

GAIA@COP29 Delegation



We are climate experts and zero waste implementors from across the globe. For more information, go to www.no-burn.org/GAIACOP29.

To schedule an interview with one of our spokespeople, please contact

Sonia G. Astudillo at sonia@no-burn.org or on whatsapp at **+63 9175969286**.



SCAN ME





Adogame, Dr Leslie (Nigeria)
Sustainable Research for Action and Development (SRADev)
Executive Director



Area of Expertise: *research, information dissemination, networking, and training*

SRADev Nigeria is a professional, non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit think tank in environmental health research and development, advocacy, and action organization. It seeks to be the voice for environmental development in Africa particularly, Nigeria, while acting as a catalyst, advocate, educator, and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the environment. The organization has continued to bridge the yawning gap between knowledge and action by carrying out research, information dissemination, networking, training to increase public awareness on environmental health issues towards improving health and the quality of life for all humanity. The organization was formed on 7th November, 2003, and registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (No. RC 842138) with its headquarters in Lagos.



Aguilera, Camila (Chile)
GAIA Latin America & the Caribbean / BFFP
Program Advisor



Area of Expertise: *strategic communication*

Camila's interest in nature led her to hold a Diploma in Socio-Environmental Studies, which she hopes will become her subject of specialization. Previous to joining GAIA, she volunteered for different environmental initiatives, the most significant is a project she developed with local recyclers in the city of Concepción, Chile. Camila is also the co-founder of the local NGO Fundación El Árbol.



Alugnoa, Desmond (Ghana)
GAIA Africa
Zero Waste & Climate Program Manager



Area of Expertise: *waste management, sustainability, and youth engagement*

Desmond is the GAIA Africa Program Manager. Also, he is the co-founder of Green Africa Youth Organisation, Earthshot Prize Finalist 2024. He is also former Youth Advisor to the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), former FP-Green Jobs in Rural Economies- UN-MGCY. Currently, he is a Steering Committee Member-CBA, and a Youth and Climate Change Adaptation Advisor at the Global Center on Adaptation.



Appiah, Efua Nyamekye (Ghana)
Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
Energy and Just Transition Coordinator



Area of Expertise: climate justice, renewable energy, just transition, policy analysis, youth inclusion in climate policy

Environmental Sustainability Professional and Climate Activist dedicated to advancing Africa's renewable energy transition and just transition initiatives. Efua holds an MPhil in Environmental Resources Management and a BSc in Natural Resources Management, blending academic expertise with a deep commitment to nature conservation and restoration. With five years of experience in policy analysis and climate justice, she serves as the Policy and Research Officer for the Youth Climate Council Ghana, playing a critical role in shaping climate policies and advocating for youth inclusion in environmental decision-making processes. Her work ensures that young voices are integral to effective policy responses. Driven by a passion for learning and impactful action, Efua is the Energy and Just Transition Coordinator at Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), where she leads critical engagement in the EU-funded RePower project, aimed at enhancing rural electrification in four off-grid communities across Africa. She aspires to expand her global influence, developing evidence-based climate interventions and mentoring young people to create a widespread impact. Her combination of academic knowledge, hands-on experience, and steadfast commitment positions her as a rising leader in the fight against climate change and in the pursuit of a sustainable future for Africa and beyond.



Argentino, Victor (Brazil)
Instituto Polis
Zero Waste Coordinator



Area of Expertise: organics management, methane reduction, waste picker justice, and closed loop food systems

Victor's work focuses on developing studies and supporting municipalities to develop and implement zero waste strategies, with special focus on composting and organic waste management, in different Brazilian local contexts.



Arthur, Benedict Fosu (Ghana)
Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
Climate Mobility Youth Delegate



Area of Expertise: youth mobilization and leadership development, climate adaptation, project management, community engagement.

Climate Reality Leader with five years' experience in climate adaptation, water resource management, and community resilience. Benedict has led initiatives across Ghana, empowering over 2,100 people through projects addressing water scarcity, period poverty, and climate-induced migration. As a Climate Mobility Youth Delegate for COP29, he will represent Ghana in global climate mobility discussions. His work reflects a commitment to youth empowerment and building sustainable, resilient communities.



Astudillo, Sonia G. (Philippines)

GAIA

Global Climate Communications Officer

Area of Expertise: *strategic communication*

Sonia leads GAIA's work to uplift zero waste systems as a major climate solution, while supporting members' communications on zero waste campaigns and implementation models. Before joining the GAIA Global Climate Team, she led the GAIA Asia Pacific Communications Unit and has worked with other NGOs like Health Care Without Harm-Asia and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Asia Pacific. She has also worked with a Philippine Senator and Congressman.



C, Jayakumar (India)

Thanal

Executive Director

Area of Expertise: *environment research and education*

Jayakumar is the founder trustee and executive director of Thanal based in Kerala India. As early as 2010, his organization started the promotion of organic farming to engage farmers in sustainable farming practices and to set up the Thanal Agroecology Center at Panavally (Thirunelly Panchayat, Wayanad). The Thanal Agroecology center is now a hub of research and training that explores different ways to sustain agroecology practices and conserve agrobiodiversity.



Darkwa, Candy Ann Dwamena (Ghana)

Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)

Facilitator of Partnerships and Support for Climate-Related Program

Area of Expertise: *climate change, circular economy, youth advocacy in climate policy.*

Facilitator of Partnerships and Support for Climate-Related Programs at Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), Candy Darkwa is dedicated to promoting the socio-economic and environmental development of both rural and urban poor communities. She believes that conservation efforts must ultimately contribute to human development. Candy actively supports initiatives advocating for youth-inclusive climate policies and actions.

Currently, she serves as the co-lead for the Youth Co-host of the Action on Food Hub at COP29, where she helps to drive impactful discussions and initiatives around food security and climate change. Her work exemplifies a commitment to integrating environmental sustainability with community development.



Ferdinand, Fictor (Indonesia)

YPBB-Bandung (Indonesia)

Managing Director

Area of Expertise: zero waste systems and organic management

Fictor Ferdinand joined YPBB in 2009, and works in management-system developments and various training and facilitation processes with communities and government officials. His experience in waste management began in 2015 with his involvement with Project FORWARD (a Swiss - Indonesia joint research in organic recycling for medium-sized cities) in Sidoarjo, where he designed collection and bioconversion systems for organic waste, using Black Soldier Fly technology. Of late, he has been providing research and design inputs for waste management systems in the cities of Bandung, Cimahi, and Soreang under YPBB's Zero Waste Cities Project. He also provides support for the project's replication in other cities in Indonesia, together with Alianzi Zero Waste Indonesia. Fictor holds an M.Sc for Biomangement from Bandung Institute of Technology.



Ferreira, Laís (Brazil)

Instituto Polis

Solid Waste Project Assistant

Area of Expertise: waste management, organic recycling, and climate change

Laís Ferreira dos Santos is an Oceanographer from the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) and currently a Full Assistant in the Solid Waste and Agroecology team at the Pólis Institute, through the Brasil Composta Cultiva Platform. Her work focuses on waste management, organic recycling, and climate change. She also works on the São Paulo Composta, Cultiva Campaign and contributed to the study "New composting models in cities".



Grate, Froilan (Philippines)

GAIA Asia Pacific

Regional Coordinator

Area of Expertise: zero waste, waste management, and policy

Froilan is a committed environmental justice campaigner who has assisted more than 20 cities/municipalities in the Philippines in developing and improving waste management programs and systems. He has extensive experience in module development and training and legislative work, providing support to legislators at the local government level, especially in areas of policy review.



Guzmán Marín, Rosario (Chile)

GAIA

Hosted within the GAIA Latin America team, Rosario is leading the Logistics and Administrative Support to the COP29 GAIA Delegation on site in Baku.



Hastutik, Agus Dwi (Indonesia)

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI; Friends of The Earth Indonesia)
International Relations Manager

Area of Expertise: *locally-led sustainable economy, environmental issues*

Agus is a graduate of English literature who began her career interning as a journalist with Indonesia's leading English newspaper. She continues to write stories, but her life path has led her into work that seeks to support the quest for ecological justice. She has more than five years experience working for WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia)—the largest and oldest environmental forum group in Indonesia. In her current position, she is trusted to manage several projects, which centers on community-based management. The experiences engaging directly with IPLCs has enabled her to identify the actions that are needed to solve the problems, communicate the challenges, and how their traditional way of life contributes to protecting valuable food resources and preventing biodiversity and improving the local economy, to the audiences WALHI seeks to connect with. When she is not with WALHI, she enjoys learning languages and connects with people who are not aware of the climate situation, in hope they can be part of the movement.



Hossain, Shahriar (Bangladesh)

Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO)
Founder

Area of Expertise: *environmental conservation*

Dr. Shahriar Hossain (PhD) is a journalist, ecologist, and social justice advocate. He is the founder of the Environment and Social Development Organization. ESDO is committed to protect biological diversity and ensure ecological balance. He is an active member of several professional and activist groups, from journalist societies to NGOs such as GAIA, IPEN, UN Environment, and more.



Howard, Marcel (USA)

GAIA US & Canada
Zero Waste Program Manager

Area of Expertise: *climate change, environmental justice, and zero waste*

Marcel is currently the Zero Waste Program Manager for the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA). Marcel helps expand GAIA's work in U.S. federal policy spaces with the goals of developing zero waste solutions and ending policies bolstering incineration. As a biracial and LGBTQ+ working professional, Marcel has dedicated his life to dismantling white supremacy and anti-queer concepts within the broader environmental movement. Over the past eight years, he has become a thought leader and technical expert on climate change, environmental justice, and zero waste concepts throughout the US and Canada.



Iacovini, Rodrigo Faria Gonçalves (Brazil)

Instituto Polis
Executive Director

Area of Expertise: *urban planing*

Rodrigo Faria G. Iacovini is the Executive Director of Pólís Institute, a Brazilian civil society organization with more than 35 years devoted to the right to adequate housing and the right to the city. He is a Brazilian lawyer and urban planner, holding a PhD in Regional and Urban Planning from the University of São Paulo. He represents CSOs at the National Council of Cities (established by the Brazilian Government) and at the Municipal Council of Urban Policy of São Paulo and integrates the National Urban Reform Forum in Brazil and Habitat International Coalition.



Impraim, Margaret Bondziedu (Ghana)

Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
Assistant Global Coordinator, Youth Climate Councils Global Alliance

Area of Expertise: *Environmental justice, gender equality, climate governance*

Margaret Impraim works on environmental justice, climate governance, and gender equality within the youth climate movement in sub-Saharan Africa. Working at the grassroots and volunteering in youth-led initiatives, she is experienced with the biases of youth due to climate vulnerability. Currently, she is the Assistant Global Coordinator, Youth Climate Councils Global Alliance, for the Green Africa Youth Organisation, where she contributes to the meaningful inclusion of youth in climate decision-making and leverages her experience in youth-government partnerships to guide youth movements in other countries that seek to influence climate policy and climate justice. Furthermore, She serves as a committee member for the National Youth Action Group on Climate Change.



Kamal, Mohamed (Egypt)

Greenish Foundation
Co-Director



Co-Director of Greenish Foundation, specializing in public health, plastic leakage prevention, and waste management. Mohamed Kamal is committed to advancing sustainable waste management practices and mitigating plastic pollution. His work focuses on integrating public health considerations with environmental initiatives, aiming to improve waste management systems in Egypt.



Lagman, Benedict Jasper Simon (Philippines)

City of San Fernando, Pampanga (Philippines)
Vice Mayor



As Vice Mayor of the City of San Fernando Pampanga in the Philippines, Vice Mayor Lagman continues to promote zero waste work in the city that were passed on from the previous leadership. The city's zero waste systems have diverted close to 89% waste from the landfill, saving on the city's waste management budget, and has prompted the city not to pursue an incinerator project. Vice Mayor Lagman is the President of the Zero Waste Cities Network in the Philippines.



Mahfouz, Eman Emad Eldien Hassan (Egypt)

Greenish Foundation for Development
Projects Manager



Area of Expertise: carbon emissions, agroecology climate justice, and just transition

Eman Emad Eldien is leading the Climate Justice, Greenish Clubs, and ACAL programs in Greenish Foundation for Development. With +6 years of experience in the fields of environment, and climate policy, with preceding consultancy experience in diverse fields ranging from Desertification, Plastics, Agroecology, community engagement, and youth participation, to climate education, climate risk assessment, and sustainable events management. She earned her MSc degree from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt on the topic of Carbon footprint for agricultural practices in different climatic zones in Egypt. She participated in these events with papers, workshops, and educational sessions advocating for inclusive and equitable climate solutions by contributing to shaping climate policies that are responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. Eman also is a Co-founder of a project called "Recyclizer" which is an Egyptian startup that specializes in turning plastic waste into plastic mulch films that are used in agriculture to protect crops from damage caused by changing weather conditions and harmful weeds in the soil.



Marie Kwirine (Tanzania)

Nipe Fagio
Policy Coordinator

Area of Expertise: *policy coordination*

Maria works closely with the government and private sectors to foster policy/legal change leading to improvement in the waste management sector.



Matey, Richard (Ghana)

Green Africa Youth Organization
Climate Lead

Area of Expertise: *climate and energy justice*

Experienced environmentalist and sustainable development expert with nearly a decade of work in renewable energy, agriculture, and climate change initiatives in Ghana. Richard specializes in climate change mitigation and biomass energy, with a focus on clean cookstoves and energy efficiency for small enterprises. As Climate Lead at Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO), he leads projects that support sustainable practices and resilience for low-income households and rural communities in Ghana.



Mella, Soledad (Chile)

Red LACRE and ANARCH
Member of the Secretariat and President

Area of Expertise: *waste pickers justice*

Soledad Mella is the President of the National Association of Recyclers of Chile (ANARCH), member of the Secretariat of the Regional Network of Waste Pickers of Latin America RedLacre, and spokesperson of the International Alliance of Waste Pickers. Her mission is the recognition of grassroots recyclers in Chile and she has a key role in the international negotiations of the plastics treaty.



Nair, Shibu (India)

GAIA Asia Pacific
Regional Organics Campaigner

Area of Expertise: *zero waste systems and organic management*

Shibu is one of the pioneers of the zero waste movement in India and led the zero waste campaigns and programs for Thanal in South India. His expertise is in organics management, designing and developing zero-waste systems at the community level, and strategizing zero waste programs and campaigns.



Namwanga Patricia Kizito (Uganda)

**End Plastic Pollution
Communications Lead**

Area of Expertise: *communications, content development*

Patricia leads communications at End Plastic Pollution, using storytelling and strategic content to amplify the mission against plastic pollution. With a background in accounting and climate finance, she crafts messages that resonate widely and inspire action for sustainability.



Ofori, Ernest (Ghana)

**Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
Project Lead**

Area of Expertise: *climate interventions, climate education, climate justice.*

A dedicated climate activist focused on grassroots change and youth empowerment, Ernest has led initiatives for Global Pathways Alliance, L'COY, and the Youth Climate Council Ghana. Now Project Lead at GAYO, he drives climate education and capacity-building across the Global South, supporting local action for a sustainable future.




Okotie, Weyinmi (Nigeria)

**GAIA Africa
Clean Air Program Manager**

Area of Expertise: *clean energy and anti-incineration campaign*

Weyinmi Okotie is GAIA's Africa Clean Energy Campaigner. He has a background in Environmental Quality Management and Microbiology. Prior to this role, he supported the development of a WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Master Plan in Delta State Nigeria, as the project manager, and also the Program Coordinator of Green Knowledge Foundation, Nigeria.




Pino, Mariela (Chile)

**GAIA Latin America & the Caribbean / BFFP
Waste Methane Climate Campaigner**

Area of Expertise: *waste management and environmental justice*

Latin American lead on organic waste and climate, Mariela holds a M. Sc. and agricultural engineer degrees. She has been focusing on projects with social and environmental impact in 4 continents, particularly environmental justice work for more than 15 years throughout which confirms her drive to seek real paradigm changes. Member of the Zero Waste Alliance in Chile, advocate of human scale solutions for a healthy environment and a fair society.





Putra, Yobel (Indonesia)

GAIA

Global Climate Policy Officer



Area of Expertise: zero waste and environmental engineering

Yobel Novian Putra is the Climate Policy Officer for GAIA Global. Taught as an environmental engineer, he started his zero waste journey after learning the catastrophic landfill avalanche that killed 143 people, including waste pickers, near his hometown in Bandung, Indonesia. Prior to joining GAIA, Yobel worked as a policy advocacy staff at YPBB Bandung and co-coordinate Aliansi Zero Waste Indonesia. For over 4 years, Yobel led the anti-incineration and divestment campaign against Multinational Development Banks as GAIA Asia Pacific's Climate and Clean Energy Campaigner. Currently, his focus area is on waste and climate policies that are anchored on environmental justice principles. He works with GAIA members from all across the world to mainstream zero waste as climate solutions.



Rocha, Ana (Brazil)

GAIA

Global Plastics Policy Director



Area of Expertise: international waste and plastics policy

Ana provides leadership and strategic vision to GAIA's international plastic policy work. She currently leads GAIA's engagement in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations bringing in her years of experience as amplifier of voices from the Global South to global engagements.



Syaharani (Indonesia)

Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL)

Head of Environmental Governance and Climate Justice Division



Area of Expertise: climate law and policy

Rani is an experienced researcher who has been in touch with various cross-cutting sustainability issues through advanced research and advocacy on climate change policy. She is also involved in various youth climate movement in Indonesia.



Uslaini (Indonesia)

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI; Friends of The Earth Indonesia)
Head Division of Protection and Development For Community Based Area Management



Area of Expertise: zero waste and environmental engineering

With a Bachelor of Agriculture from Andalas University, Uslaini has more than 15 years of experience working in community empowerment related to environmental protection and human rights, disaster risk reduction, sustainable agriculture, and waste management. She currently serves in the National Executive of WALHI as Head of the Division of Protection and Development of Community-Managed Areas. She has expertise in participatory mapping and action research as a basis for preparing community action plans for disaster risk reduction, protection and development of community-managed areas.



Vähk, Janek (Belgium)

Zero Waste Europe
Zero Pollution Policy Manager



Area of Expertise: sustainable management of residuals

Janek Vähk is the Zero Pollution Policy Manager at Zero Waste Europe. With over a decade of experience in environmental policy, he has played a key role in advancing waste management, pollution reduction, and sustainability efforts aligned with the European Green Deal. Janek's expertise includes the development of strategic frameworks for pollution prevention, renewable energy, and recycling, driving impactful environmental change across Europe.



Vilella, Mariel (U.K.)

GAIA
Global Climate Program Director



Area of Expertise: international waste and climate policy

Mariel Vilella is currently leading GAIA's Global Climate Program, which includes GAIA's global campaigns and strategies around climate change, with focus on methane and organics management, zero waste solutions to climate change, carbon markets or other international sources of climate finance, engaging in policy advocacy at the UNFCCC and other key international climate policy spaces in collaboration with the wide GAIA network and regional offices.