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Dr. Carol Franco is an ecological economist experienced in food security, ecosystem services, and policies for economic development and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Franco is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech. She has participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a member of the Dominican Republic delegation since 2012, negotiating REDD+, financing, and transparency of action and support. Franco was also the lead consultant in the preparation and development of the adaptation component of the Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs) of the Dominican Republic. She has extensive practical experience working with NGOs, the private sector, Governmental and International Development Institutions (e.g., USAID, EPA, SilvaCarbon, TNC, GIZ, PLENITUD, CEBSE, among others). Franco also served as the Carbon Finance Officer for the UNDP in the Dominican Republic where she provided training and technical support to the Designated National Authority and key private sector market participants; promoted CDM activities and low carbon intensity projects; expanded linkages with other Governmental institutions and the private sector.