

## Panel 1

### **Sharon Cromer**

*Senior deputy assistant administrator for sub-Saharan Africa  
U.S. Agency for International Development*

Sharon Cromer is a Senior USAID Foreign Service officer with over 20 years of experience in international humanitarian and development assistance.

From 1986 to 1997, she was assigned to missions in Pakistan, Cote D'Ivoire, and Senegal. Following these consecutive tours, she assumed the role of Deputy Director of USAID's mission in Indonesia. From 2002 to 2007 Ms. Cromer was USAID's Mission Director in Ghana, and was subsequently named Mission Director in Nigeria where she managed a \$500 million program for two years.

Upon her return to Washington in 2009, Ms. Cromer served as Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance on a temporary basis, before assuming the position of Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Management. Ms. Cromer is currently the Senior Deputy Assistance Administrator in the Africa Bureau at USAID, a position she has held since May of 2010.

A native of Washington, DC, Ms. Cromer is a graduate of Barnard College at Columbia University and holds a law degree from Georgetown University.

## Panel 2

### **Rebecca Adamson**

*President and Founder  
First Peoples Worldwide*

Founder of First Peoples Worldwide in 1997, one of few Indigenous-led international organizations guided by on-the-ground Indigenous priorities for restoring the relationship between the sustained stewardship of resources, and their sustainable productivity. First Peoples employs a number of strategies, from grantmaking and advocacy to infrastructure assistance and relationship building, on behalf of Indigenous decisions to develop community resources and capacities. Ms. Adamson, Cherokee, is widely renowned for her asset-based development strategies among American Indians and Indigenous Peoples. She co-authored *The Color of Wealth*.

**Phillemon Nakali Loyelei***Representative Nyangatom Tribe*

From Ethiopia, the Omo Valley Region, he is from the Nyangatom Tribe. He is currently in the United States seeking political asylum. He left Ethiopia to speak out against the Gibe III Dam that is being built and will negatively affect his people, and the other tribal peoples in the region. He felt his safety was compromised because local government officials began asking his family questions about where he was and when they expected him to return.

**Lavinia Currier***President of Montpelier Consulting*

Lavinia Currier is the Trustee of Sacharuna Foundation, a private foundation that promotes land and wildlife conservation and indigenous rights and livelihoods. Ms. Currier is a lifelong conservationist, human rights activist, and filmmaker. She was educated at Putney School and Harvard University.

As a board member of World Wildlife Fund, she first visited Central African Republic (CAR) in 1999. Ms. Currier's most recent feature film, *Oka! Amerikee*, a CAR/US co-production, is based on a book by renowned ethnomusicologist Louis Sarno who has lived with the BaAka Pygmies in the forests of CAR for over 25 years. Ms. Currier filmed *Oka!* on location in the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Reserve in CAR. She is an avid promoter of the health, education and land rights of the BaAka people, and is the first filmmaker to ever direct a troupe of BaAka men, women and children in a film about their own lives.

**Mosses Ndiyaine**

*Co-founder and Executive Director of the Muruna International Trust of Tanzania*

Mr. Mosses Ndiyaine is a Maasai from Oloirobi village in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area of Tanzania. He grew up as a cattle herder and was sent to school by Catholic Missionaries. He is a Maasai by birth, married and has one son. He is the author of numerous texts about Indigenous people and today is the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Muruna International Trust of Tanzania. His aim has always been to help conserve critical ecosystems and threatened species, maintain essential ecosystem functions (e.g., water security), and provide corridors and linkages for animal and gene movement, including between two or more officially protected areas. He considers biodiversity conservation the basis of cultural and economic livelihood for the Maasai people, securing resources (energy, food, water, and fodder) and income.

**Mary Simat**

*Executive Director of Maasai Women for Education and Economic Development*

She has been a leading voice for the rights of Maasai women in Kenya and for Indigenous Peoples throughout Africa. Most recently, she spearheaded a campaign to educate Maasai villagers on the newly adopted Constitution of Kenya, which recognized the country's Indigenous groups for the first time in formal law. Ms. Simat occupied an official place in the ratification ceremony for the new Constitution. The National Heritage ministry has named her one of 12 Maasai Heroes in Narok District, a regional homeland of the Maasai.