



February 2022

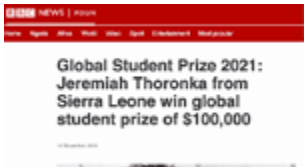


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Welcoming the cohort of 2021-22

MINIYA CHATTERJI

We are delighted to present you with the 2nd cohort of Anant Fellows for Climate Action. This year our 24 Fellows are climate leaders from the fields of scientific research, business, academics, and come from 13 countries. They were selected amongst 2703 candidates from 50 countries who submitted their candidature. We are truly proud of their achievements and look forward very much to be a part of their journey as they spring off the Fellowship to greater heights!

Indeed, while it has been a daunting task sifting through the 2703 applications we received, it also made us realise the growing demand for formal education in the field of climate action. Approximately 1,20,000 people globally, and less than 5,000 people in India, are formally trained to adequately cater to the \$23 trillion global climate industry opportunities expected until 2030. India and Bangladesh together are expected to attract \$2.5 trillion worth opportunities related to climate-resilient infrastructure. In India alone, there is a potential to create three million renewable energy jobs by 2030.

India is both a major greenhouse gas emitter and one of the most vulnerable countries to projected climate change. The need for research and education in this

field is critical. Further, the reasons and consequences of the changing climate in India and some other developing economies are different from those of the rest of the world. This is why specialised climate studies programmes are important to train people to find and implement technical solutions to adapt to and mitigate climate change in India and other parts of the world. Hiring people with these skills will be crucial for companies, government, the scientific community in India and the world.

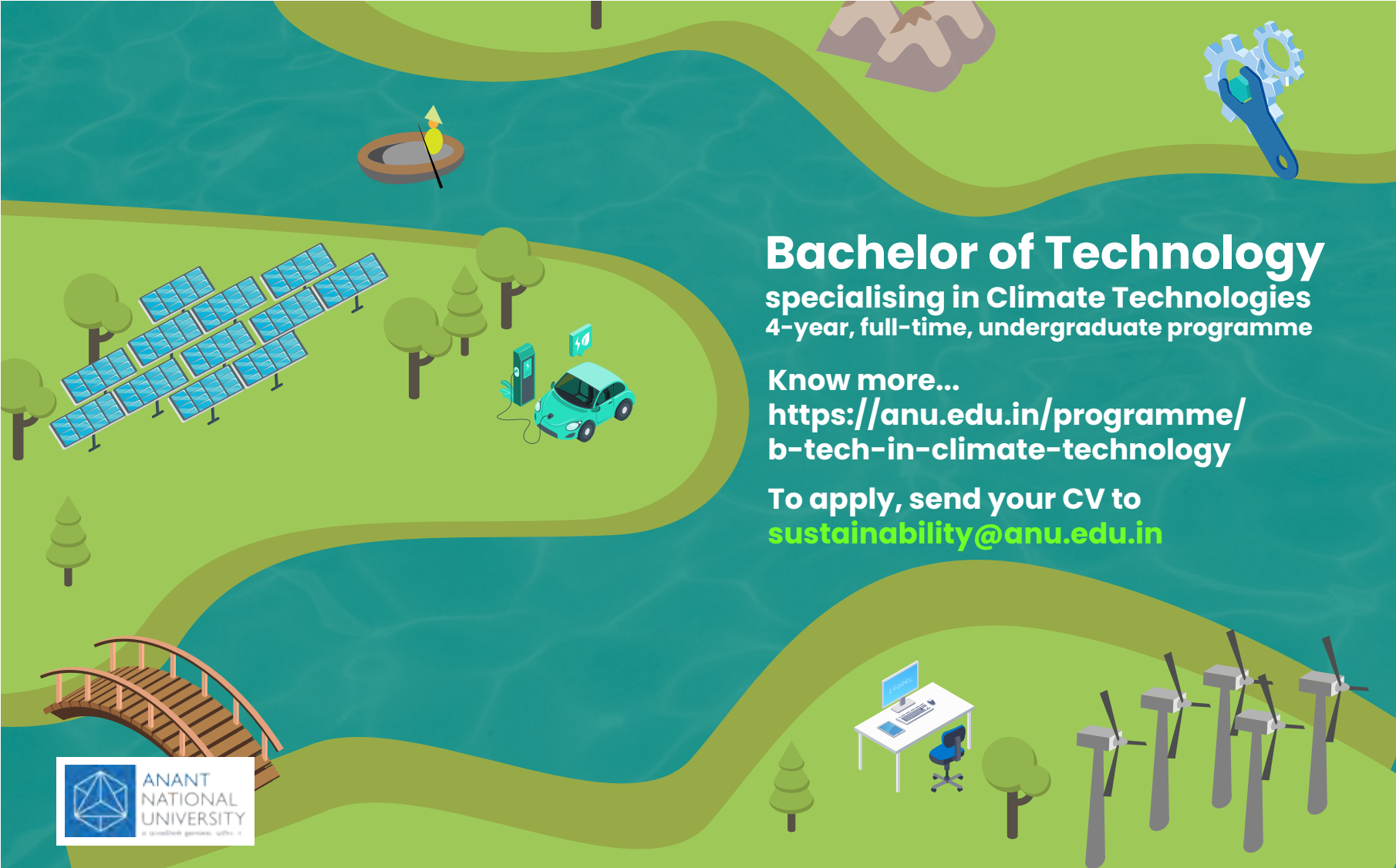
These are some of the key reasons why we have decided to expand our cherished Anant Fellowship for Climate Action into the Anant School for Climate Action offering Undergraduate to PhD degrees. We are pacing the growth of the Anant School for Climate Action over 4 years, starting with a Bachelor in Technology specialising in climate technologies degree.

The 4 year Bachelor in Technology specialising in climate technologies is an engineering degree program that commences in the upcoming academic year 2022 - 23. This will be India's first undergraduate degree program in the field of climate, offering students to specialise in climate technologies and thus be part of the \$1 trillion climate economy. Students will learn engineering tools and applications along with design thinking principles and practical application-oriented

learning within industry, government, research laboratories for creating technology solutions for climate change. This degree course is for individuals determined to create technology driven solutions for climate change. Those who have passed the high school examination in India or any country with Physics/ Mathematics / Chemistry/ Computer Science/ Information Technology/ Biology/ Biotechnology (any three) can apply. Here is a summary of the curriculum: [LINK](#)

The mothership - Anant Fellowship for Climate Action - indeed will continue, stronger and enthusiastic than ever before. Since we opened applications in January 2022 we have already received a whopping 2184 applications from 50 countries already for AY 2022-23! The quality of applications continues to be very good and increasingly more senior. Anyone in the world who is either implementing climate solutions or has unique transferable skills can continue to apply.

If you know of outstanding candidates for the 1 year Anant Fellowship for Climate Action or the 4 year Bachelor in Technology specialising in climate technologies, please do let us know at sustainability@anu.edu.in.




Bachelor of Technology

specialising in Climate Technologies
4-year, full-time, undergraduate programme

Know more...
<https://anu.edu.in/programme/b-tech-in-climate-technology>

To apply, send your CV to
sustainability@anu.edu.in



Graduation!



CONVOCATION 2021

Aman Gupta

Academic Excellence Award

Aman Gupta is currently working as Research Associate, Fellow and Consultant at Blue Dot Capital, CESL, RMI and World Bank.



CONVOCATION 2021

Sumit Arora

AFCA Impact Award

Sumit Arora is currently working as Associate Director of Technology and Partnerships at Centre for Wildlife Studies.



CONVOCATION 2021

Mohit Garg

AFCA Impact Award

Mohit Garg is continuing to contribute to the environment with the Indian Police Services.



CONVOCATION 2021

Shreya Basu

Most Engaged Fellow

Shreya Basu is currently working as Assistant Technical Specialist at RMSI Pvt Ltd, Noida.



CONVOCATION 2021

Ruchie Kothari

Most Engaged Fellow

Ruchie Kothari is currently working as Innovation and Design Teacher at B D Somani International School and also as Joint Director of Academics- Anant Fellowship for Built Environment at Anant National University.



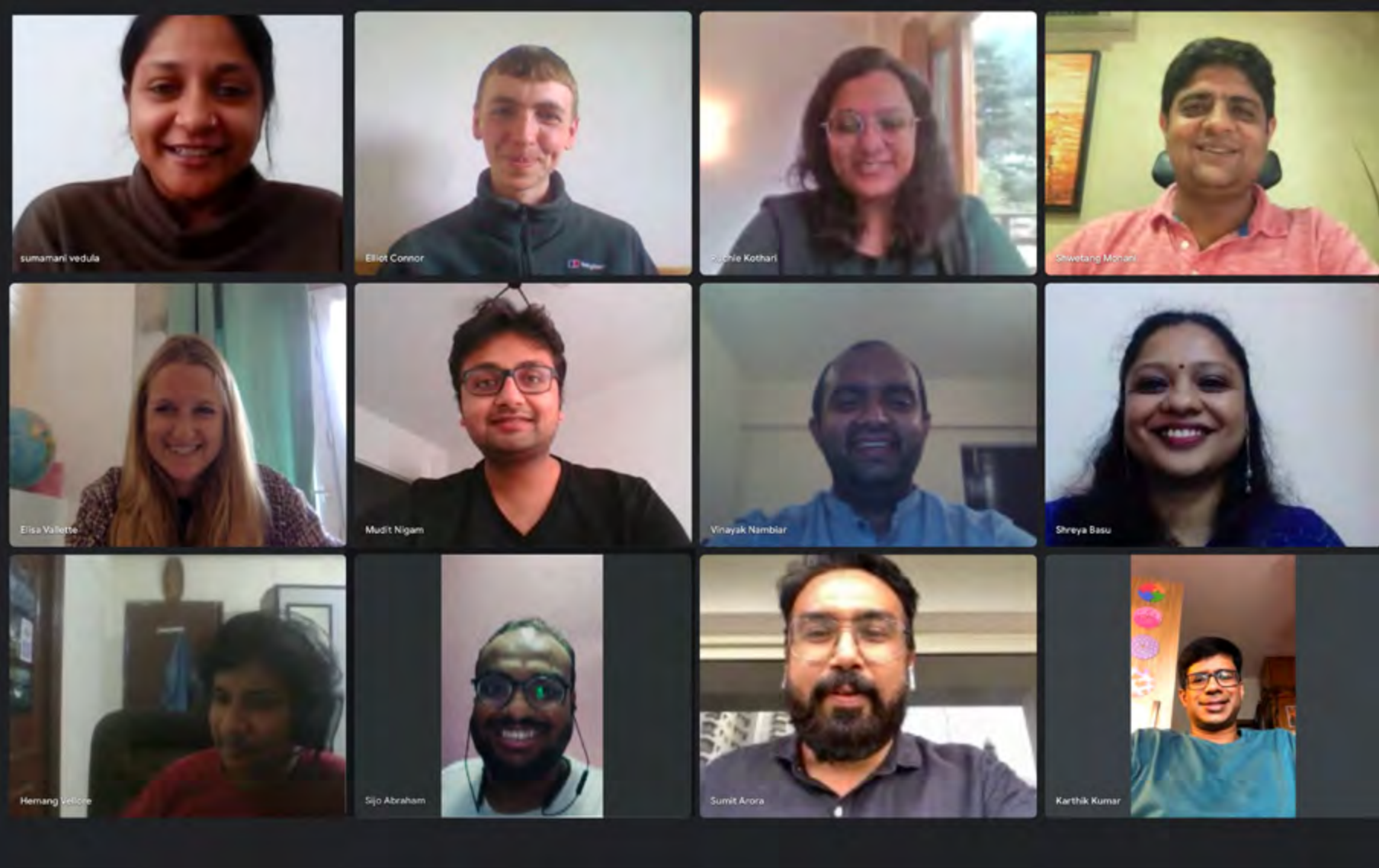
CONVOCATION 2021

Sijo Abraham

Spirit of the Fellowship

Sijo is working as an Environmental engineer and resourcer specializing in modelling of sustainable agriculture and treated wastewater systems.

The graduating cohort of Anant Fellows for Climate Action 2021



Arunabha Gosh

On January 21, 2022, *Financial Express* published his latest Inflexion Points column, “A budget for inclusive and sustainable growth”. Mainstream economic thinking has not yet internalised that “grow first and clean up later” is no longer a wise growth strategy. The column is available [here](#).



On 6 November 2021, *The India Express* published his column “India has shown what climate leadership looks like”. Arunabha Ghosh writes: It has silenced critics who suggested it had no bold vision for the planet, by setting out its vision and backed it with action, without falsifying its intentions. The column is available [here](#).

Chetan Maini

[Omega Seiki, Sun Mobility ink alliance for electric three-wheelers with swappable batteries](#)

Chetan Maini, co-founder and chairman, Sun Mobility said, “Our commitment is to increase adoption of EVs in the last mile transportation segment by making refuelling faster, affordable, more accessible and convenient via battery swapping. We are equally excited to partner with Omega Seiki and help equip their vehicles with our global interoperable smart mobility solution and alter the way people and goods move today.”



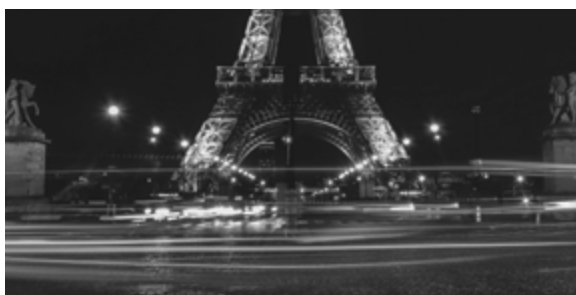
Kelo Uchendu

Kelo Uchendu, Anant Fellow for Climate Action, presented the Global Youth Statement to the President of the United Nations General Assembly.



Laurence Tubiana

Laurence wrote “With global tensions high and the world reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic, the conditions are not ideal for negotiating ambitious new climate commitments. Nonetheless, the rocky road to the historic 2015 Paris climate conference shows that another breakthrough for multilateralism is still possible.” in her article [From Paris to Glasgow](#) published on 30 September in Project Syndicate.



Md. Humayain Kabir



Humayain Kabir, Anant Fellow for Climate Action, is one of 30 from the whole world to be selected for the prestigious and highly competitive Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program’s (Beahrs ELP) summer course on “Sustainable Environmental Management” at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). This program will begin in May 2022, and the in-person portion will take place from July 18 to July 29, 2022, on UC Berkeley’s campus. Established in 2000, this interdisciplinary course includes workshops taught by award-winning Berkeley faculty members from the Rausser College of Natural Resources, Haas School of Business, and School of Environmental Design, as well as the departments of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management and Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Jeremiah Thoronka

Jeremiah Thoronka, Anant Fellow for Climate Action, is awarded the Global Student Prize 2021 of \$100,000 by Chegg.org at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris. Jeremiah from Sierra Leone has invented a device that uses kinetic energy from traffic and pedestrians to generate clean power.

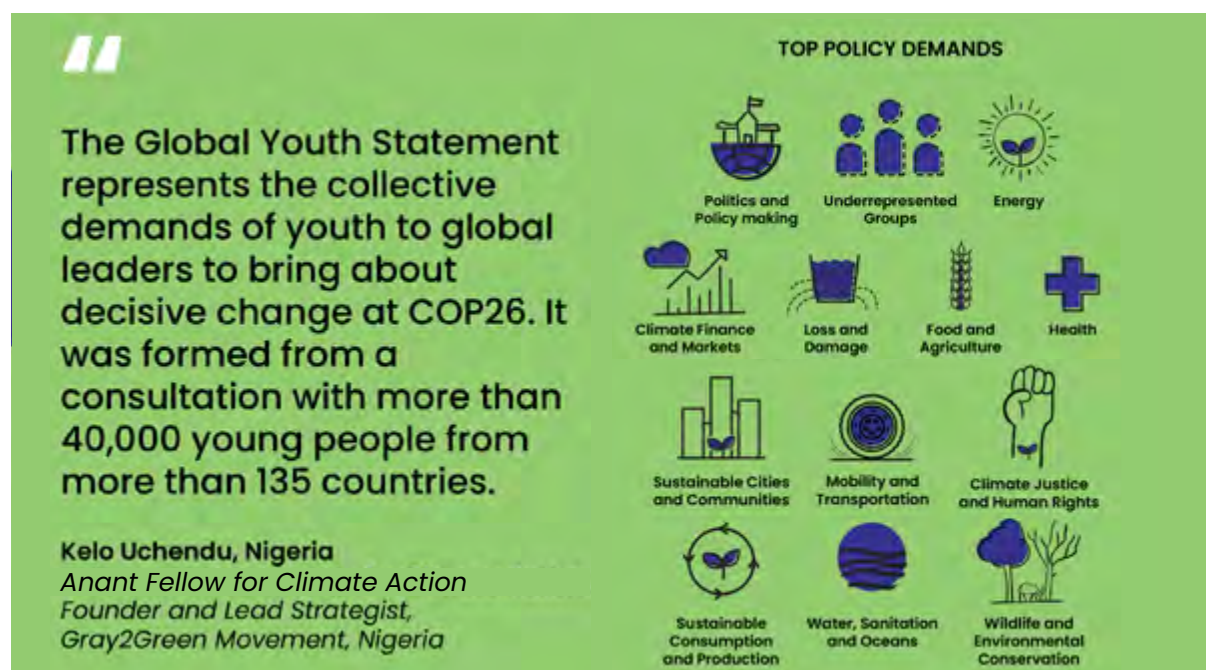


Arpita Bose

Arpita Bose, Anant Fellow for Climate Action, led a research study co-authored by engineers at Washington University’s McKelvey School of Engineering that discovered a new way to train microbes to make a readily usable biofuel. This study got recently featured by the U.S. National Science Foundation.



Using microbes to make carbon neutral fuel



Welcome Anant Fellows for Climate Action 2022!

In 2021-22, the Anant Fellowship for Climate Action received 2703 applications from 50 countries for 20 seats. The cohort comprises 24 Fellows from 13 countries of which 37.5% are women. Age is no bar at the Fellowship. The

youngest member in the cohort was 16 years old at the time of enrollment and the oldest was 63 years old. These passionate individuals are an eclectic mix of individuals with academic and practical experience in areas such as microbiology

research, biodiversity conservation, environmental activism, corporate sustainability, agriculture and marine ecosystems, to name a few.

Anusha Sheth *The Netherlands*

Anusha is a Master’s student at Technische Universiteit Delft (TU Delft), Netherlands, studying Sustainable Energy Technology. She is a big believer in sustainability and has been doing multiple projects in sustainable energy for the last four years. She previously worked as a Research and Teaching fellow with Univ.AI, an Edtech startup working on teaching cutting-edge Machine learning. She has interned at Power Research and Development Consultants Pvt.

Ltd., Laboratory of Electro-Optic Systems, Indian Space Research Organization. She completed her undergraduate in Electrical and Electronics from NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bangalore. She presented a TEDx Talk on “Neutralizing the impact of Artificial Intelligence on climate change” in October 2020. She is passionate about working at the interface of AI and sustainability to help solve some pressing climate problems.



Ashutosh Singh *India*

Ashutosh has an integrated Bachelor’s and Master’s of Science degree from IIT Kharagpur in Exploration Geophysics and a postgraduation certificate from Plaksha Tech Leaders Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence. He was an AI Intern at Virtuous AI, an Ethical AI-based startup, where he worked on extracting information on morality from text data based on Machine Learning (ML) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. He was CEO of Farminvesta Pvt Ltd, Kolkata, an Agriculture based Social Startup which served around 6,000 farmers in India for groundwater exploration with high-resolution surveys. He was one of the first entrepreneurs to work on the concept of online agriculture in India

with the help of precision farming techniques. He was BDM India, Zoeasy LLC, Dubai, a Blue Collar Recruitment Startup. He led the business development team to develop strategies for ethical overseas placement, helped bring 65,000 blue-collar job applicants onboard, worked with the Andhra and Telangana Government to get an MOU signed which helped Zoeasy get recognized in the Forbes 50 startups to watch in the Arab world list. He is one of the 90 participants selected from all across the world for a 12-day Antarctic Expedition hosted by polar explorer Robert Swan, 2041 ClimateForce to be held in March 2022. He is also a GPODS (Global Policy, Diplomacy, and Sustainability) fellow.



What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

One movie that inspires me is Interstellar. The concept in the movie that the future Humans built a tesseract and were trying to find the exact moment in the past to prevent the doomsday and also the concept that small changes in the present at the right time can translate to significant changes in the future inspires me to help bring small sustainable changes in the lives of the people in the present so that our future generations are safe. Every step in the direction of fighting climate change is only bringing us close to the solution that might prevent large-scale climate calamity in the future. That’s one more reason to keep trying to find a solution.



Arpita Bose

USA

Arpita is an assistant professor at the department of biology, Washington University in St. Louis. She also runs a lab known as the Bose Lab at Washington University in St. Louis. The lab studies microbial metabolisms and their influence on biogeochemical cycling using an interdisciplinary approach. Along with her team, they apply the knowledge gained, to generate new ways of addressing issues such as the energy crisis, climate change, pollution, human health and sustainability. Prior to this, she was a L’Oréal USA Woman in Science Fellow and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellow of the Life Sciences Research Foundation. She was also working as a research associate of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She has a PhD, M.S. in Microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, M.S. Biotechnology from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India and B.S., Microbiology (Honors) from University of Delhi. She has 31 peer-reviewed publications, was nominated for SN10 Scientist to Watch by Science News in April 2020, and won the Changing the Face of STEM Mentorship Award from L’Oréal USA and AAAS in 2019. In her latest publication recent Bose Lab graduates, contributed equally with a Bose Lab postdoc to

identify and characterize the first marine phototrophic extracellular electron uptake capable microbes. The lab plans to engineer these microbes to aid further carbon sequestration in wetlands as another climate action approach in addition to making electrofuels and electroplastics. This work received international attention and was featured in the National Public Radio (via the St. Louis Public Radio), the Weather network and Voice of America on TV.



What is the one thing everyone should know about you?

I am multi-racial, and am married to an American who is part Nordic, part English, part Italian and part German. My daughter is absolutely impossible to place.

How would you explain to your 4-year-old nephew what you do for the planet?

I work on tiny, invisible creatures that make sure that our planet does not change too rapidly and preserves life as we know it.

What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

This masterpiece has been inspiring me since I was a child. The hues, the strokes and the complete freedom that this piece embodies both uplifts me and gives me that eerie sensation. It tells me that we are all connected. Together, we can make the world truly beautiful and its wonders accessible to everyone around us.



Atik Sheikh *India*

Atik Sheikh is working at PwC India as a Senior Consultant in the sustainability and climate change division. Atik has more than eight years of experience in managing and execution of national and international level projects in the domain of energy management, resource efficiency, lifecycle assessment, cleaner production and climate change mitigation. Previously, he was the Counsellor - Energy Efficiency & Climate Change at Confederation of Indian Industry's Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre in Hyderabad. Atik has worked on various projects in cross-cutting areas of energy efficiency, resource efficiency, green Industry and low carbon development which were

supported by various national and international organisation. He has also worked with industry from various sectors on net zero roadmaps, energy efficiency, low carbon development and capacity development programs. Atik has also worked with State Government of Odisha, Meghalaya, Telangana and Tamil Nadu on development of state level low carbon development plans. He has co-authored two research papers— 'Sustainability Encouraging Mechanism – the way after 2012' and 'Appraising Energy Efficiency Projects'. He is also an amateur runner and cyclist and an active member of a local NGO – Robinhood Army which focuses on eliminating hunger among the underprivileged.



He has a Master's of Business Administration degree in Energy and Environment from Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune and a Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering from Nirma University Ahmedabad.

Freeman Elohor Oluowo *Nigeria*

Elohor Freeman Oluowo is currently the Centre Coordinator, in charge of climate change and environment programmes and projects, for African Centre for Climate Actions and Rural Development (ACCARD). He is a volunteer in the Transformational Change Agenda of the Climate Investment Funds at the Worldbank. He secured the NORAD scholarship when pursuing his Master's degree in Marine Based Ecosystem Management and Climate Change from the Bergen University / UiT University of Tromsø / Nha Trang University, Nha Trang, Vietnam. He also has a Diploma Certificate in the Law of the Seas from the Korea Maritime Institute / United

Nations Law of the Seas and a Master's of Science in Environmental Quality Management and Pollution Control (majoring in ecotoxicology and pollution studies) from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. He was Climate Change and Clean Technology Specialist for a short period at Climate Investment Funds (CIF), WorldBank Office, Washington. He was also a Multi-stakeholders Specialist / Researcher at the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). He has 13 publications and has conducted/ supervised 6 pieces of research as well. He has also attended over 25 conferences and symposiums and is a member of 5 scholarly



bodies, research groups and societies including Climate Change Impact and Response Research Network, USA (Associate Member) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), UK.

Jeremiah Thoronka *Sierra Leone*

Jeremiah Thoronka has a Bachelor's of Arts (Hons) in Global Challenges from the African Leadership University, Kigali, Rwanda. He also has a Certificate in Conservation Leadership from the School of Wildlife Conservation, Kigali, Rwanda. He is currently interning at Solar Cold Chain Logistics Engineering. He is responsible for managing the logistics of a US-based social benefit company with an overall mission to provide renewable energy solutions. So far, he has been researching, developing and designing solar systems and cold chain logistics elements for the advancement of efficient cooling systems in emerging markets. He has also worked as a Junior Associate for Renewables in Africa, United Kingdom, where he managed a Clean Energy

Engineering Consultancy and Media platform. He was a Summer Journalism Fellow for Business Today, U.S.A. In this role, he created, edited and shared energy-related articles on the online journal with over 10,000 monthly readers and collaborated with other Fellows from 6 different continents to develop and maintain high-quality by-weekly newsletters. He is Global Youth Ambassador for Theirworld and former President at the Student Energy African Leadership Chapter. He has been awarded 10 awards, some of which are: the Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development 2021 - Africa, the United Nations (UN) Academic Impact Millennium Fellow, United Nations, and the Millennium Campus Network; Borderless Youth



Forum Alumni of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, and The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ). He has been published a total of six times with pieces in Business Today Online Journal, ALU Global Focus Journal and Renewables in Africa (RIA).

Jos C Raphael *India*

Jos C Raphael is Director of the District Rainwater Harvesting Mission (Mazhapolima) Trichur conducted by the Kerala government. This is a participatory water well recharging (groundwater) programme implemented through local governments and people's planning institutional framework. He has worked as a consultant at RedR for Disaster Management and occasionally at Palathulli, a campaign run by Malayala Manorama newspaper for the Climate Change Adaptation initiative. The newspaper has won the UNESCO award for development communication and the National Environment Award. He has also worked as a Consultant at the International Water Management Institute, TATA Water Policy Programme, for a River Basin

Management Project sponsored by the Kerala State Planning Board, Trivandrum. Earlier in his career, he worked at Karl Kubel Stiftung, Germany as a Programme Executive and as a Social Scientist for the Dutch government aided Kerala Community Irrigation Project. He has a Master's of Science in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and a PhD from Mysore University in Development Studies. He is also a Governing Board Member at the Institute for Resources Analysis and Policy, Hyderabad. His project was awarded a CII-UNESCO sponsored Water Digest Award in 2010 for best NGO in water harvesting. At the 7th World Water Forum in South Korea, he was given the Water Showcase Outstanding Award 2015 and Outstanding



Award, South Korea Water Forum 2018. He was also a finalist in the first UN Water Summit, "Leaving No One Behind" in Geneva 2019. He has presented 8 papers internationally and has at least 6 publications as well.

Juan Antonio Arriaga *Mexico*

Juan Antonio Arriaga Viveros is a biotechnologist from Mexico with four years of experience in industrial bioreactors, microencapsulation and molecular diagnostic techniques. He also has a year of experience in financial analysis of innovation and investment projects from his current profession. While working at Servacare for a year, he worked on analysing biological samples for HPV detection, optimising molecular tests with PCR and also cost optimization. He is currently the Co-Founder of and Chief Financial

Officer at GREENfluidics and has been working as an independent consultant for the last three years in the following areas: agrochemical production process analyst, financial analysis of products, intellectual property analysis. He specialized in Biotechnology from the Autonomous University of Mexico State. He has a diploma certificate in Sustainable Development Goals affiliated to the UN and is also a volunteer at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.



Kelo Uchendu *Nigeria*

Kelo Uchendu is the founder and Lead Strategist of the very successful Gray2Green Movement. He founded this youth-led climate justice and air-quality advocacy movement in 2018 and since then it has grown to include 700 activists from 4 countries: Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa and India. In this role he also contributed to the input of drafts and consultations for the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MG CY) on Ecosystem restoration; Marine litters and microplastics focal groups. He is currently in his final year of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nigeria while also serving as the Policy Lead of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC. He is coordinating with different YOUNGO working groups to develop YOUNGO's consolidated policy position

and the Global Youth Statement which will be presented at COP26 this November. In addition to being a Clinton Global Initiative University Fellow, he is also the Co-founder of Zentrum, a social impact startup that recently won the global Rockefeller Foundation and Acumen Academy Social Innovation Challenge. In 2019, he was selected as one of the top 50 promising engineering students globally to attend EuroBrake 2019 in Dresden, Germany by the International Federation of Automotive Engineering Society (FISITA). His Mock COP26 project was named by CNN as one of the top 10 Environmental Heroes to inspire you in 2021. This project has made considerable progress in trying to ensure that all students have access to region-specific climate education. He will be



working with the UK Department of Education, the Italian Government and UNESCO to run an Environment and Education Ministers Summit in the blue zone at COP26 during the Youth and Public Empowerment Day to bring together education and environment ministers to progress climate education.

Ketan Patel India

Ketan Patel has over 25 years of global entrepreneurial experience. He is currently Director of Africa and Asia at Enveritas, USA. Enveritas is a mid sized not for profit start up that seeks to end poverty in the coffee sector by 2030 by overcoming barriers that prevent proven solutions from benefiting coffee farmers. Here, he has been responsible for executing grants and contracts worth over USD 7.5 million impacting over 80,000 farmers and collecting critical sustainability risk information from over 3,000 farming communities. He has built market based solutions for smallholder communities and urban informal traders. He has managed teams that undertook large scale surveys (>40,000) across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He also has a passion for providing access to clean water to

underserved communities and advises a Danish organization on the last mile implementation of its unique, low-cost, energy and maintenance free solution into rural Asian and African communities. Prior to this, he was COO/ Director of Last Mile Distribution for Renewable Energy Kiosks and solutions at SolarKiosk AG, Germany, where he was responsible for enhancing the commercial visibility of 300+ rural kiosks in 7 countries in Africa and Asia. He has also been Founder and Chief Executive of a social startup, Imhanya, in Harare, Zimbabwe, which won Startup Academy - Super Returns Africa, Cape Town in 2016. He was COO - Tantalizers Plc at AMSCO UNDP, Nigeria, responsible for driving the business operation. He has held Director positions and has been in charge of brand growth



at Church’s Chicken, USA, and at Innscor Africa, Zimbabwe. He has a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Lincoln and is a contributing editor at “In Good Company, Managing Intellectual Property Issues in Franchising”, managed by the WIPO.

How would you explain to your 4-year-old nephew what you do for the planet?

I am learning about where things (especially coffee and cocoa) come from, when and how they are processed and what happens to the environment during these steps.

- Have trees or forests been cut down?
- Has more pollution been created?
- Are the different plants and animals allowed to grow where the coffee and cocoa is grown?
- Is water and energy used wisely when growing the coffee?
- Is there any scientifically modified coffee grown that could be harmful?
- Are there any banned pesticides used?
- What and how many chemicals are used?
- Are the chemicals stored safely and are people protected when they use them?
- How are pests and diseases managed on the farm?

I am also developing information about the people who are involved in growing or producing these items and what conditions they live and work in.

- Are children working on the coffee farms?
 - Is anyone forced to work on the farm that doesn’t want to be there?
 - Are people working being paid appropriately?
 - Is there any discrimination at the farm or processing center?
 - Is there clean water available?
 - Do workers have decent places to stay?
 - Are they free and allowed to join groups?
 - Do they have contracts?
 - Is everyone involved in growing and processing the coffee doing it safely?
- I also determine the economics or money related activity in the production and farming process
- Is everyone living above the poverty line?
 - Do the farmers receive the right money for their coffee or cocoa?
 - Have people been unfairly kicked off their land?
 - Are farmers and processes following rules when making or producing the coffee or cocoa?
 - Do we know where the coffee comes from?

- Have people been taught or shown how to farm or process?
- Do they have access to money when they need it?
- Do they record the information about what they are making or doing regularly?

I take all this information and I put it together in a report or scorecard and I provide it to them and others who want to assist them in doing the right things or help them find better ways to conserve the environment around them if some of the things are damaging it. If all these things are done correctly the farmers will be able to ensure that they live nicely, look after the environment and are healthy and safe! Most of these farmers are currently very poor and cannot afford to live comfortably. So those who use the farmers products or consume the chocolates or coffee are able to assist the farmers. Those farmers that are hurting the environment can also be taught and shown what they can do to improve their practices.

Paul M. Tuda Germany



Paul M. Tuda is a postdoctoral scientist at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT). As part of his project at the Fishing Data East Africa Project (FIDEA), he is working together with fisheries research institutes in Tanzania, Zanzibar and Mozambique to improve

fisheries data collection and analysis for artisanal fisheries. He is also a guest lecturer at ISATEC (Tropical Fisheries and Catching Methods), Bremen University, and a Communications Specialist at Heidelberg University. He has also worked in resource and project management in 4 initiatives in Germany and Kenya. He has also held advisory tasks related to fisheries and aquaculture Win the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI). Paul M. Tuda has a PhD and a Master’s of Science degree from Bremen University. His MSc thesis focused

on artisanal reef fisheries in Kenya and his PhD thesis was on lile stolifera, or striped Herring, in Colombia. He has received 10 research grants, his current one until 2023 for the Belmont CRA Ocean Sustainability Project (OceanFrontCHANGE), Heidelberg University. He has been published 7 times, has written 3 technical reports and has also been part of 10 conferences and workshops, the latest of which was in Rome for the International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability, FAO. He is also affiliated with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, the British Ecological Society and the WIOMSA Ocean Acidification Working Group.

Krystel Mae Penaflor

Philippines

Krystel is a Philippines national who has spent the last two years working in the Climate Change Commission, Office of the President of the Philippines as a Development Management Officer. Krystel has a bachelor’s of science in forestry (social forestry and agroforestry) from the College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines. She continued her association at the university as a science research specialist working on a project titled: “Development of a Climate Change Responsive Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan for the Eight Clustered River Basins.” In this role, she was responsible for managing an island in the Philippines where she engaged with local leaders and fisherfolks to formulate innovative solutions and enhance their decision-making capabilities. Her interest in working with communities was supported by a grant from the Forest Foundation Philippines which enabled her to conduct research on climate change coping mechanisms of smallholder upland farmers. She is the first Filipino and Southeast Asian to pursue MSc Island Biodiversity and Conservation at the University of Exeter in partnership with Jersey

International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) in the United Kingdom.

How would you explain to your 4-year-old nephew what you do for the planet?

There is a saying that in order to effectively communicate with a child, you have to show them pictures and tell them a story. As a climate and environmental advocate, I always use the power of storytelling to share my experience and educate others about natural sciences. In this way, I am able to foster the importance of protecting and conserving our planet Earth and all its life forms to the younger generation.

What is the one thing everyone should know about you?

Ever since I was young, I’ve always been fascinated by history, culture, geography, and ancient architecture. My life goal is to explore the seven wonders of the world in the next ten years and write a book about my adventures.



What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

My mother’s favorite song has actually inspired me to pursue my advocacy on climate action. The song is entitled, “Colors of the wind” by Vanessa Williams. The lyrics of the song narrate how wonderful our planet Earth is and all creatures in it. Human beings should never destroy nature and deplete our natural resources because all living things rely on this fragile ecosystem. We have to remember that Earth is our only home. Therefore, we have to take care of our planet not only for the present but for the future generations to come.

You think you own whatever land you land on
The earth is just a dead thing you can claim
But I know every rock and tree and creature
Has a life, has a spirit, has a name
You think the only people who are people
Are the people who look and think like you
But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger
You'll learn things you never knew, you never knew
Have you ever heard the wolf cry to the blue corn moon
Or asked the grinning bobcat why he grinned?
Can you sing with all the voices of the mountain?

Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?
Can you paint with all the colors of the wind?
Come run the hidden pine trails of the forest
Come taste the sun-sweet berries of the earth
Come roll in all the riches all around you
And for once, never wonder what they're worth
The rainstorm and the river are my brothers
The heron and the otter are my friends
And we are all connected to each other
In a circle, in a hoop that never ends
[...hear it here.](#)

A graphic of musical notes on a treble clef, floating upwards.

Neeraja Kudrimoti

India

Neeraja Kudrimoti has a Master in Public Policy from University College London, United Kingdom. She is currently the State Program Officer – Transformation of Aspirational Districts Program, Chhattisgarh (Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Transforming Rural India Foundation Partnership). She has supported the State government of Chhattisgarh in launching the Chhattisgarh Millets Mission for revival of tribal farming systems through the promotion of millets in 8 aspirational districts of Chhattisgarh. She has previously worked as a program manager at the National Corporate Social Responsibility Hub at TISS, Mumbai, India. Neeraja was a Prime Minister’s Rural Development Fellow where she focused on the development deficit in nutrition, livelihoods, gender and access to services due to

Left Wing Extremism in the districts of Bijapur and Kanker (Chhattisgarh). In this role, her key levers were the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). She has received appreciation for her contribution in malnutrition eradication, nutrition sensitive agriculture and rural development from the Government of India and the state government of Chhattisgarh. She has also been selected as the 2020 Acumen India Fellow for the Adaptive Leadership Development Program. Her dissertation at UCL was on women empowerment issues in the state of Chhattisgarh in India. She is interested in the integration of art and music with climate action.



Md. Humayain Kabir *Austria*

Md. Humayain Kabir is a PhD candidate at the Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz, Austria where he is researching the intensification of short duration extreme convective precipitation events and its damage risk in the Alpine Foreland of Austria. He is also an Associate Professor of Environmental Science at the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong (IFESCU), Bangladesh. He holds two MScs, one in Climate Change from the University of East Anglia, UK (under the Commonwealth scholarship) and one from University of Chittagong (IFESCU), Bangladesh in Environmental Science, Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences. He also holds a certificate in Computer Application from University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, and another post-graduate certificate in Integrated Coastal Management from Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), and a Diploma in Project

Management from the International Business Management Institute, Germany. Mr. Kabir is highly trained from many universities including the 5 of top ten universities in the world. He is one of twenty-five climate scientists who have been accepted into the NASA summer school on “Satellite Observations and Climate Models” organized by NASA JPL Center for Climate Science, and the Keck Institute for Space Studies under the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA. He has also been the principal supervisor for a number of research projects on disaster risk reduction and management, climate impact assessment, climate change adaptation, and water resources management. Mr. Kabir has been contributing to peer-reviewed journals, international conferences, and seminars regularly and published more than 50 research items internationally and has worked on two theses: Flood risk modelling of the River Bure



and River Yare basin of East Anglia region in the UK under changing climate and Economic valuation of ecosystem services from the Halda river in Bangladesh. Currently, he is leading a research group of 20 members from 3 continents and working on interdisciplinary research on climate change. Apart from academic activities, he is a motivator, climate coach, and mentor of climate reality project.

What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

In 2008, one of my teachers (currently a colleague) from the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, University of Chittagong (Bangladesh) organized a movie week. As a part of this event, he screened a documentary film named ‘An Inconvenient Truth’, directed by Davis Guggenheim. Through this movie, for the very first time, I came to know about USA’s former Vice President Al Gore’s campaign to create awareness among the masses about global climate change. After watching this film, I was so motivated and inspired to work on climate change issues. Subsequently, I did my bachelor

research project on ‘Coverage of Climate Change in National Dailies of Bangladesh’. Not only was I involved with climate change research, but also, I engaged with different student organizations who are working on climate change. In fact, I established a research oriented non-governmental organization (unregistered and currently inactive). Since 2008,, I have been very active in climate change research and climate communication. As a communicator, I am an enlisted speaker of Bangladesh Radio and talk about climate change issues in Bangladesh. Fortunately, in 2020, I completed training under Al Gore and the Climate Reality Leadership Project. Currently, I am serving as a mentor of Climate Reality Project, and also working as an Ambassador of EN-ROADS(Climate Change Solutions Simulator).



Sai Parameswaran *India*

Sai Parameswaran S works directly with tribal communities in India, teaching and supporting tribal communities to make them more climate resilient. For the past 3 years, he manages the Climate Change Desk at the LAYA Resource Centre, a leading resource center for Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh. One of his roles here is to do research and field based studies on climate change and agriculture. He has also done research on agriculture management practices and climate change at AfriAsia Outsourcing

Services Private Limited before this. Sai Parameswaran S has a Master’s of Arts in Natural Resources and Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). His dissertation was on the topic, “Landscape Restoration and Climate Change Adaptation”. He conducted qualitative and quantitative research using PRA tools (social mapping, resource listing, transect walk, impact chart) for his study on climate change mitigation using landscape restoration. He also worked at GramaNiketan, an NGO, teaching faculty in the

Centre for Academic Research (CARE), which is a wing of “GramaNiketan”. He also edited, wrote and proofread books published by Smiling Unicorn, the publishing group for CARE. He enjoys reading, writing, travelling, cycling and painting.



What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

The work of art that inspired me into the realm of climate action is a poem written in the 19th century - [The Rime of the Ancient by Samuel](#)

[Taylor Coleridge](#), which is known by many people if not by its title, then by the “Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink”. As most of us know the story of the poem, I won’t go into that. But to summarize the poem, for me it’s the following few words; “Nature, crime, punishment, remorse and redemption” all stages happening in the respective order. Unlike the poem, in the

actual world, we are standing in two stages at the same point. We are committing the crimes, as well as we are also remorseful. The question is how we are going to get redemption and how / whether nature will forgive us. And I do hope the Anant Climate Action Fellowship is in fact a step towards redemption.

Nitij Singh India

Nitij is the co-founder of Aslee, an apparel brand focused on building durable, ecologically responsible products to promote a sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyle. He has a Master’s in Public Policy from Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Nitij comes with nine years of work experience and has worked in India, Norway and

Nepal. He was previously working as Manager, Strategic Government Advisory in the healthcare division of Yes Bank in India. He has also held positions in the area of healthcare at the University of Oslo and the German Development Cooperation in Nepal.



Salem Afeworki USA



What is the one thing everyone should know about you?

I was born in Ethiopia to Eritrean parents and have lived in Chile for a long time before relocating permanently to the United States. Having lived in many countries and worked in diverse multidisciplinary settings, I have fine-tuned the art of effective communication and I am really good at finding a common ground with anyone despite differences in age, ethnicity, religion or language.

Salem Afeworki is a seasoned sustainability leader and a global citizen who is passionate about making a positive impact locally and globally. Salem is the first Energy and Sustainability Manager for the City of Costa Mesa and is responsible for developing and implementing sustainability programs citywide. Prior to joining the City, she founded Value Sustainability, a boutique consultancy that specializes in climate change and community engagement services based in Southern California. Salem has worked in multidisciplinary settings for global organizations such as the United Nations, KPMG and Jacobs Engineering in 4 continents - allowing her to cultivate an

What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

I started my work in sustainability before the movie came out but the documentary by Leonardo Di Caprio, “Before the Flood”, inspired me to strengthen my commitment and work harder in local climate action.

inclusive and diverse thinking, interactions and attributes. She was named 40 under 40 in Energy Transition in 2020, North America Ambassador by One Young World (OYW) in 2019 and Citizen E by Citizene.org/ United Nations Habitat for Humanity Los Angeles in 2018 among other awards. Salem holds a Bachelors of Art in Communication and Political Science from University of Asmara, and Masters of Science Degree in Environmental Management and Auditing from the Universidad de Leon, Spain. She has also completed several executive leadership programs at MIT, UC Berkeley and University of Southern California.

How would you explain to your 4-year-old nephew what you do for the planet?

I work with like-minded people from all over the world to protect and conserve our planet. Collectively, we make sure that human beings, animals and plants have a good life today and in the future.



Shanmuga Sundara Bharathi *India*

Shanmuga Sundara Bharathi is a documentary filmmaker. He has produced, as director and scriptwriter, 90 documentaries on environment and pollution; produced and directed 7 telefilms, 2 television serials and 1 feature film. He received his Bachelor of Theatre Art’s degree in from the University of Calicut in 1983. Prior to this, he attended a theatre workshop conducted by the National School of Drama at the Gandhigram Rural Institute. He went to the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, in 1993 to do a basic television program production course and then in 1997, to do an advanced documentary production course. He worked as a teacher in Punjab and Tamil Nadu before working in

Doordarshan as a Programme Executive from 1990 to 2018. Home bound during the pandemic, from July 2020 to March 2021, he did 7 online courses on ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. A Nature based Solution Professional from IUCN Academy, he has completed the ‘leadership in biodiversity’ course as well as pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy from the online WWF-National Law University (Delhi). He was a student activist in the Silent Valley protest in 1983 and marched on foot for the Save Western Ghats March. He is a life member at the Bombay Natural History Society and The Nilgiri Natural History Society, a member of Society for



Ecological Restoration and a Commission Member of IUCN CEC; CEM; WCPA.

What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

It was 1995. Five eventless years in relation to Nature had passed since I joined Doordarshan as a regular Central Government employee. Those five years were spent in being a probationer and as a Transmission Executive / Duty Officer. During this time I was not given any programme production work. Hardly two years have passed since the beginning of invasion of a new page in television history- the satellite television.

As usual I was watching the two television sets in the Duty Room. I had to log in a big two inch thick register as to what programs were telecast at which time, the duration of the program, any issues in transmission etc., which was a deadly boring ‘job’ for a fellow who was qualified in Direction of Theatre, Films and Television productions. The ‘Duty Room’ where there was no serious duty, used to be a lonely place in the evenings..! But I used to do the ‘serious’ work of logging too earnestly.

One of the many ‘lessons’ I had to learn as a probationer is to ‘show some seriousness’ in whatever we were supposed to do ! One has to sit through and watch all those ‘programs’ and commercials telecast from evening 3:30 pm to 11:00 pm in the night, mostly sitting alone after 6:30 ! One of the two television sets was to monitor national telecasts from Delhi.

Incidentally, this national telecast was monitored

by different ‘duty officers’ in different Doordarshan Kendras all over India, apart from a dedicated ‘duty officer’ in Delhi Kendra...!! At times most of the duty officers used to flick using their remotes various other channels like National Sports, Metro, and some other channels that we need not monitor, just to escape boredom! Then it happened. I forgot everything related to my ‘duty’. Yes, it was a song..

Those days of my young years came rushing in my memory. Those high peaks, forests, animals like elephants, leopards, deers, snakes, and all my native people. My participation in the Save Silent Valley Protests in the early eighties and all those parts of Western Ghats, my friends and I used to roam around in our childhood. The streams, dammed rivers, tall trees, flowers, scents of un-smelled blossoms. After this romantic and nostalgic freshness at 10:30 in the night the mood began to change because of that beautifully visualised song.

The shock was unspeakable; even today I can’t narrate how I felt. Yes, it was the song. I was shivering; I could not sit any more; I stood watching the song. Was I feeling like crying..? No I was crying...Tears flooded my eyes..and overflowed my spectacle rim and dripped down my shirt..Yes, I was standing there crying alone..

...And then I felt like screaming...the taste of my own tears was bitter...I was almost nauseated...I

was shivering uncontrollably...I had to close my eyes and fell into my chair.. Didn’t know when the transmission ended nor did I remember to do my duty of logging.

Yes, it was that song. Beautifully pictured. The lyrics were well thought out and emotionally sung. I could see all my childhood friends in those young children in the song...and the praying and screaming adults of my Western Ghats village were there..walking like ghosts.. burnt out forests... Mowed down huge trees...

Twenty six years have passed. Even now, I am crying..Tears flow down my chest..My typing fingers fail to touch the right keys..Old age?

No. It was that song. Wrong spelling- autocorrect reminds me. It is time to share the song. It is titled ‘The Earth Song’ and was written as a ballad by none other than Michael Jackson. It was the top most viewed song in visual format at that time. Please watch it on Youtube. Beautiful filming with lots of effort.

Michael Jackson himself was the producer. Just search on Youtube : [‘Earth Song’ by Michael Jackson](#).

I am sure you will see the consequences of climate change. You will see the present predicted 26 years back. You will see the consequences of environmental degradation and our predicament.



Pankaj Jiwrajka India



Pankaj Jiwrajka manages partnerships at the Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRIF), Ranchi, which is a grassroots rural development NGO. He has experience working in corporate, government and not-for-profit organizations. At TRIF, he curates and manages partnerships. He is set to join the Air Pollution Action Group (APAG), New Delhi, as Team Lead. Previously, he has been Team Lead (State Irrigation Execution Cell), embedded within JSLPS, Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand. He was in charge of facilitating the implementation of more than 644 community-managed micro-lift irrigation schemes (CMMIS) across 23 blocks. He is also a former Prime Minister’s Rural Development Fellow (PMRDF)

and he worked with the Government of Jharkhand and the Chief Minister’s Office, Ranchi, and facilitated three unique MoUs. He has also been a Process Engineer at Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. (HPL). He has a Master’s of Science in Development Practice from the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, and a Master’s of Art’s in Public Policy from O.P.Jindal Global University for which he received the Naveen Jindal Scholarship on a merit-cum-means basis. He has also interned at the Centre for Budget & Policy Studies, Bangalore on a project titled, “Public expenditure on children in Karnataka”. He enjoys travelling, reading, playing badminton and running half marathons.

Nurul Islam Biplob Bangladesh

Md Nurul Islam is currently working with the British Council in Dhaka, Bangladesh, coordinating on a project which seeks to create alternative pathways for climate-induced migrants under Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems. Here, he has coordinated three research projects: providing support to host city local government’s plan for growth and increased migration, climate-induced migration: location most affected, drivers of migration and profiles of climate migrant families and the identification of secondary cities in Bangladesh that can attract climate-induced displaced people by expanding its economic growth and provide basic services. He has a Master’s of

Social Science in Social and Cultural Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka. The thesis he wrote here was titled, Non Formal Education: Theoretical foundation, development and practice; case songlap. He has three other publications in addition to this. He has also worked at Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods under the Climate Finance Transparency Mechanism Programme with CSRL as a research officer and at Nara Women’s University as a Research Coordinator where he led three research projects under the thematic title ‘Collaborative research with NGO with a view to improving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in the South Asian village.



Maria Elena De Matteo Italy

Maria Elena is a communications and campaign strategist and an environmentalist. Originally from Italy, she spent ten years in East Asia and is currently based in the Netherlands. She has more than ten years of international experience with public, private organizations and NGOs and specializes in handling international media relations and implementing global campaigns and major projects across APAC, Europe, and the Americas. She currently works as an independent consultant, creating campaign, communications and digital strategies for international organizations such as Greenpeace, startups and creatives. Since 2016 she has worked with several Greenpeace offices across the globe, covering different roles for global campaigns

related to technology, cities, food, forests, the IPCC Report and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP). Among others, she was the Global Project Lead for the Climate Emergency Response at Greenpeace International, where she was responsible for the development and planning of high-profile and on-the-ground responses for the Australian bushfires, typhoons in the Philippines and the Bahamas, floods in Central and Western Africa. She previously worked at the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in Singapore, at private companies in Japan and the Netherlands, and volunteered for Amnesty International in Italy and Japan. She holds an MSc and a BSc in International Relations and Asian Studies from



L’Orientale University in Naples, Italy and has studied in Japan and the UK. Maria Elena is multilingual and can speak (with different levels of fluency) the following languages - Italian, Japanese, English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Portuguese and Korean.

What is the one thing everyone should know about you?

One thing that characterizes me is that I am always willing to take risks and get out of my comfort zone. Since my main objective in life is to learn continuously, I don’t shy away from facing critical situations and testing myself by learning

from others. I am willing to ask for personal feedback, confront somebody with a difficult truth, or try new paths.

I have worked and lived in five countries across two continents (Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Hong Kong), experiencing cultural differences, language barriers, and often being

the only foreigner in the room. I’d say that especially going to Japan on my own when I was 18 and had limited resources, and later on moving there, studying, looking for a job, and trying to fit into a culture completely different from mine was one of the most challenging, but at the same time the most enriching experience I have ever had.

Sigrid Vasconez

Ecuador



Sigrid was the Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador from 2018 to 2020. She was responsible for civil society engagements on issues related to human rights. She also holds the position of Executive Secretary of the Amazon Regional Articulation. Since 2013, through a variety of positions, she has been involved in issues related to biodiversity in Ecuador and the Andean Amazon. From 2007 to 2013, she was the Head of Environment and Society for a large international NGO, Grupo Farros in Ecuador. Prior to that, she spent six years working for UNDP in Ecuador. Alongside her ongoing work in the areas of environment and biodiversity, she also taught at the FLACSO University, Ecuador and at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador for several years. Her rich body of work spans 22 years, which includes extensive consultancy work with multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies and a stint at the Ministry of Environment, Ecuador. She is a sociologist and environmental biologist and has a Master in Development Policy from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands.

What is the one thing everyone should know about you?

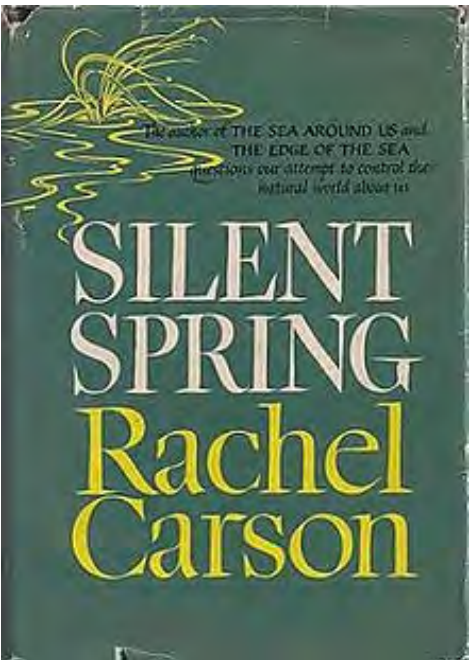
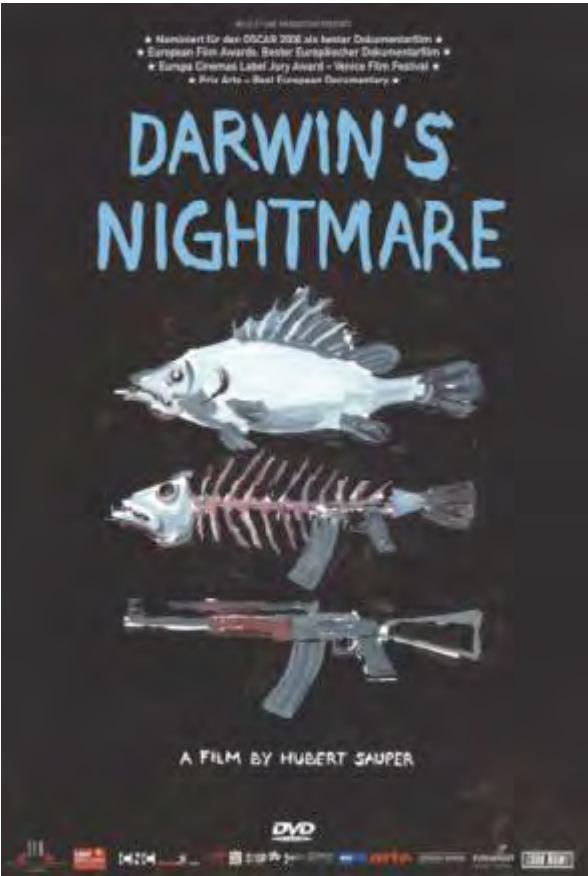
I love to connect with diverse people. I like to connect people with ideas. I am often that person who you would call if you need something/someone. Resourcefulness is a trait that defines much of what I like to do. I enjoy helping out and bringing ideas and people together. I like taking action. I am a news junkie and think about politics most of the time. I have participated in electoral politics. I think we need more agents of change in politics, if we shall change the status quo.

How would you explain to your 4-year-old nephew what you do for the planet?

I try, by working in the environmental sector, make the world a better place. Although I work as an independent consultant I am always working with different people from diverse professional backgrounds. I am involved in policy work, and I often look for the possibility of having a concrete application and/or direct impact with the work I carry out. I work, mostly with civil society and local communities to help them sustain their livelihoods while conserving biodiversity. I am constantly involved in environmental causes. I have the heart and conviction of an activist. I like writing and generally voice out my concerns publicly (social media). I want to mobilize people, public institutions, entrepreneurs, and civil society to act to deter the climate crisis.



Chico Mendes



What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

Book: Silent Spring by Rachel Carson, was one of the first environmental premieres I read during my first year in College.

Event: The death of Chico Mendes in 1988, when I graduated from highschool, a year after he had received an environmental award.

Documentary: Darwin's Nightmare and An Inconvenient Truth

Stacey Alvarez de la Campa

Barbados

Stacey Alvarez de la Campa is an educational/legal consultant, environmental expert and teacher of English language arts, history, social studies, and communication studies. She is currently practising in three places: the Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, University of Strathclyde, Scotland, the Worldwide Sustainability Warriors organisation, and the Lex Caribbean Attorneys-at-Law, Barbados. At the University of Strathclyde, she is an Educational Consultant with the Ocean Explorers Programme. She initiated the implementation of an education programme for primary age pupils which draws on the UNSDGs. She is an Environmental Education Expert for children and adult learners. She is a Legal Assistant at Lex Caribbean Attorneys-at-law and one of her key achievements here has been to be appointed to the firm’s Environmental Committee



to enhance environmental awareness among team members and promote operational practices focusing on recycling and sustainability. She has also been a freelance writer and an English language, literature and arts teacher and in this role, she has extensive experience in teaching students with learning disabilities and emotional/physiological challenges. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature with a minor in Linguistics from the University of the West Indies, as well as an undergraduate degree in Law. She has also studied Nordic Literature at the University of Odense, Denmark.. She also has certificates in peer counselling, anti-money laundering policy and writing. She enjoys horseback riding, surfing, hiking and similar activities. She also likes reading, writing poetry and short stories, cooking, painting, and she is a member of Amnesty International.



What is one thing everyone should know about you?

I would like everyone to know that I am relentlessly positive, and that I will always seek ways to change challenges into opportunities. Also, the greatest love of my life is, and always will be, my son, CJ. CJ has blessed me with the incredible gift of seeing the world through his eyes, and I am so happy that his spirit chose mine to be his mother! It is my son that motivates me to make this world a better place, and do my best to protect Mother Earth so that he can enjoy the wonderful beauty of nature.

Susan Jackson

Germany

Susan T. Jackson is a Political Science researcher who is utilising an intersectional feminist approach to explore systems of ‘Othering’ in the virtual and physical worlds. She secured a perfect 4.0 GPA when getting her PhD in Political Science (International Relations, Gender, Methodology) from the University of Arizona, USA. She also has a Master of Arts degree in International Studies (Regional Studies (MENA), International Development and Trade) from the American University, Washington, DC, USA. She is currently an Affiliated Researcher at Stockholm University, Sweden. Prior to this, she was Principal Investigator at Malmö and Stockholm Universities,

Sweden, where she spearheaded a €2 million, 5-year interdisciplinary grant on gender, intersectionality and social media investigating militarisation’s social media footprint through a gendered lens. She has also been Senior Researcher and Head of Arms Production Project at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden, collecting, analysing, presenting and publishing specialized industry data. She also has 20 years experience of teaching in universities in Germany, Sweden, and the USA. She has also been published at least 14 times and has won 3 grants in total. She is currently serving as an executive committee member,



International Communications Section (ICOMM) and as steering committee member, Academic Network. She is also a member of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom and a former member of the University of Arizona’s Faculty Senate Task Force monitoring labour and human rights issues. She is fluent in German and Turkish languages.

What work of art inspires you to pursue your work in climate action?

For most of my childhood, my family lived in a small house on a two-lane highway outside of a little town tucked in among the trees on the back of an old mountain range. We were in farm country not far from recently abandoned coal mines in the part of the northeast US that is part of the traditional territories of the Lenape people. Being the youngest sibling by far and lacking playmates my age nearby, I spent most of summer vacation on my own. Until I was ten or so, I liked to climb a particular tree at the edge of the woods that our yard was carved into. I remember rigging up a rope with a bucket that

could hold a book and a snack, pulling my stash up after me once I had reached just the right spot. I’d spend the afternoon sitting high in the branches, transported above the treetops to wherever my book would take me. Other times I’d scramble under the barbed wire fence that kept the cows in the woods and out of our yard (or, more importantly, off of the highway). I’d explore the mountainside beneath the cooling canopy, thankful for the reprieve from the summer heat.

Though I’ve not lived in the hills of my childhood for almost four decades, those woods have travelled the world with me, and I am eternally grateful. Even now while writing this, I remember the comforting sensation of settling into the

crook of the tree’s branches anticipating what stories might unfold, or the joy of seeing the sunlight filtering through the leaves high above, dappling the leaf-covered ground as I walked among the trees.

Trees can teach you something if you listen and they ask for very little in return. The only thing I can think to offer them is to learn to be a better steward for them, to use what I learn and the contacts I make to protect them from the damage they are experiencing because of the human-driven climate, pollution and biodiversity crisis. I don’t have any kind of specialty involving trees, but without them I am not sure I’d be where I am today. In case you haven’t guessed yet, trees inspire me to be better. And better means climate action.

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