

Participant Biographies

COUNTRY DELEGATES

Brazil

GARO BATMANIAN has previously worked in the World Bank offices in the USA, Brazil and China. His last position was Global Lead for Forests, Landscape Biodiversity, responsible for coordinating the implementation of an integrated green agenda. Garo also coordinated the World Bank's Forest Action Plan, managed the Forest Investment Program (FIP) for the World Bank, and the Program for Forests (PROFOR), the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN) and the Pilot Program to Conserve the Brazilia Rainforest. Earlier in his career, he was the LAC Program Director of WWF-USA, and the first CEO of the WWF Brazil having led the development of the Amazon Rainforest Protected Areas Initiative (ARPA). Garo is also the founder of FSC-Brazil, served as its first chairman and led the process of developing national standards for natural forest management in the Amazon and for plantations. Garo holds a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Georgia, USA.



MARCUS VINICIUS ALVES holds a bachelor's degree in Forestry Engineering, from the University of Brasilia, Brazil, and a Ph.D. in Forest Sciences, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. During 24 years, Marcus Alves worked as a research scientist at the Forest Products Laboratory of the Brazilian Forest Service, where he served as its Head for 11 years. In 2010 he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Brazilian Forest Service, where he became responsible for forestry development, concessions and monitoring, until 2019. Since January, 2023, Marcus Alves has been

the Director responsible for the Rural Environmental Regularization National Program and Deputy Director-General of the Brazilian Forest Service.

Canada

VINCENT ROY is a forest engineer and holds a Ph.D. in forest science from Laval University (Québec, Canada). He started his career as a research scientist in plantation silviculture for the provincial government of Québec. In 2009, he was nominated Research Director at the Canadian Forest Service (CFS). His national responsibilities have included being national project coordinator of the forest productivity, forest integrity and climate change research programs. He is currently acting Director General for the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, a research branch within the CFS, and he leads the science program “Developing Sustainable Fibre Solutions”. Throughout his career, he has published 24 papers in peer-reviewed journals.



China

LIU YUYING holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Peking University (Beijing, China). For sixteen years, she worked at the World Bank Loan Project Management Center for the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, engaging in loan grant project management of international financial organizations and international non-governmental cooperation and exchanges. Since 2021, she has served as the Deputy



Director General of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration's International Cooperation Center.

XU YINGXUE holds a Bachelor's degree from Hokuriku University and a Master's of Science from Hokkaido University. Since 2015, she has served as a Program Officer at the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. She speaks Mandarin, Japanese, English, and Korean.

Republic of the Congo



Her Excellency Minister ROSALIE MATONDO obtained the Baccalauréat, D series in 1983, a diploma which opened the doors to a post-graduate academic career in Bulgaria on a scholarship from the Congolese State as part of the Congo-Bulgaria cooperation. During her stay in Bulgaria, she earned a diploma in Agricultural Engineering from the Department of Genetic Engineering at the Higher Institute of Agronomy, Plovdiv, as well as a doctorate in Agronomic Sciences, Plant Biotechnology Option, at the Institute of Genetic Engineering (IGE) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Kostinbrod. She then returned to the Congo to serve her country as a researcher until she was appointed Director of the National Reforestation Service in 2007. From there, her illustrious career in public service included appointments at the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program (PRONAR) and the Department of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development, Environment and Quality of Life. In 2016, she was elevated to the position of Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the Environment, and reappointed Minister of Forest Economy following ministerial rearrangement in 2017. Minister Matondo is passionate about passing on her knowledge to younger generations and teaches at Brazzaville's Marien Ngouabi University. Her favorite hobbies are reading, cinema, theater, music and clever games (scrabble, arrowwords, etc.). She is

Honorary President of the Congolese Volleyball Federation, but she is also keen on aikido, cycling and walking.



**CARINE
SATURNINE
MILANDOU**

received the Major Ingénieur of Waters and



Forests, Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies of Science in Plant Production and Ecology, Plant Ecology Option, obtained in 2009, at the Faculté des Sciences, Université Marien Ngouabi in the Republic of Congo. She also has two M.S. degrees in Animal Biology and Plant Biology. She supervises practical work in Plant Ecology and

Experimental Botany at the Faculty of Science, Université Marien Ngouabi. Her doctoral thesis in Geo-Sciences-Environment, on the monitoring of forest cover by remote sensing in the Republic of Congo, is currently awaiting defense. In addition to this academic background, she has obtained numerous certificates and attestations during professional internships and capacity-building workshops in various African, European, American and Asian countries, in the fields of law enforcement, computer science, biostatistics, database management, sustainable forest management, forest inventory and management, geographic information systems, remote sensing, MNV-REDD+, climate change, greenhouse gas inventory in the AFAT sector and forest biomass and carbon inventory and quantification.



**ALPHONSE
MAYINGUIDI** holds a Baccalauréat Série A and a Diplôme d'études universitaires générales in

law. He has had a long career in security and enforcement, from his training at the Ecole Militaire Préparatoire des Cadet de la Révolution (EMPCR) to his appointment as Lieutenant and then Captain of the National Police. He now serves as the Public Relations



Attaché and Chief of Protocol to the Minister of the Forest Economy. He speaks French and English.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Her Excellency Minister **EVE BAZAIBA MASUDI** is a Congolese lawyer, politician, and human rights activist. In 2007, she was elected to the Senate as a member of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) political party, by the Kinshasa Provincial Assembly. After serving her five-year term, she became president (chairperson) of the socio-cultural commission at the National Assembly in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is a strong advocate for human rights and particularly the rights of women and other vulnerable groups. As of May 2019, she served as the Secretary General of the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) political party. She is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development since 2021.



OLOFIO CYNTHIA BEMBA GOMBO serves as a Climate Change Expert at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.



TYPE WOMBI BIYELA DILINGI holds an array of degrees across a wide span of technical areas. After gaining his state diploma in Math and Physics, he went on to degrees in International Relations, Sanitation Engineering, Radio Communications, Pastoral Theology, and Organization and Change Management. Prior to his work with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, he managed sanitation in the Ile-de-France region and worked as a telecommunications network engineer. He now serves as the Advisor to the Minister of State in charge of Reforestation, Horticulture, Protection of Forests and Peatlands.

Indonesia

BAMBANG SUPRIYANTO currently is carrying out his duties as Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. Before, he was the Director General of Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership for the period of 2017-2024. He also had been trusted to play some other important roles at the Ministry of Forestry/Environment and Forestry i.e. Head of Planning Bureau; Director of Research and Development for Social Economic Forest Policy and Climate Change Center; Director of Utilization of Environmental Services of Conservation and Protected Forest; and Head of Mount Halimun Salak National Park. For the last few years he is also especially active in the field of social forestry and local communities. Behind those achievements, he was highly educated and awarded a PhD in Management of Land and Forestry and a Master degree in Forest Policy and Planning in University of Ghent-Belgium.





NUR DWIYATI has been working in the Ministry of Forestry since 1994 and is now focused on developing Social Forestry Business. After serving as the Head of Program for Evaluation, Law, and Technical Cooperation for the Secretariat Directorate General of Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership, she assumed the position of Forest Ecosystem Manager for the Directorate of Social Forestry Business Development in 2024. She earned her Bachelor's in Forestry from IPB University and her Master's of Administration from Krisnadwipayana University.

VINDA FELLISIA serves as a Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Indonesia. She previously held positions as a Technical Cooperation Analyst at the Ministry and Administration Officer for the Mangrove Restoration Agency. She has a strong interest in international cooperation, environment, and forestry issues, as well as experience in working with government and international and domestic partners. She specializes in project preparation, international grant cooperation, and social forestry. In 2017, she obtained her Bachelor's of International Relations from Padjajaran University.



Nepal

RABINDRA MAHARJAN joined the Forest Research and Training Centre at the beginning of 2024. He earned his B. Sc. in Forestry from the Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal in 1994. He then joined the former Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation/ Government of Nepal as an Assistant Forest Officer of Nepal Forest Service. Since joining the Forest Service, he has served many offices with different capacities in various geographical regions of the country, ranging from the Terai plains region to high mountain areas. Highlights from FRTC (former Department of Forest Research and Survey-DFRS) include the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA)



Nepal Project (2010–2014) with financial and technical assistance from the Government of Finland; re-measurement of Permanent Sample Plots (FRA continuation) of 2016-2021; and development of the National Land Cover Monitoring System (NLCMS) with technical support from SERVIR-HKH, a joint initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

Peru

NELLY PAREDES DEL CASTILLO, an agronomist from the National Agrarian University of La Molina, holds a Master's degree in Rural Development from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia). She has furthered her education with specialization courses in rural development, project management and public administration, both nationally and internationally. Currently serving as the Executive Director of the National Forest and



Wildlife Service (SERFOR), Ms. Paredes has held important positions including Head of the Technical Cabinet of the Presidency from December 2022 to March 2023, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation from December 2022 to September 2023, Executive Director of SERFOR from July to October 2022, and Advisor to the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation. Ms. Paredes was honored as Engineer of the Year by the Peruvian College of Engineers in 2021. Her career also includes positions such as Director of Natural Resources Management, Risks and Climate Change at the Agrarian Rural Productive Development Program (Agrorural-MIDAGRI), Director of Planning and Budget in various programs at MIDAGRI, and Executive Director of the Forest Program at SERFOR-MIDAGRI from 2019 to 2021.

Sweden

HERMAN SUNDQVIST has served as the Director General of the Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen), Swedish Forest Agency - Skogsstyrelsen since 2016. He is currently a Co-Chair of MegaFlorestais. Previously, he was the Former Head of Forest Management at the Swedish forest company Sveaskog. He received his Doctor of Forestry from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. When not working, he takes care of a small sheep-herd, his own forest and – as you will probably notice – he is an ornithologist!



MAGNUS VIKLUND serves as the Head of the Policy and Analysis Unit of the Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen), Swedish Forest Agency - Skogsstyrelsen. He has been with the agency since 2004 and held various management positions since 2009, ranging from regional district to national units on inspection and policy matters. He holds a Master Forester's Degree from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

United States

ANGELA COLEMAN serves as the Associate Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Prior to this assignment, she served as Forest Service Chief of Staff beginning in 2015, where she oversaw the Chief's Office daily operations and staff, issues management, and Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs programs. She provided senior-level support to the Chief of the agency and the Executive Leadership Team to advance and deliver the agency's natural resource conservation mission. Angela has served in numerous leadership roles with the Forest Service, to include Washington Office roles as associate deputy chief of Business Operations, and associate deputy chief of



Research and Development. Before that, she served as deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region for national forests located in California and parts of Nevada. She also served for 7 years as regional communications director for the Southern Region in Atlanta. A native of Phenix City, AL, Angela has amassed more than 33 years with the Forest Service. She is currently a member of the World Forestry Congress.

LIZ MAYHEW serves as the Assistant Director for Latin America, Caribbean and Canada (LACC) for the International Programs Office of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. As the LACC Assistant Director, she is responsible for managing the LACC team staff, directing the regional program, and overseeing design and implementation of US Forest Service technical assistance, training and other collaborative activities. Liz has over 35 years of experience in international project implementation and management, focused on forestry, environment and agricultural related topics in Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, and Central and Eastern Europe. Before coming to USFS International Programs in 2001, she managed cooperative activities in Latin America, as well as in Central and Eastern Europe with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (1989- 1999) and Agricultural Research Service (1999-2000). Liz worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala from



1986-1988.

RESOURCE ADVISORS

TASSO AZEVEDO is a forester and social entrepreneur on forests, climate and sustainability. He was a co-founder of MegaFlorestais and played a major role in the last meeting held in Brazil in 2008. Tasso is the general coordinator of MapBiomass (land cover and land use change monitoring initiative) and Chair of



the Board Connection Forest People initiative. Tasso was founder and general director of IMAFLORA and General Director of the Brazilian Forest Service. He is a visiting scholar of Brazil Lab at Princeton University, an Ashoka Senior Fellow (2021) and Skoll Award Fellow (2022) and board member of Rainforest Alliance, Preferred by Nature and Santander.



DAVID BRAND is the founding Chair of the International Sustainable Forestry Coalition—a group of private forestry companies dedicated to supporting the transition to a nature positive bioeconomy. He has over 40 years' experience in forestry investment, forest management, science, and public policy, and is dedicated to innovative, responsible investment strategies in the forest sector and associated assets. From 1985-1995, David worked with the Canadian Forest Service as a scientist, director of scientific programs, and ultimately as national Director-General of Science and Sustainable Development. David has a PhD from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Toronto in Canada.

SALLY COLLINS has a 40 year history managing forests, from the local level (Forest Supervisor of Deschutes National Forest for 8 years) to the Associate Chief in Washington DC for 8 years. She also served as the first Director of the Office of Environmental Markets in US Dept of Agriculture (2008-10), set up to pursue new and innovative markets for forestry and agriculture, such as water and carbon markets. She currently serves on the Forest Trends Board with whom she is working (with the USFS) to encourage large-scale partnerships that can enhance funding and support to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires. She is also an RRI Fellow. She has Co-Chaired MegaFlorestais since its inception in 2005.





MÁRCIO HALLA is the founder and manager of Ecotore Social and Environmental Services. He is an agronomist, graduated from São Paulo State University (UNESP), and has a master's degree in Territorial Planning from Santiago de Compostela University in Spain. Marcio has implemented several sustainable development projects, working closely with traditional communities and indigenous peoples in the Atlantic Rainforest and Amazon region. Since 1997, he has actively managed projects on agroforestry, organic agriculture, sustainable forest value chains, community

based ecotourism and forest management and certification. Marcio has provided auditing services for Smartwood / FSC / IMAFLORA and the Union for Ethical Biotrade (UEBT) in Latin America. W the Health and Happiness Project (PSA) in the Tapajos and Arapiuns rivers region, in Santarém, Pará, Brazilian Amazon, he launched the "knowledge journeys", boat trips with pedagogical, scientific and/or technical purposes, and has already promoted more than 30 expeditions since 2009. Marcio currently leads indigenous economic and governance projects in Latin America, acting as the director of the Territorial Governance Facility for Forest Trends' Communities and Territorial Governance Initiative, and also represents the NGO Seacology in Brazil, supporting local communities living in islands to access funds to strengthen the capacities for local development, environmental conservation and cultural strengthening.

ANDREW MICCOLIS is CIFOR-ICRAF's country coordinator for Brazil, where he leads initiatives aimed at agroforestry-based forest and landscape restoration, appraisal, design, and expansion of scale of agroforestry options coupled with other sustainable land-use practices. Over the last 10 years, his research has spanned agroforestry systems and approaches, agroecology, sustainable biofuels, climate-change adaptation, environmental governance, and land-use policies and practices. Previously, he worked as a consultant and facilitator in sustainable livelihoods and participatory natural resource management projects with NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations, and as a trainer in agroforestry and permaculture. He lives on a small farm where he practices agroforestry and agroecology.





ÉLIANE UBALIJORO is Chief Executive Officer of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and Director General of ICRAF. An accomplished leader with a background in agriculture and molecular genetics, she serves on several boards and has been recognized for outstanding contributions to innovation, gender equity and sustainable prosperity creation. Born in Rwanda and raised on three continents, Dr Ubalijoro

knew from a young age that she wanted a career in service to the world. She earned a bachelor's degree in general agriculture and a master's and a doctorate in molecular genetics from McGill University, where she studied improving productivity in agriculture. With a career spanning academia, the private sector and the non-profit and international development sectors, she started as a scientific director in the biotechnology sector working in molecular diagnostics, later pivoting to focus on sustainable development as well as improving the lives of women and smallholder farmers in emerging countries.

SECRETARIAT

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. Solange previously led RRI's strategy for engagement in Africa with a focus on tenure rights reform. She built synergies around new strategic 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 peace-building. 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. As Coordinator of RRI, Solange advises policy research, advocacy, and engagement in Asia, Latin America, and Africa and leads initiatives and networks to advance RRI's mission. Solange holds a PhD 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.



LESLIE WELDON is an experienced leader in natural resource conservation and organizational development. Over the past 41 years, Leslie served in a diversity of senior executive and field-based positions within the USDA Forest Service including Deputy Chief for Work and Environment and performance, National Forest System, Regional Forester, and External Affairs Officer. She has led US Forest Service conservation work in Washington State, Oregon, Montana, and Washington, DC. She has shaped conservation policy, guided aquatic and forest restoration programs in a diversity of ecosystems and communities, and led employee performance and diversity, equity, and inclusion programs for the Forest Service and USDA. She chose her vocation while a teenager and after participation in the Youth Conservation Corps in the late-70's. She serves on the boards of Trout Unlimited, Arbor Day Foundation, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, The Corps Network, and the University of Washington Center for Environmental Forensic Science.

RRI Coalition Members

CRISANTO RUDZÖ TSEREMEY'WÁ is a leader in the Xavante community of Mato Grosso. He is active in the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and former Vice-Coordiantor of the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB). He has also served as the president of Federação dos Povos e Organizações Indígenas de Mato Grosso (FEPOIMT), an initiative founded in 2018 to respect sociocultural diversity and promote the leading role of the 43 Indigenous Peoples of the State of Mato Grosso. He is an alternate Board member of Podaali, the first Indigenous-led fund of the Amazon region, an initiative of COIAB.



HILTON LUCAS GONÇALVES DURÃO is a quilombola, Afro-descendent territory, from the community of Porto Alegre, in the municipality of Cametá, Pará, Brazil. He is an agronomist with a Master's degree in Family Farming and Sustainable Development, and is currently studying for a PhD in Biodiversity and Biotechnology at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), with a focus on the Amazon. He has extensive experience in agricultural technical assistance, working with traditional communities in the northeast

of Pará, especially in the cocoa and açaí production chains and forest management. His research includes studies on environmental preservation in quilombola territories in the Legal Amazon, with an emphasis on measuring native vegetation. He also carries out research into botany, ethnobotany and agrobiodiversity.