

# 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. 85: April 2022*

## SPECIAL REPORT: 'Atlas of Human Suffering' Only Matters if Countries Take Action

Primary Author: Mitchell Beer  
The Energy Mix: March 2, 2022

After two days of absorbing, parsing, and reading analyses of this week's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, one conclusion shines through: the compendium that UN Secretary General António Guterres calls an "atlas of human suffering" will only matter if countries take action.

In 3,675 pages [[https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_FinalDraft\\_FullReport.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf)] of relentless science and analysis, more than 270 scientists from 67 countries have told citizens and world leaders what we already knew, in more comprehensive detail than ever before: despite growing public demand for faster, deeper carbon cuts, action on the climate emergency by governments, businesses, and institutions is falling far short of what's needed.

"Our report clearly indicates that places where people live and work may cease to exist, that ecosystems and species that we've all grown up with and that are central to our cultures and inform our languages may disappear," said IPCC Co-Chair Debra Roberts, head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekwin Municipality, South Africa.

"So this is really a key moment," she said. "Our report points out very clearly, this is the decade of action if we are going to turn things around."

Guterres called the report "an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership," showing nearly half of humanity "living in the danger zone" and many ecosystems at the point of no return – right now. "With fact upon fact, this report reveals how people and the planet are getting clobbered by climate change."



Photo: Martin Davis/Facebook

*'Fire Alarm for the Planet' demands action by rich countries, IPCC observers say.*

Our special report on the IPCC's impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability report includes these stories:

- 3.3 Billion People 'Highly Vulnerable,' 1.5°C Still Brings 'Unavoidable' Hazard, as Brief Window for Climate Action Rapidly Closes.
- 'Fire Alarm for the Planet' Demands Action by Rich Countries, IPCC Observers Say.
- IPCC Risk Analysis Shows Safe Limits Have Already Been Passed.
- 'Harrowing' IPCC Report Cites Limits to Climate Adaptation, Stresses Climate Justice.
- 'Crucial' Adaptation Finance Falls Far Short of What's Needed.
- Half the World Faces Severe Water

Shortages if Global Warming Continues.

- Richest Nations Won't Escape Impacts as Global Warming Accelerates.
- IPCC Report Fortifies Loss and Damage Language, Raises 'Issues of Colonization, Marginalization.'
- Disrupted Food Systems Imperil Women, Indigenous Peoples, Small Producers.
- Climate Drives Health Risk, Threatens Mental Health, IPCC Authors Conclude.
- Social, Ecological Infrastructure Can Limit Climate Impacts in Cities.
- Nature-Based Solutions Could Help Moderate Land-Water Ecosystem Impacts.
- Marine Species, Habitats Suffer from 'Unprecedented' Ocean Conditions.

IPCC continued on page 3

# 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](http://www.gceej.org)

**Board of Directors:** Ngo Banfogha, Jeanette Bartelt, David Hunter Bishop, Bill Boteler, Iona Conner, Eric Kifampa, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Rituraj Phukan (<https://gceej.org/board-members/>)

**Advisory Council:** Dan Adams, Robert Burrowes, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Michael Mann, Mariam Nabukeera (<https://gceej.org/advisory-council/>)

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## 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 Newspaper

The mission of *Grassroots Coalition 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.

Thank you for your interest in Grassroots Coalition News. This is the product of an international team of activists under the umbrella of the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, started in 1990 by John and Iona Conner. Our mission is to create the critical mass of active participants needed to bring 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.

Our online newspaper is a collection of stories by and about our members with additional stories submitted by

people who care about the future of the planet at this critical stage in which the climate emergency and racial injustice are causing catastrophic conditions for Earth and her people. Grassroots Coalition News is an effort to counteract these problems and point the way to a future in which people everywhere will have hope.

Many of the cultures and lifestyles of our African members are more sustainable than those who live in wealthier countries; therefore, we focus on communities in which people work harmoniously together to grow their own food, live simply, educate others about climate change, and care for each other, including widows, orphans, the disabled, sick, etc.

The spirit of activism is contagious. Our hope is that our members' stories will inspire you to ratchet up your degree involvement in finding and implementing solutions to the major challenges we face as one gigantic Global Family.

**Sign up here:** <https://gceej.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2275e26208647119ca3fd9aac&id=56383f34b2>

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(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.**

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## Iona's Column: *From My Heart to Yours*

### Dearest Global Family,

This has been a very intense month. Once I set up my first GoFundMe page to try raising \$5,000 for little David's surgery to cure irritable bowel disease, so many new people contacted me that I was overwhelmed. Almost all of them need money, mostly for orphans but also for fencing a garden where the wildlife is causing problems.

I wish I was a great fundraiser, but I am not. Our Grassroots Coalition struggles to survive and personally, I had to take a part-time job to supplement my Social Security so I'm not even here two or three days a week.

I have tried getting a professional fundraiser to volunteer to help us but so far, that is not working. We aren't anywhere near our goal for David at God's Support Orphanage Ministry in Uganda.

Since our Board of Directors has the authority to set policies, I reached out to them with my thoughts. Hoping that everyone would understand that I made an honest and enthusiastic effort to get more money for our work, I included some of the conversion the Board and I had recently on our Messages pages.

We remain a loving Global Family; we are not a source of funding. We are limited to publishing this newspaper with a primary focus on the climate emergency. We highlight efforts our members in Africa are doing to help everyone with their basic, on-the-ground work. They are compassionate people and their stories and contact information will surely help others. We also host bi-monthly Zoom meetings.

I hope our stories inspire you; they inspire me!

With Love,

*Iona*

IPCC *continued from previous page*

### A ‘Criminal’ Abdication of Leadership

There’s still a narrow window of time to avert the worst impacts. But the report inventories all the ways in which current climate adaptation funding and practices fall short of what the science demands.

Holding average global temperature rise to 1.5°C “will require the world to cut emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050,” Guterres said. “But according to current commitments, global emissions are set to increase almost 14% over the current decade. That spells catastrophe. It will destroy any chance of keeping 1.5 alive.”

Allowing that to happen amounts to a “criminal” abdication of leadership, the UN secretary general said, adding that “the world’s biggest polluters are guilty of arson of our only home.”

Even with prompt, decisive action, many of the effects of climate change are now “unavoidable” over the next 18 years, the working group report says. And “if human-caused global warming isn’t limited to just another couple tenths of a degree, an Earth now struck regularly by deadly heat, fires, floods, and drought in future decades will degrade in 127 ways, with some being ‘potentially irreversible,’” The Associated Press reports.

“Today’s children who may still be alive in the year 2100 are going to experience four times more climate extremes than they do now, even with only a few more tenths of a degree of warming over today’s heat,” AP adds. “If temperatures increase nearly two more degrees Celsius from now (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit), they would feel five times the floods, storms, drought, and heat waves.”

### Adaptation Investment Saves Lives

The slightly better news in the report, Guterres said, is that investment in adaptation saves lives. But funders have not yet heeded the call to devote 50% of global climate finance to adaptation, and the adaptation funding on offer after last year’s UN climate summit in Glasgow “is clearly not enough to meet the challenges faced by nations on the front lines of the climate crisis.”

“It is incomprehensible that we knowingly continue to sow the seeds of our own destruction, despite the science and evidence that we are turning our only home into an uninhabitable hell for millions of people,” said Mami Mizutori, UN special representative disaster risk reduction. “The world also has an opportunity to meet

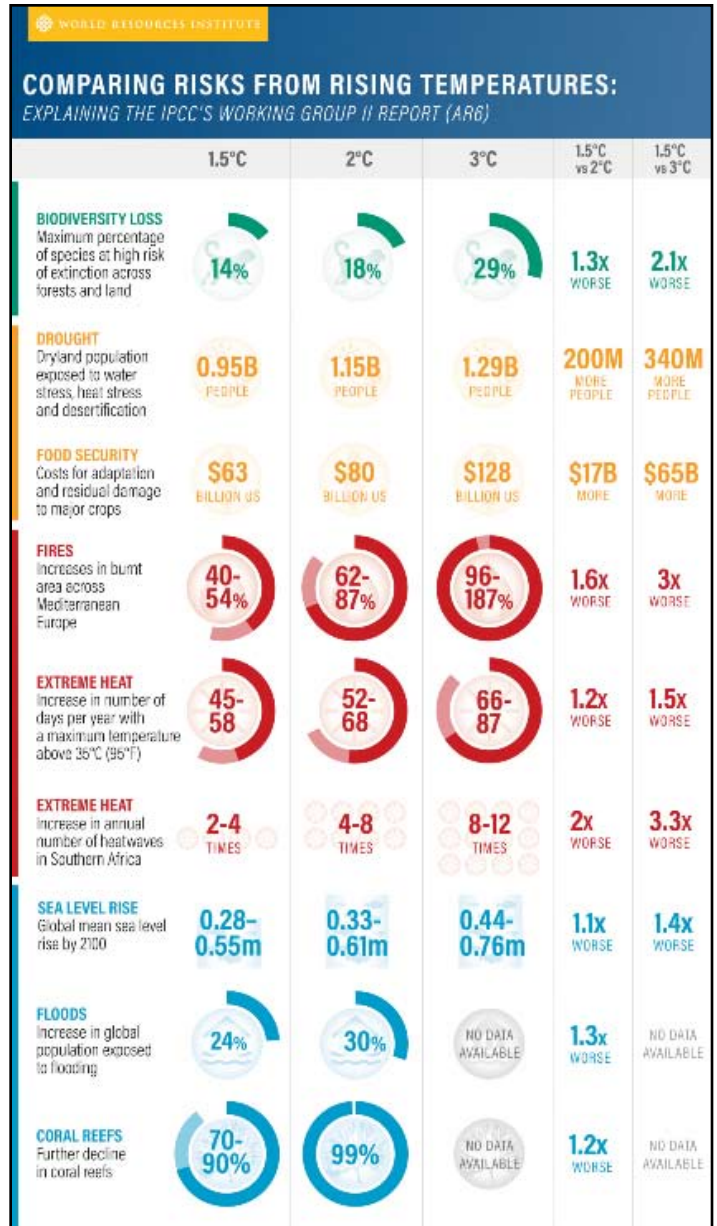
these challenges,” Mizutori added. “The IPCC report points to many solutions on improving regional and local information, providing sound data and knowledge for decision-makers. This does work. Countries have succeeded in saving many lives through improved early warning systems and preparedness.”

But even so, “climate disasters will undoubtedly worsen,” she said. And to date, “there are very low levels of investments in disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction for the world’s most vulnerable countries on the front lines of impacts. We need to ramp up investment in disaster prevention if we are to cope with the exponential rise of disaster events in recent decades.”

### Resources

- The IPCC is offering a set of short fact sheets on climate impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, focusing on specific regions of the world, biodiversity, and human settlements, as well as a 74-page atlas of global and regional impacts. [[https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_Annex-I.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Annex-I.pdf)]
- Carbon Brief has an in-depth Q&A from 15 of the scientists who contributed to the drafting. [<https://www.carbonbrief.org/in-depth-qa-the-ipccs-sixth-assessment-on-how-climate-change-impacts-the-world>] on the report, along with collected reactions [<https://www.carbonbrief.org/scientists-react-what-are-the-key-new-insights-from-the-ipccs-wg2-report>]

- The World Resources Institute distills “six big findings” from the report, including an infographic showing how climate impacts cascade as average global warming increases from 1.5 to 2.0 to 3.0°C. [<https://www.wri.org/insights/ipcc-report-2022-climate-impacts-adaptation-vulnerability/>]



report-2022-climate-impacts-adaptation-vulnerability]

- Power Shift Africa summarizes the climate impacts facing seven African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan and Togo) and the high costs they’ll incur in their attempts to adapt. [<https://powershiftafrica.org/publications/adapt-or-die-an-analysis-of-african-climate-adaptation-strategies>]

- DeSmog reports on the “vested interests” and climate disinformation that have fueled the crisis. [<https://www.desmog.com/2022/02/28/ipcc-report-calls-out-vested-interests-delaying-climate-action/>]

**Source:** <https://www.theenergymix.com/2022/03/02/special-report-atlas-of-human-suffering-only-matters-if-countries-take-action/>

# 'Mindset' Change Community Can Help Fix Climate Problems

By Herbert Bagyenyi Kajoki, Uganda, member  
Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and  
Economic Justice  
Special to *Grassroots Coalition News*

## What is Mindset?

In simple terms, Mindset change is someone's mental attitude or inclination or on the other hand, it's a fixed state of someone's mind. Being happy and successful is something we all aspire to. It's very likely that when asked, "What's your aim in life?" most of us would answer – to be happy. But on some days, this "small and modest" goal just seems light years away. The good and bad news is this – it's all in our head. Even when it seems impossible to look on the bright side of things, it's actually 100% in our power to transform the way we see life or think.

**One Village Uganda** is a grassroots, community-based organization operating in Kyanamira subcounty, Kabale District, Uganda working to support communities in environmental/climate change through agriculture, education, health outreaches, and sustainable tourism for future generation's use.

The only way to achieve this is through positive mindset change programs.

In developing countries, many grants, donations, and support have been given out through funding programs but the more the funding or support, the more need. Especially when you look at education funding, donors have put in a lot of money in sponsoring children, building schools, orphanages, among others, but still many children continue to be born recklessly, population increases, and lack of responsibility, among others; however, this has greatly affected our environment as well as the effects of climate change.

The case in point is, as long as our communities in developing countries or third-world countries do not change their mindset in the areas of responsibility in children production, environmental use, and modern methods of agriculture, then we still suffer the consequences.

When you look at the idea of Orphanages, especially in Africa, many of the children they take care of are not orphans but vulnerable children born due to unwanted pregnancies, irresponsible parents who produce many children that they cannot afford to take care of, hardened heart/mind to change things from a traditional way of doing things, and lack of awareness of the future generation.

Donations/support/funding are not sustainable, so this means that where there is

no funding, the community or previously funded project is stark. For example, if you are educating a child from elementary class and before this student is or has finished the university and the sponsorship is lost, this student has no future whatsoever. But if his or her family/parents are aware that if I produce a child, it's me/my responsibility to take care of the child and the government gets into that. Then we shall have a reasonable number of children produced by the couple/family and whom they can take care of and hence sustainable and the future will be looked at as amazing and with joy.

One of the most causes of environmental threats and climate changes in the whole world is overpopulation, which has endangered and encroached our natural environment for both agriculture with its associated challenges that cause climate change patterns. Therefore, to address these mindset programs like health outreach for family planning education and initiation should be emphasized with great need and support for Community engagements on development areas and livelihood support through agriculture.

## What does mindset change require of us?

For so many years, we are used to always wanting more and striving to be better. However, sometimes we just need to appreciate what we already have, and suddenly a different world will open up right in front of us.

Changing our mindset to being grateful is really one of the most powerful eye-openers in developing countries, especially in Africa. It is too hard to be that effective, but we have to practice it in everything we do and plan.

Instead of striving to make people/children happy through building orphanages or schools, you should fund sustainable fulfillment like family planning outreaches and initiation in rural areas, livelihood agriculture/farming, education that benefits children in their existing schools, rather than constructing new ones and other home development programs like revolving financing loans (microloans that can help in development). Increasingly more psychologists and thinkers are stressing that happiness is not a product of getting what you want, but rather the byproduct of the different challenges you've overcome and milestones you've reached to get there.

In other words, donations or support or funding alone isn't enough without pursuing things, competing and struggling for sustainability. Remember – happiness is not the destination – it's a side effect to living your life to the fullest.

Receiving donations/support is not a bad thing essentially. But it can become harmful if you overdo it or rely on it, especially when stopped at a time you are not aware of. If you are too demanding towards yourself, you can experience depression and project burnout. If you are expecting too much of other people, they can get tired or scared of you or even avoid you.

When your expectations towards funding from others are too high, and you feel like they owe you something, here's the harsh truth. Nobody owes you anything.

So, I have established that funding/support/donations are not an end-products or a finish line that I cross and stay content for the rest of my life. On the contrary, these are the by-products that you experience while you're leading a fulfilled and varied life.

Donations and support/funding success is not within arms' reach or sustainable.

*Herbert Bagyenyi Kajoki is an advocate to climate change/environmental threats, sustainable Tourism, and a Tour operator with ONE VILLAGE TOURS & TRAVEL and can be reached on email: [onevillage2013@gmail.com](mailto:onevillage2013@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +256701233725 and [www.onevillage2013.com](http://www.onevillage2013.com) (under construction).*

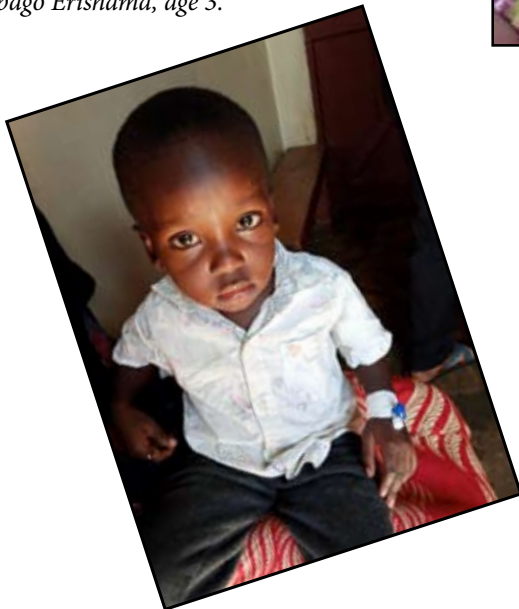


**Photo Courtesy Willy Ssenindde**  
Willy Ssenindde runs God's Support Orphanage Ministry in Uganda (shown with a few of "his" 100 children). There are three adults helping Willy with the kids. The Coalition set up its first GoFundMe page to help little David get life-saving surgery. Please see <https://gofund.me/58e22770> and donate generously.

# Our Global Family Photo Album: Orphans



**Photos Courtesy of Orphanages**  
David (center) inspired us to create our first Go-FundMe page; it brought several other orphanages into our Global Family. (top left) Kalu Uche runs Ap Call Orphanage. (top right) Mbetyo Brian runs Child's Hope Orphanage. The teenager in the orange vest was tragically killed recently when a speeding car struck him. (bottom left) Mugabi Joshua is three 3 years old, HIV positive, cared for by Francis Dheyongera, who runs an orphanage. Mother died at his birth, father drinks steadily and can't pay to help him. (bottom right) Mukama Awali works as a plumber to finance Mukama Awali Foundation Ministry and buy occasional treats for the children. The girl (left) is Miria Linda, age 5, and the little boy is Nbago Erishama, age 3.



## ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

READ HERBERT'S ARTICLE ON PREVIOUS PAGE. PRACTICE AND TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING. EDUCATE AND EMPOWER WOMEN. MAKE SURE YOU USE CONDOMS IF YOU'RE A MAN. PREVENT RAPE.



Photo by one of the children

People in CEDOC getting water from the stream for drinking, bathing, washing dishes, etc. The stream is drying up and the community is in dire need of assistance. Beatrice is in the white shirt.

# Community Needs Clean Drinking Water

By Saffiatu Beatrice Farma, Sierra Leone Coordinator, Children Empowerment and Development Orphanage Center (CEDOC)

I'm so overjoyed to hear from you and happy to join to the Coalition and use my pictures in your newspaper, I don't have no problem. I will send you my legal certificate. Our major problem for now is we don't have drinking water. We got our drinking water from the stream, and it almost dried up, so that is our biggest challenge.

I will send you pictures and videos of our drinking water conditions. Please if there is chance now, make a GoFundMe page to address this issue now, or else, during this dry season it is going to be difficult for us to get drinking water.

Thank you so much my sister.

**Watch her powerful video:** [https://www.facebook.com/messenger\\_media/?thread\\_id=100053687084580&attachment\\_id=477077237248700&message\\_id=mid.\\$AAAADieltKiFhzCy4l\\_VetbEfl-E](https://www.facebook.com/messenger_media/?thread_id=100053687084580&attachment_id=477077237248700&message_id=mid.$AAAADieltKiFhzCy4l_VetbEfl-E)

**Phone:** +23278902676

## Excerpts from CEDOC's Profile

### Areas of Intervention:

- Child Protection
- Spiritual nurturing
- Advocacy on Women's human rights issues
- Agriculture
- Water and Sanitation
- Education

This beautiful country is located in West Africa. Beaches and mountains decorate the coast of Sierra Leone. The country has two major seasons, the dry season and the rainy season. Children Empowerment and Development Orphanage Center – Sierra Leone is located in Kakama village Bargbo Chiefdom Bo District a town in the Southern part of the country with a population of approximately 306,000.

The two largest people groups in the country are Mende and Temne, with Mende being the ethnic group the majority of our children are from. English is the official national language, but Krio and

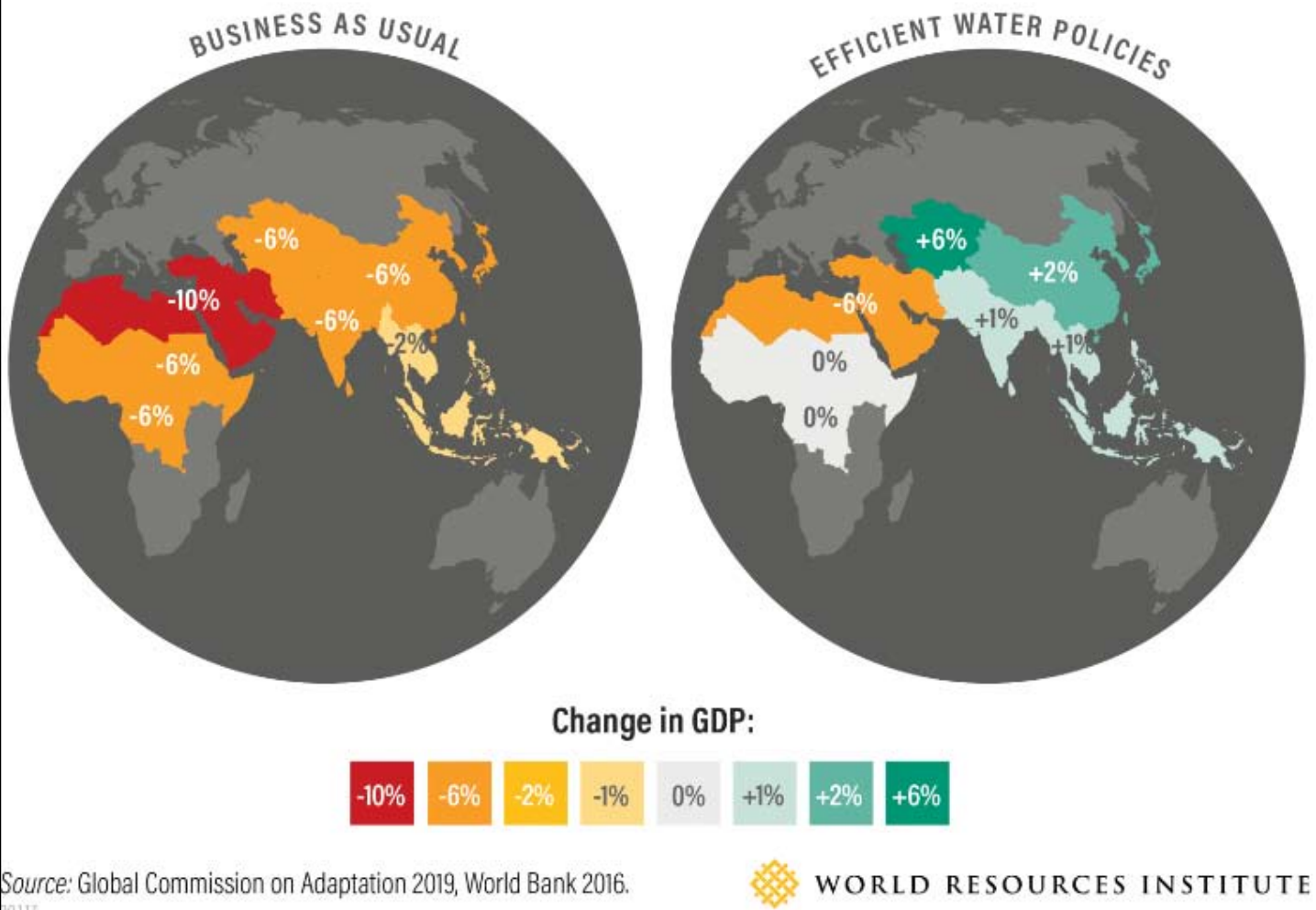
tribal languages are regularly used to communicate amongst locals. Major religions practiced include Christianity and Islam. Both religious groups co-live peacefully and promote respect of each other's beliefs.

Sierra Leone has many local dishes including cassava leaf, potato leaf, groundnut soup, and krane krane stew.



Saffiatu Beatrice Farma

## Estimated change in 2050 GDP due to water scarcity



# It Could Only Cost 1% of GDP to Solve Global Water Crises

**Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA with this note:** *Since dirty water is the #1 cause of infectious disease, it is really outrageous that it persists, given cost. Time to guilt trip the space-flying egotists like Bezos and Musk about their god-awful priorities. It just struck me that a great deal of what we call modern health conditions go back to attaining a water supply that isn't contaminated.*

*Then I read how relatively little it would cost to fix! But these issues touch other stuff like water shortages due to wasteful use and climate change.*

By Colin Strong and Samantha Kuzma  
World Resources Institute: January 21, 2020

Statistics on global water challenges are daunting: 3 billion people don't have basic hand-washing facilities. A quarter

of the world's population live in countries facing extremely high water stress. There are more than 500 dead zones – areas of the ocean without enough oxygen for most marine life to survive – from untreated wastewater.

The solutions to the world's water crises, though, cost far less than you might think. New World Resources Institute (WRI) research found that securing water for our societies by 2030 could cost just over 1% of global GDP – about 29 cents per person, per day from 2015-2030.

And the economic benefits outweigh the costs. Every dollar invested in water access and sanitation yields an average \$6.80 in returns. The World Bank found that failing to implement better water management policies could result in regional GDP losses from 2-10% by 2050.

### Sustainable Water Management Can Achieve Water Security for All

The paper analyzed what it could take to achieve a combination of six strategies that, taken together, can provide water security. We've named this desired end-state "sustainable water management" (see page 9). Our definition of sustainable water management matches generally to UN Sustainable Development Goal number six, which calls for "access to water and sanitation for all" by 2030. We calculated the investments needed to tackle each of the six strategies in a given country.

We found that 75 countries can achieve sustainable water management at 2% or less of their annual GDP; 70 countries can get there with 2-8% of GDP; and 17 countries will require more than 8% of their GDP to solve their water problems.

**Water Crises** continued on next page

Water Crises *continued from previous page*

### Costs of Achieving Sustainable Water Management by Share of 2030 National GDP

Every country faces different types of water challenges and will need to prioritize different tasks to achieve sustainable water management, such as treating wastewater, delivering clean drinking water, adopting stronger water management policies, and investing in vital infrastructure. The relative cost share of each of these tactics varies considerably by country.

### In 75 Countries – Including the U.S. and South Africa – Achieving Sustainable Water Management Costs Less than 2% of GDP

For 75 countries, representing half the global population, achieving sustainable water management is well within reach, requiring less than 2% of GDP.

In the United States, for example, the estimated cost to deliver sustainable water management is only 0.78% of GDP. The largest investment gap is solving water scarcity, which makes up 67% of the country's costs to achieving "water for all." (Note: this does not include the cost of replacing existing infrastructure, such as pipes, that may have reached the end of its effective life.)

These costs are nothing compared to the damages the country will incur should water scarcity continue. In California, for example, water scarcity and drought fueled the forest fires that caused \$24 billion in damages in 2018 and will negatively affect the quality of drinking water for years to come. A forthcoming study by the U.S. Forest Service found that nearly half of river basins that supply water to the United States may not be able to satisfy demands, which could constrain municipal needs, agricultural production, and industrial growth.

South Africa's water crisis came under global scrutiny when Cape Town, the nation's second-largest city, narrowly avoided a "Day Zero" water shut-off in 2018. Yet even in the face of severe risks, it could cost less than 2% of South Africa's GDP in 2030 to tackle its water issues. More than half of the costs are associated with providing drinking water and sanitation, while addressing scarcity comprises about 20% of the total cost.

### 17 Countries Need the Most Help in Solving Water Problems

Seventeen countries, representing 10% of the global population, need more than 8% of their annual GDP to deliver sustain-

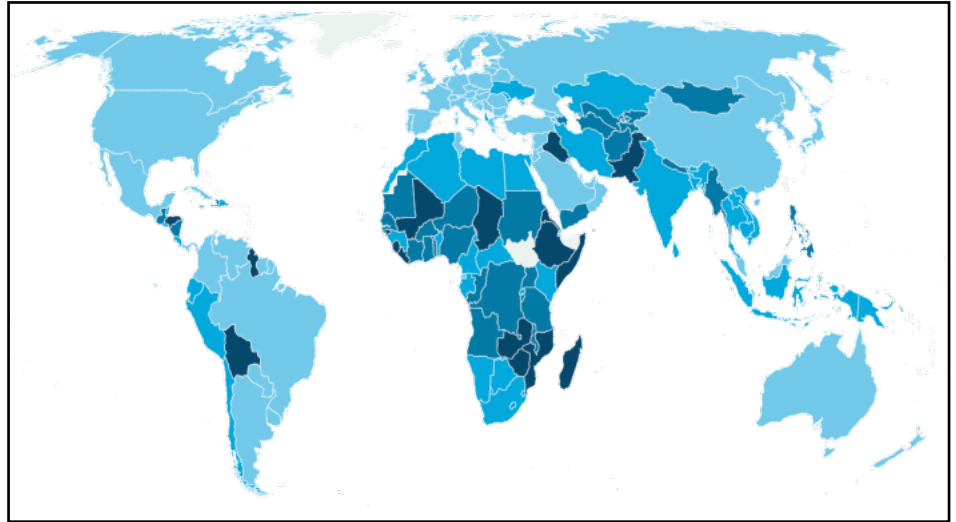


Image Courtesy World Resources Institute

*Every country faces different types of water challenges and will need to prioritize different tasks to achieve sustainable water management, such as treating wastewater, delivering clean drinking water, adopting stronger water management policies, and investing in vital infrastructure.*

able water management. This is due to both very limited water management and infrastructure and relatively poor economies. These countries will need assistance from development banks and other financing and development organizations if they are to fully solve their water challenges.

Achieving sustainable water management in Mali, for example, could require more than 8% of the country's 2030 GDP. Like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa – including Eritrea, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone – delivering access to drinking water and sanitation services is the top cost category for Mali, accounting for 58% of total costs. Drinking water and sanitation costs are closely connected – countries where clean and accessible drinking water is scarce tend to also have gaps in access to sanitation, and vice versa. Countries with high drinking water and sanitation costs also tend to require much larger percentages of GDP to deliver sustainable water management.

Countries, states, and governments around the world should pay attention to, and invest in, water security outside their own boundaries. Water crises cascade beyond national borders: Droughts and water stress can contribute to violent conflict, migration, and regional instability. In Mali, violence is already erupting between farmers and pastoralists over increasingly scarce water and land resources. Water shortages can hurt agriculture, raising the prices of staple crops around the world. This can cause poor nutrition, hurt the global economy, and further contribute to conflict. For example, droughts in 2010

in Russia, Ukraine, China, and Argentina caused spikes in wheat prices, which experts say was one of many driving forces of the Arab Spring.

### Achieving Sustainable Water Management in Every Country

We estimated costs using global data, so they should not be taken as precise costs or specific policy recommendations. Effective management of water resources requires a deeper dive into local conditions, taking into consideration national water challenges, localized data, and the political landscape. The numbers should be used as a jumping-off point for further research and an initial screen for the countries that need investment the most.

At a broad level, though, the solutions to water-related challenges are already understood. Reducing our collective thirst through demand-management solutions like efficient irrigation often reduces water scarcity, while maintaining productivity and business viability.

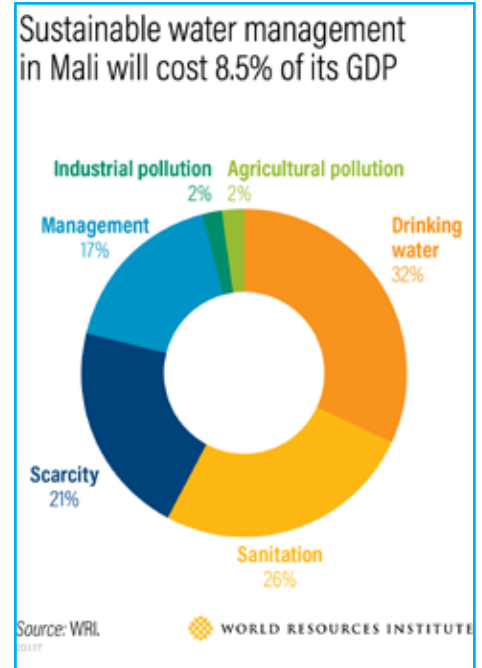
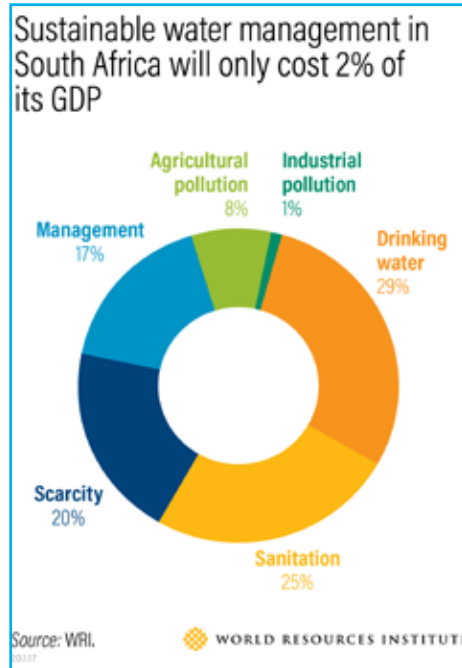
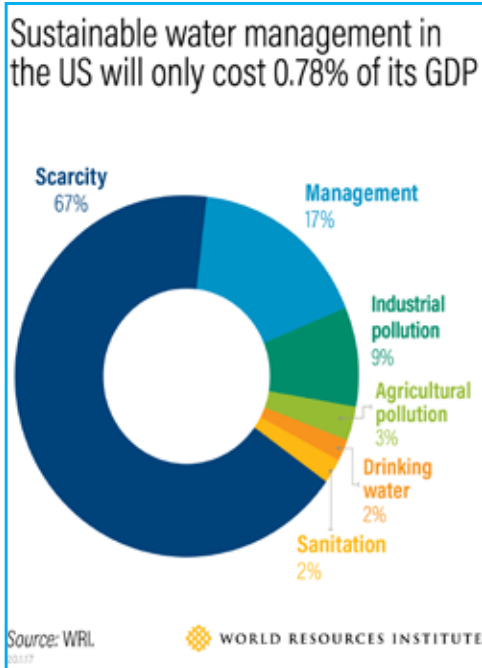
Nature-based infrastructure, which harnesses ecosystems like forests and wetlands in tandem with traditional infrastructure like pipes and pumps, has major benefits for both water quantity and quality.

The solutions to the world's water crises are readily available; what's missing is the money (from public and private sectors) and political will needed to implement them. It's time that water solutions be seen not as a burden, but as an opportunity. Resolving the world's shared water challenges improves the lives and livelihoods for

**Water Crises** *continued on next page*



Water Crises *continued from previous page*



billions, benefits the ecosystems around us, and can yield significant returns on investment.

•LEARN MORE: Read the full research paper, Achieving Abundance: Understanding the Cost of a Sustainable Water Future at <https://www.wri.org/research/achieving-abundance-understanding-cost-sustainable-water-future>.

Source: <https://www.wri.org/insights/it-could-only-cost-1-gdp-solve-global-water-crises>

### What Is Sustainable Water Management?

Sustainable water management is the desired end-state for achieving water security. It consists of six strategies that can ensure access to water and sanitation for all by 2030, including:

- Delivering safely managed drinking water to all populations without access.
- Delivering safely managed sanitation and hygiene services to all populations without access.
- Treating all industrial wastewater to tertiary treatment levels.
- Reducing nutrient loading to acceptable

concentrations within water bodies.

•Addressing water scarcity by bringing water withdrawals in line with water demand while accounting for environmental flow rates.

•Adopting water management, regulations, and legislation to accompany the above sets of solutions.

While conserving water-related ecosystems is not explicitly addressed in this framework, many of the strategies incorporate aspects of ecosystem protection, such as preserving environmental flows while tackling water scarcity and reducing dead zones by eliminating water pollution.

## Grassroots Member Encounters Police Intimidation During Peaceful Climate Protest

### Climate Change Activists Allege Police Harassment

By Anayo Onukwugha, Port Harcourt, Nigeria  
*Leadership*: February 20, 2022 (See page 12 in our February issue of *Grassroots Coalition News*, #84)

A group of human rights activists protesting against the presence of soot in the atmosphere and other environmental harms caused by fossil fuel extraction in the Niger Delta has accused the police of harassment and intimidation.

The activists, under the auspices of Lekeh Development Foundation (LEDEF), said they were in Bori, the traditional headquarters of Ogoniland, on a peaceful protest to call the

attention of the federal government to the issues when policemen confronted them.

LEDEF in a statement made available to *Leadership Sunday* in Port Harcourt yesterday, signed by its programme coordinator, Nbani Friday Barilule, said one of them [police] shot into the air, forcing the protesters to scamper for safety.

He said security operatives threatened the team leader for embarking on the protest without permission.

“Police threatened to arrest the team leader for not taking permission from security agents before carrying out climate action on the streets of Bori. The police officer fired his gun into the air in a dangerous act of intimidation and lives were threatened.

Protesters fled for safety,” he said.

[Note from Nbani Friday Barilule]

*The police officers said I didn't take permission from them before taking climate action and he wants further to fired his gun thrice into the air which scampered climate defenders for safety. One of the security personnel later said that he was supposed to arrest [us]. Information reaching out to me that the police security got angry due to the news carried by [a] national newspaper on the incident.*

**Contact Friday:**

**Email:** [lekehdevelopmentf@gmail.com](mailto:lekehdevelopmentf@gmail.com)

**Phone NO:** +2348061637733

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/lekehdevelopmentf/>

# Bamboo Saves Trees, Helps Climate, Orphans, Wetlands



**ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE**  
**BUY PRODUCTS MADE FROM**  
**BAMBOO, INCLUDING CLOTHING**

**Photos of bamboo: Quido Rubangakene; photo of bamboo utensil tray: Iona**  
*(top left) Iona asked if she had a baby in the fabric around her middle like an American snuggly. Answer: That's their cultural dressing style. They are Karamoja people, Nilotic culture. (top middle) She is removing small kanara, which is used for putting the stem of bamboo. (top right) Bamboo forest. (bottom left) Bamboo can be used to build homes. (bottom center) Bamboo used to support roofs. (bottom right) Iona bought a bamboo utensil holder at an inexpensive store in the U.S. called the Dollar Tree. It's very smooth and lovely. Looking for and buying bamboo products saves trees! They even make clothes from bamboo.*

## **Hello Mrs Lona.**

By the name Mr. Rubangakene Quido, I'm having a small charity organization. And we support vulnerable children. You know with the heart I have, I thought like coming up with a program that can support, my organization called Lakony Youth Foundation. In my region Northern Uganda Gulu, we have been in war for almost 20 years. This left lots of negative impacts on our young children. Like street children, orphans, child mothers, and disabilities.

Therefore, I am writing this to you if possible support my program so that we save the life of innocent children.

I'm helping 30 vulnerable children.

What I do, only support them from their

places. With the current situation, I don't have much funds to keep them.

## **Our Activities on Agriculture**

We have been teaching village women and men how to use wetlands in a proper way. Mainly we have encouraged them to plant bamboo trees alongside River/swamp line. This took place in Karamoja region. Karamoja has a mono-modal rainfall with one planting season.

Sincerely speaking, I love your idea of helping orphans.

If possible can you also link us to your friends who can help us, too?

It can be replaced but it grows like surger cane. They use it stems, small process. You cut the stem like 4 centimeters (1.6

inches), cover with top soil, marching it, and pour water on it for four days and leave it for one month. This will make it to develop leave nodes, then transplant it in prepared land.

I hear in some countries like China people use bamboo as source of food or juice. Bamboo has very many important uses to the people in my place but the majorly have three importants:

1. Source of income because people use it for house construction,
2. Source of firewood, and
3. Wind break down.

**Contact Quido Rubangakene:**

**Telephone:** +256777756184

**Email:** rubangakenequido@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://www.lyfoundationug.org>



## Fighting to Grow: Black farmers continue to battle systemic discrimination

Photo: The Johnson Family

Six-year-old Georgia farmer Kendall Rae Johnson is the youngest person to charter her own 4-H classes.

By Dwayne Fatherree, excerpt  
Southern Poverty Law Center: February 18, 2022

**Submitted by Anders Eklof, Sweden, with this note:** *Southern Poverty Law Center, is a terrific organization down in Montgomery, Alabama that I have supported since 1984. They are the #1 organization in America for fighting domestic terrorists, racists, white nationalists, and similar groups. Keep up the good fight! You (and Greta Thunberg) are sorely needed in today's world!*

By any definition, Kendall Rae Johnson is an exceptional child.

It all started when her parents saved some collard green stems and planted them for a garden in honor of her great-grandmother.

"A week later she came in and said, 'Hey, we got something growing,'" said her mother, Ursula Johnson. "Then she was inspired. She planted cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers. She watched it, touched it, made sure there were no bugs. That was the beginning."

Now, at the tender age of 6, Kendall Rae is the youngest certified farmer in Georgia history, fulfilling those requirements last fall.

"I like playing in the dirt," she said.

What sets Kendall apart from other children is her fascination with – and passion for – learning about raising plants and animals. A century ago, that would not have been so unusual for an African American child. Then, Black farmers made up 14% of the producers in the United States. As of 2017, that number had dropped to just 1.4%, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) most recent agricultural census. They also lost 90% of their property, some 16 million acres worth up to \$350 billion, during that time, compared with just 2% for white farmers.

Like all people who work the soil, Black

farmers have had to contend with Mother Nature and her whims. But unlike their white counterparts, they have had to fight a war on two fronts. While the federal government has provided loan and subsidy programs on a large scale to farmers, studies have shown that the bulk of that aid has historically gone to white farmers and has been largely withheld from Black farmers.

And that is not just an issue from days gone by. Even today, government programs intended to help farms survive the market effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have largely missed Black farmers. In fact, efforts aimed directly at socially disadvantaged producers – those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society – are tied up in a Texas court, where a trial judge ruled that programs aimed at rectifying more than a century of discrimination are in and of themselves discriminatory.

"(T)he Government puts forward no evidence of intentional discrimination by the USDA in at least the past decade," according to the court's opinion on the matter. "To find intentional discrimination, then, requires a logical leap, as well as a leap back in time. In sum, the Government's evidence falls short of demonstrating a compelling interest, as any past discrimination is too attenuated from any present-day lingering effects to justify race-based remedial action by Congress."

Basically, the court has ruled that there is a time limit on how far back Congress can go to remediate intentional discrimination by the government. This has enormous implications for other kinds of reparations as well.

### No Place at the Table

The challenges facing Black farmers go back to the abolishment of slavery and to the Reconstruction era that followed. In fact, two pieces of legislation that have pri-

marily aided white farmers over the years – the Homestead Act and the Morrill Land Grant Act – were passed in 1862. By 1934, more than 270 million acres – 10% of U.S. lands – were transferred from the Tribal Nations into the hands of more than 1.6 million largely white homesteaders. Many of these transfers were made prior to the 1868 adoption of the 14th Amendment, which granted citizenship to formerly enslaved people.

Much of the discrimination was far more overt and directed. Over the years, courts have determined that Black farmers were discriminated against at every level. Government officials withheld loan and grant funds, making it difficult, if not impossible, for Black farmers to compete against their white counterparts.

Additionally, the lack of established wealth and land being passed from generation to generation left the Black farmers at a significant disadvantage, even before the detrimental actions of the U.S. government.

These are not just allegations. They have been documented for more than a half century. In its 1965 report on Black farmers, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found numerous problems in the way federal programs treated farmers of color. The report documented how the USDA's Cooperative Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service denied thousands of Black farmers access to services provided to white farmers to help them diversify their crops, increase production, achieve adequate farming operations or train for off-farm employment. . . .

**Source:** Source: <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2022/02/18/fighting-grow-black-farmers-continue-battle-systemic-discrimination>

# Regenerative Farming in New Jersey Week by Week

**Note from Iona:** Joe, Hannah, and little Emmylou are my wonderful local farmers, whom I met at the Brick Farmers' Market two years ago. I was thrilled to buy my produce from Ramblin' Sol Farm because I trusted them even though their organic certification hadn't yet come through. One of their generous friends gave them enough money to donate a free year's CSA subscription to me! We have so many organic/permaculture members in Africa that I wanted to share these emails they put out with everyone who has the same dreams and struggles (snow excluded) as Joe and Hannah do.

## Farm News: February 11, 2022

We were teased with some Spring weather this week, which comes with a mix of relief and anxiety for us farmers. We spent a couple of beautiful mornings exploring and then went hard at the tree line clean up. This is in preparation for our deer fence construction on Saturday. Once that is out of the way, all we have to do is put up our 30' x 96' high tunnel, convert the barn into our washroom and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) pick-up area, build two walk-in coolers, hopefully improve our parking area, and of course get everything seeded and the ground prepped! We are definitely feeling the pressure and things just get done more slowly around here with our favorite farmer-in-training.

Those of you who follow us on social media know that all of our stress right now has forced us stop to reflect on how we came to be here and why being involved in regenerative agriculture is so important to us. Experience with Lyme disease and struggles with mental health, have shaped our priorities and what it means to live a happy, successful life.

Regenerative agriculture requires us to think more deeply about the long term impacts of our every decision. How we prepare the soil, what materials we use, how much land we disturb, how to grow food for ourselves while being mindful of the lives and food sources of other organisms. Some days the responsibility feels completely overwhelming, which is where you all come in...our support system.

We'll admit we've never really gotten into the whole Valentine's Day thing, but any excuse to appreciate the people in your life... and eat some chocolate seems like a positive way to spend any day. We certainly have so many people to appreciate this year. So much love has made it possible for us to grow with such intention and passion...so Happy Valentine's Day all, may love support you though all of life's ups and downs!



Photos Courtesy Ramblin' Sol Farm

*Who can resist nutritious, organically grown food like this? But do you know how much work goes into it?*

Want to be a part of our Farm Adventures? Volunteer with us by sending us a quick email with the project you are interested in! (Don't worry we only make our closest friends put up deer fencing in the snow)

### Current Projects:

- Finish closing up the fence using zip ties (mostly a leisurely walk around the farm while attaching the fencing to the posts...);
- Barn clean up, interior painting and decorating (basically organizing stuff and making the barn a cute CSA pick-up room);
- Trellising the blackberries (if you want a workout, it's mostly driving in t-posts on a ladder); and
- Feeling creative? Paint a mural on our potting shed! (BYO paint)

## Farm News: February 18, 2022

Well last night's wind left us without power for a few hours so we are just getting this out now!

We have been beyond busy around here getting ourselves going in the greenhouse while still working on projects to set up the new farm. Our lovely friends helped us finish our deer fence despite this past weekend's snow. Next up is high tunnel building and barn clean up!

Much of our time has also been spent

in countless meetings with farmers and advocacy organizations to decide how to respond to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's decision to drop its Organic program. Our group of local farmers has written a letter to encourage the Department to use the funding that was once allocated to this certification program to offer better technical support to farmers using regenerative practices. This week we will be circulating the letter to add signatures and gather support. We have also reached out to advocacy and environmental groups who are going to send similar letters.

In addition, we will be sending out a survey to NJ farmers to gather data on what services would be most helpful to them. We hope to utilize the data over the next few years to enlighten the Department as well as advocacy organizations on what regenerative farmers actually need to thrive. We recognize that it is a challenging time for everyone, which is why we feel more than ever the importance of protecting our local food growers who use practices that are safe for our communities.

## Farm News: March 4, 2022

Well we started this week off right with some amazing volunteer help from CSA member Elizabeth and then from our youth group from SEWA last weekend.

**Farming** *continued on next page*

Farming continued from previous page



(left) Volunteers from a youth group from SEWA help fix the deer fence around the garden. (right) Joe and Hanna's little girl Emmylou and their dog inspect the work on the high tunnel.

Thanks to these folks we were able to button up the fence, and do a big clean up in the barn! Thank you all for your hard work and positive energy!

After our productive weekend, we headed to Maryland to visit some farmer friends for a couple of days before things get even crazier around here! While we enjoyed some rest, we also were there to pick up some extra supplies they had because yet another order of regular materials had to be canceled due to delays and shipping issues! This year we are just cobbling together odds and ends, as we have become accustomed to doing, and just going to make things work!

In other news, we received our letter notifying us that our Organic application has been processed and our inspection will be scheduled soon! Our garlic has also sprouted and is looking lovely, and our tractor is again in need of repairs. It just wouldn't be farming, or life for that matter, without all the things happening all at once!

We have another big weekend coming up! After many delays, electric and propane will finally be connected to our greenhouse heater, concrete will be put down in the barn, and our amazing group of students will be back to seed, work on the high tunnel, and clear some brush!

It is looking like we will be closing the

CSA registration early this year, so if you know of anyone who was planning to register, please pass it along that there are only a couple of weeks left. Thanks!

We are presenting a letter to the State Board of Ag at the end of March to ask for their help in making our voice heard!

Please email us at [ramblinsolfarm@gmail.com](mailto:ramblinsolfarm@gmail.com) if you would like to support regenerative agriculture by adding your name to the letter, which you can read here: [https://mcusercontent.com/a5444d1-e67906c72e00750839/files/57efda96-26-fa-c4b5-bec7-5ed58a4b8457/2\\_16SBAltr.pdf?mc\\_cid=f9ae1ce727&mc\\_eid=84a9f21356](https://mcusercontent.com/a5444d1-e67906c72e00750839/files/57efda96-26-fa-c4b5-bec7-5ed58a4b8457/2_16SBAltr.pdf?mc_cid=f9ae1ce727&mc_eid=84a9f21356)



**WHEN YOU REALIZE HEART  
AND EARTH ARE SPELLED  
WITH THE SAME LETTERS.  
IT ALL STARTS TO MAKE SENSE.**

~ Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA ~

<https://americasbestpics.com/picture/when-you-realize-heart-and-earth-are-spelled-with-the-3aSu14PC9>



# Plan to Help Save Children While Helping Fight Climate Chaos

By Uche Isieke, Nigeria

## The Plan (starting with the “Going back to the bush” story)

We all know that children can be naughty at school.

Looking back at your childhood, maybe you enjoyed being the class clown or simply craved the satisfaction of being a rebel.

But have you ever felt compelled to do something that just so happens to be wrong? Let me tell you a quick story.

About a month ago, I was visiting a friend in a rural town just outside of Nigeria’s capital and one day I followed him to collect his children from school. Whilst I waited for his daughter to be dismissed from class, I decided to while away time by speaking to some of her friends on the playground. When asking the typical question of what they learned that day, a boy named Sani, quite timid in his presence whispered, “I’m not sure. I was feeling hungry so I left class to go back to the bush and find something to eat.”

At this point, we’ve heard of children missing classes or leaving school for forced marriages or maybe to help a sick loved one at home. But not to forage for food in the bush.

It’s the bizarreness of the statement that made it almost comical, but realising what I thought was a boys’ shyness, may have been physical weakness made this all the more haunting.

You see, this isn’t an ordinary bush, but deep woodland canopies that envelope all who enter. Its size alone allows it to host every type of creature which often call out in unison, making it difficult for even inhabitants to hear who comes and goes, and what’s patiently observing their vulnerability from around the corner.

Some children insist that they are only there for 15 minutes at a time.

Others joked about dodging the bite of a viper by the width of a hair or that they could ‘feel’ someone mirroring and tracing their steps from behind and they’d run as if it was a game of tag.

But in a world of statistics thrown at us saying that every 9 minutes a child is assaulted or that hundreds of children die every day from snake bites, you can only dread the amount of trauma that goes on during a single break time.

For a child wandering alone in an environment that conceals all, it would be the perfect crime scene if children weren’t so transparent with their emotions and eager to speak their mind...



Photo Courtesy Rural Watch Africa Initiative

*RUWAI Environmental and Climate Action School Club was set up to increase education around climate change, ecological degradation, and mitigation processes. This project phase is planting 100 fruit trees in five schools to improve school lunches with healthy nutrition. It is a way the graduating students are giving back to their community and reducing climate change impact. The club is training students on tree planting, agroforestry, and establishing demonstration farms within schools.*

Then again, not all children are an open book. I wasn’t as a child and perhaps at times you weren’t either when you needed to be.

## The Vision

To prevent malnourishment, sexual assault and potential illness and death caused by wildlife attacks, Rural Watch Africa Initiative has decided to plant 500 fruit trees (100 trees each for 5 schools) within school compounds to help stop children going into the bush.

Tree planting is not just for climate change, whether it’s a cure or shelter, their design provides a story and purpose for every situation.

In our story, it solves hunger and malnourishment, draws children away from needless exposure to predators, both humans and wildlife. A child freed from worry can stay in class, out of harm’s way, where they can focus on their ambition rather than fulfilling basic needs.

Not all of the nature wondering has been bad though...

Sani’s classmates often talk about what their dream garden would look like, delicately signing in the air as if they were Picasso making a quick sketch.

They want to dedicate the rest of their school years to cultivating a garden, pass it onto their juniors as their legacy so that even the most impoverished child to ever step foot into the school will not be held back by unfortunate home situations.

This determination has driven their thirst

for knowledge but hasn’t allowed them to make the immediate start that they want.

## Now is the Time

We are offering you the chance to give \$50 to buy a tree and the equipment needed for its maintenance and that you forward this message to four like-minded friends to match your donation.

Once you make your donation, we’ll assign a student to you who will share the journey of growing your tree.

With just 100 people doing the same, we can easily raise gardens for five schools on the outskirts of Abuja.

This is already a long letter, yet it is summarizing three causes that most charities make you donate to separately, with an explanation of just one cause typically exceeding all that I’ve written.

So, whilst you’re at it, why don’t you kill three birds with one stone?

If you’d like to donate to this project and have other potential donors in mind, click the link below and select the donate button under the title “Challenge”. Then, choose to donate to “Fruit Tree Planting” in the drop-down box. <https://www.ruralwatchafrica.org/100-legacy-fruit-trees-to-climate-action.html>

Thank you for your time.

**Source:** [https://mcusercontent.com/88a2d8e9258aba9565ae07b17/files/c6c326da-6ab7-3c34-94ff-ab2775f29f1c/The\\_Plan\\_.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/88a2d8e9258aba9565ae07b17/files/c6c326da-6ab7-3c34-94ff-ab2775f29f1c/The_Plan_.pdf)

# Hold a Vision for Peace



SaratogaOcean.com

Peace is a reality where all life exists in perfect harmony. Where everything is recognized as an extension of the LOVE that created it. Therefore, there is no discord. There is only happiness and serenity. The fact that we don't see this here on Earth shows that this planet needs to be healed. Hold a vision for PEACE in your heart.

Saratoga Ocean's Facebook page March 9, 2022  
Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA

**Action:** May the blank space below provide a moment of rest for your weary eyes and troubled soul with a prayer for peace if you're so inclined.

# Let There Be Music, Even in Time of War



Photos Courtesy Lomnava Dance Ensemble

*There is a lot of joy in playing music and in dancing.*

**Submitted by Collins Chance, Ghana**

The Lomnava Dance Ensemble was founded in September 2017 in Accra, Ghana.

If you want to understand a culture, take a look at its dances and listen to its music. This way you learn to respect yourself and your culture, as well as other people and their culture. For us, this is a crucial idea that we carry in our heart and soul.

Our culture is so rich! We want to spread it to people and preserve it for the next generations. That's why we chose Sankofa for our logo: take the past with you through the present and into the future. Use the past as a fountain of inspiration!

Music and dancing teach emotional

competence to children and grown-ups. You learn to care for each other while playing music in a group. Your self-confidence grows when you perform a new dance on stage.

Most of all, there is a lot of joy in playing music and in dancing.

We would like to share this joy with you.

**Contact Lomnava Dance Ensemble**

**Jerome Sewor:** Nii Klu-Din Street  
House No. 28, Teshie Tsuibleoo, Ghana

**Phone:** +233 (0) 20 33 78 328

**Reverend Eric Nartey:** +233 (0) 244  
37 27 35

**Germany:** Antje Sela +49 (0) 177 788  
56 80

**Email:** lomnava.ensemble@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://www.lomnava-ensemble.com/>





# Youth Evolution Bamivule Music Academy, Uganda

Submitted by Bab Maahe, Uganda

Youth Evolution Bamivule (YEB Music Academy) is a Ugandan Non-Government Organization that provides professional knowledge for youths who want to pursue Popular music literacy and skills as their career. This is through identifying, empowering, nurturing, and promoting music amongst all youths while skilling them for viable and available professional careers in a Ugandan Popular music industry.

**Vision:** Nurture Youths in Music, Career Flexibility, and Talent Development.

**Mission:** Contributing, Improving, and Nurturing Youths in Music, Career Flexibility, and Talent Development.

**Goal:** To Empower, Develop, and Promote Popular Music Talent Amongst the Youth In Uganda.

**Services:**

- Music training/skills
- Mentoring
- Empower young musicians
- Encourage career flexibility
- Community music facilitatorship
- Talent empowerment
- Facilitate employment opportunities in the music industry

**Objectives:**

- To empower youths towards their popular music careers.
- To identify, nurture, and promote popular music talent.
- To create a growing and competitive human resource base for the Popular music industry.
- To provide a labor link between the Academy and outside music enterprises.

**Problem Statement:**

Inadequate essential skills about the craft and its business. Many talented musicians who have at least managed to acquire performance platforms have successfully collapsed because they lack essential craft skills and do not understand the music industry's business and career traits. Not inclusive in Education's major priority. Training music and business is not the



Photos Courtesy YEB Music Academy

*The YEB Music Academy has a vision to "Nurture Youths in Music, Career Flexibility, and Talent Development."*

education sector's major priority; hence, few training facilities.

**People involved:**

- Administration
- Community music facilitators and tutors
- Volunteers
- Stakeholders (communities)
- Students/youths

**Beneficiaries:**

- Youths
- Communities
- Local companies/labels

- Our organization
- Government

**Resources:**

- Supervisors/facilitators/PRO
- Place/space
- Community
- Students
- Tutors
- Materials and equipment
- Internet

**Source:** <http://www.activeforfuture.net/node/54>

**OUR USE OF LANGUAGE, WRITTEN OR SPOKEN, OFFERS US THE GENEROUS OPPORTUNITY TO DANCE WITH OUR IMAGINATION.**

~ Kristi Nelson ~

<https://twitter.com/OlaPahOne/status/1463715632378224640>



Photo Courtesy Sea Shepherd

*The new Sea Shepherd vessel, Age of Union, berthed in Portugal before its voyage to the West Coast of France.*

# Sea Shepherd Targets Ocean Criminals With ‘Age of Union’ Ship

Environmental News Service: January 10, 2022

MONTREAL, Quebec, Canada – The movement to protect marine wildlife took a giant leap forward this week as a brand new nonprofit environmental organization, the Age of Union Alliance, announced a US\$4.5 million donation to Sea Shepherd, the global NGO that partners with governments to patrol their oceans and fight illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing throughout the world.

“I have long admired Sea Shepherd’s unyielding efforts to protect our planet’s most sacred oceanic ecosystems,” said Dax Dasilva, founder of the Age of Union Alliance. “With these funds from Age of Union, we hope to help Sea Shepherd save the lives of endangered species, preserve their habitats, and support local communities disrupted by illegal poachers.”

“We must continue to shine a light on the important work organizations like Sea Shepherd do to keep our waters safe for the prosperity of critical marine wildlife,” said Dasilva, a Canadian entrepreneur, au-

thor, and LGBTQ rights activist. He serves as the chief executive officer of Lightspeed, a Montreal-based tech firm with offices in Canada and the United States.

The funding announcement follows Age of Union’s launch in October 2021 when Dasilva announced a pledge of \$40 million toward protecting ecosystems around the world. Sea Shepherd is the sixth global partnership that Age of Union has announced using funds from this initial pledge, which he says will continue to grow in years to come.

Overfishing, climate change, ocean acidification, and habitat deterioration threaten fragile marine ecosystems, some on the verge of collapse. IUU fishing, in particular, is threatening oceans and their ability to survive. Fish populations are being devastated, endangered species are nearing elimination, and developing nations’ waters are being emptied of life.

To combat this degradation, the Age of Union donation will fund the operating costs of a 56 meter (184 foot) long Sea Shepherd vessel for three years, beginning Janu-

ary 2022, under the name Age of Union.

Currently docked in Portugal, Age of Union will embark on Operation Dolphin Bycatch in February in an attempt to draw international attention to the 6,000 – 10,000 dolphins killed as bycatch off the West Coast of France every year. The Age of Union ship will patrol to prevent this bycatch of dolphins. From there, the ship will journey to the West Coast of Africa to protect marine wildlife for three months.

Without the presence of a patrol vessel like Age of Union, industrial ships routinely fish illegally in West African communities, robbing them of their food source and livelihoods, leaving little for their families.

Fish is the number one source of protein for local communities in these areas. At least 33,000 people in Liberia and 200,000 people in The Gambia depend on small-scale fisheries for their livelihood.

“Sea Shepherd is proud to have the support of Age of Union. Thanks to their passion and support, we will expand our

**Sea Shepherd** *continued on next page*

**Sea Shepherd** *continued from previous page*

operations, save more wildlife, and protect critical marine habitats that are crucial to the survival of our oceans,” said Alex Cornelissen, CEO of Sea Shepherd, who in 2014 took over from Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson, who started the NGO in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1977.

Cornelissen now directs the movements of the Sea Shepherd’s worldwide fleet, which now consist of 12 vessels and several smaller boats used in ocean conservation campaigns.

“Shoulder to shoulder, we stand in our fight against poachers in the larger effort to save our oceans,” Cornelissen said. “To honor the partnership with Age of Union, we will proudly bear their name on one of our flagships vessels.”

**Marine Wildlife at Risk**

◇ Every year, up to 10,000 dolphins are killed off France’s West Coast, twice as many dolphins killed as bycatch in all other countries combined.

◇ With populations of fish off the coasts of Europe and Asia collapsing, the waters of West Africa are a place where there have been recent depletion of fish populations. For instance, the Gulf of Guinea is a critical habitat for tuna, humpback whales, and whale sharks, but IUU fishing is responsible for up to 40 percent of the catch in West Africa, requiring immediate action to prevent this.

◇ To protect their interests, governments have established protected areas reserved for small-scale local fishers where industrial fishing is strictly prohibited.

Sea Shepherd’s projects off the coasts of France and Africa are the beginning of the Age of Union vessel’s plans for the next three years. Support from Age of Union will continue to keep the vessel operational until the end of 2024, helping to ensure worldwide protection of marine wildlife and threatened species.

Sea Shepherd operates in the intersection of illegal fishing and marine conservation. The group provides unique, at sea



Photo courtesy Age of Union Alliance  
*Marine wildlife defenders plan their campaigns. From left: Dax Dasilva, founder Age of Union; Paul Watson, founder Sea Shepherd; and Alex Cornelissen, CEO Sea Shepherd, 2021.*

capacity to serve and support developing coastal and island nations in their protection of sovereign waters against IUU fishing.

As the only NGO operating in this space, the organization’s goal is to enhance a government’s capacity for monitoring, control, and surveillance at sea. Working under direct supervision and in complete partnership with host nations, Sea Shepherd provides fully-equipped vessels, professional crews, fuel, and other tools that enhance their ability to detect and deter IUU fishing.

Over the past five years, Sea Shepherd assisted law enforcers from our partner governments as they arrested 73 vessels resulting in numerous successful prosecutions. These efforts increased monetary recoveries for Sea Shepherd partners, reduced subsequent maritime crimes, and

helped restore fish populations available to artisanal fishers.

The Age of Union Alliance started with projects across five countries. In addition to the Sea Shepherd, the Alliance currently backs a Nature Conservancy of Canada project designed to preserve Quebec’s Saint Lawrence River; a Junglekeepers-led Amazon Rainforest sanctuary and ranger program expansion; and a wildlife corridor expansion in the Democratic Republic of Congo focused on protecting the country’s endangered species.

*Reprinted with permission from Environment News Service.*

**Source:** <https://ens-newswire.com/sea-shepherd-targets-ocean-criminals-with-age-of-union-ship/>

**Actions to Help Protect the Ocean from the Dolphin Project: Number 1 = Ditch Single-Use Plastics**

Disposable straws, cups, lids, utensils, bags, water bottles, and other single use plastics make up a huge percentage of marine pollution. With an estimated 8 million tons of plastic waste entering the oceans each year, countless marine animals ingest plastics, become entangled in them, or worse, are killed by them. To minimize your impact, do a trash audit and see exactly how much you are throwing away. Think of what you could live without! Every reduction makes a difference. If every person in North America used just one fewer single use plastic item per year, there would be 579 million LESS pieces of plastic thrown away!

See nine other ways to protect the ocean at <https://www.dolphinproject.com/blog/10-ways-to-help-protect-the-oceans/>

*The Dolphin Project is a non-profit charitable organization, dedicated to the welfare and protection of dolphins worldwide. Founded by Richard (Ric) O’Barry on Earth Day, April 22, 1970, the organization aims to educate the public about captivity and, where feasible, retire and/or release captive dolphins.*

# News Briefs

## Supreme Court Has Climate Protection in Its Sights

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Wire Editor

By Laurence H. Tribe & Jeremy Lewin,  
excerpt (emphasis added)  
The Guardian: February 18, 2022

Granting a petition by several states and coal companies, the U.S. Supreme Court on February 28 was to address what appears to be a technical legal question: does the Environmental Protection Agency have **authority** to calculate CO2 emissions targets for power plants based on mitigation techniques involving steps “beyond the fence-line” of individual plants?

In truth, the matter the court is considering implicates – and imperils – the federal government’s power to fashion flexible solutions not only to global warming but to all manner of complex problems.

The stakes are higher still: by ruling on the case at all, the court **usurps power** constitutionally entrusted to government’s politically accountable branches. Article 3 of the Constitution **limits** federal courts to deciding concrete “cases and controversies” about the rights of individual parties. Yet this “case” involves neither a concrete dispute nor the specific rights of any of the challengers. Instead, it’s akin to an **exam question** about the options theoretically available to a federal agency to address a grave problem. In answering that hypothetical question, the court will have arrogated to itself an unprecedented, open-ended power to reshape the nation’s social and economic landscape – far in excess of its legitimate authority, as the foundational case *Marbury v. Madison* put it, to “declare what the law is” ...

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/28/us-supreme-court-rightwing-climate-crisis>

## Fossil Fuel Giants Seek Billions From European Countries Under Secretive Treaty

Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Maryland USA

“It is literally insane that the global fossil fuel phase-out is being actively sabotaged by antiquated treaties and corporate greed,” said one critic.

By Julia Conley, excerpt  
Common Dreams: February 21, 2022

Fossil fuel companies in Europe are using an international treaty signed nearly three decades ago to challenge several governments’ ability to take climate action – exemplifying why, critics said Monday, the 1994 Energy Charter Treaty is a major impediment to transitioning away from planet-heating fossil fuels and toward renewable energy.

Under the treaty, companies including RWE and Uniper in Germany and Rockhopper in the United Kingdom are suing the governments of Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and other countries over their phasing out of coal power plants, requirements for environmental impact assessments, and blocking of extraction projects.

The Energy Charter Treaty was signed by more than 50 countries with the intention of protecting energy investments by individuals and foreign companies in former Soviet states.

Since 2014, when investors in the Moscow-based energy Yukos were awarded \$50 billion under the treaty after it was found that Russian President Vladimir Putin had seized their assets, more than two-thirds of cases using the treaty have involved companies suing European Union governments. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/02/21/fossil-fuel-giants-seek-billions-european-countries-under-secretive-treaty>

## Refuge of Endangered ‘African Unicorn’ Threatened by Mining, Poaching, Deforestation

Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Maryland USA

By Morgan Erickson-Davis, excerpt  
Mongabay: February 25, 2022

•Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) shelters some 470 mammal and bird species, including up to 20% of the world’s remaining endangered okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*), which are related to giraffes.

•While Okapi Wildlife Reserve has escaped much of the environmental destruction affecting surrounding areas, satellite data show deforestation has been increasing in the reserve in recent years.

•Satellite imagery shows the expansion of what appear

to be gold mines in the latter half of 2021.

•Conservationists say illegal mining is attracting more people to the reserve, which in turn increases poaching and deforestation.

Perched in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) near the borders of Uganda and South Sudan, Okapi Wildlife Reserve quietly encompasses some 14,000 square kilometers (5,405 square miles) of rainforest habitat. The DRC government established the reserve in 1996, and it is also recognized by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site due to its diverse plant and animal species, some of which are found nowhere else except for in this region of the DRC.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve protects more than 100 mammal and 370 bird species, including 17 known species of primates – more than any other single forested area in Africa. The reserve is also home to the Indigenous Efe and Mbuti peoples.

But perhaps the reserve’s most famous resident is the enigmatic okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*), after which it was named. Sporting the head of a giraffe and the stripes of a zebra, the okapi was unknown to the scientific world till the 20th century and is found only in the northeastern portion of the DRC. Also known as the “African unicorn” of forest giraffe, the species is listed as endangered by the IUCN, and Okapi Wildlife Reserve harbors as many as 20% of the estimated 30,000 remaining wild okapi. . .

**Source:** <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/refuge-of-endangered-african-unicorn-threatened-by-mining-poaching-habitat-loss/>



Photo: Rhett A. Butler/Mongabay  
The okapi’s closest living relative is the giraffe. Like giraffes, okapi have long tongues, often more than a foot in length.

# 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 144-147

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.*

Is it possible to be homesick for a place you've never been? As a child, I (Lierre) longed for the forest with an ache that's never stopped. The concrete, the houses, the cars were an open wound on the world, and I wanted them gone. It was a huge, inchoate hunger for things I had never known: ancient trees, dark shade, and animal secrets – all of it wild. On and on, for miles, for years. Forever.

It's universally noted that children are drawn to wild places. Even when they're offered playgrounds, and even when they help design the playground – castles, mazes, swings – they will find the spots where adults don't go, the abandoned ditches, the tiny edges no one owns and where wildness survives. In my school playground, there was one brave, single-file line of pine trees and shrubs at the very bottom of the field where my best friend and I returned. You couldn't even call it a scrap of wilderness; it was just a thin unraveling thread that we needed to lead us home. It couldn't, but we never stopped asking.

And I guess I'm still asking. The forest, sturdy with old-growth and swelling with species, will not return in my lifetime. My grief is my own, and it is also not the point. Full restoration will take longer than a human lifespan, but the world could be repaired. It could. But first the destruction has to stop.

Here's the question: Are we the people who love the forest? Or are we the people who demand the right to destroy the last traces of the wild? Right now, a huge swathe of Clashindarroch Forest in Scotland is under threat.

Environmentalists laid the groundwork for this catastrophe by demanding wind and solar for decades, and now Swedish energy giant Vattenfall is offering to meet those demands. A quarter of the forest will be felled for wind turbines and their attendant infrastructure, right through the last refugium of the Scottish wildcat.<sup>72</sup>

The remaining wildcats number 35. There are no missing zeroes in that number: 35 are all that remain. That's more a whisper than a number, the stripped skeleton of a species. They are the only wild felines left on the island of Great Britain and they will be lost to willful extinction in the service of wind.

This destruction is not unusual. Since 2000, Scotland has cut down almost 14 million trees over more than 17,000 acres – more than 26 square miles – to serve wind-energy harvesting.<sup>73</sup>

So, are we the people who love the forest? Or are we happy to trade in everyone who makes up a forest – trees, birds, wildcats, and all – for giant machines that will fl ash like 30 pieces of silver in the sun?

\*\*\*\*

Our justified panic to address global warming has made us susceptible to seductive technological promises. In the face of concerted, sophisticated marketing techniques and the nearly complete cooptation of the big green groups, many people have come to believe the lies.

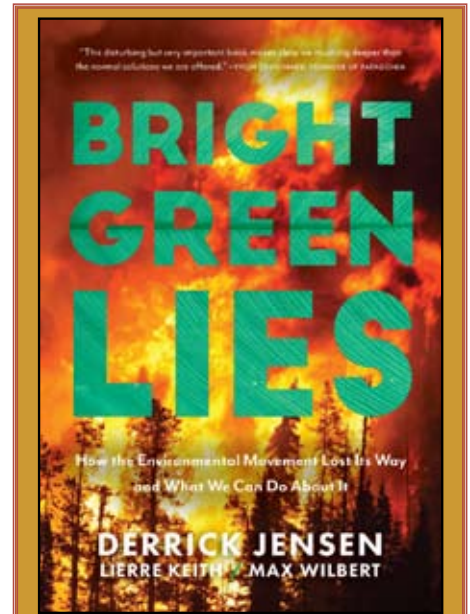
But some communities are resisting.

In Nantucket, Massachusetts, for example, an off shore wind project has been indefinitely stalled because of local opposition based on potential harm to the surrounding ocean and seafloor, increased boat traffic, and the possibility of oil spills. "It is beyond comprehension that a massive off shore industrial project of such magnitude – 130 wind turbines, 417 feet tall, in 15-foot waves, with spinning blades as wide as football fields, covering 24 square miles in often foggy, noisy conditions – would be safe for any biologically sensitive location," says opponent Christine Morabito. "Nor can I imagine a parallel universe where we would accept this level of environmental risk, were it posed by an oil company."<sup>74</sup>

The thing is, some of these wind projects are run by oil companies.

In Ayrshire, Scotland, residents' water supplies were contaminated by toxic releases from what was – at the time – Europe's biggest industrial wind-energy-harvesting facility. A local doctor, in response to the contamination, said, "It's highly unlikely that Airtnoch Farm is the only supply in Scotland that has been contaminated. There may be hundreds of rural water supplies unknowingly affected by wind farm development."<sup>75</sup>

In Kenya, a facility at Lake Turkana (the largest alkaline lake in the world) displaced an indigenous village through the privatization of 150,000 acres of their land. The facility is set to be the largest industrial wind-energy-harvesting facility in Africa (310 MW).<sup>76</sup>



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).**

## Footnotes:

<sup>72</sup> Greg Russell, "Almost a third of wildcat population at threat over windfarm plans, says group," *The National*, June 21, 2018.

<sup>73</sup> "Renewable developments on Scotland's national forests and lands: EIR release," January 21, 2020.

<sup>74</sup> Christine Morabito, "Cape Wind Project: A Tale of Crony Environmentalism (Part 2) Did Mass Audubon Sell its Soul to the Wind Industry?" *The Valley Patriot*, June 2015.

<sup>75</sup> Marcello Mega, "Power company knew residents' water supply was heavily polluted," *The Times* [U.K.], September 21, 2013.

<sup>76</sup> "COP19: Carlo Van Wageningen talks about wind power in Africa," Responding to Climate Change, Climate Change TV, November 2013.

**How on Earth Did I Become  
a Radical Environmentalist  
Grandmother?**

By Iona

(a.k.a. Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf Iona Conner)



Books for sale at [www.gceej.org](http://www.gceej.org)



**WHY CAN'T YOU SEE ME?  
WHY CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?**

**True Story of and by a Tree**

By Iona and John's Norfolk Island Pine  
(as told to me through time)



# 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>

**THE WORK OF  
PEOPLE IN  
WEALTHY NATIONS IS  
TO GET OUR FEET OFF  
THE NECKS OF  
PEOPLE IN POOR  
COUNTRIES.**

*~ Iona ~*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends

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



[**Note from Iona:** We received a request from one of our members for help with a baby boy who would die without help. We sent \$25 and apparently that covered a scan, during which they learned he would need surgery costing \$5,000. There is no way the Grassroots Coalition can donate that kind of money but one of our Board members suggested contacting Doctors Without Borders. This was their reply. At our February meeting, we had a discussion about setting up an Orphans Fund and decided to create just one GoFundMe page, first for this little boy and then later to help others.]

**Subject to Doctors Without Borders:**  
General Questions

**Question/Comments:** There is a very sick baby boy in Miryana Uganda who needs surgery immediately. Do you have any doctors in Uganda now?

**Email reply:** Doctors Without Borders/*Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) wishes we had the capacity to offer assistance to every person so clearly in need, but the majority of our humanitarian field projects are designed to assist entire populations in need of basic medical aid due to civil conflicts, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters. Unfortunately, for this reason, we simply do not have the capacity to travel to assist all individuals in need, particularly if they are not within the vicinity of one of our already existing projects, or if their medical needs are outside the scope of our projects.

The best we can do is offer information on finding other organizations that provide medical services to those in need. We cannot guarantee that these organizations will be able to help, but it is a possibility. You may want to visit the website Idealist.org, at <http://www.idealist.org>. Here you can search by "Area of Focus" (Health and Medicine), "Country," and other criteria for organizations that might be able to assist.

Another resource would be <http://www.reliefweb.int>, where you can search for organizations working in specific country settings. Please note that MSF is not affli-

ated with Idealist.org or Reliefweb.int.

Our compassion and sympathy go out to you. We regret that we cannot assist you more directly but sincerely wish the best to you in your effort to obtain appropriate medical care.

Sincerely,  
**Doctors Without Borders/*Médecins Sans Frontières***

I am acquainted with Kenya, unfortunately not Uganda. I strongly suggest working thru or at least researching the situation with Doctors without Borders or a well-established church charity. I am spiritual, not religious (Unitarian Universalist) but I do feel church charities are more trustworthy, researched.

You may want to check Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. It is one that UUCF, as a small congregation, works with and trusts in our work with Afghan refugees. We just got our first recipient and are setting the family up in Frederick!

[https://lssnca.org/take\\_action/afghan-allies.html](https://lssnca.org/take_action/afghan-allies.html)

Sorry I am of little help and very apprehensive of sending money to a group I don't know and have a personal connection with.

*Anonymous, USA*

Am Mugarura Amos, a founder of Com-  
forter of the Voiceless Orphanage Bwindi Uganda Africa. With a great and sincere heart, allow me to extend our happiness and blessings onto your hand that tapped and clicked confirm onto Facebook friend request #I long live to remember about you! As an orphanage aiming at advocating for the orphans lives matter, we are calling upon all people from all over the world to join us in the struggle of creating a positive impact onto them. One can help through: Sharing about us with a friend, sharing our posts from our orphanage Facebook page, securing their education, food, clothes, medical care, as we are looking forward to put in place an orphanage home for them in the near future!

It's my prayers that more people can see the value these innocent orphans hold in the near future if given a positive hand.

Thanks please!!! Shall be waiting to hear from you?

*Mugarura Amos, Uganda*

I control an NGO called the APCall NGO which has been a little growing NGO due to financial challenges. We tend to help children on the street by helping them most times to buy things so that they can hawk and help their families to survive, our motto is aimed at reducing poverty in Nigeria. I am writing to you with my personal email because I want the world to help come together. Let's help eradicate poverty in Nigeria and Africa. I look forward to hearing from you madam.

(*second email*) Thanks soo much for believing in me, madam, am soo grateful, but now we have said all, we should try to work towards our budget how do we then go about raising this huge amount to be able to help the masses?

*Kalu Uche, AP Call, Nigeria (See photo page 5)*

**Iona's answer to Kalu's question:** That is a key question, Kalu! First, the GoFundMe idea. Second, I'm trying to get new Board members who know all about fundraising and grant-writing, two things we are very weak on.

Indeed I believe in you! You have proven yourself amazing right from the start. I'm so glad you joined us!

Let me first introduce myself to you. I'm Mbetyo Brian from Uganda, the Director at Child's Hope Orphanage. I take care of orphans and homeless with also the disabled people but due to Covid-19 pandemic we lost someone who was trying to help us to get funds for these people. So kindly requesting you to work with me so that we save the lives for these people by providing them with basic needs and Education.

May God bless you sister.

*Mbetyo Brian, Uganda*

Messages continued on next page

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

I really appreciate meeting someone with a loving heart like you, I believe God will bless you so much for giving of yourself for others. I really have a lot to talk about with you about but the language [French] puts limits on me until 2/20 [Zoom meeting]. I felt sad in my heart to see I could not defend our children who are suffering so much; not going to school, they walk barefoot, they have no clothes, most of them start hanging out on the street, widows and many others who are not able to, ... so we have a plan to build three rooms where we will take care of those who are strong, will be able to because our income is very small that is why we ask for a compassionate heart to support us.

**Antoine Morisho**, African Charity and Solidarity, Uganda

**Hello Mrs. Lona.**

Have been reading what you sent.

It's very important. Actually we need to create our environment a better living with plenty of eatables and need to preserve and maintain our good environment.

I will be ready to wait for any call.

Please promise us to connect to other friends of yours.

I wish you more blessings from our Lord Jesus Christ.

My greetings to all of you.

I'm so sad with what is happening in Ukraine. And not forgetting, let's put Ukrainian into our daily prayers.

I would like to hear again from you.

My sincerely,

**Quido Rubangakene**, Uganda

And I do even have a small orphanages of about 36 orphans. I started this charity work in 2017 with a number of 10 orphans after being inspired by someone who raised and educated me up to where am I now.

The reason why I started this orphanage is because I also grew up in a situation which was not good at all, so I don't want to see young people starving.

My mother died when I was seven years old and later after a few years my father also passed on when I was 10 years old; that's when I went to the street where the man who raised me found me.

At this moment my orphanage wants a permanent home since the orphans are scattered, school fees, clothes, food, beddings, mattresses, and many others that's what we need most at the orphanage.

My hope is to educate these children through God fearing, entrepreneurship skills and technical work like plumbing,

electricians, and many others.

My dream is to improve the lives of all orphans in Africa through constructing places of worship, schools, institutions, and hospitals

\$100 a month is the money I pay for the people who are staying with each of the kids on electricity and water, mom. I divide that \$100 though it's not enough for all of them because there is a high price on electricity and water. They just help me, mom.

I pay almost 18 people each having two kids.

**Mukama Awali**, Mukama Awali Foundation Ministry, Uganda (See photo page 5)



We lost a kid at the orphanage. He is called Magada Issac. He got in an accident when coming back from school. He was knocked by a speeding car. He was 14 years old. Yes very very good boy. We lost a leader. I would like some help so that we bury him well.

I'm sorry to say this but I need some help because that issue when I don't have some money I got a loan to work on his burial ceremony and the man is demanding me the money.

**Brian Mbetoyo**, Uganda (Child's Hope Orphanage)

**Iona**: I guess he was a good helper with the little ones? (See page 5. Issac is the boy in the orange vest.)

Hello, thank you for informing us of the good news that came out\* and I would like to congratulate our sister who has taught you the skills that is important because it enhances progress in the work\*, then we are preparing for a session that is preparing

at least our English is small but I will try.

**Antoine Morisho Ngongo**, African Charity and Solidarity

\*Antoine is referring to the masterful spreadsheet the Finance volunteer from Catchafire prepared for the Coalition.

Oh, Iona, how wonderful that you found Catchafire. You have attracted some wonderful helpers to spread your message.

**Marney Bruce**, USA

Biden is going after power plants to clean up emissions.

**C.B.**, Pennsylvania USA

I have to apologize for not getting back to you earlier. I appreciate your sending me the announcement on the Amnesty International action and then this piece.

I do think the pressure is mounting on Israel to reach some kind of international norm on human rights – and have written several memos to current Members of Congress as well as those running for office – to that effect. So, I am so glad to see this rise in momentum because I think it really has the potential for making a real difference.

I was interested to see that the United Church of Christ came out with a statement on this. And agree that there should be a Palestinian national university. This might be something worth making a point about because – with a major university on their side – I think the Palestinians would have an even better chance of having their voices heard.

Many thanks for all your concern and help on this,

**Dan Adams**, USA

(*first email*) Good evening once more again mum. It's with a great pleasure that I have received your email reminding us about our scheduled meeting of 20th, we are much inspired and eager to participate to this nice event. I would also like apologizing for having responded you with a delay and also having finished a lot of days without having talked to you due to sometime lack of bundles. I have also got enough time reading the pdf documents that you have sent me and I highly got impressed of them. Thanks in advance as we look forward to meeting one another on Zoom meeting the day after tomorrow. My team and I will be much glad to meet the others.

Good time.

**David Cadeau**, DR Congo living in a refugee camp in Kenya

**Messages** *continued on next page*



**Messages** continued from previous page

(second email) Hello once more again mum, I hope you have a wonderful time. I am much sorry for having taken a lot of time without emailing you, mostly; it is always due to network instability or poor connectivity. From our side, we are doing well and keeping on running our activities of our organization as normal. I have also got time reading all the emails you have been sending to our platform and I am highly delighted of them. Thanks in advance and welcome again.

**David Cadeau**, refugee camp in Kenya (see pages 15-21 in last month's newspaper)



Yesterday we donated trees. I am a friend of the Rotarians and I donated trees to these retired Roman Catholic nuns. They need fruits to supplement their nutrients.

**Bigboy Musemwa**, Repair Earth Project, Zimbabwe

**INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN CHILDREN (IMAC)**

The National Coordinator of IMAC CHILDREN, #KingsleyFunshoAgboola, in collaboration with the entire #IfesowapoC-DA, is now collecting reading books of all ages for the books drive & donation, towards the increasement of our community library project stocks at Ayetoro - Itele, Iju Aton, Ilogbo LGA, of Ogun State, in Nigeria.

If anyone has got any unwanted books they would like to donate please let us know.

**Email:** imacchildrenproject2@gmail.com

**Phone:** +2349097850518

**Kingsley Funsho Agboola**, Nigeria

I am David Mirindi, Jr., your Facebook friend. I am the coordinator of *Action Humanitaire pour la Paix et le Développement* (Humanitarian Action for Peace and Development). It is a human rights-centered organization that mostly focuses on women and children's rights. Apart from that, we work with and for aboriginals who live in the Kahuzi-Biega vicinities. We are fully registered in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are based in South Kivu Province. Tomorrow, I will send you all the credentials you might need to have a look at. Blessings!

**David Mirindi, Jr.**, DR Congo

I even fail to know which word I should start with, but let me start anyway.

You are a very unique human being left in this universe with this movement of shaping the future world in a nice appearance. I have gone through lines of every sentence written in this article and I found many precious stories that can not only change an individual but a whole world in general.

Where was I to join a place where I was supposed to be even 10 years ago? But better late than never. I am happy to join this platform of environmental lovers, my charity appreciates for sure. We have been doing several environmental campaigns that were not told anywhere but with this platform. We will share every step we do as the charity.

To begin with, we have been so busy since Monday with the planning of Tree Planting event in one public primary school next week. This is just a continuation of what we have been doing since then. Our modality of event is in this way:

There will be training to the pupils and staff in a respective school about the essence of planting trees, loving them, and caring for them. This lesson will be organized by our staff from the charity whereby the love of trees will be instilled to the pupils and how trees should be kept. In this training the learners will be taught who are the enemies of trees, how trees should be kept from them. There will be a campaign of planting trees where every child will be given a tree to plant.

A child will be responsible to take care of that tree until he or she graduates from school. The impact of this will be manifested from the school to the family level. Children will be involved in this project and they will be the key caretakers of this tree until the final notes. The charity will be making follow up and see the development of the tree in collaboration with the

environmental teacher at school.

We all know that the problems caused with environmental calamities will never leave anyone safe, no one will be safe, so the task of taking care of the trees should be kept at the center of everything a child does at school or at home. By doing so, we will have a group of environmental ambassadors who love the environment, who care about it, and have something to say about it wherever they are.

I would love to share with you if you have anything to share with us about how the modality of this event should be and if you have any suggestions please feel free to share with us before the event.

Thanks in advance,

**Kesheni Sengo**, Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans, Tanzania

**HERE IS WHAT OUR GRASSROOTS COALITION BOARD MEMBERS AND I DISCUSSED ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE ALL THE NEW REQUESTS WE ARE GETTING TO HELP ORPHANS AND OTHERS**

**Iona:**

Dear Board,

I woke up thinking that we will survive with just David's, Jeannette's, and Bill's donations. Maybe we just stay small and don't worry about money. That means we can't help orphans or others who need help but we can always simply be a "network for good" the way we are. I'm adding a lot of new people who come to me for money, mostly people who run orphanages, but as David said at our last meeting, if the climate emergency isn't slowed down, the orphanages won't survive anyhow (or something to that effect).

You know I have held out hopes of becoming a large organization with clout on the international scene. We're not exactly doing that, but I will be content holding tightly to my image of our Global Family, people like us trying to find ways to support and encourage each other through our network, not based on money but based on the beautiful, extraordinary work most of our members are already doing with our main emphasis being education. The fact that I'm about to publish a story about an orphanage earning its own money growing and selling bamboo seedlings is the sort of thing we can focus on.

I'm still going to try finding someone who can fundraise for us, since I personally never really expected that of you in the first place.

**Messages** continued on next page

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

Somehow this quote by Amanda Gorman inspired me to write this to let you know I don't really know what we should be doing and what we are realistically capable of.

While we might feel small, separate, and all alone, our people have never been more tightly tethered. The question's not if we will weather this unknown, but how we will weather the unknown together.

*Amanda Gorman at  
President Biden's Inauguration*

I'm thinking we might want a special Zoom meeting just for the BOD and Dan. I keep including Dan because he has been so faithful in attending our meetings and contributing his ideas.

SHALL I SCHEDULE A SMALL MEETING OF JUST US ON A SUNDAY, MY ONLY CERTAIN DAY OFF FROM MY JOB????? If you agree, please let me know which Sunday suits you best: March 20 or March 27.

**From David Hunter Bishop, USA:**

That's a beautiful statement, Iona. The kind of organization you describe, the one which you and your late husband built, not focused on money but on concepts of cooperation, encouragement, education, and goodwill, particularly in regard to issues related to saving our planet, is the primary reason I was attracted to GCEEJ.

I haven't spoken up in opposition to making the organization more focused on fundraising, but you may have noticed that I wasn't leading the charge, either. I think your enlightened intuition is putting GCEEJ back on the right path away from the lure of raising dollars as the solution to problems, a mission that fundamentally we are not geared to undertake.

I will be in Zimbabwe on the two proposed dates for meetings so I am not sure what my ability to participate will be. But you are welcome to use the thoughts I expressed here in any discussion in my absence if you wish.

I support you, as always, Iona. Thank you for all that you do.

**From Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA**

Iona: I like what you say here. I think you've expressed it well in your first two paragraphs – that this is primarily a “global family” whose primary aim is to “support and encourage” positive and effective measures aimed at combatting climate change – and instituting better methods of daily living.

If we can help raise money for these efforts – fine and good – but I don't think that that should be our overriding goal.

As I mentioned yesterday, I would hope and like to be able to contribute financially as well myself. And that I think issuing some kind of statement at the end of the year might help a little – not only for me but others as well – as it does help reduce the financial burden. Such a statement can be very brief and simply factual in nature.

So anyway, I think this is all going well. And I also “support and encourage” the idea that organizations (including orphanages) involved in this effort should think in terms of developing their own ways of raising funds – especially innovative and original ones – as part of their own founding documents and principles.

I know Sundays are good for many people. I can always arrange it – though I still like going to church on Sundays myself if at all possible! It helps me get through the rest of the week!

And if we do get a separate funding mechanism for the orphanages, I would certainly try to contribute to that also as it seems that they are doing a wonderful – and very important – job.

**From Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA**

I believe that if we share our ideas involving saving our Environment, that is the most important. The Circular Economy, Upcycling, Repurposing, Recycling, etc. Changes everything.

Either of the dates for a meeting works for me. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

[**Note from Iona:** Basically, this is where we are now with all the requests we are getting to help orphans and others. We are not focused on fundraising anymore. We are not a bank. We are a very small organization struggling to keep afloat financially. We are a GLOBAL FAMILY and treat each and every one as a brother, sister, son, daughter, mother, or father. We share the same visions: we want everyone to have enough food, shelter, clean water, sanitation, health care, etc. We come together on Zoom every other month to learn more about each other and to encourage each other. We have a wonderful newspaper in which we publish stories about each other to the best of our ability. The expectation is that all our members and readers will share ideas and inspire each other, that they will connect, learn, and help each other in any way possible. Together we can accomplish a LOT. We dream of a better world for everyone, and we are willing to work really, really hard toward those goals. We are a network of LOVE. The final message from Fidèle below sums this all up nicely.

I am happy and proud of having you as a friend.

Your determination of changing lives in need gives me a hope of promoting my community wellbeing.

Let us work hand in hand.

Kind regards,

**Fidèle Hitimana**, New Hope for All,  
Uganda

**WHEN WE TRUST OUR CREATIVITY WE ENCOUNTER A SUPREME KIND OF ENJOYMENT – AN AMAZEMENT AT THE NATURAL UNFOLDING OF LIFE BEYOND OUR ORDINARY WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.**

*~ Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche ~*

<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/812883>

## Grassroots Coalition News #85, April 2022: Page 27

Dear Subscriber to *Grassroots Coalition News*,

There was a problem with our new Mailchimp system for emailing everyone our newspaper. Out of about 600 subscribers, their record showed that only 137 of you opened the February issue. If someone forwarded you our newspaper and you are not on our email list, please click here to sign up: <https://gceej.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2275e26208647119ca3fd9aac&id=56383f34b2>.

Will you kindly take a minute to answer these questions by printing out this page and sending it to me? You can either scan and email it to [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net) or print it out and send it to me at PO Box 542, Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742.

1. Did you already receive our newspaper?

YES

NO

If you did NOT, please be sure to let me know via email at [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto:grassrootscoalition@pa.net).

2. Do you enjoy reading our content ?\*

YES

NO

3. If yes, Do you have any comment about our content?

4. On a scale of 10, can you rate how you enjoy reading our content?

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

5. Do you have any suggestions for improving our newspaper?

YES

NO

If yes, kindly let us know what you think we should add or subtract

6. Do you still want to be on our email list?

YES

NO

7. Do you have any further comments ?

Thank you for helping us get things in order so that we can serve you better in the future.

**WHEN WE DROP FEAR, WE CAN DRAW NEARER TO PEOPLE, WE CAN DRAW NEARER TO THE EARTH, WE CAN DRAW NEARER TO ALL THE HEAVENLY CREATURES THAT SURROUND US.**

~ bell hooks ~

[https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/bell\\_hooks\\_186107](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/bell_hooks_186107)