

**IBA 2020 Elections**  
**Candidate for Councillor**  
**Viviana Albarracín Dávalos**

**Affiliation: Independent**

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My name is Viviana Albarracín Dávalos, I am an ecological and environmental engineer from Bolivia. I have a great curiosity and fascination for Nature and especially for wildlife. Since I started my undergraduate studies (2003), I have been looking for tools to have an active and different approach in wildlife conservation. Ursids are an exceptional and amazing group that I believe it is a rewarding challenge that it is worth to do it.

I participated in different projects related to ecology, wildlife monitoring, outreach and environmental education for the Andean bear, emphasizing issues of related to perception, interaction, and conflict between humans and wildlife, promoting their coexistence. Currently, I am focusing on the evaluation of local ecological knowledge by indigenous communities that coexist with the Andean bear. I consider its important to raise public awareness about the ecology, management, and conservation of bears, to encourage the translation of technical information into popular literature (such as pop ups), and to develop educational forums.

In the past years, I have been following to the news and activities of IBA. I participated in IBA annual meetings in which I shared my experiences with colleagues and to receive their advice. This is the first time that I am nominated to be an IBA Councillor, this is an honor, and this becomes an incentive to continue devoting my life to Andean Bear conservation. As part of the IBA council I will commit to support new members and students who want to take the challenge of bear conservation.

