

## Independent International Panel of Experts on Environmental and Social Safeguards Biographies



**Dr. Jean-Roger Mercier** is an international expert in environmental and social impact assessment. He conducted strategic environmental and social assessments for projects funded by the European Commission, the French Government, the World Bank, and the French Development Agency (AFD) around the globe. He served as member of several Dams Experts Panels in various countries, often chairing the environmental and social panels. He currently chairs AFD's analytical review of environmental and social risk operational management.

Dr. Mercier authored and co-authored more than 20 articles, reports, studies, reviews and scientific publications in highly-ranked journals, in addition to 7 books. He is also involved in the field of education and training. He co-designed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Management of Operational Social and Environmental Risk (2014) and developed e-learning courses for AFD/CEFEB (2013).

Dr. Mercier is alumni of the Ecole Polytechnique, France (1968). He holds a PhD in Energy Engineering (Solar Energy) from Université Paul Sabatier, France (1983) as well as a PhD in Agricultural Engineering from Ecole Nationale du Génie Rural, des Eaux et des Forêts, France (1970). Dr. Mercier received several international honors and awards.



**Dr. Arbi Ben Achour** is lead safeguard international expert. He worked at the French Development Agency for Africa and the MENA since 2011, and at other international institutions such as IFAD and FAO as freelance social scientist on projects related to water, energy, transport, education, health, environment, forestry, agriculture and community-based development. Prior to that, he was lead social safeguard expert at the World Bank.

Dr. Ben Achour's experience covers providing high-level technical support and guidance on national safeguards and resettlement policies and instruments, including land acquisition, displacement, land status and indigenous people, with a focus on social impact assessment and social capital. He also delivers and oversees training and capacity building at country level.

Dr. Ben Achour received a Master of Arts degree in Sociology of Development from École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France (1977) and a Masters of Science in Agricultural Development in the same year from the same university. He holds a PhD in Rural Sociology (Social Change and Development) complemented by a multidisciplinary Certificate in International Development from the University of Columbia, USA (1988).



**Prof. Dr Ania Kotarba-Morley** is a lecturer in Archaeological Sciences at the *University of Wollongong (UOW)*, Centre for Archaeological Science, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health (Australia). She is also a cultural heritage expert and an external reviewer at World Monument Watch and the UNESCO World Heritage Nominations Team. She participated or supervised 60 archaeological expeditions in 23 countries. Throughout her career she has been site director, field and underwater archaeologist, geoarchaeologist, cultural Anthropologist, documentalist, photographer, heritage and museums consultant.

Prof. Dr Kotarba-Morley is currently leading two cultural heritage research projects; the first entitled: “Global Challenges Fund. Sustainable Past of maritime Kiribati? Historical and ethnographic adaptations of Kiribati people to a changing natural environment” while the second is “Saudi Geological Survey, CAS and GEOQuest grants. SARSP (Saudi Ancient Red Sea Ports) Project: Landscapes and Environments of late Holocene Red Sea ports of trade, Saudi Arabia”. She is an expert member at the International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) where she is also a member of the Working Group on Risk Preparedness and Cultural Heritage.

Prof. Dr Kotarba-Morley received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master in Archaeology from Jagiellonian University, Poland (2009) and a PhD in the same discipline and field from the University of Oxford, UK (2015).