

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. 90: January 2023



Photos Courtesy Bill McKibben

The march was about 300 yards long (274 meters)... Instead of winding through the streets, it walked down a hot and dusty access road between two of the warehouse-style buildings that house the pavilions of various countries and interest groups.

Activists Are the Engine: Finally Some Noise at the COP

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Bill McKibben, *excerpt* (emphasis added)
The Crucial Years: November 12, 2022

There is a ritualistic quality to these climate summits – this is the 27th, after all. (The great Canadian environmentalist Elizabeth May, many years ago, hugged me from behind at one of these gatherings and said, “It’s just like a family reunion – **aboard the Titanic.**”) The talks slow on the weekend (Joe Biden came and went yesterday, giving a straightforward speech that everyone had to listen to, since the U.S, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act,

is now a player and not a laggard).

And traditionally, on Saturday, civil society takes over, with a **giant march** through the city. I remember many of these affairs – most vividly, maybe, a cold, giant, and angry march of at least a **hundred thousand** through the streets of Copenhagen in 2009, with Danes appalled at the collapsing conference setting small fires and, in a Scandinavian way, jousting with the police ... And last year in Glasgow was wonderful – the youth march, especially, which gathered in a park **amidst the trees**, Greta near its head.

This year was different. The march was about 300 yards long (274 meters)...

Instead of winding through the streets, it walked down a hot and dusty access road between two of the warehouse-style buildings that house the pavilions of various countries and interest groups. That’s because this COP is taking place in, well, **a cop state**. Egypt doesn’t allow protest out in the wild; we were in the only politically free five acres (2 hectares) in this vast country. And yet for me there was at least one thing redeeming in its shrunken size – it let me pick out many of the faces (old and weathered or young and fresh) that make up the core of climate activism around the world.

Activists *continued on page 3*

Grassroots Coalition International Starting Over, Looking for Climate Activists

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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>

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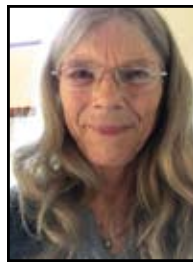
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Iona's Column: *Happy New Year!!!!*



Dearest Global Family,

A very interesting thing happened. I decided to get back into some environmental activism here in the U.S., where it is desperately needed since our country is the worst contributor to global warming. During my recovery from surgery, I had the opportunity to sit around and read a lot of good books and to participate in many Zoom meetings from local climate groups and taking some of their recommended online actions.

One of them is Citizens Climate Lobby, which I participated in on December 10. On December 11, I was going through the emails I wanted to publish on our Messages pages and was startled to see that Lawrence P. Bomah, who is on both our Climate Activists list and the Orphanage Managers' one, had done the requested action I had forwarded to everyone. When I reread the reply he received, it was from Citizens Climate International!

Now I'm starting to view my work somehow as really being able to help link the two continents in a more meaningful way than ever before. You can read about this inter-continental exchange on page 30.

Also, Ajibono Tolulope of Friends of Fireflies in Nigeria, had the idea of offering a reward at the end of 2023 to "encourage all members to be active in their various countries for the year 2023, and also a booster for our profile." I like this idea and hope it spurs lots of great, new climate projects!

Best wishes for much joy and happiness as you work to help make this world a better place for everyone and all life in the coming year and forever.

Love, *Iona*

Activists *continued from page 1*

There have been a few groups of people whose inspiration has been **absolutely necessary** for the planet to even starting to take on the climate crisis: scientists, who provided the insights to let us know what was wrong; engineers, who provided the tools (solar panels, wind turbines, batteries) that give us a chance; and activists, who have provided the **pressure** that might let us speed climate action enough to begin catching up with the dire physics that the scientists first understood. Plenty of other people are required – business-people, diplomats, heads of big NGOs, and bureaucrats all have important roles to play, and they are all in evidence here ...

But the activists – well, I hesitate to even start naming names, because there are a **thousand** for every one listed here ... I looked at Tom Goldtooth, of the Indigenous Environmental Network, rightly at the front of the march, and I thought of a million conferences and protests and webinars he's patiently attended; had he not done that work (alongside many others) then the great gathering at Standing Rock, with all its meant for movement building around the world, **could not** have happened in quite the same way. Or Tasneem Essop, who like many learned to fight power during the apartheid days in South Africa ... who somehow manages to coordinate the 1,300 member groups of the Climate Action Network. Or Harjeet Singh, most dapper of all activists, who has worked in and out of the UN agencies for many years, but **never** become a bureaucrat – always, instead, a strategist for translating outside agitation into inside power. Or gentle unyielding Yeb Sano, whose turn from official diplomat to activist amid the chaos of Typhoon Haiyan – he began a fast at the Warsaw climate talks in 2014 – was one of the great emotional boosts in the history of the movement, helping animate the **climactic Paris talks** the next year.

New leaders are constantly emerging, often pushed by the force of events. Svitlana Romanko, for instance, had always been a stalwart and effective campaigner, at 350.org and the *Global Catholic Climate Movement*; but when Vladimir Putin invaded her native Ukraine this year, she was forced to become something much more, a spokesman for the crucial proposition that fossil fuel **equals fascism**. She rose to the occasion spectacularly ...

And happily the movement keeps reproducing itself, as a younger generation of activists emerges to the fore. The most famous of them isn't here – Greta's decision not to fly on planes was, among many other things, a generous way to cede



Photos of the activists mentioned are at <https://billmckibben.substack.com/p/activists-are-the-engine>.

attention to others. But she was not absent either – this march chanted “**no more blah blah blah**” as it marched past the delegation offices, remembering her apt summation of the Glasgow accords ... This COP is carrying on under the shadow cast by the thousands of political prisoners in [Abdel Fattah] el-Sisi's jails.

The title for today's march was “*We Have Not Yet Been Defeated*,” which both sums up the climate crisis pretty accurately and is (**almost**) the title of the essay collection by the most famous of those prisoners, **Alaa Abdel Fattah**. His sister Sanaa – a woman of great grace and courage, now facing charges of “subversion” for defending her brother, who has been sheltering at the conference because the government won't arrest her in front of the internation-

al press – was at the rally today, but instead of speaking she asked her **remarks be read** for her. “*I came here thinking I would be alone*,” she said, “*but instead I found my family here. Know that your voices have echoed into every dark corner of every prison cell. I go to Cairo tomorrow to stand outside the prison gates with my mother, but I know I don't go alone.*”

That is indeed how movements work at their best. Alongside the solar panel, the nonviolent social movement was the key technological innovation of the 20th century; if we survive the 21st, it will be because of both.

Source: <https://billmckibben.substack.com/p/activists-are-the-engine>

Grassroots Coalition Activist Protested and Interviewed by Major News Wires at COP27



Photo: Screenshot by Iona

Friday Barilule Nbani being interviewed by the Associated Press. Friday posted this on Facebook: “There is pain, hunger, sickness, scarcity of food and suffering in the land as a result of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are a silent killer disease, threat to human rights and major contributor to climate change. Enough is Enough. Kick fossil fuels out of the Africa and rise up to protect Mother Earth Now. Thank God for today is Friday.”

Analysis: COP27 Fossil Fuel Lobbyists Criticized as Africa Energy Debate Simmers

Submitted by Friday Barilule Nbani
Niger Delta, Nigeria

By Megan Rowling
Thomson Reuters Foundation
November 10, 2022

Summary

- NGOs say fossil fuels fail to benefit poor Africans.
- Data shows rise in fossil fuel representatives at COP27.
- More green funds could spur African nations to change tack.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt – African activists have called at the U.N. COP27 climate summit in Egypt for an end to expansion of fossil fuels on the continent, highlighting that the industry has left a large share of people still without electricity and mired in poverty.

Nigerian climate campaigner **Friday Barilule Nbani** – who is attending the

talks for the first time – said his community in the Niger Delta wanted no more fossil fuel projects, which have left a litany of toxic oil spills and tainted water.

Nbani’s appeal came on the anniversary of the death of his uncle, the writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was one of nine men hanged in 1995 – after a flawed trial – for protesting against oil giant Shell’s exploitation of the Niger Delta.

“The polluters in Nigeria should get out from this COP,” Nbani, of environmental group GreenFaith Nigeria, said in an interview after a protest at the conference centre that called for fossil fuel firms to be excluded from U.N. climate summits.

“They are destroying the environment – and anything that destroys the environment destroys life, and we are dying in masses.”

“They are the ones delaying (climate) action. They have their own agenda,”

he said, calling for the talks to unlock finance urgently for climate-vulnerable countries such as Nigeria, which has been hit hard by flooding in recent weeks.

“What we want is action now.”

At the small demonstration, led by activists from Africa and Asia, about 50 protesters held up a red banner emblazoned with the words “Kick Big Polluters Out,” and chanted “Polluters out; people in.”

Climate campaigners have pitched themselves at the talks against African governments that believe they should be allowed to use more gas – the least-polluting fossil fuel – to develop their economies and provide power to 600 million Africans who lack access to electricity, at least through this decade.

LOBBYISTS ON THE RISE

The demonstration coincided with new research released by human rights groups
Friday continued on next page

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showing that 636 fossil fuel lobbyists are registered to the COP27 climate talks, affiliated with some of the world's biggest oil and gas firms – both public and private.

The analysis of the United Nations' provisional list of named attendees, by Corporate Accountability, Corporate Europe Observatory and Global Witness, said the number – out of a total of about 42,400 registered government and civil society delegates – was an increase of more than 25% from COP26.

The groups said 29 countries have fossil fuel representatives among their national delegations at the talks, with the United Arab Emirates – the host of next year's COP – bringing the most at 70, followed by Russia with 33.

The African nations with fossil fuel or electricity industry executives on their government teams at COP27 include Angola, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda.

Others come with industry associations and advocacy groups.

"There's been a lot of lip service paid to this being the so-called African COP, but how are you going to address the dire climate impacts on the continent, when the fossil fuel delegation is larger than that of any African country?" said Philip Jakpor of Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa.

Wael Aboulmagd, Egyptian ambassador and special representative of the COP27 president, told journalists he did not have figures to show how many fossil fuel lobbyists are at COP27.

But, he added, corporate representatives of high-emitting sectors such as cement and steel will speak at "Decarbonization Day" on Friday, taking place alongside the formal negotiations.

"This is where we want to show best practices," he said, noting that participating companies must be able to demonstrate what they have achieved to cut emissions up to now, and how they will meet pledges in the future.

"The context isn't going to be to allow anyone to come and pretend they are doing something," Aboulmagd added.

There is growing pressure on the organisers of the U.N. talks not to allow fossil fuel executives and their supporters to attend the climate summits, with more than 450 organisations having signed up to a call to bar them from the **conferences**.

They are demanding that the U.N. climate secretariat and COP host nations,



Photo: Megan Rowling

Friday Barilule Nbani (orange pants), a Nigerian activist with local environmental group GreenFaith, attends a demonstration at the COP27 climate summit in Egypt calling for "no more fossil fuels."

which change annually, protect the integrity of the negotiations by defining clear conflict of interest policies.

They said the proposal has the backing of governments that collectively represent almost 70% of the world's population.

FOSSIL FUEL CASH

The push comes as oil and gas companies rake in huge profits from soaring energy prices driven by disruptions to supplies as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Tzeporah Berman, chair of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty – which is calling for a new global pact to stop further expansion of the industry – said wealthy countries such as the United States should act first to rein in their rising domestic production of climate-heating fuels.

She said the U.N. talks could contribute to a phasing down of fossil fuels by committing to it in officials texts.

Last year, governments in the Glasgow Climate Pact agreed for the first time to "phase down" unabated coal, which is where technology is not used to capture carbon emissions.

At COP27, there is discussion around whether that scope could be extended to include oil and gas.

But forging agreement could be tricky given the influence of fossil fuel producers on the talks, Berman added.

"These are the incumbents that stand to benefit most from us having little progress here," she said. "They are not going to design their own demise. It's like saying we're going to invite the drug dealers in to figure out how we can stop heroin use."

The Egyptian government also has

publicly backed natural gas as a key way to provide energy security and tackle poverty, a stance echoed by some other African governments such as Nigeria and Senegal.

"What countries in the Global South want to know is 'where is the cash?' – and right now the only ones offering them the big cash are the fossil fuel companies," noted Berman.

African activists at COP27 also highlighted the fossil fuel threat to their continents' forests on Thursday.

The area of land allocated to oil and gas production on the African continent is set to quadruple, according to a new analysis by Rainforest Foundation UK and Earth InSight.

Oil and gas exploration blocks overlap 30% of dense tropical forests in Africa, of which 90% are in the Congo Basin, where 150 distinct ethnic groups live, it said.

"We must not let a chaotic expansion of fossil fuels in the Congo Basin risk our precious tropical forests, biodiversity hotspots ... and the rights and livelihoods of forest communities who are already feeling the impacts of climate change," said François Biloko, head of Réseau CREF, an environmental network in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Both he and Nigerian activists said the future for their countries and communities lay instead with clean energy like solar.

"We need renewable energy - it is a friend to humans and the environment," said Nbani from the Niger Delta.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/cop27-fossil-fuel-lobbyists-criticised-africa-energy-debate-simmers-2022-11-10/>



Photo: Crystal Mirallegro/Pixabay

The launch of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), which aims to unite action by governments, businesses, and community leaders.

COP27: Leaders Boost Sustainable Forest Management

UN Climate Change News: November 14, 2022

Important progress on sustainable forest management and conservation has been made at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh with the launch of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), which aims to unite action by governments, businesses, and community leaders.

The Partnership aims to boost action to implement a commitment made by over 140 countries at COP26 in Glasgow last year to halt forest loss and land degradation by 2030 and to convert ambition into results on the ground.

A key report published this year by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – the State of the World's Forests Report 2022 – highlights the need to step up action to unlock the potential of forests in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.

Only by stepping up efforts to reduce deforestation and implementing other mitigation activities in the forest sector can the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels be reached.

Twenty-seven countries, representing over 60% of global GDP and 33% of the world's forests, have already joined the new partnership and are committed to leading by example on one or more of the FCLP's action areas.

These include mobilizing public and

donor finance to support implementation, supporting Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' initiatives, and incentivizing the conservation of high-integrity forests.

"This alliance is an opportunity to implement solutions that reduce deforestation, that increase forest restoration, and strengthen the livelihoods of people living in forest areas," said Gustavo Manrique Miranda, Minister of the Environment and Water, Ecuador.

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on behalf of the European Union, said: *"Only with healthy forests can we deliver on our shared climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. And only with intact, lively forests can we address biodiversity."*

Ensuring Accountability

Government representatives meeting at COP27 announced that of the \$12 billion committed in Glasgow to protect and restore forests over 2021-2025, \$2.67 billion have already been spent and that public and private donors have committed a further \$4.5 billion since COP26.

To ensure accountability, the FCLP will hold annual meetings and publish an annual Global Progress Report that includes independent assessments of global progress toward the 2030 goal, and progress made by the FCLP itself.

A New Momentum for REDD+

Meanwhile, developing countries are taking ongoing concrete actions to protect forests under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism.

REDD+ provides a holistic framework for forest climate action, including by providing results-based payments for emission reductions achieved in the forestry sector. The renewed political and financial commitment towards forest climate action shown at COP27 is creating a new momentum for REDD+.

The framework for measuring, reporting, and verifying forest-related emissions under UN Climate Change, included in the Paris Agreement, serves as a guide for all mitigation action in the forestry sector, independently of the source of results-based finance.

Around 60 developing countries are already implementing REDD+ activities under UN Climate Change, resulting in over nine gigatons of verified emission reductions.

Read more about REDD+ activities under UN Climate Change in a new infographic at https://redd.unfccc.int/files/redd_infographic.pdf and access information on REDD+ payments at the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub at <https://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html>.

Source: <https://unfccc.int/news/cop27-leaders-boost-sustainable-forest-management>

'Another Terrible Failure': COP27 Ends With No Action to Cut Off Climate-Wrecking Fossil Fuels

By Kenny Stancil, excerpt
Common Dreams: November 21, 2022

Despite mountains of iron-clad evidence that extracting and burning more coal, oil, and gas will exacerbate deadly planetary heating, negotiators at the United Nations COP27 climate conference failed yet again to directly confront the fossil fuel industry whose insatiable quest for profits is putting the future of humanity in jeopardy.

"In a critical year, this COP made no progress towards the just and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change," Oil Change International executive director Elizabeth Bast said Sunday in a statement. "Despite important progress on the establishment of a loss and damage fund, the final outcome reiterated unambitious language on fossil fuels that will lead to catastrophic consequences."

In what climate justice advocates called a major breakthrough, the United States on Saturday dropped its opposition to the establishment of a loss and damage fund that aims to compensate low-income nations for the devastating effects of global warming. Through no fault of their own, the world's poorest people are most vulnerable to the deadly impacts of increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather caused primarily by wealthy polluters. A committee of 24 countries has one year to hammer out details, including which governments will contribute to the fund and which will benefit from it.

However, "COP27's key steps toward a loss and damage fund are deeply marred by the lack of progress on fossil fuels," said Collin Rees, U.S. campaign manager for Oil Change International. "Despite unprecedented discussion of equitably phasing out oil, gas, and coal, the end result was yet another COP without formal recognition that Big Oil is driving the climate crisis and harming communities."

"The failure of leaders at COP27 to commit to an unqualified phase-out of oil, gas, and coal not only pushes 1.5°C further out of reach, it also undermines progress on loss and damage," Nikki Reisch, director of climate and energy at the Center for International Environmental Law, wrote on social media. "The plain truth is that more fossil fuels equals more loss and damage. Remedy requires cessation of the harm."

"In settling for a copy-paste of the Glasgow Pact's incomplete and loophole-ridden language on a 'phasedown of unabated coal power' and 'phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies,'" Reisch continued, "governments at COP27 took a giant step backward."

This critical assessment was shared by many observers.

"If all fossil fuels are not rapidly phased out, no amount of money will be able to cover the cost of the resulting loss and damage," said Yeb Saño, executive director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia. "When your bathtub is overflowing you turn off the taps, you don't wait awhile and then go out and buy a bigger mop."

Ahead of the COP27 summit, the U.N. found that Earth is on currently track to be up to 2.9°C hotter than the preindustrial average by century's end. Existing emissions reductions targets and policies are so weak, the body warned, that there is "no credible path to 1.5°C in place," and only "urgent system-wide transformation" can prevent the world from crossing dangerous tipping points that will lead to the most cataclysmic outcomes.

Temperature rise of roughly 1.2°C to date has already unleashed chaos around the world, including calamitous flooding in Nigeria and Pakistan, along with several other disasters in various places this year.

Despite the worsening nature of the fossil fuel-driven climate emergency, hundreds of corporations are planning to expand dirty energy production in the coming years, including several proposed drilling projects

and pipelines in Africa. To make matters worse, delegates at COP27 – where more than 630 fossil fuel industry representatives made their presence felt – refused to endorse a complete phase-out of coal, oil, and gas.

"I don't in any way want to diss the great success by poorer nations in achieving a loss and damage agreement," environmental journalist George Monbiot tweeted Sunday, though he predicted that "rich nations will break their promises to pay," as they have when it comes to providing \$100 billion each year to fund climate action in the Global South. "There was no progress on stopping climate breakdown. COP27 is another terrible failure."

"Whenever an agreement is reached at one of these meetings, people celebrate, largely with relief at having got to the end," Monbiot added. "It's only afterwards that we begin to ask, 'What exactly has been achieved?' If it's anything other than decisive action, the answer is not much."

David Tong, global industry campaign manager at Oil Change International, said that "some people turned up to negotiate for their futures, but oil and gas lobbyists turned up to negotiate for their wallets."

"The reality is that the only way to safely limit warming to 1.5°C is to equitably phase out oil, gas, and coal," said Tong. "Instead, we are at risk of a major surge of new oil and gas production."

Tong noted that "new fields and shale wells approved from 2022-2025 could result in 70 gigatonnes of additional climate pollution – and every single ton of that would take us further beyond 1.5°C because burning just the oil and gas in already existing fields would exhaust our carbon budget for a 50% chance at 1.5°C..."

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/11/21/another-terrible-failure-cop27-ends-no-action-cut-climate-wrecking-fossil-fuels>

Explosion' in Number of Fossil Fuel Lobbyists at Cop27 Climate Summit

By Ruth Michaelson, excerpt
The Guardian: November 10, 2022

There are more than 600 fossil fuel lobbyists at the Cop27 climate conference, a rise of more than 25% from last year and outnumbering any one frontline community affected by the climate crisis.

There are 636 lobbyists from the oil and gas industries registered to attend the UN event in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. At Glasgow, the figure was 503, which outnumbered

the delegation of any single country. This year the only country with a larger delegation is the United Arab Emirates, hosts of Cop28 next year, which has 1,070 registered delegates, up from 176 last year.

At Cop27, "the influence of fossil fuel lobbyists is greater than frontline countries and communities. Delegations from African countries and Indigenous communities are dwarfed by representatives of corporate interests," said the group Kick Big Polluters out,

which campaigns against the influence of fossil fuel lobbyists at the climate negotiations.

The data on lobbyists, compiled by the organizations Corporate Accountability, Global Witness and Corporate Europe Observatory, shows the growing influence of oil and gas interests at the climate talks. . . .

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/10/big-rise-in-number-of-fossil-fuel-lobbyists-at-cop27-climate-summit>



Photo: Courtesy BILM

More than 50 indigenous and Afro-descendant representatives of the Black and Indigenous Liberation Movement (BILM) call on the States of the Americas to address climate change from a differentiated, non-discriminatory justice perspective that addresses historical reparations for the impacts of colonialism.

Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Leaders Demand Climate and Racial Justice

DGR News Service: October 31, 2022

DGR Editor's Note: *Climate change does not impact everyone equally. It has been clear that people of color (among other groups) are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Indigenous people's way of life is closely interlinked with nature. Any disruption in the natural cycles brought about by climate change directly impacts their lives. Similarly, people of African origins have been marginalized in the Americas for centuries. The impacts of which are the current sociopolitical and economic marginalization of Afro-descendants. Any crisis brought by climate change impacts them before the European-descendants.*

October 11, 2022, Quito, Ecuador. On the 30th anniversary of the first continental meeting of indigenous peoples in commemoration of 500 years of resistance,

more than 50 indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders from 22 countries of the Americas met in Quito, Ecuador to discuss historical claims, racial and climate justice, mutual solidarity, the role of Afro-descendant and indigenous movements in social change, new tendencies in political claims, and the role of the peoples in international advocacy spaces.

In the context of this meeting, the leaders are making a strong international call demanding that negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Summit (COP27) be approached from a climate and racial justice perspective. COP27 took place from November 6-18 in Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt under the theme "Together for Implementation," which implies a new opportunity to move forward with the global implementation of the Paris Agreement.

During the COP27, parties discussed climate finance, carbon markets, loss and damage, new proposals for climate change

adaptation and mitigation, and the Glasgow Compact, among others. However, indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders from across the continent, gathered in Quito, expect the promotion of people-centered, multi-sectoral initiatives and projects that guarantee full compliance with their rights and are backed by measurable and verifiable scientific results. But above all, they demand climate justice based on the recognition of their role in the protection of nature and historical reparations for the damage caused by extractivism to their territories and communities.

"This new global climate summit must focus on climate and racial justice; it must focus on repairing the damage caused to indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. We are not the cause of climate change, but we are the ones who suffer its direst impacts," said Leo Cerda, founding member of BILM.

According to a report published by Ox-Indigenous and Afro continued on next page

Indigenous and Afro *continued from previous page*

fam and the Stockholm Environment Institute in 2020, the richest 1% of the world's population caused twice as much carbon emissions as the poorest 50% over 25 years (1990 – 2015), yet the latter are more affected by the impacts of this phenomenon.

Climate justice considers that climate change has social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. For this reason, those who demand it strive to address these phenomena from different perspectives that do not place climate change only as an environmental problem. Justice begins with the recognition that people are affected differently by the harmful effects of global warming.

Furthermore, climate justice seeks to develop solutions that address the structural causes of climate change because doing so would simultaneously resolve a wide range of social, racial, and environmental injustices. Undertaking justice-based solutions involves thinking about a structural transition, a shift from fossil fuel-based economies to equitable and regenerative systems based on renewable energy and social, racial, and environmental justice; this in turn connects the climate crisis to the social, racial, and environmental problems in which it is deeply intertwined, and which especially affect indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. An important demand of the climate justice movements and of the BILM is to promote indigenous and Afro-descendant climate action, as these communities depend on ecosystems for their lives, livelihoods, and culture, and their survival is deeply intertwined with the land and its resources.

“The promises of COP26 are still there; not much progress has been made in the implementation of the global agreements. We ask that climate finance goes directly to indigenous peoples, we can manage the funds according to our realities, our necessities, and proposals that for millennia have saved humanity. The States plan without consulting the indigenous peoples, but we are trying to resolve this in open dialogue with the governments,” says Gregorio Mirabal, General Coordinator of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin.

The Andes, the Amazon, the coastal areas of Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as some areas of the United States and Canada, are territories that are highly vulnerable to the climate crisis. For this reason, BILM representatives emphasize the need for climate negotiations to go hand in hand with science and to take into account the proposals of the most affected countries



Poster: Climate Connections Initiative, Yale Center of Environmental Communication and Yale School of Environment

(above black print) Climate justice recognizes that climate change can have various impacts depending on the different social, economic, and racial hierarchies. In order to think about climate justice, the following principles that (sic) must be taken into account.

and areas and to do justice to them. At the same time, they call for action to be taken against racial discrimination, which is also reflected in extractive projects and climate change mitigation or adaptation measures undertaken by the States.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) addresses the socio-economic drivers of climate vulnerability and mentions for the first time colonialism as a source of the climate crisis. According to this report, vulnerability depends on factors such as poverty, inequality, lack of access to basic services, and lack of security, and many of these situations are a historical legacy caused by the different forms of colonialism and interventionism perpetrated by European countries and the United States.

“Climate change is destroying the world, but it does not affect us all in the same way; there are also different tools to deal with it, and here too deep inequalities take place. This is precisely what drives our demand, not only in our region but also globally, the world's indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant peoples, the poorest and most invisible groups are asking for climate justice,” said Leonidas Iza.

Tropical forests are affected by land use

change, particularly deforestation, the increase in fires, forest degradation, and the long-term loss of forest structure. The combined effect of these impacts will lead to a long-term decline of carbon stocks in the forest biomass, compromising the role of the Amazon as a carbon sink.

The region's oceanic and coastal ecosystems will be highly impacted by climate change. The Atlantic coastal strip is where the most pronounced trend of sea level rise is observed. IPCC scientists project that coral reefs will lose their habitat and experience severe bleaching episodes every year. In addition, many marine species will migrate and leave their usual habitats.

“The impacts of climate change are experienced every day around the world, but the most marginalized communities, who are the least responsible for the climate crisis, face the most severe consequences,” explained Darío Solano, Dominican Network for Studies and Afro-descendant Empowerment (Redafro), Negreta Foundation, and member of BILM.

Afro-descendant communities are also highly exposed to natural disasters and the negative effects of climate change and environmental disasters caused by extractive industries. This goes hand in hand with discriminatory practices and necropolitics. For example, Afro-descendant populations

Indigenous and Afro *continued on next page*

Indigenous and Afro *continued from previous page*

in the United States, especially those of low income and living in marginalized areas of the country, suffer the consequences of a discriminatory policy that includes the violation of their rights in environmental matters as well.

Drilling and operating oil and gas wells in residential neighborhoods exposes residents to air and water pollution, noise, and other sources of stress that can increase the risk of many types of diseases. An estimated 17 million U.S. residents live within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of at least one active oil or gas well, which means there is widespread risk of exposure to air pollutants, hazardous chemicals, and other stressors.

According to the University of California Climate Justice Center, in refineries located in the California Bay Area Oil Corridor, low-income and non-white communities are most affected by the presence of the petrochemical industry. Emissions from these facilities degrade air quality in this region and expose residents to increased risk of cancer, heart disease, respiratory problems such as asthma, and other conditions.

In the United States, the practice known as redlining (housing discrimination that reduces job opportunities and prompts poverty in communities considered undesirable, i.e., non-white and immigrant) was banned more than half a century ago, but it continues to affect people living in discriminated neighborhoods.

According to the study 'Historical Red Line and the Siting of Oil and Gas Wells in the United States', conducted by scientists at the University of California and Columbia University and published this year in the journal *Nature*, African-American communities are disproportionately exposed to pollution and poor health outcomes resulting from hydrocarbon activities.

Another report published in *Environmental Science and Technology Letters* notes that compared to whites, African Americans and Latin Americans live with more smog and fine particles from cars, trucks, buses, coal plants, and other industrial sources nearby in areas that have been redlined. Those pollutants inflame human airways, reduce lung function, trigger asthma attacks, and can damage the heart and cause strokes.

"Climate change is the most immediate threat to the world's marginalized people. It is cross-cutting, intersectional, and intergenerational, and it has effects that range from economic to health problems. It is also a social issue because it affects people's development," said Gema Tabares, representative of the Mexican organization Afrocaracolas,

a member of the BILM.

The role played by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples in caring for forests and adapting to the climate crisis based on their ancestral knowledge has also been illustrated in different studies; however, very few of their experiences are included and implemented in the climate public policies of their countries. Afro-descendant communities also have an essential potential to contribute to the mitigation of global warming, highlighted the leaders in Quito.

During COP26, held last year in Glasgow, world leaders committed to a path that would keep global temperature rise below 1.5 °C (2.7 °F) above pre-industrial levels. But at the current rate of emissions, some scientists say we are close to a path that will lead to a 3 °C (5.4 °F) increase by the end of this century. That would lead to a 10-fold risk of extinction for biodiversity, and could eliminate many of the adaptation possibilities still open to humanity today.

"Climate change is a war of the rich against the poor. Climate justice means an end to colonialism, patriarchy, racism and extractivism. Ending racism is a task that involves the whole of society and government policies must go beyond the usual script. Fighting racism and discrimination is a central aspect of building more just, democratic, and egalitarian societies," said Mike Bento, a member of the U.S.-based organization NYC Shut it Down.

About BILM

The Black and Indigenous Liberation Movement (BILM) is a coalition of grassroots organizations that, in solidarity with frontline communities and other allies, support anti-colonial struggles in 12 countries of Abya-Yala, also called America, from Canada to Argentina. While social and political divisions proliferate, BILM stands as a union of like-minded organizations, aware of the urgent need to join forces and establish common lines of action among the different groups struggling against the ravages of racial capitalism.

On the 30th anniversary of the First Continental Meeting of Indigenous Peoples held in Quito in 1990, in commemoration of 500 years of popular and indigenous resistance and in which representatives from 17 countries of the region participated, the BILM calls indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders from all over the continent to the First Meeting for the Liberation of Black and Indigenous Peoples against Exclusion, Discrimination and the Defense of Territories.

About Leo Cerda

Leo Cerda is from the Kichwa community of Serena in the Ecuadorian Amazon. He is a climate activist and indigenous rights defender. His work focuses on the intersectionality of

BLACK AND INDIGENOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENT

WE FIGHT FOR OUR ELDERS, WE CONFRONT THE PANDEMIC AND THE NEGLIGENT GOVERNMENTS, OPERATING UNDER THE SAME GENOCIDAL LOGIC OF RACIAL CAPITALISM THAT BEGAN 530 YEARS AGO. THE TIME HAS COME. WE MUST UNITE OUR PEOPLES IN ONE BLACK AND INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT. THIS IS A TIME FOR MUTUAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST RACIAL CAPITALISM, THE PRISON STATE, EXTRACTIVISM, PATRIARCHY AND MASS MIGRATION.

[HTTPS://WWW.BLACKINDIGENOUSLIBERATION.COM/EN/NUUESTRA-LUCHA](https://www.blackindigenouliberation.com/en/nuestra-lucha)

racial and climate justice.

In 2020, Leo founded the Black Indigenous Liberation Movement (BILM) as a way to respond, establish dialogue, and ask for accountability for the black, indigenous, and people of color, whose lives have been lost to hate crimes and racial violence across the continent. BILM is now a hemispheric initiative bringing together a coalition of black and indigenous communities, grassroots organizations and social movements supporting anti-racist and anti-colonial struggles.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance-culture/indigenous/indigenous-and-afro-descendant-leaders-demand-for-climate-and-racial-justice-press-release/>



Photo: UNICEF Nigeria

Together, we are fighting for a safe planet in a rapidly changing environment.

Oladosu Adenike Titilope Started Nigerian Group: I Lead Climate

UNICEF: January 2021

Did you know that climate change issues often disproportionately affect women and girls? Globally, 80% of those displaced because of climate-induced factors are female. Whilst this is a worldwide problem, areas such as Lake Chad, which is surrounded by Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, is the only source of income and security for vast numbers of women. With the lake having shrunk by 90% as a result of climate change, many dependent locals are at risk of extreme poverty, violence, and displacement.

Through the power of activism and education, people like Oladosu Adenike are stepping up to raise awareness and encourage urgent action. As the founder of I Lead Climate, Adenike shares more insight into the work of her campaign, the critical importance of preserving Lake Chad, and the difference her activism is making for others.

By Oladosu Adenike

I am Oladosu Adenike Titilope from Nigeria: An Eco-Feminist, climate justice activist, and eco-reporter. I am passionate about encouraging youth involvement in climate action through climate education

and raising awareness on the importance of women's environmental rights. I am the founder of I Lead Climate, a youth-led movement raising awareness about climate change induced problems in conflict zones and African societies for disarmament. Together, we are fighting for a safe planet in a rapidly changing environment.

I Lead Climate – what we do and where it all started

I Lead Climate is a pan-African movement that carries out grassroots-based climate action. My motivation to start I Lead Climate came from witnessing the farmer-herdsmen clashes during my undergraduate studies. These clashes were triggered by the depletion of natural resources and an ensuing fight for survival between farmers and herdsman. The clashes disrupted my education leaving me feeling left behind, but more importantly opened my eyes to the wide-reaching effects of climate change.

Through this experience I was inspired to seek a lasting solution to the climate crisis, and I knew the first meaningful step was to educate others on the problem. I set about educating students in schools, at social gatherings, and in religious and public places, and expanding my own understanding of the problems that exist.

What I learnt shocked me, and I knew I needed to do something. I learnt that environmental instability has very specific, and surprising implications for women and girls. This was most apparent to me when I was investigating the impact of the shrinking Lake Chad. I learnt of two different occasions where girls were kidnapped from their schools by terrorists in Borno and Yobe state in north-eastern Nigeria due to border insecurity caused by the shrinking lake. I learnt of women and girls working with the land around Lake Chad who were unable to keep their livelihoods going.

Lake Chad borders Nigeria, Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. It has now shrunk by 90%, and as it underpins the livelihoods of many people, this shrinkage is now leading to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Across the four countries, over 2.4 million have been forced to flee their homes, whilst millions are also in need of food, water, shelter, and access to healthcare.

This shrinkage has left our borders susceptible to insecurity emergencies, and this shows the impact of environmental instabilities on women and girls. Everyone is vulnerable to climate change; it has no identity or alliance. However, due to the close nature of women and girls to their

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Photo: UNICEF Nigeria

Through I Lead Climate, Adenike mobilizes and educates local people in grassroots climate action.

environment within my local community, and the ways in which women rely on it for income, security, and safety, we are hugely affected by the climate change crisis.

Many women in the area run small-scale agricultural businesses for income and are also responsible for their household water supply, energy for cooking and heating, and ensuring food security. Here, the loss of people's livelihoods is one of the greatest weapons against peace and security. It was witnessing this negative impact that made me an Eco-Feminist.

In order to reverse this increasing crisis, I Lead Climate launched #ActOnLakeChad. #ActOnLakeChad is a campaign that inspires action through the curating and sharing of articles and videos, which showcase the need for the lake's restoration for sustainable development and regional stability. We distribute these assets both digitally to reach a wider audience, and in person to engage communities that are directly affected.

So far, I have been able to mobilize and educate more than 15,000 people in grassroots climate action in different parts of the state. Locally, we have focused on visiting two communities – but in particular the Checheyi community in Kwail Area Council, Abuja. We want to create a lasting, meaningful impact on the lives of lo-

cal people through the work that we do, rather than visiting somewhere once and hoping change will happen, we have revisited this area multiple times to actively be a part of I Lead Climate's advocacy.

Many communities are shrouded in superstition and have a negative attitude towards change, so we start by paying an initial courtesy visit to the head of the community to seek permission to advocate in the area. This enables us to gain trust from the local people and go around the community without being armed. After that, we continue to engage locals through education and awareness drives.

The work of I Lead Climate has positively influenced the actions of many local people. I am receiving more and more questions at gatherings, which really shows how the engagement and interest has grown. People often ask about how farms can be more eco-efficient, and I am able to suggest sustainable alternatives: for example, replanting reusable waste rather than burning (as is the norm) will help the soil get richer in nutrients and avoid killing essential microbes. Changes like this mean that we are reducing emissions that would have been trapped in the atmosphere. The head of community has also expressed that there has been a significant reduction in the cutting down of trees, due

to the knowledge the Checheyi community now has on climate change.

In most of my interactions with people from global north and western countries, there has been limited awareness about the shrinking Lake Chad and the threats this poses to our national security, and it's more crucial than ever that we rally support from across the globe. This is why our digital element of the campaign is so important.

At I Lead Climate, we are optimistic that the changes we are fighting for will become a reality. From this, we hope that every one of us can feel empowered to be united behind the science for the people and the planet.

Preparation, Persistence, Perseverance

So far, I have exposed the issue of climate change to thousands of people and have worked to get many more involved in the climate justice movement – both physically and through information-sharing. We are building a movement of young people through the teaching of environmental sustainability in a bid to encourage the next generation of climate activists. I believe that if people are educated from a young age, it becomes part of them.

Challenges are inevitable, especially when you are working for the good of

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society. Sometimes, it takes time to earn people's trust and involvement, so we have to go further in convincing them to be united for climate justice. It is not as easy as it sounds. I have to go the extra mile to pull together the necessary materials; I self-fund my work to achieve my weekly actions of reaching out to more people and encouraging them to join the fight for a safe planet. It's hard work, but the end goal keeps me going: to liberate millions of people out of the climate crisis, both currently and in the future.

In all we do, we must prepare against failure. These words remind me of the disappointment I felt when a funding stream didn't come to fruition. It was demoralizing, but we were able to switch to plan B, which included self-funding to get it done. Through ambition and dedication, we can overcome failures when they come our way. The future is bright, but we must back it up with action. Despite all the hurdles we face, I Lead Climate is not settling, because we have set our goals and we are ambitious about our actions.

Through I Lead Climate, Adenike mobilizes and educates local people in grassroots climate action.

Leadership is Key

It has never been more vital that climate governance is achieved through leadership at various levels; this approach is fundamental towards achieving our outcomes. To me, leadership is defined by daily achievements that ladder up to enable us to attain our goals, because every day has its own target to be met. When there is a lack of leadership in solving the defining issues of our time, then every day becomes a part of those defining issues. So, when there is leadership, our rights become 'right.'

Here are my top three pieces of advice to young leaders who are working to drive positive change:

1. Be goal oriented: I believe that this is one of the qualities needed for growth and will help define your leadership pathway. It will also serve as a guide when you find yourself off-track, and will always help you find your way again.



Photo: UNICEF Nigeria/Oladosu Adenike

Extreme flooding in Nigeria as a result of climate change.

2. Be focused: Sometimes you can have the goal in mind but find yourself distracted; staying focused keeps the goal intact. Also, without having constant focus, you will lose track of your goals.

3. Build relationships: One of your greatest assets is the people that surround you. They can either make or mar your ways. Build a strong relationship with people who can inspire you, and mentor your steps for continuous engagement until your demands come into reality.

About Adenike

I am a first-class graduate of Agricultural Economics from the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi and the founder of ILeadClimate. During my one year of voluntary service to my country as a National Youth Service Corps member, I emerged as the Vice President of my Community Development Service group, which worked on supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. This was the largest Community Development Service group in the area. As Vice President, I led my team members through several community projects in a bid to actualize our global goals. Through this, I have furthered my climate change actions by bringing ILeadClimate into the limelight.

In 2019, in recognition of my fight for

climate justice, my actions earned me the highest human rights award from Amnesty International as Ambassador of Conscience in Nigeria. That same year, I was selected as one of thousands of young people to attend the first UN youth climate summit. I also attended COP25 as a Nigerian youth delegate on climate finance, where I spoke at a continental press conference as an African youth representative. Thereafter, I have been invited to attend several conferences including events by the World Economic Forum, and more recently, the United Nations Youth Climate Summit in New York (virtually). To date, I have given 20+ talks across Nigeria and beyond, and plan to continue to deliver even more.

Follow Adenike as she advocates for climate justice on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/an_ecofeminist/), Twitter (https://twitter.com/the_ecofeminist), and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/oladosu.adenike.3>). You can also read her blog on the importance of climate change awareness at <https://www.womenandcrisis.com/>.

Source: <https://www.queenscommonwealthtrust.org/inspiration/oladosu-adenike-i-lead-climate-nigeria-lake-chad/>

**AS WE BUILD BRIDGES AND EVEN BECOME BRIDGES,
WE WILL BE DOING A SERVICE TO THE WORLD.**

~ John A. Powell ~

<https://twitter.com/proffjohnapowell/status/1568658818371911680>

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 152-153.*]

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.

If culture is a set of stories we collectively tell, the stories have now been reduced to the sound bites of profit, offered up in a tantalizing, addictive flash that barricades access to our selves, if not our souls. Writes Maggie Jackson, “The way we live is eroding our capacity for deep, sustained, perceptive attention – the building blocks of intimacy, wisdom, and cultural progress.”⁷⁹

For the young, those barricades may be permanent. Children need to experience bonding or they will end up with personality disorders as narcissists, borderlines, and sociopaths. They must learn basic values like compassion, generosity, and duty to become functioning members of society. They must have brains that can learn, contemplate, and question in order to have both a rich internal life and to have something to offer as participants in a democracy. For the developing child, bonding, values, and expectations create neurologic patterns that last a lifetime. Their absence leaves voids that can never be filled. The brain gets one opportunity to build itself, and only one.

The job of a parent is to socialize the young. Until recently, parents and children were nestled inside a larger social system with the same basic values taught at home. Now, parents are being told to “protect” their kids from the culture at large – a task

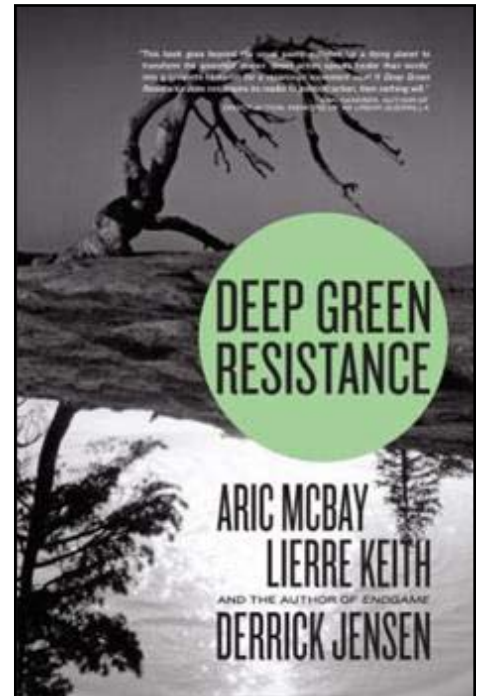
that cannot be done. Society is where we all live, unless you want to move to Antarctica. Even if you managed to keep the worst excesses of consumerist, violent, and misogynist elements out of your child's immediate environment, the child still has to leave the house. If the culture is so toxic that we can't entrust our children to it, we need to change the culture.

The values taught by the mass media encourage the worst in human beings. If people are objects, neither intimacy nor community are possible. If image is all we are, we will always need to be on display. Social invisibility is a kind of death to social creatures. We buy more and more, whether higher-status cars or lower-cut jeans, so that we can have a better shot at being noticed as the *objet du jour*. People surrounded by a culture of mass images experience themselves and the world as depersonalized, distant, and fractured. This is the psychological profile of PTSD. Add to that the sexual objectification and degradation of those images, and you have girls presenting with PTSD symptoms with no history of abuse.⁸⁰ The culture itself has become the perpetrator.

Yes, we can try to inoculate ourselves and our children against the mass media, both its messages and its processes. But why should anyone need to be protected from the culture in which they live? And what good are all your heartfelt conversations and empowering feminist fairy tales when your girl child is surrounded by people who are not fans of *Gaia Girls*, but *Girls Gone Wild*?

As Pat Murphy bravely writes, *Suggesting that media is in general harmful and should be eliminated (or a dramatic reduction in the time spent imbibing it) at first seems absurd. But it is no more absurd than suggesting the age of oil and other fossil fuels is over. Media, energy, and corporate control have evolved together. We need different concepts and new world views to transition away from fossil fuels and its infrastructure of corporations (including those of the media).*⁸¹

Again, the right does not have a mo-



nopoly on values. We can reject authoritarianism, conformity, social hierarchy, anti-intellectualism, and religious fundamentalism. We can defend equality, justice, compassion, intellectual engagement, civic responsibility, and even love against the corporate jihad. We have to.

Footnotes:

79. Jackson, Maggie. *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming Dark Age*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2008, p. 12.

80. American Psychological Association, “Report of the APA Task Force.”

81. Murphy, Pat. *Plan C: Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2008. p. 248.

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 CANNOT AFFORD TO BE SEPARATE. WE HAVE TO SEE THAT ALL OF US ARE IN THE SAME BOAT.

~ Dorothy Height ~

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/629109-we-cannot-afford-to-be-separate-we>



YOUTH MOVEMENT: SUNRISE'S 11 PRINCIPLES

1. We grow our power through organizing our communities.

We bring our neighbors, families, classmates, community leaders, and thousands of unorganized young people into our movement. Building a mass movement of ordinary people across race and class is the only way we transform society.

2. We are rooted in what we're fighting for.

We all have something to lose to the climate crisis and something to gain in coming together. We tell our stories about race, class, where we're from, and who we are to remind ourselves and the public of that truth. This is how we build a powerful movement.

3. We are all on a journey to become better organizers, leaders, and people.

Our opposition is powerful and disciplined: we need to be too. We take our own growth seriously by developing our craft as organizers and learning from our mistakes. We do this with compassion for ourselves and each other.

4. We rise to the challenge.

This moment in history requires us to take risks, embrace experimentation, and do things we never believed were possible. We choose hope over cynicism and action over fear – when we step into leadership, make hard decisions, or take to the streets.

5. We transform ourselves so our movement can win.

We are fighting to become the generation that turns the tide against racism and the institutions built upon it. We unlearn oppressive attitudes and fearlessly confront a status quo that divides us based on our skin color, the money in our pockets, where we live, who we love, and who we are. Getting there is a lifelong journey, and we prepare for it to be so.

6. We ask for help and give what we can.

Some of us give time, others give money, donate housing, or offer skills. When we are struggling, we reach out for support. We redistribute our resources to grow our community and enable more people to participate in the movement.

7. We respect each other and our shared home.

The only way we will win is with a movement of everyday people. We treat every person we meet with the respect that belief requires. To do that we have to build trusting relationships that let us hold each other accountable across rank, race, and other identities.

8. We are a united movement.

Every time we knock doors, take action, or talk about the Green New Deal, we know that there are thousands of other Sunrisers working alongside us. We ground our work locally, and throw down together at key moments to transform our whole country.

9. We oppose state violence with non-

violent action.

We live in a violent, militarized state that evicts, deports, incarcerates and brutalizes everyday people and then looks away as fires and floods destroy our homes. Those in power use this violence to keep us scared, disempowered, and divided along lines of race, class, and geography. We, as Sunrise, will not win by confronting their violence with violent actions. We combat their violence by boldly organizing our communities across race and class. This helps us protect ourselves and our communities as much as we can, bring the most people in, and build the power we need to win.

10. We are in solidarity with other movements for change.

Winning a Green New Deal is one step in the project of collective liberation. We learn from the legacy of movements that came before us, stand beside groups who share our values, and unite in key moments to shift the balance of power in our country.

11. We are full of determination, fire, and hope.

Though our times are often dark and difficult, we know that sinking into despair is not an option. We choose to believe in ourselves and our movements, and make space for light and love in our lives. Changing the world is a joyful and fulfilling process, and we let that show.

Source: <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/principles/>

'Finally, Some Justice': Fracking Company (Cabot Oil & Gas) to Pay Millions for Poisoning Town's Water

By Kenny Stancil

Common Dreams: November 30, 2022

Environmental justice advocates celebrated Tuesday when a fracking company accepted responsibility for poisoning drinking water supplies in Dimock, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 14 years after a well explosion on New Year's Day 2009 revealed to Dimock residents that methane had percolated into their groundwater, Cabot Oil & Gas pleaded no contest to 15 criminal charges, including nine felonies. The notorious driller, now owned by Coterra Energy, was featured in the 2010 HBO documentary "Gasland."

In addition to taking full responsibility for destroying the small rural town's drinking water supplies for the first time – following more than a decade of denial and alleged harassment of residents – the Houston-based company agreed to pay \$16.3 million to build new public water infrastructure and to cover the costs of delivering clean water to those who have been harmed for the next 75 years.

The historic settlement stems from charges that Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a Democrat and the commonwealth's governor-elect, filed in June 2020 based on recommendations issued at the conclusion of a two-year grand jury investigation into the fracking industry.

"Dimock residents have known for 14 years that Cabot Oil & Gas is guilty of contaminating our water," Dimock resident Ray Kemble said Tuesday in a statement. "Finally, some justice... This case proves once and for all that drilling and fracking contaminated our drinking water," said Kemble, one of many victims who traveled to Washington, D.C. in 2014 to personally deliver samples to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "Now we need immediate relief in the form of water deliveries."

Dimock residents were forced to go to the nation's capital due to regulatory inaction.

"There were failures at every level," Shapiro said after Tuesday's hearing. "The local elected officials where someone would normally go, ignored them. The regulators whose job it is to set the boundaries for industry to operate in, failed."

Food & Water Watch, a progressive advocacy group that has long supported anti-fracking struggles waged by the residents of Dimock and other communities, summarized those failures in a timeline

you can see at <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Dimock-Timeline-11.28.22.pdf>.

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, for instance, acknowledged in 2010 that Cabot's drilling activities had contaminated the drinking water of several Dimock households and ordered the company to stop fracking in part of the town. In August 2012, however, the agency allowed Cabot to resume fracking in the same area where it had previously been prohibited.

At the federal level, meanwhile, the EPA claimed in July 2012 that added filtration systems made the water in Dimock safe to drink and announced its plans to halt the testing it had begun earlier that year. The following summer, reporting showed that regional EPA staff wanted to continue their probe after tests found a link between fracking and methane contamination of drinking water.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ultimately confirmed the presence of harmful contaminants in Dimock's drinking water. In a 2016 report, the agency wrote that chemicals had been found in 44 private water wells "at levels high enough to affect health" or "pose a physical hazard." In addition, the agency warned that the presence of methane created "an immediate risk of explosion or fire" for five households.

Last summer, Physicians for Social Responsibility uncovered internal records revealing that since 2012, fossil fuel companies have injected potentially carcinogenic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or chemicals that can degrade into PFAS, into the ground while fracking for oil and gas – after the Obama administration approved their use despite EPA scientists' concerns about toxicity.

"Federal leaders must act to ensure that no American is subjected to continued poisoning, sickness, and harm from drilling and fracking."

"After more than a decade of glaring inaction from state and federal leaders, finally the people of Dimock have a measure of justice thanks to the work of Attorney General Shapiro," Food & Water Watch



Photo: bobscaping.com

Ray Kemble's water May 26, 2014.

executive director Wenonah Hauter said Tuesday.

However, she continued, "Countless other communities on the frontlines of fossil fuel extraction in Pennsylvania and elsewhere will continue to suffer from the inherent health and safety risks of fracking until our country fully transitions to a clean, safe, renewable energy future... Pennsylvania needs more action from Shapiro to rein in the oil and gas industry," said Hauter, "and federal leaders must act to ensure that no American is subjected to continued poisoning, sickness, and harm from drilling and fracking."

Roughly 17.3 million people in the United States live within a half-mile radius of active oil and gas production, according to the Oil & Gas Threat Map, a geospatial analysis released in May.

A massive body of research has documented the deadly consequences of fracking and other forms of fossil fuel extraction, including planet-heating and illness-inducing air pollution as well as drinking water contamination, which creates another pathway of exposure to cancer-linked chemicals.

Peer-reviewed studies published earlier this year found that kids living in close proximity to fracking and other so-called "unconventional" drilling operations at birth are two to three times more likely to develop childhood leukemia and that elderly individuals who live near or downwind of fracking sites are at higher risk of early death.

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/11/30/finally-some-justice-fracking-company-pay-millions-poisoning-towns-water>

Children's Climate Lawsuits Going to Highest European Court

Dear Friends,

We're writing to share exciting news: this morning (December 6, 2022), Our Children's Trust, alongside fellow global climate and human rights organizations like Oxfam and the Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria, provided the highest Court in Europe – **the European Court of Human Rights** – with the best available scientific evidence as the Court prepares to hear its first-ever climate cases.

The interventions we submitted today provide the Court's Grand Chamber – the highest chamber in the Court – with critical scientific evidence on the intersection between the climate crisis and violations of human rights as the Court prepares to hear its first three climate cases: *Verein Klima-Seniorinnen Schweiz and Others v. Switzerland*, *Duarte Agostinho and Others v. Portugal and Others*, and *Carême v. France*.

With your support, Our Children's Trust is working to ensure that courts around the world accurately weigh the devastating impacts of the climate crisis on human rights and children's rights – and rely on the best available science to do so!

What Do These Interventions Say?

The brief we submitted today with our global partners provides the European Court of Human Rights with crucial evidence of **the most rigorous scientific standards for how governments must measure their efforts to address the climate crisis**. The brief educates the Court on the unbending laws of physics and how **human rights law must be tied to that science** if we want to protect our children.

Specifically, the intervention brief we filed today explains how:

- The current level of planetary heating, ~1.1°C–1.3°C, is unsafe for individuals and communities around the globe, violating their human rights to life and to private and family life;
- The temperature targets set forth in the 2015 Paris Agreement aiming to limit global heating to 1.5°C–2.0°C above pre-industrial temperatures are wholly unprotective of human rights and are an inadequate measure of whether the world is successfully mitigating the climate crisis;
- The accurate and meaningful scientific standard for climate mitigation must be aimed at stabilizing the Earth Energy Imbalance by limiting the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm); and
- Pathways for governments to reduce atmospheric CO₂ to 350 ppm as soon as possible are currently available, feasible,



Photo: Adrian Grycuk/Wikipedia

European Court of Human Rights/Cour Européenne des droits de L'Homme. and beneficial to implement.

What Does It Mean to Be an Intervenor?

Our Children's Trust and our fellow intervenors requested permission from the European Court of Human Rights to submit briefs in these three cases because, while we are not a party in the lawsuits (meaning we are not the plaintiffs, the defendants, or attorneys for either group), the outcomes of these climate cases will have a profound impact on both the development of the law globally and the young people we support.

In short, we submitted these briefs because these three climate lawsuits – much like our own youth-led litigation in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and other countries around the world – **will have an impact on children everywhere**. And as the world's only law firm exclusively dedicated to representing young people who are being harmed by the climate crisis, we have a vested interest in ensuring that the European Court of Human Rights weighs and considers the best available scientific evidence as they decide these cases.

“It is critical that the Court rely on the expertise of climate scientists, rather than on political compromises such as the temperature targets specified in the Paris Agreement, as it considers the human rights violations of the climate crisis for the first time. The scientific evidence submitted through our interventions today will provide the Court with a solid evidential basis to find that a climate system capable of protecting human life, health, and well-being is fundamental to uphold the universal rights to life, privacy, family, and home promised by the European Convention on Human Rights,” said

Kelly Matheson, Deputy Director of Global Climate Litigation, Our Children's Trust.

It is an honor for Our Children's Trust to be granted Intervenor status to serve as an expert advisor to the European Court of Human Rights, providing it with the best available climate science and advising the Court on how this science is applicable to the law and vital to understand for the sake of our world's children.

The Court granted not just one of our requests (which we should note is not easy to secure and is frequently not granted!), but **all three**.

And when the Court's Grand Chamber holds hearings in these three climate lawsuits on March 29, 2023 in Strasbourg, France, we will be watching closely, knowing that the plaintiffs in these cases – and our own plaintiffs around the world – will benefit from the Court having had access to the best available science on how the climate crisis directly impacts and violates human rights.

Toward climate justice in Europe and the protection of human rights for all,
The Team at Our Children's Trust

Help youth secure the constitutional right to a safe climate. Your tax-deductible donation will be doubled by a matching challenge now underway, and supports young citizens as they hold their governments accountable in constitutional legal challenges around the globe, for continuing to accelerate the climate crisis. You can donate at <https://ourchildrenstrust.app.neoncrm.com/forms/giving>.

ON BEHALF OF ALL CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, WE THANK YOU!

Source: https://politicalemails.org/messages/899947/html_body#



Photo: iStock

The tiger shark above belongs to the requiem family. Up to 90% of sharks targeted by the lucrative fin trade will now be protected, said one advocate.

Historic Shark Protections Approved at Global Wildlife Convention

By Julia Conley
Common Dreams: November 25, 2022

Conservation advocates applauded Friday following a vote at the 19th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Panama, at which delegates from 183 countries and the European Union voted for sweeping protections for shark species.

The resolution will greatly reduce the fishing industry's ability to contribute to the shark fin trade. About \$500 million worth of fins are sold each year to produce shark fin soup – a delicacy popular in wealthy households in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan – with just over two pounds selling for \$1,000.

The 19th Conference of the Parties of CITES voted to protect 54 more shark species, including tiger, bull, and blue sharks – some of the most targeted species for the

fin trade. Six hammerhead shark species will also be protected.

The species will now be listed in the CITES Appendix II, barring trade unless it is tightly regulated and sustainable. The listing is for species that are not yet threatened with extinction but which could rapidly become more endangered without strong controls.

Louis Aguirre, a Florida-based journalist focused on environmental issues, hailed the “strongest protections ever for sharks.”

Shirley Binder, Panamanian delegate to the conference, told Agence France Presse that up to 90% of sharks in the fin market will now be protected.

“This landmark vote marks the culmination of a decade of shark conservation progress within CITES,” said Luke Warwick, director of shark and ray conservation for the Wildlife Conservation Society, in a statement. “Now, finally, the deeply unsustain-

able shark fin trade will be fully regulated.”

The vote signified that members of CITES “are beginning to grasp the scale of the challenge required to confront the crisis facing the natural world,” said Matthew Collis, deputy vice president for conservation at the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

“Over a million species are at risk of extinction if we do not change the way we treat wildlife,” said Collis. “Overexploitation of species, including through international trade, is a key contributing factor to the decline of many species.”

At the two-week summit, CITES member countries also voted for new protections for the guitarfish ray, glass frogs, crocodiles, and some turtle species.

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/11/25/amazing-news-historic-shark-protections-approved-global-wildlife-convention>

OUR MOTTO: USE IT UP, WEAR IT OUT, MAKE IT DO, OR DO WITHOUT!



Photo Courtesy Pacific Blue Line

Leaders from 30 Pacific Ocean island nations gather in Fiji for three days to collaborate and strategize on ways to stop deep sea mining.

Pacific Blue Line Maintains Call for Global Ban on Deep Sea Mining

Pacific Blue Line: December 7, 2022, *excerpt*

The Pacific Blue Line (PBL) regional founding members, Pacific regional organizations, national CSOs, environmental organizations, activists, scientists, and academics have echoed resounding rejection to maintain their strong position for a global ban on deep sea mining (DSM).

At the end of three-day strategy meeting at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour, Fiji, 30 strong passionate DSM advocates from Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Niue, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Kiribati, West Papua, Tonga, Solomon Islands, French Polynesia Maohi Nui, and Fiji including regional climate activists gathered face-to-face to take stock of the status of DSM and share reflections and lessons learnt on mobilizing towards a ban on DSM.

As the momentum towards a global ban on DSM continues from the PBL Collective – the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), Pacific Conference of Churches, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), World Wide Fund for Nature Pacific, and the Development Alternatives with Women for a new era – the three-day meeting was an opportunity for allies and partners to take a moment to reflect on its progress to strengthen its approach, to learn from other successes of the past on how to achieve a ban, and plan ahead for interventions to ensure they achieve their goal.

PIANGO Executive Director, Emeline Ilolahia, in her opening address, said DSM is often discussed by people that are not affected by the impact of deep sea mining,

who are not living in the communities to be faced with the impact. “The Ocean connects us, it is our common heritage and we have a role here today to make sure the voices of our people are heard,” Ilolahia said. “This work is far beyond our organizational work, but in the three days, we explored our position, we listened to the stories particularly when we don’t have resources and manpower to fight this huge interest from outside who want to come and explore our oceans without us, without our consent and our knowledge,” she added.

She challenged DSM advocates to challenge the status quo, open to uncomfortable discussions, be open and frank because they have real data, traditional knowledge which will pave the way forward.

“We have our own story, in our own context, that is your greatest assets, but we will need to transform these data into your national case studies,” said Maureen Penjueli, PANG Coordinator.

Penjueli said, “We have gone beyond our expected outcomes simply because of your generosity, because you are doing so many things and none of us here work on just DSM alone. Your generosity, stories, and sharing will force a lot of information to prepare us with the right tool needed for this campaign,” Penjueli added.

Pacific Blue Line, she said, will work towards organizing the movement better with a little cohesively because the messages from the DSM campaigners are clear that affirms PBL’s work moving forward.

What DSM campaigners are saying.

Pelenatita Kara: Civil Society Forum of Tonga, Deep Sea Mining National Coordinator

Our biggest fear now is the liability impact DSM will pose should the International Seabed Authority (ISA) begin with the exploitation next year. Our push for a moratorium has received a unanimous shift for a total ban from the church, outer islands, and communities. However, we don’t have a support of legal framework and in Tonga, the State makes the final decision without any consultations. We have been fighting since 2012 and we will continue to fight for what’s right and for the safety of our people.

Michel Villar: Advisor for the French Polynesia’s pro-independence leader Oscar Temaru

We are in favor of a ban. Although we have a slightly different approach due to the UN Resolutions which gives the sole sovereignty of natural and maritime resources to the Polynesian people which stipulate that if there’s a moratorium it is not French to decide but the Polynesia. I am here to deliver some political message detailing where stand about Deep Sea Mining.

This issue cannot be solved in a little square because it’s linked to human right, climate change, and sovereignty. The fight is similar when we talk about decolonization and full sovereignty. This is the message I am going to take back home. . . .

Source: <https://www.pacificblueline.org/post/pacific-blue-line-maintains-call-for-a-global-ban-on-deep-sea-mining>

UN Nature Pact Nears its ‘Copenhagen or Paris’ Moment

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA
with this comment:

Sometimes I feel like nobody cares about this. I feel like the world of economy-obsessed, big grownups thinks that animals and plants are romantic concerns for children.

Except indigenous people know otherwise. If I do anything with the remainder of my life I'll challenge this thinking.

By Sebastian Rodriguez
Climate Home News: November 22, 2022

Montreal, Canada will hold a “once-in-a-generation” summit in December to finalize a global deal to protect nature.

After a two-year delay and a change of location, the UN biodiversity summit aims to halt nature loss by 2030 and restore ecosystems. It could either be a success like the signing of the Paris Agreement or a dramatic failure like the 2009 climate summit in Copenhagen.

“Anything can happen. It would be terrible if we had a ‘Copenhagen’ because we would lose a golden opportunity to protect nature,” said Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, CEO of the Global Environmental Facility, the largest funder of biodiversity protection.

Countries are set to define targets to stop biodiversity loss for the next 10 years, with a coalition of more than 100 nations calling to protect 30% of all land and ocean ecosystems by 2030. Big forested countries such as China, Brazil, and Indonesia are yet to join the coalition.

A draft prepared in the lead-up to the event remains disputed. Initially the text was “technically quite good” said Brian O’Donnell, director of the advocacy organization Campaign for Nature. But, “[W]e had two years of online negotiations. What started as a very good framework has ended up almost all in square brackets” – indicating a lack of consensus.

Leadership Vacuum

The meeting was originally scheduled to take place in 2020 in Kunming, China, but was repeatedly delayed over Covid concerns. Eventually Montreal offered to take over as host city. China keeps the presidency of the talks.

China has not officially invited world leaders. It fell to UN biodiversity chief Elizabeth Maruma Mrema to urge them to attend the event instead of the football World Cup, which is taking place in Qatar at the same time.

Scientists warn that a million species are threatened with extinction, due to the cli-



Photo: Stavros Markopoulos/Flickr

The endangered Banggai cardinalfish.

mate crisis and other threats like pollution and deforestation.

Analysis: What was decided at Cop27 climate talks in Egypt

Addressing the issue, however, is also a form of climate action, said Kiliparti Ramakrishna, senior advisor on ocean and climate policy at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. “Nature-based solutions are directly connected with biodiversity and yet we treat [climate and biodiversity] separately. That is not good,” he said.

There were some signs of that changing when Cop27 talks concluded in Egypt. In a first for the UN climate process, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan encouraged countries to consider “nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches” to climate action.

In the past decade, countries agreed to a 10-year plan called the Aichi targets, aimed at halting biodiversity loss. A UN summary report shows countries failed to meet a single one of those targets.

“(Countries) set these strategies only once a decade. The past strategy failed and so this is the time to get it right. Biodiversity is declining too rapidly,” said O’Donnell.

Funding Gap

Rodríguez explained the lack of sufficient funds was one of the main reasons for the failure of the Aichi targets. That will be key this time around, both in setting up the agreement but also in its implementation.

Even if an agreement is reached, “it’s still just paper,” said Rodríguez. “Implementing (the targets) requires public policies and strong institutions. But many countries require investments to build those capacities in the first place,” he added.

The latest draft includes the target of mobilizing \$200 billion per year, “including new, additional, and effective financial resources.” To Ramakrishna, the Montreal summit “could be a Paris moment if we get the resolution on finance.”

Crucially, a deal on finance must phase out subsidies for nature-destructive practices, Rodríguez said. This was also one of the Aichi targets, but “relatively few countries have taken steps even to identify incentives that harm biodiversity,” the UN summary report says.

“Harmful subsidies far outweigh positive incentives in areas such as fisheries and the control of deforestation,” adds the report. The draft deal includes the goal of reducing these subsidies by \$500 billion per year.

Other critical issues remain contested, among them the use of genetic resources. African countries have called on developed nations to pay for genetic information on their biodiversity, which is used in industries such as pharmaceutical companies.

However, in the preliminary round of negotiations in Nairobi this year, countries did not agree on this issue.

Source: <https://www.climatechange-news.com/2022/11/22/un-nature-pact-nears-its-copenhagen-or-paris-moment/>



Photo: Natural History Museum © Jon Lyall/Shutterstock

Calls for shared decisionmaking are increasingly being heard at national and international levels.

COP15 Biodiversity Summit Highlights ‘Deadly’ U.S. Attitude Toward the World

“While others play by the rules, the most powerful nation refuses,” writes George Monbiot. “If this country were a person, we’d call it a psychopath. As it is not a person, we should call it what it is: a rogue state.”

By Jessica Corbett (emphasis added)
Common Dreams: December 9, 2022

With a global biodiversity summit underway in Montreal, *Guardian* columnist George Monbiot on Friday took aim at the United States for its “active, and deadly, cavalier attitude” toward the rest of the world, “an example other nations follow.”

“Its refusal to ratify treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity provides other nations with a permanent excuse to participate in name only.”

Although U.S. President Joe Biden recently appointed Monica Medina as the first special envoy for biodiversity and water resources, and his administration is participating in the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United States is notably not a party to the treaty,

which was drafted in 1992.

In fact, the United States is the only United Nations member state not to ratify the treaty. The other 192 U.N. countries, the European Union, Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine are all parties to the CBD – leaving the U.S. in the company of just the Holy See, the government of the Roman Catholic Church.

Former President Bill Clinton signed the treaty in 1993, but U.S. ratification requires 67 votes in the Senate – in which Democrats secured a 51-seat majority with Sen. Raphael Warnock’s runoff victory on Tuesday, only to have Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona leave the party and declare herself an Independent on Friday.

As Monbiot highlighted, “This is one of several major international treaties the U.S. has refused to ratify. Among the others are crucial instruments such as the Rome Statute on international crimes, the treaties banning cluster bombs and landmines, the convention on discrimination against women, the Basel Convention on hazardous waste, the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the nuclear test ban treaty, the Employment Policy Convention, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities.”

In some cases, it is one of only a small number to refuse: The others are generally either impoverished states with little administrative capacity or vicious dictatorships. **It is the only independent nation on Earth not to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Perhaps this is because it is the only nation to sentence children to life imprisonment without parole, among many other brutal policies.** While others play by the rules, the most powerful nation refuses. If this country were a person, we’d call it a psychopath. As it is not a person, we should call it what it is: a rogue state.

Monbiot argued that, “[T]hrough its undemocratic dominance of global governance, the U.S. makes the rules, to a greater extent than any other state. It also does more than any other to prevent both their implementation and their enforcement. Its refusal to ratify treaties such as the Convention on Biological Diversity provides other nations with a permanent excuse to participate in name only. Like all imperial powers, its hegemony is expressed in the assertion of its right not to care.”

“The question that assails those who

Rogue state continued on next page

Rogue state *continued from previous page*

strive for a kinder world is always the same but endlessly surprising: How do we persuade others to care?" he continued. "The lack of interest in resolving our existential crises, expressed by the U.S. Senate in particular, is not a passive exceptionalism. It is an active, proud, and furious refusal to care about the lives of others. This refusal has become the motive force of the old-new politics now sweeping the world. It appears to be driving a deadly, self-reinforcing political cycle."

After outlining an example of destructive farming practices in the Netherlands, Monbiot stressed the urgency of the current moment, writing that due to years of failures, "[W]e now approach multiple drastic decision points, at which governments must either implement changes in months that should have happened over decades, or watch crucial components of civic life collapse, including the most important component of all: a habitable planet."

Scientists continue to raise alarm about the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises, warning that immediate, ambitious action must be taken on the global scale – including transforming agricultural and energy systems – to limit dangerous temperature increases and species loss.

"As we rush towards these precipices, we are likely to see an ever more violent refusal to care," Monbiot wrote. For example, rich nations have the "twin duties of care and responsibility" to accept refugees fleeing climate and ecological breakdown, but doing so "could trigger a new wave of reactive, far-right politics" that "would cut off meaningful environmental action."

"In other words, we face the threat of a self-perpetuating escalation of collapse," he concluded. "This is the spiral we must seek to break. With every missed opportunity – and the signs suggest that the Montreal summit might be another grave disappointment – the scope for gentle action diminishes and the rush towards drastic decisions accelerates. Some of us have campaigned for years for soft landings. But that time has now passed. We are in the era of hard landings. **We must counter the rise of indifference with an overt and conspicuous politics of care.**"

The column comes as attendees and experts warn COP15 represents "the make-or-break moment" for the variety of life on Earth, given the rate at which species are disappearing – largely driven by "deforestation, overfishing, corporate agribusiness megafarming, and extraction of natural resources" – with major implications for humanity.

As Common Dreams reported earlier

this week, advocates are pushing for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that includes:

- Protections for at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030;
- Policies to prevent or reduce invasive species by 50%;
- The elimination of plastic waste;
- The reduction of pesticides in the environment by at least two-thirds;
- The recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights and central role in protecting biodiversity; and
- At least \$100 billion in annual funding for developing countries to protect wildlife, provided by wealthy governments.

While some are preparing for the Chinese-hosted conference in Canada to be another disappointment – one advocacy group on Monday published a report exposing corporate capture of not only the developing framework but all work related to the treaty over the past three decades – rich nations, including and especially the United States, are still facing pressure to step up.

Will Gartshore, World Wildlife Fund's senior director for government affairs and advocacy, said Monday that, "WWF will continue advocating for the virtues of the U.S. joining the convention. But in the meantime, there is much that the U.S. can do to align itself with the goals of the agreement and ensure the success of the COP15 negotiations" and resulting framework.

Pointing to the "America the Beautiful" plan unveiled last year, Gartshore said that, "[T]he Biden administration has sent important signals about its commitment to halting and reversing nature loss by proposing to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 and by launching new initiatives to protect global forests, account for nature's economic value, and mobilize nature-based solutions to climate change."

"And by appointing the first-ever U.S. special envoy for biodiversity and water resources, the president has elevated the issue and put nature firmly on America's diplomatic agenda, alongside climate change," he continued. "All of these moves signal to other countries that the U.S. is in the game even if it is not directly at the negotiating table, and that they should strive for ambitious outcomes knowing the U.S. is taking commensurate actions of its own."

Gartshore added that, "[T]he other critical role the U.S. can play to further positive outcomes at COP15 and beyond is by mobilizing increased resources for the implementation of a global biodiversity framework and influencing other countries to do the same. As Congress works to finalize a U.S. government funding bill

by the end of the year, WWF is making the case that it should include significant new resources to support the conservation of nature, particularly in developing countries that house much of our planet's remaining biodiversity."

Writing for *Project Syndicate*, former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) also noted the Biden administration's recent envoy appointment and embrace of the 30x30 goal, and called for the U.S. to positively contribute to what "may be the world's last best chance to reverse biodiversity loss."

According to Feingold: "Although the U.S. itself is not a party to the CBD – owing to bipartisan divisions and opposition from various interest groups – its heavyweight status affords it ample opportunities to contribute, including by influencing the debate over the final language of the framework."

Moreover, the U.S. can help build partnerships, influence key decision-makers, and create new incentives for conservation efforts around the world. It can advocate stronger incentives for country-specific commitments to achieve the most urgent conservation goals. It can help to secure the financing and funding pledges needed to support low- and middle-income countries' efforts to achieve global conservation goals and protect their local ecosystems. And it can integrate conservation into its international development policies, thus helping to offset the cost of biodiversity conservation in these countries."

While Monbiot declared in a tweet about his column that, "[T]he U.S. is leading by example – the worst possible example in an ecological emergency," Feingold suggested that, "[T]he Biden administration's recent initiatives could redefine America's conservation movement, enabling the U.S. to lead by example and set the standard for conservation on the continent."

"It is a country that can use its enormous power and global influence – be it economic, cultural, or political – to help the world shape a new and desperately needed global biodiversity framework," he added. "Despite divisions over other issues, the U.S. can achieve an internal consensus on the need to protect its great natural heritage, and to support the global conservation agenda through funding commitments and capacity-building initiatives. That consensus cannot come soon enough. With the clock ticking down, COP15 must be seen as an urgent wake-up call."

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/12/09/cop15-biodiversity-summit-highlights-deadly-us-attitude-toward-world>

Stories from Our Global Family

Setting Up Grassroots Coalition International Satellite Office in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement, Kenya

Note from Iona: I've been trying to figure out ways to help our friends in Africa other than fundraising. When Feruzi came up with this idea, I excitedly endorsed it and created some ideas of how I can help implement it. At one point recently, I had written the word "FRANCHISE" and maybe this will be the way to go in the future if it helps our Global Family. I asked Feruzi how we could possibly start without the funding in his \$7,066 budget (which is laid out beautifully in a chart but does not reproduce well here) and he said he'll just start! Below is his email, which started this whole adventure. I'm behind him 100% and hoping it works!

Hi madame Iona Conner Mom,

I wanted to remind you about the conversation we had last week, in which I suggested to you that we can build an office to represent climate justice activists and Grassroots Coalition International here in the Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei settlement to be able to work with international organizations that are working to help refugees (such as UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IRC, NRC, DRC, LWF and others) so that they can be recognized and support the work of climate activists and then you said that we should try to make a budget for that matter.

Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Kenya

WHO ARE WE?

Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation (RADI) is a nonprofit, Community-Based Organization (CBO) located in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement, Turkana West county/Kenya.

This is a young Organization formed in 2020 by the group of refugees and asylum seekers, both men and women, who have been forcibly displaced from their home countries because of war, insecurity cases, multiple violences (SGBV), persecution, natural disasters, etc. Our purpose is to help our fellow vulnerable individual refugees and host communities in crisis with critical conditions such as orphans, widows, disabled people, children, youths...

The project had interrupted its activities by March 2020 due to the weather of dangerous Covid 19 virus and opened the doors of activities in year 2021.

Our VISION:

To implement sustainable development programs that improve access to equal opportunities, economically, professionally, and lifesaving services from now and for the future generations.

Our MISSION:

We are committed to bringing real improvements to the communities and the lives of the most vulnerable people in crisis and to create a lasting change and transformation to the society.

Our GOALS:

To Develop, Educate, Empower, Protect, Promote, Learn and Youths (DEEPLY) support in the field of humanitarian work and help participants psycho-socially and other methods.

Our CORE VALUES:

Innovation and creativity, resilience, reliability, accountability, commitment, trustworthiness, respect, equality.

WHY?

Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement are semi-arid and the poorest areas where sun is always at the high rate and the large number of population as refugees is around 200,000. On that note, we have been pushing and implementing permaculture education and Syntropic Agroforestry projects for the following reasons:

- To fight against food insecurity, global warming, and desertification;
- To reduce hunger (SDG No2) and malnutrition at least 45%;
- To reduce poverty (SDG No1) at least 45%;
- To empower the community with the necessary skills to grow security food;
- To conserve and harvest water;
- To protect the environment and biodiversity;
- To protect and care for Earth;
- To build resilience and protect vulnerable people;
- To educate/train people in different methods of Permaculture design and indigenous farming, including sustainable farming;
- To establish a Permaculture Garden on available landscapes that will ensure food production meets the needs of the community;
- To save seeds; and
- To avoid malnutrition and have good health.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT?

We would like to have an office whereby all activities will be taking place and so that we can be able to partner with other local and international NGOs so that together we can campaign for Climate Action (SDG No 13)

WHAT IONA OFFERS TO DO

We are the Grassroots Coalition International. For 33 years, were an official 501(c)(3) United States nonprofit organization named Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. We dissolved the nonprofit in 2022 but we carry on the goals of working tirelessly for environmental and economic justice with a focus on Africa now.

Now we are poised to establish an office in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. This camp has approximately 200,000 refugees who have fled violence and war. Today there is another category of refugees who will need help – climate refugees, people whose homes are uninhabitable due to drought, floods, heatwaves, lack of food and water, etc. People are fleeing for their lives and we want to help.

Here is an excerpt from <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1wgy64rBWztTKxNtyIENKD>
“...[T]he scale at which people will need to relocate due to climate change will be different than ever before. A World Bank report estimates that over the next 30 years, 143 million people will be displaced within three of the most vulnerable regions alone: sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. To handle such shifts in population, our governments and immigration systems will have to evolve.”

And here is an excerpt from another article.
“We are unprepared for a world in which climate change and other factors compel millions more people to flee for survival. The choice we face in the U.S. of how to respond – with border walls or with a welcoming culture – will be a defining political fault line for our generation. A new paradigm for vastly greater levels of immigration must be a central priority on both moral and strategic grounds. Such an approach is critical to the well-being of immigrants and to the social democratic project itself,” wrote Deepak Bhargava, Distinguished Lecturer of Urban Studies, School of Labor
Satellite continued on next page

Stories from Our Global Family

Satellite *continued from previous page*



Photo: Courtesy Kakauma refugee camp

An important goal is to educate/train people in different methods of Permaculture design and indigenous farming, including sustainable farming.

and Urban Studies City University of New York and Co-Editor, *Immigration Matters*. <https://unboundphilanthropy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/On-the-Frontlines-of-the-Climate-Emergency-1.pdf>

One of our members, Sengo Kesheni in Tanzania, founded Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans and he is teaching us about the Ubuntu philosophy in which people care for each other respectfully as equals. This is what we are trying to do with everyone in our Global Family.

These are the activities Iona Conner, founder of Grassroots Coalition International, will manage:

- Publish stories from Kakuma Refugee Camp in *Grassroots Coalition News*, along with other articles related to the climate emergency and protecting ecosystems. Hopefully, full-color hard copies will be printed in the Camp Office to be distributed to residents of the camp. The rationale for producing full-color copies is that we want to highlight the beauty of the Earth. The mission of *Grassroots Coalition News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting publication, which educates and enlightens people about the climate crisis through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources, especially in Africa.

- Host international Zoom meetings periodically in which members share ideas and support each other. Following each meeting, we send the link to the meetings so people can watch them at convenient times.

- Facilitate networking with members of our Climate Activist and/or Orphanage Managers groups. To date, there are 32 Climate Activists from 9 African countries and the U.S. (26 Africans and 7 Americans). Our 34 Orphanage Managers come from various African countries.

- Invite Camp members to subscribe to the online version of our newspaper and to join either the Climate Activist email list and/or the Orphanage Managers email list.

- Email important news items or links to inspiring YouTube videos to people on our email lists whenever they appear.

- Host relevant Watch Parties of excellent videos from the U.S. where there is unlimited Internet, then send the link to these meetings so that anyone can watch them at convenient times.

- Proofread/edit stories and proposals from Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Emails from Feruzi: (#1) Thank you so much! You're welcome madam Iona/Mom climate activist you're the best. I saw your thoughts are excellent and wonderful, I really

appreciate it and I assure you that you will play a big role and then the world will be able to recognize you as strong woman climate activist. Okay, let's implement first the office here in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement and see what will happen then the rest next... I wish you a wonderful day!

(#2) Thank you for your support! Yes, indeed without funds anything can be done. But I expect that if you will consider the value of the climate justice you may contact other climate activists and they will be touched and done. Let's pray all of us that this project of building an office will take and be implementing soon as possible.

(#3) Like the security of the office it means to see how we can pay the security guards for securing the office and equipment to avoid the thieves. They are almost three persons. We will add other things after but we try this and see the results. Thank you for your efforts. If the proposal will be answered positively we can be able to manage to pay them.

(#4) We're looking forward to succeed and show or educate our Communities about climate change as climate activists. So that it will be a great publication.

Contact Feruzi: feruzijumak3@gmail.com

Stories from Our Global Family



An epic shot of David satisfying his quest to see the northern lights of Finland, taken by the outstanding @NordicOdyssey tour guide/photographer Herve. Not only is here your adventurous traveler (red pants) and the lights above, but note the Big Dipper in the center-left part of the sky. A great touch!

Mission Accomplished: The Northern Lights!

By David Hunter Bishop, USA world traveler
November 9, 2022

Note from Iona: *David Hunter Bishop was a vibrant member of the Board of Directors with the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice until we dissolved in 2022. He remains a loyal and encouraging supporter of Grassroots Coalition News by making a monthly contribution to help keep our newspaper going.*

What a thrill! It was a cold night out with my @NordicOdyssey tour group but the navigational and meteorological skills of our guide Herve paid off!

With a bright, nearly full moon shining in the middle of the sky, and clouds on nearly every horizon, these were not ideal conditions for a northern lights safari in

Lapland, Finland. But we persevered and found the glory of our quest where others had failed that same night. Hail Herve!

I've talked about wanting to do this since I was a young boy, on the floor of my home perusing the discarded, undelivered *National Geographics* and other magazines oriented toward scientific phenomena, that my Dad the mail man would bring home from the post office.

With my previously oft-stated preference for warmer climes, I know now that the nature of cold – air and water – is simply mind over matter, as the late great American baseball pitcher Satchel Paige would say. “If you don't mind, it don't matter.”

I certainly don't mind any more, as I'm finding my stay in the Arctic region of Finland to be just grand.

David Hunter Bishop was a career journalist in Hawaii when he retired and grew weary of the retirement recliner. He started traveling the world and found that his new life on the road led to a life-changing fulfillment of his dreams.

Here are his stories and thoughts about life and adventure as a senior solo traveler, hoping to inspire others to enrich their own lives through travel at any age with his motto, “Staying alive by not staying still!”

Subscribe to David's blog at realontheroad.com. Click on “Newsletter” in the menu bar below the header, insert your name and mail address, click SUBMIT, and that's it. You're subscribed. Easy and free! No obligations.

Blog report and other photos of the northern lights are posted here: <https://realontheroad.com/mission-accomplished-the-northern-lights/#more-4204>

News Briefs



Photo: @GretaThunberg/Twitter

Greta Thunberg leads climate action campaigners in a march in Stockholm on November 25, 2022.

Greta Thunberg Joins 630+ Young People in Landmark Climate Lawsuit Against Sweden

By Julia Conley, *excerpt*

Common Dreams: November 25, 2022

Climate leader Greta Thunberg was among 636 young adults and children who submitted a class-action lawsuit against the Swedish government at a district court in Stockholm on Friday, arguing that the country's right-wing leaders are failing to obey the Swedish constitution as they continue allowing planet-heating fossil fuel extraction.

About 2,000 people marched through Stockholm on Friday at the 223rd "school strike" against climate inaction – part of the global Fridays for Future movement Thunberg began in 2018 with a one-person protest outside Swedish Parliament.

Thunberg and her fellow plaintiffs symbolically delivered their lawsuit to the district court, following an earlier official filing by Aurora, the organization leading the suit.

"Today on Black Friday is the perfect day to sue the state over its insufficient climate policies," Thunberg tweeted, referring to the holiday shopping day that originated in the U.S.

"So that's what we did. See you in court!"

Sweden adopted a law in 2017 requiring the government to draw down its fossil fuel emissions to net-zero by 2045, but Statistics Sweden reported earlier this year that greenhouse gas emissions increased by 3% in 2021 compared to the previous year, driven by the transport sector.

"If we win, there will be a verdict that says the Swedish state is required to do its share of the global measures needed for the world to meet the 1.5° target. . . ."

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/11/25/greta-thunberg-joins-630-young-people-landmark-climate-lawsuit-against-sweden>

Paying for Climate Damage Isn't Charity "Loss and Damage" Will Help Poor Countries

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Ani Dasgupta, *excerpt (emphasis added)* 

The New York Times: November 11, 2022

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt – The climate crisis has reached new levels of devastation this year for millions of people in vulnerable countries that didn't cause the problem. Floods in Pakistan, drought in the Horn of Africa, and hurricanes in the Dominican Republic – all intensified by climate change – have ruined people's livelihoods, causing losses **so immense** that it is hard for many in richer countries to even fathom. For nearly three decades, the countries most vulnerable to climate disasters have asked wealthy countries to help them pay for the damage, only to be stonewalled.

At the annual United Nations climate conference, the issue is formally on the agenda, a breakthrough in itself. Encouragingly a **smattering** of wealthy countries, including Austria, Germany, New Zealand, Ireland, Belgium and Denmark, have started to pledge money – albeit small amounts...

What these countries have been calling for, and urgently need, is a **collective funding stream** within the United Nations that helps them recover from devastating losses from disasters, rising seas, and other climate impacts. The United States and European Union must get behind this movement now. Specific details on how much money, where it comes from, who gets it and what qualifies take time to work out. But what's critical at the current climate conference is that wealthy countries agree to a **process, with clear deadlines**, to pay for the damage. It's not a matter of charity... This kind of funding is called "**loss and damage**," and it is meant to address climate impacts that people can't simply adapt to...

News Briefs *continued on next page*

News Briefs

As Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said at the conference, "**Countries in the Global North that have caused climate change and have the greatest access to resources have an obligation to step up.**" Any more stonewalling by wealthy nations on finance for loss and damage could derail the entire climate negotiations in Egypt. The world's ability to tackle climate change hinges on trust between developed and developing countries, and without concrete progress to address these severe losses and damage, that trust risks being broken. . . .

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/11/opinion/environment/un-climate-change-conference-2022-reparations.html>

Campaigners Demand Deep Cuts to Plastic Production as Global Treaty Negotiations Ramp Up

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Julia Conley, *excerpt*

Common Dreams: December 1, 2022

"The scale of the problem is mind-boggling," said one advocate. "Plastic is in our blood. It's in fetuses. It's really encroaching on every aspect of human existence."

Climate campaigners attending the first negotiations for a global plastics treaty in Punta Del Este, Uruguay this week are reporting that discussions have had a strong emphasis on protecting the rights of communities that are severely impacted by plastic pollution, but they warned that policymakers must avoid producing a "Paris agreement for plastics."

The international movement Break Free From Plastic said Wednesday night that several of the more than 150 assembled countries have expressed support for an agreement which would allow individual governments to "establish their own standards rather than global control measures."

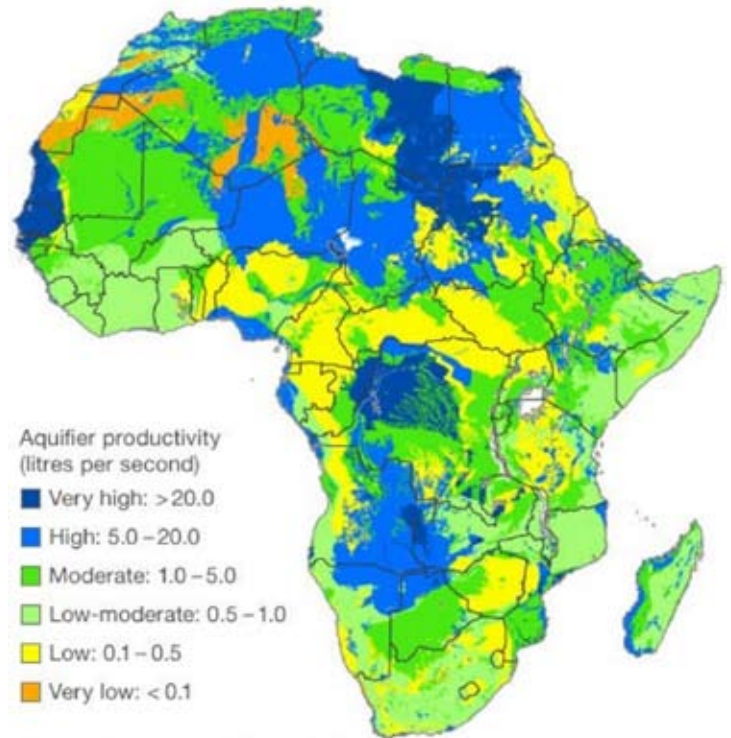
"Plastic production remains unchecked, and companies, in league with Big Oil, continue to burden us with their disposable packaging that harms our health and the climate just so they can maximize their profits."

"We need legally binding obligations for all parties!" said the Center for International Environmental Law, which is attending the summit.

The disagreement over whether new limits on countries' contributions to the planet's plastic pollution crisis should be standardized across the world is just one sticking point in the first round of negotiations which were set to adjourn on Friday, with talks continuing through 2024.

Campaigners are pushing for the final treaty to include language drastically limiting the production of plastic, roughly one trillion pounds of which is produced each year – a figure that is expected to double by 2045 unless action is taken. . . .

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/12/01/campaigners-demand-deep-cuts-plastic-production-global-treaty-negotiations-ramp>




Source: Environmental Research Letters

'Huge' Water Resource Exists Under Africa

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Matt McGrath, *excerpt*

BBC World Service: April 20, 2012 

Scientists say the notoriously dry continent of Africa is sitting on a vast reservoir of groundwater. They argue that the total volume of water in aquifers underground is 100 times the amount found on the surface. The team have produced the most detailed map yet of the scale and potential of this hidden resource.

Writing in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, they stress that large scale drilling might not be the best way of increasing water supplies. Across Africa more than 300 million people are said not to have access to safe drinking water. Demand for water is set to grow markedly in coming decades due to population growth and the need for irrigation to grow crops.

Freshwater rivers and lakes are subject to seasonal floods and droughts that can limit their availability for people and for agriculture. At present only 5% of arable land is irrigated.

Now scientists have for the first time been able to carry out a continent-wide analysis of the water that is hidden under the surface in aquifers. Researchers from the British Geological Survey and University College London have mapped in detail the amount and potential yield of this groundwater resource across the continent.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-17775211>

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/>

**WELCOME TO
OUR NEW WORLD
OF MAKING THE
ENVIRONMENT A
BETTER PLACE TO
LIVE IN.**

~ Amos Mugarura ~

Comforter of the Voiceless Orphanage

Bwindi, Uganda



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



[Reader's reply to *FABULOUS ARTICLE* relating to last issue's front-page story asking people to join us to help protect the Congo Basin, link below] "Blood Cobalt: One of the poorest countries on Earth is paying a heavy price for the world's green energy revolution." The Democratic Republic of Congo... one of the poorest countries produces over 70% of the cobalt in the world. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-24/cobalt-mining-in-the-congo-green-energy/100802588>

I just read about this because there's been a lot of talk about how bad electric cars are.... So I've been searching for info.

Cobalt is used to make electric car batteries and lithium batteries for cell phones. Of course, America has a vested interest and is involved in the mines and has sold a lot to China.

Linda L., Idaho USA

Hi Iona – Interesting (David's nomadic retirement video), but we really shouldn't be encouraging people to fly. As much good as you do, or have done, for the rest of your life, just one flight can wipe that out because of the emissions. We are in a climate emergency and what we do now will determine whether there is a habitable planet in the near future. Encourage people to vacation closer to home; trade a self-serving vacation for volunteer hours with one of the many climate emergency groups; take one of the wonderful train trips our country has to offer if you want to see sights farther from home. We need to do things differently and encourage more people to cut down on air travel.

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

Iona's reply: This is a wonderful email, Marney. You're absolutely right!!! I'll publish this next time. Thank you!

I feel equally strongly about electric cars. We need bikes and mass transit, not electric cars.

Marney: Tell me about electric cars. I agree with you about alternative transit,

but it's going to be hard to get people out of their cars.

Iona: Electric cars take a ton of technology to build and maintain, like installing charging stations all over. We, in the rich countries, are so spoiled by cars that it's nearly impossible to halt the car culture and all the destruction roads bring to the Earth. Like you said about flying, the same holds true about driving. So many people hop in their cars for either long, leisurely excursions or single errands, instead of combining trips or even considering how many miles they are driving. The fascinating conundrum is that the same types of people complain about high gas prices.

Duh! If you don't drive so much, you won't use so much gas!! Anyhow, I've cut back so far that I don't even drive 8 miles to the ocean much anymore and I love the ocean. Frankly, there are other reasons, too, but it just doesn't make much sense to me to do that as much as I used to.

Please read some of Derrick Jensen's work; you might even like to buy the book I'm featuring now: *Deep Green Resistance*. Do we want our American-style civilization to keep going with deep seabed mining, children slaves pulling cobalt out of murky waters in the Congo, etc? Many of the minerals needed for electric cars and batteries cause unbelievable harm to the Earth and the poor people mining them.

When and how can we reach a point in which our sick and insane way of life isn't transported around the world?

I guess you get the idea.

**Email from Iona sent 10/30:
Dearest Climate Activists,**

I had the BEST surprise at the end of our meeting when Mukama showed up!!! He's making wonderful progress after waking up from his two-month-long coma and my heart was filled with joy seeing him and being able to talk with him again. He still has pain and just sent me this message: "Mom pray for me am still having a problem of memory loss sometimes. But I know God will be on my side and get the

money for the medicine thanks for loving me and believing in me."

We had a great meeting but there was only one African from the refugee camp in Kenya, Feruzi Juma Kikuni, plus my three great American friends (David, Jeannette, and Dan); however, Feruzi missed the wonderful video about African journalists and said he will watch the video.

The link is below. I really hope you have a chance to watch it because I talk about my hopes for my friends in Africa to get a lot more media coverage for their great projects by reaching out to the people in the video.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bK0Pro6yU3XHn1ZB6Yph1_bmF-POSqxosumgmBMQ6mGhJZGWuZLw-v3ar-JcA7BMov.Eg0eyfM-xC7PjbbE

Passcode: Gcf#4ji%

Love, Iona/Mom

10/31 Thank you so much for sharing! I hope that everything will be doing well as we wait the good things to realize our projects to serve our communities.

I really appreciate you Mom Iona for your great work to publish all that you received from different people around the world and people will know more information about the critical situation or challenges people as refugees mostly in Africa are facing. It's so sad to hear and see how underprivileged people are suffering a lot like the two children Namukasa Jacque from Uganda and Natalie aged of 14 years old from Kakuma refugee camp/Kenya being raped by the bad people (army group).

I suggest and call people who are interested and are in good positions so they can support this bad situation in order as well as they hear and see in which way they can solve this matter because kindness and generosity are the first sign to help humanity. I wish you all the best Mom Iona for the great work.

Thank you so much.

Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Kenya (see pages 23-24)

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages *continued from previous page*

(#2) Thank you so much mum Iona, I received your warm message with many thanks I hope and expect that there's something good from you. I let know you that kindness and generosity are the first sign of assisting humanity. And then I assure you that we will work harder with you to support our global families through different programs setting in the humanitarian field and people will know in order what you do without giving up and tired during day and night.

Please, mum I would like to suggest you if possible to construct an office here in Kakuma refugee camp that will represent the publish work of grassroots of global Communities you do. And we will let know the different international NGOs such UNHCR, WFP, GIZ, LWF, WORLD VISION, SWISS CONTACT... etc. in the field to recognize your work. This will be a great step to promote you as well. Thanks!

Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Kenya (see pages 23-24)

Wow! There's so much out there about Moringa.

I have a friend who also has started to take Moringa and said his mood has improved and will take it till he dies. I can't stress how wonderful the Moringa Tree is. Let's All get Healthy!

For Us All,
Sending Love,

Jeanette Bartelt jmbartelt@gmail.com

Creating a successful partnership in the travel and Tourism Industry

Travel and Tourism is part of mankind's DNA. Thanks to travel, we meet other cultures, we discover, we learn, we trade, we create wealth for our communities. I am very confident that the travel industry will come back and may be faster and stronger than we dare to predict now and even more resilient.

Partnership: We have been told that to succeed in life and business you need partnership. In this era of scarce resources, that's the case even more. There are many opportunities for partnerships in the travel and tourism industry but they take FOCUS, Planning, and work.

For a partnership to be truly successful:

1. It must be mutually beneficial.

2. It requires that participants discuss and agree on their roles and responsibilities and document them in writing.

3. Those involved should equally shoulder the duties and commitment.

4. Communication is crucial

5. Mechanisms must be in place to

evaluate the success and benefits of the partnership.

The whole career has been and continues to be, that travel and tourism partnership is key in a business and makes the industry enjoyable, profitable, and resourceful. It is in this therefore, that ONE VILLAGE TOURS & TRAVEL, a tours and travel company that runs inbound tourism in Uganda, calls for a business partnership with you as an individual, company, and organization.

For further details, contact us through:
Herbert Bagyenya Kajoki, Uganda
Email: onevillage2013@gmail.com;
info@onevillagetours.com; herbert@onevillagetours.com

Phone: +256701233725 WhatsApp/
+256772692569

Website: www.onevillagetours.com

Mom, I like this way you are doing your thing! Same like me because in these charity things, we are required not to open up to anyone unless there is a need of planning with someone about a thing that hasn't worked out for you because you will start receiving demands before you succeed and you may eventually get disorganized, thus letting go due to too much pressure from the beneficiaries.

It's okay mom, I'm there at times to do what you are in times Unable to and of course I don't wish you to always overthink since you are now having young ones surrounding you. Where much energy is required give an idea and we contribute in delivering some work for you to start on and make it so meaningful.

Amos Mugarura, Uganda (Comforter of the Voiceless Child Friend Space)

How are you doing after the surgery? You are in my prayers for quick recovery. I am also praying for our dear girls in the orphanage homes and even those in various hospitals seeking various medication.

Thanks to all of our dear Global Family for standing with all our dear ones in prayers, as they undergo medication. God be with you all as we all trust for your quick recovery.

Cheers and Hugs,

Faustine Lutta Obada, Mama Solar Africa, Kenya

(After Iona sent action email to our Climate Activists, Lawrence took action.)

On Wed, Nov 9, 2022, 4:03 PM "Citizens' Climate International" <team@citizensclimateintl.org> wrote:

Thank you for taking action on Citizens'

Climate International's #G20 #FollowTheMoney campaign, Lawrence P!

Please help us spread the word by sharing this campaign with your network:

Post to FacebookShare on TwitterShare by email.

We have included your message below for your reference.

- The Citizens' Climate International team

Dear Rishi Sunak,

Thank you for your service to your country and the world.

We are in a climate emergency and already feeling the effects across the globe. By January 1, 2030 the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 45% compared to 2005 levels. We are not on track.

Not all countries are equally culpable in creating the climate emergency we are now in. The G20 is responsible for 80% of total GHG emissions. Africa, as a continent, is only responsible for 3%.

We need a measured retreat from fossil fuels.

In the past six weeks Vanuatu, Timor Leste, the European Parliament and the World Health Organization have joined the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. The three pillars of the treaty are:

1. End expansion of new fossil fuels projects
2. Phase out current production in line with 1.5°C
3. Enable a global just transition for every worker, community & country.

It is within your capacity to create a strong COVID recovery, finance loss and damage, finance successful adaptation, unwind our economies from fossil fuels and cut GHGs in line with the science while shielding low and middle income households.

G20 leaders you just need to follow the money.

Here are four solid suggestions:

1. Impose a windfall tax on fossil fuel companies
2. Redirect all harmful subsidies towards an equitable and resilient future
3. Follow Aotearoa New Zealand's lead and require financial institutions to disclose climate risks
4. Enact carbon pricing policies that return revenues back to citizens on an equal per capita basis. This will have an added benefit of reducing income inequality while cutting GHGs.

Most importantly, these policies must be rooted in human rights and gender justice

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages *continued from previous page*

Please go here for more information about this campaign:

<https://citizensclimate.earth/2021/11/02/send-a-digital-letter-to-the-g20-leaders-and-ask-them-to-follow-the-money/>

Thank you for considering the contents of this email.

Sincerely,
Lawrence P Bomah
lbomah73@gmail.com
Liberia



(#1) Been so busy down here working in Costa Rica. No time to answer emails.

(#2) Hi Iona, Am back from amazing jungles. Interacted with endangered Yellow-naped Amazon parrots rescues collecting behavior data.

It's a soaking wet environment (at least half the year). So much life. Flowers, butterflies, etc. Many nature nerds like me wandering around taking photos.

Maryland woods now brown, sleeping.

(#3) Hi,

I will probably write a short story about what it was like living and working in a rainforest.

I see a need, however, to underline why forests are crucial given the climate crisis.

It's not just carbon capture.

Rain brings fresh water to large, forested areas, such as mountains and hills.

And this comes flowing down to be used for towns, cities, and of course for agriculture.

Hot, dry, desertified places need this kind of water even as we speak. The demand will increase and maybe the climate will decrease its availability.

So, how do we address this? Shouldn't every single country be saving forests for water? Or replanting them? Maybe forested countries could sell their water to food producers – build aqueducts??

Bottom line is all forests are now essential to human needs.

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA (You can read his story next time.)

I've only read the first article about mining in D of Congo [in issue #89]. This

makes me so mad! Especially since I read about the mining of cobalt also in the Congo. And palm oil... is so unhealthy for you too... I can't believe how much palm oil they put in foods... it's so unhealthy! And it's part of the addictive food chain that they are feeding us! And those poor people that are enslaved and hurt. It infuriates me to know our government (although they hide this fact) is pretending to care about the environment while all the time supporting the companies that are mining in D of Congo especially with cobalt for electric cars while pushing that electric cars will help the environment when in all reality they will make things worse by destroying the rainforests and enslaving these people! Horrible, just tragic! Okay now I'll continue to read more.

Linda L., Idaho USA

Only had time for a quick look so far but will get back to it.

Might be worth doing more homework on the 'Maggot Burgers' issue: This is part of the Elite's plan to get us onto more mass-produced, processed and less-healthy foods, while displacing farmers and people generally from their land. Vandana Shiva and others have written to expose it.

Love,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

(Helping spread *Grassroots Coalition News*)

Hello Friends and Family,

As most of you are aware, our environment is in collapse. The forwarded email is an Environmental Newspaper featuring articles from around the world. Please take the time to read and then subscribe so you will receive it monthly. Don't hesitate to ask to have stories reviewed for publication.

Together we can bring about awareness and hopefully change.

For Future Generations,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

What a magnificent issue of the *Grassroots Coalition News*. You reveal to us in new ways the Cry of the Poor, the Cry of the Earth!

Know that I will ask three friends to sign up for this incredible news journal.

I bow in gratitude,

Marita Grudzen, California USA

Thanks Iona, great article: Regulator Approves First Deep-Sea Mining Test – I hope they are charging full resource rent for deep sea resources as the Law of the Seas mandates. We now have projects un-

derway for land value tax shift in Nigeria, Philippines, and Indonesia, in addition to Baltimore USA. Taxation can create or destroy. We are using tax policy for wealth fairness and affordable land access for food, shelter, and other basic needs. We want to end land speculation and land hoarding. Your readers are welcome to learn more here: www.theIU.org

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

Thanks, it's so cool, to have such idea for protecting the environment.

Jean Marie Harerimana, Burundi

Firstly, I want to appreciate everyone who turned up for today's meeting. It was so interesting that we are United in one goal as Orphanage managers and a global campaigners for climate justice.

Ma'am this is a communication relating to my representation for Faith Orphanage Home Owens Grove Grand Bassa County Republic of Liberia at the Best Diplomat Conference in Turkey February next year:

"I am Lawrence P Bomah, a Young Diplomat of the Kofi Annah Institute of Peace and Conflicts Resolution from the University of Liberia. I am a Volunteer at Faith Orphanage Owen Grove Grand Bassa County. I have been selected to attend the Best Diplomat Conference in Turkey next year February. Faith Orphanage is non for profit organization. Faith Home is a home for the less fortunate kids in Liberia. Faith Orphans Home is a Home for Orphans who we feel as an Idealists do believe that every child or children's should have a better life in the future of Liberia and the world at large.

Please help support us through this campaign GoFundMe.

Our goal is to transport our Volunteer Coordinator Lawrence P Bomah who will be representing us at the best Diplomat Conference in Turkey next year February. Quality of life for the children of Faith Orphanage...better quality food, medicine and more assistance with better educational opportunities, which are currently very limited at this time.

Please consider Faith Orphanage by supporting in helping out our Volunteer Coordinator Lawrence P Bomah who have been our best Volunteer. His love and passion for children is in our hearts. We are very thankful for your time and your life as you consider helping these wonderful children representative from now till next year. God bless you!

<https://gofund.me/14fb383e>

Messages continued on next page

Messages *continued from previous page*

Greetings!

I hope that you are well and cheerful. It has been quite some time since the last time we were in active communication. However, I am aware of the changes that have taken place in your life and the group. I have been following up the communication, but unfortunately not able to join meetings, due to other engagements or sometimes being in areas with poor internet connectivity.

At SCOPE Kenya, we have continued to engage children in land restoration and food production. Please find attached documents, being the case study of some of the activities, which we have implemented since the beginning of the year to date.

Please add me in the group of Climate Activists, for I would like to continue advocating for good land use and waste management practices, in Kenya and beyond.

I wish you good health and success in all your undertaking.

With Kind Regards,

John Macharia, National Coordinator
SCOPE KENYA

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Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/scopekenya2/>

Promoting Practical Agroecology Education in Schools to reconnect children

with Nature, healthy lifestyle & environmental stewardship. (Watch for his story next time.)

Hello Iona,

I hope you are doing well especially, now after your surgery. I can only urge you to relax and follow your physician's advise.

Am thinking that maybe you should consider a Grassroots Coalition award for year 2022. This we hope will encourage all members to be active in their various countries for the year 2023, and also a booster for our profile.

Kindly consider this while you rest and Merry Christmas to you

Ajibono Tolulope, Friends of Fireflies,
Nigeria

(reply) What a wonderful idea, Ajibono! I might try that for 2023 but in taking your advice to relax and follow my physician's advice, I'll wait until the New Year and skip this year.

Not sure what kind of award I can create but I'll think of something, maybe just a certificate? I'm not going to offer a material award because I don't want to ship anything overseas. Any thoughts?

Merry Christmas to you, too, my friend!
Iona

(Note from Iona:) Long ago I told my friends that I will not forget the children. Even though I am no longer involved in fundraising, I'm trying to include one orphanage in each issue of *Grassroots Coalition News*.

This time, I'm choosing to highlight Mukama Awali's recovery from a two-month-long coma and his children, two of whom died of starvation recently and two more are in the hospital with malnutrition.

It's obvious that these innocent young ones need food, shelter, medical care, clothing, school, etc, and if anyone's heart is touched by these situations (or of other projects in our newspaper), I encourage you to contact them directly. You can reach Mukama at mukamaawali02@gmail.com.

Amos Mugarura of Comforter of the Voiceless Child Friend Space in Uganda is taking over our work with orphans. He is an amazing man who has done miraculous things building a school and caring for orphans and other children.

If you run an orphanage in Africa and want to be on our Orphanage Managers email list and be invited to special Zoom meetings just for Orphanage Managers, please reach out to Amos at amosmugarura@icloud.com or +256787940033 or me at grasrootscoalition@pa.net

Thank you for caring.



Photo: Mukama Awali

These are some of the children Mukama Awali has been caring for in Uganda. He is a professional plumber and was managing to supply their basic needs with his pay but after his fall last year and ending up in a coma for two months, he has no current income to help these children.