

Grassroots Coalition News



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. Issue No. 86: June 2022

NEWS FLASH: 501(C)(3) DISSOLVING, SEE PAGE 2.



Photo: Matt Bridgestock, Director and Architect at John Gilbert Architects

The race to limit warming to 1.5C must include an end to all new fossil fuel infrastructure while phasing out coal. The latest IPCC report called for cancellation of new projects, retirement of existing fossil fuel infrastructure, and a switch to lower-carbon fuels.

Now or Never? IPCC's Last Warning

By Rituraj Phukan, India

Humanity is at a crossroads on climate action and the window of opportunity to avoid catastrophic impacts is narrowing down rapidly. Although average annual global greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest levels in human history during 2010-2019, the rate of growth has slowed. Despite the gloomy outlook, scientists see hope in the increasing evidence of climate action, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change', the Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-3/>) provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges and examines the sources of global emissions. It explains developments in emission reduction and mitigation efforts, assessing the impact of national climate pledges in

relation to long-term emissions goals.

The report says greenhouse gas emissions must peak by 2025, which gives policymakers a timeframe of around 30 months to bend the curve of 100 years of increase. The target of limiting warming to 1.5°C will require at least 43% reduction of emissions, including one-third decrease of methane emissions within this decade. Further, the report says it is almost inevitable that we will temporarily experience 'climate overshoot' or exceed the 1.5°C threshold even with these reductions, before temperatures return to safer limits.

Global temperature will stabilize when carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reach net zero. For 1.5°C, this means achieving net zero CO₂ emissions globally in the early 2050s; for 2°C, it is in the early 2070s. This assessment shows that limiting warming to around 2°C still requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest and be reduced by a quarter by 2030.

The race to limit warming to 1.5C must

include an end to all new fossil fuel infrastructure while phasing out coal. The report called for cancellation of new projects, retirement of existing fossil fuel infrastructure, and a switch to lower-carbon fuels. For the first time, the IPCC said that CO₂ removal technologies might be necessary to ensure roll back of climate overshoot.

It introduces a chapter dedicated to analyzing the 'demand side' of what drives consumption and how behavioral and cultural changes could cut global greenhouse gas emissions by 40-70% "compared to baseline scenarios." The report refers to the lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic which "demonstrated that behavioral change at a massive scale and in a short time is possible."

There is another new chapter on innovation, technology development and transfer, which describes how a well-established innovation system at a national level, guided by well-designed policies, can contribute to mitigation, adaptation, and achieving

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Dissolving the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice

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Our Motto:

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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 *Grass-*

roots Coalition News. This is the product of an international team of activists. We started under the umbrella of the non-profit Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, but when too many people started coming to us for money, we reevaluated our position.

Iona spent hours, days, weeks, months, even years trying to do fundraising but not one single penny appeared from her proposal-writing and grant seeking. There is no point continuing running a 501(c)(3). We are not a fundraising organization. Our Board of Directors voted to dissolve the Coalition however, we will keep publishing this newspaper and carry on the original mission of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice stated at its founding in 1990 by John and Iona Conner as follows.

“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.



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

Dearest Global Family,

Big news! I'm moving in a couple of weeks to a lovely new apartment in a low-income, senior citizen complex, also for disabled people (address above). I'll be out of commission for a while so don't be disappointed if you don't hear much from me. I'll be back when I can and wish you strength and perseverance in the meantime.

I hope our stories inspire you; they inspire me!

With Love,


Iona



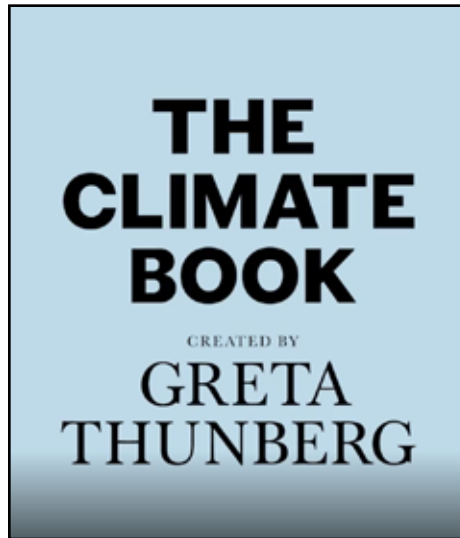
Photo Submitted by Allan Tigalya of Uganda Orphans and Widows Sustainable Generation
Iona: "It is my prayer that all the orphans in our network and the world have enough food."

Greta Thunberg: Aims to Drive Change With 'The Climate Book'

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Jill Lawless, excerpt, emphasis added 
Associated Press: March 31, 2022

LONDON – Climate activist Greta Thunberg has compiled a handbook for tackling the world's interconnected environmental crises, with contributions from leading scientists and writers. Penguin Random House announced Thursday that *The Climate Book* will be published in Britain in **October**. It contains contributions from more than 100 academics, thinkers, and campaigners, including novelists Margaret Atwood and Amitav Ghosh, climate scientist Saleemul Huq, and World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The book aims to help readers **connect the dots** between threats to the climate, environment, sustainability, and indigenous populations – among others – and is intended as a guide to understanding and activism. Contributors including Kenyan environmentalist Wanjira Mathai, Brazilian indigenous activist Sonia Guajajara, French economist Thomas Piketty, and Canadian journalist Naomi Klein offer “*compelling stories of*



change, action and resilience,” the publisher said, alongside Thunberg's own stories of “*learning, demonstrating, and uncovering greenwashing around the world... My hope is that this book might be some kind of go-to source for understanding these different, closely interconnected crises,”* Thunberg said in a statement. Chloe Currens, editor at

Penguin Press, said it was “*a unique book, alive with moral purpose, which aims to change the climate conversation forever.”*

Thunberg began skipping classes once a week to protest climate change in 2018, when she was 15, sparking a series of school walkouts that grew into a global youth movement. Now 19, the Swedish activist has already published a memoir, *Our House Is On Fire* and a collection of speeches, *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*. *The Climate Book* is [to be] published October 27 in the U.K. by Allen Lane and in the U.S. in **early 2023** by Penguin Press, as well as in countries around the world.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/climate-entertainment-environment-environment-greta-thunberg-80-a06f634e938089b8a87edc20d0c7ba>

Greta on Instagram: *I've invited over 100 leading voices from around the world – scientists and experts, activists and authors – to create a book that covers the climate- and ecological crisis from a holistic perspective. The Climate Book will be released in October. <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CbxkBxLOdaY/>*

IPCC *continued from previous page*

the sustainable development goals, while avoiding undesired consequences.

Since 2010, there have been sustained decreases of up to 85% in the costs of solar and wind energy, and batteries. An increasing range of policies and laws have enhanced energy efficiency, reduced rates of deforestation, and accelerated the deployment of renewable energy. Limiting global warming will require major transitions in the energy sector. This will involve a substantial reduction in fossil fuel use, widespread electrification, improved energy efficiency, and use of alternative fuels such as hydrogen.

The report points out that around 42% of global emissions are associated with food systems, even though “there is still widespread food insecurity and malnutrition.” The food sector dominates household carbon footprints across all income groups with rice and cattle being the major contributors. The authors concur that sustainable food systems are achievable with better agricultural practices, diet-change, and waste reduction across all associated sectors.

Cities and other urban areas also offer significant opportunities for emissions reductions. These can be achieved through lower energy consumption, electrification of transport in combination with low-emission energy sources, and enhanced carbon uptake and storage using nature.

There are options for established rapidly growing and new cities.

Reducing emissions in industry will involve using materials more efficiently, reusing and recycling products, and minimizing waste. For basic materials, including steel, building materials, and chemicals, low- to zero-greenhouse gas production processes are at their pilot to near-commercial stage. This sector accounts for about a quarter of global emissions. Achieving net zero will be challenging and will require new production processes, low and zero emissions electricity, hydrogen, and, where necessary, carbon capture and storage.

The report looks beyond technologies and demonstrates that while financial flows are a factor of three to six times lower than levels needed by 2030 to limit warming to below 2°C, there is sufficient global capital and liquidity to close investment gaps. However, it relies on clear signaling from governments and the international community, including a stronger alignment of public sector finance and policy.

Accelerated and equitable climate action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development. Some response options can absorb and store carbon and, at the same time, help communities limit the impacts associated with climate change. For exam-

ple, in cities, networks of parks and open spaces, wetlands and urban agriculture can reduce flood risk and reduce heat-island effects. Mitigation in industry can reduce environmental impacts and increase employment and business opportunities. Electrification with renewables and shifts in public transport can enhance health, employment, and equity.

The IPCC dwells on the costs and benefits of mitigation and stresses that “the global economic benefit of limiting warming to 2C is reported to exceed the cost of mitigation in most of the assessed literature.” Further, it points out that “the economic benefits on human health from air quality improvement arising from mitigation action can be of the same order of magnitude as mitigation costs, and potentially even larger.”

It is evident that future scenarios incorporating implemented climate policies pose significant risks to human and natural systems. In other words, we are not doing enough to contain and reduce emissions, jeopardizing the Paris Agreement goals and the future of humans on Earth. This report could possibly be the last warning before inaction pushes us down the abyss of complete climate chaos.

It is the “Now or Never” moment for human civilization.



Photo Courtesy IPCC

Trees + bikes + teamwork + cloth bags = perfect solution to so many problems!!!!

How Everyone Can Have a Decent Life With Half the Energy

By Stephen Leahy, Canada
Need to Know: April 10, 2022

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was released last Monday. It is all about how to cut carbon emissions to prevent disastrous and costly levels of climate change. Here's the IPCC's three main Need-to-Knows:

Need-to-Know 1: Countries know how to cut emissions but simply aren't doing it.

Need-to-Know 2: We're out of time. Global fossil fuel use must peak in next year or two.

Need-to-Know 3: We can all live well on half the amount of energy we currently use.

You probably haven't heard much about #3. Nor heard about the fact that more than 60% of the energy produced is wasted. Yes, 62.3% of the energy generated in 2020 in the U.S. was wasted according to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Most of that waste came from fossil fuel energy sources.

Need-to-Know 4: At least 60% of energy produced is wasted.

The entire U.S. transportation system consumed 24.3 quads of energy. (A quad is a way to measure massive amounts of energy. It's equivalent to the energy of 183 million barrels of petroleum or 38.5 million tons of coal.) Virtually all energy used in transportation is from fossil fuels, with 90% coming from gasoline or diesel. How much of the energy used in transportation is wasted? Nearly 80%.

Here's an example of how energy is wasted:

Your car burns gasoline and that produces large amounts of waste heat. Only 15% to 25% of the energy from combustion ends up being used to move the vehicle. Spend \$100 on gas and you only get \$20 worth of energy service on average. And this is after 100+ years of improving

combustion engine technology.

An electric vehicle (EV) simply transfers the electricity in the battery to the electric motor and 90% of the energy is used to move the vehicle. This makes an EV 4 to 5 times more energy efficient.

So, despite the enormous environmental and human health costs of ripping fossil fuels out of the ground, and polluting our water and air with their toxic byproducts, not to mention wrecking our climate, fossil fuels still account for more than 80% of global energy production.

Surely we can do better. It's shocking we haven't done better.

One of the big reasons we haven't done better is that our political and economic systems are based on consumption, and really, over consumption. Our "more-more-more" way of tackling most problems is wasteful and ineffective. We've seen lots of hype from the oil and gas industry and their political friends claiming the solution to inflation (and any other problem including climate change!!) is "more-more-more" oil and gas production.

No one really wants more oil or gas or even energy. We want the services energy provides: light, heat, transport, and so on. When you look at the best, more efficient ways to get those energy services, it turns out far less energy needs to be generated in the first place.

Need-to-Know 5: No one needs more energy, just better energy services.

About half the energy currently being produced would be enough to provide everyone with the energy needed for decent living conditions, according to the IPCC report's Chapter 5. This includes the 2 billion people who currently lack decent energy services.

What exactly is decent living? From a recent study that took a bottom-up look at energy services needed for decent living:

- Homes with highly-efficient facilities for cooking, storing food, and washing

clothes; low-energy lighting throughout; with an indoor temperature of around 20 °C (68 °F) throughout the year.

- Homes with computer with access to global ICT networks and are linked to extensive transport networks providing ~5000 to 15,000 km (~3,107 to 9,321 miles) of mobility per person each year via various modes.

- Homes near facilities where universal healthcare is available and others that provide education for everyone between 5 and 19 years old.

- And at the same time, it is possible that the amount of people's lives that must be spent working would be substantially reduced.

That looks like a pretty nice way of living to me.

Need-to-Know 6: Everyone could have decent living conditions using half the amount of today's energy consumption.

Impossible? Consider that IPCC reports are peer-reviewed and subject to intense scrutiny by the world's experts. On top of that, representatives from every country also approve those reports. That's why the conclusions are often in technical or vague [terms] so as not to panic those with vested interests in the status quo.

Having to produce far less energy would make it easier, faster, and cheaper to power the world on 100% renewable energy with existing technologies. The IPCC makes it clear the real obstacles to this future are the enormous economic and socio-political changes needed to bring it about.

What can you and I do? To quote the report: We can become "role models of low-carbon lifestyles, by investing into low-carbon business and by lobbying for stringent climate policies."

Need-to-Know 7: We can be role models of descent, low-carbon living.

Source: <https://leahy.substack.com/p/how-everyone-can-have-a-decent-life>



Image Courtesy Need to Know

The horrible crisis in Ukraine has triggered an avalanche of lies and misinformation from the oil and gas industry.

Renewable Energy is Freedom Energy (Ignore Dirty Energy B.S.)

By Stephen Leahy, Canada
Need to Know: March 27, 2022

There's so much false and misleading advertising from oil and gas industry that an organization called ClientEarth is suing companies over their distortions and lies....

The horrible crisis in Ukraine has triggered an **avalanche of lies and misinformation** from the oil and gas industry. A previous issue of Need to Know documented the impact of the fossil-fuel industry's lobbying and propaganda. A short excerpt:

Like drug dealers, fossil-fuel dealers have gone to extreme lengths to keep the world addicted to their dangerous product. They will continue to take extreme measures to prevent us from kicking our addiction to their profitable products. Yes, even knowing their products are destroying our climate.

Like drug dealers, the oil and gas industry uses a network of 'associates' from PR firms to **friendly "experts" on TV and in newspapers**, to investors, major banks, insurance companies, and government officials. They have enormous resources to **try and convince us that we can't live without them.**

Need-to-Know 1: The fossil-fuel industry will go to **extreme lengths to slow the clean-energy transition.**

In recent weeks fossil-fuel industry **lobbying and propaganda has reached a fever pitch** by falsely claiming the solution to high oil and gas prices (on which they are making obscene profits) is to produce more oil and gas. Here's investigative journalist and author Antonia Juhasz on **how pricing by the industry actually works:**



Juhasz continues:
They take advantage of high oil prices via the "rockets and feathers" phenomena: as the price of oil rises, the price of gas immediately shoots up (often out of proportion). But when the price of oil falls (as in the last week), the gas prices take a lot longer to catch up.

By the way, the 3- to 10-cents per gallon that goes to the gas station owner generally remains constant regardless of the retail price. Thus, **all of the profit for higher gas prices goes to the oil company** and pretty much never to the gas station owner.

And consumption isn't equal: wealthier Americans & industry consume the lion's share of gasoline (and are able to afford higher prices).

So, lower prices aren't the end goal. These are: to stop manipulative pricing & war profiteering by Big Oil, and transition off fossil fuels.

Need-to-Know 2: We need to stop manipulative pricing and war profiteering by Big Oil and Gas.

The clean energy transition is already underway. 'Renewable energy is freedom energy'

The Ukraine crisis has pushed Europe to end their addiction to Russian oil,

coal, and gas. German Finance Minister Christian Lindner, a conservative, recently called **renewable energy "the energy of freedom."**

Consider a few developments that you probably haven't heard about:

- Europe plans to install 10 million air-source heat pumps over the next five years and 30 million by 2030 to replace gas furnaces in homes. **Heat pumps are 300% more energy efficient and can operate in cold temperatures.** Some 60% of homes in Norway use them.

- Germany gets more than 40% of its electricity from renewables. Its new goal is **80% by 2030.**

- Europe will only allow zero-emission vehicles to be sold by 2035. **Electric vehicles (EVs) are already 20% of all new car sales.**

- Germany offers grants of up to €9,000 (\$9,700) to buy an EV and 26% of new cars sold in 2021 were EVs.

- Globally EV car sales reached 6.7 million, representing close to 9% of all cars sold in 2021.** That's likely to double again in 2022.

- France plans a **10-fold expansion in solar** and **dramatic expansion in offshore wind** from current 2 megawatt (MW) to 8.5 gigawatts (GW) by 2028.

- Italy's cabinet has approved **six new wind farms** to be built on land, and committed to unlocking several tens of gigawatts of offshore wind power.

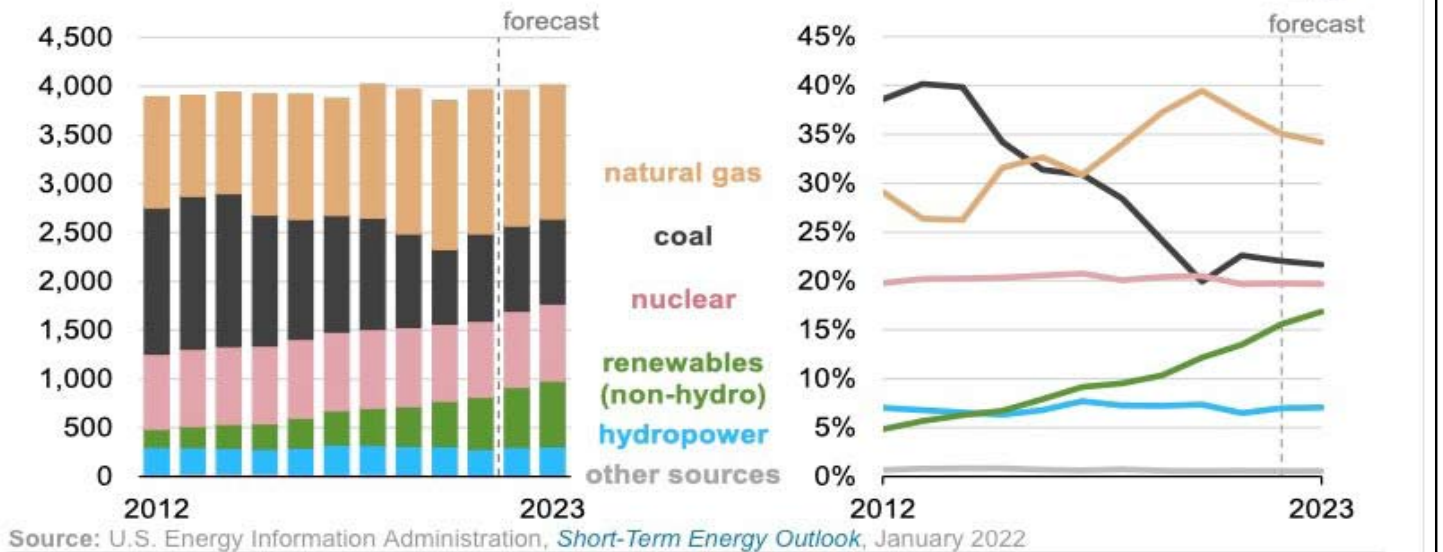
- Last year, the **Netherlands generated 33% of its total electricity from renewable sources.** It plans to double that by 2030 "in a bid to meet climate goals and

Freedom Energy continued on next page

Freedom Energy *continued from previous page*

New renewable power plants are reducing U.S. electricity generation from natural gas

Annual U.S. electric power sector generation by energy source (2012–2023)



Graphic: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Even the U.S. is moving rapidly away from coal and gas. By 2023 renewables will generate 22% of U.S. electricity, matching coal, and gas will fall from 40% in 2021 to 34%, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) *Short-Term Energy Outlook*.

reduce its dependence on Russian gas.”

Even the U.S. is moving rapidly away from coal and gas. **By 2023 renewables will generate 22% of U.S. electricity**, matching coal, and gas will fall from 40% in 2021 to 34%, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Need-to-Know 3: We are already moving away from fossil fuels.

A few nations – including Iceland, Costa

Rica, Namibia, and Norway – are already producing more than **90% of their electricity from clean sources**. A recent Stanford University analysis concluded we have 95% of the technology required to generate 100% of U.S. electricity using renewables by 2035, while keeping the electric grid secure and reliable.

This would save about \$2 trillion dollars a year.

Need-to-Know 4: Wind and sun, the fuel powering renewable energy, is free, clean and more reliable compared to volatile, costly, polluting fossil fuels.

The fossil-fuel industry certainly **doesn't want you or anyone to know this, so please share this post.**

Source: <https://leahy.substack.com/p/renewable-energy-is-freedom-energy>

Tyre Extinguishers: Deflating SUV Tires as a Form of Climate Action

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Damien Gayle, *excerpt, emphasis added*
The Guardian: March 18, 2022

The activists who took “*climate action*” against sports utility vehicles by flattening their tires in the last two weeks have been receiving solidarity and calls for information from around the world.

Tyre Extinguishers provides instructions on how to deflate SUV tires, offers guidance on who to target, and collates reports of actions across the country. They have gauged the campaign's reach by angry emails from SUV owners. The group registered a website and started a Twitter account in July 2021. The first reports of actions came at the beginning of March. But in just the past week, activists have “disarmed” SUVs in Chiswick, Maida Vale,

Wood Green and Muswell Hill in London, Brighton and Hove, and Manchester.

Acting autonomously and, usually, under the cover of **darkness**, the activists have used lentils to deflate tires by placing one inside the tire valve, holding it open, and slowly bleeding air until the tire is flat. The group calculates they've deflated the tires on at least a **thousand vehicles in two weeks**.

The response from the public has been much more welcoming than they expected. “*We are getting loads of emails from SUV drivers in parts of the country where nobody has actually told us they are doing the action, so there's probably a lot going on we don't know about,*” the group told *The Guardian* in an email. “*For example, the Tyre Extinguishers apparently struck somewhere in northern Colorado last weekend and we only found out about that through*

an SUV driver who found our website via the flyer, not through anyone who took the action.”

They've also received messages from activists in Italy, France, and Germany asking for the leaflet to be translated into their languages. SUVs were the second largest contributor to the increase in global carbon emissions from 2010 to 2018. Each year, SUVs belch out 700 megatonnes [771 megatons] of CO₂, about the entire output of the UK and Netherlands combined. If all SUV drivers banded together to form their own country, it would rank as the **seventh largest emitter** in the world.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/18/tyre-extinguishers-deflating-suv-tyres-as-a-form-of-climate-action>



Photos Courtesy Umuntu Centre Zimbabwe

Note from Bigboy Musemwa, Repair Earth Project, Zimbabwe: *"Friday, March 18, the Umuntu Centre Zimbabwe was pleased to host its visitor from USA, David Bishop. Thanks to the entertainment offered by traditional dancing students from Chakoma Primary School. It was a thrilling moment as David ended up dancing to the tune. Thank you, David, for visiting us."*

Across the Ocean Two Coalition Members Meet in Person

By David Hunter Bishop, USA

Bigboy Musemwa of the Repair Earth Project in Zimbabwe and I visited the proposed site of a park in Mount Darwin on March 27.

We met Elatone Bongongwe, a Mt. Darwin attorney, who gave us a tour of the seven-hectare (17.3-acre) property.

Mr. Bongongwe and his community committee are currently working on the budget for the project, which is expected to be an open, community-oriented park site for picnicking and passive recreation.

Mr. Bongongwe said he has full approval from governmental authorities to move

forward with the project on the site.

However there is no firm timetable for the completion of the budget.

The wooded, hilly site is currently overrun with scrub shrubbery which will be removed largely by hand to preserve the baobab and other valuable, native trees already growing on the property.

Primary access will likely be from the main road that fronts the site and passes through an adjacent commercial district in Mt. Darwin.

Mature Baobab trees line the road and the hilly site is overgrown with brush. Bongogwe said plans are to remove the unwanted brush and preserve the Baobab and other suitable trees in the park. The park would be free to use by the general public.

At one end of the property is a stream that crosses under the road and through the proposed park property. The preliminary plan is to alter the natural flow of the stream to create a small lake on the site. We discussed the potential problems with regulatory agencies about altering the course of a natural water source.

Bongongwe said there is a need for the property to be fenced since cattle are grazed

on neighboring properties. I suggested caution about fencing because 1) it is expensive; and, 2) it is usually an eyesore, as well as a physical and psychological barrier for visitors to the park.

I failed to mention to Mr. Bonongwe that litter and other waste management issues should be of primary importance in the park's plan. Afterward I discussed the issue to Bigboy.

Keeping the park clean and attractive should be a high priority to set an example for what can and should be done at all public facilities. There need to be many receptacles for waste disposal that are easily accessible to park users and an item in the budget should address maintenance of the park and regular servicing of the receptacles.

In many communities, park planners and administrators seek partnerships with local banks and other prominent businesses to provide financial support for litter control and allowing public service advertising for the business on the waste facilities. This method of financing should be pursued as it also promotes community involvement and support and a sense of local pride in the park.

There is currently no established due date for completion of the budget.

Overall, the park project appears to be feasible and desirable for the area.



World traveler, David Hunter Bishop with backpack.
Enjoy David's blog at <http://realontheroad.com/>.



Photos: David Hunter Bishop

Traditional African dancers from Chakoma School, Mt. Darwin, Zimbabwe.

Finding Fulfillment In Zimbabwe's People and Their Permaculture Project

By David Hunter Bishop, USA

I've had a strong desire to visit a permaculture site in Zimbabwe ever since I became involved in a project there almost three years ago.

I met the developer of the Umuntu Permaculture project online and on the website of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (GCEEJ.org), a New Jersey, USA-based non-profit group, where I joined the Board of Directors and of which Bigboy Musemwa is a member.

A few years ago Bigboy "Biggie" Musemwa had been granted an 18-acre tract of land to create a self-sustaining farm and education center using natural land-use practices that will help his African neighbors thrive.

I was impressed with Biggie's concerted efforts to create a sustainable farm for the residents of the remote village where he'd grown up near rural Mount Darwin, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) south of his home in Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe.

I'd been traveling since 2016 on a retirement pension and found it fulfilling to use my excess dollars each month helping various non-profit fundraising organizations around the world. Biggie and I became acquainted and his fledgling farm on a site in Mount Darwin became a favorite destination for my contributions.

I was pleased to watch the progress from my vantage points on the road far away while helping to build new fences, raise

structures, dig wells, and, most recently, purchase goats and donkeys for the farm.

My investments soon made me want to see the farm itself; but one thing or another took me off track, including Covid. Yet my desire for Africa never waned and my opportunity to visit Africa finally arrived.

It was a rigorous and demanding trip, easily the most challenging trip I've experienced in more than five years traveling through six continents. Yet despite the hardships, visiting the permaculture site at Mount Darwin was easily the most emotionally rewarding experience I've had.

Most countries I visit are poor, but the poverty, desperation, and want of basic needs for so many people in the two south-east Africa countries I visited – Zambia and Zimbabwe – was painful. Yet the appreciation shown to me for my visit to this corner of the world was heartwarming.

After a stop in Cairo, I headed south by air for Harare, Zimbabwe's capital where Biggie makes his home. Mount Darwin is a few hours' drive south.

We planned a three-day trip to Mount Darwin, where a handful of people live full-time. However, many small surrounding villages feed the nearby Chakoma School, an institution in Mount Darwin with about 1,100 students who attend classes from primary grades through high school. Biggie himself is a Chakoma graduate.

Biggie arranged a welcoming presentation for my arrival in cooperation with the school, whose students performed tradi-

tional African dances to greet my arrival.

The spirited yellow-and-black clad dancers performed spectacularly against the green outdoor backdrop of the sub-Saharan African landscape. The dancing was outstanding, enthusiastic, and authentic. I was impressed by their talents and grateful for such a warm and wonderful reception.

Following the formal ceremonies, the school's teachers, officials, and students staged their own impromptu celebration, dancing and singing in thanks for the gifts of pens, notebooks, rulers, and a modest cash donation that I'd presented to the school. I was asked to speak and haltingly expressed my deep appreciation for being there, while overwhelmed by the spontaneity and sincerity of the reception.

Local government officials and crowds of villagers from miles around attended the festivities.

I slept on my yoga mat on the concrete floor of a two-room brick hut at Mount Darwin. My hosts would heat water over an open fire for me to bathe bucket-style. Toilets were holes in the floor of the outhouses where at night only the moon and stars lit the roofless, plumbing-free structures. None of that mattered, though, as I was there not for luxury travel, but to feel the heart and soul of a real-world experience.

The surrounding plains, green with vegetation and pock-marked with the brown thatched-roof huts of tiny villages, were stunningly beautiful with mountains meet-

Fulfillment *continued on next page*

Fulfillment *continued from previous page*



Workers till the site of the new garden at the permaculture site.

ing the sky in the distance.

The highlights were definitely the dancers and welcoming celebration, for which villagers walked from miles around to gather on the grassy soccer pitch, where most days donkeys, goats, and cattle graze.

The next day we went to the Chakoma School where volunteer computer tech Comfort Morowa, who joined us on the trip from Harare, gave valuable advice to teachers and serviced a couple of dozen old, well-used laptop computers that the primary school students use at the school.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, chickens foraged for feed among the huts, livestock roamed about looking for new young shoots of grass; a new garden was being prepared to grow healthy, life-giving vegetables; bee hives were being readied for pollination and honey production; and the many fruit trees planted all around the village for food and their positive effects on the environment were beginning to mature.

These are the seeds of my good friend Biggie's dream at work, and I felt the positive energy of the human spirit driving that dream toward a better future.

I felt it in the rich soil between my toes; I heard it in the bleating and braying of the animals that I helped put on the land; I saw it in the people working so hard with so little for want of a better life.

Their heartfelt thanks reverberated in my soul and I came away enriched with a deeper, more profound understanding of life in such a far-flung part of the world.

Experiences such as these are what I live for as a traveler – living, learning, and



Bigboy provides instruction for planting in the new garden.

celebrating together with people united in the pursuit of a better life.

Learn more about the Umuntu Permaculture projects by clicking here: <https://m.facebook.com/Zimbabwe-Umuntu-Permaculture-Projects-100743338294089/>.

David Hunter Bishop is a retired American journalist who writes about his travels at realontheroad.com.

Note from Iona: This trans-Atlantic union of two of our wonderful Grassroots Coalition members is like a dream come true. I have worked hard during the past 2 years to develop friendships between my old American friends and our new African friends on Zoom, but this is the first time one of us has traveled abroad to get together and learn more about each other and our cultures. This is very exciting. Thank you, David. Thank you, Biggie!



Mount Darwin landscape.



David's description: "A typical cone-shaped thatched roof atop the main hut in the foreground of the photo on the Umuntu Permaculture site at Mount Darwin. That is the main hut on the site where a family sleeps, but it also seemed to be a gathering/meeting place. The squared two-room concrete structure to the right is actually made of bricks, which they make themselves, with a concrete floor where I slept."



(foreground, left, black jacket) Bigboy Musemwa (Biggie), a member of the Grassroots Coalition, was the host for the Board of Directors member, David Hunter Bishop. Many of Biggie's stories have been published in previous issues of our newspaper. Biggie went all out to welcome his American guest. As David writes, "The highlights were definitely the dancers and welcoming celebration, for which villagers walked from miles around to gather on the grassy soccer pitch, where most days donkeys, goats, and cattle graze."



Photos Courtesy MAYA

(left to right) Manica Youth Assembly members Melissa Mbaka, Tatenda Dutiro, and Nicollate Nyikadzino dig in to plant trees on Earth Day, April 22, 2022.

Earth Day and the Theme is #InvestInOurPlanet

By Jussa Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Environment Day by planting trees at households and this year's theme means a lot to many young people and women, especially as we mobilize in this critical decade for climate action.

Every time we prevent CO2 going into the atmosphere through the way we live, we are doing it not just for ourselves, but for our family and loved ones and the whole of humanity and every species on Earth. There is only one atmosphere, one Earth, and one humanity, and we are all in it together.

This beautiful planet needs us to invest in her now, more than ever. We need to invest our votes in politicians who will elevate climate action to the top of their agenda.

MAYA worries about the fact that there is no Earth B and the need to protect and take care of the environment for now and future use. Deforestation and climate change are very worrisome and very

destructive to the environment and we need to combine efforts to save and protect the available resources. Cyclones are now a common feature especially in Southern Africa and it's high time the regional blocks like the Southern African Development Community (SADC), The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) should invest in weather response mechanisms.

The environment we live in should adapt and adopt to the changing climatic conditions and counter deforestation and climate change. Planting of trees and soil conservation should be our greatest priority and ministries responsible for the response of this pandemic should be fully equipped to intervention. Youths should take a lead to respond to the effects of deforestation. Let every community prioritize planting of trees so that fresh air and conserving of soil is maintained.

Clean environment and clean water are

human rights that need to be protected by those in authority and the community at large. Animals and plants should be balanced so that biodiversity is kept in balance. Interacting with the environment has a huge impact on mental health and nature has a way of refreshing the mind.

Every bit of climate action, no matter how big or small, and every climate conversation we have with someone else, is an investment in our Earth and in our future.

Let's save the planet, we must put communities at the heart of the fight to restore our forests, ensuring environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Let's normalize tree planting even at our household level!

Jussa Kudherezera, Coordinator, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA)

#EarthDay2022

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**THIS IS THE TIME TO FLY, TO CREATE, TO INVESTIGATE,
TO LISTEN, TO INVENT TOGETHER.**

~ Bayo Akomolafe ~

<https://gratefulness.org/resource/rituals-7/>



Photos Courtesy Friends of Fireflies

Ajibono (left), volunteer Rodia (right) planting trees in the city with the community members of Friends of Fireflies' project City4Trees as the children watch.

Friends of Fireflies: Tree Diary of an African City Dweller

Chapter One Bring Back our Trees

By Ajibono Tolulope, (*Grassroots Coalition News* correspondent reports activities of Friends of fireflies series), supporting eco-friendly initiatives, Nigeria

Isheri, a village in Lagos, South Western Nigeria, comprising of Isheri-Olofin and Isheri-Oke, both separated by the Ogun River, flowing along its middle, with a healthy Riparian forest, flourishing with varieties of wildlife including monkeys, squirrels, minotaur lizard, etc. along the river banks, and within the Village are various species of trees, ranging from fruit trees [Orange, Mango, Pawpaw, etc.], medicinal plants [Dogoyaro], and cash crops [Kolanuts], all making up parts of the indigenous people's livelihood.

Besides the economic, medicinal, and

nutritional purposes, the trees provide shade, which cushions the effect of Climate change stressors, such as global warming, a condition fervently felt in sub-Saharan Africa. The shade created by the trees enables playing ground for games, market place, recreation centers, and even the livestock such as Chicken, Goats, and Sheep who take solace under the shade.

In lieu of the frequent numerous activities taking place under the trees' shade, the shade is used as a description of geographic location such as where am going or coming from e.g. Idi-Iroko [beneath the Iroko shade], Idi-Obi [beneath the Kolanut shade], Idi Oparun [beneath the bamboo shade] etc., a socio-cultural attitude of the indigenous people.

The town was occupied by the Yorubas, predominately Awori and Ishaga clans, whose occupation is fishing, farming, and hunting, though there are other artisan like

wood carving, clothes making, etc.

The traditional building design was done in such a way that the rooms are pretty large with a broad hallway which enables both ventilation and cooling, the building is made of mud-bricks, which do not reflect heat, and low thermal conductivity, some of which still exist in the community, though about 2% of the total building population in the area.

Modernization, development, and commerce has gradually transformed the gentle village into a sub-urban community, where the mud-brick houses are gradually replaced with concrete blocks. Increase in population is forcing increase demand for accommodation, thereby the rooms are designed smaller to accommodate more rooms for families; moreover, the houses are in such close proximity as a result of dense building population, especially the

Diary continued on next page

Diary *continued from previous page*

low-income-earners hood.

The soil is gradually replaced with concrete, further aggravating the urban heat island effect. The trees were felled for structural purposes, to pave way for urbanization. 'Oouch' cry the trees. Nobody heard the screams except for the birds, reptiles, and other life forms which groan in empathy of their ecological neighbor.

Then, like Tarzan yelled a voice in the human jungle named 'Friends of Fireflies [supporting eco-friendly initiatives],' this local group chose not to waste time – realizing the environmental values of trees, ecosystem services they render, and their significance to socio-cultural heritage, health values, and lifestyle – and quickly sprang into action in a blessed unrest effort to restore the environment and socio-cultural values.

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, besides the regular exercise associated with lockdown, Friends of Fireflies embarked on a tree-planting project titled 'City4trees,' starting locally from the low-income residents where the human population is dense and the building in such close proximity. Here, children playing in groups and running around is a regular activity, unlike the well-planned estates, where the houses are fenced for privacy and security purpose.

Animal rearing is a common practice among the residents, to solve nutritional and financial purposes.

According to Akinola Olaniyan [resident volunteer and chairman Ajegunle landlord association, a local community in the village], "The trees we believe will make life a lot easier for our people, especially during the dry season and the disruption of the relationship between the indigenous people, ecological neighbors, and socio-cultural values can be restored."

Although there are varieties of trees that could be planted, a thoughtful selection has to be made to ensure sustainability. Certain technical considerations were made by Friends of Fireflies in the selection process, considering the available space, proximity to structures and electric cables, surrounding neighbors' consent, and purpose of planting [shade, fruit, or medicine].

Fruit trees were suggested by a resident woman, but was soon overruled by other resident members, claiming it might cause conflict between the people and that while trying to pluck the fruit, there might be throwing of objects, capable of causing harm to someone else or damage to structure, further aggravating the conflict.

The step tree, was selected, firstly for its tap root, and can cause minimal damage to structures to enable sustainability, create good shade, and is easy to prune. Planting



Ajegunle neighborhood a year and a half after the tree planting work. The neighborhood residents are very much protective of their trees. [Note from Iona] When I asked Ajibona what the purpose of the green bottle was, he answered, "The bottles are not my idea, I guess is children's."

took place at Ajegunle close, Isheri-Oke town; it was witnessed by the chairman landlord and residents association of Ajegunle, resident volunteers, women, and children with their eager faces out of curiosity trying to learn the tree planting process.

It was an all inclusive show, the ground was dug to about 1.3 feet due to the hard rocky surface layer to allow easy root soil penetration, equine dung was used as manure. To avoid physical damage by man and livestock to the young tree, protective materials were sourced locally. In this case, condemned tires are employed for protection in addition to soil moisture conservation around the tree base, mesh wires (chicken wires) were also used for protection from physical damage and to enable proper aeration for the young tree, the earthworm, and snails we hope will return as well as other organisms the tree may house.

The earthworm is a good fishing material, with its availability, the fishing game will be taught to our children says Dauda Salawu, [landlord and resident volunteer], and our children can learn our ancestral way.

The organizer of the tree-planting project (City4trees), in an awareness effort, urged the residents that it's not enough to plant a tree, but watching it grow and to be protective of the global warming umbrella. The chairman and residents were particularly grateful for the tree-planting initiative; the chairman says he will particularly take responsibility of watching it grow.

Friends of Fireflies argue that when trees are destroyed for cities to emerge, emphasis is needed for more trees to be included in urban settlement as it's paramount to human well-being, ecological neighbors, and overall planetary health.

Friends of Fireflies [supporting eco-friendly initiatives], in an eco-restoration effort, having spoken with numerous landlords, religious places, and government facilities with available spaces in their premises to accommodate a tree, says the initiative was so welcomed and that a lot of landlords, and religious places were so pleased with the idea and that it's actually feasible to envisage planting a tree or more every month.

Ajegunle neighborhood residents are very much protective of their trees, although metallic protectors were employed in this case in replacement of the initial wire net and tires, which they claim is visible to the livestock, making them to perpetually disturb the young tree, however the tree is doing very well in its protective cover.

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Chapter 2 will appear in our next issue of *Grassroots Coalition News*.



A young step tree protected by old tires.




Photo: INfilm/Flickr

It's a tragedy when people are unable to connect to their natural affiliation with forests, waters, and wild creatures.

The Spiritual Qualities of Ancient Forests

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Rob Miller, excerpt, emphasis added 
Canada National Observer: April 19, 2022

A forest has a unique kind of energy that anyone who ventures into it can feel. There are sounds, scents, and so much visual beauty. Even our skin is stimulated by the wind, the rain, or brushing against the understory. Ancient forests are abundant with this kind of energy, which is why many consider them spiritual places. When we defile these great cathedrals, we **bring silence** where there once was an abundance of life.

Has modern society become disconnected from nature? Urbanization is often blamed for isolating us from the forests and waters that once created wonder and adventure for us as children. But one doesn't have to live in a rural setting to be thrilled by a trip to the mountains, a day at the

beach, or a stroll along a woodland trail ...

Our love for nature still exists. Imagine strolling out of the forest onto a deserted beach to see an elk standing in the water with its massive body and tall antlers. **It turns** to look at you, then slowly moves away into the early morning mist. No amount of urban living can desensitize a person to the euphoria felt during an encounter like this. Even a seasoned wilderness adventurer is moved by the sound of whales breathing or a loon's call across a lake at dusk. These are **instinctual** connections with the wild, which have survived for thousands of years.

Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson defined "biophilia" as an innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Think about a time when you spotted a majestic bird like a bald eagle, a kingfisher, or a pileated woodpecker. Did you stop and watch while the constant

chatter of your thoughts paused for a brief and beautiful moment? Or that first time you stood before a massive ancient tree. Did you feel the bark and try to put your arms around it? Did you hope your photos would **preserve this wonder** and elicit an echo of the emotion that filled your heart?...


It's a tragedy when people are unable to connect with their natural affiliation with forests, waters, and wild creatures. Targeted information floods in from social media, designed to capture our thoughts and addict us to a "meta" world. The constant flow of advertising drives us to consume and treat nature like a playground where we can try out our most expensive toys. All this modern-day background noise weakens our **solemn respect** for the wild, enabling remorseless acts of destruction, like the felling of an ancient grove of giant cedars ...

Forests continued on next page

Tree Rings From Centuries Past May Help Reveal a Warming Planet's Future

Tree rings from centuries past may help reveal a warming planet's future. Armed with the world's largest collection of tree rings, scientists are looking for clues to climate change

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Karen Peterson, *excerpt* 
The Washington Post: March 23, 2022

TUCSON, Arizona USA – Each specimen in a strangely beautiful “treehouse” laboratory here tells a story of resilience – from droughts and floods to catastrophic wildfires and bitter winters, some occurring thousands of years ago.

Nowadays, though, much of the work at the University of Arizona's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research is about the future of a planet that's squaring off against global warming and its cascading disasters.

Armed with the largest collection of its kind in the world – 700,000 samples and counting – scientists are trying to better comprehend what's ahead by translating the autobiographies that trees record in their rings.

The basics are known: Rings reveal a tree's age, with thin rings indicating drier years and wide rings, wetter years. Pock-

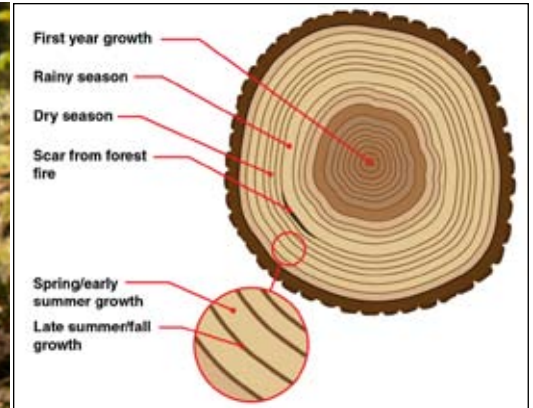


Photo left: NASA, Flickr Creative Commons user Amanda Tromley

Graphic right: <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

(left) The light and dark rings of a tree. (right) The color and width of tree rings can provide snapshots of past climate conditions. (top to bottom) First year growth, Rainy season, Dry season, Scar from forest fire, Spring/early summer growth, Late summer/fall growth.

marks on rings identify years of extreme cold; blackened blotches are burn scars from fires a tree survived.

“Climate variability drives tree-ring variability,” said fire ecologist Thomas W. Swetnam, the former director of the lab, who describes it as “a big library of climate and human history.”

Tucson is the birthplace of this field of scientific study. Dendrochronology, which uses the annual growth patterns of trees to date events and environmental changes, was launched in the 1920s by astronomer

Andrew Ellicott Douglass. He had the idea that tree rings could be used to understand how solar cycles affect Earth's climate, and though that theory didn't pan out, he was the first to confirm that trees record dry and wet years in their rings.

His procedure for the cross-identification of ring patterns for “absolute” dating then made him famous. . . .

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2022/03/23/tree-rings-centuries-past-may-help-reveal-warming-planets-future/>

Forests *continued from previous page*

Many scientific studies indicate the natural world has a significant impact on our health and well-being. Is it possible that we are adversely affected by the loss of species, the polluting of pristine watersheds, and the elimination of wildlife habitat? We are now in the midst of the sixth major extinction event. Could this be a factor **contributing** to the increase in depression, anger, and polarization in society? Perhaps a sense of hopelessness is inevitable when extractive resource economics continue to outweigh the long-lasting societal benefits of carbon sequestration, managing the water cycle, and purifying the air. An economic value of zero is given to natural systems that provide beauty to our eyes, wonder to our senses, and “comfort to our souls.”

A **paradigm shift** is required in our economic, financial and legal systems or the unsustainable consumption of nature will continue until every last old-growth forest

has been replaced by tree farms lacking in biodiversity, soil health, and mother trees.

However, hope lies with Indigenous communities fighting for a larger role in the management of our **remaining** old-growth forests. The Protect Our Elder Trees Declaration aims to bring about a transformation in ecosystem management based on Indigenous leadership and guidance. Many non-Indigenous people have also awakened to the need for change and are protesting against a system where the profit motive of corporate and political influencers is prioritized over ecosystem and societal health. We have an evolutionary bond with the natural world, which is weakened as wilderness disappears and social distractions escalate.

If we want to live happier and healthier lives, we have to reconnect with nature, stop inflicting industrial-scale damage, and give it **time to recover**. But recovery

requires a timescale that is foreign to our fast-paced society. The Earth's climate system will take thousands of years to cool to pre-industrial levels once the world has reached net-zero emissions. It will take millions of years to recover the biodiversity that is disappearing while we try to maintain **business as usual**.

Clearly, we can't wait to protect the sequestered carbon and biodiversity in ancient forests around the world. With this understanding and our emotional affiliation with nature, we must be decisive in making the changes needed to stop the plunder of our remaining old-growth forests.

Rob Miller is a retired systems engineer, formerly with General Dynamics Canada, who now volunteers with the Calgary Climate Hub and writes on behalf of Eco-Elders for Climate Action.

Source: <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2022/04/19/opinion/spiritual-qualities-ancient-forests>



Photo: © SBedaux / iStock used with permission for ENS

Whale migration routes are close to shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. WWF reports that new fast-ferry links are being planned and established throughout the region.

Exploring Whale Superhighways With a Global Team of Scientists

Environmental News Service: February 20, 2022

GLAND, Switzerland – An in-depth new map and report that tracks whale migrations around the globe, highlights where the whales go in the high seas and the cumulative impacts they face has been issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to mark this year's World Whale Day, February 20.

The report, "Protecting Blue Corridors," was developed through collaborative analysis of 30 years of scientific data contributed by more than 50 research groups, with marine scientists from Oregon State University (OSU); the University of California, Santa Cruz; the University of Southampton, and others.

The map provides a visualization of the satellite tracks of 845 migratory whales worldwide. The report outlines how whales are encountering multiple and growing threats in their critical ocean habitats – where they feed, mate, give birth, and nurse their young – and along their migration superhighways, or blue corridors.

The cumulative impacts of human activities are creating a hazardous and sometimes fatal obstacle courses for the marine species, warned Chris Johnson, the global lead for whale and dolphin conservation at WWF. "The deadliest by far is entangle-

ment in fishing gear – killing an estimated 300,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises each year. What's worse, this is happening from the Arctic to the Antarctic," Johnson said.

After centuries of commercial whaling, six out of the 13 great whale species are now classified as Endangered or Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), even after decades of protection from commercial whaling, which ended formally in 1986.

But despite an international ban on commercial whaling since then, whales are still being hunted and killed across the world's oceans. For a history of commercial whaling and the International Whaling Commission, go to https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?13796/The-History-of-Whaling-and-the-International-Whaling-Commission-IWC.

Among whale populations most at risk is the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, a species that migrates between Canada and the United States. This species is at its lowest point in 20 years – numbering only 336 individuals – a decline of 30 per cent over the past 10 years, the researchers learned.

About 86 percent of identified right whales are estimated to have been entangled in fishing gear at least once in their

lives. Between 2017 and 2021, 34 North Atlantic right whales died off the Canadian and United States coasts from ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear, according to the new analysis.

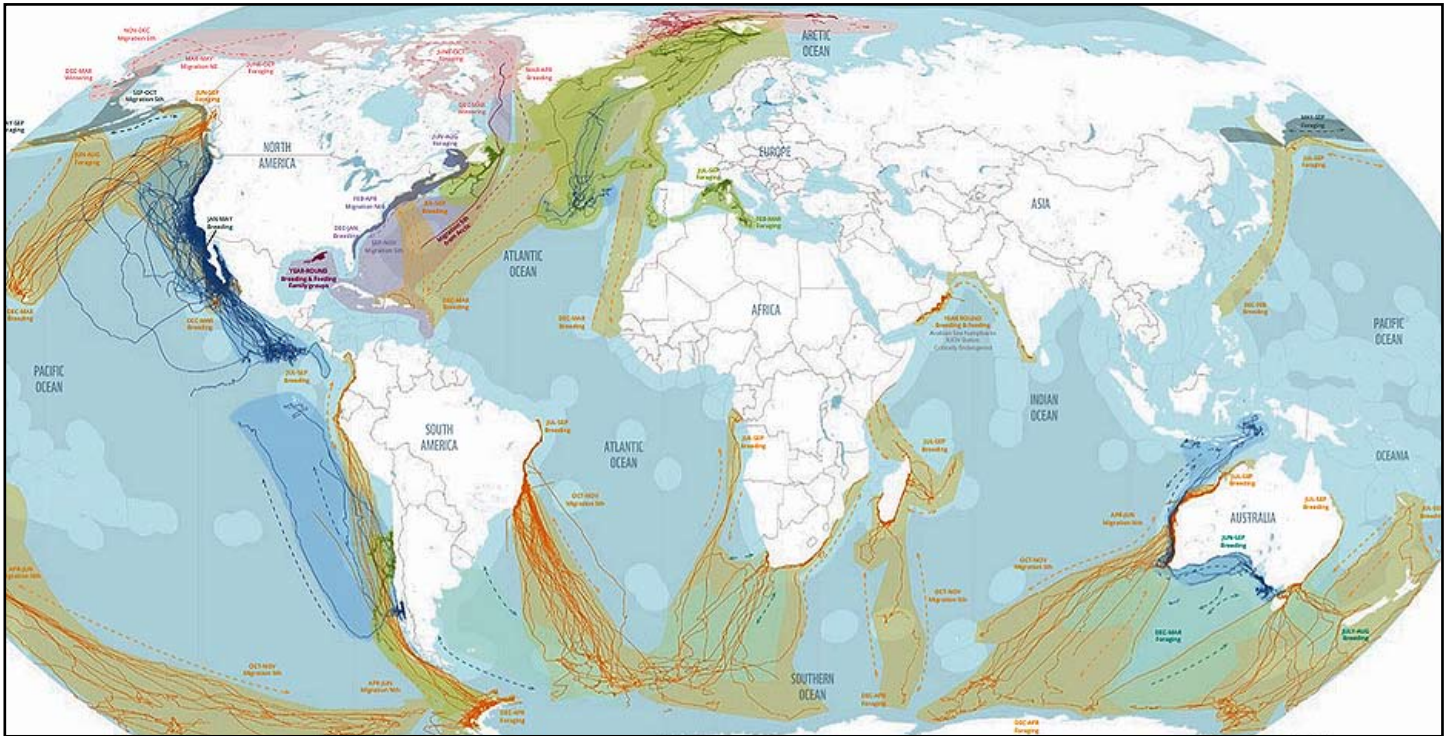
"Contributing years of data from Oregon State's satellite tracking studies, pioneered by marine mammal researcher Bruce Mate, we see migrations across national and international waters creating conservation challenges for populations to recover," said report co-author Daniel Palacios, an endowed associate professor in whale habitats with Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute at the Hatfield Marine Science Center on Oregon's coast.

The institute is part of Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences; Mate, now retired, is the former director.

An expert in the study of whale movements in relation to environmental conditions and human threats, Palacios' contribution to the report centered on the eastern Pacific Ocean. "For a report of this nature, it was necessary to incorporate the data and expertise from many colleagues doing similar work in other parts of the world," he said. "For the first time, we were able to map whale migrations on a global scale and identify their superhighways," Palacios said.

Whales continued on next page

Whales continued from previous page



Map courtesy World Wildlife Fund

Map of the world's whale superhighways shows where whales migrate. The WWF report gives details.

“This map will become an essential ocean variable for a number of efforts working toward assessing changes in biodiversity and will inform critical policy initiatives like the upcoming Treaty for the High Seas under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,” he said.

“Protecting Blue Corridors” calls for a new conservation approach to address these mounting threats and to safeguard whales through enhanced cooperation on local, regional, and international levels.

Of particular urgency is engagement with the United Nations, which is set to finalize negotiations on a new treaty for the high seas in March under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. If adopted, a high seas treaty could protect biodiversity in areas outside national Exclusive Economic Zones and allow for the creation of marine protected areas on the high seas.

Ari Friedlaender, a whale ecologist from University of California, Santa Cruz, and previously an associate professor at OSU’s Marine Mammal Institute, is convinced of the value of the new WWF map and report. “As a researcher, this report provides a visual science-based guide to help inform effective management and decisions to create networks of marine protected areas to ensure whales have every opportunity to thrive,” he said.

“The benefits from protected blue corridors extend far beyond whales. Growing evidence shows the critical role whales play maintaining ocean health and the global climate – with one whale capturing the same amount of carbon as thousands of trees,” according to the WWF report.

The International Monetary Fund estimates the value of a single great whale at more than \$2 million, which, WWF estimates, totals more than \$1 trillion for the current global population of great whales.



Photo Courtesy NOAA Fisheries

North Atlantic right whale mother and calf off the coast of Massachusetts. During the 2021 North Atlantic right whale calving season, researchers identified 19 live calves. Only 22 births were observed during the previous four calving seasons combined.



Uganda Family Planning Activity Program

Submitted by Jeannette Bartelt
Maryland USA

Pathfinder is celebrating the incredible accomplishments of health care workers around the globe for World Health Worker Week. We sat down with four community health workers in Uganda to hear their stories and learn what this work means to them. Robert, Rukia, Joyce, and Wilfred work on our USAID/Uganda Family Planning Activity project, which addresses underlying social, cultural, and structural barriers that keep people from accessing reproductive and sexual health care. Hearing what motivates and inspires them has deeply moved us – and we think it will move you, too. We're so excited for you to meet them now.

When Robert Kiito (*above left*) isn't working as a teacher in Butambala district, Uganda, he volunteers his time with the Village Health Team to talk to youth and adults in the village about their family planning options. He started this work in 2005 because he saw how great the need was in his village and sought to do something to help women and girls prevent unwanted pregnancies. Robert feels immense pride and joy in this work, especially when he's able to refer young people for reproductive and health care services.

Rukia Mugambe Nsiima (*above right*) is following in her mother's footsteps working in maternal and newborn health in Gombe Hospital. She was there over the last two years as Covid-19 caused supply issues and stock outs of important medi-

cal supplies at the hospital. Despite the challenges though, Rukia is up early every morning to get to work and provide the services mothers in the district need.


For 65 years, Pathfinder has been working at the community level with health workers like Robert and Rukia, to go where the need is greatest and open access to life changing sexual and reproductive health care and services.

Thanks to their boundless dedication, we've reached millions of people. Last year, their Uganda Family Planning Activity program alone reached more than 200,000 participants in education programs and community events.

Learn more at <https://www.pathfinder.org/>

Why Protecting Africa's Land and Biodiversity Is Everyone's Concern

Submitted by Bill Boteler
Maryland USA

By Alassane Ouattara, President Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, *excerpt* 
Newsweek: May 10, 2022

In a world marked by an ever more rapid news cycle, conflict, and division, there are rare moments when there is an opportunity to plan for the future, repair the damage of previous generations, and build a better, fairer, and more sustainable tomorrow.

There is such an opportunity in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on May 9-20. Participants

from 197 countries including politicians, businesspeople, civil society, and other stakeholders, were scheduled to come together for COP15, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

This is much more than a talking shop. It is a critical moment to deliver concrete responses to the challenges of land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss. COP15 is a turning point for the much broader challenges of our times. Delivering successfully on these challenges is good for security, good for health, and good for equality in some of the most vulnerable countries in the world. It helps us

to rebuild the foundations of a more stable and balanced international order.

Côte d'Ivoire bears witness to the impact of environmental decay every day. We have lost 92 percent of primary forests since independence in 1960. In the north of the country, rates of soil degradation have reached between 80-90 percent. This has had a profound impact on our quality of life and diminished opportunities for new generations. . . .

Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/why-protecting-africas-land-biodiversity-everyones-concern-opinion-1704931>

I'm a Luddite. You Should Be One Too.

By Jathan Sadowski, Originally published in The Conversation

Deep Green Resistance: April 1, 2022

DGR Editor's note: Luddism is often dismissed as "backwardness," but it is actually a more advanced, considered, and wise position on technology. To be a Luddite is to stand with workers and the natural world against the death march of technology. This essay is a general introduction to the Luddites.

However, we disagree with the author when he argues that modern technology is neutral and that "it's how such technology is used" that determines its moral character. This view is fundamentally anthropocentric; it's only possible when you discount the natural world and believe humans are more important than other species. For a more deeply developed critique of technological escalation (we do not refer to this phenomenon as "progress"), we recommend exploring the work of Lewis Mumford, Vine Deloria Jr., Derrick Jensen, Vandana Shiva, Chellis Glendinning, Ivan Illich, Jack D. Forbes, Langdon Winner, and other critics of technology and civilization.

Here at Deep Green Resistance, we use the tools of industrial civilization (such as computers and the internet) to oppose it. Some accuse us of hypocrisy. But did Crazy Horse and Tecumseh not use firearms to fight European colonization? As Arundhati Roy has said, "Fighting people will choose their own weapons."

We see a place in our movement for both principled rejection of technology and the establishment of counter-cultural spaces and organizations, and for the principled use of the products of empire to dismantle empire. These efforts may seem contradictory, but they are not – they are complementary, and in Deep Green Resistance, many of us practice both at the same time.

I'm a Luddite. This is not a hesitant confession, but a proud proclamation. I'm also a social scientist who studies how new technologies affect politics, economics, and society. For me, Luddism is not a naive feeling, but a considered position.

And once you know what Luddism actually stands for, I'm willing to bet you will be one too – or at least much more sympathetic to the Luddite cause than you think.

Today the term is mostly lobbed as an insult. Take this example from a recent report by global consulting firm Accenture on why the health-care industry should enthusiastically embrace artificial intelligence:

To be a Luddite is seen as synonymous with being primitive – backwards in your



Photo: Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

Poster showing 'The Leader of the Luddites' (1812).

outlook, ignorant of innovation's wonders, and fearful of modern society. This all-or-nothing approach to debates about technology and society is based on severe misconceptions of the real history and politics of the original Luddites: English textile workers in the early 19th century who, under the cover of night, destroyed weaving machines in protest to changes in their working conditions.

Our circumstances today are more similar to theirs than it might seem, as new technologies are being used to transform our own working and social conditions — think increases in employee surveillance during lockdowns, or exploitation by gig labor platforms. It's time we reconsider the lessons of Luddism.

A brief – and accurate – history of Luddism

Even among other social scientists who study these kinds of critical questions about technology, the label of "Luddite" is still largely an ironic one. It's the kind of self-effacing thing you say when fumbling with screen-sharing on Zoom during a presentation: "Sorry, I'm such a Luddite!"

It wasn't until I learned the true origins of Luddism that I began sincerely to regard myself as one of them.

The Luddites were a secret organisation of workers who smashed machines in the textile factories of England in the early 1800s, a period of increasing industrialization, economic hardship due to expensive conflicts with France and the United States, and widespread unrest among the working class. They took their name from

the apocryphal tale of Ned Ludd, a weaver's apprentice who supposedly smashed two knitting machines in a fit of rage.

The contemporary usage of Luddite has the machine-smashing part correct – but that's about all it gets right.

First, the Luddites were not indiscriminate. They were intentional and purposeful about which machines they smashed. They targeted those owned by manufacturers who were known to pay low wages, disregard workers' safety, and/or speed up the pace of work. Even within a single factory – which would contain machines owned by different capitalists – some machines were destroyed and others pardoned depending on the business practices of their owners.

Second, the Luddites were not ignorant. Smashing machines was not a kneejerk reaction to new technology, but a tactical response by workers based on their understanding of how owners were using those machines to make labor conditions more exploitative. As historian David Noble puts it, they understood "technology in the present tense," by analyzing its immediate, material impacts and acting accordingly.

Luddism was a working-class movement opposed to the political consequences of industrial capitalism. The Luddites wanted technology to be deployed in ways that made work more humane and gave workers more autonomy. The bosses, on the other hand, wanted to drive down costs and increase productivity.

Luddite continued on next page

To the Activists of the World: Thank You

By Max Wilbert

Deep Green Resistance News: April 26, 2022

We are living in an ecological catastrophe. Our world is being killed before our eyes. This hurts. And so for many people, their response is either apathy, complete emotional shutdown, or a nihilistic embrace of powerlessness.

There is another option. While our power to change the course of ecological collapse is indeed limited, limited is different from non-existent. The truth is, we do have power. And we can change the world. No, our power is not limitless. No, the world will not change easily. And no, we cannot fix everything. Some things are broken beyond fixing. But these difficulties do not absolve us of responsibility.

There is an old warrior's saying that, "Duty is heavier than a mountain, and death is lighter than a feather." The duty of humans with moral conscience in this era is heavy indeed. And yet, what would we be if we abandoned this world to its fate? If we abandoned our forests, our oceans, our mountains? If we abandoned our non-human relatives? If we abandoned our communities and future generations of

children? What would we be, then?

Some people argue that humanity is simply a cancer. That we will destroy ourselves. That our nature is fundamentally destructive. That our actions have proven us unfit to survive in the long-term, unfit to participate in the community of life, which we are destroying.

But if human destructiveness is one part of our potential, then humans defending the land is another. Those who defend the land are part of the immune system of the world. We are defenders of wholeness. We bring balance. We are the consciousness of the Earth, our bones like mountains, our blood like rivers. We are an evolutionary force, an outgrowth of the planet itself, taking action to defend our community.

And we will not give up, because ultimately, to abandon responsibility is to abandon our own souls. There is only one way we can guarantee the worst

possible outcome for the future: if we take no action at all.

And so today, I wish to thank the activists and land defenders of the world. Your hearts are the conscience of our society. Your tears are our prayers. Your dedication is the salvation of life. Your effort is not in vain. You are valuable.

Thank you.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/to-the-activists-of-the-world-thank-you>



Luddite *continued from previous page*

Third, the Luddites were not against innovation. Many of the technologies they destroyed weren't even new inventions. As historian Adrian Randall points out, one machine they targeted, the gig mill, had been used for more than a century in textile manufacturing. Similarly, the power loom had been used for decades before the Luddite uprisings.

It wasn't the invention of these machines that provoked the Luddites to action. They only banded together once factory owners began using these machines to displace and disempower workers.

The factory owners won in the end: they succeeded in convincing the state to make "frame breaking" a treasonous crime punishable by hanging. The army was sent in to break up and hunt down the Luddites.

The Luddite rebellion lasted from 1811 to 1816, and today (as Randall puts it), it has become "a cautionary moral tale." The story is told to discourage workers from resisting the march of capitalist progress, lest they too end up like the Luddites.

Neo-Luddism

Today, new technologies are being used to alter our lives, societies, and working conditions no less profoundly than

mechanical looms were used to transform those of the original Luddites. The excesses of big tech companies – Amazon's inhumane exploitation of workers in warehouses driven by automation and machine vision, Uber's gig-economy lobbying and disregard for labor law, Facebook's unchecked extraction of unprecedented amounts of user data – are driving a public backlash that may contain the seeds of a neo-Luddite movement.

As Gavin Mueller writes in his new book on Luddism, our goal in taking up the Luddite banner should be "to study and learn from the history of past struggles, to recover the voices from past movements so that they might inform current ones."

What would Luddism look like today? It won't necessarily (or only) be a movement that takes up hammers against smart fridges, data servers, and e-commerce warehouses. Instead, it would treat technology as a political and economic phenomenon that deserves to be critically scrutinized and democratically governed, rather than a grab bag of neat apps and gadgets.

In a recent article in *Nature*, my colleagues and I argued that data must be reclaimed from corporate gatekeepers and managed as a collective good by public in-

stitutions. This kind of argument is deeply informed by the Luddite ethos, calling for the hammer of antitrust to break up the tech oligopoly that currently controls how data is created, accessed, and used.

A neo-Luddite movement would understand no technology is sacred in itself, but is only worthwhile insofar as it benefits society. It would confront the harms done by digital capitalism and seek to address them by giving people more power over the technological systems that structure their lives.

This is what it means to be a Luddite today. Two centuries ago, Luddism was a rallying call used by the working class to build solidarity in the battle for their livelihoods and autonomy.

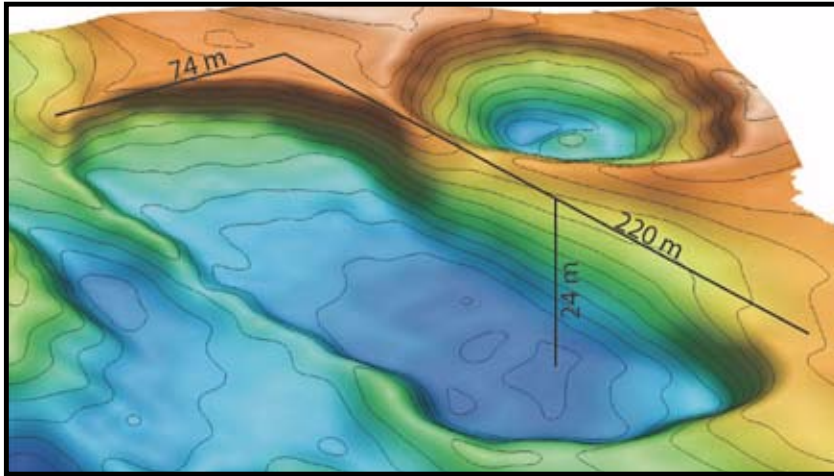
And so too should neo-Luddism be a banner that brings workers together in today's fight for those same rights.

Join me in reclaiming the name of Ludd!

Jathan Sadowski is a Research Fellow at the Emerging Technologies Research Lab and CoE for Automated Decision-Making and Society at Monash University in Australia.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance-culture/im-a-luddite-you-should-be-one-too>

News Briefs




Graphic: Eve Lundsten © 2022 Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

Marine Mapping autonomous underwater vehicles detailed the unusually rough seafloor terrain along the edge of the continental shelf in the Arctic. Sinkholes have developed where permafrost at depth has thawed.

Holes the Size of City Blocks Forming in Arctic Seafloor

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Katie Hunt, *excerpt* 
CNN: March 14, 2022

Marine scientists have discovered deep sinkholes – one larger than a city block of six-story buildings – and ice-filled hills that have formed “extraordinarily” rapidly on a remote part of the Arctic seafloor.

Mapping of Canada’s Beaufort Sea, using a remotely operated underwater vehicle and ship-mounted sonar, revealed the dramatic changes, which the researchers said are taking place as a result of thawing permafrost submerged underneath the seabed.

The changes the scientists observed occurred between 2010 and 2019, during which four mapping surveys had taken place, covering an area of up to 10 square miles (26 square kilometers) . . .

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/14/world/arctic-seafloor-holes-permafrost-scn/index.html>

‘A huge mistake’: Concerns rise as deep-sea mining negotiations progress.

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts, *excerpt*
Mongabay: April 8, 2022

•The International Seabed Authority (ISA), the U.N.-affiliated organization tasked with managing deep-sea mining activities, recently held a series of meetings to continue negotiating the development of mining regulations.

•Deep-sea mining may start as early as 2023 after Nauru triggered a two-year rule embedded in the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea that could essentially allow its sponsored company

to start mining with whatever regulations are currently in place.

•Many states are eager to finalize a set of regulations over the next 15 months that would determine how mining can proceed in the deep sea.

•But other states and delegates have noted the lack of scientific knowledge around deep-sea mining, the absence of a financial compensation plan in the event of environmental damage, and ongoing transparency issues in the ISA – and the unlikelihood of finalizing regulatory measures in a short period of time.

With a four-page letter, the Pacific island nation of Nauru pushed the world closer to a reality in which large-scale mining doesn’t just take place on land, but also in the open ocean. In July 2021, President Lionel Aingimea wrote to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the U.N.-affiliated organization tasked with managing deep-sea mining activities, to say it intended to make use of a rule embedded in the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) that could jump-start seabed mining in two years.

Since then, the ISA, which is responsible for protecting the ocean while encouraging deep-sea mining development, has been scrambling to come up with regulations that would determine how mining can proceed in the deep sea. At meetings that took place in December 2021, delegates debated how to push forward with these regulations, currently in draft form, and agreed to schedule a series of additional meetings to accelerate negotiations. At the latest meetings, which concluded last week in Kingston, Jamaica, delegates continued to discuss mining regulations, eyeing the goal of finalizing regulations by July 2023 so that seabed mining can proceed. . . .

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/04/a-huge-mistake-concerns-rise-as-deep-sea-mining-negotiations-progress/>

Biden Signs Order to Protect Old-Growth Forests From Fire

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Matthew Daly and Josh Boak, *excerpt* 
The Associated Press: April 22, 2022

SEATTLE, Washington State – President Joe Biden on Friday signed an executive order intended to help restore national forests devastated by wildfires, drought, and blight, using an Earth Day visit to Seattle to press for more action on the environment.

Although Biden has struggled to make progress on his most ambitious climate goals, he drew a sharp contrast with his predecessor, former President Donald Trump, who unraveled the country’s fight against global warming.

“We’ve reached the point where the crisis on the environment has become so obvious, with the notable exception of the former president, that we really have an opportunity to do things we couldn’t have done two, five, ten years ago,” Biden said. . . .

Source: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/04/22/nation/biden-signs-executive-order-protect-forests-wildfire/>

News Briefs



Single-Use Plastic and Paper Bag Ban in New Jersey USA

Submitted by **Maryann Daurio**
New Jersey USA

The “Bag Up NJ” campaign is the New Jersey Clean Communities Council’s new single use plastic and paper bag ban outreach campaign, which has a simple message: Bring your own reusable bag(s) when you shop.

This campaign educates and reminds consumers about their options for sustainability at the checkout counter. Consumers can bring their own reusable bags when they shop and recycle their plastic bags.

On Nov. 4, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature enacted the most progressive bag ban law in the country. The law prevents litter and encourages the use of reusable bags by phasing out single-use plastic and paper bags.

The law bans plastic bags, regardless of thickness, at grocery stores and retail outlets, as well as paper bags at grocery stores measuring more than 2,500 square feet. It also bans polystyrene foam food service products; and makes plastic straws at restaurants available only upon request.

While we often hear about the environmental impact of disposable plastic bags, it is important to remember that disposable paper bags have a significant impact on the environment too. Papermaking requires large inputs of water, energy, chemicals, and wood, and produces

various wastes and emissions that must be controlled or treated. Additionally, paper bags require 10 times the amount of trucks to deliver the same quantity of bags, resulting in increased truck traffic and diesel emissions.

The statewide ban on disposable bags went into effect on May 4, 2022 and will create an effective and uniform sustainable policy for all shoppers and business owners in NJ. Reducing waste and litter statewide is a good thing; “This smart, uniform statewide law preempts all local ordinances.” said New Jersey Food Council CEO Linda Doherty, who is also president of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council.

The Bag Ban took effect May 4, 2022

•The bill provides that the Department of State in consultation with the state Department of Environmental Protection will establish a program to assist businesses with compliance. This will include FAQs, outreach and educational programs, public service announcements, and distribution of free reusable carryout bags through a partnership with the Clean Communities Program which is receiving \$500,000 per year for the first three years after the effective date of the law.

•One year after enactment, November 4, 2021, plastic straws can only be provided upon request of a customer. Packages of straws and items like juice boxes may still be sold in stores.

•The bill states that municipalities and counties cannot adopt any new ordinances governing plastic and paper bags,

polystyrene, and straws. Ordinances already in effect will be superseded according to the various products’ phase out schedules.

•The bill provides for penalties: a warning for a first offense, up to \$1,000 for a second offense, and up to \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense. Penalties for violations will be deposited in the Clean Communities Program Fund, except that a municipality may retain 30 percent of any penalty it collects.

•The bill establishes a Plastics Advisory Council in the state Department of Environmental Protection, whose members will monitor implementation of the law and evaluate its effectiveness. The Council will be comprised of 16 members, including 4 representing stores and food service businesses.

Source: <https://bagupnj.com/>

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

What can you do
to support Bag Up NJ?

As a consumer, there are many ways you can reduce your carbon footprint.

•When shopping, bring your reusable shopping bags to help fight waste in your town.

•Recycle your disposable bags by bringing them to your local retailer.

•When it comes to reusable bags, you have options. There are many different sizes, types, materials and designs, choose the ones that work best for you as a consumer.

Op-Ed: Banning Abortion is Banning Sustainability

By DGR News Service: April 12, 2022

In the United States, the Supreme Court appears poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 50-year-old legal precedent that ruled state-level abortion bans are (in many situations) unconstitutional and violate the rights of pregnant women.

Since 1973, legal challenges to *Roe v. Wade* have weakened the case significantly, most recently allowing for a spate of state-level abortion bans in all-but-name (notably in Texas, but other states are following suit). Overturning *Roe v. Wade* is likely to lead to a flood of these state-level abortion bans in roughly half of the United States.

Deep Green Resistance is both ethically and strategically opposed to abortion bans. As a feminist organization, we believe a woman or girl has the right to choose an abortion if that is what she wants. Broadly, these bans disproportionately affect poor women, since wealthier women may be able to travel to a jurisdiction in which abortion is legal, while poor women will not. This entrenches cycles of poverty, since giving birth to and raising a child is extremely expensive and time consuming.

Women's Loss is Earth's Loss: Abortion Bans Make Sustainability Impossible

Abortion bans significantly harm the planet, since overpopulation (alongside consumption and technology) is a major driver of the destruction of the natural world.

- The United States population was 31.4 million in 1860. Today, it is more than 331 million.

- As one professor stated, "Since 1960, while human population has doubled, the global economy has quadrupled, and resource consumption quintupled."

- That was in 1999. Now, 23 years later, there are 1.8 billion more people on the planet, equivalent to more than the entire populations of China and the United States combined.

- More than 80 million people are added to the global population annually, the equivalent of 10 New York Cities or 20 Los Angeles's.

- The biomass of mammals on planet Earth is now more than 96% humans and livestock, and only 4% wild animals.

This massive population is only sustained by consuming the planet. Agriculture is rapidly destroying the planet's

remaining soils, and crop yields only remain high due to massive infusions of fossil-fuel derived fertilizers. Dead zones are spreading in the ocean due to pollution from industrial farming running down major rivers. Rainforests are being felled to clear more land for agriculture. Global fish populations are collapsing due to overfishing, pollution, and global warming. Non-renewable aquifers are being overpumped and going dry.

The father of the "Green Revolution" himself, Norman Borlaug, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, warned that, "There can be no permanent progress in the battle against hunger until the agencies that fight for increased food production and those that fight for population control unite in a common effort."

Can Overpopulation Be Solved without Violating Human Rights?

Coercive attempts to control population such as China's one-child policy or forced sterilization policies in different regions of the world have been widely and rightfully condemned as human rights violations.

Less widely known are population success stories that do not involve coercion. In Iran, for example, an exploding population in the 1990's led the government to institute what is often celebrated as the world's most successful humane birth-rate reduction program (which has since been rolled back in part to encourage economic growth).

Alan Weissman, writing in his 2013 book *Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth* in which he travels the world analyzing the issue of overpopulation, describes a conversation with Iranian Obstetrician and Gynecologist Dr. Hourieh Shamshiri Milani:

"There was no covert coercion [in Iran's family planning program], she'd explain. The sole requirement was that all couples attend premarital classes, held in mosques or in health centers where couples went for pre-nuptial blood tests. The classes taught contraception and sex education, and stressed the advantages of having fewer children to feed, clothe, and school. The only governmental disincentive was elimination of the individual subsidy for food, electricity, telephone, and appliances for any child after the first three. By 2000, Iran's total fertility rate reached replacement level, 2.1 children per woman, a year faster than China's compulsory one-child policy. In 2012, it was 1.7."

Reducing Birth Rates

To state the obvious, when birth rates are reduced below replacement level (2.1 children per couple), population will gradually and naturally fall over time. Eileen Crist, an associate professor in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech and author of a book on population issues, describes that process:

"Environmental writers and activists who highlight the calamities connected with overpopulation are motivated by deep concern for the well-being of all life; they also emphasize that a smaller global population can be achieved by policies and actions that promote fundamental human rights. To achieve a sustainable human population, they urge the global community to pursue full gender equity; ensure education for girls (and all children) through secondary schooling and beyond; make high-quality family planning universally available; include comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula; and aggressively oppose the abusive cultural practice of child marriage. With these human rights ambitiously pursued and universally attained, population growth can end sooner (than via 'the invisible hand' of globalization) and a smaller global population gradually attained.

And what is the role of abortion in this? Given that roughly 44% of all pregnancies are unintended, and about half of those unintended pregnancies are terminated through abortions, researchers have concluded that no country can effectively reduce its population growth "without the widespread use of abortion."

We believe that birth control including vasectomies, family planning services, abortion by mail providers, and abortion should be available to all people as part of efforts to defend the planet. Non-abortion family planning measures actually reduce the number of abortions performed, and thus should be supported by everyone regardless of their political beliefs on abortion (for example, today's abortion rate in the United States is roughly half what it was in the 1980's, which is believed to reflect easier access to contraceptives such as abortion pills by mail).

For the rights of women, and for environmental reasons, we are opposed to abortion bans.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/patriarchy/banning-abortion-is-banning-sustainability/>

Highlights from Orphanages in our Global Family

[Messages from a chain of emails with Geofery Aranda, Kodendo Community Based Foundation, Kenya] Am still reminding you to help me get more help please it's hard to stand on my own in this work. Thanks very much.

Being that I too grew up an orphan and I know how it feels to be an orphan, I only use the little I get from my organic farm and sell the products to support them.



The picture above I took when I was walking around within our communities. Then I found that elder girl with her siblings who they were left orphans with after the death of their parents when they were still young, so they are some of the people

am trying to help please.

That's why am trying to reach out to kindred spirits like you to help me get more support and donors to keep supporting these needy Africans here.

The elder one is called Jane and her young baby, which she was impregnated by a man who cheated to take care of her with her siblings then left her struggling, is called Michelle; then her three siblings are called Sharon, Ephy, and Melvin respectively.

I will visit her probably by tomorrow when am taking her some soaps and sugar which I bought for them from a nearby wholesale and I will inform her how you feel about her together with her siblings and her one child.

She has been trying very much but it's not always easy so am still helping a bit, but when I'll get some good support I'll even build her a house so that she can live well as others and the way she wished before her life got ruined with poverty.

Am just praying that if possible you help me get more support so that I may lift these, my people here, who are suffering more than normal.

These are the kinds of people whom I have been struggling to help here and that is why I have been asking for support to get donors who may support me too. And I believe through our team we shall make

things possible.

I have clearly understood you. And it's like many now are in need of help which you can't do alone and what's needed is a combined force of many people.

Let's still believe that things will work well, please let's just have positive attitude please.

Below are some of the photos of some people whom I support, too. I made efforts to set up a poultry farm for others so that they may get eggs and sell to buy other things they don't have and even sell excess chickens.

Am always teaching them on how to do farming on our organic farms here.

So my idea was that if we may get some funds we may build them a store for organic products like some cereals and other products then they sell from there. Then others can undergo different trainings and know some jobs to do like carpentry, building, motorcycle repairing, and others which I may not be able to mention.

I have tried so much now dear and it has not been much easier.

Otherwise I believe everything would work well once we get good connection and supports.

And my opinion was even to open up a business that would help them sustain themselves without asking for help every time.



Highlights from a Refugee Camp in our Global Family



By Fidele Hitimana, fled DR Congo to Uganda

Am a Congolese by nationality with a refugee status. My passion is helping people in need.

After identifying challenges faced by my refugee community, I decided to take a determination of standing up and find out the solution.

After my few times of participation on the climate change interaction, I would love to encourage my fellow refugees to plant trees. But especially fruits. These can be better for them.

I am going to develop this project within the refugee settlement of Nakivale.

We are “New Hope for All” community based organization.

We are located within the refugee resettlement of Nakivale in Uganda country. Nakivale refugee settlement is a refugee camp occupied by over 100.000 refugees from different countries.

We teach about personal hygiene & fitness and promote food security through distributing seeds and making community vegetables nursery beds. We also distribute sanitary pads, Colgate, soaps, while teaching about personal hygiene. We have a team of volunteers in charge of “fitness program” where they get together children and train them about sport and different games. This activity brings

together children and develops friendships whoever they are from different nationalities. In addition, we train refugees on how to make new model garden and how to grow vegetables and support people with rabbits.

We serve as we can, but the lack of funds is limiting us to cover the targeted beneficiaries. Our request goes to everyone with a spirit of saving lives in need to come up with a support. Every donation counts.

Thanks once again for everyone willing to serve and change the world where we can all wish to stay.

Let's together to serve and save lives. We are:

- 1) Helping 51 children.
- 2) The pressing needs we have are:

- * Building,
- * Medical care,
- * Food,
- * Uniforms, and
- * School materials.

Hope you know. Refugee life conditions. Not easy to manage. It is a matter of trying.





**Kamuga Community
Permaculture Project, Kenya**

James Onyony wrote:

Hey sister how are you there? So, I'm very happy today, with the messages I got for the last 8 months. Now I know that we should talk on email. I have more pictures that I have for

what we're doing in our community. So, let me ask you something, we're gonna fence the farm garden project because we are facing many challenges there. Sometimes we got wild animals that destroyed things in our farm. So could you wish to make for us a GoFundMe campaign? [Iona answered, No.]



Lamin Koopmans, The Gambia (Facebook post)

A bountiful harvest from my banana plantation today. "Grow what you will eat and eat what you've grown." ❤️🇬🇲🇸🇳🇵🇸🇳🇵🇸🇳🇵

Slogan: Bringing Back Hope ❤️🇬🇲🇸🇳🇵🇸🇳🇵🇸🇳🇵

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Founder at **Jamorai Gambia Foundation**



Grassroots Coalition News

Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at www.gceej.org. Email 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 or mail to the address on page 2. 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.)



(first email) Why I should not be interested? I really want to be a member as soon as I suppose. Let us fight together for the common world. Please send those documents.

I have already clicked in the link to be in mailing list and I don't want to miss anything please. If there is a place I can find more past articles and journals to read let me know. [All journals are at gceej.org.]

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

(second email) I have got this and I have gone through a link to see more journals. There are a number of things I have found there and I will keep on reading for sure.

Also don't worry about my names, Sengo is the most used name familiar to many people around here. So don't worry about using it.

This sounds so nice!

I will be so grateful to join a meeting.

Sengo

(third email)

Hello! Sir/Madam

I would love to start up this paragraph by appreciating the way I have been positively impacted by this platform. This article on tree-planting presents what our charity did recently specifically yesterday.

We are still fighting to do better in fighting for global warming as the enemy of everyone who lives on this planet. Our faith is based on the fact that when environmental deterioration will be fully attained, no one will be safe. This implies that we are all answerable to the war against global warming.

This is just the beginning of the war, staff are ready for the war, the community should accept that the war is ours.

Let me Submit Towards.

Sengo

(fourth email) As I am always saying, the Coalition is the platform to brag. Our love will make us reach far.

Very nice mom! There is a need to have something like an icon of the work

the Late John Conner did and what you have been doing for the rest of your life. This will be like a beacon for the coming generations. You have done a very good job and John Conner did the best leaving these works in dilemma will be unfair for sure. I am not happy that our charity is not in such good position financially to finance these good works you have done and have a memoir garden to commemorate John Conner.

I think one time we will be in a position, as I was very much attached with the works of John Conner since the first day I read about his works and the dreams he had about the Coalition and justice in general.

Your works should not be left in vain mom, should be commemorated.

Sengo

(first email) Issue 85 is another wonderful selection of compelling news, evocative stories, reality-checks, and inspiration.

Sorry to read about the attack by armed robbers on Bigboy Musemwa of the Repair Earth Project in Zimbabwe. We acknowledge his courage and wish him a speedy recovery.

We have a tough fight ahead of us on so many fronts. Great to be part of such an effective Coalition.

Love from Australia,

Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone

(second email, after our Coalition Annual General Meeting on April 3)

The minutes offer a wonderful sense of the great vibe of the Coalition AGM.

Great bunch of people hey?

Love,

Robert & Anita

So I got the new Coalition news and read several of the articles. My eye started bugging me so I quit for now.

I had no idea that many of the "orphans" aren't actually orphans but abandoned children... unwanted children... which makes my heart hurt even more!!!

I hadn't thought of the rapes and the

promiscuous people. I knew this... I just had forgotten. I loved the Mindset article. I definitely agree birth control is needed! But I also know some don't believe in it. What a mess it is! And I saw several letters that people had written for help. And responses.

Also I saw the Earth quote and Saratoga post. I just wondered if it was okay to use her post and picture?

Anyway I'm thinking tomorrow while under the dryer I'll try reading more. It's pretty small print on my phone so I usually turn my phone sideways and then enlarge it but I keep having to move it over... but that's okay.. I'll get it!

The water article and pi charts were interesting and I want to reread that.

Linda L., Idaho USA

Thank you for this updates

Courage for the great works you are doing for our global family

Best regards

Leon Simweragi, AJVDC Green Brigade, DR Congo

Am always happy to work together with people despite the financial status as I know that ideas which are combined together with efforts make a great change all over.

Though my work is a bit difficult so am on the way of looking for more donors who may help me out and I believe that you may help me reach them too please because it's not easy to do such works alone that's why we form a coalition.

Thanks very much and happy for you Iona.

It's my pleasure to be in this wonderful coalition which aims to put everything in place well. Thanks very much. Am thankful for the invite to the forthcoming meeting which I believe will shape our needs and dreams as per the will of God to our Mother Earth.

Thanks so much.

Geofery Aranda, Kodendo Community Based Foundation), Kenya (See page 24.)

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Messages *continued from previous page*

Nice to hear from you Iona. Doing inspiring work is fulfilling and exhausting. Enjoy the time on the woods – it's a great idea.

Steve Leahy, Canada (See pages 4 and 5.)

I am happy for having you with this initiative.

Let us pray for the success. God is able and will make your dreams to become true.

Thank you once again for your interest.

A day will come where our children and people in need, who we serve, will feel happy and enjoy a good life. Let us together work hand in hand and save lives.

All the best to you!

Fidele Hitimana, New Hope for All, Uganda (See page 25.)

(to a mutual friend who has amazing gardens)

There is a group in Africa of orphans that are looking for seeds and I suggested that they find wild edibles and plant them. So maybe an article about wild edibles would be helpful to this group as well as others throughout the world. I hope you can find it in your heart to do this for Iona and the rest of the world.

Take good care. Don't be a stranger, keep in touch.

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Thank you for this comprehensive report and my apology for not attending meetings as I was facing problems with my gadgets and network as well. Also I couldn't send you stories as my laptop is not functional. I hope to fix this any time soon and I'll be able to send you stories as well participating in meetings.

Kind regards, keep up the good work.

Jussa Kudherezera, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA), Zimbabwe (See page 11.)

(first email)

This is so impressive mom, it's surely an informative trap of our mighty meeting.

I would wish to inquire from you, will you go ahead to make a follow up on Jeannette's idea of seeds donation as suggested by her!

Seeds favorable for our land in line with food nutrition are; cabbages, soya, carrots, corn flowers, beetroot, onions, and tomatoes, green papers...

Mugarura Amos, Comforter of the voiceless orphanage Bwindi, Uganda

(reply from Iona)

Dear Amos,

Thank you for your lovely email. I'm copying Jeannette so she can see your favorable seeds. I know from the past that

she was asking for a particular man who also runs an orphanage in Uganda. We've been helping him for a few years now. It's good to know what will grow well over there and be popular to eat.

I do know that Jeannette is a very low income woman so I'm not sure she'll be able to help you.

I will put this email on our Messages page next time.

Mom

(second email)

Hey team,

Hopefully all is well with you.

Am so glad for the great concern you people have towards achieving a common goal as a team!

Lots of wishes toward the plans ahead our success as a team of coalition.

Mugarura Amos

(first email)

My Work is NOT paid off. I actually need funding more than any person but what I mean in the real context is that donations and donor funding are NOT sustainable. This is why I mind about mind set change through sustainable programs so that we educate, engage communities so that even if there is no donation, the Project or community keeps ON going. I need funding to kick-start mindset change program.

Let's look at education. All Africa education challenges are the same. Orphanage AND vulnerability but this has issues.

Missionaries built schools, government has built schools, and individuals want to build schools through orphanages and vulnerability. So what AM saying is, let US equip the existing schools, support children to have a good learning environment with enough school supplies and other resources. Support their families to have enough food through sustainable agriculture and make sure we bring awareness in family life planning for people to produce few children. So that they have enough food and resources to educate and care for their children. Short of that UNDERSTANDING of this problem, we shall NOT eliminate this orphanage problem.

Herbert Bagyenyi, One Village Tours, Uganda

(second email)

Dear Partner & Friends!!!

Travel & Know Uganda!!!!!!!

ONE VILLAGE TOUR & TRAVEL.

Since March 2020 our travel business worldwide was and is still facing a challenging situation due to the Covid crisis. I have to admit, that also Herbert (One

Village Tours & Travel) is facing challenges and there were moments in these years, when fear was greater than Hope. But fear is a bad counselor and hinders seeing and seizing opportunities and taking decisions. Courage and Trust are definitely better counselors which led me to invest further in my network, expertise, know-how, and product portfolio.

With the vaccinations now and people getting used to how to live with Covid, we all see a silver ray at the horizon and am convinced, that slowly but surely our beloved travel and tourism industry will not only recover but thanks to its innovation capability return stronger and more sustainable than ever before.

In this sense, I wish you, dear partners and friends, a courageous travel with us in 2022 and that we again have the opportunity to meet and work together.

Stay safe and stay courageous

ONE VILLAGE TOURS & TRAVEL team.

Herbert

I hope that this email finds you well.

How have you and the newspaper been doing? :

I apologize to you for not contacting you for a long time. I have been overwhelmed with University and other commitments.

I am not sure if I have told you before, but right now, I am studying Geography. Classes are fascinating (and can sometimes be complicated).

I enjoy my study a lot. I wish to become somebody who can help young citizens to learn more about the environment and how to protect our Mother Earth.

The semester is nearly ending, with some more exams and then summer break! My family and I have many things planned.

In May, we will go to Vienna, mainly for a conference about the Earth. It is called the European Geosciences Union (EGU), <https://www.egu22.eu/>. Have you heard about it before? It is an enriching conference with more than 16,000 attendees! There, you can learn so much about climate, the ocean... everything related to the Earth! People are friendly and down to earth.

I have been going there since 2018 and I wrote a blog about my experience, here: <https://blogs.egu.eu/geolog/2018/09/12/a-young-participants-experience-at-the-2018-general-assembly-so-much-to-discover/>

This year, my presentations have been accepted. I will do one of them with my colleagues from Barbados, Italy, Iran, & France.

Please send some news about you. David

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages continued from previous page

and my sister, Pim, also would like to hear more from you.

Best wishes to you and to Grassroots Coalition News & stay very safe.

Pariphat Promduangsri, France/Thailand

Hello dear Iona.

Thanks for the email!!

We four, 2 girls and 1 boy plus me, enjoyed seeing you conducting the meeting and it was their first time to attend such meeting! Am glad I was one you hosted but add 2 girls so from Africa we were three women on my platform!!

Sister, I love you, and the way you struggling for climate change!!

Evelyn Namuwolo, Fauna and Flora Environmental Conservation Limited, Uganda

Hello sweet mommy,

Wow am so glad you liked it, yes the video was made by me and my team to call upon the issues around menstrual period.

By the way, I am getting more interest to speak on this issue more than ever. I am working on a global policy to work with other young people around the world to

developed strategy to achieve it together. The Video Text and Link as you requested:

#PeriodPovertyIsOurFight

Did you know that many women and girls menstruating in any given day but they face obstacles like stigma, lack of menstrual products, and adequate information to manage their period with dignity?

Join us one community at a time and not leave one woman or girl behind. You can reach us yapd2020@gmail.com for resourceful partnership and sponsorship now, thank you!

#RescueAGirl #endperiodpoverty #YAP-D4Africa #reusable sanitary pads #endperiodstigma

The Link: <https://www.facebook.com/104670467557212/posts/716014233089496/?app=fbl>

The link will take you directly to the video on our Facebook page. Back to your words "You're most than a mother, you're a gift to me and the world especially our Africa continent," I truly love and respect your passion and contribution to my works. It is not about getting donors to

help your works, it is about getting people who truly trust and believe in you.

Thank you for your encouragement, love you like no other with smile. Do have a nice day, bye.

Your humble son,

Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, Rescue a Girl, Nigeria

(first email) Hi. I find the meeting minutes more than interesting and am dreadfully sorry to have missed it owing to very poor connection signal as it rained cats and dogs here. Next time I make sure I attend, in spite of technical glitches. Be blessed!

David A. Mirindi, Jr., Humanitarian Action for Peace and Development, DR Congo

(second email) Jehovah is greater than our problems. My namesake David wouldn't succumb of his pathology!!! I thank God who keeps showing up in each one's life through his good heartful people. **Thank you to everyone who felt little David's sickness as theirs.**

David

*Heartfelt Thanks to Everyone Who Sent Money
or Prayers to Help Save David's Life*

He's not crying in pain every night anymore. He's getting better!!!



Photos by David's "father," Willy Sseninde

(left) David in pain from Irritable Bowel Disease. (middle) Day after David's surgery. (right) David sleeping peacefully one week after surgery, no more crying at night.