

Mildred Fabiola Corona Figueroa, PhD

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1. General information -----

- Nationality: Guatemalan
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- ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/M-Fabiola-Corona-Figueroa>
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2. Academic background -----

2020-2024	PhD in Ecology and Sustainable Development at El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Chetumal Campus, Mexico. Tesis title: "Ecology and conservation of the Neotropical River Otter (<i>Lontra longicaudis</i>) in the Yucatán Peninsula, with emphasis on southern Quintana Roo, Mexico"
2017-2019	Master of Science in Integrated Watershed Management. Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Turrialba, Costa Rica.
2005-2012	Biologist at University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC).

3. Experience in the professional field (recent) -----

February 2026 – At present	Associate researcher at the Institute of Hydrobiological Research (IIH), Center for Marine and Aquaculture Studies (CEMA), University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC).
2013 – At present	Associate researcher at the Data Center for Conservation (CDC), Center for Conservationist Studies (CECON), University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC).
January – June 2026	Laboratory professor for the "Comparative Animal Embryology" course for Biology students, Faculty of Chemical and Biological Science, Mariano Gálvez University of Guatemala (UMG)
February – April 2026	Temporary professor of the Master's Program in Marine and Coastal Science, Center for Marine and Aquaculture Studies (CEMA),

University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC), to teach theory and laboratory of the “Population and Community Ecology” Course.

November 2017 –

March 2025

Member and collaborator of the Quintana Roo Marine Mammal Stranding Network of the Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA).

2022

Advisor during the training for monitoring Amazonian manatees in protected natural areas with emphasis on Yaguas National Park, Peru: Use of side-scan sonar and analysis of information for monitoring the Amazonian manatee.

2019

Researcher and facilitator for the project "Evaluation and elaboration of the Proposal of the Strategy for the Conservation of the Greater Caribbean Manatee *Trichechus manatus manatus* for the Region of Río Dulce and El Golfete". Solidarity Arms Movement Association (ASOMBRAS). National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP). National Fund for Nature Conservation (FONACON).

4. Scientific publications -----

Corona-Figueroa, MF, Ortiz-Wolford, JS, Ramos, EA, Lara-Sánchez, LE, Padilla-Saldívar, JA, & Castelblanco-Martínez, N. (2026). Expanding Habitat Use? Occurrence of Common Bottlenose Dolphins in Oligohaline and Freshwater Environments of the Northern Mesoamerican Caribbean. *Aquatic Mammals*, 52(2), 147-157. <https://doi.org/10.1578/AM.52.2.2026.147>

Castelblanco-Martínez, DN, González-Vargas, AA, González, **Corona-Figueroa, MF**, Lasso, CA. (2025). Attacks on Humans by Neotropical Otters. *Wilderness Environ Med*. 20:10806032241304736. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10806032241304736>

Corona-Figueroa, MF; Castelblanco-Martínez, DN; Cedeño-Vázquez, JR; Machkour-M'Rabet, S; Sánchez-Sánchez, JA. (2024). Could *Lontra longicaudis* be considered a flagship species of the southern Yucatan Peninsula? Perspectives on its distribution, ecology, and conservation. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 80, 126635. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2024.126635>

Corona-Figueroa, MF; Cifuentes-Espinosa, JA. (2024). Perceptions on the distribution, threats, strandings, and conservation of the Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) in the Río Dulce National Park, Izabal, Guatemala. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals*, 19(1):61-71. <https://doi.org/10.5597/lajam00328>

Machuca-Coronado, OH; Quintana-Rizzo, E; Sandoval, T; **Corona-Figueroa, MF**; Garcia, HA. (2023). Characteristics and spatial identification of Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus* Sirenia: Trichechidae) strandings in Guatemala. Revista de Biología Tropical, 71(S4), e57275. <https://doi.org/10.15517/rev.biol.trop.v71iS4.57274>

Corona-Figueroa, MF; Ríos Ramírez, JN; Castelblanco-Martínez, N; Vilchez-Mendoza, SJ; Delgado-Rodríguez, LD. (2022). The existence value of the Antillean manatee in the unprotected Hondo River (Mexico) as a fundamental component for its conservation. Journal for Nature Conservation. 69:1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2022.126258>

Corona-Figueroa, MF; Giraldo-Mueses, JA; Cedeño-Vázquez, JR; Castelblanco-Martínez, DN; Niño-Torres, CA; Beutelspacher-García, PM; Ibarra-Madrigal, SM; Pérez-Flores, J. (2022). Confirmed presence of the Neotropical otter, *Lontra longicaudis*, in Laguna Bacalar, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad. 3:1-11. <https://doi.org/10.22201/ib.20078706e.2022.93.3847>

Ortiz-Wolford, JS; **Corona-Figueroa, MF**; Machuca Coronado, OH; Giró Petersen, A. (2022). Cetacean sightings in the Caribbean Sea of Guatemala. Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals. 17(1):51-58. <https://doi.org/10.5597/lajam00279>

Ortiz-Wolford, J; **Corona-Figueroa, MF**; Dávila, V; Cabrera, AA. (2021). Cetacean stranding records along the Pacific coastline of Guatemala, 2007–2021: Implications for management, conservation and research. Marine Policy 134: 104827. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104827>

Corona-Figueroa, MF; Ríos Ramírez, JN; Castelblanco-Martínez, N; Vilchez-Mendoza, SJ; Delgado-Rodríguez, LD; Niño-Torres, CA. (2020). Searching for manatees in the dark Waters of a transboundary river between Mexico and Belize: a predictive distribution model. Aquat Ecol <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10452-020-09810-9>

5. Participation in scientific conferences (recent) -----

June 2026	Participation as a presenter of the study entitled “What do we know so far? Current knowledge of the Mesoamerican otter (<i>Lontra annectens</i>) in Central America”. II Mesoamerican Symposium for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Freshwater Ecosystems. San Pedro Sula, Honduras, June 24-26, 2026.
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December 2025	Participation as a presenter of the study entitled “Connecting Waters, Saving Otters”: Hydrological Connectivity as a Conservation Strategy for the Mesoamerican Otter in the Yucatán Peninsula Biogeographic
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Province." II International Meeting for the Study of Aquatic Mammals SOMEMMA and SOLAMAC. Mazatlán, Mexico, December 8-12, 2025.

Participation as a presenter of the study entitled "Beyond Responding to Strandings of Aquatic Mammals: The Case of Two Specimens of the Greater Caribbean Manatee in Guatemala." V Latin American Symposium on Manatees (SILAMA). Mazatlán, Mexico, December 8, 2025.

November 2025 Participation in the poster presentation of the study entitled "From the Beach to the Biological Collection: The Process of Recovering Skeletal Remains of Marine vertebrates stranded in Hawaii, Guatemala." National Congress on Biological Diversity and Protected Areas. San Juan Alotenango, Guatemala, November 12, 2025.

November 2023 Participation in the poster presentation of the study entitled "Record of the elusive neotropical otter and associated fauna in the water bodies of the southern Mexican Caribbean," during the XV CIMFAUNA International Congress on Wildlife Management, Santa Marta, Colombia, November 20-24, 2023.

6. Thesis tutoring -----

Current thesis students

María del Rocío Paz Pérez. Master of Science in Marine and Coastal Sciences, Center for Marine and Aquaculture Studies (CEMA), University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC). "Distribution and analysis of risk areas for the manatee *Trichechus manatus manatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) using citizen science as a complementary data source in the Bocas del Polochic Wildlife Refuge, El Estor, Izabal". (Master of Science)

Completed theses

Ana Lucía Escobar Cifuentes and Maria de Belen Chacón Paz. Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy, University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC). "Habitat characterization and detection of the Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) (Sirenia: Trichechidae) in water bodies in the Caribbean of Guatemala". Graduation date: September 6, 2024. http://www.biblioteca.usac.edu.gt/tesis/06/06_4549.pdf. (Bachelor of Biology)

Victor Manuel Gudiel Corona. Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy, University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC). "Diversity of fish postlarvae in coral reefs and seagrass beds of the Punta de Manabique Wildlife Refuge, Caribbean of Guatemala". Graduation date: November 11, 2016. https://biblioteca.usac.edu.gt/tesis/06/06_3945.pdf. (Bachelor of Biology)

7. Membership in research groups/Organizations -----

2026	Member of The Society of Marine Mammalogy (SMM).
2025 – at present	Member of the Young Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala
2025 – at present	Member of the Otter Specialist Group/IUCN SSC.
2020 – at present	Professional member of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Guatemala Chapter.
2020 – at present	Member of the Sirenian Specialists Group/IUCN SSC.

8. Awards and scholarships (relevant) -----

2022	Internal Grant awarded by the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature for the project “Habitat characterization and detection of the Antillean manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus manatus</i>) in dark waters of the Caribbean of Guatemala”.
2021	First Small Grant awarded by The Rufford Foundation to conduct field activities for the PhD thesis.
2020	Research grant awarded by the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA-WRAC) to conduct field activities for the PhD thesis.
2020	Mobility scholarship for PhD studies awarded by the CONACYT-OAS-AMEXCID 2020 Scholarship Program.
2020-2023	Scholarship for PhD studies at ECOSUR, Mexico, awarded by the National Council of Humanities, Sciences and Technologies (CONAHCYT).
2016-2019	Regional Program Scholarship awarded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) during master's studies in Costa Rica.

Last update: July 2026.