

THE SIERRA DE MANANTLÁN BIOSPHERE RESERVE: A CASE STUDY IN SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT AND COLLABORATION

with Dr. Eduardo Santana-Castellón

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 14, 2013

801 Yale Blvd NE (LAII Conference Room)

Join us for a special presentation with Dr. Eduardo Santana-Castellón, long-term professor and researcher at the University of Guadalajara (UdG), Jalisco, Mexico.



Mexico was one of the pioneering countries in establishing the first biosphere reserves in the world. The “Mexican Modality” proposed experiments in local participation in reserve management, a policy later adopted by the international MAB-UNESCO network. One such experiment was the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve, the sixth of the 42 biosphere reserves created in Mexico. Originally, the reserve developed as an open experiment in sustainable territory management in contrast to the view of reserves as “sieged conservation castles”. Santana-Castellón describes the reserve’s particular pioneering experiences in aspects such as: birth from a scientific discovery in the context of a paradigm shift in the conservation field; alliance between university conservationists and local communities defending their natural resources against lumber and mining interests; a bio-cultural approach to the conservation of native agricultural cultivars; linkages among management and research institutions to develop an adaptive management strategy; establishment of legitimate stakeholder participation platforms in reserve management; environmental education programs as a multi-directional communication mechanisms; community-based natural resource management programs; catalyzing new conservation “institutionalities” at the inter-municipal level in the reserve’s bio-region of influence; and more recently, participating as a pilot project in the implementation of payment-for-ecosystem-services mechanisms. The challenges, successes and failures of this local experience will be the basis for discussing the evolution and adaptation of the biosphere reserve concept.

This event is sponsored by the LAII and the Global Education Office (GEO). It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the LAII at (505) 277-2961 or visit us online at <http://laili.unm.edu/events>.

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