JOSÉ LUIS CÓMBITA
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LinkedIn | ResearchGate | ORCID | Scholar google

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Biologist with a Master of Science in Ecology, specialized in community and landscape ecology, biodiversity monitoring, and conservation. More than ten years of experience in applied research, fieldwork in diverse ecosystems, stakeholder engagement with rural and Indigenous communities, and statistical and spatial analysis in **R**. Skilled in designing and implementing **Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV)** processes for biodiversity projects, with proven ability to translate scientific evidence into measurable outcomes. Passionate about linking science, territory, and policy to deliver real biodiversity gains and social benefits.

KEY EXPERIENCE

Researcher – Community and Landscape Ecology
INECOL / UNAM Mexico / USAID Colombia / The Nature Conservancy (TNC) / SAG
Mexico & Colombia | 2020 – 2024
- Designed and implemented biodiversity surveys of vertebrates and invertebrates along altitudinal and fragmented landscapes.
- Applied statistical and spatial analysis in **R** (diversity metrics, linear models, GIS).
- Coordinated with local and Indigenous communities for fieldwork access and participation.
- Produced peer-reviewed publications and presented results at scientific conferences.

Instructor & Academic Events Coordinator
Tunja, Colombia | 2018 – 2020
- Designed and delivered courses in biostatistics and ecological data analysis.
- Created didactic content and coordinated symposia (https://bievep.webnode.es/eventos/).
- Provided independent tutoring in **R** programming.

Environmental Consultant
Colombia | 2016 – 2025
- Conducted biodiversity assessments for Environmental Impact Studies and wildlife management plans.
- Analyzed biodiversity data for conservation and restoration scenarios in Amazon, Páramo, Savanna and Tropical dry forest ecosystems.
- Prepared technical reports for environmental licensing processes.

EDUCATION

MSc in Ecology – Instituto de Ecología A.C. (INECOL), Mexico | 2020 – 2022
Thesis: Response of dung beetle diversity and body size to deforestation and defaunation in a tropical region of Mesoamerica.

BSc in Biology – Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia | 2008 – 2016
Thesis: Butterfly diversity in dry and transitional forests in La Mesa de Los Santos, Santander, Colombia.

CORE SKILLS

- **Languages:** Spanish (native), English (working proficiency – B1/B2, in progress)
- **Technical:** R (advanced), QGIS, MS Excel (advanced), Word, PowerPoint
- **Monitoring, Reporting & Verification Expertise:** Biodiversity survey design & implementation, data verification, reporting
- **Scientific Communication:** Peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, academic coordination
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaboration with local and Indigenous communities, NGOs, and conservation partners
- **Soft Skills:** Field leadership, critical thinking, intercultural communication

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Cómbita, J.L.**, Arroyo-Rodríguez, V., Villalobos, F. et al. Negative impact of deforestation and mammal defaunation on dung beetle diversity and biomass: a landscape–scale approach. Biodivers Conserv (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-025-03181-z
- Ruiz, A.C., Muñoz, M.C., Rodríguez-García, S., Melgarejo, M., **Cómbita, J.L**., Correa, C.M., ... & Noriega, J.A. (2025). Palm plantations and grasslands represent a threat to the structure, diversity, and functional traits of dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeinae) in Orinoquia's forests. Global Ecology and Conservation, e03798. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2025.e03798

- **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).** Biología teórica, explicaciones y complejidad. Bogotá D.C.: Universidad El Bosque. https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.5329328

INTERESTS

Ecology | Conservation | Environmental education | Ecological justice | Evolutionary biology | Nature photography