

# University of Helsinki and Aalto University delegation at COP30



## Bring science-based expertise into your events at COP30!

Our delegation brings together professors offering expertise across sustainable digitalisation, smart systems, energy transition, climate justice and inclusion, land use, nature-based solutions, and enabling environments for circularity.

These professors are available to contribute to your events, knowledge exchange, and opportunities across pavilions, media, policy, and education.

Whether you are curating events, seeking interviews and expert commentaries, shaping policy discussions, or engaging with research and education, these professors offer science-based insights, global perspectives, and a commitment to climate action. They are also open to one-on-one meetings and networking throughout the event.

### Contact Us!

#### Kelly Brito Salas

Coordinator

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10-16 Nov

#### Leena Järvi

Professor, Department of Physics, University of Helsinki

**Keywords:** urban climate, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, climate mitigation, nature-based solutions

Expert in urban meteorology, researching how cities interact with climate, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Leena focuses on understanding the coupling between urban surfaces and the atmosphere, with specific interest on the climate mitigation and adaptation potential of urban nature and how these might change in the future. Her research creates science-based solutions for cities to support their climate neutrality and sustainability goals. Leena is part of the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research, INAR, at the University of Helsinki.

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10-19 Nov

#### Markku Kanninen

Prof. Emeritus, Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki

**Keywords:** climate change, land use, sustainable development, tropical forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation

Expert in global forestry, climate change, land use, forest ecology, and forest management. His research contributes to understanding the role of forest ecosystems in mitigating climate change and in developing ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, with special emphasis on tropical forests and societies in the Global South. His research has helped countries develop accurate, consistent, and transparent carbon inventories and models in the land-use sector, particularly in afforestation and reforestation and REDD+ under the UNFCCC. Since the 1990s, he has been actively engaged in science-policy dialogue on climate change and natural resource management, contributing through key roles in the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund Board, the Finnish Climate Panel, and the IPCC, where he was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

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10-16 Nov

#### Mika Järvinen

Assoc. Professor, Department of Energy and Mechanical Engineering, Aalto University

**Keywords:** energy engineering, carbon capture and storage, Power2X, sustainable energy transition, green hydrogen

Expert in energy technologies, carbon capture and utilisation, and industrial ecology, with a strong focus on the transition to low-carbon energy systems. He has been involved with energy, pulp and paper, biomass, metallurgy, waste management, and wind power and other renewable energy areas. Mika contributes by linking technological innovation to the economic and systemic dimensions of industrial decarbonisation, offering evidence-based insights into how emerging solutions can scale. He is Head of the Energy Conversion and Systems Research Group at Aalto University, Director of Aalto's H2 Innovation Center, and Vice-Head of the Department of Energy and Mechanical Engineering.

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10-15 Nov

#### Matti Kuittinen

Assoc. Professor, Department of Architecture, Aalto University

**Keywords:** architecture, sustainable construction, climate impacts, circular economy, education

Expert in Sustainable Construction. His research focuses on climate impacts and circular economy in the built environment, and in the development of new building materials and methods, leading a research team that looks how buildings can be designed, built, and operated with less materials, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions. This includes avoiding demolition, reusing old building parts, and innovating new ways of building so that the carrying capacity of our planet would not be exceeded, even though construction needs are growing strongly. As an architect, he has designed experimental sustainable buildings and participated in humanitarian construction operations. During his work at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, Matti developed the national whole life carbon assessment method and initiated the Nordic Bauhaus programme.

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## Sustainable digitalisation & Smart Systems

Leveraging data, connectivity, and digital infrastructure to optimize climate action, e.g., emissions monitoring and smart cities.

## Energy Transition

Shifting from fossil-based systems to renewable, efficient, and flexible energy solutions including hydrogen, storage, and digital optimization.

## Climate Justice and Inclusion

Ensuring that solutions are inclusive, culturally grounded, and equitable, especially for underrepresented communities and the Global South.

## Nature-based solutions and Land Use

Using ecosystems, like forests, urban green spaces, biodiversity, to mitigate climate change and build resilience.

## Enabling Circularity

Designing out waste, maximizing resource efficiency, and creating closed-loop systems across materials, energy, and infrastructure.



10-16 Nov

### Markku Larjavaara

Assoc. Professor, Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki

**Keywords:** forest, carbon, ecosystem, land use, trees

A forest scientist with expertise in forest biomass, ecosystem carbon and the role of forests in addressing climate change. His research focuses on how forests and other land uses store carbon, and how these processes can be harnessed for climate mitigation strategies. His work provides science-based guidance for forest management to mitigate climate change and supports efforts to achieve climate neutrality and resilience.

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10-19 Nov

### Annukka Santasalo-Aarnio

Assoc. Professor, Department of Energy and Mechanical Engineering, Aalto University

**Keywords:** rethinking energy, energy storage technologies, circular energy production and storage devices, energy transition to non-fossil energy systems, resilient and affordable energy systems

Expert on sustainable electrical, thermal and chemical energy storage systems. Her research focuses on circular design of energy devices, thermal energy storage systems and materials, electrolytic hydrogen production and storage, as well as safe handling of end-of-life batteries at the first life. Annukka's team focuses on understanding how the energy storage is connected as part of the future energy systems. Their research enables the wider deployment of renewable energy by balancing the intermittent renewable energy production. She has been appointed as the head of Energy Conversion and Storage research team at Aalto School of Engineering in 2018.

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10-16 Nov

### Jukka Manner

Professor, Department of Information and Communications Engineering, Aalto University

**Keywords:** sustainable ICT, energy-efficiency, repairability, resource efficiency, environmental footprint of ICT

Leading expert in networking technology and environmental footprint and impacts of ICT. His research and teaching focuses on networking, software and distributed systems, with a strong focus on sustainable and resource-efficient ICT. Jukka developed the first university course in Europe on the elements of sustainable ICT and currently is working on internet standardisation by raising awareness of the footprint of ICT technology on our environment and the sustainability of our planet.

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13-18 Nov

### Reetta Toivanen

Professor, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki

**Keywords:** corporate responsibility, Indigenous rights, and equitable pathways to sustainability, green colonialism

Expert in legal anthropology and sustainability science, with a focus on Indigenous perspectives on sustainability, decolonizing the Sustainable Development Goals, legal pluralism, minority rights, and the narratives that shape sustainability transitions. She brings a strong focus on justice, equality, and cultural diversity to global climate and sustainability debates. Reetta's work supports decision-makers and companies in developing fairer climate policies and practices, helps communities make their voices heard in sustainability transitions, and provides concrete pathways for industry to respect Indigenous rights while advancing responsibility. Currently, she is a member of the Finnish Expert Panel on Sustainability.

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## Associate Partners

Atmospheric Climate and Competence Centre – ACCC  
(University of Helsinki)

### Hanna Lappalainen

Arctic science collaboration, environmental data and research infrastructures, climate education - virtual exchanges.

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### Sami Paatero

Mobile communication technologies, digital transformation, platform economy, climate innovations.

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### Tuukka Petäjä

Atmospheric research infrastructures, long-term observations, comprehensive atmospheric and environmental data, international collaboration, climate-air quality interactions.

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### Laura Riuttanen

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Present at COP: 12 - 15 Nov.

## Contact Us!

If you are planning an event or another activity where a research contribution could add value, feel free to reach out. Our team will help match you with the most relevant researcher(s).

We kindly ask that if you arrange a meeting or collaboration directly with a researcher, you also inform or cc the COPLA coordination team.



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Specialist, Sustainability and Responsibility, University of Helsinki

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Present at COP: 10 - 19 Nov.



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## In brief



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**Professor, Department of Physics, University of Helsinki**

**Keywords:** urban climate, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, climate mitigation, nature-based solutions



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**Assoc. Professor, Department of Energy and Mechanical Engineering, Aalto University**

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