A FILM BY AMAZON AID FOUNDATION

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RIVER OF GOLD

SOCIAL IMPACT CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

AN AMAZON AID FOUNDATION PRODUCTION

FILM SUMMARY

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River of Gold,

the documentary by the Amazon Aid Foundation, chronicles the clandestine journey into Peru's Amazon rainforest to uncover the savage unraveling of pristine jungle.

The film follows the journey of Ron Haviv and Donovan Webster, two war journalists, and their guide, Peruvian environmental activist Enrique Ortiz. The three men bear witness to the wide scale destruction and poisoning of the Amazon in the pursuit of illegally mined gold with consequences on a global scale. ***River of Gold*** reaffirms the right of the rainforest to exist, inspiring audiences to think about where their gold comes from and engage in solutions to protect the Amazon.

Photo by Adrian Tejedor

Photo by Ron Haviv, VII Agency

"What will be the fate of this critical region of priceless biodiversity as these extraordinarily beautiful forests are turned into a hellish wasteland?"

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

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Amazon Aid's award-winning multi-media projects have been seen on six continents, are cited for activating policy and institutional change, and have educated global audiences about the importance of the Amazon, the implications of it's destruction and solutions for protecting it.

The worldwide release of ***River of Gold***, the accompanying social impact campaign and school curriculum will raise the bar by activating governments, NGOs, stakeholders, scientists, artists, and the general public to take specific actions to address this looming global crisis. It is not hyperbole to state that ***the Amazon is at a tipping point***. Because over one-fifth of the Amazon rainforest has been cleared since the 1970s, experts believe that at the current rate of destruction the Amazon could be gone in 40 years.

Aerial view of mining destruction in Madre de Dios
Photo by Tomas Munita

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THREADING THE BIG PICTURE

THE FACTS

- Artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) exists in over 70 countries globally. Mercury is used in the process to bind the gold and is then released into the atmosphere poisoning the people, species, and ecosystem in affected countries. **This type of mining is now the largest emitter of mercury on the planet.**

- Mercury is a toxic element that causes severe neurological effects including brain and organ damage and in some cases a shortened life span. The impact of the release of mercury cannot be overstated. **Mercury is invisible and can remain in an ecosystem for as long as 10,000 years.**

- Using Peru as the case study for the film, it is estimated that illegal gold mining in the Peruvian Amazon is a nearly $3 billion a year illegal activity, generating more money than drug trafficking. **The region of Madre de Dios (where *River of Gold* was filmed) is considered ground zero for illegal mining in the Amazon.** Because of the mercury released by the illegal gold mining, 76% of all people tested in the region have mercury levels approximately three times above the accepted healthy limits. Indigenous children are the most affected with some having 33 times above recommended hair mercury levels.

- Approximately **100 tons of mercury is released into the Amazonia** atmosphere every year. This mercury contamination travels throughout the tributaries of the Amazon River, accumulating in the fish that ingest it, and in turn poisons the people who eat the fish far away from mining sites. In addition to the mercury poisoning of people and fish, there is mass deforestation and the eradication of species. **Along with mercury poisoning, illegal gold mining contributes to mass deforestation, the destruction of species, and the rise in organized crime, which encompasses narcotics trafficking, corruption, human trafficking and child sex slavery.**

- In 2016 the Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in Madre de Dios. The newly elected president is considering possible courses of action.

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WHY THE AMAZON MATTERS

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Trees pull in carbon and hold it in their roots, trunks, branches and leaves. The burning of trees not only releases carbon, but it stops giving the trees the ability to pull toxic levels of carbon from the atmosphere. Nearly 20% of global carbon emissions are from deforestation and land conversion. **We are destroying the very things that are protecting us.**
- For decades, scientists, environmentalists and indigenous activists have worried about deforestation of the Amazon. The loss of forest is linked to an increase in droughts in some parts of the world and flooding in others. Deforestation of the Amazon can also cause desertification and fires. Destroying these forests also destroys habitat and compromises the species and indigenous people who call the Amazon home.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Of the 160 societies that live within the Amazon rainforest, nearly 50% have no contact with the outside world.
- There are 195 known languages spoken within the Amazon Basin.
- The Peruvian Amazon is the home to uncontacted Indians that have no metal. The number of indigenous people within Brazil was estimated to be over 6 million in the 15th century. Today there are roughly 310,000.
- Brazil is home to more uncontacted peoples than anywhere on the planet.
- More than three people were killed a week in 2015 defending their land, forests and rivers against destructive industries. 40% were indigenous.

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WHY THE AMAZON MATTERS

BIODIVERSITY

- **The Amazon is home to more that 30% of all species on the planet**, with a new species being discovered every 3 days. The Peruvian Amazon geographically encompasses the slopes of the Andes to the lowlands of the Amazon and carries the greatest gradation of microclimates in the world, with species that are only endemic to each specific climate. Researchers have identified this as a critical migratory corridor for species to move into higher elevations as the earth continues to warm.
- Over 120 prescription drugs worldwide today are derived directly from rainforest plants.

WATER

- **The Amazon carries 20% of the planet's fresh water** from the rivers to the sea and helps moderate weather patterns with the great amassing of trees, thereby creating its own rainfall.
- Every day, the Amazon releases approximately 100 billion gallons of water into the atmosphere. The Amazon needs approximately 80% of the trees standing to continue the hydrological cycle. We are dangerously close to a tipping point of this delicate ecological balance.

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SOCIAL IMPACT CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE 1

Education

INITIATIVE 2

The Minamata Treaty

INITIATIVE 3

Grassroots Advocacy/
Coalition Building

INITIATIVE 4

Peru and South American
Countries (Amazonia)

INITIATIVE 5

Communication
and Outreach

Children near a mining town in the Peruvian Amazon
Photos by Ron Haviv, VII Agency, Tomas Munita, Dano Grayson

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INITIATIVE 1

EDUCATION

Using Amazon Aid's library of media assets, which includes scientific interviews, images, video, and audio, develop accompanying curriculum around ***River of Gold***.

- **Produce online resource materials with statistics, facts, testimonials and calls to action.** Through a strategic, year long campaign, the film will be introduced to educators and school systems – public and private – to screen for students in junior high and high schools and colleges across the United States, and in targeted countries in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

- **Tour the film and curriculum on college campuses** in partnership with Human Rights Studies Centers, Environmental Sciences Centers, Biology/Biodiversity Centers and Latin American Studies Centers.

- **Educate about the importance of the Amazon** and the critical implications of its destruction, both globally and locally. **Create awareness** about the Amazon relative to climate change, global weather patterns, water and the hydrological cycle, biological and cultural diversity. Showcase **working solutions** on the ground and activate global populations to engage in protecting the Amazon.

- **Educate the gold buying consumer** who can be proactively engaged to put pressure on the jewelry companies to buy clean gold. Identify markets that buy illegally mined gold and hold them accountable, and highlight the role of companies that are buying **clean gold**. As the Blood Diamond campaign (tied to the film *Blood Diamond*) successfully demonstrated, when people understand where their gold comes from, and realize the devastating impact on the land and people, the public will want to take action to protect the Amazon, its waterways, species, biodiverse ecosystem, and innocent people.

Photo by Adrian Tejedor

Photos by Ron Haviv, VII Agency

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INITIATIVE 2

THE MINAMATA TREATY

Through a series of screenings, Amazon Aid will work with UNEP, other UN and international agencies, NGOs and influencers to pressure governments to sign and ratify the Minamata Treaty. The public will be engaged in this effort. High profile celebrities and influencers will be enlisted for PSAs and social media posts targeting government leaders.

There are 128 signatories and 35 parties who have ratified The Convention:

- **The Minamata Convention on Mercury** is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.
- The Convention draws attention to a global and ubiquitous metal that, while naturally occurring, has broad uses in everyday objects and is released to the atmosphere, soil and water from a variety of sources. **Controlling the anthropogenic releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention.**

A gold miner stands in a barrel filled with mercury in order to separate the gold from the excavation matter, in the mining area of Lamal, Madre de Dios region
Photo by Ron Haviv, VII Agency

Photo by Tomas Munita

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INITIATIVE 3

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY/COALITION BUILDING

- **Work with governments, scientists, NGOs, leading jewelry and tech companies** who believe in supply chain accountability to establish **best mining practices that do not use mercury in the process.** The current ASGM techniques that use mercury only retrieve about 35-40 percent of the gold from the sediment. Alternative techniques can retrieve as much as 70 percent of the gold. The alternative techniques can be more sophisticated, and the equipment needed more expensive, but the payoff is bigger.
- **Work with indigenous and human rights organizations** to monitor the situation in the mining villages where human trafficking, slavery, and violence against indigenous populations are being perpetrated against the people.
- Work with environmental NGOs and governments to monitor protected lands and natural preserves outside of the mining corridors.
- Find best ways to take regulated gold to market. Push for the formalized sector to ensure that the gold is clean and not mined illegally. **Create the process for certified responsibly sourced gold.**

Image by Bryan Castillo courtesy of Westwood Gallery

- **Utilize reports from coalition partners** that will further advocacy initiatives around Minamata Treaty, best practices in mining operations, supply chain accountability and human rights protections.

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INITIATIVE 4

PERU AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (AMAZONIA)

- **Engage with the Peruvian government** in discussions to institute specific policy changes in Madre de Dios and other regions of the country where illegal mining is taking place.
- **Support efforts by health officials** for education of the impacts of mercury on the people. Work with health care agencies to provide health education and services to the people in the region so they are aware of the hazards of mercury poisoning and what they can do to seek help.
- **Support the work of doctors and NGOs** to get treatment to those affected by mercury poisoning.
- **Mobilize international pressure** on all Amazonian governments to formalize and regulate the illegal mining sector, provide alternative mining technology for safer non-mercury mining practices, and establish mining zones.
- **Push for increased governance** by Amazonian countries to ensure that miners remain within established mining zones. Establish proper migratory corridors for species and enforce the protection of restricted natural areas.

Photo by Sam Abell, 2010

Photo by Dano Grayson

INITIATIVE 5

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COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Beginning with a screening series of the film for governments, international and state agencies, NGOs, foundations, corporations and educational institutions, the ***River of Gold*** campaign will engage in discussions with high level government representatives, key strategic partners and grassroots organizations to develop calls to actions framed as the **3Ps: Prevention, Protection, and Promotion.**

Prevention	Protection	Promotion
Illegal gold mining	Land, People	Environmental Rights
Devastation of Amazon	Species	Human/Indigenous rights
Mercury emissions	Biodiversity	Clean Sourcing of Gold

The film should be shown to governments around the world, especially to the countries who have not signed and ratified the Minamata Treaty. International agencies, science institutions, politicians, foundations and NGOs should also see the film and work closely with the filmmakers in order to address the growing crisis in Peru as well as in other countries across the globe. ***River of Gold*** can be the catalyst for an international summit and gathering of world leaders and influencers to **discuss how to tackle the global problem of illegal gold mining and the dangers of mercury emissions in a systematic way similar to how the international community addressed blood diamonds with the Kimberley Process.**

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ARTIST INVOLVEMENT

VOICES FOR THE AMAZON

Series of video interviews with influencers, celebrities, experts, scientists, activists and local people who address each issue raised in the film, personal reflections and offer calls to action:

- **Scientists** – Global impact of mining
- **Environmentalists** – Impact to the Amazon, species, biodiversity
- **Activists** – Impact on the environment and human rights Key players in the Kimberley Process and in the conflict free minerals campaign
- **Journalists** – How the issue is viewed
- **Jewelers** – Need for clean gold
- **Indigenous Peoples** – Impact on ancestral home
- **Miners** – Need for employment
- **Health Workers** – Impact of mercury
- **Children** – What does the future hold?
- **Potential traveling photo exhibit** of Ron Haviv's photographs from Madre de Dios

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Interactive multimedia art creation platform to encourage children and students to become activists for preserving the Amazon rainforest, designed and created in collaboration with University of Virginia computer science students/ web developers as part of a Capstone project.

Photo by RAEchel Running

Photo by Adrian Tejedor

Photo by Adrian Tejedor

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ABOUT THE TEAM

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SARAH DUPONT

Sarah duPont is an award-winning humanitarian, educator and filmmaker and is a vocal advocate of ecological preservation. As the President and Founder of the Amazon Aid Foundation, Sarah works with Neotropical scientists to study Amazonian biodiversity with an eye toward educating the public and introducing cutting-edge conservation practices and on the ground solutions to the region.

Sarah is a producer and co-director of the award winning film ***River of Gold*** and the short documentary Mercury Uprising, both films about illegal gold mining in the Amazon Rainforest. Her other film projects include producing the award-winning Kids Against Malaria music video P.S.A., a transmedia program to promote treatment and prevention for malaria in Africa and the Anthem for the Amazon music video, a video with the voices of 500 children from around the world singing to protect the Amazon. Sarah has been engaged in educational innovation for 25 years, creating projects both locally and globally.

She works to build cross disciplinary curriculum that support core subjects, including middle and high school STEAM curriculum built around the documentary ***River of Gold***. In the fall of 2010, Sarah, along with Gigi Hancock, wife of legendary jazz great, Herbie Hancock, co–founded CIAMO, an arts and music school based in Benin, Africa. Sarah has had both past and present board experience, serving on the following boards: University of Virginia Children's Medical Center, the University of Virginia Council for the Arts, the Amazon Conservation Association, the Upton Foundation, Rachel's Network, the Wake Forest University's Board of Visitors, the Berklee Global Jazz Institute, and the D.C. Environmental Film Festival. She has been the recipient of the Charlottesville Village Award, the Dorothy Corwin Spirit of Life Award, the Global Syndicate Humanitarian Award, Worldwide Children's Foundation of New York's Humanitarian Award, the Hawaii International Film Festival's Humanitarian Award, and the Pongo Award.

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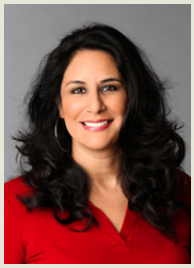

BONNIE ABAUNZA

Bonnie Abaunza has dedicated her life to humanitarian work, human rights and social justice advocacy. Through her consultancy firm, she works closely with filmmakers, artists, production companies, distributors and non-governmental organizations to develop and execute social impact campaigns for films and documentaries. Bonnie's work has addressed myriad human rights and civil rights issues as she has brought hard-hitting campaigns and major celebrity engagement to issues as diverse as child slavery, campus sexual assault, human trafficking, genocide, environmental justice, girls education, food safety and animal rights.

Her campaigns have moved the needle on critical issues including genocide awareness with the Hotel Rwanda campaign, conflict diamonds with Blood Diamond, abuses by the food industry with Food, Inc., campus sexual assault with The Hunting Ground, online sex trafficking with I Am Jane Doe, animal rescue with Harry and Snowman, the plight of refugees with Cries From Syria and girls' education with The Breadwinner. Presently, she is spearheading the impact campaigns for The Heart of Nuba and Birthright: A War Story. She has worked on over 30 campaigns, with 14 of the films and songs (Til It Happens to You and Stand Up For Something) being nominated for numerous awards, including Oscar, Emmy and Grammy Awards.

After working in the film industry for 15 years, Bonnie made a career transition into the non-profit world by becoming Director of the Artists for Amnesty program at Amnesty International, a program she ran for seven years (2000-2007) raising Amnesty's profile in the entertainment industry and the visibility of human rights campaigns with the public. She served as Vice President, Social Action and Advocacy at Participant Media (2007-2009), where she developed social action campaigns to promote the documentaries and feature films produced by the company. She led the Special Projects & Philanthropy division (2009-2014) for Academy Award winning composer, Hans Zimmer.

Bonnie has received commendations for her human rights work from the United States Congress and from the City of Los Angeles. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the organization, Unlikely Heroes, Women in Leadership Award from the City of West Hollywood, Global Champion Award from the International Medical Corps., KCET's Local Hero/Hispanic Heritage Award, and was named Goodwill Ambassador to the Government of East Timor (appointed by President and Nobel Peace Laureate, Jose Ramos-Horta). She is a Senior Non-Resident Fellow for Enough Project, Board member of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, Chairman of the Advisory Board of thecommunity.com's Human Rights Campaign, Board member, Not On Our Watch and Board member of the Mgrublian Human Rights Center.

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JON GOLDEN

Jon Golden has been working as a professional photographer for 25 years. His assignments have taken him to over 40 countries and required him to sail more than 20,000 miles at sea. Jon has produced stunning images, documenting some of the worlds most remote and harsh places including Baffin Island (Canadian Arctic), Gobi and Patagonia deserts of Mongolia and Argentina, the Amazon (Peru), and northwest Iceland. His images have been published in many major U.S. magazines including Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and Virginia Quarterly Review. Jon is also a founding member of “LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph”. Much of Jon’s career has been focused on promoting the work of nonprofits, which include the Building Goodness Foundation in Haiti, Guatemala and Louisiana, Firefly Kids in Russia, Impossible2Possible, The Nature Conservancy and the Amazon Aid Foundation. Jon studied Environmental Science and Computer Science at the University of Virginia. He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia and loves to travel and cook.

BEN EPPARD

Ben serves as Amazon Aid’s Communications Specialist. He is a writer and designer with more than ten years experience in the nonprofit sector. Ben holds a Master of Public Policy from the University of Virginia’s Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. He previously served as Director of Communications for Madison House, the student volunteer center at the University of Virginia.

RON HAVIV

Ron Haviv is an Emmy nominated, award-winning photojournalist and co-founder of the photo agency VII, who has been dedicated to documenting conflict and raising awareness about human rights issues around the globe. In the last three decades, Haviv has covered more than twenty-five conflicts and worked in over one hundred countries. He has published three critically acclaimed collections of photography, and his work has been featured in numerous museums and galleries, including the Louvre, the United Nations, and the Council on Foreign Relations. Haviv’s photographs are in the collections at The Houston Museum of Fine Arts and George Eastman House amongst others as well as numerous private collections. Haviv has produced an unflinching record of the injustices of war and his photography has had singular impact. His work in the Balkans, which spanned over a decade of conflict, was used as evidence to indict and convict war criminals at the international tribunal in The Hague. President George H.W. Bush cited Haviv’s chilling photographs documenting paramilitary violence in Panama as one of the reasons for the 1989 American intervention. Haviv is the central character in six documentary films, including National Geographic Explorer’s Freelance in a World of Risk, in which he speaks about the dangers of combat photography, including his numerous detentions and close calls. He has provided expert analysis and commentary on ABC World News, BBC, CNN, NPR, MSNBC, NBC Nightly News, Good Morning America.The Charlie Rose Show and The Washington Post.

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DR. THOMAS LOVEJOY

Thomas E. Lovejoy is a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation and Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University. Lovejoy, a tropical biologist and conservation biologist, has worked in the Amazon of Brazil since 1965. He received his B.S. and Ph.D. in biology from Yale University. From 1973 to 1987 he directed the conservation program at World Wildlife Fund-U.S., and from 1987 to 1998 he served as Assistant Secretary for Environmental and External Affairs for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and in 1994 became Counselor to the Secretary for Biodiversity and Environmental Affairs. From 1999 to 2002, he served as chief biodiversity adviser to the President of the World Bank. In 2010 and 2011, he served as Chair of the Independent Advisory Group on Sustainability for the Inter-American Development Bank. He is Senior Adviser to the President of the United Nations Foundation, chair of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies, and is past president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, past chairman of the United States Man and Biosphere Program, and past president of the Society for Conservation Biology.

He developed the debt-for-nature swaps, in which environmental groups purchase shaky foreign debt on the secondary market at the market rate, which is considerably discounted, and then convert this debt at its face value into the local currency to purchase biologically sensitive tracts of land in the debtor nation for purposes of environmental protection. Critics of the 'debt-for-nature' schemes, such as National Center for Public Policy Research, which distributes a wide variety of materials consistently justifying corporate freedom and environmental deregulation, aver that plans deprive developing nations of the extractable raw resources that are currently essential to further economic development. Economic stagnation and local resentment of "Yankee imperialism" can result, they warn. In reality, no debt-for-nature swap occurs without the approval of the country in question. He has also supported the Forests Now Declaration, which calls for new market-based mechanisms to protect tropical forests. Lovejoy played a central role in the establishment of conservation biology, by initiating the idea and planning with B. A. Wilcox in June 1978 for The First International Conference on Research in Conservation Biology, that was held in La Jolla, in September 1978. The proceedings, introduced conservation biology to the scientific community. Lovejoy serves on many scientific and conservation boards and advisory groups, is the author of numerous articles and books. As often mis-associated, he is not the founder but served as an advisor in the early days of the public television series NATURE, which he's no longer part of the creative team.

Lovejoy predicted in 1980 (see quote below), that 10–20 percent of all species on earth would have gone extinct by the year 2020. In 2001, Lovejoy was the recipient of the University of Southern California's Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. Thomas Lovejoy has been granted the 2008 BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the Ecology and Conservation Biology category (ex aequo with William F. Laurance). In 2004, a new wasp species that acts as a parasite on butterfly larvae was discovered on the Pacific slope of the Talamanca mountain range in Costa Rica by Ronald Zúñiga, a specialist in bees, wasps and ants at the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio). INBio named the species polycyrtus lovejoyi in honor of Thomas Lovejoy for his contributions in the world of biodiversity and support for INBio.

On October 31, 2012, Dr. Thomas Lovejoy was awarded the Blue Planet Prize for being "the first scientist to academically clarify how humans are causing habitat fragmentation and pushing biological diversity towards crisis." He has served on the Board of Directors since 2009 for the Amazon Conservation Association, whose mission is to conserve the biological diversity of the Amazon. He is also on the Board of Directors for Population Action International.

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DR. MILES SILMAN

Dr. Silman is a Professor of Biology. His work centers on understanding biodiversity distribution and the response of forests ecosystems to past and future climate and land use changes. His current projects also address Andean and Amazonian carbon cycles and biodiversity controls for use in innovative, private- and public-sector, ecosystem services projects that change land use by generating revenue for conservation and creating economic and social value for local participants. He has 20 years of experience in the Andes and Amazon and is coordinator and founding member of the Andes Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Group. Silman has authored 56 papers and received 16 grants totaling $2.2M. Dr Miles Silman's association with the Amazon Aid Foundation runs deep. Miles has been a constant supporter since its inception and has assisted the organization with his expertise and knowledge of the Amazon. Mile's was a primary consultant for the documentary Amazon Gold and was critical for helping promote and create our Acre Care donation platform.

Miles is an Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability at Wake Forest University. "My primary interests are community composition and dynamics of Andean and Amazonian tree communities in both space and time. The lab's current research focuses on combining modern- and paleo-ecology to understand tree distributions and plant-climate relationships in the Andes and Amazon. The work is focused on the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes and the adjacent Amazonian plain, with a particular emphasis in distributions along environmental gradients, be they in space or time, and includes both empirical work and modeling."

DR. LUIS FERNANDEZ

Luis E. Fernandez is a research ecologist at the Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology, and is the director of the Carnegie Amazon Mercury Project (CAMEP), a multi-institution research initiative that examines the impacts of artisanal gold mining, mercury contamination and deforestation on natural and human ecosystems in the Peruvian Amazon. His research focuses improving understanding of the global mercury cycle, particularly emissions from the artisanal gold mining sector, and its regional and global effects on forests, ecosystems and human populations.

Previously, Luis held professional positions at the U.S Environmental Protection Agency's Office of International Affairs in Washington DC, the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, USEPA's Region 6 office in Dallas, TX , and the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. Since 2009, Luis has served as a subject expert on renewable energy and biofuels under the U.S. State Department's U.S. Specialist and Speaker Program in several countries in Latin America (Columbia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela) and Africa (Angola, Cape Verde). He has also served as a consultant to the ARCADIS Corporation on issues related to mercury dynamics in the atmosphere and hydrosphere. His work has been recognized through multiple awards, including the U.S. Fulbright Scholars Program, the Aspen Institute, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Blue Moon Fund, the Environmental Ventures Program at Stanford University, the Amazon Conservation Association, and the U.S. EPA, who in 2009 awarded him the agency's highest award, the U.S. EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service, for his work on mercury dynamics in the Amazon Basin. Luis' research in the Amazon has been profiled by multiple U.S. news outlets, including Nature, Scientific American, Smithsonian, National Geographic, the Associated Press, Reuters, the Washington Post, the Sacramento Bee, Ecoamericas, Mongabay.com and the Virginia Quarterly Review (VQR). He is a currently Senior Fellow at the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP), and serves on the advisory boards of the Amazon Aid Foundation, the Environmental Health Council, and the environmental start-up firm, OROECO.

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JOURNEYS IN FILM

Journeys in Film is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and working in partnership with USC's Rossier School of Education. Rossier's (ross-EAR) mission is to improve learning in urban education locally, nationally and globally. USC Rossier leads the way in innovative, collaborative solutions to improve education outcomes. USC Rossier prides itself on innovation in all its programs, preparing teachers, administrators, and educational leaders who are change agents. Journeys in Film has been a leading force in global education for over a decade. They combine the power of moving and provocative films with the highest quality standards-based lesson plans to inspire and engage students in learning. Journeys in Film harnesses the storytelling power of film to educate the most visually literate generation in history. Their educational program has proven to be effective in connecting cultures, broadening world-views, teaching for global competency and building a new paradigm for best practices in education.

GLOBO

UNDER THE MILKYWAY

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