

Michael Stanley-Jones

Environmental Policy and Governance Fellow, United Nations University

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Profile

Experienced leader and advocate for social transformation within developing countries and emerging democracies, addressing environmental justice, social equity and corporate governance. As a United Nations officer, non-governmental organization director and senior advisor, I have built enduring bridges between government, the private sector and civil society. Working with intergovernmental organizations, I pioneered public access to information, participation and human rights-based approaches to global, national and local policy in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe through multilateral environmental agreements, capacity development and bilateral aid programmes. As an Environmental Policy and Governance Fellow at UNU-INWEH, my expertise encompasses environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy, public access to information, sustainable development, and watershed management.

Employment

Jan 2025 – present

**Senior Advisor for Communications and
Networking – Global Principles for Sustainable
Securities Lending (Global PSSSL), Cardiff, Wales,
United Kingdom**

- Mobilizes knowledge communities in support of Global PSSSL's mission to create a global impartial standard for asset owners, lenders, borrowers, and impact creators;
- Supports implementation of information activities to publicize priority issues and/or major events and initiatives.

Oct 2023 – present

**Communications Consultant – United Nations
Environment Programme, Geneva, Switzerland**

- Authors background documents on strategic priorities for United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG), the interagency coordinating body of the United Nations agencies addressing environment and human settlement issues;
- Supports communications and outreach on the Global Biodiversity Framework and synergies between multilateral environmental agreements.

Jul 2024 – present

**Environmental Policy and Governance Fellow –
United Nations University Institute for Water,
Environment and Health, Redmond Hill, Ontario,
Canada**

- Conducts research on global environmental governance, with a focus on climate justice, chemicals policy, environmental, social and governance (ESG) frameworks, rightsholders' participation in environmental decision-making, and sustainable development;
- Fosters synergies between the Rio conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC);
- Develops partnerships between government, the private sector and the research community.

Feb – Jun 2023

**International Consultant – United Nations Institute
for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva,
Switzerland**

- Authors articles on UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development project impacts in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malawi and Rwanda;
- Reviews and reports on the UNITAR UN Climate Change: e-Learn courses *Introduction to Sustainable Development in Practice* and *Advancing Sustainable Development in Practice*.

May 2022 – present

**Senior Advisor – Circular Research Foundation :
Organismo di Ricerca CRF, Parabita, Italy**

- Reviews and promotes project proposals for Apulia regional public interest research foundation, notably on microplastic pollution in the marine environment.

Aug 2014 – Sep 2022

**Programme Management Officer – United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya**

- Plans, organizes and manages the preparation of Ecosystems Integration Branch communications and outreach, including for the Integrated Ecosystems Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), Regional Seas Programme and UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative / Poverty-Environment Action;
- Serves as lead officer of US\$1.9 million Poverty-Environment Action grant awarded by Belgium Cooperation (Kingdom of Belgium);
- Serves as Technical Support to the UNEP Focal Point on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway);
- Serves as focal point on poverty-environment-related themes on equity, environmental governance and the human rights-based approach in relevant fora;
- Supervises the Communications and Knowledge Management team, consultants and interns;
- Ensures Poverty-Environment Knowledge Management programmes and projects are planned and implemented from the gender perspective, including through promotion of gender mainstreaming activities;

- Serves as Ecosystems Integration Branch focal point for Digital Transformation;
- Serves as Co-Secretary of the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, the interagency coordinating body ensuring 'One UN Voice' on textiles and apparel (July 2018 – September 2020); inaugural chairperson of the Alliance Steering Committee (2018-2019);
- Designated UNEP representative to the Eastern and Southern Africa Trade and Development Bank (November 2019 – October 2020);
- Serves as Poverty-Environment Initiative Officer-in-Charge as required.

Dec 2009 – Aug 2014

Public Information Officer – Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (UNEP),
Geneva, Switzerland

- Ensures implementation of information programmes to publicize priority issues and/or major events, to include drafting information strategies, coordinating efforts, monitoring and reporting on progress, taking appropriate follow-up action, and analyzing the outcomes;
- Supervises joint communications and outreach matrix team; plans, organizes and manages the preparation of the joint communications and outreach-related programme of work of the Secretariat and its biannual budgets;
- Serves as Press liaison for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions; undertakes activities to promote media coverage (e.g. press conferences, interviews) of priority issues and/or major events, to include development of a media strategy and action plan, initiating proactive media outreach efforts, proposing, arranging and participating in press conferences/media coverage, disseminating materials and analyzing the impact of coverage;
- Produces or oversees production of specific types of public information products (e.g. press kits, press releases, feature articles, speeches, booklets, brochures, background notes, audio-visual materials, social media), undertaking research, determining appropriate target audience, preparing production plans, writing drafts, editing copy, and coordinating design approval, printing procedures;
- Serves as Administrative Services Branch Officer-in-Charge as required.

Jan 2004 – Dec 2009

Environmental Affairs Officer – Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Geneva, Switzerland

- Services the official processes related to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), supporting preparations for entry into force including by preparing reports, documents and publications related to the Protocol, including the PRTR guidance document;
- Implements and evaluates, in cooperation with relevant partner organizations, a strategic programme of national and sub-regional capacity-building activities aimed at building institutional capacities to support the establishment of national pollutant release and transfer registers, notably through development of technical assistance programmes;

- Serves as Secretary the International PRTR Coordinating Group, in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Promotes good practices in the application of electronic information tools in support of implementation of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and PRTR Protocol by
 - assisting the Secretariat with provision of practical, technical and substantive support to the Task Force on Electronic Information Tools
 - developing information technology management tools in support of the work programmes of the Convention and Protocol
 - serving as divisional focal point to UNECE Group for Information Society and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- Maintains and progressively expands the Aarhus Clearinghouse and Convention websites;
- Provides necessary support to the Secretariat on organizational and substantive issues related to the Convention, including by – servicing the UNECE Strategic Communications Expert Group; – engagement with media through public relations, briefings or planned events.

Mar 2003 – Jan 2004

**California State Director – Clean Water Action /
Clean Water Fund, San Francisco, California USA**

- Directs the California State office of the national environmental education, research and advocacy organizations, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, responsible for strategic planning of environmental campaigns, project planning, budgeting and communications;
- Supervises programme staff, prepares annual budgets and quarterly budget allocations/ reconciliation, and hires and evaluates staff members;
- Represents Clean Water Action / Clean Water Fund priorities to State and regional public agencies and leadership;
- Serves as the public representative to the State of California-Federal Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) Drinking Water Sub-committee;
- Serves as the consumer and environmental justice representative to the State of California Water Desalination Task Force.

Feb 1998 – Feb 2003

**Manager, Sustainable Water Programme – Silicon
Valley Toxics Coalition, San Jose, California USA**

- Develops strategic priorities for protection of regional water resources;
- Represents publicly-funded coalition of community organizations – CLEAN South Bay – before public agencies, including the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, California State Department of Water Resources, and local water agencies;
- Represents broad regional coalition of environmental nongovernmental organizations within the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative which successfully concludes historic Copper and Nickel Pollution Prevention Plans for the Lower South San Francisco Estuary and develops the first basinwide watershed management plan for the Silicon Valley region;

- Serves as elected chair of the Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative (2002-2003);
- Manages Sustainable Water Programme staff and volunteers, including Clean Steams/Clean Bay community water quality monitoring project with local high schools;
- As representative of the International Campaign for Responsible Technology, negotiates the Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decisionmaking, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention, 1998);
- Serves as Expert Advisor on Access to Information and Information and Communications Technology to UNECE.

Jun 1996 – Feb 1998 **Educational Technology Specialist – Education Access,**
Sunnyvale, California USA

- Provides nationwide K-12 educational institutions with local area networking solutions, computer equipment and educational software;
- Supports sales, customer service and marketing.

Aug 1992 – Dec 1995 **Civic Education Project Visiting Lecturer – Tomas**
Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

- In the Department of Social Work and Social Policy, delivers undergraduate and graduate level university courses in Environmental Public Policy, Political Science and Ethics;
- Develops and leads student exchange programmes with Masaryk, Palacky and Comenius universities and Central European University, Budapest;
- Serves as advisor to the Chief Architect's Office, Municipality of Brno, Czech Republic;
- Serves as alternate member, Danube Task Force, charged with negotiation of the Environmental Convention for Protection of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention, 1994);
- Serves as co-organizer of the Danube Environment Forum, a 10-country coalition of non-governmental organizations participating in the negotiation and subsequent implementation of the Danube River Protection Convention (1993-1996).

Education

Masters of Arts, Politics (1992) – The Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California USA

Bachelor of Arts, Government (1983) – San Jose State University, San Jose, California USA

Publications

- Bass, S., Smith, D. H., and Stanley-Jones, M. (2023). Sustainable Development in Practice: A Handbook for Integrating Environment, Climate and Poverty Reduction. E-book (UNDP, Nairobi). <https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/initiatives/poverty-environment-action/Poverty-Environment+Action+Handbook>
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2020). "Fashion can build back better after COVID19", UN Today (Jul-Aug, Geneva, Switzerland). <https://untoday.org/fashion-can-build-back-better-after-covid19/>
- Gupta, J., Scholtens, J., Perch, L., Dankelman, I., Seager, J., Sándor, F., Stanley-Jones, M. and Kempf, I. (2019). "Re-imagining the driver–pressure–state–impact– response framework from an equity and inclusive development perspective," Sustainability Science (Springer, 25 June 2019). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-019-00708-6>
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2015). "Taking an integrated approach to eliminating poverty and sustaining natural resources" (International Institute for Environment and Development, London). <https://www.iied.org/taking-integrated-approach-eliminating-poverty-sustaining-natural-resources>
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2015). Sustaining Resources, Improving Lives. UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Annual Progress Report 2014. (UNDP and UNEP, Nairobi)
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2011). "The Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers" in Chemicals, Environment, Health: A Global Management Perspective, Wexler, P., Jan van der Kolk, J., Mohapatra A. and Agarwal, R. (eds.) (CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida USA). <https://www.routledge.com/Chemicals-Environment-Health-A-Global-Management-Perspective/Wexler-Kolk-Mohapatra-Agarwal/p/book/9780367382520>
- Cervenka, M. and Stanley-Jones, M. (2010). Substantialis Corporis Mixti (Substantial Form of the Blended Body): The synergies exhibition of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Exhibition catalogue (Czech Center, New York, New York USA)
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2009). "The Aarhus Convention and the Public's Right-to-know" in Access to Environmental Information: Freedom of Information in Favour of Environmental Protection? (Die Landesbeauftragte für den Datenschutz und für das Recht auf Akteneinsicht, Brandenburg, Germany)
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2008). "Right to Know...a little: Exposing Double Standards in Global High-Tech Production." Clean Computer Campaign (Diane Publishing, Darby, Pennsylvania USA)
- Waage, S., Smith, T., Stanley-Jones, M., Girshick, S., Meydbray, O. and Shah, R. (2004). "Corporate Environmental Strategy, Vol. 11(4) (Elsevier Science, Amsterdam, Netherlands). https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286729733_High_technology_and_turn-arounds_Impacts_of_the_past_and_options_for_the_future
- Stanley-Jones, M. (2000). "Interactive Applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Understanding Community Environmental Health," Discussion paper UNEP/INF/2000/WP/16, INFOTERRA Global Conference on Access to Environment Information (UNEP, Dublin, 11 Sep 2000)
- Mazmanian, D. and Stanley-Jones, M. (1995). "Reconceiving LULUs: Changing the Nature and Scope of Locally Unwanted Land Uses" in Gemeinschaftsgüter: Recht, Politik und Ökonomie (Max-Planck-Projektgruppe Recht der Gemeinschafts, Bonn, Germany); reprinted in Lösung von Umweltkonflikten durch Verhandlung. Beispiele aus dem In- und Ausland (P. Knoepfel, ed), pp. 27-54. (Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel, Switzerland)
- Mazmanian, D., Stanley-Jones, M. and Green, M. (1988). Breaking Political Gridlock: California's Experiment in Public-Private Cooperation for Hazardous Waste Policy (California Institute of Public Affairs, Claremont, California USA)

Contributor

Advancing Sustainable Development in Practice (2023). UN Climate Change: e-Learn course (United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva), <https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=181&page=overview>

Introduction to Sustainable Development in Practice (2023). UN Climate Change: e-Learn course (United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva), <https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=170&page=overview>

Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (2022). Action Plan for a Sustainable Planet in the Digital Age (UNEP, Nairobi). <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6573509>

UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Action (2020). Horizons of Hope: Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals Annual Progress Report 2019 (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP–UNEP, Nairobi). <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/41320>. Project manager and co-author

UNEP (2019). Global Environment Outlook – GEO 6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People (Cambridge University Press). <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/27539>. Equity advisor and chapter coordinator

UNDP and UNEP (2019). Reward and Renewal: The UN Development Programme–UN Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Initiative Final Project Report (2014-2018 (UNEP: Nairobi). <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/H70/Final%20PEA%20Donor%20Narrative%20report%202019.pdf>. Project coordinator and co-author

UNDP and UNEP (2015). “Guidance Note on Advocacy and Strategic Communications”, in Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development (UNDP and UNEP, Nairobi). <https://www.undp.org/publications/mainstreaming-environment-and-climate-poverty-reduction-and-sustainable-development>. Author

UN Economic Commission for Europe (2011). Your Right to a Healthy Community: A simplified guide to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (UN Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland). <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/704051?ln=ru>. Project coordinator and co-author with Wates, J.

UN Economic Commission for Europe (2008). Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Geneva, Switzerland). https://unece.org/DAM/env/pp/prtr/guidance/PRTR_May_2008_for_CD.pdf. Editor and project coordinator

Girshick, S., Shah, R. and Waage, S. with Meydbray, O., Stanley-Jones, M. and Smith, T. (2002). “Information Technology and Sustainability: Enabling the Future” (The Natural Step, San Francisco, California USA). <http://www.greenecomonomics.net/ITandSustainability.pdf>

“PCBs and Clams in Creeks”, Clean Streams/Clean Bay Community Monitoring Project, a partnership of Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, Pioneer High School Ecology Club, and the City of San Jose Environmental Services Department (Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, 2001).

“Silicon Valley 1999 Environmental Index: Taking the Pulse of Silicon Valley’s Environment” (Silicon Valley Environmental Partnership, Santa Cruz, California USA, 1999). <https://mapcruzin.com/svep/>. Technical advisor

Keynotes and presentations

“Inclusive Stakeholder Participation in Watershed Management”, Science Talks, United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, December 4, 2024). <https://unu.edu/inweh/science-talks>. Guest lecturer

"How Can the United Nations Promote a More Conscious and Sustainable Fashion Industry?" Keynote address, 2nd China Sustainable Fashion Forum (Shanghai, China, 5 Dec 2023). Presenter

"Advancing Sustainable Development in Practice," UN CC:Learn Webinar, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Geneva, 14 December 2023). Guest speaker

"Sustainable Development in Practice," UN CC:Learn Peer Learning Webinar, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Geneva, 7 September 2023). Guest speaker

"Poverty-Environment Action aids Indonesian sustainable investments." UN Climate Change: e-Learn Video (United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva, 2023).
https://youtu.be/Q_OTQJ5EG60. Co-producer and narrator

"Poverty-Environment Action strengthens women-led cooperatives in Malawi." UN Climate Change: e-Learn Video (United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva, 2023).
<https://youtu.be/m5pqgeoHRY4>. Co-producer and narrator

"Sustainable finance turbocharges Rwanda's green villages to end poverty." UN Climate Change: e-Learn Video (United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Geneva, 2023).
<https://youtu.be/v3vsggZFDJ8>. Co-producer and narrator

"Sustainable Development in Practice, Integrating Environment, Climate and Poverty Reduction: Rwanda's Integrated Green Villages Revisited," Sustainathon 2022 (Nairobi, 19 Sep 2022).
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7053780156011700224/>. Guest speaker

"Sustainable Development in Practice. A tour of the new draft guide: Integrating Environment, Climate and Poverty Reduction.. Webinar, UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals Global Retreat (UNDP and UNEP, Geneva, 14 September 2022).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-R6ZuQ7UTmc>. Moderator

"UNEP Ecosystems Integration, UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion." YouTube live interview with Michael Stanley-Jones. Dinis Guarda, Founder and CEO, Ztudium (London, UK, 7 October 2020).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdxqAJf3pk8&t=10s>

"The Big Picture" Keynote address, Accelerator Programme: Innovators for Sustainable Fashion, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (Cambridge UK, 16 Sep 2020)

"Building Back Better: The Sustainable Development Fashion Agenda: Keynote address," 2020 Sino-Africa Cultural Exchange Forum & 5th International Forum on Fashion Communication, Daniel Moi University and Donghua University (Eldoret, Kenya and Shanghai, China, 13 Aug 2020)

"Sustainable Fashion is the new 'black': Keynote address," International Sustainable Fashion Industry Innovation Summit 2019, Shanghai Textile Association of Commerce and Industry and Changning District Business Council (Shanghai, China, 12 Dec 2019)

"Sustainable Practices in the Fashion Industry: Setting the Scene," 2019 October Days for Sustainable Development – 5th edition: Innovative consumption and production practices for a more sustainable society (SDGs 11 and 12), European Investment Bank Institute (Luxembourg, 16 Oct 2019)

"Introduction and keynote address" (delivered on behalf of Musonda Mumba), Launch of the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, Sustainable Innovation Expo, 4th United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, 4 March 2019)

"Fashion for the SDGs: Sustainable Supply Chains," Digital Summit webinar series, Global Landscapes Forum (CIFOR, Nairobi, 30 May 2018). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPEYmv76KmY>

"Interactive Poverty-Environment Initiative Handbook," Workshop and break-out session, "Opportunities for Greener Economies in Central Asia" Regional Experts Meeting, UNDP and UNEP (Istanbul, Turkey, 26 Oct 2017)

"Poverty-Environment Initiative," Presentation: Nexus Dialogue Two: Poverty and Environment in the SDGs - How a Nexus approach enables effective partnerships, synergy and implementation at country level, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, UN Environment Management Group (New York, NY USA, 13 July 2017)

“What Will Be,” UN Safe Planet Campaign, Science and Arts Exhibition, Technological University of Cancun, side event to the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNEP and FAO (Cancun, Mexico, November/December 2010). Producer and moderator

“Safe Planet: The United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes” (UN Safe Planet Campaign), Presentation and panel discussion at the “United Nations Champions Body Burden Forum”, side event to the 18th session of the Commission for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (New York, NY USA, May 2010). Producer and moderator

“United Nations Body Burden Forum,” Launch of “Safe Planet: The United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes”. Side event and panel discussion. 11th Special Session Governing Council / Global Ministerial Forum, UNEP (Bali, Indonesia, 26 Feb 2010). Organizer and presenter

“Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers” side event, 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Economic Commission for Europe (Copenhagen, 7 Dec 2009). Coordinator and moderator

“The main commitments of future Parties of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)”, Meeting on the [Kiev] Protocol on PRTR, Ministry of Environment, Government of Kazakhstan, and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (Borovoe, Kazakhstan, 3 Sep 2005). Presenter

“Corporatism and Policy Outcomes”, Presentation and panel discussion, American Political Science Association Annual Convention, C-Span (Washington D.C. USA, 1 Sep 1988). <https://www.c-span.org/video/?4242-1/corporatism-policy-outcomes>

References

Isabell Kempf, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), Hamburg, Germany, isabell.kempf@un.org

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