

Yolanda Lopez-Maldonado

Dr. Yolanda Lopez-Maldonado is an Indigenous Maya woman from Mexico and science diplomat, working on understanding the social dimensions of nature conservation, and with robust knowledge in the promotion and defense of the diversity of ideas, knowledge, values and forms of self-expression of Indigenous Peoples. Her career has spanned several topics from both natural & social sciences pertaining to the science-society-policy interphase. She has worked for academic/non-academic organizations and achieved high-level results in diplomatic environments at different levels in social issues and science fields including UNESCO, UNPFII, CBD, IPBES, IUCN, fostering debates about how science (Western and Indigenous) can build trust between nations & support foreign policies. Her fields of expertise include in-depth knowledge of theories, frameworks, methods and analytical techniques to investigate complex systems undergoing global change. A Young Scholar from the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and fellow of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Dr. Lopez-Maldonado received a PhD degree in Human Geography from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany.