

Speaker biographies



Dr Kanta Kumari Rigaud is a Lead Climate Change Specialist in the Africa Region of the World Bank Group. With strong professional experience in natural resources and environment she brings a practical approach to the climate agenda – focusing on policy, strategy, and knowledge management. She is currently leading the Upper Guinea and Congo Basin Forests to advance Natural capital accounting to leverage climate markets and climate financing for these countries. She has a doctorate from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/people/k/kanta-kumari-rigaud>.



Dr Ben Filewod is an economist and forester, currently working as a research scientist for the Canadian Forest Service (previously: Google, London School of Economics). His research into forest sector development, conservation finance (including carbon offsets and natural capital), and (lately) the causes and consequences of forest degradation emphasizes ‘big’ geospatial datasets and empirical methods.



Dr Jonas Ngouhouo Dr. Jonas Ngouhouo-Poufoun is a [Senior Research Fellow at University College London \(UCL\)](#), working on protecting the Congo Basin peatlands and supporting local livelihoods. He holds a PhD on [Livelihoods, Deforestation and Biodiversity Conservation in the Congo Basin](#) from the University of Lorraine, France. His extensive research evaluates the economic importance of Congo Basin forests, including analyzing supply chains of agricultural and forestry commodities. Jonas has contributed to developing sustainable trade practices and serves on the IPBES experts panel, where he was a Lead Author for the assessment of nature's values. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed papers, advancing knowledge in environmental valuation and ecosystem services.



Prof Charles Palmer joined the Department of Geography and Environment at LSE in September 2009. Previously he was a Senior Researcher at the Chair of Environmental Policy and Economics, ETH Zurich, Switzerland. He holds a BA in Biological Sciences from Oxford University, an MSc in Environmental and Resource Economics from University College London and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn, Germany. He primarily works in the fields of environmental and development economics, has published widely, and has worked for several international organisations including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York, and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. His current research includes the continuation of work on forest management and land-use change in tropical countries, as well as work on urban land use and research on similar topics in his home country, the UK.



Patrice Bigombe Logo is a Political Scientist, Lecturer and researcher at the Group for Administrative, Political and Social Science Research (GRAPS) at the University of Yaounde II, Secretary General of the Cameroonian Society of Political Science (SOCASP), Permanent Researcher at the Paul ANGO ELA Foundation of Geopolitics in Central Africa (FPAE) and the Director of the Center of Research and Action for Sustainable Development in Central Africa (CERAD). He is also associate lecturer at the Catholic University of Central Africa (UCAC), at the University of Dschang and at the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon (IRIC, University of Yaounde II, Cameroon). Member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, his scientific research is mainly focused on the Sociology of the State, the government and the recognition of Central African “Pygmies” hunters-gatherers societies and the forestry governance of the Congo Basin rainforests.



Stanislas Stephen Mouba is the environment and Nature protection director of Gabon. He is also the operational focal point of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). He holds an extensive experience in technical, political and program management, particularly in the fields of climate and sustainable development. His areas of expertise are sustainable development, Climate change and Biodiversity Preservation, environmental assessments public policy management, International Negotiations, Green/Climate Finance.



Denis Jean Sonwa is the RDI (Research, Data, and Impact) Director of WRI-Africa. Before WRI, Denis was a Senior scientist with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Cameroon, Africa. His research activities in CIFOR were on Forest and Climate Change responses taking into consideration Adaptation and Mitigation (Ex: REDD+) in Central Africa. He previously worked with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Cameroon on cocoa agroforest management in forest landscapes of West and Central Africa. Denis had been a visiting professor at ASC-TUFS (African Studies Center – Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) in Tokyo (Japan). Denis was trained (undergraduate studies & master's degrees) at the University of Yaoundé (Cameroon), Defended his Ph.D. at the University of Bonn (Germany), and obtained a training certificate from the University of California Berkeley (USA). Trained as Ecologist Denis enjoys working in multidisciplinary contexts. He has authored and co-authored many publications including the recent IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) special report on climate change and Land Degradation.



Declan Conway is the research director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. His research cuts across water, climate and society. He has current interests in behavioural and psychological approaches to water security and adaptation. Declan draws on insights from different disciplines to pursue problem focused research. He has over 25 years of experience working in the UK/Europe, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Declan's research funding has included the EU, UK government departments FCDO and Defra, UK NERC and ESRC, US NSF, Canadian IDRC and the World Bank.



Dany Pokem is a Forest, Environment Management Specialist. He serves as International Senior Consultant in international Partnership, Fund Raising, Facilitation/moderation/Coaching, Governance, Forestry Conservation, Climate Change and Environment for various National Government, international Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations in America, Europe and Central Africa. He is currently working as Technical Coordinator for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), a non-binding multi-stakeholder partnership enabling member organizations to cooperate on a voluntary basis. CBFP brings together close to 114 Parties: COMIFAC' member states, ECCAS, donor countries/agencies, UN systems, international organizations, NGOs, scientific and training institutions and the private sector.