

“Only if we understand the relationships between the attitudes that local population has towards the different ecosystems and the factors that influence those attitudes, then we will be able to understand and improve the quality of life in human communities” (Barraza, 2005)

Laura Barraza

I am Australian and Mexican by spirit and heart and an explorer for life. I have a curious mind and always eager to learn. I studied Science of Education in Mexico, have a diploma in endangered species management from the University of Kent in the U.K. and a PhD in Conservation Education from the University of Cambridge, UK.

I have lived in Mexico, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, Australia and Africa.

During the last 35 years I have dedicated my professional life to work in the field of education, mainly in socio-environmental research, community development, planning, design and implementation of conservation education programs and more recently participating in decision-making processes with women and vulnerable groups. I have worked with indigenous knowledge systems, environmental values, cultural heritage and community art projects.

My main professional contributions have been in the development of socio-scientific research (change of educational policies and introduction of new topics for the school curriculum); conservation education programs, training, community development, adviser to governments and non-governmental organizations.

Art has always been a fundamental part of my creative and intellectual development. Through art, I have been able to get to know other ways of life in different communities and to understand about the dynamics of relationship that are established between different human groups and their natural environment.

The genre of my work is Collage. In it, I express emotions felt and lived in different places highlighting cultural and biological diversity.

I use diverse textures and materials to represent everyday scenes of life, mainly rural images. Colour and fabrics are the fundamental elements in my work with which I emphasize the brightness and the dynamics of life, combining elements of nature and human interactions.