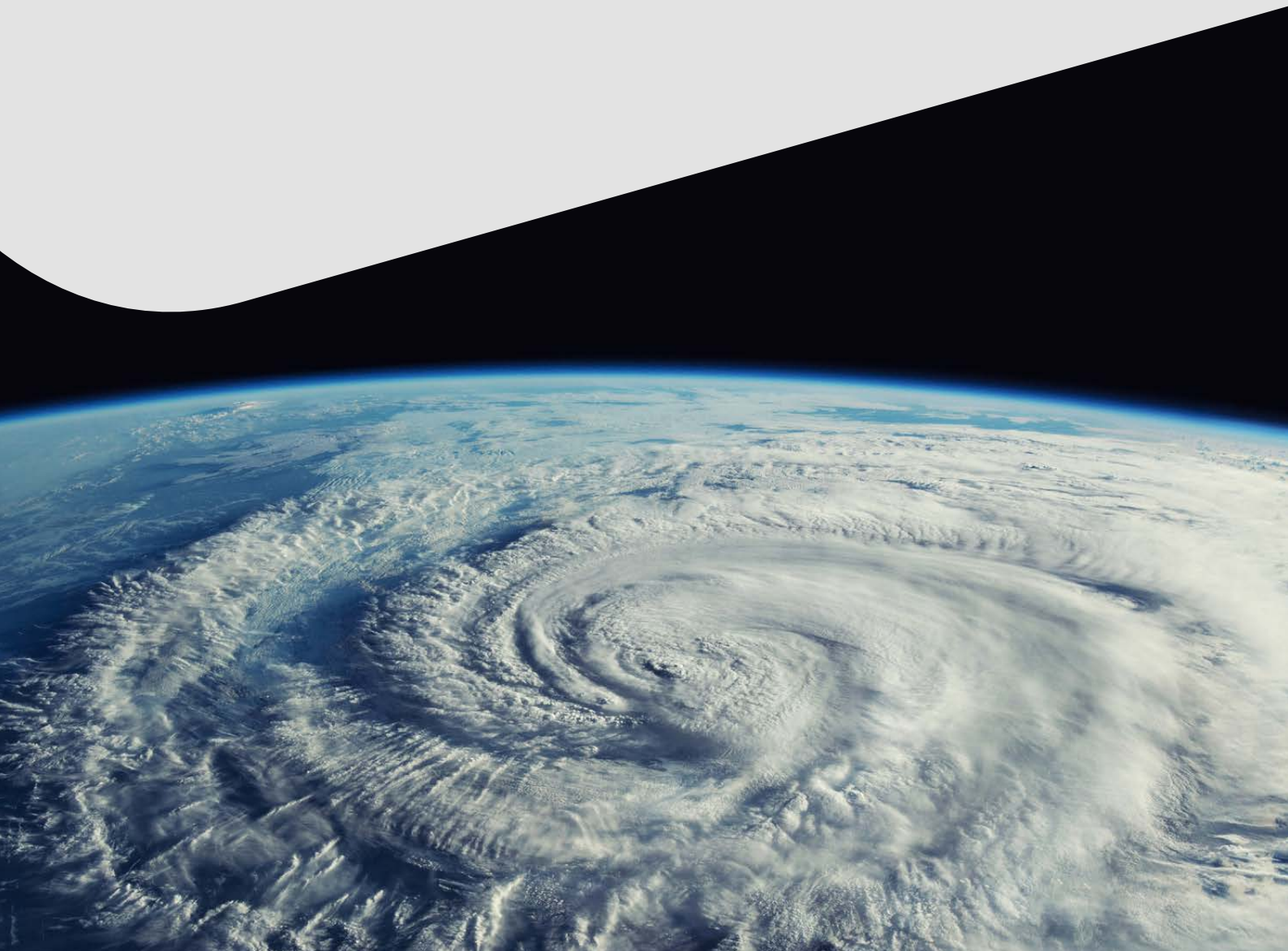




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TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN CLIMATE 2024



20 WOMEN LEADING THE BATTLE FOR A BETTER WORLD

As [U.N. Women's latest report](#) again confirms, the struggle for greater gender equality has stalled, with women continuing to have to fight to have their voices heard in boardrooms and in corridors of power.

For women working in climate change, this iniquity was crystallized late last year, when the government of Azerbaijan announced the organizing committee of this year's COP29 climate conference in Baku, and not a single woman was on the list. The Azeri government was forced to issue a revised list after a storm of protest, including from more than 80 prominent women leaders who signed a letter hastily organized by the chief executive of We Mean Business, Maria Mendiluce.

They argued that female leadership is critical in the response to the greatest challenges of our time, the twin crises of climate change and nature loss.

Maria is among the 20 extraordinary women from the fields of policy, finance, business and activism that we have chosen for this year's Trailblazing Women in Climate list.

In the year since we first published our first list, the situation has become more critical, with global temperature rises driven to new record-breaking heights by El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean.

This year the women chosen for our list were notified in advance, and invited to provide their own biographies and attributable quotes.

Dr Edda Aradóttir, Chief Executive Officer of Icelandic CO2 storage startup Carbfix, said climate change is exacerbating growing gender inequality. "We have seen global pushback on women's rights and gender equality over the past decade and this is a serious social regression that must be reversed. Climate change further disproportionately affects women and girls globally, and their lives and health are already being impacted severely."

It's encouraging that one profession where gender equality is bucking the trend is sustainability. [Research in 2021](#) by Weinreb Group found that 54% of chief sustainability officers in the U.S. were women, a near-doubling from 28% in 2011.

Marisa Drew, Chief Sustainability Officer of Standard Chartered, commented: "The profession of sustainability and climate is still early in its development, which has created the opportunity for lateral thinking in terms of who to entrust in positions of leadership. The result has been far greater diversity in positions of influence, and I am privileged to be surrounded by incredibly brilliant, talented women using their ingenuity and platforms to drive massive change."

Another theme in the quotes from our Trailblazers was the need to shift from technology-focused efforts to drive down emissions to the fundamental social and political changes that will be needed.

Dr Friederike Otto, of the Grantham Institute, said: "If we leave the issue of climate change to white men, it'll continue to be treated as a physical problem with technological solutions. We've seen this doesn't work all that well," she said. "Climate change is a social problem with social and political solutions. The more diverse the people working on it, the closer we get to implementing these solutions and making progress on climate change."

As you read the report, I hope you'll be as impressed and inspired as we are by the achievements and insights from this year's distinguished group of Trailblazers. They also include: Rachel Kyte of the University of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government; Dr Nina Seega of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership; The Landbanking Group's Dr Sonja Stuchtey; Kathy Baughman McLeod of Climate Resilience for All; Catherine Atkin of Redwoods.ai; Kate Brandt of Google; Dr Kat Bruce, founder of NatureMetrics; Claire Lund of GSK; Heather Buchanan of Bankers for Net Zero; Spain's vice president, Teresa Ribera; Laura Clarke of ClientEarth; Dr Kimiko Hirata of Climate Integrate in Japan; Shirley Djukurnā Krenak, leader of the Krenak people in Brazil; Damilola Ogunbiyi of Sustainable Energy for All; and B Team's Halla Tómasdóttir.

As Racquel Moses, Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, put it: "There is no greater challenge, nor opportunity, especially for women, than climate change. Climate action creates a new economy. With women leading the charge, it can be one that is equitable, just, and inclusive, creating a better future for us all."

HOW WE ASSEMBLED OUR LIST OF TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

In naming our list of Trailblazing Women in Climate 2024, we sought nominations of individuals who have had a lasting impact in the battle against climate change, with a demonstrable track record of influence, impact and leadership.

As in last year's list, we sought to give equal weighting to Trailblazers in four different categories: corporates and entrepreneurs, finance, policy, and activism/NGOs.

Efforts were made to ensure that we received nominations from

as broad and representative a pool of stakeholders as possible.

We consulted The Ethical Corporation journalists, colleagues in Reuters News, conference organizers in Reuters Events as well as sustainability industry experts, and our final list of Trailblazers seeks to reflect fair representation ethnically and geographically.

All individuals nominated in our list of Trailblazers have given their consent to be named, and provided their own bios and attributable quote, which were in some cases edited for length.

TRAILBLAZING CORPORATES AND ENTREPRENEURS



ANDREW KELLY/REUTERS



Dr Edda Aradóttir
Chief Executive Officer
Carbfix

Dr Edda Aradóttir is the Chief Executive Officer of Carbfix, an Icelandic company that turns captured CO2 permanently into stone underground through its proprietary technology. Prior to taking on her current role, Edda was the Head of Innovation and Strategic Planning at the Department of Research and Innovation at Reykjavik Energy while also being the project manager for the Carbfix project.

Dr Aradóttir has extensive experience in the fields of renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and carbon removal. Currently, Edda serves on the board of Danish geothermal company Innargi. She received a B.Sc. in chemical engineering from the University of Iceland in 2004, a M.Sc. in theoretical chemistry in 2006 from the University of Iceland and a Ph.D. in reservoir engineering in 2011 from the University of Iceland in collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.



We have seen global pushback on women's rights and gender equality over the past decade and this is a serious social regression that must be reversed. Climate change further disproportionately affects women and girls globally, and their lives and health are already being impacted severely. It is pivotal to highlight women's role in climate to empower us and make sure we are included in all discussions and decision making. I am certain that our odds of success in meeting our climate targets will be that much better with a diverse group of decision makers."



Catherine Atkin
Chief Sustainability Officer
Redwoods.ai

Catherine is an attorney and changemaker laser-focused on figuring out what's holding us back from protecting the planet and people, creating new rules of the game to drive needed action and looking around the corner for solutions that can unlock greater impacts.

After launching Carbon Accountable in 2020 to advance mandatory GHG disclosure policies, she developed the legislative proposal and acted as the main technical and legal advisor on California's new corporate GHG emissions reporting law (SB 253), a first in the nation requirement for full scope emissions reporting by the largest US public and private companies.

In 2024 she joined Redwoods.ai, an AI-powered ESG enterprise platform to unlock climate and sustainability impacts and transformational change across enterprises, as its Chief Sustainability Officer. She also chairs the Stanford Law School CodeX Climate Data Policy Initiative and works globally with the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub on innovative finance for low-emissions development.

She received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, a law degree from UC Berkeley School of Law and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of California Los Angeles.



I'm deeply honored to be included in Reuter's Trailblazing Women in Climate list alongside an amazing group of leaders who are driving a change agenda with the breakthrough thinking, fearless leadership and radical collaboration that we see from women across the globe as they step up to protect the planet and the people on it."



Kate Brandt
Chief Sustainability Officer
Google

Kate Brandt serves as Google's Chief Sustainability Officer and leads sustainability across Google's worldwide operations, products and supply chains. Kate partners with Google's data centers, real estate, supply chain and product teams to ensure the company is capitalizing on opportunities to advance sustainability.

Previously, Kate served as the United States's first Federal Chief Sustainability Officer, Senior Advisor at the Department of Energy, Director for Energy and Environment in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, and Energy Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy

Kate serves on the boards of National Geographic Society, BSR, Restor and the Corporate Eco Forum.

Kate received a master's degree in international relations from the University of Cambridge where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She graduated with honors from Brown University.



Sustainability has been a lifelong passion for me, and it's been a privilege to spend my career working on sustainability innovation in the public and private sectors. I'm honored to be included in this outstanding group of women leaders helping to build a better, more sustainable future, for my daughter, and for all future generations. I'm inspired by the innovation and partnerships we are driving to provide opportunities for everyone – from businesses and governments to individuals – to accelerate climate action."



Dr Kat Bruce
Founder
NatureMetrics

Kat is a biodiversity scientist and one of the global pioneers in the use of environmental DNA for large-scale biodiversity assessment. Kat founded NatureMetrics in 2014 to improve the ability of businesses, governments and NGOs to measure and track the state of nature at site-based assets. From a team of four scientists, NatureMetrics has become one of the world's leading nature technology companies, helping hundreds of companies to track their impacts and make better decisions for nature across global portfolios of sites.

Kat is one of the founding members of the UK Business and Biodiversity Forum, part of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures data catalyst, and has been involved in both climate and biodiversity COPs in recent years as a leading voice in the fast-emerging field of naturetech.



For too long, nature protection has been seen as an add-on to climate action when it's our strongest defense against climate change. I believe we are now witnessing the start of a global mindset shift, with more corporates and governments beginning to take nature seriously. But there's so much more to urgently do if we're to halt and reverse nature loss. We're on a mission at NatureMetrics to empower the best decisions for nature, making biodiversity measurable and supporting organizations in their transition to becoming nature-positive. It's an honor to be recognized for my work as part of the movement to give nature a seat at the table in climate conversations."



Claire Lund
VP Sustainability
GSK

Claire Lund is the Vice President for Environmental Sustainability for GSK. She led the design of GSK's ambition for a net zero, nature positive, healthier planet, and is now leading delivery of its climate and nature goals set for 2030 and 2045. Claire currently sits on the Strategic Advisory Group for Business for Nature, a global coalition that brings together business and conservation organizations.

Claire joined GSK in 2013 and became Head of Environmental Sustainability in 2017. In this role Claire accelerated delivery of GSK's previous environmental targets, including introducing the single-use plastic reduction program globally across GSK. Under her leadership, last year GSK was selected to be one of the first companies to work with the Science Based Targets Network to set validated science-based targets for nature. GSK has also committed to publish its first disclosure aligned with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework.

Before joining GSK, Claire worked in the public sector in the Cabinet Office as the lead for energy procurement transformation as well as with various consultancies supporting SMEs and global blue-chip organizations.



To confront the immense challenges of climate change and nature loss, and the risks they pose to human health, we need to harness our collective strengths and take action now. I'm proud of the progress we've made advancing sustainability at GSK but there is more work to be done to protect the health of the planet and people. I'm honored to be included alongside so many talented women who are leading the way in sustainability and collaborating to drive real change and impact."

TRAILBLAZERS IN FINANCE



BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS



Heather Buchanan
*Co-founder and
 Chief Executive Officer*
Bankers for Net Zero

Heather Buchanan is the Chief Executive Officer of Bankers for Net Zero, an initiative that brings together banks, businesses and regulators to support the financial sector's transition to net zero in the UK. She has extensive experience advising government, trade bodies and civil society on the commercial relationship between banks and their customers. In 2021, Bankers for Net Zero was announced as the UK Country Chapter of the U.N.-convened Net Zero Banking Alliance, the first initiative of its kind in the world, to provide the bridge between the high-level commitments that banks have made and implementation.

Since COP26, Heather has been tireless in her efforts to focus on the role of finance and banking in supporting the real economy in a just transition, culminating with Bankers for Net Zero taking to a global stage as a core partner of the UK Pavilion at COP28 where it launched the first phase of Project Perseus, a program to revolutionize GHG emissions reporting for SMEs. In addition, work has included setting up a SME Advisory Board with the Transition Plan Taskforce, accelerating the decarbonization of the urban environment, and galvanizing finance leaders and policymakers around the cause of nature, biodiversity and regenerative agriculture.



To succeed in the fight against climate change, we have to dare to be extraordinary. I am truly honored to be recognized amongst this year's 20 trailblazing women. I am proud to be driving forward the net zero agenda in the UK by removing obstacles, taking action and fostering collaboration. It has been inspiring and rewarding to see how our ecosystem of members and partners has made strides forward to revolutionize climate action. I look forward to seeing how our work makes a real impact in shaping the future of finance and our climate."



Marisa Drew
Chief Sustainability Officer
Standard Chartered Bank

Marisa Drew was appointed as the inaugural Chief Sustainability Officer for Standard Chartered in July 2022, where she is responsible for delivery of the bank's public commitments to net zero by 2050 and to the mobilization of at least \$300 billion of sustainable finance in some of the world's most dynamic markets.

During her 35+ year career, Marisa has been a recognized female pioneer in financial services and in the field of sustainability. She has been the architect of financing structures that have delivered capital at scale, including over \$1 billion in the challenging arenas of ocean and endangered species conservation.

Marisa has held numerous senior leadership roles at major financial institutions, including as the inaugural CSO of Credit Suisse and the first female to hold the position of Head of Investment Banking and Capital Markets and as Head of Corporate Leveraged Finance at Merrill Lynch.

Marisa also serves as a non-executive director of the broadband and mobile company Liberty Global, and as a non-executive director of Agronomics. She further serves on the advisory boards of the ReOcean Fund and on several high-level working groups sponsored by the World Economic Forum and the U.N.



The profession of sustainability and climate is still early in its development, which has created the opportunity for lateral thinking in terms of who to entrust in positions of leadership. The result has been far greater diversity in positions of influence and I am privileged to be surrounded by incredibly brilliant, talented women using their ingenuity and platforms to drive massive change. Recognizing these trailblazers is a wonderful acknowledgement of the critical work my peer group is doing, and will helpfully support our collective progress in protecting the planet."



Racquel Moses
UNFCCC Global Ambassador & Chief Executive Officer
Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator

Racquel Moses is a dynamic leader with a track record of driving transformative growth and change worldwide. With an impressive portfolio of leadership roles, Racquel has consistently pushed boundaries and spearheaded impactful initiatives in various industries.

Currently serving as the Chief Executive Officer and a director for the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, Racquel leads the charge in driving climate-smart solutions and sustainable development across the Caribbean region. Her visionary guidance and strategic leadership have positioned the organization at the forefront of climate action.

Her versatility enables her contributions, which span many disciplines including currently serving as a UNFCCC Global Ambassador. As a champion for global climate action, she actively advocates for change and promotes sustainability at a global level.

With a wealth of experience and expertise in leadership positions, including as Head of Microsoft Trinidad and Tobago, Racquel's strategic vision and ability to drive innovation have propelled organizations to achieve remarkable success.

Racquel's passion for collaboration and coalition-building has played a pivotal role in shaping regional consensus on critical issues such as climate change, sustainability and building resilience. Her ability to inspire minds and drive impactful change has made her an influential force in shaping the global agenda.



There is no greater challenge, nor opportunity, especially for women, than climate change. Climate action creates a new economy. With women leading the charge, it can be one that is equitable, just and inclusive, creating a better future for us all."



Dr Nina Seega
Director, Centre for Sustainable Finance
Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)

Dr Nina Seega leads the Centre for Sustainable Finance at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL). The center incorporates CISL's finance industry groups to provide the insight and cooperation needed to embed sustainability into every financial decision and change the financial system as a whole to deliver finance for the Sustainable Development Goals including: the Banking Environment Initiative (created in 2010 by chief executives of some of the world's largest banks), ClimateWise (set up in 2007 for global insurance), and the Investment Leaders Group (leading investment managers and asset owners with over \$9 trillion under management).

Prior to joining CISL, Nina had a career in finance, which included managing a traded products desk through the global financial crisis. In addition to her role at University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Nina is a member of the Sustainable Finance Advisory Panel at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Strategic Advisory Board on Sustainable Finance at the British Standards Institute, the Sustainable Finance Scientific Council at S&P Ratings, and the Board of Directors at the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance.



This year is like no other. Geopolitical tensions and increased incidence of climate disasters will form the backdrop for elections around the world. Steadfast, ambitious female leadership in politics, business, academia and the NGO sector will be key to ensuring that our communities and economies are ready to transition to a more sustainable, net zero, nature positive and equitable world."



Dr Sonja Stuchtey
Co-Founder & Managing Director
Landbanking Group GmbH

Dr Sonja Stuchtey is a serial impact entrepreneur with a notable number of companies founded and grown under her guidance.

Sonja's business ventures include the science education platform Science Lab, and the civil tech company Alliance for Europe, which combats mis- and disinformation. She is also a board member of the Capitals Coalition. Her most recent entrepreneurial undertaking is the nature-fintech company The Landbanking Group, which strives to put nature on the balance sheet. Rounding the full scope of ESG, with The Landbanking Group in the environmental sector, Alliance for Europe on the governmental side and Science Lab as a social endeavor.

Sonja Stuchtey has multiple publications regarding nature tech, economic development and science education.



We are living in unprecedented times: Humanity is in the front seat of a multi-crisis – paired with huge opportunities under high complexity. This is not the time for 'higher, faster, bigger' but for 'jointly and balanced', for healing and regeneration – in human interaction and natural systems alike."

TRAILBLAZERS IN POLICY



FRANCOIS LENOIR/REUTERS



Kathy Baughman McLeod
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Climate Resilience for All

Kathy is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Climate Resilience for All (CRA), a new, gender-focused nonprofit dedicated to protecting people and livelihoods from extreme heat in vulnerable communities around the world. CRA's motto is "When women are climate resilient, we will all be climate resilient."

At COP28, CRA announced a climate shock microinsurance safety net program for 150,000 climate-exposed Indian and Pakistani women with local partners SEWA, Khwendo Kor, and global insurer Swiss Re.

As Director of the Arsht-Rock Resilience Center, Kathy launched a pioneering extreme heat strategy that included the appointment of chief heat officers in cities worldwide, the global push to name and categorize heatwaves, building an \$800 million urban cooling project pipeline, and the first "extreme heat income insurance" for 21,000 poor women workers in India.

Kathy is the former Bank of America's Global Executive for Environmental and Social Risk and Global Managing Director for Climate Resilience at The Nature Conservancy. She was Deputy Chief of Staff to Florida's Chief Financial Officer, received the Fuqua School of Business 2021 "Leader of Consequence" award, and is a French Foreign Ministry Policy Fellow. She holds an MBA from Duke University and an MS in geography from Florida State University.



The power of women coming together to make the wrongs of climate change right continually lifts me up, especially in the inevitable moments of darkness that come with doing this work. I am honored to be among these 20 climate fighters that represent but a fraction of the women who bring their expertise, intelligence and an ethic for a better world every single day. I hope this recognition can bring more attention and resources to power up voices of women on the frontlines of the climate crisis.



Rachel Kyte
Professor of Practice in Climate Policy
Blavatnik School of Government,
University of Oxford

Rachel Kyte is Professor of Practice in Climate Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford and Dean Emerita of the Fletcher School at Tufts University. She works at the intersection of private, public and philanthropic capital mobilization for climate action and teaches climate policy and diplomacy focusing on finance.

Formerly Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Vice President and Special Envoy of the World Bank Group, Rachel is co-chair of the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative, setting standards for corporate integrity in using carbon markets. She is a board member of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) and a board member of ODI and CPI, as well as Climate Resilience for All. She is a regular commentator on TV and radio, and her opinion pieces are published in media outlets globally.



As we reduce and remove carbon emissions, attention is turning to resilience and how to adapt to the impacts of the climate emergency. In communities around the world women are the heart of resilience in contrast to their under-representation nationally and internationally where the shifts in systems we need are discussed. For all our sakes women’s resilience is our starting point.”



Dr Maria Mendiluce
Chief Executive Officer
We Mean Business

Dr María Mendiluce is Chief Executive Officer of the We Mean Business Coalition, a global leader working with thousands of companies to scale climate action and increase the ambition of government policies to halve global emissions by 2030. In September 2023, the WMBC launched the Fossil To Clean movement, galvanizing business voices in support of phasing out fossil fuels. This campaign influenced policymakers to include the transition away from fossil fuels in the COP28 UAE Consensus.

María is a passionate advocate for the vital role of women leadership in all areas of life, but especially in climate. She recently led a letter signed by more than 80 women leaders calling on more diversity in this year’s U.N. climate summit’s all-male organizing committee. The committee’s make-up has since been revised, and a female High-Level Champion of Azerbaijan has been announced.



Climate activism will be needed to steer a steady course in these times of political upheaval and unfolding conflicts. Collaboration between and within diverse teams is more likely to result in better, bolder decisions benefiting from people’s creativity and broad expertise. Female leadership will be key to success, and I am honored and heartened to stand alongside so many women leaders who bring with them the qualities that can drive the change we need to make a better world.”



Dr Friederike Otto
Senior Lecturer in Climate Science
Grantham Institute, Imperial
College London
Co-founder of World Weather
Attribution

Dr Friederike (Fredi) Otto is a physicist by training and joined Imperial College London as a Senior Lecturer in Climate Science at the Grantham Institute in 2021.

She is co-founder and lead of World Weather Attribution (WWA), an international effort to analyze and communicate the influence of climate change on extreme weather events.

Fredi is a lead on the two reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Cycle (AR6). In 2021, Fredi was recognized in the Time 100 list as one of the world's most influential individuals, according to the renowned magazine, and as one of the top 10 people who made a difference in science in 2021, by the journal Nature. In 2023, she received the prestigious German Environmental Prize.



If we leave the issue of climate change to white men, it'll continue to be treated as a physical problem with technological solutions. We've seen this doesn't work all that well. Climate change is a social problem with social and political solutions. The more diverse the people working on it, the closer we get to implementing these solutions and making progress on climate change."



Teresa Ribera
Vice President, Spain;
Minister for the Ecological
Transition and the
Demographic Challenge

Teresa Ribera is Vice President of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

Prior to that, Ms Ribera was Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) from 2014 to 2018, and enabled the institute to play a key role in the negotiation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the transition towards sustainable development. She served as the Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change and Biodiversity from 2008 to 2011, responsible for environmental and climate policies, as well as the National Meteorological Agency. A public official from the Senior Corps of State Civil Administrators, she has also taught at the Autonomous University of Madrid.



Climate action presents the best opportunity to reduce inequalities, create jobs, modernize our economy, and achieve the key to ecological transition: social justice for different generations and among nations. It ensures a better world for our health and security, where we can avoid disputes over resources, water, food and energy, with a balance between globalization and local proximity."

TRAILBLAZERS IN ACTIVISM/NGOS



WOLFGANG RATTAY/REUTERS



Laura Clarke
Chief Executive Officer
ClientEarth

Laura is the Chief Executive Officer of ClientEarth, a legal environmental charity. She joined ClientEarth in September 2022 after two decades in public policy, and in diplomatic roles across Africa, Asia and Europe. Her most recent role was British High Commissioner to New Zealand, and Governor of the Pitcairn Islands, from January 2018 to July 2022.

Laura holds an MA in German and Russian from Cambridge University and a MSc in international relations from the London School of Economics. She is married with three children.



There are brilliant women everywhere in the climate movement. Indigenous women, student campaigners and communicators. Women in energy, finance, politics, diplomacy and law. All of them working creatively to forge a better world for our children and our children's children. I'm so glad to be part of that movement, heading up ClientEarth as we use the law to accelerate the radical change needed for people and planet."



Dr Kimiko Hirata
Executive Director
Climate Integrate

Dr Kimiko Hirata is the Executive Director of Climate Integrate, an independent climate policy think-tank. She established Climate Integrate in 2022 with the aim of providing fact-based information and supporting multiple actors' decarbonization efforts.

Prior to this, she worked with the Japanese non-profit Kiko Network for 23 years and spearheaded climate policy and advocacy efforts. Concerned about a new boom in coal power plant construction in Japan after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, she engaged in a multipronged campaign to fight coal and shareholder activism, culminating in the cancellation of many plans.

In recognition of her efforts, she was awarded the 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize in 2021, and selected as one of the BBC 100 Women 2022. She is a visiting associate professor at the Chiba University of Commerce, which is home to Japan's first RE100 university initiative. She also serves as an environmental policy advisor for Ichikawa city. She has a Ph.D in social sciences from Waseda University.



It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Trailblazing Women in Climate. In Japan, we still face multiple challenges to tackle climate change. Climate solutions require systemic change, which is not an easy challenge. But I strongly believe that change is possible, if we integrate wisdom and people power, and act together."



Shirley Djukurnã Krenak
Indigenous activist and leader of the Krenak people: President,
Shirley Djukurnã Krenak Institute

Shirley Krenak belongs to the Krenak people, and she is an activist and writer trained in social communication. She currently coordinates the Shirley Krenak Institute, which develops various activities in the environmental, educational, social and cultural areas. Author of the book "The Protective Jaguar", she also coordinates the project "Sons que Curam" (Sounds that heal) whose essence captures the humming of birds and the noises of the forests, in order to promote the healing of hearing and the strengthening of the call of Mother Earth.

She recently received an honorary doctorate by the Federal University of Juiz de Fora for her impact in the educational and activist world. She is widely known in the indigenous movement fighting for native rights and land demarcation, and is one of the founders of ANMIGA – National Articulation of Indigenous Women Warriors of Ancestry.

Internationally, Shirley Krenak has developed different projects regarding publication of books, sound projects, lectures and, more recently, she has become a strong voice against climate change, taking part in different conferences of the United Nations.



We are biodiversity women! Earth balance only works with all living biomes."



Damilola Ogunbiyi
Chief Executive Officer
**Sustainable Energy
 for All**

Damilola Ogunbiyi is the Chief Executive Officer and Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair of U.N.-Energy. With Mrs Ogunbiyi at the helm, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) has entered into working relationships with over 200 partners, supported over 90 countries globally, and secured commitments of more than \$1.3 trillion in energy finance.

She initiated the Nigerian Electrification Project, a \$550 million facility that has provided energy access to over 5 million people across Nigeria, and implemented over 100 megawatts of decentralized energy projects supplying electricity to hospitals, schools and government facilities.

Mrs Ogunbiyi is a member of the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab, a member of the Global Leadership Council of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), an Advisory Board member of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, and a member of the Development Advisory Council of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

She is a global leader and advocate for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and is passionate about achieving SDG7 – access to reliable, affordable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

Mrs. Ogunbiyi is the recipient of the Energy Institute President's Award for 2023.



It is an honour to be named as one of the Trailblazing Women in Activism. Embracing sustainability fosters innovation by encouraging the development of new technologies, products and business models that address environmental and social challenges such as energy access and climate change that we currently face. Sustainable business practices are essential for creating a resilient, equitable and prosperous future for both businesses and society as a whole, ensuring that we leave no one behind."



Halla Tómasdóttir
Chief Executive Officer,
Chief Change Catalyzer
The B Team

Halla Tómasdóttir is the Chief Executive Officer of The B Team, a global collective of business and civil society leaders catalyzing a better way of doing business for people and planet. Halla started her leadership career in corporate America working for Mars and Pepsi Cola. She was on the founding team of Reykjavík University where she established the Executive Education Department, founded and led a successful women's entrepreneurship and empowerment initiative and was an assistant professor at the Business School.

She was the first female chief executive of the Iceland Chamber of Commerce and later went on to co-found an investment firm with the vision to incorporate feminine values and ESG into finance. The company successfully survived the infamous economic meltdown in Iceland. In 2016, Halla was an independent candidate for the presidency of Iceland. She entered a crowded field of candidates and finished as the runner-up with nearly 30% of the vote. Halla is a passionate advocate for courageous leadership and recently published her first book in Iceland, titled HUGREKKI til að hafa áhrif (COURAGE to make a difference).



A climate and nature emergency demands urgent, inclusive action, conformity simply won't unlock the leadership we need. It's time to transform how we lead, and in a world of low trust we need to get better at co-creating solutions with those impacted. A livable world can best be secured if women, in solidarity with male allies, unite to redefine leadership norms; dismantle barriers; and move toward sustainable, people-first approaches. This demands courageous collaboration. The most important question we must now ask is, how will we choose to lead at a time like no other for humanity?"