



RETHINKING FOREST REGULATIONS

An international workshop co-organized by the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation and the Rights & Resources Initiative



SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

Lubrecht Experimental Forest | Missoula, Montana, USA
July 23-27, 2012

Mr. Sergio Enrique Arias Garcia, Director of Regulation and Norms
CONAFOR – Mexico

Mr. Sergio Arias is a lawyer by trade having worked in public service for 14 years for the state government of Jalisco and for the last 10 years for the National Forest Commission (CONAFOR). Within CONAFOR, Mr. Arias leads the legal department overseeing 65 lawyers divided between the central office and 32 state offices. In his work at CONAFOR Mr. Arias Garcia is responsible for grant agreements between national and international agencies signed by the Director General of CONAFOR as well as participation in the development of the Mexico's Official Standards for Public Sector Forestry. He also works to develop internal rules for CONAFOR's activities, and participates in various institutional and academic events on forestry legislation.

Mr. Julian Atkinson, Program Coordination Officer
RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests

Mr. Atkinson is currently a Program Coordination Officer at RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests, responsible for coordinating RECOFTC's program planning, analysis, and reporting, as well as supporting the development of country programs within the Center's focal countries. He is also involved in ongoing RECOFTC research on community and smallholder forestry tenure, policies and regulations related to livelihoods and market access. He received his M.A. in the Social Anthropology of Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Ms. Grace Balawag, Deputy Coordinator for the Project Partnership on Indigenous Peoples, Forests and Climate Change

Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Research and Education)

Ms. Balawag is an indigenous Igorot-Kankanaey from the Northern Philippines and a social development worker by profession. She has worked for various Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) and NGOs on sustainable development and disaster management. Since 2009, she has served as the Deputy Coordinator for the Project Partnership on Indigenous Peoples, Forests and Climate Change under Tebtebba. She has conducted local capacity building trainings and field visits for monitoring and evaluation of the country partners' local demonstration areas on Traditional Forest Management and on livelihood projects within Tebtebba's ten partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She actively participated in intercessional meetings and Conferences of Parties (COPs) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC). She also participated in the regional and global meetings and conferences of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), serving as one of the organizing partners for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group during these meetings of the UNCSD, including the Rio+20 Preparatory Meetings and Conference.

Ms. Claire Biason, Associate, Global Programs

Rights and Resources Initiative

Ms. Biason joined RRI in March 2011. She contributes to the activities of the Global Programs and focuses specifically on the networking support program. She graduated from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence (France) in 2009 with a Master's degree in European and International Affairs. Throughout her higher education, Ms. Biason has focused on development issues and human rights especially in Latin America and Africa. She maintains a keen interest in sustainable development principles and climate change issues. Prior to joining Rights and Resources, she interned at the Academic Council on the United Nations System and at the Stimson Center where she focused on the implementation of international health regulations and water scarcity issues. Ms. Biason speaks French, English and Spanish.

Mr. Alfred Lahai Brownell, Director, Green Advocates

Liberia

Mr. Brownell graduated from the University of Liberia, College of Agriculture and Forestry with a B.Sc. in General Agriculture in 1994. He also studied Law at the University of Liberia and in 2002 earned a Master's in Environment & Energy Law from Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana. While he was a law student in Liberia, he created and managed the Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia, known as Green Advocates, to work with impoverished, rural communities and to ensure them a voice in decisions affecting their communities' natural resources. As Director of Green Advocates, he leads campaigns to reform Liberia's extractive sector. Mr. Brownell helped win the imposition of UN Security Council sanctions on Liberia's timber exports as well as a UN travel ban. He has been involved in many campaigns and research projects to promote environmental protection legislation and to ensure that existing human rights and environmental laws are enforced.

Mr. Gary Burnett, Executive Director

Blackfoot Challenge

Mr. Burnett puts 25 plus years of experience in natural resource management and nonprofit development to work for the Blackfoot Watershed. He has worked with and for public and private landowners and managers, and is experienced in land protection and stewardship, prescribed fire, natural areas, wildlife and habitat management. He has developed and directed annual fundraising efforts, major gift campaigns and planned giving programs for three national organizations. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Blackfoot Challenge.

Ms. Sally Collins, Co-Chair

MegaFlorestais

Ms. 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 7 years, she has served (and continues to serve) as Co-Chair of *MegaFlorestais*, an organization established to informally connect the top forest leaders in the world.

Mr. Paul F. Duo, Regional Forester - Region 1, Forest Development Authority
Liberia

Mr. Duo was born in a dense forested town in Yourpea, Nimba County on March 25, 1958. Having completed his secondary education in 1979, he enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Liberia in 1980. Mr. Duo earned a B.Sc. degree in General Forestry in May 1986 and worked at the Ital Timber Corporation in Yekepa, Nimba County as Chief Forester and Surveyor from 1987 to 1990. At the Forestry Development Authority, Mr. Duo has served as District Forester, Management Officer and presently Regional Forester. In his current position, Mr. Duo is charged with coordinating, supervising, monitoring, documenting, and reporting all forestry and forest related activities.

Mr. Jim Durglo, Tribal Forestry Department Head

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Mr. Durglo has done many presentations based on his personal experience and observations of community-based forest management. In his current position he leads the Tribal Forestry Administration of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes located in the Flathead Reservation of Montana. He also serves on the board of directors of Salish Kootenai College.

Ms. Sonya Germann, Chief of Forest Management for State Trust Lands
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

As a Montana ranch girl born and raised outside of Ennis, Montana, Ms. Germann has developed a lifelong passion for the management and stewardship of our natural resources. Her educational and professional background covers forest policy, natural resource dispute resolution, wildlife biology, and social politics. Ms. Germann is currently the Chief of Forest Management for State Trust Lands. Prior to this position, she worked as the Forest Management Planner for the Trust Land Management Division of the Forest Management Bureau where she oversaw the Forest Management Program's compliance with and implementation of the Montana Environmental Policy Act and other administrative rules and policies applicable to the program. Ms. Germann comes into her position with both enthusiasm and drive to work with the Area Offices, Unit Offices, and other personnel who have been critical in making the Forest Management Program so successful over the years.

Dr. David Gritten, Program Officer, Forest Policy & Governance
RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests

Dr. Gritten received his B.Sc. in Social Sciences and Law from the University of Bradford, UK. He received both his M.Sc. in European Forestry, and his D.Sc. in Agriculture and Forestry from the University of Joensuu, Finland. His Doctoral studies focused on the operating practices of forest industries, with particular focus on Indonesia and Finland. His post-doctoral research at the University of Eastern Finland and the Catalan Forestry Research Institute (CTFC), Spain, focused on forest conflict management at a global level. He was also a visiting scholar and lecturer at Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University, China. Dr. Gritten, in his current position at RECOFTC, works on many of the organization's extensive activities in its focal countries – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Specifically, he is working in the thematic areas of forest conflict management, livelihoods and markets. His market and livelihoods work includes research into the regulatory barriers inhibiting local communities and smallholders from making a living from selling timber. Additionally he is involved in numerous training courses offered by RECOFTC that develop the capabilities of organizations, policy makers, practitioners, and forest users to make community management of forests more effective.

Mr. Bob Harrington, State Forester

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Mr. Harrington's academic travels have taken him from his hometown of Bonner Springs, Kansas, to the University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management in 1983. His work has taken him to the landscapes surrounding Missoula, Whitefish, Helena, Bozeman, and Billings, Montana, where he has worked for the Montana Department of Natural Resources for the past 27 years. He is a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Tanzania), and has traveled in Nepal, Ecuador, England, Mexico, and Holland. His most important trips have been to China, where he and his wife Pam met their daughters Tian and LinXiao, who keep them tired and happy. He enjoys spending time with his family and dog, especially while skiing, rafting, fishing, mountain biking, and hiking. He has been the Montana State Forester since 2003.

Mr. Arvind Khare, Executive Director

Rights and Resources Initiative

Mr. Khare is a natural resource management specialist with more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit, corporate and public sectors. During this period he 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 to 2006. Mr. Khare speaks fluent English and Hindi.

Ms. Faye Kruger, Northern Region Forester

USDA Forest Service Northern Region

Ms. Krueger graduated with a B.S. in forestry from the University of Montana and began work in the US Forest Service in 1980. Through years she has served as Associate Deputy Chief of the National Forest System and was recently selected as the Northern Region Forester. In her current position Ms. Krueger supervises over 25 million acres of forests and grasslands spread out over five states. Ms. Krueger also has held positions on the Payette, Wasatch-Cache, Gallatin, Caribou and Tongrass National Forests and the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Mr. Bryan Lorengo, Safety Officer

Montana Logging Association

Mr. Lorengo joined the staff of the Montana Logging Association (MLA) in January of 2012 as a Field Safety Representative. Prior to teaming up with the MLA, Mr. Lorengo received his Elementary Education degree from the University of Montana - Western in 2000 and began working for Lorengo Logging and for the Montana DNRC as a wildland firefighter and Fire Team Leader. He spent several years working as the Wildland Fire Instructor for the MLA. Mr. Lorengo also owns and operates Lorengo Forestry LLC, which is contracted to manage fuel hazard reduction programs in the counties of Deer Lodge, Granite and Silver Bow. Most recently, he spent the past two years working for the Anaconda Job Corps as a safety officer but found that his passion lies in the logging industry. Mr. Lorengo lives in Anaconda with his wife, Kim, and their three children: Logan, Carter and Kendyl.

Mr. Tim Love, District Ranger, Lolo National Forest

USDA Forest Service Northern Region

Mr. Love is the District Ranger on the USDA Forest Service Seeley Lake Ranger District. A graduate of the University of Montana forestry program, he has 35 years of experience working for the Forest Service's Northern Region. He is a Certified Forester and member of the Society of American Foresters.

Ms. Marcela Maciel, Legal Advisor, Brazilian Forest Service, Ministry of the Environment

Brazil

Ms. Maciel is the Chief Attorney of the Brazilian Forest Service's legal department. She is responsible for the legal advisement of the institution and the creation of regulatory frameworks for the Brazilian forest sector. Ms. Maciel has been a State Attorney since 2002. Prior to her position in the Brazilian Forest Service, she worked as the attorney of the Brazilian Institute of Natural and Renewable Resources (IBAMA) and for the Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development. Ms. Maciel received her B.Sc. in Law in 2000 and her M.Sc. in Law and Public Policies in 2012 from the University Center of Brasilia (CEUB). In 2005, she earned a specialization in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development from the University of Brasilia (UnB).

Ms. Angela Mallon, Private Forestry Assistance Specialist

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

Ms. Mallon is employed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation as the Private Forestry Assistance Specialist. In this position she is responsible for development, management, and implementation of strategies to provide Montana's family forest landowners and partner organizations with technical, financial and educational assistance required for sustainable stewardship of private and community forest lands. Ms. Mallon worked previously in community forestry and wildfire research at Oregon State University, served as a Peace Corps volunteer in agroforestry extension in Paraguay, and was a firefighter with the Forest Service for five seasons. After 9 moves in 10 years, Ms. Mallon thinks she is ready to finally settle down for a stretch in Missoula, where she can be found in her spare time donning running shoes, a backpack, or skis to go play outside, often in the company of her Paraguayan mutt.

Mr. Javier Antonio Martínez Ocaña, Ecosystems Program Coordinator, Rights, the Environment and Natural Resources (DAR)

Peru

Mr. Martínez Ocaña is a Forest Engineer with a Masters in the Conservation of Natural Resources. From his 18 years of experience, he has strong knowledge of forest management and public administration. He served as a Forest Specialist and the Director of Planning and Promotion in the public forestry authority at national, sub national and local levels. Mr. Martínez Ocaña served as the Forestry Specialist for the ad hoc committee for the forest concessions' process. He also led, conducted and implemented a forestry management project in the central jungle of Peru. He currently serves as the National Coordinator of the forest management group, leading discussion and coordination efforts in community forest management.

Dr. Augusta Molnar, Senior Director, Country & Regional Programs

Rights and Resources Initiative

Dr. Molnar coordinates the country and regional activities of the Latin America, Asia and Africa Programs of the Initiative, also focusing on RRI's global theme of Alternative Tenure & Enterprise Models (ATEMs) that better support local economies and livelihoods. Her M.A., Ph.D. and post-graduate work in the 1970s and 1980s was focused on South Asia – initially on gender and subsequently on natural resource management, community forestry and related social assessment. Prior to joining Rights and Resources, Dr. Molnar worked more than twenty years with different international development agencies, mainly with the World Bank in Asia and Central America on issues of forestry, land tenure, gender, Indigenous Peoples and related policies. Dr. Molnar has worked in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mexico, Honduras, Chile, Costa Rica, and Central and West Africa. She speaks fluent Spanish, Nepali, English, and some French.

Ms. Fabiola Muñoz Dodero, Deputy Director and Program Manager of Institutional Strengthening, U.S. Forest Service - Peru Forest Sector Initiative

Peru

Ms. Muñoz Dodero studied Law at the Catholic University of Peru (PUCP) and was the first woman to become President of the Federation of Law Students. In 2001, she 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 present Ms. Muñoz Dodero has been part of the PFSI team in Peru as Deputy Director of PFSI and Program Manager of the Institutional Strengthening component.

Mr. Augustine Bantar Najamnsi, Executive Secretary, Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme

Cameroon

Mr. Najamnsi is an environmental lawyer with over fifteen years of experience in the areas of sustainability, climate change, biodiversity and biosafety. He is a fervent advocate for local communities' right to participatory governance of their forests and environment. He is the Access Initiative's National Coordinator for Cameroon and the Central African Sub Regional Coordinator for the Pan African Justice Alliance. He has served as the government of Cameroon's legal expert, coordinating the team of drafters for the National Biosafety Project and he is also Africa's Representative to the United Nations Environmental Program Major Groups (UNEP). He has written widely and has carried out environmental advocacy in Africa, Europe and the United States. He has an LLB and LLM from Yaoundé University and speaks English, French and Limbum.

Mr. Khamphanh Nanthavong, Director General, Department of Forest Resources Management, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Laos

Mr. Nanthavong earned his M.Sc. in Agriculture and Forestry Extension in 2004. From 1993 to 1996 he served as the Director General of the Southern Forestry technician School, Southern Laos. From 1997 to 1999, he was Director General of the Southern Agriculture and Forestry Extension Training Centre, Southern Laos. Mr. Nanthavong was managing the Swedish Forestry Programme in Savannakhet Province of Southern Laos and gave courses in Forest Plantation Technique, village forestry volunteers, land use, land allocation, and integrated community development in targeted villages. From 2007 to 2011, he served as the Deputy Director General of the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. At present he is the Director General of the Department of Forest Resources Management, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and has taken responsibility for Conservation and Protection Forests Management and forest rehabilitation. Mr. Nanthavong leads the Forestry Law revision Committee as head of the secretariat team.

Ms. Catherine Nguéa, Assistant Director of cadastral work, Directorate of Land Registry, Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure

Cameroon

Ms. Nguéa is the Assistant Director of cadastral work at the Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure. She currently works on the national cadastre project, which aims to use macro zoning to map all Cameroonian lands. This will enable the Ministry to establish cadastral plans that will clearly distinguish forest, mining, agricultural and industrial areas. Prior to that, she was working on the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline Project and was focusing on land access issues.

Mr. Martin Cyrille Nkie, Head of the Monitoring Unit of Forest Regeneration, Reforestation, and Extension at the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

Cameroon

Mr. Nkie has been working for the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife since 1994 and spent most of his career coordinating forest development projects in the Littoral and Center regions. Since 2011, Mr. Nkie has served as the Head of the Monitoring Unit of Forest Regeneration, Reforestation, and Extension at the Department of Forestry. This unit is responsible for regulating reforestation activities conducted by districts, communities, and private landowners in Cameroon. Mr. Nkie is involved in the drafting and negotiation of forest laws and regulations. He is also working on the creation of REDD+ projects and cooperation agreement projects between the three largest forest basins in the World (the Amazon, Central Africa and South East Asia).

Mr. Dinesh Paudel, Doctoral Candidate, University of Minnesota

Nepal

Mr. Paudel is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota, and will complete his Ph.D. in August 2012. His doctoral research focuses on the historical relationship between shifting community forestry policies, changing rural livelihoods and growing social movements in Nepal. Coming from a rural mountain area of Eastern Nepal, he was trained as a forester in the 1990s, and began his career working for several years as a field extension worker for the Nepali community forestry programs. After pursuing a Masters degree at the University of Cambridge (UK), in 1999 he worked as a coordinator for the forest-based enterprise development theme of a community forestry program in Nepal implemented by the Swiss Development Agency for more than six years. Mr. Paudel has published a number of articles and documents related to community forestry policies, commercialization and rural livelihoods. He is currently affiliated with ForestAction Nepal, a think tank NGO based in Kathmandu.

Ms. Rudriksha Rai Parajuli, Team Leader, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-Nepal
Nepal

Ms. Rai Parajuli is a Team Leader of a sustainable soil management program implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Nepal and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The program is focused on promoting decentralized agriculture extension services to farmers at the household level. Her chief role is managing and administering the program with the active engagement of government, non-government and civil society organizations. Ms. Rai Parajuli completed her Master's research on forest governance and systems ecology in ESF, Syracuse, New York as a Fulbright scholar. At the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal, she gained valuable experience working on community based natural resource management projects in protected areas of Nepal. From her experience, she believes that in all sectors of natural resource management, operational issues, policy hurdles, political instability and lack of political commitment are major challenges that hinder participatory development and decentralized service delivery at the community level.

Ms. Elena Rubio Urrelo, Forest Specialist, Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife, Ministry of Agriculture
Peru

Ms. Rubio Urrelo is an economist with expertise in forest conservation and extensive experience in promoting sustainable forest management in Peru's public and private sector. She participated in the latest Forestry and Wildlife legislative process (N° 29763 and 1090), Regulations of N° 1090, and amending Regulations of the Forest and Wildlife Law N° 27308 as well as in elaborating its complementary standards, with an emphasis on the timber concessions and voluntary forest certification processes. Ms. Rubio Urrelo has strong knowledge of administrative and voluntary forest certification procedures as well as experience in formulating, monitoring, implementing and evaluating sustainable forest development projects. She currently works at the Ministry of Agriculture, in the Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife, as a forest specialist, developing policies to promote sustainable development, with an emphasis on timber concessions and voluntary forest certification. She is also a member of the staff responsible for drafting the regulations of the Forest and Wildlife Law N° 29763.

Ms. Comfort Tweh Sakui, Park Warden, Forestry Development Authority
Liberia

Ms. Sakui holds a B.Sc. degree in Zoology from the University of Liberia. Her interest in the field of Forest Conservation emerged when she conducted a research project on the Endangered Species of the Sapo National Park qualifying her to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology. Ms. Sakui works for the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as the only female Park Warden, heading the Proposed Gola Forest National Park. She is directly responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of all resource management programs; enforcement of the Forestry Development Authority regulations, policies and laws; and community relations and educational programs associated with the Protected Area. The Gola Forest National Park is one of the high priority areas of the Upper Guinea Ecosystem in West Africa and a tran boundary conservation area between Liberia and Sierra Leone. Ms. Sakui is also facilitating the implementation of two Projects: the "Across the River" and the "Consolidation of Protected Areas Network COPAN", both projects aim at establishing three new protected land areas.

Mr. Gordy Sanders, Resource Manager

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.

Mr. Sanders joined Pyramid Mountain Lumber 10 years ago as the Resource Manager, having earned a Master's of Science degree in Forest and Range Management from Washington State University. He is familiar with Montana's timber industry, having worked as a forester for Anaconda Forest Products, Champion International, and Plum Creek Timber Company before coming to Pyramid. Along with his local duties, he networks with timber groups and government agencies at the state and federal level to improve forest management methods and practices. Mr. Sanders is a Society of American Foresters (SAF) Certified Forester. He is currently the Chair of the Montana SAF Policy Committee and has served as the Montana State Chair. He also serves as an auditor for the State of Montana Forestry Best Management Practices. Mr. Sanders has received numerous awards and recognitions, including "Timberman of the Year" and "Communicator of the Year" from the Montana Wood Products Association.

Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, National Coordinator of the Climate Change REDD Program, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)

Nepal

Ms. Sherpa serves the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) as the National Coordinator of the Climate Change REDD Program in Nepal. Ms. Sherpa is also a faculty member of Kathmandu University and teaches Environmental Education and Sustainable Development (EESD). Ms. Sherpa is the focal person of the indigenous peoples of Asia in the United Nations - REDD program, serving actively in this position following the 2009 UNFCCC negotiations.

Mr. Boupone Sisoulath, Vice President of Economic, Planning and Finance Committee, National Assembly of the Lao PDR

Laos

Mr. Sisoulath was born in the Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR and attended university in the Soviet Union where he completed his Master's Degree in National Economic Planning. From 1984 to 1986 he worked at the State Planning Committee. Mr. Sisoulath served from 1986 to 1999 as the Head of the Commerce Division of the Savannakhet Province. In 1999 he was the head of the Commerce and Tourism Division of Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. In 2010 he was the General Director of the Evaluation and Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Lao PDR. From 2011 to present Mr. Sisoulath has been a member of the Lao National Assembly and the Vice President of Economic, Planning and Finance Committee of the Lao National Assembly.

Mr. Jim Smyle, Natural Resource Management Specialist

Independent Consultant

Mr. Smyle is a US-based, independent consultant for the environment, natural resources and rural development. His areas of specialization and interest include: sustainable natural resource management; watershed management; forestry and agricultural development; community and rural development; environmental policy and regulation; governance and rural institutions. His academic background is in forest management and forest hydrology. He has almost 30 years of experience working and living in Latin America, Asia, and most recently in Africa. During his career, he has been on staff at the World Bank (1988-2006) and his current consulting clients include the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Investment Centre. He lives in San Antonio, Texas where he is active in local environmental and development issues and serves as the Chairman/President of The Vetiver Network International, a global network promoting the utilization of Vetiver grass for applications in soil and moisture conservation, bioengineering, phytoremediation and community development.

Mr. Daniel Meireles Tristão, Head of the International and National Cooperation Division, Brazilian Forest Service, Ministry of the Environment

Brazil

Mr. Tristão is a Specialist in Public Policies and Governmental Management from the Brazilian Ministry of Planning. He has been working for the Brazilian Forest Service since 2007. Prior to this position Mr. Tristão worked for the National Office of the Controller General as an auditor. In the Forest Service, Mr. Tristão is responsible for the International “Agenda” and also charged with articulating the agencies steps towards national cooperation. He has represented the Brazilian Forest Service in many international forums and conferences. He has also participated in international processes to discuss forest governance including the creation of the PROFOR/FAO “framework for assessing and monitoring forest governance.” Mr. Tristão received his B.Sc. in International Relations in 2005 from the University of Brasília, Brazil. He also has a specialization in Global Governance from the German Development Institute (GDI), in Germany.

Ms. Ely Zuma Villegas Gómez, Aid Worker, Noel Kempff Mercado Foundation

Boliva

Ms. Villegas Gómez is a computer science engineer and an eco-social scientist with 18 years of experience. She has worked as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) expert in an indigenous peoples’ organization where she led the geography department of the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum and was the research coordinator of the Bolivian Forestry Research Institute. Currently, she works for the Noel Kempff Mercado Foundation. Her main topics of research are sustainable development, ecosystem services, territorial planning, the causes and consequences of deforestation, and holistic forest management. Ms. Villegas Gómez has a strong background in leading multidisciplinary teams and communicating knowledge to different people. She earned her Master’s degree in Natural Resources and the Environment from the University of Florida.

Dr. Andy White, Coordinator

Rights and Resources Initiative

Prior to helping create and establish RRI, Dr. White 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 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 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. Dr. White has a Ph.D. in Forest Economics, an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota, and a B.S. in Forestry from Humboldt State University.

Mr. Roger Ziesak, Forest Practices Specialist

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Mr. Ziesak is the Forest Products Retention and Utilization Program Manager at the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). He started his career in 1980 working as a timber cruiser in Alaska and spent 12 years there in a variety of positions eventually reaching Chief Forester before leaving in 1994 to start his own forestry consulting company in Montana. Ziesak Forestry operated for 10 years working from California to Alaska to North Dakota and all points in-between. He joined the Montana DNRC in late 2003 and has worked as a lead forester on the Swan State Forest and as the Operations Section Chief for the Forest Management Bureau before moving to his current position. Mr. Ziesak has worked in all types of timber throughout the western U.S. and has experience in every aspect of forest management and project development.