



Jaweria Baig decided at 18 that she had to forgo college and her hopes of being an engineer because the Earth is in danger. She's become a full-time environmental activist, most recently challenging Microsoft to use its own online meeting program rather than sending employees around the world in toxin-spewing airplanes for in-person meetings. [Here's her profile.](#)



Chefs **Jen Castle** and **Blake Spalding** defied all conventional wisdom about how to survive in the restaurant business when they opened Hell's Backbone Bar & Grill in Utah's wildly remote Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Their goals: Make great meals from organic food that's locally produced, pay staff living wages, keep prices down, and champion the wildness of the Monument. When they took a stand against mining and drilling in that pristine environment, they got hate mail, the restaurant was vandalized, and tires were slashed. They haven't backed down. Read their [full profile here.](#)

Kenyan **Susan Chomba** uses her PhD in agroforestry to work against traditions on the African continent that damage the environment and women's lives, traditions like tying women and girls to wood-gathering, charcoal-making and outdoor cooking. She pushes against elitism as well, being not of the upper classes as most Kenyan PhDs are, but the daughter of a subsistence-farming, single mother. [Her story is here.](#)



Austrian biologist **Johannes Fritz** is so determined to save northern bald ibises from extinction, he's raising them from eggs. To keep the lab-raised birds from flying the wrong way at migration time, he's created an open-cockpit flying machine that he pilots, leading them to mating grounds. Fritz has been injured when his plane crashed, and mocked by fellow scientists and by environmentalists who think northern bald ibises aren't worth so much trouble. Fritz disagrees. The story and a photo of his flying machine are [here.](#)

Hoang Thi Minh Hong is a Vietnamese activist now in jail on trumped-up "tax evasion" charges. That government has clamped down on environmentalists, despite the negative effects of climate chaos on the country. Hong had started and led the nonprofit CHANGE to promote not only environmental measures but also the role of women in those efforts. Organizations around the world have protested Hong's arrest and detainment. [Her story is here.](#)





Jeeth Milan Roche was a “successful” guy with a good job at a tech firm in Mangaluru, India, plus a catering business on the side. But he left it all to create the Mangaluru Green Brigade, planting thousand of trees to make shade and fruit for the community. His new trees also stopped noxious runoffs from a garbage dump that was invading people’s homes. His Giraffe profile is [here](#).



Angelo Taranto suspected that the high number of deaths and illnesses in his rural Pennsylvania county were related to emissions from a steel-making plant there. When the steel company and an array of public agencies said that wasn’t true, Taranto became a warrior, monitoring the plant’s emissions and challenging the company at stockholder meetings with his findings. The plant was shut down and ERs in the area reported a dramatic drop in the number of people coming in with breathing crises. More on Taranto is [here](#).

Photographer, actor, singer, songwriter, and avid hiker, **Wyn Wiley** risked his career and his personal safety when he stopped passing as a straight man hiking in the outdoors. He came out as drag queen as a way to encourage more non-binary people to get out into the

nature world. Despite a barrage of threats, and losses to Wiley's work, he and Gonia have gone right on, providing backpacking gear and doing trainings for LGBTQ+ people who'd like to spend time in the great outdoors. The Wyn Wiley/Pattie Gonia profile is [here](#).