

# 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](http://www.gceej.org). Issue No. 87: August 2022

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



## What is Deep Green Resistance?

By Lierre Keith

Deep Green Resistance: May 30, 2022

### Our Values, Our Structure, and Our Strategy

Deep Green Resistance (DGR) is a radical environmental movement, dedicated to shifting activists towards strategies that have a real chance to stop the murder of the planet. Our allegiance is first and foremost to the land around us; we fight for the salmon, the pine trees, and the songbirds, not the solar panels and space shuttles so many 'environmentalists' have

fallen in love with. We in DGR don't want a more sustainable nightmare. We want a living world.

Deep Green Resistance recognizes that industrial civilization is incompatible with life on this planet – and when our way of living conflicts with the needs of the land, our way of living must go. This transition to a healthy and just relationship with the natural world is a massive undertaking, one that won't be achieved with individual lifestyle changes and a green coat of paint on the latest mountain-killing mining rig. Real change will take a revolutionary heart. Anything less is a recipe for failure.

Deep Green Resistance has a roadmap for that revolution. We call it Decisive Ecological Warfare (<https://deepgreenresistance.org/decisive-ecological-warfare/>). We've studied the most successful movements in history, from the Irish Republicans to Mandela's *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, and applied the lessons they can teach us to the fight for Earth Liberation. Our goal as above-ground activists is to promote this strategic resistance, with the goal of triggering cascading systems failure within industrial infrastructure. In this mission, we are guided by a strict code of conduct,

**Resistance** continued on page 3

# Dissolving the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice

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## Our Motto:

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

## Our Slogan:

The way forward:  
cycle back to basics.

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

## Mission of Our Newspaper

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

Thank you for your interest in *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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Fair Use Logo

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

### Dearest Global Family,

Now that the non-profit is dissolving (I have one more task to finalize it on 1/1/2023), I'm turning my energy to a couple of new ways to try helping people.

Soon we will have a Zoom meeting just for orphanage managers, hoping they will somehow be able to help each other with ideas for fundraising or growing food or education or other things that will make their lives easier and better for the children.

Secondly, Kesheni Sengo in Tanzania is teaching me about the Ubuntu movement in Africa and he suggested I buy a book to learn all about it. So I did that. It's called *UJAMMA: The Hidden Story of Tanzania's Socialist Villages* by Ralph Ibbott. Maybe some of you are familiar with this amazing philosophy which includes Justice, Responsibility, Equality, Collectiveness, Relatedness, Community, Caring, Dependability, Sharing, Trust, Integrity, Unselfishness, Social Change, Fraternity, Forgiveness, and Comradship.

I certainly would love to live in a world where these principles were lived and honored. Wouldn't you?

In the meantime, carry on with your wonderful projects. I'll be here cranking out our newspapers. There are many great ideas in these pages along with contact information so you can reach out to other members of our Global Family for guidance, encouragement, ideas, and support.

I hope our stories inspire you; they inspire me!

With Love,

*Iona*

### Resistance *continued from page 1*

a steering committee of seasoned revolutionaries, and, most of all, an unwavering dedication to the land on which we live.

### How Can I Get Involved?

For inspiration, watch a powerful one-minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNSQABUZw2c>.

In the midst of all this destruction, it's easy to feel hopeless. But there's one nice thing about living in such dark times – anywhere you look, there's great work to be done. Deep Green Resistance isn't afraid to make the connections between open-pit mining and police brutality, between rape and deforestation, between acidified oceans and settler colonialism. We are proud anti-capitalists, anti-racists, and radical feminists, with members working on everything from pornography and prostitution to indigenous land rights and prison reform.

Whether on the front lines or behind the scenes, there is room for you in this war. So get in touch! We have members across the globe and resources in multiple languages. Head to our website (<https://deepgreenresistance.org>), check our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/deepgreenresistance/>), or send us an email and introduce yourself. We'll help you learn more about DGR, find opportunities for volunteering, and apply for membership. You'll also be able to download a free ebook copy of the Deep Green Resistance book.

DGR is working to create a life-centered resistance movement that will dismantle industrial civilization by any means necessary. In order to succeed, we'll need teachers, healers, warriors, and workers. If you're tired of the false solutions and the feel-good failures, Deep Green Resistance is for you, whatever your skills. In a fight like this, we need it all.

**Remember:** Deep Green Resistance is an above-ground organization, meaning we don't engage in violence or property destruction. If you feel your talents would best be put to use in more militant actions, please do not contact us. This will keep you safer, and help us be more effective. We will not answer any questions related to any underground that may or may not exist.

"Our best hope will never lie in individual survivalism. Nor does it lie in small groups doing their best to prepare for the worst. Our best and only hope is a resistance movement that is willing to face the scale of the horrors, gather our forces, and fight like hell for all we hold dear."

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/what-is-deep-green-resistance-2/>



### Deep Green Resistance FB Page

The goal of DGR is to deprive the rich of their ability to steal from the poor and the powerful of their ability to destroy the planet.

Deep Green Resistance is an environmental and social justice organization based on the book, *Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet*, published in 2011. (See p. 6)

Deep Green Resistance argues for a concerted, focused, and serious resistance movement that can stop the murder of the planet before it's too late. If you are interested in volunteering as an ally or member, please inquire at [contact@deepgreenresistance.org](mailto:contact@deepgreenresistance.org).

This page is maintained by volunteers as a community service. Comments that attack people, name-call, or show disrespect to people will be deleted. When we disagree, we keep it respectful. People who cross this boundary are banned without discussion.

DGR has a defined Statement of Principles and Code of Conduct committed to safe spaces for all, and healthy organizational roots. DGR is made up of writers, community organizers, janitors, parents, grocery clerks, musicians, feminists, teachers, farmers, dishwashers, artists, caregivers, laborers, and students. We come from varied backgrounds, but we have one goal: to defend this planet that is our only home. We advocate for tactics that include the full range of nonviolent direct action & civil disobedience techniques, including blockades, protests, demonstrations. We are also committed to education and cultural work. That work is crucial as the future will demand strong local communities that embrace direct democracy, economies of support, universal human rights, and the rights of nature. As oppressive social and economic systems come down, we will have to build new cultures based on justice and a connection to the land.

We recognize, however, that the life of our planet is in crisis: another 200 species went extinct today, while across the conti-

nent the summer's heat is approaching hell. The dedicated work of above-ground organizers will not be enough, not in time. Our planet needs a separate but parallel underground organization, dedicated to resisting in ways that fall outside the bounds of legal challenges and civil disobedience.

As above-ground organizers, we don't have any connection with an underground and we don't want one. For the safety of all involved, a firewall must be maintained between above and below-ground activists, with communication restricted to anonymous communiqués. Support can only be given in the realm of public opinion, but DGR believes in giving that support by arguing for the necessity of a serious, strategic, and coordinated underground.

To have any chance of success, our movement will need loyalty, material support, and most of all, courage. The word "courage" comes from the same root as *coeur*, the French word for heart. We need all the courage of which the human heart is capable, forged into both weapon and shield to defend what is left of Earth, our only home. And the lifeblood of courage is, of course, love.

We love Earth and we love life. For Earth to survive, she needs your heart. The songbirds and the salmon need your heart too, no matter how weary, because even a broken heart is still made of love. They need your heart because they are disappearing, slipping into that longest night of extinction, and the resistance is nowhere in sight. We will have to build that resistance from whatever comes to hand: whispers and prayers, history and dreams, from our bravest words and braver actions. It will be hard, there will be a cost, and in too many implacable dawns it will seem impossible. But we will have to do it anyway. So gather your heart and join with every living being.

With love as our First Cause, how can we fail?

**Source:** [www.facebook.com/deepgreenresistance/](http://www.facebook.com/deepgreenresistance/)



Photo: NOAA

The Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii is a benchmark site for measuring carbon dioxide. NOAA and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography make independent measurements from this station on the slopes of Mauna Loa volcano.

## NOAA Warns: CO<sub>2</sub> Reaches Highest Levels in 4½ Million Years

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Paige Bennett (*emphasis added*)  
EcoWatch: June 6, 2022

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is warning that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is reaching levels not experienced by humans before. Carbon dioxide levels are **50% higher** than pre-industrial levels, and the amount of carbon dioxide is higher than it has been in millions of years.

On June 3, the Mauna Loa Atmospheric Baseline Observatory in Hawaii measured a peak carbon dioxide level of **421 parts per million** in May, the highest level for 2022 and reaching levels not seen in millions of years.

“The science is irrefutable: humans are altering our climate in ways that our economy and our infrastructure must adapt to,” NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad said in

a press release. “We can see the impacts of climate change around us every day. The relentless increase of carbon dioxide measured at Mauna Loa is a stark reminder that we need to take **urgent, serious steps** to become a more Climate Ready Nation.”

NOAA warns that human activities, like the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, agriculture, and cement manufacturing, are contributing to heightened levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide along with other greenhouse gases. Together, these emissions trap heat that would otherwise escape Earth, leading to extreme heat and weather events like **flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts**.

“It’s depressing that we’ve lacked the collective willpower to slow the relentless rise in CO<sub>2</sub>,” said Charles David Keeling, a scientist with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. “Fossil-fuel use may no longer be accelerating, but we are still **racing at top speed** towards a global catastrophe.”

Aside from land impact, NOAA explains that excess emissions can also lead to warming oceans, rising sea levels, and more carbon being absorbed in waters. This causes the oceans to become more acidic and increases deoxygenation, causing many marine organisms to die off.

Pre-industrial levels of carbon dioxide remained around **200 parts per million** during the existence of humanity. But now, NOAA notes that the current levels are more in line with the Pliocene Climatic Optimum, which was about 4.1 to 4.5 million years ago. During this time, carbon dioxide levels were around 400 parts per million, and sea levels were up to **25 meters (82 feet) higher** – high enough to drown out some of the most populated cities of our time.

Source: <https://www.ecowatch.com/carbon-dioxide-levels-noaa.html>

# The U.S. Supreme Court's Shock-and-Awe Judicial Coup

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

The rolling judicial coup coming from this court is by no means over. The first rule of an emergency is that you do what it takes to end the emergency and get to safety.

By Naomi Klein  
The Intercept: June 30, 2022

**THIS IS IT.** The moment for President Joe Biden and Congress to challenge the underlying legitimacy of the U.S. Supreme Court and advance an aggressive climate action agenda. There will be no better moment to take this stand for a transformed court, nor a more fateful one. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is right: “We need to reform or do away with the whole thing, for the sake of the planet.”

Over the last few days, we have witnessed a shock-and-awe judicial coup, from stripping people of the right to terminate pregnancies (*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*), to weakening the sovereign right of Indigenous tribes to enforce the law on their lands (*Okla-homa v. Castro-Huerta*), to interfering with the rights of states to regulate the carrying of firearms (*New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*), to enabling a return to Christian prayer in public schools (*Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*).

And now this: a decision that eviscerates the Environmental Protection Agency's power to regulate a major source of the carbon emissions destabilizing our planet. The EPA can still regulate CO<sub>2</sub>, but its capacity to regulate under the Clean Air Act is significantly reduced. It represents the culmination, as my colleague Sharon Lerner reports, of decades of “plotting against environmental regulations” by Koch Industries, and as *The Lever* has reported, this entire court has been shaped by the dark-money-bankrolled Judicial Crisis Network, which [was] surely gearing up to toast the bountiful return on their patient investments [the] July 4 weekend.

History contains crossroads when a single set of decisions can alter the trajectory of a people – or even a planet. The Biden administration's response to the Supreme Court's 6-3 EPA ruling, hot on the heels of the other outrageous power grabs, is a mo-

ment like that. No juncture offers greater opportunity for courageous, transformational leadership, should such a thing be on offer anywhere in Washington, D.C.

Biden came to office promising an “all of government” approach to the climate crisis. It was a defining issue in the Democratic Party primaries and a winning issue for Biden in the general election.

Why? Because voters are now fully engaged with the climate crisis – and they reliably are most engaged in the summer, when our warming world speaks loudest. But last fall, Biden let Senator Joe Manchin push climate action way down his political agenda – and suddenly we stopped hearing much about it at all. I suppose the smartest guys in the room thought it was starting to smell like defeat. Thanks to great advice like that, Biden managed to demoralize much of his base, and some of his best appointees resigned.

With the court's EPA ruling, Biden now has a chance to put climate back at the top of the agenda. He should seize it. As Justice Elena Kagan wrote in the dissent, “The court appoints itself – instead of Congress or the expert agency – the decision maker on climate policy...I cannot think of many things more frightening.” A great many voters, if the stakes are clearly explained and kept top of mind through consistent messaging, will agree.

In fact, no issue gives the Democrats a platform for a more powerful or more unifying message than this Supreme Court ruling – both to radically reform the court and to communicate the dire urgency of the climate crisis and the need for bold policy. Moreover, by using the court's EPA ruling to finally do more than send out opportunistic fundraising emails – and instead to draw the line and move to transform an obviously out-of-control, extremist court – Biden and the Democrats would be doing precisely what they have never done and what young climate activists have been pleading with them to do for years: Treat the climate emergency like an emergency.

The first rule of an emergency is that you do what it takes to end the emergency and get to safety. You don't throw up your hands because the task is too hard. You certainly don't let a gang of unelected, lifetime appointed political operatives – several of whom only have their seats because of trickery and lies – get in your way.

The Democrats' base would take tremendous heart from seeing this kind of emergency footing response, but it would

be most meaningful for young people, many of whom can vote. And those voices should not be discounted. T

his extremist court has positioned itself as an advocate for youth, children, and the unborn – from abortion to school prayer. Its willingness to light the future on fire for all kids alive today and yet to come puts the lie to this absurd claim. If the Democrats turn the EPA decision into a pivot point, not just for speeches and poems and yoga poses, but for decisive action in defense of the future, it would upend the debate.

They should, moreover, connect the dots between the individual rulings and their underlying logic. For several of these justices, their casualness about climate apocalypse is inextricable from their Christian fundamentalist takes on abortion and prayer (and soon, given the chance, gay marriage and trans rights). They aren't worried about the world burning because they think we are in the End Times and that their faith will protect them (and failing that, that their wealth and their guns will, which is the way Republicans enact the Rapture without divine intervention). Biden should get biblical on these theocrats and call them on flouting the duty to care for all of creation.

The rolling judicial coup coming from this court is by no means over. Next term, the Supreme Court will hear a redistricting case that could well make it far easier to concoct a legal pretense for overriding the popular vote in elections in favor of state-appointed electors – the very thing that Donald Trump attempted but failed to do, because enough people were afraid of ending up in jail. There is no reason to believe that a group of people whose very presence on the bench required grotesque abuses of democracy would somehow draw the line at thwarting it. The moment to stop them from getting the chance is right now.

Biden and the Democrats are currently careening toward a wave of defeats. But it's not too late to get back on track. They have just been handed a winning platform: Use the Supreme Court's attack on urgent carbon control as a catalyst to build a more meaningful democracy and take transformational climate action at the same time.

If they decide to run with it, everybody on this planet wins. If they refuse, they deserve every loss coming their way.

**Source:** <https://theintercept.com/2022/06/30/supreme-court-climate-epa-coup/>

## DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE

[**Note from Iona:** *I have always loved Derrick Jensen's writing and now I'm bringing you some highlights from his 2011 book Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet co-authored with Aric McBay and Lierre Keith. The more dire our global situation gets, the stronger I feel about what I will publish. Here are excerpts from pages 13, 16, and 26-27.]*

Every new study reveals that global warming is happening far more quickly than was previously anticipated. Staid scientists are now suggesting the real possibility of billions of human beings being killed off by what some are calling a Climate Holocaust. A recently released study suggests an increase in temperatures of 16°C (30°F) by the year 2100.

We are not talking about this culture killing humans, and indeed the planet, sometime in the far-distant future. This is the future that children born today will see, and suffer, in their lifetimes.

Honestly, is this culture worth more than the lives of your own children?

\* \* \*

People routinely approach each of this book's authors – Aric, Lierre, and Derrick – and tell us how their hope and despair have merged into one. They no longer want to do everything they can to protect the places they love, everything, that is, except the most important thing of all: to bring down the culture itself. They want to go on the offensive. They want to stop this culture in its tracks. But they don't know how.

This book is about creating a culture of resistance. And it's about creating an actual resistance. It's about creating the conditions for salmon to be able to return, for songbirds to be able to return, for amphibians to be able to return.

This book is about fighting back.  
And this book is about winning.

\* \* \*

The vast majority of the population will do nothing unless they are led, cajoled, or forced. If the structural determinants are in place for people to live their lives without doing damage – for example, if they're hunter gatherers with respected elders – then that's what happens. If, on the other hand, the environment has been arranged for cars, industrial schooling is mandatory, resisting war taxes will land you in jail, food is only available through giant cor-

porate enterprises selling giant corporate degradation, and misogynist pornography is only a click away 24/7 – well, welcome to the nightmare. This culture is basically conducting a massive Milgram experiment on us, only the electric shocks aren't fake – they're killing off the planet, species by species.

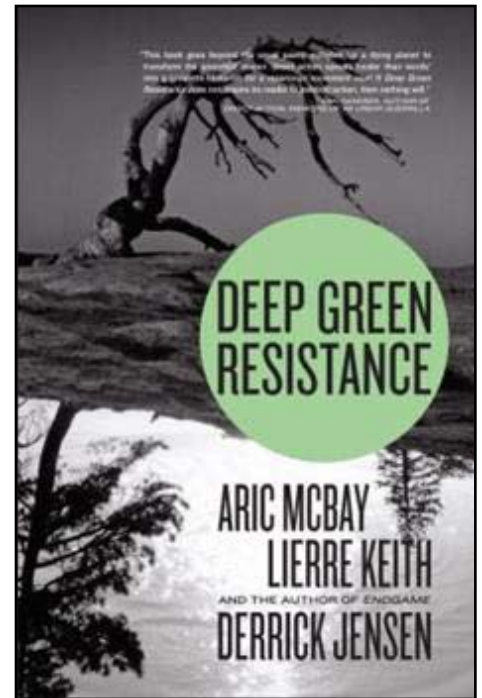
But wherever there is oppression, there is resistance. That is true everywhere, and has been forever. The resistance is built body by body from a tiny few, from the stalwart, the brave, the determined, who are willing to stand against both power and social censure. It is our prediction that there will be no mass movement, not in time to save this planet, our home. That tiny percent – Margaret Mead's small group of thoughtful, committed citizens – has been able to shift both the cultural consciousness and the power structures toward justice in times past. It is valid to long for a mass movement, however, no matter how much we rationally know that we're wishing on a star.

Theoretically, the human race as a whole could face our situation and make some decisions – tough decisions, but fair ones, that include an equitable distribution of both resources and justice, that respect and embrace the limits of our planet. But none of the institutions that govern our lives, from the economic to the religious, are on the side of justice or sustainability.

Theoretically, these institutions could be forced to change. The history of every human rights struggle bears witness to how courage and sacrifice can dismantle power and injustice. But again, it takes time. If we had a thousand years, even a hundred years, building a movement to transform the dominant institutions around the globe would be the task before us. But the Western black rhinoceros is out of time. So is the golden toad, the pygmy rabbit. No one is going to save this planet except us.

So what are our options? The usual approach of long, slow institutional change has been foreclosed, and many of us know that. The default setting for environmentalists has become personal lifestyle “choices.” This should have been predictable as it merges perfectly into the demands of capitalism, especially the condensed corporate version mediating our every impulse into their profit. But we can't consume our way out of environmental collapse; consumption is the problem.

We might be forgiven for initially accepting an exhortation to “simple living” as a solution to that consumption, especially



as the major environmental organizations and the media have declared lifestyle change our First Commandment. Have you accepted compact fluorescents as your personal savior? But lifestyle change is not a solution as it doesn't address the root of the problem.

We have believed such ridiculous solutions because our perception has been blunted by some portion of denial and despair. And those are legitimate reactions. I'm not persuading anyone out of them. But do we want to develop a strategy to manage our emotional state or to save the planet?

And we've believed in these lifestyle solutions because everyone around us insists they're workable, a collective repeating mantra of “renewables, recycling” that has dulled us into belief. Like Eichmann, no one has told us that it's wrong.

Until now. So this is the moment when you will have to decide. Do you want to be part of a serious effort to save this planet? Not a serious effort at collective delusion, not a serious effort to feel better, not a serious effort to save you and yours, but an actual strategy to stop the destruction of everything worth loving. If your answer feels as imperative as instinct, read on.

*To be continued in the next issue of Grassroots Coalition News. Or, better yet, order your own copy of this book for \$24.95 post-paid to the U.S. Order at [www.derrickjensen.org](http://www.derrickjensen.org) or send a check to Derrick Jensen, Box 903, Crescent City, California 95531.*



Photo: Jay Mantri on Unsplash

*Today, we celebrate a small but meaningful victory as Cal Fire, the state agency which manages the forest, has canceled three planned logging operations.*

## **Victory! Activists Force California to Cancel Planned Redwood Logging**

DGR News Service: Jun 27, 2022

**DGR Editor's note:** Beginning in April 2021, activists in Northern California have been engaged in a sustained campaign to protect the Jackson Demonstration State Forest from logging. Jackson is the largest State forest in California, stretching over nearly 50,000 acres, and is mostly made up of coast redwood, Douglas-fir, grand fir, hemlock, tanoak, madrone, and bay myrtle communities and is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Today, we celebrate a small but meaningful victory as Cal Fire, the state agency which manages the forest, has canceled three planned logging operations. But as David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club who was later ousted for being too radical, used to say: "All our defeats are permanent, and all our victories temporary." Logging continues to destroy other areas of the Jackson Forest, as well as forests across California, the country, and the world.

The ecological crisis is deepening and it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to take focused, strategic action to prevent industrial civilization from destroying the planet.

### **Background via CounterPunch:**

"Nonstop protests erupted in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest since April 2021, including tree-sits, frequent gate blockades, and work stoppages on active logging sites. Forest protectors on the ground reported almost every large tree was marked for cut, with many already felled.

The Coalition to Save Jackson Forest, an alliance led by the Coyote Band of Pomo Indians, including environmental and legal groups E.P.I.C. (Environmental Protection and Information Center), The Mendocino Trail Stewards, Friends of Jackson Forest, and Redwood Nation Earth First! is amplifying its call for a moratorium on logging in Jackson until the outdated Management Plan and Mission Statement are reworked to address climate change and protect Indigenous rights.

Jackson is the ancestral home of the Pomo Tribes as recently recognized in a Resolution by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. Governor Newsom has issued a Directive to all State Lands agencies to begin practicing co-management with the California Tribes."

"The timber industry regularly abuses the term "thinning" and instead uses this language as an excuse to harvest the most profitable (and therefore the largest and most fire resilient) trees in an area. But harvesting the largest trees from a forest leaves the forest even more susceptible to wildfire and exacerbates the exact problem that "thinning" is meant to solve. That's why forests that have been logged the most aggressively [and] also burn with the most severity.

"If we want our forests to become part of the climate solution, we need to fundamentally rethink our relationship to them. Our forests produce far more value as carbon sequestration and storage machines than they do as lumber. It's time for our State Agencies to accept that. Instead of treating our forests as timberlands, we should transform them into carbon reserves that will naturally help fight climate change." – Environmental Protection Information Center

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/victory-activists-force-california-to-cancel-planned-redwood-logging/>



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation, John Okot

Women sell shea butter along the main road in Pader district, northern Uganda, May 25, 2022.

## Uganda Chiefs Fight to Save ‘Sacred’ Shea Trees Felled for Fuel

By John Okot  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: June 14, 2022

Northern Uganda’s revered shea trees are under threat from climate change and illegal loggers who turn the wood into charcoal and sell the fuel for use in cooking.

- Trees are being felled illegally for lucrative charcoal.
- Extreme weather in northern Uganda is also causing damage.
- Communities cracking down on loggers and raising awareness.

AGAGO, Uganda – Sitting on an anthill in northern Uganda, local clan leader Justine Tooyero watched wistfully over the few shea trees visible in the distance, standing isolated amid many stumps.

As a child, Tooyero heard fireside folklore about how his Acholi people had protected the forests for generations and discovered the value of the “sacred” shea tree – whose fruit and seeds are used in medicine, cooking, and cultural rituals.

Today, the 45-year-old is striving to protect the trees from illegal loggers who are cutting them down for charcoal to sell – a lucrative trade as most Ugandans rely on it for cooking.

Despite a government ban on the cutting and transportation of shea trees in 2018 – and the sale of shea logs and products – they are still being felled in great numbers by charcoal dealers in northern Uganda, according to local leaders and experts.

Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall are making matters worse as the trees produce less fruit and drought-hit farmers turn to the wood for additional income.

“They (the trees) are communicating to us,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation while pointing towards the shea trees in Uganda’s Agago district, 450 kilometers (280 miles) north of the capital Kampala. “They have been resilient long enough and now they need our help,” added Tooyero, whose Abunga Lamili clan means “forest dwellers” in the Luo language.

Since 2016, he has teamed up with local chiefs, district authorities, and a network of citizens to protect the trees.

“We are working with four chiefdoms and 100 informants who also work with the police to arrest illegal charcoal dealers in hotspot areas,” Tooyero said. More than 200 arrests have been made so far this year, with about 35 dealers jailed, he added.

The group is also trying to teach people about the economic value and environmental importance of the endangered species – whose numbers are dwindling not just in Uganda but across the so-called “shea belt” stretching from Senegal to South Sudan.

Peter Cronkleton, a senior scientist at the Center for International Forestry Research, said people in northern Ghana – mainly women – had not only reported shea trees being harvested for fuel, but also that increasing wildfires were damaging them.

Millions of women across West and East Africa financially rely on the trees as they crush the nuts to produce valuable shea butter that is widely used in soaps, cosmetics, and food.

And environmentally, shea trees help create an agroforestry landscape on farmland that acts as a carbon sink while the cover they provide leads to higher water infiltration, protecting against desertification and slowing forest degradation.

### ‘OUR HANDS ARE TIED’

Extreme weather in northern Uganda is fuelling the threats to shea trees, in two  
**Sacred Shea** *continued on next page*



Sacred Shea *continued from previous page*

main ways. Some farmers frustrated by poor rains are cutting down the trees to sell charcoal in order to feed their families, while rising heat is making them less productive, scientists warned.

“The high temperature in the region is killing pollen in female flowers,” said Laban Turyagyenda, director of research at the Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute. “This prevents pollination and ... (there are) no fruits,” added Turyagyenda, whose organization is based in the northern city of Lira.

Northern Uganda is a hub for commercial charcoal production, and it also supplies neighboring nations such as Kenya and South Sudan. Shea trees are often targeted because the charcoal it provides is said to burn for longer and produce less smoke.

A study by Makerere University in Kampala found that the number of shea trees – juveniles excluded – per hectare on fallow land fell from 20 in 2008 to between 10 and 15 in 2017.

Yet Makerere lecturer Patrick Byakagaba said there was scant data on how many shea trees had been felled since 2018 due to a lack of state resources for monitoring and because charcoal dealers often uproot the whole tree, leaving no stumps to count.

Clan leader Tooyero said his group was carrying out at least three operations a week to crack down on charcoal dealers.

However, Ambrose Olaa, prime minister of the Ker Kwaro Acholi – a cultural institution which oversees 57 chiefdoms – said financial constraints prevented such efforts being replicated more widely. For example, he said, informants rely on the fines issued to culprits to fund their work and logistics including transport. Under the 2018 shea tree ban, offenders must either pay 600,000 Uganda shillings (\$161) or face up to a year in jail.

Yet it is not just charcoal dealers seeking quick profits who are cutting down shea trees. “Our hands are tied,” said Nelson Ojara,



Rwot Kasimiro Ongom, chief of Patongo chiefdom (left) and one his ‘informants’ who help monitor trees in Adilang, northern Uganda, May 30, 2022.

37, a farmer in Omugu village. “I had to stop farming because I can’t afford machinery for irrigating my farmland when there is no rain. Nowadays I cut trees for charcoal burning so that I can buy food to survive.”

### Seeds of Change

Cultural leaders in northern Uganda, such as Rwot Kasimiro Ongom of Patongo chiefdom, worry that the shea trees are producing less fruit because the “gods are angry” about them being felled for charcoal.

They are spreading this message among their communities in an attempt to stop the practice.

“Usually culture makes it a taboo to cut valuable trees like the shea, and if you do so, you are told that you will be hurt,” said Michael Tebere, a researcher on environmental issues.

Researchers such as Turyagyenda, meanwhile, are taking more practical measures to protect the shea tree population. His research institute is using a grafting method,

which can help shea trees mature in 10 years instead of 25.

Since last year, 4,500 grafted shea seedlings have been distributed in northern Uganda to replace the felled trees and also older ones which are now less productive, Turyagyenda said.

The research institute is also helping people – especially former farmers who have resorted to charcoal burning to make money – by teaching them skills including beekeeping and mushroom farming, as well as how to make wine from shea fruit.

But some local leaders, including Ongom of Patongo, fear shea trees will continue to be cut down, and “bad omens” persist, unless offenders face stricter punishments. “Our forefathers knew what they were doing and that is how our trees survived for all these generations,” Ongom said. “So the least we could do is show respect for them by protecting these trees to benefit our children in future.”

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20220609152746-0d7sb/>

# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy UPAWA

*A child will be responsible to take care of that tree until he or she graduates from school. The impact of this will be manifested from the school to the family level. Kesheni Sengo is the adult in the background nurturing children and trees simultaneously.*

## Children Learn Love for Trees

By Kesheni Alinanuswe Sengo, CEO-UPAWA, Tanzania

### 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 presents what our charity did recently, specifically last month.

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.

Today was a very nice day. We have managed to do a nice event that has created a mark in the history of the children and the community around as you will read in the storyline below.

We have finalized every plan for tomorrow's campaign in a public primary school.

1. We have already hired a van to carry trees and staff.

2. We have already paid for trees.

Tomorrow this is the only thing that

we have. Everything is alright. I will share with you after the event tomorrow.

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

**Love for Trees** *continued on next page*

# Stories from Our Global Family

Love for Trees *continued from previous page*



*There will training to the pupils and staff in a respective school about the essence of planting trees, loving them, and caring for them.*

A child will be responsible to take care of that tree until he or she graduates from school. The impact of this will be manifested from the school to the family level.

Children will be involved in this project and they will be the key caretakers of this tree until the final notes. The charity will be making follow ups and see the development of the trees in collaboration with the environmental teacher at school.

Environmental Justice and inclusion – this is the point which needs joint efforts more than any other thing in this universe as the fact of matter when the environment will be fully deteriorated by human activities no one will be safe.

The community should be involved to safeguard the environment to prevent future damage that has been caused by human activities. Our Door-to-Door Tree Planting Campaign is rooted from this idea that environmental issues should be based on an inclusive agenda that should bring together lawyers, padres and nuns, children and adults, men and women of all ages and ethnicities, without segregation and finally we will win the war.

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

*Asante sana mama.* (Thank you very much mom) that is Swahili language

[*after the tree planting*] Hello mom! Today has been so interesting to us as I have been getting phone calls to appreciate what we did yesterday. I did not expect to get as many calls as I have been receiving.

There are some giant organizations which wondered what we have done. This gives me a picture of what will happen when we will implement in other primary schools as we are planning to do if things of finance will be as I have suggested.

I am very proud to be part of the community that advocates for environmental sustainability for the benefits of the com-

munity. I will never regret and I believe the impact of Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice will be spoken all over the whole country of Tanzania and Africa in general. This is what I can see. I must acknowledge that you are the hero for the rest of the world.

I think this is the story that has to be read and to be told tirelessly.

I have attached some photos presenting different occasions during the tree planting campaign that we had today. I have attached funding tips for our next plans if we can share what to do will be okay, too, mom.

**Kesheni Sengo**, Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans (UPAWA) is a legally registered Charity in Tanzania that strives for betterment of the society. Charity Registration Number: 00NGO/R/2169.

We welcome INGOs and Civil Societies with interests to work with African Communities.

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# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Friends of Fireflies

(left) The fallen citrus tree. (right) Before planting, getting the tree ready for its new home.

## Friends of Fireflies: Tree Diary of an African City Dweller

### Chapter Two Living With Trees

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

We just woke up to see the tree has fallen, says 17-year-old Richard, grandson to Pa Ayinla Ajibona [property owner]. It all started back then during the early years of the military administration of Gen Ibrahim Babangida when every first Saturday of the month is a mandatory environmental sanitation day between 7am-10am, where we are expected to clean our environment and weed the grasses around the premises.

While performing the weeding was when we noticed the young citrus tree, it was about 0.5-foot tall when it was found growing on a building foundation, so we set it apart on every routine monthly weeding. Not until the building was about to be developed that we had to move it to its latter permanent site [besides the fence], where it grows and blossoms bearing sweet fruits, cool shade, and home to varieties of creatures including Ants, Spiders, Butterflies, Lizards, and Birds.

The trees brings the birds closer, accord-

ing to Pa Thomas Ajibona, the 91-years-old property owner with impaired vision, who says, "As little boy growing up, varieties of birds perching on trees is a common sight, though the vision is poor now unable to see the birds but can remember vividly the looks of the birds after listening to the song they sing."

The tree has been home to the ants, with the lizards picking on them, sometimes chased off by the ants, you see the butterfly dangling in flight and the lizards glaring at it, hoping it will come close enough for a dive, the spider with its web hoping to catch a fly, the sunbird and the hummingbird busy pollinating, the mona monkeys do come around too, they are quite friendly.

Pa Thomas Ajibona and the monkeys are pals, things fall out between them when the scare of Ebola hits the air, he has to act like his walking stick is a gun with a huge noise to scare the monkeys away.

It was however in June, there fell this torrential rainfall, with a tremendous thunderstorm, that lasted several hours during the night; the only sound audible was that of rainfall and thunderstorm, only for us to wake up in the morning to see the age-old tangerine tree as fallen.

The Friends of Fireflies [supporting

eco-friendly initiatives], in a blessed unrest effort to restore the lost tree, sprang into action, this time at the Ajibona premises, Wilmer Street Isheri-oke town, a few streets away from Ajegunle close.

First is the daunting task of evacuating the lost tree to pave way for restoration. With us was John. John just came in from the neighboring Ogun State in search of greener pastures than in urban Lagos. He was putting up with his cousin Deji, yet to be engaged in commercial activities.

When he learnt of our City4trees project and that he was free to join us, he volunteered with us. Together with his helping hand in a relentless effort, the tree was gradually chopped and moved with caution to avoid injury to self or teammate as well as avoid damage to structures and zero glass breakage.

The ground was neatly swept, the fruits left on the tree were harvested, and the seeds preserved for the nursery.

Having done with the evacuation, we need to get a citrus tree to replace that lost to climate stressor. Together with John we went in search of the citrus tree [tangerine].

Sourcing for trees, although imperative, is quite challenging – putting the right tree

**Diary continued on next page**

# Stories from Our Global Family

Diary *continued from previous page*



*During and after planting [on the left Rachel and Richard, right volunteers].*

in the right place goes a long way to ensure sustainability. We have to travel several miles to different locations in search of a growing tangerine tree. We searched for months. At the end, we had to settle for the Orange tree, another citrus tree, that was readily available.

Having experienced the trouble sourcing trees, the seeds collected from that lost to climate stressor were swiftly planted in nursery bags, and kept till we can find them a home. At least now we know that some trees are and some not, readily available.

John helped us with his vast understanding of native gardening practices; he was however able to distinguish between the Orange tree and other citrus plants by squeezing the leaves and smelling them besides close physical examination.

## On to the final stage of the planting process...

Friends of Fireflies [supporting eco-friendly initiatives], enjoined the support of resident volunteers. The ground was dug 0.8 feet deep, some water was poured into the dugged hole, hoping it will enhance microbial activities, then the young tree was gently lowered into its new home, and water was sprinkled on it to welcome it home.

Protective materials are not required in this case, it's a private premise, livestock are not allowed to roam, but urges residents to

be protective of the climate change umbrella, and hope it blossoms to produce sweet fruit, healthy shade, housing to birds, foods to insect and Lizards.

One week later, the tree seems quite com-

fortable in its new home.

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Chapter 3 will appear in our next issue of *Grassroots Coalition News*.



*The tree one week latter The tree seems quite comfortable in its new home.*

# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos CourtesyMAYA

MAYA volunteers Nicollate Nyikadzino (left) and Tatenda Dutiro (right) check on trees the young people have planted with school children.

## Monitoring and Evaluation of Planted Trees

By Jussa Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

### Monitoring and evaluation of previously planted trees at Burning Vision High School in Dangamvura Mutare, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) is working tirelessly taking climate action to combat the effects of climate change. In its works, Manica Youth Assembly has been mobilizing school children to take part in climate action by donating trees in schools and the initiative is being appreciated.

On Tuesday the 5th of April 2022, Manica Youth Assembly went to Burning Vision High School to do a Monitoring and Evaluation of trees which they donated on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2022. After donating the trees, the MAYA team also demonstrated on how the trees should be planted and cared for. The team also had a chance to interact with the children and explain why planting trees is important.

On the day for the Monitoring and Evaluation, the MAYA team had a chance to speak with the headmaster at Burning Vision High School, Mr. Matongo, who showed much appreciation of the deeds

being done by Manica Youth Assembly. The headmaster highlighted that 8 plants had an unfortunate ending when they were trampled on by people who came for a conference which was held at the school since the school is a mission school being run by the church. They were very hurt by the loss and only managed to replace two of the white gum trees by a jacaranda plant.

When asked if they have time to talk about the importance of planting trees and taking action against climate change, he only spoke of some topics in the curriculum and he mentioned that the MAYA team is welcome to come on scheduled dates to raise awareness about climate change and its effects.

When taking a stroll on the other side of the school, one can clearly see thriving white gum trees. Speaking to the caretaker of the school, he sounded very excited about the trees and caring for the trees when the students are away. He said he would appreciate more trees being donated as he is enjoying being a part of those caring for the planet. He also explained how climate change has affected him when he talked about the erratic rainfall patterns and the changing of the rain season. He ex-

plained how his plants failed because there was no rain, but before it never used to be like that as he used to receive enough rain and his plants would flourish but because of climate change it is now a sad story.

Therefore, he pledged to be an agent to take climate action and is so grateful about what Manica Youth Assembly is doing. The teachers also highlighted that the students are loving the initiative a lot as they are not having any problems with the students resisting to water the plants instead the students are being at the forefront.

The school highlighted that they are having water challenges due to the location of the school, Dangamvura, a well-known location in Mutare which has a water crisis; hence, the water which they will be saving in their tanks sometimes may not be enough for the trees. The other challenge is that the school is still under construction; therefore, some areas around the school are not suitable for planting trees as they will be disturbed by the construction team.

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# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Fauna Flora Foundation

Namuwolo Evelyn, Project Coordinator (left), and her daughter, Musubika Agnes, Assistant Project Coordinator (right), help the Earth and orphans simultaneously.

## Mother/Daughter Team Runs Fauna Flora Foundation

Promoters of the Orphan Care Project and agriculture and climate programs

By Namuwolo Evelyn, Uganda

### Brief Introduction

**Whereas** we are, Fauna and Flora Environmental Conservation Limited.

**Background Information:** This Orphan Care Project started in 2008. I started with bidding from the Government to help orphans in schools and villages. In helping orphans with scholastic materials such as uniforms, books, and with food, I had to start a country-based organization called Nakalokwe HIV Orphan Care Project which ran for three years in Namutuba District. The association was formed in Igenera Village (Namutuba).

### The aims and objectives were:

- (i) Creation of awareness about HIV/AIDS;
- (ii) Eradicate illiteracy and poverty conditions;
- (iii) Improving health and development issues through nutrition; and
- (iv) Improving on modern farming through organic agriculture.

### Activities at that time were:

- (a) Counseling about HIV/AIDS;
- (b) Sensitization about AIDS;
- (c) Home visiting HIV/AIDS;
- (d) Purchase of scholastic materials for HIV/AIDS orphans;
- (e) Initiating a nutritional project; and

- (f) Introduction to modern farming (organic agriculture).

### Government Fund

There we were, founded by the government and through a project Car Chai which funded us 3,000,000 Ugandan Shillings (nearly \$800).

We implemented:

- Scholastic materials for 50 Orphans;
- Food for 50 Orphans; and
- Uniforms for 50 orphan girls and boys.

These were children from Igerera Primary School.

**Challenges:** Things did go well as planned, the fund was for one time, yet the problem was continuous.

I started another program for constructing a school for these orphans through training them in skills for sustainability after school.

The school was named Rural Women Vocational Training Centre. The name Rural Women, meant St. Evelyn which meant, the Rural Women coming up with new ideas to support HIV Orphans through vocational training.

### School Pictures

We started an association to work together with the community in Namutumba, which is now a District. The association was called Igenera Farmer's Association to be supported through community awareness of helping the orphans and the school to go on as a vocational training center.

### The objectives were:

- (i) To promote model farming methods in the community;
- (ii) To increase food production and storage in the area;
- (iii) To promote better health services through nutritional awareness and medical services;
- (iv) To promote the ability to pay fees for children, especially those sick with HIV;
- (v) To create opportunities for jobs; and
- (vi) To sensitize the community on HIV/AIDS awareness.

Then we had a workshop for the Rural Woman Training Centre which was named St. Evelyn Rural Women Training Centre in Agri-Business. The goal was to produce competent women and youth and marginalized girls in organic agri-business with comprehensive skills and a wide range of innovation to come up with entrepreneurs which will sustain them in the economy.

### Objectives/Aims in February 2010:

- 1) To promote a dependable forum for advancing gender-sensitive policies through organic farming and environmental protection;
- (2) To create opportunities for National environmental resources through acquiring skills and knowledge;
- (3) To involve people living with HIV/AIDS and control HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, and early marriages through reproductive health training and awareness;

**Fauna and Flora** continued on next page

# Stories from Our Global Family

Flora and Fauna *continued from previous page*



(top two photos) St. Evelyn Rural Woman Vocational Training Centre in Organic Agri-Business training orphans in skills for sustainability after school. The name Rural Women, meant the Rural Women coming up with new ideas to support HIV Orphans through vocational training. (bottom two photos) Feeding children who were registered as orphans.

(4) To promote the ability for rural women in entrepreneurship to utilize appropriate knowledge and add valued skills for food processing and welfare promotion through nutrition; and

(5) To promote equal opportunities in household incomes and county activities.

The school opened up and was funded by Samaritans.

### Challenges

The school was set in a wrong place. The land was bought for the school. The owner of the land claimed and the project failed because of the land issues and I had to go to South Africa to look for a job to run the project.

Here in South Africa I still stayed for four

years. Again I started a children's project.

I came back to Uganda for my Project in Uganda which was not completed. I got Iona Conner on social media, but didn't chat that I came back to Uganda.

Then I founded Fauna and Flora Environment Conservation where I went back to objective one in the St. Evelyn Rural Vocational Training Centre.

- I went back to projects for the objectives Igenera Farmers Association (1)-(6)
- I went back to Nakalokwe HIV.

### Orphans Care Project, My First Vision

My daughter Musubika Agnes saw all I have gone through; she opted to help me and continue with the project goals. She is now the Assistant Project Coordinator.

Here we are working together to look for mother/father died of HIV, child married but HIV positive with a child and boyfriend or man passed away.

Look at this situation, its worrying at the same time we have Covid-19, which is also a problem globally, girls/mothers are suffering, we are hereby looking for any supportive person to let us go. We need:

- (1) Our own land to set a structure for the project.
- (2) Farm to help train these girl Orphans who are the poorest of the poor to keep them going.

To achieve our slogan and help us help fund this project, you can contact me at [fauna.flora@gmail.com](mailto:fauna.flora@gmail.com). Thank you.



# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Amrit Kunja Farm  
(left) Volunteers plowing. (right above) Assaf (a volunteer from Israel) and Surya making butter. (right below) Jeeban's parents, Surya and Sita next to the fish pond.

## Permaculture Pioneers in Nepal: “Taari Baa” and “Taari Aama”

By Jeeban Bastola, Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm

Surya Mohan Bastola is the name of a successful organic permaculture farmer, an activist, and a social worker. He founded Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm (AKOPF) in Majhatha (rural area of Nepal) with the aim to advocate permaculture, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable development in Nepal.

The name of my farm is Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm. Amrit means holy water, Kunja means collections of plants. We want to extract holy water from the collection of plants and organic soil and spread it all around the world. Love, kindness, wisdom, brotherhood, and humanity are all good and positive vibes, which we want to share all round the world.

AKOPF is located on the north side of famous Beganas Lake near Pokhara City. Fighting with landslides, soil erosion, drought every year on a very sloping land, he started AKOPF by planting native

fruits, medicinal plants, herbs, shrub creepers, climbers, and indigenous trees on approximately seven acres. In Nepal, in 1994 to 1995, the permaculture design course training was conducted in Pokhara. Among the few attendees, was Surya Mohan Bastola, who had been practicing organic permaculture farming in Pokhara for more than two decades.

The farm boasts extremely rich varieties of plants. Overall there are more than 400 species that have been deemed useful to humans and animals. Everything at the farm is organically grown, without using any harmful pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, etc. AKOPF developed as a model farm for growth, personal development (mental, physical, and spiritual) learning, sharing, and experiencing a new way of life.

In Bastola's farm, he researches, demonstrates, and trains local farmers, empowers women and both national and international visitors in permaculture design and regenerative farming.

### Permanent Culture in Agriculture

Permaculture is derived from “permanent culture,” a term coined by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in the 1970s. “The development of an organic agricultural ecosystem is intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient, in my experience,” Bastola said. Bastola has good knowledge and experience of dozens of principles of permacultures and has undergone several rounds of training.

AKOPF is also a founding member of Nepal Permaculture Group. AKOPF has been operating on the ethics and principles of permaculture, food forests, sustainable agriculture, and environmentally-friendly farming systems. Central to Permaculture are three ethics: earth care, people care, and fair share. “Permaculture has three aspects: ethical framework, understanding how nature works, and a design approach,” he added. Permaculture is based on various principles which are meant to be

**Permaculture** continued on next page

Permaculture *continued from previous page*



(left) Organic golden berry fruit. (right) Grandson of Surya Mohan Bastola and author Jeeban's son, four-year-old Jenish Bastola.

universal but have different applications depending on local context, Bastola said.

Due to the latest development activities without considering their impact on the environment, the loss of animal habitats and native plant species, droughts, soil erosion, and flooding are the issues of Nepal. "Global warming's melting of snow on mountains also challenges us," he said. To overcome such problems there has been an urgent need for community-based permaculture farming to educate and empower people and help them adopt more sustainable ways.

According to Bill Mollison, "The philosophy behind Permaculture is one of working with nature rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless action; of looking at systems in all their functions, rather than asking only one yield of them, and of allowing systems to demonstrate their own evolution.

### Self-sufficiency, Permaculture, and Sustainable Living in Pokhara (Permaculture Farmstay Nepal)

Farmstay was started by two agrovolunteers who come from Israel to study and research agriculture in Nepal in the beginning of 2005 but the farmstay has been slowly growing. Agrovolunteers from more than 32 countries visited AKOPF.

Because of corona virus, we could not welcome volunteers the past two years but with safety measures we now welcome people from all around the world. One of the unique aspects of the family farmstay is that we have managed to combine traditional Nepalese farming methods, knowledge, and expertise with new and experimental approaches.

We strongly believe that every single person in this world can benefit from permaculture and applying it in communities.

Permaculture helps to solve global issues such as social inequity, food and water crises, climate change, and soil infertility. We warmly welcome our hearts and gates to all travelers, students, and volunteers who want to learn about authentic, organic permaculture farming, the identification and use of medicinal and other plants, Nepalese language and culture, as well as enjoying Nepalese Organic food from our own land. You are most welcome here.

"Home is where the heart is."

Contact Surya Mohan Bastola/Jeeban Bastola, Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm, Pokhara, Nepal.

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**Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1541366699423870/>

Permaculture *continued on next page*

# Stories from Our Global Family

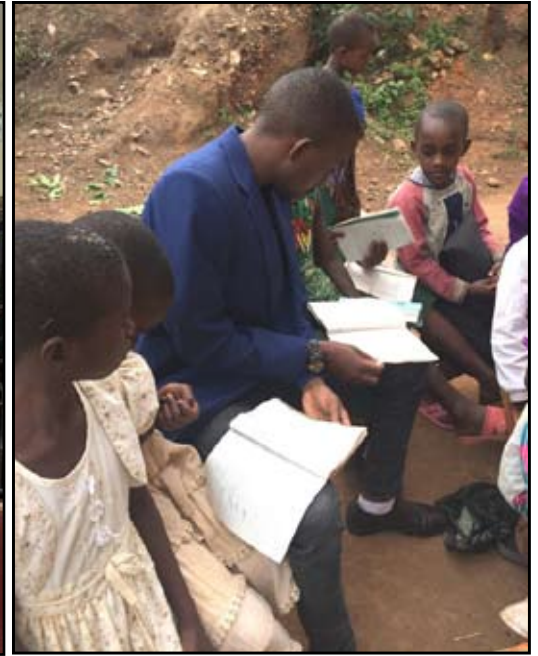
Permaculture *continued from previous page*



*(left) Agro volunteers harvesting black pepper. (top right) Helping hands from USA. (middle right) Time to rest. (bottom) Farewell photo as volunteers prepare to depart.*



# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Comforter of the Voiceless

(left) New school for lower grades built with funding from a church foundation. (right) Author Amos Mugarura, teaching orphans. The teachers dress professionally as Amos describes, "For the respect of the children, it's part of us as our orphanage name suggests because we advocate for a better place for an orphan child to live in; thus it has to begin with us who are in the inner systems of the orphanage!"

## Education in an Orphanage in Uganda: Beautiful New School, Fire in Old School: Children Safe, Belongings and Supplies Destroyed

By Amos Mugarura, Comforter of the Voiceless Orphanage, Bwindi, Uganda  
Correction made July 29, 2009

(June 19, 2022) I have really enjoyed working and sharing with you in every situation. Through your advocacy, we as an orphanage have learnt much, most especially through our monthly Zoom meetings.

It's through your advocacy that my mindset developed more and reached on a point of putting up our own school through a church foundation!

Keep the candle burning mom and more years of directing us in both conservation and exercising humanitarian activities!

(July 13) This school is still new with lots of challenges i.e., food for the kids, not enough classrooms, unfinished structures where by the kids still study in a dusty condition, no doors and windows yet, limited land for expansion...

But above all we are blessed the kids are grasping the matter from their teachers under my tireless support and supervision!

The school that got burnt was the one where part of our Orphanage children falls because our new one doesn't have upper classes yet. In our new school we have baby

classes and lower classes but our strategy is to keep adding one or two classes per year regarding the available resources. But in case of an opportunity, we can have all the remaining four rooms.

In the fire in the other school, our children lost everything they had other than the clothes on their backs and the books they were having for their night studies but nobody was hurt and my new school is safe!

(after Iona's email complimenting him on how professional the teachers look) For the respect of the children, it's part of us as our orphanage name suggests because we advocate for a better place for an orphan child to live; thus it has to begin with us who are in the inner systems of the orphanage!

Mom thanks for appreciating because when I hear such, we feel encouraged.

Am Humbled mom, yeah our teaches have surely known what we wish to see happening in the lives of our little angels.

**The following list of principles provides general guidance that can be customized for your local community or conservation goals.**

- Protect large, contiguous, Undisturbed

areas wherever possible.

- Maintain, create or restore broad buffer zones: This can be between natural areas and human dominated land uses, including development and agriculture. Buffer of natural vegetation a long streams around water bodies and wetlands, at the perimeter of sensitive areas are important for clean water, healthy habits and flood damage areas.

- Locate and plan new development in ways that protect natural areas: Direct human users towards the least sensitive natural areas and intensive use area, where possible, encourage development of offered land instead of breaking new ground. Avoid and minimize disturbance to natural areas before during and after construction

- Minimize disruption to storage and movement of water across and through the landscape to protect water quality and quantity, reduce flooding, recharge ground water and preserve habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

- Encourage the use of green infrastructure to manage storm water in developed areas.

- Utilizing practices such as rain gar-

**Educating Orphans** continued on next page

# Stories from Our Global Family

Educating Orphans *continued from previous page*



*“The mountains in the background are for Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, the only home for mountain gorillas in Uganda,” wrote Amos. (middle) Dedicated teacher holding baby while writing lessons on the blackboard. (bottom) Fire in old school where children’s belongings were destroyed but nobody was hurt.*



**YOU MUST CHERISH ONE  
ANOTHER. YOU MUST WORK  
– WE ALL MUST WORK – TO  
MAKE THIS WORLD  
WORTHY OF ITS CHILDREN.**

*~ Pablo Casals ~*

[https://twitter.com/GratefulnessOrg/  
status/1321416939516866565](https://twitter.com/GratefulnessOrg/status/1321416939516866565)



dens, street trees, and green roofs that allow runoff to infiltrate into soil

- Green infrastructure reduces runoff,

improves water quality, provides natural cooling and beautifies neighborhoods.

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

comforterofthevoiceless/  
**Email:** [amosmugarura@icloud.com](mailto:amosmugarura@icloud.com)  
**Phone:** +256787940033

# Stories from Our Global Family



Photos: RUWAI Media Team

*(top left) Laborers and volunteers during the RUWAI House for Hope construction for the indigent family (the Uzors), whose former house got burned. (top right) That is the Uzor and his family after receiving a certificate of ownership from RUWAI. (bottom left) That is the beneficiary, Uzor expressing joy after the Palm Kernel Cracking and Separating Machine was donated to the family by RUWAI to help them earn income for the family's basic needs. (bottom right) Founder/ Executive Director of RUWAI, Uche Isieke, presenting a cash gift to Mr. & Mrs. Uzor who both have impaired hearing and are vocally impaired.*

## Rural Watch Africa Initiative Lifts Families in Rural Nigeria From Poverty to Abundance.

By Uche Isieke, Nigeria

From a single story of the fire that occurred in their home, Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI) is helping the fire survivors to have security, dignity, and prosperity.

Our mission is to enhance resilience, by helping them own a house and start new business ventures, which improve incomes and the overall standard of living.

Through this effort, we are enabling the

survivors to tackle the root cause of the fire, which was poverty, preventing a reoccurrence while reducing carbon emissions.

We are finding innovative ways to create business opportunities for the physically impaired, who are usually not even spared a thought in day-to-day activities or services.

Thank you, volunteers, for your support.

One family at a time!

**April 4 Post:** The roofing of the two-bedroom bungalow has now commenced,

with volunteers on-site working round the clock to beat the deadline.

For partnership and those interested to become RUWAI ambassadors should kindly sign up here: <https://ruralwatchafrica.org/ambassador/>

Those wishing to donate to help a very sick baby should see GlobalGiving here: <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/urgent-help-for-a-malnourished-and-sick-baby/>

# Stories from Our Global Family

## Humanitarian Refugee Helps Other Refugees

(May 10, 2022 after Iona asked why he fled DRC) OK this is me, Antoine Morisho Ngongo. I am married father of a son. I am of Congolese nationality (DRC) living in Uganda in the Nakivale refugee camp because my father was killed by rebels at home in the southern province/Kivu since 2015. That's when I saw fit to flee our country because after a week these rebels came back to look for me as I hid. They destroyed my office, there I have a renowned Association, the *Association de Jeunes Congolais pour les Développment*. I am called to help people/ I was obliged to found African Charity and Solidarity here in Uganda. Despite all, we are refugees but that is where n[othing] prevents us from showing our talents; in short, that's it.

(May 11, 2022) I'm also sorry because it reminds me of a lot of things; it makes me cry. They cut my father's throat on my hands because they told me to hit my father in the head. When I refused, they killed my big sister that I went a lot that way my father told me to be brave touch my head when what I touched they cut my father's throat on my eyes and they kidnapped my mother until now so I am Orphans of the mother's father.

(Iona asked permission to publish his



Photo: Mihigo-Jule-Amani

Author Antoine Morisho Ngongo, who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo under brutal conditions, arrived at a refugee camp in Uganda, and is now helping other refugees.

personal story) Yes I started calling you mother before you knew my history and I will never tire of calling you mother, when God met me and you remembered my previous message you will hear me and I used to say thank you God for meeting me with someone full of love. Then in my history I am ready even the whole world to know and be known if there are people who have gone through very strange things. So

do not worry my mother, it is possible to write it there is no problem and if it will not be possible there is also no problem feel free.

Contact Antoine at:

Email: morishomusa4@gmail.com

Organization email: charitysolidarityafrica@gmail.com

Phone: +256779525885

## Your Kindness Changed Lives in 2021

Submitted by Ngo Banfoga  
Hope for a Better Future, Cameroon

Dear Donor,

Your gift to Hope for a Better Future (H4BF) in 2021 ensured that our support could reach vulnerable families – like Joy's – when they needed it the most.

Despite the difficulties this past year brought us, you acted with kindness and empathy. You showed up for people who needed help the most.

And your generosity made a world of difference for displaced mothers like Joy.

Late 2016. Heavily pregnant, she endured a harrowing journey alongside her husband and their two-year-old daughter until they reached safety in Nkambe, Donga Mantung. There, Joy gave birth to a baby girl. But their happiness was short-lived: sleeping in H4BF women and



girls empowerment center in Nkambe, Donga Mantung and adjusting to life as an IDP, the family faced a daily struggle for survival.

Thankfully, Joy wasn't alone.

H4BF offered much-needed assistance

to Joy's family and others like them with support from donors like you. Our teams worked hard to distribute emergency supplies such as sleeping mats, soap, kitchen sets, buckets, and mosquito nets and relocate refugees to newly-built, safer, and better-equipped locations.

And with you by our side, we can continue to stay prepared to support displaced people, wherever they are and whenever they need it.

Click here to read the full 2021 Donor Impact Report: <https://www.h4bf-foundation.org/our-story/>

Thank you for showing up for refugees in 2021. Please continue to support our work in 2022.

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/e5346987c7-cc/your-kindness-changed-lives-in-2021>



**Photo**Courtesy Mountain Watershed Association

*Water Guardian Club meetings will occur twice a month and provide students with a plethora of opportunities to gain experience through ecology-based activities. These activities will be centered around discussing water quality, climate change, and environmental justice issues.*

## **Water Guardians Afterschool Club Receives Funding for 2022/2023 School Year**

By Morgan Moran

Mountain Watershed Association: May 27, 2022

The Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) is happy to announce a new upcoming education project: the Water Guardians After School Youth Club.

During the 2022-23 school year, this club will take place at Springfield Clifford N. Pritts Elementary in Normalville, and at West Crawford Elementary in Connellsville. For each school, Water Guardian Club meetings will occur twice a month and provide students with a plethora of opportunities to gain experience through ecology-based activities. These activities will be centered around discussing water quality, climate change, and environmental

justice issues. It is important to us that this club is accessible to all students, so we will not require a club application fee. Overall, our main goal is to spark a connection between students and the local environment they live in.

MWA is currently developing the club's lesson plans and itinerary. Our club meetings will be spent doing one of the following: we will either have a guest speaker visit, a classroom activity, or field trip. We would like to bring in guest speakers so we can introduce students to different careers within the field of ecology. These individuals could potentially be species specific biologists (ornithologist, herpetologist, botanist), aquatic scientists, abandoned mine drainage experts, environmental

justice advocates, etc.

Any classroom activities we host will be extremely hands-on – we want to do more than lecture; we want to have fun! Lastly, our field trips will provide students with real world experiences. We want to take the Water Guardians on tours of our abandoned mine drainage treatment systems, show them the difference between high quality and impacted streams, and introduce them to ways ecologists conduct research surveys – i.e., getting students in the stream and showing them how to sample for macroinvertebrates.

It is extremely important to us that we formulate our lesson plans using the highest quality information. To do this, we will

**Water Guardians** *continued on next page*



### Water Guardians *continued from previous page*

pull ideas from other Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) environmental education programs, reflect on Pennsylvania's ecology state science standards, review what is currently taught in the field, and run all plans by our on-staff outdoor education specialist.

Although Water Guardian Club activities will be based around scientific research and education, there will be absolutely no pressure on our students to perform well academically. We will not grade our activities, test students' knowledge for correctness, or send them home with mandatory homework. Purely, our only intention through this club is to introduce our members to their local environment and deepen their general understanding of ecology.

The Water Guardians Club is able to exist thanks to grant funding from the DEP's Environmental Education level one grant, volunteer engagement, and MWA's strive to invest in our community. By being awarded the DEP 2022 Environmental Education Grant, MWA has the capacity to bus students on field trips, develop a club resource library, and bring in experts.

Additionally, MWA's education committee and both host schools have committed to support the Water Guardians by contributing time and/or resources to this project. This funding and support has allowed us to waive the need for club dues – the Water Guardians will be free and available to all interested students.

MWA is excited to start the Water Guardians because we recognize that there was a community push to bring environmental discussions into the classroom. We know this because from 2021-2022 we asked the local community for management recommendations as a part of our Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-funded Indian Creek Conservation Management Guide project. Along with proposing management recommendations, we also asked the community to rank their recommendations by importance. Every single education related recommendation was ranked as "high priority" – meaning that Indian Creek residents felt they needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

We hope everyone is as excited as we are

for this new endeavor! If you are interested in having your child become a Water Guardian, keep an eye on our social media accounts and MWA website for updates.

Additionally, if you would like to support the Water Guardians in any way, please feel free to reach out to either [morgan@mtwatershed.com](mailto:morgan@mtwatershed.com), or [hannah@mtwatershed.com](mailto:hannah@mtwatershed.com). Specifically, we would like to recruit ambitious parents/guardians or high-school-aged students during the school year to assist with the club while it is actively meeting. However, we are open to any help and would love to hear feedback and advice from all community members!

The PDF of our project proposal that we submitted for DEP funding is at [https://www.mtwatershed.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MWA\\_DEPEE\\_proposalFINAL.pdf](https://www.mtwatershed.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MWA_DEPEE_proposalFINAL.pdf). This proposal is all encompassing and goes into detail about the specifics of the Water Guardians.

**Source:** <https://www.mtwatershed.com/2022/05/27/water-guardians-after-school-club-receives-funding-for-2022-2023-school-year/>



### Photo: Iona

*Note from Iona:  
Since I love to swim,  
I went exploring access to the ocean from my new home in Brick, New Jersey. It's a marvelous beach with a long sloping ramp up to the concession stands and showers and then down to the water. On the way up the ramp, I saw this beautiful dolphin (like the real ones we can see swimming along in the ocean water sometimes). Someone or several people had collected all these seashells, painted them, and placed them lovingly in a dolphin shape. Little things like this give me joy! I hope you have some joy seeing it, too, and reading this mini story/caption.*

# News Briefs



Photo: Tavis Beck gRr64-OCKO unsplash, cropped

*“Deep-sea mining compromises the integrity of our ocean habitat that supports marine biodiversity and contributes to mitigating the impacts of climate change,” said Surangel Whipps Jr.*

## A year before deep-sea mining could begin, calls for a moratorium build.

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts, *excerpt*  
Mongabay: June 30, 2022

•At the U.N. Ocean Conference taking place this week in Lisbon, momentum has been building in support of a moratorium on deep sea mining, an activity projected to have far-reaching consequences for marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and global fisheries.

•The Pacific island nation of Palau launched an alliance of countries that support a moratorium, which Fiji and Samoa subsequently joined.

•A global network of parliamentarians has also banded together to support a moratorium and to look for a legal way to enforce it.

•As things stand, deep sea mining could begin a year from now, with the International Seabed Authority, the body tasked with regulating the activity, drawing up the rules that would allow mining to commence.

LISBON, Portugal – Should we mine the seabed, a part of the world rich in resources, but less mapped than the surface of the moon? A growing number of politicians, scientists, and conservationists are saying that we shouldn’t – at least, not until we fully understand the consequences of doing so.

At an event on June 27 at the U.N. Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Surangel Whipps Jr., the president of the Pacific island nation of Palau, took to the podium to announce that his nation was launching an alliance of countries pushing for a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

“Palau believes that in this instance, deep sea mining should be discouraged to the greatest extent possible,” Whipps said to a packed room. “Deep sea mining compromises the integrity of our ocean habitat that supports marine biodiversity and contributes to mitigating the impacts of climate change.”

Whipps was joined on stage by famous oceanographer Sylvia Earle, who said the risks of deep sea mining should be the “headline issue ... of our time. . . .”

**Source:** <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/06/a-year-before-deep-sea-mining-could-begin-calls-for-a-moratorium-build/>

## Underwater Noise From Deep-Seabed Mining Could Travel Hundreds of Miles, Study Finds

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA with this note: “This issue is going to continue in the upcoming year. There is a lot of resistance to the crazy idea of seabed mining.”

Noise has previously been shown to harm species from plankton to whales.

By Peter Edwards & Chris Pickens, *excerpt*  
PEW: July 7, 2022

The deep sea is a biodiverse habitat, home to unique creatures found nowhere else on Earth, from the dumbo octopus to the faceless cusk. Given the absence of sunlight in the deep sea, many marine organisms there use sound to navigate, communicate, find mating partners, locate food, and detect predators and other dangers and, therefore, may be sensitive to noise generated by seabed mining.

New research published in July in the journal *Science* provides one of the first estimates of the likely reach of deep-sea mining noise generation, finding that a single mine site could produce noise extending hundreds of kilometers, dramatically increasing the environmental footprint of this nascent industry.

Although mining hasn’t yet begun, it could if governments and companies gain approval to do so from the International Seabed Authority, the intergovernmental organization established to regulate all mineral activities in the international seabed. Importantly, how deep-sea life would respond to noise is one of many gaps in scientific knowledge needed to understand mining’s potential environmental impacts. Noise has been shown to have a negative impact on organisms – from the tiniest plankton to the largest whales – affecting their behavior, physiology, and survival. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/07/07/underwater-noise-from-deep-seabed-mining-could-travel-hundreds-of-miles-study-finds>

## Banning Abortion is Banning Sustainability

DGR News Service: April 12, 2022, *excerpt*

In the United States, the Supreme Court appears poised to [and did] 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. . . .

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

# News Briefs



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Fabio Cuttica  
*Silvana Nihua, president of the Waorani Organization of Pastaza, travels along the Curaray River in the Amazon province of Pastaza, Ecuador, on April 26, 2022.*

## Indigenous Forest Protection Wins in Ecuador

By Anastasia Moloney, *excerpt*  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: June 21, 2022

Deep in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest, indigenous leader Marcelo Lucitante deftly climbs a tree and attaches a camera, camouflaged among the foliage, to record footage of trespassing illegal gold miners.

"We monitor who's entering our territory without our permission. We're protecting our territory and rivers from people who want to cause damage," says the member of Ecuador's first uniformed and tech-backed indigenous guard, set up by the A'i Cofan people.


Armed with wooden spears, radios, drones and – most importantly – high-court legal decisions ruling they have not been given enough of a say over what happens on their land, Ecuador's indigenous people are stepping up efforts to protect their forests – a move that is also helping defend nature and the Earth's climate.

"Our fight is that our rights are respected," Waorani indigenous leader Silvana Nihua told our correspondent Anastasia Moloney, after the group won legal backing to block oil drilling on 440,000 hectares (1,087,264 acres) of Waorani land. . . .

**Source:** <https://longreads.trust.org/item/Ecuador-Amazon-rainforest-indigenous-gain-legal-ground-miners-drillers>

## Biden Sued to Block 3,500 Oil & Gas Drilling Permits

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Emma Newburger (*emphasis added*)   
CNBC: June 15, 2022

A coalition of environmental groups this week sued the Biden administration in an effort to stop more than 3,500 permit applications from energy companies to drill for oil and gas on federal lands.

The groups argued the administration hasn't considered the damage that climate-changing carbon dioxide emissions from drilling does to **endangered species**, and that permit approvals in Wyoming and New Mexico violated federal laws including the Endangered Species Act.

The groups said burning fossil fuels from drilling is heating the planet and damaging imperiled species like Hawaiian songbirds, desert fish, ice seals, and polar bears. The administration's approved permits, they said, will release up to **600 million metric tons [661 million tons]** of greenhouse gas emissions.

The lawsuit is the latest attempt by environmentalists to pressure the administration to halt new drilling permits. Earlier in his term, Biden sought to commit to his campaign promise to suspend new drilling on federal lands, but was thwarted after legal challenges from **GOP-led** states and the oil industry.

"*Fossil fuels are driving the extinction crisis, and the Bureau of Land Management is making things worse by failing to protect these imperiled species,*" Brett Hartl, government affairs director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. The Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians, and the Western Environmental Law Center filed the lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management in the District Court of Washington, D.C., on Wednesday ...

As U.S. energy prices soar, the Biden administration has encouraged companies to **increase drilling**, arguing they can produce more by using some of the 9,000 unused and available permits.

This month, the administration is set auction off drilling leases in states including Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/16/environmental-groups-sue-biden-to-block-oil-and-gas-drilling-permits.html>

**HOPE JUST MEANS ANOTHER WORLD MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, NOT PROMISED, NOT GUARANTEED. HOPE CALLS FOR ACTION; ACTION IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT HOPE.**

~ Rebecca Solnit ~

<https://twitter.com/GratefulnessOrg/status/1487109983678484482>

# News Briefs

## Africa's Mobile Money Taxes Risk Driving Poor Out of Digital Economy

By Kent Mensah and Nita Bhalla, *excerpt Thomson Reuters Foundation: May 25, 2022*

Cash-strapped African nations are rolling out an e-levy on mobile money transactions to boost revenues, but the policy could hurt the poorest as the cost of living rises and reverse impressive gains made in boosting economic inclusion.

- Mobile money helps Africa's poor access financial services.
- Continent accounts for 70% of transactions by value.
- Taxes seen pushing marginalized out of digital economy.

ACCRA/NAIROBI – Ghanaian grocery store owner Comfort Ankrah has had to rethink how she does business since the government put a tax on mobile money transactions earlier this month.

For eight years, the 45-year-old single mother relied on mobile transfers to run her shop in Accra's Darkuman suburb - from taking customer payments to paying the farmers who supply her with plantain, cassava and other everyday staples.

Beside the convenience, she and other local businesswomen also feel safer using digital money instead of having to carry cash around, Ankrah said.

But the new 1.5% tax on mobile money, also known as the e-levy, is now forcing Ankrah - who earns about 400 Ghanaian cedi (\$53) weekly - to switch back to coins and banknotes.

"I can't afford to pay my farmers with mobile money now because the e-levy will reduce my profit. I now resort to giving money to drivers or relatives going to the village so they can pay the farmers. It's a risky, long process," said Ankrah.



Photo: EXXON KNEWS

*Caroline Dennett, former Shell safety consultant.*

Ghana is the latest in a growing number of African nations to impose a tax on mobile phone-based transactions, but critics say the levies are hurting millions of small-business owners and other low-income groups, just as the cost of living rises.

The charges threaten to reverse the impressive gains made by mobile money in boosting economic inclusion, they warn. . . .

**Source:** <https://news.trust.org/item/20220525132730-c7nyt/>

## A Shell Truth-Teller Speaks Out

Following her viral resignation, Caroline Dennett talks about Shell's climate lies and how others in the industry can come forward.

By Emily Sanders, *excerpt EXXONKNEWS: May 26, 2022*

It's hard to talk about anything other than the horrific massacre in Uvalde this week, and the shameful inaction of elected officials when it comes to protecting the most vulnerable among us. In the end, it all comes down to one thing: whether it's climate change or gun laws, we live at the whim of politicians and executives willing to sacrifice anything for their own personal power and wealth.

So, here's a bit of good and still-important news: this week, the movement for climate accountability celebrated two

major court rulings that bring long overdue trials for the oil corporations fueling the climate crisis closer to fruition.

On Monday, the First Circuit upheld a ruling that will allow Rhode Island's climate damages lawsuit against 21 fossil fuel companies to proceed in state court – the fourth consecutive appeals court to reject Big Oil's efforts to escape accountability this year. Then, on Tuesday, the Massachusetts Supreme Court rejected a last-ditch effort by ExxonMobil to avoid facing Attorney General Maura Healey's consumer fraud lawsuit, which is now poised to make history as the first in the country to put Exxon on trial for lying about climate change. Both rulings were unanimous.

The bad week for Big Oil was also a bad week for the public relations team at Shell, in particular. Climate activists grabbed headlines by interrupting Shell's annual shareholder meeting with protests. And Caroline Dennett, a former safety consultant with Shell, went viral with a very public resignation, blasting the polluter over social media for claiming to be part of the solution to climate change while significantly expanding its business in oil and gas.

In an email to Shell executives and more than 1,400 employees, which she shared over LinkedIn, Dennett wrote that in contrast with Shell's public commitments, the company is knowingly putting the world in grave danger by "not winding down oil and gas but planning to explore and extract much more." In an accompanying video and post, Dennett accused the company of "double talk on climate," and said she could "no longer work for a company that ignores all the alarms and dismisses the risks of climate change and ecological collapse. . . ."

**Source:** <https://exxonknews.substack.com/p/a-shell-truth-teller-speaks-out>

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN, BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN, IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN, TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN, AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

~ John Wesley ~

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/12757-do-all-the-good-you-can-by-all-the-means>

## *Song of Myself, 32: Walt Whitman*

*I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contain'd,  
I stand and look at them long and long.*

*They do not sweat and whine about their condition,  
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,  
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,  
Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with the mania of owning things,  
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago,  
Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.*

Walt Whitman (1819 - 1892)

<https://poets.org/poem/song-of-myself-32>

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

# Consumer Liberation

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

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

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

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

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



### **Grassroots Coalition News**

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

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

~ Iona ~



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends

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



*(May 11, 2022, after sending photos of new bedding for little David)*

Amen! We are happy for this great news related to the healing of this young and innocent child.

May God keep operating miracles and show how powerful He is.

In Jesus Christ name we pray, Amen.

Thank you once again for the great support you are providing.

May God bless you.

**Fidèle Hitimana**, Uganda (refugee from DRC)

Thank you so much for your inspired and warmed message best together! Have a wonderful time with hope.

**Feruzi Juma Kikuni** [Apologies from Iona; I can't find him and don't know what country he is from. Please let me know who you are if you read this.]

**Hi Iona.**

Congratulations on years of pertinent and wonderful news, along with all your other positive activism! I hope you're well and that your move goes smoothly. Please stay in touch when you have the time.

Very best wishes,

**Adam Sacks**, Executive Director, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, Massachusetts USA

Thank you, Iona.

I love the photo of Biggie. Wonderful edition as always.

Kindly,

**Scott Johnson**, California USA

Hello mom! I have been struggling to get access to my email as I told you earlier. I have gone through the lines about dissolution of the Coalition as 501(C)(3) and remaining with only issues of publication. This is not bad as the primary focus of dissolving it is to reduce stress and burden to you. With the dissolution you will be able to concentrate on publication only; this is perfect, too.

But I am also very happy that you are moving to the new apartment that you

have been thinking of it for some days. I will see you when you have settled your things in the new home.

Take care please mom, the world still demands your service.

Yours,

**Kesheni Sengo**, Tanzania

**Hi Iona.**

Well, I have just been reading the *Grassroots Coalition News* #86: What can I say?

I have run out of affirmations after reading so many previous fine editions of GCNs but this one is an absolute gem!

The highlight for me was David Bishop's wonderful account of his time with Bigboy Musemwa of the Repair Earth Project in Zimbabwe and the proposed site of a park in Mount Darwin. It brought to mind my own time in Zimbabwe, a long time ago, with some great people.

But Jussa Kudherezera's account of the Manica Youth Assembly's tree-planting on World Environment Day and Ajibono Tolulope's report on the activities of Friends of Fireflies, supporting eco-friendly initiatives in Nigeria, were lovely as well.

I also loved the 'Luddites' article – I am one too – but so much else besides: inspiring articles on orphans and refugees, Raj's usual periodic reminder of our climate catastrophe, and the 'Letters' pages with commentary from many people.

The Earth and its species are in deep trouble but there are great people 'fighting back' too.

Our sincerest appreciation of a wonderful network of exceptional people.

We love you all!

**Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone**, Australia

P.S. Delighted young David is recovering well.

Iona – catching up on email, so just read this from you; time flies. Virginia Beach is where Edgar Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment is located, I have been there three or four times, always a highpoint.

Interesting to hear that John took groups

to Odessa. I had forgotten about his Baltimore connections. I am Administrator for Baltimore Thrive, a very exciting long term project; for quick review of article we have produced go here: <https://theiu.org/baltimorethrive/>

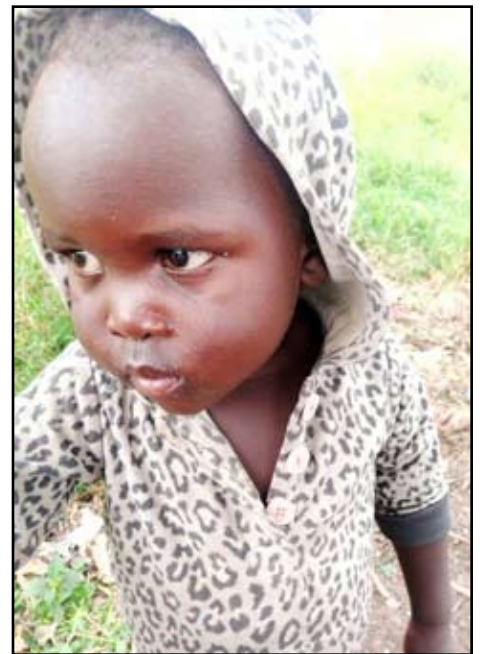
I am now putting together a compendium of resources on Biblical Jubilee Justice, land rights and tax policy, will then contact church leaders in Baltimore.

Am now writing on substack, last one titled Sovereignty, the WHO and Naomi – <https://alannahartzok.substack.com>

Our lights just went out! Computer on battery power now. Better check out what is happening, grid going down? Could get exciting.

Blessed be,

**Alanna Hartzok**, Pennsylvania USA



*(After sending the email below and photos of new clothes for little David after his surgery so he wouldn't pick up germs and infect his wound.)*

**Dearest Global Family,**

Our precious little brother David is healing so well! I just got these pictures today

**Messages** *continued on next page*

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

and am so happy for him and Willy.

Thanks again to everyone who helped this precious little boy get on the road to recovery.

Love, Iona

Great news.

May the Almighty God be blessed for healing this innocent child. Satan had a bad plan for him, but God did not allow. We thank everyone for supporting financially and in prayer.

May God reward you!

**Fidele Hitimana**, Uganda (refugee from DRC)

**Iona:**

It's always good to hear good news. I hope his progress continues!

Does this mean that your move into the new place is now complete?

And I did watch last week's Zoom meeting on Palestine that you referred me to – organized by the Helena, Montana, Service for Peace and Justice. I felt a bit sorry for Mazin Qumsiyeh, the presenter, since it started at 4:00 AM his time! But he did an excellent job and I think you would find it worthwhile. He takes a different approach – as you'll see if you watch it – with a kind of regenerative/environmental emphasis.

Apparently a recorded version of the discussion will be (or is) available online at the organization's site on Facebook – and probably elsewhere too.

As with most Palestinians I have come in contact with, he is very bright, original, and has a light touch. He said (among other things) that all the people in this world – other than Africans – are actually Palestinian – as the only trail out of Africa passes through Palestine. A good point!

I raised the idea of establishing a national University of Palestine. But he was not too receptive. I probably didn't do a very good job pitching the idea, and, at that point in the discussion, I think he was in fact quite tired. But I would like to press further with the concept at some point because I think it could have many beneficial impacts.

If you speak with your friend Frank, you might try re-presenting the idea yourself – and persuading him to encourage Mr. Qumsiyeh to look into it further. And if you do speak with Frank, you might let him know that it was you who referred me as I didn't have a chance to do that.

All the best,

**Dan Adams**, Pennsylvania USA

*(A donation to Iona to support the continuation of her work for the Earth and all*

*its inhabitants)*

**To: Susan Iona Conner**

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

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

Sincerely,

**Barbara Holtz**

**Hi Iona.**

Well, it was lovely to read how much you love your new home and of the clarity you experience around dissolution of the Grassroots Coalition.

Moving powerfully forward and consolidating what is working and enjoyable always requires us to leave some things behind, whether we like it or not, whether we acknowledge it or not.

So, we sincerely appreciate the way you are positioning yourself for the next phase of your life and we will enjoy being part of that too.

Love from Australia,

**Robert Burrowes and Anita McKone**

*(Iona's email to Robert)*

**Dear Robert,**

I need to go to work today and only read the first part of this scary and valid opus.

I'm asking you as a good, strong, brilliant friend to confirm my deepest belief in the growing grassroots efforts around the world to shun rampant technology and consumerism and futile political action if you can comfortably do so.

I sat outside in my new lovely low-income home for seniors and disabled people (that may not be the "politically correct" term) telling my new friend who is aware of the crumbling, horrible, chaotic world (and who shares my dismay) about my Pollyanna-ish belief in regular grassroots activists all over the world, who will ultimately win because of our awareness and our love for life – ALL life. This has been the guiding principle of my life for decades.

This is why I love Derrick Jensen's work so much. You will see more of it in the upcoming newspaper.

Do you honestly, deep in your heart, feel/think that it's possible for us to some-

how overcome the situation we are somewhat trapped in if we keep resisting?

Love, Iona

*(Robert's answer)*

**Hi Iona.**

Well, I will be as frank as I possibly can.

There is only one possible path to liberation in the current context (unless you believe that some form of divine intervention will save us): Grassroots action. Mainstream political processes, legal systems... are all corrupt. Zero prospect of succeeding using conventional means, in my view.

Grassroots action can succeed. But we need a lot more people committed to it, and doing it strategically, than is happening at the moment.

Hence, Anita's and my own commitment is to work relentlessly to mobilize that engagement.

Everything to lose. Humanity to save.

If you like, you are welcome to cite the 'We Are Human, We Are Free' website, <https://wearehumanwearefree.org/> and reference the one-page flyers in 16 languages, in your next Newsletter. It will give all of your own contacts the chance to resist effectively.

Lots of love Iona,

**Robert**

*(Iona's reply)*

**Dearest Robert,**

This is the perfect answer to my question. Thank you!!!!

I'm glad we're in agreement on this. My hope is to really build the readership of my newspaper once I'm more focused on our larger goals and less focused on getting adjusted to my new home and living situation, which is as close to heaven as possible for me.

I'm not one to believe in divine intervention, though I always appreciate the work of angels in my life, whoever and whatever they are. Grassroots action is my theme. I know you're right in stating that we need a LOT more people to be mobilized. That was always John's dream. He understood it so well but had his share of stumbling blocks.

I'll be publishing your email in the next issue of my newspaper. It's a GREAT one! Thanks again, my friend.

Love, Iona

*(second email continuing the conversation)*

Yeah, I guess one way of conceiving it is that grassroots struggle IS a form of divine intervention. I mean, ordinary people fighting for their own liberation is as good

**Messages** *continued on next page*

**Messages** continued from previous page  
as it gets, don't you reckon? Does that make it 'divine'?

I have previously gathered that John clearly understood the value of grassroots mobilization. And that he too had his share of stumbling blocks with which to deal.

That is the nature of the beast, hey?

So, we have a choice: We give up and, in this case, watch *homo sapiens* vanish in favor of some transhuman replica. Or we fight, and fight and fight.

I have no doubt what John, you, Anita, and I would, and must, choose. As will so many others.

In appreciation of John for all of his efforts. And you, too.

Love,  
**Robert**

Great effort in fundraising; you did very well, I pray nature will favor its heroes  
**Ajibono Tolulope**, Nigeria

**Thanks Iona dear.**

The suggestion of opening an orphan fund is really appreciated, many kids are becoming orphans, yet the struggle is still continuing – sickness everywhere, mainly now this pandemic covid 19, here now we have omicron, climate change is also becoming an issue!

Let's fight climate change through orphan demonstrations. Maybe people out there

will have a strong support!

I and my daughter have started an orphanage but not easy, there are times when we need to give up when things are tough, but we keep the tough going.

Keep the candle burning for others to be able to see! Iona dear you're a mother, mothers understand the pain!

Good day.

**Evelyn Namuwolo**, Uganda (See page 15)

Thank you very much mom for the tireless efforts you have been taking all the way for the rest of Poor Innocent Victims (PIV). I am sure we shall win the war. Let us be united, let us be linked and not ranked; we shall win.

Yours,  
**Kesheni Sengo**, Tanzania

Believe it or not I just signed this petition (Please SIGN: Do not sacrifice Congo's rainforests to the oil industry! Rainforest Rescue 7/7/22, forwarded to our Global Family). I can't believe we are still destroying our forests to make toilet paper.

Are you aware that huge acreage in the USA is owned by China? What a mixed-up world we live in.

Sending Love,  
**Jeannette Bartelt**, Maryland USA

Thanks so much my lovely mom for fighting for the rights of orphans and street children.

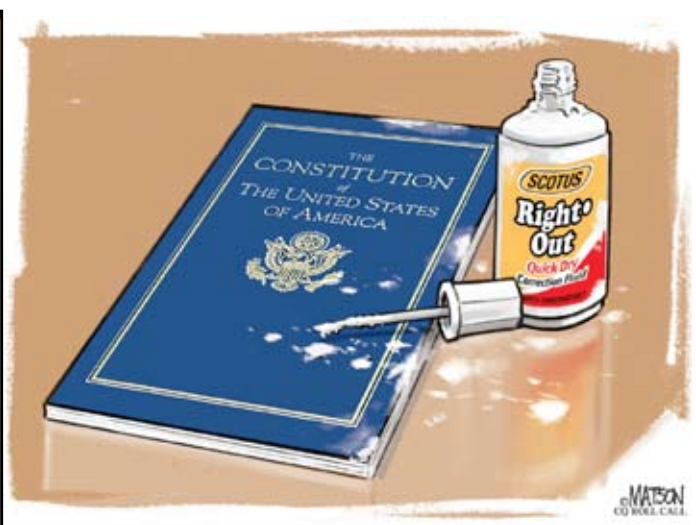
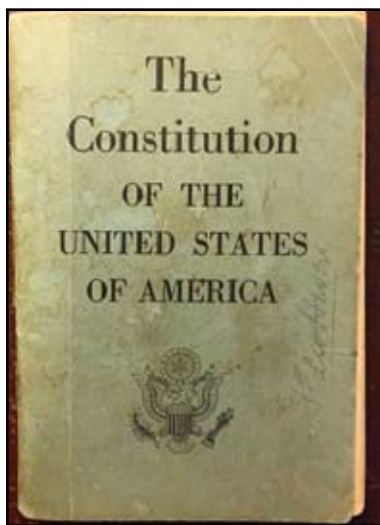
**Mukama Awali**, Uganda

Good morning Director Mukama. I have been praying for you and your ministry and I have tried best I can to help you on your patient. I have been able to raise 360000ugxsh and that money has been sent to your mobile money so you can pay the bills and get out of the hospital but you need to please find a way to keep him on treatment as you try to find him a better hospital for his Operation within the country or abroad for his better secure health . I pray to God to continue you and your entire family. May your little girl heal in Jesus name. I wish I can do more but that's the best I can and I don't want to be involved anymore as I have talked to doctors to sympathise with you and the money I sent you was from my rent and daily saving..

**Note from Iona:**

*Mukama begged me to send money to help pay the hospital bills for his extremely sick and hospitalized orphan girl but I could not take on one more fundraiser. This beautiful message was sent to Mukama by a doctor who knew the circumstances. There are angels everywhere!*

## What on Earth is Happening to the U.S. Constitution?



By Iona

Our Wire Editor, Allen Hengst, sent the photo of the Constitution being obliterated and our hard-won rights going down the drain. (see page 5) Graphic credit: R.J. Matson/CQ Roll Call at <https://rollcall.com/2022/06/28/capitol-ink-right-out/>

[com/2022/06/28/capitol-ink-right-out/](https://rollcall.com/2022/06/28/capitol-ink-right-out/)

I wrote this note to Allen:  
"Allen, my father was a lawyer who loved our Constitution so much that he carried this pocket-size book everywhere! Now it's on a little table in my new home. . . ."

The 1st Amendment reads: "Congress

shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of Grievances."