



## Pre-Forum Webinar



**September 28, 2023**

4pm/5:30pm CEST (EU)  
10am/11:30pm EST (US)

**Cities** are crucial in addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis. They face its consequences but can also drive mitigation and adaptation efforts. Environmental justice is gaining recognition, as vulnerable groups suffer more from these crises. Urban forests can mitigate issues like heat islands and flooding, and their benefits should be distributed evenly, or maybe even targeted at disadvantaged communities. In addition, recognizing opportunities from community engagement to tackle these challenges can contribute to just and inclusive cities.

**Join us** for a panel discussion exploring how inclusive urban landscapes are shaped. We will delve into the synergies of grassroots movements, governmental policies, community influences, and enterprise solutions aimed at enhancing access to the benefits of high-quality urban green spaces. Discover how these varied efforts converge to empower disadvantaged communities, ensuring their valuable role in urban decision-making. We envision cities where every individual enjoys the benefits of 'urban nature' and participates actively in its future.



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## Panelists

### Arjen Buijs Wageningen University



Arjen Buijs is Associate Professor at the Forest and nature Conservation Policy group at Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Using a Mosaic Governance approach, he focuses on community actions towards greening our cities inclusively and how collaboration between civil society, businesses and governments can ignite transformative change. He has worked in numerous National and European projects on urban forestry and urban green governance, with specific focus on strengthening the relationships between humans and non-humans and between communities and governments.

### Alexis Vásquez University of Chile



Alexis Vásquez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Chile. His work involves research, policy advice, and teaching in urban landscape planning and sustainability. He has authored numerous articles in high-impact journals and contributed to widely-read international books. Their publications focus on green infrastructure standards, urban environmental justice, green infrastructure planning, and urban ecosystem services in Latin America.

Alexis Vásquez has also led consultancies on developing planning guides, master plans, and ecological territorial planning for institutions like the Inter-American Development Bank, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and Chilean government entities.

### Charlie Shackleton Rhodes University

Charlie Shackleton is a full-time research professor in the Department of Environmental Science at Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa. Charlie holds a nationally-funded research chair in "Interdisciplinary Science in Land and Natural Resource Use for Sustainable Livelihoods". He has extensive research experience in the inter- and transdisciplinary dimensions related to the use of, and values ascribed to, wild biological resources (including trees) by rural and urban communities in Global South contexts, with a particular emphasis on poverty dynamics.



### Natalie Marie Gulsrud University of Copenhagen

Natalie Gulsrud is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management at the University of Copenhagen. She teaches a master's course on Urban Forestry and Urban Greening and is specialized in urban green infrastructure governance for climate resilience. Gulsrud explores the interplay of social, ecological, and technological elements in cities. She has been published in notable journals and co-authored "Street Fights in Copenhagen." She co-leads the Swedish government research council for sustainable development (FORMAS) in Denmark and Sweden and is WP leader in the Smarter Greener Cities project and in the FORMAS funded Planning with Youth framework.

