

Melina Sakiyama



From an early age, Melina Sakiyama has been intrigued by the fine and complex balance between the planet and all its inhabitants. This childhood awe bloomed into a deep love with nature. It was the beginning of her journey to seek for deeper understanding of this web of life and to engage as many people as possible in this collective vision of life in harmony within nature.

Born and raised in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Melina's interest in Biodiversity was sparked through trips to her father's home town in the Amazon, where she was able to see and enjoy the sheer endless diversity of nature. However, her upbringing also made her aware of the human impact on nature. As the daughter of a marine who served in Brazil's merchant navy, Melina's early childhood was characterized by journeys around the world on a cargo ship. Through these journeys, she was able to develop a deep understanding of how everything on our planet is connected with each other. How globalization, consumption and production patterns impact biodiversity.

These experiences shaped Melina's personality, her values, her outlook on the world and her further upbringing.

Wanting to turn her love for nature into a profession, Melina pursued a degree in Biology at the University of Sao Paulo where she contributed to research on the role of biologists in environmental issues. Following her graduation, she was awarded a Nikkei Scholarship from Nippon Foundation and received a Master's Degree in Environmental Management at Kyoto University in Japan. At Kyoto University, Melina focused on biodiversity education, biodiversity valuation and ways to engage youth.

After graduating from Kyoto University, Melina worked as a Science Officer for Diversitas/Future Earth from 2014 to 2015. At Diversitas/Future Earth she was responsible for assisting the implementation of the bioGENESIS programme.

While in Japan, Melina interned with the Japan Council for the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development as well as the UNESCO office in Bangkok, where she was able to deepen her knowledge about biodiversity and education.

During her time in Japan, Melina was also selected to participate in the 2010 International Youth Conference on Biodiversity (IYCB) in Nagoya, where she met other young biodiversity activists from all over the world who shared her views and values towards Biodiversity, and together with co-founder Christian Schwarzer, they both started leading a small group of participants that developed the idea to create a Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN).

Inspired by her participation in the 2010 UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP10) in 2010, she dedicated a great part of her life in the next ten years to establish and consolidate GYBN and build a global movement for young people to empower themselves to get engaged in biodiversity issues and pursue the vision of a collective and just future in harmony within nature.



Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network

40 national chapters
5 regional chapter
2 sub-regional chapters
over **50** on the
ground projects



1,000,000
members

145
countries

Reached
 **2.8 million**
people

 **3 million**
views

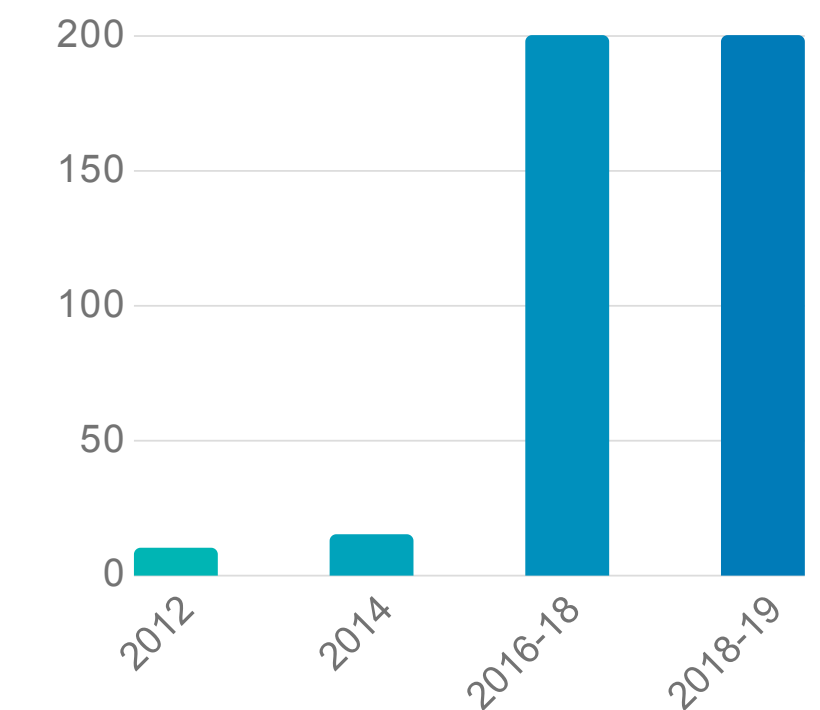
Capacity building
workshops

340 youth leaders

121 countries

30+ follow-up projects

Youth scholarships awarded
for un conferences and workshops



Guidebooks
to the Convention on Biological Diversity



Melina Sakiyama

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GYBN • Global Youth Biodiversity Network

International youth platform for biodiversity

Since Jan/2019

Roadmap of youth engagement for the Post 2020 GBF - Programme Co-lead

Concept development, resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, programme development and oversight of implementation of all programme components

Since Oct/2014

Youth Voices Capacity Building Programme Manager

Concept development, resource mobilization, programme development and programme implementation of all programme components (Regional Workshops, International youth delegations to CBD Meetings and publications)

Oct/2012 - Jan/2017

Global South Focal Point – Coordinator of youth delegation to the CBD

Coordinator for all youth activities, policy advisor and youth strategic planning during the CBDs COP11, COP12, COP13, COP14, SBSTTA18, SBSTTA19, SBSTTA20, SBSTTA21 and SBSTTA22, WGR15, SBI1 and SBI2

DIVERSITAS / Future Earth

Oct 2013/ Dec 2015

Science officer

Project implementation

EDUCATION

Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

Mar/2013 • Kyoto, Japan

MSc in Environmental Management

Minors – Environmental Management Leadership

Sustainability Science

Environmental Governance

Centre for Alternative Technology • CAT – Wales, UK

Oct/2011 – Nov/2010

Internship

Education Department

Member of the coordinating team for the Workshop on Food Education

UNESCO Bangkok • Bangkok, Thailand

Nov/2010 – Dec/2010

Internship

Education for Sustainable Development Unit

Japan Council for the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J) • Tokyo, Japan

Oct/2010

Internship

Biodiversity and development working group

Kyoto University • Kyoto, Japan

Mar/2011 – Mar/2013

Research Assistant

Project: “The Tertiary Education for Sustainable Development Initiative”

Jan/2012 – Mar/2013

Co-coordinator

Course: “Building Sustainable Futures: Principles & Challenges”

Mar/2011 – Dez/2012

Teaching Assistant

Course: “Environmental Ethics and Education”

Course: “Seminars in Environmental Management”

University de São Paulo • Biosciences Institute

Dec/2008 • São Paulo, Brazil

BSc in Biological Sciences

Licentiate Degree in Biological Sciences

CONTACT

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EXPERTISE

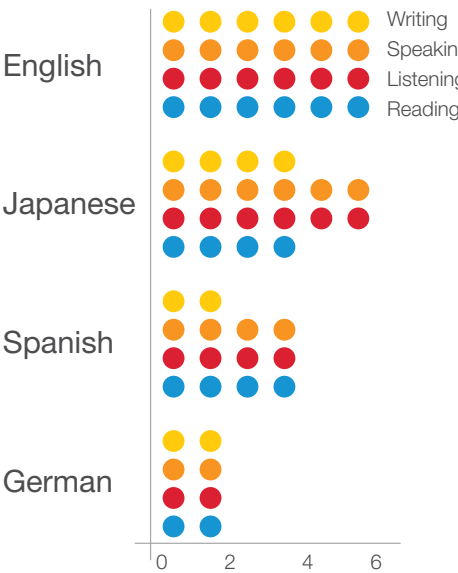
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (focus on CBD)
- Environmental governance (focus on biodiversity)
- Education for Sustainability
- Communication, education and public awareness
- Youth empowerment and mobilization in biodiversity activism

ROLES

- Fundraising and resource mobilization
- Biodiversity policy advisor
- Strategic planning
- Project design, development, implementation and management
- Strategic partnerships
- Facilitation, moderation and public relations

SKILLS

Languages
Mother tongue: Portuguese



PUBLICATIONS

- CBD in a Nutshell – Guidebook to the CBD process