

# Electric Women in Transport 2022



## Our 15 award winners

Mahua Acharya  
Dr. Monica Araya  
Dr. Kawtar Benabdelaziz  
Marcela Castillo  
Dr. Dilum Dissanayake  
Akshima T. Ghate  
Dr. Kathrin Goldammer  
Dipti Mahapatro  
Erika Myers  
Carol Ofafa, HSC.  
María Fernanda Ortiz Carrascal  
Megan Page  
Agata Rzędowska  
Chelsea Sexton  
Lulu Xue

**Female Change-Makers  
Transforming Mobility**  
4th Edition, 2022

**María Fernanda Ortiz Carrascal**  
*Founder and General Manager of ConCriterio*  
Colombia

# 15 Electric Women

Mahua Acharya



Dr. Monica Araya



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## Female Change-Makers Transforming Mobility The series' fourth round

TUMI and Women Mobilize Women are delighted to publish the fourth annual edition of Remarkable Women in Transport! On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), we are especially grateful to the Remarkable Women in our network, and the TUMI Partners for supporting us in identifying women who've made extraordinary contributions to transport.

This year, we are going electric! The 2022 edition shines a light on outstanding women working towards the electrification of mobility. While this publication is by no means all-encompassing of the thousands of women in electric mobility who make great contributions every day, we hope that these selected few inspire you in 2022. Just browse and get inspired!

[www.transformative-mobility.org](http://www.transformative-mobility.org)  
[www.womenmobilize.org](http://www.womenmobilize.org)

Globally, less than 1 in 5 employees in the transport sector are women.  
(ILOSTAT, 2019)

The Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) supports women in the transport sector. With Women Mobilize Women, TUMI specifically addresses the need to involve and empower female change-makers in the transport sector to progress mobility systems and to cater to women's needs. Women Mobilize Women serves as a network and information hub which strongly influences the international debate on the role and potential of women in the mobility sector.

 [www.womenmobilize.org](http://www.womenmobilize.org)  
 [@TUMInitiative](https://twitter.com/TUMInitiative)  
 [Women Mobilize Women](https://www.facebook.com/WomenMobilizeWomen)  
 [Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative](https://www.youtube.com/TransformativeUrbanMobilityInitiative)

# #ElectricWomen: Meet the Remarkable Women Electrifying Mobility

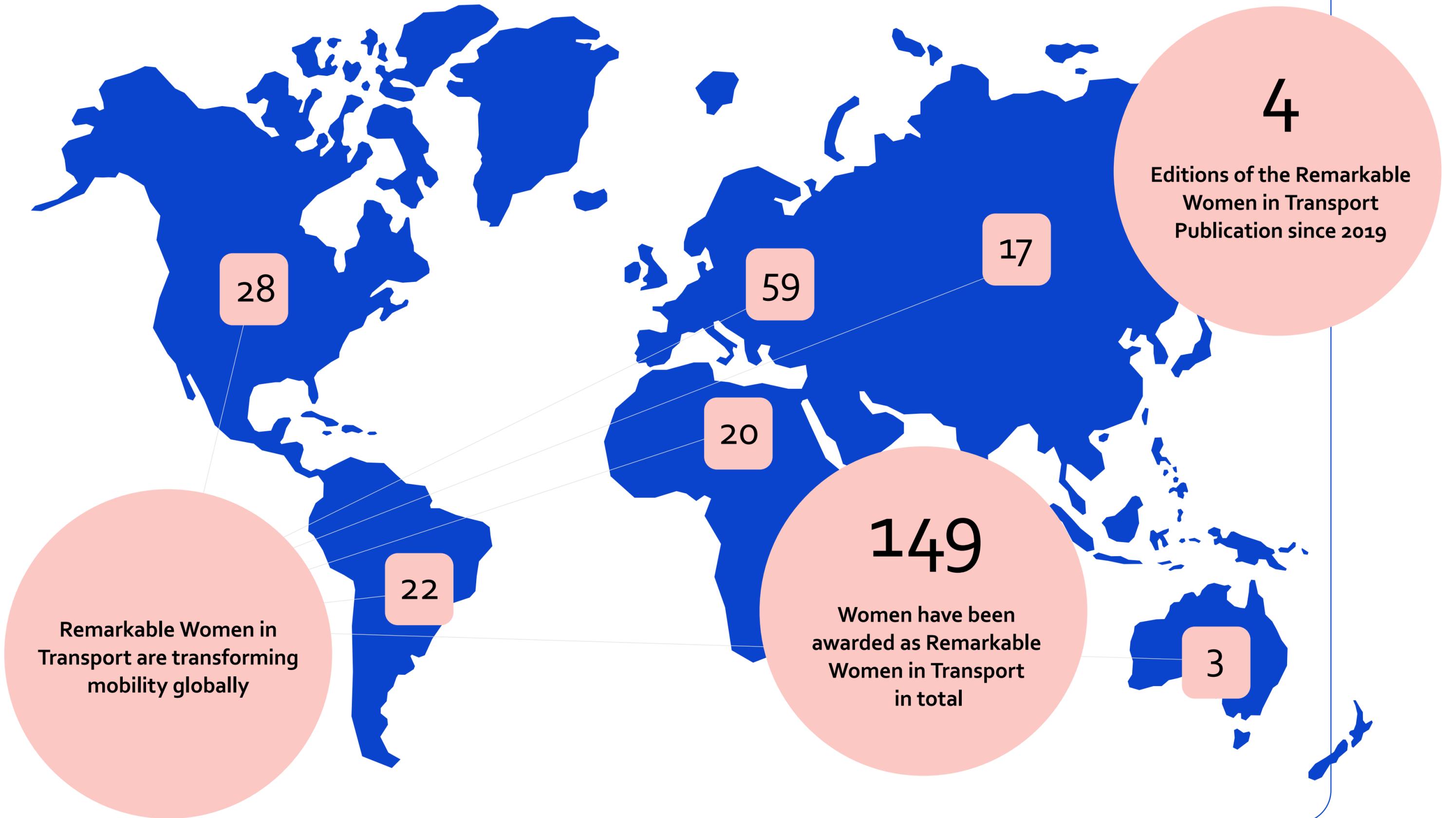
Women may comprise more than half the global population, but in some industries, including the transport sector and automotive industry, they're still under-represented. We want to change that! That's why we're celebrating the successes and accomplishments of the women who have been working hard to transform transportation. These #ElectricWomen have made some incredible achievements to enhance e-mobility.

By bringing their invaluable insights to the table, these women have played a key role on the path to an emissions-free future. Whether their work includes advancing urban planning principles to promote shared mobility, employing women and transgender drivers of electric rickshaws, or researching the next big advancement in electric mobility, these women are role models for the next generation of women in

mobility. Supporting them in their fight for gender parity and their mentorship of the next women leaders in e-mobility, we want to honor them and their work toward decarbonizing transport through e-mobility.

Only by including women at every step of the way in the transportation transformation will we be able to achieve sustainable mobility systems and an equitable society.

Driven women. Driving mobility.





© Mahua Acharya

## Mahua Acharya

*Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer*

Convergence Energy Services Ltd.,  
Government of India,  
India

Mahua Acharya leads the development of an electric vehicle ecosystem in India as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the state-owned energy transition company, Convergence Energy Services Limited of the Government of India. In her role, she is working to enable deployment of electric three wheelers, cars, and electric buses at scale and is involved in the buildout of charging stations across the country.

With a Master's degree from Yale University, Mahua has over two decades of experience in carbon markets, renewable energy and organizational management.

Prior to her role at Convergence, she was the Assistant Director-General of a new multilateral organization the Global Green Growth Institute. She is one of the early pioneers of the carbon market, having worked at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington DC during the days of the market's inception.

Co-founder faculty of an executive education program at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Mahua also serves on the boards of multiple international entities, and has appeared on international and Indian listings of women in leadership.

 @mahuaacharya



© Dr. Monica Araya

## Dr. Monica Araya

*Distinguished Fellow*

ClimateWorks Foundation Special  
Adviser to the High-Level Climate  
Action Champion for COP26,  
Costa Rica

 @MonicaArayaTica

An economist with a Ph.D. in environmental management from Yale University, Dr. Monica Araya works with leaders in government, cities, businesses, philanthropies, and activism to advance zero-emissions mobility. One of her many roles currently is Distinguished Fellow at ClimateWorks Foundation, where she serves as adviser on the "Drive Electric campaign," the largest global effort led by foundations involving all segments of road transportation. She has also served as Special Adviser to the High-Level Climate Action Champion for COP26.

A board member on several initiatives, including the Global Future Council on Urban Mobility Transitions by World Economic Forum, the Global Partnership for Informal Transportation, and the 2050 Pathways, she contributes her expertise both globally and locally. Monica has been an adviser to the Chilean Government's Electric Mobility Commissions and to RouteZero, a campaign to accelerate zero-emission mobility commitments by non-state actors.

A public speaker on decarbonization strategies, Dr. Araya has convened Costa Rica Limpia and the Costa Rican Electric Mobility Association, a role for which she was named "Crusader of the Year 2019."



© Dr. Kawtar Benabdelaziz

## Dr. Kawtar Benabdelaziz

*Technical Advisor*

Changing Transport, GIZ,  
Morocco

A prolific researcher in the field of electric mobility, Dr. Kawtar Benabdelaziz was one of the first to highlight the importance of electric mobility in her native Morocco. Kawtar, who has conducted field research into electric vehicle batteries, charging infrastructure, and smart grids, holds a strong interest in the adaptation of technology within a national context. She implemented the first EV charging corridor in the kingdom and is actively involved in the further development of the electric vehicle ecosystem in Morocco.

While obtaining a PhD in electrical engineering from Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingénieur of Rabat, she published research papers on novel external cooling solutions for electric vehicle battery packs, a battery dynamic energy model for use in electric vehicle simulation, and a case study on the degradation of lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles at high temperatures. Now facilitating transport and climate actions in the mobility department at GIZ, Kawtar is a part of several international programs aimed

at encouraging sustainable transport initiatives. Expanding on her PhD research, she is working to improve the transport sector in Morocco and is actively involved in the development of the electric vehicle ecosystem there.



Electric mobility is only a solution if we change the transport paradigm: fewer cars and more sustainable modes of transport. The role of women is essential because women are the ones who travel the most, but they are also the ones who suffer the most from our ill-conceived transport system. More women in electric mobility means more innovation in the way we use transportation.



 @KBenabdelaziz





© Marcela Castillo

## Marcela Castillo

*Senior Researcher*

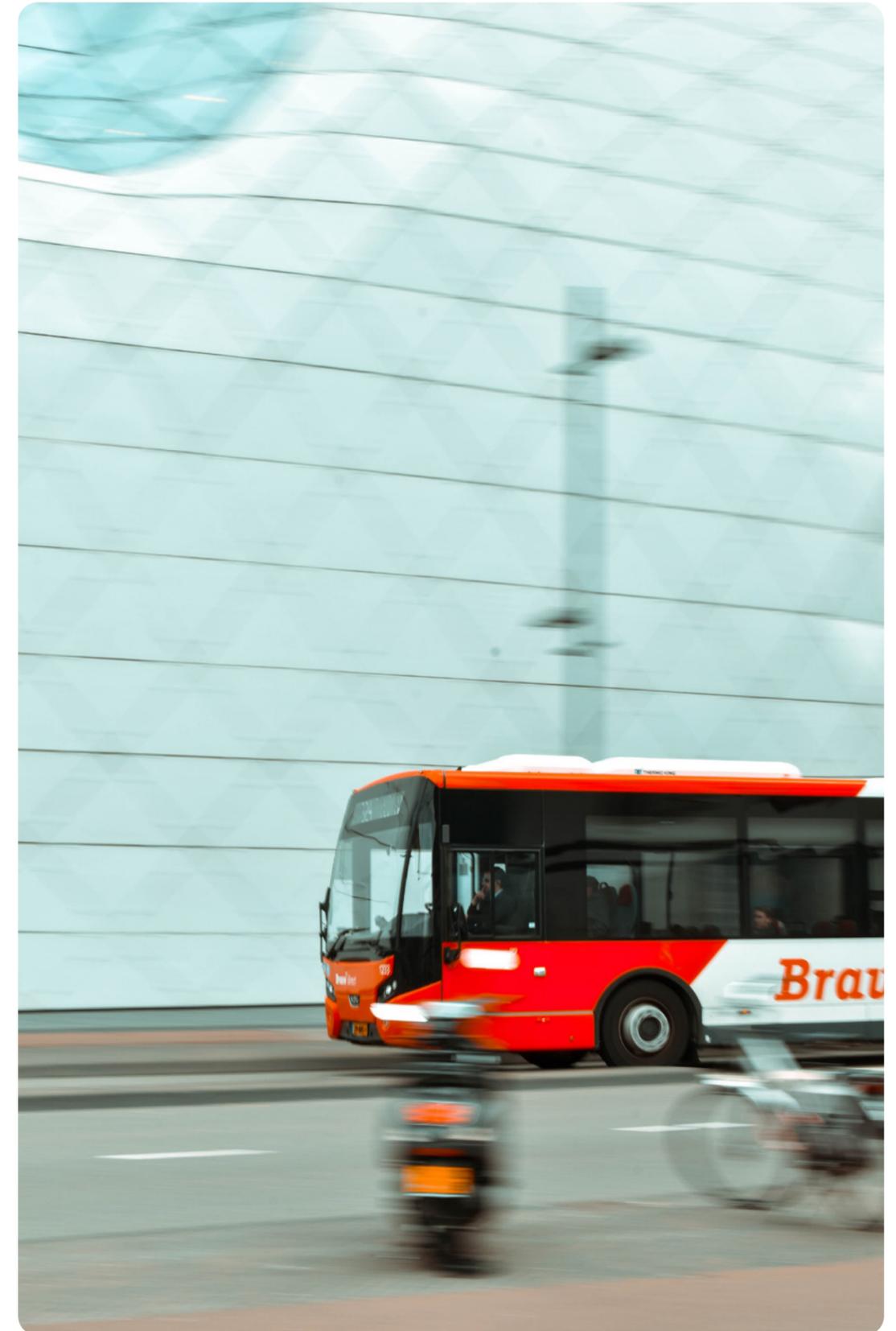
Centro Mario MolinaChile (CMM),  
Research Director and Co-Founder,  
Centro de Movilidad Sostenible (CMS),  
Chile

A Senior Researcher at Centro Mario Molina Chile (CMM) and Research Director and Co-Founder of the Centro de Movilidad Sostenible (CMS), Marcela Castillo works to accelerate the transition to electric mobility in cities across Latin America and the Caribbean. She is currently assisting in the development of the tendering specifications for the procurement of over 2,000 buses (electric and Euro VI) by the Chilean Ministry of Transportation.

Living in Santiago, one of the most polluted cities in Latin American, inspired Marcela to specialize the transport sector due to its role in the pollution. She began her career working on projects related to cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles for UN

Environment and later took part in projects with the International Energy Agency (IEA), which expanded her knowledge of vehicular technologies with a systemic approach to reducing transport emissions.

In her work on clean mobility technologies, she considered the local contexts in the development of sustainable mobility, research which has helped in improved public policies in emerging economies. Marcela has come to realize the value and importance of women's involvement in the transportation sector, particularly in the more technical aspects, especially given the more pronounced gender disparities in Latin American countries.



© @imjimyan, Pexels



@Mar\_CastilloR



© City of Dreux—Photo: Jean Cardoso



© Dr. Dilum Dissanayake

## Dr. Dilum Dissanayake

*Postgraduate Director*

Civil and Geospatial Engineering

*Senior Lecturer in Transport Modelling School of Engineering – Newcastle University, United Kingdom*



Dr. Dilum Dissanayake research is a blend of transport geography, mathematical modelling, and social and behavioral sciences. With a keen interest in travel behavior change, sustainable transportation, electric mobility and shared mobility, she uses a variety of modelling methods combined with statistical techniques to deliver novelty in her research, which focuses on electric mobility, micromobility, and shared electric mobility in cities.

Dilum has generated funding over €1m for several shared mobility projects in Europe, including eHUBS and the Capitalisation project, which sees the implementation of over 100 electric hubs across several European countries. She likewise serves as Academic Editor of the Journal of Advanced Transportation, and an Associate Editor of the journal of IET - Intelligent Transport Systems. She has published more than 70 papers and was a recipient of Duo-India Professor Fellowship in 2020 to conduct research with IIT Roorkee, one of the top 10 Technical universities in India.

As mentor to many research students who focus on electric mobility, Dilum is regularly nominated for excellence in teaching awards at Newcastle University.



Electric mobility is a new area with new technologies and new business models. This is a good time to think differently about everything, including the role of women in the business. This is the time to break stigmas, train women, create employment (for women), and modernize the associated infrastructure to make it inclusive.





© Akshima T Ghate

## Akshima T Ghate

*Senior Principal*

RMI India,  
India



Akshima T Ghate leads research, analysis, and partner engagement on issues related to clean and low carbon mobility as a Delhi-based Senior Principal at RMI India. With over 15 years of experience in the transport sector, Akshima provides leadership to RMI India's ongoing initiatives aimed at transforming the mobility trajectory of Indian cities toward a shared, clean and people-centric path. Working with representatives at the national and sub-national level, many of these initiatives focus on the formulation and implementation of EV-related policies for Indian states.

Prior to her work at RMI, Akshima was a Senior Fellow and Associate Director at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. There, she led policy research studies focusing on the promotion of sustainable and low-carbon development of transport systems. A contributor to several important reports for the government of India and the UN, she was a contributing author to the 'India Transport Report: Moving India to 2032' prepared by the National Transport Development Policy Committee of the Government of India.

Akshima also serves as a Member of the Expert Advisory Group of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to the government of India, advising on electric vehicles, alternative fuels, and road transport emissions.

## Dr. Kathrin Goldammer

*Director*

Reiner Lemoine Institute,  
Germany

in

Dr. Kathrin Goldammer is the director of the Reiner Lemoine Institute, a non-profit research institute focused on renewable energy and decarbonized transport. A mobility startup founder, she holds a doctorate in physics and a university degree in electrical engineering. Kathrin has many years of experience within the energy industry and energy policy. Her proudest achievement came from making RLI a diverse and welcoming workplace, the only energy and transport research institute in Germany with gender parity at all levels. She's also one of the few female founders in tech with her startup Localiser.

Among many honorary appointments, Kathrin serves as the spokeswoman for the Berlin Brandenburg Energy Technology cluster. She also headed the scientific advisory council for the Grid Integration of Electric Mobility conference and is currently a member of the scientific board of the „Powertrains and Energy Systems of Tomorrow“ conference hosted by Automobiltechnische Zeitschrift (ATZ).



Decarbonizing transport takes a huge effort and will impact everyone's life. I want women to be represented in the field and to be part of the decision-making processes.



© Dr. Kathrin Goldammer



© @prabhavkashyap / Unsplash



© Dipti Mahapatro

## Dipti Mahapatro

General Manager of Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)

Officer on Special Duty at Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), India

 @CRUT\_BBSR

Smt. Dipti Mahapatro recently introduced the concept of 'Mo E-Ride' in Bhubaneswar, an electric rickshaw system that acts as a feeder service to Mo Bus Operations and employs transgender and women drivers. As General Manager of CRUT, which operates 225 buses under the brand name Mo Bus (non-electric buses), she has undertaken multiple measures related to women's safety. Her work has been recognized and awarded by the Government of India thrice — every year since CRUT's inception

Under her leadership, these women's safety measures implemented have included the deployment of more than 40% of women conductors as crews, disaggregated ticketing, enabling Mo Buses with CCTV, strategically locating well-lit bus shelters, equipping state-of-the-art Mo Bus depots with separate toilets for gender groups, as well as training crew on tactful practices of passenger

management. As the Officer on Special Duty at Odisha State Road Transport Corporation, Dipti has been successfully able to create a public transport ecosystem in the capital region of Odisha that is sustainable, accessible, affordable and safe for all.



CRUT envisions changing the male dominance in the public transport sector by creating an ecosystem that is gender inclusive and gender sensitive.



## Erika Myers

*Acting Director of Global E-Mobility*

World Resources Institute's (WRI) Ross Center for Sustainable Cities,  
United States

 @ehmyers

Long a champion for gender equity in the e-mobility and energy sectors, Erika Myers is an active member of Women of Electric Vehicles, an international non-profit focused on empowering women in EV careers. Named the Top Woman in Electric Vehicles for Policy & Advocacy by Drive Electric in 2021 and listed as one of the Women Driving the EV Revolution by Motion Magazine, she authors a blog focused on encouraging women to enter the e-mobility workforce called EV Love.

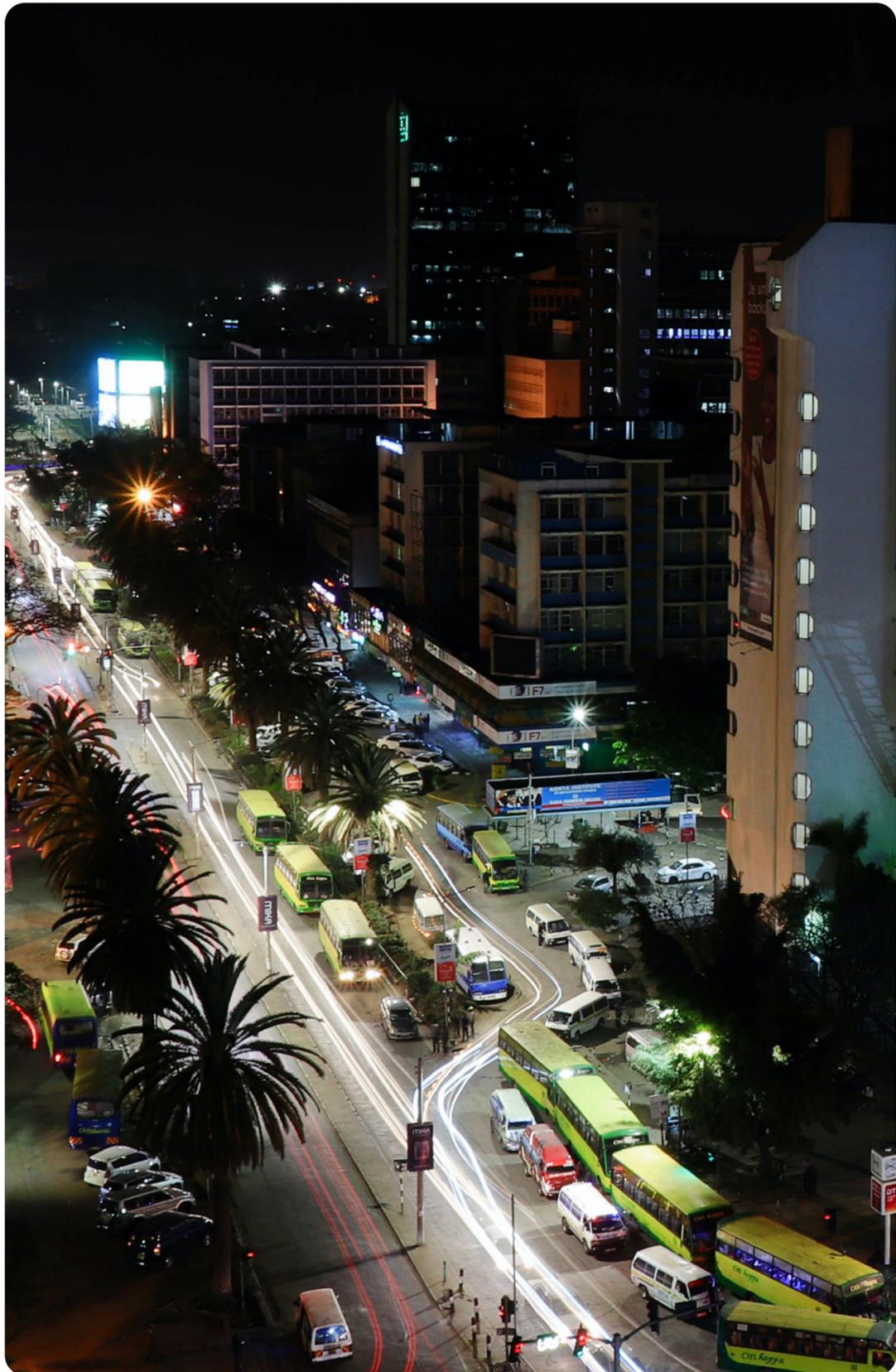
With nearly two decades of experience working on clean energy, alternative transportation fuels and distributed energy resource topics, Erika now leads the WRI electric mobility team's research and implementation efforts (in coordination with 10 international offices) to decarbonize transportation through vehicle electrification and sustainable mobility. She oversaw the development of WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative, which seeks to equitably electrify the entire U.S. fleet of school buses by 2030. Her most recent research focuses on

a variety of electric mobility topics, including vehicle-grid integration, equitable charging infrastructure, consumer charging behavior, national and sub-national e-mobility roadmaps, zero-emission zones, and fleet electrification. Thanks to her diverse career experiences, she maintains a unique perspective on the opportunity to leverage renewable energy and electric vehicle charging to reduce emissions through the widespread deployment of vehicle-grid integration.



Unless women are closely involved in the eMobility transition, we could unintentionally create an early-market gender divide due to barriers ranging from charging infrastructure siting to vehicle design. Women may be forced to adapt to a system designed by men for men, or choose not to participate at all.





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© Carol Ofafa, HSC

## Carol Ofafa, HSC

*Electrical and Electronic Engineer*

Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO), Kenya

 @carolofafa



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta awarded Carol Ofafa The Head of State Commendation (HSC), the highest civilian award in Kenya, for her extensive support in the mentorship of women in energy and her role in the implementation and project management of the Suswa-Isinya 400kV transmission line.

Carol's work at KETRACO, which operates high voltage electricity transmission grid and regional power interconnectors that essentially form the backbone of the National Transmissions Grid, involves designing, constructing, and operating high-voltage electricity infrastructure. The transmission line was one of the projects undertaken by KETRACO, which makes concerted efforts at strengthening and extending the reliability of the electricity supply within Kenya. On top of her professional accomplishments, Carol is the founder of E-Safiri, a Kenyan startup that aims to develop solar-powered charging stations for two- and four-wheeled vehicles. Carol's vision

is to create a world-class charging infrastructure for e-mobility in Africa in order to reduce carbon emissions in the mobility sector and drive Africa's transition to sustainable transport.



In order to solve a diverse range of problems within sustainable mobility, a diverse range of solutions is necessary. This can only be achieved by the inclusion of women in this emerging industry. I would like to inspire more women to rise up and take up roles within electric mobility to improve the quality of solutions and develop products with women in mind. I implore investors and governments to support and invest in women founders within electric mobility and create more opportunities for women in the sector.



## María Fernanda Ortiz Carrascal

Founder and General Manager

ConCriterio,  
Colombia

 @Maferoc

María Fernanda Ortiz Carrascal is the founder and general manager of the firm ConCriterio. With expertise and particular interest in public transportation, María Fernanda co-led Bogotá's ascension as a leader in clean transportation through her work on TransMilenio's deployment of the largest electric bus fleet in Latin America. Women played a major role in the incorporation of 1,485 e-buses to the city's public transport system, a project that is part of a transformational process that improved quality of service for all citizens, prioritizing women, older people, and children.

As an independent consultant, she advises local and international clients on how to plan and implement feasible and sustainable urban transportation projects as well as embrace the use of big data and new modeling techniques to improve the decision-making process in transport planning. She supported the city of Rio de Janeiro in the incorporation of the first e-bus fleet for its BRT system, advised other stakeholders in Colombia that are working to deploy

e-buses in different cities, and taught a course for public entities in major Latin American cities on electric bus planning.

Holding a degree in civil engineering from Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá and two master's degrees — one in Transportation Engineering in Colombia and one in Smart Cities and Urban Analytics in the UK — she was recognized as a Chevening Scholar.



Women's leadership in the deployment of e-mobility is remarkable and I was lucky to be part of a group of outstanding women working for a zero-emission transit system in Bogotá. I am honored to be here representing them.



© María Fernanda Ortiz Carrascal



© Megan Page

## Megan Page

*Electric Meg,*

New Zealand

 @electricmegnz

Electric Meg is one of New Zealand's more prominent figures in the world of electric bike education and ride induction. She works as a specialist electric bike skills instructor for private clients as well as numerous corporate and council-based initiatives. Meg's big push towards sustainability is to engage organizations nationally to think about adding e-bike fleets as staff modes of transport for getting around cities. She assists with setting policies that support the organizations' health and safety requirements and delivers the practical enablement on the ground via the Electricmeg competency pathway program. Electric Meg was the winner of the AT Travelwise Supreme Award 2017 (with Datacom) 3x Category Finalist NZTA Bike to the Future Awards 2017.

On top of these awards and her personal Electricmeg fleet ebike enablement business, she is also a Tutor Trainer for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency – State Agency, delivering cycle skills training to instructors who deliver the New Zealand National Bike Ready program in schools and adult learn to ride and on road programs.



E-Bikes level the playing field allowing female riders who may not feel inclined through age, health, fitness, worry about holding the pack up or perceived lack of skills to rejoin the cycling revolution. #electricgrin (TM to electricmegnz). If you are returning to cycling especially with an ebike I would always advise engage an ebike trainer who can get you up and pedalling safely and with joy.



## E-Bike Sharing Schemes

How to implement an E-Bike Sharing Scheme? Check out the TUMI checklist that outlines 6 steps as guidelines for relevant stakeholders to support the step by step e-bike sharing scheme implementation in cities. Help to transform urban mobility!



### Key Steps to Roll-Out an E-Bike Sharing Scheme



**More than 600 cities worldwide have implemented their own bike-sharing scheme!**

## Agata Rzędowska

*Journalist, Editor, Podcaster*

Poland



© Agata Rzędowska

The journalist, editor, and podcaster Agata Rzedowska has written over 1,000 texts on the topic of electric cars and their ecosystem. As originator and editor of the book, "On Electromobility Talks," she published the first Polish book in which practitioners and observers of megatrends take the floor.

Agata leads a weekly program on electromobility "Fast Vehicles" on Polish Radio RDC and was recognized in the e-Mobility Media Awards for a new mobility podcast in 2021. She writes about electromobility and green transformation for the online news service green-news.pl and Green Car Magazine, which is published by the Foundation for Promotion of Electric Vehicles. A conference speaker and moderator keen on new mobility solutions, she was the first Polish judge in Women's World Car of The Year contest in 2022.

 @rzedowska



© Chelsea Sexton

## Chelsea Sexton

*Co-founder*

Plug In America,  
United States

An electric transportation industry pioneer, Chelsea Sexton holds decades of unrivaled insider experience in sustainable mobility. From deploying the General Motors EV1 to guiding VantagePoint Capital Partners' early investment in Tesla Motors, she went on to skillfully direct an automotive XPRIZE and co-founded Plug In America, the nation's largest consumer advocacy group for electrified transportation.

Chelsea continues to work toward making the movement of people and goods cleaner, safer, and more accessible, primarily as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, which finances the manufacturing and deployment of large-scale advanced technology vehicle and innovative energy projects. She tilts at windmills as a lifestyle choice and excels at friendly conspiring for good.



@evchels

## Lulu Xue

*China Urban Mobility Manager*

WRI, China Ross Center  
for Sustainable Cities,  
China

Lulu Xue manages integrated transport projects and vehicle electrification projects on China's national, subnational, and city levels in her role as China Urban Mobility Manager at WRI China Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. She leads research, authors reports, develops analytic tools, and manages projects that focus on sustainable transport and urban development. Among her ongoing projects is an Electric Vehicles on the Grid Simulator Tool that will evaluate and mitigate the impacts of EVs on the grid.

Lulu has previously worked in the public and private sectors in both developing and developed countries. She has worked in projects involving regional travel demand modeling, transit-oriented development, parking management strategies, and non-motorized environment evaluation. She worked on the technical assistance project to the „National Transit Metropolis Demonstration Program“, an initiative administered by the Ministry of Transport of China.



© Lulu Xue

Lulu earned her Master's degree from MIT, where she focused on the human dimension in travel and land use planning.



No transformation is as radical as the global transport sector is undergoing now. However, to build sustainable mobility systems, the ongoing transformations must embrace diverse perspectives. As females employed in the transport sector in the developing world, we are equally capable to our male colleagues, regardless of challenging modeling work or time-consuming infrastructure planning. Our perspectives, skills, and tenacity are integral for the world to forge safer, more accessible, more sustainable, and smarter mobility systems.



Check out this new poster on the cycle of Sustainable Lithium-Batteries for E-Mobility. From raw material extraction, over battery use to recycling – 7 steps highlight the durability of batteries based on recommendations on how to get there!



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