

Diana Solís Burton

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Bilingual English/Spanish



Education

Southeastern Louisiana University, May 2010
Master of Science in Biology, GPA 3.8

University of Costa Rica, July 2004
Bachelor of Science in Biology

Summary

Professional biologist & published college instructor with 7+ years work in reptile, amphibian, & marine mammal conservation & environmental monitoring. Experienced geochemistry/geotechnical laboratory technician & manager. Expertise in:

- Fresh water turtle husbandry & stress physiology/response
- Conservation of leatherback, olive ridley, pacific green & hawksbill sea turtles
- Dolphin, whale, & amphibian monitoring & surveying
- University lab instruction (biology, human anatomy & physiology)
- Conservation training & management of large volunteer groups
- Environmental education & community outreach
- Offshore lab analysis for geochemical/geotechnical fossil fuel exploration

Work Experience

- 2010-15 TDI Brooks International** **College Station, TX**
Geochemistry/Geotechnical Offshore Lab Manager
Performed preliminary biological/geological analysis & processing of offshore core samples for 20 projects spanning 4 continents. Specific duties included:
- Performed environmental baseline sampling for microorganism collection, pH, conductivity, chemical/biochemical O₂ content, coliform presence, & total suspended solids (TSS)
 - Monitored marine mammal activity to verify compliance with regulations for non-disturbance during offshore seismic projects
 - Standardized lab procedures & established troubleshooting guidelines for global offshore operations to ensure quality control
 - Defined & expanded geochemistry & geotechnical standard operating procedures by 400%, greatly improving clarity & adding necessary details
 - Trained staff on offshore geochemical/geotechnical lab procedures
 - Translated technical documents & company website from English to Spanish
- 2006-10 Southeastern Louisiana University** **Hammond, LA / Costa Rica**
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences
Instructed lab classes for undergraduate Human Anatomy & Physiology students.
- Field Research Manager, Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, Guanacaste*

- Conducted research & monitored nesting populations of olive ridley sea turtles.
- Managed data collection for new census method to count total turtle nesting sites during *arribadas* (massive nesting events that can be in excess of 450,000 females)
- Collected & processed sea turtle blood samples for hormonal studies
- Rescued hundreds of sea turtles injured by commercial fishing operations
- Performed community outreach, training locals on turtle rescue procedures
- Managed volunteer work & data collection tasks

2004 **PRETOMA** **Costa Rica**

Field Work Manager, Marine Turtle Restoration Program, Puntarenas

Monitored nesting populations of olive ridley sea turtles.

- Managed beach patrols, data collection, hatchery maintenance, & volunteer work
- Initiated conservation education outreach program for local school children

2003-04 **University of Costa Rica** **Costa Rica**

Teaching Assistant, Department of Biological Sciences, San José

Instructed lab classes for undergraduate general biology students.

Field Researcher, Puntarenas

Surveyed amphibian species in tropical forests, rivers, & urban areas.

2001 **Ministry for Agriculture & Cattle** **Costa Rica**

Field Researcher, Los Diamantes Farm, Limón

Surveyed morphological differences in multiple varieties of pejobaye palm trees

1999-05 **Ministry of Environment / Voluntarios Costa Rica** **Costa Rica**

Field Work Manager, Las Baulas National Marine Park, Guanacaste

Monitored nesting populations of leatherback, olive ridley, & pacific green sea turtles & managed beach patrols, data collection, hatchery maintenance & volunteer work.

Field Work Assistant, Cahuita National Park, Limón

Monitored nesting populations of hawksbill sea turtles & performed beach monitoring, park maintenance & bilingual tourist assistance.

Field Work Assistant, Manuel Antonio National Park, Puntarenas

Performed park maintenance & bilingual tourist assistance.

Training/Certifications

- 2015** Texas Master Naturalist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Brazos Valley Chapter
- 2015** Basic Offshore Safety Induction & Emergency Training (BOSIET). Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2014** ArcGIS v.10, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 2013** Protected Species Observer Training, Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement

Skills

Computer

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- SYSTAT version 10.2
- ArcGIS 10 (basic)

Languages

- **Spanish** – Fluency speaking, reading, & writing
- **English** – Fluency speaking, reading, & writing

Publications

- Roldán A. Valverde, Carlos M. Orrego, Mark T. Tordoir, Flor M. Gómez, Diana S. Solís, Ricardo A. Hernández, Gredy B. Gómez, Laura S. Brenes, José P. Baltodano, Luis G. Fonseca, & James R. Spotila. 2012. Olive Ridley Mass Nesting Ecology & Egg Harvest at Ostional Beach, Costa Rica. *Chelonian Conservation & Biology*: Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 1-11.
- **Review in Process:** Acute corticosterone secretion associated with salinity & repeated blood sampling in wild & captive raised red-ear slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) from the Pontchartrain Basin, LA.
- **Review in Process:** Acute corticosterone secretion & body mass changes associated with salinity in wild & & captive raised red-ear slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).