

## SPOTLIGHT ON EDF PEOPLE

“I see a combination of entrepreneurial spirit and hard-nosed persistence in the people at EDF.”

**N. J. Nicholas**  
Investor and EDF trustee



### THE POWER OF DIVERSITY

Oluseyi Fayanju and Nicole Smith arrived at EDF as Tom Graff Fellows in 2009. Part of a program to increase diversity at EDF, Fayanju works on restoration of the Mississippi River Delta, while Smith works with African-American fishermen in the Southeast. Both regard diversity simply as the smart way for an environmental organization to do business.

“Environmental problems don’t discriminate,” says Smith. “It makes perfect sense for EDF to reach out to every group affected by a problem. That’s the way to create lasting solutions.”

It’s also the way to learn about problems in the first place, notes Fayanju. “Look,” he says, “in Louisiana, environmental degradation and injustice didn’t begin with the BP oil spill. It stretches back to the 1930s, but no one cared much because it was happening to people at the margins.

“Now the erosion of the Delta is affecting major population centers. We can’t wait until disaster is on our doorstep to fix problems and address injustice.”

### SCIENCE SETS THE AGENDA

“EDF was founded by scientists, and we’ve always based our policies on the best available science,” says chief scientist Dr. Steven Hamburg. “We alter those policies when new evidence comes to light.

“EDF positions itself on the cutting edge so that science can inform law and policy,” he adds. In the past 18 months, our scientists published more than two dozen peer-reviewed papers, including a study of bioenergy and deforestation in *Science* that changes how policymakers should view carbon accounting. And with the Royal Society, EDF is co-convening the first international initiative on the governance of geoengineering, to ensure that any research on climate manipulation is done responsibly and safely.

The science of economics is also central to our work. EDF’s staff of Ph.D. economists align powerful market incentives and consumer behavior with environmental goals. They’ve pioneered market-based solutions for problems as diverse as acid rain, overfishing and water conservation.