

COLLEEN M. SCANLAN LYONS, PHD

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I am an environmental anthropologist who works for forest conservation and sustainable development in tropical forest regions of the world. Based at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), I serve as an Associate Research Professor in the Environmental Studies Department (ENVS) and the Masters of the Environment (MENV) Program, a Project Director for the [Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force](#) (GCF Task Force), and a Research Associate with the Environment and Society Program at CU's [Institute of Behavioral Science](#). I teach graduate courses on stakeholder engagement, run a field course on and integrated conservation and development in Brazil's Amazon and Atlantic Forests that brings CU and Brazilian students together, mentor students, and conduct research on topics ranging from livelihoods and conservation in the Atlantic Forest to environmental governance in the Amazon to artisanal mining in Peru and Colombia. I have just completed a book on social movements in the global biodiversity hotspot of Southern Bahia, Brazil, [*Running After Paradise: Hope, Survival, and Activism in Brazil's Atlantic Forest*](#).

Collectively, these experiences allow me to work toward my life's mission: to bridge social-environmental leaders in the global North and South to promote tropical forest conservation that benefit people and place. Through the GCF Task Force, I work with activists and leaders in Brazil, Peru, Mexico and Indonesia—as well as 6 other countries—to manage the world's largest subnational governmental network dedicated to forest conservation and low emissions development. I am passionate about engaging diverse groups of people—from governmental leaders and civil servants to Indigenous and local community leaders, NGOs, private sector, and philanthropic actors—to co-construct integrated approaches to conservation, development, and education. I have worked with a range of social-environmental institutions and organizations including: the National Institute for Research in the Amazon (INPA), the American Forum for Global Education, the City of Boulder Open Space Department, the Climate Reality Project, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Global Greengrants Fund. While my geographic expertise lies in Brazil, where I have nearly three decades of experience, I have also developed projects in Bolivia, Belize, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Uganda, and the United States. I hold a BA in American Studies from the University of Notre Dame, MA degrees in International Development and Anthropology from the School for International Training and CU, respectively, and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from CU.