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Guido Soto Alvarez is a Forestry Engineer (1967) from the University of Chile, Chile. Since 2003, he has been the Executive Director at the Water Center for Arid and Semi-arid Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean-CAZALAC/UNESCO. Before that, he worked in several projects related with the management and protection of natural resources in arid zones, as well as in extension and rural development activities. He was Regional Director of the National Forestry Corporation at the Region of Coquimbo, Chile (1972-1990), National Focal Point of the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), and has acted at several charges in that organism like a Vice-President LAC Regional Meetings, Vice-President Committee of Science and Technology (COP3, Dakar, Senegal), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (COP4, Bonn, Germany-Dec. 2000), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (COP4, Bonn, Germany-Dec. 2000), and Vice-President of the Bureau (Board of Directors) in COP5/UNCCD (2001-2003), Geneva, Switzerland.

Director of FAO/Holland Participative Forestry Development Project in the Andes – Chile (DFPA), on rural forestry development in arid zones: Training; technological transference; diagnostics and proposals for development of local communities (1993 – 1995).

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