



**Available for Interviews at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 30 Nov-13 Dec 2015 in Paris**

To reach contacts listed below, and for any other media enquiries, contact GFC's Press Officer, Ashlesha Khadse at:

Cell: +33 20780734743 (France cell number), For Whatsapp (+52 967 111 0424)

Email: [ashlesha@globalforestcoalition.org](mailto:ashlesha@globalforestcoalition.org)

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:** 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.

3. **Name:** Mia MacDonald

**Country:** United States of America

**Language:** English

**Affiliations:** Brighter Green, Global Forest Coalition

Mia McDonald is the executive director and founder of Brighter Green. She is a New York-based public policy analyst and writer who has worked as a consultant to a range of international non-governmental organizations—including the Ford Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, the Green Belt Movement, the Sierra Club, and Save the Children, and several United Nations agencies, among others—on issues of environment, sustainable development, women’s rights and gender equality, reproductive health and population, and conservation and animal protection. She has published many articles in popular and environmental media, authored a number of policy papers and reports, and contributed to four books, including Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai’s best-selling autobiography, *Unbowed*. She is a Senior Fellow of the [Worldwatch Institute](#) and has taught in the human rights program at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and the environmental studies program at New York University.

4. **Name:** Mary Louise Malig

**Country:** Philippines

**Language:** English

**Affiliations:** Campaigns and Communications Coordinator, Global Forest Coalition

Mary Louise Malig is a researcher, policy analyst, campaigner and has written on the issues of trade particularly the World Trade Organization, climate change, food and agriculture. She is co-author of the book, “The Anti-Development State: The Political Economy of Permanent Crisis in the Philippines” and a writer of a number of other papers, her latest publication being “Big Corporations, the Bali Package and Beyond: Deepening TNCs gains from the WTO”. She was the former Trade Campaign Coordinator of Focus on the Global South, and worked as staff for La Via Campesina in Asia. She is also a member of the Critical Information Collective. Malig is presently Campaigns Coordinator and Research Associate of the Global Forest Coalition.

**Expertise:** UNFCCC, Trade, forests, CBD

5. **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. Souparna 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.

6. **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

7. **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

8. **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