



UN-DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goal 15: Progress and Prospects

*An expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2018:
Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*

*14-15 May 2018
UN Headquarters, New York
Conference room 9*

Participant Biographies



Mr. Elliott Harris is the Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN-DESA, and has over 25 years of international experience in the fields of international economics and development policy analysis, coupled with knowledge of the United Nations system, multilateral and inter-agency coordination processes. He has extensive experience in the design of macroeconomic policies and its application as a central instrument for the reduction of poverty and for resilient and sustained economic development. His work in the field of economics also focuses on the macroeconomic linkages with global social and environmental policies. Mr. Harris served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group. Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department, and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department. Mr. Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in German and political science and an advanced degree in economics. He was awarded an Advanced Studies Certificate in international economics and policy research from the Institute of World Economics in Kiel, Germany.



Ms. Francesca Perucci is Assistant Director of the UN Statistics Division where she oversees the work on SDGs and other data and global monitoring initiatives. Ms. Perucci initiated her career in the UN as an adviser on gender and social statistics. Since then, she has served in different positions within the UN system, where she has been an active leader in developing and promoting the use of statistics and indicators to inform development policies and review and monitor progress.



Dr. Thomas Brooks is Chief Scientist at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), based in Gland, Switzerland. His responsibilities include scientific support to the delivery of knowledge products under IUCN standards (such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species), maintaining IUCN interaction with peer scientific institutions, and strengthening the Union's culture of science. Originally from Brighton, UK, he holds a B.A. (Hons) in Geography from the University of Cambridge (1993) and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee (1998). He has previously worked for The Nature Conservancy (1998–1999), Conservation International (1999–2010), and NatureServe (2010–2012). His background is in threatened species conservation (especially of birds) and in biodiversity hotspots (he has extensive field experience in tropical forests of Asia, South America and Africa). He has authored 251 scientific and popular articles, including 122 indexed in the ISI 'Web of Science'.



Dr. Deon Nel is the Executive Director for Conservation at WWF International. Deon is a South African by nationality and previous roles include Director of Conservation for WWF's Africa Programme as well Conservation Director in WWF South Africa. He also served a spell with South Africa's national Council for Scientific and Industrial Research where he led their Ecosystems and Water Research Areas. He holds a PhD in Ecology, a Masters degree in Conservation Biology, a Masters Environmental Law and a Masters in Business Administration



Mr. Pierre Boileau is currently the Head of the Global Environment Outlook programme at UN Environment. In this role he has led his team to complete 6 regional environmental assessments, published in May, 2016, and now the global assessment for the sixth Global Environment Outlook, due to be published in March 2019. As part of the sixth Global Environment Outlook, Pierre's team works closely with more than 160 experts and authors to produce the analysis contained in the publication. The findings in the sixth Global Environment Outlook global assessment are expected to be closely linked to pathways for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as well as a 'Healthy Planet for Healthy People', which is the theme of the report. Prior to this Pierre was the Head of the International Energy Agency's Non-member country energy statistics section where he led a team of statisticians that produce IEA's global energy data publications as well as various electronic data products. Pierre's team worked closely with energy statisticians in more than 110 countries to produce the most accurate and reliable energy statistics available for non-OECD countries. Pierre was also responsible for IEA's training and capacity building efforts on energy statistics, which helped national statisticians improve their energy data through courses, workshops and internships. Prior to joining IEA, Pierre worked for 4 years with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) helping develop and implement standards for organizations and governments to compile better greenhouse gas data. Previous to this Pierre spent 10 years with Environment Canada in various policy and data-related positions on the issues of climate change and air quality. Pierre is a member of the UNFCCC Roster of Experts and holds a Master's of Science in Environment and a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry.



Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho has been directing the UNFF Secretariat since October 2014. After a two-year training/working internship in a Brazilian Forestry Agency/UNDP/FAO project, Dr. Sobral joined the Forest Products Laboratory of the Brazilian Institute for Forestry Development (IBDF) in Brasilia, Brazil, in 1975 as a research officer. In 1981 he was appointed Director of the Forest Products Research Center of the National Institute for Amazonian Research. He held this position until March 1987, when he was recruited by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in Yokohama, Japan, as Assistant Director for Forest Industry. After twelve years in this position he applied for and was appointed by the International Tropical Timber Council as ITTO's Executive Director (ASG) for a four-year term. Subsequently his mandate was extended for a second four-year term, which concluded in November 2007. In the period 2008-2013, Dr. Sobral remained affiliated with the National Institute for Amazonian Research in the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology and carried out several studies and consultancy assignments in the fields of forest industries and forest-based renewable clean energy. He also remained involved with international forestry sustainable development issues by participating in and contributing to sessions and conference of the parties of key organizations/processes, including the UNFF (2013), UNCCC (2011 and 2012), ITTO (2008 to 2011 and 2013), as well as the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20 (2012).



Dr. Eva Muller has 35 years of experience in forestry development, mainly in developing countries. She has worked extensively in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Before joining the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2004, she was Assistant-Director for Reforestation and Forest Management of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Currently she is Director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. Dr. Muller has a Masters Degree in Forestry from Yale University, USA, and a PhD in Natural Resources from the University of Hamburg, Germany.



Mr. Steffen Dehn studied International Forest Ecosystem Management at the University for Sustainable Development in Eberswalde, Germany. His areas of focus are international climate policy, food security and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation. He currently is the focal point for the Major Group Children and Youth to the United Nations Forum on Forests. After working with GIZ in the field of development cooperation in Indonesia, he recently kicked off his freelancing career combining human-centered creative elements from Design Thinking with his areas of interest to foster innovative approaches to natural resource management challenges.



Dr. John Parrotta, Vice-President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), serves as the national program leader for international science issues within the U.S. Forest Service's Research & Development branch. In this role he provides scientific and technical advice to develop science-based U.S. government policy positions in various international forest policy forums, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He also works with colleagues from the U.S. Forest Service, other U.S. government agencies and a variety of external partners to support international programs and initiatives related to forest science and sustainable forest management. Dr. Parrotta holds a PhD in Tropical Forest Ecology and Management from Yale University, and an MSc in Ecology from the University of Aberdeen. His research interests include forest landscape restoration; traditional forest-related knowledge and practices; the relationship between forest management, biodiversity and climate change mitigation; and the role of forests in food security and nutrition.



Ms. Amy Fraenkel, J.D. (Harvard) is Head of Division on Mainstreaming, Cooperation and Outreach, in the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She has over 25 years of experience in international environmental law and policy, and previously served as Regional Director for North America at UNEP. Prior to this, she worked for 10 years in the U.S. government, as senior counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, focusing on international and U.S. ocean and coastal law and policy, climate change, and maritime issues, and as a senior policy advisor in the Office of International Affairs within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Dr. Cristián Samper joined WCS as President & Chief Executive Officer of WCS in August 2012. Prior to this appointment, he was Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (MNH), where he served as Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian (2007-2008). Before joining MNH in 2003, Dr. Samper was deputy director & staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, and was the founder & first director of the Alexander von Humboldt Institute, the national biodiversity research institute for Colombia, where he was awarded the National Medal of the Environment and the order of San Carlos by the president of Colombia. From 1999-2001, Dr. Samper was chair of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical & Technological Advice of the UN CBD where he helped develop a global strategy for plant conservation and launched the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He also served as Vice Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, as a member of the Scientific & Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF and a member of the board of overseers at Harvard University. Dr. Samper earned his master's degree (1989) & doctorate degree (1992) in Biology from Harvard University where he was awarded the Derek Bok Prize for excellence in teaching. Known for his work in the ecology of the Andean cloud forests, conservation biology & environmental policy, Dr. Samper is currently on the board of the Carnegie Institution for Science, the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), and Science for Nature and People Partnerships (SNAPP). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Affairs and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Sir Robert Tony Watson, CMG, FRS has been a research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, USA; a Federal Government program manager at the US NASA; a scientific advisor in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House, USA; a scientific advisor, manager and chief scientist at the World Bank; chief scientific advisor to the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and presently holds a part-time position as a Professor of Environmental Sciences and strategic director for the Tyndall Center at the University of East Anglia, UK. In parallel to formal positions he has chaired, co-chaired or directed national and international scientific, technical and economic assessments of stratospheric ozone depletion, biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, and agricultural science and technology, including the IPCC. He is currently the chair of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He has also been awarded a number of honours (2012 - Knights Bachelor – UK, and 2003 - “Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George” - UK); fellowships (2011 – Fellow of the Royal Society, UK), and awards, including 2014 – UN Champion of the World for Science and Innovation, 2010 - Asahi Glass Blue Planet Prize, 2008 – American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for International Scientific Cooperation, and contributed to the 2007 - Nobel Peace Prize for the IPCC, which he chaired from 1997-2002.



Mr. Mark Zimsky is the Biodiversity Focal Area Coordinator at the Global Environment Facility (GEF). He also serves as the Regional Coordinator for Latin America, overseeing GEF investments across all GEF’s focal areas in the region. Over the last 35 years, he has gathered worldwide experience in more than 40 countries developing national biodiversity strategies, designing biodiversity conservation projects for national, regional and global-level execution, and implementing sustainable agriculture, natural resources management, and conservation projects at the national and community level. At the GEF, he has lead the development and evolution of the GEF biodiversity strategy from 2006 to 2018 as well as the strategic planning process and conceptualization of the following GEF programs: Amazon Sustainable Landscapes, Illegal Wildlife Trade, and Taking Deforestation out of the Commodity Supply Chain. He has worked for UNDP, UNEP, the US Peace Corps, and NGOs such as Ecology Action of the Mid-peninsula, and ACIDI-VOCA. He holds a BS from the University of California, Berkeley and a MFS from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Dr. Juha Siikamäki is Chief Economist of International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN). His broad mandate at IUCN is to strengthen economic analytical leadership and provide strategic direction and quality control for IUCN knowledge generation. He joined IUCN in October 2017. Prior to that, he worked at Resources for the Future (RFF) since 2004, most recently as Associate Research Director and Thomas J. Klutznick Senior Fellow. He has experience also from Arcadis, University of California at Davis and Natural Resources Institute in Finland. His work over the last two decades has focused on the economics of ecosystem services, including their valuation and conservation priority setting, typically in the context of forests or coastal ecosystems. Siikamäki has published in a wide range of journals, including in economics, econometrics, ecology, and general interest science. He has a PhD from the University of California at Davis. He has worked geographically broadly, including in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, China, United States, Europe, and elsewhere. In 2009-2013, he served as the treasurer and board member of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.



Ms. Cécile Ndjebet is an Agronomist and Social Forester by profession. Gender specialist and Women Leadership trainer and adviser; she holds a M.Sc. degree in Social forestry from Wageningen Agricultural University in The Netherlands. With 33 years of field experience, Cécile started her professional career as a Cameroonian Civil servant. In 1997, she joined the civil society Organizations. She is one of the well-known leaders of CSO REDD&CC platform in Cameroon where she is a National REDD+&CC Steering Committee Member; and Regional Coordinator of CSO REDD+&CC Platform of Central Africa. To promote women's direct and effective participation in natural resources management in Africa, Cécile founded in 2009 the "African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)" a regional network with 17 countries from West and Central Africa. In 2012, Cécile was elected Climate Change Champion of the Central African Commission on Forests (COMIFAC). At the international level, Cécile is an active member of The UN Women Major Group and well-known woman advocate for women's tenure rights within global women networks such as Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), Women's Organizing for Change in

Agriculture and Natural resources management (WOCAN) and Global Women Tenure Network (GWTN). She is a Steering Committee member of The Forests Dialogue (TFD), Focal Point of the Women Major Group of the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF), Woman Observer in the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), member of the World Bank inter-organizational reference group on *Understanding forests' contribution to poverty reduction* and Africa Focal Point for International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG).



Dr. Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu is Head of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Southeast Asia Regional Office in Lao PDR as well as IWMI's Representative to Myanmar. She has over 20 years of experience in natural resource management, with an emphasis on building livelihoods resilience and reducing poverty, especially in the context of agricultural and aquatic systems (including wetlands). She served as IWMI's Representative on the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel for 2013-2015 and led the Working Group on Wetlands and Poverty Eradication. She is Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Asia-Pacific Regional Assessment (2015-2018). Sonali has a multidisciplinary background with a PhD from Imperial College London (UK).



Dr. Alessandra Alfieri leads the work on environmental-economic accounting at the United Nations Statistics Division. She has been working on the development of methodology and implementation of the SEEA for the past 20 years. She previously worked in the World Bank and Eurostat. She holds a Ph.D. in Statistics at the University of Iowa.



Ms. Maria Rivera has more than 20 years of experience in national and international policy and on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. She has worked in conservation and sustainable use of wetlands at national government and intergovernmental organizations. At the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, she leads global processes as SDGs and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). She advises and supports the strategic development and effective implementation of the Convention in the Americas region. Before joining the Convention Secretariat in 2007, she worked at the Ramsar regional Centre for Wetlands on the Western Hemisphere in Panama and before that worked at the Ministry of the Environment in Colombia where she led as Focal Point for the Ramsar Convention and coordinated the wetlands program and the preparation and implementation of wetlands policies and regulations. Maria has served as a member of the Wetlands Synthesis group of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and member for the Neotropics of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel. She has also coordinated and participating in international wetlands training courses and waterfowl population's surveys.



Dr. Wei Zhang, a Chinese national, is a research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, where she leads the research sub-theme on ecosystem services in the Environment and Production Technology division. She conducts policy-relevant research on the intersection between agriculture, development, and nature, and has published 27 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters. Her recent research areas include the economics and behaviors of biodiversity and ecosystem services, sustainable and inclusive natural resource governance and policy, and poverty reduction. Wei has a Ph.D. in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics from Michigan State University, a Master's degree in Community Development and Applied Economics from University of Vermont, and a BA degree in International Economics from Renmin University of China.



Dr. Cristiana Pașca Palmer is the United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests of the Government of Romania. She was also Head of the Climate Change, Environment, and Natural Resources Unit within the European Commission's International Development Agency, EuropeAID. Dr. Pașca Palmer has over twenty years of extensive experience in global policymaking and in coordinating the implementation of environment and sustainable development policies, programmes and projects at the national and international levels. She is also a multidisciplinary practitioner and academic in international development with a strong focus on green economy and environmental sustainability, in addition to business management, international negotiations and environmental diplomacy. Dr. Pasca Palmer received her PhD in International Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in the US, and holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, in addition to a Master of Science in Systems Ecology and Management of Natural Capital from the University of Bucharest in Romania.



Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner is Programme Coordinator (Global Delivery) of FAO's Strategic Programme "Sustainable Agriculture" and former head of FAO's Forest Governance unit, Forestry Department. Before joining FAO in 2009, he worked at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and was as policy advisor on sustainability issues for a broad range of international organizations and governmental bodies. He holds a PhD of the University of Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria.



Mr. Mehmet M. Gozukara is the General Director of Combating Desertification and Erosion in the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs. He was graduated from Faculty of Forestry in Istanbul University, Turkey in 1988. Mr. Gozukara has expertise in the protection of soil and improvement of natural resources, making plans of combating desertification and erosion, avalanche and flood control (natural disaster) and integrated catchment rehabilitation plans based on catchment integrity, monitoring their implementation, supporting them in catchment basis, determining politics and strategies in relation to these works and activities, providing coordination and cooperation among related agent and agencies. Mr. Gozukara has also expertise in making plans in national and regional level in order to improve water catchments and determine politics and strategies.



Ms. Gertrude Kenyangi Kabusimbi graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) from Makerere University in 1985 and a few years down the road obtained an MA (Integrated Rural Development Planning) and MA Gender Studies. For a short period after her studies she held a white collar job with a bank as a credit officer before discovering that her calling was not in air-conditioned, pristine and sanitized work environments but with the people right at the grassroots getting her hands dirty. She therefore resigned her bank job and founded Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), where she still serves as Executive Director. She is also the Gender Focal Person for African Union of Conservationists. Her work in conservation, human rights and development has earned her several accolades like the Wangari Maathai Prize 2015 for tree planting and the ONE Prize 2015 for eradication of extreme poverty. Ms. Kenyangi is the East Africa Region CSO representative to the Civil Society Mechanism Coordinating Committee for engagement with UN FAO's Committee on Food Security; the Africa Region Observer on the Climate Investment Fund – Forest Investment Program; and a member of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee - Sustainable Livelihoods Education Program (UNEP / UNESCO). She spends her personal time either in quiet reflection or reading motivational books such as the Bible. Gertrude loves to dance to gospel tunes.



Ms. Joji Carino, Ibaloi-Igorot, Cordillera, Philippines is an active advocate on indigenous peoples' human rights at community, national and international levels over the past 35 years, with expertise on indigenous knowledge, cultural and biological diversity, and international standards on forests, water and energy, extractive industries and corporate accountability. Joji is Senior Policy Advisor and former Director of Forest Peoples Programme (UK). She also worked as Indigenous Policy Advisor and Team Leader of the Indigenous Peoples' and Biodiversity Programme Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous People's International Centre for Policy, Research and Education) and as Executive Secretary of the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. She was a Member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board (UNSAB) (2014-2016); and served as Commissioner, World Commission on Dams (1998-2000).



Dr. Elizabeth Bennett is the Vice President for Species Conservation at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). She received her Ph.D. from Cambridge University for research on the ecology of primates in Peninsular Malaysia. She moved to Sarawak in 1984, and worked there for the next 18 years, conducting the first ever detailed field study of the proboscis monkey; studying the effects of hunting and logging on wildlife; leading a team, with WCS and Sarawak Government staff, to write a comprehensive wildlife policy for the State and then heading a unit within the Government to oversee its implementation. As Director, Hunting and Wildlife Trade Program at WCS, she worked with WCS field staff to develop strategies to address the bushmeat trade in Central Africa and the illegal wildlife trade in China. Her current role involves overseeing WCS's species conservation programs globally. Liz has trained wildlife practitioners at many levels, including post-graduate students and government wildlife staff in Sarawak, Sabah, Myanmar and China. She has published widely, with more than 130 scientific and popular publications. She has been awarded the "Golden Ark" award by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, "Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" (MBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) by Nottingham University, UK, and the Merdeka Award for Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia.



Mr. John Scanlon served as Secretary-General of CITES from 2010-2018. In April of this year he joined African Parks as its Special Envoy. John has a unique range of experience with environment and sustainable development policy, law and governance at all levels. His work experience has been gained in the private sector, in government and with the United Nations. His previous international appointments include senior positions with IUCN, the World Commission on Dams, and UNEP. In Australia, after starting his career in private legal practice, he served as Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Commissioner on the Murray Darling Basin Commission and as an adviser to State and Federal Environment Ministers. John holds a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws (Environmental), and is an accredited mediator. He was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service to environmental law nationally and internationally in 2011.



Ms. Ruth Turia is currently the Director, Forest Policy and Planning with the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority, Papua New Guinea. In her current role, she engages with both national and international agencies on issues relating to forestry specifically but also general policy issues relating to natural resource management and climate change. Ruth has spent more than 34 years with the PNG forestry sector; 24 of which was with the government forestry agency working in various sections, from industrial forest monitoring (enforcement and compliance) to forest policy and planning and 10 years as an academic (7 as a postgraduate student and 3 as an academic staff). She has also worked with external research and education partners, in research and learning directed at addressing the challenges of forest management and sustainability and general natural resource management.



Ms. Hanta Rabetaliana has 30 years of experience assisting donors, executive agencies and local communities through the Malagasy Environmental Programme to set up protected areas, improve management planning and strategies. This includes 17 years working on sustainable mountains development strategies and implementation; 15 years assisting small and medium scale enterprises and communities with a primary focus on developing local supply chains in emerging markets in agribusiness (fruit, sugar, wild silk, raffia, honey), timber and non timber products, community-based ecotourism; and 14 years implementing decentralization policy as regional governor. She has also promoted integrated water management approaches in running a water supply factory; promoted bamboo as a precious wood substitute; and assisted the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry with prioritized core sectors, including sugar, medicinal plants, fruits and vegetables, mining, oils, seeds, tourism, coffee, cocoa, raffia and leather fashion, and textiles.



Dr. Katia Karousakis is an environmental economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where she leads the programme on Biodiversity, Land Use and Ecosystems (BLUE). Working in the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division of the OECD Environment Directorate, her areas of interest include the use of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, biodiversity finance, indicators, valuation and development issues. She has authored numerous books and reports, including *Scaling Up Finance Mechanisms for Biodiversity* (OECD, 2013); *The Political Economy of Biodiversity Policy Reform* (OECD, 2017), *Marine Protected Areas: Economics, Management and Effective Policy Mixes* (OECD, 2017); the 'Biodiversity' chapter in *The OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction* (OECD, 2012), and is published in peer-reviewed journals. She is currently leading a forthcoming OECD publication on *Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development*. Katia was a member of the core team for TEEB for Policy Makers, and the High-Level Panel on the second Global Assessment of Resources for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Prior to joining the OECD, she worked at the US Environmental Protection Agency on climate change and on emissions trading. She received a Ph.D. from University College London and a Master's degree from Duke University, USA.



Dr. Malan Lindeque is the Permanent Secretary of Environment and Tourism in Namibia and has worked in that position for a total of 10 years. He is also the Chair of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council of Namibia. Previously he was the Permanent Secretary of Trade and Industry, as well as Chief of Scientific Coordination in the CITES Secretariat. He started his career as a field ecologist in Etosha National Park. He has a lifelong passion for wildlife conservation, national park management, development economics and international trade.



Ms. Mirna Inés Fernández is an Environmental Engineer from Bolivia with a master's degree on Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems. She takes part of various environmental groups and campaigns in her country linked to Climate Change, Protected Areas and Indigenous Rights. She participated in environmental multilateral meetings in the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCSD frameworks, and she is currently a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. Mirna has worked as a lecturer and participated in environmental assessments and research projects on different areas of her country. Her main focus areas are the ecosystems conservation and restoration, the science-policy interface of the biodiversity global agreements and their stakeholder engagement processes in the global South.



Ms. Larissa Stiem-Bhatia currently works at TMG Research gGmbH – Think Tank for Sustainability, based in Berlin, Germany. In the transdisciplinary research project “Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security”, she coordinates research activities in Burkina Faso focusing on gender, land rights and structural hindrances to adoption of technologies for Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Ms. Stiem-Bhatia is experienced in managing and coordinating multi-stakeholder dialogues at international level, such as the Global Soil Week. Prior to joining TMG Research, Ms. Stiem-Bhatia worked in the area of Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Benin, Burkina Faso, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. She holds a Master’s degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science (MSc.) from Lund University, Sweden.



Ms. Marion Barthélemy is the Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Before joining the Division, she was Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management, in DESA, from 2016 to 2018. From 2012 to 2016, she served as Chief of the Intergovernmental Support Branch at the Division for Sustainable Development at the same Department. In this capacity, she was part of the team supporting the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda. From 2007 to 2012, she served as Chief of the Development Cooperation Policy Branch in the then Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, which is her current Office. There, Marion supported the Development Cooperation Forum and the General Assembly's review of UN system country-level activities (QCPR). From 2000 to 2005, she served in the Office of two Under-Secretary-Generals for Economic and Social Affairs, supported the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and served as Special Assistant to the UN Deputy Secretary-General. At the beginning of her career, she worked as an economist in the Division for the Advancement of Women in DESA and later in the UN Drug Control Programme, working with the Secretary of the International Narcotics Board. Marion joined the UN in 1987 through the National Competitive Exam for economists and studied in “Sciences Po” in Paris (with a focus on macroeconomic and social policies). Marion is married and has four children.



Ms. Deborah Landey is a Conservation Fellow at the Wildlife Conservation Society. She served for 35 years with the United Nations, system including as Assistant Secretary–General, Deputy Executive Director, UNAIDS, (2005-2008). She served as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau of Management (2001-2003) and as UNDP’s Director of Human Resources for some 6000 staff globally (1997-2003). She oversaw the introduction of a new generation of talent management policies, including chairing the inter-agency team that designed the Resident Coordinator Assessment Centre. She was the Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO) (2008-2013). In this context, she led a team which provided guidance to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams worldwide, raised resources for the work of the UN development system and she chaired the inter-agency mechanism that recommends candidates for Resident Coordinator positions. Ms. Landey served as United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of the Philippines (2003-2005) and the Republic of Botswana. (1995-1997). She holds a MA in International Affairs from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Canada; a BA in History, London University, England; a Certificate in the Political Economy of Development, London School of Economics. She is a Certified Professional Coach.



Dr. Cyriaque Sendashonga is currently Global Director for Policy and Programme at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A biologist by training, her career has focused on the science-policy interface in natural resources conservation and sustainable use. She worked at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 1991-1998) on biodiversity and biotechnology issues and for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as Head the Biosafety Programme (1999-2005). She also worked at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) as Regional Coordinator for the Central Africa Regional Office based in Yaounde, Cameroon (2006-2010) before joining IUCN (September 2010 to-date). She has also served on a number of prestigious international scientific panels, advisory boards and initiatives.



Ms. Linda I. Krueger is Senior Policy Advisor at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), where her current responsibilities focus on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into production sectors (energy, infrastructure, mining) by working with national governments, international aid agencies, financial institutions and corporations. She also develops and manage strategic partnerships with the World Bank, IFC, G20 and other multilateral institutions related to conservation planning, impact assessment, land restoration and sustainable development. Prior to TNC, she was Vice President at the Wildlife Conservation Society, where she directed government and multilateral agency relations through offices in New York, Washington, DC and Brussels. As an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International & Public Affairs, she taught a graduate course on global environmental politics from 2008-2012. Previously she served as foreign policy legislative staff in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives and as a consultant to the NATO Scientific and Environmental Affairs Division. She holds both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford University.



Mr. Maximilian Mueller is Policy Officer at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) where he is working to promote IUCN's general policy in relevant international policy processes. For the past six years, he has been focusing on the positive role nature can play in overcoming various development challenges. As part of IUCN's delegations he was involved in the negotiations of the SDGs and coordinates IUCN's input to the follow-up mechanisms of the SDGs, conveying relevant IUCN science and knowledge to promote an enabling policy framework for the 2030 Agenda's implementation. Max holds a Master in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland.



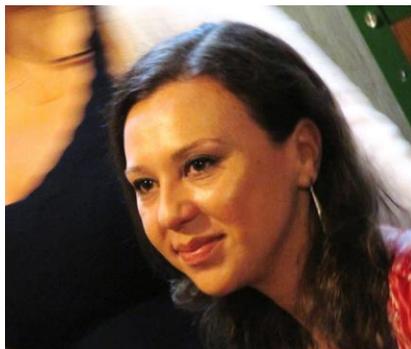
Mr. Stefan van der Esch is a senior policy researcher at PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. He is the lead author on the recently published scenario report for the first Global Land Outlook and co-authored global scenario assessments on biodiversity, land and food. Currently he leads the project at PBL that uses scenario analysis to estimate the potential benefits, globally, of improved land management and large-scale land restoration. Aside from global assessments, his expertise includes natural capital and ecosystem accounting, and non-financial reporting by businesses. His background is in international economics and trade, and environmental policy.



Ms. Rowan Braybrook is the senior manager for Conservation International's (CI's) international policy team, focusing on international and national level engagement on biodiversity and sustainable development policy. She has been with CI since 2012, functioning as the organization's UN focal point and also engaging in climate change, trade, and marine policy processes. Prior to joining CI, Rowan worked with the Peace Corps and Missouri Botanical Gardens in northern Madagascar on community environmental education and sustainable agriculture, and with Tostan International in Senegal on community education and women's health. She completed her undergraduate studies in Sociology and Anthropology at Middlebury College and her M.A. in Public Management with a concentration in environmental policy at Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for EcoWomen, an American NGO that focuses on professional development for women in the environmental field.



Dr. Christoph Wildburger is a consultant on environmental policy and natural research management, mainly working at the science-policy interface. He has twenty years of work experience with international institutions and organisations, universities, government agencies, NGOs, and the media, providing scientific synthesis and technical analysis, policy proposals and research on relevant issues. Core areas of his expertise include biological diversity, forest ecology, conservation economics, forest and conservation policy, and as well as in-depth knowledge of related international processes and institutional frameworks. He is the Coordinator of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) for IUFRO, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations.



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