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Juan Carlos Vargas-Moreno is a Lecturer and the Assisting Director of the MIT-USGS Science Impact Collaborative at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Vargas-Moreno research interest is focus in the development rapid and participatory stakeholder-based appraisal methods employing geospatial information systems and technologies. His scholarly interest expands on the areas of environmental and development planning in highly contested and rapidly changing landscapes and the impacts of design and planning strategies in development policy.

Academically, Juan Carlos has participated in multiple applied transdisciplinary research teams formed by Harvard University and MIT to advise governments and agencies in issues of regional landscape planning, environmental policy and landscape visual management and planning. His research efforts in this context are concentrated on the formulation, analysis and visualization of spatially-explicit alternative scenarios for development and conservation of landscapes using Geospatial Information Systems (GIS). In addition, Mr. Vargas-Moreno has developed a tool for conducting both rapid and participatory landscape planning assessment and scenarios using Portable Geospatial and Information Technologies and Systems.

Mr. Vargas-Moreno holds a Master of Design Studies in Landscape Planning and Ecology and a Doctor of Design degree in Regional Landscape Planning from Harvard University, degree he obtained under the supervision of Carl Steinitz. He was also a Harvard Sustainability Science Fellow at Harvard's Center for International Development—Kennedy School of Government, where he developed research and studies at the Science Environmental and Development Group under William Clark.

He studied architecture and urban design University of Costa Rica. Currently as the Assisting Director of the MIT-USGS Science Impact Collaborative he leads research efforts on Strategic Landscape Conservation and Development under Climate Change. He is an invited professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design; Sardinia, Italy; and at the University of Costa Rica at the Environmental Management and Ecotourism Planning. Mr. Vargas-Moreno also serves as international moderator for the Open Forum on Participatory Geographic Information Systems and Technologies.