



## DR. SANGHAMITRA MUKHERJEE

**PHD, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS. TANZANIA 2020**

Meet Sangha.

When Sangha joined UCDVO she had very little leadership experience and was looking for a way to break into the environmental sphere. Within three years she was named as one of the top 100 inspiring female sustainability leaders by Illuminem in 2023.

Sangha joined UCD in 2016 to undertake a PhD in Energy and Natural Resource Economics. She had recently returned from volunteering in Uganda and was craving an opportunity that offered her a deeper dive into values-based volunteering and global citizenship education.

**“The UCDVO volunteer programme exceeded all my expectations. It was incredibly comprehensive and focused on every aspect of global issues from migration to poverty alleviation.”**

As team coordinator, Sangha managed a group of UCD students teaching IT skills to teachers in Tanzania with UCDVO’s partner TanzEd. The pandemic posed significant challenges but the group adapted and taught online.

**“UCDVO taught me invaluable skills, from facilitation techniques to IT skills. But, most importantly, it taught me how to cultivate flexibility and adaptability.”**

She explained how the training and network opportunities provided by UCDVO were game-changing and helped her forge a fulfilling career in sustainability.

**“The programme allowed me to expand my network and gave me the confidence to apply for jobs I’d never dreamed of before.”**

Sangha has a seriously impressive list of accolades, many of which she was too humble to mention. She has served as an Irish climate ambassador, an SDG advocate and an EU climate pact ambassador.

**“As well as my PhD from UCD, my UCDVO experience has helped me bring interdisciplinary thinking and social justice elements to all of my work.”**

She also founded The Chikyu Project – a project to minimise household food waste in Ireland – achieved recognition for her writing on biodiversity and social responsibility, and delivered speeches at the EU youth talks in Brussels and COP27.

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