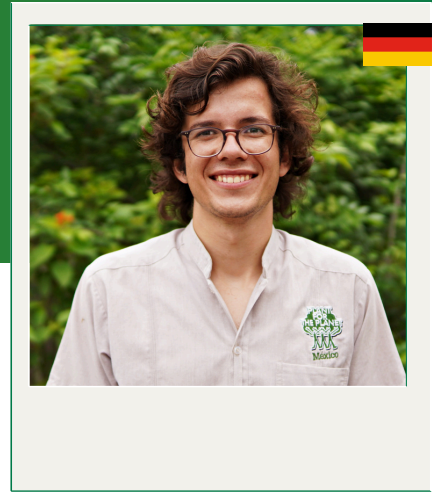


Felix Finkbeiner

Founder of Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation

Languages: *English & German*



Continuous Inspiration for a Global Movement

Felix Finkbeiner proves that there is no minimum age to achieve great things. Felix founded the Plant-for-the-Planet initiative in 2007 at the age of 9. After a school presentation on the climate crisis, he planted the first tree in front of his school. Local journalists became aware of him and by the age of 13 he was already speaking at the UN. There, Felix called for 1,000 billion trees to be restored worldwide to tackle the climate crisis.

What began with a single tree has grown into a global movement. Today, the 27-year-old works together with a team of 150 employees in eleven countries. He leads the forest restoration team and is the creative mind behind the innovative digital tools which advance the fight against the climate crisis - the Forest Cloud. Over 90 million trees have already been financed via the digital Restoration Platform which is used by more than 290 restoration projects around the globe.

Since 2007, more than 100,000 children and youths from 76 countries have followed Felix's example and joined Plant-for-the-Planet as Climate Justice Ambassadors. Inspired by Felix Plant-for-the-Planet developed into a globally active network that raises awareness among children and youth of their own impact and promotes global forest restoration and conservation. In 2020, the organization was awarded the Westphalian Peace Prize and in 2024 the UN SDG Action Award in the "Impact" category.

Awards to date:

2019: Ambassador of the SDG campaign of the BMZ, appointed by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel

2018: Federal Cross of Merit (from ger. *Bundesverdienstkreuz*)

2011: one of The Guardians 20 Green Giants & one of the 100 most influential Germans according to Focus

2009: Bavarian State Medal (from ger. *Bayerische Staatsmedaille*)

Current Media Mentions:

Süddeutsche Zeitung (11/2024): "Was macht ein Klimaschützer, wenn das Interesse am Klima schwindet?" (DE)

Utopia Changemaker Podcast (08/2024): "Vom Schulprojekt zur globalen Aufforstung" (DE)

Frankfurter Rundschau (01/2024): "Wir brauchen eine Billion Bäume" (DE)

Photos of Felix Finkbeiner can be downloaded under [this link](#).



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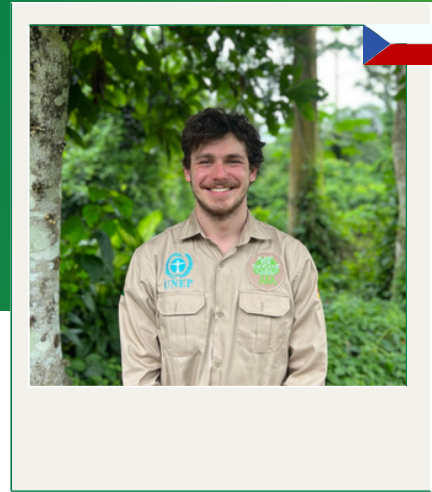
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02/2025

Šimon Michalčík

Founder and Director
of Plant-for-the-Planet Czechia

Languages: *English & Czech*



A Journey of Hope, Trees & Storytelling

At 14, Šimon joined Plant-for-the-Planet, a global youth movement restoring forests and tackling climate crisis. Fear of the future gave way to hope, and his mission began.

As Czechia's first Climate Justice Ambassador, he turned passion into action. A volunteer high school project, that empowered more than 1000 young people, grew into Plant-for-the-Planet Czechia, founded in 2020. Under his leadership, it has mobilized young people, celebrities, and companies for climate justice, using education and advocacy to inspire action and shift attitudes toward hope - think globally and act locally.

Beyond borders, Šimon drove action to fundraise for Plant-for-Ghana, a restoration project founded by another Climate Justice Ambassador, Mohammed Rabiou Dannakabu, leading to 61,000 trees planted by the end of 2025 based on a close Czech-Ghanian cooperation. Strengthening global cooperation even more, he visited the restoration project three times between 2023 and 2024.

He earned a First-Class Honours degree in Global Sustainable Development at the University of Warwick, winning the Best Dissertation Award. For him, sustainability is more than an academic pursuit—it's a story waiting to be told. Writing became his tool to inspire and mobilize action. To connect with the landscapes he seeks to protect, Šimon turned to long-distance walking. His most ambitious journey took him across New Zealand, trekking its entire length over nearly six months.

Now in Edinburgh, he is exploring the power of narrative through an MSc in Narrative Futures at the Edinburgh Futures Institute. When asked, "Narrative Futures? But what is it?", his answer is simple: the stories we tell today shape the world of tomorrow. Through restoration, words, and action, Šimon continues his mission—to cultivate hope in the face of the climate crisis, one story at a time.

Current Media Mentions:

[The untold climate story.](#) | [Šimon Michalčík](#) | [TEDxUNYP](#)

[Discovery: Change Drivers Season 2 Episode 2 Šimon Michalčík](#)

[Forbes CZ: Změnu mají v rukou mladí. Čech pomáhá obnovovat lesy...\(CZ\)](#)

Photos of Šimon Michalčík can be downloaded under [this link](#).



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02/2025

Jens Waltermann

Chairman of the Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation's Board of Directors

Languages: *English & German*



Providing a Safe Framework for Participation in Policy Making

Since September 2023, Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation has been led by a new full-time Chairman of the Board of Directors. Lawyer Jens Waltermann, formerly Executive Director of UWC International (United World Colleges) in London and Berlin, brings extensive experience in youth education, empowerment, and global organizational management.

His goal is to professionalize the foundation's work further and strengthen the global Plant-for-the-Planet network. He emphasizes supporting the 100,000 young Climate Justice Ambassadors, recognizing and empowering their extraordinary commitment to climate action.

Together with his volunteer colleagues from the Board of Directors, he will continue to drive forward the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

"The challenges posed by the climate crisis are the greatest we face as a society. It is therefore important to me to further expand the Foundation's core areas of empowerment work with children and youth and the restoration of ecosystems."

-Jens Waltermann, full-time board member of the Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation

Photos of Jens Waltermann can be downloaded under this [link](#).



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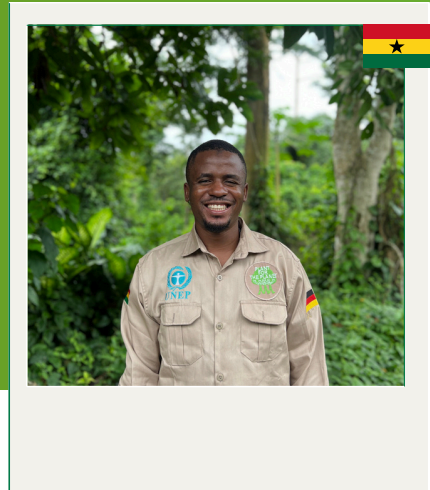
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02/2025

Mohammed Rabiou Dannakabu

Founder and Director of Plant-for-the-Planet Ghana & Plant-for-Ghana Restoration Project

Languages: *English*



Empowering youth & founding a community-led project, Plant-for-Ghana

Mohammed became Climate Justice Ambassador in 2014, when he joined the Global Ambassadors Council (formerly Global Board) as a president and represented the African region. He started organizing Plant-for-the-Planet Academies across Ghana and trained more than 2,400 children through 30 Academies. The children gained essential skills and ability to understand what's happening to their home and what they can do about it.

"We realized that climate-related issues in Ghana are becoming more serious. Together with the team, we decided to take another step towards solutions in restoring degraded lands."

In 2020, Mohammed founded the non-profit organization Plant-for-the-Planet Ghana. This underlined his previous commitments and enabled him to start a brand new restoration project [Plant-for-Ghana](#) – a project that blends forest restoration, women's empowerment, community-led agroforestry, and green job creation. That's what his community needed. Since then, the project has planted around 67,612 trees by 2024, has 2 tree nurseries, and has 14 full-time & 65 ad-hoc seasonal employees. Restoration goes hand in hand with community welfare. Through partnerships, especially with Plant-for-the-Planet Czech Republic, the project received long-term funding, a solar borehole, and a tricycle for medical emergencies; additionally, beekeeping initiatives were provided for 20+ women and women also form 100% of tree nursery staff.

His work isn't limited to Ghana. Mohammed has participated in various UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs and CBD COPs), namely *The 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15)*, held in Montreal, and COP26 in Glasgow. He advocates for climate action and emphasises the importance of ecosystem restoration and cooperation in the fight against climate crisis,

His ongoing mission is clear: through grassroots action, sustainable development, and the empowerment of youth and women, he's creating a resilient and livable future for all.

[Witness Stand for Climate Justice | "And the rains never came"](#)

[Grassroots Climate Action at Its Finest: Šimon & Mohammed](#)

Photos of Mohammed R. Dannakabu can be downloaded under [this link](#).

Fatou Jeng

Youth climate & gender equality activist

Languages: *English*



Bridging the gap between grassroots activism and high-level decision-making

In 2016, Fatou Jeng attended her first Plant-for-the-Planet Youth Summit, unaware that this moment would ignite a journey leading her to the forefront of global climate leadership.

Determined to turn awareness into action, Fatou founded *Clean Earth Gambia*, a youth-led nonprofit tackling climate crisis through education, forest restoration, and community engagement. The organization has trained over 500 schoolchildren, planted over 30,000 trees, and, in partnership with UNICEF Gambia and the Gambian government, organized the country's first National Children and Youth Conference on Climate Change, producing a national climate engagement strategy.

Her impact extends far beyond The Gambia. In 2019, she was selected as one of the first-ever YOUNGO delegates to the UN Climate Negotiations (UNFCCC), where she became a driving force for gender and climate policy, later serving as Policy Operations Lead for Women and Gender. She also played a key role in youth engagement during Africa Climate Week and has been recognized as one of the 30 most influential young Gambians.

Fatou's advocacy for gender inclusion in climate action has made her a sought-after speaker and media voice, with appearances on BBC, Deutsche Welle, and UNFCCC platforms. In 2023, she was appointed to the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change and the UN's Early Warning System for All Initiative, ensuring youth voices shape global resilience strategies. That same year, she spoke at the Athens Democracy Forum on climate justice and democracy. Recognized among the Top 100 Young African Conservation Leaders, she was also appointed to the Soft Power Bowl Club. Yet for Fatou, the mission is clear: *empowering youth, shaping policy, and making climate justice a reality.*

Awards to date:

[Youngster Green Award \(2024\)](#)

[25 up-and-coming young personalities from Africa \(2019\)](#)

[Winner of the Women Championing Environmental Rights Award \(2023\)](#)

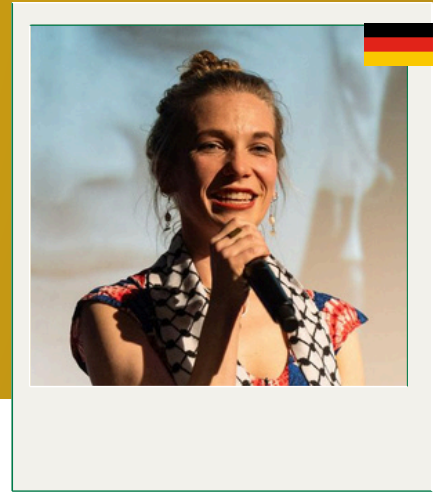
[30 most influential young Gambians \(What's On Gambia magazine, 2019\)](#)

Photos of Fatou Jeng can be downloaded under [this link](#).

Jule Schnakenberg

Policy and Advocacy Lead
at Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation

Languages: *English & German*



15 years of fighting for climate justice & ecosystem restoration

At just 11 years old, Jule Schnakenberg began her journey with Plant-for-the-Planet as a Climate Justice Ambassador. Now 26, she has transformed into a formidable climate lawyer and advocate, actively contributing to a historic climate case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – read more [here](#). Currently pursuing a Master's in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford, Jule brings knowledge and passion to the fight for climate justice.

Since October 2020, Jule has been involved with World's Youth for Climate Justice (WYCJ), a global campaign initiated by the Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC). This movement successfully petitioned the ICJ to provide an advisory opinion on the obligations of states regarding climate protection and human rights.

Her dedication extends beyond legal advocacy. As a long-standing Climate Justice Ambassador and employee of Plant-for-the-Planet, Jule has been an integral part of the organization's delegation at various UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs). One example is COP 28 in Dubai, where she collaborated with a diverse team representing over ten countries, organized impactful side events, and engaged with global stakeholders to advance climate action. Additionally, her commitment to youth empowerment is evident in her active participation in international forums. During the UN Water Week in New York 2023, she represented Plant-for-the-Planet on a panel discussing freshwater biodiversity, emphasizing the importance of meaningful youth involvement in environmental decision-making.

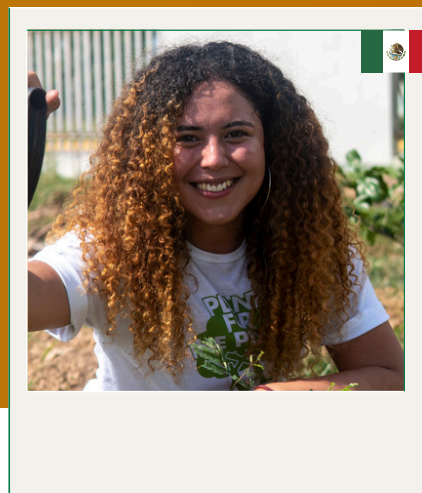
Her journey from a young ambassador to a leading figure in the global climate justice movement exemplifies the power of youth-driven initiatives. Her unwavering dedication continues to inspire and mobilize the next generation of climate activists, reinforcing the critical role of grassroots movements in driving systemic change. To support that, she's been organizing annual Youth Summits and has played a crucial part in peer-to-peer education.

Photos of Jule Schnackenberg can be downloaded under [this link](#).

Paulina Sánchez

Plant-for-the-Planet's Regional Lead for Central and South America

Languages: *English & Spanish*



Mexico's first Climate Justice Ambassador: Hope for a Future Rooted in Justice and Action

Paulina Sánchez's journey into climate activism began with a single speech—Felix Finkbeiner's call to action at COP16 in Cancún. Inspired by his vision of a world where children and youth lead the fight against the climate crisis, she skipped an exam to attend. That moment sparked a continuous commitment.

With no local Plant-for-the-Planet entity in Mexico, Paulina took matters into her own hands. She organized talks, launched the first Plant-for-the-Planet Academy with the support of Felix's German team, and became a Climate Justice Ambassador. She built a movement from the ground up, rallying schools, securing government support, and proving that young people can drive real change. Her local advocacy took her to UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs and CBD COPs), where she deepened her fight for climate justice.

As a passionate speaker and advocate, Paulina has shared her insights in local and global media, amplifying the movement. But at the heart of it all, she finds her greatest inspiration in the children and youth she works with—their energy, hope, and determination fuel her mission to cultivate not just trees, but a future rooted in justice and action.

Now, as Plant-for-the-Planet's regional lead for Central and South America, Paulina empowers young changemakers through Youth Summit talks, local Academies, and mentorship programs. She also works closely with restoration efforts in Mexico, connecting grassroots action with global impact.

Photos of Paulina Sánchez can be downloaded under [this link](#).



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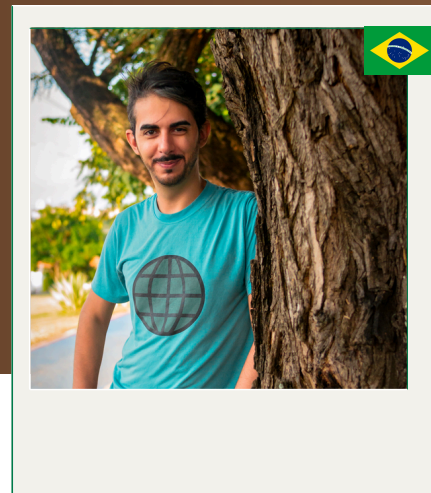
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02/2025

Luciano Frontelle

Executive Director
of Plant-for-the-Planet in Brazil

Languages: *English & Portuguese*



Transforming passion into action with a global impact

Since 2019, Luciano Frontelle has been leading Plant-for-the-Planet Brazil, the national branch of the organization founded in Germany, which empowers children and young people to become agents of change and advocates for climate justice. His leadership has significantly boosted the organization's impact by forging strategic partnerships and advancing the discussion on climate education policies. Under his guidance, more than 5,000 children have been trained as Climate Justice Ambassadors, greatly increasing environmental awareness among younger generations.

With extensive international experience, Luciano has represented Brazil at several UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs), attending COPs 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, and 29 between 2014 and 2024. He also participated in the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in New York (2015) and the World Youth Conference in Sri Lanka (2014). His commitment to youth engagement led him to join the National Youth Council, where he held the environmental chair and contributed directly to development of sustainable public policies.

For over a decade, Luciano has been dedicated to the development, implementation, and evaluation of projects aimed at ensuring rights and strengthening sustainable public policies. His journey began with an early inspiration: the animated series Captain Planet and the Planeteers, which sparked his passion for environmental justice. Today, as the head of Plant-for-the-Planet Brazil, he turns that passion into action by empowering children and youth to expand their influence and lead meaningful change in the fight against the climate crisis.

Current Media Mentions:

[Portal Porque](#) | "It may have 10 lanes, but what's the point if they all flood?", asks environmentalist

[ECO A Uol](#) | "Harry Potter fans cause environmental crisis in the UK, but there's a solution"

[TEDx](#) | "Schools and the world - places of great transformations"

[Época/Globo](#) | "Luciano Frontelle, from Clímax Brasil, uses humor to address the environment"

Photos of Luciano Frontelle can be downloaded under [this link](#).