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He was a researcher at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University prior to joining the TSU, and remains an Assistant Consulting Professor at the Woods Institute. Mastrandrea received his Ph.D. from the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Environment and Resources (IPER) at Stanford. He was a Contributing Author for the WGII chapter on Assessing Key Vulnerabilities and the Risk from Climate Change, and the WGIII chapter on Issues Related to Mitigation in the Long Term for the AR4. He also serves on the Editorial Board for the journal Climatic Change.