

Cohort Members 2026



Garvita Gulhati



Dayana Blanco



Flora Artzner



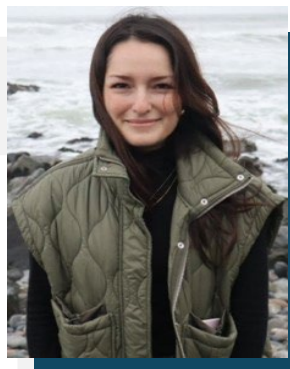
Grace Cordsen



Thamires Pontes



Aman KC



Fiorella Herrera



Joseph Nguthiru



Ge Yu



Amber Carter

Cohort 2026



Aged **27**



Garvita Gulhati, from India, stands at the unique intersection of grassroots empathy and high-level capital allocation. Known globally as India's "Water Girl," she founded "Why Waste?" at 15, driven by the water scarcity her city Bangalore faced. To solve the challenge of water wasted in glasses at restaurants, she championed the *#GlassHalfFull* campaign, changing dining etiquette in over 500,000 restaurants, saving millions of liters of water.

She expanded this impact by authoring "The Sustainability Stories", the 13-part children's book series, and launching the *Why Waste* app to gamify water conservation, now with 800,000 users.

As the youngest advisor to the National Geographic Society's Freshwater Fund, she realized that while activism creates awareness, capital creates speed. This insight drove her transition into the high-stakes world of Capital at WestBridge (\$8B AUM).

Today, she bridges the gap between grassroots empathy and institutional power. Recognized by Forbes 30 Under 30, a UN Young Leader and the first Indian recipient of the Shawn Mendes Wonder Grant, Garvita represents a new breed of leader: one who speaks the language of the investor but holds the values of the activist.



Aged **29**



Aman KC is a glaciologist and PhD student in the Department of Geosciences at Boise State University. Growing up in Nepal, he witnessed how closely people's lives are connected to mountains, glaciers, and water resources. This early exposure shaped his interest in understanding how climate change is affecting frozen environments and the communities that depend on them.

His research focuses on glacier dynamics using satellite and geospatial data. Aman works on two highly sensitive regions: Greenland (Kalaallit Nunaat), where he studies ice loss linked to ocean warming, and High Mountain Asia, where he investigates surging glaciers and related hazards. His goal is to better understand how glaciers respond to climate change and how these changes translate into real risks downstream.

Beyond research, Aman is committed to making science accessible outside academia. He values clear communication and aims to bridge scientific knowledge with public understanding and decision-making, particularly in regions that are highly vulnerable to climate-driven change.

Cohort 2026



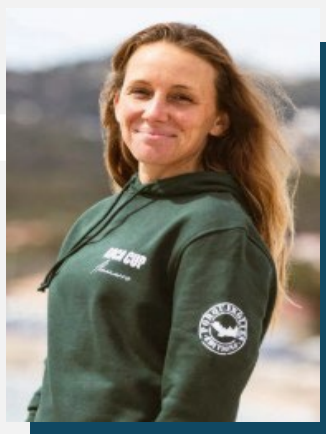
Aged **28** 

Dayana Blanco is an Indigenous regeneration leader from Bolivia and founder of the *Uru Uru Team*, a community-led initiative restoring Lake *Uru Uru* through ancestral wetland knowledge combined with science-based ecosystem repair.

Raised in the Vito community, she learned from her grandparents that water, land, and identity are inseparable parts of a living system. This worldview guides her work to regenerate contaminated high-altitude wetlands using native aquatic plants, particularly Totoras, as a nature-based solution for climate resilience.

Under her leadership, the *Uru Uru Team* has achieved measurable impact, documenting up to 30% reduction in water pollution levels in pilot restoration zones through phytoremediation and community-led monitoring. She mobilizes seven Indigenous communities, training women and youth in ecological restoration, water-quality data collection, and intergenerational environmental education rooted in culture.

Her work bridges scientific evidence with ancestral knowledge, demonstrating that effective sustainability solutions must be both ecological and cultural. By restoring wetlands while strengthening Indigenous identity, language, and stewardship, she represents a new generation of Indigenous climate leaders committed to scalable regeneration and global collaboration.



Aged **33**

Flora Artzner is a French wingfoil world champion and an agricultural engineer specializing in biodiversity conservation. For ten years, she worked as project manager for the European Commission in the Pacific, for the Saint-Barthélemy Nature Reserve, and then for IUCN French committee, before becoming a senior consultant and joining recently the strategic committee of the French Office for Biodiversity.

Passionate about outdoor and ocean sports, she has accumulated 21 international titles, including both world and European champion. Having witnessed firsthand both the environmental toll of the global competition circuit and the inequalities experienced by elite-level athletes, she chose to advocate for a more responsible and fair sporting ecosystem. She founded the *Ecowave association* and, since 2022, has organized the *Roca Cup*, a major eco-engaged sporting event, while also becoming a Pelagos ambassador committed to marine protection.

Today, she continues to build bridges between sport and nature conservation through ambitious and innovative initiatives, including *Athletes for Science*, launched at UNOC in June 2025, which aims to strengthen collaboration between scientists and athletes to raise awareness and inspire action for biodiversity preservation.

Cohort 2026



Aged **32**



Amber Carter is a British marine social-ecological scientist whose work bridges science, policy, and communication to support community-led ocean conservation.

She is a Postdoctoral Resilience Fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, where her research focuses on the social and ecological co-benefits of marine protected areas.

She is developing interdisciplinary approaches that integrate ecological science, traditional knowledge, and creative methods to support community-level marine management. She is particularly interested in working beyond traditional academic boundaries, using creative approaches such as community-led filmmaking, to increase the impact of research in local contexts.

Amber has a strong interest in science communication and has spoken about ocean research and sustainability through publications, podcasts, and national television, including a feature in Oceanographic Magazine. She has led communications for ocean-focused organisations including Edinburgh Ocean Leaders and SeaVoice. She is currently a member of the Award Committee of the Scientific Exploration Society, which recognised her with a 2022 Explorer Award.



Aged **29**

Grace Cordsen is an American explorer, researcher, and environmental storyteller whose work spans the Arctic, Antarctic, and the communities connected to them.

She has built a rare interdisciplinary career across expedition logistics, science communication, cultural research, and sustainability. Since graduating from Princeton, she has managed remote Antarctic field camps, directed educational programming across Arctic voyages, and conducted research with organizations such as the Arctic Research Foundation, Adventure Canada, Smithsonian Travel, and the GUIDE-BEST consortium.

In 2024, she became one of the youngest women to manage a deep-field camp in Antarctica and later voyaged to the geographic North Pole as a WINGS Explorer-in-Residence and Flag Carrier, documenting climate change through the lens of art, science, and heritage. Her work investigates how tourism, cultural narratives, and environmental education can drive meaningful stewardship in fragile ecosystems. As a journalist for outlets including Climate & Capital and Arctic Today, she helps make polar science accessible to broad audiences.

She is currently completing a Master's in Sustainability Management at Columbia University, focusing on climate policy, emissions accounting, and environmental governance.

Cohort 2026



Aged **28**



Joseph Nguthiru is a Kenyan climate-tech engineer and systems innovator, dedicated to advancing Planetary Health by converting environmental crises into scalable socioeconomic opportunities.

He is the Founder and CEO of *HyaPak*, a circular economy startup that transforms the world's most invasive aquatic weed, water hyacinth, into biodegradable packaging as an alternative to single-use plastics, simultaneously creating green jobs for vulnerable fishing communities.

His technical expertise, rooted in his engineering background from Egerton University, is complemented by his other impactful ventures, including *M-Situ*, an AI-powered early warning system for forest protection, and *AfroClimate*, a nonprofit empowering African climate entrepreneurs.

Joseph's commitment to evidence-based, community-centered restoration has earned him the UN Young Champion of the Earth title and Obama Foundation Leader, in addition to being featured in 40 Under 40 Africa. Notably, he has been honored as the best innovator in Kenya by the East African Community and received the COP28 Prototypes for Humanity prize for nature, food, and water systems. Joseph continues to be a leading voice in bridging the gap between engineering precision and high-level policy advocacy to safeguard the planet's future, especially for the Global South.



Aged **35**



Thamires Pontes is the Founder & CEO of Phycolabs, a pioneering Brazilian startup developing seaweed-based textile fibers to decarbonize and transform the fashion industry.

Born and raised in Brazil's Northeast, her connection to the ocean shaped her academic and professional path. With over a decade of experience in the textile sector (fabric importation, trend research, and material innovation), she majored in Fashion Design. Her research revealed the untapped potential of seaweed as a sustainable fiber. This insight became the foundation of Phycolabs in 2022 and redirected her career toward biotechnology and ocean-based climate solutions.

Under her leadership, Phycolabs advances regenerative materials derived from seaweed biodiversity and collaborates with coastal communities to build ethical, traceable supply chains. Her work has gained international recognition, including the Global Change Award from the H&M Foundation (2023), the Unlock Her Future Prize from The Bicester Collection (2024), and the Women of the Year in Science Award from Glamour Magazine (2024). She has been nominated four times for the Earthshot Prize (2025), and was one of the winners of the 929 Challenge in Macau (2025). She is an Ecopreneur at Sustainable Ocean Alliance and a fellow of the Women in Ocean Food program, reinforcing her commitment to ocean-positive innovation.

Cohort 2026



Aged 41



Ge Yu is a Chinese sustainable fashion entrepreneur, driven by a profound belief that sustainability must bridge cultural divides. Her journey is one of transforming industries from within. Her diverse background, spanning luxury fashion at houses like Gucci and an MBA from the University of Cambridge, provided the unique lens through which she tackles environmental challenges. She is the founder of *ANNDERSTAND*, a sustainable fashion brand that serves as a living dialogue between Eastern heritage and Western innovation.

Her expertise extends beyond design into tangible action, as she champions circularity by diverting thousands of meters of deadstock fabric from landfills, quantifying the reduced carbon footprint to ensure accountability. This hands-on experience in material lifecycle management naturally evolved into her role as a partner in an ESG consultancy, where she now applies these principles to the built environment, helping clients achieve significant carbon reductions in their construction projects.

Furthermore, she demonstrates that true sustainability requires building bridges, not just products. She founded the Cambridge China Business Forum and Cambridge Japan Forum to foster crucial UK-Asia dialogue on trade and green policy. Recognized as a 2026 Study UK Alumni Award Finalist (China), 2025 APEA Youth Representative, one of WWD's "35 Sustainable Fashion Designers" and 2024 "P&Q Most Disruptive MBA Startup" her work proves that the most resilient solutions emerge at the intersection of commerce, culture, and environmental stewardship.



Aged 30



Fiorella Herrera is a Peruvian Marine Biologist committed to biodiversity protection and environmental justice.

In 2017, she was appointed Ambassador for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Peru, and recognized in 2025 by the *Initiative Marianne* for her commitment to youth leadership and socio-environmental action. She is also delegate of the Youth Congress for Sustainable Americas, and representative of the local environmental commission of Miraflores, Lima.

She is the founder of *WE CAN BE HEROES*, an NGO through which she leads socio-environmental projects across coastal, Andean, and Amazonian regions of Peru. Through the *Salva Tu Selva* program, she promotes the protection and regeneration of 25,000 hectares of primary tropical forest in the Peruvian Amazon, working alongside nine Indigenous and local communities.

This work has helped halt illegal logging and mining in the Napo River, Loreto region, and strengthen sustainable non-timber resource management. As part of this process, she produced the documentary *El Otro Río*, a tool to raise awareness about territorial defense and community leadership in the Amazon.

Fiorella is guided by the belief that environmental regeneration is only possible when communities are recognized as living guardians of their territories.