



**Ms. Halka Otto**, Senior Liaison Officer at the FAO Liaison Office in New York. She has almost 30 years of professional experience at national and international levels, including many years in advising FAO Executives (Office of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General). Through her work, she has acquired knowledge in FAO technical fields related to natural resources management including forestry and biodiversity, as well as sustainable development, climate change, rural development, food and nutrition security, among others.



**Mr. Oswald Chanda** is the Director of the Water Development and Sanitation Department at the Africa Development Bank, where he is responsible for a project portfolio of US\$4.8 billion and the Africa Water Facility. He has thirty years' work experience in the sector. Mr. Chanda has been responsible for water and sanitation operations across the continent for ten years where he has mobilized extensive co-financing resources for climate change adaptation.



**Ms. Emily Nobel Maxwell** is Director of The Nature Conservancy's Cities Program in New York. She is an architect of the New York City Urban Forest Agenda and author of the State of the Urban Forest in NYC, and she helps lead Forest for All NYC coalition which is dedicated to conserving and expanding the New York City urban forest. Ms. Maxwell has previously led initiatives advancing urban greening, equity, and sustainability in NYC and Philadelphia, focused on parks, community gardens, schools, and the urban forest.



**Ms. Sandra Suppa** is Head of Corporate Communications at Faber-Castell. She has been with the company, which is a leading global brand for quality writing and drawing implements, since 1999. She is a multilingual communication expert and journalist with more than 30 years of experience. She specializes in consumer goods and family-owned businesses.



**Ms. Charitie Ropati** is a 21-year-old education and environmental activist who has worked to implement an accurate and inclusive sub-curriculum of Indigenous peoples in Western pedagogy in Alaska. She is of Yup'ik and Samoan heritage. Ms. Ropati is a researcher who studies the intersections of plant ecology, permafrost, and cultural resilience in coastal Native communities at Columbia University in the Griffin Lab and is an Indigenous scientist. She is also an Arctic Youth Ambassador and Arctic Resilient Communities Youth Fellow.



**Mr. Thomas Harris** is representing the International Forestry Students' Association. He is a third year PhD student at the Forest School in the Yale School of the Environment. He is interested in balancing the protection of natural forests with the production from industrial timber land. Mr. Harris recently returned from a field season in Brazil where he worked in the landscape mosaic of eucalyptus, native forest and agricultural land in southern Bahia.



**Mr. Alexander Buck** is the Executive Director of International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) a global network uniting over 15,000 scientists in more than 600 member organizations in 125 countries. He studied forestry and law and is an expert on international forest, environment and resource policy. Mr. Buck has 20 years of experience in working at the science-policy interface.



**Dr. Mark Ashton** is Senior Associate Dean of The Forest School at the Yale School of Environment, Professor of Silviculture and Forest Ecology and Director of Yale Forests. He has conducted over thirty-five years of research on the biological and physical processes governing the dynamics of natural forests and on the creation of their agroforestry analogs. Dr. Ashton's long-term research concentrates on tropical and temperate forests of the Asian and American realms.



**Dr. Kathleen Wolf** is a research social scientist affiliated with the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. She has directed a decades long research program on human dimensions of urban forestry and urban greening. In recent years, her focus has turned to nearby nature and the human health response.