

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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

Omaira manages the Latin America Program, 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's degree in 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. Prior to joining RRI, Omaira 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. In addition to Spanish she speaks fluent English and Portuguese.

Peter Cronkleton – Principal Scientist, CIFOR

Peter Cronkleton is an Anthropologist with the Forest and Governance Program of Center for International Forestry Research. Dr. Cronkleton is a specialist in community forestry development, forest social movements and participatory approaches for research and capacity building. Since 2009 he has served as Domain Leader for CIFOR's Smallholder and Community Forestry Research Domain. Currently based in Bolivia, he has worked as a researcher and development practitioner in Latin America for more than 15 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, Ph.D. 1998) he has recently focused on institutional change in forest communities during periods of policy change.

Julia Cuadros – Executive Director, CooperAcción

Julia Cuadros trained as an economist, founding partner and executive director of CooperAccion- Peru. She is part of the CooperAccion's Program on Collective Rights and Extractive Industries. She is CooperAccion'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 has published several books, the last one being the result of a participative research project that identified the differentiated impacts between men and women due to the presence of mining activities in the southern Andes.

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 CooperAccion in Red Muqui, National Conference of Social Development, Platform Democracy and Conflict Transformation, Latin American Network on Extractive Industries, Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America, Andean Amazon Water is Life Network, among others.

Penny Davies – Program Officer, Sustainable Development and Forest Management, Ford Foundation

Penny Davies 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. In addition, Penny joins Ford's collaboration on

the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA), whose members include the ClimateWorks, David and Lucile Packard, Cargill, and Gordon and Betty Moore foundations.

Penny joined the foundation in 2012 after her tenure as the senior forestry advisor for the Department for International Development (DFID) in the British government. In this role, she led DFID's global policy and program work on forests, working closely with the World Bank, UN agencies, the European Commission, bilateral development agencies and civil society organizations. Penny held other positions at DFID, including team leader for extreme poverty, economic growth and climate change in Bangladesh; head of the regional office in Central America; and forestry coordinator for Indonesia.

Previously, Penny was a regional agroforestry consultant for a European Union agricultural frontier program in Central America as well as a rural economist at the Bolivian Centro de Investigación Agrícola Tropical.

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.

Bryson Ogden – Private Sector Analyst, Rights and Resources Initiative

Bryson leads the coordination and generation of analytical work in RRI's Strategic Initiatives portfolio and contributes to RRI's Global Programs, with a focus on the connections between business, tenure, and the environment. Prior to joining RRI, he worked as a portfolio manager and equity analyst, covering the energy sector. He also consulted for the Kenya Forestry Research Institute in Nairobi. Bryson holds a BS in International Business from the University of Arkansas, an MPA in Environmental Policy, and an MS in Applied Ecology, both from Indiana University. He speaks English and some French.

Leonardo Pradela – Associate, The Munden Project

Leonardo Pradela 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 his master's degree in public administration in environmental science and policy from Columbia University and his bachelor's degree in international relations from PUC-Rio. Leonardo was born in Brazil, and speaks English, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Max Lascano Vaca – Incentives Program Manager, Socio Bosque

Max studied at the Faculty of Economics of the Catholic University of Quito and received his Masters in 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 in the Ministry of the Environment.

Andy White – Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative

Prior to helping create and establish RRI, Andy served as Senior Director of Programs at Forest Trends and Natural Resource Management Specialist at the World Bank, as well as worked as a consultant to the International Food Policy Institute, 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 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 has a PhD in Forest Economics, an MA in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, and a BS in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Andy is also the President of the Rights and Resources Group, the nonprofit coordinating mechanism of RRI based in Washington, DC.