

Bernice Maxton-Lee, PhD
Strategic Leadership, Climate, & Sustainability
bernice@leemax.org
www.linkedin.com/in/bernice-maxton-lee-49554715

Profile

Programme Director for complex knowledge exchange programmes on green technology, sustainability strategy, and nature-related finance.

PhD in political economy of global climate politics, examining conflicts of interest between growth objectives and sustainability in Indonesia; MSc in environmental technology and international affairs.

Initiator of ***Sustainability in the Boardroom***, a training programme to help senior decision makers navigate the physical and non-physical impacts of climate and biodiversity change on institutions and organisations.

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

Board member, entrepreneur, company founder, and award-winning educator; client list includes The Economist Intelligence Unit, the United Nations, and TSMC.

MBA and Executive Education lecturer; 15 years' executive coaching and university teaching, 20+ years' project management and research in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, India, central Europe, and UK.

Professional experience - current/on-going

Climate & Sustainability Lecturer, University of Edinburgh Business School Since 2023

Executive education lecturer in climate and sustainability transition for corporate clients. MBA lecturer.

- Designed and taught full-time MBA and Executive MBA programme on strategic leadership, decision making, and resilience in a world facing climate change, biodiversity loss, and geopolitical volatility. Supply-chain resilience, stakeholder resistance to change, growth-sustainability trade-offs, and consensus building.
- Developed new suite of courses on green technology (key facts for financial institutions), responsible nature finance, and how to have business sustainability conversations.
- Curated content from faculty and industry experts and targetted output for maximum relevance and application for strategic decision makers.
- Initiated project on the energy-, societal-, and ecological impacts of AI, with the central question: 'what kind of future does humanity want to create?'.

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.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Technical University of Vienna Since 2011

Annual seminar on Sustainability and the Global Economy for Master's students of environmental science and international relations. How economic competition and transnational networks shape sustainability outcomes.

Professional experience - past

Non-Executive Director, Finance Committee Member, Friends of the Earth Scotland 2024-2025

As a member of the finance sub-committee, reviewed and approved annual budget and audit report. Reviewed financial and governance safeguards; collaborated with board and executive to ensure optimum transparency and governance processes.

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.

Executive 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.	
Research Associate, Group of Forest Management & Development, ETH Zurich	2018-2025
Developed post-doctoral research agenda on pan-European and Asian sustainability narratives. Undergraduate lecture on Southeast Asian deforestation and forest conservation. Collaborated on roll-out of educational games on system dynamics.	
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
<i>'Common Sense' versus Good Sense: A Critical Analysis of Forest Conservation and Deforestation in Indonesia</i>	
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. 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)