

# Forests and Water

## Sustain Life and Livelihoods

Celebrating the International Day  
of Forests and World Water Day

**Monday, 21 March 2016**  
10 am | ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, NY



### Welcome and Opening Segment

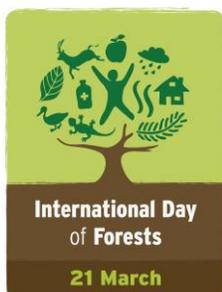
- **Mr. Wu Hongbo**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- **H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber**, Vice-President of the UN Economic and Social Council
- **H.E. Ambassador Per Thöresson**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN
- **Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho**, Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, DESA
- **Ms. Federica Pietracci**, Interim Secretary, UN-Water

### Panel discussion on Forests, Water and Economic Development

- **Prof. Royal Gardner**, Chair, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Ramsar Convention
- **Dr. Erika Svendsen**, Co-Director, New York City Urban Field Station
- **Mr. Bram Gunther**, Co-Director, New York City Urban Field Station
- **Ms. Lila Karbassi**, Chief, Environment, UN Global Compact
- **Ms. Sarah Davidson**, Manager for Water Policy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

### General Discussion: Forest and Water are essential for the 2030 Agenda

The floor is open for statements from Member States, United Nations entities and other accredited IGOs and Major Groups



# About the Speakers and Panellists



**Mr. Wu Hongbo** is the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He guides the UN Secretariat support for the intergovernmental processes such as the follow-up processes of the Rio+20 Conference. In addition to overseeing substantive services to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Wu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work.



**Prof. Royal C. Gardner** is the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Ramsar Convention. He has been a member of the Ramsar STRP since 2005 and Chair since 2013. An internationally recognized expert in wetland law and policy, he is Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University (USA).



**H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber** is Vice-President of the UN Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN. Previously, he was Head of the UN and International Organizations Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern.

From 2009 to 2011, he was Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva.



**Dr. Erika Svendsen** is a research social scientist with the US Forest Service and co-Director of the NYC Urban Field Station. The field station conducts research and communicates ideas among scientists and practitioners regarding urban natural resources. Erika's focus is environmental stewardship as it relates to governance, civic engagement and human well-being.



**H.E. Ambassador Per Thöresson** is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN. Previously, from 2006 to 2014, he served as the Ambassador of Sweden to the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein, Berne. From 2002 -2006, he was Ambassador and

Director-General for Administrative Affairs, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm.



**Mr. Bram Gunther** is the co-Director of the Urban Field Station, the science and research hub of Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources of the New York City Parks Department. It is co-run by the U.S. Forest Service. He was previously Chief of Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural

Resources. He is also the President of the Natural Areas Conservancy, a public/private partnership.



**Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho** is the Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat. He has published widely on issues related to tropical forestry, deforestation, climate change, and wood-based bio energy. He previously served as Director of Brazil's Forest Product Research Center, and

subsequently as Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation.



**Ms. Lila Karbassi** is Head of Environment at the United Nations Global Compact, the UN's voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. She was in charge of the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum and currently oversees the Caring for Climate initiative which has been endorsed by

nearly 400 companies from 65 countries. She has been part of Global Compact's management team since 2005.



**Ms. Federica Pietracci** is the Interim Secretary of UN-Water. Since 2010, she has facilitated UN-system engagement in Rio+20 and its follow-up processes, including in processes leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and in the High level Political Forum on Sustainable

Development. She joined the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 1996.



**Ms. Sarah Davidson** is the Manager for Water Policy at WWF. She leads the design and implementation of effective policy initiatives and strategic partnerships with governments, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, and other stakeholders to advance WWF's vision of a world where all

major basins are sustainably managed to support biodiversity and human livelihoods.

