



Seventeenth RRI Dialogue on  
**Forests, Governance &  
Climate Change:**  
Forest Tenure, Restoration, and Green Growth

**Co-organized by RRI and IUCN**

**In Partnership with the Embassy of France in Washington, DC**

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Frédéric Doré**

*Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of France in the United States*

Frédéric Doré assumed his position as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of France in April of 2014. He was previously France's Ambassador to Cuba (2007 to 2010), after serving as the Foreign Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff from 2005 to 2007. Frédéric Doré has devoted much of his professional career to transatlantic relations, security and defense issues, crisis management and European affairs as technical adviser to the Foreign Minister's office (2004-2005), deputy director at the European Union Council in Brussels (2000-2004) and counselor at France's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York (1996-2000).

A graduate of Bordeaux's Institut d'Etudes Politiques and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Frédéric Doré began his career at the Foreign Ministry's Economic and Financial Affairs Department (1993-1996).

### **Arvind Khare**

*Executive Director, Rights and Resources Group*

Arvind Khare is a natural resources management specialist and a founding member of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). During his more than twenty years' experience in the non-profit, corporate and public sectors, he has made significant contributions to the critical examination of poverty-environment linkages, initiated a number of innovative rural development projects and was involved in social risk assessment of development investments in India. His work has also involved the development and analysis of policies in infrastructure, forestry, tribal development, social development and watershed sectors for the state and central governments of India, infrastructure financial institutions,

private and public sector enterprises, non-government organizations, bilateral and multilateral development institutions. He chaired the External Advisory Group of the World Bank on Forest Sector Strategy Implementation from 2005-2006.

**Thomas Tidwell**

*Chief, United States Forest Service*

Tom Tidwell has spent 39 years in the Forest Service. He has served in a variety of positions at all levels of the agency, including as district ranger, forest supervisor, and legislative affairs specialist in the Washington Office. As deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, Tom facilitated collaborative approaches to wild land fire management, roadless area management, and other issues. As regional forester for the Northern Region, Tom strongly supported community-based collaboration in the region, finding solutions based on mutual goals and thereby reducing the number of appeals and lawsuits.

In 2009, after being named Chief, Tom set about implementing the Secretary's vision for America's forests. Under his leadership, the Forest Service is restoring healthy, resilient forest and grassland ecosystems—ecosystems that can sustain all the benefits that Americans get from their wild lands, including plentiful supplies of clean water, abundant habitat for wildlife and fish, renewable supplies of wood and energy, and more.

Such benefits are at risk from the effects of climate change, and Tom has led the way in forging a national response. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service has charted a national roadmap for addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation. The Forest Service is taking steps to help ecosystems adapt to the effects of a changing climate while also taking action to mitigate climate change, partly by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Tom has facilitated an all-lands approach to addressing the challenges facing America's forests and grasslands, including the overarching challenge of climate change. Such challenges cross borders and boundaries; no single entity can meet them alone. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service is working with states, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation—to restore ecosystems on a landscape scale.

Tom is married to Kim, and they have one daughter, MacKenzie.

**Gernot Brodnig**

*Director, Global Economics and Social Science Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*

Gernot Brodnig is currently the Director of IUCN's Global Economics and Social Sciences Programme, based in Washington, DC. A native of Austria, Gernot has some 25 years of international experience in policy analysis, program/project management and research in natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and climate change, with a focus on livelihood and governance issues. Before joining IUCN, he worked for UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, served as UNDP's Environment Advisor

for Asia, and - most recently - managed various REDD+ research and capacity-building initiatives at the World Bank. Gernot holds a Doctorate in Law, as well as Masters degrees in Geography and Anthropology.

**Carole Saint-Laurent**

*Deputy Director, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*

Carole Saint-Laurent is Deputy Director of IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme. She has also been the Coordinator of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) since its launch in 2003. Carole has more than 20 years of experience in environmental policy and programme development working at the international and national levels for IUCN, WWF, Pollution Probe and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. Carole has also acted as an adviser to the UN Department of Environmental and Social Affairs and to the private sector on a range of issues related to sustainable development. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Psychology as well as Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Law, with a specialization in International Environmental Law.

**Estebancio Castro Diaz**

*Advisor, the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests*

Estebancio Castro Diaz is a member of the Kuna people from Panamá and is currently an advisor and representative to the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. In 2014, he represented Latin American Indigenous Peoples in the Indigenous Lobby team for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. He was the Executive Secretary of the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests from September 2008 until January 2013. He has worked on Indigenous Issues for more than 20 years. Estebancio was selected as an Indigenous fellow to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland in 1998 where he received intensive training about the United Nations system, international law and human rights. Estebancio has attended a wide range of meetings related to Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations, as well as seminars, workshops and briefings organized by international organizations. He coordinates indigenous participation in different UN foras, where he worked to educate and collaborate with States, non-governmental organizations and other indigenous representatives to reach agreements on key issues. Estebancio actively participated in the United Nation Development Programme consultation producing UNDP policies on Indigenous Peoples in 1999, and has a wide variety of experiences working with peoples of various cultures and backgrounds internationally. He has been invited by Indigenous Peoples organizations to present papers related to Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations System and train young Indigenous people in their conferences. Estebancio has a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration degree, with a double major in commercial law and international business.

**Silvia Anaité López**

*Coordinator, Strategic Forest Ecosystems Unit, National Forest Institute, Guatemala*

Silvia Anaité Lopez is a biologist with 10 years of experience in the field of natural resources. Prior to her work with the National Forest Institute, she worked at the University of San Carlos of Guatemala and various non-governmental organizations, conducting research and implementing projects focused on sustainable forest management involving local groups in rural areas of Guatemala. She is now the Coordinator of the Strategic Forest Ecosystems Unit in the National Forest Institute, where she is responsible for developing national strategies for the management and conservation of Strategic Forest Ecosystems, and coordinating interagency actions to implement them.

### **James Bond**

*Senior Advisor to the Executive Director, the Green Climate Fund*

Dr. Bond is an international executive with over 30 years' experience at the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Green Climate Fund, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the oil industry. He regularly interfaces with senior executives from major multinational corporations and with heads of state, ministers of finance and senior civil servants. He is a regular public speaker and a published writer with superior expertise in project and sovereign finance in emerging economies, particularly in infrastructure, energy, climate-related investments, economic policy, and banking and finance. He is currently a Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of The Green Climate Fund. Located in Songdo, S. Korea, the Fund is a UNFCCC-sponsored initiative to provide support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Fund will channel new financial resources to developing countries and catalyze climate finance, both public and private, at international and national levels.

### **Jenny Springer**

*Director, Global Programs, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)*

Jenny Springer is Director of Global Programs for the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), where she oversees RRI's global analytical team. Jenny has over 20 years of experience working on community-based natural resource management, tenure rights and poverty reduction, including broad-based experience across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Prior to joining RRI, Jenny was Senior Director for People and Conservation at the World Wildlife Fund-US, where she led WWF's policies and programs on indigenous peoples and rights-based approaches to conservation, and was a co-founder of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights. A cultural anthropologist by training, she has conducted field research in South India and the Philippines, served in the Peace Corps in Ifugao (Philippines), and holds degrees from Harvard and the University of Chicago.

### **Peter Veit**

*Director, Land and Resource Rights Initiative, World Resources Institute (WRI)*

Peter is Director of the Land and Resources Rights (LRR) initiative. LRR seeks to strengthen land tenure and natural resource rights of rural people and communities by: 1) conducting research and generating new knowledge on critical property rights issues; 2) developing information platforms, including an online platform to document community rights; 3) participating in and contributing to policy and legislative reform processes; and 4) building the capacity of civil society organizations and other actors.

Peter is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of International Advanced Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 25 years, Peter has worked on a range of environmental governance matters, particularly environment/democracy and environment/human rights links. He has conducted research and written on community-based natural resource management, environmental decentralization, environmental advocacy, and other environmental accountability matters. Peter has undertaken long-term field research in a number of African countries, including in Sierra Leone as a Fulbright Scholar, where he conducted research on household variability in agricultural strategies and practices; and, in Rwanda as Director of the Karisoke Mountain Gorilla Research Center, where in the 1970s he studied the behavior of mountain gorillas. Peter has also held a range of research and teaching positions at the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Davis.

### **Ghan Shyam Pandey**

*Coordinator, Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF)*

Ghan Shyam Pandey is the Coordinator of the Global Alliance of Community Forestry. The Global Alliance of Community Forestry was established in 2004 and is a loose network of community based organizations from around the world with the aim of creating a common ground to secure community rights to forests at international, regional, national and local levels. The GACF provides a coordinating link between community forestry organizations in order to have a common voice and strong presence in international and regional forums on issues of interest to its members.

### **Celestin Dembélé**

*Deputy Program Director, Mali, HELVETAS Mali*

Célestin Dembélé is a forestry engineer and a specialist in the sustainable management of natural resources. He is currently the deputy director of the Mali office of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, specializing in rural development, the environment and education. For the past 20 years, Célestin has managed and coordinated several programs in the Sahel region centered around rural economics, decentralization and of climate change. He has worked with international organizations, governments, civil society and decentralized institutions in several platforms. HELVETAS is very active in the RRI coalition's activities, especially in West and Central Africa, and have participated in several studies and conferences in the field of land and forest tenure.

### **Melibea Gallo**

*Senior Land use Specialist, for the Forest Governance and Economy Unit in IUCN (Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean).*

Melibea is a biologist with a master's degree in Biodiversity and forest management and conservation. She has more than 15 years of experience in managing protected areas, conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change. Her work has also involved the development and analysis of policies and strategies related to land use, management of protected areas and biological corridors in Central America. She has also developed technical notes for

Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar Sites in Central America. She is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-IUCN) since 2007.

**James Close**

*Director, Climate Change Group, the World Bank*

James Close, a UK national, brings over 25 years of experience in the field of energy policy, climate change, and private infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships. During his career in the professional services industry, he provided strategic and financial advice to a range of public and private sector clients at board and ministerial levels. He has also undertaken a two-year secondment as head of the Corporate and Private Finance team at the UK's Treasury, where he gained experience with the challenges facing governments in trying to establish a suitable enabling environment for private sector investment.

Mr. Close has advised the UK government on the comparative advantage for the UK for green growth and also on many energy policy areas, including the 2006 Energy Review, incentives for investments in renewables, and smart metering and the Green Deal, the UK's initiative to increase investment in energy efficiency. He advised the Greater London Authority on its climate change and environment policy and prepared the prospectus for London as a Low-Carbon Capital for the mayor of London. At Ernst and Young, he led the Climate Change and Sustainability Services cross-service line practice creating a plan to develop a market-leading business.

He has also advised many utilities throughout the world, including Ireland, Greece, Slovakia, the United States, and India, on restructuring, regulation, competition, and corporate and market strategy.

Mr. Close, a chartered accountant, joined the World Bank Group in 2013 as the program manager for PPIAF, a multi-donor trust fund which enables infrastructure investment.

**Michael Verdone**

*Independent Consultant*

Michael Verdone is an independent consultant, a PhD candidate in Colorado State University's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and a Graduate Fellow at the Center for Collaborative Conservation. His work uses economic tools and theory in a multi-discipline, collaborative manner to engage with communities and stakeholders in the process of restoring degraded and deforested landscapes. Michael's work in natural resource management began more than 7 years ago when he supported a US Department of Agriculture project to identify efficient livestock grazing practices to restore rangeland infested with an invasive species. In 2011 he joined IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Program to conduct assessments of restoration opportunity in Ghana, Rwanda, and Uganda. He has also supported restoration work in Central America, Europe, and Asia.

**Xu Jintao**

*Director, China Center for Energy and Development at Peking University, China*

Dr. Xu Jintao is the Director of the China Center for Energy and Development Policy at Peking University in Beijing, China. He is also the former Deputy Director and Researcher at the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His primary areas of expertise include forest policy and reformation of the state forestry sector and collective tenure system, natural resource economics, and forest carbon and water resource allocation.

**Iván Zúñiga**

*Coordinator of Public Policy, Mexican Civil Council for Sustainable Forestry*

Iván Zúñiga specializes in environmental policy and management and has been with CCMSS since 2008. He has worked with Mexican NGOs for 20 years in the field of biodiversity conservation, forest management and social development. During these years, he has published several research papers on public policy, the environment, community forest management, economics, globalization and international cooperation.

**Klas Sander**

*Senior Environmental Economist, the World Bank*

Klas Sander is a Senior Environment Economist with the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice of the World Bank. His work builds on more than 15 years of professional experience in project implementation and applied research focusing on environmental and natural resource economics and management, economic diagnostics of environmental degradation, and biomass energy. Klas has extensive field experiences from many parts of the world. For example, studying socio-economic determinants of forest and land-use, he lived with Iban longhouse communities in Malaysia or was working with island communities in Vanuatu. For his PhD he led a research team addressing natural resource use of rural communities in remote areas of Northwest Madagascar. For the World Bank he currently supports operational work in environment & natural resources and energy in Latin America, South and East Asia, and Africa. He holds Master's degrees in Forestry from the University of Göttingen and in Agricultural & Natural Resources Economics from Imperial College, University of London. When completing his PhD in Rural Development from the University of Göttingen he was also a research fellow at U.C. Berkeley.

**Sally Collins**

*Co-Chair, MegaFlorestais Network*

Ms. Sally Collins served as the first Director of the USDA Office of Environmental Markets (OEM) prior to retiring from USDA. OEM was established to advance markets for ecosystem services provided by farms, forests, and ranches across the country. She has spent more than 25 years in natural resource management, working at the "field level" as a forest manager for 20 years prior to coming to Washington DC. Her last field assignment was Forest Supervisor of the 1.6 million acre Deschutes National Forest. For eight years, she served as Associate Chief for the U.S. Forest Service, sharing responsibilities with the Chief for management of all of the 155 National Forests and Grasslands, providing support to tribal, state and private lands, and overseeing the International Program Office. She

currently works as a Fellow with the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) to help the largest forested countries of the world establish secure tenure arrangements and laws for their forested estates. For ten years, she has served (and continues to serve) as Co-chair of MegaFlorestais, a network established to informally connect the top forest leaders in the world.

### **Ulrich Apel**

*Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility*

Ulrich works with the Global Environment Facility's Natural Resources Team as a Senior Environmental Specialist with a focus on combating land degradation and sustainable forest management.

Prior to joining the GEF, he worked for 15 years as a consultant for forestry and natural resource management in various bi- and multilateral development projects and programs. Ulrich was chief technical advisor of several large-scale reforestation and sustainable forest management projects in Vietnam and China. He also engaged in field research in community forestry and in analytical and advisory work related to land use planning, agriculture policy, land tenure, community livelihoods and legal framework analysis.

Ulrich holds a Masters in Forestry Sciences and a PhD in Tropical and Subtropical Forest Management from the University of Goettingen, Germany.

### **Josefina Brana-Varela**

*Policy Director, Global Forest and Climate Programme, WWF International*

Josefina leads WWF's efforts at the global level to influence REDD+ policy and finance development, as well as to provide direct technical assistance to WWF offices in key tropical forest landscapes working to design and implement REDD+ at scale. As a former member of Mexico's delegation to UNFCCC, she is well-known at climate negotiations.

### **Niranjali Amerasinghe**

*Director of the Climate Change Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)*

Since Niranjali Amerasinghe joined CIEL in February 2009 she has worked on a range of issues, including compliance, REDD+, international coal financing, and the intersection between trade and climate change. She has worked extensively to improve monitoring and compliance processes in the UNFCCC framework, including contributing to the design of REDD+ safeguards and systems for monitoring safeguards implementation. Through her role as chair of the Climate Action Network's Measurement, Reporting, and Verification Working Group, she has been involved in facilitating (with partners) strategy sessions both within and outside the network. She also has experience with other REDD+ initiatives, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the UN-REDD Programme. Her work on international coal finance includes assisting local groups and project-affected communities raise concerns about proposed projects with relevant accountability mechanisms at the World Bank, most recently in Kosovo. In addition, she has analyzed key legal issues pertaining to national climate policies and their relationship with international trade agreements (i.e. WTO and FTAs).