

Grassroots Coalition News

We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.



Our Mission: *Grassroots Coalition News* represents our attempt to end the War Against the Earth caused by Capitalism, Racism, and Patriarchy.

A Celebration of Youth: www.gceej.org. Issue No. 88: October 2022



Photos: Kesheni Sengo

"This is the only source of water for school use in the dry season like this. They use it for cooking, drinking, and watering trees. The situation is different during the rainy season; sometimes they use rain water, but in the dry season this is the only source of water," wrote Kesheni Sengo.

Ubuntu Brings People Together to Live and Work in Harmony

By Kesheni Alinanuswe Sengo, Executive Director, Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans, Tanzania

The Concept of Ubuntu Meaning of Ubuntu

The term Ubuntu literally is defined as "I am Because we Are," meaning that my presence depends on the presence of others in everything or the presence of others depends on my presence. Broadly speaking, the concept has roots in the Zulu language where it is known as *Umuntu ugumuntu ngabantu* which implies *Persons depend on persons to be persons*. This is the concept of socialism that calls for all people in the community to come together and share whatever comes ahead in an equal manner.

The concept of Ubuntu preaches about wearing the shoes of others in all situations. By having those feelings of others induced in you, finally you will agree with me that, "It is meaningless to be happy while others are sad; it is pointless to celebrate while others mourn." This means when someone is crying the whole society should turn and support him or her; when someone doesn't have food, it is the duty of others to support him or her and supply food for her or him so as to have a full concept of Ubuntu, *I am because We are*.

History of Ubuntu

The popularity of Ubuntu in the ears of the universe started when one anthropologist proposed a game to African children.

He placed a basket of sweets near a tree and made the children stand 100 meters (109 yards) away from the basket. Then he announced that whoever reaches first would get all the sweets in the basket. Surprisingly, when he told them to start, they all held together each others' hands, ran together towards the basket, divided the sweets equally among themselves, ate the sweets, and enjoyed them.

When the anthropologist asked them why they did so, all of them answered *Ubuntu*, which meant "How can one be happy when others are sad?" In their language the term Ubuntu means "I am because We Are." The concept calls to be linked together, not ranked in life situations.

Ubuntu continued on page 3

Grassroots Coalition Growing and Getting Stronger, Looking for Climate Activists

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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.

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 dissolved the 501(c)(3).

We will 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 fossil fuels, rampant consumerism, 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.

They are all struggling. After a massive campaign to raise enough money to save the life of a baby orphan and then his orphanage manager in Uganda, and after dissolving the Coalition, we quit being responsible for any fundraising. Now we have a new group of orphanage managers meeting every month on Zoom. They will collectively be figuring out how to sustain their efforts and get adequate funding.

If you want to support anyone in our Global Family, please contact them to learn what information you need to send money and which website to use.

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

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

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(2) **Nature of the copyrighted work.**

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Iona's Column: *Correction with Apologies*

Dearest Global Family,

I goofed last time. I put part of Fidele Hitimana's story (which you will see here on page 20) with Amos Mugarura's on page 20 last time. I made the corrections for our website, but my readers never saw the language I added written by Amos. Here it is:

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 gardens, 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.

Love, *Iona*

Ubuntu *continued from page 1*

The Relationship between the term 'Ubuntu' and our charity Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans (UPAWA).

The charity has laid its foundation on the shoulders of Ubuntu as the philosophy of African socialism that calls for equal shares of opportunity and resources available in the society. The charity has waged a war towards all elements of inequality in the education sector, sports and games, economic opportunities, gender issues, and for most disabilities, holding a view that disability is not inability and it can happen at a blink of an eye.

UPAWA works with marginalized communities (which are mostly forgotten in numerous aspects of life) to accelerate equality in all fields of life including education and economic aspects. The charity will stand with the school or community in looking for a solution to the pressing problem. The charity will stand with the community in celebrating the solution that has been devised in a collective way.

UPAWA has also deepened its roots in the last Sustainable Development Goal which strengthen Partnerships for the Goals. The organization welcomes partner organizations from within and outside Africa to work with marginalized communities in the aspects that address problems which are facing the communities while finding long-lasting solutions.

Current Interventions

1. Tree planting at Mawa Primary school: in March 2022 whereby 200 trees were planted with the total budget of \$250, including transport. We've targeted to make primary school children environmental activists to preserve the globe. We



The renovation we have started with the support of the U.S.-based organization Sports Works International NGO. Sports World International. This photo shows the workers plastering the outer walls of the girls' washroom in a primary school.

need to reach many primary schools with this project for the next planting season which begins in January depending on the availability of funds.

2. Renovation of Girls' Washroom at Mlilayoyo Primary school. The intervention is in the first phase where we received support from a U.S.-based charity that enabled us to plaster outer walls. We still need support of different stakeholders; the total budget is \$4,500.

3. We are looking for stakeholders' support to solve the problem of clean water at Mawa primary school where

children have to walk for 2.5 kilometers (1 ½ miles) every day searching for water at school.

4. We are supporting 20 kids with stationeries and other study-materials. One child needs a wheelchair. We are looking for donors to help us with \$225.

5. We have been conducting permaculture training to women so they can graduate from the chains of poverty.

Contact Kesheni Alinanuswe Sengo

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ALL SHALL BE WELL, AND ALL SHALL BE WELL, AND ALL MANNER OF THING SHALL BE WELL...FOR THERE IS A FORCE OF LOVE MOVING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE THAT HOLDS US FAST AND WILL NEVER LET US GO.

~ Julian of Norwich ~

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/incontext/article/julian>

A Letter to the Permaculture Movement

DGR Editor's Note: *Civilizations are defined by the growth of cities, vast acreages of agriculture, and hierarchical social systems – and after creating short-term surpluses of energy and wealth at the expense of sustainability, they inevitably collapse.*

Today, we live in the first global civilization. The harnessing of fossil fuels has brought unimaginable power, but also terrible destructiveness. No technological innovation or social organization will be a simple silver bullet to solve these issues.

Nevertheless, people around the world continue to experiment with alternative social arrangements. One is permaculture, which is often reduced to “gardening” but is actually a systems-thinking approach for deliberately designing human settlements, societies, and subsistence economies for sustainability and justice. In this era, systems thinking around sustainability inevitably includes strategy and action to defend the planet, in addition to building alternative ways of living.

In this piece, Jennifer Murnan argues that permaculture practitioners, who often become insular “lifeboaters” or “survivalists,” should link their work to political resistance movements working to dismantle industrial civilization before it's too late.

By Jennifer Murnan

Deep Green Resistance News: May 23, 2022

Currently, permaculture operates in the realm of bright green environmental activism and adherents seemingly believe that the current culture can be transformed.

Why should permaculturalists choose to align themselves with the deep green environmentalists that support dismantling civilization?

It's all about deep abiding love for the truth that requires brave resistance to untruth. It's about following that love down the path of truth. That's what resistance in the form of permaculture is. That's what the allure of permaculture, a permanent, sustainable culture, is for me.

We are animals, terrestrial animals, whose primary needs are for clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe, healthy food to eat, and the security of community and relationship with each other and our fellow living creatures. Life for us is totally dependent on the health of the Earth and our kin, human and non-human. All that we create must serve this fundamental truth.

The Permaculture movement has always run counter to the beliefs and principles



Photo: Olivia Mary, Unsplash

We are animals, terrestrial animals, whose primary needs are for clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe, healthy food to eat, and the security of community and relationship with each other and our fellow living creatures. Life for us is totally dependent on the health of the Earth and our kin, human and non-human. All that we create must serve this fundamental truth.

of global civilization. It views Olivinature as a partner, a teacher, and a guide whom we honor and are completely dependent on. This is completely contrary to the cultural view of western civilization; that the natural world is here to serve us, to be used and abused at will, and that this abuse is justifiable.

Permaculture practice, by definition, is an attempt to depart from the model of exploitation and importation of resources necessitated by civilization. To live permanently in one place is the antithesis of the pattern exhibited repeatedly by civilizations. Civilizations cannot live in place. They violently import and exploit human and natural resources, exhaust their ecosystems, experience population overshoot, and collapse, leaving an impoverished land base in their wake.

Western industrial civilization is currently playing this scenario out on a global scale. Permaculture not only cannot exist within the confines of civilization, it also cannot coexist with a civilization that is devouring the world. It is neither ethical nor practical on the part of permaculturalists to attempt to do so.

Another reason lies in the common visions of the primacy of the Earth shared by deep green and permaculture activists. The first ethic in permaculture is ‘Care for the

Earth.’ Without this basis, the second and third ethics, ‘Care for people’ and ‘Redistribute surplus to one’s needs,’ are impossible. Healthy organisms produce a surplus to feed and enrich the ecosystem in which they exist. Simply put, there is no health unless Earth is cared for first.

There are attitudes shared by Permaculture and the Deep Green movement. Permaculturalists believe in working with nature and not against it. Fostering a respect for all life is inherent in permaculture practice. Valuing people and their skills creates more diversity, creativity, and productivity in permaculture and deep green communities. Alignment between Deep Green and the Permaculture movements is especially apparent in two permaculture design principles.

Seeking to preserve, regenerate, and extend all natural and traditional permanent landscapes is a goal of both communities. Preserving and increasing biodiversity of all types is recognized as being essential for survival by both Deep Greens and Permaculturalists.

A primary reason for permaculture to become part of a culture of resistance is that permaculture’s two guiding principles logically mandate dismantling civilization. The precautionary principle states that

Permaculture *continued on next page*

Permaculture *continued from previous page*

we should take seriously and act on any serious or destructive diagnosis unless it is proven erroneous.

Civilization has proven itself to be destructive to ecosystems since its inception. Western industrial civilization is causing the wholesale destruction of every ecosystem on Earth.

Practicing permaculture individually can be construed to be a revolutionary act, capable of saving the planet. But individual acts can't possibly do the trick. Like any other liberal act, it fails to recognize the systems that are destroying the planet and confront them. The most elegant and nurturing permaculture garden will not stop the operation of a single coal fired plant or deep sea oil drilling or fracking or the destruction of a rain forest.

A large scale and effective response to this destruction is necessary. The tactics of the environmental movement up to this point have been insufficient. We are losing. It is time to change our strategy. Therefore, the Deep Green movement is advocating for all tactics to be considered to stop the murder of the Earth. This includes, but is not limited to, practicing permaculture, legislation, legal action, civil-disobedience, and industrial sabotage.

There are problems with holding the permaculture movement as the sole solution to global destruction. While transitioning to sustainability in our personal lives is important, even more important is confronting and dismantling the oppressive systems of power that promote unsustainability, exploitation, and injustice on a global scale.

In fact, if these systems are left in place, the gains made by the practice of permaculture will be washed away in civilization's tidal wave of destruction.

One of the necessary steps to restoring our relationships with each other and our planet is dismantling the current destructive systems of power through organized political resistance. We are in global ecological crisis, and the love and resistance inherent in permaculture can, and frequently does, ally with the victims of oppression, support and increase the health of natural systems, work to support and reclaim indigenous knowledge, and greater-than-human wisdom and teaching.

The second guiding principle of permaculture, 'intergenerational equity,' also necessitates immediate action in response to the destructive force of civilization. This principle states that future generations have the same rights as we do to food, clean air, water, and resources. This statement applies to all humans and non-humans equally. Daily, entire species are being eliminated from this planet as a result of the activities of industrial civilization. 'Intergenerational equity' for them has ceased to exist and every day this destruction continues more species go extinct. Allowing this to continue is unconscionable.

Permaculture is based on close observation of the natural world, and I believe it can only realize its full potential in a human community that acknowledges the natural laws of its land base as primary. Practicing permaculture in any context other than this necessitates subverting our principles and betraying everything that nurtures and sustains us, all that is sacred, our living Earth. We can only truly belong in a culture of resistance, and in communities of resistance.

Both permaculturalists and deep greens know that the Earth is everything, that there is no greater good than this planet, than life itself. We owe her everything and without her, we die.

It is insane to "own" the land, the water, the air, yet this culture's laws support and enforce that delusion. We design systems within boundaries and fail to challenge those boundaries, so our designs never truly integrate with their ecosystem, are defenseless against the onslaught of subsurface mineral rights which supersede surface rights and the resultant mining operations, the privatization and theft of water from the natural watershed that nourish the land, and rigidly enforced illusion of individual ownership over the concept of collective responsibility.

One of the necessary steps to restoring our relationships with each other and our planet is dismantling the current destructive systems of power through organized political resistance.

This is it; we need each other, everyone, every tactic we can muster in defense of the earth. We have never been able to afford civilization.

Source: <https://dgnewsservice.org/resistance/a-letter-to-the-permaculture-movement/>

"The Earth is the point. It is primary. It is our home. It is everything."

— Derrick Jensen *Endgame*

"The dominant culture eats entire biomes. No, that is too generous, because eating implies a natural biological relationship; this culture doesn't just consume ecosystems, it obliterates them, it murders them, one after another. This culture is an ecological serial killer, and it's long past time we recognize the pattern."

— Aric McBay

"Any economic or social system that does not benefit the natural communities on which it is based is unsustainable, immoral and stupid. Sustainability, morality, and intelligence (as well as justice) require the dismantling of any such economic or social system or at the very least disallowing it from damaging your landbase."

— Derrick Jensen

"The Earth is our mother. We all come from our mother and to her we shall return. We are of the Earth and it is absurd to imagine that we can "own" it, even in small pieces.

And yet the Earth has been divvied up as private property. Property is a legal concept, a cultural production, and not an intrinsic quality of land. Notions of what can be privatized seem to be infinitely expansive: land is privatized; seeds and genes are privatized; and even water is privatized."

— Sandor Ellix Katz *The Revolution Will Not Be Micro-waved*

"The task of an activist is not to navigate around systems of oppression with as much personal integrity as possible. It's to bring those systems down."

— Lierre Keith

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 139-140.*]

* * *

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 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 viable, a serious movement needs a supportive culture. It takes time to witness the same behaviors coalescing into the destructive patterns that repeat across radical movements, to name them, and to learn to stop them. Successful cultures of resistance are able to develop healthy norms of behavior and corresponding processes to handle conflict. But a youth culture by definition doesn't have that cache of experience, and it never will.

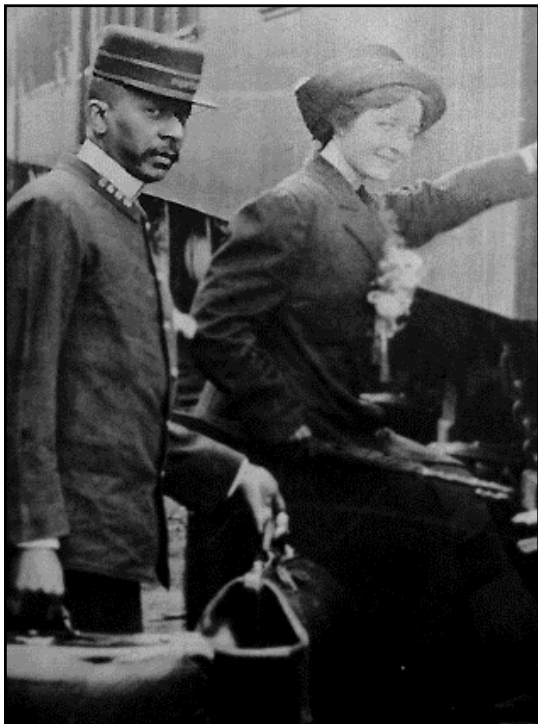


Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pullman_porter
Pullman porter helping woman board train.

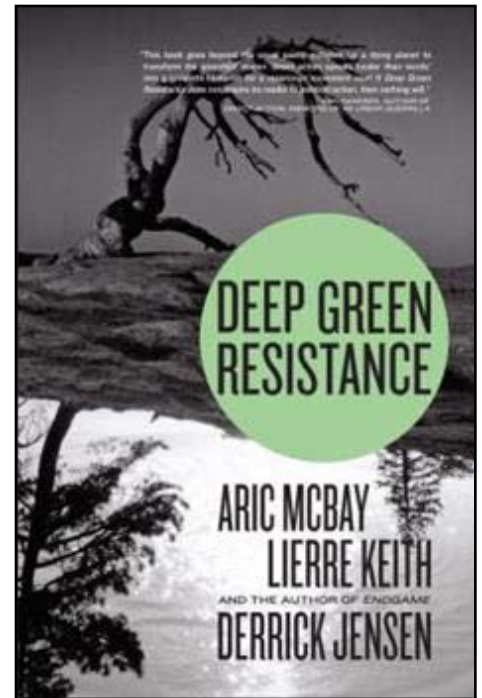
A culture of resistance also needs the ability to think long-term. One study of student activists from the Berkeley Free Speech Movement interviewed participants five years after their sit-in. Many of them felt that the movement – and hence political action – was unsuccessful.⁵⁴ Five years? Try five generations. Movements for serious social change take a long time. But a youth movement will be forever delinked from generations.

Contrast the (mostly white) ex-protestors' attitude with the history of the Pullman porters, the Black men who worked as sleeping car attendants on the railroad [starting in 1867 after the Civil War; their job was to lug baggage, shine shoes, set up and clean the sleeping berths, and serve passengers.]. The porters were both the generational and political link between slavery and the civil rights movement, accumulating income, self-respect, and the political experience they would need to wage the protracted struggle to end segregation.

The very first Pullman porters were in fact formerly enslaved men. George Pullman hired them because they were people who, tragically, could act subserviently enough to make the white passengers happy. (When Pullman tried hiring black college kids from the North for summer jobs as porters, the results were often disastrous.) Yet the jobs offered two things in exchange for the subservience: economic stability (despite the gruesomely long hours) and a broadening outlook.

Writes historian Larry Tye:
The importance of education was drilled into porters on sleepers, where they got an up-close look at America's elite that few Black men were afforded, helping demystify the white race at the same time it made its advantages seem even more unfair and enticing. That was why they worked so hard for tips, took on second jobs at home, and bore the indignities of the race-conscious sleeping cars. ... It was an accepted wisdom that they turned out more college graduates than anyone else. And those kids, whether or not they made lists of the most famous, grew up believing they could do anything. The result ... was that Pullman porters helped give birth to the African-American professional classes.⁵⁵

The porters knew that in their own lives they would only get so far. But their children were raised to carry



the struggle forward. The list of black luminaries with Pullman porters in their families is impressive, from John O'Bryant (San Francisco's first black mayor) to Florynce Kennedy to Justice Thurgood Marshall. Civil rights lawyer Elaine Jones, whose father worked as a porter to put his three kids through prestigious universities, has this to say: "All he expected in return was that we had a duty to succeed and give back. Dad said, 'I'm doing this so they can change things.' He won through us."⁵⁶

One reason the civil rights struggle was successful was that there was a strong linkage between the generations, an unbroken line of determination, character, and courage that kept the movement pushing onward as it accumulated political wisdom.

The gift of youth is its idealism and courage. That courage may veer into the foolhardy due to the young brain's inability to foresee consequences, but the courage of the young has been a prime force in social movements across history. . . .

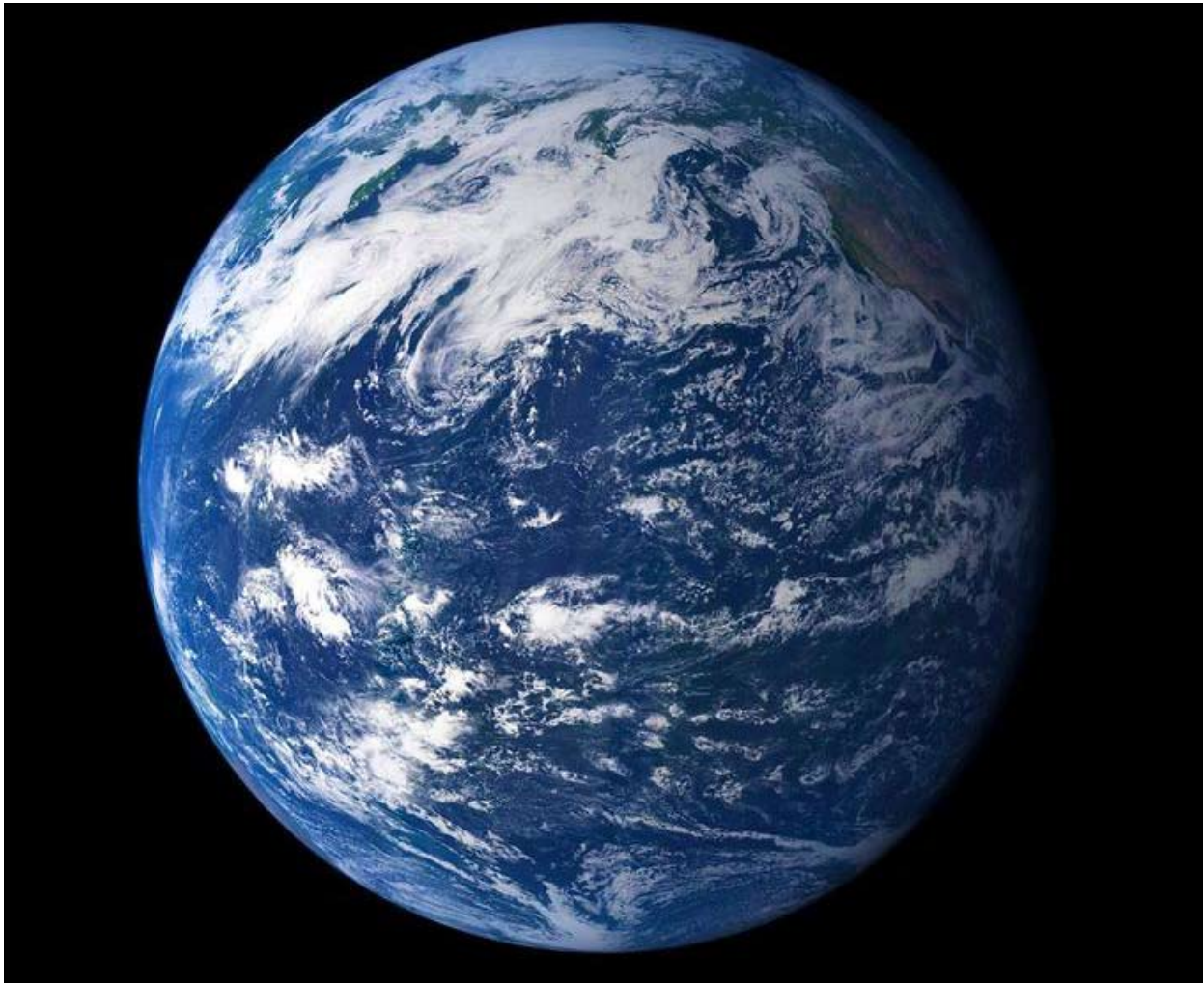
Footnotes:

54. See Fendrich, "Radicals Revisited," p. 161, and Nassil and Abramowitz, "Transition or Transformation," p. 21.

55. Tye, *Rising from the Rails*, p. 252.

56. *Ibid.*, p. 253.

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 or send a check to Derrick Jensen, Box 903, Crescent City, California 95531.



Regenerating the Earth

By Joyce Grant, New Jersey USA

**Submitted by Patti Vogel
New Jersey USA**

Regeneration is the process of renewal, restoration, and tissue growth that makes ecosystems resilient to natural fluctuations or events that cause disturbances and damage to our Earth and its inhabitants. Every species is capable of regeneration from bacteria to humans. In its simplest terms it means starting over, full understanding of what the Earth gives us and how it will continue to give if we take care of it.

The Earth has its own laws for survival and its continuance beyond technology. It keeps regenerating and regenerating, fighting to exist. We can observe how plant life struggles through the cracks in a cemented world to reach the sun, the air, and water needed for its survival. The Earth will outlast us. It sustains itself without any interference from humans. If we and all Earth's inhabitants want to live on, we need to

help, nourish, cherish, and be grateful for it. Understand its natural laws. We breathe in what the trees breathe out. We breathe out what the trees breathe in. This interdependency, this connection is for our continuing life, an incredible mysterious gift.

The endless competition of our world undermines our natural instinctive capacity for empathy, concern for others, and cooperation. The simple fact is that if we do not change our ways in respect to nature, the environment, and how we live, we will be no more. Our survival is up to all of us. We must take action right now for the goodness of humanity, the Earth, and the world. Living in harmony with our Earth and others is essential for our survival, but only if we bring back into balance everything economic, social, spiritual, mental, and physical. The well-being of our Earth is our well-being.

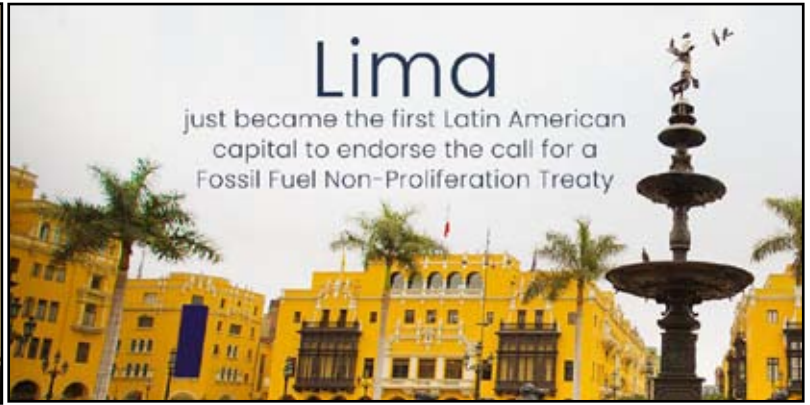
We know how to save our world. We know we have to face the facts of climate change. We know we need to stop the

dominance of the fossil fuel industry. We know we have to stop all those whose intent is to make an obscene profit. We know we have to stop corrupt, self-seeking, power hungry leaders, politicians, and corporations. We know we have to stop wars, mass shootings of our school children. We know all of this. Our universal world cultural history with its many tragedies and horrors has shown this to us.

We also know we have to be aware, conscious of our capacity for goodness, helpfulness, sharing, courage, our need for a peaceful mutual existence. We know we have to pay attention. We know this.

Only the children, and the non-human inhabitants of our planet are innocent; adults are not. The innocents do not know. Only adults know this. We can make the right choices. We are the adults. We are the people.

Joyce Grant of Asbury Park, New Jersey USA is an environmental and social justice activist.



Photos: (left) EnviroNews Nigeria, (right) fossilfuel treaty.org

(left) Fossil fuel pollution from a coal power station. (right) The international Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is catching on!

What's Your Choice? Coal (*left*) or Fossil Free (*right*)??

By Nathan Thanki, COP27 Coordinator, Fossil Fuel Treaty Team; September 7, 2022

The climate crisis is not a future problem but a present reality.

Another month, another reminder that the climate crisis is not a future problem but a present reality. “Epochal level” flooding in Pakistan has destroyed over a million homes, resulted in up to \$10 billion damages, and displaced 50 million people. Record monsoon rains, made worse by glacial lake outbursts have left the country in a state of emergency. Meanwhile in Europe the worst drought in 500 years is reducing major rivers to weak streams. So severe is the drought that “hunger stones” can be seen in the River Elbe in the Czech Republic, including one that reads, “If you

see me, weep.”

While the continent bakes, fears in the U.K. are already mounting over winter, with an astonishing two-thirds of households expected to slip into fuel poverty as debates whirl around nationalization of the energy sector. The necessity of a just transition away from fossil fuels towards a clean, democratic system based on renewables has never been more obvious.

The recent landmark Inflation Reduction Act passed in the United States does direct \$360 billion towards reducing emissions through a significant scaling-up of renewable energy, but has been criticized by environmental justice groups for also locking in increased leasing of public land for fossil fuel extraction and production, and funding “carbon capture and storage” and carbon markets.

However, on a more positive note Colombia inaugurated climate hope last


month as Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez appointed ministers and were inaugurated then and immediately supported a parliamentarians’ proposal to ban fracking.

With the new Colombian government already advocating for all three pillars of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty – ending all new exploration and production, phasing out existing production, and scaling up access to renewable energy and a just transition – it is heartening to see that the vision of a fossil free future is resonating around the world, including countries that have economies heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

As we head to COP27 in Egypt in November, it is now only a matter of time before we see explicit endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Treaty from national governments. Keep your eyes peeled!

One-third of the food we eat is at risk because the climate crisis is endangering butterflies and bees.

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA with this note: “I’ve seen less than 10 butterflies this year, only one Monarch.”

By Allison Chinchar and Jennifer Gray, CNN 
Meteorologists, excerpt
CNN: August 14, 2022

Bee populations are declining. More than half of the bat species in the United States are in severe decline or listed as endangered. And international scientists recently announced the monarch butterfly is perilously close to extinction.

What these three creatures have in common is that they are all pollinators.

Without them, fruits, vegetables, and other plants wouldn’t be pollinated, and that’s a major problem for our food supply.

Parts of the world are heading toward an insect apocalypse, study suggests.

“One out of every three bites of food that we eat” is directly connected to a pollinator, Ron Magill, the communications director and a wildlife expert at Zoo Miami, told CNN. Around 30% of the food that ends up on our tables gets there because of things like butterflies, bees, and bats.

Losing those critical populations could also mean losing some of our favorite foods.

Apples, melons, cranberries, pumpkins, squash, broccoli, and almonds are among

the foods most susceptible to the pollinator decline, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Bees, in particular, are responsible for pollinating around 90 commercially produced crops, the agency reports. Even tequila is at risk.

“It’s all so intricately connected, whether you’re eating the food that is directly pollinated or you’re eating something that depends on that pollinator,” Magill said. “It’s a domino effect. . . .”

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/14/weather/food-risk-bee-butterfly-pollinator-decline-climate-scn/index.html>

African Leaders Aim to Put Climate Finance Top of COP27 Agenda

By Jack Graham

Thomson Reuters Foundation: September 7, 2022

- Africa emits 3% of global CO2 but suffers serious impacts.
- Its leaders say rich countries must help fund adaptation.
- Climate finance discussions could dominate COP27 talks.

LONDON, England – When African leaders gathered in the Dutch city of Rotterdam this week to find solutions and money for climate change adaptation, only one European head of state joined them in person.

Senegalese President Macky Sall said richer nations' failure to come to the table and discuss how to pay for climate damage they have caused was disappointing – an issue set to be high on the agenda in upcoming U.N. climate talks in November in Egypt.

"I cannot help but note with some bitterness the absence of leaders from the industrial world," he said at the Africa Adaptation Summit, adding he had thought the meeting being held in Europe would make it "easier" for them to attend. "They are the main polluters on this planet, and they are the ones who should be financing adaptation," Sall added.

A lack of climate finance will be among the main topics at U.N. COP27 climate talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, as African leaders demand rich nations support their need to adapt to growing climate risks.

Africa has about a fifth of the world's population, but produces less than 3% of global carbon dioxide emissions, the major driver of climate change, according to the International Energy Agency.

Despite this, the continent is disproportionately affected by climate impacts like droughts and floods, underlining the need for countries to invest in projects like updating infrastructure and making agriculture more resilient.

At last year's U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, developed nations pledged to double funding for adaptation projects in developing countries to about \$40 billion per year by 2025.

Whether that will materialize remains unclear, with the \$100 billion per year promised to vulnerable states by 2020 to adapt to climate change and green their



Photo: Wikipedia

Senegal's President Macky Sall spoke at a news conference on the second day of a European Union-African Union summit at The European Council Building in Brussels, Belgium February 18, 2022. African leaders will push for more help in meeting billions in shortfalls for climate change adaptation plans at U.N. talks.

energy systems still unmet.

Meanwhile, the African Development Bank and Global Center on Adaptation aim to raise \$25 billion for their Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) by 2025 to accelerate and scale up climate adaptation efforts across the continent.

The bank has committed half the total for the African-led scheme, and is seeking investment from developed nations. Pledges of \$55 million towards the AAP from Britain, Norway, France, and Denmark were announced at the summit on Monday.

President @NAkufoAddo of Ghana, @TheCVF Chair, gave a strong endorsement of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program at the Africa Adaptation Summit #GCA2022: "Through the #AAP we are making progress in addressing the climate emergency."

Learn more: <https://t.co/kt1mf13tti> pic.twitter.com/48CO7PVCNZ

— Global Center on Adaptation (@GCAadaptation) September 7, 2022

Funding Shortfalls

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo said he would push richer nations at the COP

talks to contribute to the AAP and deliver on climate funding promises, including the longstanding \$100-billion pledge.

"With the world in flames and under flood waters, the eyes of people everywhere will be on the decision makers at COP27," Akufo-Addo, who also chairs the Climate Vulnerable Forum group of countries, told the Africa Adaptation Summit. "If we want our continent to thrive, we have to adapt to climate change – and to achieve this, adaptation financing needs to start flowing at scale."

The level of finance needed for Africa to prepare for worsening climate impacts and move to greener economies is so far well beyond current funding available.

African countries are getting just 12% of the \$250 billion per year they need to implement their climate plans, according to an analysis released last month by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), a California-based non-profit.

The continent is striking a better balance than other regions between financing emissions cuts and climate change adaptation, said Chavi Meattle, a senior analyst at CPI. But its current efforts to adapt are "still anaemic," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview.

As well as funding, Meattle said African countries need to integrate climate considerations into government investment decisions, do more to enable private investment for adaptation projects, and tailor solutions to local contexts.

The AAP can accelerate African countries' access to finance by helping governments develop national adaptation plans and build investment proposals, said Emily Wilkinson, senior research fellow at the Overseas Development Institute think-tank. "You don't just want a hodge-podge of different adaptation initiatives that don't speak to an overall strategy," she said.

As leaders prepare to discuss a climate finance package for developing nations at COP27, Wilkinson believes the increase of extreme climate events in rich nations – from heatwaves to wildfires – is making them focus more on adaptation too.

"That's putting the adaptation agenda much more firmly up there as a priority for national governments," she said.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20220907153620-ukxc1/>



Photos: GlassHalfFullNOLA.org

Our recycling process involves diverting used glass products from landfills and sorting, sifting, and ultimately converting them into sand products ranging from super soft, beach-like sand to glass gravel.

Massive Glass Recycling Project Started by College Students

Vision: Glass Half Full

Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA

Like most good things, it started with a bottle of wine...

As seniors at Tulane University, we were disappointed and frustrated with the lack of glass recycling in New Orleans. One night, over a bottle of wine that we knew would end up at the dump unless we did something about it, we hatched a plan to combat this problem. Specifically, we wanted a system that was transparent, accessible, and most importantly, actually recycled glass into something functional.

Instead of trying to take on the ultimately unrealistic task of reforming the current system, we decided to look at the glass half full by implementing our own grassroots glass recycling program.

We launched Glass Half Full in a backyard...

...where we began collecting and hand-crushing our friends' glass with no real expectation for what this project could become. As word spread, participation and support grew, and soon we obtained the resources to move to an uptown location on Joliet St. After quickly running out of storage space (a good problem to have, in our opinion!), our supporters rallied to help us expand into a new processing facility in New Orleans East (NOLA), where we would have the ability to scale up our operations and accept more glass.

From there, it was history – we are backed by a growing team of staff, volunteers, and community members who pitch in daily to divert tens of thousands of pounds of glass from NOLA's landfills

every single week.

We are beyond grateful...

...to the New Orleans community for the way it has wholeheartedly embraced this project, enabling it to grow more than we could have possibly imagined in just a short period of time. With your support, we hope to continue expanding our initiative to better meet our state's vast glass recycling demands, and to use the sand we produce to benefit our environment and community.

Converting Glass Into Sand and Glass Cullet

Our recycling process involves diverting used glass products from landfills and sorting, sifting, and ultimately converting them into sand products ranging from super soft, beach-like sand to glass gravel. The final products are used for coastal restoration projects, disaster relief efforts, eco-construction, new glass products, and so much more. The applications for sand are truly endless.

Reducing Waste, Saving NOLA Money

NOLA's current glass collection program is inaccessible for most residents, prohibits business drop-offs, and lacks transparency. Industry-average is disposing of approximately 60-90% of materials received in landfills, while our rate is just 2-5%.

A single glass bottle placed in your city recycling bin will result in the entire load being sent to the landfill, where it will never decompose. New Orleans wastes millions of tax dollars per year dumping recyclables in landfills – we pay per pound that's discarded – and on importing millions

of pounds of sand. We are addressing these unnecessary, wasteful, and expensive practices by providing a sustainable alternative.

Ethical & Sustainable Sand – Never Mined Nor Extracted

We are currently facing a global sand shortage as this natural resource is depleted at an alarming rate. With the sand we create, we aim to provide a sustainable alternative to exploitative sand extraction techniques like dredging and mining, which disrupt local ecosystems, contribute



Glass continued on next page

Glass continued from previous page



With the sand we create, we aim to provide a sustainable alternative to exploitative sand extraction techniques. (below) Max Steitz and Franziska Trautmann, the founders of The Glass Half Full.

to the coastal erosion crisis, and cost millions of dollars annually. Restoring Louisiana's diminishing coast will require hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of sand, further intensifying coastal erosion if this sand is dredged and sucked from the bottom of our waterways. Our recycled glass sand can rebuild entire coastlines at a fraction of the price.

Fighting Our Coastal Erosion Crisis

Our ultimate goal is to use our recycled sand to begin restoring Louisiana's fragile shoreline. Louisiana has lost a quarter of its wetlands since the 1930s as a result of flood control structures designed to protect communities and businesses from flooding. While well-intentioned, such structures have prevented the deposition of sediment into barrier islands and wetland areas by the Mississippi River's spring floods, a natural process critical to the preservation of coastal areas. Consequently, land is disappearing much faster than it can regenerate.

Sand is a crucial tool for rebuilding the barrier islands and sandbars that protect our coast from tropical storms and hurricanes. Returning sediment to wetlands combats erosion and encour-

ages the survival of native foliage and wildlife, which will ultimately strengthen Louisiana's economy and preserve our food supply. Dunes, beaches, and even the rapidly eroding Gulf seafloor can also benefit from sand deposition.

Mitigating Natural Disasters

Sand is extremely valuable for its use in flood mitigation. New Orleans is especially vulnerable to tropical storms because it lies below sea level, is losing its protective coast, and is located off the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, NOLA is constantly experiencing both major and minor floods that inflict expensive damage to homes and businesses. Our recycled sand is used to fill sandbags that function to protect vulnerable areas.

Sandbags are also vital for levee maintenance because they can be used to prevent overflow, manipulate the direction of water flow, absorb seepage, and for structural fortification. Our sand is sourced sustainably – not mined and extracted from our public commons – and donated or sold to those in need of this critical resource.

Source: <https://glasshalffullnola.org/about>





Photos: Shutterstock

A blue whale flashes its fluke in the Gulf of Corcovado, which is part of Chile's newly-designated Tictoc Marine Park. By 1920, blue whales had disappeared from this area because of overhunting but began to return 20 years ago after a whaling ban was implemented. The new park should help numbers continue to increase.

Chile's New Tictoc-Golfo Corcovado Marine Park Protects Habitat for Blue Whales and Other Species

Designation of 101,900-hectare (249,329-acre) area is a first in the ecologically rich Chilean region

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Makarena Roa
PEW: July 8, 2022

In the north of Chilean Patagonia, where the Los Lagos and Aysén regions share a border, sits one of the most biodiverse marine spaces in the southern cone: the Chilean ecoregion. The abundance of zooplankton and phytoplankton makes this area an ideal feeding ground for numerous species and supports rich marine biodiversity. Today, in large part because of 20 years of persistent science-based advocacy led by the nonprofit Melimoyu Foundation and the Blue Whale Center – with the support of local communities and a diverse group of other organizations in the Patagonia Mar y Tierra coalition –

the Chilean government designated the Tictoc-Golfo Corcovado Marine Park.

The move protects 101,900 hectares (393.5 square miles) with unique ecological value. Numerous species feed and breed in the area, including blue, humpback, and pilot whales; Chilean dolphins; and several species of marine birds.

The designation of Tictoc-Golfo Corcovado Marine Park also creates an opportunity for sustainable development in the Patagonian gateway communities of Chaitén and Puerto Raúl Marín Balmaceda. The latter, with 239 inhabitants, is the oldest town in the Aysén region and has experienced a dramatic decrease in population, losing 23% of its residents in the past two decades, mostly because of a lack of jobs. The proximity to a protected area should boost tourism and research and help ignite an economic boom.

The marine park is the 11th to be created in Chile, the largest in its continental marine area, and the only one in the Chilean ecoregion – an area situated between Chacao and the Taitao Peninsula,

where less than 0.1% of the marine area is protected so far.

This new protected area joins a mosaic of terrestrial and marine protected areas, including the Corcovado and Melimoyu national parks, the Coastal Marine Area of Native Peoples Desert Islands, Chaitén Coast, the Pitipalena Añihué Multipurpose Coastal Marine Area, and four other private protected areas.

Following this recent designation, Pew's Chilean Patagonia project and the Melimoyu Foundation will continue to support the development of a management plan for the marine park that will involve Indigenous and local communities, who were instrumental in creating this protected area.

Makarena Roa works on The Pew Charitable Trusts' Chilean Patagonia project.

Source: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/07/08/chiles-new-tictoc-golfo-corcovado-marine-park-protects-habitat-for-blue-whales-and-other-species>



Photos: NOAA via Flickr

A basket star, numerous flytrap anemones, two brisingid sea stars, holothurians high in the branches, brittle stars, and numerous other creatures.

Amid Haggling Over Deep-Sea Mining Rules, Chorus of Skepticism Grows Louder

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.”

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts
Mongabay: August 5, 2022

- *This week, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the intergovernmental body tasked with overseeing deep-sea mining in international waters, concluded its recent set of meetings, which ran from July 4 to August 4, 2022.*

- *The purpose of these meetings was to progress with negotiations of mining regulations, with a view that deep-sea mining will start in July 2023 after the Pacific island nation of Nauru triggered a rule that could obligate this to happen.*

- *While many countries appear to support the rapid development of these regulations, an increasing number of other countries*

have expressed concern with this deadline, indicating a possible turn of events.

It starts with tiny deep-sea fragments – shark’s teeth or slivers of shell. Then, in a process thought to span millions of years, they get coated in layers of liquidized metal, eventually becoming solid, lumpy rocks that resemble burnt potatoes. These formations, known as polymetallic nodules, have caught the attention of international mining companies because of what they harbor: rich deposits of commercially sought-after minerals like cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese – the very metals that go into the batteries for renewable technologies like electric cars, wind turbines, and solar panels.

But while some experts say we must mine the deep sea to combat climate change, others warn against it, saying we know too little about the damage that seabed mining would cause to the ocean’s

life-sustaining properties.

Actual extraction has yet to begin, but in June 2021, the small Pacific island country of Nauru pushed the world closer to this possibility by notifying the International Seabed Authority – the intergovernmental body that oversees mining in international waters – that it had triggered a two-year rule in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This rule would theoretically allow it to start mining in June 2023 under whatever mining rules are in place by then. Nauru itself doesn’t have a mining company with this interest, but it sponsors a subsidiary of Canada-based and U.S.-listed The Metals Company.

Since then, the ISA has been working to negotiate a set of regulations that would allow it to follow the two-year rule. But at the latest set of meetings that took place between July 4 and August 4 in Kingston,

Deep-Sea *continued on next page*

Deep-Sea *continued from previous page*



White sponge with brown crinoids, pink brittle stars, and a pink crinoid in the lower right.

Jamaica, progress on the mining code appears to have stalled, observers reported.

“Overall, the feeling in the room is that there’s now a majority of states that are recognizing that it’s unrealistic, unachievable, and would be highly irresponsible,” Emma Wilson, a conservation expert who attended the recent ISA meetings as a representative of the NGO OceanCare, told Mongabay.

Representatives from several countries, including Spain, Chile, New Zealand, Ecuador, Costa Rica, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Trinidad and Tobago, made the case that the mining regulations shouldn’t be rushed to meet the obligations of the two-year rule. Spain’s representative, for instance, said that, “As a precaution, the time has come to take a break,” while Costa Rica’s representative said, “Because we are responsible for the Common Heritage of Humankind, for our peoples and for future generations, we must act with caution.” (The UNCLOS defines the seabed and its resources as “the common heritage of mankind.”)

However, other countries, such as Australia, the U.K., Tonga, and Nauru itself, took the position that regulations should be approved without delay. Tonga’s representative said the nation stood “ready to support work of Authority and relevant bodies especially for completion of regulatory frameworks in [a] timely fashion while assuring due diligence where appropriate.”

Even France stated that it was committed to adopting “a legal framework with rigorous environmental protections to ensure that harm to ecosystems in the marine environment is minimized.” This position seemed to be in contrast to President Emmanuel Macron’s statement at the U.N. Ocean Conference in Lisbon at the end of June that, “We have to create the legal framework to stop high seas mining and not to allow new activities that endanger ecosystems.”

On July 25, Chile’s delegation presented a letter to the ISA Secretariat, requesting that a discussion about the two-year rule become an agenda item at the assembly portion of the meetings, which began on August 1. But this request was ignored, OceanCare’s Wilson said. Instead, the ISA Secretariat relegated it to the end of the meeting in the “any other business” category, which “undermined it,” and the ISA Secretariat even closed the meetings a day early, she added.

“One thing that became very, very evident this week is that the ISA Secretariat is doing everything that it can to brush the conversation under the carpet about [whether] there is another possibility of not adopting the regulation,” Wilson said.

Mongabay previously reported on concerns about transparency at the recently concluded ISA meetings, including accusations that the ISA had restricted access to

key information and hampered interactions between member states and civil society.

“There’s a broad recognition that unless something really surprising happens, these regulations are not only unlikely to be adopted by July 2023, but they’re probably not likely to be adopted for several years at least,” said Gianni, who attended the meetings as a representative of EarthWorks, an NGO that works to shield communities and the environment from the negative impacts of extractive activities.

Gianni added that the ISA council has also yet to agree upon the financial mechanisms under which mining could operate, which need to be put into place, in addition to the regulations, before the ISA can issue exploitation licenses. However, he said it’s still unclear whether deep-sea mining will officially be stalled.

“It’s a bit like the Titanic,” Gianni said. “We’re starting to see the rivets popping and the thing is slowly starting to turn. But is it going to miss the iceberg and head in the direction of protecting the marine environment? That’s still an open question.”

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

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/08/amid-haggling-over-deep-sea-mining-rules-chorus-of-skepticism-grows-louder/>

Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Dancan Stanley

Workshop participants are building the walls with clay bricks and mud.

Building a Home from Natural Materials, Building Community, Plus Permaculture Training

By Dancan Stanley, Peaceplanet, Kenya

I was busy preparing for a workshop that took place 20th June to 2nd July. The workshop was an adobe bricks workshop and also a permaculture learning session will be offered. Adobe bricks are clay bricks which are not baked; they are mixed with rice husks to make them be stronger when they have dried up.

I organized my workshop because of the lack of skills by people in the community and this has really helped them so much to learn how they can build natural houses

with locally-available materials.

The adobe bricks workshop also included a school renovation. This took place in the morning and in the afternoon we did permaculture teaching; that's how the program was planned.

The workshop began June 20 and we made a lot of clay bricks and also were teaching about permaculture and living lifestyles.

Many were interested in this and around 20 people came from far away and registered, the ones in my community also registered for a total of 37.

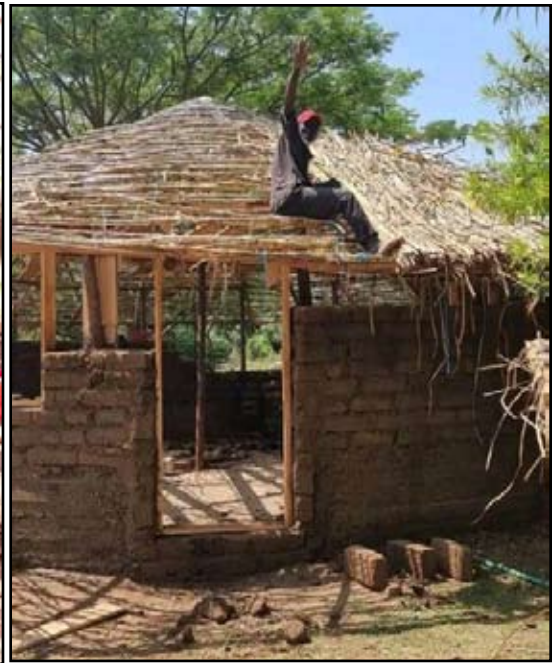
Most of them were not my friends and so we came to know each other and become friends. It took us one week and three days to do all the work. Part of my friends helped me so much and also those who didn't get that opportunity because they came later and helped me, too.

The materials that I used were clay bricks which I mixed with clay soil and rice husk, some parts of the house were rammed; for the top we used grass. The house is meant for a permaculture training

Building a Home *continued on next page*

Stories from Our Global Family

Building a Home *continued from previous page*



(top left) The wooden box was used for ramming the walls whereby soil was put inside it and rammed down. (top middle) These people were building the walls with clay bricks. (top right) The person on top of the roof was making the roof with grass. (middle left) Dancan working with friends from France in the garden planting seeds in the keyhole garden with vegetables, as shown below it. (middle right) The Adobe brick house finished with only the four windows and the floor to be fitted. (bottom left) Dancan teaching a microbiotic way of living and permaculture in a local church.



center and for the time being I'll live in it. Next month I'll be holding a permaculture training course.

Hopefully you will support me where necessary to finish it. May you support me please with the little you have so that I can finish the permaculture training center and prepare for next month's workshop. I'll appreciate. Thank

you so much.

Yours sincerely,
Dancan Stanley
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Stories from Our Global Family



Photos: Jeeban Bastola

Permaculture teacher Sneha Koppula teaching Permaculture Design Course at Aranya Permaculture Farm in India.

Benefits of Permaculture Farming

By Jeeban Bastola, Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm, Nepal

The Permaculture system was designed and developed by two Australians named Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. Permaculture has been defined by Mollison as, “A philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless action; and 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.”

Permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally-productive ecosystem which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way.

The Principles and Ethics were created by David Holmgren and Bill Mollison in the 1970s.

Three Ethics of Permaculture

1. Earth Care: Provision for all life systems to continue and multiply. Care of Earth means care for all living and non-living things: soil, species and their varieties, atmosphere, forests, micro-habitats, animals, and water. It means that we humans should try not to increase situations in which we destroy or perish the natural functioning of planet Earth. The Earth supplies us with what we need, and to ensure that we survive and prosper, we need to treat it with consideration and respect.

2. People Care: Provision for people to access that resource necessary for their

existence. “People care” means that we all should work together and help each other instead of competing. One cannot develop a community by only helping oneself and staying alone. To live in a better culture and community, we have to work together and stay together.

3. Fair Share: By governing our own needs, we can set resources aside to further the first two ethics. It indicates the equal right of using natural resources by all individuals. Natural resources are scarce and moreover, no one really owns them. Resources should not be concentrated in just a few hands, but optimally allocated. We have come from and will always go back to community. In Permaculture, you strive to only attain the necessary amount of resources that you need in consideration of the whole community.

Permaculture continued on next page

Stories from Our Global Family

Permaculture *continued from previous page*



Jeeban Bastola (right) giving permaculture certificate to Parth Sarthi from India.

Principles of Permaculture

To help us understand how Permaculture leads us to a more ethical and sustainable way of life, it's useful to look at a list of 12 design principles put forward by David Holmgren. The core idea of Permaculture is that everything is multifunctional, self-sustaining, and integrated. Permaculture means that you work in collaboration with nature instead of against it. Permaculture is an excellent idea that can be easily implemented anywhere all around the world.

Listed below are 12 principles adapted from David and Holmgren.

1. Observe and Interact
2. Catch and Store Energy
3. Obtain a Yield
4. Apply Self-Regulation and Accept Feedback
5. Use and Value Renewable Resources
6. Produce No Waste
7. Design from Patterns to Details

8. Integrate Rather than Segregate
9. Use Small and Slow Solutions
10. Use and Value Diversity
11. Use Edges and Value the Marginal
12. Creatively: Use and Respond to Change

Benefits of Permaculture

Permaculture can be used to achieve many goals related to conservation and sustainability – a design system for sustainable human settlement. Permaculture focuses on protecting natural resources and promoting development of resilient communities that can withstand the effects of climate change and other global environmental challenges.

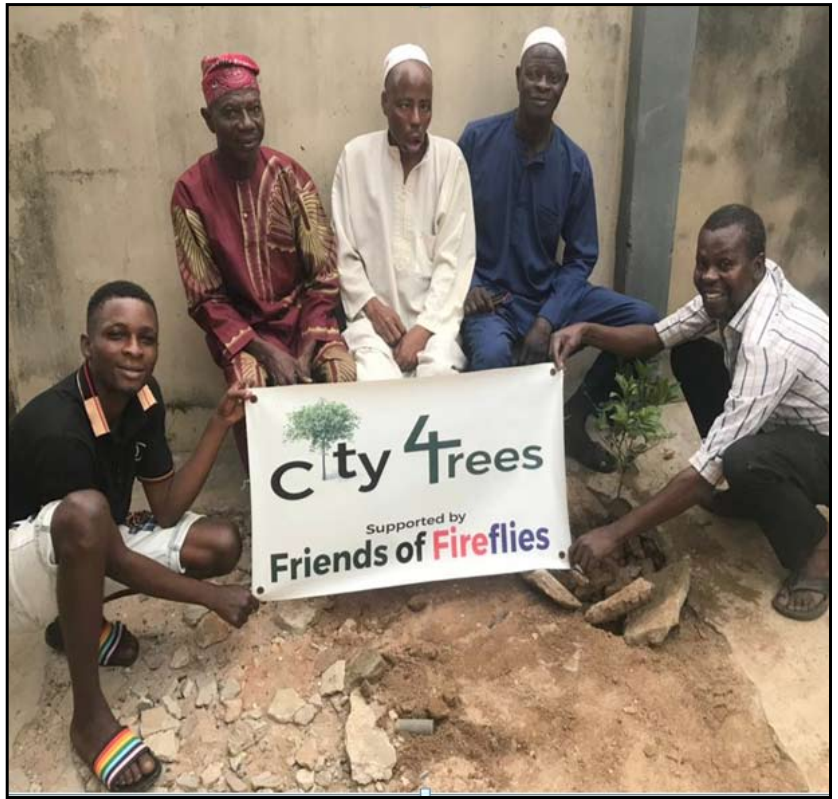
1. Reduced cost and low maintenance
2. Protecting the Earth's resources
3. Less work and energy required
4. Promoting biodiversity and preserving wildlife
5. Mitigate climate change and carbon footprint
6. Produces organic crops

7. Reduced waste
8. Connect human to nature
9. Self-production system
10. Mitigate soil pollution, air pollution, and water pollution
11. Resources can be used quite efficiently
12. Avoidance of chemical fertilizers and fungicides and pesticides
13. Develops community values
14. Ecosystem restoration
15. Improved resilience
16. Enhanced food security
17. Ethical benefits
18. Economically feasible
19. Self-reliance and diversity
20. Use of renewable energy

Contact Permaculturist and social activist Jeeban Bastola, Owner and Founder of Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm
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OUR MOTTO: USE IT UP, WEAR IT OUT, MAKE IT DO, OR DO WITHOUT!

Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy Friends of Fireflies

(left) Before planting and the planting process. (above) On the left is John, sitting at the center is Alhaji Bakare.

Friends of Fireflies: Tree Diary of an African City Dweller

Chapter Three Own Tree

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

It was Sunday afternoon, about 4 pm, we are good to go, this time; its Alhaji Bakare's resident, a few blocks away from the Ajibona's residence, Wilmer Street Isheri-oke town.

Alhaji Bakare, a Yoruba man and a devoted Muslim, we greeted the traditional Yoruba way, where the younger has to lower his height with the elder when greeting [prostrate].

When we introduced ourselves and activities to him, he was so pleased with the City4Trees project initiatives, and he is very happy to see youths involved in the eco-restoration effort, and that it is up to the energetic youths to channel their energies in a positive direction, such as this, and that the effort requires individ-

ual's willingness to put in personal effort, towards the actualization of a climate-friendly home.

Haven't been educated of the planting technique which involved digging enough dirt to avoid structural damage, and the tree selection that allows for structural tolerance. On discussion with our options of trees (palm tree, orange, step tree), he insists he prefers the tangerine tree as his own. Here his choice must be respected.

He asked us to look around his pre-misses if there is a good enough space to accommodate a tree. A place was spotted close to the fence, to allow for proper growth and development.

He was happy we spotted the place where he sat on the bench and performed abolution and prayers, although the fence does provide shade, as why he likes the spot, but the tree will provide shade and cool air.

Afterwards, we have to go in search of the growing tangerine tree, grown enough to allow for one foot into the ground. This time it took us a few weeks, having

experienced where not to look, speeds up the search process. We eventually settle for one which allows for a 0.8 foot into the ground.

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

After sourcing the right tree for the right place, the planting process began with John digging the ground, after which Alhaji Bakare brought out Pure honey. He said it is advisable when planting a fruit tree to add pure honey to the ground prepared for planting, that it helps sweeten its fruits. It was added, the tree planted and watered.

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Chapter 4 will appear in our next issue of *Grassroots Coalition News*.

Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy New Hope for All

Fitness activities bring together children and develop friendships from whoever they are with from different nationalities. We create games and play with children. The games always come before we gather for the session.

GC Member Does Humanitarian in Uganda Refugee Camp

By Fidele Hitimana, New Hope for All, Uganda

We are located within the refugee resettlement of Nakivale in Uganda. Nakivale refugee settlement is a refugee camp occupied by over 100,000 refugees from different countries.

We keep changing lives in need through New Hope for All "NHA." New Hope for All is a community-based organization registered with the local government.

We are still trying to serve as we can.

* **In sanitation:** We do teach about personal hygiene and distribute sanitary pads and soaps. We help separated children and orphans into the refugee settlement of Nakivale. We check them and remove jiggers from the victims and support them with shoes. We provide shoes to the children who are most vulnerable and victim of jiggers.

A jigger is a small parasitic flea that burrows into the skin of a warm-blooded host before laying eggs. They generally attack feet or hands. At first, the jigger appears as a small black dot on the skin. As the female's abdomen fills with blood and eggs, a bump forms under the skin, which often painful, itchy and makes walking incredibly difficult. With her back end still sticking out of the host's body, the female releases her eggs and then eventually dies. If left untreated, jiggers can lead to the deadly secondary infections or even amputation. And children are the most victims.

We need to protect them.

We do distribution of Colgate to avoid dental decay.

* **In fitness:** We do provide sport games. We have a team of volunteers in charge of a "fitness program" where they work together with children and train them about sports and different games. This activity brings together children and develops friendships from whoever they are with from different nationalities.

* **Entertainment:** We provide cultural dances where children develop love, friendship to avoid stress within the refugee settlement.

* **In livelihood:** We train and encourage refugees how to grow vegetables, distribute

vegetable seeds, and help them on how to make model gardens to avoid malnutrition.

We support new refugees with salt. They are the needy people and the World Food Program does not provide enough salt to them while new refugees don't have any other source of income to allow them to buy salt.

We have supported refugees with rabbits and train refugees how to make liquid soap so that they can start generating their future income. We have been planning to develop to promote life skills learning so that people start small works or businesses to sustain them, especially these separated children and orphans with no hope of life. We need to teach separated children and orphans life skills into the refugee settle-

Activities continued on next page



This is the current level of the building that needs finishing. If New Hope for All raises \$800, they can buy windows, doors, sand, cement, and labor so that it becomes useful.

Stories from Our Global Family

Activities continued from previous page



(above) New refugees from DR. Congo fled their homeland with nothing. New Hope for All was helping them with salt to put in their little food while cooking. (middle left) A child's foot being treated for jiggers. (middle right) Shoes to protect children from jiggers. (bottom left) In Uganda the price of soap is increasing daily. To support new refugees, we train them to make liquid soap so that they start generating their future income to sustain them. We are requesting a donation to train 20 groups and provide them a start up of chemicals that will allow them to start making soap. (below right) New Hope for All helps refugees by providing vegetables seeds, seedlings. Refugee children and adults are planting vegetable seedlings so they can grow vegetables to supplement food. In our trainings and practical sessions children are involved. We need to prepare them for their best future.



ment of Nakivale.

We serve as we can, but the lack of funds is limiting us to cover the targeted beneficiaries.

Our request goes to everyone with a spirit of saving lives in need to come up with a support. Every donation counts.

The attached photo is the current level of our building that needs finishing.

If we get \$800, we can buy windows, doors, sand, cement, and labor so that it becomes useful. Let us together keep changing lives of people in need.

I thank you for the great work you are doing. I would wish if everyone could serve and save lives.

Let us hand in hand make a difference.

Hope my explanation will be listened to and considered.

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

Contact Fidel Hitimana, Uganda

Email: fidelhitimana15@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +256781997562

Stories from Our Global Family

GC Member Training in Solar Systems

By Clement Musonda Kankomba,
Zambia (Rosa Solar Stoves)

I am passionate about sustainability, the environment and renewable energy. I'm happy to inform you that I'm in training on solar systems Installations/Practices. After the training, I will be able to design and size commercial and industrial Solar PV systems and to install them. This training about solar energy applications was organized by GIZ and the Government.

We studied solar PV designing, sizing, and installation. We also visited some solar mini-grids and some industrial-sized solar plants within Lusaka and Chisamba.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for consulting.

Email: musondakankomba@gmail.com

Phone: +260 974579031

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063748972982>



Photos Courtesy Rosa Solar Stoves

Part of the assignment was to make measurements of the solar PV. Clement is in the middle with his colleagues in the class. They worked in groups..

The Importance of Transformation

By Joyce Grant, New Jersey USA

The Earth keeps us alive. Our connectedness helps explain our responsibility to care for our one Earth, to give thanks to our planet. We can choose to stop the destruction of native cultures, natural habitats, our air, our waters, our soils, our children. Understand the need for preservation, conservation, stewardship. Understand our universal need for peace, love, and healing -- all essentials for transformation to move forward. As we nourish the Earth, the Earth will nourish us. We can trust this reciprocal agreement. We cannot escape our involvement with the living processes of the Earth.

The fossil fuel industry and mega corporations are blocking climate mitigation and progress, risking our future for sustainable life. They continue to do devastation to our Earth inhibiting our choices, finding

legal loopholes, finding ways to positions of power and influence to perpetuate their lack of conscience and narrow-minded belief systems. Power hungry, irresponsible, short-sighted leaders, individuals, and corporations are creating obstructions to building a more just, loving, and responsible world.

We cannot allow their avaricious, self-seeking entitlements as violence takes over our world. They are the few, not the majority of us. Many of us have risked our lives, lost our children, lived with despair, grief, poverty, and helplessness because of the few. We cannot accept the harm, the hurt being done to our planet and all the inhabitants that live on it.

Our society and daily lives need to change in all aspects. We need to transform, or we will continue to suffer from hurt, disease, destruction of all that is needed to sustain us, our Earth, our com-

munity, our friends, our wild and plant life.

We can unite and be the power for positive change. We are the many who take responsibility not only for the continuity of our own life on Earth but also for the life of others. We can change the systems of oppression which have taken hold of us for much too long. We can stop the suffering.

We are capable of love for our world. Love is the most fundamental ingredient of life. It is the animating force of life. We see every day in our community expressions of love and concern by mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, relatives, even strangers -- not only in the human species but in animal species.

We can save our world. We can be the transformation. We are the people.

Joyce Grant of Asbury Park, New Jersey is an environmental and social justice activist.

Stories from Our Global Family

Founder of Learn With Grandma Promotes DIY E-Books for Everyone

By Valerie Wood-Gaigner, Learn with Grandma, Wales [DIY = Do It Yourself]

I wrote this for UNESCO International Mother Language Day, February 21.

I spoke at UNESCO Mobile Learning conference in 2018. It has taken a while to get the project to this stage. First, costs were too high. Logic told me we could do all free. But I didn't know how Moses Wamanga in Uganda sorted it out – we can now get e-books on line at zero cost.

Then Covid and we could not encourage people to work together!! We must still be careful but all except a Play can be done online.

Every day we use our Mother Language. An e-book can preserve your stories in ways a printed book cannot. They can have written text and be recorded in the mother tongue and English (any language combination is possible) so that people can learn to read, write, and speak both languages – spoken by native speakers.

Remember an e-book, like another book, can be about any subject – e.g. recording your project.

Talking About Sustainability and Creating E-Books

Schools and Communities can come together to create the e-books. The only equipment really needed is a smart phone and a laptop! E-books can be available to anyone in the World at a click. They don't use paper and no transportation costs.



They need never go out of print – they can be edited – impossible with a printed book and remastered as technology develops – they could last forever and ever – Amen!

Creating an e-book can bring the generations together; encouraging respect across the generations – traditional as well as technical skills are needed and were even started during the pandemic.

There is some planning to be done – someone to write the story (it could also include a play) written in the Mother language. Then it needs to be Translated into English and edited by first language speakers. Good clear speakers are needed – both languages. People who can draw pictures and take photos; many local people can add their skills and all ages can learn from each other.

As an illustration – here is a film that people in my community created – do

note – totally intergenerational – that the youngest 'actor' is a babe in arms. The oldest is Dai, over 80. It was this film that made me realize that it could/should have been an e-book! You can see it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=br52io7sfa8>

When all is ready, the Communities could stage a play of the story which can be filmed and included in the e-book. Family, friends, local dignitaries, and teachers from other schools can be invited. The audience could be asked to leave a donation to cover any costs and raise the small amounts that may be needed locally and to host the stories online. Watch e-books video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7VUSWm6EeI&feature=youtu.be

This was recorded after I spoke about this concept at a UNESCO Conference in Paris. <https://www.facebook.com/moira.allan.714/videos/10156127405370915/>

There is so much educational value in this idea & many opportunities to involve the local community, too.

When I first started talking about e-books, cost was the big stumbling block. Now – thanks to Moses Wamanga – we now have an easy-to-read guide on how to create an e-book and get it online – at ZERO cost!

God Bless, Keep safe!

Mrs. Valerie Wood-Gaiger, Wales

Founder of Learn with Grandma – an international network of Groups on Facebook.

All suggestions are Achievable; Affordable and Sustainable!



Photo from video submitted by Barrett Hnatt (16), New Jersey USA
Source: TikTok @ betterplace. orrg

Stories from Our Global Family

Minutes from First Meeting for Orphanage Managers, 31st July 2022

This group is meant for Orphanage managers from different countries. Most importantly our joint work is for regular and immediate updates, most especially about our monthly meetings under the umbrella of the Grassroots Coalition movement whose top leader is Mom Iona. The leader of the Orphanage Managers is Amos Mugarura of Comforter of the Voiceless Orphanage, Bwindi Uganda.

ATTENDANCE (even if only for a few minutes as networks allowed)

1. Mugarura Amos (Comforter of the Voiceless Bwindi, Uganda)
2. Karwemera Frank (Comforter of the Voiceless Bwindi, Uganda)
3. Lawrence P. Bomah (Faith Orphanage Home, Liberia)
4. Omito Abraham Owuor (Village Project Ministry Organization, Kenya)
5. Antoine Morisho Ngongo and Emmanuel (African Charity and Solidarity, Uganda)
6. Fidele Hitimana (New Hope for All refugee resettlement of Nakivale, Uganda)
7. Iona Conner (Grassroots Coalition, USA)

MINUTE I: AGENDA

1. PRAYER
2. INTRODUCTION
3. DISCUSSION
 - HOW WE CAN GROW OUR ECONOMY AS ORPHANAGE
 - WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
 - FUTURE PROSPECTS
4. REACTIONS
5. SETUP OF WHATSAPP FOR NOTIFICATION
6. CLOSING PRAYER

MINUTE II: INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction by name, country, place of residence and orphanage being managed was done by everybody who attended.

The chairperson welcomed everybody and appreciated everybody's attendance.

The chair requested everybody to define what an orphanage is and was later agreed upon that it is a home where young children who do not have one to care for them are cared for. Everybody was able to define what an orphanage is.

Fidele: Thank you, an orphanage is a home for children with no living of parents where Samaritans or people with good spirit take care of these children.

Lawrence: Historically, an orphanage is a residential institution, total institution or group home, devoted to the care of orphans and other children who were

separated from their biological families.

Amos: An orphanage is basically categorized as a home that cares for young children who do not have someone else to care for them. While this is an extremely important and worthwhile cause, orphanages don't always have all the funding needed to properly care for the children. Additional funding through individual sponsors can allow an orphanage to care for even more children in need.

MINUTE III: DISCUSSION

How to grow our economy

- Agriculture by Lawrence
- Activity (digging, planting seeds) by Morisho
- Agriculture (vegetables + small animals i.e. rabbits + hens) by Fidele

Future prospects

- Investing in agriculture more by Lawrence
- Plan to start up a school, hospital, 3 roomed shelter by Morisho
- Starting up craft skills by Fidele

MINUTE IV: REACTIONS

Mugarura Amos

- Let us be good writers, make good stories about what we do
- Let us learn how to write selling proposals
- Let us keep updating our pages
- We share good stories with mam since she writes newsletters
- Change mindset
- Develop followers
- Focus on ideas: climate change, conservation, recycling, rainwater barrels
- Good Facebook pages/social media
- Let us start from small, small and then we can make big push to go further

Morisho Antoine

- After starting up an orphanage home, many children came up and found many needs for children which keep challenging. Wish to work with other orphanage managers to see it going.
- Plant seeds and activities which give strength to grow orphans very well
- Work training, basic English
- Push our orphanages and go ahead

Lawrence P. Bomah

- Move forward in unity, happy and excited
- Teach kids how to stand up for themselves
- Invest more in agriculture
- Government is not enough
- 4-5 orphanages come together every season, work together as a team of orphan-

ages for the benefit of all

- Look at our own abilities

Fidele Hitimana

- Teenagers learn how to make something they can sell, small crafts
- Need medical care, education
- Everything can go ahead with education
- Construct learning center especially for teenagers

Conner Iona (mam)

- I love publishing my newspaper; it's better when members write good stories not proposals.
- Requested that everyone can spread the newsletter such that it can get more subscribers, hence information reaching many
- Let everyone share the contacts for the WhatsApp group.
- NGO from Cameroon is preparing proposal writing workshop
- Permaculture. No one talked about it. It could be a good idea as well. Hope that nonorphanage organic permaculture farmers in our Coalition will help teach orphans best practices

MINUTE V: CREATING WHATSAPP GROUP

Members shared contacts for the WhatsApp group.

MINUTE VI: NEXT MEETING

Ngo Banfoga of Hope 4 a Better Future Foundation Cameroon will give a proposal-writing workshop on Sunday, August 28 at 10:00 am New York time. All the members of the Grassroots Coalition will be invited in addition to all the orphanage managers in our network.

MINUTE VII: CLOSING PRAYER

A closing prayer was led by Amos.

MUGARURA AMOS, CHAIRPERSON
KARWEMERA FRANK, SECRETARY



Stories from Our Global Family



Photo: Namanya Gerald

Amos standing in front of the school which needs windows and doors to keep out the rain and sunshine in the afternoons.

School Needs Windows and Doors

By Amos Mugarura, Comforter of the Voiceless Orphanage Bwindi, Uganda

Together we can create a better place for someone to live in.

Our Orphanage school is a community-based school that captures over 150 children of which most of them move 2-5 kilometers (1 ¼ - 3 miles) to get to the school and initially they used to go up to 7 kilometers (nearly 4 ½ miles).

However, together with the local community we have tried our best by creating trenches surrounding the school to reduce on running water to our classrooms but the challenge is that the worst part of it here in Uganda is that the season for raining lasts almost till December.

Following the last term's incidence that made us not to teach all the hours set by Ministry of Education for a school to operate, due to heavy rains that would flow up to our orphanage school's classrooms with blowing wind due to having our classes without doors and windows, it also leaves most of our teaching and scholastic materials destroyed.

Not only rain, but also most of our kids are most likely to have sight problems due to too much sunlight that passes through the openings that are supposed to be shut and obstruct them from reading the chalkboard, thus making us unable to go on with afternoon lessons.

Thus, through this we are calling upon all well wishers to join our fundraising of having all our classrooms shut since we are starting our new term.

A door costs \$190, required doors = 3

A window costs \$125, required windows = 9

Contact Mugarura Amos, St. Praise Nursery and Primary School under Comforter of the Voiceless Orphanage Bwindi, Uganda, Africa

Email: amosmugarura@icloud.com

Phone: +256787940033

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



Photo: Mugarura Amos


The community dug trenches to keep rainwater away from school.

News Briefs

Diet For a Hotter Climate Five Plants That Could Help Feed the World

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

As the planet warms, these five drought-tolerant and highly nutritious crops offer hope for greater resiliency. Our food system isn't ready for the climate crisis.

By Cecilia Nowell, *excerpt* 
The Guardian: August 20, 2022

Over the course of human history, scientists believe that humans have cultivated more than 6,000 different plant species. But over time, farmers gravitated toward planting those with the largest yields. Today, just three crops – rice, wheat, and corn – provide nearly half of the world's calories.

That reliance on a small number of crops has made agriculture vulnerable to pests, plant-borne diseases, and soil erosion, which thrive on monoculture – the practice of growing only one crop at a time. It has also meant losing out on the resilience other crops show in surviving drought and other natural disasters.

As the impacts of the climate crisis become starker, farmers across the world are rediscovering ancient crops and developing new hybrids that might prove more hardy in the face of drought or epidemics, while also offering important nutrients.

"You hear all the statistics like, 'We've lost 90% of our varieties.' It's only recently that I realized the greatest sadness isn't that we've lost that diversity. It's that we don't even know that we've lost that diversity," says Chris Smith, founder of the Utopian Seed Project.


Here's a look at five crops, beyond rice, wheat, and corn, that farmers across the world are now growing in hopes of feeding the planet as it warms:

1. **Amaranth**: the plant that survived colonization...
2. **Fonio**: the drought-resistant traditional grain...
3. **Cowpeas**: the fully edible plant...
4. **Taro**: adapting the tropical crop for colder climates...
5. **Kernza**: the crop bred for the climate crisis...

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/20/ancient-crops-climate-crisis-amaranth-fonio-cowpeas-taro-kernza>

It Costs Nothing to Leave Our Trees as They Are

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Carole King, *excerpt* 
The New York Times: August 25, 2022

My career as a songwriter began in Manhattan, not far from where I was born. When I moved to Los Angeles in 1968, I became part of the singer-songwriter community that coalesced around Laurel Canyon. I thought California would be wild in the sense of nature. It turned out to be wild in the sense of drugs and parties. I wanted to live close to the kind of wild nature that must exist somewhere on a large scale. Somewhere turned out to be Idaho.

In 1977 I moved to a mobile home on Robie Creek, a 40-minute drive from Boise. For the next three years, I lived in the

backcountry northeast of McCall in a cabin with no running water or electricity. After that I lived adjacent to the Salmon River for 38 years, with a national forest as my nearest neighbor.

The future of America's national forests is being shaped now. The Biden administration is developing a system to inventory old-growth and mature forests on federal land that the president wants to be completed by next April. But given the immediate threats facing many of these forests and their importance to slowing climate change, bold action is required immediately to preserve not just old-growth and mature trees but entire national forest ecosystems comprising thousands of interdependent species. President Biden should issue an executive order immediately directing his secretaries of the interior and agriculture to take all steps available to them to stop commercial logging on public land. We can't wait a year. ... Forest preservation is a climate solution. ...

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/25/opinion/carole-king-logging-biden.html>



Photo Courtesy Our Children's Trust

Valbolly and Delaney, two of the lead youth petitioners who successfully drove this effort from petition for rulemaking to official rule!

Thanks to Youth Leaders, Florida's Biggest Climate Policy in Over a Decade

Our Children's Trust: August 9, 2022

HUGE NEWS IN FLORIDA! As of today, thanks to young people from across the state of Florida, in a strategy led and supported by Our Children's Trust, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) renewable energy rule, Chapter 50-5: Renewable Energy, is effective!

This new rule – the most significant climate policy in Florida in over a decade! – sets the following renewable energy goals for Florida's electric utilities: at least 40% by 2030, 63% by 2035, 82% by 2040, and 100% by 2050. These goals set by Commissioner Nikki Fried and FDACS were officially proposed in response to and using language from a petition for rulemaking Our Children's Trust and local co-counsel filed in January 2022

News Briefs continued on next page

News Briefs

on behalf of four youth climate leaders (all former plaintiffs in our *Reynolds v. State of Florida* case!) and over 200 fellow young Floridians.

The rule requires Florida's electric utilities to submit their 10-year energy plans to FDACS so that the agency can evaluate whether the utilities' long-term energy plans are consistent with the renewable energy goals. The rule also requires FDACS to report the electric utilities' progress in meeting the goals every year to the Public Service Commission, Governor, and Legislature.

Thanks to the efforts of these young people from across the state – and with your invaluable support! – we are celebrating a huge stride forward toward climate justice in the Sunshine State!

Source: <https://criverwatch.org/2022/08/14/our-childrens-trust-florida/>

Mountain of Rubbish Built Up In the Maldives

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA with this comment: "This is in the Maldives. It's a beautiful archipelago of thousands of little islands with tourism potential lest any pro-plastic business people argue the value of their crap. They really don't need all this plastic crap ruining their environment!"



📷 A mountain of rubbish, with vast amounts of plastic, has built up in Fuvahmulah with the tourist boom.
Photograph: Matt Porteous

Fuvahmulah An Island Like No Other

Located in its own atoll between Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll and Addu Atoll, the island of Fuvahmulah is the only one-island atoll in the Maldives. It has many distinctive features that make Fuvahmulah different from rest of the islands in Maldives. Fuvahmulah has a fish and a bird native to this island. That fish and bird are not found in any other part of the Maldives. It is also one of the few islands that have fresh water lakes.

Source: <https://maldivesfinest.com/en-us/fuvahmulah>

The Complete Guide to Restoring Your Soil: Q&A With Soil Expert Dale Strickler

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Liz Kimbrough, excerpt 
Mongabay: November 29, 2021

- Soil expert Dale Strickler's new book, *The Complete Guide to Restoring your Soil*, covers why we should restore soil, what ideal soil looks like, practices that build better soil, and how to build better agricultural systems.

- The book is peppered with case studies from around the globe, including a section on Indigenous farming techniques, and includes many anecdotes from Strickler's own life and experiences as a farmer.

- Strickler says many societal ills – malnutrition, disease, conquest, colonialism, warfare, famine, pestilence – can all be traced back to a root cause of soil mismanagement.

- The book offers farming techniques, strategies and practices that can be used to regenerate soil, remediate contaminated soil, and build thriving agriculture systems.

Strickler dedicated his life to learning about soil. He attended Kansas State University, achieved a master's degree in agronomy, taught agronomy for 15 years, ran his own farm, visited farmers around the world, and now works throughout the Midwest and beyond helping people restore their soil and better manage their farms and pastures.

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/the-complete-guide-to-restoring-your-soil-qa-with-soil-expert-dale-strickler/>

Township Partnering With Helpsy to Help Residents Recycle Clothing

Mayor John G. Ducey is proud to announce that the Township of Brick is partnering with Helpsy to offer a free and easy home pickup clothing recycling service for the local community.

As the largest clothing collector in the Northeast, Helpsy partners with municipalities and organizations across 11 states to collect unwanted clothing and other textiles in order to keep clothes out of landfills. In 2021 alone, the company diverted nearly 30 million pounds of textiles from landfills through a combination of clothing drives, home pickups, thrift store partners, and clothing receptacles.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, textile waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the United States, occupying nearly 5% of all landfill space, which is why Helpsy is committed to working with cities such as Brick Township in order to give clothing the longest life possible.

As the 22nd town to partner with Helpsy to provide free home pickup service, Brick joins Toms River as the second municipality in New Jersey in making it as easy as possible for residents to responsibly dispose of their unwanted clothing.

Beginning Friday, August 19th, pickups in Brick were to take place weekly on Fridays between 7 am-5 pm. In order to recycle bagged and clean clothing, the community can sign up at www.helpsy.co/bricknj or by calling 1-800-244-6350.

For more information about Helpsy's municipal partnerships, contact the Brick Townships Department of Public Works at 732-262-1085 and visit www.helpsy.co.

Posted at <https://www.bricktownship.net/index.php/category/mayor-news/>

Calling All Climate Activists

As things continue to get worse due to the climate emergency, I (Iona) have strengthened the mission of my newspaper to, “**Grassroots Coalition News** represents our attempt to end the War Against the Earth caused by Capitalism, Racism, and Patriarchy.”

We are creating a special email group called Climate Activists and we are going to be starting to have special Zoom meetings just for those who are seriously interested in taking action. We will develop one campaign at a time to focus on as an international team. We may be small at the beginning but we intend to grow.

For people in Africa or countries with lousy networks, we are creating an additional group for WhatsApp so that you will be notified when our meetings will be occurring. To join, please email me at grassrootscoalition@pa.net and give me your WhatsApp number if that works best for you. You will still receive my emails. Thank you.

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 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. Email grassrootscoalition@pa.net to be put on our e-list. \$30 per year if you can afford that. Pay with PayPal using groundswellnews@pa.net or mail to the address on page 2. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

**THE WORK OF
PEOPLE IN
WEALTHY
NATIONS IS TO
GET OUR 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.)



Hello, my mother, thank you very much for the work you do for us.

Antoine Morisho Ngongo, Uganda, previously DRC (African Charity and Solidarity)

I know you do not have or watch TV, but there was an excellent program "America: Outdoors" on PBS last night about Appalachia. Actually, it is part of a series that has been very well done. If there is any way you can retrieve this episode, I think you would like it. Unlike what you might expect, this program shows a great deal of optimism for the Appalachian region – by showing how people there are trying to revive its possibilities by re-inventing the promises that nature presents to them, possibilities both for American politics and for the environment.

On top of that, the photography is outstanding – and quite original.

Truthfully there are an increasing number of good shows, news reports, and news articles focusing on the environment on TV generally.

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

Hi, J*** and J***. Would like to introduce my friend, Iona Connor, who puts out an interesting timely newspaper covering climate temperature-emergency, protecting Nature. I have participated in several of Iona's Zooms, some attending from Africa, India, and other countries.

Hope all goes well with you all. Iona, your work is inspiring. Thanks, Jerry, for the many interesting emails.

Morgan Zo-Callahan, California USA

I am writing this email expressing my feelings over the experience I had here in Nairobi. It has been so interesting that I met with different good people whom we managed to share experiences and feelings of love with over the beautiful continent of Africa.

Basically, it has been more than a technical meeting of discussing how we can end the long term war of injustice which has been perpetuated in forms of Violence

Against Women And Girls (VAWG). It is more than an army although it had a total number of 25 delegates from 10 African countries.

I felt so special when the facilitators showed us the statistics of those who applied to attend the training. 251 people applied from all over the continent, of whom 151 did not qualify completely, 108 qualified, but only 25 were selected including me. You can imagine how competitive the application was in general.

Tomorrow we shall have a final day of existence here in Nairobi, one of the delegates from UN Women and one from WHO will be here to provide their speech.

I am leaving Nairobi on Saturday with the golden bundle of Knowledge that will be used to extend the war that we had started some months ago on the question of Justice. I will not be so grateful if I will not acknowledge the organizers and the sponsors of the program.

I am leaving Nairobi with the promise of visiting you my lovely mom one day although I don't know when, but I will come. I can't wait to see the pleasure I will possess by that day when I will be with you eating together in one table.

I am just greeting you mom. I am sure it is evening over there but here it is a night. Mom, I have to sleep.

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

It's a great idea to train them, but it's ok you also attend too including anyone who likes to, just correct the statement on funding for orphans as private funders still fund them. Studies have consistently shown that orphanage care often exposes children to serious harm, neglect, and abuse and can seriously impact a child's physical and psychological development, and is often much more expensive than family or community-based care. You might understand better from these articles below:

<https://www.unicef.org/kazakhstan/media/2396/file/%D0%9F%D1>

%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%8F%20%D0%BD%D0%B0%20%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B3%D0%BB.pdf

Ngo Banfogha, Hope for a Better Future, Cameroon

I think what they don't realize is that there are starving people here, too. And what about all the homeless people here? People dying and being displaced by floods. The Environmental collapse is happening everywhere!

For Us All,
Jeannette Bartelt, Green Earth Goods, Maryland USA

On Sat, Aug 6, 2022, 1:25 PM Iona Connor <grassrootscoalition@pa.net> wrote:
Dearest Global Family,

Today I spoke with a Nigerian pharmacist, whose business card I had picked up at a small pharmacy near my new home. He is Hon. Kalu Ndukwe and he has an amazing charity which he told me about, HopeAlive Health Initiatives. His work is in Nigeria. When I watched this video, I had tears in my eyes. He is going to attend our meeting on August 28.

<https://hopealivehealthcare.org/gallery-1/>

I know most of our orphans and others need medical care. I know we are just starting out to seriously work together to help each other. I know my fundraising days are over. I just want to share this beautiful story with you.

Love, Mom/Iona

What a wonderful Hospital. It will help so many people! Thanks for All you do.

Sending Love,
Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

That was amazing! It begs the question, why do those who are able not do more? It makes me cry!

This isn't a situation where help can come from anywhere but those willing to

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extend a loving heart. If only there were more out there!!

Jacquie Cohen, Georgia USA

(after sending everyone the Minutes from our July 31 Orphanage Managers' meeting, see page 24)

Excellent Minutes Iona, giving a clear sense of purpose and engagement.

Enjoyed reading them. Thank you.

Robert Burrowes, Australia

I wondered if you had seen the news report that a two-week conference for the UN High Seas Treaty started up yesterday in New York.

According to the news item I saw yesterday, less than 2% of the "high seas" (i.e. sea waters outside of the domain of individual nations) are currently protected. According to the report, the goal of this conference is to increase that number to at least 30% by 2030.

I think I have this right. Thought you might be interested if not already aware of it.

I like your idea of giving the rest of August over to summer fun time (pretty much, at least). Sounds like a plan!

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

I am working to register my charity here in Australia. When am done, I believe we shall help many in Uganda and the Horn of Africa.

Thanking you much.

Mark Uwineza, Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation, Australia

Today I had enough time to read and re-read the article, it tells a story of the war I have chosen to die on the fighting ground if I must die for it.

Environmental conservation should not be an option rather it is something that Must involve every single human being. The war will leave no one safe as evidences have been presented about the increase of temperature.

I will keep on waging a war on this and contribute to the war, planting trees, educating people about the impact of environmental degradation, something which has to be kept in the frontline of struggle.

The Earth is the home of humanity that means destroying it we are destroying our own home. We should keep voicing up to involve large numbers of people in this war.

I am very much concerned with environmental conservation for sure.

I would love everyone to have this in mind: We are the only ones to destroy environment and we are very only to conserve it.

At the moment we have to concentrate on the wellness of our people to maintain the spirit of Ubuntu before we celebrate. It will be pointless to celebrate while others are mourning.

Kesheni Sengo, Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans, Tanzania (see his front-page story)

Dear Iona and all,

I plan to be with you on Sunday. Before I introduce myself, Learn with Grandma is also non-denominational. My mission is to do God's work! To encourage people of all religions and of none – to believe the 'Impossible' is possible! I am a Christian but do not promote any religion on Learn with Grandma. We individuals think we can't change the world but it's only individuals that can! We can All do something! Just DO the best you can & leave the rest to God.

We ALL know that all projects need money and not just in Africa. I CANNOT send anyone any money – I share ideas that make people less reliant on Grant Aid! It's working!

Projects like this – I have initiated lots of sewing groups & home sewing without a machine by sharing this film; and I can PROVE it works! Affordable; achievable; sustainable and better for the environment; especially when using recycled material. Any soft cotton – old Tee shirts are ideal.

Making sanitary pads – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o88uLMpHlw0>

With hand sewing – no NEED for a sewing machine to start. I can remember my Gran showing me how to hand sew pads. We didn't have a machine. My first pads were made from one of her old nighties!

Most workshops were abandoned because of Covid but many ladies continued sewing at home. The advantage of a sewing workshop is that as the women & girls are sewing they can talk and learn from each other.

People in many countries – especially Africa – have shown the film to people in their communities. The ladies understood even if they don't speak English! Clearly it's better to have a sewing machine but you can make a start without one. Girls hand sewing pads in Cameroon.

Among many others I learned that Ogwang Simon Ota (Uganda) started a workshop in 2015! I was so thrilled! Without even contacting me, he saw that this was a better alternative to raising funds to buy sanitary pads and just started to make them. They now train over 400 people and have built a new bigger building! Simon

decided to call it Jjajja Val's place! Jjajja = respected older person in that part of Uganda!

Don't wait for everything to be perfect. Start with what you have. Start where you are – Just start!

Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE. Founder of Learn with Grandma – an international network of Groups on Facebook. (See page 23)

We need to shift our focus to bigger organizations who will help launder the image of the Grassroots Coalition.

Brodas Across Nigeria (BAN, BAN @ 50): We solicit your support as we celebrate our 50 years Anniversary.

Our aim towards this event is to enlarge our empowerment program, expand our medical outreach program and offset hospital bills of 15 poor patients who have been held in the hospital because of non-payment of bills.

We have mapped out these programs to help assist the helpless in our society and various localities.

Your generous donations will be highly appreciated.

I will print the Grassroots Coalition logo, which will be used to take pictures. God Bless you.

Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Nigeria
chibyzaps@gmail.com

Hello Sir or Madam,

We come requesting a partnership between your organization and ours called "Centre d'Encadrement et d'Appui en Faveur des Personnes Démunies (CEAF-PD-asbl)," a Congolese youth-led organization working to:

- Promote environmental education to children, youth, and indigenous people;
- Raise campaigns for protecting land, water and empower child (garden schools) and youth through initiatives for tackle climate change;
- Promote food security by educating communities with regenerative agriculture and provide seeds while conserving natural resources through planting fruit trees;
- Empower a child and youth to be a good agent of change in his or her community to solve problems that affect their lives;
- Empower Communities with skills by granting micro-credits for the creation of income-generating activities for ecological transition and fighting poverty; and
- Fight against all exclusions, social injustices, and violations of the right's access to water to people in difficult situations.

Thanks for your efforts to build this

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great team of volunteers concerned with making our planet better.

We welcome all those colleagues whose WhatsApp numbers you send me and are directly added in the Climate Activist group.

It is a great pleasure to join our hands together for the cause of our planet.

Our collaboration can save our planet.
Fadhili Kyabira, DR Congo
Coordinateur du CEAFPD; www.ceafpd.org
Member of Y4CN, an international network working toward youth inclusion

(email exchange with Iona's replies in pink)

Iona:

I thought Ngo's proposal-writing workshop, Part 1 went very well – at least from what I saw of it – and hope to catch up with this weekend's workshop as well. I thought so, too. I love the fact that no matter how many people show up, "the show goes on" and can be watched anytime anywhere in the future by anyone who needs this knowledge. Thanks!

I did have a couple of quick comments to toss in. First, I think that – in addition to a director, financial officer, and program manager – most organizations would probably do well to include a website developer/technology officer as part of their core staff – whether directly on its payroll or through a dedicated contractual agreement with an outside firm. Hmmm.... you stopped me short here. That's what I've been trying to avoid, at least for myself. I was hoping to move forward as a group of Climate Activists consisting of leaders of

their own groups, each of whom might be able to do those things, but I do not want to be responsible for that level of organization. Remember please, I've been at it for 32 years and I am of retirement age, though I have no intentions of actually retiring. I will support our friends in any way I can, as long as it allows me to keep my energy focused on our newspaper. That is my primary role now; at least that's how I see it, plus as a link connecting people and Zoom-meeting planner. Second – I think that organizations should look into whether they can develop circular sources of funding. Not all projects can do this, of course, but let's say you are providing a grant for a women's start-up business in a rural area. Once that organization gets up and running, and is actually making money, it might be in a position to return the initial monetary value of that grant – in small increments over a period of years – to the original funding source – which could then, in turn, let that same amount go out to a future prospect. I know that some funded projects already do this.

Now we're "on the same page." What you're describing is like micro loans, which are very popular and very successful from what I've read. But at this early stage, until our NGOs get enough funding to survive, that will need to be in their future. I'm going to print your letter to share these ideas with our readers. Honestly, I have no idea what percentage of our 600 readers really READ our paper but I carry on anyway. For me, it's as if I'm composting a large

Love Letter to the Earth. This work helps me see the world much differently than the world's "normal" news media presents.

On top of that, Iona, other projects could actually devote themselves to money-making enterprises on their own that would go to offset their costs – e.g. doing such things as selling re-purposed clothes (Jeannette style) to the general public, taking crops raised on their property to farmers' markets, and collecting recyclables for cash sale, anything along that line. Working to actually apportion a part of your effort to developing internal business opportunities for its participants not only helps an organization offset its costs, but also serves to promote community spirit within the organization – and to promote a focus on a commitment to long-term development - while at the same time demonstrating a seriousness of purpose to it original funder. Excellent! Yes, and those are the stories I'll be publishing. We all need to learn how to support our valuable work, including me!

Dan, your presence at our meetings is invaluable because you are such a good thinker!

Thank you for helping me and us!

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

PS I didn't mean that you needed to have a tech manager on your team – simply that since tech is such a big deal these days that most organizations (that are grant-funded or otherwise) will most likely find they need to call upon the services of a tech person.



Photo submitted by Steve Cassis, Maryland USA with this note:

I'd be OK if I had more of these. Don't remember how these were marketed but use mine every day as good grip of medium-hot items or substitute paper towels – wipe up, throw them in washing machine, then hang 'em on the line.

Remembering Mom's Clothesline

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Marilyn K. Walker

A clothesline was a news forecast,
To neighbors passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep,
When clothes were hung to dry.
It also was a friendly link,
For neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by,
To spend a night or two.
For then you'd see the "fancy sheets"
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths"
With intricate designs.
The line announced a baby's birth
From folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride!
The ages of the children could
So readily be known

By watching how the sizes changed,
You'd know how much they'd grown!
It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then night-clothes and a bathrobe, too,
Haphazardly were strung.
It also said, "On vacation now"
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged
With not an inch to spare!
New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy and gray,
As neighbors carefully raised their brows
And looked the other way.
But clotheslines now are of the past,
For dryers make work much less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess!
I really miss that way of life;
It was a friendly sign
When neighbors knew each other best...
By what hung on the line.