



Sixteenth RRI Dialogue on Forests, Governance and Climate Change

Investments, Communities and Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Margarita Benavides – Deputy Director of Regional Programs
Instituto del Bien Común, Perú**

Margarita is an anthropologist from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Through her professional experience, she has specialized in the Amazon. Currently she is Deputy Director of Regional Programs at the *Instituto del Bien Común* (IBC), Peru. At IBC, she has promoted and managed the Information System on Indigenous Communities (SICNA, in Spanish), which contains detailed geo-referenced information on the Indigenous Peoples and territories of Amazonian Peru. She is editor and co-author of the Atlas of Native Communities of the Central Rainforest and the Atlas of Native Communities and Protected Natural Areas of the Northeast Peruvian Amazon

**Kristyna Bishop – Senior Social Development Specialist
The World Bank**

Kristyna is a Senior Social Development Specialist with the Global Practice on Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience (GP 13) at the World Bank in Washington, DC. She is the task team leader for the Dedicated Grant Mechanisms in Peru and Mexico and provides social development support for several sectors including forestry, land tenure, protected areas management, health and education in various countries in LAC. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2012, Kristyna worked at the Inter-American Development Bank for 9 years where she was the team lead for the Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples project in the Amazon and initiated a research project on Conditional Cash Transfers and Indigenous Peoples. Previous undertakings included the establishment of First Peoples Worldwide, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples and the launch of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

**Omaira Bolaños – Regional Director, Latin America Program
Rights and Resources Initiative**

Omaira manages the Latin America Program at the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), providing strategic support and knowledge on the socio-political context of the region in order to envision opportunities for RRI engagement. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and a Master of Latin American Studies with a concentration in Tropical Conservation and Development, both from the University of Florida. Her research included women's participation in community forestry under the Bolivian Forest Program (BOLFOR) and Indigenous Peoples' self-definition and land tenure rights claims in the lower Brazilian Amazon. Omaira has worked extensively in development and community-based conservation, watershed management, gender equity, and Indigenous Peoples' tenure rights throughout Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, El Salvador, and her native Colombia.



**Constance E. Campbell – South America Regional Environment Team Leader
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Peru**

Constance (Connie) is USAID's South America Regional Environment Team Leader and the overall coordinator of ICAA, the Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon—a regional biodiversity program in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. As an anthropologist and with over 20 years of Amazon experience, Connie's expertise lies in the nexus of conservation, socioeconomic issues, Indigenous Peoples and gender. Connie has been with USAID since 2004. She worked for many years in the Brazilian Amazon state of Acre with Chico Mendes and the emerging extractive reserves. Connie has a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Florida and undergraduate degrees in Biology and Spanish from Virginia Tech.

**María Blanca Chancosa – Co-founder
ECUARUNARI - Confederation of Peoples of Kichwa Nationality of Ecuador**

María Blanca was National President of ECUARUNARI, the Confederation of the Peoples of Kichwa Nationality of Ecuador, for two periods and co-founder of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE). She currently is a member of the Council of Elders of ECUARUNARI, a Coordinator of the Leadership School "Dolores Cacuango", and assists the ECUARUNARI women leadership program. As an educator, she devoted herself to organizing communities of her region. In 1980 she was at the forefront of events that led to a new stage in the Ecuadorian ethnic movement; demanding the establishment of a bilingual education system and the recognition of plurinationality by the Government. Over the course of her career as a social activist, María Blanca has promoted the understanding of cultural diversity as a meeting of different lifestyles, inclusive and equal for all and continues in the ongoing struggle as a champion of women and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

**Peter Cronkleton – Principal Scientist, Forest and Livelihoods Program
The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)**

Peter is an Anthropologist with the Forest and Livelihoods Program of the Center for International Forestry Research. Peter is a specialist in community forestry development, forest social movements and participatory approaches to research and capacity building. Since 2009, he has served as Domain Leader for CIFOR's Smallholder and Community Forestry Research Domain. Currently based in Peru, Peter has worked as a researcher and development practitioner in Latin America for more than 20 years, concentrating on the western Amazon but also developing comparative research with lowland forest areas of Central America. A graduate of the University of Florida (M.A. 1993, PhD 1998), he is actively involved in the development of comparative research with lowland forest areas of South and Central America, Africa and Asia.

**Julia Cuadros – Executive Director
CooperAcción-Peru**

Julia is an economist, founding partner, and Executive Director of CooperAcción-Peru. She is part of CooperAcción's Program on Collective Rights and Extractive Industries. She is CooperAcción's focal point on gender equality and informal and small-scale mining. She works with local and national stakeholders, both public and private, supporting the development and strengthening of their capacities and potentials. Julia actively participates in civil society, assisting in the formulation of public policies focusing on rights, gender and multiculturalism. She is President of the National Association of Development Promotion Centers (ANC) and Vice President of the Citizens Movement against Climate Change (MOCICC). She represents CooperAcción in the Muqui Network, the National Conference of Social Development, the Platform Democracy and Conflict Transformation, the Latin American Network on Extractive Industries, the Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America, and the Andean Amazon Water is Life Network, among others.



**Penny Davies – Program Officer
Ford Foundation**

Penny is a Ford Foundation Program Officer, based in New York, working with organizations on international and national climate change policies that benefit low-income rural communities, particularly Indigenous Peoples. Her grant making also focuses on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and on global and local work specifically aligned with the foundation's Brazil, Indonesia, and Mexico and Central America offices. Penny played a central role in developing the United Kingdom's international forestry initiatives and has consistently worked to strengthen rural grassroots organizations, build alliances between government and civil society, and promote policies that benefit forest communities. Penny holds two master's degrees—one from the University of Oxford on forests in relation to land use and the other from the University of London on agricultural development and economics. She received her undergraduate degree in English literature, with an emphasis on African literature, from the University of Bristol.

**Roberto Espinoza Llanos – Coordinator of the Climate Change Program and Indigenous REDD+
Asociación interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSESP), Peru**

From 1985 Roberto worked on the processes, rights, policies and programs of the Andean Amazon region in relation to Indigenous Peoples, focusing on zoning and natural resource management. Roberto has consulted indigenous organizations at all levels, especially advising AIDSESP since its inception, as well as CAH, COICA, COPPIP, IOTC, among others. Roberto has also consulted international institutions such as GTZ, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank, and PHASE among others. Prior to working at AIDSESP, Roberto worked for the International Alliance Promoter Amazonian Indigenous Peoples (COICA) with Environmentalists (1990), and in defense of European Cities Climate and Life of Mankind (1991) and for the Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Forests of the World (1992).

**Paulina Garzón – Director
Initiative for Sustainable Investment China-Latin America**

Paulina is an independent consultant from Ecuador who earned her master's degree from the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University. Paulina directs the project "Initiative for Sustainable Investment China-Latin America", under the auspices of the Program of International Comparative Environmental Law at American University College of Law (Washington, D.C.). Paulina has spent 25 years working on environmental protection; she is the co-founder of the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CDES). Paulina has extensive experience in project monitoring and environmental and social policies of multilateral banks. Over the past two years, Paulina has focused her work on investments by Chinese banks in Latin America, paying special attention to Ecuador. Her most recent research project is the "Legal Handbook on Chinese environmental regulations for loans in foreign investments: A guide for local communities" (CDES, 2014), which was produced with the support of the Charles Mott Foundation.

**Daniel González – Manager of New Business Development
Pöyry**

Daniel has a Master of Marketing and Sales Management from the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences, and an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Florida International University. Daniel has eight years of experience in the mining, oil and energy sector. He previously worked as Commercial Manager in MARCO Peruana S.A. and New Business Manager at Haug



Dominican Republic. Daniel is currently Manager of New Business Pöyry (Peru), a Finnish consulting and engineering company.

**Max Lascano – Manager of Socio Bosque (SB)
Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador**

Max studied at the Faculty of Economics of the Catholic University of Quito and received his Master of Environmental Management and Planning from the University of Chile. Throughout his professional career, Max has specialized in issues related to the economy and the environment, collaborating in the design of policies, strategies, and projects that have permitted the advancement of Ecuador towards Sustainable Development. Max has provided support to several institutions and organizations. In the private sector, he worked for the firm SDS—Sustainable Development Services—and the NGO CEDERNA. He has also provided consulting services to organizations such as Conservation International, OTCA, FAO, MAE, Inter-American Foundation, and Mentefactura. In the public sector Max has worked at the Sub-secretariat of Programming for Public Investment within the Ministry of the Economy, in the Technical Department of the Ministry of Social Development Coordination. Currently he is the Manager of the Socio Bosque Program in the Ministry of the Environment.

Paul E. Little – International Consultant

Paul has a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Brasilia, where he was an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology until 2010. He published several books in Spanish, Portuguese and English on issues affecting the Amazon. Paul has worked on environmental policy and indigenous rights, along with civil society and government bodies in Ecuador and Brazil. For four years he was Program Officer at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Currently he conducts research and training as an international consultant.

**Cándido Mezua – President
National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama (COONAPIP)**

For over 15 years Cándido, elected leader of the Embera Wounaan General Congress, which includes some 10,000 people living in 41 communities, has been a staunch defender of indigenous rights and the environment. Cándido has engaged in extensive consultations to resolve issues related to REDD+ in Panama, becoming an important player in the development of an Environmental Agenda between Indigenous Peoples and the National Environmental Authority of Panama, which included a revised results framework of the UN-REDD National Joint Programme of Panama. He has also been instrumental in the development of international partnerships and exchanges between Indigenous Peoples, forest communities, and international organizations.

**Fabián Moreno – Public Policy and Communications Coordinator
Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC)**

Fabián is an indigenous leader of the Nonuya People in the Colombian Amazon. He has coordinated various projects at both the regional and national level. His research and advocacy focuses on the environment and the promotion of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge as a way to strengthen community governance and land management. Fabián currently assists the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC) in the formulation of public policies for the Indigenous Peoples of Colombia.

**Fabiola Muñoz – Executive Director (e)
National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Peru**

Fabiola studied Law at the Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) and was the first woman to become President of the Federation of Law Students. Since October 1, 2013 she is the Executive Director (e)



of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) of Peru, with the task of building a new corporate culture and implementing this new institution with world class standards. In 2001, Fabiola worked as the Advisor to the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture. She was next appointed Advisor to the Minister's office and held the position of Secretary-General until 2004. She continued her professional work in the public sector as an independent advisor for the GALS Program-Local Environmental Management for Sustainable Development, where she became part of CONAM's technical team and worked with several municipalities at the national level, promoting participative processes within the local environmental management efforts. In 2004, she started working part-time as an advisor to the United States Forest Service International Programs to design and implement a technical cooperation project for the Peruvian Forest sector, now called PFSI. From August 2009 to 2013, Fabiola was part of the PFSI team in Peru as Deputy Director of PFSI and Program Manager of the Institutional Strengthening component.

**Roberto Persivale – Partner
Asesorandes, Peru**

Roberto has over 25 years of professional experience in business management, strategic analysis, and project management in Peru, Venezuela, and Colombia, with an investment emphasis in the following sectors: hotel and tourism, commercial real estate, forestry, infrastructure, agribusiness, and industrial minerals. Within the framework of the SFM program (SFM) for the Andean region of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and with funding from the Government of Finland, Roberto helped develop the Sustainable Financial Innovation Project for El Sira Communal Reserve, the country's largest communal reserve (1.5 MM + ha). The project includes the creation and implementation of the first Impact Investment vehicle for Peru involving indigenous communities and seeks to prevent deforestation and degradation in a highly threatened communal forest area. Roberto is also founder of the Nacional Centro Comercial del Consejo (ACEP), the Peruvian Congress of Retail, and of the Deep In Forest sustainability network. He was Director General of the Jockey Plaza Shopping Center and Peru Orient Express Hotels, as well as member of the Executive Council of Peru Rail and LAN Peru. Roberto is an ex-member of the Business Entrepreneurship Competition (Creatividad Empresarial) and holds a Master of Economics from the University of Southern California.

**Leonardo Pradela – Associate
The Munden Project**

Leonardo is an Associate at The Munden Project, where he works on social and environmental risks for investments. Previously, he worked at the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (Funbio) on feasibility studies for large forest conservation projects in the Amazon. Leonardo also spent two years conducting fieldwork on challenges for former inmates rejoining society in Brazil. Leonardo received a Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University and a Bachelor's in International Relations from PUC-Rio.

**Richard Smith – Executive Director
Instituto del Bien Común, Peru**

Richard has lived and worked among the Yánesha as well as among other indigenous and non-indigenous residents of the Andean Amazon since the late 1960s. His research has focused on the historical links between Andean and Amazonian peoples, the music, cosmology and oral history of the Yánesha people (Peru), the politics of land and resource tenure for Amazonian peoples, natural resource management in Amazonian communities, and the relationship between indigenous peoples and natural protected areas. He has a doctorate in Anthropology and Linguistics from Cornell University, was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard University and has taught in the Graduate School at both the National Agrarian University at La Molina and the University of San Marcos in Lima.



Richard is a founder and current Director of the Instituto del Bien Común (IBC) with offices in Lima, Iquitos, Pucallpa and Oxapampa. For the past 14 years, he has been mapping the cultural-historical space of the Yánesha people based on collective memory and oral history, working with dozens of elders in the process. In 2011 he helped to launch and lead the Coalition for Territorial Security of Peru's Communities, an effort to document the deteriorating situation of land tenure of Peru's indigenous communities and carry out an advocacy effort to improve it.

**José Absalón Suarez – Territory and Environment Coordinator
Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN), Colombia**

José Absalón is a Colombian activist for the *Proceso de Comunidades Negras* (PCN) since 1995. The PCN is a national organization that brings together various local and regional organizations with the purpose of defending and protecting Afro-Colombian collective, ancestral and territorial rights. Within this organization, José Absalón coordinates the work of Land and Environment, where he has supported the collective titling, planning, and zoning efforts of Raposo, Mayorquin, Yurumanguí, Anchicaya, Calina, and La Plata Bahía Malaga's communal councils, among others.

**Gustavo Suárez de Freitas – Executive Coordinator (e)
National Forest Conservation Program for the Mitigation of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Peru**

Gustavo is a Peruvian Forester with extensive experience in forest conservation in Peru and the Amazon and Andean regions. Gustavo was National Director of the Protected Areas Department (2001-2005), National Director of the Forest and Wildlife Department (Ministry of Agriculture) (2001 - 2009), and Executive Director of the ProNaturaleza Foundation (1992-2000). He was also Vice-President of the First Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF, New York 2001) and was Vice-President for South America in the World Commission of Protected Areas of the IUCN and member of the Global Directive Committee of the Commission. For the past 15 years, Gustavo has been involved in the main processes related to protected areas, forest and wildlife policies, regulations, institutional development and funding strategies.

**Andy White – Coordinator
Rights and Resources Initiative**

Prior to helping create and establish the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Andy served as Senior Director of Programs at Forest Trends and Natural Resource Management Specialist at the World Bank, and also served as consultant to the International Food Policy Research Center, Save the Children Federation and the Inter-American Foundation. He has worked extensively in Haiti, Mexico and China and supervises policy research, advocacy and policy engagement in Asia, Latin America and Africa. His research and publications have focused on forest tenure and policy, forest industry and trade, as well as the role of forests, communities and institutions in climate change. Andy holds a PhD in Forest Economics, an MA in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, and a BS in Forestry, all from Humboldt State University.

