

# Global Summit on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches

23–25 February 2026, Vienna, Austria

## Co-Chairs

### Norbert TOTSCHNIG



Norbert Totschnig has been Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management since March 2025. For him, the eco-social market economy provides the framework for political action: economic strength, ecological responsibility, and social justice must be brought into harmony. His key priorities include ensuring the supply of high-quality food, clean drinking water, and renewable resources, as well as achieving environmental and climate targets based on sustainable economic growth, active and effective climate protection, and the expansion of the circular economy.

### Pumeza NODADA



Ms Nodada has over 20 years' experience in forestry and is currently employed in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment as the Deputy Director-General: Forestry Management. Her portfolio is responsible for ensuring the effective management of forestry resources in the Republic of South Africa. This includes the implementation of the Commercial Forestry Masterplan, administration of the forestry legislation, long-term forestry leases, management, valuation of biological assets and growth initiatives in the sector and currently provides oversight to the South African Forestry Company (SAFCOL), which is a State-Owned Entity.



## List of Speakers

### Aaron ADU



Aaron Adu is the Managing Director of the Global Shea Alliance, a global multi-stakeholder platform representing actors across the shea value chain in Africa and international markets. He leads the Alliance's work on strategy, membership development, public-private partnerships, and resource mobilization, while overseeing Secretariat operations on sustainability, quality standards, policy advocacy, and market promotion.

With over 20 years of experience in natural resource-based value chains, Aaron has dedicated his career to advancing the sustainable use of forest products beyond timber, with a strong focus on non-wood forest products (NWFPs).

### Marcelo BEHAR



Marcelo is the COP30 Special Envoy for Bioeconomy. Sociologist, lawyer and public policy expert, he leads climate initiatives as Senior Advisor to WBCSD and CEBDS for COP30. He was the Vice-Minister for Strategic Affairs (2003-2008) and head of the Federal Disarmament Campaign, followed by fifteen years as a C-Level executive at sustainability-focused companies including CSN and Natura. He co-founded Ambition Loop Brazil, and currently coordinates FGV-SP's Climate Governance Forum and serves on the boards of organizations including Instituto Ethos and WWF-Brazil. He holds a sociology and a law degree from the University of São Paulo and a master's in Public Policy from the London School of Economics.

### İsmail BELEN



İsmail Belen currently serves as Chair of the Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). He is Chief Inspector at the General Directorate of Forestry of Türkiye. He has held several positions in Türkiye, including Deputy Director General of Forestry, Deputy Director General for Combating Desertification and Erosion, Senior Expert at the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and Chief of Staff at the former Ministry of Environment and Forestry. At the international level, he has served as Vice-Chair of the European Forestry Commission, Member of the Forest Europe General Coordinating Committee, and Chair of the FAO Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions.



## Juliette BIAO



Senior United Nations executive with 35 years of progressively responsible international experience across Africa and the global multilateral system, working on political, policy, and intergovernmental affairs. Currently serving as Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)—a universal intergovernmental body of ECOSOC—providing strategic leadership to complex global governance processes and high-level Member State engagement.

First female forester in West Africa and former Minister of Environment, bringing deep expertise in intergovernmental negotiations, diplomacy, and Member State relations.

## Nicolas COCK DUQUE



Visionary innovator and serial ecopreneur, with 25+ year cross-sectoral career spanning agri-food, biotech, green-tech, sustainable land use, and nature-based solutions doing business in Latam, the US, and Europe. Strong leadership experience across multiple startups, boards, and nonprofits serving as CEO, Manager, Co-founder, Chairman, Director, and movement builder. Interdisciplinary expertise, driving paradigm-shifting organizations, companies, products, and technologies in alignment with his impact-driven passion.

## Mia CRAWFORD



Mia Crawford has more than 25 years of professional experience with international relations and policy making, with a focus on sustainable forest management, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development. She has served in key roles within the United Nations, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Swedish government.

Currently, Mia is the Forest Director for EU and International Affairs at the Federation of Swedish Farmers. She co-chairs the International Arrangement on Forests Major Group Internal Coordination Mechanism and acts as focal point for Farmers and Small Forest Landowners within the UN Forum on Forests.



## Herrick FOX



After 18 years in forestry and bioeconomy with the US Department of Agriculture and five years in the hemp industry, he currently holds a faculty appointment in forest bioeconomy at the University of California, Berkeley, and consults for international clients on bioeconomy program development. Previously, until early 2025, Rick served as USDA's Bioeconomy Coordinator, representing and coordinating the Department's implementation of \$4.6B in bioeconomy programming on the White House National Bioeconomy Board Secretariat. His prior experience in USDA included land management on the National Forests and forest policy assignments with senior government officials.

## Sonja GEIER



Sonja Geier is an architect and Deputy Head of the Competence Center for Typology & Planning in Architecture at Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. She earned her PhD at the Technical University of Munich in the field of industrialized timber construction. Last year, she held a one-year visiting professorship at the University of Stuttgart on "Innovations in Timber Construction". For over 18 years, she has been involved in national and international research projects, has served on scientific committees for various international conferences, and acts as a reviewer/juror for national and international research projects. In Switzerland, as a board member of Lignum Central Switzerland, she fosters networking between research, education and industry in topics related to forests, timber and the circular economy.

## Peter GRAHAM



Peter Graham is an international climate and forest policy advisor with over two decades of experience working at the intersection of government, finance, and sustainable development. He currently serves as Bioeconomy Lead for the Secretariat of the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), where he supports member governments in advancing sustainable forest economies and strengthening the role of forests in global climate action. Peter has played leadership roles in international climate negotiations, advising governments and coalitions on forest finance, land use, and bioeconomy strategies within the UNFCCC process and related multilateral initiatives.



## Eric HANSEN



Eric is currently Professor of Forest Products Marketing and Department Head of Wood Science and Engineering in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University (OSU). He received a B.S. in Forest Products Business Management from the University of Idaho in 1990 and a PhD in 1994 from Virginia Tech, specializing in Forest Products Marketing. His current research areas are organizational innovation, bioeconomy transition, corporate social responsibility, and strategic marketing. He is co-author of the textbook Strategic Marketing in the Global Forest Industries, Deputy Coordinator of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) Division 5, Forest Products, and a Co-Lead of the IUFRO Task Force, Scaling-up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation.

## Raphaela HELLMAYR



Raphaela Hellmayr currently works in the Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation Department at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management. She leads the Secretariat of the Country- and Organization-led Initiative on Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy Approaches (COLI).

She holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. Her areas of expertise include wood technology, the circular economy, and the bioeconomy.

## Qinjiao HOU



Currently employed as civil servant at the Department of Forestry and Grassland Reform and Development, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of P. R. China. Devoted to the development and management of forest food, focusing on policies and standards related to non-timber forestry, under-forest economy, product collection and processing.



## Yuuko IIZUKA



Yuuko Iizuka was appointed executive officer of Sumitomo Forestry in March 2022, after having been the head of the Sustainability Department since April 2015. She has extensive experience in sustainability, government relations, IR and PR at Sony Corporation and two other global conglomerates before joining Sumitomo Forestry in February 2012. Her current responsibilities include strategic planning, management, and disclosure of sustainability issues (climate, nature and equity) as part of Sumitomo Forestry's mid-term sustainability targets to realize the company's long-term vision, Mission TREEING 2030.

## Erno JÄRVINEN



Head of Forests and Bioeconomy unit, senior ministerial adviser he has worked in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland since April 2022. His task is to lead a 17-person expert organisation in the Natural Resources Department of the Ministry. The Forest and Bioeconomy Unit is responsible for the preparation and implementation of Finnish forest policy. It includes preparation of legislation, performance guidance of forest sector's organisations, preparation and implementation of strategies and action plans, and management of international forest affairs.

## Paul KING



Paul is CEO of Built by Nature, a not-for-profit organization whose vision is a built environment in harmony with nature. Previously Paul was Managing Director, Sustainability and Social Impact, for Lendlease Europe. He was the founding CEO of the UK Green Building Council. Before that, he worked for WWF-UK as Director of Campaigns, Campaign Director for WWF's One Million Sustainable Homes campaign and co-founder of One Planet Living. Paul was a trustee and Vice Chair of the Board of Centre for London, the city's only dedicated think tank, and a director of BeOnsite, a not-for-profit focused on bringing unemployed people from disadvantaged backgrounds into sustained employment. He was a member of the Board of the World Green Building Council and Chair of the WorldGBC Europe Network.



## Daniela KLEINSCHMIT



Daniela Kleinschmit is Professor of Forest and Environmental Policy at the University of Freiburg, Germany and since 2024 President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Her research interests comprise (international) land use policies and governance with focus on forests. She has initiated and coordinated various research projects and published several scientific papers, chapters and edited volumes. Daniela Kleinschmit is actively engaged in several science-policy interactions at different political levels and has facilitated research management in different roles, amongst others as Dean of the Faculty for Environment and Natural Resources and as Vice-President of University Freiburg.

## Aurélie Flore KOUMBA PAMBO



Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo holds a PhD in Biology - Plant Cellular and Molecular Physiology from the University of Paris VII. She is a member of the National Select Committee which aims to integrate Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into the Gabonese corpus. Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo is the first person from the African continent to be elected Chair of the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In October 2023, she was appointed Roving Ambassador for Gabon, in charge of climate, environment and sustainable development. In November 2023, Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo was appointed Co-Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) by the Government of the Republic of Gabon for the period October 2023 to 2025.

## Florian KRAXNER



Florian Kraxner is a principal research scholar with the Biodiversity and Natural Resources Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and is a visiting professor on land-based CDR technologies with Korea University in Seoul.

At IIASA, he leads the research group on Agriculture, Forestry, and Ecosystem Services putting emphasis on integrated global landscape modelling, complemented with sustainable value chain- and systems optimization, and climate change impact on natural ecosystems.



## Christoph KULTERER



Fourth-generation CEO and owner of the HASSLACHER Group, a family-run, innovative and international timber industry company that was founded in 1901 and is now a market leader in the glued laminated timber segment. Christoph Kulterer transformed the company from a medium-sized sawmill into one of the leading companies in the European wood-processing industry with over 10 production sites in five countries and more than 2000 employees. Forward-thinking manager with a collaborative leadership style. Valuable experience of successfully growing the business in Europe and overseas through investment in value-adding and sustainable products, product innovation and strategic acquisitions.

## Chetan KUMAR



stakeholders at all levels, including governments, donors, and community members.

Chetan Kumar is the Global Head of the Forest and Grasslands Team at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), based in Washington, D.C. He has over 27 years of experience conducting research and managing interdisciplinary forestry and natural resources programs. His work has focused on promoting the understanding and practical application of research on critical forestry issues, including sustainable forest management, forest landscape restoration, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. Chetan has a strong track record of developing and implementing innovative solutions to complex environmental challenges. He has built and maintained strong relationships with

## Meltem KURTSAN



Meltem Kurtsan is a pharmacist and entrepreneur with extensive expertise in phytotherapy, aromatherapy, natural product development, and sustainable agriculture. A pioneering advocate for women's entrepreneurship, she played a leading role in the establishment of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER) in 2002.

Meltem Kurtsan completed her Aromatherapy Education at Bezmialem University, and in 2019 was appointed as the Regional Director for Türkiye by the National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy (NAHA) in the United States.



## Andreja KUTNAR



Dr. Andreja Kutnar is a full professor in the field wood science at the University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia and director of the research institute InnoRenew CoE, established in the frame of the H2020 Teaming project. She was an Executive Board member of InnoWood for six years and in the years 2020/2021 president of the Society of Wood Science and Technology. Her work focuses on research projects in the fields of natural science, technology, sustainable development of the wood industry, environmental impact assessment of new materials, products, and technologies from origin, manufacturing, use/alteration to reuse or recycle. In 2022 she co-authored Horizon Europe-New European Bauhaus Nexus

Report.

## Katharina LEHMANN



Since 1996 Owner, Chairwoman an/or Delegate of the Board of Directors and CEO of Blumer Lehmann: i.e. Blumer-Lehmann AG and Lehmann Holzwerk AG.

Katharina runs the family business in the 5th generation and continues to be fascinated by all that wood has to offer as a building and raw material.

She is also committed to various activities in different boards of directors or associations related to building industry, sustainable tropical forest management, research, digital technology or sustainability.

## Lisa LEHNER



Lisa Lehner is Senior Expert for Forest and Wood Policy at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management in Austria with more than 10 years of experience in global, pan-European as well as EU forest and wood related policy and a special focus on bioeconomy as well as circular economy. She is focal point for international and governance related issues at the Directorate for Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation, holding a Master's degree in forest sciences. At the heart of Lisa's international engagement is the will to connect, exchange and collaborate. She is one of the founding minds of the Country- and Organization-led Initiative on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches (COLi) as well as the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) and is currently leading WoodPoP's Technical Working Group on Governance.



## Michael LOSCH



Dr. Michael Losch is principal administrator and coordinator for bioeconomy in DG Agriculture and Rural Development. He is an economist with a focus on industry and competition policy, competitiveness, innovation and energy transition. He studied at the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien and at HEC in Paris. From 2004 to 2016 he served for twelve years as Austrian Director General for Economic Policy, Innovation and Technology, covering a broad range of functions and policies ranging from EU Competitiveness Council, competition and state aid policy, to national innovation, venture capital and start-up promotion schemes. From 2016 to 2020 he served as Austrian Director General for Energy and Mining, where he initiated the “Hydrogen Initiative” during the Austrian EU Presidency 2018.

## Ashish MALIK



Ashish Malik is the Senior Vice-President and Global Head of Wood Products at Olam Agri, bringing over 15 years of international experience in forestry and global wood products trade across Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. He leads the company’s worldwide wood products portfolio, managing large multicultural teams across multiple continents and driving strategic growth, operational excellence, and sustainable market expansion.

Ashish has deep expertise in forestry investment evaluation, international value-chain development, and large-scale operational transformation. His work spans diverse regulatory and market environments, including in carbon and biodiversity markets, where he provides strategic guidance on nature-based solutions and renewable material pathways.

## Robert MAVSAR



Robert Mavsar is Director of the European Forest Institute, where he provides strategic leadership for the Institute’s work in supporting science-based forest policy across Europe and globally. With more than 25 years of international experience, his expertise includes forest research and innovation, the bioeconomy, economic valuation of ecosystem services, and business models for forest-based products. He holds a PhD in economics and an MSc in forestry.

In his role, Robert Mavsar promotes collaboration and science-policy dialogue to address key forest, climate, and sustainability challenges, and to strengthen the role of forests in resilient and inclusive bioeconomy.



## Peter MAYER



a PhD in forest policy.

Peter Mayer is the Managing Director of the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW), responsible for the development and implementation of the overall strategy and financial operations of BFW, forest and timber related control activities for the Republic of Austria and representation of BFW in national and international fora. From 2003 to 2010 he was Executive Director of IUFRO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and moderator of various multi-stakeholder consultations in the frame of the United Nations. From 1998 to 2003 Peter Mayer was the head of the Liaison Unit of Forest Europe responsible for developing pan-European forest policy. He holds a Masters degree in forestry and political science and

## Silvia MELEGARI



Silvia Melegari is working as Joint Secretary of the European Confederation of the Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) and the European Organization of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) since September 2020. Since 2015, she has been working with EOS, representing and advocating for the interests of the European mechanical wood industries at EU level. Since 2023, she has been a member of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI), where she currently holds the position of Vice-President. She brings extensive expertise in EU policy and regulatory affairs, advocacy, and the promotion of wood as a sustainable, renewable, and low-carbon material.

## Hossein MOEINI-MEYBODI



Economic and Social Affairs at UN Headquarter in New York.

Hossein Moeini Meybodi is a senior expert on international law and diplomacy on environment, and sustainable development issues. Over thirty-three years of his professional career, he has been deeply involved in numerous United Nations environmental and sustainable development processes and conferences. During this period, he led several intergovernmental processes to successful outcomes on issues such as energy, finance, forests, social development, climate change, desertification and international environmental governance. Currently, Mr. Moeini-Meybodi is the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Intergovernmental Support Section of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, at the UN Department of



## Bryony MORGAN



Bryony is a specialist in sustainable and equitable trade of wild plant and fungi resources, with over 15 years of experience strengthening non-wood forest product (NWFP) value chains. Her work focuses on ensuring that forest products beyond wood support biodiversity conservation, resilient livelihoods, and inclusive forest-based bioeconomy development. At TRAFFIC, Bryony leads implementation of the Darwin Initiative project Scaling conservation of Himalayan plants and fungi through sustainable trade, which advances practical models for sustainable harvesting, improved governance, and benefit-sharing across high-value NWFPs from Nepal's Himalayas.

## Joseph MORRALL



Dr Joseph Morrall completed his PhD from the Australian National University in 2006 in materials science. From then Dr Morrall has held numerous regulatory and policy roles within the Australian government agriculture portfolio primarily in pest and disease management tools.

Dr Morrall's focus in recent years has been on international engagement and cooperation, and he has taken up the lead of Australian International Policy – Agvet Chemicals and Forestry team.

## Elfriede MOSER



Elfriede Moser has been Director-General of the Directorate-General for Forestry and Regions at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Climate and Water Management since 2023. She is also Vice President of the Forestry Association of Upper Austria and Salzburg. From 2016 to 2023, she was Director of the State Forest Service in Upper Austria. Prior to this, she was Head of the Perg District Forestry Inspectorate. She holds a degree in Forestry and Timber Management, specializing in Forestry, from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU University).



## Rata MUDA



Rata Muda specialized in international forestry, at New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries. She has a background in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Environmental Management focused on forest innovation systems. She represents New Zealand at the United Nations Forum on Forests, APEC's Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, FAO's Committee on Forestry, the International Tropical Timber Organisation, and other international engagements. Under the Montreal Process Working Group, she co-leads the Sydney Initiative, which aims to stimulate discussion amongst Montreal Process member countries on how criteria and indicators (C&I) could be used to identify forest degradation, characterize the nature of forest degradation where it is found, and inform policy and management aims to increase shared understanding of the term.

## Boniface MULWA



Boniface Mulwa is a Conservator of Forests with the Kenya Forest Service, where he plays a key role in the management and protection of forest resources to enhance ecological integrity and socio-economic development. He has demonstrated expertise in sustainable forest management and the application of forestry solutions to support climate resilience and livelihoods. Boniface holds a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Forestry and actively contributes to professional and policy discussions on forest-based innovation, climate action, and effective implementation of sustainable forest solutions.

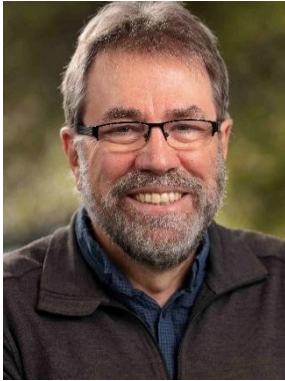
## Derek NIGHBOR



Derek Nighbor has been President and CEO at Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) since March 2016. In addition to his role at FPAC, Derek serves as the industry representative and advisor to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and is the Past President of the International Council of Forest & Paper Associations (ICFPA) – an organization of forest sector leaders from 28 countries around the world. Derek is also a member of the Board of Directors of FPInnovations, Canada's leading forest sector research institute. Derek has also held senior political positions with the Government of Ontario, including two years as Chief of Staff to Ontario's Minister of Consumer and Business Services.



## Tim PAYN



Dr Tim Payn is a Principal Scientist at the Bioeconomy Science Institute Maiangi Taiao in New Zealand. His current research interests focus on planted forests and their contributions to emerging bioeconomies; planted forests, environmental management and climate change; and the development of sustainability frameworks and criteria and indicators for forestry. He is currently involved in two current IUFRO Task Forces and one Working Party related to these research interests. He is lead author on the chapter 'Realising Forest Ecosystem Services as Bioeconomy Assets' in the IUFRO Extended Policy Brief 'Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches' developed for this summit.

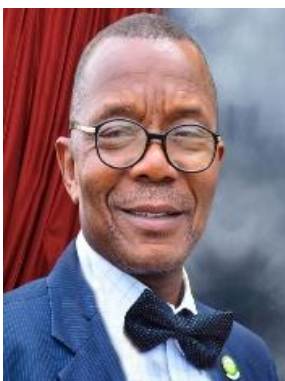
## Pooja POKHAREL



Pooja is a young environment advocate from Nepal, currently pursuing M.Sc. in Forestry at the Faculty of Forestry, Agriculture and Forestry University. She is deeply passionate about forest, climate change, and advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). Committed to empowering youth, she actively advocates for their meaningful participation in decision-making and policy formulation. With extensive experience in youth-led environmental initiatives, she has worked with organizations and forums at national and international levels. Currently, she is the outgoing focal point for the UNFF Major Group of Children and Youth and an active member of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Youth

Task force.

## Labode POPOOLA



Labode POPOOLA, a Professor of Forest Economics and Sustainable Development at the University of Ibadan holds a 1990 PhD in Forest Economics from the University of Ibadan. He has held all positions along the academic ladder in the university system up to the rank of Vice-Chancellor. He belongs to several professional associations and networks. A specialist in Sustainable Development, his main areas of competences include Natural Resource Economics and Management, Capacity Building, Institutional and programme management, Networking, Institutional linkages/positioning, Research extension, Communication and Organization, Bio-diversification of landscapes and Administration



## Ewald RAMETSTEINER



Ewald Rametsteiner is Deputy Director of FAO's Forestry Division. He acted as a Programme Coordinator of FAO's Strategic Programme "Sustainable Agriculture" 2015-2019 and as Leader of the Forest Governance and Economics Team. Prior to joining FAO in 2009 he worked in several inter-governmental policy and scientific bodies on international forestry issues. He holds a PhD from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria.

## Danièle RAMIARAMANANA



She is a Malagasy agronomist and gender specialist with over two decades of experience advancing gender equality in the fields of natural resource management, forestry, and climate change at national, regional, and international levels. She actively contributes to global and regional policy processes as a member of the UN Women Major Group, the UN Forum on Forests, the African Forest Forum, and the Civil Society Advisory Group of the International Tropical Timber Organization. At the national level, she is the focal point in Madagascar for the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF).

## Georg RAPPOLD



Dr Georg Rappold has been Head of the Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation Department at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria since 2021. Dr. Rappold represents Austria in various European, international and multilateral bodies and processes. He chairs the pan-European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP) and the Country and Organization Lead Initiative on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches (COLI). He holds an MBA in Public Management from the University of Salzburg Business School and a PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna.



## Jessika ROSWALL



Jessika Roswall started her mandate as Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy on December 1st 2024. Prior to her nomination for the post of Commissioner she was Sweden's minister for EU affairs from October 2022 to September 2024, during which Sweden held the EU presidency. Between 2010 and 2022 she served as a member of the Swedish Parliament, holding the position of second vice-president of its EU affairs committee from 2019 to 2022. Born in Sweden 1972, Jessika Roswall holds a law degree from Uppsala University. After graduating in 2002, she worked as a lawyer from 2002 to 2010.

## Tiina RYTIÄ-BROERE



Tiina Rytälä serves as a Senior Ministerial Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, where she is responsible for global and pan-European forest policy processes. She holds a Master's degree in Forestry from the University of Helsinki. With over a decade of experience in Brussels in various roles, Tiina brings extensive international expertise to her current position. In Finland, she has held key roles including Director of the Decision Makers' Forest Academy and advisor to two successive governments. Tiina is deeply committed to advancing the role of the forest sector in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## Klas SANDER



Klas Sander is a Senior Environmental Economist with the World Bank Group Global Environment Unit, bringing over 30 years of global experience in Environmental and Natural Resources Management. He leads advisory and technical assistance for country dialogue and lending operations, focusing on sustainable forest and landscape management, air pollution, poverty-environment nexus, environmental financing, and climate change analytics. Currently, his main emphasis is on sustainable forest and landscape management. Klas holds MSc degrees in Forest Science from the University of Göttingen and Agricultural & Natural Resources Economics from Imperial College London, and completed his doctorate in Rural Development Economics at Göttingen while serving as a research fellow at UC Berkeley.



## Sheam SATKURU



Ms Satkuru was appointed as ITTO's first female Executive Director at the 57th session of the International Tropical Timber Council in December 2021. She holds a Master in Corporate and Commercial Law from King's College, the University of London, and was called to the English Bar in 1993. Ms Satkuru has nearly 30 years of experience in tropical forest policy and the wood products industry. She is a skilled specialist in international trade regulations, with strong skills and experience in international negotiations and collaboration, advocacy, legal and policy analysis, communications and public affairs. She has served as a technical expert, adviser and board member in several capacities over the years.

## Hans Joachim SCHELLHUBER



Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber CBE is a renowned physicist and climate scientist specializing in quantum physics, complex systems, and sustainability science. He currently serves as Director General of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria. Pioneering in climate science, he founded Bauhaus Earth, focusing on regenerative architecture and was the founding director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK). With over 300 scientific publications, he is globally recognized by Claravite as a "Highly Cited Researcher" and advised global leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Pope Francis. He has received numerous prestigious honors, including the Blue Planet Prize and Germany's Grand Cross of Merit.

## Gregory SMITH



Greg Smith is the Director of the Economic Analysis Division in the Canadian Forest Service. Since 2022, Greg has led in the realization of forest sector priorities for the Government of Canada including roles developing sector transformation and financing programs, representing Canada in the development of the G20 High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy, and providing data-driven policy analysis to understand trends influencing the development of the forest sector. Prior to his current role, Greg led the development of Canada's federal green bond program, supported the development of Canada's federal industrial carbon pricing system, and held leading roles in energy market analysis.



## Carsten SMITH-HALL



Carsten Smith-Hall is a Professor at the University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics. He has led numerous international and interdisciplinary research programs and published in both natural and social science journals. His research focuses particularly on (i) environment-livelihood relationships, including the role of environmental products in preventing and reducing poverty, (ii) the commercial utilization of biodiversity, with an emphasis on trade and conservation issues, and (iii) the forest-based bioeconomy. He serves on the editorial boards of several international journals.

## Jaime SOTELA-MONTERO



Jaime Sotela Montero served for more than a decade as Director of the Forest Products Laboratory and as Director of the School of Civil Engineering at the University of Costa Rica, contributing to applied research and technical development in forest-based materials. Currently, as President of the Costa Rican Forest, Wood and Industry Chamber, he leads national initiatives to modernize the forestry sector and reduce the cost of using wood in civil construction, working closely with the Government of Costa Rica through public-private partnerships. He has also represented the private forest sector internationally, including participation in COP28 and COP30 under the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership.

## Akiko TABATA



Akiko Tabata is a Deputy Director of the International Forestry Cooperation Office at the Forestry Agency Japan.

She has been in this field since 2019, and her experience grew by leading several project developments and multilateral initiatives on sustainable forest management and wood use.

She also has practical experiences of forest management as forester in national forest.



## Pierre TATY



In 2016, Pierre Taty was appointed Chief of Staff to the Congolese Minister of Forest Economy, and since July 2024, he has been Chair of the 28th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. He began his professional career in 1991 as an employee in various departments of the National Forestry Administration. He has accumulated extensive experience in the forestry sector, particularly in the field of forest and agroforestry plantations in savannah and forest areas. In this capacity, he has played a major role in the development of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Programme, the creation of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin, the implementation of reforms in the Congolese forestry sector, and the successful adoption of the United Nations Decade on Forests.

## Eliška TRNKOVÁ



Eliška Trnková has forestry education from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. She currently serves as a policy officer at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, focusing on international forest policy. In her role, she contributes to shaping the country's positions in global forestry discussions and to implementing international commitments. If she has any free time, she enjoys hiking and reading.

## Ümit TURHAN



Ümit Turhan holds a Master's degree in Forest Engineering, as well as an MBA. With nearly 28 years of professional experience, he has held various management positions in the Directorate General of Forestry (OGM), gaining in-depth expertise across multiple fields including forestry engineering, international relations, and project management. His work encompasses all aspects of sustainable forest management, including biodiversity, desertification, and climate change. He currently serves as Deputy Head of the Department at OGM. He is the former Chair and current Vice-Chair of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions - Silva Mediterranea, and also serves as Vice-Chair of the FAO COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.



## Eliane UBALIJORO



Éliane Ubalijoro, PhD, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and Director General of ICRAF. She is the first African woman to lead a CGIAR Research Center and serves as a Professor of Practice at McGill University and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Appointed by the UN Secretary-General, she is a member of the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report Independent Group of Scientists. She advises several international boards, including IKEA Forestry Advisory, Capitals Coalition, Genome Canada, and Rwanda's National Science and Technology Council. She received the International Leadership Association's 2022 award for outstanding leadership practice.

## Marco VOLTOLINA



Marco Voltolina is a consultant with the Land, Housing and Informal Settlements Section of UN-Habitat, where he works to advance the realization of the right to adequate housing for all and the transition towards environmentally and culturally sustainable buildings. He supports the agency's engagement with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) and contributes to the development and piloting of frameworks, tools, and methodologies for circular and sustainable construction across different regional contexts. As an independent professional, he has also worked on urban regeneration projects and academic research, collaborating with private architecture firms, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

## Helen WALLANCE



Professor Helen Wallace is Head of School, Biology and Environmental Science at Queensland University of Technology, Australia. She is an international expert on tree crops, incorporating both food and timber. She has worked closely with tree industries in Australia and the Pacific for over 35 years. Her research in the Pacific is focused on enhancing the livelihoods of indigenous peoples, especially women, based on forest products. Her work has been instrumental in setting up new industries based on galip nuts from the rainforest, that has improved the incomes of thousands of smallholder farmers in the Pacific.



## Zhimin WU



Mr Zhimin Wu, Assistant Director-General and Director of the Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Mr Wu is also the Chairperson of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Prior to his appointment at FAO in December 2022, he had served consecutively as Director-General of three departments of China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) respectively responsible for Wetland Management, Wildlife Conservation, and International Cooperation. He also served as President of the COP14 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Vice Chairperson of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and Deputy Director General and Board Member of International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR).

## Kaveh ZAHEDI



Kaveh Zahedi is the Assistant Director-General and Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He coordinates the organization's engagement with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) and oversees the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative. He also coordinates FAO's engagement with key international environmental conventions, especially the UNFCCC and CBD, and drives action on bioeconomy and environmental issues, including in support of national planning and implementation.

## Ivana ZIVOJINOVIC



Dr. Ivana Živojinović is senior researcher with a strong track record at the Institute of Forest, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy (IFER) and the Centre for Bioeconomy (ZfB) at BOKU University in Vienna. She also serves as Deputy Head of the Forest Policy Research Network of the European Forest Institute (EFI), which is hosted by BOKU, helping to steer collaboration and agenda-setting across Europe. She currently leads global scientific coordination as Coordinator of the IUFRO Task Force 50 "Building an Integrated Vision of the Forest-Based Sector within a Bioeconomy" and serves as Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 9.05.01 "Bioeconomy Policy in North and South Perspectives", advancing integrated bioeconomy policy dialogue across regions.

