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Carlos was born in Caracas, Venezuela and received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He has been biodiversity advisor for various projects with the Organization of American States, the US agency for International Development, and several nonprofit organizations in Central and South America. He was the director of the Riverwoods Field Laboratory (Florida Atlantic University), the US AID's Environmental Management Office, in Costa Rica, and is the current president of the International Foundation for Environmental Restoration, Education and Management. He has held teaching and research positions at West Virginia University, the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and is Adjunct Professor at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida. He is the author of a book on Central American mammal conservation and numerous articles in journals and magazines.