

Elsa Valiente Riveros (Wetlands Champion/Scientist)



Elsa Valiente Riveros is the director of Restauración Ecológica y Desarrollo (REDES). REDES is a local non-profit that aims to increase the health of wetland ecosystems in Xochimilco, Mexico, by monitoring water quality and local biodiversity, providing research results to policymakers, and educating local farmers on sustainable agriculture and business strategies. Elsa has been working in Xochimilco to restore the wetlands since 2002. Through her partnership with environmental group Earthwatch, Elsa

has worked with volunteers and farmers to create and implement technical and management solutions to agricultural challenges and to help ensure ecosystem health.

When asked what she enjoys about her work, Elsa shares, “I love my job! Being inside the wetlands, listening to the birds singing, smelling the wet soil and plants, working and chatting with local people.” Elsa was also awarded a Darwin Initiative Fellowship for her work.

