

**Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS)**  
**Scientific Committee Member, 2009–11**

**Patricia Balvanera**

Patty Balvanera studies the links between biodiversity, the functioning of ecosystems, and the benefits or services society obtains from them. In collaboration with dynamic students, research associates, postdoctoral researchers, and colleagues in Mexico and abroad, she is tackling these questions at local to global scales.



Dr. Balvanera teaches courses in community ecology, ecosystem management, and ecosystem services. Her activities include field work on the Pacific coast of Mexico; many hours of discussions and collective thinking with students, collaborators and colleagues; and workshops with local- to state-level decision makers, professional managers, high school teachers, and society at large to communicate about the links between biodiversity, the functioning of ecosystems, and human well-being.

Patty Balvanera is a professor at the Center for Ecosystem Research (CIECO- Centro de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas) of the National University of Mexico (UNAM- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). She has been awarded with the MAB-UNESCO Young Scientist Award, is an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow and participates in various Mexican, Latin-American and Global collaborative research programs.