

Virtual Coffee with Changemakers

Celebrating Women's Achievements in Promoting Nature-based Solutions

Friday 12 March

9:00-9:45 GMT-5 (New York)

15:00-15:45 GMT +1 (Geneva)

17:00-17:45 GMT +3 (Nairobi)



Elizabeth Wathuti

Founder
Green Generation Initiative
Head of Campaigns
Wangari Maathai Foundation

Agenda

Welcome from our moderator

Discussion: Promoting women as changemakers and custodians of Nature for climate and disaster resilience – what has been achieved, what are the gaps and critical priorities?

Q&A

Closing remarks



PEDRR
Ecosystems for Disaster Risk Reduction
and Adaptation



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UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) launched a new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC): **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Disaster and Climate Resilience.**

In commemoration of International Women's Day, this Virtual Coffee with Changemakers event is dedicated to celebrating women as environmental stewards and actors of change. As the COVID-19 pandemic has tragically demonstrated, healthy Nature is needed for healthy people and provides us with important buffers against the impacts of climate risks. We will learn about achievements in promoting Nature-based Solutions for building climate resilience in Africa by two female environmental leaders.

[JOIN OUR MOOC: PEDRR.ORG/MOOC](https://pedrr.org/mooc)

SDGacademy

Speakers



Elizabeth Wathuti

Founder
Green Generation Initiative
Head of Campaigns
Wangari Maathai Foundation

Elizabeth Wathuti is a passionate environmentalist and climate activist from Kenya. She is the founder of Green Generation Initiative (GGI), and the Head of Campaigns and coordinator of Daima coalition for the protection of urban green spaces at the Wangari Maathai Foundation. She is a full member of The Greenbelt Movement, board member of the Elephant neighbors center and a youth council member of the International Reserva: The Youth Land Trust. Due to her outstanding passion, leadership and personal commitment to environmental conservation and societal issues, she received the Wangari Maathai Scholarship Award from The Greenbelt Movement, Kenya Community Development Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. She has previously served as the chairperson of Kenyatta University Environmental Club and holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental studies and Community development.



Cathy Watson

Chief of Partnerships
Centre for International
Forestry Research (CIFOR) and
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

Cathy Watson is Chief of Partnerships at CIFOR-ICRAF, a not-for-profit entity that builds and applies evidence about the ways in which trees make the world healthier, safer and more equitable. She works across the Global South to assemble partnerships that restore ecosystems and biodiversity, address the climate crisis, and create livelihoods, particularly for youth. She is engaged in cocoa agroforestry and trees in refugee settings and urban spaces. She writes for The Guardian, Reuters and World Economic Forum. An Ashoka fellow, she is a biology graduate from Princeton with a graduate certificate in agroforestry from the University of Missouri.

Moderator



Karen Sudmeier-Rieux

Senior Advisor of
Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Environment Programme

Karen Sudmeier-Rieux is Senior Advisor of Disaster Risk Reduction at UNEP. She has over a decade of experience with ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and has developed numerous training materials. Karen is also the lead course developer of this online course on Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience.

Karen has published extensively on landslide management in Nepal and community resilience. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Lausanne and Masters' degrees in international development and forest ecology.