

Bernice Maxton-Lee, PhD
Climate & Sustainability Lecturer
Non-Executive Director
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Profile

Sustainability thought-leader and award-winning educator who has coached UNDP and senior global Fortune 500 talent.

Author of books, articles, and impact reports on sustainability strategy and transition pivot points.

NED experience with national NGO, overseeing organisational change, high governance standards, and financial transparency.

Member of UEBS Nature Finance Lab, generating and sharing insights on nature, biodiversity, and business.

Over three decades' cultural and business insights from living and working in Southeast Asia, China, Central Europe, and the UK.

PhD in sustainability transition actions and global climate politics; MSc in environmental technology and international affairs from Vienna.

Professional experience - current/on-going

Non-Executive Director, Finance Sub-Committee Board Member, Friends of the Earth Scotland

Since 2024

Elected as a voting member of the board of directors in 2024.

Climate & Sustainability Lecturer, University of Edinburgh Business School

Since 2023

Executive education lecturer in climate and sustainability transition for corporate clients. Executive MBA lecturer. Developed new suite of courses on biodiversity, sustainability in the boardroom, and how to have business sustainability conversations.

Climate Change Lecturer, Technical University of Vienna

2020

Faculty member and member of thesis supervisory committee

Since 2018

Credited Master course on climate science, mitigation, industry analysis, and global climate policy.

Research Associate, Group of Forest Management & Development, ETH Zurich

Since 2018

Developed post-doctoral research agenda on pan-European and Asian sustainability narratives. Undergraduate lecture on Southeast Asian deforestation and forest conservation.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Technical University of Vienna

Since 2011

Annual seminar on Deforestation and the Global Economy for Master's students of environmental science and international relations.

Professional experience - past

Technical Communications Specialist, UNDP

2022-2023

Researched and wrote sustainability and supply chain transition output including impact reports, blogs, framing documents, and communications strategies. Projects: system transformation in agricultural commodities supply chains (palm oil, beef, soy, cocoa) in Liberia, Indonesia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Côte d'Ivoire; Sustainable Forest & Agriculture Labs (transformation towards forest-positive agriculture in West Africa).

Designed, wrote, and delivered workshops for internal UNDP staff members on effective delivery of content on complex system change and transition. The workshops were followed by individual, one-on-one coaching sessions to further hone message clarity and effectiveness.

Post-Experience Corporate Trainer, Lado Taiwan

2019-2022

Coached professionals enhanced communications, presentation, and writing skills. Designed, wrote, and delivered communications workshops for Fortune 500 clients. Wrote content for in-house branding/outreach. Industries: pharmaceuticals, technology (supply-side, engineering, and sales), finance, electronics, insurance.

Professional Editor, Bartmess Editing/Leemax Academic Editors

2018-2023

High-level English-language editing on manuscripts for PhDs, scholarly journals, and NGO reports.

Doctoral Researcher, City University of Hong Kong **2014-2018**
'Common Sense' versus Good Sense: A Critical Analysis of Forest Conservation and Deforestation in Indonesia

Case studies: REDD+; Norway-Indonesia Bilateral Partnership; Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. Fieldwork in Indonesia, United States, and Switzerland. Developed an executive summary on the findings, which led to an invitation from Routledge to publish the dissertation as a book.

Independent Technical Reviewer, United Nations **2015**

Desk review for UN agency (UNREDD) of proposal to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Myanmar. Reviewed project viability, technical competencies, and accuracy of data, objectives, and stakeholders.

Editing Consultant & Language Instructor, Freelance **2011 - 2014**

Proof-read, edited, and coached corporate presentations. Taught language and presentation skills to corporate, private, and public-sector-assigned clients.

General Manager, Jane Goodall Institute **2009 - 2011**

Head of institute in Singapore, reporting to the board. Initiated rainforest conservation programme in Kalimantan, Indonesia. Led sustainability education programme. Coordinated with government and regulatory agencies and liaised with financial stakeholders. Conducted fund-raising and media relations.

Senior Manager, Conferences, Asia Pacific, Economist Intelligence Unit **2005 - 2007**

Researched and organised international industry conferences and government events on banking, finance, technology, and manufacturing throughout Asia, including CEO debates and government roundtables.

Founder & Managing Director, Translatasia **2003 - 2006**

Consultant for events and translation (Chinese – English).

Books

Forest conservation and sustainability in Indonesia: A political ecology study of international governance failure; Routledge. (2020).

A Chicken Can't Lay a Duck Egg. How Covid-19 Can Solve the Climate Crisis; Changemakers Books. Co-authored with Graeme Maxton (2020). Translated into German, Czech, and Slovak.

Education

PhD, Political Science, City University of Hong Kong

MSc, Environmental Technology and International Affairs, Technical University of Vienna

BA (Hons), Chinese Studies, University of Leeds, UK

Languages

English (mother tongue)

German (B1)

Mandarin (A2)

French (A1)
