



Available for Interviews at the 13th Conference of Parties (COP 13) of the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, 4 Dec - 17 Dec 2015 in Cancun Mexico

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

Cell and Whatsapp: +91 8600839193 (India cel number)

Sype: Ashlesha.khadse

Email: 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, community conservation, CBD, Carbon offsets, REDD, Biodiversity conservation, Indigenous rights; International environmental law, Women and biodiversity; Payments for environmental services; Market-based conservation mechanisms; Biofuels.

2. **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.

Expertise: Livestock, food systems, agricultural policy

3. **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: Livestock, Global Agriculture and forest policy, community conservation

4. **Name:** Inés Franceschelli

Country: Paraguay

Languages: Spanish

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: livestock, GMOs, Monoculture Plantations, Pesticides, agribusiness

5. **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 developed 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).

6. **Name:** Mary Louise Malig
Country: Phillipines
Language: English
Affiliations: Campaigns and Communications Coordinator, Global Forest Coalition

Mary Louise Malig is a researcher, policy analyst, and campaigner. She 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: Livestock, UNFCCC, Trade, forests, CBD

7. **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, CBD, Forest policy

8. **Name:** Pablo Solon Romero
Country: Bolivia
Language: English, Spanish
Organisation: Fundación Solon / Global Forest Coalition

Pablo Solón Romero served as Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations from February 2009 to July 2011 and during that capacity, he served as lead negotiator of Bolivia to the UNFCCC negotiations. He has also worked as an activist for many years with different social organizations, indigenous movements, workers' unions, student associations, human rights and cultural organizations in Bolivia.

Affiliations: Fundacion Solon, Global Forest Coalition

Expertise: UN Institutions/agreements/conventions/processes, Forests, Climate, Biodiversity, Rights of Mother Earth.

9. **Name:** Letícia Rangel Tura

Country: Brazil

Language: Portuguese, português

Organisation: FASE (Federation of Organs for Social and Educational Assistance), Brasil

Letícia Rangel is the Executive Director of FASE Brasil, and representing the organization in the National Coalition of Agroecology and in the Belem Letter Group - a coalition that gathers Brazilian social movements and organizations producing collective analysis and advocacy in the face of green economy threats.

Expertise: Food and farm policy, Forest policy, agroecology

10. **Name:** Alberto Gómez Flores

Country: Mexico

Language: spanish

Organisation: UNORCA, La Via Campesina,

Alberto is part of the national coordination of the National Union of Autonomous Regional Peasant Organizations (UNORCA), a network of regional organizations representing over 200,000 farmers in Mexico. UNORCA works to secure farmers' access to land and productive inputs, fair agricultural prices and credit, and a voice in agricultural policy-making. Gomez was president of UNORCA during the "el campo no aguanta mas" campaign in Mexico, and the Via Campesina's historic participation in the WTO protests in Cancún. He has been involved in movement building against NAFTA and for food sovereignty.

Expertise: Mexico, Campesinos, NAFTA, transgenicos, land, Convention of Biodiversity