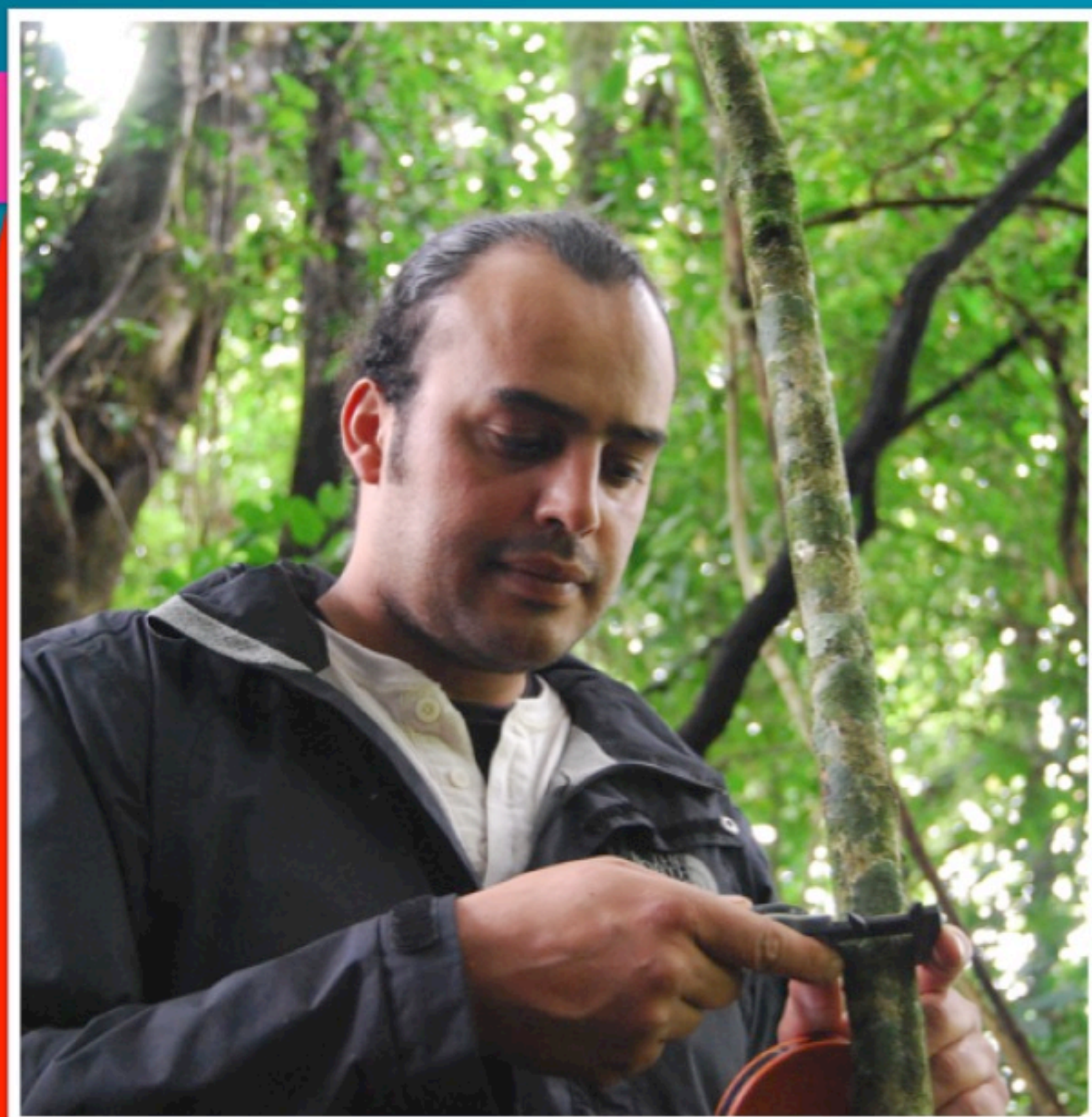


...PRESENTS:

JORGE TORRES ORTEGA

ESNR SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, 2010-2011



Here I am using a caliper to measure tree diameter on a farm in La Reserva de La Biósfera Paz y Agua in Costa Rica

Some stuff about me:

- ⊙ **Age:** 36
- ⊙ **Where I grew up:** Monteverde, Costa Rica
- ⊙ **High school:** Colegio Técnico Santa Elena
- ⊙ **Favorite subjects in high school:** Biology
- ⊙ **College (undergraduate):** Universidad de Costa Rica
- ⊙ **Some of my favorite things:** A long walk under a good *aguacero* (a heavy tropical rain), the first week after a dry season (when everything turns green), and participating in a pick-up game.
- ⊙ **Something weird about me/what makes me laugh:** Very few people understand my sense of humor. I think it is "lost in translation."
- ⊙ **What I do when I get frustrated:** I normally go for a run, or try to distract myself by reading or writing.

tropical forest

Working with my assistant Eladio in a plant transect in the Children's Eternal Rainforest. We identify and measure all the trees along each 50-m transect.



A local farmer is guiding me and Dan to a second-growth forest in San Luis Valley. We planted 60 native trees in this property to evaluate how cattle affect the survival of saplings.

management

What I study

I study the conservation of tropical forests by non-governmental agencies.

Tropical forests play an important role in preserving the earth's bio-diversity. Unfortunately, the tropics have suffered from a high rate of deforestation, and many tropical governments lack the resources needed to establish and run protected areas. One possible solution to this dilemma is to promote private protected areas, biological corridors, and buffer zones.

Costa Rica has a few of these private forest reserves; some of them belong to Non-Governmental Organizations, some to tourist companies and others are privately owned by farmers. I am investigating how different management practices can affect the process of reforestation.

My high school is located in a rural area of Costa Rica, and few of its alumni pursue higher education. However, during my last years of high school we participated in conservation activities promoted by a local organization. This experience was important in my decision to pursue a career in conservation, and I hope to provide similar opportunities to Watsonville High students.

