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Esteban Tapella has a background in social sciences, a master degree in rural development and a PhD in Human Ecology. He has specialized in fields involving in-depth socio-economic analysis, qualitative, quantitative and actor oriented research, as well as policy making and human resource management. He does consultancies in evaluation and systematization of development projects. He is a lecturer and researcher at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the Universidad Nacional de San Juan. He has 20 years of increasing professional responsibilities and experience in areas of community and rural development and social planning, particularly with the co-ordination and management of social policies and training programs at local, regional and national levels. During the last five years he has concentrate on the study of social conflicts connected to the use and access to ecosystem services.