



### **Ritikaa Gupta**

Ritikaa is an American-born, Canadian-trained forester. Growing up in the Virginian countryside, Ritikaa had dreams of becoming a pilot but ended up pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's in Forest Conservation from the University of Toronto. As a follow-up to her now-published thesis paper on ecosystem restoration policy, Ritikaa completed a Certificate in Tropical Forest Restoration at Yale's School of Environment where she gained practical experience by designing a restoration project using agroforestry techniques. This project aimed to enhance the productivity of home gardens and deeply explored linkages between secure tenure rights, women empowerment, and sustainable management of resources. Ritikaa has work experience with the United States Forest Service, Province of Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and now works on wildfire policy within the Canadian federal government. As a young professional forester, Ritikaa is deeply committed to advocating for youth awareness about forestry and the responsibilities of foresters. Ritikaa sits on the board of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association and is President of the University of Toronto's Forestry Alumni Association. Additionally, Ritikaa co-leads the Mountain Youth Hub, where she envisions drawing attention to the importance of mountain forests and the pivotal role of youth in their sustainable management. Beyond her professional endeavors, Ritikaa finds joy in yoga, travel, hiking, dancing to Korean hip-hop music, sipping iced Americanos, and is into aviation.