Alfred Brownell

Title: Environmental Activist and Lawyer

Nationality: Liberia

Alfred Brownell is Liberian lawyer and environmental activist. He has tirelessly advocated and defended communities in his native Liberia and West Africa for two decades. He has helped create conservation policies, educate and empower populations affected by resource exploitation on their rights as citizens in order to protect their land from deforestation and development by the government and government-controlled industries such as mining and logging.
He was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 2019 on behalf of Africa, considered the “green Nobel,” which honours the achievements and leadership of grassroots environmental activists from each continent.

Brownell stopped the clear-cutting of Liberia’s tropical forests, “the lungs of West Africa”, by palm oil plantation developers. His campaign protected 513,500 acres of primary forest that constitute one of the world’s most important biodiversity hotspots, enabling indigenous communities to continue their stewardship of the forest.

He co-founded and headed the public interest law non-governmental environmental rights organisation, Green Advocates International. With Green Advocates, Brownell pioneered a framework for environmental law within Liberia’s legal system. His efforts have led to significant successes, including the temporary protection of six million acres of forest from development by palm oil companies.

Given the critical need for legal aid, as well as ensuring corporate accountability and the obligations and duties of governments in West Africa to protect, respect and fulfil rights, Brownell co-organised the Public Interest Lawyers Initiative for West Africa. Through his leadership, these networks, coalitions and institutions are currently working to combat land grabs, deforestation, the climate crisis, destructive investment, pollution, unjust labour practices, and the commodification and exploitation of indigenous land.

Brownell also co-established the Alliance for Rural Democracy, the largest solidarity movement in Liberia that supports and empowers communities and indigenous peoples in Liberia and West Africa.

After observing how women in rural communities, slums, and squatter communities were denied a voice in the decision-making process in relation to the management of their land and natural resources. Brownell also co-established the Natural Resources Women Platform to empower and support women, land, and natural resources, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights in Liberia.
At the regional level, he collaborated with activists in several West African countries and co-founded one of West Africa’s largest solidarity movements - the Mano River Union Civil Society Natural Resources Rights and Governance Platform consisting of activists, communities, and indigenous peoples in eight of the fifteen West African countries affected by the operations of transnational corporations.

Brownell was an Associate Research Professor and Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Northeastern University School of Law in the United States from 2017–2019. For 2020-21 he became the Visiting Human Rights Fellow at Yale University.

Acknowledgments:

• In 2019, Alfred Brownell won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, considered the “green Nobel,” which honours the achievements and leadership of grassroots environmental activists.

Sources:

• https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/alfred-brownell/
• https://www.scholarrescuefund.org/featured_scholar/alfred-brownell/
• https://law.yale.edu/alfred-brownell
Ammar Khammash is a Jordanian architect, photographer, designer, and artist. With the conviction that “the site is the architect”, through his studio Khammash Architects.

The values of Khammash Architects are to understand the ecosystem of the site and the toll the human intervention takes on nature or its immediate context, with a constant attempt to maintain the subtle balance and coherence between the man-made and the natural environment.

Khammash was a laureate of the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture in 2019. The international award recognises five architects each year who have contributed to sustainable development and created innovative and participatory approaches to
meet societal needs. Khammash was recognised for his dedication to interdisciplinary scientific research, as well as his artisanal and artistic approaches to architecture.

Equipped with a deep knowledge of the Jordanian landscape, and through the study of earth sciences, Khammash is an expert in local building techniques and traditions; has extensive knowledge in the geology of Jordan and its natural features. This allows him to masterfully use locally sourced natural materials to produce architecture that serves as an extension of its site.

Khammash’s projects include the Wild Jordan Center, the Royal Academy for Nature Conservation, the Darat Al Funun workspace and the Columbia University Middle East Research Center in Amman, as well as archaeological sites such as the Church of the Apostles in Madaba and ecolodges in Jordan in Yarmouk Reserve and the hot spring of Al Himmeh in Mukhaibeh.

Acknowledgements:

- Laureate of the **Global Award for Sustainable Architecture** in 2019, an international award which recognises five architects each year who have contributed to sustainable development and created innovative and participatory approaches to meet societal needs.
- **AGA Khan Award For Architecture Shortlist** 2016

Sources:

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- [https://www.admiddleeast.com/lists/10300-ammar-khammash](https://www.admiddleeast.com/lists/10300-ammar-khammash)
Title: Founder, President and Chief Executive of Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation and Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador

Nationality: Nicaragua

For over 30 years, Bianca Jagger has been a leading figure and advocate in the campaign for human rights and peace, social and economic justice and environmental protection throughout the world.

Jagger is the founder and chair of The Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation (BJHRF), which is dedicated to defending human rights, ending violence against women and girls, addressing the threat of climate change, supporting the rights of indigenous peoples and defending the rights of future generations. It achieves these aims through research and advocacy: campaigning, fact finding missions, reports,
publications, lectures, speeches, debates, conferences and public meetings. The BJHRF is also a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

In the mid-1960s, Jagger left her native country of Nicaragua with a French Government scholarship to study at the Paris Institute of Political Science. During the 1980s, Jagger began her lifelong association with several international human rights organisations, most notably with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. After witnessing horror in many forms and parts of the world, she committed herself to voice the invisible lives of the most vulnerable segments of society: children, women, indigenous people, victims of sexual abuse, discrimination, oppression, injustice, ethnic cleansing. With a human rights perspective and an urgent call to action, she has brought attention to these stories both before international bodies and the press.

She has participated in many fact-finding missions, which have taken around the world to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, remote rainforests in Brazil and Ecuador, Bosnia, Kosovo, Zambia, Afghanistan, Iraq, India and Pakistan. She is also a member of Amnesty International’s Executive Leadership Council. Her work has been recognised through several awards, including the 2004 Right Livelihood Award and the 2006 Office of the Americas Peace and Justice Award.

In the 1990s, Jagger began to campaign on behalf of indigenous populations in Latin America. She declared a commitment to help save the tropical rain forests of the Western Hemisphere. Her efforts brought her to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Brazil. In 1991 she proved instrumental in stopping a logging concession that would have endangered the Miskito Indians’ habitat on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. In 1994, she participated in a similar effort to protect the Yanomami people of Northern Brazil from invasions of their lands by the influx of gold miners, who were polluting the water and causing many deaths among this ancient tribe.
In 1994, The United Nations Earth Day International Award for “her successful efforts to protect the livelihood of the indigenous peoples of Latin America, stopping the rain forest destruction in Nicaragua and Honduras”. She was presented the 1994 United Nations Earth Day International award. In 1997, she was the recipient of the Green Globe award by the Rain Forest Alliance, “for her extraordinary conservation efforts and achievements over the past ten years”. In 2006, The World Citizenship Award from The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

In 1994, The United Nations Earth Day International Award for “her successful efforts to protect the livelihood of the indigenous peoples of Latin America, stopping the rain forest destruction in Nicaragua and Honduras”. In 2006, The World Citizenship Award from The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Jagger is also a Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador, Member of the Executive Director’s Leadership Council of Amnesty International USA and Trustee of the Amazon Charitable Trust. In 2004 she was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for the Fight Against the Death Penalty by the Council of Europe. Jagger has also been a goodwill ambassador for the Albert Schweitzer Institute and has worked for Amnesty International on their "Stop Violence Against Women", "Torture", and "Death Penalty Campaigns."

Acknowledgements:

- **World Citizenship Award from The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation 2006**
- Winner of the **Right Livelihood Award** in 2004 known as the “alternative Nobel prize” for “her long-standing commitment and dedicated campaigning over a wide range of issues of human rights, social justice and environmental protection, including the abolition of the death penalty, the prevention of child abuse, the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment that supports them, and the prevention and healing of armed conflicts”

- **Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador**
- **Member of the Executive Director's Leadership Council of Amnesty International**
• **American Civil Liberties Union Award**, 1998 for “her commitment to international human rights, opposition to capital punishment and the promotion of civil rights.”

• **Amnesty International USA Media Spotlight Award for Leadership**, 1997 “in recognition for her work on behalf of human rights around the world, exposing and focusing attention on injustice”.

• In 1997, The **Green Globe Award from the Rainbow Alliance** “for her environmental campaigning”

• **United Nations Earth Day International Award** 1994

**Sources:**

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• [http://www.biancajagger.org](http://www.biancajagger.org)

• [https://londonspeakerbureau.com/speaker-profile/bianca-jagger/](https://londonspeakerbureau.com/speaker-profile/bianca-jagger/)
Carissa Klein

**Title:** Marine Conservationist & Scientist  
**Nationality:** Australia

Dr. Carissa Klein is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. She works in the field of conservation science - notably land-sea conservation planning, ocean zoning and protected area design, social equity in conservation, and sustainable seafood. Klein’s work is used by governments and non-governmental organisations to inform marine conservation and sustainable management decisions.

Klein leads a group of students and post-doctoral researchers in partnership with numerous non-government organisations (e.g. Wildlife Conservation Society) and government departments (e.g. Sabah Parks in Borneo) around the world.
Her research is motivated by real-world conservation management and policy problems. She specialises in integrating social, economic, and ecological information to develop solutions that improve outcomes for nature and people. She is particularly passionate about the ocean so focuses much effort on conserving marine and coastal ecosystems.

Klein was awarded the 2013 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE) - an annual award that recognizes young scientists from APEC member states. Klein's selection was a result of her research with the University of Queensland that uniquely addressed and negotiated the fragile balance between ocean conservation and sustainable livelihoods, namely the issue of sustainable ocean development by striking a balance between biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic viability.

Klein's work has helped Malaysia and the United States sustainably zone the ocean for fishing and conservation. Using spatial conservation prioritisation, her research informed a systematic design of a network of marine protected areas along California's central coast that accounted for commercial and recreational fisheries in the region.

Acknowledgments:

- Awarded the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Science Prize for Innovation, Research and Education (ASPIRE) in 2013 - an annual award that recognizes young scientists from APEC member states - as a result of her research with the University of Queensland that uniquely addressed and negotiated the fragile balance between ocean conservation and sustainable livelihoods, namely the issue of sustainable ocean development by striking a balance between biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic viability.

- Awarded The American Australia Association Sir Keith Murdoch Fellowship which is dedicated to deepening and strengthening cooperation and understanding between the institutions and people of the United States and
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Australia and awarded to scholars generating solutions that address the global issues of our time.

Sources:

- https://carissajoyklein.wordpress.com/people/
- https://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2013/0702_aspire
Fatemah Alzelzela is a Kuwaiti youth climate leader. A graduate of electrical engineering, she is the founder of Eco Star, who spreads environmental awareness about waste as a resource - waste as wealth.

Eco-Star is concerned with the efficient collection of recyclable materials in exchange for trees and plants. Alzelzela’s organization has also been involved in building a database, the first recent study in the field of waste collection and treatment for Kuwait.

She has committed herself to overcoming stereotypes around waste collection, skepticism from the business community, and prejudice regarding her age and gender in Kuwait.
After launching Eco Star in the final year of her studies, Alzelzela continues to increase awareness and interactions with this issue within Kuwait and internationally. The company has since formed partnerships with schools, teaching children about recycling, threats to the environment and how young people can act for nature.

Alzelzela won first place in the projects and innovation competition We Unite in 2018 and was the youngest sustainability leader in the SEEDS Platform. For her leadership in environmental advocacy, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) named her a Young Champion of the Earth in 2020.

Acknowledgements:

- Named as a **Young Champion of the Earth** in 2020 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a prize designed to breathe life into the ambitions of brilliant young environmentalists aged 18 – 30.
- Awarded the first place in the projects and innovation competition **We Unite** in 2018.
- Recognized as the **Youngest sustainability leader** in the SEEDS Platform.

Sources:

- [https://dohadebates.com/solvingit26/fatemah-alzelzela/](https://dohadebates.com/solvingit26/fatemah-alzelzela/)
- [https://www.gulfgoodnews.com/recycle-kuwait-kw](https://www.gulfgoodnews.com/recycle-kuwait-kw)
Hans Cosmas Ngoteya

**Title:** Nature Photographer & Filmmaker, Conservationist

**Nationality:** Tanzania

Hans Cosmas Ngoteya is a conservationist from Tanzania with a passion for wildlife filming and photography.

He has a deep interest in creating awareness around conservation and developing resources for conservation education. Ngoteya’s ultimate goal is to develop and explore practical solutions to solving emerging conservation challenges and help communities co-exist with wildlife.
He was among the first group of grantees selected for National Geographic’s Young Explorer Leadership and Development Program in 2016, where recipients, called National Geographic Explorers, make up a diverse community of changemakers from around the world working to support the mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. Ngoteya was awarded a grant to promote human and wildlife co-existence in Tanzania.

Ngoteya has designed and worked on a capacity-building project called Vijana na Mazingira (VIMA) meaning “Youths and the Environment,” a youth-focused project that provides conservation education and alternative livelihood options in an effort to reduce pressure on natural resources to youth, the leaders of tomorrow, aged 12-35 in villages located in a remote rural region south of Katavi National Park, in western Tanzania.

He is a co-founder of Ngoteya Wild, a Tanzanian conservation and storytelling company, Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization LCMO which focuses on promoting, supporting, and improving community livelihoods through sustainable environmental practices. Ngoteya is also a founder of Tanzania Wildlife Media Association- TaWiMA an association of professional Tanzanian wildlife content creators with the aim of marketing, promoting and educating about Tanzania wildlife resources.

Acknowledgements:

- A grantee of the National Geographic’s Young Explorer Leadership and Development Program in 2016, where recipients, called National Geographic Explorers, make up a diverse community of changemakers from around the world working to support the mission to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.

Sources:

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- [https://www.iccs.org.uk/person/hans-cosmas-ngoteya](https://www.iccs.org.uk/person/hans-cosmas-ngoteya)
Małgorzata Górska

**Title:** Conservationist & Environmental Activist

**Nationality:** Poland

Małgorzata Górska is a Polish activist and a conservationist with the Polish Society for Protection of Birds. The Society is concerned with the protection of birds and the places where they live, thus concerning itself with a wide range of issues, dealing not only with the protection of bird species, but also with the protection of their habitats - mainly those of international importance.

Górska was the winner of the 2010 Goldman Environmental prize on behalf of Europe, the “green Nobel” annually awarded to one person from each continent which honours the achievements and leadership of grassroots environmental activists.

Her leadership in the fight to stop a controversial highway project led to a significant legal precedent for the environment that resulted in the protection of Poland’s Rospuda Valley, one of Europe’s last true wilderness areas.
The sites were already protected as national and landscape parks and, after Poland joined the European Union in 2004, were included in the European ecological network Natura 2000. After eight years of campaigning, Górska and her fellow campaigners achieved success with the Polish government recognising the legal protection of these nature-rich areas, and decided to change the entire Polish section of Via Baltica route to one that was much less harmful to biodiversity.

Following this monumental achievement, Górska continued the campaign to halt construction of the expressway through other protected sites: the Knyszyn Primeval Forest, the Biebrza Marshes and the Augustów Primeval Forest.

Górska has also been involved in a nationwide educational project related to Natura 2000, training people how to intervene locally to protect Natura 2000 sites.

On winning the 2010 Goldman Environmental prize, she was invited to the ceremony in San Francisco, and was invited alongside the fellow recipients to meet with then President of the United States Barack Obama.

Acknowledgements:

- Winner of the 2010 Goldman Environmental prize on behalf of Europe, a prize annually awarded to one person from each continent and is considered the “green Nobel,” which honours the achievements and leadership of grassroots environmental activists.

Sources:

- https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/malgorzata-gorska/
- https://www.theguardian.com/environment/cif-green/2010/apr/19/how-to-successful-activist
Neeshad Shafi

**Title:** Energy and Policy Expert  
**Nationality:** Qatar

Neeshad Shafi is a climate Advocate, Energy and Policy Expert. He is a Design Engineer in water and wastewater industry, who holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Engineering and resides in Doha, Qatar.

He is notably focused on environmental and climate change policy in the Gulf and Middle East. His core area of expertise includes analysing global environmental, sustainability and climate policies. In March 2019, he was named in the Apolitical’s List of the 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy 2019.

Shafi is the Co-founder and Executive Director at the Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar, a registered independent, youth lead grassroots NGO in Qatar. He is a Board
Member at Climate Action Network (CAN) Arab World and CoalitionWILD. He is on the steering committee of UNESCO Youth Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN) and UNEP Youth Regional Facilitator for the Middle East.

Shafi was also appointed as a European Climate Pact Ambassador in Qatar and also named by the European Commission as Peace Ambassador to One Young World Summit 2017.

Shafi has combined his interest in activism and social change with his passion for working with young people, recognizing the passion and power youth have to bring about a more just world, and the opportunity to support them through his various campaigns. He has campaigned for social causes like education for all, gender equality and human rights primarily focused on improving the circumstances of and opportunities for Arab women.

Shafi is an active member of several global environmental youth groups and contributed actively in international summits including United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Paris (COP21), Marrakech (COP22), Katowice (COP24), World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos 2019, and Conference of Youth (COY) summits related to climate policy, sustainable economic development and the empowerment of diverse actors such as young people for climate action, Peace and Security. Shafi is a TEDx Speaker and Agenda Contributor for the World Economic Forum.

Acknowledgments:

- ‘World’s 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy 2019’ by Apolitical.
- ‘10 Influential people in Qatar’ by Government Communications Office (GCO) of the State of Qatar in 2020.

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- https://neeshad.com
- https://nationalbiodiversityteachin.com/2643-2/