

2024/2025

PROJECT REPORT

# VOICES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH, DENMARK



**SAVING RIVERS AND LAKES ORG.**

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Alejandra Luzuriaga, Peruvian designer and entrepreneur, speaker in Voices of the Global South (left), and Blanca A. Kracht, founder of Saving Rivers and Lakes (right).

# Introduction

Voices of the Global South is an ongoing project in Denmark that began in 2024, inviting speakers from the Global South with extensive experience and expertise in development issues. The project aims to deepen the audience's understanding of development issues in the Global South, going beyond simple awareness-raising. Our goal is to offer a nuanced and accurate portrayal of the challenges faced by communities and ecosystems in the region.

By providing diverse perspectives and insights, the project encourages critical thinking and engagement in development cooperation. It seeks to inspire and empower the audience to consider innovative, context-specific solutions to these challenges, and to better understand and address environmental issues in the Global South.

The project has been organized as a series of four events, each featuring a different speaker. Three talks have already been successfully held, reaching a broad audience and generating meaningful discussion. The fourth and final talk is scheduled to take place at the end of this year, 2025.

# Project Goals

This project aims to inspire, encourage, and inform our audience through the narratives shared by keynote speakers from the Global South. Speakers from Mexico, Rwanda, and Peru already shared how their knowledge and experiences were essential in addressing pressing issues in their own countries, as well as the current development challenges they face. By hosting presentations in both Aarhus and Copenhagen, the project has offered NGOs and students deeper insights and new perspectives on global development issues.

From the beginning, the objective was to create a learning experience that goes beyond general awareness. Recognizing that students and NGOs already possess knowledge of development issues, the project seeks to introduce new perspectives, practical insights, and context-specific strategies. Through concrete case studies—ranging from grassroots initiatives to more technical interventions, such as the reintroduction of a plant species in Mexico with the use of Indigenous knowledge—the project aims to move the audience from a general overview to a deeper, more detailed understanding.

The project hopes to inspire students to engage further with development work—whether by participating in civil society organizations, pursuing academic research, or incorporating these themes into future studies. For NGOs, the project aims to support the integration of shared knowledge into future projects and encourage collaboration with the speakers on the issues presented.

# Giving the Stage to the Global South

A key idea behind Voices of the Global South was to invite people from countries in the Global South to speak about development issues in their own communities. By giving the stage directly to those with lived experience, the project highlights not only the challenges they face, but also the knowledge, solutions, and creativity that already exist there. In this way, the project makes space for voices that are often overlooked in traditional development discussions.

Each event followed a simple and accessible format. First, the speakers shared a real project or initiative that helped solve a development problem in their country. They explained how the project began, what they learned along the way, and why it made a difference. After that, they talked about a current challenge they are working on—offering the audience a realistic view of what still needs to be done and why solutions are not always easy.

Although each topic was different, all speakers are skilled communicators and shared their stories in a way that was understandable and engaging for everyone. After each talk, the audience had the chance to ask questions and discuss the topic directly with the speaker.

**THE EVENTS WERE DESIGNED TO INSPIRE PEOPLE, NOT ONLY TO LEARN, BUT TO TAKE ACTION IF THEY FEEL MOTIVATED.**

# Voices That Lead the Change

## Eduardo Lara Reimers

Eduardo Lara Reimers is an ethnobiologist and forest engineer from Zacatecas, Mexico, with a PhD in Sustainable Rural Development. He has worked on environmental projects for communities, focusing on preserving local plant species and traditional knowledge. Eduardo is also a professor and researcher with expertise in biocultural projects and ethnomedicine.

**Did you know  
that Indigenous  
communities  
around the world  
are the guardians  
of ancestral  
knowledge in  
herbal medicine?**

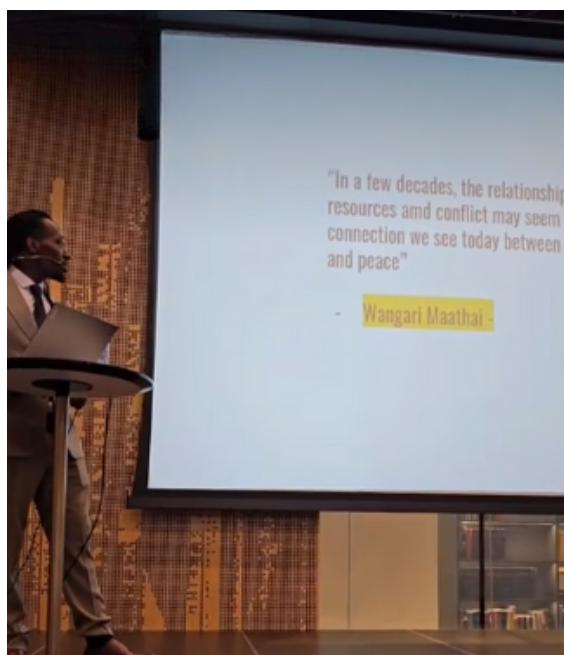


Eduardo has worked closely with Indigenous communities, learning from ethnobiological gardens and local experts across diverse ecosystems. On October 12, 2024, he shared this knowledge with the audience, highlighting how traditional practices protect both people and the environment, and how communities use ancestral knowledge to address environmental and health challenges. He also discussed how traditional wisdom and modern science can work together to protect ecosystems and promote sustainable development, especially in semi-desert regions.

**Watch Eduardo's full presentation on YouTube [here](#).**

## Kiiza S. Hussein

Kiiza S. Hussein is an international lawyer and Global Goodwill Ambassador, recognized with awards such as the Modern Governance 100 Award, Books for Peace Award, Queen's Young Leader, and Global Youth Ambassador. He is the founder of SHK Law Attorneys, providing pro-bono legal services to victims of injustices and human rights violations in Rwanda. Kiiza is also a co-founder and Board Director of the World Youth Summit, which empowers young people worldwide through education, entrepreneurship, and diplomacy. Additionally, he founded the Last Mile Homes Solar and Renewable Energy Initiative under TEDxNyarugenge, connecting rural homes in Rwanda with renewable solar energy.



Kiiza is passionate about addressing global challenges including climate change, peace and conflict resolution, human rights, and sustainable development. On November 29, 2024, he delivered his talk, inviting the audience to reflect on what climate justice means for vulnerable communities and sharing what inspired him to dedicate his life to climate action and creating global impact. Highlighting the African perspective, he emphasized the urgent need for young people to join forces in tackling climate challenges.

**As he noted in his talk, citing Wangari Maathai, “in a few decades the connection between environmental resources and conflict may become as obvious as the link between human rights, democracy, and peace”.**

## Alejandra Uzuriaga

Alejandra Uzuriaga is a Peruvian designer and entrepreneur, and the founder of the AINBO brand, which she established in 2017. She works closely with women artisans across the Peruvian Amazon, combining ancestral weaving and basketry techniques with contemporary design. Through her work, Alejandra promotes sustainability, preserves traditional craftsmanship, and amplifies the voices of the communities she collaborates with.

In her talk on January 26, 2025, she focused on why indigenous arts and design matter. She shared lessons, experiences, and dreams for a more sustainable future, highlighting how traditional knowledge and creativity can inspire both cultural preservation and environmental stewardship.



# Voices That Continue to Inspire

Voices of the Global South has so far brought together inspiring speakers from Mexico, Rwanda, and Peru, sharing their knowledge and experiences in sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and community-led initiatives. These talks have provided audiences with unique perspectives on the challenges and opportunities faced by communities in the Global South, moving beyond traditional academic or policy frameworks to highlight real-world solutions.

By inviting speakers from the Global South, the project fosters a diverse and inclusive dialogue, encouraging participants to engage critically with development issues and consider innovative, context-specific approaches. The firsthand experiences of our speakers have offered nuanced insights into social, economic, and environmental dynamics, while inspiring students, NGOs, and the wider public to explore new ideas and take meaningful action.

**LOOKING FORWARD, THE FINAL TALK IN THIS SERIES WILL FEATURE PAULA A. MUSCIA FROM ARGENTINA, SECRETARY OF FUNDRAISING AT OAJNU ARGENTINA AND AN EXPERIENCED ADVOCATE FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**

Paula has coordinated over 25 international funding proposals, and in 2024 helped host the American Regional Meeting of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), bringing together youth-led organizations from 69 countries. Her presentation will provide further insight into youth-led initiatives, international collaboration, and the role of young leaders in promoting sustainable development and peace.

Through this final session, the project aims to continue inspiring engagement, sharing knowledge, and amplifying the voices of the Global South. We hope that the perspectives offered throughout the series will motivate ongoing **learning, collaboration, and action toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.**