The Practitioner Forum is an ongoing seminar series designed to introduce students and faculty at UF to the work and ideas of scholars, researchers and practitioners directly engaged in development. The goal is to create a vibrant space for engagement with current debates, concepts and trends in sustainable development as well as seeking ways to build knowledge networks for collaboration. On occasion, speakers also conduct skills training workshops with MDP and other interested students. The seminar series is open for all interested UF students, faculty and staff.

**Dr. Patricia Negreros**

**Wednesday, 18 April 2012, 10 am-11 am, Grinter 471**

"Development through Local Community Initiatives"

Dr. Negreros is a premier Mexican silviculturalist and current Director of the Universidad Veracruzana’s Institute of Forest Research (INIFOR). She began her career in sustainable forest management in the 1980s when Mexican forest-based communities were transitioning from being forest residents to forest managers. From this beginning, she has been an influential leader in developing approaches to work directly with forest-based communities to sustain their livelihoods and conserve their forest base. Complementing her advanced degrees in forest ecology and management, Dr. Negreros brings vision, drive and a passion for social justice and long-lasting development of Mexican forest-based communities. She has led diverse capacity building efforts that integrate community development initiatives with practical learning opportunities for upcoming Indigenous professionals.
**Evening Discussion: Francisco Chapela & Dr. Negreros**  
*Wednesday, 18 April 2012, 5:30-6:30pm, Grinter 471*

Please join us Thursday evening for an informal pizza dinner and discussion with both practitioners on sustainable development topics. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage these topics more deeply, ask questions and learn about the experiences of these esteemed development practitioners.

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**Francisco Chapela**  
*Thursday, 19 April 2012, 11:45-12:45pm, Grinter 471*

"Promoting Sustainable Development in Indigenous Communities"

Mr. Chapela is an expert in development and implementation of international projects dealing with sustainable natural resource use, integrated forest management, land-use planning, natural resource policy, social organization and environmental education. He currently holds the title of Regional Director for México, Central America and Perú of the Certification, Commercialization and Strengthening of Small and Medium Forest Enterprises Project, a Rainforest Alliance Program. He also is the legal representative of Rainforest Alliance’s “Alianza para Bosques” forestry certification initiative which adopts FSC standards. Francisco is a member of the International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF), IUCN Strategic Direction of Governance, Communities, Equity and Livelihoods in relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA) and the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC). He has been involved in multiple directives involving rural development, biodiversity conservation and indigenous people in Mexico. Chapela is author or co-author of more than 30 publications about natural resource management, social organization and community land use planning.