

Methods for the documentation of language and botanical knowledge in the Zapotec community of La Ventosa, Oaxaca, Mexico

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As part of an effort to produce a dictionary of *diidxazá*, the Zapotec (Otomanguan) language spoken in La Ventosa, Oaxaca, Mexico, the authors engaged in ethnobotanical documentation. This paper describes the methods implemented by the international and interdisciplinary research team of three local knowledge bearers and speakers of *diidxazá*, two botanists, one visual artist and two linguists.

The project involves the documentation of plant species contained in a database of 1,000 plant-related terms collected by the first author. Local collaborators were trained in collection techniques and databasing. The local collectors carry out two collection hikes per week while external team members rotate to do monthly collection visits. Over 60 active field collection days have been carried out. 5-6 vouchers are collected for each plant encountered, whether associated with a lexical entry in the database or not. The growing collection now contains specimens for over 600 plants belonging to 72 families, photographs for over 200 plants and oral narratives for over 100 plants. The project began in September 2013 and will run until September 2014 when all plants with Zapotec names in the database will have a voucher, detailed description, Linnean name, oral narrative in Zapotec, and photograph.

In this presentation we focus on the collaborative nature of this endeavor with an emphasis on the collaboration with local team members and the La Ventosa community. We discuss community expectations and the response of the project team to ensure retention of research results in the community.