telus international. Barcelona, Spain.

- Reviewing and monitoring user-generated content on meta platforms to ensure that it adheres to their community guidelines.
- Prominent identifying patterns of problematic content and carry on strategies to improve my individual metrics and therefore lead my team.
- Effectively adapted to the fast-paced and high-pressure environment, where I had tuned up my criteria to take the best possible decisions.

2018-2020. **Associate Professor**. Faculty of Science, UNAM, Mexico City.

web profile: <https://web.fciencias.unam.mx/directorio/95840>.

- 2 Courses given: Natural spaces management and Natural Resources for Earth Sciences, Biology and Geography degrees students.
- Always concerned about the student's engagement to the class through innovative strategies and updated resources.
- Looked forward for keeping my class updated to the latest theoretical and practical knowledge and technics.

2019 - 2020. **Coordinator in Research Project**. The University of British Columbia - UNAM, Mexico.

Project: "Enhancing effectiveness in community forest enterprises". In charge of design, coordination and implementation of field work and data analysis. Some of the activities include:

- Dasometry and species tally in forest plots.
- Applying interviews and participatory workshops with the different stakeholders
- Processing the data and the results for the papers already submitted or published.

2019. **GIS Analyst**. CentroGEO, Mexico City.

- Data management and processing for spatial analysis of agricultural systems.
- Spatial modelling of sustainable and productive systems of south Mexico.
- Landscape units classification.
- Cartographic design and production using GIS and remote sensing software.

2015 - 2016. **Spatial Analyst assistant**. PUEC - UNAM, Mexico City.

Assistant in the Information Processes and Systematization Department in the projects: 1) Update of the Urban Development Program in the municipality of Benito Juárez and, 2) Ecological and Territorial Planification Study for the municipality of Silao, Guanajuato. In charge of:

- Cadastral mapping and urban data processing.
- Facilitate participative workshops with the stakeholders and other important actors.
- Cartographic design and production for the diagnosis and intervention phases of the project.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 2024 - ongoing. **Vocational training course in web Development**

Ironhack: Tech Bootcamp in Barcelona

- 2016 - 2018. **MSc Sustainability Science**

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - GPA 9.33/10

Thesis: Análisis socioecológico de dos sistemas silvícolas en Llano Grande y Las Minillas, Puebla.
<http://132.248.9.195/ptd2020/enero/0800336/Index.html>

- 2010 - 2014. **Geography degree**

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - GPA 8.9/10

Thesis: Análisis de las políticas públicas ambientales del Suelo de Conservación del Distrito Federal del año 2000-2012.
<http://132.248.9.195/ptd2016/enero/0739835/Index.html>

PUBLICATIONS

1. Solís, L., Galicia L., Guerra-De la Cruz, V., De la Mora, G., Sánchez-Nupan, L., Kozak R., Peterson G., Castro-Torres B. (2024) *in press*. Scaling Up in community forest enterprises: the case of Central Mexico. Socio-Ecological Practice Research.
2. De la Mora, G., Galicia L., Sánchez-Nupan, L and Castro-Torres, B. (2023). Conditions for Multilevel Governance, Co-Management and Sustainability in Two Forest Communities in Central Mexico. Sustainability.
3. Galicia L., Guerra-De la Cruz, V., De la Mora, G., Solís, L., Castro-Torres, B., Sánchez-Nupan, L. (2023). Limitaciones y oportunidades para el escalamiento. Economía Sociedad y Territorio.
4. De la Mora, G., Sánchez-Nupan, L., Castro-Torres, B. and Galicia, L., 2021. Sustainable Community Forest Management in Mexico: An Integrated Model of Three Socio-ecological Frameworks. Environmental Management.

5. Rojo, I., Castro-Torres, B., Perevochtchikova, M. (2018). Análisis de disfuncionalidad institucional de programas de política pública ambiental en la Ciudad de México, 2000-2012. Gestión y Política Pública. 27. 211-236.

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

1. Sánchez Nupan, L. O., Castro-Torres B., Galicia Sarmiento, L. y De La Mora De La Mora, G. (2020), "Análisis socioecológico de dos sistemas de manejo forestal, Puebla-México", Ecosystem Services Partnership, versión: conferencia regional de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, CDMX, México.

2. Solís, M., Sánchez, L., Reyes, I., Castro-Torres, B., Rodríguez, L., Galicia, L. (2019) Trayectorias de los sistemas socioecológicos forestales de montaña en el contexto de cambio global. Ponencia oral en el VII Congreso Mexicano de Ecología. Querétaro, México.

3. Castro-Torres, B., Sánchez, L., Galicia, L., De la Mora, G. (2019) Evaluación socio-ecológica del manejo forestal en México. Ponencia oral en el XVII Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina, EGAL 2019, , Quito, Ecuador.

4. Castro-Torres, B. (2014) Clasificación de programas de Pagos por Servicios Ambientales. Ponencia oral y de póster en el Programa de verano de investigación 2014. University of Arizona, EEUU.

5. Mendoza, C., Castro-Torres, B. (2012). Geomorfositios en el volcán Tacaná. Ponencia oral en el Congreso Nacional de Geografía, Tlaxcala, México.

LANGUAGES

Spanish. Native

English. C1 (Toefl ITP, score 590)

Portuguese. B2

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Geographic Information Systems

- QGIS
- ArcGIS
- gvSIG

Multimedia design

- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Adobe Lightroom

Data Management

- Excel
- Access
- mySQL

Full-stack web development

- HTML 5
- CSS 3 + Tailwind
- Javascript + node.js
- Express y EJS
- MongoDB + Mongoose
- Github

ACHIEVEMENTS

Master’s degree scholarship

Given by the National Council of Science and Technology (México). Full time scholarship from August 2017 to July 2019 for the develop of my master’s degree, including the expenses for my field work and the thesis publication.

Geography degree scholarship

Given by the National Council of Science and Technology (México) in the research project number 155039 of “Ciencia Básica de CONACYT” “Desarrollo de un esquema de evaluación de los beneficios socioambientales del programa de Pago por Servicios Ambientales Hidrológicos en el Suelo de Conservación del Distrito Federal”. 6 months full scholarship to develop the project and publish my degree thesis.

Research stay scholarship

Given by the National Autonomous University in Mexico in collaboration with the University of Arizona for the Latin America Summer Research Program. 3 months full paid to assist a top researcher in the University of Arizona. I worked with PhD Laura Lopez-Hoffmann in an Ecosystem Services Classification Program.

ORGANIZATIONS

- **Collaborative & Applied Research in Socio-Ecosystems (CARSE), UNAM**

Laboratory led by specialists in ecosystem ecology, ecosystem services, environmental degradation, sustainable management, and biodiversity, and their intersection with science and policy.
www.carse.igg.unam.mx

- **Trabajando por la sostenibilidad de América Latina (TRASOS) A.C.**

Civil association that pursuits the transition towards sustainability through actions that address various social and environmental issues.
www.facebook.com/trasosAC