
Global change scientist | biodiversity | climate science | social change | professor | filmmaker
phoebe.barnard@stableplanetalliance.org | pbarnard@uw.edu | WhatsApp/cell +1 360 914 2307

[WIKIPEDIA SUMMARY](#) | [FULL CV and PUBLICATIONS LIST](#) | [RESEARCH GATE](#) | [ACADEMIA.EDU](#) | [GOOGLE SCHOLAR](#)

Synopsis

Big-picture societal and environmental strategist, climate and ecosystems scientist, public policy analyst, global and regional policy strategist, I'm internationally known for impactful science-policy-implementation work on climate, ecosystems, energy, risk and resilience. On three continents – Africa, Europe and North America - I have worked globally, bioregionally and nationally in governments, NGOs, academia and international nonprofit initiatives.

Globally, I was a UN negotiator at the Convention on Biological Diversity for the Government of Namibia while developing and coordinating its founding national biodiversity and climate change programmes; I articulated a CBD Bureau process of aligning the work programmes of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CMS and Ramsar Conventions. I was a [board and exco member](#) of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; chief science and technology officer for the World Bank-funded [Global Invasive Species Programme](#), and chief science and policy officer for the geospatial consultancy [Conservation Biology Institute](#), including the development of [biodiversity early-warning systems](#), which I'd spearheaded in [southern Africa](#).

Nationally and bioregionally, I worked with governments and academia in southern Africa, where for 21 years I founded and led influential national climate and biodiversity programmes in post-independence Namibia and post-apartheid South Africa. These were meaningful times, providing guidance for humanity around the world at these crossroads. I also founded and developed [collaborative, highly structured programs](#) with 21 strategic working groups on biodiversity and climate resilience, adaptation and restoration. Our work was awarded globally to me personally by the Society for Conservation Biology's [2002 Distinguished Service Award](#) for government (Sir David Attenborough and Prof Georgina Mace co-won it for media and academia respectively).

Since returning to the USA in 2017 to lead and co-lead three international and global environmental and societal NGOs, and initiate a [global convening on accelerating ecosystem restoration for civilizational change](#), I have focused increasingly on the human policies, behaviors and systems driving biodiversity loss, climate change and other symptoms of ecological overshoot.

Scientifically, I work on the biological mechanisms of vulnerability and adaptation to rapid global change. I've warned of our precarious ecological overshoot, and how to reverse it: I am a core co-author of the World Scientists' Warning of a Climate Emergency papers in [BioScience](#) and [Scientific American](#) in 2019-2021, the first co-signed by 15,656 scientists from 165 countries, and lead author of the World Scientists' Warnings into Action: Local to Global paper in [Science Progress](#) in 2021 (for COP26), co-signed by 3000+ scientists from 110+ countries. I co-authored World Scientists' Warning: the [Behavioural Crisis Driving Ecological Overshoot](#) with disaffected global marketing industry execs. I'm intent on speeding implementation of solutions around the world, through transformative and collaborative action at multiple scales on energy, pollution, nature, food systems, population, and economic goals: challenging, complex tasks requiring coordination, strategy and morale-building.

Especially in the last decade, I have a 'fire in my belly' for accelerating transformative change. I am increasingly known for:

- facilitating strategic, cross-pollinating collaboration of governments, academics, nonprofits and communities;
- strategic, cost-effective, impactful and compassionate strategies which rethink systems and better ways of working;
- deft approach to multiple policy goals by reframing and mainstreaming climate- and biodiversity-positive approaches;
- gently persuasive, engaging support to high-level policymakers, academic, nonprofit and community leaders.

A quite highly ranked and impactful scientist, strategist and communicator, member of the [Club of Rome's Planetary Emergency Partnership](#) and other bodies, I can cross-pollinate effectively between siloed disciplines. I've been honored with an award for bringing people together to tackle our most challenging wicked problems in science and society, and write and speak extensively on shifting civilization to a wiser, more collaborative future (including at the Club of Rome's Roundtable on the Human Future).

After hours, I also co-produce films, working with my filmmaker husband John Bowey on films on big societal issues. Our forthcoming independent global documentary series, [The Climate Restorers](#), shows how nature-based carbon removal approaches, vast-scale ecosystem restoration and social change can together help stabilize our planet, climate and societies.

I've been a Fulbright Scholar, Distinguished Service Awardee of the Society for Conservation Biology, and Forbes Distinguished Professional Achievement Awardee. I climb active volcanoes and snowy mountains and grow a community vegetable garden. I'm a US citizen and have lived in Africa, North America and Europe, with permanent residence in Namibia and South Africa.

Contacts

Based in: Mount Vernon, Washington State, 98273, USA. Telephone +1 360 914 2307 (mobile)

Emails: phoebe.barnard@stableplanetalliance.org (work) | pbarnard@uw.edu (University of Washington)

Work:

- **Founding CEO, now Senior Advisor, Stable Planet Alliance**, a global alliance of dynamic, respected organizations and experts
- **Co-founder and Co-convenor, Global Restoration Collaborative**, a global process to align ecosystem restoration, climate restoration and youth, women and indigenous leadership alliances & thus accelerate progress beyond the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- **Affiliate Full Professor** (conservation biology; environmental futures; climate risk and resilience), **University of Washington – Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW Bothell and Center for Environmental Politics, UW Seattle**
- **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, South Africa
- **Associate Science, Policy and Comms Strategist, Conservation Biology Institute**, Corvallis, OR, USA

URLs: www.phoebebarnard.com | <https://www.stableplanetalliance.org> | <https://www.stableplanetalliance.org/restoration> (temp site) | <https://www.uwb.edu/ias/faculty-and-staff/phoebe-barnard> | <https://envirpol.org/faculty-2/> | <https://pbarnard9.wixsite.com/global> and <https://consbio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Early-Warning-Systems-for-Biodiversity-extended-brief-1.pdf> (biodiversity early warning systems globally) | <https://pbarnard9.wixsite.com/website-3> (biodiversity early warning systems in North American Cascadia Region) | <https://science.uct.ac.za/fitzpatrick/phoebe-barnard> | https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Phoebe_Barnard | <https://washington.academia.edu/PhoebeBarnard>

Education

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

MSc in Environmental Sciences with distinction (animal ecology) -- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 1990

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

Significant professional appointments and roles

- 2022-present: **Global Restoration Collaborative (GRC):** Co-founder and co-convenor of this global forum. It brings together, for acceleration and transformation towards a regenerative economy and civilization, eight previously siloed networks that should be talking and collaborating, but weren't. These are: ecosystem restoration, climate restoration, biodiversity conservation and rewilding, social reconnection and resilience, youth leadership, women's leadership, indigenous cultural bridges, farmers & other habitat users.
- 2017-present: **University of Washington (UW):** Affiliate full professor of conservation biology and environmental and societal futures. I'm faculty at both UW Seattle (Center for Environmental Politics) and UW Bothell (Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences).
- 2021-2023: **Stable Planet Alliance (SP):** Chief Executive Officer and co-founder. A new global coalition of lively, respected organizations and experts around the world working to reduce human planetary impact from the top down (shifting public policies, from the SDGs on down) and bottom up (shifting public perceptions and narratives) on ecological overshoot, especially both population and consumption. I remain a senior advisor and transition coach to the alliance.
- 2018-2021: **Conservation Biology Institute (CBI):** Chief Science & Policy Officer / Associate Strategist (2021-) A new position to improve the strategy, impact, consensus-building ability and policy reach of this highly regarded, internationally active geospatial environmental institute, which facilitates collaborative, consensus-building spatial solutions and scenarios.
- 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 on biodiversity and natural hazard early warning

systems under climate change. Collaborators include International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis and University of Rwanda). Unsalariated post.

- 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 Lead Scientist, Biodiversity Futures (2015-16), Kirstenbosch Research Centre. I 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):** Research Associate at both the **African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI)** and **FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology**. From 2007-2012 I developed and coordinated a 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 an international research team of postdocs, PhD and MSc students on climate vulnerability of endemic species in urbanizing and fragmented landscapes in fynbos, a global biodiversity hotspot. Unsalariated post.
- 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

- 2023 – present: **Club of Rome, Planetary Emergency Partnership**, contributor and speaker at monthly action meetings and a July 2024 Roundtable on the Human Future.
- 2020 – present: **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 – present: **Busara Circle**, an intimate and globally engaged STEMM women's eldership and leadership forum of 12 remarkable women, including Christiana Figueres and Musimbi Kanyoro, Cécile Ndjebet and Elaine Martyn, mentoring and coaching the circa 1,000 global women of the Homeward Bound STEMM women's leadership program.
- 2019 – present: **Coalition WILD**, international leadership mentor for young conservation professionals.
- 2019 – present: **500 Women Scientists**, active member of a group now numbering > 19,000 women diversifying and raising leadership voices for women in STEMM.
- 2017 - 2020 **United Nations Development Program, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-**

- Net) portal, 'featured expert.'**
- 2017-present **American Association for the Advancement of Science, SciLine science communication network, 'featured expert.'** Routinely asked to comment on news by journalists worldwide.
- 2015-19 **University of Zürich, Switzerland, University Research Priority Program "Global Change and Biodiversity"** Scientific Review Panel with NASA administrator Dr Ghassem Asrar.
- 2013-16 **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). Reviewed this international wildlife organization's impact.
- 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 of environmental futures and conservation biology** at the Center for Environmental Politics
- 2019 **Forbes Distinguished Professional Achievement Award**
- 2017 **University of Washington, Bothell, affiliated as full professor of environmental futures and conservation biology** at the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- 2015 **Homeward Bound Antarctic Women's Leadership Expedition 2016** (one of initial 76 international women leaders in global change science selected for this top-class training, where I was both mentor and mentee)
- 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 behavioural ecology 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 125 peer-reviewed scientific, policy and popular publications, including books, reports, chapters and papers.

Scientific rating:

- National Science Foundation reviewer, USA
- National Research Foundation, rated scientist (C-1), South Africa
- H-index = 38 (25 since 2019)
- i_{10} index = 78 (49 since 2016)
- Research Gate RG index = 38.34 (top 4% of academics at the time this index was dropped)

I am an unusually transdisciplinary scientist, social change strategist and science communicator, working on climate, ecosystem and natural solutions with economists, social scientists, ethicists, demographers, policymakers, community leaders, filmmakers and media strategists.

I'm comfortable with high-level engagements and have been fortunate to meet and sometimes work with heads of state, kings and queens, and other global leaders, particularly in northern Europe and southern Africa.

Among other roles, I'm also a board member of Scientists Warning Europe

<https://www.scientistswarningeurope.org.uk/about> and member of the Alliance of Leading Environmental Researchers and Thinkers, ALERT <http://alert-conservation.org/key-people-new>.

For more details, a comprehensive CV/publications list is online: <https://www.phoebebarnard.com/cv-publications>.

Professional interests – systems analysis and change, global change science and policy, climate vulnerability and adaptation, episodic events, good governance, organizational efficiency and effectiveness, preparedness for triple-whammy climate or policy curve-balls, globalization, economic reform, travel and trade and their 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.