

Curriculum Vitae: Dimitri Selibas

Nationality	South African; Greek
Education	<p>Postgraduate diploma in Environment and Local Development (2022) Francisco José De Caldas District University, Colombia</p> <p>Chartered Accountant (SA) (2013) South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, South Africa</p> <p>Higher Diploma in Accounting (2011) University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</p> <p>Bachelor of Accounting Science (2010) University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</p>
Languages	English (fluent), Spanish (advanced), Portuguese (intermediate), Afrikaans (fair)

Employment record

December 2024 – current	Project Manager and Technical Analyst OneWorld Sustainable Investments
May 2019 – Dec 2024	Climate and Development Consultant Independent
Feb 2019 – June 2024	Freelance Environmental Journalist Independent
Sept 2020 – Aug 2021	Reporting Specialist ACDI/VOCA Colombia
Feb 2015 – June 2017	Programme Officer Open Society Foundation for South Africa
Jan 2011 – Dec 2013	Auditing Clerk Ey (Previously Ernst and Young)

Relevant professional experience

February 2025 – current	<p>Identification and Assessment of Subsidies with Possible Negative Impacts on Biodiversity, and Redesign Options</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Rwanda and Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA)</p> <p>Researcher, Analyst</p> <p>Subsidy and incentive screening and assessment of potential unintended negative impacts on biodiversity in Rwanda and development of a subsidy redesign action plan for three prioritised subsidies. Responsible for researching biodiversity and land use management policies Rwanda; reviewing scenario analyses and proposed redesign of selected subsidies; preparing revised analysis and redesign for Crop Intensification Programme (CIP); and conducting targeted stakeholder engagement.</p>
February 2025	Allocation of Sectoral Emissions Targets (SETs), Improvement of the Integrated Socio-economic Model and Update of the Pathways Scenarios of the Integrated Mitigation Model



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)

Editor

The objective of the project is to update and improve the integrated socio-economic model, update the pathways scenarios of the integrated model, and allocate sectoral emissions targets (SETs). Tasks included editorial review for the final report, including a full edit, style alignment and alignment of Business-as-Usual scenarios with aspirational scenarios.

Dec 2024 - current

Provision of Project Preparation Services to the South African National Biodiversity Institute through the Green Climate Fund Project Preparation Facility

South African National Biodiversity Institute/ Green Climate Fund (GCF), under contract to Oxford Policy Management (OPM)

Researcher, Analyst

Collaborative development of the full Simplified Approval Process (SAP) Funding Proposal (FP) and Annexes for the GCF, for the project: *Ecosystem-based Approaches for transforming smallholder farming systems that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in South Africa* (EbA-Farm).

Tasks included analysing, researching and providing key inputs for the FP, Logical Framework, and High-level Budget, as well as reviewing and updating the Pre-feasibility report and Gender Assessment and Action Plan, Risk Assessment, and Environmental and Social Action Plan.

June 2024 – Nov 2024

South African Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change

Independent Philanthropy Association South Africa (IPASA) / African Climate Foundation

Project lead, Lead author

This project focused on developing a South African climate change commitment, modelled on the WINGS international commitment framework. It was tailored to the South African context, considering the specific needs and readiness of IPASA members and other funders in the country, as they navigated their climate response journeys.

Responsible for producing a scoping report on the status of South African climate funders responses, including to identify and interview key local and international stakeholders; prepare and run an online workshop on South Africa’s climate development nexus and to introduce the concept of a climate commitment to IPASA’s members; research and write a climate funder landscape and scoping report; work closely with a task team established by IPASA to co-create the national commitment text; produce text for the commitment

March 2024 – May 2024

Trade Test Documentation Walkthrough Process

BluLever Education

Project lead

This project focused on mapping and understanding the Trade Test Documentation Process, encompassing a three-year cycle that included recruitment, selection, and training both on-site and with employers. The aim was to provide a comprehensive view of the documentation flows and processes, highlighting areas for improvement.

Conducted interviews with staff across the organisation to understand the existing processes and documented workflows related to the Trade Test. Tasks included drafting the relevant chapter for the organisation’s Procedure Manual and preparing a reflection document that outlined gaps and recommendations for enhancing the process.

June 2023 – Aug 2023

External Learning Opportunities (LATAM)

Anglo American

Researcher



Anglo American rolled out a new social performance policy and associated management system, the Social Way 3.0, which was designed to support inhouse practitioners improve how they work with local communities and other stakeholders to reduce negative impacts, manage conflict and enhance positive benefits in the form of socio-economic development. The project required extending an existing database of available external support for social performance related skills and knowledge development to support the Group in steering and capacitating SP professionals in order to develop the skills and knowledge required to deliver better social performance outcomes.

Desktop research was conducted that informed a follow up round of interviews with knowledge experts or professionals from the sector in the different geographical regions of importance to Anglo American. This scope of work is focused only on learning opportunities in the Spanish and Portuguese speaking world with a focus on Central and South America.

March 2023 – June 2023 Social Way Completion Interviews
Anglo American

Researcher, Analyst

This consultancy supported Anglo American operations transitioning to the Social Way 3.0 policy, which involved a three-year learning program and advisory support from the Group Social Performance team. The aim was to capture insights from operations that had completed the transition to inform best practices for other sites.

Responsible for conducting exit interviews with site teams in Australia and South Africa to document reflections on the transition process, conducting an extensive analysis of themes and trends, as well as identifying successful strategies and areas for improvement. Key learnings were distilled in a presentation.

Sept 2022 – March 2023 Evaluation of the Group SP advisory support
Anglo American

Researcher; Analyst

This project involved evaluating the advisory support model provided by the Group Social Performance (SP) team to help sites and business units transition to Anglo American’s Social Way 3.0 policy. The aim was to assess the effectiveness of the advisor role in facilitating this transition and to provide actionable insights for future support.

Conducted interviews with internal stakeholders across sites, business units, and the Group SP team in Latin America and Southern Africa. Data from the interviews were analysed to identify trends and insights, which were then presented in a PowerPoint presentation and accompanying report to inform improvements to the advisory support model. Additionally evaluated the effectiveness of conflict management training provided by the Group Social Performance team in Latin America and prepared a report summarising findings and recommendations.

September 2020 – August 2021 Program of Alliances for Reconciliation (PAR) and Emergency Response in Colombia (ERIC)
Funded by USAID, implemented by ACDI/VOCA Colombia

Reporting Specialist

PAR utilises a reconciliation approach to foster public-private partnerships and socio-economic opportunities in 20 target municipalities. The ERIC Program aimed to addresses the most pressing needs of the communities affected by the Venezuelan migration crisis.

Responsible for identifying and reporting on key program developments by preparing and writing up case studies and success stories for international and public, private, and social sector audiences. Synthesized and translated briefs, reports, and other materials for delivery to USAID. Additionally, prepared summaries and other inputs for quarterly and annual reports about the implementation PAR and ERIC, as well as providing written inputs for the work plan report of USAID’s Youth Resilience Activity (YRA).

2019 MUICA 2019 African Film Festival



Otro Sur NGO

Forum coordinator

A biennial event that aims to foster enrich perceptions about the African continent through presenting Colombian audiences with a selection of African and Afro-diasporic films, highlighting and disseminating the creative versatility of African and Afro-descendant artists.

Helped to fundraise, coordinate, and hold forums as part of the 2019 film festival held in the Colombian cities of Bogota, Cali, Cartagena, and Buenaventura.

Feb 2015 – Jun 2017 Justice, Equality and Rights Programme

Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA)

Programme Officer

Co-managed a portfolio of 17 grantees with an annual budget of USD 2 million, focusing on advancing socio-economic rights, civil society development, and public health initiatives in South Africa. This included areas such as land justice, youth leadership, economic inclusion, and education. Contributed to the programme's strategic planning by conducting research on socio-economic and political trends, identifying key focus areas, and aligning funding priorities with the broader organisational strategy. Also played a key role in preparing quarterly and annual performance reports, including case studies that reflected on key learnings and monitored the impact of grantee initiatives.

Additionally, co-managed the entire grant process from identifying and assessing potential grantees, conducting due diligence, and writing grant recommendations to presenting these to the OSF-SA Board. Ensured effective monitoring of grants through site visits and regular reviews. A significant part of the work involved fostering strategic partnerships with OSF's global thematic and regional entities, as well as local and international donors, to secure co-funding and collaborative learning opportunities. Also initiated and managed the "Social Justice through the Lens" photography competition, aimed at promoting young African photographers of colour, further contributing to the foundation's mission of amplifying underrepresented voices in civil society.

Publications and Conference Papers (selected)

Reports

Selibas, D. 2025. Independent Philanthropy Association for South Africa (IPASA) Climate Funder Landscape and Scoping Report <https://ipa-sa.org.za/download/ipasa-climate-funder-landscaping-and-scoping-report-january-2025/?wpdmdl=13963&refresh=67d98adab9c741742310106>

LA Molano Bello, **D Selibas**, MÁ Muñoz Hernández. 2023. ¿Dueños de su desarrollo?, Luces y sombras del desarrollo local sostenible en el biocomercio del Viche (Owners of their own development? Challenges and opportunities of local sustainable development in the Viche biotrade) <https://agris.fao.org/search/en/providers/124340/records/653beb6e678f89e50f0057de>

Featured articles

Selibas, D. 2024. Signs of Science: App developed with Indigenous trackers helps almost anyone monitor wildlife. Written for Science magazine. <https://www.science.org/content/article/app-developed-indigenous-trackers-helps-almost-anyone-monitor-wildlife>

Selibas, D. 2024. Amplifying Indigenous voices at the global level: Interview with Dario Mejía Montalvo. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/05/amplifying-indigenous-voices-at-the-global-level-interview-with-dario-mejia-montalvo/>

Selibas, D. 2024. Report links H&M and Zara to major environmental damage in biodiverse Cerrado. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/04/report-links-hm-and-zara-to-major-environmental-damage-in-biodiverse-cerrado/>

Selibas, D. 2024. Report shows Peru failed to stop Amazon deforestation for palm oil and cacao. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/report-shows-peru-failed-to-stop-amazon->



[deforestation-for-palm-oil-and-cacao/](#)

- Selibas, D. 2024. Mining industry touts green pledges to attract talent, but Gen Z isn't buying it. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/03/mining-industry-touts-green-pledges-to-attract-talent-but-gen-z-isnt-buying-it/>
- Selibas, D. 2024. Ancestral spirit: can brewing a traditional moonshine help Colombia's youth avoid gangs? Written for The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/jan/04/ancestral-spirit-can-brewing-a-traditional-moonshine-help-colombias-youth-avoid-gangs>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Science panel presents COP28 with blueprint for saving the Amazon. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/science-panel-presents-cop28-with-blueprint-for-saving-the-amazon/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Little achieved for Indigenous groups at U.N. climate summit, delegates say. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/12/little-achieved-for-indigenous-groups-at-u-n-climate-summit-delegates-say/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. French banks accused of money laundering linked to Amazon deforestation. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/11/french-banks-accused-of-money-laundering-linked-to-amazon-deforestation/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. South Africa community members decry traditional leaders' power amid mine plans. Written for Mongabay. https://news.mongabay.com/2023/08/community-members-decry-traditional-leaders-power-amid-south-african-mine-plans/?trk=feed-detail_main-feed-card_feed-article-content
- Selibas, D. 2023. Criminals without borders: the transnational gangs terrorising the Amazon. Written for The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/oct/09/criminals-without-borders-the-transnational-gangs-terrorising-the-amazon>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Bill stripping Peru's isolated Indigenous people of land and protections scrapped. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/07/bill-stripping-perus-isolated-indigenous-people-of-land-and-protections-scrapped/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Indigenous and local communities see big gains in land rights, study shows. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/06/indigenous-and-local-communities-see-big-gains-in-land-rights-study-shows/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. For Central America, climate bill could top hundreds of billions annually. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/06/for-central-america-climate-bill-could-top-hundreds-of-billions-annually/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Mechanized destruction of Brazil's Amazon is rising, but not inevitable. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/06/mechanized-destruction-of-brazils-amazon-is-rising-but-not-inevitable/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Resource-rich countries find it pays to pay landholders to protect their land. Written for Ensia. <https://ensia.com/features/biodiversity-conservation-environmental-services-land-restoration-forests-payments-carbon-sequestration/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Second chance for Lula as controversial Amazon dam goes up for renewal. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/05/second-chance-for-lula-as-controversial-amazon-dam-goes-up-for-renewal/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Questions over accounting and inclusion mar Guyana's unprecedented carbon scheme. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/04/questions-over-accounting-and-inclusion-mar-guianas-unprecedented-carbon-scheme/>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Pink dolphins and reformed Colombian rebels turn no-go zone into ecotourism hit. Written for The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/feb/06/rainforest-colombia-farc-amazon-river-dolphins-peace-aoe>
- Selibas, D. 2023. Illegal road found in Yanomami land accelerates destruction. Written for Mongabay.



<https://news.mongabay.com/2023/01/illegal-road-found-in-yanomami-land-accelerates-destruction/>

- Selibas, D. 2022. Mexican restoration dominated by non-environmental interests. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/12/mexican-restoration-dominated-by-non-environmental-interests/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. COP15 deal needs a ‘holistic approach to conservation’: Q&A with Joan Carling and Ramiro Batzin. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/12/all-the-issues-impacting-indigenous-people-at-cop15-qa-with-joan-carling-and-ramiro-batzin/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Words that didn’t make the cut: What happened to Indigenous rights at COP27. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/11/words-that-didnt-make-the-cut-what-happened-to-indigenous-rights-at-cop27/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. With fracking promising a quick energy boost, can Colombia say no? Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/10/with-fracking-promising-a-quick-energy-boost-can-colombia-say-no/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Amazon reserve for uncontacted people moving forward amid battle over oil fields. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/09/amazon-reserve-for-uncontacted-people-moving-forward-amid-battle-over-oil-fields/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Indigenous communities in Colombia’s Amazon move closer to self-governance. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/06/indigenous-communities-in-colombias-amazon-move-closer-to-self-governance/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Regenerative agriculture in Mexico boosts yields while restoring nature. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/08/regenerative-agriculture-in-mexico-boosts-yields-while-restoring-nature/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Using candy and jam to protect Brazil's Amazon rainforest. Written for Deutsche Welle. <https://www.dw.com/en/using-candy-and-jam-to-protect-brazils-amazon-rainforest/a-62110724>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Indigenous group and locals sign agreement to protect sustainable livelihoods and culture. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/indigenous-group-and-locals-sign-agreement-to-protect-sustainable-livelihoods-and-culture/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Land restoration requires immediate action and Indigenous land rights, says U.N. report. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/05/land-restoration-requires-immediate-action-and-indigenous-land-rights-says-u-n-report/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Funding for women-led conservation remains tiny, but that’s changing fast. Written for Mongabay. https://news.mongabay.com/2022/04/funding-for-women-led-conservation-remains-tiny-but-thats-changing-fast/?mc_cid=392bea3d4c&mc_eid=ee0c499cfo
- Selibas, D. 2022. Ecuador’s Pastaza province, Indigenous groups collaborate on forest conservation. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/04/ecuadors-pastaza-province-indigenous-groups-collaborate-on-forest-conservation/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Reaching the Paris Agreement without protecting Indigenous lands is “impossible”, says report. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/04/reaching-the-paris-agreement-without-protecting-indigenous-lands-is-impossible-says-report/>
- Selibas, D. 2022. Young environmentalists ‘plant the future’ in Colombia’s Amazon. Written for Mongabay. https://news.mongabay.com/2022/01/young-environmentalists-plant-the-future-in-colombias-amazon/?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1643037402
- Selibas, D. 2021. Conservation projects in Mesoamerica make the case for Indigenous climate funding. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/12/conservation-projects-in-mesoamerica-make-the-case-for-indigenous-climate-funding/>
- Selibas, D. 2021. In Colombia, legal mining proves a win-win for environment, traditional communities. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/in-colombia-legal-mining-proves-a-win-win-for-environment-traditional-communities/>



- Selibas, D. 2021. 'We guard the forest': Carbon markets without community recognition not viable. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/we-guard-the-forest-carbon-markets-without-community-recognition-not-viable/>
- Selibas, D. 2021. Ecuadoran water fund transforms consumers into conservationists. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/05/ecuadoran-water-fund-transforms-consumers-into-conservationists/>
- Selibas, D. 2021. Empowering Indigenous peoples crucial to climate, biodiversity crises: Study. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/04/empowering-indigenous-peoples-crucial-to-climate-biodiversity-crises-study/>
- Selibas, D. 2021. Buen Vivir: Colombia's philosophy for good living. Written for BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210207-buen-vivir-colombias-philosophy-for-good-living>
- Selibas, D. 2020. Colombia's sustainable forestry drive boosts biodiversity and business. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/12/colombia-sustainable-forestry-drive-boosts-biodiversity-business/>
- Selibas, D. 2020. Colombia's forests lurch between deforestation and the hope for a sustainable future. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/12/colombias-forests-lurch-between-deforestation-and-the-hope-for-a-sustainable-future/>
- Selibas, D. 2020. Battle over proposed Colombian port at Tribugá puts sustainable development in focus. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/10/battle-over-proposed-colombian-port-at-tribuga-puts-sustainable-development-in-focus/>
- Selibas, D. 2020. Double blow to Colombian Amazon and Indigenous groups from armed militants, COVID-19. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/double-blow-to-colombian-amazon-and-indigenous-groups-from-armed-militants-covid-19/>
- Selibas, D. 2020. We're flying less. And wild places that count on tourism dollars are starting to take notice. Written for Ensia. https://ensia.com/articles/flight-shaming-pandemic-ecotourism/?fbclid=IwAROG3A9b8oyuxpra5YKhnakUah4cLW61Cs4aUbuH_QXFGw6gpyR8kuWYXUk
- Selibas, D. 2020. Colombian farmers, ranchers join businesses to turn the tide on Amazon deforestation. Written for Mongabay. <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/06/colombian-farmers-ranchers-join-businesses-to-turn-the-tide-on-amazon-deforestation/>
- Selibas, D. 2019. A wheel education: the environmental diploma you earn by bike. Written for The Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/dec/12/a-wheel-education-the-environmental-diploma-you-earn-by-bike?CMP&fbclid=IwAR01JqyO-R652laVccEec6lGyYpCfd_ixNFv62PJ6nhaECIvf5r1dRiBJ58
- Selibas, D. 2019. Marching in step: The shared challenges of Colombia and South Africa. Written for The Daily Maverick. https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-08-16-marching-in-step-the-shared-challenges-of-colombia-and-south-africa/?fbclid=IwAR0wwJcdOwcvnNSR2s6xQnoaZAVXEfn-6SbuO1Ot_rhaNYm1M-G6YCWdYks
- Selibas, D. 2014. The Guerrilla Gardeners. Written for The Cape Times. <https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/the-guerrilla-gardeners-1743092>
- Selibas, D. 2014. The case for saving Erf 81. Written for The Cape Times. https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/the-case-for-saving-erf-81-1726796#.U9d3G_mSwQm