



22 Women Supporting Biodiversity

Women and girls of all ages carry vital roles in the preservation of nature and supporting biodiversity on our planet. Please note that the selection of women presented in this list is meant to create engagement and participation in the Biodiversity Day campaign. As such, this list is by no means exhaustive or fully representative of all the women and young girls around the world who have and are continuing to make a difference and promote biodiversity, nature, and the environment.

1. **Aida Ghadban (Palestine)**

Interests: Agriculture, Recycling, Gardening, Environment Preservation, Women Empowerment

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Innovator, Leader, Trainer

Affiliation(s): Al Rashidieh camp in Lebanon, Trainer with Amel Association, Trainee with Anera

Known for: Training women in refugee camps to grow vegetables on the rooftops of their homes, re-instilling their self-confidence.

Fun fact: As a child, Aida Ghadban enjoyed making handicrafts out of recyclable items including old CDs, old fabrics, and flower petals. This passion is what granted her the opportunity to train Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian women at the Amel Association (an NGO) on how to upcycle various materials over the course of two years.

[Read more](#)

2. **Ashley Lashley (Barbados)**

Twitter: [@_ashlash](#)

Interests: Youth environment awareness and education, Impacts of climate change on human health

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Climate activist, Founder, Former Miss World Barbados, UNICEF Youth Advocate

Affiliation(s): Founder of the Health and Environment-friendly Youth (HEY) campaign, Founder of the Ashley Lashley Foundation

Known for: Launching the Health and Environment-friendly Youth (HEY) campaign alongside a group of Caribbean-based youth in April 2020.

Fun fact: In 2018, Ashley Lashley was crowned Miss World Barbados.

Read more: un.org | [Ashley Lashley Foundation](https://AshleyLashleyFoundation.org)

3. **Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe (Eritrea)**

Twitter: [@aaberhe](https://twitter.com/aaberhe)

Interests: Soil science and conservation, Political ecology

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Biogeochemist, Political ecologist, Professor, Interim Associate Dean

Affiliation(s): United States Department of Energy's Director of the Office of Science; Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry, and Falasco Chair in Earth Sciences at the University of California Merced; Adjunct Professor at the Salk Institute of Biological Studies

Known for: Promoting the importance of soil to carbon storage and regulating the Earth's climate as well as the relationship between soil systems, humans, and the environment.

Fun fact: On 11 May 2022, Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as the United States Department of Energy's Director of the Office of Science.

Read more: [Global Citizen](https://GlobalCitizen.org) | [Carnegie](https://Carnegie.org) | aaberhe.com | energy.gov

4. **Berta Cáceres (Honduras)**

Interests: Freshwater protection, Environment preservation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Student, activist, Environmental activist, Leader, Co-Founder

Affiliation(s): Co-founder the National Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)

Known for: Leading a campaign against the construction of the Agua Zarca Dam on the Gualcarque River and organizing a rock blockage to prevent construction equipment from entering the site. The campaign Berta led successfully pressured the world's largest dam builder to halt production.

Unfortunately, leaders of this campaign continued to receive death threats even after construction was halted and Berta was killed in her

home on 3 March 2016. Twelve days later, another colleague of Berta's and member of COPINH, Nelson García, was killed.

Fun fact: In 2015, Berta Cáceres was honored with the Goldman Environmental Prize. [Read more](#)

5. **Brianne West (New Zealand)**

Twitter: [@BrianneMWest](#) (also on [Instagram](#))

Interests: Eliminating plastics from the beauty industry

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Entrepreneur, Innovator, Founder

Affiliation(s): Founder of Ethique

Known for: Founding the regenerative beauty brand Ethique that eliminates the need of sending their products in plastic containers by sending them as solids (no water). As of 2020, Ethique has "prevented 11 million plastic bottles from being made and disposed of in landfills and prevented over 600,000 kg of carbon emissions."

Fun fact: Brianne West enjoys scuba diving and loves animals. As of Earth Day 2020, with every order made, Ethique will plant a tree or mangrove with their partner Offset Earth.

Read more: briannewest.com | ethique.com

6. **Caroline Najib Chaptini (Lebanon)**

Instagram: [@carolinechaptini](#)

Interests: Art, Waste management, Recycling, Plastic pollution

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Recycling artist, Guinness World Record holder

Affiliation(s): Guinness World Records

Known for: Holding four Guinness World Records for different art pieces created with different plastic materials, including plastic water bottles and bottle caps. In 2020, Caroline Chaptini became the first Arab woman to obtain three Guinness World Record records in one year.

Fun fact: Caroline Chaptini's first recyclable sculpture was a Christmas tree made from 500 plastic water bottles that she made alongside her daughter. The home project was inspired by a surplus of plastic water bottles Caroline had that weren't collected to be recycled. When guests saw the tree over the holidays, she was encouraged to create another on a larger scale. Ultimately, this larger project awarded her with her first Guinness World Record for "Tallest plastic bottle sculpture" in 2019.

Read more: lebanon.unwomen.org

Guinness World Records: [Article 1](#) | [Article 2](#) | [Article 3](#) | [Article 4](#)

7. **Francia Márquez (Colombia)**

Twitter: [@FranciaMarquezM](#) (also on [Instagram](#))

Interests: Prevention of drilling and mining on ancestral lands, Environmental protection, Environmental, indigenous and ancestral land rights, Water contamination

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Environmental activist, Leader, Lawyer

Affiliation(s): Serving as an activist for the district of La Toma and inspiration for other territories in the North Cauca region

Known for: Leading a 10-day, 350-mile march of 80 women from La Toma to Bogota (Colombia's capital) to stop illegal gold mining on La Toma's ancestral lands. After spending 22 days protesting in the streets, they were successful and all illegal mining in La Toma ceased.

Fun fact: In 2018, Francia Márquez was honored with the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Read more: goldmanprize.org | [Article 2](#)

8. **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad)**

Twitter: [@hindououmar](#) (also on [Instagram](#))

Interests: Indigenous communities, Biodiversity, Climate Change mitigation and solutions

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Environmental and indigenous rights activist, Geographer, Founder, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate

Affiliation(s): Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, Founder of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)

Known for: Raising awareness of indigenous peoples and women in relation to the environment, climate change, and adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Fun fact: Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim knows four languages: French, English, Arabic and Fulfulde (her mother tongue).

Read more: nationalgeographic.org | unsdgadvocates.org | un.org

9. **Isatou Ceesay (Gambia)**

Interests: Waste upcycling and recycling (of primarily plastics)

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Founder, Innovator, Activist

Affiliation(s): Founder of Women's Initiative Gambia (WIG)

Known for: Recycling and upcycling plastic bags in her village (N'jau) and teaching women in her community to do the same. In 2015, the government of the Republic of The Gambia banned the import and use of plastic bags.

Fun fact: Isatou Ceesay's sister taught her how to crochet, which is what gave her the idea of how to upcycle plastic bags. She started by crocheting small purses. Each purse required the use of 10 plastic bags.

Read more: climateheroes.org | oneplasticbag.com | lernerbooks.com

10. **Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE (United Kingdom)**

Twitter: @JaneGoodallInst (also on Instagram)

Interests: Chimpanzees, Animal Behaviour, Conservation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Ethologist, Author, UN Messenger of Peace

Affiliation(s): Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute

Known for: Groundbreaking research of chimpanzees of the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania.

Fun fact: As of 29 July 2020, Dr. Jane Goodall has been awarded with a total of 56 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

Read more janegoodall.org | [Article 2](#) | britannica.com

11. **Jeannie Raharimampionona (Madagascar)**

Interests: Plant conservation, Malagasy flora conservation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Botanist, Conservationist

Affiliation(s): Missouri Botanical Garden's Madagascar program

Known for: Bringing awareness towards the destruction of the flora of Madagascar.

Fun fact: In 2020, Jeannie Raharimampionona was awarded with the National Geographic/Buffett Awards for Leadership in Conservation, one of two honors presented annually.

Read more nationalgeographic.org | discoverandshare.org

12. **Kimiko Hirata (Japan)**

Twitter: @kimikohirata

Interests: Renewable energy, Climate change

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Founder, International director, Climate activist, Visiting associate professor

Affiliation(s): Founder and International Director of the Kiko Network, Visiting associate professor at the Chiba University of Commerce

Known for: The culminated efforts of her activism that resulted in the cancellation of 13 coal power plants in Japan, eliminating the potential release of over 1.6 billion tons of CO2 throughout the lifetime of these power plants.

Fun fact: Kimiko Hirata was inspired to become an activist after reading Al Gore's book *Earth in the Balance* in the 1990s. After, in 1997, she attended the Kyoto Climate Summit. Later, in 2021, Kimiko Hirata was honored with the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Read more goldmanprize.org

13. **Liz Chicaje Churay (Peru)**

Interests: Forest and biodiversity preservation, Indigenous peoples and lands, Wildlife and plant species protection

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Leader, Environmental Activist, President

Affiliation(s): Leader of the Indigenous Bora community, President of an agricultural cooperative, Former president of the Federation of Indigenous Communities of the Ampiyacu River

Known for: Partnering with neighboring Indigenous communities and scientists, Liz Chicaje Churay's efforts resulted in the creation of the Yaguas National Park by the Peruvian government, which protects over 2 million acres of the Amazon Rainforest.

Fun fact: Liz Chicaje Churay started her journey as an environmental activist for her community at the age of 16.

The Yaguas National Park, known as a mega-diverse ecosystem, is comparable in size to Yellowstone National Park in the United States. It is home to over 3,000 plant species, 110 amphibian species, 100 reptile species, 500 bird species, and 160 mammal species. Although no people reside within this national park, 29 Indigenous communities live around the Yaguas National Park's borders.

Read more goldmanprize.org | mongabay.com

14. **Dr. Margaret “Meg” Lowman (USA)**

Nickname: “Canopy Meg”

Twitter: [@canopymeg](https://twitter.com/canopymeg) (also on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/canopymeg))

Interests: Treetops, Forest Canopies, Biodiversity, Conservation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Abornaut, Author

Affiliation(s): Founder/Executive Director of TREE Foundation, Leader of Mission Green

Known for: Pioneering research of forest canopy ecology across 46 countries and all seven continents.

Fun fact: Dr. Meg Lowman has an asteroid named after her (16304 Lowman) and was nicknamed by National Geographic as the "the real-life Lorax."

Read more canopymeg.com | nationalgeographic.org

15. Nouhad Awwad (Lebanon)

Twitter: @Awwad_Nouhad

Interests: Youth environmental awareness, education and representation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Environmental activist, Founder, Project campaigner, Leader

Affiliation(s): Founder of the Lebanese national chapter of the Arab Youth Climate Change, Project campaigner at Greenpeace Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Known for: Founding the Lebanese national chapter of the Arab Youth Climate Change at the age of 25 in order to spread awareness of environmental issues to young children.

Fun fact: Nouhad Awwad's mother sparked her awareness for the environment at a young age by having her rethink her choices and actions, such as considering why to not litter.

Read more lebanon.unwomen.org

16. Rachel Carson (USA)

Interests: Environmental pollution, History of the sea

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Biologist, Author

Affiliation(s): Former aquatic biologist and editor-in-chief for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Known for: Writing Silent Spring, a book that created awareness of the dangers of pollution and misusing pesticides on both the environment and humans, specifically highlighting the dangers of a toxic and harmless-appearing pesticide known as DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane).

Fun fact: Rachel Carson wrote a total of four books, including Silent Spring, and a fifth book was published posthumously.

Read more Britannica.com | rachelcarson.org | [Article 2](#) | nrdc.org

17. Severn Cullis-Suzuki (Canada)

Twitter: @SevernSuzuki (also on [Instagram](#))

Interests: Environmental justice and conservation, Biodiversity, Linguistics

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Environmental Activist, Author

Affiliation(s): Executive Director of the David Suzuki Foundation

Known for: At the age of 12 in 1992, Severn Cullis-Suzuki gave a speech during the plenary session at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the UN Rio Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil that coined her the nickname “the girl who silenced the world for 5 minutes.”

Fun fact: Severn Cullis-Suzuki is a Vanier Scholar currently pursuing a PhD in linguistic anthropology at the University of British Columbia.

Read more severncullissuzuki.com | davidsuzuki.org

18. Dr. Sylvia Earle (USA)

Twitter: @SylviaEarle (also on [Instagram](#))

Interests: Marine algae, Oceans, Oceanic conservation, Overfishing, Pollution

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Oceanographer, Author

Affiliation(s): Led numerous undersea expeditions, Leader of Mission Blue, Co-founded Deep Ocean Engineering, Inc.

Known for: Designing deep-sea submersibles, Leading as a pioneer in the use of modern self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) gear.

Fun fact: In 1998, Dr. Sylvia Earle became the National Geographic Society's first female explorer in residence. She was also the first woman to serve as chief scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Read more britannica.com | nationalgeographic.com

19. Dr. Thuy Quynh “Kate” Nguyen (Vietnam)

Interests: Sustainability, Fire Safety, Construction, Civil Engineering

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Chief Engineer at Cladding Safety Victoria, Former Senior Lecturer at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Former Leader of the RMIT University's Innovative Fire and Facade Engineering Group

Affiliation(s): Cladding Safety Victoria, RMIT University

Known for: Inventing a spray-on coating for rural buildings to help them resist bushfires. This coating is made from industrial and construction waste that would normally end up in a landfill.

Fun fact: In 2020, Dr. Kate Nguyen was awarded the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship, the first researcher in Civil Engineering to receive this honour.

Read more globalcitizen.org | rmit.edu.au | theaustralian.com.au

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Contact](#)

20. Tulsi Gowda (India)

Interests: Botany, Environment preservation and conservation, Tree and flora protection and conservation

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Ecologist, Environmentalist

Affiliation(s): Worked as an employee at the Agasur nursery of the Karnataka Forestry Department

Known for: Around the world, Tulsi Gowda is known as the “Encyclopedia of the Forest” due to her vast knowledge of different plants species and herbs. Over the past six decades, she has planted hundreds of thousands of tree saplings.

Fun fact: In 2020, Tulsi Gowda was awarded with Padma Shri (the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India) for her outstanding contributions to environmental conservation.

Read more: swachhindia.ndtv.com | india.mongabay.com

21. Dr. Vandana Shiva (India)

Twitter: [@drvandanashiva](https://twitter.com/dr Vandana Shiva)

Interests: Agriculture, Sustainable agriculture, Biodiversity, Promoting traditional organic farming methods, Seed conservation, Biosafety, Food systems

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Physicist, Author, Social activist, Founder

Affiliation(s): Founder of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (RFSTE) (formerly the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy), Founder of Navdanya

Known for: Advocating for the protection and conservation of biodiversity, seeds, and farmer's rights, as well as the promotion of traditional organic farming methods and biosafety practices for sustainable agriculture around the world.

Fun fact: In 2016, Dr. Vandana Shiva was awarded the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity, an international prize organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Read more britannica.com | un.org | cbd.int

22. Dr. Wangari Maathai (Kenya)

Interests: Environmental conservation, Environmental education

Occupation(s)/Title(s): Environmental Activist, Politician, Founder, Author

Affiliation(s): Founder of the Green Belt Movement

Read more [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com) | [nobelprize.org](https://www.nobelprize.org)

#ForNature

A decorative border surrounds the central text area, featuring various nature-related icons such as trees, birds, and animals in a stylized, colorful manner.

Disclaimer

We acknowledge that there are thousands of individuals and organizations around the world undertaking extraordinary work for biodiversity each and every day.

The information provided within each list of 22 biodiversity-related items is meant to create engagement and participation in the [Biodiversity Day](#) campaign and is by no means exhaustive or fully representative of all the initiatives taking place around the globe or all the individuals, organizations, and entities that promote biodiversity. We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this could cause and we look forward to your feedback. Please [contact us](#) for any comments and suggestions to rectify any inconsistencies. More importantly, we also invite you to create your own lists of 22 biodiversity-related items, which will be more representative of your work and adapted to your topic of interest.

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