



Carolina Simon-Pardo  
Dr. Andrea Chavez  
Dr. Bob Buschbacher

## BIO

**Carolina Simon-Pardo** is a Colombian PhD student in Science Education at the University of Florida. She is conducting research on fostering Indigenous youth participation in conservation by strengthening biocultural education in Indigenous territories within the Colombian Amazon. Her efforts aim to empower teacher and student voices while integrating Indigenous knowledge with community-based science practices to address knowledge transmission challenges in these biodiverse regions. She holds a bachelor's degree in Filmmaking from the National University of Colombia and a master's degree in Educational technology from the University of Kansas. Her work integrates media, community-based learning, and nature-centered education, with a focus on participatory environmental storytelling.

**Andrea Chavez** is a TCD alum originally from Peru. She was co-coordinator of the Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon project and is currently Latin American and Caribbean lead for EPIC, a program that connects academic learning with community needs.

**Bob Buschbacher** is a systems ecologist and TCD-affiliated researcher and activist who supports biocultural conservation in the Amazon through transdisciplinary research, education and training.

## SUMMARY



Biocultural conservation offers an effective strategy for addressing the climatic, biodiversity, and socioenvironmental justice polycrisis. Given that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are on the front lines of this strategy, how can academia contribute to biocultural conservation in practice? We brought this question to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in Cali, Colombia last October. As part of a multi-university working group on biocultural conservation, with TCD and LATAM support, and in partnership with five Indigenous leaders, we organized a side event at the COP. We will share our experience participating in the COP as a whole and at the side event, with recommendations and discussion of possible next steps.



**Tuesday - April 22, 2025**

**12:45 - 1:45 pm**



**Grinter Hall 376 or**

**Zoom link**

Tropilunch is a seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars, and practitioners also participate. It happens weekly around lunchtime.

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