

FACILITATORS, SPEAKERS AND RAPPORTEURS

RENE CASTRO SALAZAR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - GENERAL FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr Castro-Salazar holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Universidad de Costa Rica, a Master of Public Administration degree and Doctor of Design degree both awarded by Harvard University.

Mr Castro-Salazar held ministerial positions in Costa Rica as Minister of National Resources, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Environment, Energy between 1994 and 2014. He is currently Assistant Director-General for FAO, Forestry Department.



MR ROBERT SIMPSON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Robert Simpson is Manager of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, a post he's held since 2009, and based in Rome, Italy. He trained as a Forest Economist, but has focused on aspects of forest governance most of his career, including extensive fieldwork in Madagascar and Liberia prior to joining FAO. He started out in Madagascar as a Peace Corps Volunteer in 1997 and later worked for the US Embassy in Antananarivo, before focusing on multiple use forest management and improved law enforcement for high value species in the country. In Liberia, Robert worked for the US Forest Service as long-term technical assistant coordinating the Liberia Forest Initiative from 2004 to 2008.



**MR ANDREW ESCOTT
FACILITATOR
COHN & WOLFE
GLOBAL PRACTICE LEADER -
CORPORATE**

Andrew Escott manages the corporate practice for global communications and public relations company Cohn & Wolfe across fifty markets and is strategic communications advisor to its largest international clients. Andrew has advised on high profile issues for some of the most recognised international brands in crop protection, food and drink manufacturing, palm oil production, pulp and paper manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and food retail. Prior to Cohn & Wolfe he was Head of Commercial Relations at the UK NHS Confederation, which represents the organisations in the world's largest publicly funded health system. Before that, Andrew spent six years as a consultant at APCO Worldwide, advising on public affairs, crisis and corporate communications. At the start of his career he spent a period in Brussels working on policy issues and in the Scottish Parliament working for a political party.



**MS RACHEL BUTLER
GTF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rachel Butler has worked extensively in both the private and public sectors; developing policies and programmes as well as implementing them. She has a proven track record in international development of forestry and timber supply chains, ensuring sustainability goals are met while working within commercial realities. She worked initially in the public sector, undertaking development and funding roles, before she moved to the timber trade in 2001, working for seven years for the UK's largest timber importer. Rachel advises many international institutions and stakeholders including governments, trade associations and NGOs. She has travelled extensively, particularly in South East Asia, with experience in Africa and South America. She is at the forefront of forging partnerships with stakeholders, recently initiating the Global Timber Forum to foster greater information sharing and collaboration across the wood-processing sector.



MR GEORGE WHITE GTF OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

George White has spent over 25 years in and around the forest industry sector and accumulated broad experience from both the industry and NGO perspective. He currently works as independent consultant to a range of international clients, and his career over the previous fifteen years has given him a broad ranging view of the global forest products trade and market forces that constantly shape it. He has been involved in forest certification since 1993 and closely followed developments in market based legislation and associated international processes that have also moulded the landscape over the past decade. For ten years George was a key player in the WWF Global Forest & Trade Network programme (GFTN), latterly as Head. Prior to this he was a consultant, working with a range of clients from NGOs to major retailers. George's range of experience covers forestry, timber, paper, building products, and retail sectors, including work in responsible purchasing and related supply chain issues.



MR CHARLES BARBER SENIOR MANAGER FOREST LEGALITY ALLIANCE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Charles "Chip" Barber comes to WRI from the U.S. Department of State, where he served as Forest Chief in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs from 2009 to early 2014. While there, Chip led U.S. diplomacy on forest policy, working with numerous governments and intergovernmental agencies and processes. He and his team negotiated and implemented bilateral logging agreements with China and Indonesia, coordinated the Climate and Environment Working Group under the U.S.-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, led trade-related efforts on forests with Peru, the Asia-Pacific region, and the European Union. He has also led many key U.S. delegations, including those to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Prior to joining the State Department, Chip served from 2005-09 at USAID, where he represented the agency in important multilateral processes. At USAID, he also co-designed the \$40 million Coral Triangle support program, and USAID's strategies for climate change in the Asia-Pacific and natural resources and environment for Indonesia. Chip has also been a key member of the U.S. government interagency process scrutinizing multilateral development bank projects & policies with respect to environmental and social safeguard policies.



**MS TINA SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATE
FOREST LEGALITY ALLIANCE
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE**

Tina Schneider is an Associate in the Food, Forests, and Water Program, where she works with the [Forest Legality Alliance](#), a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to promote better forest management by increasing the trade in legal forest products. Before joining WRI, Tina spent almost two years in the Lao PDR. She conducted research on land tenure and community forestry for the German aid agency GIZ as part of a Fulbright grant, administered activities promoting forest legality for the NGO TRAFFIC under the Responsible Asia Forests and Trade (RAFT) Partnership, and researched the impact of forest legality verification (such as the EU Timber Regulation, and the US Lacey Act Amendment) on smallholder plantation owners for Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Previously, Tina worked at Conservation International's Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, where she administered grants supporting civil society engagement in biodiversity conservation. Tina holds a Masters of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts from Reed College.



**MR DAVID HOPKINS
MANAGING DIRECTOR
TIMBER TRADE
FEDERATION**

David Hopkins is Managing Director at the Timber Trade Federation and Board Member of Wood for Good. David is a former environment journalist and has worked for the Times, Guardian, Independent and BBC as well as editing a number of trade & industry titles focused on utility and environmental markets. He was formerly a co-founding director of Carbon International, a clean-technology and environmental industries market development consultancy and his clients have included the London Stock Exchange, the World Bank, a variety of blue-(and-green)-chip energy, water and waste majors, early stage technology startups and their investors, and all points in between. He is a non-executive director of low-carbon community charity Carbon-Leapfrog – providing pro-bono professional services for social enterprise.



MR MIKE JEFFREE
GTF COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Jeffree graduated in history and economics from Cambridge University and holds a post-graduate journalism studies diploma from City University, London. He has been a journalist for over 25 years, working for newspapers, magazines, broadcast and online media. He has reported on timber and forestry industries since 1997 and was appointed editor of the world's longest established publication in the sector, the UK Timber Trades Journal (TTJ) in 2001. He launched the magazine's website, www.ttjonline.com, and specialist construction title Timber & Sustainable Building. He is now Consultant Editor. He is also Communications Consultant to the Global Timber Forum and European Timber Trade Federation and works with the European Forest Institute and the European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition. He has previously undertaken projects for sustainability organisation NEPCon and sustainable construction online media Dagens Byggeri in Denmark. He has written for timber industry media worldwide and travelled widely reporting news and developments in the sector.



MS SARAH STORCK
GTF COMMUNICATIONS
WEBSITE MANAGER

Sarah Storck worked as journalist with international timber title EUWID for ten years, where she was responsible for developing the English-language print edition and website of Euwid (www.euwid-wood-products.com). At the same time, she reported for the German publication on industry developments and issues worldwide. Besides various market and price-trend related topics, she headed reporting on the FLEGT/VPA process, as well as all other international trade and tropical timber topics. Her work in these areas has also been published by other media, including the ETTF Newsletter. Since last year Sarah has worked with Mike Jeffree on the development of the Global Timber Forum website. In April 2015 she left EUWID and is now working as a freelance journalist and consultant to the timber industry. She has travelled widely, especially in Europe and Asia, reporting on industry events as well as economic and market developments. Sarah graduated in translation studies and economics from Heidelberg University.



**MS CINDY SQUIRES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL WOOD
PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION**

Cindy Squires joined the International Wood Products Association (IWPA) as Executive Director in March of 2013. As the chief executive for the leading international trade association for the North American imported wood products industry, Cindy represents companies and trade organizations engaged in import and use of hardwoods and softwoods from sustainably managed forests in over 30 nations across the globe. She also serves on the boards of the American Hardwood Export Council, the Tropical Forest Foundation, and the American Boat and Yacht Council. For nearly ten years, Cindy directed the regulatory, legal and trade programs for the recreational boating industry as the Chief Counsel of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and spent nearly 10 years on agricultural policy, representing the Executive branch during Clinton Administration as a legislative liaison and regulatory analyst at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service and as a U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee legislative staffer for then Chairman Senator Patrick Leahy. Cindy practiced environmental and administrative law at Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. and is admitted to the Maryland and the District of Columbia bars, having graduated cum laude from the Washington College of Law, American University. She has a B.A. in International Relations from George Mason University.



**MR SHI FENG
SECRETARY GENERAL
CHINA NATIONAL FOREST
PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION**

Feng Shi, Han nationality, Doctor of Economics (PhD), Doctoral supervisor, Senior Engineer, currently working as the deputy Secretary General of China Forestry Industries Association, the Secretary General and corporate representative of CNFPIA. At the same time, Mr. Shi is working as a visiting professor in Agricultural University of South China, part-time professor in Nanjing Forestry University and part-time professor and doctoral supervisor in Beijing Forestry University. He is also the vice chair of China Forestry Economics Society, MD of China Sand Control and Sand Industry Association, director of Forest Management Branch of China Forestry Society. He has been engaged in developing strategy research and planning in forestry, management and guidance of forest industries, supervision and management of forest resources, and management of forest industry associations. He has sat on the Expert Committee of the National Development Bank since 2010.



**MR ANDREAS VON MÖLLER
MANAGING PARTNER JACOB
JÜRGENSEN**

Andreas von Möller started his career 1975 as Trader for Deutsche Conti Handels GmbH, Hamburg and Continental Grain, Geneva. From 1977 to 1984 he was Manager of the wood sector of J.F. Müller & Sohn, Hamburg. Since 1984 he is Managing Partner of Jacob Jürgensen Forest Products, a Wood and Paper import and distribution company, based in Hamburg. He holds various honorary positions e. g. as member of the Foreign Trade Committee at the Chamber of Commerce Hamburg. Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee at the AGA Wholesale Employer Association, Hamburg. President of ETTF, European Timber Trade Federation, Brussels.



**MR JOHN HALKETT
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AUSTRALIAN TIMBER
IMPORTERS FEDERATION**

Managing director of Forestlands Consulting John Halkett's educational credentials include tertiary qualifications in forest science and public policy. He has held senior positions in government forest and conservation agencies in Australia and New Zealand. In addition he has worked in the United States of America, Canada, Papua New Guinea, South East Asia, China, Africa and South America. John also acts as the technical manager for the Australian Timber Importers Federation www.atif.asn.au and is a director of specialist forest carbon development, management and trading company Leaf Carbon. He is a member of the peak Australian forest industry advisory group to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Forest and Wood Products Council and is a member of the New South Wales Forest Industries Taskforce. He writes extensively for trade publications in Australasia and elsewhere. He has written numerous scientific papers and has authored or co authored four books. His latest book Trees that call Australia home is currently on sale.