

Laura Silván

Laura Silván has a background in social anthropology from the National School of Anthropology and History in Mexico City. She worked developing education programs first in peasant communities under the National Institute of Indian Affairs and later in fishing communities under the Secretary of Fisheries of the Mexican government.

Since 1990, as director of Proyecto Fronterizo de Educacion Ambiental, in the Tijuana, B.C. Laura Silván has advocated for community right to know about pollutants. She participated in the design of the mexican *Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)*, currently being implemented nationwide. She is now participating in policy work toward the design of a similar institutional framework and register for the state of Baja California. This work was supported for several years by Ford and Mott Foundation grants and more recently by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

As project coordinator of the binational team known as *PROBEA (Proyecto Bio-Regional de Educación Ambiental)*, Laura has been facilitated the implementation of sixteen *Environmental Education Teacher Training Workshops* in Tijuana, Ensenada, Tecate and Mexicali. These trainings are part of an effort to introduce a watershed based approach to environmental policy through education. This work has been funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, CEC, the San Diego Natural History Museum and Fundación la Puerta.

Recently, she became appointed as a member of the *Joint Public Advisory Committee* of the CEC. She is co-chair of the *Environmental Education Council of the Californias* under the *Border XXI Program*. Ms. Durazo is also on the executive committee that organizes the *Annual Meeting on Border Environment* which offers training, networking and exchange opportunities for environmental NGOs working along both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. Laura joined the *Border Power Plant Working Group* as a director in 2001.

She has participated in developing several papers including *"Public Access to Environmental Information in Mexico and the United States: Issues and Policy Options"* under contract with the CEC as well as *"A Toxics Data Dictionary for the Tijuana River Watershed GIS"* under an EPA Border XXI grant. Laura is a co-author of the INEGI study: *"Use of Hazardous Substances in Tijuana, B.C.: From a Right to Know Perspective"*; and *"El Derecho de Acceso a Información Ambiental Sobre Contaminantes"* published by the Universidad Iberoamericana.

Laura recently worked on a survey to develop an *Institutional Landscape of Environmental Organizations in the Northwestern Mexican Border*, under a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. She currently participates on the board of directors of the recently established *Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad* and on an advisory committee of *The International Community Foundation*.