

JOSE R. SOTO-SHOENDER, Ph.D.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

- May 2016 **Ph.D. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation**, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
Concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development.
Dissertation: "Response of mid- and large-sized mammals to expanding shrub and tree cover in a southern African savanna".
- December 2008 **M.S. Wildlife Ecology and Conservation**, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
Fulbright/Organization of American States Ecology Fellowship.
Thesis: "Patterns and determinants of human-carnivore conflicts in the tropical lowlands of Guatemala".
- November 2003 **B.S. Biology**, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala
Thesis: "Impacts of subsistence hunting on terrestrial vertebrates in the Sierra Lancandon National Park, Peten, Guatemala".

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- August 2025-
Present **Assistant Professor of Biology and Ecology**. New College of Florida, Sarasota, Florida. Courses: *Foundations of Biology I and II*, *Wildlife Ecology and Management*, *Ecology Laboratory*, *Mammalogy*, *Conservation Biology*. I also teach tutorials and Independent Study projects and sponsor honors thesis and serve on honors thesis committees.
- August 2022 –
May 2025 **Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology and Ecology**. New College of Florida, Sarasota, Florida. Courses: *Foundations of Biology I and II*, *Wildlife Ecology and Management*, *Ecology Laboratory*, *Mammalogy*, *Conservation Biology*, *Set Sail: Exploration of the Ecosystems of the Sarasota Bay Watershed via Adventure Sports*. I also sponsored tutorials (6) and Independent Study projects (5) and sponsored honors thesis (2) and served on honors thesis committees (10 past and 10 current).
- March 2019 –
December 2020 **Adjunct Faculty**, Institute of Chemical and Biological Research, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- February 2018 –
December 2018 **Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Course: *Wildlife Ecology and Management* (undergraduate traditional and online course)
- August 2016 -
May 2017 **Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Course: *Integrated Principles of Biology I* (undergraduate)
- August 2014 –
May 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Course: *Integrated Principles of Biology I* (undergraduate)

- August 2012 – May 2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Course: *Wildlife Ecology and Management* (undergraduate and graduate)
- July 2004 – June 2005 **Lecturer**, Department of Biology, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Courses: *General Biology I and II* (undergraduate)
- July 2002 – June 2003 **Lecturer**, Center for the Study of the Sea and Aquaculture, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala. Courses: *Aquatic Botany* and *Zoology* (undergraduate)
- January 2000 – December 2000 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala, Guatemala City. Courses: *General Biology I and II* (undergraduate)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION

- January 2020 – February 2022 **Terrestrial Biodiversity Officer**. World Wildlife Fund Guatemala/Mesoamerica (WWF).
- August 2019 – Present **Research Associate and Consultant**. Biological monitoring specialist for the project: “Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Acatenango Volcano, Cerro Saná and Socó Mountain Landscape”. The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center-Guatemala (CATIE).
- January 2019 – December 2020 **Research Associate**. Biological Station of Santa Lucia, Lachua, Department of Biology, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala.
- October 2019 – April 2020 **Consultant**. Biological monitoring specialist. Biodiversity Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- May 2017 – February 2018 **Postdoctoral Associate**. Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- June 2005–December 2008 **Principal Investigator/Program Director**: Human-jaguar conflict mitigation Program. Wildlife Conservation Society-Program for Guatemala, Peten, Guatemala.
- June – December 2005 **Technical Director**: Living Landscapes Program of the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Wildlife Conservation Society-Program for Guatemala, Peten, Guatemala
- March 2003 – April 2004 **Field Coordinator**: Ocellated Turkey Sport Hunting and Conservation Program in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Wildlife Conservation Society / National Turkey Federation, Peten, Guatemala
- August 2001 – December 2004 **Research Associate**. Wildlife Conservation Society-Program for Guatemala and Balam Association, Peten, Guatemala.
- January – July 2001 **Field Research Intern**. Department of Ecology, San Carlos University of Guatemala, Lachua Lagoon National Park, Guatemala.
- January 1998 – May 1999 **Wildlife Technician**. Department of Wildlife, Guatemalan Council of Protected Areas, Guatemala City.

GRANTS OBTAINED

2023	“Participatory research of the impacts of free-ranging dogs on terrestrial biodiversity in the Central Volcanic Chain of Guatemala”. Funded by the Summer Faculty Development Fund of New College of Florida. \$3,675.
2020	“Participatory bottom-up and top-down approaches to addressing corruption linked to jaguar poaching in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala”. Funded by the Targeting Natural Resource Corruption Pilot Projects Initiative and the World Wildlife Fund. Total obtained in grants: \$80,000.
2011-2012	“Response of jaguar population dynamics across a gradient of human activity levels in community forests of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala”. Funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the University of Florida. Total obtained in grants: \$31,570.
2007-2009	“Rancher outreach and human-jaguar conflict mitigation”. Funded by the U.S Department of State, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Panthera Organization, the Chester Zoo and the University of Florida. Total obtained in grants: \$62,500.
2005	“Evaluation of a monitoring program for white-lipped peccaries (<i>Tayassu peccari</i>) in Mirador- Rio Azul National Park. Funded by the Guatemalan Council of Science and Technology (CONCYT). Total obtained in grants: \$15,000.
2005	“Impacts of Jaguars (<i>Panthera onca</i>) and pumas (<i>Puma concolor</i>) on livestock and domestic animals in the Maya Biosphere Reserve”. Funded by the Jaguar Conservation Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Total obtained in grants: \$10,000.
2004	“Jaguar density in the Maya Forest”. Funded by USAID-FIPA. Total obtained in grants: \$174,000.
2002	“Effects of subsistence hunting on large vertebrate species in one community of Sierra del Lacandon National Park, Peten, Guatemala”. Funded by the Jaguar Conservation Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Total obtained in grants: \$7,500.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Reyes, G., Serech-Gomez, E.N., Cotto-Guzman, E.J., Joaquín, E. and **Soto-Shoender, J.R.**, 2025. Camera traps provide insights into coyote feeding ecology and potential intraguild interactions with free ranging dogs in mountain forests of Guatemala. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, p.126982.

Escobar-Anleu, B., **Soto-Shoender, J.R.**, Rivas-Romero, J.A., Montes, N. 2023. More trees with your coffee? Diversity and habitat associations of terrestrial mid- and large-sized mammals in shade-grown coffee plantations of the Highlands of Guatemala. *Acta Zoologica Mexicana* 39, 1-20.

Zimmermann, A., Johnson, P., de Barros, A.E., Inskip, C., Amit, R., Soto, E.C., Lopez-Gonzalez, C.A., Sillero-Zubiri, C., de Paula, R., Marchini, S., **Soto-Shoender, J.**, et. al. 2021. Every case is different: Cautionary insights about generalisations in human-wildlife conflict from a range-wide study of people and jaguars. *Biological Conservation*, 260, p.109185.

Soto-Shoender, J.R., Gwinn, D.C., Sovie, A., McCleery, R.A. 2020. Life-history traits moderate the susceptibility of native mammals to an invasive predator. *Biological Invasions* 22, 2671- 2684. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-020-02278-6>.

Soto-Shoender, J.R., McCleery, R.A., Monadjem, A., and Gwinn, D. 2018. The importance of grass cover for mammalian diversity and habitat associations in a bush encroached savanna. *Biological Conservation* 221, 127-136.

Stanton, R.A., Jr., Boone, W.W., **Soto-Shoender, J.**, Fletcher, R.J., Blaum, N., and McCleery, R.M. 2017. Shrub encroachment and vertebrate diversity: a global meta-analysis. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*.

Rivas-Romero, J. and **Soto-Shoender, J.** 2016. Filling in the gaps: Evaluating the use of camera traps in the canopy to examine frugivore visits to *Oreopanax echinops*. *Southwestern Naturalist* 60, 366-370.

Soto-Shoender, J., and Main, M. 2013. Differences in stakeholder perceptions of jaguars (*Panthera onca*) and pumas (*Puma concolor*) in the tropical lowlands of Guatemala. *Oryx* 47, 109-112.

Soto-Shoender, J., and Giuliano, W. 2011. Predation on livestock by large carnivores in the tropical lowlands of Guatemala. *Oryx* 45, 561-568.

EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS

Soto-Shoender, J.R., and Garcia-Anleu, R. 2011. Finding the balance: Mitigating human-carnivore conflicts in the tropical lowlands of Guatemala. *Wild Felid Monitor*, 4:22.

Soto-Shoender, J.R., Lopez, G., Merida, M.A., Raxon, W., Dubon, T., and Lopez, J. 2008. Living with the jaguar: a guide for cattle ranchers. A publication of WCS-Guatemala.

Soto-Shoender, J.R., Lopez, G., Merida, M.A., Raxon, W., Dubon, T., and Lopez, J. 2008. Guide to the identification and mitigation of human-carnivore conflicts: manual for Government and Non-government personnel. A publication of WCS-Guatemala.

CAPACITY BUILDING EXPERIENCE

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| 2019 | Organizer/Instructor. Introduction to the preparation of multi-disciplinary research proposals. San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City. |
| 2017 | Course Instructor. Occupancy Modeling: Theoretical Basis and Applications. San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City. |
| 2006 | Organizer/Moderator. Symposium: Jaguar Conservation in Mesoamerica. 10th. Conference of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, Antigua, Guatemala. |
| 2005 | Organizer/Presenter. Workshop: "Estimating population parameters using remote detection cameras". Wildlife Conservation Society, Program for Guatemala, Tikal National Park. |
| 2005 | Organizer/Moderator/Presenter. 1st. Meeting of Guatemalan Mammalogists: Identifying information gaps and priorities for mammal research in Guatemala. |
| 2002 | Organizer. Course: "Identifying mammals through their hair". San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala. |

PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2025 “Understanding Human-Dog-Wildlife Interactions in a Human-Dominated Landscape of Central America”. Oral Presentation at the International Urban Wildlife Conference of the Wildlife Society, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2018 “Life history traits determine resilience of native mammals to an invasive predator, the Burmese python, in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem”. Oral presentation at the 25th. Annual meeting of the Wildlife Society, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 2015 “Spatio-temporal dynamics of mammals in a woody encroached southern African savannah”. Oral presentation at the 95th. Annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Jacksonville, Florida.
- 2008 “The influence of livestock husbandry practices and landscape structure on human-carnivore conflicts in the tropical lowlands of Guatemala”. Poster presentation at the 15th. Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society, Miami, Florida.
- 2006 “Impacts of jaguars (*Panthera onca*) and pumas (*Puma concolor*) on livestock and domestic animals in the Maya Biosphere Reserve”. Symposium: Jaguar Conservation in Mesoamerica. 10th. Conference of the Meso-American Society for Biology and Conservation, Antigua, Guatemala.
- 2006 “Impacts of subsistence hunting on large vertebrates in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala”. Poster presentation at 7th. Conference of Wildlife Management in Amazonia and Latin America. Ilhéus, Brasil.
- 2006 “Impacts of jaguars (*Panthera onca*) and pumas (*Puma concolor*) on livestock and domestic animals in the Maya Biosphere Reserve”. Poster presentation at 7th. Conference of Wildlife Management in Amazonia and Latin America. Ilhéus, Brasil.
- 2005 “Jaguar density estimate in Rio-Azul National Park, Guatemala”. Workshop: “Estimating population parameters using remote detection cameras”. Peten, Guatemala.
- 2005 “Impacts of subsistence hunting on large vertebrates in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala”. 1st. Meeting of Guatemalan Mammalogists: Identifying information gaps and priorities for mammal research in Guatemala. Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2002 “The use of scent stations for monitoring terrestrial mammals in the Lachua Lagoon National Park”. Seminar-workshop: “Analysis of biodiversity conservation in Guatemala, a case study”. San Carlos University of Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2001 “Status of the jaguar in Guatemala”. 5th. Conference of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, San Salvador, El Salvador.

INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES

2020 - 2023	“Introduction to population estimation techniques for wildlife”. San Carlos University of Guatemala. Undergraduate course: Wildlife conservation and management.
2020 - 2023	“Human-wildlife interactions: experiences and advances in the field”. San Carlos University of Guatemala. Undergraduate course: Wildlife conservation and management.
2019	“Research and management efforts to mitigate the impacts of an invasive predator, the Burmese python, in the Greater Everglades Ecosystem”. Center for Conservation Research (CECON), Guatemala City. Seminar talk.
2019	“Crossing the threshold? Consequences of global change impacts on mammalian communities”. San Carlos University of Guatemala. Seminar talk.
2015	“Assumptions and practical considerations of line transect sampling and scent station surveys for vertebrate populations”. San Carlos University of Guatemala. Undergraduate course: Non-invasive sampling techniques for birds and mammals.
2009 and 2011	“Community-based approaches to reducing the impacts of wildlife hunting in Guatemala”. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. Graduate course: Community Forest Management.
2008	“Human-carnivore conflict mitigation initiatives in Guatemala”. Stakeholder workshop: Integrating livestock production and feline conservation in Costa Rica. Organized by Panthera Organization, San Jose, Costa Rica.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2014-2015	Doris Lowe and Earl and Verna Lowe Scholarship, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Florida.
2011-2012	Wildlife Conservation Society Research Fellowship
2010-2011	Tropical Conservation and Development Graduate Fellowship, University of Florida
2009	Jennings Scholarship, University of Florida
2009	Grinter Award for incoming graduate students, University of Florida
2008	Latin American Studies Summer Tuition Scholarship, University of Florida
2007	Jennings Scholarship, University of Florida
2006	Graduate Student Travel Award Fall Semester, University of Florida
2006	Graduate Student Travel Award Spring Semester, University of Florida
2006-2008	Fulbright/Organization of American States Ecology Fellowship

REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Biodiversity and Conservation	African Zoology
Environmental Management	The Professional Geographer
Landscape and Urban Planning	Journal of Applied Ecology
Oryx--the International Journal of Conservation	Checklist
Wildlife Biology in Practice	Nature Conservation
PLOS ONE	Therya

ASSOCIATE EDITOR POSITIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Therya Notes 2021-2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Wildlife Society	Southwestern Naturalists Association
Association of Tropical Biology	Guatemalan Council of Science and Technology
Society for Conservation Biology	Founding member of the Association of Guatemalan
American Society of Mammalogists	Mammalogists

LANGUAGES

Native fluency in English and Spanish