



# CASSANDRA PILLAY

## Climate Change Expert

### EDUCATION

#### **Advanced post-graduate research certificate in Environmental Sciences and Technology**

Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

April 2013 – August 2015

Offered full grant by the Spanish government (selected among 3,000 applicants) to conduct research on the human health impacts of climate change.

*Achievements:* Award for Outstanding Paper from the International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management Literati (2016).

#### **Masters in Advanced European and International Studies, specialized in climate change**

European Institute, France

October 2010 – July 2011

Grade: Good, 15.47 (French system)

*Achievements:* Among top five selected for the Jean Monnet scholarship. Elected President by professors and students to lead 70 international students on inter-module course, a pre-requisite of the programme.

*Title:* Policy Officer in European and International Organizations.

*Thesis dissertation:* The Behavioural Economics of Climate Change, a matter of perception.

#### **Bachelor of Science (hons) in Psychology**

Sunway University/Lancaster University, Malaysia and the UK

March 2006 – March 2009

Grade: Second Class Upper (British system)

*Achievements:* Nominated for Outstanding Alumni Award and Elected Student Body representative.

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- To- be- published: *Magica is Burning* (Climate Fiction Novel written to highlight the climate emergency, 380 pages)
- Pillay, C. and van den Bergh, J. (2016), [Human health impacts of climate change as a catalyst for public engagement: Combining medical, economic and behavioural insights](#), International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management, Vol. 8 No. 5, pp. 578-596.
- UNIDO (2017). [Accelerating clean energy through Industry 4.0: manufacturing the next revolution](#). Nagasawa, T., Pillay, C., Beier, G., Fritzsche, K., Pougel, F., Takama, T., The, K., Bobashev, I. A report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna, Austria.

### PROFILE

I am a climate change expert with a decade of experience at various international organizations including the United Nations and the World Bank Group. I have recently completed a fiction novel to highlight the climate emergency.

### CONTACT

+43 660 8380924

Vienna Austria

[pillaycassandra@gmail.com](mailto:pillaycassandra@gmail.com)

[LinkedIN](#)

### LANGUAGES

English (Native); Bahasa Malaysia (Excellent); Bahasa Indonesia, German and Spanish (Intermediate)

### HOBBIES

Travel, writing, yoga, languages and storytelling to galvanize climate action.

- Pillay, C. OECD/UNESCO (2013) [World social science report: changing global environments](#), p. 376-377.

#### WORK EXPERIENCE

##### **Climate Change Expert, World Bank Group, Vienna, Austria**

September 2021- Current

- Two roles: support duties of Climate Change team for the East Europe and Central Asia region and the Water Global practice.
- Support the achievement of the World Bank Group's Climate Corporate Commitments by advising Task Teams how to conduct (i) climate change and disaster risk screening; (ii) enhance climate co-benefits; (iii) perform GHG Accounting; (iv) analyze shadow price of carbon, and (v) integrate projects with climate indicators and (vi) **new** Paris Alignment.
- Conducted climate reviews and provided upstream support via meetings to Task Teams for 100+ projects.
- Co-organized and delivered presentations on climate change for the ECA region.
- 15+ additional training and courses including: Paris Alignment on WB operations, Climate Change Executive Training, Water Pollution and Management Approaches, Dam Safety Approaches, Creative Writing.

##### **Climate Change Expert, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Vienna, Austria**

July 2015 – August 2021

- Coordinated the development of a climate change strategy, embodying existing and new programmes which resulted in higher-quality proposals and the expansion of the energy/climate portfolio.
- Prepared annual workplans and consolidated reports as the climate change focal in the Department of Energy.
- Researched, analyzed and identified priorities in the area of energy transition and climate change which resulted in the following reports:
  - [Promoting climate resiliency](#)
  - [Accelerating clean energy through Industry 4.0](#)
  - [Exploring the nexus of mini-grids and digital technologies](#)
  - Artificial Intelligence and Cleaner Industries (upcoming)
- Developed material and provided internal and external training to ensure compliance with the Green Climate Fund investment criteria and the UNIDO Environment and Social standards which led to increased corporate awareness and the development of a paradigm-shifting pipeline of projects.
- Analyse international climate policy development and proposed best fit recommendations to integrate climate considerations across organization portfolio.
- Represented UNIDO at five UN Climate Change Conferences aka COPs (Paris, Marrakesh, Bonn, Katowice, Madrid), the High-level Political Forum, the UN General Assembly (NY) and the EU Sustainable Energy Week (Brussels).
- Planned, managed and drove collaboration with teams across organization to increase corporate awareness on newly established climate change tools, guidebook and methodology.

**PhD Researcher, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain**

April 2013- August 2015

- Offered scholarship by the Spanish government to conduct research on the human health impacts of climate change.
- Findings: Natural science, medical and economic studies warrant giving more attention to health in public debates on climate change. The more so as evidence of behavioural studies suggests that the use of health frames reinforces public concern for climate issues.

**Intern, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Bonn, Germany**

August - November 2014

- Collaborated with a group of internal and external experts in devising strategies for an international climate agreement.
- Created a framework for non-State actors and cooperative initiatives for climate action that was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru: <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>
- Undertook technical examination of mitigation opportunities with high potential of decarbonization that was presented to Member States.
- Recommended to UNIDO and accepted for an employment opportunity.

#### **AWARDS & NOMINATIONS**

- Nominated for FY2023 VPU award as part of the D4C team.
- Nominated for Outstanding Alumni 2023 (Sunway/Lancaster University).
- Best paper award (2016) for PhD publication.

#### **SKILLS & EXPERTISE**

Climate Finance, Adaptation for Water projects, Report writing, Effective Communication, Partnership Building, Mind Control.