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Global Spotlight Report #22

Theme: National Climate Leaders of 2019

Introduction

Climate Scorecard is pleased to announce our first annual National Climate Leader Awards. These awards go to the men and women in leading greenhouse emitting countries who are making a difference in the climate policies of their countries and the world. They include wizened scholars, researchers, political leaders, and young climate change activists. They are applauded for the work they are doing to prevent the catastrophe that will occur if global warming goes unchecked.

Those on Climate Scorecard's National Climate Leader Awards List were nominated by a Climate Scorecard Country Manager in each of the 22 greenhouse gas emitting countries that we cover. Our Country Managers tracked climate related events in their countries over the past year and are well positioned to propose candidates for our list.

The table below identifies the leaders according to their country and area of expertise, and biographical profiles of each Climate Leader follow:

Summary Table

Country	Climate Leader	Role
Australia	Timothy Flannery	Scientist & Climate Advocate
Brazil	Marina Silva	Political Leader
Canada	Jonathan Wilkinson	Minister of Environment & Climate Change
China	Shi Wang	Green Entrepreneur
European Union	Lorenzo Fioramonti	Minister of Education (Italy)
France	Valérie Masson-Delmotte	Climate Scientist and Research Director
Germany	Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer	Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Science
India	Sunita Narain	Director General, Center for Science & Environment
Indonesia	Siti Nurbaya Bakar	Forestry & Environment Minister
Japan	Seita Emori	Environmental Scientist
Mexico	Martha Delgado	Political Leader
Nigeria	Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chiubern	Team 54 Founder
Russia	Vladimir Chuprov	Leader, Greenpeace
Saudi Arabia	Buthaina Awad	Environmental Activist
South Africa	Dr. Debra Roberts	Environmental Policy Influencer
South Korea	Yeonchul Yoo	Climate Change Ambassador
Spain	Teresa Ribera	Minister of Ecological Transition
Thailand	Dr. Wijarn Simachaya	President, Thailand Environment Institute
Turkey	Dr. Levent Kurnaz	Director, Center for Climate Change & Policy Studies

Ukraine	Iryna Stavchuk	Deputy Minister of Energy & Environment
United Kingdom	Caroline Lucas	Green Party MP
United States	Jamie Margolin	Youth Activist

Australia

Timothy Flannery, Scientist and Climate Advocate

Tim Flannery is a veteran scientist and climate advocate. At 63 years old, Flannery is currently a professorial fellow at the University of Melbourne, also his hometown. His professional achievements span the scientific and advocacy spheres. A prolific researcher, Flannery is credited with the discovery of new mammalian species and critical contributions to the Australian paleontological record. David Attenborough has even argued he belongs in the league of all-time great explorers!



As a climate advocate Flannery has held multiple high-level advisory roles, most importantly as the inaugural head of the *Australian Climate Commission*. The government body was formed in 2011 and tasked with providing high-quality information on climate solutions to the Australian public until it was disbanded by a newly-elected Liberal-National government in 2013. Recognizing the necessity of having a high-level climate advisory body operating in Australia, Flannery launched a new not-for-profit immediately and today the *Climate Council* remains one of Australia's leading climate orgs, renowned for its ability to produce high-level research and advice to governments. Tim remains Chief Councillor of the organisation.

As an author, Flannery's 2005 book *The Weather Makers* received critical acclaim and is ranked alongside *An Inconvenient Truth* for its ability to clearly communicate climate science to a wider audience. Follow up titles include *Atmosphere of Hope: Searching for Solutions to the Climate Crisis* (2015) & *Sunlight & Seaweed: an Argument for how to Feed, Power and Clean up the World* (2017), where Flannery details a host of possible solutions to the climate crisis.

From *The Weather Makers*:

“One thing that I hear again and again as I discuss climate change with friends, family, and colleagues is that it is something that may affect humanity in decades to come but is no immediate threat to us. I’m far from certain that that is true, and I’m not sure it is even relevant. If serious change or the effects of serious change are decades away, that is just a long tomorrow. Whenever my family gathers for a special event, the true scale of climate change is never far from my mind...On a broader scale, 70 percent of all people alive today will still be alive in 2050, so climate change affects almost every family on this planet.”

Written in 2005, it’s amazing how prescient Flannery’s writing is today.

For decades now, Flannery has been warning of impending climate damage and has drawn links between extreme weather events in Australia - heatwaves, floods, bushfires - and rising global emissions. His passionate, thoroughly-researched, authoritative arguments have set the standard for climate communication in the Australian advocacy sector. Despite having little success with federal politicians (especially conservative MPs), Flannery has maintained his composure and continued to produce exceptional research and written works, laying out visions and solutions for Australia to combat the climate crisis.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-interview-tim-flannery>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/history/tim-flannery.aspx>

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/abbott-shuts-down-climate-commission-2013-0919-2u185.html>

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5293273>

<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/17/i-now-look-back-on-my-20-years-of-climate-activism-as-a-colossal-failure>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/aug/26/bushfires-heatwaves-and-early-deaths-the-climate-is-changing-before-our-eyes>

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6396775/civil-society-is-torn-flannery-on-climate/?cs=14231>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Australia Country Manager Julian Atchison

Brazil

Marina Silva, Political Leader

Marina Silva, 61, is a Brazilian politician and environmentalist. She is currently the leader of one of Brazil's main Sustainability focus Party (REDE), having previously served as a senator of the state of Acre between 1995 and 2011 and Minister of the Environment from 2003 to 2008. She also ran for president in 2010, 2014, and 2018.



Silva has won a number of awards from international organizations in recognition of her environmental activism, such as the Goldman Environmental Prize for South & Central America (1996) and the Sophie Prize (2009). She has been named one of the Champions of the Earth by the UN's Environmental Program in 2007 and was one of the Women of the Year by the British Financial Times Newspaper. She was also described by the Guardian as one of the top 50 people who can save the planet.

Silva is one of the few politicians in Brazil to openly defend environmental concerns, and the main political symbol of sustainability in Brazil. However, from an electoral point of view, most of her supporters identify themselves with her life story rather than with her discussion of sustainability. Born to a very poor family of rubber tappers and raised in the middle of the Amazon jungle, Silva breaks the mold for Brazilian politicians and represents sectors of the population that are often neglected.

In terms of Climate change related issues, Silva is known for her struggles to protect the rainforest from illegal logging. She has a track record of taking on powerful vested interests when she worked as an environment minister: Silva imprisoned more than 700 people for environmental crimes and slashed the rate of deforestation in half. This meant clashing with the big agricultural businesses responsible for 20% of Brazil's GDP. More than that, her name represents the opposition to large estates of soybean and genetically modified crops as well as cattle raising. Additionally, she believes that it is not necessary to sacrifice development to implement a green agenda.

If Silva had been successful in becoming Brazil's president, she would have represented a very important step forward to the nation's green agenda. It is expected that she would have intensified discussions with the agricultural sector and raise taxes on activities that harm the environment. Additionally, she has been very vocal in her support of low carbon agriculture, a very important policy for climate change mitigation that could lead Brazil to decrease emissions exponentially.

While the rest of the world is starting to talk about the pressing need to discuss climate change and sustainability, Brazil continues to turn the other way under pretenses that developing the country's economy is more relevant than protecting the environment right now. This presents a very relevant challenge to Silva's possibilities of defending the environment and, more specifically, Brazil's Amazon forest. She strongly defends a climate change agenda should be a priority in Brazil. Her voice is increasingly relevant given the current forest fires in the Amazon that have been devastating the region over the past months.

Silva remains very influential in the global environmental community. She is one of the politicians in Brazil openly critiquing the current president Jair Bolsonaro's speeches and policies on the rapidly rising deforestation and fires in the Amazon.

"The fires in the Amazon are a crime against humanity. The Brazilian government is undoing all the environmental policies that previously existed". - Marina Silva

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager Luiza Martins Karpavicius

Canada

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Jonathan Wilkinson, 54, has represented the North Vancouver riding, in the House of Commons of Canada since 2015. He was appointed [Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada \(ECCC\)](#) on November 20, 2019. He previously served as Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard in 2018. He also served as Catherine McKenna's RCCC parliamentary secretary from 2015-2018. He will now attend the UN's COP25 (9) in Madrid, and participate in a panel on how to advance the use of carbon pricing to support ambitious climate action and sustainable development.



Wilkinson's biography notes that he was born in Ontario, raised in Saskatchewan, and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan. He then went on to become a Rhodes Scholar. He has master degrees in international relations, politics, and economics from Oxford and McGill.

Before entering politics, Wilkinson worked for over 20 years in leadership positions at several green technology companies and management consultancies. His predecessor,

Ms. McKenna, is now Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; this is a new portfolio where she'll continue to address some environmental issues such as decarbonising public transit and improving energy efficiency. McKenna oversaw ECCC's work on developing climate policies and carbon pricing measures under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. Wilkinson will continue to implement and develop various parts of this policy.

At COP21, McKenna helped negotiate the Paris Agreement, endorsed the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, and later secured the Framework. This year, the federal government gave an ultimatum to impose a carbon tax on four provinces that didn't support the federal emissions reduction strategy. Among Wilkinson's first orders of business will be five-year targets and legislation to hold Canada accountable to meet them. "Environment is probably the most challenging portfolio in government and he is remarkably well suited for those challenges," says Stewart Elgie, a law professor at the University of Ottawa's Institute of the Environment.

Wilkinson is quoted recently as saying "We have started the process of trying to think through the economics of how we move through this energy transition but obviously we need to do more." He sees clean technologies among the key solutions to Canada's climate and economic problems.

As Parliament is recalled, Trudeau and his officials' "Speech from the Throne" presents the direction for government going forward. Members of Parliament debate and then vote. Given a minority government, to pass, the speech needs the support of a majority - 170 seats or more. This also determines if the Liberal minority carries on.

For more information, please email Climate Scorecard Canadian Country Manager: Diane Szoller at Canada@climatescorecard.org.

China

Shi Wang, Green Entrepreneur

Shi Wang built a real estate empire on a 'green construction' strategy when building luxury was mainstream, anchored environmental protection in government policy, and led China's businesses to adopt more sustainable business practices. Wang is among China's foremost environmentalists and entrepreneurs. Former Chairman of the China Vanke Group, he founded the company in 1984 and built it into the largest residential real estate developer in China and a Fortune 500 business. In 2017, he stepped down as Chairman. Today he sits on a number of



boards, a.o. the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Governance for Sustainability and the WWF, focusing on forests, biodiversity, and climate change.

An avid mountaineer, Wang scaled the world's top seven mountains. Reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro at the pivotal moment, he turned from entrepreneur to environmentalist: "One of the earliest western stories I read was *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* by Ernest Hemingway. But when I had a chance to summit Kilimanjaro in 2002, there was almost no snow left. I then thought 'we have to do something'. I believe that pollution and other environmental issues are a real problem." He went on to build awareness for environmental issues and to successfully lobby the Chinese government to add environmental protection into the 12th Five Year Plan, encouraging new standards of architecture and construction.

Wang was the first Chinese entrepreneur to participate in the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Initial reception of the participating Chinese government officials was uncertain; they could not see what business had to do with climate change policy. He has since been successful in convincing the government of the importance of entrepreneurs in addressing climate change and has led China's Private Sector Delegation to the UNCCC three times. In 2017, Wang formed the C Team, a nonprofit organization that encourages Chinese entrepreneurs to explore green opportunities and adopt low-carbon processes.

As an entrepreneur, Wang turned his beliefs into action within his own company. Early on, Vanke provided fully-furnished affordable apartments for "the ordinary Chinese", "for living" not for investment. Wang spearheaded Vanke's sustainable building strategy by requiring all of its buildings to achieve China's Green Building Evaluation certification that demands residential buildings conserve water, energy, materials, and other resources.

By offering fully-furnished apartments and using prefabricated elements in the construction process, Vanke kept control of materials, quality, and processes. Prefab allows for faster construction cycles, the use of eco-friendly materials, and reduced resources and waste. Wang even approached Greenpeace in 2008 for advice on how to combat the use of illegally logged timber. Consequently, Vanke changed to using steel molding and worked with industry to create a labeling system for timber imported into China. In 2016, Vanke and a consortium consisting of various real estate associations initiated a program to green supply chains. By 2018 a total of 18% of the sector had signed up. The consortium has since developed green procurement standards as well as compiled a 'white list' of suppliers taking action to reduce their emissions.

Wang regularly publishes his views in a Weibo Blog. Monographies include "The Vanke Way: Lessons on Driving Turbulent Change from a Global Real Estate Giant" and "The Ladder of the Soul".

LEARN MORE

https://www.vgtu.lt/files/2879/143/7/16_0/HBS%20China%20Vanke.PDF
<https://money.cnn.com/galleries/2012/news/international/1201/gallery.china-business-leaders.fortune/4.html>
<https://asiasociety.org/asia-game-changer-awards/wang-shi>
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/leaders/wang-shi>

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/united-states/article/2181194/how-chinas-fight-against-climate-change>

http://www.sohu.com/a/282829278_260616
https://www.weibo.com/wangshi?is_hot=1

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager: Annette Wiedenbach

European Union

Lorenzo Fioramonti, Italian Minister of Public Education

In 2019, Italy became the first country in the world to mandate the study of climate change in schools. The man behind this important announcement was Lorenzo Fioramonti, the Italian Minister of Public Education. Under the new law, all state schools will dedicate at least one hour a week to sustainability and climate change issues.

Fioramonti was born on 29 April 1977 in Rome and holds a degree in Philosophy. He became a political scientist and professor of political economy at the University of Pretoria, South Africa and Associate Fellow of the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation. He is also a member of the Center for Social Investment at the University of Heidelberg, the Hertie School of Governance and the United Nations University.



Fioramonti's articles appeared in the New York Times, The Guardian, Harvard Business Review, Die Presse, Das Parlament, Der Freitag, Mail & Guardian and Foreign Policy. He has a monthly column in Business Day, the leading financial newspaper in South Africa and has been co-director of the scientific journal *The Journal of Common Market Studies*. He has co-authored and co-edited a total of ten books, the most famous being *Gross Domestic Problem: The Politics Behind the World's Most Powerful Number* and *How Numbers Rule the World: The Use and Abuse of Statistics in Global Politics*.

Between 1997 and 2000, Fioramonti was a parliamentary assistant, collaborating free of charge with Antonio Di Pietro to develop policies for young people in the suburbs. In 2018, he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies and in 2019, he was appointed as Minister of Education, University and Research in the Government Count II. Fioramonti is known for his strong position regarding a crucial increase in the budget allocated for education in Italy.

“There are countries like Bhutan which focus on happiness and well-being rather than GDP, but this is the first time that a country has taken the UN agenda and turned it into a teaching model,” said the minister, who is a member of the Five Star Movement.

“This is a new model of civic education centred on sustainable development and climate change,” the minister told The Telegraph. “It’s a new subject that will be taught from grade one to grade 13, from the ages of six through to 19.”

The ignorance about climate change is considered a major factor behind the current situation the world is facing. Italy, with the initiative of its Education Minister is taking a new lead in looking at the current world and its future from a new angle. Sustainability and climate change should be a center of education in all countries. Raising a new generation aware of climate change, the environment, and its challenges will create a responsible population: a population which is adapting its social and economic behavior to better the environment and their surroundings, and a population which is aware of the challenges ahead and is working together to protect, preserve, and create a sustainable planet for future generations.

Although Italy’s initiative is on the national level, it could be used as an example encouraging other European and non-European countries to follow; thus, creating a future generation that is cooperating to tackle climate change issues and improve the sustainability of our planet.

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager: Ibrahim Abdel-Ati

France

Ms. Valérie Masson-Delmotte, Climate Scientist and Research Director

Ms. Valérie Masson-Delmotte, born October 29, 1971, is a leading French climate scientist and Research Director at the Climate and Environment Sciences Laboratory of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (*Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives*, CEA). In her work, Masson-Delmotte uses data from past climates, including water vapour, ice cores, and tree rings, to test models of the current climate change.



Scientist and champion of accessible evidence-based information

Climate Scorecard sees that Valérie Masson-Delmotte has in several important ways made a strong contribution to the efforts against climate change. She rose to national prominence in 2010 after appearing in a televised debate against climate change sceptic Claude Allègre, ex-Minister of Education and member of the French Academy of Sciences. Following the debate, Ms. Masson-Delmotte was among the initiators of an appeal by hundreds of climate scientists requesting that the Minister of Science Valérie Pécresse dismiss Allègre's book on climate. A year later, Masson-Delmotte published the book *Climat. Le vrai et le faux*, which seeks to respond to climate change denialist arguments. Since these days, Ms. Masson-Delmotte has been a leading figure in countering climate change denialism in France.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte is first and foremost a nationally and internationally distinguished climate scholar. In 2015, she became co-chair of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Working Group I \(WG I\)](#), also known as the Physical Science Basis working group. WG I aims at assessing the physical scientific basis of the climate system and climate change, including topics such as changes in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, observed changes in temperatures, rainfall, glaciers, and sea level, and historical and paleoclimatic perspectives on climate change. In this role, Ms. Masson-Delmotte has contributed to several IPCC reports. The latest of these is WG I's contribution to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in 2013; the next report, AR6, is currently underway.

Since 2018, she is also a member of the new national climate advisory council in France (*Haut conseil pour le climat*), an independent expert body established to guide policy making. The council's first [report](#), published in June 2019, clearly assesses the climate effects of different sectors in the French society and suggests a way forward for effective climate policy. Through her scientific contributions and roles in the IPCC and the climate

advisory council, Ms. Masson-Delmotte is at the centre of climate research and policymaking in France and in the world.

Finally, Masson-Delmotte has actively facilitated the spreading of knowledge about climate change; [in the words of the daily *Le Monde*](#), she has become “the face of climate science and international expertise on climate change” in France. Ms. Masson-Delmotte has written several popular science publications and children’s books and frequently makes visits at schools and public places to give talks on climate change topics. She has urged youth and students to put pressure on decision-makers and supported popularisation initiatives such as translating IPCC reports into French. In 2018-2019, she successfully advocated for stronger inclusion of climate sciences, and knowledge of the human impact on the climate, in high school curricula in France.

Valérie Masson-Delmotte has [spoken openly](#) about the difficulty of conveying scientific information in a clear and truthful, yet convincing way. Some people try to use any scientific errors and approximations to undermine generally solid data, while others react to alarming scientific findings with feelings of fear, helplessness, or anger. Some reject results of climate science for religious or ideological reasons, and still others believe that technological developments will solve any problems related to climate change, which Masson-Delmotte sees as addressing the symptoms rather than the cause. The key to change, however, is that people receive, understand, and act upon information; as Masson-Delmotte has noted, “If the information we [scientists] produce remain shut away in our little scientific world, it has no value. Our challenge is to share it within the education system and with decision-makers.”

Valérie Masson-Delmotte continues to actively contribute to the work of the IPCC and the Haut conseil pour le climat. She has been tireless in her efforts to spread knowledge about climate change, basing her arguments on evidence-based scientific research.

In her own words:

“The understanding of how the climate changes, and the understanding of the role of humankind in this change; these two realisations are shaking up our relation to our environment. We are no longer in a state of uncertainty, staring at the sky trying to figure out what might be coming down on us. We are not passive victims of natural disasters. We are actors and agents, and it is essential that each and every one of us is able to grasp the scope of the challenges brought on by climate change, while having an understanding of the orders of magnitude and of the risks. As we learn about the history of humankind, it is essential that we learn about the history of our climate, the risks induced by our lifestyle, and the considerable greenhouse gas emissions brought about by this lifestyle.”

Extract, freely translated into English, from Valérie Masson-Delmotte (2011), [Climat : le vrai et le faux](#).

Selected publications by Valérie Masson-Delmotte:

- C. Cassou & V. Masson-Delmotte (2015) *Parlons climat en 30 questions*. La Documentation française.

- J. Poitou, P. Braconnot & V. Masson-Delmotte (2015) *Le climat, la Terre et les Hommes*. EDP Sciences.
- [IPCC AR5, WG1](#) (2014). Co-coordinator of chapter 5 (information from climate archives) and contributor to chapters 1 (introduction) and 10 (detection-attribution).
- V. Masson-Delmotte (2013) 'Ice with everything', in D.W.H. Walton (ed.), *Antarctica: Global science from a frozen continent*. Cambridge University Press.
- V. Masson-Delmotte & al. (2012) *150 questions sur l'océan et le climat*. Le Pommier.
- V. Masson-Delmotte & al. (2011) *Climat : le vrai et le faux*. Le Pommier.

Children's books:

- V. Masson-Delmotte & M. Delmotte (2009) *Atmosphère, quel effet de serre*. Le Pommier.
- V. Masson-Delmotte & G. Jugie (2007) *Les expéditions polaires*. Le Pommier.
- V. Masson-Delmotte & B. Dubrulle (2005) *Le climat, de nos ancêtres à vos enfants*. Le Pommier.

For a full list of Valérie Masson-Delmotte's publications, see <http://www.researcherid.com/rid/G-1995-2011>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Managers Anna Savlainen and Stephen Savarese

Germany

Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, Director at Potsdam Institute for Climate Science

Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer, born on the 8th of July 1961 in Bavaria, Germany studied economics and obtained his PhD at the Technical University of Darmstadt in 1999. Currently, he is one of the directors at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Science (PIK) together with Johan Rockström and is a professor at the Technical University of Berlin.



In 2012, he was made director of the newly established institute 'Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change' and was a co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III "Mitigation and Climate Change" from 2008 – 2015.

His career path became internationally known as one of the leading authors in the 4th IPCC assessment between 2004-2008. Edenhofer also functions as a consultant for the

World Bank in the new “Green Growth Knowledge Platform” and is co-chair of the Energy Platform des European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (Euro-CASE).

Edenhofer has contributed both internationally and nationally to climate policies providing guidance and scientific advice. Most recently, he has contributed to the debate on the carbon tax, which is still not part of the German law. He and four other authors delivered a 100-page document on possible pathways for a successful carbon national tax prior to the release of the new climate packet in September this year (2019). The idea proposed was to introduce a 3-step carbon tax by first putting a set price of **at least 50** €/ton CO₂, then introducing a national carbon trading scheme followed by an international one within Europe. In an interview with the Handelsblatt Magazine, Edenhofer said that his advice would be to slowly increase the carbon price to 130 €/ton by 2030. The government’s newly proposed and endorsed climate packet includes a carbon tax, however the initial carbon price was set to 10 €/ton. Edenhofer commented that the ‘new climate packet was a reason to become hopeless’. With such a low price, the set targets were doomed to fail.

A predominant and recurring challenge for Edenhofer and his research teams are the ongoing debates with politicians and decision makers to take up advice from the scientific community. In a *Zeit-Magazine* article Edenhofer discusses the struggle that both scientists and politicians have in giving and receiving the necessary knowledge to make proper changes to climate policies. Edenhofer argues that there is a lot of contradicting studies that make it hard for politicians to act. International bodies like the IPCC are the way to move forward, according to Edenhofer, and it is what politicians should trust and take advice from.

In a 2018 German national radio station interview, prior to COP 24 in Poland, Edenhofer commented that the pursued goal of the conference should be leaving with the understanding that global emissions has not yet reached its maximum point. On the question of a carbon price he answered: *“Wir haben noch nicht das Maximum der Emissionen erreicht und dieses Bewusstsein muss jetzt bei der COP24 wachsen, dass Staaten sich gegenseitig helfen, vernünftige Instrumente einzuführen. Und ein Instrument, ohne das nichts gehen wird, ist der CO2-Preis. Die Klimapolitik ohne CO2-Preis, das wäre ungefähr so, als wenn man sich eine moderne Medizin ohne Antibiotika vorstellen wollte.”* (“**We haven’t yet reached the maximum emissions, and this awareness must grow during COP24 so that nations can help each other implement functional instruments. One instrument, which cannot be excluded, is a price on carbon. Climate politics without a carbon price are equivalent to modern medicine without antibiotics.**”)

Over the years, Prof. Dr. Edenhofer has significantly contributed to the global climate scientific community, always with a focus on migration and adaptive mechanisms (particularly in terms of the emission trading schemes) and sustainable economic development. Starting with his own business in Bosnia in the 90’s, followed by his time at the university and finally the first role as leading author for the 4th assessment of the

IPCC, Edenhofer has always worked and strived for the greater good of human society. His continuous dialogue with politicians and ongoing research on low-carbon economies has influenced the political debate on carbon trade and the internal coal debate. People like Edenhofer are needed to transform German Climate Change Policy.

Publications

1. Peer Review

Edenhofer, O., Flachsland, C., Kalkuhl, M., Knopf, B., Pahle, M., 2019

[Bewertung des Klimapakets und nächste Schritte](#)

MCC, PIK

2. Working Paper

Edenhofer, O., Flachsland, C., Kalkuhl, M., Knopf, B., Pahle, M., 2019

[Optionen für eine CO₂-Preisreform](#)

MCC, PIK

3. Working Paper

Kalkuhl, M., Steckel, J., Edenhofer, O., 2019

[All or nothing: Climate policy when assets can become stranded](#)

4. Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

Edenhofer, O., Flachsland, C., Schmid L.K., 2019

[Decarbonization and EU ETS Reform: Introducing a price floor to drive low-carbon investments](#)

A list of his publications can be found on the website of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Science
<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/members/edenh>

Literature:

Link to article about the opinion of Edenhofer and his team on the new proposed climate packet

<https://www.sonnenseite.com/de/politik/pik-und-mcc-liefern-detaillierte-einschaetzung-des-deutschen-klimapakets.html>

Link to the Website of the Mercator Research Institute of Climate Change and Edenhofer's Team

<https://www.mcc-berlin.net/ueber-uns/team/edenhofer-ottmar.html>

Biography of Ottmar Edenhofer

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottmar_Edenhofer

Article of Edenhofer on the relevance of the IPCC

<https://www.zeit.de/2012/40/Weltklimarat-IPCC-Pro-Contra-Schellnhuber-Edenhofer/s-eite-2>

Link to interview with the German Radio Station (October 2018)

https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/klimaforscher-edenhofer-wir-sind-nur-die-treuhaende-r.868.de.html?dram:article_id=430455

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Germany Country Manager Berit Mohr

India

Sunita Narain, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment

Sunita Narain is a Delhi-based environmentalist and author. She is currently the Director General of the Center for Science and Environment (CSE: <https://www.cseindia.org/>) and Editor of the biweekly magazine, Down To Earth (<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/>).



Narain plays an active role in policy formulation on issues of environment and development in India and globally. She was a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change and has been awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour.

In 2005, the Centre for Science and Environment was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize under her leadership. In 2016, Time Magazine listed her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Narain's work is to research the interaction between food and the environment. Her interest is to ensure that countries in the Southern world do not adopt highly chemical intensive agricultural systems as they do not have the capacity to mitigate and manage the toxic fallout on the environment and human health.

Professional Career

Narain began working with the Centre for Science and Environment in 1982, working with the founder Anil Agarwal while completing her studies at the University of Delhi. In 1985, she co-edited the State of India's Environment report and then went on to study issues related to forest management. For this project, she travelled across the country to understand people's management of natural resources.

In 1989, Narain and Agarwal wrote 'Towards Green Villages' on the subject of local democracy and sustainable development. In her years at the Centre, Narain has studied the relationship between Environment and development, and worked to create public consciousness about the need for sustainable development. In 2012, she wrote the 7th State of India's Environment Reports, Excreta Matters, an analysis of urban India's water supply and pollution.

Over the years, Narain has also developed the management and financial support systems needed for the Centre, which has over 100 staff members and a dynamic program profile. In the early 1990s, she became more involved in global environmental issues and she continues to work on these issues as a researcher and advocate. Her research interests are wide-ranging: from global democracy, with a special focus on climate change, to the need for local democracy, where she has worked both on forest-related resource management and water-related issues.

In 2008, Narain delivered the K R Narayanan Oration on "Why Environmentalism Needs Equity: Learning from the environmentalism of the poor to build our common future". Narain also appeared alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in the documentary *Before The Flood* and talked about the impact of climate change on the Monsoon in India and how it affects farmers' communities.

Narain's efforts in combating climate change are conjoined with evidence based research in working with businesses and multi-stakeholders; she advocates the point that any action undertaken by stakeholders has to be well thought through to avoid any potential fall outs that may negatively affect people and the planet.

One of her key efforts most recently has been to combine her knowledge, experience, and know how to demonstrate the benefits of organic food and its impact on health and climate through town hall meetings. These meetings provide cooking demonstrations by leading chefs in front of large audiences from all walks of life as an effort to share insight with the general public on issues of food, health, and climate change.

Quote by Sunita Narain post COP 25 held in Madrid and what it entails for countries like India:

"So, what should be done? There is nothing wrong with setting a net-zero target, per se. But the objective should be to incentivise countries to do more at home and then to buy whatever remains through global trading systems. But this means setting a base price on carbon trading – below this rate (say \$100-150 per tonne) projects would not qualify.

This would mean that only those projects would be funded that would be transformational, and not transitional, in the developing world. Countries like India could leapfrog to much cleaner futures. We could avoid first polluting and then cleaning up. This is the future we seek. But for this to happen, for once, climate agreements must walk the talk; not just talk the talk."

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard India Country Manager Pooran Chandra Pandey

Indonesia

Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Forestry and Environment Minister

Siti Nurbaya Bakar, born in 1956, is the 10th Minister of Environment and Forestry. She is a member of the NasDem (national democrat party) and was renewed to the minister position after Joko Widodo's election victory this year. She has served in this role since 2014.



After reappointment, Bakar indicated that her top priority would be to work with the Ministry of Agriculture to end slash-and-burn practices, prevent deforestation, and prevent peatland fire. Her top priorities would all contribute to reducing GHG emissions.

Bakar is a graduate of the Bogor Institute of Agriculture and previously was the Secretary General of the DPD RI (Regional Representative Council of the Republic of Indonesia) from 2006 to 2013. She also was the Pelaksana Manajemen Sekolah Tinggi Pemerintahan Dalam Negeri (STPDN) from 2003-2004 and Sekretaris Jenderal Departemen Dalam Negeri from 2001-2005.

Her ministry has more tools, responsibility, and oversight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions than any other ministry.

In August of this year, Bakar announced a renewal and upgrade of the crucial peatland and forest clearing ban. The ban on clearing peatland and forest has been renewed every two years since 2011. Bakar announced that it is now permanent. "So far it's only been extended, and extended again. I want a permanent [moratorium]," Nurbaya Bakar said. "Our primary forest cannot be cleared out."

This moratorium protects 66 million hectares or 35% of all the country's land. 52.3 million hectares of this 66 is primary, old growth forest. Protecting this vast swath of intact rainforest and carbon rich peatland will limit future GHG emissions sources. Bakar has claimed this moratorium has cut deforestation by 38% in the protected areas and was critical in persuading Norway to release \$1 billion of REDD+ projects.

After the 2019 haze, Bakar has fined and revoked the licenses of palm oil companies that caused land and forest fires. This year some 942,000 hectares burned with 8,944 hotspots. Although this is down from 2015, a historically intense year of burning with 22,000 hotspots, more needs to be done to address peatland fires.

Bakar has led the peatland restoration agency which is responsible for preventing fire and rewetting peatland. She also announced a Forest and Land Rehabilitation program in the Pemali-Jratun River which will plant some 23,000 hectares of trees per year. Bakar would like to see 800,000 hectares of trees replanted across Indonesia.

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Indonesia Country Manager Tristan Grupp:
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Japan

Seita Emori, Environmental Scientist

Seita Emori, 49, is a Japanese environmental scientist. He has been working as Chief of the Climate Risk Assessment Section, Center for Global Environmental Research, NIES (National Institute for Environmental Studies) since 2006. His area of specialty is future projections and risk studies of climate change. He is a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report (AR5).



Emori's work primarily focuses on the worldwide effects of Global Warming. He has written contributed articles in academic journals in Japan and internationally and has written books to inform Japanese and others on the dangers of climate change.

Emori is a leading figure of climate change research. He has contributed many articles and activities in framing climate change policies and has academic success within the international climate change researcher circle.

In Japan, Emori has sat for numerous government boards, providing insights for Japanese economic policies. He is a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report (AR5). He was also one of the co-authors for the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, for which the IPCC received a Nobel Prize in 2007.

“As widely recognized, the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement are great achievements of humankind. However, we believe that they do not bring an end to the discussion of long-term climate goals. Even if the goals of different countries are summed up, the globally agreed reduction target remains unachievable; moreover, these individual country goals require further investigation. In addition, the rise of national particularism in some countries poses additional uncertainties to the Paris Agreement framework because it assumes international cooperation. This situation requires a continuous review of the long-term goals and risk decisions associated with them.” (from his paper, [Integrated climate assessment: risks, uncertainties, and society\(ICA-RUS\)](#) By [Emori S., Takahashi K.](#), Sustainability Science, 13(1):1-3 (2018))

LEARN MORE

- Risk implications of long-term global climate goals: overall conclusions of the ICA-RUS project, Emori S., Takahashi K., Yamagata Y., Kanae S., Mori S., Fujigaki Y., Sustainability Science, 13(1):1-3 (2018)
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This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Japan Country Manager Yukiko Nukina

Mexico

Martha Delgado, Political Leader

Mexico has been an outstanding country regarding the inclusion of climate change in its national political agenda thanks to many passionate people that actively participate in research, negotiations, and highlighting the necessity of finding joint solutions to avoid the negative impacts of climate change.

One of the most active drivers is Martha Delgado, currently Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For the past 28 years, Martha has worked on



environmental issues in different sectors, holding various positions, from being a public servant in the federal and city governments, to leading an environmental NGO and being an advisor for international organizations.

Martha Delgado has received several awards for her outstanding work, including recognition in 2010 as one of the 50 most influential people in Mexico by *Quien* magazine and as one of the 1000 pioneers of the new world for her contributions in urban sustainability. Moreover, in 2016 she was awarded the “Governor Enrique Tomás Cresto, Leaders for Regional Development” Distinction for her work to promote the regional development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In her role as Undersecretary, Martha has been a leader in shaping Mexico’s environmental and climate change policy agenda. She has helped establish the legal protection of important ecosystems in Mexico and created and chaired the Special Commission for Integral Water Management.

At a subnational level, Martha introduced the first local Climate Action Plan in Latin America and has played a key role in the implementation of “ECOBICI”, the first Public Bicycle System in Latin America. She has also been involved in programs to help the rescue of the Magdalena River, the last living river in Mexico City, the Trueque Market, where organic vegetables are exchanged for solid waste, the Program “Reverdece tu Ciudad” to plant one million trees, and many other successful programs.

Furthermore, she served as Vice President of ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability, an international institution with more than 1,500 cities around the world. She is currently a member of the Earth Day Network's Global Advisory Committee and a member of the jury of the Earth Hour City Challenge of the World Wildlife Fund.

Martha is also a member of the Sustainable Cities Group of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a member of the Advisory Council of the Momentum for Change initiative, which supports the UNFCCC efforts to promote effective action against climate change, and a member of UNESCO's Advisory Committee of Experts on Water and Human Settlements.

Martha holds a bachelor’s degree in pedagogy and a fellowship from the prestigious LEAD-Program, Mexico. She also holds a certification in environmental policy and international development from Harvard University.

“As a generation we have been unable to not only recognize the problem (climate change) but also to solve it and I think that we are in the last possible moments of reversing a dominant trend in the world”.

-Martha Delgado

Articles: Available only in Spanish

- [The role of civil society organizations in the face of global climate change](#)

- [Adaptation to climate change is a moral, environmental and economic imperative](#)
- [Endorse multilateral vocation](#)
- [Global efforts to combat the climate crisis](#)

More articles:

<http://martha.org.mx/una-politica-con-causa/category/articulos-escritos-por-martha-del-gado/>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Mexico Country Managers Aline Nolasco Escalona and Valeria Lopez-Portillo

Nigeria

Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chiubern, Founder of Team 54



Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chiubern is a Nigerian-born climate activist, as well as a writer and an oral surgeon. He is the Founder of Team 54, an organization working to combat climate change and promote sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa. He also is a winner of the World Medical Association/Junior Doctor Network Champion Award for 2015, and is the first African doctor to be part of a delegation for the World Medical Association at COP 22 and 23.

Currently Dr. Chiubern is creating Team 54, a vast and rapidly-growing network of 207,000 members in 169 countries to date, all working in harmony to fight against the root causes of climate change, while at the same time bringing ecological, economic, gender, and racial justice to the forefront with determination and courage. Team 54 Project believes that climate actions are more impactful and better sustained when the individual can contribute personally by using their talents and skills.

Quote: "With the growing threat of climate change and socio-economic consequences currently being experienced, the future for any country in Africa is entirely not certain. In moving forward as a continent, these issues must be understood by all. Therefore, addressing the global climate crisis will have to be top on all African government agenda and actions have start immediately because projection shows that it will get worse in the coming decades."

This Post was submitted by Ron Israel, Climate Scorecard Director

Russia

Vladimir Chuprov, Leader of Greenpeace Russia's Energy Program

Vladimir Chuprov, 49, is an environmentalist and the leader of Greenpeace Russia's Energy Program since 2000. His activism work focuses on lobbying the Russian government to improve legislation related to energy efficiency, as well as building an energy/climate team in Greenpeace Russia. For Chuprov, the main objective of his work is to improve the general energy policy of Russia via governance relationship work, raising public awareness through all available media, and working with expert communities to put pressure on decision makers.

Throughout his career, Chuprov has managed to carry out successful negotiations with expert communities, create platforms for dialogue between grass root NGOs/activists, and decision makers/authorities. His extensive presence in the media and expert communities together with public appearances helped to improve the federal laws on energy conservation (2009), Russian federal authorities' policy on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Arctic (2013), the transport policy of Moscow's administration (2019), and others.



In the past, Chuprov has led expeditions to remote parts of Russia, such as the Yamal Peninsula, in an attempt to monitor and expose how climate change is affecting some of the most sensitive ecosystems in the world, with a focus on the very real danger that is a dispersion of anthrax from the melting permafrost. Chuprov's job in Russia is not an easy one. An attempt to carry out one such expedition in 2016 came to a halt when the environmentalists were rejected helicopter tickets to Port Novy and the police paid a visit to their hotel for a surprise document check. The group's veterinarian, who first documented the anthrax epidemic, and two reindeer herders, who wanted to talk to members of the expedition, were arrested on the spot. Chuprov sees this as the government's efforts to block Russians from their legitimate right to get information about the state of the environment and limit (not always legally) environmental NGO's right to free movement.

In addition, Chuprov believes that Russian society's inherent characteristics are a barrier to facilitating a transition to cleaner energy because historically, Russians are distrustful of those with alternative viewpoints and this is a deep-rooted sentiment that cannot be changed overnight. Federal television channels (still the most important source of information for most older Russians and those that live outside the main cities) take advantage of this distrust and present a very strong anti-climate agenda bordering on propaganda, which does not help to alleviate skepticism towards Chuprov and

Greenpeace's message. Furthermore, Russia is still facing economic issues such as inflation and unemployment in some regions, which creates a complex political and social environment where climate change concerns are not a top priority for many average Russians. Lastly, in July 2012 after taking office as president for a third term, President Putin signed the law on "foreign agents," which came into force in November of that year. The central, controversial aspect of the amendments was a requirement that organizations engaging in political activity and receiving foreign funding must register as foreign agents. Though Greenpeace Russia does not have the status of a "foreign agent", oftentimes Chuprov and his colleagues are regarded as such anyway. When they are falsely perceived as "foreign agents", it can get in the way of work.

Quote from Vladimir Chuprov:

"Climate change is not just a risk or problem for mankind but rather an opportunity to reconsider our values to make humankind more humanistic. The existing paradigm is one of nations constantly competing for resources through national egoism and wars, resulting in the culmination of such a paradigm. We have a chance to stop this trajectory towards a collective suicide."

Chuprov regularly writes articles for members of the expert community, speaks to the media, gives public talks, and appears on television.

Expert audience:

- *Scenarios for Russia's energy revolution*. 2009. [in Russian] <https://www.greenpeace.org/russia/ru/press/reports/4129008/>
- Co-author of "Decreasing consumption of natural gas in Belarus: nuclear and innovation scenarios." *Monografia: Minsk*, 2009. [in Russian] <http://libed.ru/knigi-nauka/701071-1-snizhenie-potrebleniya-prirodnogo-gaza-belarusi-yaderniy-innovacionniy-scenarii-monografiya-minsk-2009-udk-3384.php>
- Co-author of "Global energy and sustainable development: global energy 2050 (white book)." 2011. [in Russian]

http://www.energystrategy.ru/editions/docs/WB_2050_1-100.pdf

- Co-author of "Brown to green: the G20 transitions towards a net-zero emissions economy. Russia." 2019. https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/B2G_2019_Russia.pdf

General audience:

- *Scientists debate why the weather has gone crazy and what awaits us*. 2018. [in Russian] <https://www.samara.kp.ru/daily/26918.7/3964421/>
- National Geographic's "Mars" series, appears as himself in season 2, episode 4. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7273498/?ref=ttep_ep4
- *Love nature, your mother (example of anti-climate propaganda and counter-propaganda)*. [in Russian] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-bZiKxJE8o>

- *Talk show about weather with Pyotr Tolstoy on Channel One. 2015. [in Russian]*
<https://www.1tv.ru/shows/vremya-pokazhet/vypuski/vremya-pokazhet-vypusk-ot-05112015>

Links to other appearances in print, TV and online media [in Russian]:

<https://yandex.ru/search/?text=владимир%20чупров%20и%20изменение%20климата&lr=213&redircnt=1573902316.1>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Russia Country Manager: Maria Stambler, Maria.stambler@gmail.com

Saudi Arabia

Buthaina Awad, Environmental Activist

Buthaina Awad is an environmental activist in Saudi Arabia, and currently holds the position of Deputy Director of the General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection of the Saudi Arabia Eastern Region. She holds a Master's degree in Physics, and has conducted research regarding environmental protection.

Awad also heads the "Earth Hour" team in Sharqia. As such, she is passionate about energy conservation. She emphasizes that we need to conserve resources and find a way of life that is sustainable for future generations.



Awad has also made great strides in proving that women in Saudi Arabia can get involved in environmental activism and hold important positions within the environmental field; she is the first woman in Saudi Arabia to hold the position of deputy director in the Meteorology Authority. Awad has challenged the notion in Saudi Arabia that women are not fit for such positions, and she regards her appointment as a "test", to prove that women can indeed excel in such positions.

Quote: "Within my sphere of interest is the equitable distribution of energy, and in "Earth Hour", we avoid an hour of wasted energy every year, because we are individuals that waste a lot of riches and energies without feeling that we are withdrawing from the future balance of children."

Awad recently assumed a powerful position in the Saudi General Authority of Meteorology and Environmental Protection that covers the duties of inspection and monitoring of compliance with the Authority's environmental standards and raising awareness of environmental issues. The appointment of Awad is a step in the right

direction to increase women's professional presence in this important institution to support the Kingdom's efforts to combat all types of pollution, reduce annual costs of environmental deterioration, protect public health, and improve the quality of life. However, due to the general local misperception of the role of women in the workplace and doubts over their ability to perform these types of jobs, Awad faces an uphill challenge to prove her worthiness in performing the tasks of this field-oriented job. Additionally, the assignment is rather recent and limited to the Eastern Region of the Kingdom so it remains to be seen how Awad can prove her qualifications and skills to make a significant positive change in her area and hopefully for the whole country.

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Saudi Arabia Country Managers Abeer Abdulkareem and Amgad Ellaboudy: Abeer@climatescorecard.org and Amgad@climatescorecard.org

South Africa

Dr. Debra Roberts, Environmental Policy Influencer

Dr. Debra Roberts is a policy influencer and is on Apolitical's inaugural list of the World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy. She is currently head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekweni Municipality in Durban, South Africa. She has over 30 years experience in addressing and documenting urban climate change adaptation and biodiversity planning and management in Durban, South Africa.



Dr. Roberts also is an Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Life Sciences, and is an advisor to the Global Commission on Adaptation. She has written widely in the fields of urban open space planning, environmental management and urban climate protection, and has received numerous awards for her work.

Dr. Roberts established and managed the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of the eThekweni Municipality and was selected as the city's first Chief Resilience Officer in 2013. She was a Lead Author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) and a Contributing Author to Chapter 12 (Africa) of the Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report. She was elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the IPCC's Sixth Assessment cycle in 2015: the first time in the history of the IPCC that there has been a South African Co-Chair and the first woman from Africa to hold such a position.

Dr. Roberts has overseen the development and implementation of South Africa's Municipal Climate Protection Programme. This includes the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies and projects.

She was a member of the South African United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating team until December 2015, and has sat on various international advisory bodies focused on climate change issues in cities (e.g., the Rockefeller Foundation's Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network and UN-Habitat's 2011 'Cities and Climate Change' Global Report). She was a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities involved in mobilising support for the creation of a city focused SDG (SDG 11).

Transitioning from science to practice, Dr. Roberts faced numerous challenges. She describes, "Once you become a practitioner you are no longer considered to be a scientist by many of the members of the more traditional scientific community. Practice is still seen by many traditional scientists as being unscientific." In order to bridge this divide, Dr. Roberts and her team have published their work in peer-reviewed literature to demonstrate that practitioner-scientists are an important source of knowledge. After joining local government, she found herself working in what was then a very traditional, hierarchical and male-dominated environment. Dr. Roberts's response was simply to get on with the job and let her work speak for itself. This hands-on mentality led her to establish the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department of eThekweni Municipality in Durban, South Africa. In 2016, she was given the responsibility of establishing the new Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in Durban and is the city's first Chief Resilience Officer.

Dr. Roberts is one of the world's most influential people in setting global climate-change policies. She provided strong, clear and consistently focused leadership. She has become a living example that women can be influential leaders, and that practitioner-scientists can help change the mainstream debate. Additionally, she has also encouraged members of her team to study further and has established research partnerships with the local university in order to encourage and train the next generation of practitioner-scientists.

A quote by Dr. Debra Roberts

"Never leave the room – it is difficult to provide a bridge between the science and practice communities and often you will not fit in comfortably with either. Do not be deterred or intimidated, just keep your eye on the ball and know that it is the practitioner-scientist who has the greatest chance of changing the world."

Articles, books and documents written by Dr. Debra Roberts

- Thinking globally, acting locally—institutionalizing climate change at the local government level in Durban, South Africa. D Roberts - Environment and Urbanization, 2008

- Urban climate adaptation in the global south: planning in an emerging policy domain. JA Carmin, I Anguelovski, D Roberts - Journal of Planning Education and Research, 2012
- What lies beneath: understanding the invisible aspects of municipal climate change governance. H Leck, D Roberts - Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 2015

Learn more

For a more comprehensive view of 'Dr Debra Roberts's profile', see

<https://www.ipcc.ch/people/debra-roberts/>

<https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/gender-equality/women-weather-water-and-climate/debra-roberts>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard South Africa Country Manager Tabana Mailula

South Korea

Yeonchul Yoo, Climate Change Ambassador

Mr. Yeonchul Yoo (1961) is the Vice-Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. He is also an ambassador for Climate Change, in the South Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Yoo has served the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 30 years. Within the Ministry he served as Director of the Environment and Science Division and also in the Energy and Climate Change Division. He was also the Director-General for the International Cooperation within the Ministry of Environment. Before his role as Ambassador for Climate Change, he served as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the State of Kuwait and as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative at the Korean Permanent Mission in Geneva, Switzerland.



Mr. Yoo received a bachelor's degree at Yonsei University and a master's degree in International Relations at the University of Reading, UK. He also completed the Foreign Service Programme at the University of Oxford in the UK.

From 2010 to 2011, Ambassador Yoo served as Director of the President's Green Growth Committee and made significant contributions to the establishment of the GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute). He also played an important role in getting the GCF (Green Climate Fund) to be based in Korea. By facilitating the international transition to a

low-carbon economy in climate change negotiations, he helped South Korea actively play a bridge role between developed and developing countries.

Ambassador Yoo has stated, “the developed countries insist on action for action, while the developing countries insist on action for money. This means the developed countries request developing countries take action together but the developing countries insist if the developing countries will take mitigation action, we need the financial support from the developed countries. So the ‘action for action’ and ‘action for money’ is the very challenging issue is the negotiation.

“With regard to the challenging issues we are facing in the climate change negotiations, we view that the success of COP24 depends on how much flexibility will be given to developing countries and the answer is finance; how much financial support will be given to developing countries is a very essential element for the success of COP24.”

Learn More

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/31odEMTsayg>

Yeonchul Yoo, Interview at UNFCCC Climate Action Studio

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320581&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20190618005300325>

<https://p4gpartnerships.org/content/yoo-yeon-chul>

<http://www.segye.com/newsView/20191014512165?OutUrl=naver>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager Ellie Jimin Kim

Spain

Teresa Ribera, Minister of the Ecological Transition of Spain

Teresa Ribera, Minister of the Ecological Transition of Spain, is likely the most well-known climate spokesperson for the country. Known mostly for her high-profile government position, Ribera has also done significant work for climate change expanding beyond her title as Spanish Minister. The 50-year-old Madrid native has degrees in law and political science from the Complutense University of Madrid and the Center for Constitutional Studies, respectively.



Ribera started her political career with various positions in a few different ministries. Her first significant governmental position in the environmental sector was in 2004 as director of the Office of Climate Change. This office was housed in what is now known as MITECO, the Spanish abbreviation for the Ministry of the Ecological Transition of Spain. In 2015, she became a member of PSOE, the Spanish Socialist Worker's Party, working closely with Pedro Sanchez, current prime minister of Spain. This is how Ribera eventually arrived at her position as Minister of the newly rebranded MITECO in June 2018.

Some of Ribera's major contributions since 2018 have included her work in increasing solar energy usage while at the same time decreasing coal production. She has also played a part in reducing the price of electricity. Her largest international acclaim was earned in October 2018, when she was named "Public Personality" by the NGO Climate Reality Project, based in Washington, D.C.

Ribera stated in a late 2018 interview with Carbon Brief that "the cost of energy and linkage to energy poverty, their cost and opportunities, and new opportunities in terms of employment are all key initial aspects of the transition and the transformation. We all know that diesel or gasoline are things that need to be taxed, but I think that we need to provide alternatives. And we should not promote an increase in these taxation systems without paying attention to who will pay." She continues working toward these goals today.

If Ms. Ribera is to make further long-term progress in her endeavors, she must continue, along with Prime Minister Sanchez, enduring political battles to make further progress in the field, for both her position as Minister and PSOE's status as the leading Spanish political party in power. For now, her most immediate challenge is working with Chile's Ministry of Environment and COP25 delegate Carolina Schmidt, to carry out a successful climate change conference in its new location of Madrid.

Ribera has written many publications, some of which can be found on the Ministry's publications site, linked [here](#).

As of late 2019, Ribera is in a favorable political position and situation to be able to carry out her projects, mostly uninhibited by other parties and higher powers.

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Spain Country Manager Samantha Pettigrew

Actividad destacada: Un Retrato de la Principal Voz del Clima en España, Teresa Ribera

Teresa Ribera, ministra de la Transición Ecológica de España, es probablemente la portavoz más conocida del país sobre el cambio climático. Conocida principalmente por su posición de alto perfil en el gobierno, Ribera también ha realizado trabajos significativos para el cambio climático que se expanda más allá de su título de ministra. La nativa de Madrid de 50 años, la Señora Ribera tiene títulos universitarios en derecho y ciencias políticas de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid y del Centro de Estudios Constitucionales, respectivamente.

La Señora Ribera comenzó su carrera política con varios cargos en ministerios distintos. Su primer cargo gubernamental con significancia en el sector ambiental fue en 2004 como directora de la Oficina de Cambio Climático. Esta oficina se encontraba en lo que ahora se conoce como MITECO, El Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica. En 2015, Ribera se convirtió en miembro del PSOE, el Partido Socialista Obrero Español, en colaboración con Pedro Sánchez, presidente actual de España. Así es como Ribera finalmente llegó a su puesto como ministra del recién renombrado MITECO en junio de 2018.

Algunas de las principales contribuciones de la Señora Ribera desde 2018 han incluido su trabajo para aumentar el uso de energía solar y un trabajo paralelo de disminuir la producción de carbón. También ha jugado un papel en la reducción del precio de la electricidad. Su mayor reconocimiento internacional se obtuvo en octubre de 2018, cuando fue nombrada "Personalidad Pública" por el Proyecto de Realidad Climática de la ONG, con sede en Washington, D.C.

La Señora Ribera declaró en una entrevista a finales de 2018 con *Carbon Brief* que “el costo de la energía y el vínculo con la pobreza energética, su costo y oportunidades, y las nuevas oportunidades en términos de empleo son aspectos iniciales claves para la transición y la transformación. Todos sabemos que el diésel o la gasolina son cosas que necesitan ser gravadas, pero creo que debemos proporcionar alternativas. Y no debemos promover un aumento en estos sistemas impositivos sin prestar atención a quién pagará.” Ella continúa su trabajo para alcanzar estos objetivos hoy en día.

Si la Señora Ribera va a seguir progresando a largo plazo en sus esfuerzos, debe continuar, junto con el presidente Sánchez, con las batallas políticas para avanzar aún más en el campo, tanto por su posición como ministra como por el estatus del PSOE como líder político español. Por ahora, su desafío más inmediato es trabajar con el Ministerio de

Medio Ambiente de Chile y la delegada de la COP25, Carolina Schmidt, para llevar a cabo una exitosa conferencia sobre cambio climático en su nueva sede de Madrid.

Ribera ha escrito muchas publicaciones, algunas de las cuales se pueden encontrar en el sitio de publicaciones del Ministerio, enlazadas [aquí](#).

A fines de 2019, Ribera se encuentra en una situación política favorable para poder llevar a cabo sus proyectos, en su mayoría desinhibida por otros partidos y poderes superiores.

Thailand

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, President of Thailand Environment Institute

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya is currently serving as the President of Thailand Environment Institute (TEI). He is the former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Thailand. Dr. Simachaya has played an active role in facilitating climate change and environment-related policies in Thailand. To formulate these policies, he serves as a prominent member of the Thailand Bio-diversity Network Alliance Advisory Committee.

In MoNRE, the main responsibilities of Dr. Simachaya included natural resources and environmental plans, climate change policy formulation, strategy development, and international cooperation on natural resources and environment issues. Furthermore, he represents the ministry in various UN, Sub-regional, and ASEAN forums. Previously, he has worked as a leader of green growth and government reform strategy development for the country.

Currently, Dr. Simachaya is serving as a chairman of Thailand's long-term strategy (20-year plan) on natural resources and environmental management including water resources management, sustainable forest management, pollution control management and environmental governance for the Ministry. He also served as a supervisor of 16 departments and public organizations of the ministry, along with 76 provincial offices for natural resources and environment throughout Thailand.

There are several discourses that Dr. Wijarn Simachaya has made about environmental issues and climate change. In 2018, to elaborate upon Thailand's effort to tackle climate change, Dr. Simachaya said, "by the end of 2018, Thailand will launch our National Adaptation Plan for adaptation goals. Thailand is thus on track in setting a path



Dr. Wijarn Simachaya opens the "Implementing Agencies Consultation Workshop #1: Implementing Project "Establish Low Carbon Sustainable Consumption and Production in Thailand." © WWF-Thailand

domestically to contribute to global efforts to fight climate change". Recently, Dr. Simachaya gave an important speech about Smart Water Management during the Thai Water Expo 2019. Here, he stated, "Thailand and ASEAN are moving towards new industrial development and future industries, and it is necessary for them to understand water and wastewater management". Similarly, in an academic seminar this year, Dr. Simachaya suggested measures to tackle air pollution generated from PM 2.5 sources. In this regard, he mentioned, "I recently visited Seoul to discuss their experiences in combating PM2.5 air pollution. I learned that South Korea has a set of procedures to guide agencies on how strictly they should enforce environmental-protection regulations and execute measures to reduce the release of pollution at every source, based on the severity of the smog situation at any given time". Here, he spoke about the step Thailand is taking to address air pollution by mentioning, "The PCD (Pollution Control Department) has prepared a similar emergency-response plan based on the severity of the air pollution, which has already been presented to the Cabinet".

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya has published 5 research reports in the fields of water quality assessment & monitoring, water resource studies, and water policies. The lists of these research reports include "Wastewater Tariffs in Thailand", "An Implementation Plan for Using Biological Indicators to Improve Assessment of Water Quality in Thailand", "Water Quality Situation in the Chao Phraya Delta", "Water Quality Monitoring and Modelling Application in Thailand", and "Policy and Implementation on Water Environment in Thailand".

Finally, one major challenge for Dr. Simachaya has been to address the needs of the local indigenous communities in Thailand. He is currently the chairman of the committee responsible for the living arrangements for the sea-gypsies as well as the Karen hill-tribe communities in Thailand. The houses of the Moken sea-gypsies in Moo Koh Surin in Phangnga, Thailand were destroyed by a fire on February 3, 2019. After the fire, around "three-quarters of 81 thatched-roofed houses burned down to the ground". This compelled Dr. Simachaya and the Thai Government to provide relief aids for the Moken sea-gypsies affected by the fire. However, "concerns have been raised that the "top-down" assistance given by the Thai Government may not reflect the actual needs of the Moken sea-gypsies community". This led to the resentment of the affected sea-gypsies community against the Thai government. As a result on February 11, 2019 "a network of Andaman sea-gypsies led by Witthawat Thepsong, petitioned the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Wijarn Simachaya, to halt the reconstruction of new homes for affected victims". Here, Mr. Witthawat argued "construction of the new houses fails to take into account the needs of the Moken people. With only 3 by 6.5 metres of space allotted for each home are too small." Therefore, providing housing facilities, which best-fits the real needs for the Moken sea-gypsies, is being considered by Dr. Simachaya. Through the joint discussions with the affected sea-gypsies community, plans are being made by Dr. Simachaya to facilitate appropriate housing policies for such indigenous communities, which best fit their needs in the long-run.

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya has indeed been an effective spokesperson in the MoNRE, Government of Thailand. He has played an active role under the MoNRE in implementing measures for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. Through his strong expertise in the field of water-quality study and management, Dr. Simachaya is able to formulate, amend, and adopt well-structured national water management projects in Thailand both at present and in the coming years. Finally, by serving as a current President of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and as a prominent member of different international forums such as the UN and ASEAN, he has been active in addressing climate change issues in Thailand. In this regard, he is promoting different training programs, international seminars, and stakeholder workshops nationally to design appropriate technologies for addressing climate change concerns in Thailand.

LEARN MORE

To know more about Dr. Wijarn Simachaya, and about his experiences, achievements and responsibilities, please visit: <https://thailandbdna.com/dr-wijarn-simachaya/> and <http://www.tei.or.th/en/executive.php>

To know more about the 5 research articles published by Dr. Simachaya, please visit: https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/2054452203_Wijarn_Simachaya

To know more about the speech by Dr. Simachaya about Thailand's efforts to tackle climate change, please visit: https://www.thai-german-cooperation.info/en_US/germany-invests-thb-690-million-in-new-thai-climate-programme/

To know more about the speech by Dr. Simachaya during the Thai Water Expo 2019, please visit: <http://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news/detail/TCATG190607114831754>

To know more about the speech by Dr. Simachaya about smog and air pollution reduction efforts in Thailand, please visit: <https://www.nationthailand.com/national/30364348>

To know more about the challenges experienced by Dr. Wijarn Simachaya in addressing the needs of Moken sea-gypsies communities in Thailand, please visit: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/special-reports/1630670/the-moken-fight-for-more-space>

For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Thailand Country Manager Neebir Banerjee: Neebir@climatescorecard.org or neebirban@yahoo.com

Turkey

Prof. Dr. Levent Kurnaz, Director of the Center for Climate Change and Policy Studies

Prof. Dr. Levent Kurnaz is the Director of the Center for Climate Change and Policy Studies (IklimBU) at Bogazici University. He is the author of numerous books and articles on climate change including the recently published book in Turkish, [Before the Last Glacier Melts](#).



He received a B.S. Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 1988, M.S. Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and B.S. Degree in Physics in 1990 from Bogazici University, M.S. Degree in Physics in 1991 and his Ph.D. Degree in Physics in 1994 from University of Pittsburgh. He is also the co-chairperson of Turkey in Sustainable Development Solutions Network under the Secretary General of the United Nations.

His knowledge of both statistical methods, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics methods led Dr. Kurnaz to the field of climate modeling. His research team recognized that although Turkey is at the crossroads of many regions, there was not a regional CORDEX model - a regional climate evaluation system. The team decided to take responsibility for the Central Asian Region under CORDEX project. The team's work was included in the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report as the first regional climate modeling study covering the entire Central Asia region.

In 2014, Boğaziçi University's Climate Change Policy Application and Research Center (IklimBU) was officially established under the direction of Dr. Kurnaz. The Center continues its activities as an interdisciplinary research center researching the impact of climate change on Turkey and the Central Asian region.

Being the Director of IklimBU, Dr. Kurnaz has played an active role to provide insight into the impacts and risks of climate change on the geography of Turkey and on neighboring countries located in the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East, and Central Asia. He has advised policy makers in areas such as renewable energy, emission reductions, adaptation in agriculture, and the impact of extreme climate events.

Besides his groundbreaking scientific research in Climate Change, Dr. Kurnaz reaches a wider audience through his publications, books, TV programmes, and trainings. He also has prepared a series of informative [videos](#) on climate change for elementary and high school students.

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Turkey Country Manager Ozlem Duyan

Ukraine

Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister of Energy and Environment of Ukraine

Iryna Stavchuk, 38, has been involved in climate policy work in Ukraine for more than 12 years. From 2006 to 2017 she worked at the National Ecological Center of Ukraine and from 2008 to 2019, she worked as the Coordinator of the Climate Action Network in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. She is the founder and prior chairman of the NGO "Kyiv Cyclists Association". From 2017 to 2019 she was an Executive Director of the NGO "Center for Environmental Initiatives" Ecoaction".



For more than 10 years, Stavchuk worked with the authorities of the country as a member of civil society, participated in climate working groups, lobbied for the reduction and prevention of greenhouse gas emissions, and helped build the capacity of civil society. Her efforts have resulted in Ukraine developing a national climate program.

Since 2019, Stavchuk has been working in the Ministry of Energy and Environment of Ukraine, continuing to communicate important objectives and the need for an ambitious climate policy in Ukraine.

Stavchuk has stated, "humanity is now on the verge of global change, and only we can decide which of the possible scenarios to choose. We have ten years to reduce our emissions, and there is much less time left for policy changes - to find mechanisms, for approving laws. Every country must make an ambitious commitment and realize that the future depends on each country's decision."

Stavchuk likes to quote Saint Francis of Assisi: "Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and, suddenly, you are doing the impossible," and thinks the quote is the creed of her life.

Learn more:

- Research "Water is coming: sea level rise in Ukraine caused by climate change"
<https://en.ecoaction.org.ua/water-is-coming.html>
- Supervising development of publication - Fiscal methods for the regulation of the CO2 emissions in the transport sector of Ukraine:
<http://climategroup.org.ua/?p=2701>
- Publication Climate Action Today Determines Our Future: Public View of Climate Policy in the Countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia:
<https://infoclimate.org/eng/climate-action-today-determines-our-future/>

- Supervising development of publication - Problems of Ukraine's coal sector and greenhouse gas emissions from coal mining and consumption:
http://climategroup.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Ukraine_coal-sector_web201011.pdf;
- Supervising development of publication The Review of Studies on GHG Reduction Potential for Ukraine:
http://climategroup.org.ua/dev/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/GHG_potential_EN_final.pdf

Thanks to her many years of active work, as well as active citizenship, Stavchuk and her colleagues have achieved changes in Ukraine. In an effort to bring changes in climate policy in Ukraine, civil society is ready to support Stavchuk by understanding the problem of climate change and working at local, regional, and national levels.

This post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Ukraine Country Manager Yevheniia Zasiadko

United Kingdom

Caroline Lucas, British Green Party Politician

Caroline Lucas, aged 58, is a member of parliament for the Green Party, holding the only Green seat in the UK, at Brighton Pavilion. She is the former leader of the green party (2008-2012) and has been the co-leader of the party since 2016. In addition she is the chair of the party parliamentary group on climate change. She has long advocated for affordable clean energy, notably forming the Energy Bill Revolution, a campaign to accelerate investment in renewable energy and improve efficiency to lower prices, ending fuel poverty. It had the support of over 200 UK NGOs. Most importantly it raised the standard for energy policy, researched UK climate change and set a strong precedent for renewable energies.



This campaign reflects a wider belief held by Mrs. Lucas that energy should be more localized to remove the power of the Big 6 energy companies in the UK. In line with this, she worked with Friends of the Earth to build solar panels on schools across the UK. Further, she advocates for environmental protection in any deal proposed to leave the European Union, which could be viewed as successful as in the most recent deal proposed, it states the UK will adhere to EU environmental policies. She has continuously pushed to end fossil fuel subsidies, revealing the government's ongoing greenwashing strategies. Unfortunately, only having one Green party seat in parliament has hindered the progress of these policies, but she has managed to raise large awareness around these issues. If her

policies were to come to fruition, the UK could transition away from fossil fuels and meet our commitments to the Paris Agreement by 2050.

To overcome these shortcomings, she helped form a cross-party coalition in April, joining Ed Miliband, Laura Sandys and Lucas to advocate for a green new deal bill. The Green New Deal that proposes how the UK can shift to net-zero by 2030 by decarbonizing the UK economy. The Green New Deal advocates for a worker-led transition to a green economy, with climate justice and reskilling programs available for those who might lose their jobs. This builds upon the original Green New Deal in 2008, also headed by Lucas, and took ten years to finalize, and still needs to be passed through parliament before any substantial policies are made in conjunction with the bill.

Caroline Lucas regularly writes articles for well-known tabloid papers and media outlets. In addition, below are a list of her published books:

- *Two Journeys: The Outer Journey Working with Abandoned Children in Romania between 1996 and 1998*, 2016
- *Honorable Friends? Fighting for Change*, 2015
- *Green Parties, Green Future; From Local Groups to the International Stage*, 2015
- *Microbusinesses and the Energy Contract Roll-over Bill*, 2013
- *Land Value Tax Bill*, 2012
- *Green Alternatives to Globalization; a Green Manifesto*, 2004
- *The Euro or a Sustainable Future for Britain? A green critique of the single currency*, 2000
- *Writing for Women*, 1989

Quote from *Honorable Friends*: “Overall, becoming a carbon-neutral country would involve changes in our behaviour, but these are modest compared with the changes that will be forced upon us if we do nothing.”

*This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager: Zara Holden
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United States

Jamie Margolin, Founder of Zero Hour

Jamie Margolin is a 17-year old climate activist and student, founder of Zero Hour, and a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the state of Washington for its inaction on climate change.

Margolin stands for the idea that a stable climate is a human right. She calls for an



intersectional, immediate climate action movement. She worked with Alexandra Villasenor to organize the U.S. Climate Strike and organized protests across the country. Her organization, Zero Hour, joined the lawsuit *Juliana v. United States* in suing the federal government for the right to a stable climate, and she sued as one of the plaintiffs in the *Aji P. v Washington*, a similar case against the state of Washington.

An outspoken young voice, she has brought together youth across the U.S. in a show of force for a common cause: action on climate change. She has called for an end to all fossil fuel extraction and use, the complete reformation of mass factory agriculture, and the inclusion of indigenous voices in future climate planning. In addition to economic changes, she calls for policies and societal transformation to address structural inequalities based on race, gender, and economic status, and the history of colonialism. Her identity as a queer, Latina, Jewish, young woman allows her to see many of these structural inequalities and to propose solutions to address them. In September 2019, she testified to Congress alongside Swedish youth activist Greta Thunberg on the urgency of climate action. She is also an outspoken supporter of the Green New Deal.

Because of her age, and like many other youth activists, Margolin faces many obstacles to being heard; in particular, many Republican pundits openly hostile to climate action derided the young activists after their testimony to Congress for being “too young” to understand climate science. She also speaks extensively of the sexism she endures from older white men speaking over her or talking down to her on panels because of her gender and race. Additionally, many people who consider themselves politically “centrist” are repelled by the inclusion of other social justice priorities into environmental movements. Margolin and others would argue that addressing these issues is the only way to address the root causes of climate change itself.

In addition to mobilizing millions of students to show support for urgent climate action, Margolin and her counterparts have inspired a generation of teenagers to speak out on environmental and social issues and created a platform for them to call for change. Together, they have defied social norms and paved the way for further youth activism.

The greatest success of the modern youth climate movement has been the elevation of the Green New Deal from a fringe policy proposal to a prerequisite talking point for every major Democratic primary candidate in the 2020 presidential race and a serious bicameral bill introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Although the plan has yet to be enacted, the conversation has shifted from a discussion of *whether* there should be policy action on climate change to *how* that policy action will be structured.

In an [op-ed published in the Guardian](#) in July 2019, she wrote:

“This is how systems of oppression intertwine with the climate crisis. People of color, women, poor people, disabled people, queer people, homeless people – pretty much everyone who is already vulnerable is disproportionately at risk from climate disruption.

“Which is why the climate crisis demands bigger solutions than we initially thought. We need to see the climate crisis not as a stand-alone issue floating separately from everything else, but as the grand culmination of societal injustices that have been building up for centuries. We must speak truth to power, call out these systems of oppression and put social justice at the center of our fight for a livable future. We must pressure elected leaders, corporations, the news media and others in power not only to abandon fossil fuels and other climate-destructive activities but also to address the systems of oppression that gave rise to the climate crisis in the first place.”

LEARN MORE

Op-Eds:

[We were already over 350ppm when I was born \(The Guardian\)](#)

[I'm not only striking for the climate \(New York Times\)](#)

[Why I am a 16-year old climate activist \(Refinery 29\)](#)

[Dear Leaders: You've failed your children on climate change \(CNN\)](#)

[Forget about saving the planet - let's be more selfish \(HuffPost\)](#)

[A teenager's account on smokey skies in Seattle \(HuffPost\)](#)

[My friend and I are both 15 and we have no choice but to be activists \(HuffPost\)](#)

[We youth can't vote: but that's not stopping us from taking political action to save our futures \(HuffPost\)](#)

TEDx talk:

[To stop the climate crisis, let's dismantle the systems that caused it](#)

Book (forthcoming):

[Youth to Power \(release June 2020\)](#)

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard US Country Manager Steohanie Gagnon