



Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/Action Brigade

These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

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

Issue No. 43: November 2018

Iona's Column: TEAM 54 Project

www.team54project.org



Dear Reader,
I had never been in contact with a world leader until Thursday, September 20, when I visited TEAM 54 Project founder and CEO, Dr.

Gbujie Daniel Chidubem at his home in New Jersey before visiting my family at the Jersey Shore. Gbujie is from Owerri, Nigeria, the same city where our Milk Basket partner, Chiwundu Charles Ekwe, lives and where I went in January to meet him. Gbujie is a medical doctor and an incredibly gentle yet powerful, brilliant, joyful, positive man in his early 30s with a wife and two children.

We spent a few hours together, during which he interviewed me on his laptop and posted it on my Facebook page.

Gbujie has brought new life and excitement to *Groundswell News*, as well as dozens of new Facebook friends and subscribers all over the Earth, many of whom have wonderful stories I'll be publishing from now on. For the first time in the 10-year history of publishing my newspaper, I added an extra page for the messages I received.

Not only that, but I had to leave out many good stories and will publish them next time. This is a very exciting time for us all as a global groundswell is growing and blazing in people's hearts for climate justice, social justice, racial and gender equality, and love for our sisters and brothers of all colors, all nationalities, all ethnicities. We are all equal no matter who we are or where we are or how old or young we are.

For the Earth Always,

Iona



Photo: Our Children's Trust

The incoming president of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada, says he is going to decarbonize the transportation sector, making electric cars and trucks standard in the country.

Youth vs. U.S. Going to Trial October 29, Needs Support

Dear Friends,

Our team has been working around the clock since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the 21 youth plaintiffs in *Juliana v. U.S.*, advancing this landmark constitutional climate lawsuit toward trial at the U.S. District Court in Eugene, Oregon on October 29. As we continue these efforts toward science-based climate recovery, our thoughts are with those who faced Hurricane Florence.

Developments in *Juliana v. United States*

47 depositions in 60 days. In the last few weeks, we've defended the depositions of 10 of our youth plaintiffs and six of our expert witnesses, litigated several important pre-trial motions, taken the depositions of six of the U.S. government's expert witnesses, and continued working with our consulting experts and our documentary evidence. All of this will ensure that the U.S. District Court receives fully-developed and accurate evidence of the role the U.S. government has in causing the climate crisis, the constitutional injuries to the plaintiffs and children as a class, and the role the government must now take to remedy that crisis.

Our youth plaintiffs have been outstanding in their depositions. Despite challenging and

sometimes confrontational questions from teams of two to three government lawyers, each plaintiff has responded with candor and strength. Ten more plaintiffs will be deposed in the coming weeks.

Our expert witnesses have also been remarkably powerful in their depositions. Each has proven their extensive world-class expertise, and together, these experts have clearly demonstrated how these young people have been, and are being specifically harmed, discounted, and threatened by the actions of their own U.S. government.

We are almost halfway through depositions, and almost done deposing the government's witnesses and we are as confident as ever in our case.

Next Steps

Our work will intensify even more in the coming weeks. In the next 30 days we will defend the depositions of 10 more plaintiffs, 13 more of our expert witnesses and two more of the government's witnesses will be deposed. We will field important rulings from the U.S. District Court on several remaining pre-trial motions. We will prepare thousands of pages of government and related documents for admission into evidence. We will prepare our vi-

Trial *continued on page 3*

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

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

Founder/Editor: Iona Conner

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Established: September 2013

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What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned

about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to www.gobackclub.org to learn more.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (GBC board member, climate scientist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), told us a couple of years ago referring to tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

Please send me your stories and photos. I rely on our members' contributions. I'm not looking for ugly. I'm not looking for dark. I'm not looking for hatred. I'm looking for the opposites to help raise our readers' spirits. There is enough ugly and dark and hateful in the world. This newspaper provides an antidote – BEAUTY, LIGHT, LOVE. (Funny is OK, too!)

Thank you for sending me your material for consideration.

Guidelines for Submissions

Please send stories directly via email to ionacconner@pa.net and include jpg photos with captions and photo credits. Don't worry about grammar or punctuation; I proofread and edit everything without changing the content.

It's very hard for me to work on Facebook, although I find many great stories there. That's why I want you to send everything to me through email. I often will ask questions on Facebook after I receive your material, but that's not how I want to receive your work initially.

Thank you.

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

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

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes: Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, "transformative" uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work: This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole: Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work: Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo

350.org: Sign the Climate Voter Pledge

Email received September 9, 2018
May Boeve at 350 Action

Iona – I'm still thinking about yesterday. More than 250,000 people rose up in more than 900 cities in over 95 countries around the world with a clear message: The climate solutions we need can't wait a moment longer.

But marches like yesterday's will only make a lasting impact if we make sure of it. We need to keep up the pressure with sustained action to show that this movement for climate justice isn't going away – it's only growing stronger.

Our elected officials heard our movement loud and clear in the streets yesterday. Now, we want to make sure they hear us in November, too. Take action today by pledging

to vote for real climate leaders in 2018. Sign the Climate Voter Pledge at <https://act.350.org/sign/climate-voter-pledge-2018/>

Right now, wildfires are blanketing communities across the West with smoke, heat records are still being smashed from Massachusetts to Korea to Quebec, and a super-storm typhoon last week killed at least 10 people in Japan.

At Rise for Climate yesterday, marchers reminded the world that we need urgent, just solutions to keep these catastrophes from getting worse. Thousands rose up yesterday from Tacoma, Washington and New Orleans, Louisiana, to Rockville, Maryland and San Francisco, California because we know that those solutions are well within our reach.

We can put millions of people to work in

good-paying jobs building a just, thriving world powered by clean, renewable energy. We just need progressive leaders with the political will to make it happen.

That's why I'm asking you to join me and sign the Climate Voter Pledge – to vote for candidates who will fight for green jobs, strong communities, and a safe climate in this critical election year.

With the White House run by fossil-fueled bigots and a Congress full of climate deniers, hope can be hard to come by. But beautiful days like yesterday remind me that our movement is huge and powerful, and momentum is on our side.

Now, it's on us to keep that momentum up through November – and beyond.

Sign the Climate Voter Pledge today.

Trial *continued from page 1*

sual evidence and demonstratives for trial. We will also prepare for the direct and cross examination of witnesses in open court. And we will write and file our trial brief and a host of other important pre-trial documents that help guide the Court through trial. We have a trial calendar that begins October 29 and with a few weeks in recess, trial will continue into January of 2019. In short, we are gearing up for an ultra-marathon!

Additionally, we are finalizing locations and leaders for nationwide rallies supporting the 21 youth on the first day of trial, October 29, and working with partners around the globe to bring attention to this landmark effort.

Further, several Juliana plaintiffs and members of our team are right now at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, and we continue meeting with reporters and supporters everywhere to build massive support for the start of trial.

Suffice to say, we are dedicated 24/7 to the youth-led, science-based, climate recovery campaign that is Our Children's Trust. We would not be where we are today without the support you have provided for our efforts. Thank you.

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/ourchildrenstrust/youth-win-in-court-need-your-support-1020697>

We Need Your Continuing Support

We need your help to accomplish what we have ahead and then to sustain this landmark effort through all 10 to 12 weeks the trial is expected to last. We are incurring intense expenses each day to complete these last stages of trial preparation and have much to raise before the start of trial. It will

take a village, and indeed a world community, including you, to bring this landmark action to successful conclusion, so we need everyone's help now.

We are privileged to have an incredibly generous matching challenge that will help us pay for these incredibly expensive but absolutely necessary costs. Every gift of every size will be matched up to \$75,000! Double the impact of YOUR gift right now, and help us secure these crucial funds at this very important moment! Please donate what you can to help these 21 youth prepare their case fully. We need to meet this challenge in order to present the best evidence possible in court and to face the government's lawyers in open court as our plaintiffs bring this landmark lawsuit to trial on October 29.

Thank you for your consideration. We are deeply grateful as this crucial effort comes to fruition. On behalf of all of your children, young people everywhere, and all future generations, we thank you.

The Team at Our Children's Trust

(second email)

Dear friend,

On behalf of the brave 21 youth plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States*, thank you for all of your support. It's been a long journey and we are nearing a moment that is not to be missed. Many of you rose for climate, jobs, and justice in your community. Now is the time to stand up and join the movement behind the #TrialoftheCentury. *Juliana v. U.S.* is going to trial! This lawsuit could change everything.

On October 29, 2018, these 21 young people will confront the federal government in open court. They will demand a science-based National Climate Recovery Plan – a plan that would end the reign of fossil fuels and lead to swift decarbonization.

But to win their case, the plaintiffs need your help. People in every state are standing up to organize a rally in support of the Juliana plaintiffs! These rallies will be held on October 29 at federal courthouses across the country.

Thank you, and onward to October 29!

Source: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/juliana-v-united-states-trial-opening-justice-for-eachgeneration>




ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- 1. LET YOUR FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT THIS TRIAL.**
- 2. DONATE NOW AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED.**
[HTTPS://APP.MOONCLERK.COM/PAY/OSS0MJ405FU](https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/oss0mj405fu)
THE MAILING ADDRESS IS:
OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST
P.O. BOX 5181
EUGENE, OREGON 97405
- 3. TO ORGANIZE A RALLY IN YOUR COMMUNITY, CLICK ON [HTTPS://ACTIONNETWORK.ORG/FORMS/ORGANIZE-A-RALLY-IN-YOUR-COMMUNITY](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/organize-a-rally-in-your-community) OR FIND YOUR LOCAL RALLY AT WWW.YOUTHGOV.ORG/OCTOBER29**

Planet Has Only Until 2030 to Stem Catastrophic Climate Change, Experts Warn

Submitted by John Conner (U.S.), C.B. (U.S.), Matthew Bonnstetter (U.S.), and Kromah Usman Socrates II (Liberia)

By Brandon Miller and Jay Croft 
CNN: October 8, 2018

Climate change report issues dire new warning.

Governments around the world must take “rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” to avoid disastrous levels of global warming, says a stark new report from the global scientific authority on climate change.

The report issued Monday by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), says the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by as early as 2030, precipitating the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods, and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

The date, which falls well within the lifetime of many people alive today, is based on current levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

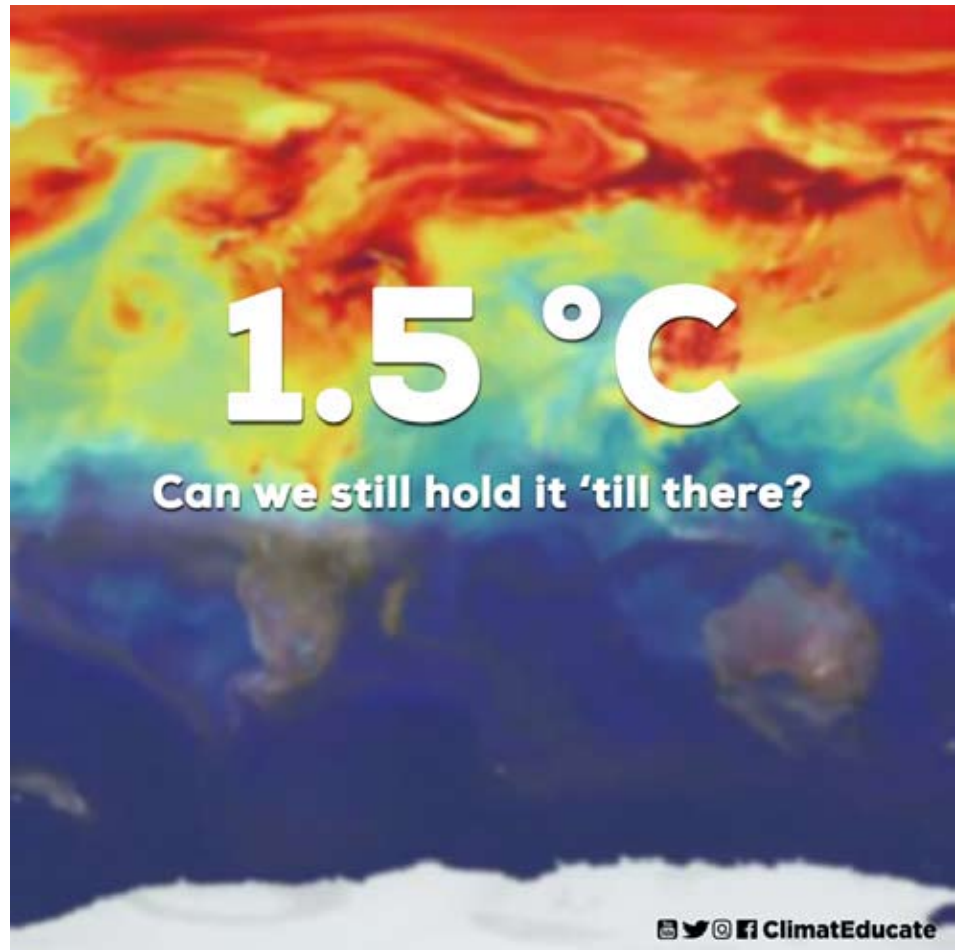
The planet is already two-thirds of the way there, with global temperatures having warmed about 1 degree C. Avoiding going even higher will require significant action in the next few years.

“This is concerning because we know there are so many more problems if we exceed 1.5 degrees C global warming, including more heatwaves and hot summers, greater sea level rise, and, for many parts of the world, worse droughts and rainfall extremes,” Andrew King, a lecturer in climate science at the University of Melbourne, said in a statement.

Global net emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach “net zero” around 2050 in order to keep the warming around 1.5 degrees C.

Lowering emissions to this degree, while technically possible, would require widespread changes in energy, industry, buildings, transportation, and cities, the report says.

“The window on keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees C is closing rapidly and the current emissions pledges made by signatories to the Paris Agreement do not add up to us achieving that goal,” added King.



Graphic: Climate Educate

Special Report: What it's like at the ground zero of climate change published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change October 6, 2018

Consequences of Past Inaction

The report makes it clear that climate change is already happening – and what comes next could be even worse, unless urgent international political action is taken.

“One of the key messages that comes out very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1 degree C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels, and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes,” said Panmao Zhai, co-chair of IPCC Working Group I.

Even if warming is kept at or just below 1.5 degrees C, the impacts will be widespread and significant.

Temperatures during summer heatwaves, such as those just experienced across Europe this summer, can be expected to increase by 3 degrees C says the report.

More frequent or intense droughts, such as the one that nearly ran the taps dry in Cape Town, South Africa, as well as more

frequent extreme rainfall events such as hurricanes Harvey and Florence in the United States, are also pointed to as expectations as we reach the warming threshold.

Coral reefs will also be drastically affected, with between 70 and 90% expected to die off, including Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Countries in the southern hemisphere will be among the worse off, the report said, “projected to experience the largest impacts on economic growth due to climate change should global warming increase.”

The report underlines how even the smallest increase in the base target would worsen the impact of recent natural disasters.

“Every extra bit of warming matters, especially since warming of 1.5 degrees C or higher increases the risk associated with long-lasting or irreversible changes, such as the loss of some ecosystems,” said Hans-Otto Pörtner, Co-Chair of IPCC Working

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Group II.

The report cites specific examples of how impacts of global warming would be lessened with the 1.5 degrees C increase, compared to the 2 degrees C increase:

- Global sea levels would rise 10 cm lower by 2100.
- The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century, instead of at least once per decade.
- Coral reefs would decline by 70% to 90% instead of being almost completely wiped out.

'Possible with the Laws of Chemistry and Physics'

Monday's report was three years in the making and is a direct result of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. In the Paris accord, 197 countries agreed to the goal of holding global temperatures "well below" 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees C.

The United States was initially in the agreement, but President Donald Trump pulled the country out a year and half later, claiming it was unfair to the country.

To limit global warming to 1.5 degree C is "possible within the laws of chemistry and physics," said Jim Skea, co-chair of IPCC Working Group III. "But doing so would require unprecedented changes."

"International cooperation is absolutely imperative to limit emissions and therefore global warming and its impacts, as well as coordinating effective and widespread adaptation and mitigation," said Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, a fellow at the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New South Wales. "The next few years will be critical in the evolution of these efforts."

One key issue will be negative emissions, large scale carbon-scrubbing technologies that can reduce the amount in the atmosphere and act to counter continued pollution.

According to the report, there are two main ways of removing carbon from the atmosphere: increasing natural processes that already do this, and experimental carbon storage or removal technologies.

However, all methods "are at different stages of development and some are more conceptual than others, as they have not been tested at scale," the report warned.

They will also require considerable political engagement globally, as will reducing the amount of carbon being emitted. Despite the report's dire warnings, there is no indication such cooperation will be doable, particularly given the Trump administration's stance on this issue.

"Today the world's leading scientific ex-



Photo: NASA

Sea ice is seen from NASA's Operation IceBridge research aircraft off the northwest coast of Greenland. Scientists say the Arctic has been one of the regions hardest hit by climate change.

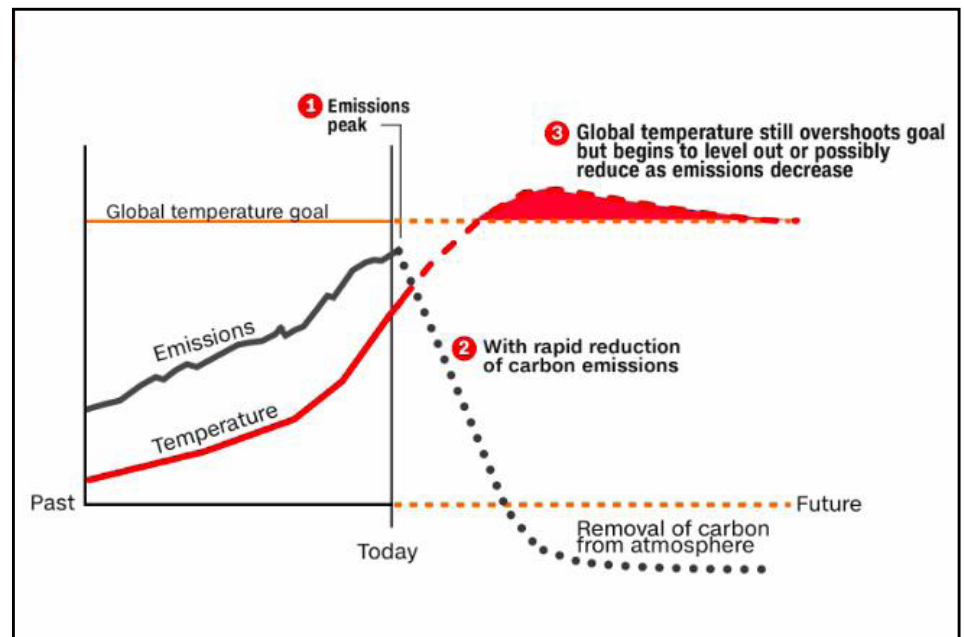


Chart from IPCC Report

This chart from the IPCC shows how global temperatures would respond to a sudden and drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Even with immediate action, global temps will still overshoot the goal, but could reduce back to the target over time.

perts collectively reinforced what Mother Nature has made clear – that we need to undergo an urgent and rapid transformation to a global clean energy economy," former U.S. Vice President Al Gore said. "Unfortunately, the Trump administration has become a rogue outlier in its shortsighted attempt to prop up the dirty fossil fuel industries of the past. The administration is in direct conflict with American businesses, states, cities and citizens leading the transformation."

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/team54project/permalink/700437830331553/>

Facebook Comments

Michael Bradley: It was such a nice planet in the beginning, then they invented money... It's clear we need to use every tool in the box if we're going to survive this challenge!

Max Kennedy: This kind of hypocrisy in leadership will destroy us all.



Photo by Andrew Anderson, a.k.a. Blindcolour, shared via Atlas Obscura

Vilcabamba River with Mother Earth as the river flows to the sea.

A Decade of Legality: Rights of Nature Coming of Age

Email from the Community Environmental Legal
Defense Fund (CELDF)
September 21, 2018

Celebrating the
10th Anniversary of
Ecuador's Landmark Constitution

"Nature, or Pacha Mama, where life is reproduced and occurs, has the right to integral respect for its existence and for the maintenance and regeneration of its life cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes."

Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador
Chapter 7, Article 71

Happy birthday, Mother Earth!
Well, that's not exactly accurate. How

about...

Feliz aniversario, Pachamama y Ecuador!

Ten-Year Anniversary for First Rights of Nature Constitution

Next week marks the 10th anniversary of Ecuador's Constitution, which recognizes legally enforceable Rights of Nature, "To exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution."

As the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund's Mari Margil, leader of their International Center for the Rights of Nature, said at the time, "With this vote, the people of Ecuador are leading the way for countries around the world to fundamentally change how we protect Nature."

For beyond setting a legal precedent on the existence of Nature's rights, Ecuador's Constitution also challenges the people of the world to speak and act on behalf of Pachamama, by stating, "Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognitions of rights for nature before the public bodies," Margill continued.

Recognizing Ecosystems as Rights-Bearing Entities

Over the past decade, that's a challenge people and communities around the world have taken up, changing the legal recognition of ecosystems from being property to being acknowledged as rights-bearing entities. Throughout, the Community Envi-

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ronmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), which assisted the Ecuadorian Constituent Assembly in drafting the provisions, has provided legal counsel, guidance, and support to people around the world working to establish the Rights of Nature.

During the past 10 years –

- **Bolivia's** Legislative Assembly passed the Law of the Rights of Mother Earth.

- **Ecuador's** high court upheld that nation's constitutional provisions in the Vilcamba River case.

- Citizens of **Nepal** began a campaign toward constitutional Rights of Nature for the Himalayas.

- In **Colombia**, courts have now ruled that both the Atrato and Amazon River systems have rights to exist and flourish.

- The High Court of Uttarakhand in **India** has issued rulings recognizing the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers, glaciers, and other ecosystems as legal persons with certain rights. That same court, just this summer, declared, "Every species has an inherent right to live and are required to be protected by law," effectively declaring legal rights for the entire animal kingdom.

- **New Zealand's** Parliament has enacted both the Te Urewera Act and the Te Awa Tupua Act, recognizing the Te Urewera area and the Whanganui River ecosystem as legal entities with their own rights.

- A campaign for legal recognition of the rights of the Great Barrier Reef is currently in progress in **Australia**.

- In the **United States**, more than thirty communities have adopted Rights of Nature laws, with efforts under way in Ohio, Oregon, and other states to amend state constitutions and recognize the Rights of Nature.

- At the **Vatican**, Pope Francis has declared, "A true 'right of the environment' does exist."

A Growing Movement

People worldwide are listening, watching, and acting in this transformational movement to embrace and defend Mother Earth's rights. Some come to it spiritually, following the lead of Pope Francis, or – as the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin is doing with their constitutional amendment – reclaiming their traditional worldview.

Others come to it philosophically, having found resonance in the logical arguments of Christopher Stone's essay, "Should Trees Have Standing: Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects." Still others grasp the need to acknowledge Mother Earth's rights from the scientific view in James Lovelock's and Lynn Margulis' Gaia theory.

And sadly, far too many people have found their way to Rights of Nature because they have been sickened – literally and figuratively – by the effects of enslaving Mother

Earth and her land, water, air, plant life, and animals to create corporate profits. They recognize their individual and collective health and lives are dependent on Nature's right to exist and thrive. And they are willing to fight for their own lives and Hers.

As we congratulate the Ecuadorian people on this landmark 10-Year Anniversary and their recognition of the Rights of Nature, there is great hope. This is more than Mother Earth's rights maturing and growing. It's the promise that – perhaps – humanity is finally "coming of age." We are rejecting the creed of "human exceptionalism" and the devastation it has caused, and instead embracing the truth that Earth, nature, people – life itself – is a symbiotic whole.

CELDF and our International Center for the Rights of Nature are leading the way in the Rights of Nature Movement across the United States and around the world. From Tamaqua Borough, Pennsylvania, to Lincoln County, Oregon; and from Ecuador to Australia, CELDF is there.

Your donation helps us meet the growing requests for our help – please donate today at <https://celdf.org/donate/>.

Learn more about Rights of Nature and how you can advance those rights in your community at rightsofnature@celdf.org.

Source: <https://celdf.org/2018/09/blog-a-decade-of-legality-rights-of-nature-coming-of-age/>



Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at www.gobackclub.org or email ionaconnor@pa.net. It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

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Thank you.



Photo by Chris Jordan-Bloch/EarthJustice

Lilian Bello spoke against a proposed natural gas plant in Oxnard, California, that, if allowed, would join three existing gas plants on the city's beach.

Victory: Turning the Tide on Gas Plants

The battle over fossil fuels in California signals the start of a clean energy era.

By Jessica A. Knoblauch
EarthJustice email: September 16, 2018

THE DAYS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ELECTION in 2016 were a turning point for many. Lilian Bello was no exception. At that time, Bello was a student at Hueneme High in Oxnard, California, a diverse community along the iconic Central Coast that's also known as one of the strawberry capitals of the world. While teachers soothed frantic students, many of whom came from immigrant families, a representative from a local social justice organization showed up with a different objective: to rally them around fighting for their environmental and human rights.

"It caught my attention," says Bello. "I was like, 'I'm ready. I'm gonna do something. I can't just stand by.'"

Bello soon learned that the city's three gas power plants were contributing to its dismal asthma rates – and a powerful energy company was dead set on building a fourth.

Bello, who has suffered from asthma as long as she can remember, joined others in opposing the plant. In March, after a four-year-long fight, California's grid operator approved a clean energy alternative to the shortsighted plan, pushing it off a cliff.

The victory was sweet for the community, where predominantly low-income, immigrant residents have long lived under a haze of industrial pollution – while watching their more affluent neighbors like in Santa Barbara and Malibu enjoy clean air and clear skies. And it signaled something sweeter, inspiring other Southern California communities to insist on clean energy, and putting investors and regulators nationwide on notice that new natural gas plants have become difficult to justify.

THE FIGHT BEGINS IN OXNARD

The fight to shut down a gas plant project in Oxnard began in the summer of 2014 af-

ter NRG Energy proposed building a plant called Puente to provide backup power during peak times of energy use. The project seemed inevitable. California regulators had identified a need for local energy generation and had historically met those needs with new gas plants.

But many Oxnard residents were tired of seeing the city littered with these hulking metal structures, complete with tall smokestacks that belch toxic air and gaping ponds filled with wastewater. In addition to the three existing power plants marring the city's coastline, Oxnard is home to a Superfund site full of toxic slag from a metals recycling facility. It also bears the brunt of the toxic pesticide overload that comes with being an agricultural powerhouse.

"In a community like Oxnard, you can go up and down the coast, and you're very aware of the differences in your community versus what you see in other communities," says Lucas Zucker of the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), the group that visited Bello's

Victory continued on next page

Victory continued from previous page classroom.

Bello, whose asthma used to be so severe and frequent that she once used a special breathing device, began attending city council meetings to help put a face on the issue. She was joined by a growing chorus of Oxnard youth that showed up at hearing after hearing with powerful and inspiring testimony. Many came from farm worker families who had seen their parents tolerate multiple injustices, and they wanted to step up and advocate on behalf of their loved ones. The students found creative new ways to express their opposition to the project, including a rap that played off the lyrics to “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” theme song.

The pushback worked, at least temporarily. The Oxnard city council sided with the community – twice, actually – unanimously prohibiting any new coastal power plants of 50 megawatts or greater. The council’s resolve to fight the plant, even as NRG alternately used charm and threats to try and force the proposal through, was a reflection of the town’s sustained efforts over the last few decades to pressure its representatives to protect the community from additional environmental harms.

“The city council was once a little more complacent,” says Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramírez. “Now, the people speak and the council listens.”

As the Puente fight continued to play out, other communities across California battling their own fossil fuel projects were watching closely to see whether the state’s frequent platitudes about being a clean energy leader would finally come home to their beleaguered towns – where these policies are needed most.



Photo Courtesy of CAUSE

Oxnard residents protest NRG Energy’s proposed Puente power plant. The 262-megawatt gas-fired plant would have increased pollution in the already-overburdened community.

GLENDALE AND SANTA PAULA JOIN IN

Glendale, California, about an hour’s drive east of Oxnard and part of Los Angeles County, is one of those communities. Like Oxnard, the city was facing a proposal to build a large new gas plant that would lock the city into dirty energy for decades.

Many people opposed the plant, including economics professor Dan Brotman, who argued that falling energy storage and renewable energy prices meant that cleaner options made financial sense for Glendale.

State politicians are also currently pushing to pass legislation that will mandate 100 percent clean energy by 2045. If passed, it would mean any fossil fuel infrastructure that Glendale builds could be shut down in 25 years, leaving rate-payers with a useless, fossilized behemoth that cost \$500 million to build.

Another community keeping close watch on Puente’s fate was Santa Paula, a fertile orchard-filled town about 20 minutes from Oxnard. There, residents were opposing a gas plant proposal over

concerns of cultural impacts, air pollution and habitat destruction. A Native-led nonprofit called the Wishtoyo Foundation also opposed the plant, set to be located on the Santa Clara River, because it would disturb the Chumash people’s sacred sites and natural places of cultural significance.

Earthjustice is providing critical legal support for each of these ongoing fights, as well as a communications and policymaking strategy to link the battles to the larger Right To Zero movement to get California to zero emissions by 2045. Zero emissions means no pollutants that dirty our air or disrupt our climate.

No two power plant proposals are alike, but collectively, “They all represent a massive investment in fossil fuel infrastructure,” says EarthJustice attorney Angela Johnson Meszaros, who led the legal strategy in support of Santa Paula and Glendale community groups fighting new gas plants.

“Every time a jurisdiction spends that money, it’s just locking us in,” she says. “The question we posed in Glendale, and that we’re posing in all of these communities facing these decisions is, ‘Why don’t we think about how we can spend this money in ways that positions us for the future, instead of anchoring us to the past?’”

That question couldn’t come at a better time for these communities, who for years have watched California charge ahead on a clean energy revolution while proposing to leave them in the polluted dust.



Photo by Jessica Chou for EarthJustice

Earthjustice attorneys Angela Johnson Meszaros and Byron Chan at one of several hearings held on the proposed Grayson gas plant in Glendale, Calif. These packed hearings often went on into the late hours of the night.

Victory continued on next page

Victory *continued from previous page*

Though California leads both nationally and globally on pushing progressive environmental policies and technologies, it continues to rely heavily on natural gas.

These gas plants have to go somewhere, and they often end up in communities of color and low-income communities, where they contribute to poor air quality that leads to asthma. Currently eight out of 10 of America's most-polluted cities are in California, with Southern California counties like Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura ranking highest in the number of unhealthy days for ozone.

"The notion that people die every day basically for having the audacity to breathe is problematic," says Johnson Meszaros, who adds that having a clean, healthy environment is fundamental for people being able to do anything else. "And the fact that many of those people who are suffering are people of color and low-income people is deeply problematic."

THE PUENTE GAS PROPOSAL STARTS TO CRUMBLE

Back in Oxnard, as NRG slowly realized that the city was adamantly against the Puente project, the company dug in to wage a legal battle. While community groups argued that building the plant would create an environmental injustice for an already overburdened community of color, EarthJustice attorney Matt Vespa, on behalf of the Sierra Club, added that siting the plant on the beach put it directly in the path of inundation by sea level rise.

"The whole point of building the plant was to ensure reliability in the area during extreme weather, but NRG was proposing to put Puente in a location that itself was highly vulnerable to extreme weather," says Vespa, who led the legal fight against Puente. "It didn't make any sense."

Community activists and EarthJustice, along with local environmental groups, joined together with the City of Oxnard and Ramirez to fight the plant. In addition to the climate change and environmental justice issues raised by the plant proposal, Vespa argued in energy commission hearings that building dirty backup plants to provide energy during peak times was no longer necessary to ensure grid reliability thanks to advances in clean energy technology.

He brought in innovators like Tesla to testify and prove that point. Soon NRG's project, which for years had felt like a done deal, began to crumble.

And in June 2017, the opposition's hard work finally paid off after state regulators charged with maintaining grid reliability authorized an unprecedented study to de-



Photo by Chris Jordan-Bloch/EarthJustice

Mati Waiya, a Chumash ceremonial elder, founder and executive director of the Wishtoyo Foundation offers, tobacco at the end of a ceremony held in opposition of the proposed Mission rock power plant.

termine whether clean energy alternatives could take the power plant's place. The study's findings did just that, signaling the beginning of the end of the Puente project. It also proved that when regulators are pushed to take a second look at power plant proposals, they come up with better solutions.

Around the same time as the Puente decision, the energy corporation proposing a gas plant in Santa Paula saw the writing on the wall and requested to suspend its proposed gas plant. And, most recently, after months of packed hearings with hundreds of concerned residents, in April 2018 Glendale city council members hit the brakes on the \$500 million proposed gas plant in favor of studying a clean energy alternative.

"When I started this work six years ago, clean energy was a sprinkle on top of building polluting gas plants," says EarthJustice's Vespa. "Now, thanks to Puente, we're building a blueprint for how utilities can look to clean energy solutions first."

CENTRAL COAST FIGHTS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

Leaders across the state believe that the progress in Oxnard is just the beginning.

Since the Oxnard win, existing gas-fired plants have proposed to shut down decades before their expected retirement. And in January, the California Public Utilities Commission pressed Pacific Gas & Electric to replace three gas-fired plants with energy storage, paving the way for the retirement of

the large Metcalf Energy Center in San Jose, and the Feather River Energy and Yuba City Energy Centers in Yuba City. California's tech companies, meanwhile, are eagerly taking on the challenge of replacing fossil fuels with modern, clean energy sources.

These local community fights are propelling a major change in energy markets as cities and towns transition off gas and onto clean energy.

This year, finance experts have warned against investing in natural gas companies as clean energy tech has become cost competitive. Vistra Energy Corporation and Dominion Energy, which serve over five million customers in more than a dozen states, announced that they're done building gas plants. Instead, they're switching to solar.

In addition, community uprisings in New Orleans and Colorado are taking hold as people band together to fight new fossil fuel project proposals. In a clean energy future, people are coming together around the idea that no place should be a sacrifice zone.

Bello, the former high school student in Oxnard, explains why: "They don't deserve gas plants just like we don't deserve gas plants. Because we're humans, and we deserve better."

Jessica A. Knobloch is a senior staff writer. She writes for Earthjustice's print and digital publications.

Source: <https://earthjustice.org/features/turning-the-tide-on-gas-plants>



Photo Courtesy Delaware Riverkeeper

Over 17 Million people rely on the Delaware River for drinking water in New York, Philadelphia and South Jersey.

Precedent Setting Victory Regarding Navy Contamination of Drinking Water

Email from Delaware Riverkeeper, *excerpt*
October 3, 2018

Attorneys Mark Cuker and Steven Angstreich for the Giovanni and Palmer families from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, supported by amicus briefs, including one filed by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, achieved a stunning legal victory on October 2, 2018 issued out of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The decision in the case *Kristen Giovanni, et al v. United States Department of Navy*, allows two families to continue in their quest to require the U.S. Navy, which is responsible for exposing these families and countless others to toxic perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in their drinking water, to create a trust fund that will help the families cover the costs of medical monitoring so they can properly assess and respond to the health harms they may suffer as a result of the toxic exposure.

In a brief filed by the organization's attorney, Deanna Tanner, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network helped make the case that supported this important victory.

"I am proud that the Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed an amicus brief that helped to support this positive and important legal outcome," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. "It was shocking that the U.S. Navy would seek to deny the families it harmed with its PFC contamination (including perfluorooctano-

ic acid, "PFOA", and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, "PFOS") any of these basic requests which would help them understand how their health, and the health of their neighbors, has been harmed by the Navy's prolific use of these dangerous chemicals.

It is the direct result of the Navy's actions that the health of these families, and millions more across the nation, have been threatened and harmed; the least the Navy can do is cover the costs of helping these families understand how they have been impacted and what steps they can and/or should be taking to protect their very lives.

While we are disappointed that the Third Circuit justices have not agreed to advance the request for a health assessment (provided for under Pennsylvania's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act) that would include all impacted members of the community, we are pleased that the justices agreed that the request that the Navy foot the bill for the private medical monitoring is not jurisdictionally barred by federal law under the Comprehensive Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

It seems the Third Circuit justices are seeking in their decision to find a path to help these families understand and address the health problems they now face.

As a result of this decision, the claims of the Giovannis and the Palmers that the Navy should be required to set up a trust fund to help cover the costs of medical monitoring to help them understand and respond to the health problems they now face as the result

of exposure to Navy-caused PFC contamination are able to proceed forward.

This decision certainly does not make things right for the hundreds of families in Bucks County, and thousands nationwide, that have been so devastatingly impacted by the Navy's actions, but it is a step in the direction of help that is the bare minimum the government owes these impacted communities. We and others across the nation will continue to follow this case closely as it is setting a precedent that others impacted by PFC contamination due to government activities will be able to follow," van Rossum added.

Basics of the Case

The drinking water of the Giovanni and Palmer families was highly contaminated with PFCs, at levels well above the EPA non-binding provisional health advisory recommending a maximum combined PFOA/PFOS concentration in public drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (0.07 µg/L).

The drinking water supply for the Giovanni family, which includes a husband, wife and three children had a combined PFOA/PFOS level of 2.88 µg/L; the Palmers, a mother and son, had a PFOA/PFOS level of 0.62 µg/L in their drinking water supply. Both families were ultimately hooked into the local public water system, which later was also found to be contaminated with PFCs. . . .

Source: <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Giovanni%20press%20statement%2010.3.18%20final.pdf>



Photos Courtesy Clement Musonda Kankomba

Clement Musonda Kankomba doing a solar cooker training in Zambia in 2011.

Zambia: Rosa Solar Stoves Project Needs Support

By Clement Musonda Kankomba

1. Benefits of solar stoves in Zambia

Solar stove is not a new method of cooking. The first solar cooker has been innovated by Horace de Saussure, a naturalist from Swaziland, in 1767.

Rosa Solar Stoves started since 2010 to innovate the solar box cooker and 2014 we innovated parabolic type and used both of them.

In 2011 and 2012, we presented solar box cooker in natural medicine usage at Kafakumba training Center, Ndola.

In 2017, we innovated Heliac solar stove which is very efficient and can cook every local food. Rosa Solar Stoves got registration documents by PACRA.

In Zambia, many people are using charcoal for cooking in urban areas and in rural areas they are using firewood. Rosa Solar Stoves is working on solar stoves and green activities to stop deforestation and climate change issues in Zambia and others regions of Africa.

This technology helped us to save many lives from Cholera from December 2017 to March 2018 in Kanyama area, Lusaka.

The benefits are uncountable but list some:

- Reduce air pollution and

promote health

- Reduce deforestation
- Reduce climate changes
- Improve nutrition and tackle cholera
- Create jobs
- Reduce poverty
- Develop the communities

2. Presentations and demonstrations

• 2011-2012 : Rosa Soar Stoves presented solar box cookers at Kafakumba training center in Natural medicine, solar box cooker for cooking , water pasteurization and drying process.

• 2016 : Rosa Solar Stoves ran a seminar and held a training in Youth groups – Church of Christ in Harare/ Zimbabwe.

• 2017: Rosa Solar Stoves shared Heliac

solar stove in public, in Kanyama for boiling water for avoiding Cholera in Lusaka.

• 2018, July 26: Rosa Solar Stoves gave a pitch at Bongo Hive for SAIS project (Southern Africa Innovation Support).

• 2018, August 7: Rosa solar stove did a presentation and demonstration at Government Complex.

Contact: Clement Musonda Kankomba at +260974579031/ +260962075001 / Lusaka, Zambia or musondakankomba@gmail.com or rosalukonde@gmail.com.



Photo by Chris Jordan-Bloch/EarthJustice

(left) Kids and solar cooking GoFundMe campaign for Zambia; (right) Solar cooking project reaches and teaches all ages. This project needs your support and help to spread this technology all over the country in Zambia. Please feel free to donate with any fund.

Letter from TEAM 54 Project CEO

Group created on January 25, 2017
Name last changed on June 3, 2018

Description

TEAM 54 PROJECT is a not-for-profit group run by a management team that coordinates an ALL-INCLUSIVE initiative called "CLIMATE CHANGE GLOBAL QUESTS PROJECT", whose core mandate is to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and the need to take urgent global actions. This is achieved with the help of country coordinators who, together with the CEO, have mobilized passionate global citizenry from a network of 170 nations.

It was established in 2017 by the group's Founder, Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, and with the help of our passionate members (over 208,000), we have been making an extraordinary climate action impact, enough to be recognized by the President of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak in 2018, and Climate Reality Project and other global groups.

We are focused on raising awareness, empowering people, creating enlightenment and embarking on actions. The quests often include special training on climate change which our members either give or they attend themselves in the following countries, USA, Mexico, Marrakesh, and Germany. We have attended a lot of international conferences; of note is the 5th World Climate Change and Global Warming Conference.

We have partnerships with groups like UNFCCC, Parvati.org, Climate Reality Project, WHISGREEN and civic organization groups in Africa, and have been invited to attend high-level meetings on Climate Change at the UN.

Our driving force is our passionate members whom we encourage and inspire to express themselves using their skills and talents to address climate change with their testimonies across the globe. This effort has been great from these areas: mainly Poetry, Artistic works, Technological innovations, Digitized messaging and Music. The Earth Regenerative Project is the tree planting and seedlings-distribution initiative and the idea is flourishing in countries like Kenya, Nigeria, and the UK.

We support campaigns and cleanup exercises, and our engagement will continue until 2030 and a future that supports green ventures.

In 2017, we organized an international conference to reappraise our climate actions. It was hosted with the support of the Mayor of Catbalogan in the Philippines; it doubles as our ANNIVERSARY.

There really can't be a more perfect time to



Photo by Gbujie Daniel Chidubem

Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem on his way to the UN, September 21, 2018.

act than now, when the impact of climate change is obvious, therefore realigning for a better sustainable future should be everyone's priority, it is certainly ours here.

In conclusion, we hold strongly to the view that we should leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Thank you for surfing through our mandate and other information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/team54project/>, as we continue the quest to achieving a sustainable ecological future. Do join us in our ambitious quest to MAKE EARTH GREEN AGAIN.

Best regards,
DR. GBUJIE DANIEL CHIDUBEM
Founder/Chief Executive Officer
TEAM 54 PROJECT and
International Project Coordinator
54 CLIMATE CHANGE GLOBAL
QUESTS PROJECT

Group Rules from the Admins

1. Management Rights The CEO and his volunteer admin staff have the right to delete all organization posts. Must be approved. Please current admins are here on a temporary basis and the decision of the board is currently the best on all issues.

2. Be Kind and Courteous We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.

3. TEAM 54 Project Says No Hate Speech or Online Bullying. Make sure everyone

feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, and sexual orientation will not be tolerated. What we focus on is mainly environmental issues associated with climate change and solutions that can help address the crisis.

4. TEAM 54 Project Respects Everyone's Opinion and Privacy Being part of the TEAM 54 Project Family requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions on only environmental related issues make us great and expands our understanding, but it may also be sensitive, therefore we must allow varying views. What's shared in the group can be shared outside.

5. CEO Approves Promotions by Other Organizations and NO Spam Give more than you take to this group. We love that you can post on the blog the climate actions you are taking; it inspires others or evidence of climate disruption in your society, but we don't want any promotion or posters that are not approved by CEO alone and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

6. All Communication About Team 54 Project We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. However, all communication on behalf of the organization can only be done by the CEO and Board. At no time should any member or coordinator embark on discussion without approval. And the management will conclude on behalf of the group.

Group Type: Team

TEAM 54 Project Seeks Donations of School Supplies to Deliver at Conference in Liberia

By Gbujie Daniel Chidubem
TEAM 54 Project Founder and CEO

Please, we will be happy if we can get donations for books, composition books, writing materials, and clothes for Liberia for distribution. I will be traveling in December and we intend to distribute them to young people.

Our school-based Green Challenge has been launched. Students in high schools and undergraduates will be engaged on environmental issues. We humbly request that interested persons or groups can donate towards the successful hosting of the first Green School Challenge. These are some of what we will need:

- Composition note books
 - Book Bags
 - Backpacks
 - Coloring materials
 - Coloring books
 - Writing materials
 - Green books
- Other forms of donations will be highly appreciated

These will be given to students and kids. A team will be traveling from the USA to Liberia by December, so if you are interested in helping, please send your donations as early as possible to 12 Dix Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 and they will be sent to Liberia.

We are hoping to get books to write and

pencils color pencil for kids because they are going to draw green things

We already received a bag of seedballs for planting and we will be donating to farmers in Liberia. For those outside USA and Latina America and want to support the conference, do reach out to the local organizing committee by sending an e-mail to team54monrovia2018@gmail.com or reach out to team 54 Project-Liberia coordinator Samson Sehgren for an easy way to get across to the LOC.

Our Board also has approved the launching of a fundraising link solely for the Conference in Monrovia and we will want members to also support the drive. Let's all work together to make the world green again.

African Youth Commission Leader to Visit The Gambia, Help Plan 2019 Youth Conference

Posted October 9, 2018 by Motlatsi Makhasane
TEAM 54 Project International (Climate Change Global Quest Project)

Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Ag. Executive Chairperson of the African Youth Commission will make her first official visit to the Republic of The Gambia, from October 20 to 26, 2018.

The Acting Executive Chairperson of the African Youth Commission (AYC), Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane is due to arrive in Banjul, The Republic of The Gambia from October 20th to 26th ahead of the third African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development, co-hosted by the Gambia National Youth Council and the AYC Secretariat, scheduled to take place in Banjul from March 23 to 26, 2019, under the theme: 'The Future Is Now: Youth are Not Too Young to Lead'. Madam Chairperson will meet with government ministers, youth leaders, youth organizations, and youth development partners in the private sector, civil society organizations, UN system, diplomatic, and donor communities to discuss possible partnerships and seek support for the forthcoming Pan-African Youth Conference to be held next year.

During her official visit, Ms. Mukundane will participate in the Youth Agribusiness and Tourism Expo, organized by the Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce, capacity-building training for youth in politics organized by the Gambia National Youth Council and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and will hold a town hall meeting with young people as well as interact with law students at Law Faculty of the University of The Gambia as a young lawyer herself, to inspire and learn from them.

"This will be my first ever visit to West Africa, and I am not only looking forward to the hospitality I have heard of a lot. I am also looking forward to engaging with young minds and various stakeholders within the region, to understand their stance on issues pertaining to their own, national, regional, and continental developments, and how we can work together as young people to bring the change we want to see. I especially look forward to joining hands and effort with them all in making the hosting of the 3rd African Youth Conference on African Unity and Development in The Gambia a huge success. I congratulate The Gambia for being selected to host our prestigious Pan-African Youth Conference in



Photo Courtesy African Youth Commission
Ms. Natalie Sonia Mukundane, Ag. Executive Chairperson of the African Youth Commission (AYC), will be helping to plan the 2019 Pan-African Youth Conference.

2019," said Ms. Mukundane.

As part of her visit, Ms. Mukundane will officially sign the MoU with Gambia National Youth Council for the hosting of the Pan-African Youth Conference, launch the AYC Gambia National Consortium, and address the press and donor community on her visit to The Gambia to publicize and galvanize support for the conference in 2019.

TEAM 54 Project Uganda: Women's Roles in the Climate Movement

Note from the Editor: This paper is so important and so long, that I'll be running it as a series. Here is Chapter I.

By Dr. Tamale Paul

Purpose of the Paper: This article is not intended for any financial gains. It is neither for any academic reward but I aimed at growing more in knowledge on how to fight climate change. It is to create more awareness to the parties fighting against climate change concerning gender and general justice in climate change.

Acknowledgement: First, I thank the Almighty who has enabled me to come up with this article. Great thanks to the chairperson LC one, Kyaitamba village of Kijura sub-county-Fort portal who allowed me to do research from his village and the citizens of Kyaitamba village who were my target population. Thanks to my fellow students of Makerere University Agricultural Land Use and Management for their additional knowledge and support.

Dedication: I dedicate this paper to my parents; Mr. Ssali George William and Mrs. Ssali Grace for the part they have played for me to reach this far and all their love and investment in me. To Dr. Gbujie Daniel, the CEO Team 54 Project, for believing in me as a wonderful Ugandan who is passionate of a clean Uganda; Miss Joyce Misoi, the WHIS KENYA; Fabio Huther the CEO Umuntu organization; and Prince Ssebe, Mutebi Ramadhan the co-founders Umuntu for sustainable communities Uganda.

FOREWORD

Climate change is becoming so severe in the world, while affecting the world so severely with hunger, poverty, ill health and death, in that much has to be done to reduce the level at which climate change is hitting the world, but without gender and justice considerations in climate change, there is not much impact that can be achieved in fighting against climate change.

Solutions have been suggested, and somewhat started working, but have not been 100% successful. Without gender and justice considerations, these solutions cannot effectively work. That is why I came up with this article that was fully funded by me.

I hope this paper shall help much our climate change initiatives in their fight against climate change.



CHAPTER ONE: GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1.1 Why gender consideration

- It acts as a planning tool more so in climate change initiatives;
- It is used for monitoring and evaluation of climate change projects;
- For sustainable, equitable and efficient development; and
- To provide a joint action against climate change involving both men and women.

1.2 Gender issues in climate change

- **Gender discrimination:** This is where one sex is disadvantaged because the other is favored. For instance men can be put to the climate change projects boards, ignoring the females.
- **Gender oppression:** This is where one sex dominates the other unjustly through the use of power and domination. Often, general leadership is dominated by men and therefore they tend to have more powers even in climate change initiatives.
- **Gender stereotype:** This is when women and men are regarded according to rigid thinking about the social and cultural expectations of their gender rather than a more flexible consideration of their

individual capacities and potentials. Men have left the responsibility of local resource management to a woman, which creates a gap in awareness to local resources between man and woman.

- **Gender bias:** Prejudiced action or thought based on gender-based perceptions that one sex is not equal to another. Often, we have heard men say that for them they are managers and no need to do hands-on to local resources, compared to women who are casual workers. This also has created a big gap in awareness to local resources between the two sexes.
- **Gender blindness:** This is the inability to consider the differences between man's and woman's needs, benefits, access to resources, access to power, or social political status. Not all climate change initiatives have been able to consider gender equality in climate change.
- **Gender disparity:** Difference in men's and women's access to resources, status and well-being that are often institutionalized through laws and social customs. It is true that women have less access to online materials on climate science due to high illiteracy and poverty levels.

Gender Justice continued on next page

Gender Justice *continued from previous page*

• **Gender inequity:** This is the unfair treatment of classes of people. It happens when one sex is aided to help them cope up with climate change and the other is ignored.

1.3 Why gender issues?

- Difference in access to assets, credit and formal institution treatment
- Difference in decision-making powers
- Social-cultural norms
- Difference in political influence
- Limited concern to human rights
- Lack of sex disaggregated data

1.4 Why we should greatly incorporate women in climate change.

• They are at the highest risk on impact of climate change: women more than men have greater engagement with local resources, in the way of forging a livelihood. Negative impacts on such resources due to climate change are highly affecting them

According to a Climate Reality document entitled, "HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING WOMEN?" published on March 14, 2018 (<https://www.climateRealityproject.org/blog/how-climate-change-affecting-women>), it states that, "Everyone knows about the financial costs of the climate crisis as heat waves, wildfires, and storms become more powerful and more frequent. For example, in 2017, weather and climate disasters caused more than \$300 billion in damage according to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

But the costs of our changing climate aren't just financial. As temperatures rise, everyone, including children playing outside, is increasingly at risk from heat-related illnesses and the expanding tropical diseases. Plus, burning fossil fuels releases toxic pollutants into the air we breathe, which can cause more frequent asthma flare ups and higher rates of illnesses like lung and heart disease. And women feel these health issues more acutely.

According to Bruce and Susan of Climate Reality, "There is evidence of how climate change is associated with an increase in asthma in adolescent girls, a higher risk of acquiring lung cancer and heart disease in mid-life, and heart attacks, strokes, and dementia in older women." The research is especially concerning for pregnant women. "Adverse pregnancy outcomes, specifically premature birth and low birth weight, both of which often have life-long consequences, as well as stillbirth, have been associated with increasing heat and air pollution," they said. And women feel these health issues more acutely.



Photo by Taba Christine

I am Tamale Paul, student at Maker Ere University Kampala pursuing Bachelor of Science in agricultural land use and management, president Maker Ere University Land Managers Association; Team 54 project-UGANDA coordinator (an initiative on climate change under the mother Team 54 Project), co-founder Umuntu movement Uganda; and a champion for WHISAfrica Green Uganda.

He is very passionate of a clean environment and a safer world. Lives in Kampala, Uganda. Climate change is becoming so severe in the world, while affecting the world so severely with hunger, poverty, ill health, and death in that much has to be done to reduce the level at which climate change is hitting the world, but without gender and justice consideration in climate change, there is not much impact that can be achieved in fighting against climate change. Solutions have been suggested, and somewhat started working but have not been 100% successful. Without gender and justice consideration, these solutions cannot effectively work. I hope this paper shall help much our climate change initiatives in their fight against climate change.

A global women's issue: And these issues are not unique to American women. Studies show that 80 percent of people displaced by climate change around the globe

are women. Not to mention women are more likely than men to experience poverty and have less socioeconomic power than men, making recovery from extreme weather events more difficult.

But Bruce and Susan believe that women can and should play a unique role in the fight against the climate crisis by speaking out to demand climate action from our leaders. As mothers, caregivers, and heads of family, they know how seriously climate impacts the health and wellbeing of our children. "Given women's vital role as mothers, in families and throughout society, we cannot afford to let climate change affect their health without risking great harm to us all... In the vital family roles that women traditionally perform in our society, they may bear additional impacts due to the climate's effects on others that rely on them. If her children or spouse are suffering physically or mentally, additional duties may fall on her – taking time and energy away from a career and/or needed self-care."

• Directly engage with local natural resources for production at the household. This alone puts onto them a responsibility to protect the local resources which are the agents to climate change. They should be sensitized on how to use these resources better for a green environment. Miss Purnamita Dasgupta, the chair professor and head of the environmental and resource economics unit at the institute of economic growth, Delhi, India, said on International Women's Day, two leading scientists, when asked whether there are specific areas having women where they help in getting a clearer understanding of climate change impact and in adapting to climate change stated that, "I will take example from the water sector. Traditionally women's use and knowledge of water in developing country contexts were associated with activities within the household. Today we see a feminization of agriculture in several parts of the world, where the water issues have transcended conventional divides. From managing floods to drought, drinking water supplies to waterborne illness, from occupational trajectories to economy-level impacts, women have significant contributions to make..." She added that, "In the south Asian contexts, studies conducted by ICIMOD, OXFAM and others, reveal that women who bear the brunt of these impacts are often perfectly aware and capable of comprehending what is happening around them and their lives, however communicating these perceptions and experiences is often easier with females

Gender Justice *continued on next page*

Gender Justice *continued from previous page*

than males in specific cultural contexts so women scientists who can act as bridges due to the nature of work that they do, can bring a lot to the table and provide valuable insights into these processes. They can also play an important role in ensuring that material is presented in a gender-sensitive manner and that dissemination activities are tailored similarly.” Obtained from “The Role of Women in Climate Science” article March 8, 2018. (<https://www.thethirdpole.net/en/2018/03/08/the-role-of-women-in-climate-science>)

- They have an extensive knowledge and expertise in the local environment based on the fact that they engage directly with the local resources compared to the men.
- Can easily employ disaster reduction and adaptation strategies. If well sensitized, they are agents of change to restore the quality of the local resources. Because of the high passion for high-quality resources from which they derive their livelihoods.
- Highly efficient at community mobilization. Additionally, women have better voices to their women comrades in the community women groups than the men. This character makes them better people to give responsibilities in climate change projects.

• They are key models that inspire many to combat climate change: I have seen and heard many outstanding ladies who, through music, inspire many to embark on climate change. For example musician Parvati who has inspired many to sign MAPS as a way of fighting against marine pollution.

Miss Purnamita Dasgupta, the chair professor and head of the environmental and resource economics unit at the institute of economic growth, Delhi, India. On the International Women’s Day II, when asked about how her journey has been in the field of climate science as a scientist and women stated that, “I would like to share an experience here. I was co-chairing a small group meeting on climate science in Stockholm in 2016. There were some extremely knowledgeable and accomplishment experts from around the world in the room. The women were as vocal as the men. The discussions were intense and inspired by a difference. There were informal parallel sub-group discussions going on as well. Suddenly one expert walked up to me and said in a fairly agitated and audible voice, “Madam, for a woman, you smile too much.” A first, indeed, in my career. What it brought home to me was the diversity in the expectations from women and on what constitutes ac-

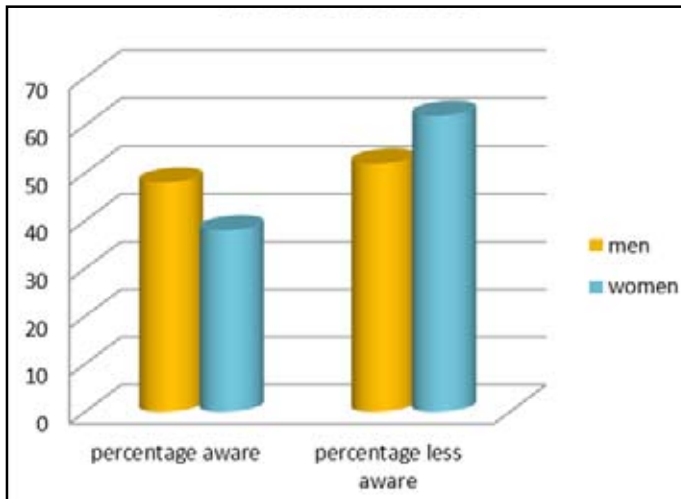
ceptable conduct in public especially when they hold positions of responsibility, no matter for how transient or short a duration these may be....” Obtained from “The Role of Women in Climate Science.”

• Other related facts on women’s contribution to climate change in the document, the role of women in the fight against climate change (<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate/the-role-of-women-in-the-fight-against-climate-change>): Women make up 43% of the agricultural labor force worldwide. Some 70% of these living in poverty are women whose income may be up to 50% less than that of men, they produce 60-80% of food in developing countries and even more than that in poor rural areas even though they have less access than men to resources such as land credit inputs and services.

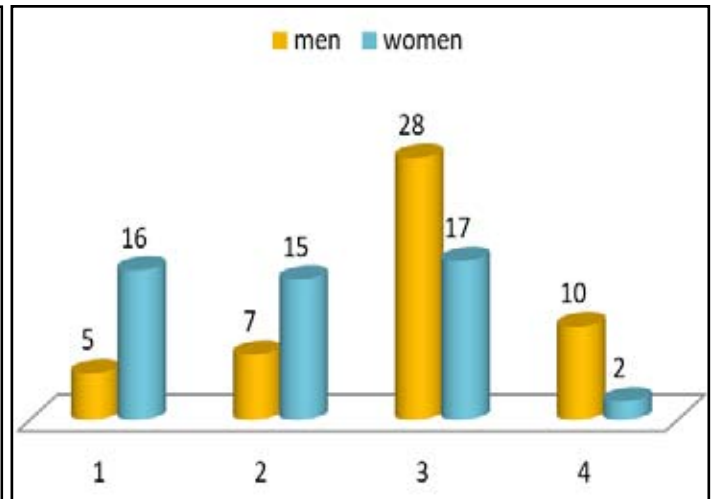
The traditional roles they are expected to fill make them even more vulnerable and insecure whenever natural disaster strikes.

But women also have the solutions for maintaining everyday life and preserving biodiversity; they possess traditional know-how and skills especially for managing natural resources and water and in areas such as innovation farming food waste and energy.

A graph showing difference in awareness on climate change between sexes



A graph showing awareness on natural resources among sexes



(left) The graph shows that the awareness on climate change is less among women and more among men. This implies that there is a big gap that needs to be covered to improve awareness on climate awareness among women. This can be done through sensitisation and empowering women in Kyaitamba Village passing through their women’s development groups. Awareness creation will help women to gain more interest in conserving the natural resources with which they are engaged. Men are also not 100% aware therefore, a balance in sensitisation need to be emphasised. (right) Key: 1. Aware, 2. Moderately aware, 3. Less aware, 4. Unaware The graph shows that women are much more aware about the natural resources since they are more engaged with them compared to men. This implies that in any climate-change initiative, women should be highly involved. They should be very critical contact person to help deliver more knowledge on local natural resources and be agents of change while deriving their livelihood from the resources.

Letter from TEAM 54 Project Board Chair: Raising Money to Become a 501(c)(3)

We are asking for seed money to help pay the costs of creating Team 54 Project as an American 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization. We have started the process with an expert law firm. We plan to file the paperwork in August 2018, it is almost complete.

These funds will be used to help pay for part of the start-up costs like: Buying a new web domain and hosting service, paying for new website creation, law firm, accounting and administrative costs. Our goal is to raise \$7,000 within the next 40 days.

Our new website can be seen here. <https://www.team54project.org/>

Team 54 Project has mainly been self funded for the last 18 months since it was created in Africa. Most of our members are what many would consider to be those most in need and don't regularly use the internet. We have one main closed Facebook page which you can ask to join. We have many open Team 54 Project pages that are public. We will appreciate any donation you can do now as well as sharing our vision.

We are focused on both communication, working with all stakeholders and supporting action.

We have started the paperwork process and will submit to the IRS soon and should

be approved in order to give you a receipt if you desire to write off your donation this year.

I was nominated and accepted to be the Chairman of the Board for Team 54 Project as of May 2018 after having known about Team 54 Project for many months before and after a wonderful 30-minute video communication with the CEO and Founder of Team 54 Project DR. GBUJIE DANIEL CHIDUBEM.

We ask you to join us with a donation of a \$1 or more if you can as well as sharing this Gofundme project. We will have other fundraisers once we are more established with wonderful rewards available for our donors who wish to support our mission and vision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bonnstetter

Chairman of the Board, TEAM 54 Project



ACTION YOU CAN TAKE

MAKE A DONATION
OF ANY SIZE AT
[HTTPS://WWW.GOFUNDME.
COM/SEED-FOR-501-C-3-
CREATION](https://www.gofundme.com/seed-for-501-c-3-creation)

Sustainable Ideas From a Net-Zero Home

By Gemma Alexander 
Earth911.com: July 12, 2018

The boldly-modern, Genesee Park Net-Zero Home stands out from its mid-century neighbors, but its most impressive features are not immediately obvious. The first Built Green, net-zero home in the Seattle area, this 3,700-square-foot, 4-bedroom home produces as much energy as it uses. Whether you are building your dream home or just trying to make the one you already have better, you can borrow some ideas from this ultra-sustainable home.

Solar Water

Heating water accounts for almost one-fifth of the average household's energy costs. Many people remember the old solar water heating systems that gave scalding water on sunny days and cold showers on cool days. The Genesee Park Net-Zero house uses a newer system by Silk Road Environmental. It uses a nontoxic thermal gel that stores the sun's warmth, instead of heating water directly, to maintain a consistent hot water temperature.

Solar Electricity

Seattle may be cloudy and high latitude, but solar panels can operate with greater efficiency in cooler climates. With a rooftop covered in solar panels, the Genesee Park House will produce between 9,000 and 10,000 kilowatt hours a year. That's enough to power an energy-efficient house like this one.

Solar power systems are highly individualized to the circumstances; it can take between six and 15 years to recoup the cost of a solar energy system. However, the federal solar tax credit allows you to deduct 30 percent of the installation cost from your federal taxes.

Triple-Pane Windows

Efficient energy use is equally important to reaching net-zero as energy generation. The Genesee Park House used triple-glazed windows for maximum efficiency. For many people, the added efficiency may not outweigh the cost premium. But if your single- or double-pane windows are old, new Energy Star rated windows could save up to \$465 dollars per year.

Water-Saving Appliances

Any homeowner can use common but effective features like water-saving fixtures

and low-flow toilets. Many municipalities and utilities offer rebates for purchases of WaterSense labeled toilets, showerheads and faucets. Even renters can save water by adding aerators to their faucets and can reduce the water in their toilet tank with a water-filled plastic jug.

Bigger Is Not Better

Most houses have one green advantage over the Genesee Park Net-Zero House: a smaller footprint — literally. The size of the average American home has more than doubled, but most of us still occupy fewer than the 1,850 square feet per person that the owners the Genesee Park Net Zero House use.

Smaller houses are inherently greener, using fewer materials both in construction and maintenance, and generating less storm water runoff. No matter how efficient a house is, the same level of efficiency over a smaller area will be greener. By starting with less space to begin with, it's easier to have a sustainable home.

Source: <https://earth911.com/home-garden/sustainable-ideas-net-zero-home>



Photo by Hitjyoti Sharma

TEAM 54 Project's Rituraj Phukan of India. Sensitizing the young generations is the key to a better world.

World Leaders Warn Failure to Educate Girls Will Cause 'Catastrophes'

Without educating girls, nations lose productivity and risk instability and conflict.

By Ellen Wulforth
Thomson Reuters Foundation
September 25, 2018

UNITED NATIONS – Leaders of France, Canada, and Britain called on world nations on Tuesday to boost efforts to educate girls, warning that “catastrophes” can result from failure to provide access to quality schooling.

Without educating girls, nations lose productivity and risk instability and conflict, they said on the sidelines of the annual meeting of world leaders at the United Nations.

More than 130 million girls, many in conflict-ridden or poor regions around the

world, do not attend school, according to the World Bank, costing as much as \$30 trillion in lost earnings and productivity.

A lack of education puts girls at risk of child marriage, poor health, early pregnancies, joblessness, and poverty, experts say.

But the rest of the world pays a price as well, in terms of economic power and political stability, world leaders said at a U.N. event promoting girls' education.

“It's an investment. If we don't do it, then we will be preparing for catastrophes,” French President Emmanuel Macron said.

“If we don't do anything, others will take hold of the agenda and there will be a crisis.”

Quality education must include cultural and social standards that address gender inequality, he said.

“It's because we haven't stepped up to the mark and provided appropriate education that we are entrenching those traditional

values instead of overturning them,” he said.

British Prime Minister Theresa May called on other nations to ensure girls have access to 12 years of free quality education.

“Improving access to education is not only the right thing to do, it's also at the heart of the UK's drive to boost economic growth, improve stability and reduce conflict around the world,” she said.

Ensuring quality education for all was among the 17 global goals adopted unanimously three years ago by U.N. members to eradicate such issues as poverty and inequality by 2030.

“When you empower women to take better decisions than have been taken in the past, we all end up benefiting,” said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20180926072540-na9hq/>

Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, Or Do Without!

- Go-Back Club Motto -



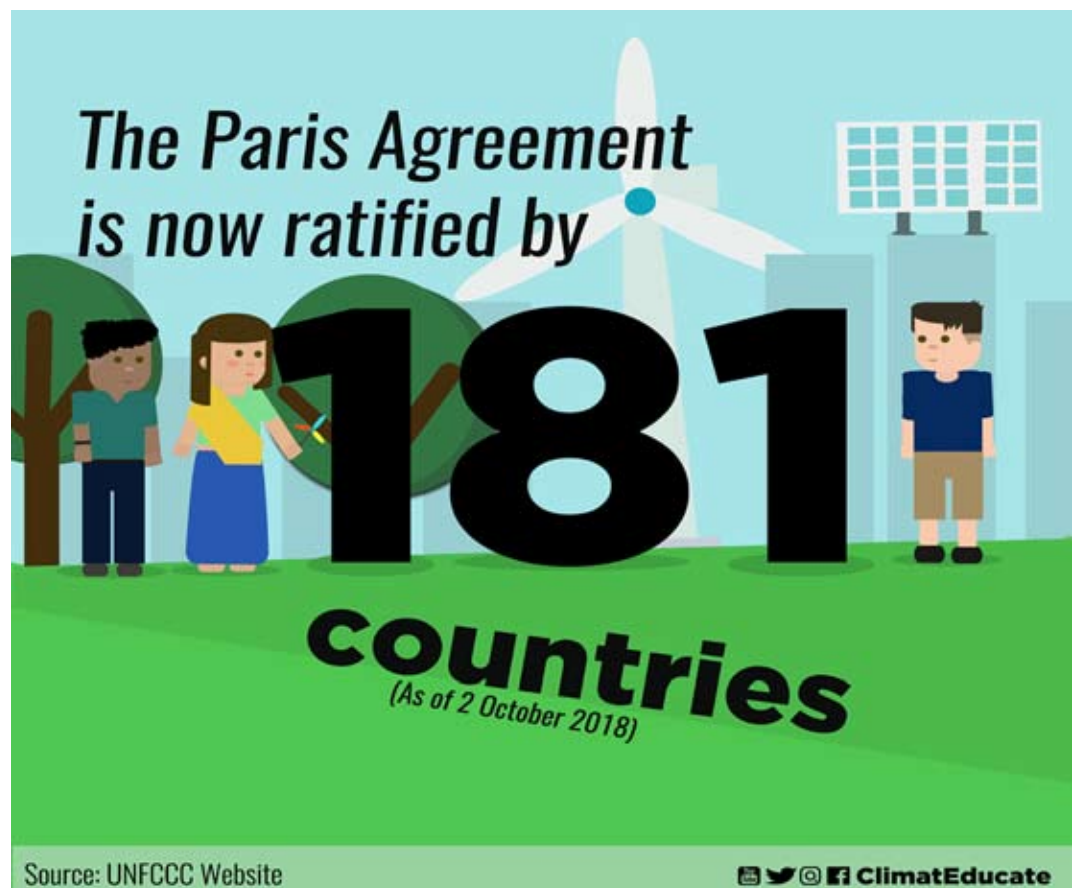
Credit: Below2C

Collage created by Rolly Montpellier in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada for Rise for Climate on November 8, 2012. Rolly is Co-Founder/Writer/Editor at Below2°C, a climate advocate at Citizens Climate Lobby Canada, a Climate advocate at 350 Ottawa, and a Climate Leader at The Climate Reality Project Canada.

Submitted by Kromah
Usman Socrates II, Liberia
with comment below

181 out of 197 countries have now ratified the Paris Climate Agreement. It's outstanding to see how these numbers grow after almost three years of monitoring progress and posting graphics like this. Now the world needs immediate and effective climate action. Let's support our governments and organizations in doing so!

#Together4ClimateAction
#ClimatEducate
#ParisAgreement



TEAM 54 CAMEROON WANTS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT

FROM YAFI: We are TEAM 54 Project, we are family, we share a common goal and we are the change. Each and everyone of us is blessed with that “rare thing” beneath, which makes us unique. I urge all TEAM 54 Members across the globe. Use your gifts, talents or constructive hobbies, to advocate for Climate Justice. (Trash photo by Yafi)

Mother Earth Weeps

By Nkwain Adeline Yafi

My children ain't fair to me,
You disrespect me.
My attitude towards you has also changed,
I'm glad you call it climate change.

Instead of reusing and recycling your waste,
You dump it on my face.
Instead of sustaining my hair on bald cliffs and slopes,
You shave them, making my skin as weak as orange skin.

All the Bushfires,
Take away my smiles.
You direct every toxin,
You destroy my safe haven.

You provoke me to cry endlessly,
Causing floods which destroy indiscriminately.
My weak skin is falling off,
And then landslides and mudslides very rough.

You tortured me into sickness, now my temperature is too high.
In return, the prevalence of diseases and risk of cancer too high.
You took away my dignity,
And your reward is food insecurity.

I am passionate,
Yes I'm compassionate.
Because once a mother,
always a mother.

Your wrongs I'm ready to forget,
And once more, I'll be kind to you without regret.
Give me justice,
And I'll give you security and peace.

Make me green, make me glow.
I will bless you and honey will flow.
Keep me clean and restore my dignity.
I can assure you development, sustainable Peace and Security.



(left)
TEAM 54
Cameroon
Jinabo
Marcel
(left) and
Nkwain
Adeline
Yafi
Photo by
Nkwain
Norbert
Ekfuingei



Photo by Noubissie Grace
Lebou Noel Landrel, Samuel Lengue and Mathew Jude

Memories of World Clean Up Day September 15, 2018

By Nkwain Adeline Yafi

From Let's Do It World, we heard the sound far away,
And via Team 54, it came nearer by the day.
Then appeared WHISGREEN-Africa,
And others who came together.

All over the world, especially from the coastal states of Nigeria,
To the major towns in Gambia.
And around the Cameroonian mountain,
In their numbers they poured like water from a fountain.

In boots, gloves and face masks,
Came each with lorries, cans, and garbage sacks.
And with their voices, brooms, and spades,
They sensitized and cleaned their states.

Oh my God!! Come take a look.
Everything seen was recorded in a book.
Garbage here and Garbage there,
Plastics and other nondegradable waste everywhere.

The team spirit and determination,
Sustainable Goal 13 being their motivation,
Guided their activities,
And reminded the world of their environmental responsibilities.

Then came a shout of joy and praises,
A sound of victory and smiles on their faces.
Seeing Mother Earth free from things that steal her riches,
With a perfect glow, came the beautiful Sandy Beaches.



Photo: by Chidiebere Okonkwo

A large group of people worked hard at Eleguish beach at Lekki Ajah in Lagos, Nigeria. (left to right) Uloaku Priscilla, Leonard Okorie, and Mike Ameachi



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I have been longing for original artwork for *Groundswell News* and Carson Walters, an 18-year-old man I work with as a cashier in a food store, created this for me. He asked what I'd like and I first said, "A hummingbird." Then I added, "Or an owl." These are two special birds for me. He smiled and said he could do both – and so he did. Carson lives in Big Cove Tannery, Pennsylvania. He's studying to become an art and/or science teacher and he's wonderful. Thank you, Carson!

TEAM 54 Project India Introducing Climate Activist Rituraj Phukan



Photos (left) by Hitjyoti Sharma and (right) by Anurag Maloo

(left) Delivering a Climate Change presentation at the Guwahati Commerce, (right) Climate activism at Antarctica

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

- Robert Swan -

Rituraj Phukan is an environmental activist and writer based in Assam, a biodiversity-rich, climate impacted province in the far east of India. A commerce graduate, he quit his government job to begin a lifelong engagement with nature, travelling, writing, and teaching students about the environment, wildlife, and climate change.

Rituraj grew up in the middle of civil unrest against illegal immigration of displaced people and often wondered why people would want to leave their own countries and cause problems in other places. Years later, Nobel Laureate and former US Vice President Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* brought back those distant memories and he could finally make the connection between climate change, rising sea water levels, and the displacement of people.

He was eager to learn more and finally got the opportunity to train as a Climate Reality Leader under Al Gore himself! Caught up in the middle of the 2013 Taksim Square riots on the last day of the training, he learned another lesson on that day in Istanbul: that the fight was never going to be easy with development activities prioritized over environmental needs.

Since then he has served as a Mentor at

Al Gore's training events at New Delhi and Houston and is a District Manager with The Climate Reality Project India. Rituraj was honored with three images of him featured in the book *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, Mr. Gore's much-awaited sequel published last year.

As the Chief Operating Officer of Walk For Water, an India-based NGO leading a universal safe water access campaign, Rituraj gives direction to increase awareness and action on the Indian water crisis, which is the worst in the country's history. He believes that, “Water is the local issue of global climate change, for people, and for biodiversity.”

On Earth Day 2018, he was the only keynote speaker from Asia and delivered a presentation on ‘The Severity of the India Water Crisis’ in the We Don't Have Time climate conference, the world's first no-fly conference on climate change featuring prominent scientists, academics, and activists. He is passionate about the 3 R's: Warming, Water, and Wildlife and designs his presentations around these topics to facilitate a holistic understanding of the challenges.

As the Assam Coordinator of Kids For Tigers, an award-winning initiative from the Sanctuary Nature Foundation, he helps high school students connect biodiversity conservation with water security and climate change mitigation. He is also the Secretary General of the Green Guard Nature Organization, a grassroots civil society group working with fringe forest communities to

explore and establish sustainable solutions for management of man-animal conflict.

Rituraj was a member of the International Antarctic Expedition led by Polar explorer Robert Swan, the first man to have walked to both the poles, in 2013, completing a personal leadership and environment sustainability program called ‘Leadership on the Edge’. He has also travelled to the Canadian Arctic on an Earthwatch expedition called ‘Climate Change at the Arctic's Edge’ to participate in ongoing citizen science research about the impacts of global warming on the fragile arctic ecosystems, while based at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre.

Source: <http://climateabandoned.com/rituraj-phukan/>



Photo by Rituraj Phukan
Rituraj Phukan Featured in Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power*

Here's What You Need to Know About Carbon Pricing

By Stephen Leahy 
Ensia.com: September 18, 2018

Carbon pricing is like good dental hygiene: It involves a bit of pain and expense but provides many benefits, including saving money, for years to come. Increasingly U.S. politicians across the spectrum are beginning to see both the necessity and benefits of good carbon hygiene.

This backgrounder provides basic information on the Why and What of carbon pricing, its impacts on emissions and the economy, and who in the world is doing it.

Why Price Carbon?

It's commonly accepted that those who produce pollution should pay to prevent damage to human health, property, or the environment. Burning fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas) produces carbon dioxide, the main driver of climate change. Climate change in turn creates societal costs by increasing the intensity of extreme weather events, contributing to flooding and forest fires, raising sea levels, acidifying oceans, increasing biodiversity losses, increasing the spread of vector-borne diseases like dengue, and much more.

By increasing the cost of activities that produce carbon, carbon pricing incentivizes practices that reduce emissions, makes fossil fuels more expensive relative to low-carbon fuels, encourages energy efficiency, and makes nonpolluting forms of energy more cost competitive.

There are two main ways to put a price



Photo: Photo © iStockphoto.com/CreativeNature_nl

As the world weighs strategies for keeping climate change in check, more and more countries, communities, and businesses are embedding the cost of carbon into the goods and services that produce it.

on carbon: by levying a carbon tax and by using a cap-and-trade approach.

Carbon Tax

A carbon tax puts a price on the CO₂ emitted. Governments set a price per metric ton based on the estimated societal costs of that carbon and apply it to power utilities, oil companies, and other industries that emit CO₂.

In addition to disincentivizing CO₂ emissions, a carbon tax also generates revenue. In many cases, the governments either distribute the revenue to taxpayers or use it to fund clean energy programs and help those who might lose their jobs in the transition

to a low-carbon economy.

British Columbia returns its carbon tax revenues to the public via income tax cuts. Mexico's and Chile's modest carbon taxes (U.S. \$5 per metric ton) fund social programs. In Sweden, which has had a carbon tax since 1991, 50 percent of the revenue stays with the government, and the rest is returned to the public through income tax cuts.

Researchers participating in the Stanford Energy Modeling Forum modeled 39 different carbon tax scenarios for the U.S. with carbon prices of U.S. \$25 or U.S. \$50 per metric ton (1.1 tons) starting in 2020 and rising at 1 percent or 5 percent per year until 2050. All resulted in substantially fewer carbon emissions at modest economic costs that are offset by the avoided costs of climate damage and health savings from reduced air pollution.

Supported by four major oil companies, including Exxon, the Climate Leadership Council is lobbying for a U.S. national carbon tax. Its plan would return the carbon tax revenue to taxpayers as a dividend.

A U.S. \$40 per ton carbon tax could put nearly U.S. \$2,000 in the pockets of a family of four in a single year, based on a Treasury Department report on a similar plan. And, despite higher energy prices, about 70 percent of Americans would see their after-tax income increase. And that dividend would grow as carbon prices rise to a projected U.S. \$50–U.S. \$450 per metric ton in order



Photo © iStockphoto.com/olaser

In Sweden, which instituted a carbon tax in 1991, fossil-fuel-free transportation is an everyday affair.

Carbon Pricing *continued on next page*

Carbon Pricing *continued from previous page*

to reduce carbon emissions to 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

“Our polling shows Americans are two to one in favor of our carbon dividend plan, and millennials favor it four to one,” says Ted Halstead, the council’s founder and CEO.

A new study by leading economists in the journal *Nature* suggests that a check in the mail for households has advantages over tax cuts or green spending. The poorest households would benefit most through a carbon dividend payment system, the study concluded.

“Carbon pricing will not work unless people clearly see what they are getting out of it,” co-author Cameron Hepburn of the University of Oxford said in a press release.

Cap and Trade

A cap-and-trade approach to carbon pricing is a bit more complicated. It sets a cap on the total amount of carbon an industry is allowed to emit. Companies are given or sold annual carbon emission permits that decrease over time. A company with emissions below the cap can sell its permits to another company whose emissions exceed its cap, thus avoiding a penalty. This creates a supply-and-demand marketplace without governments setting a carbon price (although some may set a floor or ceiling on the permit price).

If the price of pollution permits or the penalty for exceeding the cap is high enough, companies will invest in low-carbon solutions. However, if they are too low, not much happens.

This largely has been the case since the European Union created the world’s first cap-and-trade system in 2005. Many free permits were given to get industries on board. Coupled with the 2008 financial crisis, this kept the permit price well below U.S. \$10 per metric ton until reforms were put into place in 2017.

In addition, the system covers less than 50 percent of the region’s carbon emissions. The entire system is being revised to tighten emission limits, reduce handouts of free permits, and pull excess permits off the market if their price falls too low. Revisions will take effect in 2021.

California has had a cap-and-trade system since 2012. Its permit price has averaged less than U.S. \$15 per metric ton the past few years. And, like nearly all cap-and-trade systems (as well as carbon tax systems), some sectors of the economy are exempt. Roughly 85 percent of California’s emissions are covered, which is one of the highest in the world.

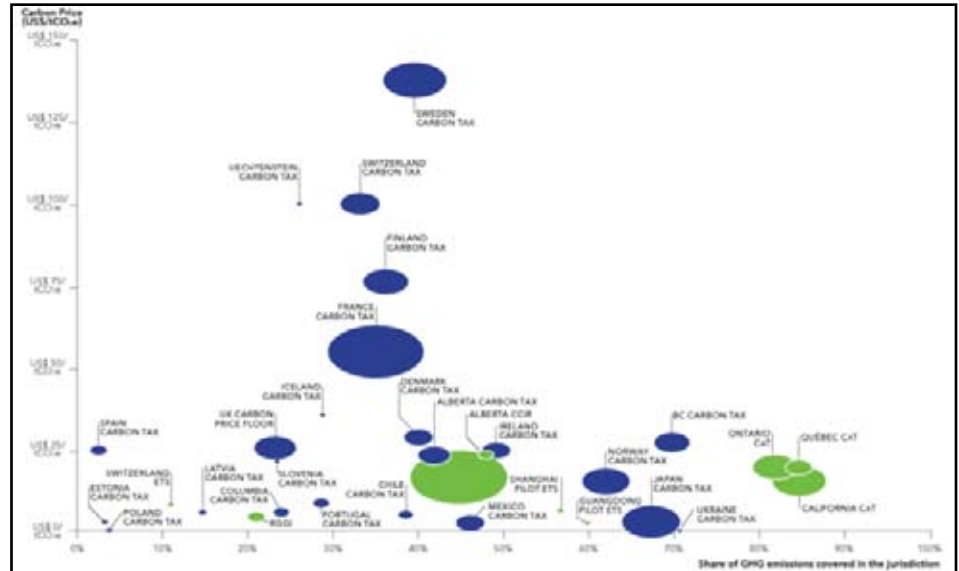


Photo: © iStockphoto.com/olaser

Carbon price, share of emissions covered, and revenues of implemented carbon tax (blue) and cap-and-trade (green) initiatives. Size of circle reflects relative size of revenues. Source: World Bank’s State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2018, licensed under CC BY 3.0 IGO. See source (p. 23) for details; click to expand.

Comparisons Difficult

Every carbon tax and cap-and-trade system is uniquely designed to fit local circumstances, making comparisons difficult. Generally, since cap-and-trade puts a ceiling on emissions that lowers over time, it offers more predictability about reaching a specific emissions reduction target. A carbon tax provides stable carbon prices, so industry and entrepreneurs can make investment decisions without having to worry about fluctuating changes in cost of carbon.

However, a new IMF working paper has modeled how the two systems might work for G20 countries. The analysis suggests that when a carbon tax covers carbon emissions from a country’s fossil fuel supply, it will raise substantially more revenue than today’s cap-and-trade plans. And it would be better at cutting emissions since the tax would apply to all emission sources, not just large industrial emitters such as power plants. In addition, the paper concludes that carbon pricing reduces deaths from local air pollution due to fuel combustion by roughly the same proportion as the CO₂ reduction, making it worth implementing even if climate change weren’t an issue.

Not Enough

According to the World Bank Group publication “State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2018,” 45 national and 25 subnational jurisdictions currently have a carbon pricing structure in place, with prices ranging from less than U.S. \$1 to U.S. \$139 per metric ton. In addition, more than 1,300 companies use

or plan to use carbon pricing this year or next, with prices ranging from U.S. \$0.01 to U.S. \$909 per metric ton. Companies don’t actually pay this price, but use it as a hypothetical or shadow price in their accounting to prepare for the day when a real carbon price is in place.

The Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition estimates that carbon prices will have to be between U.S. \$50 and U.S. \$100 per metric ton by 2030 for countries to meet their Paris Agreement emission reduction targets without other emission reduction policies. This would generate considerable resistance from affected industries and be difficult for governments to put in place across all sectors, some energy economists say.

International energy experts writing in the journal *Nature Climate Change* suggest a package of climate policies to complement a carbon price that includes boosting energy efficiency, switching to low-carbon fuels (such as from coal to gas), increasing renewable energy, and removing carbon through practices such as planting trees and changing some agricultural practices.

Their conclusion: A well-planned climate policy package that includes a carbon price is the way to achieve an efficient, just, and publicly-acceptable decarbonization transition.

Source: <https://ensia.com/features/carbon-pricing/>

Stephen Leahy is a Canadian environmental journalist, author and longtime friend of the GBC.



Greater Yellowstone grizzlies regain Endangered Species protections



Judge's Ruling: Federal Protection for Yellowstone Grizzlies

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, DC

By Austin Price
Sierra Magazine: September 25, 2018

On Monday, a judge ruled to restore federal protections for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The decision marks a victory for a coalition of conservation groups and the Native Americans who sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for removing the Yellowstone grizzly from the Endangered Species Act's (ESA) threatened species list. "The grizzly is a big part of why the Yellowstone region remains among our nation's last great wild places," Earthjustice attorney Tim Preso said in a statement ... "We have a responsibility to speak for the bears, who cannot speak for themselves," said Lawrence Killback, president of the Northern Cheyenne Nation.

The Yellowstone grizzly has been mired in political debate for years, as federal and state officials have sought to remove ESA protections for the bears while environ-

mental organizations argued that the delisting was premature. That debate reached a peak last month, on the eve of the first trophy hunting season in Wyoming and Idaho in over four decades. After an August 30th hearing in Missoula, U.S. Judge Dana Christensen twice delayed the hunt as he decided whether it should go forward.

On September 24th, Judge Christensen issued a court order reinstating Endangered Species Act protections for the Yellowstone grizzly. "This case is not about the ethics of hunting, and it is not about solving human-or livestock-grizzly conflicts as a practical or philosophical matter," Christensen wrote. "This Court's review ... is limited to answering a Yes-or-No question: Did the United States Fish and Wildlife Service exceed its legal authority when it delisted the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear?"

The judge found that Yes, the agency did exceed that legal authority by employing "arbitrary and capricious" analysis to delist the grizzly and failing to follow the best available science. Wildlife biologists have shown that fully restoring grizzly numbers

would require connecting the disparate populations that currently inhabit various mountain ranges in the Northern Rockies. "By delisting the Greater Yellowstone grizzly without analyzing how delisting would affect the remaining members of the lower-48 grizzly designation," Christensen wrote, "the Service failed to consider how reduced protections in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem would impact the other grizzly populations."

An estimated 50,000 grizzlies once roamed western North America. By the 1970s, the bears had been constricted to just two percent of their former range. Fewer than 140 lived in the Yellowstone region, fewer than 1,000 altogether in the contiguous United States. In 1975, the Endangered Species Act granted protections to grizzlies in the Lower 48, and since then their population has doubled. In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, grizzly numbers climbed dramatically to around 700 bears.

Source: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/grizzly-bears-out-crosshairs>

It's our insides that make us who we are, that allow us to dream and wonder and feel for others. That's what's essential. That's what will always make the biggest difference in our world.

- Fred Rogers of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood -
(soft-spoken, peaceful, easy-going creator of a humane, real-life, American children's program many years ago)



Photo Courtesy NaturalNews.com

The Norwegian Parliament pledged May 26th that the government's public procurement policy will be deforestation-free.

Norway Becomes First Country to Ban Deforestation

Submitted by
Kromah Usman Socrates II, Liberia

By Katie Pohlman
EcoWatch: June 8, 2016

Norway has become the first country to ban deforestation. The Norwegian Parliament pledged May 26th that the government's public procurement policy will be deforestation-free.

Any product that contributes to deforestation will not be used in the Scandinavian country. The pledge was recommended by Norwegian Parliament's Standing Committee on Energy and Environment as part of the Action Plan on Nature Diversity. Rainforest Foundation Norway was the main lobbying power behind this recommendation and has worked for years to bring the pledge to existence.

"This is an important victory in the fight to protect the rainforest," Nils Hermann Ranum, head of policy and campaign at Rainforest Foundation Norway said in a statement. "Over the last few years, a number of companies have committed to cease the procurement of goods that can be linked to destruction of the rainforest. Until now, this has not been matched by similar commit-

ments from governments. Thus, it is highly positive that the Norwegian state is now following suit and making the same demands when it comes to public procurements."

Norway's action plan also includes a request from parliament that the government exercise due care for the protection of biodiversity in its investments through Norway's Government Pension Fund Global.

"Other countries should follow Norway's leadership, and adopt similar zero deforestation commitments," Ranum said. "In particular, Germany and the UK must act, following their joint statement at the UN Climate Summit."

Germany and the UK joined Norway in pledging at the 2014 UN Climate Summit to "promote national commitments that encourage deforestation-free supply chains," through public procurement policies and to sustainably source products like palm oil, soy, beef, and timber, the *Huffington Post* reported.

Beef, palm oil, soy, and wood products in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea were responsible for 40 percent of deforestation between 2000 and 2011. Those seven countries were also responsible for 44 percent of carbon emissions, Climate Action reported.

Another Step in the Right Direction

Norway's recent pledge is yet another step the country has taken to combat deforestation. The Scandinavian country funds several projects worldwide.

The Norwegian government announced a \$250 million commitment to protect Guyana's forest, WorldWatch Institute reported. The South American country, which has its forests zoned for logging, received the money over a four-year period from 2011 to 2015.

"Our country is at a stage where our population is no less materialistic [than industrialized countries] and no less wanting to improve their lives," Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana's minister of foreign affairs, said. "We want to continue our development, but we can't do that without a form of payment."

The partnership is part of the UN's initiative Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which was launched in 2008. Guyana is unique among its counterparts in the initiative because the country's forests don't face significant deforestation pressure.

In 2015, Norway paid \$1 billion to Brazil, home to 60 percent of the Amazon forest,

Norway continued on next page



Photos by Iona

I was so excited when I bought this colorful new mat for our front door. I didn't even realize that it was made out of recycled flip-flops! It should be common knowledge that if we're not buying back products made from recycled materials, then we're not closing the loop and not really recycling at all. Next I'll buy another one for the basement door. Please try your best to find and buy similar products.

Norway *continued from previous page*

for completing a 2008 agreement between the two countries to prevent deforestation, according to mongabay.com. Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon decreased more than 75 percent over the last decade, representing the single biggest emissions cut in that time period. The deal helped save more than 33,000 square miles of rainforest from clear-cutting, *National Geographic* reported.

The partnership was praised by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon: "The partnership between Brazil and Norway through the Amazon Fund shows intensified support for one of most impressive climate change mitigation actions of the past decades. This is an outstanding example of the kind of international collaboration we need to ensure the future sustainability of our planet."

The Amazon has lost around 17 percent of its trees in the last 50 years, according to World Wildlife Fund.

Norway doesn't just focus on South American forests. The country is also hard at work in Africa and other regions of the planet.

Liberia, with the help of Norway, be-

came the first nation in Africa to stop cutting down trees in return for aid, the BBC reported. The deal involves Norway paying the West African country \$150 million through 2020 to stop deforestation.

"We hope Liberia will be able to cut emissions and reduce poverty at the same time," Jens Frolich Holte, a political adviser to the Norwegian government, said.

Liberia is home to 43 percent of the Upper Guinean forest and the last populations of western chimpanzees, forest elephants, and leopards. The country agreed to place 30 percent or more of its forests under protection by 2020.

The Case for Deforestation Bans

Forests cover 31 percent of the land on Earth. They are the planet's figurative lungs, producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forests also provide homes to people and much of the world's wildlife.

There are 1.6 million people who rely on forests for food, fresh water, clothing, medicine and shelter, according to the World Wildlife Fund. But people also see forests as an obstacle they must remove. Around 46,000 to 58,000 square miles of forest are

lost each year – a rate equal to 48 football fields every minute.

Deforestation is estimated to contribute around 15 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Not only does deforestation contribute to climate change, it can also disrupt livelihoods and natural cycles, the World Wildlife Fund said. Removal of trees can disrupt the water cycle of the region, resulting in changes in precipitation and river flow, and contribute to erosion.

Source: <https://www.ecowatch.com/norway-becomes-worlds-first-country-to-ban-deforestation-1891166989.html>





Two photos on left by Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, photo on right by Kendu
(left) Kendu taking turns planting the tree; (middle) E-Bobo (Gbujie's son) playing with trees; he calls the tree "buddy," anyway he loves the tree now, he was somehow surprised but he understood why trees need care; (right) Showing my future how and why trees should be loved and cared for.

Teach Them How to Plant Trees Early in Life

By Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, CEO of TEAM 54 Project
September 22, 2018

Teach them how to plant and care for trees.
Teaching kids what planting trees really does to humans and environment, no matter where we come from or the color of our skin, our planet deserves better care. Planting and caring for trees gives that sense of care. Taught my kids and their relatives (Tochi/J-bobo) that guided principle, I miss those kids already; can't wait for another time to be free to head straight to Africa and do something similar on a larger scale.

Trees protect
Trees help us bond better
Trees signify something greater than us created their ways
Trees are wonderful teaching aids for kids
Trees provide food
Trees create jobs
Trees are also symbolic and connote regeneration

(whole crew at right) Just love my Crew, obedient and partially loyal only when they question my authority, I guess it's allowed. Anyway they learnt a lot. Miss them already. Kendu is in the white dress, Tochi on the red dress, J-bobo in the African print and E-bobo in the striped t-shirt.



"Today let us raise funds of love, kindness, understanding and peace and donate it to everyone in need."

Care for the Earth, Care for the Peace

Submitted by Jibis Bastola, Nepal; Amritkunja Farm, amritkunja.com



Tree-Planting Man in Burundi Needs Support

By Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Burundi

I am a young 24-year-old born in the Bubanza province inside of Burundi country. I finished my high school studies and I graduated with a degree in Nursing A2 and I'm doing health sciences at the university in the midwife department.

After seeing the current situation as economic security, health, and environmental, I took the decision to take part without focusing on the health field but encompassing all areas so that the problems that the population suffers will find a sustainable resolution.

I am a social actor and I work often with the community in the different acts of the development while raising awareness to be entrepreneur and to create jobs. Even if it is a difficult act, I try to provide them knowledge and skills via the workshops that I organize so much in the community.

Instead of the young people finishing their studies waiting to be hired by the state, they will be able to create their own start-up with a small capital and give jobs to others.

There are other activities I'm doing in order to make our world a better place to live. Burundi has recognized a civil war more than 10 years and more than 300,000 persons lost their lives. I take often occasion to exchange with my community about Peace and reconciliation.

A project that I started a long time ago is that of environmental protection. I have already planted voluntarily without any financial support or material many trees on the mountains of our province and I founded a team in my village and we voluntarily draw contour levels on the mountains and plant herbs like the Trip-sacum to protect against soil erosion.

Leading, I would like to set up soon a nursery of more than 300,000 trees of different types including fruit trees to contribute in the fight against climate change and hunger because the population will consume these fruits. This project will



Photos by Bède: Nshimirimana

Emmanuel has a team of seven (including one woman and one girl) to help plant all these beautiful trees. "We want people who can take the Hand so we will be financially, materially, and technically supported in order to do effectively this project," Emmanuel wrote.

cost me a lot and I am asking for material, financial, and technical support. I named my project "Greening Burundi"

If it's feasible, you can help me with this project, such as fundraising. Given the importance of this project of Greening Burundi on the preservation of our planet and the health of the population, I pray everyone who sees my actions to help me so that I can implement this project and make it successful. If there is someone who is interested in my activities and vision to preserve our planet, and will be able to help me to raise funds so that this Project will be feasible and successful, please contact me at niyoyabikozeemmanuel@gmail.com. Thank you.



Photo Courtesy of M Ichael (sic) Josefowicz

A few American dollars go a long, long way in helping fund tree planting in Uganda and other African nations.

Help Plant 60,000 Trees in Uganda

By M Ichael Josefowicz (sic)

Don't hesitate to donate \$5 or \$10. 12 people at \$10 and one person at \$5 pays for one day of planting 2,000 trees!

I am a 71-year-old retired printer who lives in New York. Five months ago I connected with Atwongyeire Joseph, a true eco warrior in Nyarushanje, a village with a population of 2,000 people in Uganda. After months of working together on Facebook, and most important Facebook messenger, I consider him a valued friend and a true inspiration.

I started with a small donation in May to pay for a router, wifi, two computers and a copier, printer, Internet, plus printing in a convivial place is what I call a PrinterNet Cafe.

Once he had the infrastructure in place he could start to grow. Joseph started by charging people in the village 25 cents for an hour of Internet time. In just a few days there were lines of people waiting to pay 25

cents per hour. It is a longer story, but in August, the PrinterNet Cafe in Nyarushanje had saved \$790 of profit. The cafe generates more every month. In August the profit was more than \$500.

Now comes the important part. Last year Joseph and his team planted 200,000 trees with the help of people around the world contributing about \$9,000 and 240,000 hours of sweat equity in the form of volunteer labor.

This year Joseph has the opportunity to plant 400,000 trees. No planting is possible in the dry season. There are two wet seasons. This wet season started on September 1. The problem is that the \$790 has been spent in the necessary step of pitting, which breaks up the dry soil to allow water for the seedlings to grow. That has been done.

In one day of planting the Greening Uganda team can plant 2,000 by leveraging 240 hours invested by 30 volunteers with \$125 a day. \$41 dollars are to rent a truck to take volunteers and seedlings to the planting fields. \$84 dollars are to pay for food and transportation for each of the 30 volunteers who spend eight hours to do the hard work. That comes to \$2.80 per volunteer.

Our Facebook fundraiser has ended. Al-

though we didn't reach our goal of \$1750, the \$792 has already made a big difference. With Facebook, Atwongyeire Joseph has the money in his hands about a week after a donation is received. Every dollar of the \$792 has been used to move the planting forward.

With your help Joseph has been able to make plans based on money he knows will be there. That makes a huge difference when the vision is clear, but where you are going to get the money to reach that vision is not clear.

People need to know there is another fundraiser for people who are not comfortable with sending money through Facebook and are interested in a tax deduction. In the last month we raised \$735 on Crowdrise. Added together we have raised essentially all the money we need for September.

Crowdrise does not have a time limit. We hope to raise the money for planting in October and November over there.

Again, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed. You need to know that your contribution made a difference.

Thank you for reading this.

60,000 Trees photos on next page

60,000 Trees *continued from previous page*



Save Forests in the U.S. and Around the World

Standing forests are crucial to life on our planet. They provide our communities with clean air, fresh water, carbon storage, and are home to thousands of unique species of plants and animals. Additionally, they're essential to protect us from flooding and drought and supporting truly sustainable economic development.

Climate science shows that we cannot stop a climate catastrophe without scaling up the protection of forests around the world, including in the United States -- but our forests are being destroyed and degraded at an alarming rate.

The United States is the world's largest producer and consumer of wood products, which continues to drive massive extraction

and degradation of forests at one of the fastest rates in the world. When our forests are destroyed, degraded, converted to plantations, or harvested to burn for bioenergy, their climate and ecological benefits disappear. The destruction and degradation of U.S. forests is a climate emergency and we are clearcutting away a critical solution to the climate crisis. The social, ecological, and economic benefits of keeping our forests standing are not valued by the current system that puts corporate profit above the well-being of people and life on Earth.

Sign the petition to your Governor: Commit to Stand4Forests and protect our climate and ecosystem from ruination.

Source: <https://stand4forests.org>

Sign the petition: Call on your state governor to protect our forests

Target: U.S. State Governors



Five Reasons to Support a Total Ban of Nuclear Weapons

By Jen Maman, *excerpt*
Greenpeace via Common Dreams
September 26, 2018

September 26th was the United Nations' International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. One year on from the historic adoption of an international treaty which aims to make these weapons illegal, it is urgent that we step up the treaty's implementation and remind ourselves why these weapons of mass destruction must be banned to build a peaceful world.

1) **They cause catastrophic harm.** "My beloved city of Hiroshima suddenly became desolation, with heaps of ash and rubble, skeletons and blackened corpses," said Setsuko Thurlow, Hibakusha (survivor) of the Hiroshima bombing. This haunting witness account reminds us of the enormous destructive power of nuclear weapons. Hitting civilians and soldiers indiscriminately, they wreak devastation and have long-term radiation effects that affect future generations. Used twice in wartime, in 1945, on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, around a quarter of a million civilians were incinerated in an instant or were subjected to horrendous deaths in the weeks and months following the attacks.

2) **They are pointless.** What defense can the atomic bomb provide against the main threats of our era, such as climate change, terrorism or cyber-attacks? Nuclear weapons are totally obsolete and unable to meet today's challenges. On the contrary, far from maintaining peace, they fuel fear and distrust between countries.

3) **They cost us a fortune.** While nuclear arsenals have decreased since the mid-1980s, the budgetary expenditure related to



Photo: © Paul Langrock / Greenpeace

No War demonstration in Germany, Aktion gegen Irak-Krieg in Berlin

nuclear weapons is constantly on the rise. This pattern of spending of public money is found in all states which possess nuclear weapons. According to estimates (Global Zero, 2011) it's close to \$1,000 billion for the decade of 2010-2020. Imagine if this money went instead to health, education, the fight against climate change, assistance to survivors, and other services to ensure human security.

4) **They carry huge proliferation risks.** Proliferation is the risk that states which have nuclear weapons increase their weapon stockpiles or that new states become nuclear-armed. To combat these huge risks, an international non-proliferation treaty entered into force in 1970 with the aims to prevent non-nuclear states from developing nuclear weapons, and to get nuclear states to reduce their arsenals. Unfortunately, these undertakings remain for the most

part empty rhetoric. How can it be possible to claim that the security of a nation is based on a nuclear deterrence policy when at the same time other nations are asked not to use this means of "security"?

5) **They are the only weapons of mass destruction which have not yet been (really) banned.** But this could change soon. While biological and chemical weapons have been prohibited worldwide, since 1972 and 1993 respectively, nuclear weapons have not been constrained up to now. This is a legal anomaly which is in the process of being fully corrected with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which is set to come into force in 2020 and was adopted in 2017 by 122 states at the United Nations...

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/09/26/five-reasons-support-total-ban-nuclear-weapons-today>



Remember your dreams.

Messages from Our Friends



(Re: August GBC)

What a splendid, beautiful, soul nourishing publication!!!

Alanna Hartzok, Scotland, Pennsylvania, US

Climate Change threatens the reason for our existence. We can endure the journey which we know will lead to our doom or we can do what TEAM 54 Project does – create an environment that can make the journey enjoyable. Even in our circumstances we can still find hope.

Everything can be taken from anyone on Earth but there's one thing that can't be taken from you, it is the personal attitude of expressing the best version of one's self which one can control even in the worst of circumstances.

TEAM 54 Project also sees the current Climate Change crisis from the perspective that it is a global trial or some form of test for mankind, made possible because of our exploitative natures which have changed the environment.

However, out of any hopeless situations, if we all work together we can create a path to redemption, only if we work together.

Gbuje Daniel Chidubem, Global Citizen

Thank you so much my friend. Also am highly appreciates your effort work towards my initiative. The copy you sent me is an excellent work! Am proud of you my friend Iona. May God grant us long life with peace and healthy! I pray for us Amen!!!

Mbaararak Abdalla, Kenya

Fantastic. Good write up my good friend. We thank you very well for being part of us TEAM 54 Project International.

Regards.

Priscillia Uloaku, Nigeria

Thanks Iona. You keep amazing me.

Ted Cassidy, Ohio, USA

Please add me to your list! This is a terrific newsletter.

Sharon Malhotra, Pennsylvania, USA

Good issue, Iona!

CB, Blairs Mills, Pennsylvania, USA

This is the most awesome issue of *Groundswell News*! Thank you for sending it! It is so good to read how we, the people, are taking back our planet from the greedy corporations and politicians who would destroy it for their own higher profits and personal satisfaction. I am so happy to learn, too, that the courts are beginning to side with the indigenous people and recognizing their rights to pure water and a livable environment. Thank you so much for all the great work you do!

Doug Davis, Old Forge, New York, USA

We want to thank Ms. Iona Conner the founder/Editor-in-Chief of *Groundswell News* for the visit to the office yesterday. Ms. Iona travelled all the way from Pennsylvania to New Jersey to meet with our staff and CEO. She donated lots of eco friendly books to the TEAM 54 Project library. We appreciate it

Thanks for the interview, too.

Best wishes

Tiffany Clumbs, Head Admin

Iona Conner is a good friend of great knowledge that can help the whole world, I really appreciate her work towards projects.

Samwel Orenda, Kenya

I sense the greatest thing your organization can do in the near term is introduce AAEC to TEAM 54 leaders.

Dealing with our energy trilemma of affordability and sustainability is truly a global challenge.

Please see attached position paper and let me know your thoughts on this subject.

Let's pledge to do our best to empower humanity to avoid extinction.

Les Blevins, Kansas, USA

Beautiful moments, wow...

Marvelous Marcel Jinabo, Cameroon

Always dynamic...

Chouaib Sey, New York City, New York

Please name just a few of so that I can be aware with. I can be doing things of just normal for me, others are being touched positively or negatively! I am pleased to

see Green Worriers smile on pic.

Mayaya Mack, Tanzania

She said wonderful things and keep up the great work.

Gbuje Daniel Chidubem, Global Citizen

Nice

Birendra Poudel, Nepal

Congrats above and beyond limits.

Nesh Pauline, Kenya

Wow, that's very thoughtful and kind of you. Thank Iona Conner.

Sussie-Greene Kwaghdoo, Nigeria

Good to see such noble people together!

Raj Phukan, India

Wonderful lady!! Thankyou Ms. Iona Conner

King Paul Pawel, Uganda

Iona Conner thank you for the visit

Roberto Santi, Liberia

Happy to see y'all.

Yafi Adeline, Cameroon

Thank you for all your support, Iona Conner

Udeme Udoaka, Nigeria

That's a great job. You done well with this article of climate change, and it's inspiring.

Robert Cave, U.S., Syria Peacekeeper

I just want to say I finally got to listen to the interview..... it was fantastic !!!! What an interesting man! And he asked such good questions and you had wonderful answers.... So will you be able to go to the conference in Liberia? Wow wouldn't that be something?!!!! Well I hope you get lots of people joining the Go-Back Club too!

I'm glad you shared this with me!

Oh and I just gleaned onto that little bit about Rocks have power and lakes can think.... I loved that whole quote... but the whole interview was fantastic again!!!!

Linda Lowber, Idaho, USA

Messages continued on next page

Messages *continued from previous page*

Great Job Iona for visiting TEAM 54 ... Please when can I send in my story and how can I get supported even with tools, books, funds, etc...?

Matthew Patricks, a Nigerian living in Ghana

This is wonderful news. I had never heard of this group. I know about WHIS and their Africa chapter. A colleague of mine, Joyce Misoi, is heading it up in Kenya.

I did take the liberty to reach out to Dr. Gjubie and hope to hear back from him. As you might know, ERI has been working on a very large initiative in West Africa – Cote d'Ivoire for many years – addressing climate change.

Our model is now the leading model for climate action in that region. We are very excited about it as we are finally getting to the point of receiving serious funding. My last trip to Africa was to officially partner with the leading district Mayor of Cocody in Abidjan.

If you do get the chance to connect again with him, please urge him to contact us, as we would love to find ways to collaborate our work and bring partners, like the Global Ecovillage Network Africa, etc...and the United African Congress group in NYC affiliated with the UN.

Glad that Alanna forwarded me your email! And so pleased that you are spreading the word about his group! Fantastic.
Annie Goetze, Earth Rights Institute, USA

Thanks Iona. You have such a nice club full of ideas. I like what you do. I am an organic farming trainer having founded an organization SOFAfrica focusing on training farmers, schools, and youths on climate change, nutrition, and sustainable farming without use of chemicals. I am against Monsanto who has dominated Africa. please visit my FB page SOFAfrica on organic farming.

Simon Murungi, South Africa

Just signed up for Go-Back Club.

I'm so amazed at how much effort you have made about climate change. U have a wealth of experience in your CV. You told me you will be a little engaged today. This is to let you know that I was able to listen to part of the interview of more than 1 hr you had with TEAM 54 Project. I needed more data and a strong Internet connection to finish, lol, but then I had to save it to watch later. More than anything, I'm inspired by the contributions you have made to ensure reduced carbon footprint in our world and I do hope your good work will attract all the financial support you need to help you with your work. I'm so eager to have a live

chat with you when you are less busy.

Thank you and loads of love from here.
Udeme Udoaka, Nigeria

THANK YOU Iona Conner!
Mathias Kpètohoto, Benin Republic

Would you be interested in spreading the word to help Bonnie Leigh on GoFundMe? Isn't she the lady who used to play the Irish harp in Huntingdon and she moved? She fell on her job, broke an arm & damaged both hands. She's still in great pain. She can't work as a certified music professional, playing for hospital patients.

A dulcimer guy I know is trying to raise \$15,000 so she cannot lose her home and pay some medical bills. Folks in the Huntingdon Health and Wellness Association all rhapsodized over her playing.

If you want to run a piece in your newspaper, that would help her a lot. Link to Bonnie's GoFundMe® campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/bonnie-leigh-cmp>
C.B., Blairs Mills, Pennsylvania, USA

I remember meeting the first man to fly around the world on a solar aircraft, Mr. Piccard Bertrand. Flying for 23 days and covering 42,400km with the Solar Impulse2, which is a Swiss long-range, experimental, solar-powered aircraft project. The privately-financed project is initiated, chaired and piloted by Swiss psychiatrist Dr. Bertrand Piccard, who co-piloted the solar craft.

He was also the first man to circle the world non-stop with a balloon.

The Solar Impulse project's goals were to make the first circumnavigation of the Earth by a piloted, fixed-wing aircraft using only solar power which was a success. He then used the project to bring attention to clean technologies from solar.

Met him last year and I hear he is doing greater work on renewables.

We must be able to inspire more people. Bertrand inspired me. Clean renewables can save Earth.

Gbuje Daniel Chidubem, Global Citizen

This is a great newspaper.
Dalmas Tiampati, Kenya

I'm training young children how to grow their own food here.
Buba Jawneh, Gambia

TEAM54PROJECT MEMBER WINS GLOBAL SDGs COMPETITION

We are excited to announce today that Mr. Samuel Teah Wantoe, who is a TEAM 54 Project member from Liberia, who we collectively supported through our votes on Wantoe's climate-change-based Project which he registered in the Sustainable

Development Goals competition. He has emerged overall winner of this year 2018 Global Young Voices competition tagged "SDGs World Cup".

Clearly, when we work together we can achieve anything. We want to thank all our members across the world that voted and partners that shared the information across their network base.

TEAM 54 Project is taking the lead on Climate Change globally and locally.
Tiffany Clumbs, Head Admin

Interesting stories for millennials, by millennials worldwide. www.globallyoungvoices.com
https://www.facebook.com/globallyoungvoices/?__tn__=%2CdKH-R-R&eid=ARBeEFV6w8yMpQdGUacl__7GWwyej3C0SOa6PYIZRG-7x68Tyb-WtsEKBkwdJVGQ3IZMvf5W_ZstmoO3-&fref=gs&dti=1806023909460454&hc_location=group
Gbuje Daniel Chidubem shared a post.

Congratulations Samuel Teah Wantoe from Liberia. His environment preservation project just won a global award in 2018.

<https://www.globallyoungvoices.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1806023909460454/permalink/1991852824210894/>
Best wishes
Gbuje Daniel Chidubem, Global Citizen

Thanks sooo much TEAM 54 Project and Gbuje Daniel Chidubem! I am privilege to be a member of this generation of environmental change makers.

Team 54 Project Support was fundamental in winning this!
Thank You (*five prayerful hand imojies*)
Samuel Teah Wantoe, Liberia



Photo by Fran Staret found on a walk through the streets of Philadelphia, USA.