

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.

Final Issue No. 91: January 14, 2023

Revolution

Imagine the World
YOU Want to Live In

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Surnai Ó Maoildhia, Ireland

Parabola: Spring 2020

Groundswell News Journal: #61, July 2020 and

Groundswell News Journal #80: September 21, 2021

There came a time when the square concrete slabs sitting heavy along the suburban streets were pried up with crowbars and the squashed soil beneath sucked in the fresh air and people kneeled down along the stretches of dark earth and said sorry.

There came a time when all of the lightbulbs in each of the streetlights in each of the streets were unscrewed. And in the night the stars shone down unblinded.

The bricks of derelict houses were pulled from tired walls by many sets of hands and were stacked, like the building blocks of children, in wheelbarrows, to be wheeled away and used again. Then the foundations of the lonely houses crumbled and were swept away and soil flew in on the breeze carrying dandelion seeds with it, and those many hands with soil in the curves of their fingerprints placed tiny seeds in tiny pressed hollows that grew to be oak and sycamore and birch and ash.

The black smoke that once wheezed from car exhausts and chimneys and seeped up into the sky, staining the white clouds dark, was now only in the burning of fallen branches on beaches from bonfires, and the smoke was grey, not black, and the red sparks wove within it a fiery embroidery that sparkled beneath the unveiled stars.

The trees that lived in their circles in the pavement in the cities now stretched their roots out, stretched the length of them, stretched long and lovely and intoxicatingly as all that concrete was changed to loose earth and so the roots could uncoil and the trees could stand steady.

And in this time, this time that came, on Sunday mornings, people went to the sea and kneeled and saw the waves swell against the cliffs or lap against the stones or soak into the sand. They went to the forest and kneeled and looked at the trees shiver, shake and lose themselves in the wind. They went to the mountains and kneeled and watched, straining their eyes to see the breaths in the earth of the mountains, the mountains that breathe so slowly in their millennial meditation that one cannot see the rise and fall.

And above this breathing, above this spiralling of roots and trickling of water in the hollows in the soil, and alongside the curling of the waves and amidst the frolicking of the dandelion seeds, is the



Photo: Sharon Mollerus, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0

turning, turning, turning of bicycle wheels as people make their way through their day, to the sea or to work or play or school...

To school where children have risen from beds to kneel against rows of different beds and gently pluck out weeds and water the seedlings and the growing bulbs, and place potatoes in their patterns and name each one before they bury them...

To school where children solve puzzles with simultaneous equations and build contraptions with blueprints and nimble fingers and then discover the workings of plants, animals, atoms, space, and the rhythms of a story as they read and read and read...

To school where children fill the halls with music and the foot-stomping of dancing and the pounding of running feet and the careful breathing of yoga and meditation as they learn to stretch their limbs and minds and where to stretch them so as to get the most light...

The light that fruit and vegetables have used to swell and ripen, to be gathered then in baskets on bicycles or pooled in cloth bags, and the soil is brushed off with fingers and the slugs are placed outside and the vegetables, each one a different shape, are chopped and cooked.

And the flowers are nourished by that same light, the flowers that were planted in the ground and in boxes and baskets and on rooftops and in the old bulbs of streetlights hanging upside down from loops of twine. The same light that's sprinkled like sugar onto the fields and

Revolution continued on page 3

Final Edition of This Newspaper I Have Loved Doing: With Heartfelt Gratitude to All Who Contributed

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Four Trees

Many years ago when I realized that I was a soldier in the War Against the Earth and studying hard about a future apocalypse in books like *The Road* by Cormack McCarthy and movies like "The Day After Tomorrow," I asked myself, "What is my goal in life?" My answer was and still is this: If, by the time I die, I will have saved four trees, my life will have been well lived.

It's interesting how sometimes we cannot predict our future but then a dream comes and we know it's a signal from the Universe to do something different.

For those of you who have not already read about my nighttime dream which spurred me to action, here it is:

John came to get me to see a tree in the woods so large that 10 trees could fit inside it. I followed him through the path in the forest and came to a GIGANTIC tree. There was a glass window just like we have

in our homes here. I looked in the window and saw a small, circular conference table with about 10 casually dressed people around it like park rangers, not businessmen in suits. One woman looked at me. She was a Girl Scout leader.

I named this dream "The Call of the Forest." I heard it. Also, my 12-year-old granddaughter is a Girl Scout and her mother (my daughter-in-law) is her troop leader.

I had already been evaluating the success of my efforts to keep the non-profit going (failed) and wondering just how effective my newspaper was. I had only gotten three new subscribers in nine months.

"I don't think this is working," I told myself. And whenever I asked others to help me get new subscribers, that didn't work either. So, what was I doing wrong?

Suddenly I noticed the Old-Growth Forest Network, to which I had applied for a "real" job a couple years ago. They have developed a network of volunteers to search out old-growth forests in every county in the U.S. There was no one where I live, Ocean County. So I immediately sent them an email and was "hired"

the very next day. Once we find an old-growth forest, we use legal methods to protect it from logging or development forever. If I can't find truly old-growth forests here, we settle for "future" old-growth forests and lock them up so that they can continue to grow. Watch a beautiful 1 1/2-minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buiR7WkuogI>.

I'm very excited about this new work but hope to keep in touch with everyone in our Global Family through email. I'd still love hearing what you're doing even if I won't be publishing your stories anymore.

There are two really important, previously-published stories that I want to leave you with. The first is on the front-page. This is the kind of vision I hold for the future with the understanding that it's going to take a hell of a lot of work and probably a century to reach this level of love and care for our planet. The other one is Herbert's Mindset Change story on page 4.

As I sign off, I wish everyone great success in whatever work you're doing. I have loved working with all the beautiful people in our Global Family and pray that you will help each other move forward in any way possible.

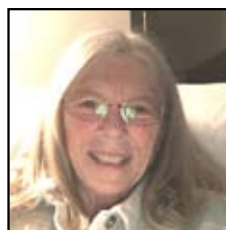
Farewell, Friends – Carry on!

I have been blessed with an amazing Global Family, who has helped me during this phase of my life by sharing your own life and struggles with me. Your stories, guidance, love, and support (and even money) have carried me through some glorious and sometimes difficult times. My soul was enriched by learning more about life in Africa. I often tell my American friends about you and the compassionate ways you interact with the people in your communities. My heart will always be with you.

Deep thanks the people who worked diligently and faithfully with me over the years. Allen Hengst, our behind-the-scenes Wire Editor, has gone through every single word, link, and punctuation mark in our newspaper for many years. Ngo Banfogha brought me into the modern world building our website and rescuing me from technology nightmares, and generously shared his time and brilliance with his series of proposal-writing workshops. Our Board of Directors stood by me as we grew and then agreed to dissolve the nonprofit. Amos Mugarura and Sengo Kesheni will carry on our legacy. Each one of you has contributed in one way or another and I thank you for your unique contributions. I love you all!

Iona's Column: *Moving On*

"A bird is safe in its nest – but that is not what its wings are made for." – Amit Ray



Dearest Global Family,

This is a sad day for me in some ways. When I was clearing out the last newspaper to prepare a blank slate for my final issue, I had tears in my eyes. I've been doing this newspaper in various forms for 16 years and loving it with my whole heart. I think of it as my Love Letter to the Earth and have received great joy from the readers who have appreciated it and helped me over the years.

But after my dream of John walking me into the forest to see a magnificent, huge tree, the volunteer job appeared with the Old-Growth Forest Network and I was instantly ready to move on. I have wondered about the effectiveness of my newspaper recently and have a strong feeling that being able to save ancient trees will do more to help fight global warming than what I've been doing.

There is sorrow in my heart about leaving my cherished Global Family, though the people I have worked with are already brilliant leaders in their own lives so I'm trusting you to carry on. I hope you'll stay in touch with me via email and I will continue supporting you as we each carry on in our Great Work of doing our part to make this world a better place for everyone and all life.

It has been a great honor and privilege to get to know you and to do my best to help everyone connect with each other to strengthen our movement.

I wish you great success, stamina, and courage as you continue your efforts.

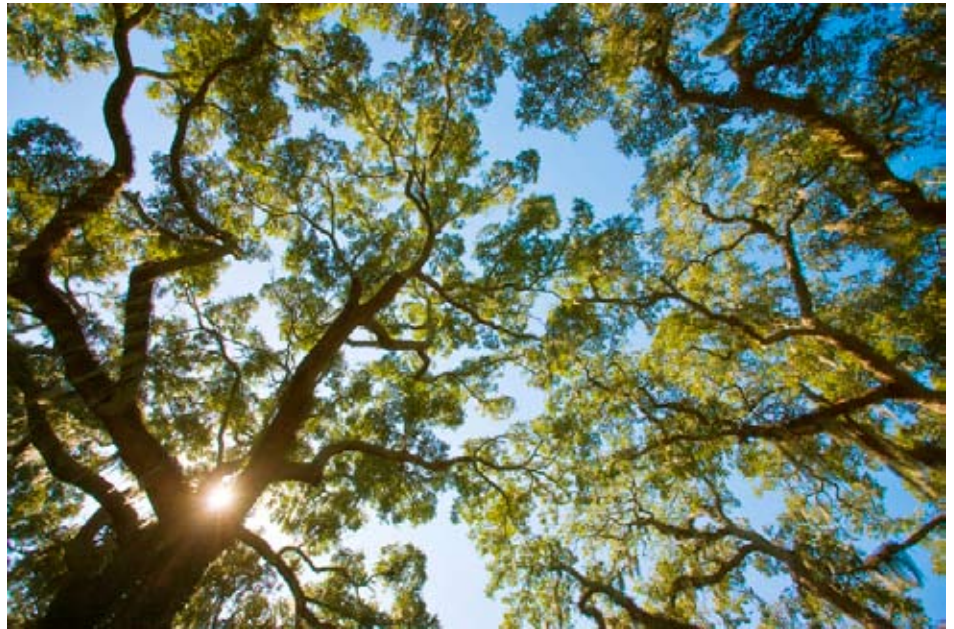
With Love, *Iona/Mom*

Quotes from Book by Old-Growth Forest Network Founder

Quotes from the Epilogue of *Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests* by Joan Maloof, founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network (www.oldgrowthforest.net). Photo: www.oldgrowthforest.net.

“If the universe has a direction, I can think of none better than toward the beautiful. Nature writer Susan Zwinger, who also traveled alone in her truck, wrote, ‘I believe that our salvation as a species will come through the revival of the sense of beauty, our wanting it above all else; through it a vital need to preserve nature arrives.’ As we develop our sense of beauty, I believe we will come to prefer old growth to gross income.”

“Many people do care. I meet them every day. They give me hope that what I dream really is possible: we will so love and appreciate old-growth forests that we will not only stop the cutting of those that remain, but also be moved to create future old-growth forests – places that have been cut over in the past, but where we have the foresight to say, ‘No, not again.’ This could be our generation’s unique legacy: more old growth instead of less. If we could



do it, we would be the first generation in recorded history to do so.”

“To know this place, our planetary home, entirely is an impossible task. But there are some places we can go and some things we can learn during our time here

that will make our experience of life richer.

These places and this knowledge bring a sense of connection often lacking in our everyday lives. We can go there. We can put our brief lives in perspective. We can be surrounded by beauty and mystery. We can get to old growth. I’ll see you there.”

Revolution *continued from page 1*

fields of daisies, fields bursting with daisies, trimmed with pink and centered by their own little suns, and if you look quickly, especially at dusk, it is only pink you see; oh, but how can you only glance? Of all the standards of beauty, there is nothing more lovely than a field full of daisies...

And in a house where all the windows are open a bumble bee has found himself trapped and a young girl sees him and gasps and she runs for a glass. And following him on tiptoe through the different rooms of the home, she finally moves the glass over him and places a book on the end and shifts the buzzing bee, buzzing, buzzing, into the garden where he swoops up into the air, pauses, buzzes, and swoops again and disappears.

And though the girl can’t see – but can imagine – the bee moseys over miles of green grass, dotted with pockets of gardens and houses and trees, and the bee criss-rosses with swallows who have tuned the sounds of spring to summer with the forks of their tails. And the bee pauses on a sunflower planted in a stretch of space that was once a graveyard, and is still, but the rectangles of gravel and the squares of headstones have been swapped with shrubs and flowers and so bluebells grow from the bodies and the memories of

lost ones, who are not truly lost, simply shifted, and their names are painted on pebbles that have been moved from the shore.

And all of that rubbish that dropped from all of those cluttered lives, the rubbish that could not decompose, that could not die – immortal – heaped on top of nature, smothering; and then on top of itself, piling, over and over, minute after minute, until it leaked into the cracks in the planet, filling the gaps and then overflowing until it spilled and spilled into all of the bellies of all of the whales, cleared. It was cleared.

And there came a time when the ocean released that breath it had been holding and eased down a few inches. And the wounds in the sky were allowed to heal and knit back together and dolphins could sew their threads through the clean, blue waters again.

And there came a time when the tree-tops were patched up and noisy again and orangutans collected their armfuls of fruit again and all that crumbling, wilting, dying turned to growth and the world was fresh and clean, as after a spring rain.

And the poles became solid once more.

And the famine ended.

And people learned to love this nature. Loved it wholly and completely and uncon-

ditionally. And they learned that they are not excluded, that they are nature too. And the indomitable nature within them loved the uncontrollable-ness, the insuppressible-ness, the irrepressible-ness... loved the wildness of it all, the mess and the chaos; they learned to love the life in it, the life in them, in us, the organic, circular movement of everything.

And we learned to say sorry.

“Revolution” was published in the Spring 2020 edition of Parabola under the pseudonym “Surnai Molloy.” <https://windthread.typepad.com/windthread/2020/02/my-entry-26.html>

Surnai Ó Maoilidhia was raised on Inis Mór, a small island off the west coast of Ireland. She was homeschooled there along with her siblings. Homeschooling is certainly a way to encourage creativity. Her parents ran an organic garden and housed volunteers. She is currently living in Scotland and about to begin her second semester of a Masters degree in Modern and Contemporary Literature, in St Andrews University. It’s an old university in a very beautiful seaside town. [email received 1.14.23] “Thank you so much for choosing to include my story again in your wonderful newspaper – I’m honoured and very grateful.”

'Mindset' Change Community Can Help Fix Climate Problems

By Herbert Bagyenyi Kajoki, Uganda, member
Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and
Economic Justice
Special to *Grassroots Coalition News*

What is Mindset?

In simple terms, Mindset change is someone's mental attitude or inclination or on the other hand, it's a fixed state of someone's mind. Being happy and successful is something we all aspire to. It's very likely that when asked, "What's your aim in life?" most of us would answer – to be happy. But on some days, this "small and modest" goal just seems light years away.

The good and bad news is this – it's all in our head. Even when it seems impossible to look on the bright side of things, it's actually 100% in our power to transform the way we see life or think.

One Village Uganda is a grassroots, community-based organization operating in Kyanamira subcounty, Kabale District, Uganda working to support communities in environmental/climate change through agriculture, education, health outreaches, and sustainable tourism for future generation's use.

The only way to achieve this is through positive Mindset Change programs.

In developing countries, many grants, donations, and support have been given out through funding programs but the more the funding or support, the more need. Especially when you look at education funding, donors have put in a lot of money in sponsoring children, building schools, orphanages, among others, but still many children continue to be born recklessly, population increases, and lack of responsibility, among others; however, this has greatly affected our environment as well as the effects of climate change.

The case in point is, as long as our communities in developing countries or third-world countries do not change their mindset in the areas of responsibility in children production, environmental use, and modern methods of agriculture, then we still suffer the consequences.

When you look at the idea of Orphanages, especially in Africa, many of the children they take care of are not orphans but vulnerable children born due to unwanted pregnancies, irresponsible parents who produce many children that they cannot afford to take care of, hardened heart/mind to change things from a traditional way of doing things, and lack of awareness of the future generation.

Donations/support/funding are not sustainable, so this means that where there is

no funding, the community or previously funded project is stark.

For example, if you are educating a child from elementary class and before this student is or has finished the university and the sponsorship is lost, this student has no future whatsoever. But if his or her family/parents are aware that if I produce a child, it's me/my responsibility to take care of the child and the government gets into that. Then we shall have a reasonable number of children produced by the couple/family and whom they can take care of and hence sustainable and the future will be looked at as amazing and with joy.

One of the most causes of environmental threats and climate changes in the whole world is overpopulation, which has endangered and encroached our natural environment for both agriculture with its associated challenges that cause climate change patterns. Therefore, to address these mindset programs like health outreach for family planning education and initiation should be emphasized with great need and support for Community engagements on development areas and livelihood support through agriculture.

What does Mindset Change require of us?

For so many years, we are used to always wanting more and striving to be better. However, sometimes we just need to appreciate what we already have, and suddenly a different world will open up right in front of us.

Changing our mindset to being grateful is really one of the most powerful eye-openers in developing countries, especially in Africa. It is too hard to be that effective, but we have to practice it in everything we do and plan.

Instead of striving to make people/children happy through building orphanages or schools, you should fund sustainable fulfillment like family planning outreaches and initiation in rural areas, livelihood agriculture/farming, education that benefits children in their existing schools, rather than constructing new ones and other home development programs like revolving financing loans (microloans that can help in development). Increasingly more psychologists and thinkers are stressing that happiness is not a product of getting what you want, but rather the byproduct of the different challenges you've overcome and milestones you've reached to get there.

In other words, donations or support or funding alone isn't enough without pursuing things, competing and struggling for sustainability. Remember – happiness is not the destination – it's a side effect to

living your life to the fullest.

Receiving donations/support is not a bad thing essentially. But it can become harmful if you overdo it or rely on it, especially when stopped at a time you are not aware of. If you are too demanding towards yourself, you can experience depression and project burnout. If you are expecting too much of other people, they can get tired or scared of you or even avoid you.

When your expectations towards funding from others are too high, and you feel like they owe you something, here's the harsh truth. Nobody owes you anything.

So, I have established that funding/support/donations are not an end-products or a finish line that I cross and stay content for the rest of my life. On the contrary, these are the by-products that you experience while you're leading a fulfilled and varied life.

Donations and support/funding success is not within arms' reach or sustainable.

Herbert Bagyenyi Kajoki is an advocate to climate change/environmental threats, sustainable Tourism, and a Tour operator with ONE VILLAGE TOURS & TRAVEL and can be reached on email: onevillage2013@gmail.com or WhatsApp +256701233725 and www.onevillagetours.com.



Photo: Iona

My old friend, GLOW in Vermont who trained me to be an air-pollution inspector long ago, sent me this when I started my new life in New Jersey. It's hanging by my front door and I still love looking at it and remember these words as I go about my day.



Photos Courtesy of Joseph Itongwa

Joseph Itongwa in the forest community of Kisimbosa, in North Kivu's Walikale Province.

'I Work for the Dignity of My Community'

Global Environment Facility (GEF): June 3, 2022

As an advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Joseph Itongwa works to ensure that planning around the Congo Basin's natural resources involves those living in the forests. In an interview, he shared what his work as Director of the National Alliance for the Support and Promotion of Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories has taught him about community, leadership, adversity, and hope.

What do you do for a living, and what do you enjoy most about it?

I am from the Bambuti community in the south of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in the forest area of North Kivu. Through my advocacy at national and regional levels, through my local presence and engagement with young people, I work for the dignity of my community. The knowledge and know-how of Indigenous Peoples is so important for the management of nature and land use, and for our future.

How did you get into this line of work?

I grew up next to the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, in the forest area of North

Kivu. When the national park was extended to 600,000 hectares (1,482,632 acres) by a presidential order in 1975, Indigenous Peoples could no longer enter this territory. We experienced this as a great injustice. It spurred us to organize ourselves, and to connect with Indigenous communities elsewhere in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Rwanda. We made contact with groups in Latin America that we have continued to build upon. For example, I recently returned from Brazzaville where delegations from Mexico, Nicaragua, and Ecuador were present as part of an international coalition of territorial communities.

The adversity we faced has been an enduring source of motivation for me and has guided my path. I studied at the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural de Bukavu in South Kivu, and after university I worked with the Integrated Program for the Development of the Pygmy People in Kivu with my community in the Kahuzi-Biega Park area, later broadening this work to community forests and sacred forests across the region.

How does the GEF support your efforts?

I see the GEF as an ally that strengthens

the role of Indigenous Peoples in nature management. It requires Indigenous involvement in the initiatives it funds, from national biodiversity and conservation projects to regional efforts such as the Congo Impact Program. At the local level, we have received support from the GEF Small Grants Programme to launch an Indigenous and Community Heritage Area approach. The Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa has also benefited from a GEF-funded project on reducing emissions from deforestation, which has helped the Indigenous Peoples of Central Africa incorporate digital tools and develop a strategy for our engagement. This strategy continues to influence a wide range of initiatives and approaches.

Could you describe a project or issue that you are currently focused on?

The national alliance that I lead has been selected to be part of the new Inclusive Conservation Initiative led by the GEF, Conservation International, and IUCN. This project has so much potential to raise awareness about the many strong links between biodiversity and Indigenous

Congo Basin *continued on next page*

Congo Basin *continued from previous page*



Joseph Itongwa leading a session about forest community governance in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Peoples. We are working through this initiative to show, map, and secure traditional access and use of natural resources, to conserve globally important biodiversity and ecosystems.

Is there a GEF-supported project that is especially close to your heart?

The Congo Impact Program gives me great hope. The projects, designed to conserve biodiversity across borders, are now in the early stages of implementation. Indigenous Peoples were brought in to meet with the project leaders even before the program documentation was prepared, and local communities continue to have a central role in the initiatives, particularly in relation to land and natural resource management decisions.

I must stress how much progress this represents because, believe me, I have bad memories of protected area projects that have excluded communities.

What life lessons has your work taught you?

My job brings me into contact with people from all over the world. There are a lot of opportunities and demands related to this and it's important to be yourself. For example, I spent six months in Geneva to study. A lot of people thought I would not return to my community, but I wanted to go back, and I am so grateful for the time I can spend here. Still, there will be community leaders who leave their territories because of opportunities in the outside world. These are stepping stones. That is why we need to continue to build, educate, and elevate new leaders. In this sense, it can be a gift to move on from a role and make room for others.

Environmental issues are very often complicated and concerning. What gives you hope?

There is growing awareness about the destruction of biodiversity, about the

climate crisis, and about the rarity of certain species. All these problems can be frightening. But there is a lot of work underway, including through international conventions, agreements, and instruments. I also see an increasing recognition of the positive role of Indigenous Peoples and their territories.

At the COP26 climate summit, countries and leading organizations pledged \$1.7 billion to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their efforts to protect forests and nature, and to secure land and resource rights.

We have much more to do, but it is positive that others recognize that there cannot be a solution to deforestation and land degradation without securing the territories where Indigenous Peoples live. Nature cannot defend itself alone. Indigenous Peoples are its guardians.

Source: <https://www.thegef.org/news-room/news/i-work-dignity-my-community>

THE EARTH IS A LIVING THING. MOUNTAINS SPEAK, TREES SING, LAKES CAN THINK, PEBBLES HAVE A SOUL, ROCKS HAVE POWER.

~ Henry Crow Dog ~


<https://davidprice-26453.medium.com/mountains-speak-trees-sing-2c1277a9c4dd>



Photo: Guy Shrubsole

Black Tor Beare, a rainforest on Dartmoor in south-west England.

The Search for Britain's Lost Rainforests and the Battle to Save Them

By Guy Shrubsole, *excerpt* 
NewScientist: November 28, 2022

Fragments of temperate rainforest grow in parts of England, Wales and Scotland, and with the right action we could help them thrive.

For most of my life, I didn't realize that Britain has rainforests. But then, two years ago, I moved to Devon. Exploring woods in forgotten valleys and steep-sided gorges, I found places exuberant with life.

I witnessed branches dripping with mosses and trees festooned with lichens and liverworts. Even in winter, when de-

ciduous trees lose their leaves, these woodlands were green with a verdant luminosity due to the plethora of species clinging to them. My adventures took me to places that felt like green cathedrals. Sunlight picked out the arches of tree trunks with their haloes of moss.

I was enraptured. Surely, I thought, such rich woodland belongs in the tropics, not the UK. But it is true. The British Isles harbor fragments of a globally rare habitat: temperate rainforest.

While tropical rainforests are characterized by being rainy and hot, temperate rainforests are rainy but cool. They are rarer than the tropical variety, covering just 1 per cent of the world's surface. They can't match Amazonia for scale, but these

habitats nonetheless teem with species and may be important carbon sinks.

Tragically, however, the British Isles have lost most of their rainforests to deforestation. In England, Scotland, and Wales, the remaining fragments total at most 130,000 hectares (321,237 acres). But there is hope for their future. With the right action, I believe the area they cover could double within a generation – and that by helping these rainforests flourish, the UK would send a powerful message on the importance of protecting rainforests. . . .

Source: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25634150-100-the-search-for-britains-lost-rainforests-and-the-battle-to-save-them/>

THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST IS TO MAKE THE REVOLUTION IRRESISTIBLE.

~ Toni Cade Bambara ~

<https://www.thelibrifoundation.org/gallery>



Photo: Brandon Cole

Endangered coho salmon travel through state and federal marine waters off the U.S. West Coast during their epic migration, making them susceptible to harm from industrial activities, including seabed mining.

New California Law Bars Seabed Mining in State Waters

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Jos Hill and Robert Hayden
PEW Charitable Trusts: September 19, 2022

California's marine waters are home to ecosystems that harbor as much biodiversity as tropical rainforests and provide food, shelter, and nursery habitat for a huge range of life, from forage fish to killer whales. And today the state's ocean territory gained needed safeguards when Governor Gavin Newsom (D) signed the California Seabed Mining Prevention Act (AB 1832), which will protect roughly 2,500 square miles (4,023 square kilometers) of ocean and nearshore waters from hard mineral extraction.

The bipartisan bill passed the Assembly and the Senate with a combined vote of 113-0.

California now joins Oregon and Washington as the only states prohibiting seabed mining. Together, the waters covered by these prohibitions form one of the largest marine areas in the world – more than 7,700 square miles (12,392 square kilometers) – where seabed mining is explicitly and proactively banned through legislation. However, federal marine waters, which are found from 3 miles to 200 miles offshore, remain susceptible to harm given that mineral mining leases are available through the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Off California, as in the rest of the world, the ocean faces a compounding array of stressors – from industrialization to climate change, ocean acidification, and other forces – that will increasingly challenge humankind's ability to balance development and resource extraction with conservation and ensure thriving coastal and ocean-dependent communities. In this context, it is critical to identify and address emerging and future threats, including activities that might harm sensitive seafloor habitats that provide benefits to people and wildlife.

Although California state waters do not represent a marketable source for battery metals, which is the main justification that mining companies use for wanting to extract resources from the seafloor, industry interest may pivot to these waters for other minerals.

Research on historical and possible future demand suggests that the most likely minerals of interest are phosphorites – used in industrial fertilizer and found in Southern California waters – as well as gold, titanium, and other precious and semiprecious metals present along the north coast.

For example, in 1961 the federal government leased 30,000 acres (12,141 hectares) on Forty-Mile Bank off San Diego for a prospective phosphorite mining operation, which ultimately failed to launch. And in 1981, the Department of the Interior final-

ized an environmental impact statement for a proposed mineral lease offering in the Gorda Ridge area offshore of Oregon and Northern California.

As industry interest in seabed mining has grown, so too has its opposition, internationally and along the U.S. West Coast, including in California. In 2020 and 2021, more than 40 groups provided written or verbal testimony to the California State Lands Commission supporting a seabed mining ban. And elsewhere around the globe, seabed mining proposals have been met with strong resistance, including from Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples, marine scientists, and nongovernmental institutions, along with technology and car-manufacturing companies.

Scientists are warning that the ecological effects of seabed mining could be profound. That's why today The Pew Charitable Trusts joins the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Surfrider Foundation, and other California leaders and groups in applauding this bill. With this legislation, California is taking an important, science-based precautionary step to protect the health of our ocean and coast for this and future generations.

Source: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2022/09/19/new-california-law-bars-seabed-mining-in-state-waters>

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 167-169.*]

* * *

Resistance is a simple concept: power, unjust, and immoral, is confronted and dismantled. The powerful are denied their right to hurt the less powerful. Domination is replaced by equity in a shift or substitution of institutions. That shift eventually forms new human relationships, both personally and across society.

Most of the population is never going to join an actual resistance. We're social creatures; by definition, it's hard to stand against the herd. Add to that how successful systems of oppression are at disabling the human capacity for resistance. As Andrea Dworkin said, "Feminism requires precisely what misogyny destroys in women: unimpeachable bravery in confronting male power."⁹¹ The pool of potential resistors is going to be small. Conformity brings rewards and privileges; fighting back brings punishment and alienation. Most people are not psychologically suited to the requirements of resistance. The sooner we accept that, the better.

Personally, we can stop wasting time on conversations that will never produce anything but frustration. Politically, we can make better strategic decisions based on a more realistic assessment of our potential recruits. We all need to make our choices about personal risk. And there's a role for everyone. There are people who agree with the goals of a cause but for a variety of legitimate reasons can't undertake front line or underground actions. Therefore, most recruits, by circumstance and by character, will be part of a culture of resistance.

Resistance movements require two things: loyalty and material support. Acquiring them are the two main tasks of the culture of resistance, although there may be others depending on the scope of the resistance at hand. Those others would include building alternative institutions for egalitarian, participatory governance; installing systems of justice for settling disputes; creating economic networks that can provide for basic survival needs apart from the injurious system; and socialization processes for both children and adults to reclaim and defend an indigenous culture under assault or create a new

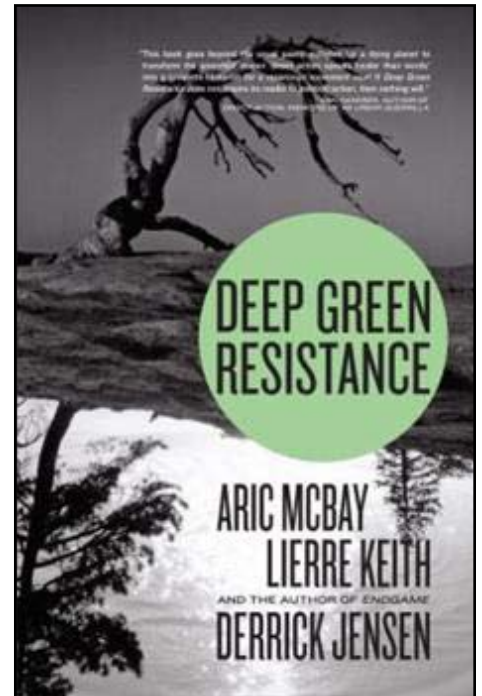
culture for those escaping the dominant culture. In real life, all these projects may not always be distinct, but instead form a reinforcing series of activities.

What ties them all together is an underlying set of values that include a self-conscious embrace of political resistance. This means first and foremost understanding what political resistance is and what it isn't. Without that understanding, all we will have is the same withdrawalist alternative culture, which will be content to coexist alongside injustice in all its horrors, no matter how repelled we are by those horrors. I don't know if it's a failure of courage or, as Adrienne Rich said, "the failure to want our freedom passionately enough,"⁹² but it's a failure that haunts too many radical movements.

Gene Sharp is worth quoting at length on this point (the people I call "withdrawalists" he calls "utopians").

Utopians are often especially sensitive to the evils of the world and, craving certainty, purity, and completeness, firmly reject the evils as totally as possible, wishing to avoid any compromises with them. Instead, utopians assert an alternative vision of the world which they would like to come into being. Their visionary belief may be labeled "religious" or "political" – it matters little for this discussion. They await a "new world" which is to come into being by an act of God, a change in the human spirit, by autonomous changes in economic conditions, or by a deep spontaneous social upheaval – all beyond deliberate human control.

These believers are primarily concerned with espousing the "true" understanding of the evil and the principles by which people should live, gaining converts, living with the least possible compromise until the great change arrives. They may deliberately seek to establish ways of living and communities which exemplify their principles and which may inspire others to do likewise.⁹³ The most serious weakness of this response to the problem of this world is not the broad vision, or the commitment of the people who believe in it. The weakness is that these believers have no effective way to reach the society of their dreams. Condemnation of social evil, espousal of an alternative order of life, a deep personal commitment, and an effort to live according to it, are all good and necessary, but unfortunately alone they do not transform human society and institutions. To do that, an instrumentally effective program of achievable steps for dealing with the evils of existing society and for creating an improved social order is required.⁹⁴



Footnotes:

91. Dworkin, *Right-Wing Women*, p. 218.
92. Rich, *Dream*.
93. Sharp, *Social Power*, p. 6.
94. *Ibid*.

You can order your own copy of this book for \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. Order at www.derrickjensen.org or send a check to Derrick Jensen, Box 903, Crescent City, California 95531.

Excerpt from Derrick's *Listening to the Land: Conversations about Nature, Culture, and Eros*

How do we remember how to listen? Would we live differently if we listened to the voices of the species we are causing to go extinct? What lessons can we learn from the one in four women within this culture who are raped within their lifetime? What do indigenous peoples worldwide have to teach us?

What would happen if each of us began listening to our own needs? Terry Tempest Williams said that "our needs as human beings are really very simple – to love and be loved, a sense of connection and compassion, a desire to be heard. Health. Family. Home. The dance, that sharing of breath, that merging with something larger than ourselves. One plus one equals three."

What will it take for each of us to remember how to dance?



**I KNOW THAT I HAVE THE ABILITY TO
ACHIEVE THE OBJECT OF MY DEFINITE
PURPOSE IN LIFE; THEREFORE I
DEMAND OF MYSELF PERSISTENT,
CONTINUOUS ACTION TOWARD ITS
ATTAINMENT, AND I HERE AND NOW
PROMISE TO RENDER SUCH ACTION.**

How to Become and Activist and Organize Your Life for Resistance

By Max Wilbert
DGR News Service: June 6, 2022

There is a spectrum of involvement in political organizing.

It begins with awareness of the issues. Then, a person may wish to volunteer and contribute to a cause. Eventually, if commitment and experience continue to grow, a person can begin to be a leader and true organizer, bringing other people together and coordinating work that falls into the three categories of resistance efforts.

Ideally, political organizing should be conducted inside an organization. Organizations help us build power by forcing us to clearly define goals, bring people together, create structure and accountability, and evolve over time. Working in a group also requires more of us as individuals; we learn to work better with others, get feedback on our approach, and are exposed to different ways of thinking.

When I first got involved in Deep Green Resistance more than a decade ago, I began to ask myself, "How do I contribute?"

First, I found simple ways. I posted to social media, washed dishes at gatherings, and participated in discussions to build community. I shared resources that I found interesting, contributed short articles and blog posts, and donated \$5 per month – not much, since I was very poor at the time, but an important symbol of my commitment.

I also worked to educate myself as much

as I could, reading books about historical resistance movements, community organizing, fundraising, environmental issues, and of course the *Deep Green Resistance* book (see previous page).

Whenever there was an opportunity to step up and volunteer for something, I tried to take it. Over time, I built more experience and confidence, and I started doing more.

Getting Started With Local and Regional Organizing

When I moved to a new town, I began by organizing a chapter of DGR there. I talked with leadership, made us a website, and started sharing information about local and regional environmental issues, learning about them as I went along.

I started attending rallies and protests with homemade signs. I met some people who were interested and worked to recruit them into the organization. We held several events, such as meetings, film screenings, and so on. Some were attended by only one or two people. But this experience helped me learn, and eventually I organized a full two-day event including speakers from a half-dozen organizations and regional tribes, which was attended by 30 people. I was learning.

When I heard about a radical direct action campaign in the area, I got involved. I started going to meetings, taking notes, doing research, and contributing as much as I could. We visited the site of a proposed

fossil fuel project, and got to know the area. I fell in love with the land and started to write essays. As the campaign went on, I had a chance to participate in several direct actions and risked arrest.

Soon, I redirected my energy towards another environmental issue in my region that was less well-known.

This period I'm describing ended about eight years ago. Since then, I haven't stopped learning. I thought it might be useful to share this story with you all to help you envision yourself going through a similar process.

Here are a few things I've tried to keep in mind throughout this time period to deliberately organize my life for resistance.

1. Cultivate passion.

The most important thing is to keep the fire burning. I fall in love with the natural world over and over again. And my heart breaks and I get angry over and over again when I see the world being destroyed. This is the foundation of everything.

2. Learn.

Effective resistance is a skill, not an innate trait. If I study, practice, and reflect, I will become more skilled over time. I work to gain theoretical (analysis, history, philosophy, writing, etc.), interpersonal (communication, conflict mediation, community organizing, fundraising, etc.), and practical (self-defense, wilderness survival,

Activist continued on next page

Steven Donziger Says Criminalize Ecocide to ‘Help Save the Planet’

By Jessica Corbett (emphasis added)
Common Dreams: November 22, 2022

Steven Donziger, the American human rights attorney targeted by Big Oil for his work in support of Indigenous people impacted by fossil fuel pollution, presented five legal solutions to the worsening climate emergency.

“The right combination of legal changes happening quickly can catalyze progress.”

Donziger was freed in April after spending nearly 1,000 days under house arrest for a U.S. case stemming from a massive settlement he won in Ecuadorian courts against Chevron over its pollution of the Amazon rainforest.

While Donziger’s “completely unjust” detention has led federal lawmakers to push for reforming the U.S. legal system, the lawyer continues to use his platform to fight for environmental justice.

“It’s all too easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of such widespread catastrophe. But we as citizens can do something right now,” Donziger wrote in a column for *The Guardian* on the heels of the COP27 climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

“Together, alongside increased citizen activism, these ideas can begin to provide a coherent and comprehensive legal framework for all of us to help save the planet,” Donziger argued. His first proposal: **Make ecocide an international crime.**

There has been growing global support for doing just that. In July, international lawyers published a legal definition of the term, declaring that **ecocide “means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either wide-spread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.”**

Stop Ecocide International and others advocate for amending the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to make

ecocide its fifth crime, following genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and crimes of aggression.

According to Donziger, “Ecocide would expose executives of fossil fuel companies to potential criminal liability for signing off on acts of pollution. And that personal exposure will significantly change the decision-making calculus of these executives in the planet’s favor.”

The attorney’s second solution is to enact a fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty. International support for this idea has also grown in recent months, culminating in the island nation of Tuvalu proposing the creation of such an agreement at COP27 earlier this month.

Donziger also called for banning so-called SLAPP litigation (which stands for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation), explaining that they “have become the fossil fuel industry’s go-to move to silence environmental campaigners, drain resources from advocates, and weaken the climate movement, which is the most essential component to forcing governments to phase out the industry.”

Just before House Democrats held a September hearing to blast Big Oil for “weaponizing” the law against climate campaigners, EarthRights International released a first-of-its-kind analysis showing how the fossil fuel industry has engaged in “judicial harassment” of over 150 activists. The non-profit’s report highlighted 93 SLAPP cases and 49 “abusive subpoenas.”

“The solution is simple,” Donziger asserted. “Governments must enact what are called anti-SLAPP laws that punish corporations that engage in this type of legal intimidation.”

The lawyer further argued that humanity must protect the Amazon headwaters, noting that “a quiet legal revolution is being led by Indigenous peoples in the Amazon countries of Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela,

and Peru.”

“Called the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative, these frontline Earth defenders have proposed a feasible plan to provide international legal protection to what might be the most important ecosystem on Earth,” he wrote. “Essentially, this plan would prohibit any further fossil fuel development in the area that comprises the headwaters of the Amazon and contains the planet’s greatest concentration of biodiversity.”

Donziger’s final legal solution is “binding climate reparations.” Specifically, he proposed a treaty requiring each wealthy country to pay a fixed amount proportionate to its gross domestic product “into a fund administered by a neutral party with actual representation from the small countries most affected” by warming temperatures and the negative impacts resulting from the climate crisis.

“To be clear, I am not arguing that these proposed changes alone will save the planet. But the right combination of legal changes happening quickly can catalyze progress,” he emphasized.

The attorney’s column comes as advocates of ambitious climate action celebrate some of the progress made at COP27 – such as securing a deal to create a loss and damage fund – while also spotlighting the conference’s failures, from the abuse of activists and the historic presence of Big Oil lobbyists to the lack of a final agreement to phase out all fossil fuels.

As Common Dreams reported earlier, author and activist Naomi Klein is encouraging civil society groups to boycott COP28 – set to be hosted next year by the United Arab Emirates, a major oil producer – and “instead hold a true people’s summit.”

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2022/11/22/steven-donziger-says-criminalize-ecocide-help-save-planet>

Activist continued from previous page

climbing, navigation, cooking, etc.) skills.

3. Find flexible and stable work.

Both poverty and professional-workaholicism are weapons of capitalism. Capitalism is set up to keep us locked into the prison of 40-hour work weeks and the nuclear family model. To have maximum time and energy for resistance, I try and find flexible work (self-employed if possible) and minimize my expenses by living an alternative lifestyle.

4. Build a supportive network and focus on your health.

I surround myself with people who reflect my values and help me expand my thinking. Cultivating good relationships and personal health gives me vitality and allows my energy to match my passion. I try to distinguish between things that feed my soul and things that are a waste of time so I can prioritize resistance work.

5. Don’t give up.

I am always looking for better ways to

do things and do not hesitate to self-criticize and change course.

Max Wilbert is an organizer, writer, and wilderness guide. He is the author of two books, most recently: Bright Green Lies: How the Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It (Monkfish 2021 — co-authored with Derrick Jensen and Lierre Keith, see page 9).

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/how-to-become-an-activist/>

Scientists Report Dramatic Drop in Extent of Antarctic Sea Ice

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

Links between global warming and the decline of sea ice in the Southern Ocean are still unclear, but climate can't be ruled out as a driver.

By Bob Berwyn, excerpt
Inside Climate News: January 6, 2023

The new year started with the familiar refrain of climate extremes, as scientists with the National Snow and Ice Data Center reported January 3 that the sea ice around Antarctica dropped to its lowest extent on record for early January.

"The current low sea ice extent ... is extreme, and frankly we are working to understand it," said Antarctica expert Ted Scambos, a senior research scientist with the Earth Science and Observation Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Scambos said the sea ice extent is about 270,000 square miles (434,523 square kilometers) less than the previous low, set in 2018. That's an area just a bit bigger than Texas, and the measurements reflect a persistent, strong trend toward lower-than-average Antarctic sea ice extent that started in 2016 and shows no signs of letting up, he added.

At this point, researchers don't have a good explanation for the dramatic decline, and the links to global warming are still unclear. For now, he said, persistent wind patterns around Antarctica seem to be the main cause of this year's rapid decline, while other scientists said climate warming can't be ruled out as a contributing factor.

The Antarctic region has warmed more slowly than much of the rest of the planet, but recent research shows that the Southern Ocean, encircling Antarctica and extending northward to 60 degrees south latitude, stored an estimated 45 to 62 percent of the global increase in ocean heat between 2005 and 2017 despite comprising only 6.25 percent of the planet's total ocean surface area.

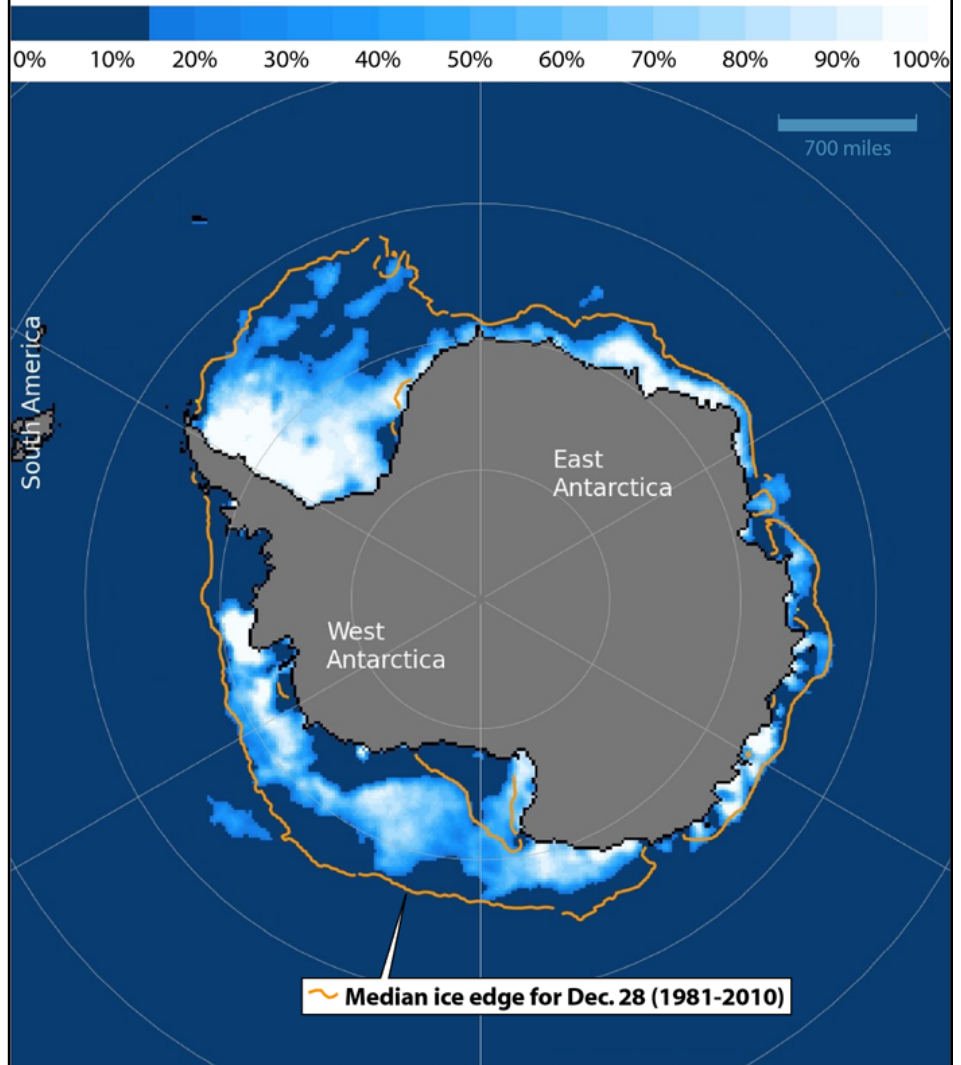
Scambos said the poleward contraction of a belt of westerly winds around Antarctica, combined with the effects of other persistent regional winds, created "a pattern that favors slowly nudging the ice northward into warmer air and ocean conditions."

Melting sea ice does not raise sea level, because the ice is already floating in the ocean. But the sea ice helps keep Antarctica's land-based glaciers and ice sheets from flowing into the ocean to drive sea level rise. A 2022 study in *Nature Geoscience* showed how important that stabilizing role can be. If sea ice rapidly retreats from Antarctica's coastline, it

Antarctic Sea Ice Meltdown

Both the extent and concentration of Antarctic sea ice have dropped to record lows midway through the Southern Hemisphere warm seasons, potentially leaving coastal ice shelves more vulnerable to melting by exposing them to relatively warm ocean water.

ANTARCTIC SEA ICE CONCENTRATION Dec. 28, 2022



SOURCE: National Snow and Ice Data Center, Univ. of Colorado Boulder

Inside Climate News

could allow more relatively warm ocean water to flow beneath the ice shelves that extend on to the ocean from the glaciers on land, speeding the flow of land-based ice toward the sea and accelerating sea level rise.

Sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctic regions also acts as a shiny shield that reflects incoming solar energy back into space. The more the sea ice melts, the more of that energy penetrates and warms the oceans, which, in turn, can melt even more of the ice.

Sea ice extent, and the timing of its formation and melting, also plays an important biological role by controlling the production of plankton, which forms the base of the ocean food chain. In the Southern Ocean, plankton

is food for tiny shrimp-like crustaceans called krill, which are eaten by larger animals. Big changes in the timing of plankton blooms can disrupt feeding for birds, fish, seals and whales.

Sea ice also protects coastal areas from storm swells by dampening waves. And, in the Southern Ocean, openings in the sea ice, called polynyas, interact with winds to play a key role in maintaining the circulation of a global ocean current that distributes cold and warm water between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, said Torsten Albrecht, a climate scientist with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. . . .

Source: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/06012023/antarctic-sea-ice-climate-change/>

Stories from Our Global Family



Photo Courtesy MAYA

National Tree Planting Day was organized by the Forestry Commission to “motivate the nation to plant and conserve trees, educate the nation on the importance of forests, enhance biodiversity...” in order to mitigate the impact of climate change.

National Tree Planting Day in Zimbabwe

By Jussa Kudherezera, Coordinator of Manica Youth Assembly, Zimbabwe

December 3, 2022: Manica Youth Assembly Trust (MAYA), aided by its volunteers and local community members, this week planted 100 trees in Devonshire along Sakubva River in Mutare Zimbabwe as part of National Tree Planting Day commemorations. The first Saturday of December every year marks National Tree Planting Day, organized by the Forestry Commission to “motivate the nation to plant and conserve trees, educate the nation on the importance of forests, enhance biodiversity...” in order to mitigate the impact of climate change.

It is through this purview that MAYA has been consistently organizing tree planting initiatives in Mutare and throughout the province in support of this long-standing national initiative. Although the rainy season is the best tree planting season, MAYA has taken a deliberate decision to plant trees throughout the year in an effort to inculcate a culture of planting trees among citizens.

Zimbabwe has been experiencing the negative effects of climate change through shifting seasons and rainfall patterns, recurrent droughts and floods in recent years. These have caused major socio-economic and food security challenges within vulnerable communities, especially rural communities who depend on farming for their survival. Rural communities also utilize trees for firewood for cooking, brick molding, thatching homes

– activities which increase the rate of soil erosion and soil degradation.

The site was strategically chosen for maximum impact because the area is densely populated and since the area is adjacent to the Sakubva River, which has been breaking its banks every year during the rainy season causing massive erosion and threatening the nearby houses. This decision was made to plant trees along the riverbank in order to arrest the erosion and to increase the survival chances of the trees since they will not require watering since they are on the riverbank.

The commemorations were attended by local stakeholders who included community influencers such as church leaders, youth leaders, civic society members, MAYA volunteers, and dozens of local people who received key messages on the importance of reforestation. Awareness raising, especially on the effects of climate change on communities, was also done with various speakers who shared their invaluable knowledge and information with participants such as the technical know-how on nursery establishment, seed production, and preparation for tree planting.

Trees are a renewable resource only when humanity replaces what it consumes. With the increased demand and pressure on energy needs in the country due to failure by the National power utility, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority, trees are under renewed onslaught by residents who have no other source of alternative energy for domestic use and

timber for construction purposes. This means that trees have become a high value product. It is a vicious cycle which has to come to an end. There is no doubt that tree planting remains a primary and sustainable exercise to replenish the depleted forests and biodiversity which can easily be done at family or individual levels and at zero cost but with huge potential to save humanity and the climate.

The tree planting drive works as a rallying point on afforestation where the whole country focuses on planting that particular species among others. It helps to ensure that our indigenous species do not become extinct. While we value exotic trees for their various economic contributions, our indigenous species remain important as they save a greater cultural, religious, and economic value and also define a country and a culture. They are an important warning system and the community pharmacy.

It is indigenous forests that support biodiversity. Indigenous trees are slow growing and are very difficult to replace when they have been cut down, so there is always need to intensify efforts in the replanting of indigenous trees which explains why this 2022 national tree planting season, the mukute/muhute tree was chosen as the primary tree to be planted.

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Website: <https://manicayouth.org>

Stories from Our Global Family



Photo Courtesy SCOPE

Ruth explaining permaculture practices at the farm.

Look and Learn Visit: St. Denis Libolina School for Physically Challenged Children, Visit in Baritah Ravens Farm, Butula

By John Macharia, Kenya (SCOPE – Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme)

In the preparation for the transformation of St. Dennis Libolina school's bare land into a productive landscape, with diverse food crops, fruit trees, and herbs through permaculture, SCOPE Kenya, on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 supported a group of 25 participants from the school, to visit Baritah Ravens farm in Butula.

Those who attended included the school executive management, Board of Management, teaching staff, support staff, and children. Also present were SCOPE Kenya staff and a group of eight journalists from local media companies, who were also

invited by SCOPE Kenya.

From the feedback. The head teacher, Madam Gladys Orlendo, said that this was an eye opener and motivation to the school, as since 2018, the school has never had any learning visit. Further, she said that they will use the acquired knowledge to introduce gardening in their school.

The Board chair said it's unfortunate that, for many years, they have been wasting land and other resources in the school. They thought the land was too small for agricultural use, but, from the visit, they learned that the size doesn't matter. Through intensive farming, they will grow diverse varieties of food.

The main purpose of the visit was to give participants the opportunity, and especially the school management, to learn through observation on good land utilization for food production and biodiversity conservation, get the whole concept on how a permaculture system works. The team is set to start the implementation process, once the schools reopen in January 2023.

Contact John at SCOPE:

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Website: www.scopekenya.net

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/scopekenya1>

Stories from Our Global Family

Photo Essay: Improving Life in a Refugee Camp in Kenya



Photos by Feruzi Juma Kikuni

(top) Garden where we do practical activities; this shows the event on our Earth Day, November 12, 2022. (bottom) Women's empowerment training – getting knowledge, skills, and experience so they can be able to save money and satisfy the needs of their families through Village Savings and Loan Associations, groups of people meeting with an objective of saving and loaning money mutually in duration, for instance one year. After that they meet again and see how they can share some amount of money between themselves and save the remaining balance for other benefits). But unfortunately they don't have the money to start this business yet.

Improving Life continued on next page

Stories from Our Global Family

Improving Life continued from previous page



Teaching people the importance of planting trees and how to care for them and also to care for Earth.

News Briefs



Photo: Iona
The back of this delicious candy bar reads: "Made for us by a third generation, family-owned chocolatier; this chocolate bar was created with cocoa beans from small farms in western Uganda..."

The Forest in Your Chocolate

A proposed new European Union law is due to come into effect soon to reduce deforestation risks.

By Somini Sengupta and Manuela Andreoni, *excerpt*
The New York Times: December 20, 2022

Global demand for chocolate, not least during the holiday season, has devoured tropical forests where cocoa trees grow.

Now, lawmakers in the European Union, the world's largest cocoa buyer, have vowed to import only what doesn't destroy or degrade forests. It's part of a landmark legislative package to address deforestation risks in the supply chains of several commodities: cattle, timber, coffee, rubber, soy, cocoa and palm oil. (Palm oil is also used to make chocolate.)

We have long known of the hidden costs of chocolate.

Economists refer to those hidden costs as externalities, meaning that they are not counted in the actual price of the final product but are paid nonetheless, in this case by forests and the creatures who live in them.

So what do the E.U.'s efforts to curb forest loss mean for forests, farmers, and those of us who love chocolate?

It's the latest effort to clean up the chocolate supply chain.

It follows voluntary promises by big chocolate makers to save forests in the world's cocoa-producing countries, led by Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia and Nigeria.

Deforestation has continued.

According to Trase, which tracks the impact of global commodities on forests, Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa exporter, has lost most of its tropical forests in the last half century. Between 2000 and 2019 alone, 2.4 million hectares of forest were cleared to make room for cocoa plantations. . . .

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/20/climate/chocolate-climate-change.html>

A Tour of the New World: Envisioning Life After Climate Change

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By David Wallace-Wells
The New York Times: October 30, 2022

Already, it's a different planet.

Climate change has led to roughly 1.2 degrees Celsius of warming so far, making the earth hotter now than it has ever been in the long history of civilization...

Westerners take it for granted that people in the global south, if they're badly hit by some climate-change event, will attack fossil fuels," says the Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh, also the author of several piercing meditations on the injustices of warming. "But that's a complete fantasy. In the global south, everybody understands that energy access is the difference between poverty and not poverty. Nobody sees fossil fuels as the basic problem. They see the West's profligate use of fossil fuels as the basic problem."

"Throughout this whole crisis in Pakistan, have you heard of anyone talking about attacking fossil fuels? No – it's laughable to even ask. Everything I see being mentioned about Pakistan is about reparations, it's about global inequality, it's about historic government injustices. It's not at all about fossil fuels. This is one of the really big divides between the global south and the global north," Ghosh says. "If people are going to attack anything – let's say in Pakistan or India after a heat wave or some other catastrophic event – it won't be the fossil-fuel infrastructure. It will be the consulates of the rich countries, just as it's been over many other things in the past. . . ."

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/10/26/magazine/visualization-climate-change-future.html>



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



I know he had this huge home (Trump). Of course, he bought it before he was ever president. He is a very rich man. But did you know it was built by Marjorie Post? Back in 1925.

She was married to EF Hutton. They say she crawled through the jungle to find the perfect place for her house! Anyway, it's deplorable the amount of money politicians spend on their homes and vacation homes! Did you know Obama bought a \$12 million home in 2019 and owns an \$8 million home in Hawaii and Biden has 4 homes between 4 and 8 million? I think the last truly honest and good president we've had was Jimmy Carter... who lives in a \$200,000 2-bedroom home! What a comparison huh?

Linda L., Idaho USA

(email sent to Climate Activists) On Mon, Dec 19, 2022, 2:32 PM Iona Conner wrote:

Countries Adopt a Sweeping Agreement to Protect Nature

Replies:

Could be good news, but how is this applicable and implemented?

Bob Maaha, Uganda (Uganda Youth Skills Training Organization)

Wow! Is great news indeed, I guess we are winning earlier than thought, our global effort is encouraging.

Though we can still push for a 35% protection, we ought to give more than we are taking from nature.

Question: Are we talking land or water or both, because am thinking the ocean can protect itself more than land??

Ajibono Tolulope, Nigeria (Bio4Climate and Friends of Fireflies)

Indeed, it is wonderful news, Iona, thank you for sharing. Though how shameful of our country not to a part of it. U.S. Republicans have to be among the most ignorant people in the world.

David Hunter Bishop, USA world traveler

(Background by Iona) *How this conversation between two members of our Global Family started. Mukama had sent me two fabulous, short videos of the children in his orphanage dancing and one of them playing a Jumping Jacks game with Mukama looking strong and healthy after waking up weak from his long coma. On the other continent, Jeannette and I had been communicating about her desire to send Moringa seeds so that orphanage managers could feed the children and also make money, but the first time she tried to do that, her package never arrived. I decided to send her the video with Mukama and his children and I copied him so they now had each other's email addresses. Nothing delights me more than to see our members helping each other, especially now that I'm bowing out. I'll be retiring into the background and continually sending love and support to all the wonderful people who have been with me over the years.*

From: mukama Awali <mukamaawali02@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 26, 2022, 2:11 AM

To: <jmbartelt@gmail.com>

Hello my beloved friend how are you? It's my great pleasure to hear from you.

On 12/26/2022, Jeannette Bartelt wrote:

Hi Iona,

Do you know this person?

I hope you had a wonderful holiday with your family. How is your recovery going?

Sending Love

On Tue, Dec 27, 2022, 2:43 PM mukama Awali <mukamaawali02@gmail.com> wrote to Jeannette:

Take a look on the kids.

Hi Mukama,

Everyone looks like they are having fun. Is there a way that you can get Moringa seeds. I understand that your climate is conducive to growing the tree. Most of the seeds are coming from India.

We have lots of wild edibles where I live and I'll bet you do to. Dandelions apparently grow everywhere in the world. The whole plant is edible.

Hoping to have a discussion on ways you might generate some income.

Sending Love,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

[The end of that conversation.]

On 1/1/2023, Bill Boteler wrote: Concerning issues about wind turbines and local support for them.

"The U.S. Will Need Thousands of Wind Farms. Will Small Towns Go Along?"

In the fight against climate change, national goals are facing local resistance. One county scheduled 19 nights of meetings to debate one wind farm.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/30/climate/wind-farm-renewable-energy-fight.html>

[Iona's reply] On Jan 1, 2023, at 12:51 PM, Iona Conner wrote:

Gee, Bill, this highlight's Derrick Jensen's opposition to turbines and wind farms; way too much environmental damage. We're in such a mess. I keep wondering why there isn't as much emphasis on conservation as on sustaining our deadly American way of life.

Thank you for this article and HAPPY NEW YEAR to you, my friend!

[Bill's reply] On 1/1/2023 1:15 PM, Bill Boteler wrote:

I think that, despite anti-materialism in the 1960s, this culture and economic system are still focused on materialism as a life goal.

People hate their jobs and want to be compensated for their perceived pain.

The idea of working for other reasons doesn't sink in and is hard given the cost of things the system produces.

And the billionaire class is definitely addicted to material accumulation in a way very similar to a drug. They live to outdo other billionaires.

This decadence comes at the expense of the planet, future generations, and their exploited employees. That is my take on the continued dedication to growing consumption.

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages *continued from previous page*

I can't thank you enough for stepping up for children last year and helping us start 2023 off strong. Your support is truly making a life-changing difference for children around the world.

Mukama Awali, Uganda (Mukama Awali Foundation Ministry)

Iona – Good luck with your tree search and maybe you could send some pictures of any you find.

Hugs and best wishes in the new year on your endeavors.

Yulia Rothenberg, USA

Follow your dreams, Iona, You will always have my support. All the best to you, my dear friend.

David Hunter Bishop, USA traveling the globe

Hi Iona,

I can't believe I'm reading this. We have known each other for a long time. You have done many marvelous things for this earth we live in. You will be wonderful at it. The global family will miss you and your paper. I'll continue to stay in touch.

Lots of Hugs and Kisses,
Sending Love,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Thanks Iona wishing you a splendid 2023. Yes that you are retiring from newspaper publication, oops the news shocks, our Grassroots Coalition CEO is retiring. Quite startled. don't know what to say.

Ajibono Tolulope, Nigeria (Bio4Climate and Friends of Fireflies)



Images Above Courtesy Rewild Africa

To Plant a Tree is to Start Again

Rewild Africa: November 18, 2022, *excerpt*

Dear ReWilder,

“Going to the forest, there is that calmness that you get. You hear the birds singing, and it’s quiet.” Thembi Msomi, Tree-Preneur

Thembi Msomi is a Tree-Preneur, a local entrepreneur who is part of a group of women who collect seeds near the Buffelsdraai Reforestation Project near Durban, germinate the seeds, and grow seedlings, which are then sold back to the restoration project.

We had the opportunity to meet Thembi and Nondumiso on consignment for BBC StoryWorks, for their series on sustainable cities. The Buffelsdraai Reforestation

Project was initiated to help offset the carbon emissions from the Fifa World Cup in 2010. Nondumiso, Project Manager, speaks to the importance of bringing the community to be more involved, in order to raise awareness around the importance of biodiversity and the challenges around climate change.

Local community members, such as Thembi, have bettered their livelihoods, increased their knowledge, and actively transfer their skills and knowledge to other community members. These reciprocal processes are not only life sustaining, offering livelihoods and income, but also community building. We love it when these solutions are so clearly benefiting both

local communities and local ecologies.

The stark contrast between the former sugar cane farm and the now thriving, and biodiverse indigenous forest is an inspiring example of future proofing land for people & planet. These pockets of regeneration and restoration happening all over the world might seem like drops in the ocean, but they are a patchwork map of stories of resilience, hope, and communities coming together to forge a better path forward. . . .

Wild Regards,

Team ReWild Africa

Source: https://rewildafrica.substack.com/p/to-plant-a-tree-is-to-start-again?utm_source=profile&utm_medium=reader2