

# Grassroots Coalition News



A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice  
*We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.*

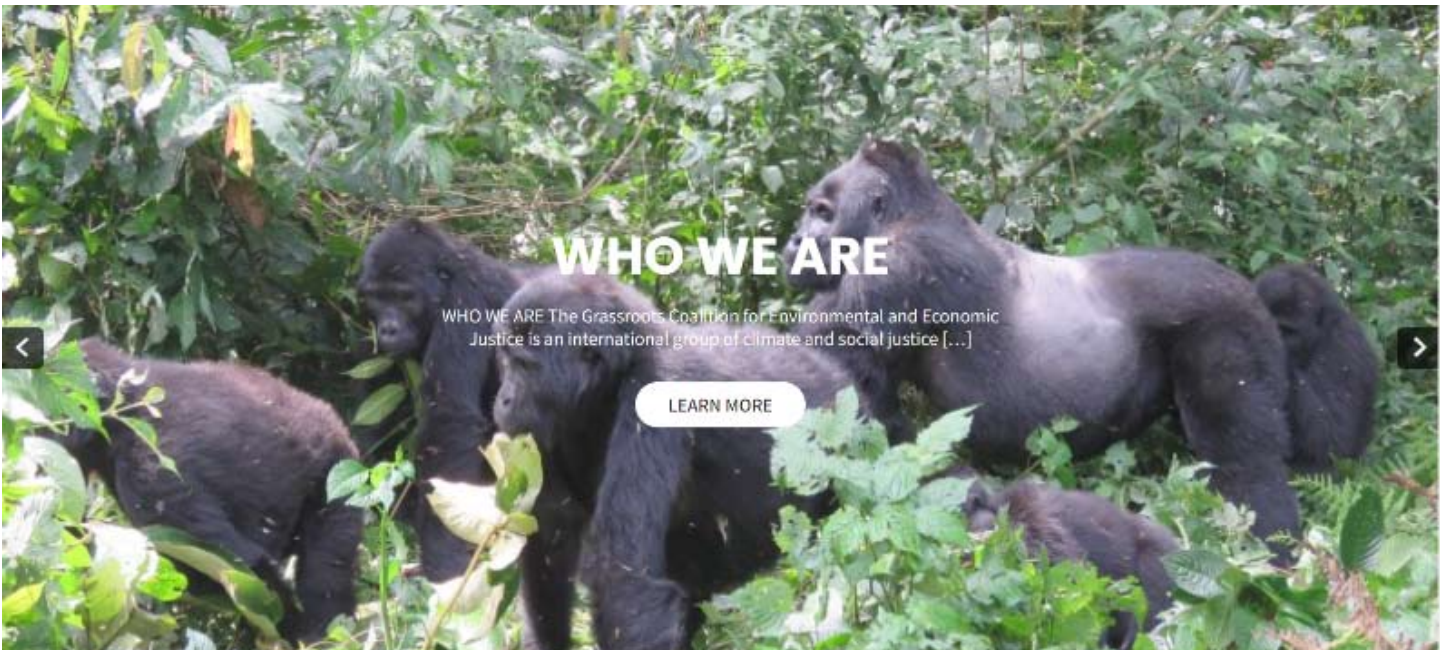
**Our Motto:** Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

**Our Slogan:** The way forward: cycle back to basics.

**Our Word:** Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

*A Celebration of Youth: [www.gceej.org](http://www.gceej.org). Issue No. 82: October 17, 2021*

## *New Name, New Website, New Logo*



### Welcome to Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (GCEEJ)

The Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice is an international group of climate and social justice activists, with the bulk of the members being African. We are dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns.

Ngo Banfoga of Hope for a Better Future Cameroon created this magnificent website for us, [gceej.org](http://gceej.org). It looks best on a laptop but we are showing it to you here so you can appreciate its awesomeness. Our Board of Directors approved a name change for our newspaper as you can see up top. I love that Ngo chose gorillas for our Home Page because we need to remember that animals are part of our global family. Thank you, Ngo!



# What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

**Coalition Founders:** John and Iona Conner

**Editor/Publisher:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 1990

**Web site:** www.gceej.org

**Board of Directors:** Ngo Banfogha, Jeanette Bartelt, David Hunter Bishop, Bill Boteler, Iona Conner, Eric Kifampa, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Rituraj Phukan

**Advisory Board:** Dan Adams, Robert Burrowes, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Michael Mann, Mar-iam Nabukeera

**Contact:** Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, P.O. Box 542, Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742-9996; grassrootscoalition @pa.net

## Our Motto:

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

## Our Slogan:

The way forward:  
cycle back to basics.

## Our Word: INVINCIBLE:

Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

## Mission of Our Journal

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting journal which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources. We are a global family.

## What is the Grassroots Coalition?

John and Iona Conner started this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1990. The mission was and remains “dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns.”

## Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us.

## What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

## Our Values

This journal is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life – plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

## Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me (Iona) at grassrootscoalition@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Please email Iona at grassrootscoalition@pa.net for the full Guidelines. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

## Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses – such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research – as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work.

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.



## Iona's Column: *News, News, News*

### Dearest Global Family,

There is so much going on I hardly know where to begin. First, we changed the name of our newspaper to be in harmony with the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Next, Ngo spent hours and hours creating our new website, something the Coalition never had, and had one of his colleagues prepare a logo for us, something else the Coalition never had.

Our Board of Directors, with help from one of our Advisory Board members, has been meeting and helping us develop more appealing and successful ways of operating. This is an exceptional group of people and I'm endlessly thankful for each one of them.

One problem we continue to face is the horrible Internet connections many of our friends in Africa have, for our Zoom meetings, not to mention civil wars some of them are dealing with, as if climate change and social injustices weren't enough.

My biggest dream, and one I've included in my 3-Year Strategy, is to work hard to get funding for as many of you as possible but it's a very long, very tedious process. That's the reason I'm cutting back to bi-monthly publication and bi-monthly Zoom meetings. I'm hoping to secure two grants for wonderful projects in Cameroon and Zimbabwe. I need to learn how to do this. I also want to get a grant for myself. In the absence of sufficient income, I am about to take a part-time job in a huge eyeglasses and contact lens store so juggling my time will be a challenge.

Stay well and strong, my friends. I'll be back in December.

With Love,

*Iona*



Photo Courtesy SubjectToClimate

*SubjectToClimate™ is an online connector for K-12 teachers of all subjects to find credible, unbiased, and engaging materials on climate change. Our goal is to enhance climate knowledge and inspire action by making climate change teaching and learning accessible to all. Think of it as a nonprofit “Yelp” for educators to find the right resources to teach climate change.*

## Grassroots Coalition VP Tells His Amazing Climate Story

By Rituraj Phukan, Ambassador, India  
SubjectToClimate Blog: September 27, 2021

I live in Assam – a biodiversity-rich, climate-impacted state in Northeast India. The diversity of the land mirrors that of its people, with the cultures and traditions of the many ethnic communities living here matched only by the region’s natural largesse. The peace and harmony that was once prevalent did not last through my school years. We are now at the cusp of an impending climate crisis as the most vulnerable state in India.

I grew up in the middle of civil unrest. A student-led movement against the illegal immigration of displaced people, known as the Assam Movement, caused unimaginable turmoil in my region. My father did not support the agitation, and my family was ostracized as a result. During those difficult years, I would often wonder why people would want to leave their own countries and cause trouble in other lands.

Years later, I watched the documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, and it opened my

eyes to climate change. The film brought back those distant, traumatic memories and answered questions that had lingered in my mind since childhood. I realized that the influx of migrants into my state might have consisted of people displaced by rising sea levels and other climate change impacts. I could finally make the connection.

In 2013, I travelled to Antarctica as a member of the International Antarctic Expedition team led by Robert Swan, who was the first person to have walked to both the North and South Poles. The team of corporate, academic, and environmental leaders from 28 countries was invited to gain firsthand experience of how climate change was impacting the fragile ecosystems of the remote continent.

One day, we were summoned to the top deck of the expedition ship *Sea Spirit* for the Iceberg Ceremony, a solemn occasion to reflect on an important landmark of documented warming in the polar regions. It was 7:00 AM and one of the coldest and windiest days I have experienced. There were exceptionally large, broken-off iceberg

shards – called “tabular icebergs” – in view. We learned that these were the remnants of the Larsen B Ice Shelf that had collapsed 11 years earlier.

“Back in 2002, most people did not believe in climate change,” our expedition leader said. He pointed to the iceberg in front of us. “When the Ice Shelf started to collapse,” he continued, “scientists said it would take a long time to break apart. But after the cracks were first noticed, it went down very fast and collapsed in less than four weeks. Throughout the day, you will see these icebergs where they should not be. Now that you have seen how the impacts of climate change are already happening here, you must help spread the word and ensure the world’s leaders take decisive action before it is too late,” he explained.

The Antarctic ice sheets represent a volume of 32 million cubic kilometers (nearly 2 million cubic miles). If melted, they would cause sea levels to rise by over 200 feet! Even the partial melting of these great, ancient

**Amazing Story** *continued on next page*




Photo Courtesy Handout

Francisco Vera is proud defender of Colombia's extraordinary biodiversity that stretches from the high Andes to the Caribbean and Pacific coasts.

## Colombia's 12-Year-Old Eco-Activist Refuses to Let Death Threats Dim Passion.

Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Maryland USA

By Patrick Greenfield, *excerpt*   
*The Guardian*: September 13, 2021

Eight months after Francisco Vera was targeted on social media, no arrests have been made. But he continues to campaign for the wildlife he loves.

Ever since someone threatened to kill her 12-year-old son, Ana Maria Manzanares says life has felt like Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*.

In January, Francisco Vera was sent anonymous death threats on Twitter after the young environmentalist called for better access to education for children during the Covid-19

pandemic. The news caused outrage in Colombia and made headlines around the world. President Iván Duque pledged to find the "bandits" that sent the message. Eight months later, nobody has been arrested. But the fear and anxiety have not gone away. . . .

In 2020, for the second year running, the South American country was the most deadly in the world for environmental defenders, according to Global Witness, which recorded 65 killings.

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/13/colombia-12-year-old-eco-activist-refuses-to-let-death-threats-dim-passion-aoe>

**Amazing Story** *continued from previous page*  
ice sheets could inundate large parts of low-lying countries. This knowledge further opened my eyes to the vulnerabilities of low-elevation countries and to the humanitarian disasters that might occur in poor countries without the resources to accommodate an influx of displaced people. These realizations took me back to the unrest I had seen in my childhood.

The International Antarctic Expedition opened my eyes to the threats of global warming's impacts and the vulnerabilities of my state, but it was also empowering to know that solutions exist to avoid the worst-case scenarios. When he set up the 'E-base' in 2008, Robert Swan became the only private person in the world with a base in Antarctica. During the "E-base Goes Live" event in March that year, Robert and a small team spent two weeks living at the base, which was powered entirely by renewable energy, and sending broadcasts to the world. It was the first time in history that people lived in Antarctica relying solely on renewable energy. His mission was to prove that if such drastic changes can be made in the harshest conditions, they can be made anywhere in the world. He succeeded. His famous quote will continue to inspire millions for a long time: "The greatest threat to the planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

A few months after the International Antarctic Expedition, I got trained as a Climate Reality Leader. My interest areas revolve around indigenous communities, water, and biodiversity. Having worked in some of the most water-scarce areas in India, I always say that water is the local issue of global climate change, for people and

for biodiversity. In my native Assam, I work with fringe forest communities to develop locally sustainable solutions to facilitate coexistence of humans and wildlife.

Across the Arctic, I have taken part in ongoing citizen science projects to understand the dynamics of ecosystem changes, and I have seen the devastating consequences of those changes for people and wildlife.

My firsthand experiences of infrastructure damage, permafrost melting, and ecological changes have been many. I have also come to understand the consequences of arctic amplification, a phenomenon where temperatures rise faster in the Arctic than in other parts of the world, particularly because the loss of sea ice makes the ocean darker, causing it to absorb more heat. The implications for global weather are now increasingly evident and could cause upheaval in faraway countries.

For example, the South Asian monsoon, which sustains agriculture for nearly half of humanity in India and neighboring countries, is already being disrupted. In a study conducted by India's National Center for Polar and Ocean Research, scientists found that the decline in the loss of sea ice in the Arctic may be causing extreme rainfall from August to September in India. What happens in the Arctic does not stay in the Arctic; it affects us all.

One incident stands out as an example of the vulnerability of our species to the unbridled power of nature. At Longyearbyen, Norway (the world's northernmost settlement) I saw the Global Seed Vault being repaired after unexpected flooding some years back. Also known as the Doomsday Vault, it was built as a backup for humanity, with millions of seeds and protective features to

preserve major food crops for hundreds of years. Despite this herculean engineering accomplishment, high temperatures and heavy rainfall damaged the infrastructure less than 10 years after its inauguration.

It is heartening to see progress continuing towards sustainable development goals despite the challenges of climate change. With the advent of technological innovations, and with the exemplary efforts of the many individuals and groups driving transformative social and behavioral change around the world, we might yet be saved from catastrophic climate change.

In Assam, my friend Jadav Payeng stands out as a role model for climate action and for rewilding the planet, having single-handedly created a forest harboring tigers, elephants, and rhinos. Known as the Forest Man of India, he has been conserving and restoring ecosystems and rewilding a barren land for four decades, something that conservation leaders have prioritized only this year!

Yet, my main reason for hope in my climate journey is the emergence of youth leaders who continually push for transformative changes and net-zero emissions. In every country, young people have taken to the streets, gone to court, written books, and provoked lifestyle changes, creating an unprecedented momentum towards a better planet. And the most important reason for being confident about averting widespread devastation in my region is that many of these passionate and informed young people will be in leadership positions in a few years.

**Source:** <https://subjecttoclimate.org/blog/my-climate-story>




Photo: Andrew Fishman

Indigenous Brazilians sing while protesting outside of the Supreme Court in Brasília, Brazil on August 26, 2021, as they await an important ruling from the court. They are among 6,000 people who came to the capital in opposition to measures that would dramatically roll back Indigenous territorial rights.

# Brazil's Indigenous Groups Mount Unprecedented Protest

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor with his highlights

By Andrew Fishman, excerpt   
The Intercept: August 28 2021

## International Solidarity

Indigenous communities in Brazil organized the largest-ever native protests to block what they described as “**a declaration of extermination**” from lawmakers representing agribusiness, mining, and logging interests aligned with far-right President Jair Bolsonaro. The umbrella group Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, or APIB, put together the protests as part of the weeklong “**Struggle for Life**” protest in the capital, Brasília, in anticipation of a decision from the Supreme Court that could **invalidate** Indigenous land claims. “**Our struggle takes as its target all governments that are complicit in Bolsonaro’s campaign of genocide, all corporations that seek to profit from it,**” APIB said in a joint statement with Progressive International, a left-wing coalition that sent a delegation to survey the situation.

“**The fight against Bolsonaro extends far beyond the borders of Brazil.**”

APIB expected the Supreme Court would strike down a challenge to Indigenous land claims during its protest, but the court postponed the judgment to next week after one vote was cast in favor of Indigenous rights. One right-wing lawmaker, whose fortune comes from agriculture, said he and his colleagues lobbied the justices to **further delay the ruling** so that Congress has time to pass measures that would strip Indigenous land rights through legislation instead of the courts.

Since 2019, Bolsonaro has used his executive authority to aggressively attack Indigenous rights, slash environmental protections, and cripple relevant law enforcement efforts – moves that have drawn international condemnation. Closely aligned with the powerful agribusiness lobby, the government has also pushed forward a **slew of consequential bills** in Congress that, if passed, would be a death sentence for many of Brazil’s Indigenous communities and, critics warn, the entire Amazon

rainforest. “**We are the ones suffering. The government doesn’t suffer,**” said Pasyma Panará, president of the Iakiô Association in the Xingu region of the Amazon. “**So that’s why we’re here to fight**” ...

**More than 6,000 representatives of 176 Indigenous groups** pitched tents and lashed together bamboo shelters for seven days of protest and cultural exchange. The encampment sat on a dusty patch of land in the capital, less than a mile up the main promenade from Congress, the Supreme Court, and the presidential palace. To participate, delegates from the most far-flung corners of Brazil’s massive expanses spent as many as three days on packed buses that navigated washed-out dirt roads, traveling **under the threat of ambushes** from paramilitary gangs.

Before rousing speeches by movement leaders and allies could begin on the main stage, groups of Xikrin, Munduruku, Xukuru, and others dressed in full ceremonial regalia and performed traditional dances and songs for the crowd. Tech-savvy Indig-

**Indigenous** continued on next page

Indigenous *continued from previous page*



Photo: Andrew Fishman

Indigenous Brazilians protest against President Jair Bolsonaro, holding a sign which reads, “Bolsonaro, get out,” at the Struggle For Life encampment in Brasília, Brazil, on August 26, 2021. Protestors hold a banner that reads, “Our history doesn’t begin in 1988,” the year the Constitution was signed into law, “[W]e have resisted for more than 12,000 years.”

enous influencers and journalists live-streamed the proceedings on social media, engulfed in plumes of red dust. “**We know what evil is,**” said one speaker to applause. “**Evil is the agribusiness invading our territories.**” Brazil’s Indigenous people have no shortage of reasons to protest. Their ancestral lands are increasingly threatened by major agricultural infrastructure projects and violent land thieves aided by government agencies. Violent attacks are on the rise and environmental degradation is making traditional ways of life less tenable.

Meanwhile, Congress has been voting on **one bill after another** that would undo the hard-fought protections written into the 1988 constitution. Under Bolsonaro, everything has gone from bad to worse. The measure, known as the *Milestone Thesis*, or *Marco Tempora* in Portuguese, would invalidate the land claims of Indigenous

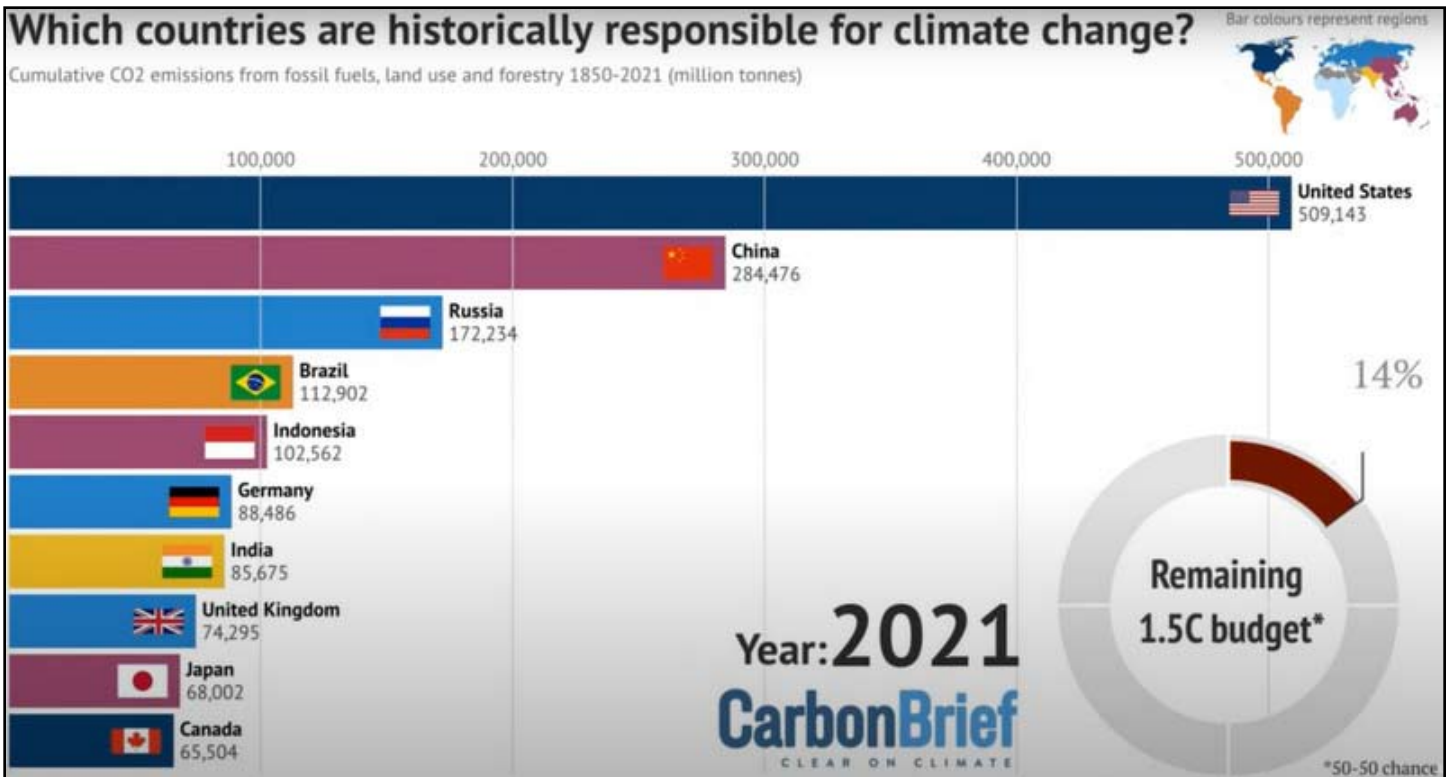
groups that did not physically occupy the territory on the day the new constitution was signed in 1988, ignoring centuries of genocidal oppression that **forced many tribes to flee** their ancestral homes.

Indigenous land rights are enshrined in Brazil’s Constitution, but the government has moved at a snail’s pace over the last three decades to process claims. Meanwhile, Brazil’s agribusiness, mining, and lumber industries, with their international backers, have their eyes on many of the vast tracts of land, mostly located in the Amazon, that are claimed by natives. The business interests have been chipping away at the protections **by any means necessary** in the courts, in Congress, and on the ground. Illegal invasions into Indigenous lands by violent, heavily armed groups have been on the rise in recent years. Criminal groups have been emboldened

by Bolsonaro, who campaigned on the promise that, if elected president, “**there won’t be a centimeter demarcated for Indigenous reserves**” and has made racist, genocidal comments about Indigenous peoples throughout his career.

“**The Marco Temporal represents for us, Indigenous peoples, a declaration of extermination,**” said Eloy Terena, a lawyer and Indigenous rights activist, during an event last Thursday. Terena pointed out that many of Brazil’s 114 uncontacted tribes, **which rely on government protection**, live in territories that could be threatened if the *Marco Temporal* legal thesis is upheld ... [to access the rest of this background report just click on *The Intercept* hyperlink below].

**Source:** <https://theintercept.com/2021/08/28/brazil-amazon-indigenous-protest/>



Below2C | Carbon Brief | @CarbonBrief  
 October 10, 2021

Climate justice has evolved from the idea that the responsibility for climate change should lie with the world's worst climate offenders – the wealthy and the powerful. And yet the poorest and the most vulnerable are disproportionately impacted by global warming.

*(This article is sourced from a Carbon Brief analysis and is part of a week-long series on climate justice.)*

### Climate Justice

Historical responsibility for climate change is at the heart of debates over climate justice. History matters because the cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted since the start of the industrial revolution is closely tied to the 1.2°C of warming that has already occurred.

In total, humans have pumped around 2,500bn tons of CO2 (GigatonsCO2) into the atmosphere since 1850, leaving less than 500GtCO2 of remaining carbon budget to stay below 1.5C of warming. This means that, by the end of 2021, the world will collectively have burned through 86% of the carbon budget for a 50-50 probability of staying below 1.5C, or 89% of the budget for a two-thirds likelihood.

In this article, Carbon Brief looks at national responsibility for historical CO2 emissions from 1850-2021, updating analysis published in 2019. For the first time, the analysis includes CO2 emissions from land use and forestry, in addition to

those from fossil fuels, which significantly alters the top 10.

### The Worst Historical Climate Offenders

In first place on the rankings, the U.S. has released more than 509GtCO2 since 1850 and is responsible for the largest share of historical emissions, Carbon Brief analysis shows, with some 20% of the global total.

Which countries are historically responsible for climate change?

Carbon Brief: October 5, 2021

China is a relatively distant second, with 11%, followed by Russia (7%), Brazil (5%) and Indonesia (4%). The latter pair are among the top 10 largest historical emitters, due to CO2 from their land.

Meanwhile, large post-colonial European nations, such as Germany and the UK, account for 4% and 3% of the global total, respectively, not including overseas emissions under colonial rule.

These national totals are based on territorial CO2 emissions, reflecting where the emissions take place. In addition, the analysis looks at the impact of consumption-based emissions accounting in order to reflect trade in carbon-intensive goods and services. Such accounts are only available for recent decades, even though trade will have influenced national totals throughout modern history.

The analysis then explores the figures in relation to population, where the likes of China and India fall down the rank-

ings. Notably, per-capita rankings depend strongly on the methodology used and – unlike cumulative emissions, overall – these figures do not relate directly to warming.

Finally, this article presents a detailed explanation of the data behind the analysis, where it comes from and how it was put together, including assumptions, uncertainty, and changing borders. The data analysis includes the following categories:

- Why cumulative CO2 matters
- National responsibility for historical emissions
- Cumulative consumption emissions
- Cumulative per-capita emissions
- Methodology: Fossil data
- Methodology: Industrial baseline
- Methodology: Changing borders
- Methodology: Land-use emissions

To read the entire article, go to <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-which-countries-are-historically-responsible-for-climate-change>.

The term “climate justice” captures the various ways in which global warming impacts people differently and the approaches that can be taken to address this problem “fairly.” (From article: “Why does climate justice matter?”)

**This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International**

**Source:** <https://below2c.org/2021/10/climate-justice-which-countries-are-the-worst-climate-offenders/>

# 2,185 Scientists and Academics Call For a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

GCEEJ Advisory Council  
Member Michael Mann's  
Signature is First

On the eve of the United Nations General Assembly, thousands of academics have urged governments to negotiate an international treaty to tackle the climate crisis at its source: fossil fuels.

We, the undersigned, call on governments around the world to adopt and implement a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, as a matter of urgency, to protect the lives and livelihoods of present and future generations through a global, equitable phase out of fossil fuels in line with the scientific consensus to not exceed 1.5°C of warming.

The fossil fuel system and its impacts are global and require a global solution. We call on governments to urgently commence negotiations to develop, adopt, and implement a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty laying out a binding global plan to:

- **End new expansion** of fossil fuel production in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- **Phase out existing production** of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable, taking into account the respective dependence of countries on fossil fuels, and their capacity to transition; and
- **Invest in a transformational plan** to ensure 100% access to renewable energy globally, support fossil fuel-dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable people and communities across the globe to flourish through a global just transition.

The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents the greatest threat to human civilization and nature. [1]

The burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil, and gas – is the greatest contributor to climate change, responsible for almost 80% of carbon dioxide emissions since the industrial revolution. [2]

To keep warming to below the temperature goal of 1.5°C, as reflected in the scientific literature and the IPCC's special report on 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas emissions need to be **at least** 45% lower globally by 2030. [3]

According to the most recent Production Gap Report, this requires an average decline in fossil fuel production of **at least** 6% per

year between 2020-2030. However, the fossil fuel industry is planning to **increase** production by 2% per year. [4] It is vital that the global transition towards a zero carbon world is equitable, based on countries' fair share of expected climate action, their historical contribution to climate change, and their capacity to act. This means richer countries must reduce production of fossil fuels at a faster rate than poorer countries that require greater support to transition, including through the redirection of finance and subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

In addition to climate impacts, new research shows that the air pollution caused by fossil fuels was responsible for almost 1 in 5 deaths worldwide in 2018. [5] These significant health and environmental impacts are derived from the extracting, refining, transporting, and burning of fossil fuels and are often borne by vulnerable and marginalized communities. At the same time, centralized, fossil fuel-generated energy often concentrates power and wealth into the hands of a select few, bypassing the communities in which extraction occurs. [6]

The current dominant approach to tackling climate change focuses on policies that restrict greenhouse gas emissions and the **demand** for fossil fuels, for example by fostering the growth of **substitutes** for fossil fuels such as renewable energy and electric vehicles. [7] But there has been limited focus on policies aimed at constraining the production and **supply** of fossil fuels at the source.

Yet efforts to reduce demand for fossil fuels will be undermined if supply continues to grow. Continued production means either that fossil fuels will continue to be burnt for energy – pushing the world towards catastrophic global warming – or that the industry and countries reliant on fossil fuels will face massive stranded assets, stranded workers, and stranded economies, as government revenue streams currently relied on for development and public sector employment and essential public services evaporate.

While the Paris Agreement lays an important foundation for action on the demand-side of the equation, without international cooperation and policy processes focusing on the supply of fossil fuels, countries will continue to overshoot their already insufficient emissions targets. [8]

Given the significant historical contribution of fossil fuels to climate change, and the industry's continuing expansion plans, we are calling for a solution commensurate with the scale of the problem. Phasing down coal, oil, and gas in line with 1.5°C requires

global cooperation, in a way that is fair, equitable, and reflects countries' levels of dependence on fossil fuels, and capacities to transition. This, in turn, should be underpinned by financial resources, including technology transfer, to enable a just transition for workers and communities in developing countries and a decent life for all.

In this context, we add our voices to the call from civil society, youth leaders, Indigenous Peoples, faith institutions, cities, and sub-national governments for a global treaty to address fossil fuels. [9]

## References

[1] World Economic Forum, "The Global Risks Report 2020," Insight Report (World Economic Forum; Marsh & McLennan; Zurich Insurance Group; National University of Singapore; Oxford Martin School; Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, University of Pennsylvania, 2020); IPCC, "Summary for Policymakers," in Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty (World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 2018), <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

[2] Global Carbon Project (2020) 'Supplemental data of Global Carbon Budget 2020 (Version 1.0)' [Data set]. From Friedlingstein et al (2020) 'Global Carbon Budget 2020' Earth System Science Data, 12 (4): 3269-3340.

[3] IPCC, above n 2

[4] SEI et al., "The Production Gap: The Discrepancy between Countries' Planned Fossil Fuel Production and Global Production Levels Consistent with Limiting Warming to 1.5°C or 2°C," 2019, <http://productiongap.org/>; International Energy Agency, CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion 2018, CO2 Emissions from Fuel Combustion (OECD, 2018), [https://doi.org/10.1787/co2\\_fuel-2018-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/co2_fuel-2018-en).

[5] Vohra K et al (2021) 'Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion: Results from GEOS-Chem' Environmental Research, 195: 110754.

[6] Burke M and Stephens J (2018) 'Political power and renewable energy futures: a critical review. Energy Research & Social Science, 35: 78-93; LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (2017) Framework. Accessed from [http://ldcreeei.org/arei\\_publications/ldc-reeei-framework/](http://ldcreeei.org/arei_publications/ldc-reeei-framework/).

[7] Fergus Green and Richard Denniss (2018) 'Cutting with both arms of the scissors: the economic and political case for restrictive supply-side climate policies'. Climate Policy, 150: 73-87.

[8] Olhoff A and Christensen JM (Eds.) (2019) 'Emissions Gap Report 2019'. United Nations Environment Programme, <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2019>

[9] For the full list of endorsements, visit: [www.fossilfueltreaty.org/endorsements](http://www.fossilfueltreaty.org/endorsements)

Click on the link below to add your name.

Source: <https://fossilfueltreaty.org/open-letter>





Photo Courtesy Our Children's Trust

Nine of the 13 youth plaintiffs of *Aji P. v. Washington (State)* were prepared to present evidence of the climate emergency and their state government's complicity in the crisis.

## In Washington State: An Unjust Decision, Kids Lose, A Powerful Dissent

### We are not going away, Washington.

Our Children's Trust: October 6, 2021

In a 7-2 vote, the Washington Supreme Court unjustly shut their courthouse doors to the 13 youth plaintiffs of *Aji P. v. Washington* and the grave evidence they were prepared to present on the climate emergency and their state government's complicity in the crisis.

### An Irresponsible Decision

In a distressing demonstration of lack of concern for the plight of youth and a grave misunderstanding of the courts' responsibility to hear difficult constitutional issues, the Washington Supreme Court refused to review a Court of Appeals' decision issued earlier this year. In that earlier decision, despite acknowledging that "[T]he right to a stable environment should be fundamental," that "climate change poses a very serious threat to the future stability of our environment," and that "the federal and state governments must act now to address climate change," the state Court of Appeals ruled that the constitutional claims raised in the *Aji P.* case should be decided not in a courtroom, but in the political branches.

### A Powerful Dissent

However, in a powerful dissent, Chief

Justice Steven C. González and Justice G. Helen Whitener dissented, writing: "This case is an opportunity to decide whether Washington's youth have a right to a stable climate system that sustains human life and liberty. We recite that we believe the children are our future, but we continue actions that could leave them a world with an environment on the brink of ruin and no mechanism to assert their rights or the rights of the natural world. This is our legacy to them described in the self-congratulatory words of judicial restraint. Today, the court declined the important responsibility to seriously examine their claims."

The two Justices minced no words, and noted that the plaintiffs are, for the most part, unable to vote yet, and that they've asked the court "[T]o recognize a fundamental right to a healthful and pleasant environment that may be inconsistent with our State's maintenance of a fossil-fuel-based energy and transportation system that it knows will result in greenhouse gas emissions. These greenhouse gases hasten a rise in the Earth's temperature. This temperature change foreshadows the potential collapse of our environment. In its place is an unstable climate system, conceivably unable to sustain human life and continued enjoyment of ordered liberty under law."

Chief Justice González and Justice Whitener continued: "A declaration of rights

from this court is meaningful relief, even if it is not a magic wand that will eliminate climate change. Even though an 'issue is complex and no option may prove wholly satisfactory,' the judiciary should not 'throw up its hands and offer no remedy at all.' *McCleary v. State*, 173 Wn.2d 477, 546, 269 P.3d 227 (2012). The court should not avoid its constitutional obligations that protect not only the rights of these youths but all future generations who will suffer from the consequences of climate change. For these reasons, I would have granted review."

### Why Was This Decision So Unjust and Irresponsible?

Today's decision makes even more clear what the youth plaintiffs have been saying from day one: that the State of Washington is not now, nor likely will be anytime soon, a leader in the fight against the climate crisis. Instead, Washington's government continues to make promises to tackle the climate crisis without any meaningful follow through, all while the State's emissions continue to rise. Despite devastating forest fires, unprecedented heat waves, and unbreathable air, the Supreme Court sided with the state government and told the youth that they are not entitled to their constitutional right or to their day in court. This is a mistake that will cost the state

Dissent continued on next page

**Dissent** *continued from previous page*

countless lives and billions of dollars.

It is the duty and responsibility of the courts to protect the constitutional rights of our children. As noted by former King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill in a *The Seattle Times* op-ed last week, “[T]he youth behind the Aji P. case want...their constitutional right to a fair trial. This is, after all, foundational to American constitutional democracy.

When the government denies the rights of the public, courts must step in, declare the law, and order the political branches to comply with the constitution.” As long as Washington’s political branches continue to perpetuate the climate crisis, Our Children’s Trust will continue to seek justice for Washington’s youth.

“While the decision is disappointing it’s not surprising. I have gotten pretty used to having those in power deny me my future. At least two of the justices understand the gravity of the crisis and were willing to stand up for us. Hopefully others will follow their lead,” said Adonis, 16, Aji P. v. State of Washington youth plaintiff

### Why Do Dissents Matter?

Despite the majority opinion’s abdication of its duty to hear the youth’s constitutional claims, today was more than just an unjust decision from a higher court. The dissent from Chief Justice Steven C. González and Justice G. Helen Whitener provided further evidence that judges across the nation are recognizing and accepting their judicial responsibility to hear evidence of youths’ climate claims. Like Chernaik v. Brown in Oregon last year, a Chief Justice of a state Supreme Court again issued a striking dissent, expressing frustration with the decision of their peers to shirk this responsibility. And like Judge Staton on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Juliana v. United States* last year, who expressed in no uncertain terms the gravity of the climate crisis – and the critical role the courts must play in protecting the rights, health, and safety of our nation’s children.

**These dissents matter.** They demonstrate that the tide is turning, that courts in the United States - like their peers abroad – are



Photos Courts.wa.gov

*Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice Steven C. González and Justice G. Helen Whitener.*

increasingly recognizing that the climate crisis is here, now, on their courthouse steps – and that they must do their duty to hear evidence and declare the law.

Judge Kathy Seeley accepted this judicial responsibility just last month in our Montana case, *Held v. State of Montana* and we remain optimistic that Judge Ann Aiken will follow the law as she has before and rule in favor of the Juliana youth soon, setting their path to trial. Today, Chief Justice González and Justice Whitener join the many other American judges who have accepted this responsibility, including Kathy Seeley, Ann Aiken, Martha Walters, Hollis Hill, Gisela Triana, Josephine Staton, Terry Fox, and JoAnn Vogt, all of whom found that these youth climate cases are appropriate for judicial resolution.

**As hard as these moments are, this is what the arc of justice looks like.**

### The Tide is Turning. And We Are Going to Win.

We want to thank our friends and partners who helped make this dissent as powerful as it was by submitting friend of the court briefs. They include: the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Quinalt Nation, the Suquamish Tribe, the Fred. T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, the League of Women Voters, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Cascadia Climate Action, Climate Action Bainbridge, East Shore Unitarian Church, Earth Law Center, Friends of Toppenish Creek, Kitsap Environmental Coalition, NoMethanol360, Olympic Climate Action, Puget Soundkeeper, Sierra Club, South Seattle Climate Action Network, 350 Eastside, 350 Seattle, 350 Tacoma, 350 Wenatchee, and

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide.

And to our clients, the youth of Washington and across our nation: you are courageous and you are blazing the trail to climate justice. We may not be there just yet, but we will get there and the judges are listening. It is a deep honor to represent you and advocate alongside you!

### What Happens Now?

Despite this outcome, the youth in Aji P. and their attorneys at Our Children’s Trust are not done fighting to protect Washington youths’ constitutional rights to a safe climate. The attorneys and youth plaintiffs will continue to pursue their many options

for continued legal action in their state, seeking the most urgent and impactful pathways to sustain their efforts to secure climate justice in the Evergreen (at least for now) State.

### What You Can Do!

While this is not the outcome the youth plaintiffs deserved, THESE YOUNG WASHINGTONIANS WILL NOT AND CANNOT GIVE UP. Stand with them in solidarity today, and make a contribution to Our Children’s Trust to take the next steps necessary to hold the State of Washington accountable for its central role in continuing to perpetuate this existential crisis.

Stand with them to make known the need for courts to protect these urgent constitutional rights. And help Our Children’s Trust advance related efforts at the federal level (*Juliana v. U.S.*) and in multiple other states and nations, including *Held v. Montana*, where the courts of the State of Montana, unlike those in the State of Washington, have already recognized their responsibility to hear evidence and declare the constitutional rights of youth to a safe climate.

Thanks to your generous support, we provide expert legal representation to these young people, all at no cost to them or their families. Donate today to fund their ongoing quest for climate justice in the Pacific Northwest at <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/oss0mj405fu>.

**Source:** <https://mailchi.mp/ourchildrenstrust/attorneys-general-from-17-red-states-fight-juliana-double-your-impact-now-1021797>

# 15 Insurers Drop Trans Mountain Pipeline After Grassroots Pressure

By Mary Lovell  
Truthout via Deep Green Resistance News Service  
August 23, 2021

Every morning, I walk along the waters of the Salish Sea on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State. Most days I am lucky enough to see the pink of the sunrise over Mount Rainier. This spring, millions of tiny herring eggs covered the beach, bringing with them a riotous cacophony of sound, including sea lions barking into the dead of night.

This place is the very heart of me. This coast is the solace that I seek when I am overwhelmed by the pandemic, by the everlasting wars, and the twisting fear of the climate emergency.

Today, the shores are smoky from fires raging across North America. I can't see the mountains because of the smoke. The Salish Sea is threatened by the expansion of the single largest industrial project on the planet, the largest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in North America: the Alberta tar sands. The Trans Mountain pipeline is slated to increase tanker traffic carrying 890,000 barrels of crude oil through this region, and the risk of an oil spill is significant.

We are fighting climate disruption that sets our homes on fire and covers us in a blanket of smoke for entire seasons. Smoke is putting my best friends and family members' lives at risk because of severe asthma, compounding lung damage from Covid, and other health impacts. The herring, sea lions, and all the life I see on my daily walks are at risk too; thousands of sea creatures died in the last heat wave.

Over the better part of the last decade, communities have been giving their all to resist the pipeline that puts this place at risk. Indigenous people resist the pipeline on their territory because it destroys the sacred: grave sites, creation sites, and drinking water.

Indigenous Secwepemc Land Defenders known as the Tiny House Warriors are providing solar-powered housing for their community members and asserting sovereignty through living in a tiny house village along the pipeline route on Secwepemc land. Tsleil-Waututh members and Coast Salish relatives, Mountain Protectors and allies continue to assert their laws at the Watch House, kwewkweknewtx, a grassroots



Photo: NRDC/Chris Kolaczan/Shutterstock  
*Tar sands oil mining in northern Alberta, Canada.*

coalition of activists who have constructed a traditional Coast Salish structure along a pipeline easement to assert Indigenous rights and keep a watchful eye on the pipeline and storage tanks in Burnaby, Canada.

As a thanks for the stewardship of their own land, these communities are being criminalized with constant state surveillance and increasing violence from police. Every time they try to silence us, our movement to stop this pipeline and all tar sands expansion projects grows. We will not stop fighting.

There is another group beyond governments and corporations that make this destruction possible: insurance companies. You might not think of insurers at first, but everything is insured: vehicles, your health, and even the Trans Mountain pipeline – a toxic, 68-year-old leaking pipeline and its related expansion.

Over the last five years, 26 of the world's major insurance companies have limited their coverage for coal, and 10 for tar sands. Lloyd's of London, an insurance giant, has committed to backing out of the tar sands sector at the end of last year. Recently, another insurance company ruled out coverage for Trans Mountain – the 15th in a wave of companies exiting the project.

Now, the pipeline company, Trans Mountain Pipeline LP, is petitioning the Canadian federal government to keep its remaining insurers secret. (The Canadian government stepped in to buy the pipeline company in 2018 from its previous owner, Kinder Morgan Inc., for \$3.6 billion.)

The company is desperate to keep those insurers under wraps because they are increasingly responding to growing pressure from youth organizing direct actions

at insurance offices and hundreds of thousands calling them out through petitions. During a week of action on Trans Mountain insurance, there were over 25 protests around the world, in countries as far away from the project as Uganda.

Insurers are facing costs for major oil spills as well as the costs associated with climate change; industry losses from natural disasters were \$83 billion in 2020.

One of the companies backing Trans Mountain, Chubb, was the first North

American insurer to rule out coal. Chubb's policy ruling out coal reflected their "commitment to do our part as a steward of the Earth," according to CEO Evan Greenberg. Yet, according to Reuters, Canadian regulatory filings showed Chubb increased the coverage it provides for Trans Mountain for its 2019/2020 certificate to \$200 million. The company remains a top oil and gas insurer.

Greenberg and the insurers covering Trans Mountain know better than most the cost of climate chaos on communities by the numbers: Insurers are facing costs for major oil spill as well as the costs associated with climate change; industry losses from natural disasters were \$83 billion in 2020. Yet, these insurers are continuing to invest in and underwrite fossil fuels, making multimillion-dollar deals to support the status quo.

As I walk along these shorelines, considering the impacts of this pipeline on all that I hold dear, corporate insurance boardrooms making multimillion-dollar deals are far away from the real impacts on communities, on the land and on these waters. The risks to this pipeline and supertanker project far outweigh its benefits – and CEOs like Greenberg are profiting off of the theft of this land and the destruction of this water while we watch it go up in smoke.

**Mary Lovell is a climate justice focused community organizer. She lives in rural Washington and works as insurance campaign coordinator for Rainforest Action Network.**

Copyright, Truthout.org. Reprinted with permission.

**Source:** <https://truthout.org/articles/15-insurers-drop-trans-mountain-pipeline-after-grassroots-pressure/>



Photo: greg-bulla-l0dWKJLcd6g-unsplash

*U.S. government ignored wildlife-protecting laws at border.*

## Court Ruling on U.S. Border Militarization Called 'Win for Wildlife'

By Kenny Stancil

Common Dreams: August 24, 2021

Social and environmental justice advocates welcomed a federal judge's ruling Monday that two U.S. agencies broke the law by not conducting an analysis of potential ecological harms associated with increased militarization along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Monday's ruling found that officials at both the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to prepare an updated and detailed environmental impact statement for the U.S.-Mexico border enforcement program.

The court's decision stems from a 2017 lawsuit filed by U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and the Center for Biological Diversity.

"This is a win for wildlife and communities along the border, where the government has behaved as if the laws don't apply," Brian Segee, endangered species legal director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in response to the court's decision. "This victory follows years of federal officials neglecting the environment and the health and well-being of borderland communities."

While DHS and CBP officials argued that enforcement along the U.S.-Mexico border had not changed in the two decades since the agencies last submitted an en-

vironmental impact statement, the judge wrote that there are numerous "examples of expanding federal action in the form of border enforcement activity."

The Center for Biological Diversity noted Monday in a statement that the 2001 review, which "was supposed to be updated every five years, but never has been... identified potential harm from border wall construction and other enforcement operations to wildlife and endangered species across four states from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico."

According to the Center, U.S. security operations along the southern border have escalated over the past 20 years, including "off-road vehicle patrols, installation of high-intensity lighting, construction of base camps and checkpoints, wall construction, and other activities."

Under the Trump administration, the group noted, federal agencies also "ramped up wall construction by waiving dozens of laws protecting the environment, public health, and safety."

"Also since 2001, scientific understanding has advanced significantly regarding the potential harm from border walls and other border enforcement activities on wildlife and endangered species, including jaguars, ocelots, Mexican gray wolves, and cactus ferruginous pygmy owls," the organization said.

Furthermore, "[B]eyond jeopardizing

wildlife, endangered species, and public lands, ongoing border militarization damages human rights, civil liberties, native lands, local businesses, and international relations," added the Center. "Border militarization and the border wall impede the natural migrations of people and wildlife that are essential to healthy diversity."

Although the court ruled that federal officials did not violate the Endangered Species Act, the judge wrote that there were "undisputed statements of fact which demonstrate that there was a large number of new or revised critical habitat designations for threatened or endangered species within the southern border enforcement corridor since 2001."

Those designations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the judge added, "constitute triggering events for which Defendants should have contemporaneously considered and evaluated the need for supplemental environmental analysis."

In response, Segee of the Center for Biological Diversity said that, "[W]e're disappointed the court stopped short of ordering a new environmental impact statement, but we hope the Biden administration takes a long overdue look at the wanton environmental destruction from border militarization."

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/24/court-ruling-us-border-militarization-called-win-wildlife>



Image Courtesy NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, *Discovering the Deep: Exploring Remote Pacific MPAs*  
*A rare deep-sea cirrate octopod (Grimpoteuthis sp.) uses its fins on either side of its head to gracefully propel itself through the water column around Deep Discoverer.*

## Deep-sea Mining Gets a Resounding Rejection from Conservation Authorities

Submitted by **Bill Boteler, Maryland USA**

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts  
Mongabay: September 9, 2021

- Members of the IUCN World Conservation Congress have voted overwhelmingly in support of a moratorium on deep-sea mining, an activity that conservationists say could cause irreversible damage to the ocean.

- The South Pacific nation of Nauru recently triggered a two-year rule, which would require the International Seabed Authority (ISA) to grant it a license to begin mining under whatever regulations are in place by then.

- Conservationists say there is currently little to no understanding of how deep-sea mining could negatively affect the deep-sea environment.

MARSEILLE, France – Delegates at this year’s global conservation summit have voted overwhelmingly in support of a motion that calls for a moratorium on deep-sea mining and the reform of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the U.N.-mandated body tasked with regulating this activity.

Eighty-one governments and government agencies attending the IUCN World Conservation Congress voted in favor of the moratorium, laid out in Motion 69, while 18 voted against and 28 abstained. Five hundred and seventy-seven NGOs and civil society organizations also voted in favor, while only 32 voted against and 35

abstained.

Farah Obaidullah of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) called the motion’s approval “excellent news.”

“We’re very happy to see ... such overwhelming support for Motion 69,” she told Mongabay in an interview. “It sends a clear and resounding message to the International Seabed Authority that there is no social license and no global appetite to mine the deep sea.”

Deep-sea mining activities would target three types of deep-sea habitat to extract minerals: abyssal plains, seamounts, and hydrothermal vents. Proponents say deep-sea mining would be less destructive to biodiversity than terrestrial mining, and that the extraction of minerals from the seafloor is necessary to fuel the rise of renewable energy technologies, such as electric cars. But a large consortium of conservationists and scientists say that deep-sea mining would irreversibly damage deep-sea habitats as well as other parts of the ocean, and that renewable energy technologies could rely on terrestrial mining and metal recycling programs to acquire the minerals they need.

While deep-sea mining has yet to begin, the ISA has already granted 16 licenses to explore for minerals in the Clarion Clipperton Zone, a region in the Eastern Pacific Ocean believed to be one of the most biologically diverse parts of the ocean.

In June, the South Pacific nation of Nauru triggered what’s known as the “two-year rule,” which would require the ISA to allow

the nation to begin mining in two years’ time under whatever regulations have been established by then. Nauru sponsors a subsidiary of a Canadian company previously known as DeepGreen. Recently, DeepGreen formally merged with Sustainable Opportunities Acquisition Corporation to form The Metals Company, which is valued at \$2.9 billion.

Matthew Gianni of the DSCC said that if deep-sea mining is allowed to begin in two years, there could be a “gold rush” as other countries and companies seek to obtain licenses.

“The big problem we have is that once the International Seabed Authority opens the door to mining, it will be almost impossible to close it,” he told Mongabay in an interview at the IUCN congress in Marseille. “And if DeepGreen or other companies begin mining, make a profit, and begin paying royalties to the ISA, and money ... to the government that sponsors it ... other governments and other companies are going to want to jump in on this.”

Previously, more than 450 marine science and policy experts from 44 countries signed a statement calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining, saying that deep-sea mining could substantially and irreparably damage the deep-sea ecosystem and that there isn’t enough scientific research to fully understand the negative effects of mining in the deep sea.

The South Pacific island nation of Fiji is one country that voted in favor of Motion

**Deep Seabed** *continued on next page*

Deep Seabed *continued from previous page*



Image courtesy of Craig Smith and Diva Amon, ABYSSLINE Project

*Relicanthus sp.* – a new species from a new order of Cnidaria collected at 4,100 meters in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ) that lives on sponge stalks attached to nodules.

69 for the moratorium on deep-sea mining. Joshua Wycliffe of Fiji's Ministry of Waterways and Environment said that the motion will be a "strong signal" coming from the IUCN, but that action must follow.

"If there is no action, then it just becomes yet another [piece of] paperwork," Wycliffe told Mongabay in an interview at the IUCN Congress. "We need to show action behind it. We need to do something concrete."

Obaidullah said this motion is one of many messages being sent to the ISA that the world does not agree with the launch of deep-sea mining. "[It's] loud and clear," she said, "Do not rush into embarking on another reckless activity such as deep-sea mining."

*Elizabeth Claire Alberts is a staff writer for Mongabay. Follow her on Twitter @ECAAlberts.*

**Source:** <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/deep-sea-mining-gets-a-resounding-rejection-from-conservation-authorities/>

**Sign a petition to stop deep seabed mining and watch a short video,** go to The Oxygen Project at <https://www.theoxygenproject.com/deepseamining/>

**WE LIVE ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO LET LIFE ALONE. WE DO NOT RESPECT THE LIVING AND FRUITFUL CONTRADICTIONS AND PARADOXES OF WHICH TRUE LIFE IS FULL.**

~ Thomas Merton ~

<http://www.catholicstoreroom.com/2017/01/25/let-life-alone/>

## 23 Species Now Extinct, Gone Forever



Photo Flickr user James St. John used under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License.

*The ivory-billed woodpecker is now extinct.*

### Dear Friends,

The ivory-billed woodpecker and 22 other species are no longer on this Earth. Last week, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service removed 23 species from the endangered species list due to extinction.<sup>1</sup>

This does not have to be. We can save these species; we are making the choice not to.

Fight to fully equip and enforce the world's most successful conservation law by supporting grassroots organizing.

The woodpecker, the Little Mariana fruit bat, Bachman's warbler, and 20 other bird, plant, fish, and mussel species did not get the help that we owed them.

These 23 will not be the last if we continue to choose not to act. Scientists estimate that up to half of the world's species could be threatened with extinction by the end of the century.<sup>2</sup>

Help stop human-caused extinctions

with your gift today. The Endangered Species Coalition works in Washington, DC and brings hundreds of organizations together around the common goal of stopping extinction.

We can choose to save these species. The Endangered Species Act is one of the world's most successful conservation tools – it has saved more than 99 percent of the species in its care.

But we need to let it work. Making the choice not to fund or enforce this law weakens its capacity and jeopardizes the recovery of endangered and threatened species.

The Endangered Species Coalition is one of the country's only national organizations that works exclusively for the protection of endangered and threatened species and the law that protects them. We have staff in Washington, DC that advocate directly to lawmakers to fund this law and organizers around the country building support.

It is too late for the 23 species that

left the list last week. But there is still time to save countless more. We have to choose to do so. Please join us in working to hold decision makers accountable in making that choice with your gift today. Please donate at this URL: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/escstopextinction>.

Thank you for your commitment to wildlife and wild places.

Sincerely,

**Leda Huta**, Executive Director  
Endangered Species Coalition

### Footnotes:

1 [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-proposes-delisting-23-species-from-&\\_ID=37017](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-proposes-delisting-23-species-from-&_ID=37017)

2 [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/01/up-to-half-worlds-wild-tree-species-could-risk-extinction?CMP=tw\\_t\\_a-environment\\_b-gdneco](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/01/up-to-half-worlds-wild-tree-species-could-risk-extinction?CMP=tw_t_a-environment_b-gdneco)

# We're Planting Milkweed and Pollinator-Friendly Gardens Around the U.S. to Help Save Monarch Butterflies

Friends,

Monarch butterflies are slipping away. We are rapidly losing the fight to save them from extinction. The count of monarchs in the eastern U.S. has declined by 80 percent in just two decades, and those west of the Rocky Mountains have plummeted by a distressing 99 percent.

We have to do everything that we can to save this species and other imperiled native pollinators. We are advocating for protections under the Endangered Species Act and working on the ground to plant habitats to save monarchs and native pollinators.

We've successfully collaborated with native plant nurseries to source local milkweed and native nectar and shelter plants, providing appropriate habitat for monarchs and many other native pollinators.

As the only host plant for monarch eggs and caterpillars, milkweed is critical to the survival of monarch butterflies. Adult monarchs also require other nectar plants for food sources to fuel their long migratory journeys. Native nectar plants beneficial to monarchs additionally provide food and habitat for many native pollinators, including bees, bats, hummingbirds, and others.

Please support our work to bring monarchs, native bees, and other pollinators back with a tax-deductible donation today.

Together, we can bring back native milkweed and native nectar plants for mon-



archs and native pollinators. We'll increase the impact of our existing planting sites by providing them with more funding to purchase plants. We'll provide materials to ensure plantings are a success. By supporting increased outreach and education about the critical role of native pollinators and plants, we will enlist new supporters and raise awareness of the need for pol-

linator habitat. And together, we'll develop new planting sites in key Western states identified as priority regions for Western monarch conservation, such as California and states within the Great Basin.


Sincerely,

**Leda Huta**, Executive Director  
Endangered Species Coalition  
September 16, 2021

## Snail Darter, Tiny and Notorious, is No Longer Endangered

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

Federal officials say the snail darter population has recovered.

By Kimberlee Krusi, *excerpt*   
Associated Press: August 31, 2021

NASHVILLE, Tennessee – The snail darter, a tiny fish that notoriously blocked a federal dam project in Tennessee decades ago, should no longer be on the endangered species list, federal officials announced on Tuesday.

Arguing that the fish is no longer in danger of extinction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun the process to delist

the species, a move backed by the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental group that has favored lifting protections for the fish since 2019.

"Thanks to the persistence of many people, the extinction of the snail darter was ultimately avoided, and today we can celebrate its recovery," said Zygmunt Plater, the attorney who wrote the citizens' petition to save the snail darter in 1975.

Snail darters, a member of the perch family, grow up to 3.5 inches (9 centimeters) long and mostly eat fresh-water snails. The darter was first listed as a federally endangered species in 1975, but later moved to "threatened" in 1984, meaning the species still faced a danger of extinc-

tion in the foreseeable future.

The fish garnered national attention shortly after the passage of the landmark 1973 Endangered Species Act. The law made it illegal to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect" endangered animals, and forbid the elimination of their habitats. It led to many legal battles, but the struggle over the lowly darter became one of the most notable. . . .

**Source:** <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/snail-darter-humble-fish-blocked-dam-longer-endangered-79743238>





Photos: Melissa Mhaka

Members of the Manica Youth Assembly were passing out literature books in celebration of the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2021.

## Youth Group in Zimbabwe Works for Peace

By Jussa Kudherezera, Zimbabwe  
Coordinator, Manica Youth Assembly

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) joins the rest of the world in commemorating International Day of Peace (September 21). The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.

We Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the global pandemic Covid-19 to marginalized school kids by donating 50 library books to Dangare Primary school and 50 library books to Chisamba Primary school.

Despite the fact that Covid-19 is wreck-

ing havoc globally, there are some countries that are under severe conflicts which are still outstanding, thus adding more injury to the already fragile environment due to the health crisis. Without Peace there will be no meaningful development.

Work being done by MAYA and others hangs in the balance if we do not experience peace in our communities. Worse still for the women and girls who are the main victims of gender based violence.

Peace should bridge the gap, end inequality, and advocate for equal opportunity for all citizens. As a nation, let us push for a peaceful coexistence.

#WorldPeaceDay

#BridgeTheGap

#End inequality

Please consider donating any amount to this campaign.

<https://earthday.raisely.com/t/manicayouthassemblytrust>

Jussa Kudherezera  
Coordinator, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA)

Email: [manicayouthassembly@gmail.com](mailto:manicayouthassembly@gmail.com)

Phone: +263772351138

Twitter: @ManicaYouth

Website: <https://manicayouth.org>

Source: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1328995057518670&id=599494193802097](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1328995057518670&id=599494193802097)



Photos Courtesy Ramblin' Sol Farm

*This beautiful selection of farm-fresh, organic food was typical at the weekly farmers' market. These young farmers are friendly, delightful, and very hard-working.*

## News from Iona's Favorite Family Farm in New Jersey USA

### Hey Friends!

The share this week includes: spaghetti squash, butternut squash, delicata squash, yellow onions, eggplant, shishito peppers, sweet peppers, bell peppers, hot peppers, tomatoes, baby bok choy, leeks, sage, and lemongrass.

We are very grateful to have made it through this storm with little damage, and our thoughts are with those who were not so lucky. As farmers we are trying to consider what more we can do to better prepare for the extreme weather events that are becoming the new normal. It seems that protecting the local food system is just going to keep getting more difficult. We cannot thank you all enough for your continued support in this endeavor.

We are relieved to tell you that all of the baby greens that were recently seeded did not float away as we had feared.

Everything seems to have germinated well and to be drying out nicely. Radishes may soon be on the harvest list, and kohlrabi goes in the ground next week!

After a stressful week, we are looking forward to celebrating the end of August at our farm to table dinner hosted by Cream Ridge Winery this Sunday. A huge thanks to everyone who will be joining us, we can't wait to share some indulgent food and wine with you!

Ok – we're still on a soup kick, it's comforting, easy, and makes great leftovers, all things we need in our life right now. Baby bok choy is perfect to throw in at the end

of any brothy soup.

Thanks for reading! Wishing everyone a safe, peaceful week.

Your Farmers,

**Hannah, Joey, and Baby Emmylou**

<https://www.ramblinsolfarm.com/>



Farmers continued on next page

*Farmers continued from previous page*



*(above left)*

*Fields flooded during  
a heavy rain storm  
left baby greens  
in jeopardy.*

*(above right)*

*Soup with  
home-grown  
baby bok choy,  
perfect for the cooler  
days of autumn.*

*(right)*

*Hannah holds  
Emmylou  
while Joe  
takes their  
picture.*

*Both Joe  
and Hannah are  
organic farmers.*





Photos Courtesy Rural Watch Africa Initiative

*Installation of beehives at Idima Abam in Arochuku Local Government Area, Abia State, Nigeria, for a group of women and youths.*

## **Beekeeping (Apiculture): Towards Self-Reliance, Poverty Alleviation, and Environmental Sustainability**

By Tobias C. O. Ukeh

Rural Watch Africa Initiative: September 2, 2021

The health, economic, and environmental impacts of apiculture as a science of keeping bees to tap natural, pure, and unadulterated honey; processing honeybee byproducts for various industrial, nutritional, and pharmaceutical usefulness cannot be overlooked. The global yearns for natural pure honey and its other byproducts like beeswax, propolis, pollen, bee venom, mead, etc., are insatiable.

Beekeeping is not restricted to the above alone. Considering the recent climatic change, food insecurity, and decays of the ecosystem, our environment needs resuscitation. Incessant bush burning and deforestation exposes the environment to severe threats by erosion and denudation. When humans fell trees without replacement and regulations, it will encourage runoff waters (erosion). These equally make the soil less productive by washing away the soil fertility, leading to food insecurity, hunger, and starvation.

On the other hand, beekeeping encourages the planting of trees to provide raw materials to the bees for their bio-diversified activities. In this process, too, we check erosion. When that is done, the Earth's surface is protected and soil fertility enhanced for maximum crop yields. Again, when we have sufficient vegetation, the bees would have more nectars and pollens for their activities; and by perching from one flower to the next, the bees unconsciously carry out pollination, which increases food yields. Therefore, beekeeping impacts the ecosystem and environmental preservation.

Economically, beekeeping is highly lucrative. Honey is an oil and its cost per litre ranges from \$7 (Naira 3,500.00) and above. A kilo of beeswax is about \$8 (N4,000.00), to mention but a few. The value of petroleum oil is less than \$1 per litre in the global market.

Against this background, and to continue the excellent work of preserving and sustaining the environment and

our climate, RURAL WATCH AFRICA INITIATIVE (RUWAI) has been doing a lot to encourage different localities in Nigeria. Two months ago, RUWAI was at Idima Abam in Arochuku Local Government Area, Abia State, Nigeria, to install 10 KTB (Kenyan Turbine Hive) beehives for a group of women and youths. In less than a month of the installation, the bees have naturally colonized one of the hives.

Since this activity, many other communities have been pressurizing us to come to their aid to replicate what has been done at Idima Abam. The unavailability of funds has been a limiting factor in realizing these requests. RUWAI will be encouraged in her voluntary efforts towards poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability if provided with funds.

Those interested in partnering or donating to empower these communities to reduce poverty, enhance agricultural production and local biodiversity should search or visit [www.ruralwatchafrica.org](http://www.ruralwatchafrica.org);

**Beekeeping** *continued on next page*

Beekeeping *continued from previous page*



*A cross-section of participants during training.*



*Seminarian of St. Peter's Catholic Seminary Okigwe after training.*

Beekeeping *continued from previous page*



*(top) This is during one of RUWAI's training sessions, where they are handing over 10 new hives to recently trained rural women and youth in South East, Nigeria. (bottom) RUWAI Beekeeping project. This is a demonstration for trainees who recently established their farms.*

see our projects on the GlobalGiving website, or through Paypal.

Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI) is a community-led non-profit organization working with Africa's most vulnerable and marginalized rural communities, to build their resilience to achieve socio-economic growth and environmental stability by promoting ecologically sound land practices and alternative income opportunities to eradicate hunger and poverty. We are focusing on using local solutions to meet the needs of indigenous people to improve their livelihoods while combating climate change.

Since 2016, the organization has continued to focus on regenerative economic outcomes that create employment, facilitate transportation, resist pollution, enhance the well-being of the affected, eradicate poverty, restore land systems for 20,000 people (and still counting) in 25 rural communities in Africa.

Our mission is to build the capacity of the most vulnerable and marginalized people to eradicate poverty, restore ecosystems, combat climate change and improve livelihoods systems by combining indigenous, scientific, and local knowledge that collaboratively addresses these complex issues.

**Email:** [info@ruralwatchafrica.org](mailto:info@ruralwatchafrica.org)





**Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA**

We have incredible news: today, President Biden put an end to the all-out fight for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.

Not only will President Biden restore Grand Staircase-Escalante back to 1.8 million acres, but he will also restore and expand

Bears Ears!

Bears Ears was established in 2016 by President Obama to protect Indigenous cultural and archeological sites, while the strikingly untouched landscape of Grand Staircase-Escalante earned its national monument status over 20 years ago due to its incredible scientific significance.

Since these iconic lands were cut back by the Trump administration, they have been at risk of looting, desecration, and even harmful resource extraction to benefit private profit.

We applaud President Biden and the administration for reversing the harmful rollbacks to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. These lands have been under attack for far too long, and their decision will offer critical protections once again.

We are also so grateful to all of our supporters and advocates like you who spoke out against the Trump administration's rollbacks. It's the kind of relentless advocacy we need to ensure the protection of green spaces across the country.

As we celebrate this announcement, we know there is still a lot more work to be done to protect our public lands across the nation and create parks where they're needed most. But today proves that we can make a big impact working in tandem – and I'm excited for what we do next, together.

With gratitude,

**Jordan Schreiber**

Senior Director, Policy, Advocacy and Government Relations  
The Trust for Public Land

**Source:** <https://secure.tpl.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1235>



**Green Horizon Magazine**

## **CALL FOR GREEN-THEMED ARTICLES**

Green Horizon is a 40-page print magazine that's mailed to an international list of almost 2,000 receivers twice a year, in the spring and fall. We don't operate on a subscription basis; our revenues are derived from sustaining contributions to the nonprofit Green Horizon Foundation.

We generally include about 12 to 15 items per issue. We like to run letters to the editor, poems, humor, and short musings in addition to longer articles. All should be related to ecological, environmental, or "Green politics" themes.

The word-count for articles should be in the range of 1,000 to 3,000 words. Photos and graphics are welcome, but they must reproduce well in black-and-white (we don't print in color). We strive to be content originators, so we prefer to run previously unpublished material.

Green Horizon currently can't provide remuneration, but we hope to be able to do so in the future!  
Steven Welzer ([stevenwelzer@gmail.com](mailto:stevenwelzer@gmail.com))

Co-editor, Green Horizon Magazine, <https://green-horizon.org/>

## Autobiography by Rev. Margie Schneider, D.Min.

I grew up in a very strict Byzantine Catholic environment, went to a Catholic girls' school which was equally strict, and upon graduation I got married young and worked as a secretary, and then later became a nurse.

However, it was when we chose to adopt five developmentally delayed children from the same family, that I found myself as a stay-at-home mom as their needs turned out to be a lot more serious than we were told. It was far from an easy experience; however, because we made a commitment, we stuck with it. During that time I also ran an animal sanctuary for 14 years, not only because I loved animals but also because I thought it would be good therapy for the children. However, I think I also did this as I needed some positive relief from the difficult situation we were experiencing with the children.

I also began to take online classes with Liberty University and I eventually graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies, a Master of Arts in Religion degree, and a Master of Divinity degree.

During that time, I began to discover that there was much more to spirituality than what I was taught in my earlier years. This was when I stepped away from established religions entirely and began my journey to discover my own truth.

Because of this desire for truth, I was led to taking Eco-Art classes, a year-long program, after which I received a Certificate in Eco-Art Therapy. With the deep spiritual awakening I had experienced in nature, I found myself at Global Ministries University where I took a Creation Spirituality class, through the teachings of Rev. Matthew Fox.

I was discovering a new and deep connection, not only with my true self, but also with nature, and especially with a God who is unlike the one taught to me as a child. This then brought me to a place where I had a desire to become a minister with a focus in eco-spirituality, as I felt too many established religions lack this focus on creation; so I went to the School of Peace in Asheville, North Carolina USA, where I became an Ordained Interfaith Minister with a focus in Ecospirituality.

This led me to a realization that my hyper-sensitivity towards my fellow creatures was a gift, not a curse. I searched out and completed a program at Emerson Theological Institute, where I would become an Ordained Animal Chaplain and Animal Bereavement Facilitator.

For the last five years, I have worked in this field, and established a non-profit,

called Heart-To-Heart All Creatures Ministry. Due to the Covid shutdown, I have been spending a lot of time going inward and reflecting where I wish my ministry to go from here.

I found myself returning to Global Ministries University when they began a new program in Creation Spirituality and Environmental Justice, and completed my Doctor of Ministry. In order to receive this degree, I had to complete a project, so I began to compile a text for a class that would teach others about their own spiritual connection to creation; this would be done through interactive Eco-Art Activities through the eyes of Creation Spirituality. I will soon begin teaching the class.

Although I plan to continue my focus in animal chaplaincy, I feel that the opportunity to teach this class will spread the news farther (and wider) that it is important that we respect and revere our nature family by respecting and caring for the Earth, and all the creatures we live with on this beautiful planet.

My journey has taken many different paths, some pleasant ones and some which were not so pleasant, but I feel that if it had not all turn out the way it did, I would not have realized what I have come to know

today that, "Everything in nature resonates with the force of the Divine Spirit. Each animal, plant, bird, and stone reflects this spirit in its own way. The more you are able to align with it, and create your own resonance, the easier it will be to understand what nature is saying." (*Animal Speak: The Spiritual & Magical Powers of Creatures Great & Small* by Ted Andrews, 2002)

I am now living a more joyful and richer life, as I have a more secure grasping of my own self, and of those things which exist around me, through a new knowledge which has been born of a deep spiritual consciousness within me, and which now bears fruit in all I do, and how I live my life.

May you be blessed with much peace and joy, in your own lives, as you begin to break open to a larger sense of who you are, for it is the doorway to a realization of your mutual belonging to the web of life, and a deeper relationship with the One who created it all.

Rev. Margie

Heart-To-Heart All Creatures Ministry  
(oneheart2019@aol.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/996067930502737>







Photo: Fred Moore/Flickr/cc

*“Today’s historic decision is the culmination of over 40 years of efforts to recognize the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment,” said Sébastien Duyck, senior attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law.*

## UN Human Rights Council: Right to Clean Environment

**“A victory for every person across the world over profiteering polluters.”**

By Jake Johnson, *excerpt*  
Common Dreams: October 8, 2021

The United Nations Human Rights Council on Friday voted for the first time to formally recognize the right to a clean and sustainable environment, a move that climate campaigners applauded as the hard-won result of activism from grassroots groups and small-island countries.

“Even though the vast majority of the world recognizes this right, until this afternoon, universal recognition remained

elusive,” Duyck added. “Now, thanks to the leadership of a core group of countries including Costa Rica, the Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia, and Switzerland, the right is recognized at the United Nations. This new recognition will serve as a catalyst for institutions and other stakeholders to take steps that better respect, protect, and fulfill the right. It includes, but is not limited to the mobilizing of resources and political will.”

The clean environment resolution passed by a vote of 43-0 with China, India, Japan, and Russia abstaining. The United States reportedly opposed the resolution but didn’t have a vote because it’s not currently a member of the U.N. Human Rights Council,

thanks to former President Donald Trump’s withdrawal from the body in 2018.

As Reuters reported earlier this week, the U.S. and the United Kingdom – the host of the upcoming COP26 climate summit in Glasgow – were “among a few countries withholding support for a proposal brought at the United Nations that would recognize access to a safe and healthy environment as a human right, prompting criticism that they are undermining their own pledges.”

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/08/historic-vote-un-human-rights-council-recognizes-right-clean-environment>

## PRESS ON!

By Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

I keep returning to a book I read called *The Population Bomb* by John Ehrlich. Much of what he foretold is coming to pass. I listen to people talk about how disgruntled they are, how they feel like slaves with no recourse, no way out of their situation. We know that we cannot turn or even expect our government to help or fix our situation. Heaven knows that greed rules the wealthy. It has become very clear that we need to help each other to rise up out of these difficult times.

The company I founded, Green Earth Goods (*see ad on next page*), is based on the idea of helping each other to be successful and secure. Combining love of environment and recycling, waste reduction, and organics over profit. Providing people with a Living Wage. By forming cooperatives that recycle/repurpose nearly everything, made locally, and offering practical items most of which can be made at home (helping to keep parents home with their children and aging parents).

Re-balancing the wealth and the power of decision-making will have the effect of bringing about more jobs, peace, trust, equality, respect, and love. When people feel in control of their lives and destiny, they begin to Love their earthly existence.



**Organic Catnip Toy**

Made with and filled with scrap fabric. Plus a half cup of Organic catnip.



**T-Shirt Shopping Bag**

Made from quality recycled materials with a classic proven design. Machine washable.



**Covered Plastic Bottle Dog Toy**

Heavy duty fabric pouch with waterbottle toy inside. Dispose when fabric is destroyed.



**Ballon Cover**

A safe way to play with a ballon. Made from scrap fabric. Inflate until hard. Hand wash&dry.



**Tug-of-War Dog Toy**

Braided fabric rope, tied in nots. Used as a tug of war toy.



**Cloth Car Trash Bag**

Hang from stick shift or head rest. Stash your big gulp; children's toys, etc or trash. Machine washable.

[etsy.com/shop/GreenEarthGoodsLLC](https://www.etsy.com/shop/GreenEarthGoodsLLC)

## Bright Green Lies: How the Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It

By Derrick Jensen, Lierre Keith, and Max Wilbert, excerpt from pages 121-124

We are long out of time to break through our cultural denial about this fact: **No technology is neutral.**

\*\*\*

*We have written this book because life has been broken and is now fast draining away through the cracks. The cultures that have done that breaking need to be abandoned and their ruling sociopaths dethroned. Make no mistake, this will require a serious and dedicated resistance movement. It will also require an unsentimental understanding of which human activities constitute that breaking,*

Like all industrial projects, iron ore mines in the Amazon are not only a locus of roads but also sexual exploitation. Trafficking, sexual assault, prostitution, and other atrocities against women and children follow every mine. As Sheila Jeffreys writes in her book *The Industrial Vagina: The Political Economy of the Global Sex Trade*, “[Mining industries] open up new areas for new forms of colonial exploitation [and] they set up prostitution industries to service the workers. These industries have a profound effect on local cultures and relations between men and women.”<sup>26</sup>

\*\*\*

Wherever it takes place, and with whatever regulations in place, iron ore mining and steel production are environmental and social disasters.

Cliff’s Natural Resources, for example, is a mining company based in the United States. Two of their operations, the Tilden and Empire mines (both in Marquette County, Michigan) extract 20 percent of the iron ore in the U.S. (Cliffs also operates coal mines, and if you think this is an unnatural fit, you should know that coal is required for steel production.)

And what have their iron ore mines left behind? Toxic tailings ponds, selenium and mercury contamination, warnings against eating local fish, massive air pollution, acid rain that is particularly harmful to wild rice (a staple food for local indigenous people), and more than 100 square miles (161 square kilometers) of devastated land.

The fuel use of these mines is stunning: The colossal diesel dump trucks used in the industry have 1,200-gallon tanks, which are filled twice a day. A few dozen of these trucks may be operating at any time.<sup>27</sup>

Regulations haven’t made much of a difference. The mine at Keewatin, near the Tilden and Empire mines, opened in 2009 and was cited each of its first three years for air- and water-quality violations. A railway

serving another nearby iron ore mine in Minnesota was cited multiple times for violating rules around hazardous waste and air quality. The Wisconsin Resources Protection Council calls iron ore mines “chronic polluters,” and states that “all modern U.S. taconite [a type of iron ore] mines have violations and fines totaling more than \$2.1 million; with [fines for] cleanups the total is over \$10.5 million.”<sup>28</sup>

These fines are trivial for companies with revenues in the billions. Regulations haven’t been effective in cleaning up iron ore mines in the United States. But that shouldn’t be surprising. After 20 years at the EPA, William Sanjour described the environmental regulatory system as “stupid, corrupt, ineffective, [and] inefficient.”<sup>29</sup> Thomas Linzey, co-founder of the Community Legal Environmental Defense fund, explains well why the entire system of environmental regulations is foolish: it permits harm to continue. “Abolitionists never sought to regulate the slave trade,” he says, “they sought to abolish it.” He explains that the very concept of regulating industrial harms comes from industry and not concerned people, who would in most cases rather ban harmful activities altogether.

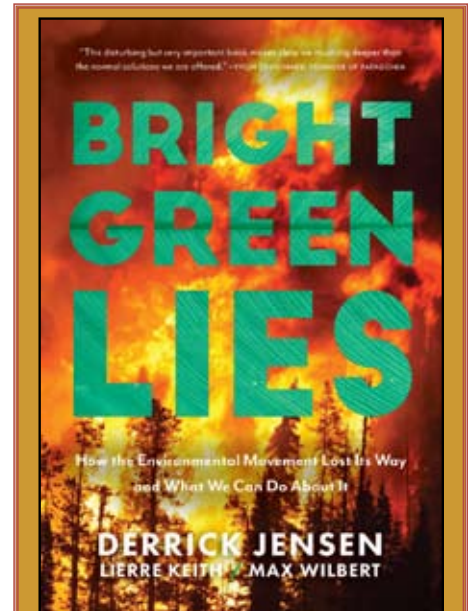
\*\*\*

Most steel is made by alloying iron ore with coke as a source of carbon. Coke, also known as coking coal or metallurgical coal, is created from low-sulfur bituminous coal through a process called destructive distillation in which the feedstock coal is heated in the absence of air, breaking down large, volatile molecules that could interfere with steel production. Sometimes other gases or solvents are added to the reaction chamber to help with the process. Byproducts include coal gas (used as an industrial fuel), ammoniacal liquor (used in fertilizers), and coal tar (used to manufacture dyes, insecticides, artificial yarns, and other products).

The amount of coal used in steel production is not small – it’s about 12 percent of global anthracite, the highest grade of coal.<sup>30</sup>

The production of steel and metallurgical coke is the third-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, after fossil fuels and electrical generation, with a large gap to fourth.

Could steel be made without coal? There have been experiments to see if it’s possible. The University of New South Wales in Australia developed a method that uses car tires instead of coal (of course, car tires are mainly made of synthetic rubber, which is derived from fossil fuels). Another process, called the Hisarna method, uses coal directly rather than requiring coke, which reduces



We cannot continue to wallow in hedonistic consumption and industrial expansion and survive as a species. The environmental debate, Jensen argues, is, because of them, distorted by hubris and the childish desire by those in industrialized nations to sustain the unsustainable. All debates about environmental policy need to begin with honoring and protecting, not the desires of the human species, but the sanctity of the Earth itself. We refuse to ask the right questions because these questions expose a stark truth – we cannot continue to live as we are living. To do so is suicidal folly.

**Purchase: \$26.95 via PayPal or \$25.95 check or money order at <https://derrickjensen.org/purchase/#bright-green-lies>, email [derrick@derrickjensen.org](mailto:derrick@derrickjensen.org).**

the coal demand by 20 percent. The only hope of making steel without coal lies, at this time, with a process called molten oxide electrolysis. Originally developed as a theoretical process to produce oxygen on the moon, molten oxide electrolysis takes place in a vat of molten iron oxide kept at more than 2900°F (1593°C), and is sealed using a special alloy of chromium and iron.<sup>31</sup>

None of this is sustainable. Nor does this process address any of the other issues with steel production, such as direct land destruction from mining, heavy equipment use, impacts on forests and indigenous communities, sexual exploitation, and so on.

Need another reason to be against mining? Just look at this headline: “U.S. Mines

**Lies** continued on next page

## Grassroots Coalition Member Publishes Book

### *Revelation and Healing: A Father and Son Reunion*

By Morgan Zo-Callahan

Not just a tale of pain, although there is pain, nor one of easy resolution, although there is eventual closure, this book recounts the author's slow journey from an adoption that left him longing for his biological mother and wondering about his biological father.

Discovering, while in high school, his mother's identity, years later he found that of his biological father, Lionel Durand, a Black man born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Suddenly the author realized the source of his own immediate empathy with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement he led.

Recovering painfully from his years of estrangement and loss, the author shares the often-shocking details of his adoption and the therapies that brought him healing, therapies helpful not only to adoptees but to all who need healing from emotional suffering and losses of all kinds.

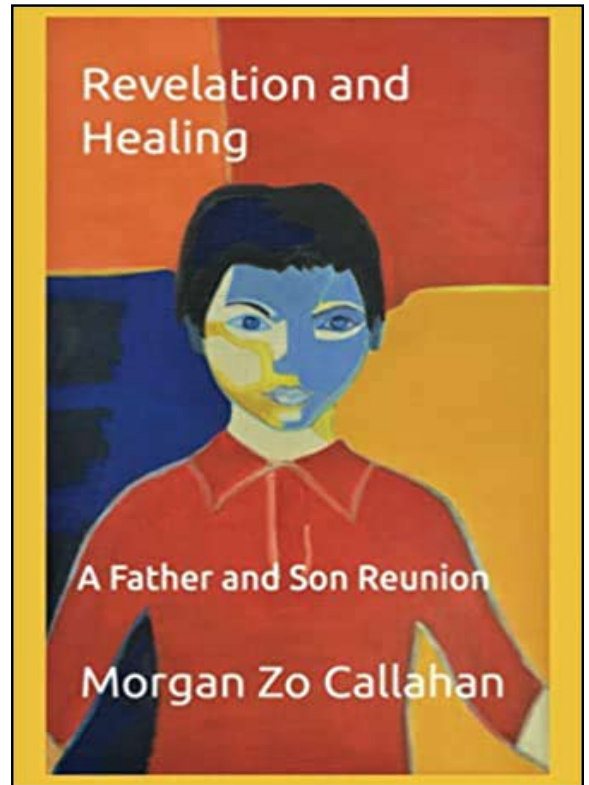
With a heart "stretched large" by his own experience, the author has traveled to El Salvador and Mexico to accompany the many there who are suffering from collective trauma, poverty, and discrimination, victims of systemic injustice, wounded yet unbowed.

Finally, with filial admiration, the author traces the life of his beloved father, Lionel Durand, an internationally acclaimed newsman and journalist, who fought in the French Resistance during World War II, and whose struggles for peace and justice mirror those of our own day.

Welcome to this reading journey and its wondrous surprises!

**Available at Amazon.com:** 257 pages, paperback \$18.00, Kindle \$7.95; <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0976276FC>. Royalties will be donated to Faith in Action, Haiti.

*(Paid ad; message from Iona: This is a fantastic, heart-warming book!)*



## Book Royalties Will Go Directly to Haiti

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to announce a fundraising invitation for Faith in Action Haiti, on the occasion of the publication of my book *Revelation and Healing: A Father and Son Reunion*, whose royalties of \$6.50 per book will be donated to Faith in Action Haiti, founded by my friend, Rev. John Baumann, SJ.

I invite you to buy this book which details my search for my biological father, and the amazing things I have discovered about him, including his identity as a Haitian Black man. The book expands to explore themes related to adoption, healing trauma (both individual and collective), forgiveness, and the civil rights movement. I think you might find it interesting and timely, and you would be helping a very worthy Haitian cause.

Our dear sisters and brothers in Haiti critically need our regard and shared energy more than ever as they grieve and recover from the catastrophic earthquake on Saturday, August 14. The death toll was over 2,189 as of August 23rd and is expected to continue to rise. Over

12,200 are injured, with hundreds more missing. The earthquake is estimated to have destroyed or damaged 27,000 homes, schools, churches, and hospitals, and according to the U.N. in a country already suffering, a food crisis.

The earthquake destroyed roads, bridges, and other infrastructure that were already unable to meet the needs of the people. Many hospitals, churches, hotels, businesses, and homes are now completely destroyed and uninhabitable with many people still trapped inside and underneath the rubble. On top of these dire conditions, we are right in the middle of hurricane season and Haiti is in the path of Hurricane Grace. The hurricane could make rescue efforts and humanitarian relief more difficult.

Buying the book with Haitian roots will be interesting and timely. Given the fact that it is not too heavy a cost, it will be mutually beneficial. We aren't asking for direct donations to Faith in Action Haiti but that we are supporting Haiti by buying the book which will help

you learn more about Haiti. We are aware that churches already may have fundraisers in place, but this is different. Our regard of Haiti and her people deserve your heartfelt response, if at all possible.

**To learn more about Faith in Action Haiti**, visit <https://faithinactioninternational.org/where-we-work/haiti/>

Thank you for considering buying the book, as well as for making a critically needed donation directly to FIA Haiti (any amount gratefully received).

**Click here to DONATE NOW to FIA Haiti:** <https://faithinactioninternational.salsalabs.org/faithinactioninternationaldonationpage/index.html> (Indicate Haiti as the specific campaign for your donation.)

If you prefer, mail a check payable to Faith in Action Haiti to:

Faith in Action Haiti  
Oakland, CA 94610-1316  
With appreciation and best wishes,  
**Morgan Zo Callahan**, California USA  
[morganzc@hotmail.com](mailto:morganzc@hotmail.com)

**Lies continued from previous page**

Pollute Up to 27 Billion Gallons of Water Annually," 32

**Footnotes:**

26 Sheila Jeffreys, *The Industrial Vagina: The Political*

*Economy of the Global Sex Trade* (Abingdon, U.K.: Routledge, 2008), 7.

27 "Empire & Tilden Mines," Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community, Natural Resources Department; and "The Tilden Mine," Michigan State University, Geology Department.

28 "The Environmental Track Record of Taconite Mining: The Facts Exposing the False Premise that Iron Ore Mining is

Safe," Wisconsin Resource Protection Council, January 2013.

29 William Sanjour, "From the Files of a Whistleblower, or how EPA was captured by the industry it regulated," December 25, 2013.

30 Jeanette Fitzsimons, "Can we make steel without coal?" Coal Action Network Aotearoa, April 24, 2013.



*Do Something Club*

### JOIN THE DO SOMETHING CLUB NOW

Want to do something for the environment? Join the Do Something Club - forging the future with smaller ecological footprints. This course offers tips on simple living, encourages creative thinking, and helps you save money while leading a more sustainable life. Make new friends via Zoom or with in-person programs; share your ideas, experiences, and accomplishments with others and help to make this world a better place. Collectively we will make a difference. Hosted by Iona Conner, a former air pollution inspector in Middlesex County, NJ and former spokeswoman for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, Bureau of Community Relations. Currently Director of the non-profit Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Publisher of Grassroots Coalition News, an online climate change newspaper. Contact Iona at [dosomething@pa.net](mailto:dosomething@pa.net).

# Consumer Liberation

**Our Motto:** Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

**Our Slogan:** The way forward: cycle back to basics.

**Our Word:** Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

*Email Iona at [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list.*

*“Every new one makes us stronger,” sings Pete Seeger.*



### **Grassroots Coalition News**

Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at [www.gceej.org](http://www.gceej.org). Email [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net) to be put on our e-list. \$30 per year if you can afford that. Pay with PayPal using [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) or mail to the address on page 2. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

### *Grassroots Coaltion News* **Now Accepting Ads**

Please consider placing your ad with us. Send me your material at [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net) and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful.

*Thank you.*



Remember your dreams.



## Messages from Our Friends

(For many, English is not their native language.)



On Jul 31, 2021, at 9:58 AM, Iona Conner <gobackclub@pa.net> wrote:

**Hi, Trevor.**

I just got your book and was delighted to see your beautiful message inside. Thank you for it and the book. I'm looking forward to reading it. When I write a review I can share it with Amazon and Good Reads. Of course, I'll put a little ad in along with my review. I'm imagining juxtaposing it with Derrick Jensen's *Bright Green Lies*.

I never asked how you felt about him, but I have been his fan for about 20 years and in my earlier newspapers, put passages from his *Endgame* books (2 volumes), like I'm doing for *Bright Green Lies*. He sends me the text so all I have to do is copy and paste.

A couple years ago, I published an entire book, chapter by chapter, written by one of our old friends, a Catholic priest who is also on our Advisory Board. His book is called *The Hurricane of Racism* and it was excellent. That was a small book and of course I had his blessing to copy and paste the whole thing but I'm not doing that with Derrick's, nor will I do it with yours. We can work together after I read *Bright Green Future*, the title of which echoes my own optimistic philosophy.

Thanks again, my friend!

**Iona**

(reply)

Wooohoo! Glad to hear the book arrived. I really hope you enjoy it :)

I haven't read *Bright Green Lies*. It reminds me of Naomi Klein and a few other books I read about the pitfalls of green consumerism without reassessing our capitalist economy in general. In writing *Bright Green Futures*, I grappled with how to balance sustainable technology with changes in the economic order.

Ultimately, I tried to focus the narrative on who benefits from climate solutions: is it the existing corporate power structure or is it citizens and communities? I tried to pick solutions from the perspective of how they can be used to create a more just society where the center of power shifts

toward the community level.

Curious to hear what you think :)

Take care!

**Trevor Cohen**, California USA

On 2021-09-07 09:56, Climate Actions Congo wrote:

**Hello Iona,**

Thank you for the great work.

Please, I would like to ask to our colleagues, members of the Coalition, to help us to sign this petition, that aims to stop the oil exploitation in Virunga National Park, in Eastern of Congo,

[https://act.350.org/sign/non\\_a\\_exploitation\\_virunga](https://act.350.org/sign/non_a_exploitation_virunga)

Blessings and peace,

**Leon Simwerayi**, Goma, DRCongo

<http://www.ajvdc.com>

**Hi Leon.**

Very happy to sign this petition.

I am well aware that there are many threats to Virunga and it is an enormous struggle for decent people in the Congo to defend both the Congolese people and the Congo's natural heritage from the great many threats posed by corporate desire to exploit these.

With love and solidarity,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

**Hi Iona!**

Thank you so much for responding. I totally get what u mean about Facebook. I don't even post there as much as I used to. I still am there as I have an animal chaplain ministry group page following (a small one but there are people there I have communicated with a while now). It is called Heart-To-Heart All Creatures Ministry. I also am trying to use my private page more to get people to think about our relationship to the Earth and our fellow creatures so that they might work harder to respect and be more caring to them both. For the past five years, I have been working as an independent interfaith minister and an animal chaplain, but since the virus hit, and because of the support of Marita & Gerald Grudzen, I completed my doctorate

at GMU in Creation Spirituality, and as a result I created a text in Eco-Art & Creation Spirituality as my project, and over the last few months, in collaboration with Marita, have been focusing on making it a class. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to teach it if all goes well. I am no spring chicken so this comes late in my life but something I have wanted to do so long. I guess that's where I am coming from in a nutshell.

I am delighted we have connected as I so sorely want people in my life who feel as I do, something which is rare where I live, here in High Springs, Florida USA. I promise to write you via your email from now on, but I wanted to acknowledge your note here to let you know I am happy to hear from you and look forward to getting to know you better. Since we share birth dates does that mean we are kind of like sisters?

**Margie Schneider**, Florida USA (See her biography on page 24.)

**Iona:**

You're more than welcome. I also enjoyed the meeting.

If you have the time, you may want to check out the *Washington Post* website ([washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)). It has a story just released (about an hour ago) about how Harvard University just announced that it is divesting itself from all companies and projects that are not oriented toward combating climate change.

This is major because Harvard, like many colleges and universities, has large investment funds, \$41 billion in the case of Harvard. So, a move of this sort is expected to have large scale 'ripple' effects, not the least of which is to encourage other colleges and universities – and other institutions of comparable size – to do the same.

I think that even if you don't use your "Do Something Club" projects as a separate campaign – I think it would be good to keep some kind of a record going in the *Grassroots Coalition News* about actions of this kind across the board. Investment

**Messages** continued on next page

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

funds can have a major impact on how businesses – large and small – project their priorities into the future.

So, I think that any way we can urge them to ‘think green’ is all to the good. And to the degree that any of your readers have personal investments in stock and other portfolios (I don’t, but many people do), they should keep this in mind.

Plus, many of us are alumni/ae of institutions of higher education of some sort – so we should be making the effort to urge them in this direction also.

I know we have spoken about this before!

All the best,

**Dan Adams**, Pennsylvania USA

**Hi Iona,**

About a year ago, I bought a package of 3 little, stainless-steel cubes. You put them in the freezer & use them instead of ice cubes. You use no water and they don’t melt in your drink and water it down. I liked them so much that last week I researched them & bought a dozen more to keep in the freezer. They came in a little canvas bag and take up way less than an ice cube tray, about 2x4x5”.

I like ‘em. I can choose how cold I want my tea to be.

Tra La,

**C.B.**, Pennsylvania USA

**To: Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice**

The members of PAX, a Catholic Christian Intentional Eucharistic Community located in McLean, Virginia, actively seek out and support programs that promote social justice for all with special emphasis on people of color and those of low income. We assist organizations that address racial injustice, economic inequality, climate crisis, education disparities, food needs, women’s empowerment, and more.

In this spirit, we are enclosing a check for \$250. Our community values the opportunity to participate in your effort in bringing forth a just society.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Holtz**, Maryland USA

**Hello Dearest Iona,**

Thank you, we have received the magazine, thank you for sharing our stories and projects,

For more communication on it and attract supports.

Blessings and peace,

**Leon Simwerayi**, DR Congo

Wonderful newsletter from teens & chil-

dren, Iona. Your new site is great. Be well.

**Morgan Zo-Callahan**, California USA

This is an amazing issue [Student Action Guides #81], Iona, and I will make some time to really go over it. But I have to say that the brown ink just doesn’t work for me. Harder to read.

Love the new website!

**Marney Bruce**, Maryland USA

Awesome. I really like the website and its content. I want to tell you that you have all my support taking this Organization to the next level. I have been donating to a Charity Home in South Africa and Cote D’Ivoire. I’m telling you this because I need much more ideas from you on how I’m going to raise funds for those kids out there.

**Maxwell Tindell**, New Jersey USA

**Hi Iona,**

I know you are a busy person, involved in important work. So, I can only hope that you have time to read this article, though it is long:

Greta Thunberg: ‘I really see the value of friendship. Apart from the climate, almost nothing else matters’

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/sep/25/greta-thunberg-i-really-see-the-value-of-friendship-apart-from-the-climate-almost-nothing-else-matters>

**Anders Eklof**, Sweden

**Hi Everyone.**

Thanks for the ‘minutes’ Iona, which I appreciate.

So, a note of gratitude for everyone’s great work!

Haven’t been able to access the latest newsletter but a quick look at the new website gave me immediate appreciation of your efforts Ngo. I will go back later to see it all.

Hope the job interview and Idaho go well, Iona.

Love to you all,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

**Dear Friend,**

For some time, the LORD though Rotary put a conviction on my heart to begin an organization/ministry that responds to the needs of the most vulnerable children in education, but for one reason or another I have kept dragging my feet and moving slowly due to lack of funding, donations, and support. But during the lockdown, the conviction became heavier and I was left with no option but to get going. Thanks

to my friends, Rotarians and Rotary as well, who have kept me going with your support.

It is beginning as a CBO (community based non-profit organization) with its initial operations in Nyabushabi, Kyana-mira Subcounty. I believe that it will not take so long before this is upgraded to an NGO status!

We/I want to partner with God through you into a journey to make vulnerable members of the community thrive into strong families.

I cannot realize this big vision alone without people like you with experience and passion standing with me. That’s why I am writing to you and requesting you to accept to become our partner, volunteer, donor, and fundraiser in this. I appreciate your acceptance and participation. My community concern goes to education activities, Agriculture, Environment, and Tourism for sustainable development.

Regards,

**Herbert Bagyenya Kajoki**, Uganda

onevillage2013@gmail.com

www.onevillageug.org

**Hi Iona**

Yes, I am happy to be that: Cheerleader. Like you, I suspect, I learned a long time ago that appreciation is undervalued and only occasionally given. And yet it means a great deal to people.

And the Grassroots Coalition is a fine initiative and collection of people for which, of course, you deserve great credit.

Remarkably, within 30 minutes of sending out the email yesterday, Ngo had joined our ‘We Are Human, We Are Free’ Telegram group, revealing he must have investigated the website underneath Anita’s and my names. He is a very cluey man! So, we had the pleasure of welcoming him to WAHWAF, presumably as our first Cameroonian!

As for ‘fighting the good fight’ for people like us: What other life is there?

If only people realized how truly rewarding is such engagement.

Love to you Iona,

**Robert Burrowes and Anita McKone**, Australia

**Good afternoon Iona.**

I am very sorry to ask you now but kindly and humbly request or ask for some help for my daughter’s tuition. She is in her third year for a Law degree. The course is of four years and supposed to report on 15th, this month yet I am unable to meet my obligation at the moment. So, there-

**Messages** *continued on next page*

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

fore, if you don't mind try for us some help so that she goes back and study. I have struggled for her up to this level and I pray to God that she completes.

She is studying and now in her third year! The course is of four years!

Now struggling with the tuition!!

My address is P.O.X 114, Iganga, Uganda.

Email address: kulabaezekiel@gmail.com.

Mobile phone numbers: +256 771063806 Or +256 702605316.

Regards,

**Kulaba Ezekiel**, Uganda (Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre)

**Iona:**

I would guess you are back from your travels out west. You will have to report on them to everyone at the next available opportunity. I hope you had an enjoyable time – and feel sure it was good to get a chance to get away!

I have been wondering whether (or not) it would be a good idea to build on a recent conversation we had about exercise

bicycles (and bicycles in general) and the potential they might have for helping us to counter and combat climate change by way of converting all that physical energy into useable electrical energy.

As I mentioned, it seems to me pretty apparent that all the time and energy people expend on both exercise and regular bicycles could be captured to produce valuable electricity. I think we both remember how we used to be able to power the lights on our own bicycles that way. I'm not sure people still do that.

I also don't know if anyone might already have looked into this – and imagine someone has – but if not, you could patent the idea – and that would go a long way towards financing and promoting future environmental efforts!

Seriously, though, you might solicit help from scientists and engineers as to whether a scheme like this would in any way be doable – and worthwhile, [especially in fitness and exercise places].

If nothing else, I think it could be especially helpful in remote locations, but

in fact, I can visualize it being employed successfully pretty much anywhere.

All the best,

**Dan Adams**, Pennsylvania USA

**Hello Friends and Family,**

I'm a board member and secretary of this environmental newspaper.

We are asking for help to pay for its publication.

I'll be forwarding a copy of the last publication for you to enjoy.

If you or someone you know works with or for a group or company that is working in Africa will you please contact Iona (publisher of the paper).

Thanks for being a part of this.

For Us All,

**Jeannette Bartelt**

jmbartelt@gmail.com, Maryland USA

**Note from Iona:** Our Coalition account is so low that I had to put in \$32 of my personal money to cover automatic withdrawals. If you can help me sell subscriptions for \$25 annually, that would be great!



**Photo: David Hunter Bishop**

*When we were searching for a logo for the Coalition, Iona wanted a brown hand and a white hand reaching across the ocean to help each other. During that time Board member David Hunter Bishop sent this photo with this note: "I think it's the kind of image you're thinking about to represent the Coalition. Maybe not quite, but it's the idea. I took the photo in Alexandria, Virginia USA, when I was there a few months ago."*