



## **Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network**

### **La Red de Mujeres Indígenas Sobre Biodiversidad**

**Thanks to The Christensen Fund for their financial support.**

**Coordination of IWBN Participants at COP 13 provided by:**



## Alice Mathews (Malaysia)



*Ms. Alice Mathews* is the Director and Community Development Coordinator for BC Initiative (BCI) in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. BCI is a social enterprise in Sabah that concentrates on analytical research to provide long term sustainable solution through community empowerment. BCI's collective environmental, technical and social experience provides insights into the working of governance and institutional mechanisms from a legal, socio-economic and pragmatic point.

Ms. Mathews is responsible for engaging and collaborating with indigenous communities on various aspects of development justice with the focus on social and environmental justice. During project implementation she lives with the community, facilitates and promotes community-led workshops to encourage planning initiatives, identifying and fostering community stewardship of their territories and ecosystems.

At participatory workshops, intergenerational knowledge sharing is encouraged as well as creating safe spaces for women in the community where they can give voice to their ideas and bring up issues that affect them and their community.

## Alisi Rabukawaqa (Fiji)



*Ms. Alisi Rabukawaqa* has lived in Fiji for all 28 years of her life and graduated from the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji in 2010 with a BS Degree in Marine Science. Choosing this as a career path came out of her personal fascination with the marine ecosystem from a young age and wanting to work in a field where she would be out on the reef working, as well as protecting it. For the last year, Ms Rabukawaqa has worked as the Fiji Program Coordinator for the Coral Reef Alliance, an NGO based out of Oakland, California that has worked in Fiji for over 10 years. To explain CORAL's work in a sentence would be "uniting communities to save coral reefs".

In 2011, Alisi was selected as part of a delegation of 11 which represented Fiji to an International Japanese funded, 2 month program, with 12 other countries, called Ship for the World Youth. It was here that she first experienced international dialogue on Sustainable Development. She realized that the work to protect fragile ecosystems, which were affected by much larger global impacts, needed an approach that could link the global world to the one community whose livelihood and way of life was being affected.

As a conservationist, an important component of her work is the promotion of traditional environmental knowledge and encouraging communities' to first recognize the inbuilt knowledge and systems in place and then using modern technology and science to enhance it, which includes translation scientific conservation principles into a language they understand.

## **Brenda Alvarez Salinas (Mexico)**



*Ms. Brenda Alvarez Salinas* is from Ixtlahuaca, México and a student at Intercultural University of the State of Mexico (UIEM). Brenda has participated in the following forums- the 1st Inter-Agency Colloquium on the language and the culture, with the theme "Storyteller: a way to gather stories for the strengthening of the oral tradition in a community mazahua" and a workshop called "Indigenous Women, Traditional Knowledge, Protocol of Nagoya, micro - companies". Her participation is a part of a cultural collective project that is funded by PACMYC (Program for the support of the municipal and community Cultures)

## **Cleotilde Cu Caal (Guatemala)**



*Ms. Cleotilde Cu Caal* is a Mayan woman Q'eqchi', originating in Cobán, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. She has a degree in Intercultural Bilingual Education and has experience in teaching courses of Mayan culture and maya philosophy. Cleotilde is an advocate for the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples and has held numerous positions with the State of Guatemala such as the Defender of the collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples in the Office of the Procurator for Human Rights (Ombudsman), National Defender of Indigenous Women of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala-DEMI, and in civil society as the founder and coordinator of projects with organizations of women and Indigenous Peoples In the defense of their rights to education, land, territory and environment in the foundation of the Mayan woman.

## **Edna Kaptoyo (Kenya)**



*Ms. Edna Kaptoyo* is an indigenous Pokot woman from Kenya. She is a social development specialist, human and women's rights advocate. She has actively engaged in International Financial Institutions and UN agencies processes relating to environment, human rights and sustainable development in advancing the issues and concerns of indigenous peoples in Africa.

She has worked as a Programme Officer for Indigenous Information Network (IIN), involved in social awareness raising, climate change, biodiversity, the advancement of indigenous peoples and women's rights. In her new role as Acting Executive Secretary of the IAITPTF, she will guide the overall work of the alliance.

Ms. Kaptoyo was part of the Ad-hoc advisory team that supported the development of the World Bank's Forest Investment Programme Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, a member of the Indigenous Peoples Taskforce for the development of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Guidelines and Principles of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. She is also a member of the advisory council to the International Indigenous Womens Forum (FIMI) Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women. Recently she was selected as one of the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme fellow on climate change.

# Esmeralda Moreno Carillo (Mexico)



*Ms. Esmeralda Moreno Carillo* is a Student at the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico, San Felipe de Progreso, State of Mexico in Sustainable Development with expectations to perform in the area of social and environmental development and welfare of the communities.

Her thesis is on analysing the diversity of fungi ectomicorrízicos, evaluated through morphotypes in three types of handling in the forest of Doxteje, Acambay, State of Mexico. She has also participated in the Technique of bioclimatic construction cob in the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico.

Some of her other experiences include the following- Organizer at congress the "First Congress of presentation of the research work of the Lic. Sustainable Development"

held at the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico, November 2015; Rapporteur at "Second Congress of Sustainability and Interculturality: Sustainable Development within the Communities" held at the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico, May 2014; Attendee at Regional Training Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on Community Protocols, Indicators on Traditional Knowledge and Customary Use of Sustainable Biodiversity in the framework of the CBD.

# Faustina Alvarenga (Paraguay)



*Erfil De Faustina Alvarenga* is of the Guaranã people west of Paraguay. She is an educator, with experience in management and social development. Ms. Alvarenga is a member of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIB-LAC), the articulation of indigenous women of Paraguay (MIPY), and the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD) and the Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of Paraguay, among others.

She has also served as the Executive Director of the NGO TEKHOHA with Indigenous Peoples from where she developed actions in favor of the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples, strengthening organizations of indigenous women, community development, education and intercultural health. Tracked in various spaces topics such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention 169 of the ILO. She is a consultant on issues of children, Indigenous Peoples and indigenous women to national agencies and international agencies of the United Nations system as a social researcher.

ERFIL DE FAUSTINA ALVARENGA- Educadora, con experiencia en gerencia y desarrollo social. Del Pueblo Guaraní Occidental de Paraguay. Licenciada en Ciencias de la Educación

Miembro de la Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y el Caribe RMIB-LAC, de la Articulación de Mujeres Indígenas de Paraguay MIPY, y la Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia REDLAD y la Organización del Pueblos Indígenas del Paraguay, entre otros.

Su espíritu de servicio le llevó a trabajar en zonas inhóspitas del Chaco Paraguayo. Incursionó en la vida política, siendo electa Concejal Departamental del Dpto. Central (93-98). Se integra al equipo de la ONG GLOBAL...Infancia, desde donde realiza Acciones de incidencia en Políticas Públicas, Derechos Humanos, Derechos del Niño y Educación No Formal. Acompañó de forma activa campañas para la visibilización del Criadazgo. Fue directora ejecutiva de la ONG TEKHOHA Con los Pueblos Indígenas desde donde desarrolló acciones a favor de los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, el fortalecimiento de las organizaciones de mujeres indígenas, desarrollo comunitario, educación y salud intercultural. Realiza seguimiento en diversos espacios temas como el Convenio sobre Diversidad

Biológica, la Declaración de los DD.PP.II de las NN.UU, el Convenio 169 de la OIT, especialmente en lo referente a CPLI, entre otros.

Es consultora en temas de Niñez, Pueblos Indígenas y Mujeres Indígenas para organismos nacionales, internacionales y agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas e investigadora social.

## **Florina Lopez (Panama)**



*Ms. Florina Lopez* is an indigenous woman from Panama, a co-founder and coordinator of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, and an indigenous activist since 1992. From that time she began her participation and the struggle for the recognition of the rights of indigenous women in all aspects, in the strengthening of leadership and their political participation at all levels.

Since 1998, Ms. Lopez has been actively participating in the process of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also serves on the Global Committee for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

In different spaces and levels she has been invited to be an exhibitor, panelist and facilitator in training programs on environmental issues and climate change.

Coordinadora de la Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad, activista indígena desde el año 1992, aunque desde su comunidad inicio su participación y la lucha por el reconocimiento de los derechos de las mujeres indígenas en todos los aspectos, en el fortalecimiento de los liderazgos y su participación política en todos los niveles.

Desde el año 1992, inicia su proceso de participación en los escenarios nacionales e internacionales. En el año 1998, empieza una participación activa en el proceso del Convenio de la Diversidad Biológica. Al mismo tiempo que asume responsabilidades como coordinadora de la RMIB y también en otros espacios como parte del Comité Global para la Conferencia mundial sobre los pueblos indígenas de las Naciones Unidas.

En diferentes espacios y niveles ha sido invitada a ser expositora, panelista y facilitadora en programas de capacitación sobre temas ambientales y cambio climático.

## **Lucy Mulenkei (Kenya)**



*Ms. Lucy Mulenkei* is a Maasai woman from Kenya who began her activism as a broadcast Journalist on issues related to environment and development. She is currently the Executive Director of Indigenous Information Network (IIN), an organization that works with Indigenous communities in Kenya, networking on different aspects of environment, sustainable development, human rights, women's rights, among other development projects at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Ms Mulenkei is the co-founder of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) along with Florina Lopez from Panama. Since 1998, they

have steered the network together and have trained and mentored many young women.

Ms Mulenkei is a coordinator and member of several Indigenous Peoples organizations, networks and alliances. She is the current Chair of the African Indigenous Women Organization based in the East African Region, an organization that provides African Indigenous Women an opportunity to be visible at different levels.

# **Malia Nobrega-Olivera (Hawai'i)**



*Ms. Malia Nobrega-Olivera is a Native Hawaiian woman from Hanapēpē Valley, Kaauiwaikahi, Kona, Kaua'i. She is currently the Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement. One of her main programs is called Loli Aniau, Maka'ala Aniau (LAMA) (Climate Change, Climate Alert). Recently LAMA has partnered with others to sponsor the 'Aimalama conference and community workshops that aim to empower our community and strengthen our ability to be kilo (observer) that use traditional methodologies like Kaulana Mahina.*

Ms Nobrega-Olivera is a Native Hawaiian educator, kumu hula, salt maker, mom, community organizer, and advocate of indigenous rights at all levels – locally, regionally, and internationally. Her experiences demonstrate her commitment to her people, language, and culture and to indigenous peoples worldwide.

Malia's advocacy work has taken her to various international meetings but more importantly she is committed to being an active member and leader in her local community on Kaua'i and throughout the Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i.

# **Mariana Yumbay Yallico (Ecuador)**



*Ms. Mariana Yumbay Yallico, is a Ecuadorian Kichwa waranka woman. She is the Executive Director of the Institute for Indigenous Sciences Pacari, in Ecuador. Mariana is also a University lecturer. Her background includes the following: Doctor of Jurisprudence and lawyer, Bachelor of Social Sciences, Professor of Primary Education, Degree in Public and Social Sciences, Specialist in collective rights, criminal law and indigenous justice, Magister in Criminal Law and Criminology, Expert in human rights, Indigenous Peoples and International Cooperation. and a Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy.*

Ms. Yumbay Yallico's work experiences include the following: Judge of Criminal guarantees and transit, Parliamentary Adviser, University Professor, Lawyer litigant, Exhibitor, Rapporteur, and Trainer in various seminars, conferences, and workshops at the national and international level.

# **Martha Ntoipo (Tanzania)**



*Ms. Martha Lekitony Ntoipo is the founder and Executive Director for the Pastoralist Information and Development Organization. This organization works in aspects of health (maternal, reproductive and sexual and HIV/AIDS), empowerment (through training on entrepreneurship skills, counseling in secondary schools), human rights, gender equity, environmental conservation and research.*

Ms. Ntoipo has 12 years of experience working with NGOs and has always worked in the departments that deal with women issues, including establishing women groups and being a contact person for the women development department. She has been responsible for preparing reports and supervising staff and resources of the department.

## **M**yentthein **P**romila (Bangladesh)



*Ms. Myentthein Promila* is a leader and member of the Kapaeeng Foundation and Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network. She has a Bachelor of Laws, a Masters in Drama and Dramatics and a B.A (Honors) in Drama and Dramatics from Jahangirnagar University. She works with Caritas-Bangladesh as Project-in-Charge, Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP), Caritas Barisal region, Sagordi, Barisal-8200. This project focuses on the basic human rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Rakhaine community located in the coastal area of the southern part of Bangladesh. They aim at covering their basic needs (improved economic condition and health, access to water and sanitation, basic education) preservation of their land, environment protection, and developing empowerment.

Myentthein has worked closely with others to establish a resource centre that advocates for the promotion and protection of human rights of the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh at a local, national and international level. Their centre also documents the human rights situation of Indigenous Peoples.

## **P**olina **S**hulbaeva (Central Syberia)



*Ms. Polina Shulbaeva* is a Selkup woman from Central Siberia (Russia). The population of the Selkup people is not more than 3,500 people in the world. She is currently the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) regional coordinator of Indigenous Peoples of Russia and Eastern Europe. She is also currently working at the Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN) and is the Director of the Legal Information Center called Swallow.

Since 2000, Ms Shulbaeva has focused on issues relating to the protection of the environment, indigenous rights, access to food, customary and sustainable use of biodiversity, and traditional knowledge systems for sustainable development.

Ms Shulbaeva is a member of an Expert Group- "Aborigine Forum" Indigenous Peoples of Russia, where she shares her knowledge as an expert on indigenous traditional knowledge and the UN Convention on Biodiversity.

## **S**aoudata **W**alet **A**boubacrine (Burkina Faso)



*Ms. Saoudata Walet Aboubacrine*, is a Tamachek Tuareg/ (Tamazight) indigenous woman of the Sahel in Africa. For the last 20 years she has been active in the promotion and protection of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples with a focus on pastoralist women. In collaboration with various NGOS, State institutions, specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations, her organization, Tin Hinane, has conducted a number of studies on the issues of human rights relating to Indigenous Peoples in Africa. One example was a study on the health of nomadic peoples in the province of the Oudalan in Burkina Faso and the situation of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples in Burkina Faso and Mali.

Ms. Aboubacrine is the Coordinator of Programs of Tin Hinane - The Association for the development of nomadic women in Burkina Faso and Mali. Tin Hinane's primary focus is on the protection of the environment, biodiversity, taking into account gender and Indigenous women, strengthening of capacity of women and their education in human rights, climate change, income generating and economic empowerment in the framework of the fight against poverty.

## **S**haelene **K**amaka'ala (Hawai'i)



*Ms. Saelene Kamaka'ala* was born and raised in the ahupua'a of Punalu'u, Ko'olau Loa, O'ahu, Hawai'i. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools in 2005, completed her Associate's of Art Degree in Political Science from Marymount College, Palos Verdes, California in 2007, her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of San Diego in 2009, and most recently, her Juris Doctor Degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2014.

Ms. Kamaka'ala is rooted and active in her community as the joint-co-founder of the Kahana Kilo Kai program, a grassroots and community-based ocean monitoring program. Kahana Kilo Kai's vision is to build the community's capacity to restore Kahana's konohiki fishery and bring abundance back to the bay. She also represents O'ahu as a member of the E Alu Pū Council, a network of grassroots communities caring for their place. Since graduating from law school, she has had the privilege of working with and learning from communities statewide, while championing community-based stewardship of Hawai'i's nearshore fisheries. Over the past year, she worked with the Hui 'Āina Momona Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to develop a cross-disciplinary graduate and professional level certificate program in culturally grounded resource management. She was also afforded the opportunity to assist the Mo'omomi and Ho'olehua Homestead community as they updated and submitted its Mo'omomi North Coast of Moloka'i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area Proposal and Management Plan to the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources. Recently she has joined Townscape, Inc. staff to develop a watershed management plan for urban Honolulu.

## **S**hreejana **P**radhan (Nepal)



Ms. Shreejana Pradhan is from Kathmandu, Nepal and is a part of the National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)- NEPAM.A. (Literature), and Tribhuvan University. Her work experiences include serving as a Judiciary Mediator on a Mediation Council in Nepal, working as an expert on the National Adaption Plan for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment under the Government of Nepal.

Ms. Pradhan is also active with many organizations. For example she is the President of the Rural Women Welfare Centre, the Vice President of the National Indigenous Women's Federation, an Executive Member of the Nepal Bhasha Misa Khala (Indigenous Newar Women's Organization), a member of the Newa Dey Daboo (Newar's National Forum), a Life Member of the Nepal Council of World Affairs, and an advisor for Nepal Printer's Association.



## **Tatiana Degai (Kamchatka, Russia)**



Tatiana Degai is an Itelmen woman from Kamchatka, Russia. Being a member of the Council of Itelmens “Tkhsanom”, Tatiana is actively involved with various projects on culture and language development of Itelmens. She is holding PhD at the University of Arizona, American Indian Studies/Linguistics, a Master on Arts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Anthropology and a teaching degree in foreign languages from Kamchatka State University. Therefore her research and community work borders with indigenous education, sociolinguistics, ethnography, indigenous activism and revitalization.

Tatiana has been involved with the Convention on Biological Diversity process since 2006 promoting sustainable development of her home Kamchatka through ethno-ecological education of indigenous youth, organizing ethno-ecological youth camps, publishing books on traditional knowledge associated with salmon, and other initiatives.

## **Valerie Karoniotakwen Gabriel (Kanehsatake, Canada)**



Valerie Karoniotakwen Gabriel is an Indigenous Mohawk of Kanehsatake, She is the owner of Kanehsatake Farm, a certified organic farm located on Kanehsatake Mohawk Territory, in Quebec, Canada. Having graduated from Montreal's Vanier College in Environmental and Wildlife Management, her early years were focused on deploying geographical information systems while gathering environmental data and carrying out field assessments. Her experience in studying natural habitats and ecosystems would serve as a primer for her later entry into organic agriculture.

Along with her environmental and agricultural pursuits, Valerie also holds certification as a yoga instructor and spends a portion of her time teaching the discipline to youth groups in and outside of her community. Her long term goals center on expanding the capacity of her farm to provide organic garlic products wholesale to a broader market while actively promoting the benefits of organic food production to small scale producers.

## **Yeshing Juliana Upun Yos (Guatemala)**



*Ms. Yeshing Juliana Upun Yos* is a Mayan Kaqchikel woman from Guatemala. She is beginning her career in law and is an advocate of Indigenous Peoples and women rights. Her focus has been on the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially as they relate to natural resources and sustainable development with a focus on biodiversity conservation based on traditional knowledge. In addition she has also worked on the following issues- Mayan Peoples rights and Maya Women rights; Maya development, communal management of lands and bio-cultural territories, forests, biodiversity and management of collective areas by indigenous people; the Kaqchikel Volcanic Chain; and climate change.

Ms Yeshing is currently a coordinator for Indigenous Peoples Rights of Sotzil Association based in Guatemala. Sotzil has undertaken numerous technical and political activities relating to indigenous peoples and their collective rights at a local, national, regional and international level. Her experiences demonstrate her commitment to indigenous peoples, their spirituality, traditional knowledge, language, culture, and identity.

# Yolanda Teran (Ecuador)



Ms. Yolanda Teran is an Indigenous Kichwa woman from Ecuador. She has a PhD in Education from the University of New Mexico and is a Social Sciences researcher and professor of Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and Self-Determination in the Department of Native Studies at the University of New Mexico.

Yolanda is the Ecuador Focal Point for the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network of Latin America and the Caribbean. She also serves as the coordinator of education and culture of the Andes Indigenous Organization called Chinchasuyu.

Ms. Teran's experiences also include serving as a regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean Group of indicators on traditional knowledge of the CBD,

a negotiator for the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing, a representative in the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Council (IPAC) for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and a representative in the IPAC for Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

## Biografía corta:

Indígena Kichwa del Ecuador

PhD en Educación Indígena en la Universidad de New Mexico

Investigadora en Ciencias Sociales y profesora de Pueblos Indígenas, Derechos Humanos y Auto-determinación en el Departamento de Estudios Nativos de la Universidad de New Mexico

Punto Focal del Ecuador de la Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad para América Latina y El Caribe

Coordinadora de Educación y Cultura de la Organización Indígena Andes Chinchasuyu

Ex-coordinadora regional de América Latina y El Caribe del Grupo de indicadores sobre conocimiento tradicional del CBD

Ex-negociadora por América Latina y El Caribe en el Régimen Internacional de Acceso y Reparto de Beneficios

Representante Indígena en el IPAC para la implementación del Protocolo de Nagoya

Representante Indígena en el IPAC para CEPA

# Zaninka Penninah (Uganda)



Zaninka Penninah is the Coordinator of the United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU), an organisation that advocates for Batwa rights. As the coordinator she is responsible for the following duties: manages all the resources/assets of the organization, attends and advocates at local, national, regional and international meetings on behalf of UOBDU, liaise with donors and agencies, provides technical support to UOBDU by strengthening its organisational capacity, plans organisational activities, implements projects, raises funds, monitors and evaluates activities, and reports on organisational activities.

One of her noticeable achievements include creating a participatory 3-D model of the Bwindi and Mgahinga forests for Batwa cultural and natural landscape based on Batwa

traditional knowledge and sharing it with different conservation agencies and other interested people. This project supported the Batwa when they submitted a case to the constitutional court. Ms. Penninah has worked closely with the communities and other partners to ensure that the Batwa have the capacity to strongly articulate their issues in order to advance their views especially as they relate to the Convention on Biological Diversity. She is also an active member of the African Indigenous Womens' Organization.