



Groundswell News

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

We Are One Family. These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

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

A Celebration of Youth, Issue No. 47: February 2019

Endangered Species Act Works: Marine Mammals and Turtles Bouncing Back

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Olivia Rosane
EcoWatch: January 18, 2019

The Endangered Species Act works. That's the conclusion of a peer-reviewed study undertaken by scientists at the Center for Biological Diversity and published in PLOS ONE January 16th. The study looked at 31 populations of 19 species of marine mammals and sea turtles in the U.S. that had been granted endangered species protections and found that around three-quarters of them had increased in size.

"The Endangered Species Act not only saved whales, sea turtles, sea otters, and manatees from extinction, it dramatically increased their population numbers, putting them solidly on the road to full recovery," Center for Biological Diversity scientist and study coauthor Shaye Wolf said in a press release. "We should celebrate the Act's track record of reducing harms from water pollution, overfishing, beach habitat destruction, and killing. Humans often destroy marine ecosystems, but our study shows that with strong laws and careful stewardship, we can also restore them, causing wildlife numbers to surge."

In total, 77 percent of the populations



Photo: Mike Baird

Southern sea otters live off the coast of central California, where they are essential to the kelp forest ecosystem. Their numbers have increased from 1,443 in 1979 to 2,688 in 2017, nearing their recovery goal.



Photo NOAA, Graphs by Abel Valdivia, Center for Biological Diversity

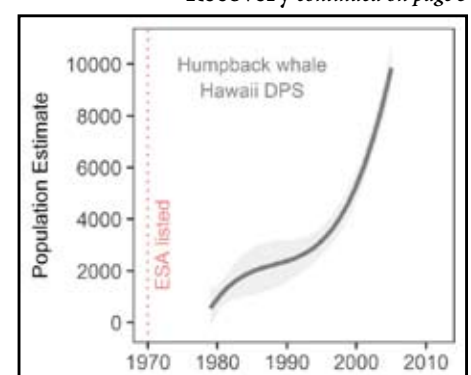
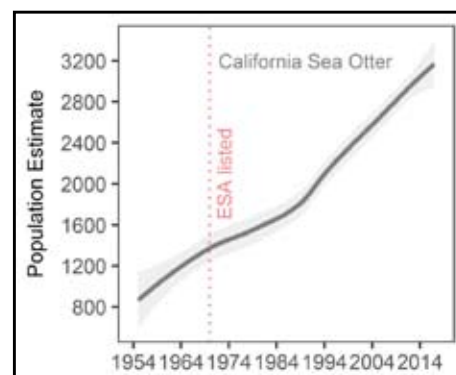
There were only 800 [Hawaiian humpback] whales in 1979, nine years after they were first listed. By 2005, there were more than 10,000. They had recovered enough by 2016 to be removed from the endangered species list.

studied increased, six percent declined and 16 percent did not follow an observable trend. Seventy-eight percent of marine mammal populations increased while nine percent, representing two species, decreased. Seventy-five percent of sea turtle populations rose, and none of the turtle

populations studied declined ...

The 24 species studied that had recovered most successfully were all listed 20 years ago or more, suggesting that it does take time to help a population recover ... The study comes at a crucial time for the Endangered

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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?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY.

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 scien-

tist, 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

Guidelines for Submissions

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. There is enough ugly and dark and hateful in the world. This newspaper provides an antidote – BEAUTY, LIGHT, LOVE. (Funny is OK, too!)

Please send stories directly via email to gobackclub@pa.net and include jpg photos with captions and photo credits. 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: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

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

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

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Species Act, however, as both Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration have made moves to weaken its protections.

“The recovery of listed species depends ultimately on the adequate implementation of the ESA’s tools and other conservation measures,” the study’s authors wrote. “Studies have demonstrated that the government’s failure to fully implement the ESA’s protections and adequately fund conservation actions have been major impediments to species recovery.”

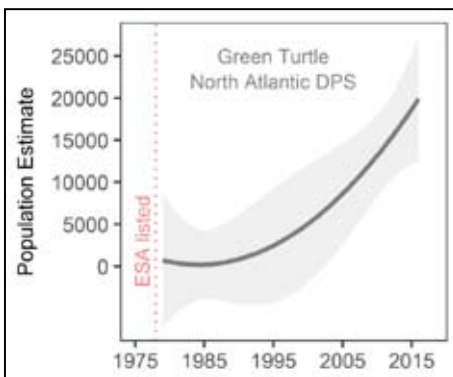
Source: <https://www.ecowatch.com/endangered-species-act-turtles-marine-mammals-2626362898.html>

Source for photos and graphs: https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2019/marine-mammals-and-sea-turtles-01-16-2019.php; BiologicalDiversity.org.



Photo: Mark Sullivan, acquired under NOAA permit 1013707

In 1979, there were only 62 nests for [North Atlantic green sea turtles] in all of Florida. By 2017, there were 53,102. The massive increase was due to the protection of nesting beaches, a ban on killing turtles and taking eggs, and efforts to reduce deaths caused by fishing equipment.



Exciting Legislation Coming in U.S.A. – Green New Deal The time to act is NOW!

350.org: February 1, 2019

This is huge, Iona: yesterday, news broke that Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey are planning to release a Green New Deal bill as soon as next week.

A few months ago, hardly anyone outside of a few wonky policy circles had heard of a “Green New Deal.” Now, it’s one of the buzziest, most popular proposals in and outside of Washington DC – and we’re about to see real legislation to move it forward.

Make no mistake: that incredible shift is 100% thanks to the grassroots movement – people like you – who have pressured elected leaders to step up and show the real climate leadership we so urgently need. In other words: we’re winning. And we can’t stop now – which is why we’re taking action

next week.

We still have a long road ahead to pass the Green New Deal we’re fighting for – a bold, necessary plan to create millions of good jobs building a just transition away from fossil fuels and toward the 100% renewable energy economy our communities and the climate need. That’s especially true as long as Trump and his bigoted billionaire friends are still driving their fossil-fueled agenda.

And what our friends at Sunrise Movement said couldn’t be more true: “Bills like these live or die in the first few weeks based on how much support they receive. It’s on us to move this legislation forward by turning up the heat.”

With this incredible breaking news, we’re doubling down on our call to take action to put pressure on your Representatives in

Congress to support the Green New Deal that science and justice demand.

The fight for real climate leadership just got, well, a lot more real – and it could not be more important for you to take action.

Let’s win this thing,

Katie

350.org is building a global climate movement. You can connect with us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and text 350 to 83224 to get important mobile action alerts. Become a sustaining donor to keep this movement strong and growing. Looking for other ways to get involved? Check out our map to see if there’s a local 350 group or event near you.

Source: <https://somenewslettersiwantinmyrssfeed.blogspot.com/2019/02/green-new-deal.html>

On the Wild Side: Nature's Valentine

By Christine Maccabee, Maryland USA
<https://www.thecatocinbanner.com/tag/petal-design/>

**“The way to
freedom often lies
through the open heart.”**

From *Kitchen Table Wisdom*
by Dr. Rachel Remen

Years ago, I began exploring design in nature and pressing many flowers, mostly dissecting them for their basic components of petals, stamen, pistil, and sepal. Once pressed I used them to create designs, mandalas mostly, framing them and sometimes selling. I also pressed leaves of many shapes. Basically, I was exploring the infinite diversity of shape and form in nature, a rather mind-boggling adventure to be sure!

As I continued to explore, I discovered a petal design which most serious gardeners know; I was thrilled to see rose petals with heart shapes! Even the multiflora rose, an invasive brought over from the British Isles, has wonderfully-shaped hearts! So, I began seriously collecting and pressing hearts from them and many other rose bushes, to incorporate in my mandalas. I also discovered little bird shapes in locust and red bud flowers as well as the white and yellow sweet clovers which grow here on my property. These I sometimes added to my meadow scenes. It was my heartfelt craft.

Recently, while reading Dr. Remen's book about healing, I learned that the rose “is one of the oldest archetypical symbols for the heart...appearing in many Christian and Hindu traditions and in many fairy tales.” Learning this greatly inspired me, and so for Valentine's Day I am sharing with you some of her deeper understandings, for who does not love hearts?

As children, many of us enjoyed creating special hearts for others out of red and pink paper, sometimes decorating them creatively with glitter and even with frills around the edges. Some people may still do this with heartfelt love. I find this affinity for hearts and roses very intriguing and deeply symbolic, not sappy!

Dr. Rachel Remen, besides being a compassionate spiritual therapist for people in their last days of cancer, has also had an illness of her own, which she has lived with all her life: Crohns disease. In her short



Photo by Jim Hickok

One of the mandalas Christine created from pressed flora with heart-shaped rose petals and other plants.

essays she sprinkles stories of her own suffering in small doses, but mostly focuses on the stories of others.

One of Dr. Remen's clients, being treated for ovarian cancer, said that she had no heart, but that her amazing success in business was a direct result of her ruthlessness. As her therapy continued, she began to speak of her traumatic time as a young child during the Vietnam war and how she saw her family ruthlessly killed. She became homeless, was brutalized herself, even killed others to survive, and was filled with hate. She proclaimed herself to be a bad person, selfish, and unloving, with nothing but darkness in herself, and she was despairing because of this.

Just as she thought she might die in despair from her cancer and the lack of love in her heart, with no resolution, she had a dream about a beautiful rose, its color an exquisite shade of pink. Weeping, she said,

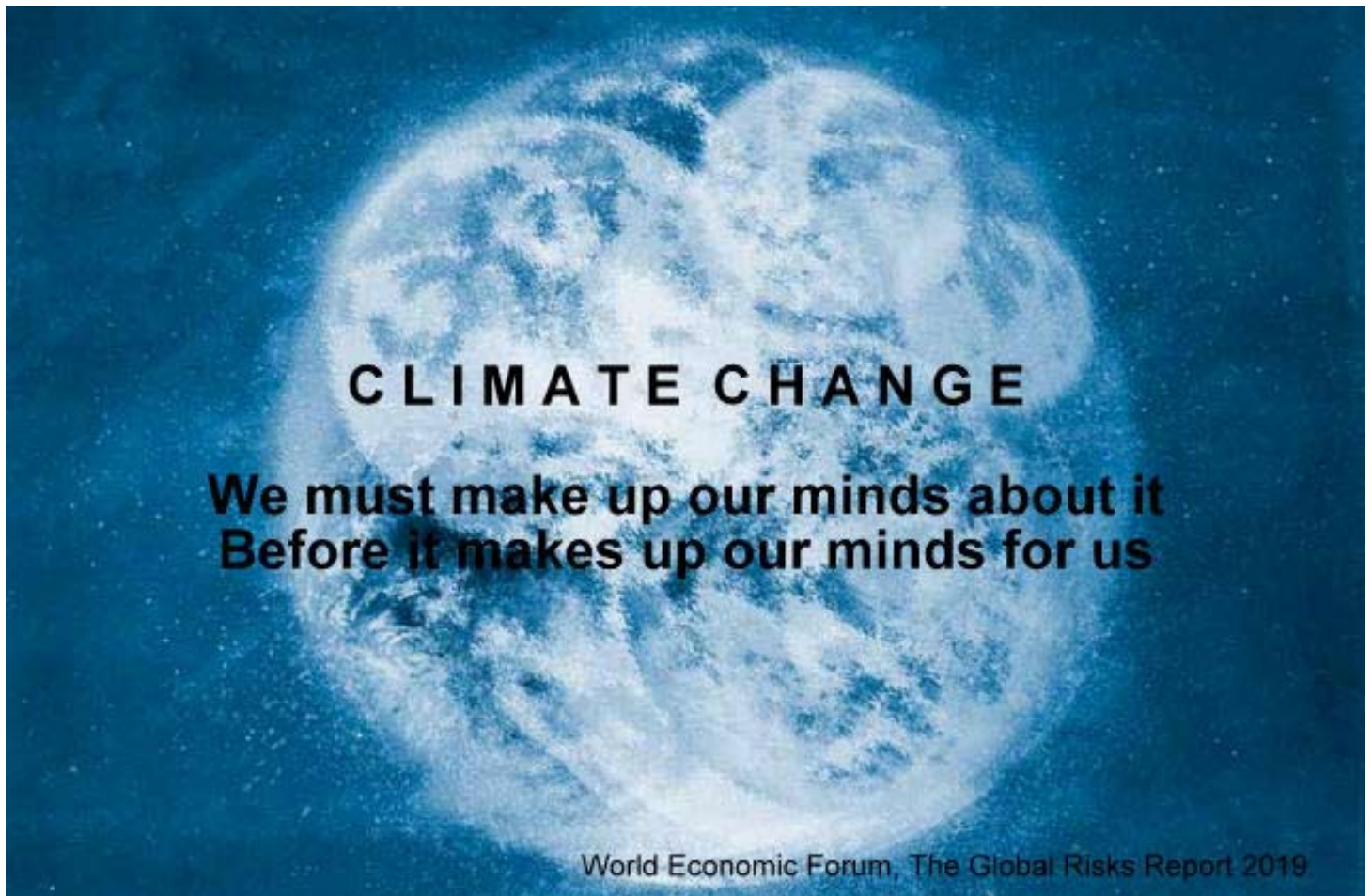
“It is still there. All this time it is still there. It has waited for me to come back for it!”

This was a part of herself she had kept safe, hidden even from herself, said Dr. Remen. Perhaps this was even a rose in the garden she remembers from her life before the war blew it apart. The rose was symbolic of a part of her that had never been touched, pure and unscathed by terror.

All of us have that rose with heart-shaped petals in our lives, be it in our gardens or in our own hearts. The Earth itself is filled with wonderful healing flowers and, in fact, is the heart of our hearts. Without Earth's purity we will die from fear, distress, and abuse; and we will take the Earth with us, unless we recover our hearts.

Personally, I have had a love affair with the natural world since I was a little girl and feel profoundly blessed to have sur-

Valentine *continued on next page*



A Terrifying Twelve Years: Sounding The Climate Alarm Bells

By Rolly Montpellier @Below2C, Canada
The Below 2° C Digest: January 22, 2019

In October of 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its landmark report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. World-leading climate scientists are now warning us that we have 12 years to prevent the catastrophic impacts of climate change. And many believe it's time to sound the climate alarm bells.

A Terrifying 12 Years

“The IPCC report has become a key talking point of political progressives in the U.S., who, like journalist and activist Naomi Klein, are now speaking of “a terrifying 12 years” left in which to cut fossil fuel emissions,” writes Dahr Jamail in his recent Truthout Op-Ed.

However, the IPCC's scientific conclusions are not completely sound and fail to tell the true story. Due to a built-in internal political process, meant to get as many countries on board the Paris Agreement as possible,

IPCC projections are watered down to the lowest common denominator. “The science is overly conservative, that is, overly optimistic,” writes Jamail. The reality is much gloomier than depicted by the IPCC.

Sounding the Climate Alarm Bells

The flow of bad news is endless. Our environment is crumbling before our very eyes. During the day spent writing this piece, dozens of species will have gone extinct. An estimated 150 to 200 species – plants, insects, birds, and mammals – are going
Crisis *continued on next page*

Valentine *continued from previous page*

vived my trials and not lost heart. So, if you are cynical about the heart shape which is appearing everywhere on Valentine's Day, maybe this year you'll look at it differently, perhaps even picking up a rose and discovering its heart-shaped petals!

Christine is a Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist specializing in identification and preserva-

tion of wild native plants such as nectar- and seed-producing flowering plants, which are essential for insects and birds as well as wild medicinal herbs for drying and use in teas. She sees her 11 acres in the Catoctin Mountains as a sanctuary, a vital reservoir, for increasingly rare wild plants which all too frequently are thought of as unnecessary by the general public.

For many years Christine has had a monthly column called ON THE WILD SIDE in the Ca-

toctin Banner News in Thurmont, Maryland. She writes exclusively about her discoveries and the research she has done concerning the Earth and ways we can be better caretakers. She is practically the only voice in that newspaper for the natural world. This essay called Nature's Valentine was first published in the Catoctin Banner News.

Christine welcomes communication at songbirdschant@gmail.com.

Crisis *continued from previous page*

extinct every day. Countries are not meeting their own targets to protect nature and we are losing biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. Population growth, urbanization, rampant industrialization, and climate change are all now threatening the fundamentals of life itself.

The Heat is On: The last four years – 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 – are the top four hottest years ever recorded. And in fact, 20 of the last 22 years were the warmest on record.

Antarctica: A new study just released shows that Antarctica ice is melting six times faster than in the 1980s. Since 2009, the ice lost in Antarctica has been 252 billion metric tons per year compared to 40 billion metric tons in the 1980s.

The Arctic: The rate of sea ice decline for December is a startling 47,200 square kilometers (18,200 square miles) per year – 3.7 percent per decade relative to the 1981 to 2010 average. A wide expanse of ice about twice the size of Texas has melted away during the last three decades.

Greenland: A new study published today in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* shows that Greenland is melting four times faster than it did just 15 years ago. This has “frightening implications for the pace and extent of future sea level rise,” as reported in EcoWatch. “We’re going to see faster and faster sea level rise for the foreseeable future,” according to Ohio State University geodynamics professor Dr. Michael Bevis. “Once you hit that tipping point, the only question is: How severe does it get?”

Oceans Are in Serious Danger: Oceans contain over 96% of the Earth’s water and cover over 70% of the planet’s surface. The importance of healthy oceans cannot be overestimated. A recent study reveals that the world’s oceans are warming 40% faster than previously thought. “Our waterworld is in serious danger... things really are as bad as we feared,” writes Eric Holthaus in a *Grist* article.

We’re adding the equivalent of four Hiroshima bombs of heat energy every second to the oceans. In 2018, the oceans gained about nine zettajoules of heat energy. (For reference, annual energy use for all human civilization is about 0.5 zettajoules.)

An October 2018 study featured in *Nature* shows three alarming facts:

1. The oceans have absorbed 93% of all the heat we have added to the atmosphere;

2. Planetary warming is much more advanced than previously estimated; and,

3. The sensitivity of Earth’s systems to greenhouse gases is much higher than previously thought.

“We can’t undo this,” says Harold Wanless from the University of Miami’s Geological Science.

Emissions on the Rise Again

I was born at a CO2 concentration of 310.4 ppm (1947). The current concentration of CO2 now exceeds 410 ppm and continues to rise. The UN’s 2018 Emissions Gap Report shows that the world is so off track that greenhouse gas emissions will need to drop by 55% for the world to achieve the 1.5C aspirational goal of the Paris Agreement. In other words, the goal is pure fantasy.

In fact greenhouse gas emissions are on the rise again. In 2017, global CO2 emissions rose by 1.2% to an all-time high of 53.5 billion tons per year. In the U.S., CO2 emissions in 2018 rose by approximately 3.4% after several years of decline.

“At precisely the time in which the world must begin rapidly decarbonizing to avoid runaway climate disaster, the United States is moving further and faster than any other country to expand oil and gas extraction,” reports *Oil Change International* in its latest analysis. The United States is, “Gearing up to unleash the largest burst of new carbon emissions in the world between now and 2050,” with an oil and gas expansion equivalent to nearly 1,000 coal-fired power plants.”

The U.S. oil and gas expansion will “impede the rest of the world’s ability to manage a climate-safe, equitable decline of oil and gas production,” claims the report.

Political Will Is Weakening

The political will required to coalesce world leadership into a body laser-focused on shifting the world economy off fossil fuels is simply non-existent. “While it’s technically possible, it’s extremely improbable, absent a real sea change in the way we evaluate risk... We are nowhere near that,” claims Drew Shindell, a Duke University climate scientist and a co-author of the IPCC report.

For the most part, world leaders are only paying lip service to the global climate challenge. World climate leadership is fraught with hypocrisy, misinformation, double standards, and political grandstanding. And even the more progressive world leaders fall far short of what is needed to solve the climate crisis.

“Could the world be sleepwalking into a crisis?” asks Aengus Collins, Head of Global Risks of the World Economic Forum. “In a world of shifting power and divergent values, it is likely to become more difficult to make progress on shared global challenges” such as climate change. In its annual risks survey, the environment now dominates the top 10 risks. The failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and extreme weather are the top two risks.

It’s a Real Crisis

If we were serious about the climate crisis, it should be constantly on our mind. Climate should be on the news every day.

It should be discussed on street corners, around the water cooler, at the dinner table, in the classroom, on radio talk shows, on nightly news, with your Uber driver... It should be on everybody’s lips. We should be talking about it regularly. But we don’t.

For most of the 7.7 billion inhabitants of the planet, climate change remains a secondary and remote concern relegated to the back of the mind. Daily survival is the driving force.

We will never solve the climate crisis until we treat it as a real crisis, until we start acting as if we are in a crisis. In the words of Greta Thunberg, “Everyone keeps saying that climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all and yet they just carry on like before. I don’t understand that, because if the emissions have to stop, then we must stop the emissions. To me that is black or white. “There is no grey area when it comes to survival. Either we go on as a civilization or we don’t. We have to change. We have to change.”

With such a grim prognosis for humanity, I often wonder how I can continue to devote myself to my climate activism. The feeling of loss is heartbreaking. Or maybe it’s because of it that I cannot stop.

Rolly Montpellier is a climate advocate, a climate communicator, and a blogger. He’s a member of 350.Org (Ottawa), Climate Reality Canada, and Citizens’ Climate Lobby (Canada). Rolly has been published widely in both print and online publications. You can follow him on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

He has been a participant in dozens of activist events, mostly in Ottawa – climate marches, protest rallies, lobbying of elected officials on Parliament Hill, radio podcasts, film screenings, climate discussion groups, official presentations to government agencies, and the like. Prior to retirement, Rolly spent a long career in public service with the government of Ontario and in school board administration, followed by several years of consulting in Ontario’s school board community.

Inspired by the birth of his four grandchildren, Rolly now devotes his time and energy to what he believes is “the most critical issue of our times.” Along with Ken Johnson, his colleague and co-founder of Below2°C, his primary goal is to raise awareness about climate change and influence our politicians to take pressing action on pricing carbon and kick-starting our transition to a clean energy platform by 2050. Contact Rolly Montpellier at:

Website: Below2C

Twitter @Below2C_

Twitter @Rise4Climate

Facebook: Personal

Facebook: Below2C

Facebook: Rise4Climate

Instagram: Below2C

Source: <https://below2c.org/2019/01/a-terrifying-twelve-years-sounding-the-climate-alarm-bells/>

Team 54 CEO Inspired by 17-Year-Old Man in Wheelchair

By Gbujie Daniel Chidubem

I am Counting every blessing The Almighty has done for me. I dedicate this award to all those who have been told it's not possible, but you continued to believe that it is indeed possible.

One of the many paths to success was revealed to me after a chance meeting with a great friend called Anthony Ford-Shubrook. He made me realize that nice ideas and concepts have their roots in the passionate desire to dress a need that threatens survival or convenience.

He explained further that one still needs a get a Team (people who believe in your sincere desire to make things right or Mentor, those that inspire you to get the right things done) and he told me that with this remarkable impact, success is inevitable.

I was inspired after meeting this young man who has become a great friend of mine. I went back home and discovered another factor that covers it all – a positive “Environment.”

So, to add them all up, try to conceptualize your Idea, make sure it relates and responds to the challenge at hand, then bring in your Team as I defined above and a factor that's so important – a positive, nontoxic environment (geographical space where the success will be manifest). All together the recipe with that formula is undeniable Success and an impactful life.

That's where the story of Anthony comes in, and I will share.

After being denied access into a college in the UK due to his wheelchair, he felt sad and decided to do something about it (growth mindset). Anthony took the institution to a UK court. Some people try to discourage a 17-year-old lad who was determined to work out his destiny not minding his predicament. He mustered up an extraordinary plan with a great legal team who believed in his vision. He won and made legal history in the UK.

But our man didn't stop at that; he started advocating for others with any form of disability. He told me that this vulnerable group were citizens that fate dealt a bad hand to, but because they are alive, hope has a fighting chance to live out their lives with dignity.

He revealed that his work paved the way for the Special Education Needs and Disability Act, currently law in UK and some parts of the EU nations.

Anthony had brought to the consciousness of government that creates space or



Photo Courtesy Team 54 Project International

UN Sustainable Development Goals Youth Representative, Anthony Ford-Shubrook (center), Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, founder and CEO of Team 54 Project International (left) and Tommaso Mure, Italy Youth Representative to the UN (right).

platform to listen fairly to concerns that impede on the survival or progress of others. What I call a positive national Environment.

After winning the court case against him he realized that millions in the UK were not as fortunate and millions more coming behind may not be lucky. He told me that about 10% of the global population, i.e about 650 million people, use a Wheelchair or will need assistance from it and they truly need it to become productive or to get by in their environment.

So he knew that getting “ACCESS” to these often-forgotten people was key; hence, he developed his entire life to establishing strategies and concepts that provide Access to those affected in his country and now across the globe. Millions of lives have been blessed by this now 32-years-old man, who was in 2016 selected as one of 17 UN Young Ambassadors to drive the global vision we call SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Anthony currently was awarded the prestigious Order of the British Empire award and is still raising awareness of the inequalities and discrimination faced by the physically challenged people across the world working with a wonderful team at the AbleChildAfrica.org.

The points of this Story, I shared to you are as follows:

1. Never back down when there seem to be insurmountable challenges; don't turn your back because it may be convenient for you. It may cost millions or billions of other people much more than turn their back.

2. Once one is able to recognize a challenge, any and all challenges, you must be able to fully relate with it. Reach out to your Team/mentors in that area to find out what is likely the way out (solutions); take note your Team are like-minded people or mentors.

Final point, the environmental factor to me is the most important maybe because of the region where I come from (Nigeria). Many young Nigerians (and by extension Africans) don't have a positive environment or platform to plead their cases. And you all know progress they come from environments/Nations that are toxic, or environmentally unstable. So, there won't be venues to seek redress or petition and this to me may be one of the failures of the current class of leaders in Africa and some repressive climes.

The lack of platforms, and in some cases complete destruction of existing dysfunctional platforms, leads to the endless conflict all over the Africa continent and in a few other continents.

I want to specially thank the selection

Inspiration continued on next page



Team 54 Project International Logo

Team 54 Project International is already a world-class, world player in the environmental movement. With the urgency following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's October 2018 report, the necessity of gathering millions more people to learn about and act upon climate change became clear.

Month of March Starts Team 54 Project Membership Contest With "New Members Day"

Team 54 Project: January 17, 2019

It's the month where everyone, including our founder, board members, and country coordinators will invite and get ordinary citizens in their respective country to join this very online global community.

Everyone on this blog, should be able to get at least "54" of your online friends to join you here and maximum of 500 of your online friends to join the group.

The more people who join our community, the more the message of climate actions and restoration strategies become stronger and the greater impact we will be making in addressing climate change.

Team 54 Project is beginning a creative method of mobilizing ordinary citizens of the world.

We also want everyone here to go to our website team54project.org to like our blog

there and visit our twitter handle @team-54projects; like and follow us.

Do try to make comments on how climate change affects your country, leave your first name and country at the end of the comment, these are easy ways that cost you nothing that create great impact if those of us here can do this.

Not every one of our members are on social media; most of our members in Africa live in rural areas and don't have access to a steady stream of Internet but there are country men and women of those people here who can tell us their story.

There are nations of some of our members where Internet services are restricted and banned, especially in some nations with repressive leadership.

Notwithstanding, we can be their voices. Benefits await those who comply, includ-

ing our respective country coordinators across the globe. Those 54 people who bring in the highest number of people will get a big surprise from us.

You can start now inviting people; our Admins will be ready to vet and confirm them. Send them this Facebook link to join us here: Copy and Share to your friends and others <https://www.facebook.com/team54project/>.

The results of the winners and the number of people they added will be made known by 1st week MAY 2019. These 54 winners will be surprised during our end of the year global conference holding in the U.S.

So you all can start inviting members now till the last day in March 2019.

Best wishes
Team54 Project

Inspiration continued from previous page committee of Global Youth Parliament Board, and those who nominated my organization/me. Thanks to the President of Global Youth Parliament, Mr. Diwakar Aryal, for even considering a Nigerian like myself who proudly hails from a little known village in IMO State called Um-uayaka in Ahiazu Mbaize, Local Government Area, worthy of award. It is indeed an honor that I can't completely take credit for alone. [photo of award on next page]

Therefore, I am dedicating this global recognition to all those who have stood by my vision and invested time and effort to carry our dream to all known continents. These individual/people are; all Team 54 Project Members, our partners, Parvati.org,

letsDoItWorld.org, Umuntu Movement Switzerland, Rain for Climate, mentors like Mr. Al Gore, all my mentors at The Climate Reality Project, support from the UN, especially Ex-President of the UN General Assembly, H.E Mirlosav Lacjak

To all my friends from Nepal Ln Dawadi and Gautam Raj Gautam Raj Sharma, I say thank you.

And to my inner circle of friends: Funmilola Fajugbagbe-Opadoyin, Matthew Bonnsetter, Carol Strang Bercos, Chance Rushing, Sanya Rajpal, Canvas Art, Jill MacIntyre Witt, Tim Kaelin, Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura, Moipone Bokaba, Dr. Ureh Annabel Ureh Annabel Oparaodu, Irabor Osezua Ejele, Aisiokwoba Irabor, Fabio Hüther, Mariam Milagros Gomez,

Dr. Gareth Presch, Dr. Joyce Misoi, King Paul Pawel, and all the 158 Team 54 Project country/Assistant coordinators, the Mayor of Catabalogan in Philippines Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan, the current Mayor of Geronimo, Oklahoma, USA, Mayor K Kylila Rice, and my lovely wife Dr. Ezioma Uchegbu-Gbuje.

Thank you all for inspiring me at some point in my life, but like I often say, this is just the first mile in a journey of finding purpose popularly called the thousand miles. Together we can inspire others to express the best version of themselves which is a compassionate heart.



Photos: Jeff Dewalt, founder of The Harmonious Help Foundation

Jennis Rue (woman in the white blouse) was invited to give a motivational talk to disadvantaged children. She decided to tell them her own story about gathering useful skills in a refugee camp when she was only 13 and today those skills are helping her pay university tuition. Below are members of the foundation.

College Student Gives Motivational Talk

By Jennis Rue, Liberia

In December I was invited as motivation speaker for unprivileged children by the help of the Harmonious Help Foundation. Speaking and motivating those children really brings tears down from my eyes. Because it really hurt me to see children who are hungry to learn but don't have the opportunity and the ability to do so.

Each time I see children selling in the street and they are not in school really hurts me. Life is not what the world can do for you but what you can do for the world. We have to make a difference by helping other people in the society that can also make the work a better place.

I know now I am not having anything to give to these children but talking to them can also help and motivate them, that with

all the challenges they are having now, one day everything will be okay.

One of the things that I really enjoyed was motivating them on my 13-year-old story, the time I stopped my school for one year to attend a catering school in a refugee camp. And today I am benefiting from it.

(See Jennis's beautiful cakes on the following page.)



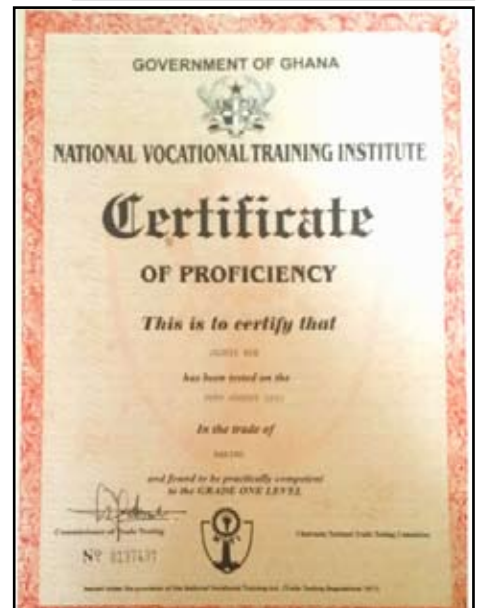
Look What Jennis Rue Learned in a Refugee Camp in Ghana When She Was 13!



And now she earns money to help pay her university tuition by baking cakes.



The certificate on the left is for a Business Skills and Entrepreneurship Training Workshop held in 2011 at the Buduburam Central Region Training Center in Ghana by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The certificate on the right was awarded to Jennis for Proficiency in Baking, Grade One Level in 2011 by the National Vocational Training Institute.



Part V: "Greening Burundi" Tree Nursery Created by 24-Year-Old and His Team: Gets Gift of Seeds and Gives Trees Away

By Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Burundi

Facebook Post: January 19, 2019

Environmental protection is everyone's business. Everyone must contribute in order to make our dear planet the most viable and fight against climate change and other major challenges due to an unprotected environment.

I am happy to have received a material support composed of the seeds of different types of trees from Portugal.

I thank Warmly Alexis [from Portugal] for this gift offered me.

Join me and support me to make our world a better place to live.

Your contribution will be the key of the success of my dreams.

"Together for a better World"

#YounginAction

#UmntuMovementBurundi

#GreeningBurundiProject



In my nursery, there are some baby trees available to be planted. Today I planted 30 trees at roadsides and tomorrow the many trees will be planted at different schools as Gisovu Lycee and Bubanza Lycee.

FB post January 23, 2019: I worked hard and till today I already planted more than 18,350 trees at different schools as Gisovu High School, Bubanza Lycee High School, Basic School of Giko, Basic School of Gisovu II, Basic School of Bubanza II, Basic School of Bubanza I, Basic School of Bubanza III, Basic School of Bubanza V, High School of Bubanza, High School of Mugongo and I granted some trees to the community and planted them in their residences. I'm very tired and I'm alerting support.



Photos from Emmanuel's Greening Burundi Project



Photos Courtesy Greening Burundi Project

(above) Emmanuel, center, showing people how to plant his baby trees.

(above right) People from the community come to pick out free trees for their homes and other places they want to plant trees.

(middle right) Happy women bringing trees home to plant.

(below) A large number of trees have been planted at the Kidahwe Basic School in Bubanza Commune. It's the 11th school having had this opportunity since our plantation #ClimateAction #SavePlanet

@PaulEDawson

@ONUEnvironmt @africawoodgrow

@EWestaway @organicgay



Petition for an International GREENING DAY OFF or THE DAY OF THE TREES

Photo: AAVAZ.org
Emmanuel's recent gift of seeds was sent by Alexis Charrette of AAVAZ.org with this note, "I am glad, you finally received the seeds I sent you 2 month ago. Don't forget to sign and share my petition. Try to convince your friends, relatives and others. "Thank you for our wonderful planet." https://secure.avaaz.org/.../United_Nations_European.../AAVAZ.org is circulating a petition for the whole world to celebrate trees with a Greening Day Off or The Day of the Trees. Ask United Nations to Vote for An International Greening DAY OFF! During this special day off, all citizens of Earth will be invited to plant trees anywhere it could be. Thanks to this action, we will make our forests bigger, we will stop the desert, our cities



will be more green and more acceptable. Wildlife will find some refuges to prosper and live, and we will fight against global warming. We ask you to sign and share to your contacts, friends and relatives. All together, we are stronger!

615 people have already signed this petition, including Iona. The goal is to gather 1,000,000

signatures. We would like to propose to the United Nations in New York and the European Parliament, an international GREENING DAY OFF or THE DAY OF THE TREES !

Sign Alexis's petition at https://secure.avaaz.org/fr/community_petitions/United_Nations_European_Parliament_TREE_4_LIFE/

Email Introducing Alexis Charrett

Good morning Iona,

Thank you to accept me in your group and thank you to support my petition. I am 47 years old, five kids' father. I am French (nobody is perfect), I am living in Porto, Portugal for four years. My wife and I are real estate agents in our own agency, named « La Vie en Rose Immo ». We sell properties in Porto and in the Alps (where we lived before).

We are working a lot with a promoter specialized in passive houses or responsive buildings. We try to impact less as we can, the environment.

The reason why I decided to do this petition is I wanted to act. I didn't want to wait for someone, my government, or any organizations to follow. We don't have time anymore. Moreover the problem is global. The impact is in France, in USA, in Africa, in Asia, anywhere!! We need to find solutions all together. Not only in our frontiers, our lands or countries. Having one day off, all together will show to people that we are all together in one planet!

This will educate people. This can be a good start to change mentalities. I know planting trees is not enough. I know we have to change our lifestyle but we need basics, foundations.

If we start to see trees as members of our family, if we have consciousness of what they give us. Then we will use less plastic, we will consume less energy, and so on and so on.....

I send you pictures of my family to show you that I am not a robot. Please find the link of my petition below if you need it to share.

For any reason, you can give my email address to journalists, groups, or organizations acting for the environmental protection. We need to be known anywhere. We need one million of signatures at least.

Thank you for your help and support.

Kind regards,
Alexis Charrette

When I Am Among the Trees

By Mary Oliver
Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



Photo TNNPicture for representational purpose only

It took 20 years but India now has 330 acres as a “reserve forest.” Planting trees is one thing to do, saving forests is another.

After 20 Years, Assam Government Declares Deopahar as Reserve Forest

Submitted by Rituraj Phukan, India

By Naresh Mitra 

TNN, The Times of India: February 3, 2019

GUWAHATI, India: After 20 years, the state government has finally notified the 133.45-hectare (330 acres) area of Deopahar in Golaghat district as reserve forest. Deopahar was at the centre of a legal battle over Numaligarh Refinery Limited’s (NRL) boundary wall and proposed township.

The notification came after the Supreme Court, on January 18, dismissed NRL’s petition in the apex court against National Green Tribunal (NGT)’s 2016 order to demolish the boundary wall that came up on the then proposed reserved forest, blocking the movement of elephants.

The government’s notification of January

19, which was made public recently, said in the exercise of powers conferred by Section 17 of the Assam Forest Regulation 1891, the governor is pleased to declare Deopahar as a reserve forest. The issue was pending since 1999.

Environment activist and petitioner of the case in the NGT, Rohit Choudhury, said the declaration of reserve forest has at last given legal recognition to Deopahar. “After two decades of waiting, the government declared Deopahar as a reserve forest following NGT and Supreme Court’s intervention in the case related to NRL’s boundary wall. This is a victory for conservation,” added Choudhury.

In 2016, the NGT had ordered demolition of the wall that came up in the area in 2011 as it is part of Deopahar and also falls in the “no development zone” issued by the Union ministry of environment and forest

in 1996. The 2016 order also said that NRL’s proposed township also falls in Deopahar. NGT had given one month’s time for demolition of the wall and ordered that the proposed township should not come up in the present location. Last year, dismissing NRL’s review application of 2016 order, the NGT said, “In view of categorical findings already recorded by the tribunal that the area where the wall came up and the area where the proposed township is to come up is part of the Deopahar Reserve Forest, rehearing on merits is not permissible.”

In January 18 this year, the Supreme Court also dismissed NRL’s review petition.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/after-20-years-govt-declares-deopahar-as-reserve-forest/articleshow/67810526.cms>

Immediate Needs: 45 Orphans in Uganda Need Help, This Time for School Supplies and Always for Food and Rent

Facebook post by Ssendendo Yasin Signalaminat January 24, 2019: As we are remaining with one week and some few days for the children to go back to school from their long Holiday. They are to go back to school on 4th February for their first term of the year.

#JINJACHURCHCHILDRENSHOME

is looking for the sponsors of pay for the #schoolfees and #buying #scholastics materials like #Books, #pens, and #pencils.

The orphanage has 45 children. We need #donations for #school fees and #donations for #scholarstic materials, please if there is a help just contact me. On our facebook messenger: Ssendendo Yasin Signalaminat

or Eamil.ssendendo80yasin80@gmail.com.

FOR MAILING PACKAGES: SSENDENDO YASIN SIGNALAMINAT
P.BOX, 428;JINJA UGANDA
+25759273161 We call upon your support; anything can support our kids... May God bless you.

FAITH WITHOUT DEEDS IS DEAD!



Long-Term Needs of 45 Orphans and Street Children: Money to Buy Land and Build a Secure School Home

Submitted by Ssendendo Yasin Signalaminat
January 24, 2019

History from the 2014 Constitution of Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage (JICCHO)

ARTICLE TWO: BACKGROUND

The organization was started after the realization of communities being faced with a big challenge of orphans and vulnerable children who are not accessing formal education and living in appalling situations, due to HIV/AIDS scourge and would like to access formal education and we together believe that the most viable way to liberate the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), street children, youths of Africa is to directly invest in their formal education for this will widen their horizons and opportunities, support the youth engage in income-generating activities, and mobilizing the children from streets back home and camps.

JICCHO by God's grace, people started up a children project having decided to help orphans and was joined by other developmental youths and women with the same idea and together as they decided to start up a new project and enlarged on the children.

Excerpts from a proposal
submitted January 9, 2019
by Ssendendo Yasin Signalaminat,
Executive Director of the JICCHO

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL HOME FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN MAFUBIRA SUB COUNTY, JINJA DISTRICT FOR FIVE YEARS PERIOD (2019 – 2023)

1.3 Project Location & Target Group

The project activities will be implemented in Mafubira Sub County which is located in Jinja District of Uganda. The Project activities shall cover the community the identified persons in Mafubira Sub County.

The target group includes the following:

- Vulnerable Children
- Orphans
- Street children

The Headquarters of Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage are located in the Republic of Uganda in Jinja district, Mafubira sub county, Mafubira parish along the Jinja – Kampala Highway.

1.4 Organizational background

Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage is a child-focused initiative which is a local, national, international Community-Based Organization (CBO)/ Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with its head office in Jinja, Mafubira sub county, Mafubira parish and Mafubira Zone "C" Village.

1.5 Our Vision

Enterprising, confident, and informed citizens that cherish unity, peace, accountability, Justice, and sharing with appropriate skills to efficiently and effectively utilize the available resources, collaborate, and participate in social, economic, and political development so as to achieve self-esteem and reliance.

1.6 Our Mission

To reach out to all kinds of HIV/AIDS afflicted people in both rural and urban communities to build hope, foster and

promote good health, psychological and social prosperity of orphans while protecting their rights.

1.7 Goal

To reduce stigma, psychological torture among the orphans and vulnerable children in order to build hope that will help them regain their lost glory through provision of basic needs of life, that's to say shelter, food, education, medical care, clothing, etc.

1.8 Organizational Objectives

The organization aims at fulfilling the following core objectives:

- To advocate for equal opportunities, involvement, and participation in social, political, and economic activities.
- To impact life skills and values that will help orphans and vulnerable children fight

life challenges like HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, peer influence, and immorality.

- Advocating and creating for articulating orphans' concerns, issues, rights, and interests.
- To create awareness of societal values that will produce morally upright and socially acceptable children.
- Capacity building in orphans for efficient and effective operations and development.
- Networking with local as well as international development institutions like NGOs, local councils, governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies.
- To promote skills development in areas of leadership, planning, advocacy, gender, income generation, project management, and undertake community-based activities aimed at improving the socio-economic status and self reliance of the orphans.
- To promote voluntary action and work in

Children continued on next page



Children *continued from previous page*

partnership with economically disadvantaged groups, most especially youths and widows.

1.9 Program Activities of Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage Provision of Basic Needs

Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage always focuses on basic needs of orphans and vulnerable children that impact on the lives and well-being of the orphans especially the poor, stigmatized, and marginalized, including Health awareness like HIV/AIDS, Primary Health Care, Reproductive health, and so on.

Food and nutrition security - There is high prevalence of malnutrition especially among orphans and vulnerable children, street children, especially the age of five years. Therefore, Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage provides adequate nutritious food to its clients.

Care and support - Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage provides care and support which includes provision of basic physical, cognitive, and psychosocial needs of street children and other vulnerable children and their caregivers on a sustainable basis.

Education program - This is an important requirement for the development of a child. Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage provides orphans and vulnerable children, street children with opportunities for emotional support, interaction with other children, and development of social capital. Through education, this increases knowledge, awareness, skills, and opportunities to street children thus promoting access to education through education services.

Psychosocial support - Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage provides psychosocial issues which are cross-cutting and a crucial component of all aspects, care and support. Therefore, the primary actor of children's psychosocial support is their families and communities. Thus the organization provides emotional support to children encouraging the establishment of community-based, child-friendly recreational facilities and strengthening capacity of children by providing counseling.

Capacity Building - The organization empowers and strengthens partners, for example the local communities, CBOs, private sector organizations, and local governments through capacity building programs for effective service delivery and implementation of income generating activities.

Public Awareness - Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage always participates



and contributes to publicizing orphans' concerns/issues through events, networks, and literature to raise community awareness about the rights of all children in the society.

List of School Home Structures Needed for Construction:

1. 4 classroom blocks for both boys and girls
2. 1 dormitory for young girls
3. 1 dormitory for young boys
4. 1 room for office
5. 1 room for store
6. 2 rooms for staff quarters
7. Latrine for boys and girls
8. 1 latrine for Administrators and staff members

In view of the above addressed challenges currently facing Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage, there is need to procure spacious land, construct a school home and secure funds for the needy persons to effectively have a comfortable learning environment for OVC in Mafubira sub county as a whole through your financial support towards to this project.

1.11 Project Activities and Management

Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage activities are run by a small central team.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee representatives from our organization, this is the decision-making body of Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage. It is responsible for the overall direction and operation of the organization.

Administration

The Administration is headed by the Executive Director, Treasurer, the Administrative Director, the General Secretary, and the four Board members. Administra-

tive staff implements Executive Committee decisions and liaises between the Executive Committee, beneficiaries, and the donors. The supportive duties are also implemented by the organizational staff members, volunteers, and caregivers responsible for delivering support to the orphans and vulnerable children. The Finance unit ensures that the interests of donors as well as general fiscal responsibility are being consistently observed across Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage.

Support Staff

The organization is supported by a team of volunteers and caregivers every month. Volunteer support helps us to keep costs to a minimum.

1.12 The Project Beneficiaries

The funding, purchase of construction equipments, and construction of the school home shall benefit the following categories of people in various ways as seen below:


- The project clients (vulnerable people) shall effectively have a comfortable learning environment in Mafubira Sub County.
- The construction of staff quarters shall also benefit the teachers as it will provide a comfortable housing structure to enable them to perform their assigned teaching duties effectively to the OVCs in a school home.
- The construction of school home latrines shall help in improving the sanitation status in the sub county as it will help both young girls and boys to have a convenient place to ease themselves.
- The project owner shall obtain more clients and increase high helping hand to the needy persons.
- The setup of a store room shall help in providing enough space for material, equipment, and food storage which will later benefit the housed orphans and vulnerable children.
- The construction of one office room shall also generally benefit the organization and its visitors as it will provide smooth running of the home's official duties in a comfortable operation workplace.
- More employment opportunities shall be provided to the surrounding community members, for example building constructors, supervisors, Client Care Takers all shall be sourced from the surrounding community members, hence providing employment opportunities to the community members as a corporate social responsibility.
- With the expansion of this project in Mafubira sub county community members, it will lead to increased development of community-based projects.
- The suppliers of our raw-material inputs shall be generating income from their regular supplies like building materials. . .



Photo: Media Diversified

Women and girls endure most of the difficult task of fetching water in many African countries. It is hard work and can be dangerous.

In Developing Countries, Climate Change is Destroying Our Communities First

By Beatrice Phiri, Zambia (@BeatricePhiri15) 
Media Diversified: January 28, 2019

Growing up without running water in Kabanana Compound, Beatrice Phiri discusses how she got to see first-hand the dramatic effects of climate change.

Much of my life has revolved around the pursuit of water. Living in my community was challenging because we all endured the difficult task of fetching water. For most families, this was the responsibility of the girls and women. So, from the age of 15, it was my duty to ensure my family had enough water for the day.

I had to wake up as early as 4 a.m. and walk 20 minutes for this task. My family and I had to use as little water as possible so that we would save most of it for drinking and cooking. I was usually exhausted by the time I made it to class, which began at 7 a.m.

Fetching water always made me nervous because of the possibility of getting attacked or defiled on the way. Another hard reality was that I often fought with other girls and women, and sometimes even the boys and men, to ensure that I had a share of water for my family.

Global climate change exacerbated this great challenge of fetching water in my community. During the 2015-16 rainfall season, Zambia faced a huge problem — little to no rain in most parts of the country. This was also a time when temperatures worldwide continued to soar. In 2016, each of the first six months of the year set the record for the warmest month in modern temperature records, which date back to 1880.

In Kabanana Compound, climate change caused our lakes to dry up meaning that most homes did not have water. And some days, we did not have electricity. As the situation continued to worsen, some parts of the community even became affected with cholera due to lack of proper water and sanitation. This made members of my community completely helpless.

Luckily, some heavy rains during the beginning of 2017 helped stabilize the situation. But it proved that climate change can be very unpredictable and can also be devastating to the most vulnerable.

Our actions have led us to a huge disaster. Mankind's continuous oblivion and contribution to global warming will make life catastrophically difficult for billions of people around the world.

Somewhere in a developing country there is a girl or boy experiencing the same challenges I have, some in a much worse situation. They lack a voice because those with

power remain silent on the environmental issues that take away basic rights to survival.

They lack education on climate change because government, the private sector, NGOs, civil society organizations, and many others haven't given them opportunities to learn. They lack solutions because even though most people know we should be addressing climate change, our societies haven't taken serious efforts and action.

Climate change is an issue that needs every human's attention. For many people, it's just a buzzword, climate change hasn't made an impact on their lives. Yet. But imagine what this world would look like if we continue ignoring climate change: more dry rivers and lakes, more fires, more polluted air, diminishing resources, and no sustainable energy to turn to. Communities will wither, but for those of us in developing countries, it has already begun.

Beatrice Phiri is a youth reporter with Children's Radio Foundation and a student at Cavendish University. She lives in Lusaka, Zambia, where she has become a champion of environmental and climate change activism. In 2017, she won second prize in the Girls Radio Competition organized by Plan International: Zambia and Africa Directions: Zambia.

Source: <https://mediadiversified.org/2019/01/28/in-developing-countries-climate-change-is-destroying-our-communities-first/>

16-Year-Old Greta Thunberg's Demand to Davos Elite: Act Urgently on Climate for 'Sake of This Beautiful Living Planet'

By Andrea Germanos

Common Dreams: January 23, 2019

Sixteen-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg threw down the gauntlet to the global elite gathered in the Swiss Alps for the World Economic Forum (WEF) this week, urging them to work towards meaningful climate action in order to “safeguard the future living conditions for humankind.”

“Some people say that the climate crisis is something that we all have created. But that is just another convenient lie,” the Swedish teen says in a video posted to Twitter. The video was also posted on the WEF Facebook page and was intended to be shown to the attendees inside.

In fact, there is blame to be assigned, she says, namely to “some companies and decision makers” who have “known exactly what priceless values they are sacrificing.”

She calls on those powerful interests to set aside their drive for massive economic profits and instead “safeguard the future living conditions for humankind” by committing to “real and bold climate action.”

She expresses skepticism that that will happen, but said she hopes she's proven wrong “for the sake of your children, for the sake of your grandchildren, for the sake of life and this beautiful living planet.” Doing so would allow them to “stand on the right side of history,” she adds.

Thunberg posted the video a day ahead of her arrival – by train – in Davos, where she'll take part in a panel discussion. Meanwhile, her joint op-ed with former United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres declared it “outrageous” that the climate crisis is not taking center stage at the WEF gathering. Published Wednesday at the *Washington Post*, the pair, “united by the same concern for our planet,” argue that it “should be the number one priority.”

There is plenty to lament – rising CO2 emissions, new coal burning power plants, and deadly air pollution. We are “quickly approaching tipping points of no return,” they write. At the same time, they believe “these are inspirational times for transformational change,” noting the historic Paris climate accord and global “school strike for climate,” which Thunberg catalyzed. Students around the world taking a stand for urgent climate action, they write, have declared that “they are unstoppable and that another world is possible.”

But to even begin taking a crack at the urgent crisis, they lay out a three-step “find



Photo by Greta Thunberg

Twitter Post January 23, 2019: Greta Thunberg @GretaThunberg. “Greetings from Davos! On Friday I will join the Swiss school strikers. At 12.00. Exact location in Davos to be announced. #climatestrike #fridaysforfuture #schoolstrike4climate #wef.”

and replace” exercise for Davos attendees:

1. Find coal, and replace it with renewable energy supported by storage.
2. Find internal combustion engines, and replace them with zero-emissions mobility.
3. Find crop burning (when farmers burn the stubble left over from the harvest to clear the ground quickly for new planting) and replace it with “no till” and “low till” technologies that enrich the soil instead of burning its nutrients.

“We are going to do everything we can to put an end to dirty fuels and dirty air so we can improve the prospects of people everywhere,” they conclude.

Though she will still be in Switzerland on Friday, Thunberg has no plans to put a pause on her Friday strikes:

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/01/23/greta-thunbergs-demand-davos-elite-act-urgently-climate-sake-beautiful-living-planet>



Photo Courtesy Igniting Minds®

Young people have been seeking climate action for a long time and now are getting stronger and more numerous.

Restless Youth Seek Climate Action

By Rituraj Phukan, India

Igniting Minds: Educate, Engage, Empower®
January 23, 2019

Young people around the world are increasingly restless over the lack of foresight and urgency to address the threat of climate change. The youth have always embraced environmental activism, demanding action from world leaders from time to time.

From the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro to the UNFCCC COP 24 at Katowice in December last year, young people have sought to galvanize the climate movement. The voices of discontent have grown in the past few months and youth are now crowding the streets around the world to demand immediate action on climate change. A few days back, over 12,000 students walked out of their classrooms in Belgium to join the country's second youth-led climate march in a week, demanding bold action from European leaders on the global climate crisis.

For then-15-year-old Greta Thunberg, the girl who started the 'school strike for the climate' movement in August 2018, it all started with a silent protest in front of the Swedish parliament. Initially she was alone, and few took notice of the teenage protester on the pavement. When people did start to pay attention, she let them know that she would

skip school until the government acted on climate change. She handed out leaflets accusing the adults of jeopardizing her future. And the environmental movement had a new star. Greta's strike has inspired tens of thousands of students in over 270 cities around the world, spawning movements like 'School Strikes 4 Climate' and 'Fridays for Future'.

Back in 1992, it was a 12-year-old Severn Cullis-Suzuki who silenced the world for six minutes at the first UN Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro. Twenty-five years later, young people across the globe are still fighting to save the planet. Wary of the repeated failure of adults to take decisive action on climate change, enterprising youth-led organizations have created successful models for a sustainable future. Others have used the law; a slew of legal actions in recent years has opened up the debate on the accountability of the present global leadership towards the future generations.

In 2002, 21-year-old Billy Parish dropped out of Yale University to help found the Energy Action Coalition, eventually renamed the Powershift Network. It became the largest youth-led clean energy advocacy network in the world, bringing together 50 environmental and social justice groups and over 340,000 members. The Energy Action Coalition motivated over 600 colleges

to make commitments to climate neutrality and trained tens of thousands of young people. In March 2009, the Energy Action Coalition organized Power Shift '09, which brought over 12,000 young people to Washington, DC, which was then the largest climate-focused training, lobby day, and non-violent civil disobedience action in U.S. history.

In 2007, Plant-for-the-Planet, an initiative to raise awareness amongst children and adults about climate change and global justice, was founded by a nine-year-old German boy, Felix Finkbeiner. Plant-for-the-Planet considers tree planting to be a practical and symbolic action in efforts to reduce the effect of climate change and has since grown into a global movement reaching its initial goal of planting a million trees in just four years.

The youth are actively engaged at local, national, and global levels in raising awareness, running educational programs, conserving nature, promoting renewables, and inspiring personal commitments to environment-friendly lifestyles. In the year 2009, in response to the growing number of youth organizations engaged in the inter-governmental climate change process, the UNFCCC secretariat had extended constituency status to admitted youth NGOs, al-

Restless continued on next page



TREE STUMP / HUMAN FINGERPRINT

ESUBMITTED BY FABIO HÜTHER
SWITZERLAND

**WE ARE ALL ONE.
IF WE HURT THE NATURE,
WE WILL HURT OURSELVES.**

UMUNTU – I AM BECAUSE WE ARE.

Restless *continued from previous page*

lowing them to receive official information, participate in meetings, request speaking slots, and receive logistical support at UN-FCCC conferences.

In the U.S., 21 young plaintiffs between 9 and 20 years old, led by the environmental law nonprofit Our Children's Trust, together with climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, filed that famous lawsuit in 2015. They accused the federal government of violating the younger generations' constitutional rights to life and liberty by declining to take action against global warming. The lawsuit is still going on, while the plaintiffs have become role models for youth around the world. However, they were not the first to file a case regarding government inaction on climate change. In 2011, 17-year-old Alec Loorz, who was inspired by *An Inconvenient Truth*, had sued the federal government for (in)action on global warming.

Last year, Ridhima Pandey, a nine-year-old in India filed a petition with the National Green Tribunal against the Indian government for not complying with the Paris Agreement on climate change. She urged the government to take measured and concrete steps toward reducing the country's carbon footprint and to focus on reforestation.

In Pakistan, a young farmer, Asghar Leghari, who is also a law student, filed a petition with the Lahore High Court accusing the government of failing to act on its 2012 National Climate Change Policy. He

was prompted by repeated crop failures due to water scarcity and temperature shifts but clarified that he was not seeking compensation for crop losses but sought broader action against future consequences.

In the Netherlands, young activists were jubilant when the Dutch court ordered the state to reduce emissions by 25% within five years to protect its citizens from climate change in the world's first climate liability suit.

Inspired by these events, a law student in New Zealand, Sarah Lorraine Thomson, challenged the Government in the High Court over its failure to properly address climate change and unambitious targets on reduction of emissions.

These successes have added to the motivation of younger generations to demand action for safeguarding their future.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1.5 C report last year made it clear that limiting catastrophic warming beyond 1.5 C above the pre-industrialization levels would require "rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes" in all aspects of society. The landmark report painted a dire picture of the immediate consequences of climate change and gave us a little over a decade for decisive action.

World leaders at COP24, following the publication of the IPCC report were expected to show some urgency and rise to the challenges. The compromise at Katowice has fueled the restlessness of youth, who

correctly see climate change as an existential threat to life on Earth.

While addressing the negotiators at COP24, Greta reflected the anxiety of the youth on the slow progress of climate talks in the past. "For 25 years, countless people have come to the U.N. climate conferences begging our world leaders to stop emissions, and clearly that has not worked as emissions are continuing to rise. So, I will not beg the world leaders to care for our future. I will instead let them know change is coming whether they like it or not."

Today's youth are the first generation to feel the impacts of climate change and possibly the last that can do something about it. Half the world's population is now under 30 years old, and those youth are becoming increasingly powerful political and social advocates for action on climate change. The new generations have the energy and knowledge to lead our societies towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future. There is no doubt that it is the youth of the world who have it in them to save us from catastrophic climate change, but do we have enough time?

Perhaps it is this very thought, driven home by the IPCC 1.5 C report from last year, that makes the youth restless in the first place.

Source: <http://www.ignitingminds.in/igniting-minds/restless-youth-seek-climate-action>



The front view of a modern mushroom production shed.

PROFILE BRIEF & FUNDING PROPOSAL

**FOR
SOAFRICA MUSHROOM SHED
STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION**

**THARAKA NITHI COUNTY
KENYA.**

Mobile: +254 722 294 239

Email: allaynated2@hotmail.com

CONTACT PERSON:

Vincent Kenyani

Co- Founder

SOFAfrica

BUDGET: \$ 5495.95

Donations can be made through: PayPal:
allaynated2@hotmail.com

SOF Africa *Is an initiative platform for innovation, creativity and services to improve the livelihood of the local communities. It is a project created in 2013 to eliminate hunger and create food security within the communities in Kenya.*

Our Mission *is to empower communities by giving them informed choices to improve qualities of life through integrated community development with modern farming methods & capacity building.*

Objectives

- *To offer new educational ideas for the local farmer in modern agricultural methods.*
- *To encourage farming communities in Kenya to embrace technologies for enhanced food production all year round **without destroying the environment.***
- *To promote fresh and nutritious food without the use of chemicals.*
- *To introduce new farming technologies for a wide variety of agricultural products.*
- *To develop new processes of irrigation and soil amendments.*

Project's Rationale, Innovation and Justification

*Food security has been a major hurdle and challenge to many developing countries in that, most peasant farming communities still practice traditional seasonal farming. This is dependent on regular seasonal rainfall which has now become **unreliable due to climate change.** The three (annual) planting seasons can no longer be relied upon anymore, resulting in the lack of food security and famine in some regions. The lack of modern farming education and skills allow only the traditional crops of Maize, sugar beet, beans, sorghum, millet and rice to be grown and gives only a limited and poor nutritious diet.*

We have in the past and still share the word about implementing new farming methods through public forums, schools' practicals, local bazaars and administrative authorities i.e. Local area chiefs & village headsmen and women, word of mouth and of course social media (to those who have embraced internet technology).

Project's Strategy and Activities

*The project target beneficiaries include families and communities in rural areas as well as the development of urban farms. It will be community centered and will utilize experience & new ideas / methods for the best practice and innovation in the implementation processes. Functional and simple farming literacy will be used in English and / or Swahili. All the forums will be participatory and will use the following tested methodologies i.e. short lectures, videos shows, group discussions, role plays, case studies, own experiences, school farming projects, hands on experience and **on the demonstration farm.***

Projects' Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular meetings will be held by all those involved to monitor and evaluate the projects.

Statistical data will be collected and recorded regarding the life cycle of mushrooms and different crops such as tomatoes, kale, cucumbers, lettuce, capsicum, coriander, pumpkin etc., for a data base that can be shared with interested parties.

Different varieties of mushroom and same crop will be tested for quality, taste and resistance to disease and best suited for the region.

- ✦ **Mushroom Shed Structure Construction** *This will be done by hired local laborers on a part time basis and under the supervision of a qualified experienced Trainer from the ministry of Agriculture*

Nutritional Value and Benefits of Mushrooms

Nutritional Value

i) **Protein**

Protein content of dry weight is between 19% and 35%

ii) **Fat**

Low rate of fat content between 1-8%

The high content of linoleic acids is one of the reasons why mushrooms are considered healthy food.

iii) **Vitamins and minerals**

Mushrooms are a good source of vitamins such as thiamine (Vitamin B). Riboflavin (vitamin B₂), Nicotinic acid (vitamin B₃), biotinic acid (vitamin B₇) and ascorbic acid (vitamin C), folic acid.

They also contain significant amounts of phosphorus, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron and Zinc.

As you've probably heard, mushrooms are good for you. So good, in fact, that people often use them as medicine.

You may also be aware that almost every ancient civilization around the world has used mushrooms for their healing properties for thousands of years. (Ancient Egyptians even called them the plant of immortality.)

But you may not realize just how powerful edible mushrooms can be for healing people.

Perhaps surprisingly, humans are more closely related to fungi than to any other kingdom. Some of the essential molecules in mushrooms (a form of fungi) have been present in the human diet

for so long that our bodies now depend on them — which could be part of the reason why they're so good for us.

Mushrooms are a superfood, and one of the most health-promoting foods on the planet. An estimated 50% of edible mushrooms are considered functional foods, meaning that they have a potentially positive effect on health beyond basic nutrition.

Countless scientific studies have revealed a variety of ways mushrooms can be useful in preventing and treating serious health conditions — and in improving overall health.

In fact, research has identified more than 200 conditions that may benefit from mushroom consumption and more than 100 different beneficial effects they can produce for the body. Some of the conditions include: [Chronic Myeloid Leukemia](#), [Cardiovascular Diseases](#), [Clotting](#), [Breast Cancer: Lung Metastasis](#), [Bacterial Infections and Mycoses](#), [Stomach Cancer](#), [Sexual Dysfunction](#), [Sexual Arousal Disorder](#), [Pulmonary Cancer](#), [Pancreatitis: Chronic](#), [Low Libido](#), [Liver Fibrosis](#) and many more. (source: Google)

Types of Mushrooms

There are several types of mushrooms. However; it is found that there are those that are edible and non- edible ones.

Our minds will now zero down to the edible ones which include:-

- 1. Button – Agaricus*
- 2. Oyster – Pleurotus*
- 3. Shiitake - Lentinula Edodes*
- 4. Straw - volvullella Volcacea*
- 5. Chinese Mushroom – Ganoderma*
- 6. Termitomyces- No known scientific name*



A mushroom farmer admiring her good quality mushrooms after harvesting.

IN OUR PILOT PROJECT WE INTEND TO START WITH: BUTTON & OYSTER – *which have overwhelming demand!*

*(right) The substrate being bagged for sterilization.
(below) A farmer admiring his mushrooms in his shed ready for harvesting.*



Kindly comment on our Facebook page: SOFAfrica

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	MUSHROOM CULTIVATION	SEASON 1							
2	EQUIPMENTS:			UNITS	UNIT PRICE	MATERIALS	LABOUR	TOTAL KSHS	TOTAL USD
3	ITEMS								
4	Mushroom Shed Construction			1	120,000.00	90,000.00	30,000.00	120,000.00	1,200
5	Electric Dryers			3	6,000.00	0	0	18,000.00	180
6	Weighing Scales			2	4,500.00	0	0	9,000.00	90
7	Metalic Drums (200 litres)			2	2,000.00	0	0	4,000.00	40
8	water tower			1	19,995.00	15,995.00	4,000.00	19,995.00	199.5
9	Airtight Lids			2	1,000.00	0	0	2,000.00	20
10	Plastic Troughs			4	200	0	0	800	80
11	Protective Gloves			3	500	0	0	1500	15
12									
13	Dust masks			3	200	0	0	600	60
14	Gum boots			3	1,000.00	0	0	3,000.00	30
15	Overalls / Dust coats			3	1,200.00	0	0	3,600.00	36
16	Wooden Mixing Table			1	12,000.00	0	0	12,000.00	120
17				0	0	0	0		
18							TOTAL	194,495.00	1,944.95

20	SEASON 1								
21	EQUIPMENTS:			UNITS	UNIT PRICE	MATERIALS	LABOUR	TOTAL KSHS	TOTAL USD
22	OPERATIONAL COST								
23	Spawn			300kgs	180,000.00	0.00	0.00	180,000.00	1,800
24	Substrate			7 Tonnes	20,000.00	0	0	20,000.00	200
25	White Spirit			20litres	5,000.00	0	0	5,000.00	50
26	Broiler Starter Bags			2pcs	12,400.00	0	0	12,400.00	124
27	Polythene Bags			2 Rolls	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00	110
28	Polythene Bags			3	2,400.00	0	0	2,400.00	24
29	Lime			1 bag	1,800.00	0	0	1,800.00	180
30	Plastic Water Tank (4000 Litres)			1	35,000.00	0	0	35,000.00	350
31									
32	Logistics			0	0	0	0	25,000.00	250
33	Packaging plastics for Transportation			0.00	17,500.00	0	0	17,500.00	175
34	Casual Labourous			4	45,000.00	0	0	45,000.00	450
35									
36							TOTAL	355,100.00	3551
37									
38								GRAND TOTAL KSHS 549,595.00	
39								GRAND TOTAL USD 5495.95	

A Special Message for Parents and/or People Who Work With Young Children

By Nancy Hu, California USA

My “spark joy” moment... Instead of focusing on keeping my home magically tidy, I recently started reading this book, and sleeping more, and guess what... My kids are a true joy to be with... once again.

True story... We came home after school and J's jacket was on the floor. Instead of barking, “Put your jacket away!” like I normally would, I said, “There's a jacket on the floor. Where is it supposed to go?”

J pointed to the hook.

“How will it get there?”

He said he'd pretend that the jacket can walk and will walk it to the hook.

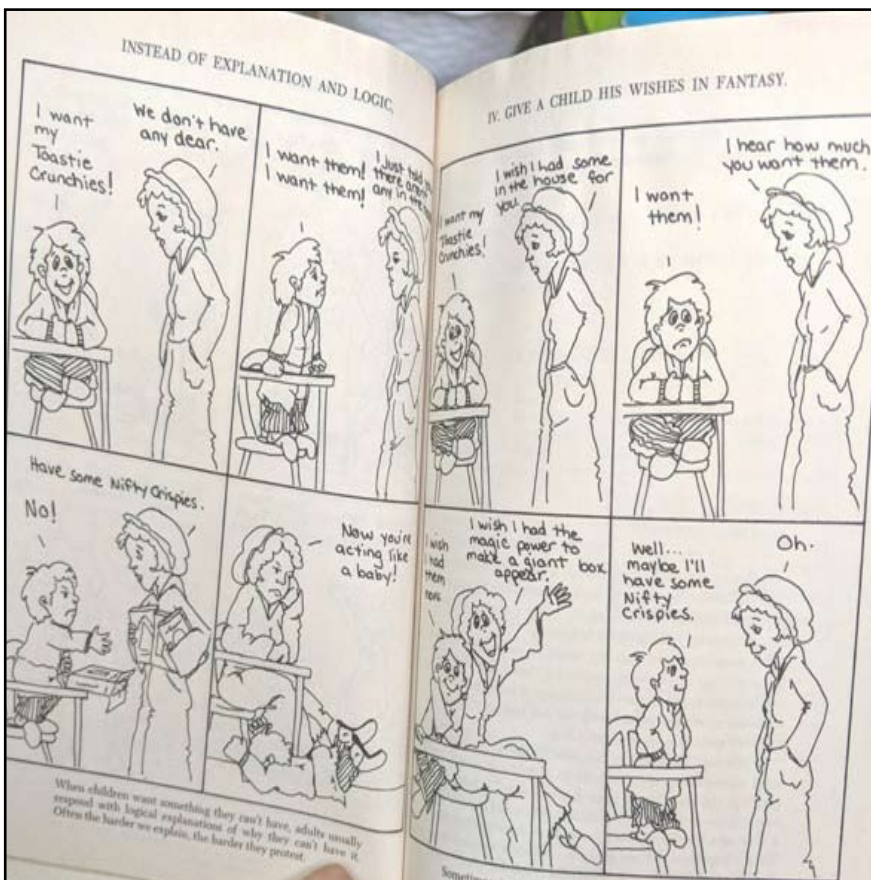
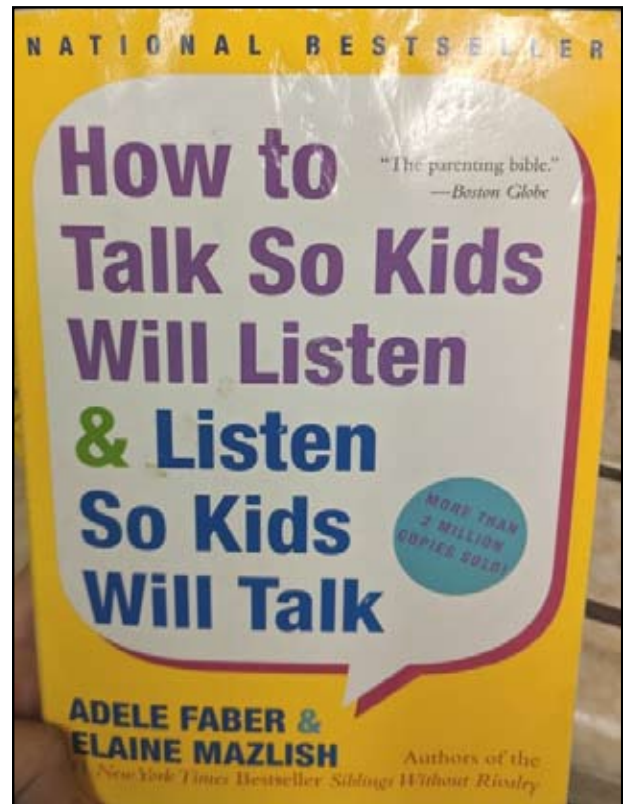
“Show me.”

And he walked the jacket over to the hook. Lol. It worked!

More stories like that the last couple days. It's magical!

Thanks again Goodwill* for the treasure. :) And thank you hunny Roger Hu for helping with the laundry and dishes that never seem to end.

**Goodwill is a wonderful thrift store in the United States, with a small percentage of the profits helping differently-abled people. Actually, it's more than that. It's a great recycling center where people drop off things they don't need and Goodwill organizes them for sale to bargain hunters, as the prices are very low.*



To Engage a Child's Cooperation

1. DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SEE, OR DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM.
“There's a wet towel on the bed.”
2. GIVE INFORMATION.
“The towel is getting my blanket wet.”
3. SAY IT WITH A WORD.
“The towel!”
4. DESCRIBE WHAT YOU FEEL.
“I don't like sleeping in a wet bed!”
5. WRITE A NOTE.
(above towel rack)
Please put me back so I can dry.

Thanks!
Your Towel

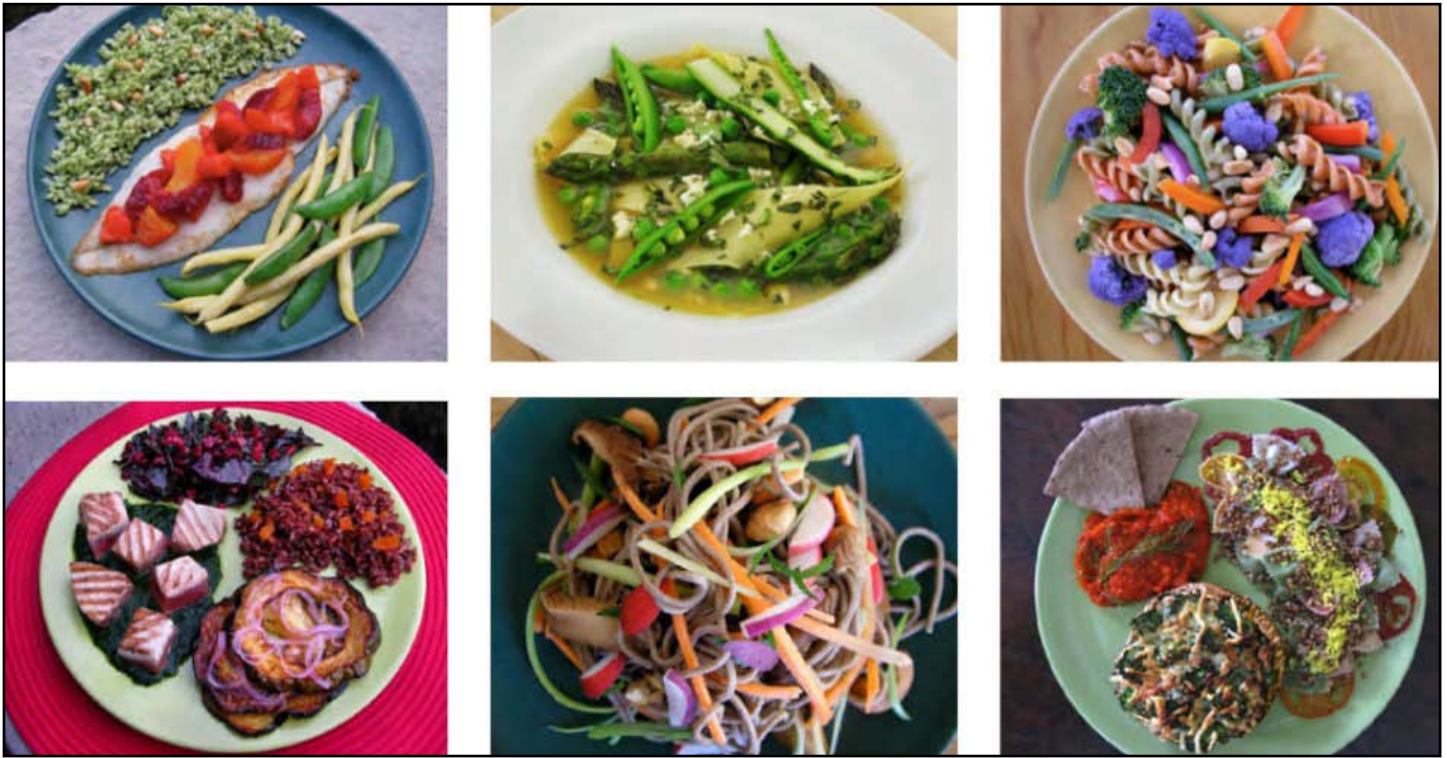


Photo: The EAT-Lancet Commission

In a new report about human health and the environment, experts call for people across the globe to follow a “flexitarian” or “planetary health” diet.

Scientists Call for ‘Global Agricultural Revolution’ and ‘Planetary Health Diet’ to Save Lives and Earth

Submitted by John Conner
Pennsylvania USA

“The food we eat and how we produce it determines the health of people and the planet, and we are currently getting this seriously wrong.”

By Jessica Corbett
Common Dreams: January 17, 2019

While scientists continue to call for immediately phasing out fossil fuels across the globe to avert climate catastrophe, a team of international experts on Thursday unveiled a proposal to address another major driver of the climate crisis: the world’s unhealthy and unsustainable food system.

“The food we eat and how we produce it determines the health of people and the planet, and we are currently getting this seriously wrong,” declared Tim Lang, a co-author of the EAT-Lancet Commission and professor at City University of London. “We need a significant overhaul, changing the global food system on a scale not seen before in ways appropriate to each country’s circumstances.”

The commission brought together 37 experts in agriculture, environmental sus-

tainability, human health, and political science from 16 countries. Over three years, they developed the “Planetary Health Diet,” which aims to address the global food system’s devastating environmental impact as well as mass malnutrition.

Noting that more than 800 million people worldwide “have insufficient food, while many more consume an unhealthy diet that contributes to premature death and disease,” co-lead commissioner Dr. Walter Willett of Harvard University said the “world’s diets must change dramatically” to reverse the damage that’s been done. “To be healthy,” he explained, “diets must have an appropriate calorie intake and consist of a variety of plant-based foods, low amounts of animal-based foods, unsaturated rather than saturated fats, and few refined grains, highly processed foods, and added sugars.”

“This is the first attempt to set universal scientific targets for the food system that apply to all people and the planet,” according to the final report, Food in the Anthropocene: Healthy Diets From Sustainable Food Systems, found at https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/01/EAT-Lancet_Commission_Summary_Report.pdf.

The “Great Food Transformation” envisioned by the commission acknowledges that the world population is on track to

reach an estimated 10 billion by 2050. The researchers considered current food production and consumption trends in terms of not only planet-warming emissions but also cropland and freshwater use, nitrogen and phosphorus cycling, and species extinction.

“Humanity now poses a threat to the stability of the planet,” co-lead commissioner Johan Rockström of the Stockholm Resilience Center told *The Guardian*. “[This requires] nothing less than a new global agricultural revolution.”

The report, published in *The Lancet*, lays out five key strategies for its proposed overhaul of global food norms:

1. Seek international and national commitment to shift toward healthy diets that feature more plant-based foods – including fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and whole grains – and less animal products.

2. Reorient agricultural priorities from producing high quantities of food to producing healthy food that nurtures human health and supports environmental sustainability.

3. Sustainably intensify food production to increase high-quality output with a series of reforms that include becoming a net carbon sink from 2040 forward to align with

Diet continued on next page

Opinion: Sooner or Later, We Have to Stop Economic Growth – And We’ll Be Better Off for It

By Richard Heinberg, *excerpt*
Ensaia: February 11, 2019

Both the U.S. economy and the global economy have expanded dramatically in the past century, as have life expectancies and material progress. Economists raised in this period of plenty assume that growth is good, necessary even, and should continue forever and ever without end, amen. Growth delivers jobs, returns on investment, and higher tax revenues. What’s not to like? We’ve gotten so accustomed to growth that governments, corporations and banks now depend on it. It’s no exaggeration to say that we’re collectively addicted to growth.

The trouble is, a bigger economy uses more stuff than a smaller one, and we happen to live on a finite planet. So, an end to growth is inevitable. Ending growth is also desirable if we want to leave some stuff (minerals, forests, biodiversity, and a stable climate) for our kids and their kids. Further, if growth is meant to have anything to do with increasing quality of life, there is plenty of evidence to suggest it has passed the point of diminishing returns: Even though the U.S. economy is 5.5 times bigger now than it was in 1960 (in terms of real GDP), America is losing ground on its happiness index.

So how do we stop growth without making life miserable – and maybe even making it better?

To start with, there are two strategies that many people already agree on. We should substitute good consumption for bad, for example using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels. And we should use stuff more efficiently – making products that last longer and then repairing and recycling them instead of tossing them in a landfill. The reason these strategies are uncontroversial



Illustration by Kelsey King

The end of growth will come one day, perhaps very soon, whether we’re ready or not. If we plan for and manage it, we could well wind up with greater well-being.

is that they reduce growth’s environmental damage without impinging on growth itself.

But renewable energy technology still requires materials (aluminum, glass, silicon, and copper for solar panels; concrete, steel, copper, and neodymium for wind turbines). And efficiency has limits. For example, we can reduce the time required to send a message to nearly zero, but from then on improvements are infinitesimal. In other words, substitution and efficiency are good, but they’re not sufficient. Even if we somehow arrive at a near-virtual economy, if it is growing we’ll still use more stuff, and the result will be pollution and resource depletion. Sooner or later, we have to do away with growth directly.

Getting Off Growth

If we’ve built our institutions to depend on growth, doesn’t that imply social pain and chaos if we go cold turkey? Perhaps. Getting off growth without a lot of needless

disruption will require coordinated systemic changes, and those in turn will need nearly everyone’s buy-in. Policymakers will have to be transparent with regard to their actions, and citizens will want reliable information and incentives. Success will depend on minimizing pain and maximizing benefit.

The main key will be to focus on increasing equality. During the century of expansion, growth produced winners and losers, but many people tolerated economic inequality because they believed (usually mistakenly) that they’d one day get their share of the growth economy. During economic contraction, the best way to make the situation tolerable to a majority of people will be to increase equality. From a social standpoint, equality will serve as a substitute for growth. Policies to achieve equity are already widely discussed, and include full, guaranteed employment; a guaranteed minimum income; progressive taxation; and a maximum income. . . .

Diet *continued from previous page*

the goals of the Paris climate agreement.

4. Strong and coordinated governance of land and oceans, including by implementing a “Half Earth” strategy for biodiversity conservation.

5. At least halve food losses and waste, in line with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on both the production side and the consumption side.

Alongside its report, the commission put out a brief (https://eatforum.org/content/uploads/2019/01/EAT_brief_everyone.pdf) identifying top takeaways and specific actions that individuals can take to help trans-

form the global food system. Suggestions include buying more sustainably-produced food, embracing plants as a source of protein, and slashing both meat consumption and food waste.

The unveiling of the Planetary Health Diet follows a series of recent studies that have shown it is environmentally necessary for humans – particularly in the United States and Europe – to dramatically reduce red meat consumption. The commission estimates that shifting toward such a diet could save at least 11 million adult lives annually.

The commission’s report comes as the *New England Journal of Medicine* published

a “grim analysis” on Thursday which warns that the World Health Organization’s conclusion from just five years ago that rising global temperatures over the next few decades will kill 250,000 people per year is a “conservative estimate.”

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Share Alike 3.0 License**

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/01/17/scientists-call-global-agricultural-revolution-and-planetary-health-diet-save-lives>



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Carey L. Biron

A participant holds a placard during the Indigenous Peoples March at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on January 18, 2019.

'We're not extinct': Marchers in U.S. Call for Indigenous Rights

By Carey L. Biron
Thomson Reuters Foundation: January 18, 2019

WASHINGTON, DC – Indigenous people from across the globe gathered in the U.S. capital on Friday for a march drawing attention to social and environmental injustices against indigenous communities worldwide, in what organizers said was a first-ever event.

Coordinators said more than 1,000 participated in the Indigenous Peoples March, aimed at raising awareness about systemic problems, including police brutality, violence against women, voter suppression, and an “environmental holocaust.”

Up to 2.5 billion people depend on indigenous and community lands, which make up more than half of all land globally, but they legally own just 10 percent. Campaigners say native groups are struggling with encroachment by governments and logging, mining, and agribusiness companies.

“We’re here in support of the aims of indigenous peoples across the world – that is, for our safety, health, the protection of our families and our water, for the protection of our lives,” said Rufus Kelly, of the Nottoway Tribe in Virginia. “And we want to make sure that people know we have not gone anywhere – that we are still here. We’re not extinct. We’re right here among you, and we want to share that with you.”

Parallel events took place in other U.S. cities and abroad, said Jesse Phelps of the Lakota People’s Law Project, saying the D.C. march was a “huge step toward the unification and amplification” of indigenous voices.

The march stems from a months-long, 2016-17 protest between the U.S. government and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe over plans for an oil pipeline to cross Sioux lands in North Dakota, said co-organizer Nathalie Farfan, noting that one of Donald Trump’s first moves as president was to approve construction on the project.

“Standing Rock was a traumatic situation, but that was also the first time we saw allies come from all over to help out,” Farfan said.

That type of solidarity-building has been taking place across the globe, according to Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the United Nations’ top expert on the rights of indigenous peoples, who said she “fully supports” Friday’s marches.

“Indigenous peoples in almost all parts of the world are still suffering from racism and discrimination and gross violations of their human rights, but their persistence in strengthening their movements and communities enabled some of them to succeed in protecting their lands and territories from environmental destruction,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Source: <https://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL8N1ZI4XR> (There is a wonderful video at this link.)



Photo: Nati Harnik/AP

Demonstrators against the Keystone XL pipeline march in Lincoln, Nebraska, on August 6, 2017.

Trump Losing, Pressure Building to Block Infamous Keystone XL Pipeline

350.org: January 25, 2019

The infamous Keystone XL pipeline is at a key crossroads and TransCanada is desperate. The company is using every tool possible to lift the court-ordered ban on construction in order to stick to their timeline and begin construction in June.

These next few weeks are critical. If we can keep the pressure on and make sure the ban on construction stays, we can ensure that Keystone XL gets delayed yet another year, causing millions in losses and throwing a wrench in Trump's fossil fuel agenda.

Help keep the pressure on by committing to fight Keystone XL and stand with Indigenous leaders if called upon. Sign the Promise to Protect now at <https://nokxlpromise.org/>.

At the latest court hearing, TransCanada's lawyers begged the judge to allow construction to begin, knowing they may miss the possibility of building Keystone XL this year, which would push the two-year construction process deep into 2021.¹

A federal judge ruled in November that the Trump Administration needed to throw out their inadequate environmental review and start over.² As part of that ruling, the judge halted any pre-construction on the pipeline, causing TransCanada a significant delay that could now push the project to next year.

Join over 20,000 people already committed to peacefully resist this pipeline and help keep the pressure on TransCanada to back out. While TransCanada scrambles, unity among Tribal Nations, farmers, ranchers, young people, and climate advocates against Keystone is growing. Last week, dozens of Tribal Nations and allies gathered in South Dakota to sign the International Treaty to Protect the Sacred Against the Keystone XL Pipeline and Tar Sands.

The gathering honored the current signatories and celebrated new signers including the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Being in that room, I was more sure than ever that this pipeline will never be built.

Let TransCanada know that their schemes won't work – join the people-powered fight against this dirty pipeline.

After you sign on, we'll be in touch in the coming weeks with a historic and exciting opportunity we've got in the works to prepare for action against Keystone XL and any fossil fuel projects in your community.

With thanks,

Kendall

¹ TransCanada asks judge to allow Keystone construction to resume, *Great Falls Tribune*

² Judge tosses Trump's Keystone XL approval over climate change, *Politico*

350.org is building a global climate movement. You can connect with us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and text 350 to 83224 to get important mobile action alerts. Become a sustaining donor to keep this movement strong and growing.

**THE UNIVERSE IS COMPOSED OF SUBJECTS TO BE COMMUNED WITH,
NOT PRIMARILY OF OBJECTS TO BE USED.**

- Thomas Berry -

Submitted by C. B., Pennsylvania USA



Photo: Stand.earth.org

A federal judge threw out Resolute Forest Products' \$300 million federal lawsuit against Stand.earth, and threw out the vast majority of the same suit targeting our friends at Greenpeace.

Victory! Logging Giant's Lawsuit Dismissed: CEOs: Be Warned, Do Not Sue Activists

Email from Stand.earth: January 22, 2019

U.S. federal court dismisses free speech lawsuit in full against Stand.earth; drops all racketeering claims. Resolute Forest Products loses controversial case against Stand.earth; nearly all Greenpeace claims dismissed, including racketeering charges.

Dear Iona,

We just won a *huge* legal victory over corporate bullying and intimidation.

Minutes ago, a U.S. Federal judge threw out Resolute Forest Products' \$300 million federal lawsuit against Stand.earth, and threw out the vast majority of the same suit targeting our friends at Greenpeace.

We were targeted because we spoke out against unsustainable logging practices. Our dogged and unrelenting advocacy to protect precious old growth Boreal forest was creating real, transformative change throughout the logging industry, so Resolute launched a \$300 million intimidation lawsuit to try and shut down our work. The Canadian logging giant has spent millions of dollars trying to bully us out of existence with this mega lawsuit – and today it lost definitively.

After being dragged through court for

more than two years, the most dangerous part of this legal saga is finally over for Stand. But what Resolute started has taken on a life of its own, so we need to step up and stop copycat lawsuits before this becomes a trend.

Resolute's lawyers were hoping to use this legal decision to kick-start a wave of terrifying intimidation lawsuits designed for one thing only – to stop citizens from speaking out and cripple the effectiveness of advocacy organizations like Stand. Oil giants like Energy Transfer Partners (the company behind the Dakota Access Pipeline) have already launched similar lawsuits against activists and organizers, and we know that other CEOs have their own lawsuits lined up, ready to file.

We have to show these CEOs that frivolous bullying lawsuits are a waste of time. Over the coming weeks and months, we intend to speak out in the media and at industry events, making sure that every single Fortune 500 company knows about Resolute's losing attack on free speech, so other companies don't follow this terrible example.

We'll also be asking many of Resolute's customers – book publishers, newspapers, and magazines – how they reconcile spending millions buying paper from a company that's attacking freedom of expression, one of their core values.

Attacks on advocacy organizations like Stand are on the rise globally, as giant corporations try every trick in the book to

quash our work. These lawsuits are one of their dirtiest tactics – putting a cost on speaking out, in a desperate attempt to stop people from taking action on the issues that matter most.

Enough is enough. We need to stand together with others who are also facing legal intimidation for standing up for basic rights and human dignity. We need to stop this dirty tactic for good. By standing up for each other, we'll send a clear message: Not only are these lawsuits a waste of time, they actually make our movement stronger.

Over the next few months, we plan to speak up loudly and connect with as many CEOs as possible to make sure they know that these intimidation lawsuits are a waste of time.

While we triumphed over Resolute – and, in fact, the corporate bullying only made us stronger and more determined to run and win important campaigns – the threat is far from over.

I hope you'll join us in this effort. Because the future of a vibrant civil society, and our right to free speech, depends on it.

Will you donate now to help us fight back against this wave of bully lawsuits and stand up for the right to speak out? Go to <https://donate.earth.org/give/185528> to make a donation.

In solidarity and hope,

Todd Paglia, Executive Director
Stand.earth



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends



Dear Global Family,

Since you've heard mostly from my wife, Iona, I'll spend a few minutes telling you a bit about me.

I haven't led a normal life. In fact, there has not been anything normal about it. It would take a long time to describe all of it, so I'll tell you a little about the last few years,

In 2006 Iona and I were working on poverty when I read my first book on Climate Change. I saw that Climate Change was on track to eliminate all or most of life on Earth – human and non-human. Iona and I dropped everything we were doing and started to spend every minute working on Climate Change – she in her way and me in mine.

My way is based on the conviction that the only hope lies in enlisting millions of people in an organized effort to take over the government and use that political power to increase two things – Conservation of energy and the use of Renewables throughout the world.

So far, we're not winning. We are not close to gaining political power. Two forces – greed of the few and apathy of the many – still rule the U.S.

We fight as hard as we can, but we must persevere and hope that one day we shall prevail, before it is too late.

You too. Keep up the good fight.

Thank you for your prayers and good wishes for my health. It's getting better, although slowly.

John Conner, Pennsylvania USA

Thanks a lot Iona Conner for your interest in ensuring our Earth go green again after heavy depletion especially by human activities. Your articles impact knowledge and motivates someone to take part in the action.

I pray for your husband to go through a successful surgery so that he will be relieved of pain so that you have peace of mind and serve humanity normally and we fight this vice called climate change together. Wish well in all your endeavors and merry Christmas and a prosperous

new year.

God bless you.

John Osidi, Arise Forestry Enterprises, Uganda

Hello I'm very interested for connection with you Iona, through my Permaculture design project in Nyathuon Gweno Village.

I will look forward from you to find us support for this our project in Nyathuon Gweno sustainable organic farming and permaculture project village in Kenya, Homabay County.

We need someone who will be able to sponsor our project in Nyathuon Gweno Village.

Thank you.

Joseph Adiany, Kenya

I was reading *Groundswell* yesterday and got interrupted but what I wanted to say was I really enjoyed the article about 10 green terms. I didn't know them all! And I loved the story about the judge deciding against the ruining the Appalachian Trail... especially the Lorax part!!!

And Chiwundu's article about the river he grew up by was wonderful but sad too. I learned a lot about the permaculture farming.... so many good, good articles!!!! I can see why you were having a hard time with so many good things to put in your paper. I will read more later.

Linda Lowber, Idaho USA

Thank you for what you have done. It is more valuable than you might know. Ping me when you have some brain space. I still think we can do some amazing things by collaborating on some Printernet Projects.

All the best with the operation and you being back in the game.

Michael Josefowicz, New York USA

Hi Iona – my thoughts and prayers are with John (and you!). I found his "Just the Facts" piece very powerful – especially that carbon emissions have increased each year for the last 30 years except 2009, when there was a recession. Tells me something!

My best to you both and I wish you a

very happy New Year. Enjoy the Solstice and the Full Moon!

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

I'm so happy that you're still working on this project. Yes, trying to get all this information out to more people is important. Yes, it is UCSC. It does stand for University of California in Santa Cruz. Thanks again for all of your support and help with my projects. I hope you're having a good day
Alekz Londos, California USA

I am Stany from Burundi Eastern part of Africa. Actually, I am in Taiwan for studying IPSD (International Program For Sustainable Development). So, I am a part of WHISAFRICA - WHISGREENAFRICA.

Happy to meet you Iona. Joyce Miso is the one who has invited me to join the group even if I am still studying. However, I like to read more information about the worldwide, especially the information based on environmental or climate change because it what I am doing. So if you add me in your email list, I will be proud because I will learn something new from you or from different newspaper you publish.

Stany Ndagijimana, Burundi/Taiwan

Hey Iona,

It is always so wonderful to hear from you. I am sure there will be a turnaround in your fundraising efforts and the newspaper will emerge as a self-sustainable venture.

I am sharing two of my recent write-ups, one published in the Igniting Minds entitled "Restless Youth Seek Climate Action" and the other in my blog C.A.R.E.Climate Awareness Report for Earth entitled "A Diet for Planetary Health," with both addressing current themes concerning the planetary health. You are free to reuse both if you like and if possible do add 'Originally published in'...so the network of like-minded people is expanded.

It gives me great hope that the future generations are taking over the leadership of the climate movement and it is partly due to the selfless efforts of people like

Messages continued on next page

Messages *continued from previous page*

yourself who have helped spread awareness all over the world. There is so much bad news but there is hope and I am proud that positive action is always highlighted in the *Groundswell News*.

Do take care of yourself and convey my best wishes to John. People in your network the world over are thinking of you and John and I am very thankful to have you as a friend.

My fundraiser is stuck at around 70% and I am hoping it will be seen and supported by some people in the next few weeks. Also, I have had some feedback regarding access to the fundraiser and I have appended the next paragraph in case someone reverts regarding a similar issue. Please ignore otherwise and take care of yourself.

The best way to access the fundraiser would be to go to Ketto and click on Browse Fundraisers. You will find my page under the Environment category. The direct links are Help Me Document Warming In The North Polar Region or <https://www.ketto.org/fundraiser/ArcticWarmingMission>.

Raj Phukan, India

All changes require a lot of sacrifices, so accept what people will say.

Do only for you and God will do the rest. Great week to all.

#LATERRENETRAHITJAMAIS.

#JESUISUNARBRENOUSSOMMESUNEFORÉ.

#EVRALEPALMIER.

Evrard Guei, Ivory Coast

Hi Iona, Thanks for accepting my Friend request and thanks very much for linking me to your website/blog. A bit about myself, I am a 25-year-old young boy from Cameroon. I was born in a bush. In my community where I grew up, young people have a negative mind about Agriculture, Forest/bush, and community life. For a young person to be a farmer or agronomist, you are seen as a dull, dirty, and no-way-out person.

Trained as an Accountant, I have a passionate and very positive mind for Sustainable Agriculture, rural livelihood, and the beauty of nature. With this passion in me, I founded my locally-based organization in 2016, Network of Agric and Sustainable Leaders for Africa, NASLA.

Since then we have been working on different sectors of Agriculture including Vegetable Gardening and Animal Husbandry. Our goal for 2019 is to Establish a community base Agroforestry Center, incubating 3,000 Trees that will help to safeguard the

ecosystem while providing a stable source of food to more than 5,000 inhabitants in the community. Going through your work on your webpage, I am motivated and will love to be connected to your work in any way possible.

In line with the global effect of climate change, my aim is to bring out the voices and actions of young people in the fight against climate change and food insecurity.

Thanks,

Tendong Denis, Cameroon

While I eagerly awaited for the bus at Tamavua, I noticed something I thought of sharing.

A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is never on the branch but on its own wings.

Always believe in yourself.

Josevata Rotidara, Fiji

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

– Margaret Mead

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."

#WeMatter

Successors Generation Community

#We don't side any party
we side our generation

#snap_p

#Snapphotography

Davidstar Donald,

Nigeria

I will keep educating people in other institutions and marginalized communities about climate change and its impacts.

Don't asked me why?

It's our Targets for the sustainable development goals 13 Climate Action.

Before 2030 we will build everyone knowledge on climate change and how to combat it.

#protecttheplanet

Roberto Santi, Liberia

I have now been in Costa Rica for three days. I am constantly impressed with the lack of litter everywhere. I don't really see any

on road shoulders, streets, or sidewalks. I wonder if it continuously gets cleaned up or if people here actually respect the environment, their communities and where they live?

Alekz Londos, California USA

Method of Sustainable Human Development

1. Go to the people.
2. Live with them.
3. Love them.
4. Learn from them.
5. Start with what they know and build with what they have.
6. Promoting hope.
7. Providing tools.
8. Removing barriers.
9. Need assessment Feasibility study?
10. Understanding the common problem in the community.
11. Prioritizing development activities.
12. Design projects
13. Arrange implementing process.
14. Monitoring
15. Evaluate the whole process.

But of the best leaders when the job is done, people will remark we have done it ourselves.

Honoring you Hosain.

Mayaya Mack, Tanzania

Subehude Tanzania

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Thank you.