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# Forest Governance and Policy Annual Conference

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April 29—May 3, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

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**Monday, April 29**

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**Side events (see list below)**

**Tuesday, April 30**

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12:00 PM                      Lunch

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1:00 PM                      **Opening Remarks**

Craig Hanson, *World Resources Institute*

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1:30 PM                      **Traceability and geolocation: emerging solutions – Part I**

Laura Vary, World Resources Institute (**Moderator**)  
Lars Kahnert, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
Jennifer Mleczek, Preferred by Nature  
Josh Taylor, ISEAL

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3:00 PM                      Coffee Break

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3:30 PM                      **Traceability and geolocation: emerging solutions - Part II**

TBC (**Moderator**)  
Vivian Ribeiro, Trase  
Sofia Tenorio Fenton, World Resources Institute  
Jennifer Mleczek, Preferred by Nature  
Josh Taylor, ISEAL

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5:00 PM                      **Special event: Lacey Act case update (in-person only)**

Elinor Colburn, U.S. Department of Justice  
Lyndon George, Homeland Security Investigations

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5:40 PM                      Reception: Wunder Garten (1101 First St NE, Washington, DC 20002)

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## Wednesday, May 1

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8:00 AM Breakfast

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9:00 AM **Independent Forest Monitoring: Comparing approaches across regions**

Achille Djeagou, World Resources Institute (*Moderator*)  
Fausto Mejias Zalaya, Monitoreo Forestal Independiente, Honduras  
Angeline Modjo, Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER), Cameroon  
Mardi Minangsari, Kaoem Telapak, Indonesia

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10:30 AM Coffee Break

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11:00 AM **Strategies for disrupting financial crime linked to forest crime**

Lynn Schlingemann, Nature Crime Alliance (*Moderator*)  
Rowena Watson, US Department of State (TBC)  
Scott Greytak, Transparency International  
Julia Yansura, FACT Coalition  
Paul Hackett, UNODC  
Nick Schumann, HSBC (TBC)

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12:30 PM Lunch

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1:30 PM **Use of early warning systems for monitoring forests and managing territories: Examples from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Amazon Basin**

Jessica Webb, World Resources Institute (*Moderator*)  
Jamer Lopez, Organizacion Regional AIDSESEP-Ucayali (ORAU), Peru  
Adme Aspajo, Federacion de Comunidades Nativas del Medio Napu (FECONAMNCUA), Peru  
Samai Gualinga, Pueblo de Sarayaku, Ecuador

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3:00 PM Coffee Break

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3:30 PM **Regional Focus: Central America**

Ruth Noguerón, World Resources Institute (*Moderator*)  
Jeremy Radochowsky, Wildlife Conservation Society  
Eric Cuellar, Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén (ACOFOP)



Guiseppe Villalaz, Representative from Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques  
Cynthia Taub, U.S. Department of Justice

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5:00 PM Closing of Day 2

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## Thursday, May 2

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8:00 AM Breakfast

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9:00 AM **Scientific verification of species and origin: update and outlook**

Chip Barber, WRI (**Moderator**)  
Erin Price, Wood Identification and Screening Center, U.S. Forest Service  
Jade Saunders, World Forest ID  
Thomas Mortier, World Forest ID  
Keiran Andrusko, Department of Agriculture, Australia

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10:30 AM Coffee Break

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11:00 AM **Expanding the use of scientific testing in wood supply chains:  
Updates from Indonesia**

Dr. Lina Karlinasari, IPB University, Indonesia (**Moderator**)  
Dr. Iskandar Siregar, IPB University, Indonesia  
Dr. Fifi Gus Dwiyantri, IPB University, Indonesia  
Mr. Dhio Ferdyan, WRI Indonesia  
Mr. Kenny Cetera, WRI Indonesia

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12:30 PM **Closing Remarks, followed by Lunch**

Gillian Caldwell, United States Agency for International Development

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## Friday, May 3

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**Side events (see list below)**



**Side Meetings**, *hosted by WRI and partners & open to participants of the Forest Governance and Policy Annual Conference.*

## **Monday, April 29**

**10:00 am to 11:30 am**

### **Meet and greet indigenous leaders from the Amazon**

*Hosted by WRI*

Indigenous Peoples are key actors in combating deforestation. Over the past few years there has been an uptake of the use of satellite imagery and derived datasets to monitor indigenous territories. This side meeting will be an opportunity to hear directly from three indigenous leaders from the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon about their journey using this data to protect and manage their territories. The session will cover the lessons learned, the impacts and outlook for the future and time for informal questions and discussion beyond the format of a panel discussion.

For more information about this side meeting, contact Ruth Nogueroń ([Ruth.Nogueron@wri.org](mailto:Ruth.Nogueron@wri.org))

**10:30 am to 11:30 am**

### **The potential of log export bans in Africa: Meeting climate and governance goals**

*Hosted by EIA*

This side event will present evidence on the policy context of log export bans in the Congo Basin, and their potential impact as a policy measure. In an attempt to maximize the forestry sector's value-add while controlling the governance consequences of this regional boom in log exports, a growing number of African governments are turning towards log export bans. EIA will present trade data and findings from years of investigations into wood supply chains in the region that point to the potential benefits of a log export ban when implemented as a part of a broader economic policy framework.

For more information about this side meeting, contact Luke Allen ([lallen@eia-global.org](mailto:lallen@eia-global.org))

**1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

### **Workshop: How can data from independent forest monitors support enforcement?**

*Hosted by WRI*

This workshop will provide space for representatives from Independent Forest Monitors (IFM) organizations to share information about the types of data they collect, their methods and quality control procedures, and to engage with participants about potential use cases for these data for enforcing legal frameworks.

For more information about this side meeting, contact Sophie Labaste ([sophie.labaste@wri.org](mailto:sophie.labaste@wri.org))

**3:30 pm to 4:30 pm**



**Workshop: Key principles of traceability and transparency in commodity supply chains applied in Gabon's timber traceability system SNTBG**

*Hosted by EIA*

This side event will examine Gabon's new national timber traceability system (SNTBG) as a model of five key principles of effective national commodity traceability systems: 1) unbroken supply chain; 2) traceability to the source; 3) direct digital inputs; 4) offline functionality; and 5) transparent access to data. EIA, the co-creator of this system, will present the SNTBG and demonstrate how stakeholders such as independent forest monitors and international buyers can use it to root out fraud in supply chains.

For more information about this side meeting, contact David Gehl ([davidgehl@eia-global.org](mailto:davidgehl@eia-global.org))

**Tuesday, April 30**

**9:00 am to 10:30 am**

**Measuring impact of forest crime enforcement: A monitoring framework to track progress**

*Hosted by WRI*

Forests, People, Climate (FPC) brings together partnerships, innovation, and knowledge to monitor collective efforts of a diverse set of actions across multiple geographies aiming to halt and reverse tropical deforestation while supporting just, sustainable development. As a global collaborative working with the communities that steward tropical forests, we are designing a framework for monitoring progress on enforcement against forest crime, in response to stakeholders across multiple regions that have identified this as a critical evidence need. This session will briefly introduce attendees to the FPC collaborative and its ambitious monitoring and learning approach, then gather feedback on a draft methodology for baseline assessments in Indonesia and the Congo Basin.

For more information about this side meeting, contact Naomi Basik Treanor ([naomi.basiktreanor@wri.org](mailto:naomi.basiktreanor@wri.org))

**10:30 am to 11:30 am**

**Nature Crime Alliance: updates and outlook**

*Hosted by WRI and the Nature Crime Alliance*

Launched in 2023, the [Nature Crime Alliance](#) is a global, multi-sector network that raises political will, mobilizes financial commitment, and bolsters operational capacity to fight nature crime and the other international criminal activities with which it converges. As a relatively new initiative, this side event will introduce the Alliance to those who would like to find out more. The Alliance focuses on areas of nature crime (including forest crime) convergence and convergence of strategic approaches



to address this crime. The event will include an overview presentation from the Secretariat (hosted by WRI), and potential speakers from amongst the founding membership.

Speakers include:

- Moderator: Yulia Stange, Nature Crime Alliance
- Christine Dawson, U.S. Department of State
- Raphael Edou, Environmental Investigation Agency

For more information about this side meeting, contact Luke Foddy ([luke.foddy@wri.org](mailto:luke.foddy@wri.org))

**11:15 am to 12:00 pm**

**Visualizing US Imports of Wood/Forest Products: Relevance for the Lacey Act**

*Hosted by John Simeone Consulting*

A [newly released set of trade dashboards](#) brings to life the US' role in the global trade in natural resources and analysis of trade policies. With easy filtering and visualization of US import data, these dashboards, created by Simeone Consulting LLC, facilitate understanding of the global reach and patterns of US imports of natural resources, and coverage of policies that regulate data reporting requirements related to supply chain traceability. John Simeone, principal of Simeone Consulting, will present an overview of the US Imports of Wood/Forest Products dashboard, including coverage of the US Lacey Act Plant Declaration Requirement. The session will briefly introduce attendees to the importance of understanding trade data and HS/HTS codes, explain how these automatically updated dashboards were created, and provide tips for navigating and using them in your work.

For more information about this side event, contact John Simeone ([simeoneconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:simeoneconsulting@gmail.com))

**11:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**EFI's Forest Governance Index (FGI): the tool and insights**

*Hosted by the European Forest Institute*

The Forest Governance Index (FGI) is a tool developed by the European Forest Institute to assess and monitor governance aspects relevant to the management, protection, and conservation of forests. The FGI assesses five governance areas: stakeholder participation, legislative and institutional clarity, accountability and oversight, transparency, and compliance promotion and enforcement.

During this side event, we will explain the methodology behind the FGI, explore its key findings, and discuss its potential applications.

For more information about this side meeting, contact Iola Leal ([iola.leal@efi.int](mailto:iola.leal@efi.int))



## Thursday, May 2

**1:30 pm to 3:00 pm**

### **The 2024 Environmental Goldman Prize: Meet the Prizewinners**

*Hosted by WRI and the Goldman Foundation*

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024, the [Goldman Environmental Prize](#) has been awarded annually since 1991 to honor ordinary people who take extraordinary actions to protect our planet. The six 2024 awardees will be celebrated at events in San Francisco on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and in Washington DC on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, coinciding with FGP24. On Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, directly following the FGP24 closing lunch, WRI is pleased to co-host a special event for FGP24 participants to meet and hear from four of the six 2024 prize winners. The event will be moderated by [Ms. Gillian Caldwell](#), Chief Climate Officer and Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and former CEO of Global Witness.

Confirmed speakers:

- Gillian Caldwell, United States Agency for International Development (Moderator)
- 2024 Goldman Prize Winners

For more information about this side meeting, contact Chip Barber ([cbarber@wri.org](mailto:cbarber@wri.org))

**3:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

### **Presenting the Risk Information Alliance: Reinventing Sustainability Risk Assessments**

*Hosted by Preferred by Nature and Forest Stewardship Council*

In the face of mounting regulatory requirements and increasing market demands for responsible products, actors across forestry and agricultural supply chains are facing serious challenges. One of these is a major global gap in comprehensive, robust and up-to-date risk information to help companies make impactful, sustainable supply chain decisions.

Global sustainability organizations, including the Forest Stewardship Council, Preferred by Nature, the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials and the Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) are now joining forces to address this challenge via the Risk Information Alliance (RIA).

Through an innovative and collaborative approach, the Alliance will facilitate risk data development and sharing in a pre-competitive sphere and cut through the complex and costly landscape facing companies and sustainability systems. The RIA will facilitate the development and maintenance of credible risk assessments with a range of partners and across commodities.

See our press releases [here](#) and [here](#) for more information about the RIA.



Confirmed speakers:

- Sandra Razanamandranto, Director of Market and Development, Preferred by Nature
- Matteo Francesco Mascolo, Lead, EU Affairs & Engagement, Forest Stewardship Council

For more information about this side event, contact:

- Forest Stewardship Council: Matteo Francesco Mascoco ([m.mascolo@fsc.org](mailto:m.mascolo@fsc.org))
- Preferred by Nature: David Hadley ([dhadley@preferredbynature.org](mailto:dhadley@preferredbynature.org))

## Friday, May 3

**11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

### **Deforestation, illegal mining and armed groups in the Colombian Amazon**

*Hosted by WRI and WRI-Colombia*

Deforestation in the Colombia-Venezuela border is increasing due to illegal mining in convergence with the control of non-state armed groups. This session will feature Colombian experts with years of experience working on forest conservation, socio-environmental conflict, and the impacts of these dynamics on Indigenous peoples and their territories in the Department of Guainia in the Colombian Amazon.

Confirmed Speakers:

- Alejandra Laina, Natural Resources Manager, WRI-Colombia
- Cesar Augusto Zarate Bottia, Asesor, Asociacion de Autoridades Indigenas del Resguardo Medio Rio Guainia-Aati Jajlami

For more information about this side meeting, contact Ruth Noguérón ([Ruth.Nogueron@wri.org](mailto:Ruth.Nogueron@wri.org))