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Patricia Balvanera studies the links between biodiversity, the functioning of ecosystems, and the benefits or services society obtains from them. She holds a degree in Biology from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, a Masters degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD from UNAM. She is a researcher at the Center for Ecosystem Research (CIECO) at UNAM in Morelia. At the local scale, she studies how tropical dry forest biodiversity responds to management and contributes to provision of food and other resources, climate regulation, and flood regulation. At the regional scale, she collaborates with scientists of other disciplines to understand the links between plant biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services, as well as the socioeconomic factors that drive ecosystem management. At the national scales she has developed documents to highlight key socio-ecological tradeoffs and inform decision-making. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on ecosystem services, community ecology and sustainability science. She has been leading interdisciplinary research projects on Patterns and Trends of Ecosystem Services of Mexico, Conceptual and Methodological Frameworks for Interdisciplinary Research on Ecosystem Services, Recovery of Biodiversity, Function, and Services. She leads the Mexican research network on Ecosystems (funded by CONACyT), is Vice-Chair of the Program for Ecosystem Change and Society (hosted by ICSU), is member of the editorial board of Journal of Plant Ecology, Journal of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Management and Ecosystem Services, and is an Aldo Leopold Leadership fellow. <http://ww2.oikos.unam.mx/CIEco/comunidades/>