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Originally from Colombia, I earned a PhD in Ecology from the University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse III (France). After a post-doctoral position at the University of Connecticut, I returned to Colombia and taught in the university for several years. Right now, I am a researcher at the Humboldt Institute, and I am coordinating the research agenda of Colombian forests. I am broadly interested in understanding the different forces determining plant community assembly in tropical forests, using theoretical and empirical approaches from community ecology, functional ecology, and community phylogenetics. My research focuses on plant regeneration in both pristine and human-impacted landscapes from multiple tropical regions including Colombia, French Guiana, Costa Rica, Brazil and Mexico. Assessing patterns of plant recruitment in regrowing forests provides valuable insights into the consequences of landscape transformation and climate change, and enable prediction of forests responses to these global changes.