

# JOSÉ LUIS CÓMBITA

Tunja, Colombia | jlcom7@gmail.com | +57 322 647 7566

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Biologist with a Master's degree in Science, specialized in landscape ecology, biodiversity monitoring, and community-based conservation. Experienced in applied research, engagement with rural and Indigenous communities, spatial and ecological analysis using R, and university-level teaching. Passionate about connecting science, territory, and public policy in complex socio-environmental contexts. I aim to contribute to conservation initiatives that generate real impact on biodiversity, community well-being, and sustainability.

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Community and Landscape Ecology Researcher

INECOL / UNAM México / USAID / THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Mexico and Colombia | 2020 - 2024

- Designed and conducted fauna surveys (vertebrates and invertebrates) along altitudinal and fragmented landscape gradients.
- Coordinated with local communities for access and fieldwork logistics.
- Performed statistical and spatial analyses in R (diversity indices, linear models, GIS).
- Contributed to peer-reviewed scientific publications and participated in international conferences.

Instructor and Academic Events Coordinator

Tunja, Colombia | 2018 - 2020

- Delivered courses in biostatistics with a focus on ecological data analysis.
- Developed educational content and organized academic symposia.
- Provided independent tutoring in R programming for ecological analysis.

Environmental Consultant and Advisor

Boyacá - Cundinamarca, Colombia | 2016 - 2025

- Supported environmental impact assessments and biological surveys.
- Analyzed data for conservation and restoration scenarios in the Amazon and Andean páramo regions.
- Prepared technical reports for environmental licensing.

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## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

M.Sc. in Science (Ecology)

Institute of Ecology A.C. (INECOL), Mexico | 2020 - 2022

Thesis: Response of dung beetle diversity and body size to deforestation and defaunation in a tropical Mesoamerican landscape.

B.Sc. in Biology

Pedagogical and Technological University of Colombia | 2008 - 2016

Thesis: Butterfly diversity in dry and transitional forests of La Mesa de Los Santos, Santander, Colombia.

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Languages: Spanish (native), English (intermediate-progressing toward B2)

Software: R (advanced), QGIS, Microsoft Excel (advanced), PowerPoint, Word

Soft skills: Field leadership, critical thinking, intercultural communication

Other: Environmental workshop planning, scientific writing, informal education

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Cómbita, J.L. et al. (2025). Negative impact of deforestation and mammal defaunation on dung beetle diversity and biomass: A landscape-scale assessment. *Biodiversity and Conservation* (under review/in press).

Cómbita, J.L. et al. (2022). Environmental variation associated with topography explains butterfly diversity along a tropical elevation gradient. *Biotropica*, 54, 146-156. <https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.13040>

Cómbita, J.L. & Maldonado, C. (Eds). (2020). *Theoretical biology, explanations and complexity*. Bogotá: Universidad El Bosque Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.5329328>

## INTERESTS AND CAUSES

Biocultural conservation | Environmental education | Ecological justice | Evolutionary psychology

Nature photography | Reflective writing