



**RIGHTS +
RESOURCES**

ARCHANA SORENG

Indigenous youth climate activist from the Kharia Tribe and member of the UN Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, India

Archana Soreng is an environmental activist belonging to the Indigenous Kharia Tribe from Bihabandh Village of Rajgangpur in Sundergarh, Odisha, India. She works on raising awareness about climate change and documentation, and the preservation and promotion of the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous communities.

Archana is also one of the seven members of the Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as a part of the UN Youth Strategy.

ASYL UNDELAND

Manager, EnABLE Fund —Social Inclusion and Gender Equality in Climate Finance, World Bank, United States

Asyl Undeland leads work on social inclusion and gender equality in the Climate Funds Management Unit of the World Bank. She also manages the Bank's multi-donor trust fund, Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (EnABLE), a global program to enhance the inclusion of marginalized communities and disadvantaged groups in Emission Reductions Programs to maximize their carbon and non-carbon benefits, such as resilient livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. Undeland has more than 20 years of experience working on community-driven development, social inclusion and empowerment, and addressing gender issues in land and natural resource management.

CÉCILE BIBIANE NDJEBET

Founder of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Cameroon

Cécile Ndjebet is the founder of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), which ensures the representation of women's interests in environmental policies across 20 African countries. She won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award and was recently named a Champion of the Earth by the UN Environment Programme

following three decades of advocacy for women's land rights in Africa. Ndjebet was elected Climate Change Champion of the Central African Commission on Forests in 2012 and serves as a member of the advisory board of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

CRISTIÁN SAMPER

Managing Director and Leader of Nature Solutions, Bezos Earth Fund, United States

Cristián has worked at the intersection between science, environment and public policy for the past 30 years. He was the founding director of the Alexander von Humboldt national biodiversity institute of Colombia, served as Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, and President and CEO of the Wildlife Conservation Society, with field conservation programs in 60 countries. Samper has also served on several non-profit and foundation boards. He is passionate about using science, education and policy to build a carbon neutral and nature positive future for all life on Earth.

GUSTAVO SÁNCHEZ VALLE

Member of the Executive Committee of the Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests (AMPB), Mexico

Gustavo is a member of the Executive Committee of the Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests (AMPB) and President of the Executive Council of the MOCAF Network, a Mexican Network of Forest Peoples' Organizations that has contributed greatly to the development of the country's rural regions. Gustavo also participates in many global forums (FCPF, DGM) to bring forward the voices of local communities and has recently been working with RRI and Black Communities Process (Proceso Comunidades Negras, Colombia) to influence the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples regarding the participation and representation of local communities.

INGRID ASK

Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Sweden in Washington D.C., United States

Ingrid Ask assumed her position as Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. in September 2019. Prior to this position, she served as Political Advisor to the Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces, General Micael Bydén. Ask started her diplomatic career in 1999 and has held positions at the Foreign Minister's Office, the Africa Department and as Head of Consular Affairs at the Department for Consular Affairs and Civil Law. From 2005 to 2010, she served as Political Counselor at the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. Between 2001 and 2005 she was posted to the Political Section of the Embassy of Sweden in

Pretoria, South Africa. Ask holds a Master's degree in Political Science and Languages from Uppsala University, Sweden.

JOHNSON CERDA

Director, DGM Global Executing Agency at Conservation International, Ecuador

Johnson Cerda conducts research related to climate change, biodiversity and protected areas in Ecuador. He is currently a member of the GEF/NGO Committee that represents the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America. Cerda is an Indigenous Kichwa of the Ecuadorian Amazon (Comuna Santa Elena – Limoncocha). He has worked with Indigenous organizations in Ecuador as well as with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE). He has also collaborated with government institutions in Ecuador including the Development Council of Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador and the Institute for Eco Development of the Amazon Region. In 2000, Cerda was elected to serve as Co-Director of the Amazon Alliance in Washington, D.C. where he worked until 2005. Cerda is a former member of the Indigenous Parliament of the Ecuadorian Amazon representing FOKISE and was part of a Technical Advisory Panel of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility at the World Bank. Today, Cerda is the Director of the DGM Global Executing Agency at Conservation International. The DGM, or Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, supports community leaders working to protect forests and strengthens their capacity to participate in climate action at local, national and global levels.

JOSÉ LUIS RENGIFO BALANTA

Coordinator, Territory and Natural Resources Team, Black Communities Process (PCN), Colombia

As a defender of legal, environmental and human rights of Afro-descendant Peoples, José Luis Rengifo Balanta has participated in numerous spaces within the RRI Coalition, including building a regional collaboration with organizations of Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America and promoting the representation of local communities in the platform of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He is also part of the Colombian Environmental Forum for Black Peoples' Rights.

LIZ ALDEN WILY

Fellow, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Ireland and Kenya

Liz Alden Wily is a land tenure specialist with more than 40 years of practice in 20 agrarian economies, mainly in Africa. She works as an independent facilitator and researcher—from community to cabinet office levels—and is an acknowledged expert on Indigenous/customary ownership regimes. Wily has been a prominent advocate of the legal recognition of customary

land rights since the 1980s and has been closely involved in devising constructs for collective ownership to ensure that communal forests, rangelands and swamplands are not excluded. She has been a leader in piloting community-based land, forest and pastoral governance regimes, and in challenging needless retention of protected areas as government or public property where unacknowledged customary possession offers a more effective and fairer path to conservation.

Her commitment to community property began when she worked with San hunter-gatherers in the Kalahari in Botswana and learned first-hand the perils of absent legal recognition of land rights and the consequences of weak empowerment as stronger societies encroached San territories. In the 1990s, Wily focused on forest tenure, including piloting the first community-owned and managed forest reserves in Africa (Tanzania, 1994–2002). She also helped develop post-conflict land rights reforms in Liberia, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sudan and South Sudan. Wily continues to contribute strategic content in constitutional and land law reforms and supports community-led litigation challenging dispossession. She is a Fellow of RRI, the Van Vollenhoven Institute in the Leiden School of Law, and Katiba Institute in Kenya, and serves on several advisory committees of INGOs. She lives in Ireland and Kenya.

MARGARET (PEGGY) SMITH

Professor Emerita, Lakehead University and Board Chair, Rights and Resources Group, Canada

Dr. Peggy Smith is of Cree ancestry from the James Bay Treaty #9 area in Canada, a territory also known as Mushkegowuk Aski. Her spirit name is Miskwaanakwadook (Red Cloud Woman). She is Professor Emerita in Lakehead University's Faculty of Natural Resources Management and retired from Lakehead University in 2017 as Interim Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives. A longtime researcher on natural resource management by Indigenous Peoples, Smith has taught policy and legislation, environmental assessment, and Indigenous Peoples and natural resource development for decades. She holds a Ph.D. in Aboriginal issues in forest management from the University of Toronto.

MICHELE ZOLLINGER

Global Sustainable Sourcing Lead for Pulp and Paper & Climate Forest Lead, Nestlé, United States

Michele currently leads the Sustainable Sourcing Pulp & Paper program at Nestlé and supports Nestlé's ambition to reach net zero by 2050 through the implementation of the company's Global Reforestation program and Forest Positive Strategy. She previously served as global natural climate solutions lead (forests) for Quantis International where she supported clients in agricultural and food sectors with addressing deforestation and natural climate solutions

related metrics linked to their value chains. She holds a Master's in Environmental Management, Business and the Environment from Yale University.

SOLANGE BANDIAKY-BADJI

Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative, and President, Rights and Resources Group, Senegal

Dr. Solange Bandiaky-Badji is Coordinator of the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). She also serves as President of the Rights and Resources Group, the nonprofit coordinating mechanism of the RRI Coalition based in Washington, D.C. Bandiaky-Badji previously led RRI's strategy for engagement in Africa with a focus on tenure rights reform. She built synergies around new analyses, giving local and global actors a more strategic understanding of trends, issues, options and gender in Africa. She also spearheaded RRI's Gender Justice thematic program and ensured the implementation of a global gender strategy on women's tenure rights. Before RRI, she was with PartnersGlobal where she led programs on access to justice, security sector reform and peacebuilding.

She has also worked as a regional expert on gender and climate change for the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) and the UNDP/ BDP Gender Team in New York. Bandiaky-Badji holds a Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies from Clark University, Massachusetts and an MA in Environmental Sciences and in Philosophy from Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal. She has published and contributed extensively to research in relation to natural resource management, decentralization, local forest tenure reforms and women's participation in climate solutions and peacebuilding.

STANLEY KIMAREN OLE RIAMIT

Founder-Director, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), Kenya

Ole Riamit is an Indigenous leader from the Pastoralists Maasai Community in southern Kenya. He is the Founder-Director of Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), a community-based Indigenous Peoples organization based in Kenya.

Kimaren has extensive exposure and experience in engaging with and influencing international processes and mechanism of interests to Indigenous Peoples, in which he has represented the global Indigenous Peoples movement in various capacities. He has served as Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), Anglophone African representatives to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and most recently as Southern CSOs Active Observer to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

He is a holder of a Master of Arts degree in Development Anthropology from McGill University in Canada and holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management, from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).