



FEATURED SEMINAR

Watershared: Conservation, development, and adaptation and mitigation to climate change in Latin America



Dr. Nigel Asquith

Dr. Asquith is President of the Santa Cruz, Bolivia-based *Watershared* program. His team has helped create more than 50 municipal incentive-based conservation programs. He has also worked at the Smithsonian Institution, Center for International Forestry Research, Conservation International, and World Bank.

He was a research fellow at Harvard's Sustainability Science Program in 2008-2009 and 2013-2014. He has a doctorate in zoology and a master's in policy from Duke University, a master's in ecology from University of Illinois, and a bachelor's in geography from Oxford University.

Date: Monday, 10/28

Location: WALC 3090

Time: 3:30-4:30 PM

Refreshments after seminar

Reciprocal watershed agreements—otherwise known as *Watershared* agreements—are simple, grassroots versions of incentive-based conservation that help upper watershed forest and land managers to sustainably manage their forest and water resources. They focus on changing behavior through economic and non-economic incentives and building institutional capacity.

By mid-2019, 58 Bolivian municipalities had appropriated and adapted the *Watershared* model and had changed the behavior of almost 270,000 people: 7,000 upstream farmers were conserving more than a million acres of water-producing forest, and 260,000 downstream users were paying them approximately US \$500,000 a year to do so. The program has also helped create an additional 4 million acres of new protected areas in south eastern Bolivia.

In this presentation, Dr. Asquith will discuss how *Watershared* was initiated in Bolivia, then modified and adapted in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and how the program differs from Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).