



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES

An illustration of three women in a lush green forest. The woman on the left has long dark hair and wears a yellow top. The woman in the middle has blonde hair and glasses, wearing a green top. The woman on the right has dark hair and wears a red top. They are all smiling and reaching out their hands towards several small, white, ghost-like creatures with large eyes and thin limbs. The creatures are scattered throughout the forest scene, some on the ground and some on tree branches. The background is filled with tall, dark green trees and vibrant green foliage.

SPANISH SCIENTISTS **ECOGUARDIANS**

WORKING TO REPAIR THE PLANET.
WE CAN DO IT!

MECUSA & QUANZHOU

BLANCA BERNAL (MADRID) STUDIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES. IT WAS ONE OF HER TUTORS WHO SPARKED HER PASSION FOR SCIENCE

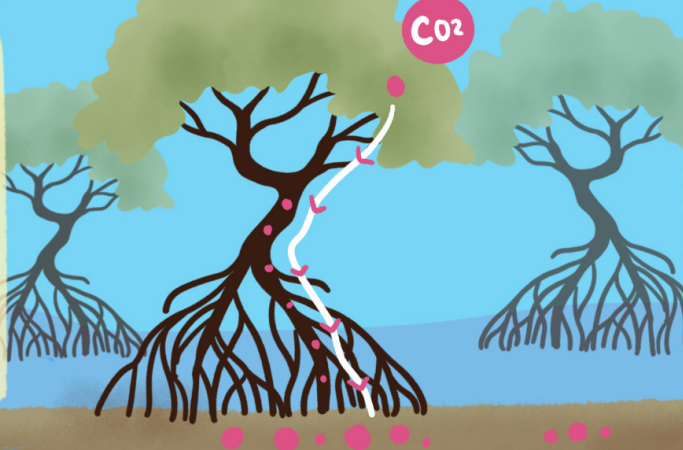


DRIVEN BY HER PASSION, SHE DID A PHD, 2 POSTDOCS AND EVEN GOT A FELLOWSHIP IN THE USA AT OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



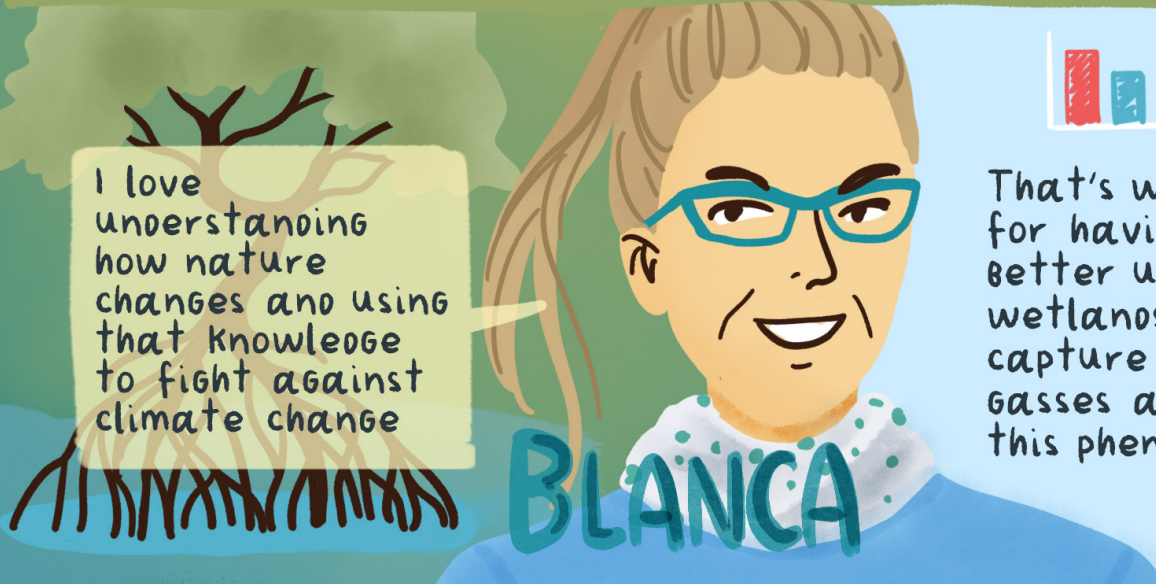
BLANCA WORKS TO COUNTERACT CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH ECOSYSTEMS. SHE SPECIALIZES IN WETLANDS (MANGROVES, MARSHES...ETC.) SHE HAS STUDIED THE WETLANDS IN THE USA, COSTA RICA, BOTSWANA, INDONESIA, CHINA, COLOMBIA...ETC.

Wetlands capture more CO₂ from the atmosphere than other non-wet ecosystems, and they withold it underground for centuries



Sadly, they've not been considered a productive ecosystem, and have rather been neglected and exploited. In 2022, 50% of them have disappeared, thus losing biodiversity and liberating more CO₂ to the atmosphere

CURRENTLY, BLANCA IS A SENIOR TECHNICAL EXPERT AT GREENCOLLAR, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE



That's why I'm very proud for having contributed to better understanding how wetlands can help capture greenhouse gasses and how to study this phenomenon



ALMUDENA MATEOS, FROM ALCALÁ DE HENARES (NEAR MADRID), ALWAYS LIKED SCIENCE, THAT'S WHY SHE STUDIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Back then the degree was new, but it seemed very interesting and with promising career prospects

WHILE DOING HER PHD, SHE HAD AN EPIPHANY



I didn't enjoy it and I wanted to move to study in the USA. So I dropped out

SHE GOT A LA CAIXA FELLOWSHIP TO DO A MASTER'S DEGREE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN NY



Are you quitting your job? Are you crazy?

ONCE IN THE USA, ALMUDENA STARTED WORKING FOR THE WORLD BANK: AN ORGANIZATION THAT LENDS MONEY TO EMERGING COUNTRIES TO FUND PROJECTS RELATED TO WATER, ENERGY, HEALTHCARE, ETC.

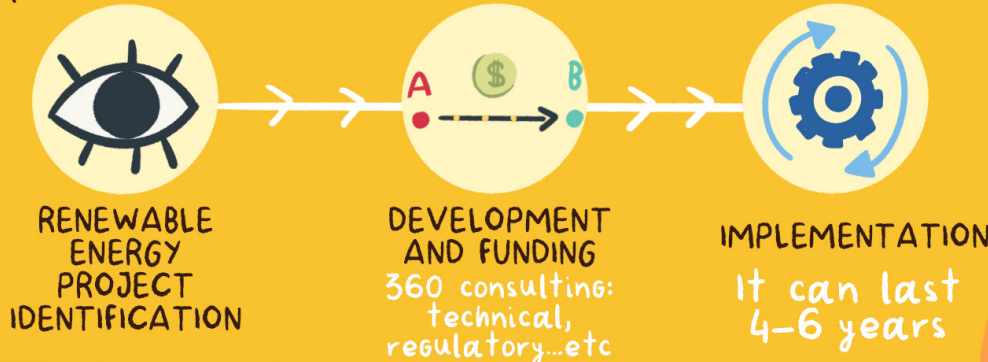
Back then, there were very few of us working on sustainable energy



In the past, only developed countries could afford renewable energies, but not anymore. The costs of solar and wind energy have dropped, and nowadays they are affordable for developing countries too

CURRENTLY, ALMUDENA IS A SENIOR ENERGY SPECIALIST AT THE WORLD BANK, SHE HAS WORKED IN EASTERN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, AND SHE LIVES IN COLOMBIA

I help identify interesting projects in the field of energy, and I follow the design and execution process



ALMUDENA

RAQUEL SALVADOR FROM ZARAGOZA (NORTHERN SPAIN) WAS VERY CURIOUS ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY



I need to know why!

THAT'S WHY SHE STUDIED CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

DURING HER PHD, HER MENTOR ADVISED HER



A research stay in the USA in a good lab is a great learning opportunity

Off to the US then

SHE WON A SCHOLARSHIP IN COLORADO, WHERE SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CITY AND HER WORK IN THE LAB



I'll stay here!

IN THE USA, RAQUEL WANTED HER WORK TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Science and cooking, my two passions! I want this job!



AND SHE FOUND THE OPPORTUNITY, SHE WORKS AT IMPOSSIBLE FOODS, WHERE THEY WANT TO WORK TO CHANGE THE FOOD SYSTEM AND MINIMIZE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



We investigate how to create tasty and nutritious plant meat, while polluting the least possible

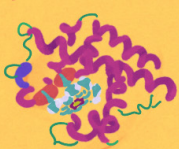


Animal meat production is one of the causes of climate change. Because of gas emissions & resources' consumption, which results in biodiversity loss



RAQUEL INVESTIGATES THE MOLECULES RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING FLAVOR, SMELL AND TEXTURE TO ANIMAL MEAT, AND WHAT PLANT INGREDIENTS COULD BE SIMILAR

HEME



We discovered that the molecule HEME is what gives the meaty flavor, and it's also present in soy



We produce "heme" sustainably, and combining it with other ingredients we create hamburgers



Finally, its properties are analyzed in the lab and then, we do blind tastings



RAQUEL

WE FACE BIG CHALLENGES



BLANCA BERNAL / PRESERVATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

We lack data, research and funding. We don't have to wait until we know everything about ecology to act. We already know the conservation and preservation of ecosystems is beneficial to fight climate change



ALMUDENA MATEOS / NON-FOSSIL FUELS

Eliminating our dependency on fossil fuels globally in a relatively short time frame is difficult, we need to realize that many developing countries have the extra challenge of providing their populations with reliable energy



RAQUEL SALVADOR / SUSTAINABLE FOOD

To transform the food industry and the consumer towards a sustainable system. We need to make people understand things through education, not guilt-tripping them or pointing fingers at them if they don't become vegan



AND THAT'S WHY WE NEED HELP AND COMMITMENT FROM INSTITUTIONS

CHANGE MUST BE LED BY INSTITUTIONS

We need to act now. We can't wait for a miraculous technology that fixes everything. We need to motivate citizens and governments

Globally we no longer think about energy without it being sustainable, we need to accelerate its implementation in all countries

It is necessary to transform the industry and educate the population towards food that is sustainable with the environment, as soon as possible



CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT AN
OPINION, WE NEED TO ACT NOW