

## Contributor biographies

### **Ashton, Melanie**

**Australia**

Melanie Ashton is a young independent environmental policy consultant, development specialist, and writer. She holds a Master's in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and a Bachelor of Science, with Honours, from the University of Melbourne. Melanie's current clients include several Pacific Island governments, aid agencies, consulting firms, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Melanie has a history of working with the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific Region. She was the Team Leader on the Australian Government funded Persistent Organic Pollutants in Pacific Island Countries Project, which was implemented from 2003-2008. In this role, she oversaw and managed the collection of over 100 tonnes of toxic chemicals from Pacific countries. Melanie continues to provide consulting services directly to Pacific Island governments in the area of chemicals management and, specifically, in implementing the requirements of multilateral environment agreements, including the Stockholm Convention. Melanie also provides advice to aid agencies, including the Agence Française de Développement, and consulting firms for whom she has undertaken project designs on regional initiatives to address solid and hazardous waste management in the Pacific region, as well as the design of a fund for a waste-fund for the region. Melanie is a Thematic Expert on Chemicals for the ISSD's *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*.

### **Beirute, Nicole Jirón**

**Costa Rica**

Nicole Jirón Beirute holds a Master's degree from the University of Costa Rica (UCR), with a concentration on social policies. She has been certified as a mediator by the Costa Rican Ministry of Justice. Nicole's work with the Earth Charter (EC) promoted the initiative for the political student movement of the UCR, expanding it through several regions in Costa Rica as part of the Costa Rican core group. Later, she became part of the International Youth Earth Charter Coalition, producing in 2001 a series of four musical concerts to promote the EC to Costa Rican youth. In subsequent years, she worked for the local government of Curridabat, Costa Rica, promoting cultural policies, participating as a social dialogue facilitator, and developing community events. Nicole has extensive experience in youth political participation training processes having coordinated for three years Agentes de Cambio, a Friedrich Ebert Foundation program for youth democratic participation development in Costa Rica. Currently, she is on the Executive Direction Team at the Foundation for Peace and Democracy, one of the most recognised democracy-oriented non-governmental organisations in

Latin America, working with international cooperation funded programs related to social conflict, democracy, environment, and migration processes.

**Beltram, Gordana**

**Slovenia**

Gordana Beltram has worked for nature conservation since 1983. Having obtained a degree in geography in Slovenia, she defended her Ph.D. thesis in Human Ecology, at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, on conservation and management of wetlands in Slovenia in the context of the European policy related to wetlands. During her post-graduate studies she was a researcher at the Forestry Department of the Biotechnical Faculty at University of Ljubljana. Gordana has been working at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia where she is responsible for the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Heritage Convention in Slovenia, as well as different issues related to biodiversity conservation at regional or sub-regional levels. At the national level, she also works closely with protected areas and the Slovenian Ramsar sites on conservation, legal protection, management and awareness-raising of wetlands. Gordana is particularly interested in young people's roles in environmental communication, education, and public awareness.

**Bentley, Matthew**

**Australia**

Matthew Bentley is a Programme Officer at the United Nations Environment Programme, Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics. He is responsible for activities that encourage the development of national programmes on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) as major contributions to the United Nations Marrakech Process on SCP. Matthew has a doctorate in International Relations and Diplomacy and worked previously at the Australian Agency for International Development in Canberra, Australia, and the Royal Melbourne Institute Technology in Melbourne, Australia.

**Bergmann, Iris**

**Australia**

Iris Bergmann is Research Fellow at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) within the Learning Cities Programme of the RMIT Global Cities Institute. There, her work focuses on ways in which collaboration across the civil society, government, private, and educational sectors can contribute to the sustainability of cities and communities through lifelong learning. Previously, she has been involved in a number of organisations in the arts, especially photography, as well as education and conservation sectors in Germany and Australia.

**Chalub-Martins, Leila****Brazil**

Leila Chalub-Martins studied at the University of Brasilia, where she earned a Master's degree in Social Anthropology. Leila earned a doctorate in Social Sciences and Social Anthropology from the State University of Campinas. Currently, she is an adjunct professor at the University of Brasília. She is a researcher and teacher at the School of Education and at the Center for Sustainable Development, where she leads the Complexity Laboratory. She has experience in the field of education, primarily in the following areas: Brazilian culture, cultural diversity, environmental education, field education, complexity, sustainability, environment, conservation, and sustainable development.

**Chawla, Louise****USA**

Louise Chawla is a Professor in the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado, where she is an advisor for the Children, Youth, and Environments Center for Research and Design and co-editor of the journal *Children, Youth, and Environments*. Her interest in children's informal learning in their communities led her to a Master's in Education and Child Development from Bryn Mawr College, followed by a doctorate in Environmental Psychology from the City University of New York. She has written widely on children and nature, children in cities, and the development of environmental activism. Her publications include the books *In the First Country of Places: Nature, Poetry and Childhood Memory* (SUNY Press 1994) and the co-authored collection *Growing Up in an Urbanizing World* (UNESCO 2002). When she served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Norwegian Centre for Child Research, she revived the Growing Up in Cities project of UNESCO, which continues to involve children in cities around the world in evaluating and improving their local communities. The project won the 2002 Place Research Award from the Environmental Design Research Association. She is currently involved in promoting design for children's nature play in residential neighbourhoods.

**Corcoran, Peter Blaze****USA**

Peter Blaze Corcoran is Professor of Environmental Studies and Environmental Education at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he serves as Director of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. He has been a faculty member at College of the Atlantic, Swarthmore College, and Bates College, and a visiting professor in Australia, the Netherlands, and Fiji. He works extensively in international environmental education with a special interest in the South Pacific Island Nations. He is among the founders of the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership and has conducted their consultations with stakeholders

in tertiary education in many regions of the world. He is Past President of the North American Association for Environmental Education. Corcoran is on the President's Advisory Council of the National Wildlife Federation. He serves as Senior Fellow in Education for Sustainability at University Leaders for a Sustainable Future in Washington, D.C., and is Senior Advisor to Earth Charter International in San Jose, Costa Rica. His recent books are *A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter* with A. James Wohlpert, University of Georgia Press (2008), *The Earth Charter in Action: Toward a Sustainable World* with Mirian Vilela and Alide Roerink published in the Netherlands by Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) Publishers (2005), and *Higher Education and the Challenge of Sustainability: Contestation, Critique, Practice, and Promise* with Arjen Wals published in the Netherlands by Kluwer Academic Press (2004).

**Corriero, Jennifer**

**Canada**

Named by the World Economic Forum as a 'Young Global Leader', Jennifer Corriero is a Canadian innovator with a passion for engaging youth and leveraging online networks as a tool for community development. Jennifer is co-founder and Executive Director of TakingITGlobal, a nonprofit organisation with the aim of fostering cross-cultural dialogue, strengthening the capacity of youth as leaders, and increasing awareness and involvement in global issues through the use of technology. The website currently has over 145,000 members in over 200 countries and receives over one million hits each day. Jennifer received her Master's in Environmental Studies at York University in Toronto, and has been an advisor and manager of numerous capacity-building initiatives. Jennifer has served on the Official Canadian Government Delegation to the World Summit on the Information Society.

**Damen, Maayke**

**The Netherlands**

Maayke Damen is the current official youth delegate to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. She was born at Curacao in 1986 and moved to the Netherlands at the age of two. She currently studies Cultural Anthropology/ Developmental Studies, and Political Science at Leiden University in Leiden, the Netherlands. In 2009, she will receive her Bachelor's Degree after finalising her thesis on sustainable development. Maayke is actively involved in various student organisations, including CoolClimate, initiated by the Dutch Green Party. She currently works for Maurits Groen Environment & Communication, a Dutch consultancy which functions as a bridge between the government, business, and civil society.

**Donahoo, Daniel****Australia**

Daniel Donahoo is the author of *Idolising Children* (New South Books 2007) and a Fellow with public policy think tank OzProspect. He consults on child and family policy, and his work and ideas appear regularly in the Australian media. He has been publishing online since 1995. Daniel lives with his wife and two boys in Central Victoria.

**Fien, John****Australia**

John Fien is Professor of Sustainability at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Melbourne, Australia, and Director of the Learning Cities Programme of the RMIT Global Cities Institute. He has an interdisciplinary background in teacher education, community development, natural resource management, public participation, and education for sustainable development, and is actively engaged in research on youth culture and sustainability. John has completed 20 funded research projects and published over 100 papers on education, training, and capacity building for sustainability. He is the lead author and instructional designer of UNESCO's major international training programmes on sustainable development, Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future. He has also planned and facilitated workshops for Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Wildlife Federation, UNEP, UNESCO, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Korea, Japan, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Maldives, Philippines and South Africa. John is a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and of the International Reference Group for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. In 2007, he chaired the UNESCO Working Group on Water Education for Sustainable Development.

**Gadotti, Moacir****Brazil**

Moacir Gadotti has a doctorate in Educational Sciences from the University of Geneva. He is Professor of Philosophy of Education at the University of São Paulo and Director of the Paulo Freire Institute. He is author of many widely-read and translated books, including *Invitation to Read Paulo Freire* (1988), *History of Pedagogical Ideas* (1993), *Pedagogy of Praxis* (1994), *Pedagogy of the Earth* (2001), *The Masters of Rousseau* (2004), and *To Educate for Another Possible World* (2007). At Paulo Freire Institute, he develops educational proposals oriented by the paradigm of sustainability.

**Gerjevic, Vanja Debevec**

**Slovenia**

A resident of Sežana, Slovenia, Vanja Debevec Gerjevic studied biology at the University of Ljubljana. Upon graduation in 1994, she worked for the Institute for Public Health Protection in the Department of Ecology in Ljubljana. Vanja returned to Sežana as head of the clinical laboratory in Sežana Hospital, where she became involved with the rehabilitation activity surrounding the Škocjan caves. Currently, she is a board member of the International Union of Speleology, having served as its Secretary General from 1997 to 2008. In 1999 Vanja became the head of Research and Development at Škocjan Caves Regional Park. She joined the Ramsar Slovene National Committee in 2005 and became a member of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme National Committee in 2007. Since 2006, Vanja has represented the Škocjan Caves Regional Park in the UNESCO Slovene National Commission. She is currently finishing postgraduate studies in the Department of Biology at the University of Ljubljana.

**Grant, Michelle**

**Australia**

Michelle Grant holds a first class honours degree in Chemical Process Engineering with a major in Environmental Engineering from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. She has worked as an environmental engineer in various engineering consultancies including Gutteridge, Haskins, and Davey (GHD) in Australia and the Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) in Norway and as an external consultant in Costa Rica and Nicaragua for INCAE (Central American Institute of Business Administration), the top ranked business school in Latin America. Since 2004, Michelle has been based in Zurich in the role of Project Manager for ETHsustainability, the Center for Sustainability at ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich). Her core activities involve the management of the international educational and research programs of the Center. She is responsible for the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) program in Switzerland and for its expansion abroad. The program brings together master and doctoral level students of various disciplines from around the world for intensive two-week academic training on the challenges of sustainable development. To date over 700 students from 90 different countries have been trained in the courses.

**Heiss, Julia**

**France**

Julia Heiss works as a Program Specialist in the Education Sector of the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris, where she coordinates a program promoting science and technology education for all. She has long-standing experience in conceptualising, planning, and implementing education programs in the area of science and technology education, education for

sustainable development, inclusion issues of marginalised groups such as women and refugees into education, and coordinating research in these areas. Ms. Heiss worked for three years with UNESCO in Africa's Kenya office and since 1999 in UNESCO's Paris headquarters. Together with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), she has developed the YouthXchange Program on education for responsible consumption. Ms. Heiss holds a Master's in Social Anthropology as well as a Master's in Education.

**Hollingshead, Brandon P.**

**USA**

Brandon Hollingshead is a graduate teaching fellow in the Environmental Humanities program at the University of Utah. His research involves critical rhetorical analysis of major international sustainability declarations. His thesis focuses specifically on the Earth Charter and its rhetorical features, intellectual and philosophical antecedents, and role as a new vision for achieving a just, sustainable, and peaceful future. Born and raised in Southwest Florida and the Western Everglades, Brandon has worked with the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University on a number of books and publications, Earth Charter scholarship initiatives, and local environmental and sustainability programs.

**Iglesias, Cecilia**

**Argentina**

Cecilia Iglesias received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Universidad del Salvador in her native Argentina, and has since worked as an environmental consultant in both the private and public sectors. In 1999, she began an online educational project for sustainable development called EcoPibes, [www.ecopibes.com](http://www.ecopibes.com), which today attracts 80,000 users per month from 29 countries. Currently, she presides over Asociación Civil Red Ambiental (Environmental Civil Association Network) and works with the Global Environment Outlook for Youth project in Argentina. Cecilia is also the coordinator of the Commission on Youth and Regional Integration of the Civil Society Advisory Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Argentina. She previously coordinated the implementation of the communications and engagement strategy of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Cecilia received 'The Outstanding Young Persons of Argentina Award' in 2004.

**Jickling, Bob**

**Canada**

Bob Jickling is currently an Associate Professor at Lakehead University. He has been involved with issues in education, environmental education, and environmental ethics for more than 20 years. During this time, he founded the *Canadian Journal*

of *Environmental Education* in 1996, a journal that he still co-edits. In 2001, Bob was given The North American Association of Environmental Education's Global Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Education at the Global Level by an Individual'. In 2005 he was asked to co-chair the 5<sup>th</sup> World Environmental Education Congress hosted in Montreal in 2009. Bob has published numerous book chapters and papers in international scholarly journals such as *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, *Environmental Ethics*, *Policy Futures in Education*, *Canadian Journal of Environmental Education*, *Higher Education Policy*, *Canadian Journal of Education*, *Interchange* and all of the major journals in environmental education. His coauthored book, *Environmental Education, Ethics, and Action: A Workbook to Get Started* (2006) was published by the United Nations Environment Program. Bob's research interests include philosophy of education, environmental ethics, and relationships between environmental philosophy, ethics, education, and teaching. He also serves on a number of academic and editorial boards.

**Kebe, Leon**

**Slovenia**

Leon Kebe graduated in 1998 with a degree in Forestry from University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. He started his career as a teacher of environmental education. He was employed in the Slovenian Forestry Service as a forest manager. His professional career in nature conservation started as a Project Development Manager with BirdLife Slovenia and continued at the Notranjska Regional Park as a Conservation Manager. Leon has also worked on issues connected with education and awareness among local primary school children. Currently, Leon is as part of a team working to establish a new landscape park at Radensko Polje in Slovenia.

**Kojima, Kazuko**

**Japan**

Kazuko Kojima was born in Tokyo, Japan. She received a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Tokyo Metropolitan University, then worked for a publishing company as a project manager creating language learning materials and as an editor of books on cross-cultural understanding. After working for various non-governmental organisations involved in environment and international cooperation, from 2003 to 2006 Kazuko worked for the Global Environment Information Centre in Tokyo promoting collaboration among businesses, governments and NGOs. After volunteering in the sustainability indicators project of Japan for Sustainability (JFS), she joined the staff of JFS in 2006 to launch the Daiwa-JFS Sustainability College, and is currently the program coordinator of both the college and the indicators project. She is a co-author of *The Continuity of Life – A Message from Biodiversity* (Yama-Kei Publishers Co., Ltd. 2005).

**Kornijezuk, Nádia Bandeira Sacenco**

**Brazil**

Sociologist and political scientist Nádia Bandeira Sacenco Kornijezuk holds a Bachelor's degree from the State University of Campinas, in Brazil. She has worked in art education and social inclusion in California, France, and Brazil, in institutions like the NGO Mano à Mano and the Red Poppy Art Gallery. Currently working on her Master's degree at the University of Brasília Center for Sustainable Development, Nádia is conducting research in the area of human rights and adequate food, and she is pursuing developing sustainable food projects in rural communities.

**Koshy, Kanayathu**

**India**

Dr. Koshy was, until recently, Professor of Environmental Chemistry at the University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji, and was the Founding Director of the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development. As an accomplished academic, he has been involved in environmental teaching, training, and research for the last two decades in the Pacific Islands region. Before joining USP, he was a faculty member of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and the State University of New York at Buffalo, New York. His major research interests include climate change, ozone and greenhouse gas studies, aerosol and rain chemistry, coastal pollution, and integrated waste management. Education for sustainable development and networking are integral parts of his current work. As the Founding Director of the Oceania Centre of the international global change network called SysTEM for Analysis, Research and Training (START), he is actively involved in school outreach programs, youth and sustainable development initiatives, and a variety of capacity-building activities in the region. He is a member of the Scientific Planning Group of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research and a number of other regional and international environmental and sustainable development committees. In 2008, Dr. Koshy retired, but he remains active in his commitment to small island nations.

**Labrea, Valéria Viana**

**Brazil**

Trained in literature, Valéria Viana Labrea is a grassroots environmental educator and a specialist in environmental education and sustainability. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Education and Environmental Management through the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of Brasília. A Brazilian representative of Earth Charter International, she is currently the educational coordinator for the ongoing training of the group of 22 scholarship recipients who comprise the Open School Program of the University.

**Laurie, Michelle**

**Canada**

Michelle Laurie is from Toronto, Canada. She holds a Master of Science in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Victoria, Canada. She currently works as a knowledge management and communications consultant for local, regional, national, and international organisations in the area of sustainable development and natural resource management. Prior to consulting, Michelle spent four years working in Switzerland with the Forest Conservation Programme of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and continues to stay involved as a member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. Previous to living in Europe, Michelle held various field positions such as studying paleo-environmental change in Canada's High Arctic islands and working on environment and community development projects in Latin America. She volunteered for as a Canadian youth leader, working to ensure youth participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. When not working, Michelle can be found exploring the rivers, mountains, and gardens in the southeast corner of British Columbia.

**Lubbers, Ruud**

**The Netherlands**

Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands, (1982-1994) and past United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers is Professor of Globalisation at GLOBUS (Institute for Globalisation and Sustainable Development) at Tilburg University. He serves as Chair of Clingendael, the Dutch Institute for International Relations, and Chair of the Scientific Institute of the political party Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA). He also chairs the Social Council of the Tinbergen Institute. Ruud formerly served as Minister for Economic Affairs (1973-1977) in the Netherlands. He is former President of World Wildlife Fund (1999-2001). Ruud was instrumental in bringing the Earth Charter to civil society. He served on the historic Earth Charter Commission and is now a member of the Earth Charter International Council. He recently founded Worldconnectors with young Dutch colleagues; the program aims to form intergenerational connects across economic and geographic boundaries.

**Lui, Rodney**

**Fiji**

Rodney Lui is a 26-year old environmentalist with a desire for the voice of Pacific Island youth to be heard in the global village. His passions have lead him from his birthplace on Rotuma to the North Pacific to the Republic of the Marshall Islands where he taught high school science for two years. He is a founding member of the Econesian Society, a group of young people with an affinity for the environment. He studied environmental science at the Auckland University of Technology

and worked as a research assistant with the Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development until 2008. His current research interests are in Integrated Solid Waste Management dealing with composting application options. He is a Fijian with a profound appreciation for Plato's philosophy: 'Those with torches shall pass them onto others.' He currently resides in the lush metropolis of Suva in the Fiji Islands and works for the environmental education organisation Live and Learn.

**Lotz-Sisitka, Heila**

**South Africa**

Professor Heila Lotz-Sisitka holds the Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. She actively contributed to the inclusion of environment and sustainability in South Africa's new education system after 1994. She served as Scientific Chair of the 2007 World Environmental Education Congress, and is editor of the Southern African Journal of Environmental Education. She serves on UNESCO's international reference group for the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. Her research interests include social change processes with an emphasis on educational quality and curriculum transformation; educational responses to sustainability challenges, poverty, risk and vulnerability; and critical research methodologies.

**Lyngdoh, Bremley W.B.**

**India**

Bremley Lyngdoh is the co-founder of the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) a youth-led organisation based in New York that unites the efforts of young people working to improve the world. He is on the Board of Directors of PCI-Media Impact in New York and Worldview International Foundation in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Bremley has been involved with the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Campaign since 1999 and worked as its Program Manager from 2003-2004. He continues to support its mission as an advisor. In the past 15 years, he has worked with organisations such as the Consortium of Indian Scientists for Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility Division of United Nations Development Programme, the Commission on Sustainable Development Secretariat at the United Nations, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, the World Environment Center, the Environment Department of the World Bank, the Education Development Center, the Converging World, and the Earth Charter Initiative. Bremley obtained his Master's degree in International Affairs in Energy and Environmental Policy Studies from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York. He is currently working on a doctorate at the Development Studies

Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. He speaks five languages and has traveled to 53 countries.

**Maathai, Wangari Muta**

**Kenya**

Wangari Muta Maathai was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctoral degree. In 1976, she became Chair of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Nairobi - the first woman in the region to attain this position. Professor Maathai was active in the National Council of Women of Kenya from 1976 to 1987 and it was here that she introduced the idea of planting trees. She continued to develop the idea into a broad-based, grassroots organization called the Green Belt Movement, launched in 1977. The Movement has assisted women in planting more than 40 million trees to conserve the environment and to improve their quality of life. In December 2002, Dr. Maathai was elected to Kenya's Parliament with an overwhelming percentage of the vote. In January 2003, President Kibaki appointed her Assistant Minister for Environmental and Natural Resources in Kenya's Ninth Parliament. Wangari Maathai is internationally recognized for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights, and environmental conservation. In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Makiuchi, Maria de Fátima Rodrigues**

**Brazil**

Maria de Fátima Rodrigues Makiuchi, Professor at the University of Brasília, Brazil, is a physicist, with a Master's degree in Education and a doctorate in sustainable development. She works in the graduate program at the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of Brasília. Her areas of research and activity include environmental thought; ethics and complexity; formation of social networks; modernity and environment; and teacher training, especially in the natural sciences.

**Malone, Karen**

**Australia**

Karen Malone is Professor of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Education at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. She is also Asia-Pacific Director of the global United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Management of Social Transformations Growing Up In Cities project that focuses on children and youth evaluating their own quality of life. Dr. Malone is also an external consultant to the United Nations Children's Fund of UNESCO Child-Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative and current chairs the committee developing a CFC network in the Asia-Pacific region. In the past ten years, Dr. Malone has attracted a million dollars in research grants, awards, and consultancies and has published five books, 14 book chapters, and over 40 refereed publications

focusing on children and youth environments, environmental education and sustainable development, new learning, urbanisation and globalisation, and participatory research methodologies. Her most current book, *Child Space: An Anthropological Exploration of Young People's Use of Space* (Concept Publishing 2007), is an edited collection of anthropological accounts of children growing up in different cultural spaces across the globe. Dr. Malone has recently received research grants from the Australian Financial Markets Foundation for Children to fund an Aboriginal children's health and environment project and a Smith Family project entitled 'How child friendly is my community?'

**Melvin, Megan**

**USA**

Megan Melvin is a student in the Master's program in English at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, USA. She is a recent graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University with a major in English and a minor in Philosophy. Originally from Indiana, she also studied at Miami University of Ohio and University College London. At Florida Gulf Coast University, she edited the literary magazine *The Mangrove Review* and worked as a student assistant at The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. She spends her free time traveling and relaxing with her family on Upper Captiva Island, Florida.

**Nava Mireles, Namir Hadad**

**Mexico**

Namir Hadad Nava Mireles is an entertainment-education (E-E) specialist from Michoacán, Mexico. He has experience as a scriptwriter, producer, trainer, and activist focusing on issues of human rights, sexual and reproductive health, and sustainable development. He is a Communication Specialist for PCI-Media Impact based in New York, advising on E-E projects in Belize and Colombia. Namir has provided training and technical assistance to entertainment-education projects in eight countries, and has participated in over twenty international forums in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. In his role at the Mexican Ministry of Health's National Center for Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS, he designed information, education, and communications strategies to reach vulnerable populations. Prior to this, he spent four years as coordinator for Radio ADO, a youth-led sexual and reproductive health education radio project in Morelia, Michoacán, and Ciudad Guzman, Jalisco, Mexico. Namir is a member of the Youth Leadership Team of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative, and co-representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. Namir holds a degree in Communication Sciences from the Universidad Latina de America. His communications and activism work received award from the Mexican Institute of Youth, Mexican Institute of Radio, and the National Institute for Women. He lives now in Mexico City.

**Neil, Cameron**

**Australia**

Neil Cameron serves as Chief Executive Officer of the International Young Professionals Foundation (IYPF), a non-governmental organisation he founded with four other Australian young professionals in 2001. IYPF is a volunteer-led, global membership organisation that informs, inspires, and equips young professionals to be effective sustainability and social change agents. Over the last ten years, Cameron has been an energetic and experienced youth and development professional, entrepreneur, and amateur. Since December 2003, Cameron has worked to establish the fair trade movement in Australia and New Zealand. He is now the Certification and Labelling Manager for Fairtrade Labelling Australia and New Zealand and is responsible for Fairtrade Certification matters.

**Nyoni, Dumisani**

**Zimbabwe**

A graduate of psychology from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dumisani is the Director of the Zimele Institute, a division of the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP), one of Zimbabwe's oldest and most widespread non-governmental organisations. With a focus on learning and education as tools for development in rural Zimbabwe, the Institute works with rural schools and teachers to improve schools, learning environments, and opportunities. Zimele Institute is a social enterprise that seeks to push community-based innovations in eradicating rural poverty in Zimbabwe. Dumisani is a founder of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative and continues to work as an advisor and member of the Earth Charter's Youth Task Force. He is a board member serving on the Earth Charter Initiative's International Council. His work with the Earth Charter focuses on engaging youth from around the world, and in Zimbabwe, to be a part of the global dialogue on sustainability and ethics. This includes working to shift the approach to sustainable development from uniquely a programmatic and legal one, to one rooted in people's behaviour, lifestyle, values, and principles.

**Oben, Theodore**

**Cameroon**

Theodore Epey Ayuk Oben is a national of Cameroon. He holds a Master of Science degree in Management and Organisational Development from the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Modern Letters from the University of Yaounde, Cameroon. A passionate environmentalist, he has been involved in environmental efforts since his student days. He also loves sports, plays football and tennis, and regularly works out. He has worked for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 1993. Currently, he is currently the Chief of the Outreach Unit of UNEP and is responsible for children, youth, sport, and the environment activities of the

organisation. Since joining UNEP, he has initiated several processes and organised numerous global conferences to engage children and youth and sport stakeholders in sustainable development issues. He has also coordinated the development of several publications for children and youth and sport and the environment. Before joining UNEP, he was President of the Friends of Nature Club, Cameroon, and was directly responsible for the Club's activities in the University of Yaounde. The Club was the largest student environmental organisation with branches in over 100 institutions in Cameroon. In 1990, Theodore led the organisation to its recognition in the UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour – a global recognition for outstanding environment achievements. He is married and the father of three children.

**Ogbuigwe, Akpezi**

**Nigeria**

Akpezi Ogbuigwe is the head of Environmental Education and Training at the United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. Akpezi has vast experience in the field of environmental education, research, and training. Prior to joining UNEP five years ago, Akpezi was a Professor of Law at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology in Nigeria, and volunteered her time at Anpez Centre for Environment and Development in Portharcourt, Nigeria, where she worked with schools, communities, government, and the private sector on issues of environment and development and the operating of an environmental library. Her research interest include the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability research and learning in educational institutions and Africa's emancipation. She is a mentor of youth, a motivator, and is very passionate and committed to education for a sustainable future of peace and equity. She is determined to handing over a better world to the next generation. Akpezi believes in the mission and vision of UNEP and is committed to maximising every minute she spends with the organisation to make a difference.

**Ogendi, George Morara**

**Kenya**

George is an Assistant Professor of Aquatic Sciences at the Department of Natural Resources in Egerton University, Kenya. He was recently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Geology at Arkansas State University, USA. Dr. Ogendi is also a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, a Senior Scholar with the Southern Regional Educational Board, and a Reviewer and Advisory Council Member to several scientific journals. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences in Geochemistry and Ecotoxicology from Arkansas State University, a Master's of Science in Environmental Sciences from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Institute for Water

Education in The Netherlands, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Limnology from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources from Egerton University, Kenya. Dr. Ogendi's current research interests are in freshwater resources management and conservation. He is currently working on projects designed to improve accessibility to potable water by low-income families in rural Kenya.

**Ong'oa, Isaac Monari**

**Kenya**

Isaac Monari Ong'oa, a native of Kenya, is currently a Ph.D. student in the Heritage Studies Program at Arkansas State University (ASU) in Jonesboro, USA. He received his Master of Arts degree in Political Science from ASU, and his Bachelor of Education from Egerton University, Kenya. Previously, he was a high school teacher of history, government, and Swahili language and literature in Kenya. Upon completion of his Ph.D. studies, Ong'oa intends to teach and research in a tertiary institution of education in Kenya or elsewhere in the world.

**Orr, David W.**

**USA**

David W. Orr is Paul Sears Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College in Ohio, USA. He is, perhaps, best known for his pioneering work on environmental literacy in higher education and his recent work in ecological design. He raised funds for and spearheaded the effort to design and build a \$7.2 million Environmental Studies Center at Oberlin College, a building described by the *New York Times* as 'the most remarkable' of a new generation of college buildings. He was awarded a Bioneers Award in 2002, a National Conservation Achievement Award by the National Wildlife Federation in 1993, and numerous other awards and distinctions. He holds three honorary doctorates and has been a distinguished scholar in residence at Ball State University (1995) and Westminster College in Salt Lake City (1996). Dr. Orr is contributing editor of *Conservation Biology*. He is a Trustee of the Educational Foundation of America and the Compton Foundation. He is Co-chair of the Board of Advisors of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University. He is also an advisor and consultant to the Trust for Public Land, the National Parks Advisory Committee, and other organisations. He is a frequent lecturer at Schumacher College (UK) and has lectured at hundreds of colleges and universities throughout the USA. David Orr has published 120 articles in scientific journals, social science publications, and popular magazines. He is the author of four books, including *The Last Refuge: Patriotism, Politics, and the Environment in an Age of Terror* (Island Press 2004) and *Ecological Literacy: Education and the Transition to a Postmodern World* (SUNY 1992).

**Osano, Philip M.****Kenya**

Philip has worked with BirdLife International on environmental policy focusing on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods in Africa. His interest in environment was fostered as a youngster growing up around Lake Victoria in rural western Kenya. He earned degrees in Environmental Science from Egerton University, Kenya, in 2002, and in Conservation Biology from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, in 2005. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Geography at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has conducted research for the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership, and co-ordinates the Youth Encounter for Sustainability courses in Africa. He was involved in youth and student advocacy for environment through Nature Kenya, Earth Charter Youth Group, and the Youth Advisory Council of the United Nations Environment Program. He Co-Chaired the Youth Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development held under the auspices of the Swedish European Union Presidency in 2001 in Borgholm, Sweden. An alumnus of the Tropical Biology Association, Philip is also a member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the Society for Conservation Biology. In 2006, he won a Sauvé Scholarship from the Jean Sauvé Foundation, and McGill University which allowed him to co-edit this book.

**Osorio, Elizabeth****Panama**

Elizabeth Osorio is from Panama and holds a bachelor's degree in biology with specialisation in botany from Universidad de Panamá. While she was in university, Elizabeth held two internship positions at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) where she conducted studies on various tropical tree seedlings. After graduation, she moved on to similar projects in STRI's Plant Physiology Lab before returning to university for postgraduate studies. In 2007, Elizabeth completed a Master of Sciences degree in Plant Biotechnology at the Yucatan Scientific Research Center in Yucatan, Mexico, writing a thesis entitled, 'Microhabitats and seedling survival of five tree species in a seasonal tropical dry forest'. She also co-authored an article on tropical dry forests published in the Mexican Science Academy's magazine, *Ciencia*. Elizabeth has been a team coordinator for the youth non-governmental organisation Panamá Verde since 1996, and is presently working at the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) in Panama City, Panama, focusing on the GEO for Youth Project and the TUNZA (From the Swahili word meaning 'to treat with care or affection') Strategy for Latin American and the Caribbean.

**Ottmani, Hind**

**Morocco**

Hind Ottmani has been involved in several youth-focused international non-governmental organisations for the last six years and has been involved in many sustainability-focused projects through her civil society commitment and her career. She has served as Chair for the Youth Leadership Team of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. Through her studies and graduation dissertation at the National School of Architecture in Rabat, Morocco, she has focused on youth-friendly urban space with an environmentally friendly approach. Hind's passion for sustainable development, housing, and urban planning led her to intern at the cabinet of the Minister of Housing, Urbanism, and Space Planning of Morocco before serving as an architect at the Director General of Architecture, Urbanism, and Space planning of the same Ministry.

**Pritzker, Oannes Arthur**

**Wabanaki Native American Nation**

Oannes Arthur Pritzker is an internationally recognised native ecologist, journalist, and educator. He is Director of the Yat Kitischee Native Center, an inter-tribal cultural, environmental, social justice, and news media organisation. Oannes's professional and personal concern for ecology and earth-ethics has enabled him to attend many international, national, and inter-tribal conferences. At the University of Maine, Mr. Pritzker studied Natural Resources Management in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Department. Since his service as a United States Peace Corps Environment Program Volunteer, he has travelled throughout the world as a speaker and environmental, social justice, and human rights activist. Serving on the Board of Advisors of Radio for Peace International (RFPI), Oannes is host and producer of the award-winning, global community radio program 'Honoring Mother Earth – Indigenous Voices.' Oannes has been actively involved with the establishment and leadership of the National Environmental Justice Movement. He is an advisor to a number of environmental justice and coalition-building initiatives, and he is a curriculum advisor and lecturer at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he also serves as a member of the Board of Advisors of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education.

**Roberts, Donna**

**USA**

Donna Roberts lives in Fort Myers, Florida. Her passions embrace sustainability, non-formal education, documentary production, and women's empowerment. Following a career in journalism and television production in Montreal, Canada, and community advocacy around environmental and health issues, Donna earned a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, where she teaches Environmental Humanities. Her academic research among

Brazilian women environmentalists seeks to add their voices to the global discourse of environmental education. She is now producing a documentary based on this research. Donna's television work includes the production of two Canadian network specials, 'Celebrate the Earth' and 'From the Yukon to Yucatan: Eco-Variety'. Both media events integrated celebrity performances with environmental segments to attract a diverse audience of potential Earth stewards. Donna is Associate Director of Circle Connections, a web-based resource linking people and projects globally with the goal of creating a sustainable future for all. She serves with the leadership of Earth Charter of Sanibel (ECOSanibel), a grassroots organisation promoting the values and principles of The Earth Charter Initiative. Donna previously served on the boards of Breast Cancer Action Montreal and of the Quebec Chapter of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

**Ryan, Elizabeth**

**Australia**

Elizabeth (Lisa) Ryan is Associate Lecturer in sustainability education in the Faculty of Science, Health and Education at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. She is also a steering member of the Sunshine Coast hub for the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative. Previously, Lisa was a community development advisor in East Timor, where she worked with the community on a capacity-building eco-tourism project. She has been a researcher for the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability at Macquarie University, Sydney. There, she was involved in research projects examining mainstreaming teacher education for sustainability through models of professional development.

**Sarabhai, Kartikeya**

**India**

Kartikeya Sarabhai is the founder Director of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India. Under his leadership, CEE works through over forty offices throughout India, and in all its native languages, on a wide array of environmental education activities. Mr. Sarabhai guided CEE's work in education for sustainable development. He is a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDES) Reference Group. He was responsible for organising the first international conference of the UNDES in 2005 and the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education in 2007. Mr. Sarabhai is also the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development*. He is a member of the Earth Charter International Council and the Vice Chair of the Indian National Commission for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. He was a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at Johannesburg, South Africa. Mr. Sarabhai also has wide experience in business, and is Chairman of Ambalal Sarabhai Enterprises, a company engaged in pharmaceuticals, bulk drugs and electronics. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Natural Science from Cambridge University, England, and did post-graduate work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, in development communications.

**Slaby, Michael C.**

**Germany**

Michael C. Slaby works for the International Earth Charter Secretariat and coordinates the Earth Charter Programme on Religion and Sustainability. He holds a Master's degree in Comparative Religion, Political Science, and International Law from Heidelberg University, Germany. Since 1996, Michael has been actively involved in youth-led civil society initiatives on sustainable development, human rights, and refugee aid on both national and international levels. From 2003 to 2006, Michael volunteered as Earth Charter Youth Coordinator, and helped to establish the vibrant network of youth organisations that form the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. He has authored several articles on the Earth Charter.

**Soetendorp, Awraham**

**The Netherlands**

Awraham Soetendorp is a Dutch child survivor of the Second World War. Since 1968, he has been a congregational Rabbi rebuilding Jewish life through his Jewish Institute for Human Values. As an Earth Charter Commissioner and founding member of Green Cross International, he is intensely engaged in interfaith, humanitarian, and ecological awareness building efforts. In 1999, he founded the Hope for Children Foundation which fosters the Millennium Development Goal of universal education. He is a founding member of the World Economic Forum Community of West and Islam Dialogue and has received numerous awards, including the Peacebuilder-Award for his excellence in conflict resolution. The award was granted by the Washington-based Alliance for International Conflict Prevention and Resolution; co-Laureate was Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. In 2007, Rabbi Soetendorp's commitment to promoting tolerance and understanding among religions was honoured with the award of the Interfaith Gold Medallion 'Peace Through Dialogue' by the International Council of Christians and Jews.

**Speratti, Alicia**

**Canada**

Alicia Speratti is originally from Asunción, Paraguay, but lived in Canada for seven years before recently moving to Brazil. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and World Literature from the University of Toronto, Canada, and in 2007 completed a Master of Sciences degree in

Renewable Resources at Montreal's McGill University. Her research examined the influence of earthworms on microbial activities that release carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide gases from agricultural soils. She has written two manuscripts from her thesis, which were published in the scientific journals *Biology and Fertility of Soils* and *Applied Soil Ecology*. Alicia is presently completing an internship with the United Nations Environment Programme in Brasília, Brazil, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through the International Institute for Sustainable Development. She is part of UNEP's Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean GEO for Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean project, and oversees youth and environment activities in Brazil.

**Speth, James Gustave**

**USA**

James Gustave Speth is Carl W. Knobloch, Jr., Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Sara Shallenberger Brown Professor in the Practice of Environmental Policy at Yale University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University, a Master of Letters from Oxford University, and a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. From 1993 to 1999, Dean Speth served as administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and chair of the UN Development Group. Prior to his service at the United Nations, he was founder and president of the World Resources Institute; professor of law at Georgetown University; chairman of the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality; and senior attorney and cofounder, Natural Resources Defense Council. Among his awards are the National Wildlife Federation's Resources Defense Award, the Natural Resources Council of America's Barbara Swain Award of Honor, a 1997 Special Recognition Award from the Society for International Development, Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Environmental Law Institute and the League of Conservation Voters, and the Blue Planet Prize. He holds honorary degrees from Clark University, the College of the Atlantic, the Vermont Law School, Middlebury College, and the University of South Carolina. Publications include *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability* (2008), *Global Environmental Governance* (2006), and *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment* (2004), *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment* (2003). Dean Speth currently serves on the boards of the Natural Resources Defense Council, World Resources Institute, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Population Action International, The Center for Humans and Nature, 1Sky, and Climate Central.

**Spitz, Gabi**

**The Netherlands**

Gabi Spitz was the official youth representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, 2005-2007. She currently works

as project officer for the Dutch National Youth Council on projects concerning youth employment and female rights. In 2008, she received her Master's degree in Political Science from Leiden University, the Netherlands, after finalising her Master's thesis on environmental concerns in China. She is also a member of the Working Unit on Global Affairs and Development Cooperation of the European Youth Forum and Worldconnectors, a roundtable for people and the planet initiated by Earth Charter Commissioner Ruud Lubbers.

**Stucker, Dominic**

**Germany**

A young father of twin boys, Dominic cares deeply about the future of humanity and the Earth. He is a strong promoter of youth leadership and intergenerational partnership in bringing about a just, sustainable, and peaceful world, and he has a keen interest in sustainable livelihoods, especially in rural, developing contexts. Since 2006, he has been working as Earth Charter's International Youth Coordinator, based in Costa Rica. Dominic graduated from the University for Peace, also in Costa Rica, with a Master's degree in Environmental Security and Peace. Based on his research, he published a chapter in the book *Environmental Justice and Sustainability in the Former Soviet Union*, forthcoming from MIT Press. He also holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from Stanford University, California, USA. Over the course of three years, Dominic worked with humanitarian and educational organisations, including the Peace Corps and EveryChild, in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Dominic is originally from Germany and was raised in the USA.

**Tamani, Faye**

**Fiji**

Born in 1984, Faye Tamani was raised for the greater part of her life in and around the bustling, yet botanically luscious, campus of the University of the South Pacific situated in Laucala Bay, Fiji Islands. Having lived with her late grandmother who was a lecturer at the institution for 20 years, this academic hub of a diverse population of regional students from 12 Pacific Island states, with all its cultural bounty, played a huge role in the embedded value system and career aspirations of the younger Faye. In 2007, she graduated from the institution herself, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography and Marine Affairs. She is passionate about the environmental well-being of the Pacific region and its peoples. She and 17 other Pacific youth environmental activists founded and began the operations of the Econesian Society in 2006. Many in her family are employed across the Pacific Island region. She currently resides with her parents and four younger siblings in Melbourne, Australia.

**Tauritz, Rebekah**

**The Netherlands**

Rebekah Tauritz holds a Master of Science degree from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, in Applied Communication Science with a minor in Environmental Education. Earlier she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest and Nature Conservation from the same university and participated in an ecological restoration project as a Student Conservation Association intern in Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico, USA. She also holds a Propedeuse in Environmental Policy Design from Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Rebekah is a volunteer at the local environmental education center where she assists in the development of educational materials for primary schools and has been a member of the center's advisory committee. Her research interests include environmental education, education for sustainable development, safe learning environments, personal development and transformation processes, and value reflection.

**Thaman, Konai Helu**

**Tonga**

Konai Helu Thaman was born and educated in Tonga. She received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, a Master of Arts from the University of California Santa Barbara, and a Ph.D. from The University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. Konai has held several administrative positions at The University of the South Pacific, including Director of the Institute of Education, Head of the School of Humanities, and Pro-Vice Chancellor. She is currently Professor of Pacific Education and UNESCO Chair in teacher education and culture. She has published widely in the areas of curriculum development, teacher education, indigenous education, and women in university management. Konai also writes poetry. She has written four collections of poetry in English, one of which has been translated into German. She is married to Randy Thaman, Professor of Pacific Biogeography at The University of the South Pacific.

**Thaman, Randy**

**Fiji**

Randy Thaman is Professor of Pacific Islands Biogeography at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji, which he joined in February 1974. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in geography from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1962 and 1967, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Los Angeles in 1974. He has conducted research and consulted in most of USP's twelve member countries, with his most recent studies having been on community-based biodiversity in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribati, the Tuamotu Archipelago and new Caledonia, and the floras of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Tokelau. Many of his students now hold important positions in areas of environmental management and sustainable development throughout the

region. He has published on a wide range of topics of importance to the Pacific Islands. His main areas of research interest include environmentally sustainable development, atoll and small-island biodiversity, Pacific Island floras, agroforestry and food systems, ethnobiology and traditional environmental knowledge, community-based biodiversity conservation, and ecotourism.

**Thapa, Manish**

**Nepal**

Manish Thapa is from Nepal, with a Bachelor's degree in Development Studies from Kathmandu University, and Advanced Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from Austria's European University Center for Peace Studies. Manish was a prestigious Sauvé Scholar at McGill University in Canada and served as Executive Director for Asian Study Center for Peace & Conflict Transformation (ASPECT). Early in his career, Manish started *Stuff Monthly Magazine*, one of the first English language youth magazines in Nepal. Since then, both as a Country Coordinator for the Mezzanine Youth Writing Peace Project and as a board member of the Nepali chapter of the Vienna-based International Press Institute, Manish has been deeply involved in encouraging a free, independent media in Nepal, a country where journalists face kidnapping and imprisonment. He is founder of Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance, which is a civil society movement for peace building in Nepal and lobbying for the institutionalisation of a Ministry of Peace within national government. He is a member of Global Alliance for Ministries and Department of Peace, Asian Peace Builders Forum, and a member of various international civil society networks such as Network Institute for Global Democratisation, TRANSCEND International, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, and various youth and peace movement worldwide; additionally, Manish works with various international non-governmental organisations on peacemaking and peace-building activities worldwide. Thapa is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA.

**Ulunihau, Peceli**

**Fiji**

Growing up in Fiji, Peceli Ulunihau has always loved its natural surroundings and was always curious and amazed at how the environment had an impact on humans and the way life sustained itself. His love and respect for nature was nourished from traditional knowledge, biblical knowledge, and most of all, biological, ecological, and scientific teachings. What amazes him most is the way Earth has produced for humans throughout the centuries, and is still doing so, but he wonders why people don't see the strain that the planet is undergoing. He hopes and prays that the human race will realise the truth that nature is trying to reveal and to hold hands and work together for the good of its future generations. Peceli Ulunihau worked as a Marine Coordinator at Fiji's Hideaway resort. He now lives in Adelaide, South

Australia with his wife, Anna. Peceli is a citizen of the Fiji Islands but he is a descendant of Tongans that settled in Fiji. He still loves and embraces his Tongan traditions and values.

**Van Keulen, Sanne**

**The Netherlands**

Sanne van Keulen, born in 1985, has recently completed her work as the official Dutch youth delegate to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development from 2006-2008. In her work as a project leader with the Foundation against Useless Violence, she motivates youth from various backgrounds to feel safer and behave more responsibly at school and on the streets. Sanne is active on a broad range of youth issues. She has set up Anna's Place, a lunch restaurant for street youth in South Africa, and is currently working on her Bachelor of Arts thesis that explores the role of China in Africa; she studies Political Science at the Free University of Amsterdam.

**Wals, Arjen E.J.**

**The Netherlands**

Arjen E.J. Wals is an Associate Professor within the Education and Competence Studies Group of the Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University in the Netherlands. His Ph.D., obtained in 1991 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, USA, under the guidance of UNESCO's first Director for Environmental Education, the late Professor William B. Stapp, explored the crossroads between environmental education and environmental psychology. Dr. Wals is an internationally recognised expert in the field of environmental education and education for sustainable development. He has published and edited over 150 articles, chapters, books, and professional publications on topics such as action research and community problem-solving, whole school approaches to sustainability, biodiversity education, and sustainability in higher education. His most recent work focuses on social learning in the context of sustainable development. He serves on the editorial boards of several refereed journals in environmental education research including *Environmental Education Research*, *The Australian Journal of Environmental Education*, *The Canadian Journal of Environmental Education*, *The Journal of Environmental Education*, and *The Southern African Journal of Environmental Education, Ethics and Action*. Currently, he is the Global Progress Report Coordinator for UNESCO's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

**Weakland, Joseph Paul**

**USA**

Joseph Weakland is twenty-three years old. He is a graduate student in English at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in 2007. He

works as Editorial Assistant at the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, and has helped to edit two books. His efforts at the Center have also included organising a student dialogue on food systems and climate change, and analysing food practices at the University through the ethical lens of the Earth Charter. His budding research interests include analysis of representations of environment and technology in literature and popular culture. Joseph hopes to pursue doctoral studies after graduating from FGCU.

**Wedershoven, Erik Thijs**

**The Netherlands**

Erik Thijs Wedershoven is twenty two-years old. He was elected as Youth Representative in the Government's Delegation of the Netherlands to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly during the Night of the UN on 24 October 2004, the first open election in the Netherlands for that position. In the following two years, Erik was a member of the Dutch government's delegation to the UN Millennium Summit 2005, the UN Commission for Social Development 2005 and 2006, and the UN General Assembly in 2004 and 2005. In this position, he became involved in drafting official resolutions and policies on the national and intergovernmental level. Erik also delivered statements at the UN General Assembly and other relevant fora. During the UN Millennium Summit +5, he co-organised a side event on behalf of the Netherlands on the role of youth in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and worked with the UN Secretariat on resolutions concerning the World Program of Action for Youth. Erik took up his studies at University College Maastricht, Maastricht University, in September 2006. During his first month at university, he accepted board membership of the World Population Foundation and joined the Roundtable of Worldconnectors. Erik recently accepted board membership of Plan Netherlands and was actively involved in the lobby against violence against children. Erik also serves on the Board of Advisors of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University, and he is an active member of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.

**Wohlpart, A. James**

**USA**

James Wohlpart, Senior Advisor at the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, is Professor of English and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida, USA. He is a founding member of the faculty, having arrived in August 1994, three years before the university opened. In the inaugural year of Florida Gulf Coast University, he received the XX Award (The Twenty) for his leadership in opening the new university. He has taught courses in American Literature and Environmental Literature. Working with a team of faculty and administrators, he received a major two-year grant from the PEW Grant Program in order to redesign a required General Education course

entitled *Understanding the Visual and Performing Arts*. He has also received grants to support several readings and workshops on campus, including grants from the Florida Humanities Council. His latest publications have focused on the area of environmental literature and engagement with place, including publications in the *South Atlantic Review* on Emily Dickinson and in *Orion* online on the Riverwoods Field Laboratory. He serves on the Board of the Estero Bay Buddies, a citizen support organisation, and was a founding member of ECOSanibel (Earth Charter of Sanibel). When possible, he spends time quietly and gently walking Earth.

**Yoshida, Kakuko-Nagatani**

**Panama**

For the past six years as Programme Officer at United Nations Environment Programme Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Kakuko Nagatani has been assisting countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region with the application of 'GEO', UNEP's integrated environmental assessment methodology. She is a contributing author to the most updated guide to the GEO methodology, the *GEO Resource Book*. Prior to her UNEP assignment, Kakuko, originally from Japan, spent two years as Conservation and Development Officer for the World Wide Fund for Nature in the United Kingdom, developing and implementing conservation and sustainable development projects in Asia. She was also engaged in environmental education projects in Kenya, where she was in charge of the coast regional office of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya Association from 1995 to 1997. Kakuko uses her academic background, Master of Science in Environmental Management, and experience with international project management, as well as her familiarity with key stakeholders such as private sector and non-governmental organisations, to oversee assessments from their conception to the outreach phase and to coach those who are interested in learning about environmental assessment.

**Zaneti, Izabel Cristina Bruno Bacellar**

**Brazil**

Izabel Cristina Bruno Bacellar Zaneti has a doctorate in sustainable development from the University of Brasilia Center for Sustainable Development, and a Master's degree in education from the University of Brasilia School of Education, and is a visiting professor at the university's Center for Sustainable Development. She is a researcher in the area of education, social inclusion, environmental management, waste, and sustainability. Currently she is the executive coordinator of the Waste, Recycling, and Social Inclusion Project of the National Research Council at the Ministry of Science and Technology, University of Brasília, where she teaches an advanced course in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development.