Antonio Diego Alejandro Juárez Sánchez
https://diegojuarezsanchez.owlstown.net/

Education/training

- Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, Thesis title: A non-native consumer and its interactions with native predators: The South American armored catfish (*Pterygoplichthys* sp.) in northern Guatemala.
- Certificate in Tropical Conservation and Development Program. December 2024
- M.Sc. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Florida, graduated in April 2017, with a Fulbright scholarship. Thesis title: Variation in Neotropical River otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) diet: Effects of an invasive prey species.
- Lic. in Biology from the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, graduated in October 2008. Thesis title: Estimation of the morphometric differences of the Mesoamerican River turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) along its distribution

Previous positions

- Research Institute at the University Center of Zacapa -IICUNZAC- 2021-present
  Courtesy Affiliate Research Professor
- Romagosa Lab. 2016-present
  Research Assistant
  -Native river predators and invasive prey interactions in northern Guatemala
  -Invasive python diet in South Florida (2016-2022)
- Tikal National Park 2014
  Director of the Biology Department
- National Organization for the Conservation and the Environment-ONCA- 2012-2013
  Principal investigator
  Project: Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) occupancy in different habitats in complex III and IV of the south Peten reserves
- Conservationists Study Center -CECON- 2011
  Principal investigator
  Project: Quetzal Biotope felids, a development of a non-invasive techniques protocol
- Conservationists Study Center -CECON- 2010
  Associate Researcher
  Project: Phenology of the nutritional plants of the Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno mocinno* de La Llave) and its effect on the Quetzal abundance in the Quetzal Biotope

An Equal Opportunity Institution

- National Organization for the Conservation and the Environment-ONCA- 2010-2011
  Researcher
  Project: Commercial Importance in Fisheries of Rio Dulce National Park: Economic valuation and management strategies.
- National Organization for the Conservation and the Environment-ONCA- 2009-2013
  Principal investigator
  Project: Distribution and conservation status of the river otter (*Lontra longicaudis,* Olfers 1818) in the wetlands of Guatemalan Protected Areas System
- Biology Department, University of San Carlos of Guatemala 2007-2008
  Principal investigator
  Project: Identification guide of medium and large mammals from Guatemala through their hair
- National Organization for the Conservation and the Environment-ONCA- 2006-2008
  Principal investigator
  Project: Estimation of the morphometric differences of the Mesoamerican river turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*) along its distribution
- Wildlife Conservation Society 2005
  Field Assistant
  Project: Preliminary study of the impacts of wildlife on cattle ranches in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Petén, Guatemala
- Wildlife Conservation Society 2005
  Field Assistant
  Project: Living Landscape Program in WCS-Guatemala
- Wildlife Conservation Society 2005
  Field Assistant
  Project: Density estimation of jaguars in the Tikal National Park using camera traps
- Natural History Museum, San Carlos de Guatemala University 2004
  Assistant Researcher
  Project Mammalian collections and Protected Wild areas of Guatemala
- Biology School, San Carlos de Guatemala University 2004
  Teacher Assistant
  Course: Embryology and Reproduction
- Biology School, San Carlos de Guatemala University 2004
  Teacher Assistant
  Course: Zoology

Grants:

- Can predation pressure control invasive armored catfish (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.) populations in northern Guatemala? Rufford small grant
- Can native predator diversity counter invasive prey populations? TCD Research Grant
- Can a diverse assemblage of native predators control invasive prey populations? Idea Wild
- Margay (*Leopardus wiedii*) occupancy in different habitats in complexes III and IV of the south Peten reserves. Granted by Fondo Nacional para la Conservación del Ambiente.
- Quetzal Biotope felids, development of a non-invasive protocol.
  Granted by the General Direction of Investigation -DIGI- of the San Carlos University of Guatemala.
- Phenology of the nutritional plants of the Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno mocinno* de La Llave) and its effect on the Quetzal abundance in the Quetzal Biotope. Granted by the General Direction of Investigation -DIGI- of the San Carlos University of Guatemala.

Scholarships:

- EducaCTi, from the Guatemalan National Secretary of Science and Technology 2024-2026
- The Tropical Research Scholarship in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation 2022
- Jennings Scholarship 2018-2019
- Fulbright Scholarship 2014-2016

Mentorship:

Research supervisor for:

- Daniel Gutiérrez Velásquez. 2021-present. Effects of Riparian Forest Cover on Water Quality in northern Guatemala rivers.
- Andrea Paiz. 2018. Riverine forests Characterization in five rivers in Northern Guatemala. Licentiate degree Thesis. University of San Carlos of Guatemala. awarded with the Mario Dary Rivera award as the best undergrad thesis for the Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacia and the Escuela de Biología.

Practice supervisor for:

- Estefany Ordoñes. 2012. Conflicts between humans and coyotes in Chimaltenango, Central Guatemala. Undergraduate practice research. University of San Carlos of Guatemala
- Sofia Mendez. 2012. Effect of physicochemical water variance on the presence of river otter (*Lonra longicaudis*) scats. Undergraduate practice research. University of San Carlos of Guatemala

- Sofia Aguilar. 2012. Effect of physicochemical water variance on the diet shift of river otter (*Lonra longicaudis*). Undergraduate practice research. University of San Carlos of Guatemala
- Joselin Prado. 2011. Preparation of fish-fixed plates to identify species. Undergraduate practice service. University of San Carlos of Guatemala

Volunteer supervisor for:

- Emanuel Wright. 2025 Papers screening for systematic reviews. University of Florida
- Sara Read. 2025 Fish tissue preparation for stable isotope analysis. University of Florida
- Miriam Rios. 2025 Fish tissue preparation for stable isotope analysis. University of Florida
- Yutu Yang. 2025 Fish tissue preparation for stable isotope analysis. University of Florida
- Hannah Hellein. 2025 Fish tissue preparation for stable isotope analysis. University of Florida
- Fatima Torres. 2024. Papers screening for systematic reviews. University of San Carlos of Guatemala
- Grace de Vries. 2023-2025. Mammal teeth image gathering. University of Florida
- Ángelo Román. 2024-2025. Fish museum specimens curation. Centro de Universitario de Zacapa, University of San Carlos of Guatemala
- Richard Escarcena 2024-2025. Fish scales image gathering. University of Florida
- Juliana Trujillo 2022-2023. Mammal teeth image gathering. University of Florida

Honors:

- Mentorship co-secretary for the Wildlife Graduate Student Group 2022-2025
- Communication secretary for the TCDSG 2020-2021
- President of the Latin Hispanic Graduate Student Association 2015-2016
- Treasurer of the Guatemalan Mastozoological Association 2011-2012
- President of the Intersectional Commission for The Environment in the National Council of Science and Technology CIMA/CONCYT 2010-2011
- II vocal National Organization for the Conservation and Environment -ONCA- 2010-present

Curses Taught

- Advanced Open Water scuba diving — 2025
  Teacher Assistant, UF
- Open Water scuba diving — 2024-2025
  Teacher Assistant, UF
- Wildlife Techniques, — 2021-2024
  Teacher Assistant, UF
- River Ecology and Conservation, — 2022
  Co-instructor, and Instructor of Record,
  CUNZAC-USAC, TCD-UF
- Crocodilian Management, Ecology and Handling, — 2019
  Co-instructor, and Instructor of Record,
  CUNZAC-USAC, Florida Invasion Ecology Lab-UF
- Wetlands Techniques — 2019
  Teacher Assistant, UF
- Mammalian species identification through Hair — 2010
  Main Instructor and Instructor of Record, USAC
- Embryology and Reproduction — 2004
  Teacher Assistant, USAC
- Zoology — 2004
  Teacher Assistant, USAC

Selected publications.

- Claunch NM, Clancy KL, Harman MEA, Hengstebeck KC, **Juárez-Sánchez D**, Haro D, Hartmann A, Vilchez M, McKee RK, Sutton A, Romagosa CM. 2024. Welcome to paradise: snake invasions on islands. Invited book chapter in Harvey B. Lillywhite, and Marcio Martins (eds), Islands and Snakes: Diversity and Conservation New York, Oxford Academic, https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197641521.003.0013
- Juárez-Sánchez D, Blake JG, Hellgren EC. Variation in neotropical river otter (Lontra longicaudis) diet: effects of an invasive prey species. PLoS One. 2019;14. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0217727

- **Juárez-Sánchez D**. Scale guide to identify medium and large freshwater fish from northern Guatemala [Internet]. University of Florida. 2017. Available: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/l/IR00009693/00001
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** and D. Elías. 2013. Guatemalan carnivores: an introduction for children. National Organization for the Conservation and the Environment -ONCA-. FONACON. Guatemala, 60 p. (published in Spanish and Q'eqchi').
- Quintana. Y., García, J., **Juárez-Sánchez, D**. y Barrientos, C. 2011. "Important species for Fisheries in Rio Dulce National Park: Economic assessment and management strategies". Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, Organización Nacional para la Conservación y el Ambiente. Guatemala. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334950314_PESCA_ARTESANAL_EN_EL_PARQUE_NACIONAL_RIO_DULCE
- **Juárez-Sánchez D.,** Estrada C., Bustamante M., Quintana Y., Moreira J., and López L.J., 2010. Identification Guide of the medium and large mammals of Guatemala through their hair. General Research Direction. San Carlos de Guatemala University. (Second edition).

Presentations at professional meetings

- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2024 Can native predators complement each other to control invasive prey? Poster at the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit's Annual Coordinating Committee Meeting. Gainesville, Florida.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2022 Water dogs and other guardians of the river: predator prey interactions between piscivores and invasive fish. Seminar for the Pharmaceutical and Chemical College (the Guatemalan biologists are associated under this professional college), Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** Neotropical River Otters in Guatemala 2021 Oral presentation at the IUCN Neotropical River Otters specialist meeting for the IUCN otters specialist group. Online meeting.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2021. Can predation pressure control invasive armored catfish (Pterygoplichthys spp.) populations in Northern Guatemala? Oral presentation at the Regional The Rufford Foundation Conference, San Salvador, El Salvador, 2021
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2019. Native Predators and Invasive Prey: Effects of Up-Down and Bottom-Up. Seminar for the Biology School at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. Guatemala, Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2018. Native Predator - Invasive Prey Interactions: What We Know and What We Are Looking to Know. Insights from otter poop. Seminar for the Tropilunch Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) at UF. Gainesville, Florida.

- **Juarez-Sanchez, D.,** Hellgren, E., Blake, J. 2017 Can conservation buffer the impact of invasive species? Insights from neotropical river otter scats. Oral presentation at the 2017 Society for Conservation Biology meeting. Cartagena, Colombia
- **Juarez-Sanchez, D.** 2016. The importance of the Invasive Armored Catfish in the Diet of Neotropical River Otter. Field Research and Practicum poster session in the Fieldwork Festival for the Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) at UF. Gainesville, Florida.
- Quintana, Y., **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** and M. Barrios. 2011. Distributions of the neotropical river otter (Lontra longicaudis, Olfers 1818) in Guatemala. Oral presentation at the I Colloquium of Guatemalan Mastozoologists. Guatemala, Guatemala.
- Quintana, Y., **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** and M. Barrios. 2010. Distributions of the neotropical river otter (Lontra longicaudis, Olfers 1818) in Guatemala. Oral presentations at the X National Congress and I Latin-American Congress of Mato-zoology, Guanajuato, Mexico.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** Estrada, C., Bustamante, M., Quintana, Y., Moreira, J, and L J. López 2008 Identification Guide of the medium and large mammals of Guatemala through their hair. Poster at the IX Congress of the Mexican Society of Mato-zoology
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** Moreira, J. and C. Estrada 2005. Pilot conservation and management program of game species in tree communities of the Sierra de la Minas Biosphere Reserve. Oral presentation at the IX Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation. La Ceiba, Honduras.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** and C. Estrada. 2003 Interspecific relations between Jaguars and humans in five protected areas of Izabal. Oral presentations at the VII Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for the Biology and Conservation. Tuxtla, México.

Presentation for the general Public:

- 2025 guest speaker on the podcast “Miércoles de Ciencia”: Impulsa tu maestría o doctorado científico con el apoyo de EducaCTi. https://bit.ly/4kKnUfl
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2024. Water dogs: potential distribution and their relations with their prey. Oral presentation for the celebration of the Otters International Day. Organized by the Center for the Conservation Studies (CECON, for its initial in Spanish). https://www.youtube.com/live/8VVnSXYtDwE?si=IhxbYfIzByhbHJFN
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2021 Panelist for the “Scientists and researchers collaboration is essential for conservation actions success” Coastal and Marin Webinar 2021: “Science and Conservation at the Coastal Zone”. Guatemala.
- 2021 Otters and Pythons, guest at the Divulga Podcast, Chapter 047 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywznAEXOybc

- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2019. My Fulbright in five minutes. Gainesville Florida https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x40s_SWx-so
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2019. Can native predator functional diversity control invasive species population dynamics? Poster presentation during Suds and Science, organized by the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Student Group. Gainesville, Florida.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2018. Can native predator functional diversity control invasive species population dynamics? Poster presentation at the 2nd Annual Diversity Graduate Research Symposium, University of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2016 Neotropical River Otter (Lontra longicaudis) diet in an area with the presence of the Invasive Armored Catfish (Pterygoplichthys sp). Poster presentation during Suds and Science, organized by the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Student Group. Gainesville, Florida.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2015. Noninvasive mammal sampling. Guest lecture at the class of noninvasive techniques taught by Prof. Javier Rivas for Undergrad students at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC). Guatemala, Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.,** 2013. The Relevance of Carnivores. Guest lectures for Elementary and middle school children at the communities of Chile Verde (03/06/2013), La Balsita (03/06/2013), Caín (05/06/2013), El Varillal (04/06/2013), and El Carrizal (04/06/2013). Peten, Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2013. Noninvasive mammal sampling. Oral presentation for Park rangers and public land managers. Peten, Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D**. 2012. The Margay in Southern Petén. Oral presentation at the Creative Box Talk 2012, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- **Juárez-Sánchez, D.** 2007. Estimation of the morphometric differences of the Mesoamerican River Turtle (Dermatemys mawii) along its distribution. Public oral presentation for stakeholders. Peten Guatemala.

Hobbies:
Olympic weightlifting, scuba diving (science diver, dive master).