

## GAIA Mentor

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# Joice Mendez

Climate Change Consultant UNICEF Paraguay  
United Nations Secretary General's Youth Advisor on  
Climate Change

### GAIA Mentor on working with indigenous communities

Joice Mendez is a social entrepreneur working on transboundary cooperation in the water-energy-food nexus with an emphasis on energy justice. Joice is a major voice of Latin America within leading youth and climate mechanisms, including the United Nations Secretary General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, the UNMGCY's SDG7 Youth Constituency, the IRENA's Director-General's Global Council on Enabling Youth Action for SDG7 and the initiative Youth4Climate. Currently she works as a climate change consultant in UNICEF Paraguay, fostering youth advocacy in national climate policies.

Working with youth on her daily basis, Joice has co-founded several organizations like the [Foz do Iguacu-Moema Viezzer Educative & Environmental Observatory](#), the [Latin American Observatory of Geopolitics of Energy](#) (Infrastructure, Technology, Security and Energy Integration), the observatory is part of the Nucleus of Strategic Studies, Geopolitics and Regional Integration (NEEGI) of the Federal University of Latin American Integration (UNILA) and the binational [Youth Collective of the Parana Basin 3](#), from the Cultivating Good Water Initiative (UN-Water Best Practice Award 2015). In Paraguay she co-founded the National [Youth Network for Water](#) and the [Youth Network for Climate Action Paraguay](#), organizing since 2016 the National [LCOYs](#) (Conference of Youth).



## GAIA Judge

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# Jeanette Gitobu

Director of the Women in Wind Global Leadership Program and Policy Advisor, Africa at the Global Wind Energy Council

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Jeanette Gitobu currently serves as the Director of the Women in Wind Global Leadership Program and Policy Advisor, Africa at the Global Wind Energy Council.

Named as the Young Energy Professional of the Year by the Energy Institute in 2021, Jeanette is a renowned impact leader with a proven track record of leading national, international, and global multi-stakeholder initiatives to address economic, energy, climate, gender, and sustainable development challenges.



Jeanette is also the Founder and President of Prestonwook Group. Prestonwook Group is a wholly black female owned holding company that includes: Prestonwook Capital Advisors, Prestonwook Studios, and Prestonwook Academy. Each of the companies under the Prestonwook umbrella are focused on different aspects of promoting diversity and sustainability around the world.

# Gandhi Alva

Executive Director at WindAid Institute

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Gandhi Alva is an anthropologist specialized as social projects manager in environment, education, and cultural heritage. With 5 years of experience leading teams and working in peruvian communities with locals. He is a teambuilder and has a passion for learning and to improve my skills as a social project manager in order to help people's needs.

