

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. 89: November 13, 2022



Photos Courtesy © RIAO-RDC 

Local people protesting on boats against the pollution of the Aruwimi River.

Call to Action: Let's Work Together to Help Protect the Congo Basin

Note from the Editor: *Our new Climate Activist group is going to start working with other organizations to help stop the destruction of the forest and to protect the people living there. If you want to be added to our list, please email me (Iona) at grassroots-coalition@pa.net.*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to the second largest area of rainforest on Earth. Defending it is crucial to the fight against climate change and the extinction crisis. Yet miners are polluting rivers and loggers clearing forests in Tshopo province. In the small town of Basoko, local people are fighting back.

Call to Action

To: The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi
"Protect the rainforests of the Demo-

cratic Republic of the Congo from destructive logging and the toxic impacts of mining."

The people of the small town of Basoko fear for their health and livelihoods: the Aruwimi River, a tributary of the Congo, has been polluted ever since the Chinese mining company Xiang Jiang Mining began dredging for gold there. Some species of fish have disappeared completely. Skin diseases are on the rise.

"We say NO to mining in Aruwimi, which is destroying our ecosystem in an anarchic way," states a memorandum to the county government read during a demonstration. On March 11, 2022, residents of the region protested on land and with boats against the trashing of their environment.

Mining is not the only threat to nature

in Tshopo province: companies such as FODECO, Congo Futur, and SOFORMA are reportedly logging at a breakneck pace near Basoko.

"They are systematically plundering the forests without any benefit to local people," says Jean-François Mombia Atuku, chairman of the environmental protection organization RIAO-RDC. "Anyone who demands accountability is silenced," he said, adding that workers are "kept like slaves" in the forest. "Human rights are not relevant for these companies."

The grievances regarding mining have been heard in the capital Kinshasa: In January 2022, Environment Minister Eve Bazaiba called on Xiang Jiang Mining to cease operations by February 25, 2022. However, nothing has changed since then

Congo Basin *continued on page 3*

Grassroots Coalition International Starting Over, Looking for Climate Activists

Editor/Publisher: Iona Conner

Wire Editor: Allen Hengst

Web site: www.gceej.org

Contact: Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road, Unit 4A, Brick NJ 08723; grassrootscoalition@pa.net

Welcome to Our World!

Iona Conner has been publishing global warming/climate emergency newspaper since the launch of her broadsheet paper in January 2008. She has built an international team of climate and social justice activists who submit stories and photos, making it a team effort. There are three major problems we are addressing:

Problem #1: Most people in the world do not have accurate information about climate change, nor do they know about the wonderful activists worldwide who are working so hard on this issue.

Problem #2: Many excellent activities being done by members in our network are not connected with each other. They lack a platform in which to share information readily and freely and are grossly underfunded.

Problem #3: If people are not informed, CO2 levels continue to rise, and the calamitous effects worsen continually. Most

smaller NGOs, especially those in Africa, are carrying out programs which need financial support to grow and thrive. We hope you will support the ones which feel right for you. Get to know the person running that program and build a trusting relationship, maybe even visit them.

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. 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 every-

where 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 campaign to raise 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 Climate Activists, including 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>

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

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

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work.

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

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



Fair Use Logo

Iona's Column: *Thank You All!!!!*

Dearest Global Family,

What a tumultuous year 2022 has been for the Coalition and me. I have the utmost gratitude to every single person who stood by me and helped carry me through the past three years as I've attempted to carry on the Grassroots Coalition alone.

I loved creating and working with new Board members. I felt a great sense of accomplishment trying to raise enough money for baby David's and Willy's surgeries and getting them both back to health. I am grateful to our Board of Directors who finally voted to let us dissolve.

Recently, IRS told me our 501(c)(3) was still active and I was exuberant about carrying on and even trusted someone who seemed enthusiastic about helping me here in the U.S. But that didn't work out, so now we are starting over as Grassroots Coalition International without the burdens of paperwork, board meetings, formal agendas and minutes, and required filings and fees. I'm very relieved that some people are still sticking with me and new ones are joining us. We are free now!

In the background, my move nearly wore me out and I had surgery November 2.

My heart explodes with gratitude to every single person who helped me during these three very interesting, very exciting, very exhausting years. I'm like a Weeble Wobble; I may wobble but I don't fall down!

Love, Iona



Congo Basin *continued from page 1*

– the company is still operating, apparently unimpressed.

“What we need now is international pressure,” says Jean-François Mombia Atuku. It must be brought to bear on President Tshisekedi, who positioned his country as a heavyweight in the fight against the climate crisis during the COP26 climate conference.

It’s time to apply that international pressure – please sign our petition at <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1256/dr-congo-stop-the-destruction-by-miners-and-loggers-in-tshopo>.

The tropical rainforests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) cover 99.8 million hectares (246.6 million acres, 2020), making them the second largest on Earth. Brazil ranks first with 318.7 million hectares (787.5 million acres), with Indonesia in third place with 84.4 million hectares (208.5 million acres).

The Congo Basin also includes Gabon, with 22.4 million hectares (55.4 million acres) of rainforest (ranked 9th), and the Republic of Congo (ranked 10th) with 20.8 million hectares (51.4 million acres).

All major rainforest countries have been the scene of wholesale deforestation. Between 2001 and 2020, 24.5 million hectares (60.5 million acres) were lost in Brazil, 9.4 million hectares (23.2 million acres) in Indonesia and 4.8 million hectares (11.9 million acres) in the DRC.

Logging Moratorium Keeping Timber Industry at Bay

A moratorium on new logging concessions has been in effect in the DRC since 2002. Without this ban, the rate of deforestation would probably be significantly higher. In late 2021, the government in Kinshasa briefly threatened to lift the ban, but then dropped the idea, possibly with an eye toward the UN climate conference COP26 in Glasgow.

International donor organizations have provided hundreds of millions of dollars to the DRC to protect the forest. A further billion dollars are in the pipeline through the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) fund and other organizations. The proposal to lift the moratorium was probably intended as a means of exerting pressure in this regard.

Allegations have repeatedly been made regarding the granting of logging concessions despite the moratorium. In 2018, CAFI temporarily suspended its payments because then Environment Minister Amy Ambatobe was reported to have renewed three concessions to Chinese companies. In 2020, a complaint was filed against the

then Minister Claude Nyamugabo for awarding concessions.

Land Grabbing by Palm Oil Company PHC

The Basoko region is also home to plantations and concessions of Plantations et Huileries du Congo (PHC), a palm oil company. The plantations originated 110 years ago, when the Belgian colonial government handed over large tracts of forest to the English businessman Lord Leverhulme. The local people never agreed to this move – they were simply robbed of their land and thus their livelihoods. The concessions were the foundation of today’s British multinational conglomerate Unilever. In 2009, Unilever sold its lands to the Canadian company Feronia. When Feronia went bankrupt in 2020, the Mauritian investment company Straight KKM acquired the plantations.

The German state was involved in the plantations through Deutsche Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG), one of several development banks that had invested more than \$150 million in PHC and its former owner Feronia over a period of nine years. DEG had held a stake of \$16.5 million since 2015.

In February 2022, DEG, as well as development banks from Belgium, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands sold their shares.

Serious human rights violations and environmental crimes took place both before and during the involvement of the development banks. In early 2021, more than 15 people were arbitrarily arrested and two villagers were killed by PHC security forces.

The development banks bear responsibility for the scandal because they owned a majority stake in the company for years, had a strong presence on the board, and held almost all of the outstanding debt. They did nothing to stop the violence, however. Furthermore, the land conflicts between PHC and the communities have not been resolved.

Please sign our previous petition at <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1233/drc-release-the-palm-oil-protesters-jailed-in-mwingi> supporting the local people who are struggling against violence, criminalization, and land grabbing. We are also raising funds for our partner on the ground, the Congolese organization RIAO-RDC, at <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/donate/294/drc-activists-fight-exploitation-brutality-and-land-grabbing-by-the-palm-oil-industry>

To: The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi

Dear Mr. President,

The DRC is home to the second largest area of rainforest on Earth. Defending it is crucial to the fight against climate change and the extinction crisis. Furthermore, several million people live in the forests.

We are turning to you with this issue in view of your government’s responsibility to protect the forests and the livelihoods of the people of the DRC.

In Tshopo province, local people complain that companies like China’s Xiang Jiang Mining are polluting rivers, while FODECO and others are plundering the forests.

We therefore call on you to:

- Put an end to destructive logging, as well as mining with its environmentally toxic impact.
- Ensure that companies respect the rights of local people, in particular the right to free, prior, and informed consent.
- Ensure that companies respect the rights of tribal leaders.
- Safeguard workers’ rights.

Please live up to your responsibilities to the citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the planet.

Yours faithfully,

How the Climate and Rainforests are Linked

Rainforests are complex ecosystems in which a vast number of animal, plant, and fungi species are tightly interdependent. They play a major role in the local and global climate: In a process called photosynthesis, plants absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air. With the help of water and sunlight, they form sugar and from it, other plant-building blocks. In doing so, plants sequester carbon in stems, leaves, and roots while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

According to estimates, rainforests sequester 250 billion tons of CO₂, much of it in peat forests. Globally, this is equal to 90 times the man-made greenhouse gas emissions per year. 40 percent of the oxygen in the atmosphere comes from rainforests. While the metaphor of forests as the “lungs of the Earth” does not fit perfectly, it certainly does underscore their vital role.

Rainforests themselves produce a large part of the high year-round rainfall they receive. Evapotranspiration, i.e. the moisture that the plants release through their leaves, is an important aspect here. The forests are hot and humid, but the

Congo Basin *continued on next page*

Congo Basin *continued from previous page*



The inhabitants of more than 100 villages are being impacted by the PHC oil palm plantations.

clouds reflect much of the sunlight back into space – thus cooling the atmosphere. Without this effect, the areas would be even warmer.

As carbon sinks and rainmakers, intact forests play an important role in regulating the climate and are crucial to the fight against catastrophic climate change.

The Problem: Catastrophic Climate Change and Forest Destruction

Rainforests are increasingly unable to act as climate stabilizers: When they are destroyed for plantations, grazing area, or mining projects, vast amounts of greenhouse gases are released. For example, forest fires in Indonesia accounted for one-third of total global emissions in 1997. The loss of peat forests is particularly devastating.

According to a study published by Nature (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2035-0>), rainforests could tip from carbon sinks to carbon emitters solely due to changing climatic and growth conditions from 2035 onward – thus accelerating catastrophic climate change.

Because of the intricate interdependencies of the rainforest ecosystem, the entire web can suffer if it is damaged in one place. Take the water cycle, for example. If drier periods occur as a result of global climate change – and this is already being observed – the cycle may break down. This can lead to evergreen, lush rainforests becoming grasslands with far lower biodiversity. The local climate would become drier and hotter.

The 18 tipping points in the climate

system are particularly ominous: If, for example, climate change in the Amazon region reaches a certain point, the process and the loss of the rainforest in its current form will become unstoppable.

One thing is clear: catastrophic climate change is man-made. 98 percent of the scientists who study climate issues agree. Because the climate is a highly complex system, researchers are constantly discovering new relationships, interpreting data in different ways, and revising forecasts. This is completely normal in science. However, the findings of climatologists are becoming increasingly alarming.

The Solution: Rainforest Protection is Climate Protection

Rainforests must be preserved because they are indispensable as carbon sinks and their further destruction would worsen the impact of catastrophic climate change. Climate protection is therefore rainforest protection and vice versa.

- We need to preserve forests and nature and heal damage. Forests are more than just carbon sinks – they are diverse ecosystems and home to millions of people.

- We need to protect the climate while preserving biodiversity. Catastrophic climate change and extinction are two existential crises that we must tackle together.

- We need to secure and strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples, who are often the forest's best stewards: We call it the rainforest – they call it home.

- We need to fundamentally change our

way of life and how we do business: This will mean reducing our consumption of energy, food, and raw materials instead of maintaining it by turning to “green products.” We must stop burning fossil fuels.

- We need to reform flawed climate policy: We must end the misguided use of biofuels, especially if they are based on palm oil, soy, or sugar cane, and stop burning trees in power plants.

- We reject offset programs as a modern “indulgence trade” in which companies finance environmental protection measures in return for being allowed to pollute. We also reject supposedly more climate-friendly “bridge technologies” like replacing coal with natural gas.

- In the wake of the Covid pandemic, we need to rebuild the economy and society in an environmentally sound way. There must be no economic “stimulus programs” based on old formulas.

At the same time, Covid has shown that we are capable of creating rapid and profound change in the face of an existential crisis.

Rainforest Rescue: We're dedicated to rainforest conservation. Our petitions expose destructive projects and name the perpetrators. Please speak out to protect the world's rainforests – your signature carries real weight!

Source: <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/petitions/1256/dr-congo-stop-the-destruction-by-miners-and-loggers-in-tshop?t=502#campaign>



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Handout via North Carolina Forest Service

The Jackson Road Fire, which originated at a military bombing range in Dare County, North Carolina, burned through more than 1,000 acres of land in March 2022.

Looking Ahead to 1.5C: Threats of Wildfires Increasing in U.S.

By Laurie Goering

Context: October 5, 2022

COP27 is now just a month away, with key issues like “loss and damage” from climate change rising to the top of the agenda.

But we’re looking even further ahead this week – and in coming weeks – to how life around the world could be different at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming.

That’s a mark scientists say is fast approaching with global temperatures already above 1.2C of warming.

Rising Wildfire Threat

North Carolina already faces sea level rise and worsening storms, flooding, and

erosion, but global warming is spurring a surging fire threat as well.

Last year it saw more wildfires than any state in the country except California and Texas. It and South Carolina have some of the largest numbers of blaze-threatened properties, behind only California and New Mexico, according to First Street Foundation, a non-profit that maps climate risks.

“Wildfire risk is increasing so much faster than even flood risk is across the U.S.,” said Ed Kearns, the group’s chief data officer. “And it’s likely to affect areas that aren’t thought of as wildfire-prone areas right now, but will be soon.”

The Jackson Road Fire, which originated at a military bombing range in Dare Coun-

ty, North Carolina, burned through more than 1,000 acres of land in March 2022.

‘Competing Catastrophes’?

That’s a challenge for authorities there already battling other climate-fueled risks.

“We spend so much time talking about floods,” admitted Ben Cahoon, the mayor of quiet beachfront Nags Head, North Carolina, one of the communities facing new risks. “We probably should be a little more attentive to (fire), talk to our citizens a little bit more about it than we do.”

But residents, so far, aren’t particularly worried. I’ve been here 37 years,” Bryan Whitehurst, a seafood market co-owner in

Wildfires *continued on next page*

Wildfires continued from page 5



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Athar Parvaiz School principal Indira Mahat shows the level that recent floods rose to in a slum on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal, September 8, 2022.

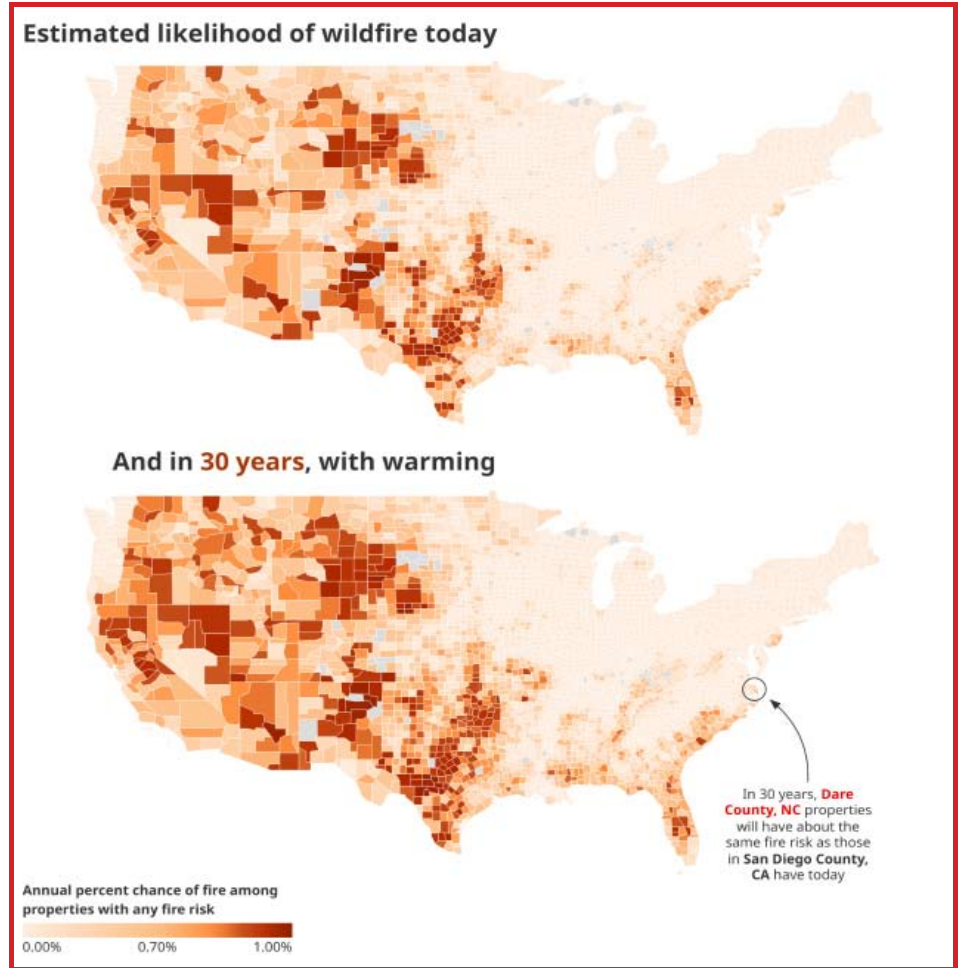
Nags Head, told our correspondent David Sherfinski. “There’s been fires, but nothing they haven’t been able to put out. . . .”

North Carolina is hardly the only place facing growing threats.

Calls are mounting for Pakistan to put in place much stronger crisis planning after floods that covered a third of the country left authorities struggling to provide medical and other aid.

Across South Asia, the urban poor are at particular – and growing risk – from floods as populations grow and families are pushed onto more precarious land, reports Athar Parvaiz.

Source: <https://www.context.news/climate-risks/us-east-coast-faces-competing-catastrophies-as-fire-risk-grows>



Graphic: Context

The future projection reflects a warming scenario in which countries take measures to curb emissions over the next 30 years roughly in line with pledges under the Paris climate agreement. The future risk map reflects changes in temperature, precipitation, and other climate factors, but the model relies on historical weather, development patterns, and other inputs.

THE PATH FORWARD MAY SOMETIMES BE
UNCLEAR. AND IT MAY BE MESSY. BUT THE
SHARED HEART IS CALLING, AND WE HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LASTING SHIFTS
TOWARD LOVE AND JUSTICE IN OUR WORLD.

~ Kristi Nelson ~

<https://twitter.com/SLivingston33/status/1347162373359099907>

As Climate 'Tipping Points' Near, Scientists Plan for the Unthinkable

By Laurie Goering

Thomson Reuters Foundation: September 16, 2022

As irreversible 'tipping points' loom, scientists are trying to figure out how to communicate the risks – and push action

- Irreversible and abrupt shifts likely above 1.5C of warming.
- Scientists, policymakers ponder how to warn of and avert worst.
- Positive tipping points for a resilient future also possible.

EXETER, England – With new evidence that catastrophic climate-change “tipping points” are nearing – from surging sea levels as polar ice melts to spiking temperatures as methane escapes thawing permafrost – scientists are quietly planning for the unthinkable.

“Extreme climate change risks are under-explored,” Luke Kemp, a researcher with the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge, warned at a pioneering conference on the theme at the University of Exeter this week.

“Climate scholars have strong incentives to err on the side of least drama,” he noted. “You don’t want to be branded an alarmist.”

But with fossil fuel emissions still going up and climate-fuelled disasters multiplying, it’s time for an “honest assessment of the risks and what can be done,” he told an audience stunned into silence by frank assessments of looming threats.

A study published last week in the journal *Science* found that four dangerous planetary tipping points are “likely” above 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7F) of warming above preindustrial temperatures – a level that could be passed within a decade.

Tipping points happen when a small change – such as an incremental increase in global temperature – sparks a rapid, often irreversible transformation, scientists say.

One – accelerating melting leading to the eventual collapse of the Greenland ice sheet – may have already been triggered, some believe, setting in motion 7 meters (23 feet) of sea level rise over time, enough to swamp key coastal cities.

David King, former chief scientific advisor for Britain and founder of the Climate Crisis Advisory Group, an expert panel, said he thinks “[T]he Arctic circle tipping



Photo: World Bank Photo Collection, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Flickr

A child heads to a communal well in the Gatsibo District of Rwanda to fetch water.

points are now passed.”

With the Arctic having warmed 3C – well above the global average, which is already about 1.3C, he said – risks are also growing that large amounts of methane trapped in thawing permafrost could be released.

Adding much more of that potent greenhouse gas to the atmosphere could drive an unstoppable cycle of higher global temperatures and more melting, King told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“If all of that is released, we’ll see temperatures rise 5-8C (8-14F) over 20 years,” he said, adding this would be “extraordinarily destructive to the future of humanity,” likely causing food system collapse and displacing billions of people.

United Nations’ chief António Guterres on Wednesday called the devastating floods covering a third of Pakistan a “window into the future... What is happening in Pakistan demonstrates the sheer inadequacy of the global response to the climate crisis, and the betrayal and injustice at the heart of it,” he told the U.N. General Assembly in New York. “If one-third of G20 countries were under water today, as (they) could be tomorrow, perhaps they would find it easier to agree on drastic cuts to emissions,” he added.

‘Positive’ Tipping Points

Scientists at the Exeter conference emphasized that channeling money and

attention to rapidly scale up renewable energy – already as cheap as fossil fuels in most places – along with better nature protection could still hold off many disastrous shifts.

They pointed to early signs of “positive” tipping points that could also be approaching as some societies and economies push toward a safer and more sustainable path.

Most major car and truck manufacturers, for instance, now plan to stop producing fossil fuel vehicles.

And in many countries meat-eating – a major driver of emissions and nature loss – is falling, even if global demand is still rising, the scientists said.

Tasty, high-quality, and increasingly cheap meat substitutes could prove “a potential tipping point that could take the carpet right out from under livestock farming,” which is a major driver of deforestation, said Tim Lenton, director of the Global Systems Institute at Exeter and an organizer of the conference.

Similarly, the cost of renewable energy is expected to plunge so fast in coming decades that using anything else will soon be uncompetitive, said Doyne Farmer, director of the Complexity Economics Programme at the Oxford Martin School. “Even if you’re a climate denier, you should be behind making the green energy transition quickly” just to save cash, he added.

Social tipping points are also emerg-

Tipping Points *continued on next page*

Tipping Points *continued from previous page*

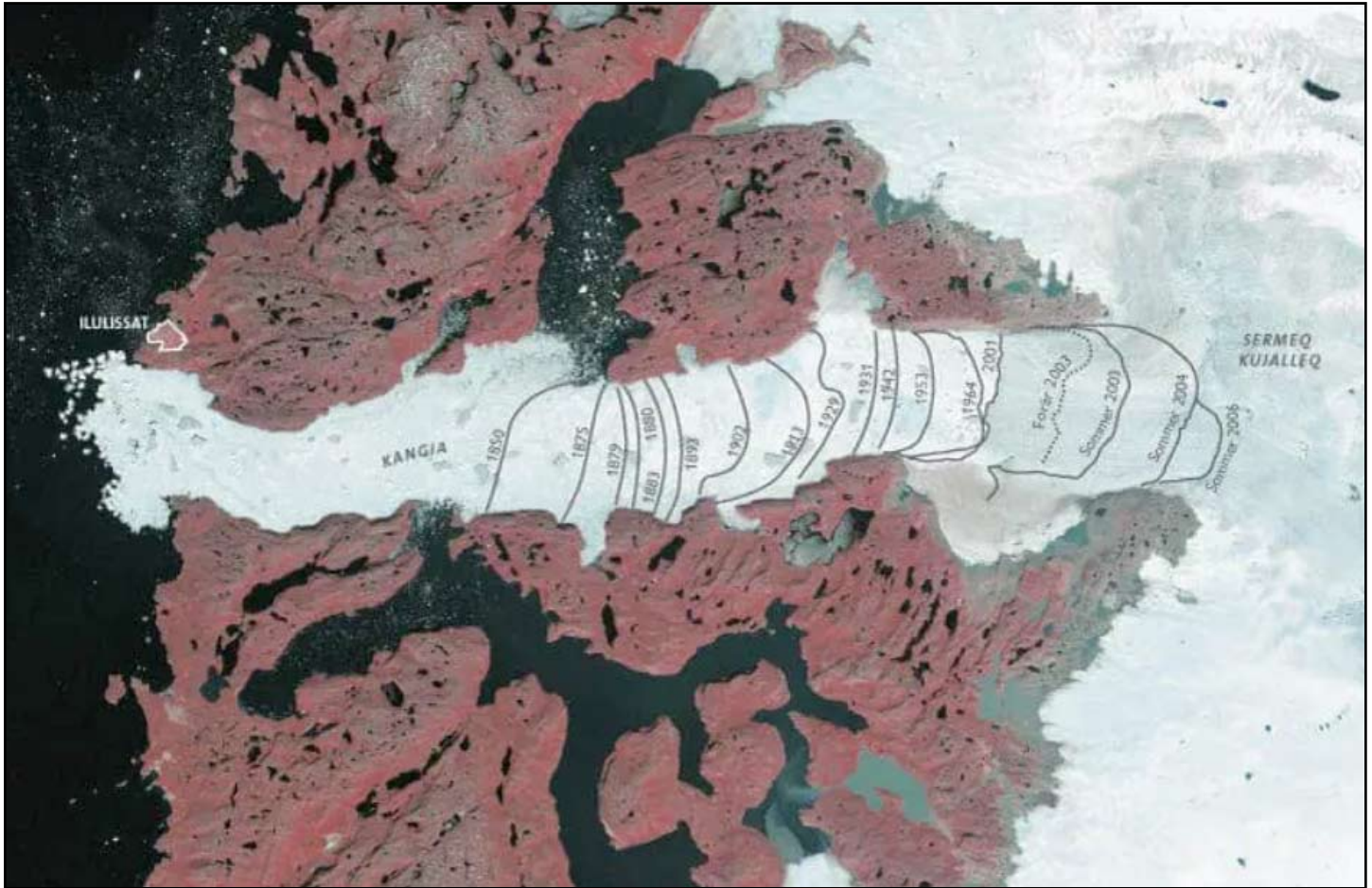


Image courtesy of GEUS: at <https://guidetogreenland.com/about-greenland/>
Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, located around 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Nuuk, Greenland, is melting; map shows the retreat from 1850 to 2006.

ing, such as many new graduates refusing jobs at unsustainable companies, social scientists said.

Economist Kate Raworth said her students at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute now consider the traditional push for endless growth more radical and risky than her "doughnut" economics model which seeks a safe space between planetary boundaries and human needs.

From neighbors installing solar panels to Greta Thunberg launching her lone climate strike and cities like Harlem in the Netherlands banning ads for fossil fuels and, soon, meat, "behavior is contagious," noted Dutch social campaigner Femke Slegers.

Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and another conference convener, said that increasingly self-reinforcing green switches would be crucial to hold off catastrophic climate impacts.

"Nothing less than positive social tipping points will take us to a safe landing," he said. "The radical suggestion is to

continue business as usual. That's the really nightmarish dead end."

Tackling Threats

An array of new efforts to reduce catastrophic risk – or to deal with the consequences of failing – are starting to appear.

Efforts to pass a fossil fuel "non-proliferation" treaty – designed to end new oil, gas, and coal exploration and production – are gathering steam, while the Bezos Earth Fund this week put \$1.15 million into efforts to "activate" positive tipping points.

Scientists also want a special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on catastrophic climate change and tipping points, in part to help raise the profile of the threats.

In New York, members of a new Climate Overshoot Commission met on Friday and Saturday to discuss potential options – including a controversial proposal to spray sun-blocking chemicals into the sky – to limit runaway heating of the planet.

"Unfortunately, we know 1.5C (of warming) has a very high likelihood of being

overshot, and this necessitates a review of the action," Pascal Lamy, former World Trade Organization head and co-chair of the commission, said in a phone interview. "We are here to leave no stone unturned."

As they grapple with ever-clearer data about how close the planet may be to irreversible tipping points, scientists say they are struggling to deliver clear and realistic warnings about the unthinkable, without undermining hope.

"It's scary and it's real – and these are the futures that are going to be opening up to us if we don't act strongly now," warned Laura Pereira of the Global Change Institute at South Africa's Witwatersrand University.

But as worst-case threats loom closer, "I don't think that's cause for complete despair or people saying, 'we give up,'" said Rockström. "We have more empirical evidence that the reverse happens – people get angry."

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20220916125450-kybs9/>

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 150-152.*]

* * *

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.

* * *

We can begin by picking up the pieces of community and civic life in the U.S. People of my parent's generation are correct to mourn the loss of the community trust and participation that they once experienced. And as Robert Putnam makes clear in his book on the subject, *Bowling Alone*, social trust is linked to both civic and political participation in ways that are mutually reinforcing – or mutually reducing. My mother and her friends have the addresses of their state and federal congress people memorized. Twenty years behind them, I at least know their names. And the current college-aged generation? They explain earnestly how the government works: “The President tells Congress what to do, and Congress tells the Supreme Court what to do.” In two generations, there goes every advance since Magna Carta.

We're getting stupider, crueler, and more depressed by the minute. Oliver James calls the values of the corporate media “A-fluenza,” likening it to a virus that spreads across societies. He points out that anxiety, depression, and addiction rise in direct proportion to the inequity in a country. The values required to institutionalize inequality are values that are destructive to human happiness and human community. Injustice requires reducing people

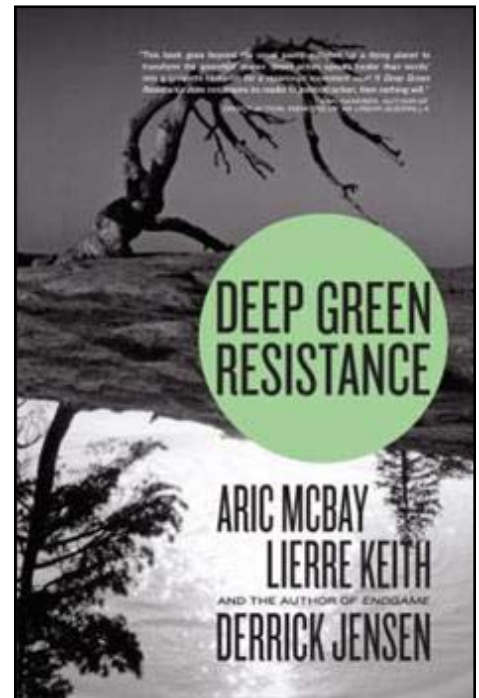
– including ourselves – to “manipulable commodities.”⁷⁴ James writes, “Intimacy is destroyed if you regard another person as an object to be manipulated to serve your ends, whether at work or at play. ... This leaves you feeling lonely and craving emotional contact, vulnerable to depression.”⁷⁵

How did this happen? When did people stop caring? One insight of Marxist cultural theorists like Antonio Gramsci is that in order for oppression to function smoothly, ideology must be transferred from the oppressors to the oppressed. They can't stand over us all with guns twenty-four hours a day. This transfer must be consensual and actively embraced to work on a society-wide scale. If the dominant class can make the ideology pleasurable, so much the better. Nothing could have done the job better than the passivity-inducing, addictive, and isolating technologies of first television and then the Internet.

Corporations have managed to coerce a huge percentage of the population into abandoning the values and behaviors that make people happy – to act against our own interests by instilling in us a new mythos and a set of compulsive behaviors.

There is no question that television and other mass media are addictive, leading to “habituation, desensitization, satiation, and an increasing level of arousal ... required to maintain satisfaction.”⁷⁶ Clearly, there is an intense short-term pleasure capturing people, because the long-term losses are tremendous. Literally thousands of studies have documented television's damage to children; indeed, a coalition of professional groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, put out a joint report in 2000 declaring media violence a serious public health issue to children, with effects that are “measurable and long-lasting.”⁷⁷ The American Academy of Pediatrics reports, “Extensive research evidence indicates that media violence can contribute to aggressive behavior, desensitization to violence, nightmares, and fear of being harmed.”⁷⁸

The most chilling studies link television



to teen depression, eating disorders, and suicide. If the destruction of our young isn't enough to get us to fight back, what will be? As a culture, we are actively handing over the young to be socialized by corporate America in a set of values that are essentially amoral. The average child will spend 2,000 hours with her parents and 40,000 hours with the mass media.

Why even bother to have children?

Footnotes:

74. Rich, *Dream*, p. 5.

75. *Ibid.*, p. 14.

76. Murphy, *Plan C*, p. 102.

77. Congressional Public Health Summit, “Joint Statement.”

78. American Academy of Pediatrics, “Media Violence,” pp. 1222–1226.

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.

**WE ARE NOT DAUNTED BY 'BAD ODDS.'
ACTIVISM IS ALWAYS AN UPHILL BUT UPLIFTING STRUGGLE!**

~ Robert Burrowes, Australia ~

Sustainable Agriculture: An Integral Part of a Sustainable Global Economy

By Kesheni Alinanuswe Sengo, Tanzania (Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans)

Introduction

The world's population is likely to reach 9 billion by the middle of this century. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) believes that 60% more food will be needed by 2050 to sustain all these people. Where possible, this food should be produced where it is needed – in developing countries.

These countries will have to increase their production substantially to reach this goal, and this will have implications for the limited natural resources on which farming depends, particularly water for irrigation and livestock farming, land for growing crops and grazing, and limited nutrients, such as phosphate. In many places, soil has already suffered lasting damage while water resources are often overused or polluted by fertilizers and pesticides. Agricultural biodiversity has dwindled as farming has become industrialised. (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, December 2015).

Sustainable Agriculture

There are a number of definitions about sustainable agriculture that have been posed by different scholars, although almost all of them have something in common. In case of this article, one definition has been taken that seems to suit the circumstance. Sustainable agriculture is an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will [last] over the long term (US Code Title 7, Section 3103). This is the type of agriculture that focuses on environmental health, social and economic equity, and economic profitability of the farmer.

Rationale of Sustainable Agriculture and Efforts Needed

Globalization has affected the way society interacts in the manner that a community focuses on economic profit with the use of industrial fertilizers and chemicals, which affects not only the health of the consumers but also the health of the soil. This type of production centers on the concept of individualism, where people only focus on their well-being economically without thinking about the long-term benefits of others involved in this chain of production, including soil and the



Photo: Kesheni Sengo

This picture shows widows who benefited from organic training from Huruma Widow Group. They received training about garlic farming on April 2020. Training on Sustainable Agriculture is one of the projects under Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans.

consumers. The production of industrial chemicals and pesticides focuses on the profit of businessmen but they have little consideration of health of the soil and the consumers of the final products.

Different scholarly views suggest the essence of integrating agriculture and animal production which will complement each other in terms of production and wellness of the community in the present and the future. This integration seems to be an open war between the industries' owners and the activists suggesting the use of traditional methods of farming. The use of industrial chemicals takes the lives of hundreds, in a long-run, no-one-cares-about-this [attitude].

However, sustainable agriculture needs just education on different plants, combined together to make manure and [organic] pesticides for the well-being of the soil and health of the consumers. Neither certificate, diploma, nor degree education is needed for this type of agriculture, it needs practical education only. There is a very thick margin of difference between food produced locally and industrialized food in terms of taste, durability, and health benefits to both consumers and the producers.

Huruma Widow Group has gotten sustainable training on garlic production

and now they are the champions of sustainable agriculture in different ways. The group is located in Mbinga DC one of the districts in Ruvuma region. This group was inspired by the training provided by Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans (UPAWA), which focuses on ways of keeping soil, how to make manure, how to make fungicides and pesticides as the way of increasing production. As an organization, we invest in training peasants on different ways they can use traditional methods of farming to produce different crops that can be sold and benefit them at large.

The comparative study of the group members before sustainable agriculture training and after inspires more efforts to be in place in order to expand this knowledge to many farmers in other rural areas. Sustainable farming is so cheap, friendly, and productive since its products are sold with a high price compared to industrialized goods.

Individual annual income doubled from \$250-300 in 2021 to \$700-1,500 for many group members. This evidence shows that there is a need for the whole community to adopt this farming system although it is not such simple to have the whole community singing the same song of sustainable agriculture as their farming system.

Sustainable *continued on next page*

Maggot Burgers Can Help Solve World Hunger

By Paul Brown, *excerpt*

Climate News Network: June 14, 2021

Note from the Editor: The day before I saw this article, I had a dream about hamburgers made from earthworms!

LONDON, UK – A diet of maggot burgers, green slime, and seaweed may not appeal to most people, but scientists say it will be essential if the world is to avoid widespread malnutrition.

These “novel foods,” as the researchers beguilingly call them, may sound disgusting to some cultures, but the idea behind them is strictly serious. It does not recommend eating the ingredients raw, or even cooked, but processed into more familiar foods.

It has been developed by a team at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk at the University of Cambridge, UK, who accept that knowing what a recipe contains is a potential barrier to novel foods, so “consideration must be given to (people’s) gastronomic preferences.” Their research is published in the journal *Nature Food*.

One way to sidestep the problem of repugnance could be to make pasta, burgers, energy bars, and similar foods to look and taste just as they always do, while containing insect larvae or micro- and macro-algae.

“Foods like sugar kelp, flies, mealworms, and single-celled algae such as chlorella, have the potential to provide healthy, risk-resilient diets that can address malnutrition around the world,” said Dr. Asaf Tzachor, first author of the report.

Millions at Risk

“Our current food system is vulnerable. It’s exposed to a litany of risks – floods and frosts, droughts and dry spells, pathogens, and parasites – which marginal improvements in productivity won’t change. To future-proof our food supply we need to integrate completely new ways of farming into the current system.”

The team says the recent shock of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with wildfires and droughts in North America, outbreaks of African swine fever affecting pigs in Asia and Europe, and swarms of desert locusts in East Africa, has shown how vulnerable the world’s harvests and distribution networks are to events beyond human control – and how increasing millions of people will suffer unless we adopt novel foods. The problem will only grow as climate heating intensifies.

These new foods can be grown in controlled environments in huge quantities almost anywhere, because they are not weather-dependent. This means they could be produced where malnutrition is already prevalent, improving the diet of children who suffer stunted growth.

Currently two billion people endure food insecurity, with 690 million more undernourished, among them 340 million children fed a poor diet.

Algae, seaweed, and the larvae of soldier flies, mealworms, and houseflies can be grown in closed environments in containers stacked one on another. Although each species has slightly different needs, insect



and algae farms, once established, could use multiple containers and automatic systems. They would also offer the added benefit of using organic waste as a food stock for both flies and algae.

They would avoid the problems of adverse weather suffered by other farming systems and would eliminate food poisoning like salmonella. Proper management would let growers adjust production to meet changing demand.

One other advantage is that these systems could operate in any climate, so could be used in parts of the world where the food was to be consumed, cutting down the need for long supply chains. This would be particularly important in places like the Pacific islands where, the researchers say, “[F]eeble agriculture and consumption of nutrient-poor foods contribute to stunting in children, and iron-deficiency anemia in women of reproductive age. . . .”

Image: By Cory Doctorow, via Wikimedia Commons

Source: <https://www.theenergymix.com/2021/06/14/maggot-burgers-can-help-to-solve-world-hunger/>

Sustainable *continued from previous page*

There is a need for all environmentalists to come together, unite our hands in reaching more farmers who are in the grassroots of production, train them on the effective ways of farming while considering the health benefits of the consumers; also, the consumers look at the processes involved in the production of food they buy in the markets. The safety of food consumed should begin with the involvement of the consumers by supporting farming to produce food in healthy ways, friendly to consumers and the environment.

Agricultural loans, subsidies, and grants from all stakeholders have proved effective means of supporting sustainable agriculture in different countries. Joint efforts have to be brought together and ensure that all stakeholders identify the essence of investing in sustainable agriculture (UNDP, 2012). This means the more people who invest in sustainable farming,

the more success will be made on saving resources like water, and soil from being overused and degraded entirely.

The future of our environment has to be connected with the current processes of what the society does to earn a living on a day-to-day basis. There has to be fairness and justice to the soil, health of the consumers, and the economic statuses of the farmers who are at the grassroots. Farmers need to farm and gain benefits, consumers need to eat and gain health benefit, the soil should be kept so as to serve the coming generations. The process should consider ecosystems, whereas everyone involved in this chain should be safe regardless of the benefits someone gets.

Conclusion

Individuals, international and national organizations, agencies from different corners of the world are welcomed to come together and rescue the situation. Water

and soil pollution will never leave anyone safe; ethnicities, nationalities, geographical disparities should not be considered when the issue of saving the present and future generations is the matter of grave concern. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation must have one voice for the sake of the present and the future generations. The growing population requires more sustainable plans to conserve the soil and resources for the future generations.

Sources: Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), December 2015: Deutsche Gesellschaft Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

UNDP, International Guidebook of Environmental Finance Tools: A Sectoral Approach, August 2012.

Contact Information

Email: keshenisengo@yahoo.com

WhatsApp: 255-767-596-242



Photo: Doug O'Malley

New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin (center) announcing the state's climate liability lawsuit. "Gas and oil companies have devastated our climate and their deception has harmed communities across our state. To all companies who would lie for profit: No matter how powerful you are, we will hold you accountable and make you pay for the damage you create," wrote Attorney General Matt Platkin @NewJerseyOAG.

New Jersey Takes Big Oil to Court for Climate Lies

The Garden State is suing Exxon, Chevron, Shell, BP and other oil giants for consumer fraud and the resulting climate damages to communities across the state.

By Emily Sanders
Center for Integrity/ExxonKnews: October 18, 2022

Ten years ago, Superstorm Sandy barreled into the East Coast, becoming one of the most infamous and destructive hurricanes on record. The storm caused \$30 billion in property damage and resulted in the deaths of 38 people in New Jersey alone – a harbinger of climate disasters to come.

Now, the Garden State is fighting back against the climate crisis' biggest perpetrators. Today, New Jersey became the latest state to sue ExxonMobil and other Big Oil companies, seeking to make them pay for lying about the harm their products would cause to the climate – and for the innumerable costs residents have faced as a result.

N.J. Attorney General Matt Platkin announced the lawsuit this afternoon at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, whose terminal was submerged during the storm a decade prior. "Today, we begin to right the wrongs inflicted on our residents by companies who deliberately chose profits

over our global environment and the well-being of our residents," Platkin said.

Local officials in New Jersey have been advocating for statewide action against fossil fuel companies for years. Since 2020, 14 municipal governments have passed resolutions urging the state to take action to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for its role in the climate crisis. With today's lawsuit, the state's leaders have delivered.

Here's what you need to know:

New Jersey is seeking to make ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips, and the American Petroleum Institute pay for climate damages they knowingly caused.

The lawsuit cites violations of the state's consumer protection laws, in addition to common law claims including negligence, trespass, and failure to warn, citing the companies' early scientific knowledge of climate change and their subsequent campaigns to downplay and obfuscate what they knew.

"This successful climate deception campaign had the purpose and effect of inflating and sustaining the market for fossil fuels, which – in turn – drove up greenhouse gas emissions, accelerated global warming, and brought about devastating climate change impacts to the State of New Jersey and its Overburdened Communities – sometimes referred to as environmental justice communities – in particular," the

complaint reads.

The companies' ongoing efforts to spread disinformation and greenwash their dirty fossil fuel businesses through advertising campaigns are also cited. "Even today they continue to mislead the public," Platkin said.

New Jersey is seeking a jury trial in state court to recover a range of costs for damages to natural resources, critical infrastructure, and more. It's also asking the court to order the Big Oil defendants to stop their deceptive practices and disgorge all profits made through their illegal behavior.

"We will work tirelessly to make sure these companies pay every last dollar for the harm they've caused," Platkin said today. "If you lie to the public to protect your profits, we will hold you accountable."

This latest case shows that the wave of climate accountability litigation continues to grow – despite Big Oil's best efforts.

New Jersey is now the seventh state – and Platkin is the eighth attorney general – to take Big Oil companies to court for their climate deception. Nineteen municipal governments also have active lawsuits against the oil majors. That list includes Hoboken, New Jersey, which in August won a federal appeals court ruling that will allow the city's case to proceed in state court. In total, five

New Jersey *continued on next page*



Photo: © Greenpeace

The mining vessel Hidden Gem in the Waalhaven port of Rotterdam.

Regulator Approves First Deep-Sea Mining Test, Surprising Observers

Submitted by **Bill Boteler, Maryland USA**

By Elizabeth Claire Alberts
Mongabay: September 16, 2022

- The International Seabed Authority (ISA), the intergovernmental body responsible for overseeing deep-sea mining operations and for protecting the ocean, recently granted approval for a mining trial to commence in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ) in the Pacific Ocean.

- The company undertaking this trial is Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI), a subsidiary of Canadian-owned The Metals Company (TMC), which is aiming to start

annually extracting 1.3 million metric tons of polymetallic nodules from the CCZ as early as 2024.

- The approval for this mining test, the first of its kind since the 1970s, was first announced by TMC earlier this week.

- Mining opponents said the ruling took them by surprise and they feared it would pave the way for exploitation to begin in the near future, despite growing concerns about the safety and necessity of deep-sea mining.

On September 14, the Hidden Gem – an industrial drill ship operated by a subsidiary of The Metals Company (TMC), a Canadian deep-sea mining corporation

– left its port in Manzanillo, Mexico. From there, it headed toward the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), a vast abyssal plain in international waters of the Pacific Ocean that stretches over 4.5 million square kilometers (1.7 million square miles) across the deep sea, roughly equivalent in size to half of Canada.

The goal of TMC's expedition is to test its mining equipment that will vacuum up polymetallic nodules, potato-shaped rocks formed over millions of years. The nodules contain commercially coveted minerals like cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese.

Seabed Mining *continued on next page*

New Jersey *continued from previous page*

circuit courts and 11 federal district courts have rejected Big Oil's arguments to escape trials in state court.

The Garden State's lawsuit puts even more pressure on the Biden administration to stand with people over polluters.

The Supreme Court has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to weigh in on fossil fuel companies' increasingly desperate attempts to kick these lawsuits out of state court. The

Biden administration still has yet to take action in support of communities suing Big Oil, despite Biden's campaign pledge – more than two years ago – to do just that.

On Friday, SCOTUS received yet another petition from Big Oil – this time asking the high court to reverse an appeals court decision allowing Baltimore's climate liability lawsuit to move forward in state court. In that filing, the oil majors cited the

Justice Department's still-standing Trump-era support for their arguments.

If the Justice Department is serious about holding polluters accountable, and supporting environmental justice, the clock is ticking.

Source: <https://exxonknews.substack.com/p/new-jersey-takes-big-oil-to-court>

Seabed Mining *continued from previous page*

TMC, a publicly traded company listed on the Nasdaq exchange, announced that it aims to collect 3,600 metric tons of these nodules during this test period.

This operation came as a surprise to opponents of deep-sea mining, mainly because of the stealth with which they said the International Seabed Authority (ISA) – the UN-affiliated intergovernmental body dually responsible for overseeing mining in international waters and for protecting the deep sea – authorized TMC to commence the trial.

It is the first such trial the ISA has authorized after years of debate over whether it should permit deep-sea mining to commence in international waters, and if so, under what conditions. News of the authorization did not come initially from the ISA, but from TMC itself in a press release dated September 7. The ISA eventually posted its own statement on September 15, more than a week after TMC's announcement. It is not clear when the ISA granted the authorization.

"We've been caught off guard by this," Arlo Hemphill, a senior oceans campaigner at Greenpeace, an organization campaigning to prevent deep-sea mining operations, told Mongabay in an interview. "There's been little time for us to react."

Mounting Concerns, Sudden Actions

Several weeks ago, in July and August, delegates to the ISA met in Kingston, Jamaica, to discuss how, when, and if deep-sea mining could begin. In July 2021, discussions acquired a sense of urgency when the Pacific island state of Nauru triggered an arcane rule embedded in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that could obligate the ISA to kick-start exploitation in about two years with whatever rules are in place at the time. Nauru is the sponsor of Nauru Ocean Resources Inc (NORI), a subsidiary of TMC that is undertaking the tests. TMC told Mongabay that it expects to apply for its exploitation license in 2023, and if approved by the ISA, to begin mining towards the end of 2024.

The ISA subsequently scheduled a series of meetings to accelerate the development of mining regulations, but has yet to adopt a final set of rules.

The delay is due, in part, to the increasing number of states and observers from civil society raising concerns about the safety and necessity of deep-sea mining. Some member states, including Palau, Fiji, and Samoa, have even called for a moratorium on deep-sea mining until more is understood about the marine environment

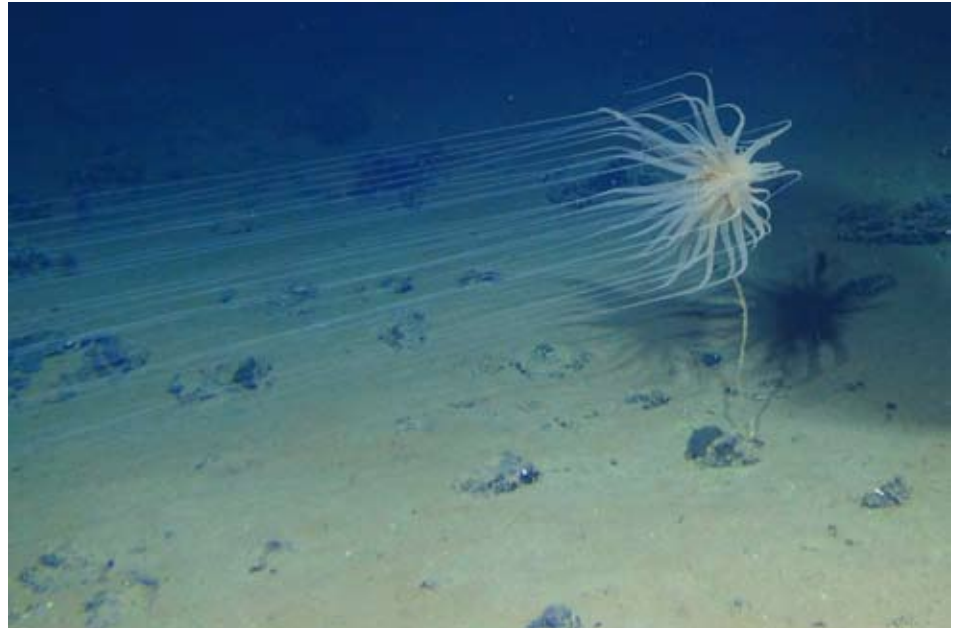


Photo: Courtesy of Craig Smith and Diva Amon, ABYSSLINE Project
A new species of Cnidaria at 4,100 meters (13,451 feet) in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone.

that companies want to exploit. Other concerns hinge upon an environmental impact statement (EIS) that NORI had to submit in order for mining to begin.

NORI submitted an initial draft of its EIS in July 2021, as per ISA requirements, and an updated version in March 2022.

Matt Gianni, a political and policy adviser for the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, a group of environmental NGOs calling for NORI's testing approval to be rescinded, said that the ISA's Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) – the organ responsible for issuing mining licenses – previously cited "serious concerns" about NORI's EIS, including the fact that it lacked baseline environmental data. The LTC had also raised concerns about the comprehensiveness of the group's Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP), he said.

But then, "all of a sudden," the LTC granted approval for the mining test without first consulting ISA council members, said Gianni, who acts as an observer at ISA meetings.

The fact that TMC announced the decision before the ISA did "reinforces the impression that it's the contractor and the LTC and the [ISA] secretariat that are driving the agenda, and states are following along," Gianni said.

Harald Brekke, chair of the LTC, sent Mongabay a statement similarly worded to the recent announcement made by the ISA. He said that the LTC had reviewed NORI's EIS and EMMP for "completeness, accuracy, and statistical reliability," and

that an internal working group had worked closely with NORI to address concerns. In response, the mining group adequately dealt with the issues, which allowed the LTC to approve the proposed testing activities, he said.

"This is a normal contract procedure between the [ISA] Secretary-General and the Contractor, on the advice and recommendations by the [Legal and Technical] Commission," Brekke said in the emailed statement. "It is not a decision to be made by the [ISA] Council. According to the normal procedure of ISA, the details of this process will be [communicated] by the Chair of the Commission to the Council at its session in November."

"I also would like to point out that this procedure has followed the regulations and guidelines of ISA," Brekke added, "which are implemented to take care of the possible environmental impacts of this kind of exploration activity."

Yet Gianni said he did not believe the LTC had satisfactorily reviewed the EIS for its full potential of environmental impact, nor had it considered the "serious harmful effects on vulnerable marine ecosystems" as required under the ISA's own exploration regulations for polymetallic nodules.

Questions About Transparency

Sandor Mulsow, who worked as the director of environment and minerals at the ISA between 2013 and 2019, said that the ISA "is not fit to carry out an analysis of environmental impact assessment"

Seabed Mining *continued on next page*

Seabed Mining *continued from previous page*

and that the grounds on which the ISA authorized NORI to begin testing were questionable.

“Unfortunately, the [International] Seabed Authority is pro-mining,” Mulso, who now works as a professor at Universidad Austral de Chile, said in an interview with Mongabay. “They’re not complying with the role of protecting the common heritage of humankind.”

A recent investigation by *The New York Times* revealed that the ISA gave TMC critical information over a 15-year period that allowed the company to access some of the most valuable seabed areas marked for mining, giving it an unfair advantage over other contractors.

The ISA has also frequently been criticized for its lack of transparency, including the fact that the LTC meets behind closed doors and provides few details about why it approves mining proposals. The ISA has previously granted dozens of exploratory mining licenses to contractors, although none have yet received an exploitation license. While NORI is not technically undertaking exploratory mining in this instance, their testing of mining equipment falls under exploration regulations.

Mongabay reported that transparency issues were even prominent during the ISA meetings that took place in July and August this year, including restrictions on participation and limited access to key information for civil society members.

The ISA did not respond to questions posed by Mongabay, instead deferring to the statement from Brekke, the LTC chair.

‘Full-Blown Mining in Test Form’

During the mining trial set to take place in the CCZ – which could begin as early as next week – NORI will be testing out its nodule collector vehicles and riser systems that will draw the nodules about 3,000 meters (9,840 feet) from the seabed to the surface. If NORI does begin exploitation in 2024, Gianni said the risers will be pumping about 10,000 metric tons of nodules up to a ship per day.

“That’s a hell of a lot,” Gianni said. “This is heavy duty machinery. This is piping that has to withstand considerable pressure.”

NORI intends to extract 1.3 million metric tons of wet nodules each year in the exploitation stage of its operation, TMC reported.

The Metals Company argues that this mining will provide minerals necessary to power a global shift toward clean energy. Indeed, demand for such minerals is growing as nations urge consumers to take



Photo: NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program via Flickr (CC BY 2.0)

A tripod fish observed in the deep-sea.

up electric vehicles in an effort to combat climate change.

Mining opponents, however, have argued that renewable technologies like electric cars don’t actually need the minerals procured from mining.

Moreover, a growing cadre of scientists have been warning against the dangers of deep-sea mining, arguing that we don’t know enough about deep-sea environments to destroy them. What we do know about the deep-sea suggests that mining could have far-reaching consequences, such as disturbing phytoplankton blooms at the sea’s surface, introducing toxic metals into marine food webs, and dispersing mining waste over long distances across the ocean – far enough to affect distant fisheries and delicate ecosystems like coral reefs and seamounts.

“Every time somebody goes and collects some sample in that area of the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, there’s a new species coming up,” Mulso said. “We don’t know how to name them, and we want to destroy them.”

TMC has stated that the testing activities will be monitored by “independent scientists from a dozen leading research institutions around the world.”

However, Hemphill of Greenpeace, who also has ISA observer status, questions whether the monitoring process will be unbiased.

“We’re thinking there’s a high chance that these risers might not work,” he said. “But if there’s not a third party observer out there, then we just have to rely on The Metals Company’s own recording....It’s going to be basically a full-blown mining operation in test form, where they’re not only using the [collector] equipment, but they’re using the risers to bring the nodules to the surface,” Hemphill added.

Nodule collection trials like the one NORI is undertaking haven’t been conducted in the CCZ since the 1970s, TMC

noted in its press release.

When Mongabay reached out to TMC for further information about its operation, a spokesperson for the company said that they “believe that polymetallic nodules are a compelling solution to the critical mineral supply challenges facing society in our transition away from fossil fuels.”

“While concern is justified as to the potential impacts of any source of metals – whether from land or sea – significant attention has been paid to mitigate these, including by setting aside more area for protection than is under license in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean,” the TMC spokesperson said.

A map of the Clarion Clipperton Zone in the central Pacific Ocean can be seen at <https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/18ccz/background/background.html>

‘No Way Back’

Mulso said he was sure that this trial would pave the way for exploitation to start next year, not only giving TMC’s NORI access to the deep-sea’s resources, but opening the gates for other contractors to begin similar operations.

“[In June] 2023, we will have ... the application for the first mining license for the deep sea,” he said, “and then there will be no way back.”

Hemphill said he also feared the move would set a process into motion for mining to start next year – but added that Greenpeace would continue its fight to stop mining.

“We’re not giving up just because the two-year rule comes to pass,” he said. “And then if things get started, we’re in this for the long haul.”

Gianni said he was hopeful that the dynamic could also change at the next ISA meeting scheduled for November, in which

Seabed Mining *continued on next page*

Greenpeace to the Rescue!



Photo Courtesy Greenpeace

Greenpeace is working to prevent a new destructive extractive industry from ever getting started in the oceans. Our position: no deep sea mining, ever. To achieve that, we are joining Pacific communities, champion nations, and dozens of allied organizations across the globe in calling for a UN moratorium on deep sea mining.

How Can we Stop Deep Sea Mining?

Greenpeace is working on multiple fronts to **stop deep sea mining before it ever starts:**

Corporate Engagement

Greenpeace is engaging the potential end users of deep sea mining, the automakers, battery companies, and tech corporations that utilize so-called “energy minerals”, which are the primary target of deep sea miners. By gaining commitments to never use deep sea minerals, we aspire to cut off demand for ocean destruction before there ever is a supply. Our transition to a fossil fuel free future must be ethical and sustainable, and not come at the expense of destroying our planetary boundaries. To achieve this, commercial deep sea mining must never begin.

Pacific Communities

Communities across the Pacific are on the frontline of deep sea mining. They have the most to lose from operations gone wrong, from damages to abundant fisher-

ies to sedimentation of the beautiful coral reefs that are central to Pacific culture and sustenance, and climate change impacts that could eventually drive these communities from their ancestral homes. Greenpeace global network is working with long-standing Pacific activists who don't want to see deep sea mining off their shores. These are the frontline heroes in this battle, and our role in the Pacific is to support them.

Global Ocean Treaty

Through the Protect the Oceans campaign, Greenpeace is working with nations across the globe to forge a new Global Ocean Treaty that would provide a legal framework for biodiversity protections in nearly half of the planet covered by international waters. Our goal is to achieve a network of fully protected ocean sanctuaries that will cover at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. Due to the political power of deep sea mining interests, there is no guarantee this Treaty will be granted the authority to put in place protections against this emerg-

ing destructive industry, but Greenpeace and our allies are working tirelessly to see that it does.

Bearing Witness Against Deep Sea Miners

While no commercial projects are yet permitted in the global ocean, exploratory deep sea mining is licensed by the United Nations through the International Seabed Authority. These operations are destructive and may have irreversible consequences that even deep sea mining companies admit are wholly unknown due to the lack of sufficient science. Greenpeace is meeting these miners at sea, at port, and in the conference rooms of global politics. We are bearing witness to their destructive activities, and “members of our global network have taken action to prevent their assaults upon the sea.”

What's our end goal?

We have a unique chance to stop this new threat in its tracks – and we need your help. We must call on our governments to create a strong treaty that can open the door to a global network of ocean sanctuaries, and set high standards to protect the global oceans from destructive industries.

Source: <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/issues/deep-sea-mining/>

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

1. Sign the Greenpeace petition at https://engage.us.greenpeace.org/6-YhFpwE3Uabcls1_nS8tA2
2. Visit the Greenpeace website to learn more: <https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/issues/deep-sea-mining/>

Seabed Mining *continued from previous page*

then if things get started, we're in this for the long haul.”

Gianni said he was hopeful that the dynamic could also change at the next ISA meeting scheduled for November, in which delegates will get the chance to discuss whether they're obligated to approve the start of mining the following year.

“The fact that the LTC has done this ... may finally get council members to start saying, ‘Wait a minute, we need to bring this renegade fiefdom [at] the heart of the ISA structure under control,’ Gianni said, “because they're going off and deciding things in spite of all the reservations that

are being expressed by the countries that are members of the ISA.”

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

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/09/regulator-approves-first-deep-sea-mining-test-surprising-observers/>



Photo: DeepCCZ expedition/NOAA via Flickr
A sea cucumber seen at 5,100 meters (3.2 miles) depth on abyssal sediments in the western Clarion-Clipperton Zone.

Ogiek of Mt. Elgon Win Landmark Judgement in 20-year Struggle for Land Rights in Kenya



Photo Courtesy Forest Peoples Programms

“We won. I am overwhelmed,” said Peter Kitelo, who led on the case for the Ogiek (Peter Kitelo and Others v County Government of Bungoma and Another ELC Bungoma Civil Case No. 10 of 2020, formerly ELC 109 of 2008).

Press Release
Forest Peoples Programms: September 27, 2022

Chepkitale Indigenous Peoples’ Development Project

“We won. I am overwhelmed,” said Peter Kitelo, who led on the case for the Ogiek.

The Ogiek of Chepkitale, Mount Elgon, Kenya, have just won their case in the High Court in Bungoma. They brought their case to court in 2008 against the gazette-ment of the core of their ancestral lands as a game reserve, Chepkitale National Reserve. That gazettement was asked for by the county council, on the advice of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and forcibly evicted them from lands. They have since returned to their lands, cared for them, and have refused to leave despite the force pitted against them.

Read the original article on CIP-DP’s website <https://chepkitale.org/peter-kitelo-and-others-v-county-government-of-bungoma-and-another-elic-bungoma-civil-case-no-10-of-2020-formerly-elic-109-of-2008/>

* * *

The Mt. Elgon Ogiek community filed this case in the Environment and Land Court in 2008 to challenge the then Mt. Elgon County Council’s decision to convert part of their ancestral lands, that is the North Kavirondo Native Land (ii) (Chepkitale Trust Land),

into Chepkitale National Reserve through Legal Notice No. 88 of 2000.

The community claimed that the conversion of the Trust Land was unconstitutional and unlawful, including for failing to follow the procedures laid down in section 117 of the 1969 Constitution, Section 13(2) of the repealed Trust Land Act (CAP 288), as well as Section 18 of the repealed Wildlife (Conservation and Management Act) 1985 which required that prior to conversion of the land, the County Council needed to consult the community of the proposals to set apart the land or any meetings at the Divisional Board.

They also state that they never participated in any meetings at the Divisional Board where they provided their representations on whether the land should be set apart or not. Finally, the land was converted without even providing compensation as required under the law.

In a judgment delivered electronically on 26 September, 2022, Hon. Justice Olao made findings that Chepkitale National Reserve was previously a Trust Land held in trust by Mt. Elgon County Council in trust for the Ogiek Community; the law was not followed in setting apart and conversion of the Trust Land; and considering the conversion was to establish a protected area there was no Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was undertaken. Based on this the Court gave the following orders:

1. A declaration that the conversion of the suit land into a national reserve vide Gazette Notice No. 88 dated 6 June, 2000,

was unconstitutional, unlawful, and of no legal effect. The land shall revert to the pre 6 June, 2000 status.

2. The defendants shall meet the costs for the plaintiffs.

Part of the evidence considered by the court was a Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources commissioned report, dated 4 November, 2013. The judgment refers to the report recommending that, “Chepkitale reverts back to its original status of a Community Trust Land as pilot of community government partnership in natural resource protection, management, and conservation.” The report itself concluded that the presence of the Ogiek community of Chepkitale on their land plays a key role in protecting the elephants and other key species, as well as in protecting and regenerating their indigenous forest.

This case marks the end of the Mt. Elgon Ogiek community’s 22-year struggle to reclaim back part of their ancestral lands that were unlawfully and unconstitutionally converted by the then Mt. Elgon County Council and is a positive step to them registering their community land.

Download the full judgment at <https://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/default/files/documents/ELC%2010%20OF%202020%20JUDGMENT.pdf>

Source: <https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/press-release/2022/press-release-peter-kitelo-mt-elgon-ogiek-judgement>

Stories from Our Global Family



Young People Learn About Farming in Cameroon

By Tendong Denis, Cameroon (Network of Agric & Sustainable Leaders for Africa)

Summary

ROOT BIZ is a program that will build youth interest in agriculture and entrepreneurship in Cameroon, Africa by providing monthly and/or quarterly workshops that will provide agricultural skills, tips, and insight into sustainable agriculture.

Participants will spend a day with Network of Agric and Sustainable Leaders for Africa (NASLA) and experience a 3-hour classroom training with professional instructors then participants will tour local farms within the community for field demonstrations. ROOT BIZ is geared toward youth and young adults.

Challenge

Working is a necessity for most young people. However, the youth unemployment rate in Cameroon and Africa increases month by month and year by year with the job market not being able to keep up with the fresh graduates. The unemployed school dropouts are considered flames of a high crime wave, terrorism, drug addicts, prostitutes, and many other ill acts. In Cameroon, Africa's youth and young adults experience many challenges beyond the textbook such as food scarcity, little skills, and lack of hope.

Solution

NASLA's mission is to create jobs, educate young people, and develop young entrepreneurs who continue to develop communities through sustainable agriculture, permaculture and entrepreneurship in Cameroon/Africa. Our team of professionals mentor youth, offer resources and tools for their project needs, and serve as a bridge that connects youth to greater opportunities in the agriculture field.

Long-Term Impact

ROOT BIZ teaches foundational skills, offers hands-on training, and boosts confidence in new idea development for young people while building partnerships, creating more support opportunities to facilitate access to secured jobs, offers a stipend to NASLA Community Ambassadors, and helps young people grow their own businesses. Our focus is to develop the potentials of young people to become resilient and active in community development, increasing actions to fight climate change.

Donate at <https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/root-biz/#menu>

Contact Information

Cameroon

Name: Tendong Denis Ngweh

Email: nasla.younginitiative@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +237670907899

USA Representative

Name: Yuketa Hall

Email: eyespeakenrich@gmail.com

Telephone: +1 (901) 609-5531



Photos Courtesy NASLA

Farming is a partnership with nature.

Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy CEAFPD

This is one of the children's clubs created by our organization in which we're training children to be climate ambassadors. They learn climate actions and make other children aware so that they join them in this mission. We work with school children aged 12 to 18 years and youth aged 19 to 25 years in and out of school. The club shown above is of children who were victims of the floods of the Dulivian rains of Uvira of 2020.

Congolese Youth-Led Group Teaching People Ways to Help Themselves and the Earth

(first email) 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 and water and empowering child (garden schools) and youth through initiatives to tackle climate change;
- Promote food security by educating communities about 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 some 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 rights to access water for people in difficult situations.

Our collaboration can save our planet.

(second email) I am so pleased with your message. I will be very happy to see my organization become a member of this Coalition and also to see our actions being published.

It was a chance for me to find you by

searching on the Internet and it will be a great pleasure for me to hear that you have included our organization in your list of partners.

I'm waiting for your Zoom invitation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fadhili Kyabira, Coordinateur du CEAF-PD asbl; Member of Y4CN, an international network working toward youth inclusion

Contact Information

WhatsApp: +243975181983 (W) or +243999403135

Skype: fafadhi63

Website: <https://www.end-violence.org/members/centre-dencadrement-et-dappui-en-faveur-des-personnes-demunies>

Youth Leaders continued on next page

Stories from Our Global Family

Youth Leaders *continued from previous page*



Digging in for a Better World

(top) Climate education for young people. (above left) Fadhili explained, "These are women farmers to whom we teach regenerative agriculture in order to restore and preserve biodiversity and ecosystems for climate balance." Notice the little child watching what's going on in the photo to the left.)

Stories from Our Global Family

Friends of Fireflies: Tree Diary of an African City Dweller

Conclusion: Chapter Four Eco-Restoration at the Praying Ground

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

It was shortly after the tree planting at Alhaji Bakare's house, when we came back visiting the young tree in its new home, that we were discussing with Alhaji Bakare our effort in various places and how we mentioned having met with Alhaji Dauda, the chief Imam at Isheri-Oke and asked for his blessings to plant trees at the Isheri-Oke muslim EID-praying ground, but he however declined the idea of tree planting at the EID ground due to unavailable space.

Alhaji Bakare then suggested we go to Isheri-Olofin. He introduced us to alfa Yusuf Seriki, an athletic-looking fellow, who seemed happy with the tree planting idea and eager to see it happen. Alfa Yusuf took us to the chief Imam, Alhaji Musa Oke-tola, a brilliant cleric, well educated and a gentle listener. He listened to all we had to say, asked a few questions, convinced that the idea of praying in a natural environment is good like the prophet suggested and that planting more indigenous tree species would make it even more natural.

Then together we walked to the EDI praying ground. Isheri-Olofin, nice to see him being greeted by traders and passerby both left and right, one can actually feel the love and respect the indigenous people had for the humble cleric. Gotten to the EID ground we were welcomed by Saheed; he is the one with the keys to the gate of the EID-ground.

We performed a reconnaissance survey of the ground, land size is about 18.3meters [breadth] (60 feet), and 30.5 meters [length] (100 feet), already on site are four trees [two indigenous tree species], the available space can still accommodate 10 more trees, making 12 trees in the overall, forming a miwayaki [mini forest in an urban settlement].

Having received the blessings of the chief Imam to go ahead with the tree planting process, the chief Imam in his humble nature strongly suggested for sustainability. We must give honor to whom it's due; next



Photo: Ajibona Tolulope
Making most of little space, here indigenous trees and vegetables are grown.

we proceed to see the traditional ruler of Isheri-Olofin, the Olofin Adimula HRM Oba Sulaimon Bamgbade.

We arrived at the palace and was welcomed in by the royal hurdley into the royal office where we met with his majesty. He is an educated man conversant with climate change and need for urgent action, diligently listens to us, he was so pleased with the idea of the community involvement in climate action and gave us his blessings.

We sent our letter to the mosque council and the reply given us. Much still has to be done on sourcing for trees and protective materials, following up as in wetting and water troughs for our volunteers to perform wetting prior to the rains.

Please we need your financial and technical support, we shall be very grateful as the time is closing in on schedule.

FRIENDS OF FIREFLIES
[supporting eco-friendly initiatives]

Date: 24th January 2022

To: The Governing Council, Isheri Central

Mosque, IsheriOlofin, Ogun/Lagos State

Proposal for Tree Planting

As Salaam Alaikum, Waramotulahi, WaBarakatuhu.

Greetings in the name of Allah the most merciful and the most beneficent, may his gentle guide and peace continue to abide with you.

We are an indigenous environmental NGO, driving by purpose not by profit, involved in Climate Change adaptation and mitigation activities, as well as supporting ecologically friendly initiatives.

Recognizing the importance of trees inclusion among city dwellers, as it helps cushion the effect of climate stressors such as global warming, the realization of a healthy and peaceful environment is our priority in a climate changing world.

Having performed similar activities in various parts of the town including Ajegunle close, and Wilmer Street, we shall be delighted if given the opportunity to perform tree planting at the Eid praying ground.

We are taking into consideration the following:

- Available space to determine number of trees;
- Site structure and neighboring structures to determine position of trees;
- Biodiversity [medicinal tree e.g. Dogoyaro; nutritional e.g fruit tree; and shade e.g. step tree]; and
- Protective materials and livestock.

The date scheduled for planting is the next prayer date, this will allow us enough time to grow and nurse the trees at the nursery, so they will be able to survive better in their new home and to join the entire indigenous Muslim community and other community volunteers in the planting process as we look forward to an educative and awareness campaign for a greener IsheriOlofin.

We look forward to your anticipated formal response early enough to allow proper planning.

Kind Regards.

Contact Friends of Fireflies

Email: friendsoffireflies@gmail.com

Phone: +2348025369811; +2347069262131

Stories from Our Global Family



Photos Courtesy RADI

Children in school in Africa's largest refugee camp in Kenya with 200,000 refugees from multiple countries and cultures.

Refugees Work Together to Help Each Other: Can You Help, Too?

By Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya

I am a simple refugee from Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana county Western Kenya. As a refugee under UNHCR I am also having unfavorable weather conditions of life. I also have an idea or dreams to create a Community Based Organization (CBO) and already created one, working here in the camps and host community.

I'm the founder and leader (with a position of chairman). It's called Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation (RADI) for Developing, Educating, Empowering, Promoting, Protecting, Learning and Youths support (DEEPLY).

We are located in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement with a mission and vision committed to bringing and

implementing sustainable development programs that improve access to equal opportunities intellectually, professionally, economically, and with innovative social services to all underprivileged humanity.

Our programs are focusing on:

1. Education (quality education);
2. Livelihood (agriculture and saving money services);
3. Human Rights; 4. And others.

This ideation was coming from different nationalities like Congolese, Burundian, Ugandan, Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean, South Sudanese, etc. as Refugees and asylum seekers, both men and women who were forcibly displaced from their home countries because of war, multiple violences, insecurity cases, natural disasters, persecution, etc. They are suffering from

many years in the camps, looking forward to help.

This is a young Organization; we are looking forward for enough people or NGOs interested to fund the Organization officially. If we can manage to get enough like-minded people to participate, this community can be funded, and perhaps in the way our request can be heard as well.

We, Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation, are calling to care for women Rights (SGBV) and child protection support. This is part of our program. But we face challenges due to lack of funds and resources to accomplish our realizations and goals.

Anyone can contact us and state their interest either via email, Facebook page,

Refugees *continued on next page*

Stories from Our Global Family

Refugees *continued from previous page*



(top) Creating a new garden. (left) Watering vegetable plants to increase food security. (left) The baby was born in critical condition here in Kakuma refugee camp. His legs were damaged during the birth day because his mother was 14 years old. She is a new arrival, an asylum seeker since March 2022 from Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where she was forcibly displaced because of violence. She was raped by a certain army group and pregnancy resulted.



phone number, or WhatsApp, on what we hope to be able to accomplish to realize our goals. Thanks!

Contact Feruzi Juma Kikuni
WhatsApp: +254715761697
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

RADIKakumaEmail: feruzijumak3@gmail.com or radi4deedly4@gmail.com

Stories from Our Global Family

The Effect of Social Media on Opinions

By Barrett Hnatt (17), New Jersey USA (Full disclosure: Barrett is Iona's grandson.)

Hi Grandma, I wrote this essay for school, I think you would like the topic, so here is a prompt, and the following essay:

From talk radio to television shows, from popular magazines to Web blogs, ordinary citizens, political figures, and entertainers express their opinions on a wide range of topics. Are these opinions worthwhile? Does the expression of such opinions foster democratic values? Write an essay in which you take a position on the value of such public statements of opinion, supporting your view with appropriate evidence.

It is important that everyone has the right to think what they want to think, and furthermore say what they would like to say. This is supported by the massive quantity of countries that are positioned as advocates for free speech, the United Nations' commitment to guaranteed human rights, and lastly, possibly the most notable example, the United States.

The United States' first amendment grants all legal citizens of the country the right to freedom of speech. Along with that, the first amendment also provides the right to freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition the government to redress grievances. These rights given are all representative of letting people think what they would like to think and doing so in great amounts, thus America's notability in relation to its desirable freedoms pertaining to free thought and expression.

The thing that is seen though, is with the influence of recent technological advancements, people are effectively losing their voice and opinion. This is not because of any sudden government oppression of the right, but because people of tainted opinions arising from social media use. Social media has demonstrated, blatantly so, that it has a negative effect on people's opinions; while still worthwhile, these opinions are likely impure, but they still do foster democratic values.

Social media has great sway in the world today. Many kids from a young age dream of being a professional athlete, or astronaut, or firefighter, or a chef or jobs of such popularity and desirable entailments. They dream of being these things, mostly

because of the media. Media back in the 1950s wasn't what it is today; it was mostly newspapers, maybe a little bit of television, but nothing like there is now. With social media, due to its electronically-configured setup, which happens to be extremely convenient, [it] makes it very easy to use social media as a means to trigger one's desired dopamine response.

Dopamine is a natural substance that your brain releases in response to the performing of any of the many pleasurable things people do, for many that is opening a text, watching their favorite show, playing their favorite game, and so forth. Social media allows for the easily accessible acquiring of information along with readily available means for mass communication, these are nowadays what many people get the previously mentioned dopamine responses from.

Since people rely on these social media services, for example; Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, iMessage, Facebook, and many more, as their sources for their heavily wanted dopamine response, they spend a lot of time on these seemingly heavenly applications. With the time spent on these applications and the apparent association with dopamine responses and easy access to public postings, people often follow their favorite influencers, including but not limited to: dancers, musicians, YouTubers, streamers, and such. These people, their jobs are many times, to incite controversy as a means to gain online traffic leading to their profile as a means to gain a profit. To incite controversy these people often voice their opinions. There are many instances when these opinions can be entirely incorrect and people still roll with these opinions as if they were their own, and due to the normalization of heavy social media use, it is normalized to do so, even if this view could be wrong.

That being said, that is why people are losing their voice in their opinions, it's because they are tainted by the high power of social media and the ideas pushed onto them by way of these services.

Social media is extremely hard to regulate. The government cannot do much as these social media companies are private. Part of the first amendment, as previously mentioned, is free speech – the government is prohibited from censoring free speech except for the occasional obscenities that can be found. Though, these social

media companies with newfound control and sway over people are in fact allowed to censor people as it is a private corporation! This is strongly exemplified in Internet sensations and highly influential people such as Donald J. Trump, Emory Andrew Tate III, and Mike Lindell; they were banned solely for the fact that they stated and shared to mass amounts of people their opinion. This is un-democratic of these companies, but for better or for worse they are not bonded by law to allow everyone onto their platform.

This even further influences what people say, especially people with particularly large fan-bases as they constantly are monitored and need to watch what they say in order to not be disallowed these sometimes crucial platform usage opportunities. Moreover, this further influences people's opinions too as they sometimes may not be receiving the entire story, thus pushing for the making of half-winded decisions or interpretations.

It is imperative that everyone is permitted the use of their right to voice their own opinions and ideas, which is what should be actively practiced in our society to spread knowledge along with enlightenment. The opinion of everyone matters no matter what their opinion may be. That being said, it is ethically undeniable that all opinions matter as all of us are human and are deserving of being treated equally, at least until proven otherwise in a fashion that entails the possible unequal treatment being obtained, and even then I feel as if people's opinions still hold water.

So, yes, everyone no matter what position, influence, or standing should have the right to express their opinion and by this virtue, their opinion should be valued and considered worthwhile even if you may believe otherwise.

It is with no debate that one can conclude that these opinions foster democratic values as they demonstrate the importance of everyone and their thoughts, feelings, ideas, and opinions, and ultimately, that is what sparks innovation, ingenuity, attainment of wisdom, growth of knowledge, and inventive, thought-provoking ideas to be further pushed onto us as a society and further us as a whole to better our lives, hence why no opinion should go unconsidered.

News Briefs



Photo: Karyn Schiller/Audubon Photography Awards
Great Gray Owl on a dark night with only moonlight to guide it.

Lights Out: Providing Safe Passage for Nocturnal Migrants

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as they pass over big cities on their way, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and skyglow, often causing them to collide with buildings or windows.

While lights can throw birds off their migration paths, bird fatalities are more directly caused by the amount of energy the birds waste flying around and calling out in confusion. The exhaustion can then leave them vulnerable to other urban threats.

Dozens of species are affected, including priority species – those we have identified as most in need of and most likely to benefit from our help – such as the Allen's Hummingbird, Wood Thrush, and Golden-winged Warbler. Just one building can cause major problems for birds in the area; within one week in 2017, nearly 400 passerines (warblers, grosbeaks, etc.) were caught in the floodlights of a 32-story Texas skyscraper and killed via window collisions.

Audubon's Lights Out program is a national effort to reduce this problem.

The strategy is simple: by convincing building owners and managers to turn off excess lighting during the months migrating birds are flying overhead, we help to provide them safe passage between their nesting and wintering grounds.

Contribute to Lights Out

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting.
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights.
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible.
- Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories.
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings.
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward.
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible.

- When converting to new lighting assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

Source: <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>

Fallen 200: Land Defenders Murdered in 2021

By Joseph Lee/Crist, *excerpt*

Editor's note by DGR News Service: Oct 17, 2022

Editor's note: Land defenders, especially indigenous land defenders, are at risk across the world, more so in some places than others. In their fight to protect their communities and their land, they directly confront structures of power, challenging the powerful's sense of entitlement. In order to maintain the status quo, the powerful employ any means necessary to silence the resisters. In some places, this may take the form of political and legal attack, in others, this may lead to murder. Either way, the objective of such repression is not merely to silence one voice, but to set an example, to shut down those hundreds of voices which may have been raised in resistance. This strategy has been used through history.

Even so, resistance lives on. Where the repression becomes strong, defenders find new ways to adapt to their political situation and to continue fighting the powerful. Statistics say that one land defender is killed every two days. While it is necessary to hold the states accountable for these unlawful killings, it is also important for defenders to take measures to protect themselves. This may include being familiar with the laws of one's region, or to learn self-defense, or whatever is appropriate for one's situation. Following rules of security culture at <https://deepgreenresistance.org/security-culture/> may help in increasing security for defenders.

"I could tell you that, around the world, three people are killed every week while trying to protect their land, their environment, from extractive forces. I could tell you that this has been going on for decades, with the numbers killed in recent years hitting over 200 each year. And I could tell you, as this report does, that a further 200 defenders were murdered in the last year alone. But these numbers are not made real until you hear some of the names of those who died." – Dr. Vandana Shiva

In Brazil, two Yanomami children drowned after getting sucked into a dredging machine used by illegal gold miners. A 14-year-old Pataxó child was shot in the head during a conflict over land in the northeastern Bahia state. A Guarani Kaiowá person was killed by military police during a clash over a farm the Guarani had reclaimed from settlers.

"There has been an increase in the amount of conflict – socio and environmental conflict – in our lands," said Dinamam Tuxá, of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), Brazil's largest coalition of Indigenous groups. "It's destroying communities and it's destroying our forests."

Between 2011 and 2021, at least 342 land defenders

News Briefs *continued on next page*

News Briefs

were killed in Brazil – more than any other country – and roughly a third of those murdered were Indigenous or Afro-descendant. That's according to a new report by Global Witness, an international human rights group, that documents over 1,700 killings of land and environment defenders globally during the same time period. The report says that on average, a land defender is killed every other day, but suggests that those numbers are likely an undercount and paints a grim picture of violence directed at communities fighting resource extraction, land grabs, and climate change. . . .

"We will continue to protest, we will continue to show up." - Dinamam Tuxá, APIB.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/repression/fallen-200-land-defenders-murdered-in-2021/>

New Protections for Emperor Penguin Reflect 'Growing Extinction Crisis'

By Julia Conley, *excerpt*
Common Dreams: October 25, 2022

More than a decade after campaigners first warned U.S. officials that the emperor penguin of Antarctica must be federally protected as the species faces threats to its habitat due to the climate crisis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on Tuesday announced that the penguin is being listed as endangered.

"It finally happened," tweeted the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), which filed a petition in 2011 calling for the emperor penguin to be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

But while CBD's climate science director, Shaye Wolf, said the decision is "a big win for these beloved, iconic penguins and all of us who want them to thrive," the group warned that the listing should set off alarm bells for the planet. "This decision is a warning that emperor penguins need urgent climate action if they're going to survive," said Wolf. "The penguin's very existence depends on whether our government takes strong action now to cut climate-heating fossil fuels and prevent irreversible damage to life on Earth."

An estimated 625,000-650,000 emperor penguins live in Antarctica, where they rely on sea ice to provide their habitat and breeding grounds.

As Common Dreams reported earlier this year, glaciers in Antarctica are now melting at a rate that hasn't been seen in more than 5,000 years, with fossil fuel extraction by humans and the warming planet fueling what scientists at the University of Maine called "runaway ice loss."

In recent years, the early melting of sea ice at Halley Bay and Cape Crozier resulted in the drowning deaths of thousands of penguin chicks, who were not yet able to swim when the ice began breaking up.

Melting sea ice and ocean acidification – which happens when water absorbs high volumes of the atmosphere's carbon dioxide – have also led to diminished supplies of krill, which emperor penguins rely on for sustenance.

In 2021, researchers at the CBD, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the British Antarctic Survey were among those who published a study showing that the emperor penguin "will be in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range regardless of emission scenario" by 2050.

"According to the best available science, by 2050 their global population size will likely decrease by 26% (to approximately 185,000 breeding pairs) to 47% (to approximately 132,500 breeding pairs) under low and high carbon emissions scenarios, respectively," the USFWS said.

USFWS Director Martha Williams said the listing "reflects the growing extinction crisis and highlights the importance of the ESA and efforts to conserve species before population declines become irreversible. . ."

CBD said the decision to list the emperor penguin as protected under the ESA will help to boost conservation funding and promote "international cooperation on saving them," but the Fish and Wildlife Service did not outline specific steps the U.S. plans to take to protect the species. . . .

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/10/25/new-protections-emperor-penguin-reflect-growing-extinction-crisis>

Photo:

Eli Duke/Flickr/
Two emperor
penguins
stand
at Scott Base
on
Ross Island
in Antarctica
on
March 1, 2011.



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 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 dosomething@pa.net or mail to the address on page 2. Photo <https://www.google.com/>

**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.)



(first email) What I think is important about the article [in CNN] is that it points out that significant improvements directed toward combatting climate change can be made in each and every aspect of life – including the way we put up and manage buildings in our denser and more urban environments – where most of the world's population currently live – as this article points out. If architects and engineers can find ways to reduce the demand (via reduced use of electricity) for energy, I just say – all to the good! Whatever our area of expertise may be, I think it can and should be applied to achieving greater sustainability.

Meantime, as usual, I think this issue of *Grassroots Coalition News* is excellent – just very nice – especially as it provides insight and motivation to those people working everywhere to promote and protect the environment – your 'Climate Activists.'

And, like you, I am a big believer in mass transit – and have been for most of my life. And I also favor extensive use of off-road walkways and bikeways.

And I am a great admirer of the concept of 'Ubuntu' – and believe it corresponds closely with the original intent and purpose of Christianity – as your quote from Julian of Norwich points out.

As the organization is no longer really functioning a such, I see no reason for remaining on the 'Advisory Board' – though I would like to maintain whatever role would allow me to be most useful.

I'm especially glad to hear you are getting ready to go on a vacation. I know you will enjoy yourself – so I don't need to tell you that!

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

(second email) It was another great session today. And you are right, Ngo is very good at bringing his expertise and experience to our attention.

I have another zoom meeting for tomorrow morning – from 9:00 to 10:30 – which gives me just enough time to get to church by 11:00. I actually enjoy going to church,

believe it or not. A group of very nice, interesting, fun, and friendly people there.

So I won't be able to participate in tomorrow's meeting with you and Ngo.

FYI – my 9:00 meeting is with a friend I have gotten to know through the Palestine/Israel peace movement who wants to give a report on a very extensive trip to Egypt and Syria that he has just returned from.

Also FYI – it's been quite a few years now – probably at least 15 and probably more – that I submitted an unsolicited proposal to the Organization of African Union suggesting that it oversee a continent-wide revamping of Africa's railroad system. As you may know, Africa's existing railroads were built during the colonial era and were largely geared to getting goods from the interior of each country to its port (or ports) or entry.

To this day, there are almost no railroads going from one African country laterally to another – leaving the various countries economically quite separated from one another. The idea behind my proposal was that it would help integrate the African continent – which has for too long been strategically segmented. I never got a response – but can only hope that at some point it might be considered and seen in a serious light.

As you can probably tell – I believe in the necessity of promoting both MACRO and MICRO projects – at one and the same time – believing that working at both levels (as well as at intermediate levels) – is what is needed to bring about the really successful development of each nation's potential.

And if international and governmental agencies are seen as the enemy by local communities – as Ngo suggested – then one of the unstated goals of our work (as I see) should be to use our energies to make those agencies more responsive to community needs. Organizing at the community level is one of the best ways to make that happen.

Anyway, I will probably have to opt out of the program at this point, though I would like to be able to sit in as an ob-

server, if that is possible, when I can. But I am perfectly OK if that is seen as being disruptive to the group as a whole – and not a good idea. And I mean that!

I do actually have something of a project in the works, even though it doesn't involve funding. I would still like to set up a community workshop – in cooperation between the library and the people up at the Conservation District – about how more selective methods of agriculture can really help promote greatly improved output – as well as provide a much more climate friendly approach to farming.

(Incidentally, both the Conservation District and the USDA have moved to brand new offices north of town.)

You know I have been on this topic for quite a while. I'd say it has a fair chance of coming to fruition – would definitely like to see it happen – but it may still take a while. Wish me luck!

P.S. Improving Broadband strength across the continent is another proposal that I believe should be forward to the OAU for consideration as a top priority – as we all can see from our meetings together! This is a project that requires international funding, coordination, and expertise.

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

Thank you very much for your interest and love on behalf of people in need.

We thank you once again for your commitment, let us together make a difference and change the world a better place where everyone may to live.

Fidel Hitimana, Uganda (New Hope for All)

What a wonderful mail, love the way you talk, hope to see you back from Pennsylvania strong and healthy.

Please add me to your climate action group, am reading *Grassroots Coalition News* and enjoying every bit of it....see you soon.

Ajibona Tolulope, Nigeria (Friends of Fireflies, see page 21)

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages *continued from previous page*

You are so welcome Mother. Think deep of this my saying "Love is a practical way of life."

If we all embrace this, no one will ever hurt the brother or sister, no one will ever lack in this life, no one can ever be lost or hungry. I am happy I was able to share my little act of love. Enjoy it, have comfort and live in love. Your support to me in publishing my work at its earliest stage was really a win for me that I still feel it today. True be said, if I am benefiting from Ngo's class today or knowing him, it's still because of you.

Yes, we will always have time to talk anytime we have some time to talk. Let's meet tomorrow mother.

Much love,

Tendong Denis, Cameroon (Network of Agric & Sustainable Leaders for Africa)



Ezekiel Kulaba watering a tree he just planted in Uganda.

We started this community-based organization of imparting skills to the needy women and Youth, orphans, and widows inclusive after our son age 14 passed on in 2016.

He had his dream of helping the orphans and others after experiencing hardships in fees for his education.

So, I didn't want his dreams die, too, and stated this project in 2017.

Therefore, we pray for the success.

Even you can look at our Facebook page, Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre!

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

My lovely Mom! What a lovely newspaper!

I am very happy on the way it is structured. I am very happy on the content on it. Ubuntu will now be spread like the burning fire on the forest. The world can be able to know what exactly Ubuntu is and how [it] should be handled.

In a unique way, Ubuntu Family and I am taking my time on the throne of God submitting my sincere prayers about your coming surgery mom.

I have been thinking about it always and still looking on how I can be part of it mummy just by contributing my prayers.

I am telling God to be with you in the entire time of surgery. God will make you stronger even more and more.

I love you, my mom. I love you mummy.

Still, I don't have access to another email, I only have access to this email.

I will see how I can keep my prayers active to the almighty God to be with you mom.

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

There are so many crises in the world right now. Many are being aggravated by climate change as well as war. Hunger will get worse because of climate change. But am trying to focus on biodiversity.

It's important to do something. Rich countries need to be paying for the harm they have inflicted on poorer countries.

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

(first email) Thank you very much for announcing this privilege that you have given me although it is a great responsibility.

As was mentioned in the pre-COP27 held in Kinshasa in our capital, we (climate actors) were asked to work urgently:

- Intensify awareness campaigns/consentization of communities to abandon practices harmful to the climate.

- Mobilize funds to support communities for an ecological transition.

If we are to live on this Earth, it is more urgent than ever to act; and we can do so if and only if we work together with full collaboration and determination.

I am very confident in your power to mobilize funds and guidance that are very useful in this mission (a healthy climate) which is the foundation of our life

I look forward to hearing from you.

(second email) Thank you for the interesting talk of yesterday.

It should be nice to plan how to include MORINGA in our approach of climate restoration; by sensitizing the community to cultivate MORINGA.

Let me know your thoughts.

Kind regards,

Fadhili Kyabira, DR Congo (CEAFPD, see page 19)

Hello my beloved mom how are you doing now days. It's me, your son Mukama. Thanks for praying for me; am now at least fair though I can't move from one place to another.

Mom am now at least ok God gave another chance. Let me take this opportunity to thank my family (Global Family) for the love, prayers, and support towards my life.

(10/13) Actually mom I can walk but not more than five minutes and I can even talk perhaps am improving slowly by slowly thanks for your continuing prayers.

Mukama Awali, Uganda (Mukama Awali Foundation Ministry)

Mom, my first appreciation goes to you for thinking this much to have the workshop happen; secondly, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Ngo for rendering his time and not being selfish on his knowledge thus giving respect to knowledge sharing.

I have much I could express to him but all is to pray that God should offer him all he deserves to continue saving and directing those in need of his help like poor us!

Love for you all from Uganda

Amos Mugarura, Uganda (Comforter of the Voiceless Bwindi)

(first email) Hi Iona thank you for the work you are doing, may God bless you always.

Am Ibra Jaa, the director of Give a Smile Foundation Uganda. I have 17 kids who are all orphans and two of them are HIV POSITIVE but our main aim is to train these orphans to get skills in different fields like art and craft, carpentry, mostly farming, so that they can live a better life when they grow up. But we do need your help, madam Iona.

(second email) Hi, Madam Iona. I once greet you in the name of the Almighty Lord. Thanks for the good work. These are the two kids I told you about their HIV status, by the names of Jacquie Namukasa (6) and Ritah Anna, aged 5 years. They are so lovely, and Jacquie is so intelligent, but

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages *continued from previous page*

sickly always. These kids' medication is too expensive. They don't have appetites for food, and they fear tablets. Their food is also expensive from ours but still I have to look for possible ways to see. I make them happy coz I love them so much and they

are very good young friends of mine. So, I please call upon you for your special support for these two kids. Their main problem is medication, though we also have other needs like food and house rent. They are from different families their parents

died and left them with their grandparents but the grandparents are also needy, so I decided to take care of them.

May God bless you.

Ibra Jaa, Uganda (Give a Smile Foundation, photos below, Jacquie, left, is very sick.)



FINDING OUT WHAT CONNECTS US, REVELLING IN OUR DIFFERENCES; THIS IS THE PROCESS THAT BRINGS US CLOSER, THAT GIVES US A WORLD OF SHARED VALUES, OF MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY.

bell hooks

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/269518-dominator-culture-has-tried-to-keep-us-all-afraid-to>