

Synopsis

Big picture climate and ecosystems scientist, public policy analyst, strategist, thinker and doer, Dr Phoebe Barnard is internationally known and appreciated for her work on globalization, climate, ecosystems, energy, and their impacts and opportunities through the lenses of climate risk and resilience, sustainability strategy, conservation biology, environmental futures, systems analysis and leadership. A highly ranked and impactful scientist and strategist, she cross-pollinates effectively between siloed disciplines and has been awarded internationally and in the USA for her team-building and communications skills. An inspired university professor, public speaker, and mentor, she is a team lead, team supporter, and pragmatic visionary. Phoebe brings people together to solve some of our most challenging wicked problems in science and society, and has written and spoken extensively on how to adapt well to the 21st century from our current wasteful, free-living lifestyles.

After hours, Phoebe is also a film producer, working with her filmmaker husband on big societal issues. She has been a Fulbright Scholar (1993-94), Distinguished Service Awardee, Society for Conservation Biology (2002) and Forbes Distinguished Professional Achievement Awardee (2019). For fun, she climbs active volcanoes, is a mediocre mountaineer, (used to) jump out of planes when she still flew, builds a community vegetable garden, and practices community sustainability for lasting social change.

Contacts

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Work: - **Chief Executive Officer, Stable Planet Alliance, USA**
- **Affiliate Full Professor** (conservation biology; environmental futures; climate risk and resilience), **University of Washington – Center for Environmental Politics, UW Seattle, and Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW Bothell**
- **Honorary Research Associate, African Climate and Development Initiative, and DST-NRF Centre of Excellence at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology**, both at the **University of Cape Town, Cape Town, 7700, South Africa.**

URLs: [Personal portal](#) | [Stable Planet Alliance](#) | [My professorship at University of Washington, Bothell](#) | [My professorship at University of Washington, Seattle's Center for Environmental Politics](#) | [Biodiversity early warning systems – global](#) | biodiversity early warning systems in North America's Cascadia Region – [institutional](#) and [working concept](#) portals | [FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology](#) | [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Academia.edu](#) | [Twitter](#) | [MuckRack](#) | [Facebook](#) | [The Conversation](#)

Education

PhD in Environmental Sciences (animal ecology) -- Uppsala University, Sweden, 1994

MSc in Environmental Sciences with distinction -- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 1990

BSc with Honours in Biology -- Acadia University, Canada, 1983.

Significant professional appointments

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| 2021- | Stable Planet Alliance: Chief Executive Officer and co-founder. A new global alliance of highly respected organizations and people to bend the curve on human ecological overshoot |
| 2018-2021: | Conservation Biology Institute (CBI): Chief Science & Policy Officer / Associate Strategist
A new position to improve the strategy, impact, consensus-building ability and policy reach of this highly regarded, internationally active geospatial environmental institute. |
| 2018: | Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC): Senior Consultant
A half-time position (4 months) to support the work of the IUCN Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group, where I initiated a new Marine Connectivity Working Group and further a global policy analysis of multilateral infrastructure investments. |
| 2017-present: | University of Washington (UW): Affiliate Professor of Environmental Futures and Conservation Biology. Collaborate with teams across the globe (International Institute for |

Applied Systems Analysis, University of Rwanda, S. African National Biodiversity Institute, University of Cape Town) on biodiversity and natural hazard early warning systems.

- 2017-2018: **Pacific Biodiversity Institute (PBI):** Executive Director
Assumed helm as the ED of this small and non-viable conservation research organization and took the decision to restructure its international programs and staff into three larger, better resourced institutes (including CBI and CLLC above) for better conservation impact.
- 2005-2016: **South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI):**
Principal (2005-14) & Lead Scientist (2014-16), Climate Change Adaptation, and Biodiversity Futures Program Head (2015-16), Kirstenbosch Research Centre. As Lead Scientist, led national and institutional strategic planning for biodiversity futures and climate vulnerability science – especially global change futures, climate vulnerability of endemic species, and roles of research, citizen science and partnerships in conservation.
- 2005-present: **University of Cape Town (UCT): African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) and Centre of Excellence at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology:**
Honorary Research Associate, from 2007-2012 developing and coordinating climate change and conservation module of UCT's top-ranked MSc Course in Conservation Biology. Lectured yearly on climate vulnerability and adaptation, national/ global public policy, conservation leadership, negotiation skills, conflict resolution. Led international research team on climate vulnerability of endemic species in urbanizing and fragmented landscapes in a global biodiversity hotspot
- 2003-2005 **South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Global Invasive Species Program Secretariat:**
Scientific & technological coordinator, GISP Secretariat. Led and initiated projects in Costa Rica, Vietnam, Chile and the Pacific Ocean on invasive species and aligned the Secretariat's work with other international initiatives, e.g. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.
- 1994-2003 **Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Directorate of Environmental Affairs:**
Founding Coordinator, Namibian National Biodiversity Program (director-level post) - designed and led for 10 years Namibia's first national biodiversity program: strategic national planning, coordination, policy formulation/analysis; chaired National Biodiversity Task Force; negotiated on behalf of Namibia at Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), SADC, related fora. CBD national focal point, 1997-2002.
- 2001 **Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Directorate of Environmental Affairs:**
Founding National Coordinator, Namibian National Climate Change Program. Designed and led this national program, a Namibian Committee on Climate Change and a public forum, voluntarily for 10 months, in addition to the National Biodiversity Program, until a paid coordinator could be hired.

Institutional reviews and advisory bodies

- 2020 - **American Society of Adaptation Professionals**, leadership mentor, active in climate adaptation member groups on climate migration and managed retreat, public policy, rural resilience, and justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI)
- 2019 - **Coalition WILD**, international leadership mentor for young conservation professionals
- 2019 - **500 Women Scientists**, active member of a group now numbering > 19,000 women diversifying and raising leadership voices for women in STEM.
- Dec 2017 - **United Nations Development Program, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) portal**, 'featured expert'
- Dec 2017 - **American Association for the Advancement of Science, SciLine science communication network**, 'featured expert.' Routinely asked to comment on news by journalists worldwide.
- Sept 2015-19 **University of Zürich, Switzerland**, University Research Priority Program "Global Change and Biodiversity" Scientific Review Panel with NASA administrator Dr Ghassem Asrar

- Aug 2013- **United Nations Environment Program – World Conservation Monitoring Centre’s African Leadership Group**, ‘expert advisors’ to African countries on national action plans
- Nov 2012 **United Nations Environment Program horizon-scanning 2012 Foresight Report, Invited Reviewer**, “*21 Issues for the 21st Century: Results of the UNEP Foresight Process on Emerging Environmental Issues.*”
- July 2012 **National Geographic Expert Review Panel of Cheetah Conservation Fund** (appointed member; chair: Prof Tom Lovejoy)
- March 2007 **University of Cape Town, Conservation Biology Master of Science Course Review Team**
- Jan 2002-03 **Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem Program Steering Committee** (alternate)
- Jan 2000-05 **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Global Board, Executive Committee** (2003-05), and **selection panels**
- Jan 2001-03 **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment** - Global Scenarios & Sub-Global Working Groups
- Jan 2001-03 **Namibian Committee on Climate Change, national chair** (government); **Contact Group on Climate Change** (interim chair, public forum)
- Oct 1994-03 **Namibian National Biodiversity Task Force, national chair** (govt) plus 4 of 18 working groups

Notable awards and distinctions

- 2020 **University of Washington, Seattle, affiliated as full professor** to Center for Environmental Politics
- 2019 **Forbes Distinguished Professional Achievement Award**
- 2017 **University of Washington, Bothell, awarded full professorship (affiliate)**, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- 2015 **Homeward Bound Busara Circle of Women Elders** (6 women), and **Antarctic Women’s Leadership Expedition 2016** (one of initial 76 international women leaders in global change science selected)
- 2002 **Distinguished Achievement Award (Society for Conservation Biology)** -- “*For her extraordinary contribution to conservation in Namibia, especially putting science into practice*”
- 1993-94 **Fulbright Fellowship - Doctoral Grant (Fulbright Commission, USA/Sweden)**
For PhD studies in evolutionary biology at Uppsala University

Postdocs and graduate students (details on request)

3 postdocs, 9 PhD students, 3 MSc thesis students, 3 BSc Honours students graduated or in process.

Publications (full list and PDFs on request)

Over 130 peer-reviewed scientific, policy and popular publications, including books, reports, chapters and papers.

Professional interests – system change, episodic events, governance and preparedness for triple-whammy climate or policy curve-balls, globalization, travel and trade and its impacts, vulnerability to climate and land use change; environmental futures, sustainability tipping points, effective communications and media, especially film, to bring these about; difficult civil dialogues to bring about economic and social transitions; human behaviour and resistance to change; circular/ regenerative economy; political tipping points; restoration ecology; holistic nutrition, how to balance food, water and energy security with ecosystem health and biodiversity values. At a gentler level, ornithology, evolution in natural ecological communities, and landscape connectivity and climate adaptation.