

UNITED NATIONS **FORESTS FOR PEOPLE** AWARDS



ARIEL LUGO, USA

Forest Hero | North America

Dr. Ariel Lugo has dedicated his life to the conservation of forests and the improvement of communities around the world.

Ariel is an active scientist! His talent for environmental research is paired with a unique ability to create new linkages between forests and diverse audiences. His most recent project helps to prevent violence and promote healthy childhood development by encouraging the participation of youth in planting seasonal organic products and native trees.

Ariel believes in the use of a variety of tools to engage and inspire people to discover the scientific and artistic significance of forests. While Ariel has published over 470 scientific articles, he continues to explore new ways to turn forest policy into practice.

His thought leadership has earned him innumerable honours, including the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, Distinguished Service and Distinguished Scientist Award from USDA, an Honorary Doctorate from University of Puerto Rico and a Meritorious Executive Rank Award from President George W. Bush. He also contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Scientific Assessment that received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore.

Ariel is currently the Director of the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (1986-present). He has consulted with UNESCO and also served in the Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality (1978-79); as Project Leader, US Forest Service (1979-92); and Acting Deputy Chief, International Forestry in Washington D.C. (1995).

Born in Puerto Rico, Ariel received his Master's Degree in Science (Biology) and a Ph.D. in Ecology.

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