

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - AFGHANISTAN



DURRESHAWAR MAHMOOD

Environment and Climate Change Advisor

Durreshawar Mahmood has over 10 years of experience managing, consulting, and advising on environmental sustainability, social development, green entrepreneurship, and climate governance programs across more than 25 countries in South Asia, the Pacific, and South Africa. She specializes in designing and executing multi-themed development projects, high-impact feasibility studies, and strategies for the private sector, NGOs, governments, and multilateral development agencies including EU, World Bank Group, GIZ, ILO, and ADB. She has collaborated with global management consulting firms such as EY and Oxford Policy Management to deliver climate governance technical assistance programs. As an active participant in national and regional climate policy dialogues (COP28, COP29), She has managed climate funds for the private sector and authored influential technical and policy advisory reports on water resource management, climate-smart agriculture and forestry, urban sustainability, biodiversity and conservation, air quality improvement, circular economy, and decarbonization.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - BANGLADESH



SHAIKH MUHAMMAD MEHEDI AHSAN

Chief of Party, Climate Action,
Winrock International

Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan is an Urban and Rural Planner focusing on social inclusiveness and climate change resilience. He has worked directly with every level of stakeholders/actors - communities, NGOs, private consultants, local government institutions (Municipalities), national government, and donor agencies. He has twenty-two years of work experience in climate change adaptation in Bangladesh, Germany, Nepal, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Currently, he serves as the Chief of Party for Climate Action at Winrock International. Previously, he was the Country Representative for both IUCN Bangladesh and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and spent over eight years as a senior urban resilience specialist at KfW Bank. He is also the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Chair of the Urban Vision Working Group, which promotes sustainable urban development in Bangladesh.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - BANGLADESH



SHAMIMA AKHTER

Director – Corporate Affairs, Partnerships & Communications, Unilever Bangladesh

Shamima Akhter is the Director of Corporate Affairs, Partnerships & Communications at Unilever Bangladesh (UBL), with over 20 years of experience in communications, corporate affairs, public relations, marketing, strategic stakeholder engagement, climate action and sustainability initiatives. At UBL, she spearheaded the company's first Sustainability Report (2022) and led its plastic waste management initiative in Bangladesh, collaborating with municipalities. She also serves as a key liaison between Unilever and public, INGO, and NGO sectors. Prior to joining UBL, she worked for Coca-Cola, Grameenphone, technology start-up QUBEE, USAID, and UNDP. She is an active member of the FICCI Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) sub-committee, FBCCI's Environment sub-committee, and the Technical Advisory Committee on Plastic Waste Management under the Department of Environment (DoE).

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - BHUTAN



NAMGAY WANGCHUK

General Manager,
Natural Resources Development Corporation Limited

Mr. Namgay Wangchuk is the General Manager at NRDCL, a Druk Holding and Investments (DHI) company. Before transitioning to the corporate sector in 2017, he served in Bhutan's Civil Service for over 15 years. He holds a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. Beyond his professional career, Mr. Wangchuk is a dedicated mindfulness practitioner and a certified trainer in Mindfulness-Based Emotional Intelligence. As a committed social worker, he actively promotes environmental sustainability and was honored with the National Order of Merit (Silver) by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo on Bhutan's 117th National Day in 2024 for his contributions to a clean and healthy environment.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - BHUTAN



TENZIN JAMTSHO

Managing Director of Dungkar Estate & the Director of Administration & Finance for Druk Gyalpo's Institute, Bhutan

Tenzin Jamtsho is the Director of Administration and Finance at Druk Gyalpo's Institute (formerly the Royal Academy), Bhutan, where he oversees financial management, technical operations, and administrative functions. Previously, he served as Chief Engineer at the institute, leading technical initiatives and contributing to the construction and development of the Royal Academy campus. His career also includes service in Bhutan's civil sector, working in the Urban Infrastructure Services Division and the Water and Sanitation Division under the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement. He holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering from Osaka University, Japan, and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from PSG College of Technology, Tamil Nadu, India. Passionate about sustainability, he is particularly interested in developing energy-efficient solutions to support sustainable infrastructure and reduce the overall carbon footprint.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - INDIA



SHANTANU SRIVASTAVA

Practice Leader - Sustainability | ESG | Climate
Finance | Public Affairs | Policy Advocacy

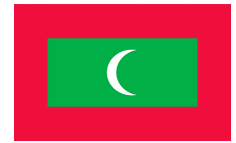
Shantanu Srivastava is a sustainability and public affairs leader with over twenty-five years of multi-dimensional experience in managing Public Affairs, Government Relations, Strategic Communications, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability portfolios with Corporates, Multilateral/ Bilateral Organizations, NGOs and I-NGOs, Academia, Industry Networks & Associations, Federal and State Government Departments. He has extensive experience working with C-level executives across South Asia and a strong global network in business, policy, and think tanks. He has played a key role in developing CSR policies, fostering strategic partnerships, and institutionalizing service delivery models for social and economic benefits. His hands-on experience in policy advocacy, crisis communications, and sustainability, combined with his ability to drive organizational change, makes him a key influencer in responsible business and sustainable development.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - MALDIVES



MOHAMED INAZ

Director, Climate Change & Sustainable Development,
Nexia Maldives

Inaz leads Climate Change, sustainable development and ESG pillar at Nexia Maldives. He has over 25 years of experience working in the field of environment, climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development in the Maldives, engaging with the Government, local communities, the private sector and international organisations. He headed the Environment & Energy portfolio of UNDP Maldives for 8 years and was instrumental in leading and managing climate change related projects, low-emission and climate resilient programmes, disaster risk management programmes and ecosystem conservation projects. His experience & expertise ranges from environmental assessments, disaster risk management, water resources, energy, waste management, conservation and other areas of sustainable development. Inaz works closely with youth, local communities, and businesses, in fostering a mindset of sustainability and encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - NEPAL



SUMIT YADAV

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Mantra
Incorporation

Sumit Yadav is a climate change expert and innovative entrepreneur with an MSc in Climate Change and Development from Pulchowk Campus, Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University. He is the Co-founder and Director of Mantra Incorporation. His team was recognized for their groundbreaking work in 2023, winning the prestigious ADB Hackathon for Sanitation Workers, co-organized by the Asian Development Bank, Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, and Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. Sumit combines academic expertise with practical innovation to address pressing environmental and social challenges in the region.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - NEPAL



PURNIMA SHAKYA BAJRACHARYA

Head of Exploration at UNDP Nepal

Purnima Shakya Bajracharya is a development and sustainability expert with extensive experience in circular economy, innovation, and environmental management. As the Head of Exploration at UNDP Nepal, she leads horizon scanning, market intelligence, and strategic initiatives in urbanization, economic development, and livelihoods. She provides technical guidance on circular economy solutions, fosters public-private partnerships, and facilitates innovation challenges on critical issues like plastic waste and nature-based solutions. With a career spanning over a decade in monitoring, evaluation, and program development, Purnima has played a pivotal role in designing and assessing sustainability programs at UNDP, ENPHO, and the Municipal Association of Nepal. Her expertise includes waste management, capacity-building, impact evaluation, and fundraising for large-scale development initiatives. She has successfully led multi-stakeholder projects, contributed to policy reforms, and championed sustainable solutions to drive long-term social and environmental impact.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - PAKISTAN



ANAM RATHOR

Sustainability and Climate Change Expert

Anam Rathor is a sustainability and climate change expert with over a decade of experience in environmental policy, low-carbon development, and resource efficiency. She holds a Master's in Environmental Sciences from the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and specializes in climate finance, circular economy principles, and sustainable infrastructure development. With extensive experience working for organizations like GIZ, UNDP, and EarthCorps., Anam has provided technical advisory services on climate finance policies and investment frameworks aligned with global funding mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Global Environment Facility. She is the co-founder of 'Solar for Her', promoting clean energy access for women, and 'Climate Action Pakistan', advocating for climate justice and policy reforms. Anam actively mentors young innovators and entrepreneurs through programs like UNICEF and UNDP's Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge and serves as a judge for the National Incubation Centre's Pak Green Innovation Challenge.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - PAKISTAN



AHMAD JAMAL WATTOO

Advocate for plastic waste reduction and climate mitigation strategies

Ahmad is an MPA graduate from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, with a strong focus on climate change and sustainability. He has previously worked at the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping and the World Bank IBRD Manufacturing, Agribusiness, and Services Department, where he gained valuable experience in global environmental policy and development. Ahmad passionately advocates for plastic waste reduction and climate mitigation strategies, writing regularly for the Daily Times Newspaper on climate issues, plastic pollution, and Pakistan's economic transition to a more sustainable future.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - SRI LANKA



VINDYA JAYAWICKRAMA WIJESINGHE

Senior Innovation Officer/ Director (Techtransfer & Commercialization) National Innovation Agency(NIA) Sri Lanka

Vindya Jayawickrama Wijesinghe is the Senior Innovation Officer and Director of Technology Transfer & Commercialization at the National Innovation Agency (NIA) Sri Lanka. She is an experienced innovation and intellectual property specialist with expertise in technology management, policy development, and research collaboration. With over eight years at the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology & Innovation under the Ministry of ST&R, Vindya has contributed to national science initiatives and consulted for the World Bank. Vindya holds multiple certifications from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, specializing in patents, patent drafting, and innovation management. She has obtained a M.Sc. in Biotechnology from the University of Peradeniya, and a Bachelor's in Genetics, Microbiology & Biochemistry from Bangalore University. Her expertise in technology management and policy development makes her a key contributor to Sri Lanka's innovation ecosystem.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - SRI LANKA



SACHIE PANAWALA

Additional Chief Innovation Officer, National
Innovation Agency

With 17 years of experience in research management and coordination, Dr. Sachie Panawala currently serves as Additional Chief Innovation Officer at the National Innovation Agency Sri Lanka, leading initiatives for sustainable development and technological advancement. Previously, as Project Scientist at the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI), she coordinated multidisciplinary research in health sciences, non-communicable diseases, and science education. During her tenure as Scientific Officer at the National Science Foundation (NSF), she managed key national projects, including the National Research Project on Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Aetiology in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and WHO. She led the National Thematic Research Programme (NTRP), promoting mission-oriented, collaborative research addressing pressing national challenges. Her work has significantly contributed to environmental sustainability, particularly in plastic pollution and climate issues. She has served on multiple committees and councils, shaping national research and innovation policies for a sustainable future.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - SRI LANKA



AMILA ABEYNAYAKA

Postdoctoral Research Associate at DTU -
Technical University of Denmark

Dr. Amila Abeynayaka, a sustainability scientist with over 17 years of expertise, specializes in plastic pollution, life cycle assessment (LCA), and environmental sustainability. He is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), focusing on Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment (LCSA). Previously, he was a Policy Researcher at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), contributing to international sustainability initiatives in ASEAN. His research on plastic waste, microplastics, and circular economy solutions includes collaborations with the Moore Institute for Plastic Pollution Research (Board Member) and Pirika, Inc. He has also served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Asian Institute of Technology, training future environmental leaders. Actively engaged in global sustainability efforts, he is involved with SETAC, ACLCA, and MIPPR, driving impactful solutions for plastic waste management and climate sustainability.

PLEASE Hack

And Save Our Rivers & Seas



JUDGE - SRI LANKA



KAVINDA GUNASEKARA

Chief Operating Officer of the Global Water & Sanitation Center, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand

Dr. Kavinda Gunasekara is the Chief Operating Officer of the Global Water & Sanitation Center at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. With over 15 years of experience, he has implemented numerous geospatial projects across South, Southeast, and Central Asia, including leading the UNEP Counter MEASURE Phases I & II projects at AIT, where he pioneered digital tools to map plastic litter in streets and waterways. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Tokyo (2016), a Master's in Business Analytics and Digital Transformation from AIT (2021), an M.Sc. in Geographic Information Systems & Remote Sensing (2010), and a B.Sc. (Honors) in Geology and Physics (2006) from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. His expertise encompasses geoinformatics, multi-hazard risk assessment, coastal and land monitoring, environmental analytics, digital sustainability, and digital transformation. He has made significant contributions to research initiatives, developing innovative tools for agro-ecological zoning to support sustainable agriculture and leading efforts against marine plastic litter throughout Asia and the Pacific region.