

 Pulitzer Center  
Impact Seed Fund 2025

Selected  
projects  
2025





Africa

Rainforest

# Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in Casamance (Senegal)

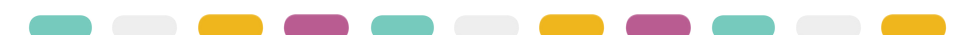
Prof. Cheikh Faye

Assane Seck University of Ziguinchor (UASZ)



The project aspires to empower communities in Casamance, Senegal to manage and restore mangrove ecosystems from environmental degradation and climate change. Professor Cheikh Faye and team will use Pulitzer Center's reports as educational materials for University lectures and debates, while ensuring gender inclusion and accessibility to encourage participation from women and persons with disabilities. Building on Pulitzer Center stories—“Meet the People Safeguarding the Sacred Forests and Lagoons of West Africa” and “The World's Largest Mangroves Are Threatened by Climate Change”—the project will conclude with student-produced short film screenings and a photo exhibition on mangrove conservation.

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Africa

Rainforest

# Empowering Change 2.0: Strengthening Climate Education at the University of Lagos (Nigeria)

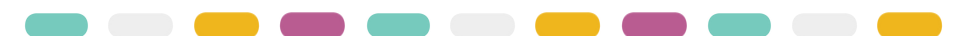
Olufemi Saibu

Institute of Nigeria-China Development Studies, University of Lagos



This project will engage university educators to equip them with the knowledge, tools, and resources in a bid to mainstream climate literacy in higher education. Pulitzer Center stories such as “[Lagos' Vanishing Mangroves, Investigation: How Big Businesses,](#)” “[Individuals Deplete Nigeria's Protected Forests,](#)” and “[Losing Nature's Cure](#)” will be used as materials in workshops and collaborative content clinics to sensitize educators. Further, support will be provided to educators to develop climate-informed lesson plans that they will use in classrooms at the university level.

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Africa

Rainforest

## Roots and Rainforest (Nigeria)

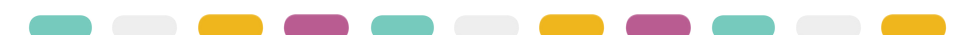
Oluwaseun Anselm

Department of Chemical Sciences, Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State



The project seeks to transform climate education in Nigeria by integrating storytelling, Indigenous knowledge, and journalism into academic and community-based learning. Complementing ongoing curriculum development, Pulitzer Center climate stories from Nigeria—“Investigation: How Big Businesses, Individuals Deplete Nigeria’s Protected Forests,” “Despite Environmental Risks,” “Nigerian Governors Converting Conservation Centres Into Luxury Estates,” “How Airports Fuel Climate Change in Nigeria,” among others—will serve as content in primary school classrooms. A National Inter-University Climate Debate for students, along with a panel discussion will be conducted to drive awareness and engagement. The project aims to reach over 1,500 students, 30 educators, and forest stakeholders to critically engage with climate justice issues.

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Africa

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# Climate Literacy and Education (Kenya)

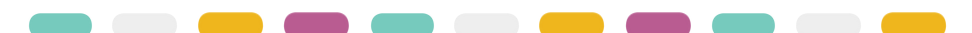
Shanariha Evans

Young Warriors Club, Kenya Marine and Fisheries  
Research Institute and Eden Climate Centre



The project aims to empower the next generation of environmental stewards by integrating climate education into schools and community engagement initiatives. Young Warriors Club, in partnership with Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and Eden Climate Centre, will target over 5,000 students aged nine–17, equipping them with knowledge on sustainable practices through activities like mangrove restoration, coral reef gardening, beach cleanups, and climate debates. Drawing lessons from Pulitzer Center stories such as “Coastal Communities on the Frontline of the Climate Crisis” and “Tanzania Faces an Encroaching Coastal Crisis,” the project will use storytelling and civic engagement methodology to build a nuanced and localized climate understanding.

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Brazil

Rainforest

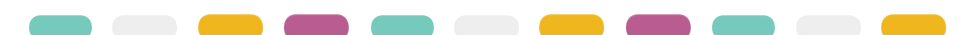
# Pirocaba Voices: Climatic Pedagogy from the Territory

Dr. Marcela Vecchione  
Universidade Federal do Pará (UFPA)



The project will use podcasts as a medium to disseminate climate education that is grounded in Amazonian realities to enhance political participation and territorial resilience. The podcast episodes along with training workshops in Belém will be used to empower community leaders—especially women. Inspired and building on Pulitzer Center stories—“Resistance is Feminine: The Struggle of Women Threatened for Defending the Forest,” “Paving the Amazon,” “Climate Crisis Puts Food and Water Security of Riverside Communities at Risk”—the workshops will focus on climate negotiations, justice, and adaptation while building communication skills. They aim to amplify local climate solutions on agroecology and food sovereignty, while strengthening grassroots mobilization.

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Brazil

Rainforest

# Women Fighting for Land and Life

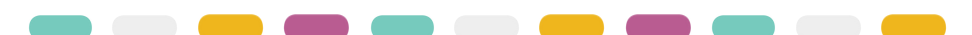
Dr. Olivia Von der Weid

Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) and  
Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA)



This project aims to highlight the struggles of Indigenous women—especially from the Pataxo and Tupinamba communities—in defending their land and lives. Drawing lessons from Pulitzer Center reports—“Resistance is Feminine: The Struggle of Women Threatened for Defending the Forest,” “The Great Battle of the Women of Xingu,” and “Voices of the Forest | Angela Mendes”— the project will collate audio testimonies on resistance, territorial protection, and links between violence and environmental destruction, to amplify women's perspectives and advance climate justice. Further, a documentary podcast will feature Indigenous women’s voices, traditional songs, and expert interviews and organize three university dialogue circles to foster interdisciplinary discussions.

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Brazil

Ocean

# Ocean's Sociobiodiversity Dialogues

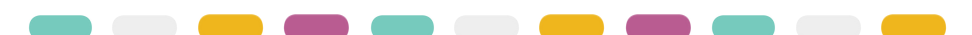
Dr. Raquel Gifonni

Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Universidade Federal do Maranhão (UFMA) and Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES)



This project aims to expand the understanding of Brazil's coastal marine ecosystems threatened by urbanization and industrialization. By bridging academic and traditional knowledge through egalitarian dialogue, the goal is to inspire innovative conservation of coastal ecosystems that is holistic and effective. Drawing from Pulitzer Center stories—"Defending the Ancestors Against Big Oil," "Hawaiian Knowledge and Western Science: A Recipe for Reef Recovery?", "Coastal Communities on the Frontline of the Climate Crisis — Struisbaai"— the project will use journalism as a tool to connect university students, researchers, and traditional communities. The project will produce a course for students and educators, a photography exhibition, and a public seminar.

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Brazil

Rainforest

## Maré and the Sea

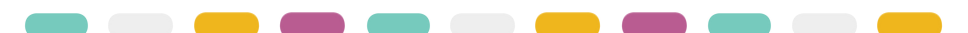
Dr. Carla Bahiense

Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF)



The project focuses on the residents from Maré—one of Brazil’s largest favela complexes—who have experienced environmental racism and their relationship with the Guanabara Bay. In partnership with the Museu da Maré—Brazil’s first favela museum—the project strives to promote climate education by empowering youth to research and propose alternatives to local degradation. Building on Pulitzer Center stories—[“Half of All Coral Reefs Are Dead. A Maui ‘Super Reef’ Offers Hope,”](#) [“European Fishing Boats Hurt West Africa’s Future,”](#) [“Sumatran Coastal Village Scrambles To Save Lost Livelihood, Disappearing Land”](#)—the project will foster exchanges between university researchers and local youth, supporting podcast production, a photo exhibition, and production youth-led reports on environmental racism.

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Southeast Asia

Rainforest

## Guardians of Space, Storyteller of the Forest: Collaboration of Cerekang Indigenous Youth and Academics for Ecological Justice (Indonesia)

Dr. Idham Irwansyah Idrus, S.Sos., M.Pd

Department of Sociology-Anthropology, Faculty of Social  
Sciences and Law, Makassar State University



This project strives to document and disseminate Indigenous narratives of the Cerekang people from the South Sulawesi province in Indonesia. Drawing inspiration from the Pulitzer Center report “Glorifying Local Beliefs, Honoring the Forest,” the initiative will train Indigenous women and youth in citizen journalism to share their stories of forest conservation and resistance to extractive mining industries. Further, through focused community discussions and collaborative documentary film production, the project will create teaching materials for university-level environmental sociology courses. By amplifying Indigenous voices, developing locally relevant educational resources, and fostering collaborations, the project aims to advance environmental justice and inclusive learning.

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Southeast Asia

Rainforest

# The Epistolary Project: Messages From Two Cultures (Indonesia)

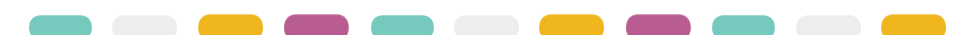
Ayu Adriani, S.Sos., M.Sc.

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science,  
Universitas Negeri Padang



The project will connect the Ammatoa Indigenous women in South Sulawesi's forests with coastal women in Padang City through letter exchanges. Drawing on the Pulitzer Center story "[The World's Best Rainforest Guardians Already Live There](#)," the participatory project aims to create a "safe and slow" space for cross-cultural dialogue about women's roles in environmental protection and traditional knowledge. The objective is to foster mutual understanding of environmental stewardship among Indigenous women through intimate and non-exploitative knowledge exchange. Local journalists will be involved as facilitators, bridging correspondence across generational and cultural divides and by exploring relationships between women from two vital ecosystems—forest and sea. The letters will be compiled as an anthology book, capturing alternative narratives from local people at the front lines of climate change.

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Southeast Asia

Rainforest

# Empowering Youth Through Investigative Journalism for Primate and Rainforest Conservation in the Mentawai Islands (Indonesia)

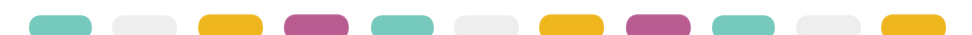
Dr. Rizaldi, M.Sc

Biology Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Andalas



This project aims to empower Indonesian university students to become conservation advocates for the endangered Mentawai Islands. Pulitzer Center reporting, including *The Threat to Four Endemic Primates and the Biodiversity of Sipora Island* will be foundational reading material for students in workshops and to critically analyze the current state of the primates on Mentawai Island. Further, students will also visit the field to document rainforest conditions firsthand. They will create advocacy materials—articles, videos, and social media content—culminating in campus exhibitions and outreach campaigns. The project strives to bridge academic knowledge with action, equipping youth to become informed advocates for Southeast Asia's threatened rainforest ecosystems.

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Southeast Asia

Rainforest

# Rooted in Wisdom: Mamasa Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Leadership for Rainforest Conservation (Indonesia)

Dr. Mochamad Indrawan

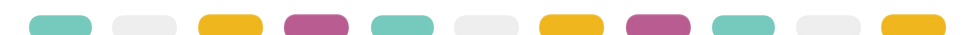
Universitas Indonesia's Dept. of Geography (Faculty of Sciences), the Research Center for Climate Change, Universitas Sulawesi Barat's Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Nusantara (Mamasa Chapter)



Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara

This project aims to document, analyze, and disseminate the Mamasa community's Indigenous and local knowledge as a global model of sustainable rainforest management. Through ethnographic research, ecological assessment, and participatory mapping, the project will explore how belief systems, rituals, and traditional laws govern the management and protection of natural resources. The project draws inspiration from Pulitzer Center reports like "[The Romance of Local Religions in South Sulawesi](#)" and will integrate it in training materials, community forums, policy advocacy, and media content to spotlight conservation and leadership lessons from the Mamasa community.

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Southeast Asia

Rainforest

# Students as Forest Guardians (Vietnam)

PHẠM VĂN THẾ, PhD

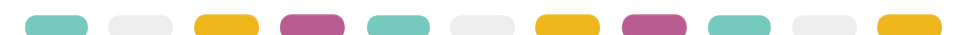
Science and Technology Advanced Institute, Van Lang University

**VAN LANG**  
UNIVERSITY



This project aims to build local conservation capacity while fostering dialogue between students, park authorities, and Indigenous communities. Inspired by the Pulitzer Center report “Vietnam’s Forests Have Been Cleared To Supply the World’s Timber Industry,” the project addresses how timber export demands threaten tropical ecosystems and Indigenous Stieng communities. About 25 university students will be trained in forest monitoring at Bu Gia Map National Park through an intensive three-day workshop. Students will receive theoretical training, learn satellite imagery analysis, conduct field surveys with park rangers, and engage directly with local Stieng residents. The project will culminate in student presentations to community members.

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Southeast Asia

Climate And Labor

## Refusing to Sink: Trimulyo and Sriwulan Climate Adaptation Expedition (Indonesia)

Prof. Dr. Rr. M.I. Retno Susilorini

Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences, Universitas Pancasakti Tegal



The project aims to identify climate- and labor-related risks, examining how affected communities—especially women—are navigating the climate-induced adaptation. Drawing inspiration from the Pulitzer Center-supported *Climate Impact on Manufacturing Workers in Pantura Java*, the project will facilitate collaboration between lecturers and students of civil engineering, Pancasakti University of Tegal; regional and city planning programs; Sultan Agung Islamic University (Unissula); and the Trimulyo and Sriwulan communities. Field visits, community-led focus group discussions, documentary production, photo exhibitions, and learning modules will be developed as part of the project, centering the resilience, courage, and leadership of women in climate change adaptation. Further, the project will develop policy recommendations to enhance city planning, ensuring it is both climate resilient and gender responsive.

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