



Available for Interviews at 14th World Forestry Congress/Civil Society Alternative Program and Fostering Community Conservation Conference 31 Aug – 11 Sep in Durban, South Africa

To reach contacts listed below, call Press Officer Ashlesha Khadse at
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1. **Name:** Simone Lovera
Country: Netherlands/Paraguay
Affiliations: Global Forest Coalition
Languages: English, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French and German.

Simone Lovera is the executive director of the [Global Forest Coalition](http://www.globalforestcoalition.org). With a degree in international environment law, she has closely followed and is an expert on a range of international negotiations processes –UNFCCC, CBD and others in the field of sustainable development since 1990. She helped found and coordinate numerous international NGO networks and movements such as Friends of the Earth International, Sobrevivencia/Friends of the Earth-Paraguay. She also is a guest researcher at the Centre of Sustainable Development Studies of the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research in the Netherlands.

Cell: +595-981-407375 (Paraguay), +31-6-47392511 (Europe)
Expertise: International forest policy, Carbon offsets, REDD, Biodiversity conservation, Indigenous rights; International environmental law, Women and biodiversity; Payments for environmental services; Market-based conservation mechanisms; Biofuels.

2. **Name:** Fiu Mataese Elisara-La'ulu
Country: Samoa
Affiliations: Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated/ Global Forest Coalition
Languages: English, Samoan, Polynesian Languages

Fiu Elisara is the Executive Director of OSSI. He worked for the UNDP from 1993-2001 as the Assistant Resident Representative responsible for the Global Environment Facility in Samoa. He was closely involved with the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) in the implementation of environment programs in Pacific Island nations. Fiu advocates for the rights of Indigenous Peoples under the UNFCCC and CBD.
Expertise: Indigenous Rights; South Pacific / Small Island Nations and Climate Change;

Climate Policy; REDD
Contact: +27 (0)78.266.7280

3. **Name:** Wally Menne
Country: South Africa
Languages: English
Affiliations: Timberwatch Coalition

Wally is project coordinator for Timberwatch, an organization that monitors the ecological and social impacts of the timber industry in South Africa. As a specialist consultant at the Indigenous Plant Network (Plantnet), Menne also gives advice on the use and availability of South African native/indigenous plants for landscaping and habitat restoration. He is also the main organizer of the CSAP – Civil society Alternative Platform to the 14th World Forestry Congress in Durban.

Expertise: Ecological impacts of monocultures, in particular of timber plantations, on forests and grasslands; the socio-economic implications of large-scale land-use conversion to timber/pulpwood/agro fuel crop production; Carbon offsets (REDD+ and CDM) trading and biodiversity offsets (land exchanges); and natural vegetation/landscape restoration, through the propagation and cultivation of locally indigenous plants

Cell: +27 (0) 82 4442083

4. **Name:** David Kureeba
Country: Uganda
Language: English
Affiliations: Global Forest Coalition, Friends of the earth, National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) Uganda

David co-ordinates forest and biodiversity issues for African partners at NAPE, the Uganda representative of *Friends of the Earth*. Mr. Kureeba also leads campaigns involving agro-fuels and the negative effects of plantation expansion as well as tracking and analyzing the United Nations program *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation* (REDD)

Expertise: Forestry policies, timber industry, agro fuels, REDD

5. **Name:** Phillip Owen
Country: South Africa
Languages: English
Organization: Geosphere/Global Forest Coalition

Phillip has been involved in the South African Environmental Sector since 1999. He is an expert on the forestry sector as well as the sustainability of large scale,

industrial timber plantation model, and the specific impacts it exert on water, people, animals and plants. He specializes on timber plantation issues in South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique and has participated in various national level and international level fora on these issues working with all stakeholders, including timber industry, NGOs and communities.

Expertise: Forestry policies, timber industry in South Africa, agrofuels, conservation

6. **Name:** Inés Franceschelli

Country: Paraguay

Languages: Spanish (interpreter available to english)

Affiliations: Ñamoseke Monsanto

Ines is a leader of the Ñamoseke Monsanto campaign, which brings together more than 30 local peasants, indigenous and environmental groups in Paraguay. They carry out research and outreach on GMOs and pesticides in Paraguay. The main issues they cover are monoculture plantations and crops in Paraguay, impacts of agribusiness, and criminalization of activists.

Expertise: GMOs, Monoculture Plantations, Pesticides, agribusiness

7. **Name:** Miguel Lovera

Country: Paraguay

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and some Dutch

Affiliations: Global Forest Coalition

Miguel Lovera is a rural engineer, agriculture and forest policy and practice expert. During his long career he has worked for several national and international NGOs on forest conservation, agro-ecology and the rights of indigenous peoples and small farmers. He also worked for the Paraguayan government as lead climate negotiator and he was head of the national secretariat for plant protection under the Lugo government until the coup d'état in 2012. He became known for his fierce crackdown on illegal releases of genetically modified organisms and related agro-toxics in the country.

Expertise: Global Agriculture and forest policy, community conservation

8. **Name:** Anatoly Lebedev

Country: Russia

Languages: English

Affiliations: Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns - BROCC

Anatoly was honored as the Honorable Environmentalist of Russia in 2000 and as the UN Forest Hero in 2011. Elected in 1989 to the regional legislature in a municipality with an active indigenous forest community, Anatoly started to collaborate with Indigenous Associations to develop a special regime in the legislature for forest use on

Udege indigenous lands in the Primorye region of Russia. His NGO BROK has been working with the indigenous Association and its leaders to defend indigenous culture, rights and priorities in resource use and to create a national park "Udege Legend".

Cel: +7-914-791-3497

Expertise: Indigenous rights, Community Conservation, Forest Policies

9. **Name:** Nadezhda Seliuk

Country: Russia

Language: Russian (interpretation to English available)

Organization: Primorye Regional Association of Indigenous People.

Born in remote small indigenous Udege settlement among wild taiga forests at the Bikin river, Nadezhda is a leader of a women's indigenous groups and the Chair woman of Primorye Indigenous Association. She has been an active representative of Primorye in the Russian National Association of Indigenous People of North (RAIPON) and its forums, including UN Indigenous Forum in Norway (Alta).

Cell: +7-902-524-1210 (Russian only)

10. **Name:** Anne Petermann

Country: USA

Language: English

Affiliations: Executive Director Global Justice Ecology Project, Global Forest Coalition

Anne has worked on campaigns to protect forests, support the rights of Indigenous Peoples and advance social justice since 1989. Since 2004 she has spoken internationally at UN fora and community workshops on the dangerous impacts of genetically engineered trees on Indigenous Peoples, forest dependent communities and forest ecosystems. She is also the International Coordinator of the Campaign to STOP Genetically Engineered Trees.

Expertise: GE trees, REDD, Timber Plantations, Wood-based bioenergy, Agrofuels

Cel: +27 (0) 78.632.2801

11. **Name:** Andrey Laletin, Russia.

Country: Russia

Language: English

Affiliations: Global Forest Coalition, Friends of the Earth Russia

Andrey is a Russian ecologist, and Chairman of the Council of Friends of the Siberian Forests, with whom he has worked for the last two decades, fighting against illegal logging in Siberia. Andrey's extensive experience incorporates international forest policy, protected areas management, Russian forestry and forest legislation, conservation and the sustainable use of forests, traditional forest knowledge, forest biodiversity, and criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

12. **Name:** Souparna Lahiri

Country: India

Language: English

Affiliations: All India Forum of Forest Movements, Global Forest Coalition, People's Union for Civil Rights (PUCL), NGO Forum on ADB as its Board Member

Souparna Lahiri is a veteran of the forest movement in India, now engaged with the All India Forum of Forest Movements. Being a founder member of the Durban Group on Climate Justice since October 2004, Souparna is an anti-carbon trade activist and worked on exposing Clean Development Mechanism projects in India. Souparana has also worked with communities resisting big hydro projects in north eastern India, monitored international financial institutions like the Asian Development Bank and its policies, worked on campaign for labor rights, defending human rights and rights and dignity of the street children in the past. He has three documentary films on resistance against hydro projects to his credit.

Expertise: rights, resources and livelihood of the forest communities, monitoring REDD+ and policies promoting commodification of forests.

13. **Name:** Marcial Arias

Country: Panama,

Language: Spanish, Kuna

Affiliations: A leader of the Kuna people (Panama), Global Forest Coalition, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests

Expertise: Indigenous Peoples' rights, UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIPS), especially as it relates to the UN Climate Convention and the UN Biodiversity Convention.

14. **Name:** Swathi Shresth

Country: India

Language: English

Affiliations: Global Forest coalition

Dr. Swati Shresth combines a profound expertise on community management and forest policy with many years of experience in following the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and other forest and climate related processes. Swati received her Doctor of Philosophy from Duke University as well as a Masters of Philosophy and Master of Arts from Jawaharlal Nehru University in India.

Expertise: Forest policies, indigenous rights, Climate, REDD

15. **Name:** Mary Louise Malig

Country: Phillipines

Language: English

Affiliations: Campaigns and Communications Coordinator, Global Forest Coalition

Mary Lou is an activist researcher, policy analyst and campaigner. She has written on the issues of trade (particularly the World Trade Organization (WTO)), climate change, agriculture and the green economy. She has coordinated campaign teams at several WTO Ministerials and General Councils (Cancun 2003; Hong Kong 2005; Geneva 2006 & 2009, Bali 2013) including co-organizing a flotilla of small fisherfolk, and concerts of the Musicians Against the WTO. Most recently she was part of the coordination team for the Economic Justice Assembly and EndWTO actions in Bali. She is currently Research Associate and Campaigns Coordinator with the Global Forest Coalition.

16. Name: Ronnie Hall

Country: UK

Language: English

Affiliations: Global Forest Coalition/ Critical Information Collective UK

Ronnie is co-director of Critical Information Collective, a UK based organization, which aims to amplify the voices of people calling for system change. Ronnie helped found and coordinated Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)'s Trade Environment and Sustainability Program. She was also involved in establishing the global anti-corporate globalisation network Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS). Ronnie has edited the Community Conservation Resilience reports of the GFC and thus has in-depth knowledge of some of the case studies of community conservation that GFC members work on.

Expertise: Community Conservation, global trade, international forest policies

17. Name: Isis Alvarez

Country: Colombia

Language: English, Spanish

Affiliations: Gender Advisor and Campaigner, Global Forest Coalition

Isis Alvarez is a qualified biologist, but is also a dedicated campaigner on issues related to the impacts of forest exploitation on women and communities. She has worked for Global Forest Coalition for more than 5 years.

Expertise: Gender, Sustainable Development Goals SDGs, Gender, Forest policy, Climate, livestock

18. Name: Holly Jonas

Country: Malaysia / Canada

Language: English

Organisation: Ridge to Reef / Global Forest Coalition

Holly's background is in international environmental and human rights law, anthropology and zoology. She helped develop the CCRI methodology and serves as the coordinator of the CCRI's legal and advocacy team and regional resource person for the national processes in the Solomon Islands and Malaysia. She is also the

International Policy Coordinator for the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA) Consortium and co-founder of Ridge to Reef (a Malaysian environmental organisation).

19. **Name:** James Clifford Meimana

Country: Solomon Islands

Language: English

Organization: Network for indigenous peoples Solomons (NIPS)

James is an advisor on Legal and indigenous peoples rights and works on customary laws and environmental laws in the Solomon Islands. He has been a close collaborator on community conservation and has helped to organize community conservation workshops in Solomon Island.