

**JOSÉ JUVENTINO GÁLVEZ RUANO, MSc.**

Director

***Professional profile and experience***

He is a Guatemalan professional in the natural resources and biodiversity field with 16+ years of experience in the management of both from different institutional capacities, including Government and non-government. He has also been part of consultancies for national and international organizations. In the academia field he has been a teacher at the National Central School of Agriculture (ENCA) and a professor at the Agronomy School of the San Carlos University and the Rafael Landívar University. For the previous, he coordinated the Post-graduate Program where he had the responsibility of designing and starting the post-graduate program in Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. He was also a teaching assistant during his post-graduate studies in CATIE-Costa Rica. As a student, he was awarded the best under-graduate thesis award; best class student in his post-graduate studies and he was given an honorary mention for his post-graduate thesis.

He specializes in environmental planning, biodiversity management, forestry management, project and program design, implementation and assessment and institutional and organization strengthening. During his work for non-government organizations, he promoted land use planning processes and forestry and agro-forestry activities within the framework of the management of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve in Petén. As part of his work for the Government, he coordinated the Forestry Action Plan for Guatemala (PAFG), hired by FAO, where he promoted the design of the national forestry policy; supported the implementation of the new Forestry Service since 1966; the conceptualization of the process “forestry cluster of Guatemala” and the development of projects of pre-investment with the intention of integrating the forest and the forestry industry. He was also the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP, Park Service), where he promoted a process of institutional modernization; the development of the human settlement in protected areas policy; the implementation of the National Conservation Trust (FONACON) and the Biodiversity Technical Office (OTECBIO). As the Executive Secretary, he promoted a management process for the Mayan Biosphere Reserve based in concessions for integral management of the natural resources and concretized the first co-management experience of protected areas between CONAP and NGOs. The previous later became the basis for the development of a public policy. He was an advisor of environmental policies for AID’s Environmental Program within several initiatives carried out by the International Resources Group, Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) and the Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola (IICA). As an consultant, he has worked for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) (natural resources pre-investment); the World Bank, PROCAFOR and the Costa Rican Joint Implementation Office (forestry development); FAO and IUCN (market development of non-traditional timber products); CCAD (clean and certified production); SOCODEVI-CANADA, FCG, AID, INAB, TNC and INAB (Institutional Development); RIC-World Bank, IRG-Panama, IRG-Honduras, TNC and CONAP (Protected Areas). He has been a guest speaker in Central America, Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, Spain, Colombia, Canada and other countries.

Since his incorporation to URL in the year 2001 he has created the structure and developed the Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (IARNA), a platform from which initiatives of national and international relevance have been developed.