



## Participants

## NORTH AMERICA



**Liliana Dávila Stern**

**A conservationist promoting more sustainable business practices**

より多様な持続可能ビジネスモデルを推進する保護主義者

I work for The Nature Conservancy, where I am the Director for Mexico and Northern Central America. I am engaged in finding ways to preserve landscapes with high ecological values, which are currently under threat due to inappropriate business practices in agriculture and forestry. As a campaigner and activist, I work directly with corporations, but also with a range of other actors, including policy-makers, non-profits, universities and local communities. I believe that better data and improved transparency are key to better business practices with less environmental impact. I am therefore now working on a tool that can help various actors get easy access to reliable land-use data.



**Caitlin Vavasour**

**A supply chain monitoring expert applying the latest technologies**

最新の技術を駆使し持続可能な資源利用を観察するエキスパート

I am a Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, based in the US, focusing on sustainable resource supply chains. Together with my colleagues, I am currently developing methods and tools to make the monitoring of supply chains easier and less costly, especially for marine food products. Previously, I led a microfinance initiative in Senegal, worked on strategies for promoting clean technology in East Africa, and developed an audit program for forest management and supply chain certification programs. I believe in focusing on immediate solutions and I'm convinced that new technologies can play a key role in improving the sustainability performance of resource supply chains.



**Katie Conlon**

**PhD student on plastic waste management in the Global South**

地球の南半球のプラスチック廃棄問題をテーマとする博士豪取得中

I credit growing up in Portland in the Pacific NW for three traits that have been formative in my life: a deep love for the environment, a curiosity to explore and ask questions, and not being deterred by tough weather (both physically and metaphorically). I merge my passion for asking tough questions and working for environmental sustainability into my PhD focus: Plastic waste management in the Global South. I am currently focusing on the case study of the interlinking social factors that contribute to plastic waste/pollution in Colombo Sri Lanka, one of the hotspots for plastic waste in South Asia.

I began asking questions about plastic waste and (un)sustainable development trajectories as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa (2005-07; and also a PC Response Volunteer in Guinea 2010-11). What does long-term sustainability mean for a community? How can we change the development discourse to favor social and environmental balance? How can communities in far corners of the globe maintain their culture and environment in the face of development pressures? These questions led me to work and volunteer over the past 15 years in such places as Nepal, Bhutan, Trinidad & Tobago, Vietnam, Honduras, Mexico, India, Hawaii (permaculture), and Japan.

## SOUTH AMERICA



**Laura Camardelli**

**A social entrepreneur who believes in the power of kindness**

優しさの力を信じる社会起業家

I am an entrepreneur and event project manager with a background in engineering. I pursue projects with social impact and a strong purpose, such as an initiative to provide donated clothes to needy people, which spread all over Brazil. When I design events, I want them to become really special occasions that can be like small revolutions in participants' lives. In order to create a better world, I think we need to start with changing ourselves. I try to do that by placing kindness in every interaction of my life.



**Mariana Camardelli**

**Founder, Altos Eventos**

イベントデザインを専門とするAltos Eventos創業者

I am founder and creative director of Altos Eventos, a company that designs event user experience. With passion for events, I began to study Strategic Design and decided to use several Service Design tools to enhance experiences in events. An entrepreneur since 2010, I have worked with clients such as Google, Mozilla Firefox, Ambev, Givaudan, ThoughtWorks Brasil, AKQA and Melitta Brasil. I have also kicked off projects in Brasil such as Startup Weekend, LeanStartup Machine, PechaKuchaNights and Failcon - all of them in Porto Alegre – and I host CreativeMornings-SãoPaulo. I have a degree in Marketing and a certificate in Design for Social Impact by School of Visual Arts from New York.



**Paula Sui King**

**A dedicated educator teaching children to think for themselves**

アクティビストを育てる教育者

I am the founder of Learning by Doing - an educational initiative based in São Paulo, focused on children between 3 and 11 years old. We teach English through hands-on activities and foster critical and creative thinking and the development of autonomy. I am also a lead educator of the Swarovski Waterschool, which creates an environment for children to become leaders who protect water by ensuring access to clean water at schools and sustainable use of water, proper sanitation and hygiene. For more than ten years, I worked as a volunteer at CISV International - a global non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring children and teens for peace.



**Rodrigo V Cunha**

**A values-driven communications entrepreneur**

新たな挑戦に昔の慣行を取り組もうとする起業家

I am an entrepreneur with roots in journalism who has worked communication of sustainability for over twenty years. Currently, I'm the CEO of a Brazilian PR agency called Profile, which only works with companies looking for positive impact in what they do. I love to look for the intersection between knowledge and spirituality to better understand our role on this planet, and I seek to connect ancient knowledge to today's challenges.



## Lucas Sánchez M

### **An artistic projects manager inspiring ethical reflection**

あらゆる手段を用い社会変革を求めるプロジェクトマネージャー

I am a co-director at Hermanos Brothers - a creative bureau in Colombia using artistic expressions to facilitate innovation and learning. I'm very interested in inspiring and triggering ethical reflections, and hopefully changes in other persons' behaviour, through sensory, holistic, and arts-based communication experiences. I am happy to be able to do this through combining music making, social entrepreneurship, cultural conspiracy, and artistic projects management.



## Mariana Gómez Soto

### **An anthropologist supporting local struggles for land and resources**

伝統的方式を鑑みながら土地と資源を守る人類学者

I am a project coordinator for the Gaia Amazonas Foundation and the regional coordinator for Latin America for the network Yes to life, No to Mining. With a background in anthropology and biology I work to establish relationships with indigenous and peasant communities to strengthen cultural practices, local traditional knowledge related to natural resources and land use in the framework of conservation strategies. I love nature and I'm committed to demonstrating that a shift of paradigm for humanity is possible and that we can inhabit our planet in a more resilient and harmonic way.



## Ana María Parra

### **An arts lover with a transformative mission**

社会変革を目指す芸術愛好家

I am the Communications Director of Hermanos Brothers, a Colombian company promoting social transformation through the arts. I'm a lover of theater, video art, and other artistic expressions. I firmly believe that cultural experiences play important roles in our efforts to realise a sustainable society. My work is based on the conviction that touching people emotionally through culture can be transformative and at least as effective in raising awareness and changing people's behaviour as appealing to their intellectual side.



## Martin Sánchez Martinez

### **A social transformer working with the power of images and sounds**

イメージとサウンドの力を利用する社会変革者

I am the Arts Director at Hermanos Brothers - a creative bureau in Colombia using artistic expressions to facilitate innovation and learning. I work with the power of images and sounds. I try to make use of them to tune awareness towards the multiple interconnections in our realities, helping to raise the question on how to transform both our cognitive and perceptual frames of interpretation, as well as encouraging a deeper and more empathic relationship with our planet and souls.





## Andrés Felipe Jiménez

### **A creative leader using arts for social transformation**

社会変革にアートを用いる創造的リーダー

I am a co-director at Hermanos Brothers - a creative bureau in Colombia using artistic expressions to facilitate innovation and learning. I have a passion for making the world a happy place for all through music and the arts. I'm tired of inequality among people and with our planet and I'm committed to do something about it. If you do what you really enjoy doing, you can make social transformation happen. I am happy to work with a great team, which makes it possible for me to do just that.

## AFRICA



## Meelan Thondoo

### **A researcher exploring synergies between health and sustainability**

健康と環境の相互作用を探求する研究者

I am a health researcher who is keen to try new things and who loves to take on a good challenge. Besides my research, I enjoy mixing culture and logic in various ways and I'm passionate about aerial arts. I firmly believe that issues around health and wellbeing need to be at the heart of a sustainability transition and therefore deserve more attention. I hope NELIS can include this theme in its portfolio of activities and contribute to finding new ways of addressing health impacts of climate change and urbanisation, and of finding synergies with environmental sustainability.



## Felix Bidemi Iziomoh

### **A life coach who grows while supporting others**

個人の発展が及ぼす社会の肯定的影響を観察する指導者

I am a leadership development expert, a life coach, and a trainer, based in Nigeria. I currently work as the Executive Director of the International Centre for Leadership Development Nigeria (ICLDNG) while also pursuing a Masters degree in Counselling. In 2014, I resigned from my job as a supervisor at a courier company and enrolled in a Professional Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Programme. For the rest of my career, I want to create synergies between my own quest for personal development and my desire to impact positively in the lives of other people.



## Lawrence Afere

### **An organic farmer inspiring a shift to sustainable food systems**

次世代を考慮し、持続可能な有機農業に取り組む農家

I am an organic farmer and the founder of Springboard Nigeria, a social enterprise that uses organic farming and healthy food production to create meaningful and responsible work for rural and semi urban youth. As a farmer, I have a responsibility to protect the soil and pass it on to the next generations in good condition, just as I also have an obligation to produce safe, healthy, and nutritious food. Through my organization, I teach people to grow and consume food in a way that respects the environment and people. I dream of a future where our nation feeds itself and where everyone has access to fresh, local, healthy, affordable food, and where communities feel connected to the land and each other.



**Okocha Nkem**

**A social entrepreneur helping women rise from poverty**

貧困女性を手助ける社会起業家

I am a social entrepreneur and the founder of Mamamoni - a web-platform that connects socially conscious lenders with poor women in Nigeria who want to start their own businesses. At Mamamoni we also provide such new female entrepreneurs with training, equipping them with skills needed in the business world. My strong engagement in helping disadvantaged women grows from my own experience. As a child of a widowed mother without any vocational skills, I know first-hand how many women are struggling to feed their families and send their children to school. By providing such women with useful skills and access to start-up capital, I increase their opportunities to build secure livelihoods and get out of poverty.



**Oladotun Kayode Peter Kapable**

**A fashion entrepreneur inspiring youth to acquire useful skills**

若者の有用な技術習得に力を注ぐファッション起業家

I am an entrepreneur in the field of fashion design and marketing, the founder and CEO of Kapable\_designs - a Nigeria-based firm that sews and brands clothes, and that makes designs and prints on gift items and souvenirs. Before entering the world of fashion, I worked in sales and marketing for a number of organisations. My angle on sustainability is mainly to sensitise and educate young individuals in my community on the importance of skill acquisition. With the right skills they get confidence in their own ability and can become responsible members of our community.

## EUROPE



**Lea M. Urpa**

**A researcher interested in sustainability in healthcare systems**

健康・医療システムの在り方に関心を寄せる研究者

I am a doctoral candidate in human genetics at the Institute for Molecular Medicine, Finland at the University of Helsinki, with a background in evolutionary biology and ecology. I also previously worked as an educator in STEM fields. I am interested in ways that sustainability in healthcare systems can be addressed, with new technologies and in translating research from academia to use in clinical settings.



## Jovin Hurry

**A strategy advisor helping growth companies navigate sustainability challenges**

持続可能性に取り組む成長企業へのアドバイザー

I am an author, speaker and sustainable business strategist, based in Finland but working across Africa, Asia, and Europe. I coach young growth companies in their efforts to navigate strategic sustainability challenges, such as turbulent markets, limited resources, and social disparities. Working across world regions helps me see sustainability challenges from different perspectives and enables me to identify solutions with potential to be replicated in other contexts. I am intrigued by the fact that most plans and strategies are never implemented in practice and believe that we need to shift to less top-down and more flexible ways of running projects and programmes.



## Frantz Dhers

**A consultant helping companies respect local cultures**

郷土色を尊重する企業コンサルタント

I am the founder and CEO of Original's - a consulting firm advising clients on cultural sustainability. We are currently living in a "post globalised" world where people and consumers are feeling increasingly close to their local cultures, specificities and societies, as a reaction to the broader globalized context. I believe that it's culture that makes us human and for me cultural sustainability is not a passion but a need. At Original's we develop methods to help companies better understand their impact on local cultures and how they can play a positive role in protecting cultural diversity - through Corporate Cultural Responsibility.



## Katerina Chalkiadaki

**A nature lover with a passion for education**

環境教育に情熱を抱く自然愛好家

I am an educator trying to make the next generation understand the importance of taking care of the planet we live on and depend on. Teaching about the need to respect the environment makes me feel that I contribute to a higher purpose. I hope to inspire NELIS to be more engaged in education activities. I love being outdoors and I have a strong relationship to the varied landscapes of my native country - Greece.



## Puja Thiel

**A network facilitator promoting sustainable food systems**

持続可能なフードシステムに推進する仲介者

I am a project manager at the Future Agro Challenge in Norway. Trained as a researcher, I bring together partners from the academic, entrepreneur, government and corporate sectors for discussions on sustainability and to support new initiatives. Future Agro Challenge is one such initiative that helps me support startups in the field of food and sustainability. With my interest in innovation, I support the entrepreneur ecosystem through organizing workshops, seminars and networking events, connecting startups with relevant partners, and by offering sustainable solutions where possible.



## Noemi Salantiu

### **A community builder and a researcher catering to societal wellbeing**

持続可能性とより良い暮らしの相互関係を模索するコミュニティ構築者

I am a social scientist turned social entrepreneur, based in Romania and Belgium. Over the past six years I've helped grow Edgeryders, an organisation committed to nurturing and legitimizing original ways to work and live with respect for the common good. As a community builder, I'm interested in sustainability in terms of the ability of people and projects to cater to societal wellbeing while meeting their own needs for care. I am interested in new models of community organising and how groups of people loosely affiliated can make changes on the ground. There are a lot of global communities out there, but very few manage to outlive the creators energy and to keep going.

## ASIA



## Ying Liang

### **A change agent embracing sustainability in daily life**

日常生活で持続可能性を問うエージェント

I work with publishing, social media and workshops as well as with the web platform "Earth Lovers" to inspire meaningful change. After having studied at Schumacher College and worked abroad for several years, I am now back in my native China where I'm exploring how I can contribute to transforming human culture - both by trying to live an authentic life myself and by connecting and inspiring others. The crises that human society is facing cannot be solved under the old industrial and capitalist paradigm but requires a deep and large-scale cultural transformation towards an ecological civilization.



## Zilong Wang

### **A pilgrim exploring pathways to inner and outer transformation**

内部的かつ外部的変革の道を探る巡礼者

I am a volunteer at ServiceSpace - an organisation that leverages technology to encourage people around the world to do small acts of service. We aim to ignite the fundamental generosity in ourselves and others, creating both inner and outer transformation. For the past two years, I have been on a bicycling pilgrimage around the world to explore and amplify the ecological and spiritual awakening of our time. I used to work in corporate sustainability, trying to "change the system from within" but soon found those efforts futile.



## Mathew Jose

### **A social entrepreneur engaging informal waste buyers in the circular economy**

ごみの再生産で貧困と環境を救おうとする社会起業家

I am social entrepreneur running a recycling and waste management business in Chennai, India. Our enterprise - called Paperman - contributes to building a circular economy by engaging 270 informal waste buyers and over 5000 waste generators. I have also co-founded OpenAct along with another Nelis members to promote discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals across cities in India. I feel that my life gets richer when I have opportunities to help other people succeed.





## K. Ramnath Chandrasekhar (Ram)

**An educational storyteller with a spiritual link to nature**

自然と交感する語り部

I am an environmental educator - the founder and lead coordinator of Youth Conservation Action Network (YOUCAN). Based in India, I use visual storytelling as a tool to teach students about the value and importance of healthy ecosystems and I encourage and mentor middle-school students who write their own books on environmental issues. I also use stories and visuals to stimulate collaborative learning and to inspire people to take action to protect the environment. Since my childhood days I feel spiritually connected to the environment and I am concerned about the young generation that grows up in cities, highly disconnected from nature.



## Ryan Christopher Sequeira

**A megacity transport planner with a holistic approach**

多様な方法論によるメガシティの交通デザイナー

I am a Deputy Manager working in transport planning in the city of Delhi. Trained as an architect, I promote sustainable urban mobility through city planning, transit design, and infrastructure development for biking and walking. In addition to being a practitioner in this area, I am also a researcher exploring long-term trends in urban development and mobility patterns, as well as an ambassador for sustainable urbanism, lecturing in universities and other forums both in India and abroad. I am intrigued by the multiple facets of city life and try to create connections between peoples' need for transport and other aspects of urbanity.



## Shravan Shankar

**A holistic networker “connecting the dots” for innovative solutions**

革新的な解決に向かって点を線に変える仲介者

I am a consultant and networking facilitator running a startup ecosystem supporting entrepreneurs. In this role, I bring sustainability into what other people do, regardless of whether they work in finance, accounting, education, urban planning, or social enterprises. This reflects my philosophy that sustainability should not be pursued as a separate domain but needs to be embedded in other professional and business practices. I seek to create dynamic encounters where different ideas and perspectives, and people with different skill-sets, “collide” and co-develop new solutions.



## Lekha Patmanathan

**An energy conservation specialist**

エネルギー節約のスペシャリスト

I am a co-founder of Nexergy - a Singapore-based startup in the field of energy conservation. We offering energy-use diagnoses and recommend solutions to reduce energy consumption in buildings. We also support social causes by giving non-profit organisations one complementary energy conservation service per every five for-profit deployments. I call myself an environmental evangelist, hoping that we will one day live in a world where global citizens embrace a shared responsibility to care for the environment. Before venturing into sustainability, I worked for several years in the medical field, including with tissue and organ transplantation.



## Megumi Miyahira Ohata

**A nature lover promoting a culture of respect**

田舎暮らしを尊重する自然愛好家

I am an artist and a communicator at Joy Circus, where we are running an inn, grow organic food, offer catering, create furniture and do design projects for clients. To me, sustainability entails exchanging good energies, based on mutual respect and an honest willingness to listen to each others' point of view. I feel happy to be surrounded by beautiful nature, so I try to stay in the countryside.



## Kai Sawyer

**Kai is a nonviolence activist and permaculture practitioner**

共生革命家であり、パーマカルチャーを実践する

I was born in Tokyo, raised in rural Japan (Minami Uonuma), Hawaii, Osaka, California, and the jungle of Costa Rica. I consider Earth my home. After the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 terrorist attacks in the USA and subsequent US invasions, I began to engage with issues of war, structural violence, intergenerational justice, agroecology and sustainability, while attending the University of California Santa Cruz. I became the co-chair for the Education for Sustainable Living Program (ESLP), a radical educational experiment that collaborated with world-class sustainability leaders such as Vandana Shiva, Satish Kumar, and Frances Moore Lappe. ESLP facilitated institutional change through student empowerment and participatory action research. I founded Tokyo Urban Permaculture as an experiment to fundamentally transform the culture and politics of Tokyo, after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in 2011 and now teach permaculture, nonviolent communication, mindfulness, systems thinking, social change and about the gift economy (gift ecology) around the world.

## OCEANIA



**Sean Car**

**A newspaper publisher improving livelihoods and communities in Africa**

アフリカにおける暮らしの向上を目指す新聞発行人

I am a newspaper publisher from Melbourne and I am also the founder and director of Educaring Africa - a not-for-profit operating in Malawi and Uganda. To me, sustainability goes beyond protecting the environment and I tend to focus on the human and social aspects - how we can improve people's lives and create a society of equality, diversity and compassion. I believe that the reason we are on this planet is to help as many others as we can.



**James O'Donnell**

**A health expert improving lives in vulnerable communities**

傷つきやすい社会の暮らしの増進を目指すヘルスエキスパート

I am a post graduate medical student at the University of Melbourne and also involved in Educaring Africa - a charity that works with communities in Africa to improve public health. I have a strong interest in international development and equitable health outcomes, especially in vulnerable communities. Previously I have worked as a research assistant, specialising in malaria research. Through this role I was given the opportunity to be involved in multiple development and public health projects in resource limited settings in Bangladesh and Vietnam.



**Arpad Maksay**

**An experienced project implementer eager to share lessons with tomorrow's leaders**

未来のリーダー達と教訓を分かち合おうとする熟練のプロジェクト実行者

I am a Head of Engagement at VicRoad in Australia, where I'm working on the Safe System Road Infrastructure Program. I have previously worked with community and stakeholder engagement for renewable energy projects, including for the City of Melbourne. Before becoming involved in renewable energy I worked for a dairy company in Japan. I'm an experienced project manager who loves to see a good idea being transformed into reality and I want to share some of the lessons I have learned from my career with young people who will hopefully become the sustainability leaders of the next generation.



**Adam Zaborszczyk**

**A civil servant on a mission to roll out renewable energy**

再生可能エネルギーの提案を担う公務員

I am working for the City of Melbourne, where I'm a Senior Sustainability Officer focusing on Energy. After undertaking a number of sustainability projects for the city, I initiated the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project, which enables large organisations to buy renewable energy through collective purchasing. After five years, this project has become a great success and a new 39-turbine 80 megawatt wind farm is now under construction. Through NELIS, I want to share my experiences in how to navigate complex projects to successful outcomes.

