



# Groundswell News

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

*We Are One Family. These are OUR stories: [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)*

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

*A Celebration of Youth*, Issue No. 48: March 2019



Photos Courtesy PAVON

*Pan-Afrikan Volunteers Network (PAVON) has established herself as the most reliable and vibrant youth movement promoting youth involvement in the achievement of the (U.N.'s) Sustainable Development Goals with a lot of hard work and also some fun. (below) Four PAVON members model the group's new shirts: (left to right) Usman Kromah, Aisha Konneh, Fombah Baybay, and J. Randolph Keah.*

## 85 Liberian Youth Volunteers Enjoy Eco-Explore Tour, Learn Team Building

By Kromah Usman Socrates II, Liberia

Pan-Afrikan Volunteers Network (PAVON) is an African youth network established to serve as a bridge between community volunteers, youth activists, and community-based organizations to collectively drive the needed changes in their communities by taking social, economic, and environmental actions. In Liberia, West Africa, the institution kicked off its first eco-explore project aimed at promoting internal touristic activities amongst young Liberians.

The project brought together 85 young people from five different counties in Liberia to travel to the historic Blue Lake,

PAVON *continued on page 3*



# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

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

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**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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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](http://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 scientist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), told us a couple of years ago referring to tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

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

### 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](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) and include jpg photos with captions and photo credits.

## 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

PAVON *continued from page 1*

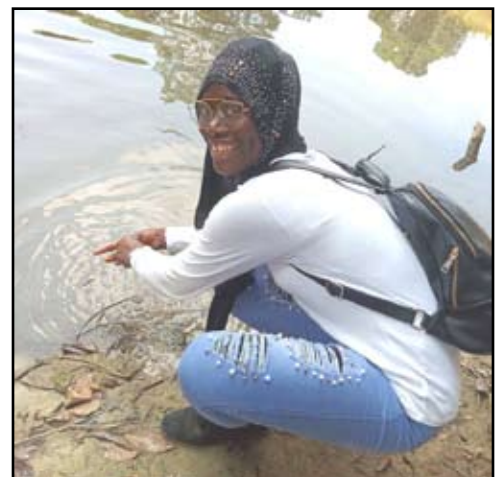
a man-made, blue-looking lake in Bomi County (right), explore the environment, learn about the history, and network for better working relationships as young people.

As a youth-driven institution, PAVON has established herself as the most reliable and vibrant youth movement promoting youth involvement in the achievement of the (U.N.'s) Sustainable Development Goals through capacity programs and community voluntarism.

The intent of this project is to allow young Liberians to visit and respect the natural environment and awesome touristic sites Liberia is blessed with – considering the Blue Lake as the starting point. Right near the Blue Lake is another Green Looking Lake all is a result of mining activities. Today, both lakes are estimated to be 1,700+ feet deep with a nice view you'll never regret visiting.



**Photos Courtesy PAVON** (above) Blue Lake. (left) Team-building activities to sharpen participants' ability to work together and collectively execute the task. (bottom left) Some of the men decided to go for a swim in the beautiful water but Socrates, leader of the group, stayed behind to make sure the others were doing alright. A woman from U.S. swam all the way across. (bottom right) Condeb Saran enjoying Blue Lake; (below) PAVON also visited the Green Lake which got its color and name from former mining activities.



# A Nigerian Named as a Recipient of Global Youth Leadership Award for 2019

By Trevor Clement, Dakota, USA

The Reality of life can sometimes be complex, but from time to time extraordinary people come and they completely reshape the narrative about a perception or prejudice people hold against other humans.

Globally, the younger generation of people is driving this change and Africans are not left out. This crop of individuals is different from their fathers, who turned their back against a progressive future and were too scared to act on the inconvenient truth solely for a few pocket money laced in either ethnic or religious bias and often birthed in greed.

Somehow, few Africans among this generation are rewriting the ugly narrative painted by those that came before them.

One of the extraordinary change-makers is Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, named last year in the top five leading CEOs of startup NGOs of African descent in the whole of America, a quote supported by the Conservative Mom, an International media outfit based in Florida USA. This led to him being featured in their July magazine edition in 2018 as one of the global role models, inspiring a new generation of global citizens to take on various global challenges, especially global warming.

Realizing that climate change is an ongoing threat to man's ways of life and seeing firsthand the consequences in Nigeria, he set out to find solutions which culminated into establishing a global organization he named "TEAM 54 PROJECT."

The group raises awareness about the climate crisis and how it impacts heavily on the vulnerable target population namely the girl-child, pregnant women, elderly women/men, and physically challenged.

Gbujie's journey truly kicked-off after a chance meeting with the ex-vice president of the United State of America, Mr. Al Gore, at a Leadership training in the State of Colorado in March 2017. The encounter inspired him to become an environmental advocate.

He said that the only chance of redemption for man rests on mobilizing citizens together and getting them to begin to act responsibly towards Mother Nature by actively protecting and preserving our shared collective natural resources.

This Ahiazu-Mbaise LGA born an Imo State citizen, then launched his climate platform which has attracted tens of thousands [now 208,000] of like minds from over 159 nations [now 170]. From speaking during



Photos Courtesy Team 54 Project International Archives

*Gbujie Daniel Chidubem (founder and CEO of Team 54 Project International), poses with the Presidential adviser to the President of Philippines during an International Team 54 conference.*

the 5<sup>th</sup> World Climate Change and Global Warming Conference of 2019 in New York USA, to facilitating climate education, knowledge, and training among thousands across the globe, and planting tens of thousands of trees within and outside Africa, plus a likely half-a-million trees to be planted by the end of 2019, he has taken the entire world by surprise.

As 2019 began, Gbujie was confirmed as one the recipient of the "Global Youth Leadership Award 2019" organized by the Global Youth Parliament (GYP). The event will hold from the 26th - 27th April 2019 at the Magnificent Nepalese National Assembly (Hall of Ceremonies) in Nepal.

He will be honored primarily because of his tremendous contributions in the area of climate advocacy and for being a positive inspiration to youth across the globe.

Mr. Diwaka Aryal, the lead coordinator of the event, said that GYP decision to confirm Gbujie was after vigorous research done by the Global Youth Parliament Selection Committee who selected him in the environmental category. All Awardees will be honored by the Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Khadga Prasad Oli.

Gbujie has extensively reached out to other global environmental groups like Parvati.org, AfricaClimateReality.co.za, Lets-DoItWorld.org, and Umuntu.ch, and the collaboration has been fruitful. He holds the view that a global transition from a fossil-fuel-dependent economy or systems to cleaner, renewable energy sources is the way forward.

"Only a significantly higher level of ambition and sincere all-inclusive commitment will do, and cooperation especially among advanced nations and nations disproportionately affected, can truly create sustainable development. Only then can the actual climate resilience make the biggest difference," Gbujie said.

Gbujie, who is indeed proud of his Igbo heritage, represents the best of what we all can be or should aspire to be - change-makers. Indeed something good can come out of obscurity, Nigerians still have great minds on the face of the Earth. Gbujie is obviously one of them.

*Trevor Clement is a seasoned environmental journalist based in Dakota USA.*

**Nigerian** 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.*

**Nigerian** continued from previous page



**Photos Courtesy Team 54 Project International Archives**

*(left) Gbuje Daniel Chidubem receiving recognition by the Minister of Environment and Planning for Portugal, Joao Pedro Mayos Fernandez, during a EU COP meeting in Marrakech. (right) The official letter confirming him as a recipient of the Global Youth Parliament award.*



Photo by Michael Melford

*Greenland is covered with vast amount of ice – but for how long?*

## Greenland's Melting Ice Approaches Dangerous Tipping Point

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Stephen Leahy  
*National Geographic*: January 21, 2019

A new study warns that Greenland's ice is melting faster than scientists previously thought. But perhaps the biggest surprise is that most of this ice loss is from the land-fast ice sheet itself, not Greenland's glaciers.

The new study, published January 21 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found that the largest sustained ice loss from early 2003 to mid-2013 came from Greenland's southwest region, which is mostly devoid of large glaciers.

Greenland, the world's biggest island, appears to have hit a tipping point around 2002 - 2003 when the ice loss rapidly accelerated, said lead author Michael Bevis, a geoscientist at Ohio State University. By 2012 the annual ice loss was "unprecedented" at nearly four times the rate in 2003, Bevis said in an interview. Much of this new accelerated ice melt came from southwest Greenland, a part of the island that hadn't been known to be losing ice that

rapidly ... "We knew we had one big problem with increasing rates of ice discharge by some large outlet glaciers," Bevis said. "But now we recognize a second serious problem: Increasingly, large amounts of ice mass are going to leave as meltwater, as rivers that flow into the sea."

Data from NASA's GRACE satellites and GPS stations scattered around Greenland's coast showed that between 2002 and 2016, Greenland lost approximately 280 billion tons of ice per year. This average annual ice melt is enough to cover the entire states of Florida and New York hip deep in meltwater, as well as drowning Washington, D.C. and one or two other small states. "This is going to cause additional sea-level rise. We are watching the ice sheet hit a tipping point," said Bevis.

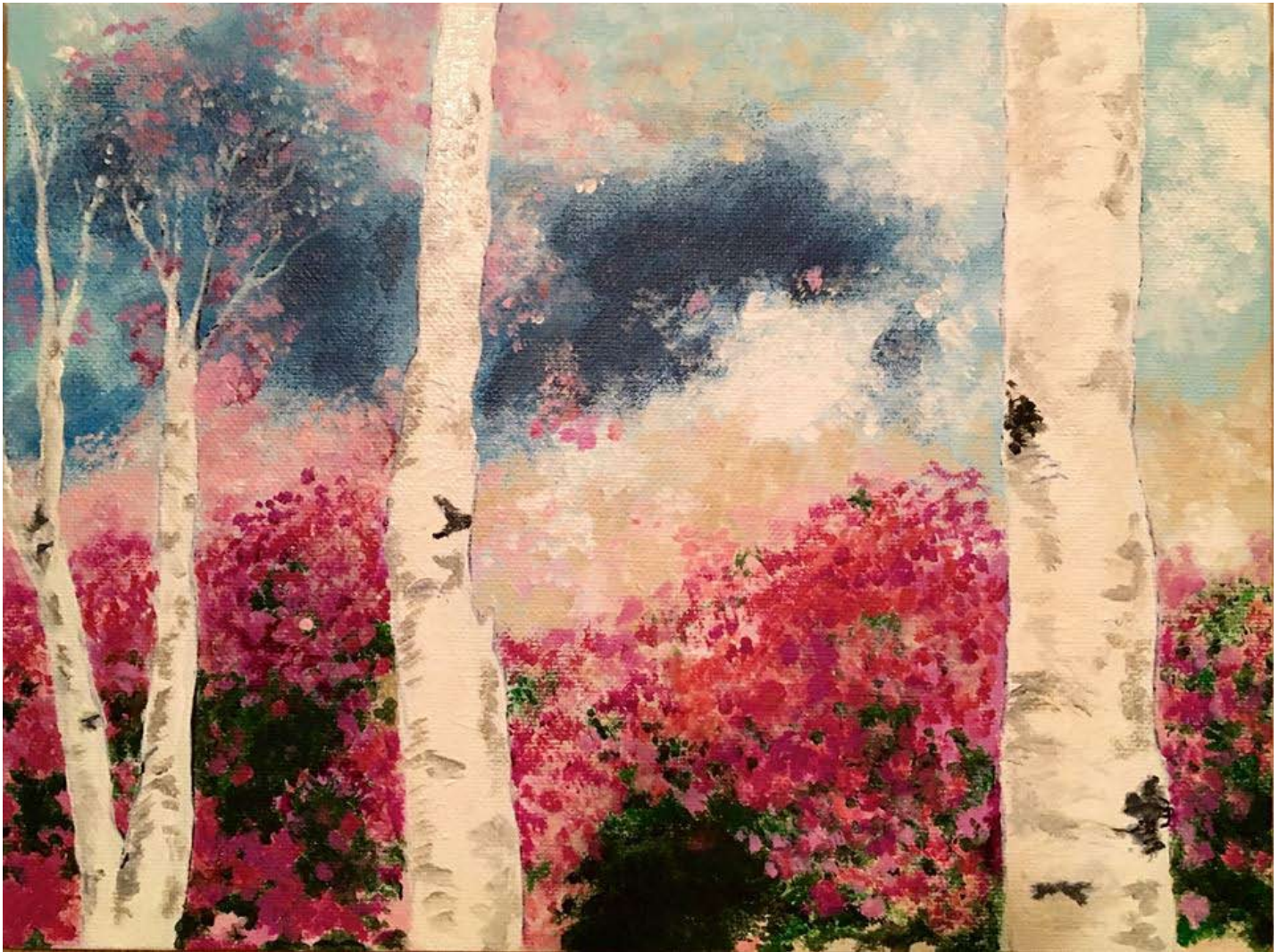
The Greenland ice sheet is 10,000 feet thick in places and contains enough ice to raise sea levels 23 feet (7 meters). In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Greenland has lost around 9,000 billion tons of ice in total, accounting for 25 millimeters (1 inch) of sea-level rise. . . .

However, Greenland is dwarfed by the

Antarctic ice sheet, which could raise sea level 57 meters (187 feet) if fully melted. Alarming, the Antarctic is also undergoing an accelerated melt down, losing six times as much ice as it was four decades ago, a January 14 study reported. Its ice loss averaged 252 billion tons a year over the past decade. It's the same story for western North America's glaciers – ice loss quadrupled since the early 2000s to 12.3 billion tons annually, a recent study revealed.

Global warming of just 1 degree C is the main driver behind this massive meltdown of the world's ice. In Greenland, researchers discovered that global warming, coupled with a negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation led to the rapid surface melt of the ice sheet during summers. The North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) is a natural, irregular change in atmospheric pressure and brings warm, sunny summer weather to the western side of Greenland when it's in its negative phase. Prior to 2000, this did not lead to significant ice melt, said Bevis, but ever since then, the negative phase of the NAO results in huge increases in ice melt ...

**Greenland** continued on next page



Painting by Victoria Switzer

Words from the artist, Victoria Switzer: "I call that painting "Spring Birches." So far I just put my paintings on Facebook for my friends. I turned to painting at my husband's encouragement. We'd spent years fighting the gas wars and I was pretty drained, exhausted, and very disappointed. Painting brought me back around to enjoyment of our beautiful world. My dream is to have an event at some point.

ONE TOUCH OF NATURE MAKES THE WHOLE WORLD KIN.

- William Shakespeare -

<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/528201>

#### Greenland *continued from previous page*

Bevis' study shows southwest Greenland is where the ice sheet is most susceptible to El Niño-like atmospheric cycles that are superimposed on a warming trend, said Jason Box, a glaciologist at the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland. And it's clear more of the overall ice loss is coming from the surface than marine terminating glaciers, Box said. All it takes to melt Greenland's ice sheet is a surface temperature of 1 C and sunlight.

"It used to be rare to get temperatures above 0 degrees on the ice sheet, but no longer," Bevis said. And each degree above 1 C doubles the amount of ice melt. With-

out acting soon to dramatically reduce the burning of fossil fuels that is raising global temperatures, most or all of Greenland's ice could melt, raising sea levels 23 feet, warns Richard Alley, a glaciologist at Penn State. This would occur on a time scale of centuries. However, there is a warming threshold that could be crossed in a few decades or less and, if exceeded long enough, the meltdown of Greenland would be irreversible, said Alley.

**Source:** <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/01/greeland-ice-melting-four-times-faster-than-thought-raising-sea-level/>

#### National Geographic Launches "Planet or Plastic?" Project

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA with this note:

The past few issues of the *National Geographic* have come in paper, instead of the plastic wrapper of the past several years. Doing better, but slick, white paper with colored advertising all over it. It used to come in a plain, brown wrapper with only black ink.

You may find more info at: [www.natgeo.com/wrap-pledge](http://www.natgeo.com/wrap-pledge).



Photo: Brett Whaley, Flickr Creative Commons

*Wild Rice and Wild Clouds. Manoomin rice now has rights to flourish with clean water.*

## White Earth Band Adopts Rights of Manoomin Law for Rice

### White Earth Band Enacts First-of-its-Kind Rights of Nature Law

#### First law securing the rights of a plant species to exist and flourish

CELDF Press Release: February 6, 2019

*The Rights of Nature movement continues to grow as the White Earth Band of Ojibwe adopted the Rights of Manoomin, or wild rice, law in December 2018.*

*This is the first law to recognize the rights of a plant species. CELDF assisted Honor the Earth, an indigenous-led environmental advocacy group, in the development of the law.*

MERCERSBURG, Pennsylvania – The White Earth Band of Ojibwe – part of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe – adopted a Rights of Manoomin law. The law protects legal rights of manoomin, or wild rice, securing on- and off-reservation protection of manoomin and the clean, fresh water resources and habitats on which it depends. The 1855 Treaty Authority adopted the Rights of Manoomin as well.

The White Earth tribal resolution explains that Rights of Manoomin was adopted because, “It has become necessary to provide a legal basis to protect wild rice and fresh water resources as part of our primary treaty foods for future generations.” This comes as wild rice, a traditional staple and sacred food for this Nation, faces significant impacts from habitat loss, climate change, development,

genetic engineering, and other threats.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) assisted Honor the Earth, an indigenous-led environmental advocacy group, in the development of the law.

“Manoomin is sacred to the Anishinaabeg, and it is time the law reflects this,” explains Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth’s executive director.

“This is a very important step forward in the Rights of Nature movement, as this is the very first law to recognize legal rights of a plant species,” adds Mari Margil, head of CELDF’s International Center for the Rights of Nature.

CELDF has pioneered the first world’s first rights of nature laws, through its partnerships with communities and groups across the United States, with tribal nations, as well as with organizations in Nepal, India, Australia, and other countries.

**Contacts:** Honor the Earth, 607 Main Street, Callway, MN 56521; [honorearth.org](http://honorearth.org) or Nicolette Slagle, [nicolette@honorearth.org](mailto:nicolette@honorearth.org); 218-979-0168

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 360, Mercersburg, PA 17236; [celdf.org](http://celdf.org) or Mari Margil, [mmargil@celdf.org](mailto:mmargil@celdf.org); 503-381-1755



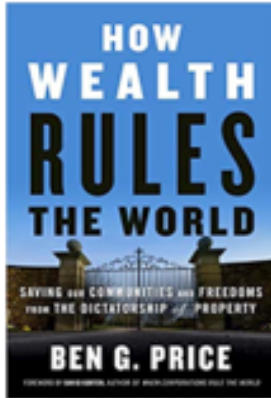
Photo: North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy VIA Yes! Magazine

*The Rights of Manoomin reaffirms the Anishinaabe relationship and responsibility to wild rice, its sacred landscape, and traditional laws.*



Ben Price is a friend of The Go-Back Club and national organizing director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF, story on preceding page). A lifetime of observation and curiosity about the way people seem to fall into rigid social categories in industrialized countries eventually led Ben to write this book.

**In my new book readers can discover what communities**



**enacting local bills of rights have learned, and why they've taken up the community**



**rights strategy for correcting the counter-revolutionary agenda of wealthy Federalists. That agenda included pushing the American Revolution off-**

**course, secretly drafting a property over people constitution and setting us on the disastrous route to environmental devastation and social chaos we are witnessing today. – Ben G. Price**

**Publication Date: May 21, 2019 Available for Pre-order**

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## HOW WEALTH RULES THE WORLD

SAVING OUR COMMUNITIES AND FREEDOMS FROM THE DICTATORSHIP OF PROPERTY

Here's an excerpt from David Korten's Foreword:

“We the people of the United States are not the middle-class democracy of, by, and for the people many of us grew up believing our nation to be. Our current awakening to this truth is a first step toward achieving our aspiration of real democracy and a society that truly works for all.

“To take the next step, we must understand why achieving the aspiration has so long eluded us. This makes Ben Price's book, *How Wealth Rules the World*, a distinctive and essential read for our time.

“As Price describes, using a clever legal sleight-of-hand, the founders who drafted the Constitution made property into a rights-bearing canteen to be drunk from only by the holders of privileged property.

“*How Wealth Rules the World* unlocks the code that stripped us of our rights and that we must now strip from the laws and legal institutions by which we govern ourselves.”

# Celebrating Humpback Whales

On World Whale Day, we marvel at the oceans' most iconic mammals. Join us in celebrating a serenader of the sea....

Nature and Culture International: February 16, 2019



Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

A giant creature leaps from the ocean's surface off the coast of northern Peru. About the size of a school bus, the animal is surprisingly acrobatic, jumping out of the water, turning belly up, arching back, and diving back in.

The magnificent humpback whale – or *ballena jorobada* in Spanish – is one of the largest species of baleen (or toothless) whales. Its flippers alone can grow up to 16 feet long, which is the largest appendage in the world, and its tail can measure 18 feet wide.

Black on the upper (dorsal) side and mottled black and white on the under (ventral) side, the shape and color pattern on the ventral side is unique to each individual whale, like human fingerprints. Contrary to popular belief, humpbacks do not typically have a hump on their back; the name comes from the large hump that forms when they arch their backs before making a deep dive into the ocean.



Humpbacks can grow to 60 feet long, and they can weigh a whopping 40 tons.

Humpbacks are found near coastlines, feeding on krill, plankton, and small fish. The species migrates farther than any other mammal on Earth. Each year they migrate from summer feeding grounds near the Poles to winter breeding waters closer to the Equator. Many give birth to calves and rear their young in the warm waters of northern Peru, off the coast of Piura.

Whales are powerful swimmers, using their massive fin (called a fluke) to propel themselves through and above the water. They are also known for their haunting songs, which travel for great distances through the world's oceans. The complex sequences of cries, howls, and other noises can continue for hours on end. Scientists are studying these sounds to decipher their meaning, but it is most likely that humpbacks sing to communicate with each other and attract potential mates.



Humpbacks regularly breach, or leap from the water and land with a tremendous splash.

These massive mammals play an important role in our oceans. They balance the food chain and ensure that certain animal species, such as krill, do not overpopulate the ocean. Humpbacks also act like a pump that recirculates the fish and zooplankton that they've ingested toward the ocean's surface in the form of nitrogen-rich fecal matter.



Humpback tale off the coast of Piura, Peru



**Learn, Relearn**



Peace december | PHOTOGRID

## Elders Teach Youngers to Go Back

Peace December Uganda

You can learn a lot about old ways of sustainable agriculture, old ways of planting, maintaining the environment and nature once you become knowledge seeker.

Am obliged to meet Dr. Kabirizi, a retired former National Agricultural Research Centre, Uganda. She granted my visitation to her retirement home where

she does organic urban farming, backyard gardening.

Many people fail to learn old ways of doing things organically simply because we ignore grown up people in our learning process. We exchanged a lot of views and our conversation was centered on the Permaculture approach as a way of creating resilience, sustainability, and improved livelihoods on our farms, homesteads,

and communities at large. She reacted positively about my works and requested for a strong collaboration in the matter of Permaculture design systems on her home demo gardens.

We resolved to help her urban farmers who always visit her home urban garden through organizing workshops and exchange farm tours at Permaculture Learning Centre Butambala.

# Welsh Grandmother Creates Network for Intergenerational Learning

## Learn with Grandma, Now 43 Intergenerational FB Groups Helping All Members

By Valerie Wood-Gaiger, Wales

Let me introduce myself. I am 77, a great granny living in the Welsh hills. I have seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. I am the founder of Learn with Grandma (LwG), a network with 43 groups on Facebook (22 in Africa). Learn with Grandma (LwG) is helping to empower young and old by re-uniting the generations; sharing ideas of how to use the Internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, and knowledge across the generations.

Some good projects are happening in many countries. Please see LwG aims in the Description Box at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489818234620407/>. All suggestions are achievable, affordable, and sustainable! It's my hobby/mission to share good news and ideas of how to use the Internet to break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, and knowledge across the generations. Throughout the world most elders do not use ICT (Information and Communication Technologies – confession, this grandmother publisher, Iona, had no idea what ICT meant so had to Google it) – most young people do. ICT has divided the generations – it can be the bridge to reunite them!

I decided that the best way I can help is by sharing ideas and making practical suggestions of things people could do that are achievable, affordable, and sustainable, encouraging self-sufficiency. For years I worked on EU projects – very enjoyable but not sustainable. ALL came to an end



Photo by one of Valerie's Welsh friends

*Valerie wearing her Member of the British Empire award work for the Learn with Grandma project.*

when the funding stopped. I now only suggest projects that are affordable, achievable, and sustainable.

After open heart surgery followed by a Cardiac Arrest in 2013, my surgeon said, "Keep your mind and body active; you will live a longer, happier life." That timeout gave me time to decide that I wanted to spend the rest of my life promoting intergenerational and e-learning. The Learn

with Grandma concept is as old as the hills! Psalm 78 tells us to teach our children what our fathers taught us.

Modern technology has divided the generations but it can also be a bridge. Elders have skills, knowledge that the young NEED, and elders also need to use this modern technology to communicate. We can all learn from each other.

### Mission and Objectives of Learn with Grandma

as posted on the Anna Lindh Foundation website: <https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/members/learn-grandma>

#### Learn with Grandma aims:

1. To create an international organization to promote intergenerational learning and fun.
2. To record all that is good from our histories, culture, traditions, heritage, and skills, etc. etc.
3. To create an international library, accessible to all, where all can be stored for future generations.
4. To encourage parents and grandparents to instill a love of learning, create lasting memories, and have fun together.
5. To encourage respect between the generations and show that each generation has skills they can learn from the other.
6. To encourage people to learn skills from each other.
7. To create local Internet support networks for grandparents, parents, and children.
8. To research, create, and provide learning material and resources and encourage a reading culture.
9. To work with organizations in other countries to promote our aims internationally.



Photo: Extinction Rebellion website

*The Extinction Rebellion is rising out of the fight for life on a planet which is facing “an unprecedented global emergency.”*

## Fear and Frustration Over Climate Trigger New Climate Movements

By Rolly Montpellier @Below2C  
The Below2°C Digest: February 13, 2019

“I was willfully deluded until I began covering global warming,” says author and journalist David Wallace-Wells. He’s the author of *The Uninhabitable Earth: A Story of the Future*, which begins with these gripping opening lines, “It’s worse, much worse, than you think,” that are like a voice from your worst nightmare. “People should be scared – I’m scared,” says Wallace-Wells.

Fear for our future and frustration with the inability of the political establishment to deal adequately with the climate crisis are driving the world’s youth to rise. And they will not take No for an answer. They are not, in any way, deluded about their future.

### Willfully Deluded

I began following global warming and climate change over a decade ago. At first, I naively thought that climate science – the facts – would galvanize the world into taking rapid and immediate steps to bend the curve on greenhouse gases and the warming of the planet. But that did not work out that well.

I also believed that “fear” – for their own future and that of their children and grandchildren – would mobilize millions

of people demanding immediate measures and aggressive climate policies from their governments and leaders. And that didn’t work out that well either. In fact, the earlier climate movement may have done itself a lot of harm by trying to weaponize fear as a motivational factor.

Climate psychologists have repeatedly reminded activists and environmentalists that using fear as a motivational tool to fight climate change could be counterproductive. When flooded with “gloom and doom” warnings and mountains of scientific facts, data, reports, and analyses about climate change, the average person feels overwhelmed and turns off. Consequently, many of us have let ourselves become desensitized to everything climate.

Willful blindness has set in, “because the problem is too disturbing for people to want it dominating their thoughts, or from the knowledge that solving the problem would require extensive effort” – Wikipedia. Rather than engaging in the fight against climate change, most people have chosen to ignore the warnings and retreat into the busy activities of their daily lives. They started looking the other way with the false belief that climate change was still far away in the future or would only occur in a distant land. Until now!

### Fear is Back

It’s all about timing when it comes to fear.

Fear is one of the strongest human emotions. It can be too powerful and paralyze people, especially when there’s no solution in sight. However, it can be useful when accompanied by a clear solution. Marketers have used fear to sell their products since the beginning of time. First they “present a scenario they hope will invoke our sense of fear. Then they show us a solution – a path back to our comfort zone – that entails using their product or service” writes the author of this blog post. And thus, we buy all kinds of products we don’t really need.

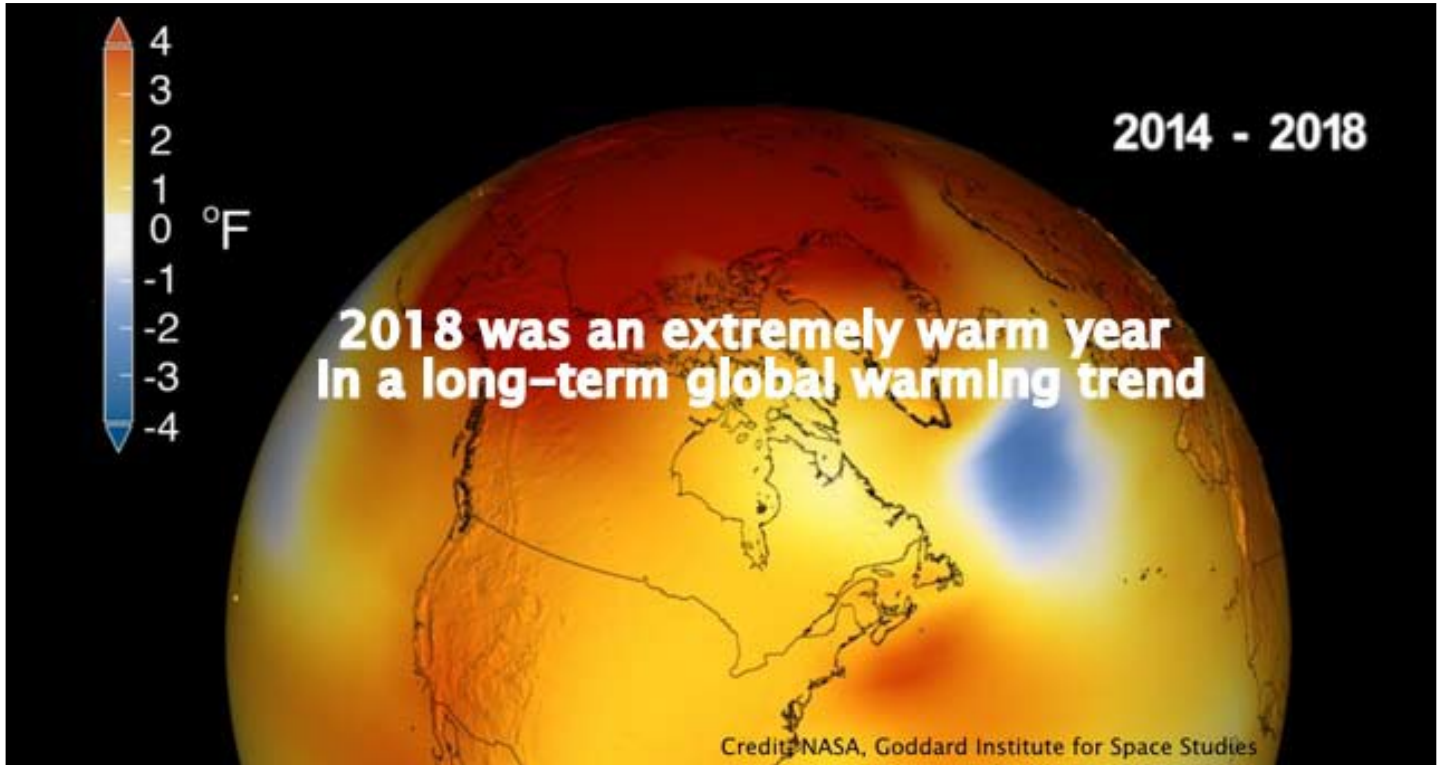
“Nothing makes us more uncomfortable than fear...[it] invokes the flight or fight syndrome, and our first reaction is always to flee back to our comfort zone. If we don’t know the way back, we are likely to follow whoever shows us a path,” claims *Psychology Today*.

### #FridaysForFuture

To use fear as an effective motivator, a solution must be presented, a new path to follow. And this is happening now. Hundreds of thousands of students on #climatestrike around the globe fear for their future.

**Fear** continued on next page

Fear continued from previous page



Graphic: NASA, Goddard Institute for Space Studies

*The Extinction Rebellion is rising out of the fight for life on a planet which is facing an unprecedented global emergency.*

The FridaysForFuture movement, started by Greta Thunberg of Sweden, is showing the new path forward, forcing politicians and world leaders into emergency action. These kids are not deluded. Their fear is real, it is palpable. They are laser-focused on what lies ahead and they want action.

The site and sounds of children in outright fear for their future cannot easily be ignored. It grips decision-makers in the gut and in the heart. Fear of course works best when the threat is real and imminent.

Imagine you live on the top floor of a very tall condo tower. And suddenly fire alarm bells go off. A few minutes later, you start to smell smoke and you even see the smoke and now you're feeling really worried. You fear for your life. You immediately run for the exits. Fear is driving you to act. It's an emergency and you're in a crisis. It's life and death. Fear works.

What the climate crisis needs is more fear, not less, to nudge a complacent public out of its comfort zone. We need decision-makers to fear for their political lives but more importantly fear for their own lives and that of their love ones. They must see themselves on the top floor of the world's tallest building. On fire.

### Fear of Extinction

The Extinction Rebellion is rising out of the fight for life on a planet which is facing an unprecedented global emergency. "(It) is not just the biggest threat human life on the planet has ever faced, but a threat of an entirely different category and scale. That is, the scale of human life itself," writes David Wallace-Wells.

The fear of extinction is real. The sixth mass extinction is already happening and we see ample evidence of climate

breakdown. Extinction is a very troubling thought to mull over, but at least it makes us confront the reality of the possible extinction of our own species if we continue on our current path. "Populations of wild animals have more than halved since 1970, while the human population has doubled," explains the Population Matters home page.

### Thousand Points of Light

But out of the fear for our future and peak frustration over decades of climate inaction, there are bright spots, a "thousand points of light." Our challenge is to support the global rise of youth as they shine a million points of light on climate action.

Contact Rolly at [info@below2c.org](mailto:info@below2c.org).

**Source:** <https://below2c.org/2019/02/fear-and-frustration-over-climate-trigger-new-climate-movements/>

### Whales continued from page 10

As recently as 1988, humpbacks were listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Populations have now recovered, due to the introduction of commercial whaling bans. However, like other large whales, humpbacks may be harmed by pollution, ships, and entanglement in fishing gear. Offshore oil and gas development is also a serious threat.

Nature and Culture International is work-

ing to provide a safe haven for humpbacks near Piura, Peru. We've joined forces with Peruvian fishermen and local communities in an effort to establish the Grau Tropical Sea National Reserve, conserving habitat for humpbacks and other species, and protecting threatened artisanal fishing activity for around 5,000 families.

The proposed reserve will encompass coastal and marine ecosystems in Peru's Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, including

the humpback's breeding area. To learn more about this historic initiative and the fishermen defending Peru's northern sea, visit <https://natureandculture.org>.

**Action:** Join us in protecting humpback whales and mammals across South America. Donate at <https://natureandculture.org/give-to-nci/>. Thank you.

**Source:** <https://natureandculture.org/field-notes/humpback-whale/>

# Greta Speak: "Our House on Fire"

By Rituraj Phukan, India

C.A.R.E. (Climate Awareness Report for Earth): January 28, 2019

It's been an exciting six months since Greta Thunberg started her school strike. The intrepid teenager's silent protest outside the Swedish Parliament has grown into a clamorous movement, spawning 'School Strikes 4 Climate' and 'Fridays for Future' chapters all over the globe. She has spoken her mind to the global elite, first at the COP24 at Katowice, Poland and then at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland. Greta Thunberg has emerged as an articulate speaker who has walked the talk on the climate crisis. She refuses to fly and reached Davos after a 32-hour train ride.

**These are powerful messages from the 16-year old, messages that will inspire and are likely to be quoted when the story of Greta's inspirational journey will be told.**



"...Everyone keeps saying that climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all, and yet they just carry on as 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 are no grey areas when it comes to survival. Either we go on as a civilization or we don't. We have to change."

**"Some people say that we are not doing enough to fight climate change. But that is not true. Because to 'not do enough' you have to do something. And the truth is we are basically not doing anything."**

"Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few."



"For 25 years countless of people have stood in front of the United Nations climate conferences, asking our nations' leaders to stop the emissions. But, clearly, this has not worked since the emissions just continue to rise. So we have not come here to beg the world leaders to care for our future. They have ignored us in the past and they will ignore us again. We have come here to let them know that change is coming whether they like it or not."

**"The people will rise to the challenge. And since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago."**

"Recently I've been invited to speak in places like Panama, New York, San Francisco, Abu Dhabi, Vancouver, British Virgin Islands... But sadly our remaining carbon budget won't allow any such travels. Adult generations in countries like mine have used up our resources."

"My generation won't be able to fly other than for emergencies, in a foreseeable future if we are to be the least bit serious about the 1.5° warming limit. I will try to make it to as many places as possible without flying. And also participate via video link."

**"You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess."**

"We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis."



"My 2018 in one picture; making a sign outlining the letters SKOLSTREJK FÖR KLIMATET. Since then a lot has happened. But nothing would have been possible without others joining in. The climate crisis we must fight together. Never doubt that you can make a difference!"

"Instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come. We can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change, and it has to start today."

**"You say you love your children above all else and yet, you're stealing their future in front of their very eyes."**

*Greta continued on next page*

**Greta** *continued from previous page*

“We must hold the older generations accountable for the mess they have created...and say to them you cannot continue risking our future like this.”

“**The climate crisis has already been solved, we already have all the facts and solutions, what we have to do is wake up and change.**”



“In a way, it’s the most complicated issue that exists and it will require an incredible amount to stop it. But the solution is still so easy that a five-year-old can understand it. We must stop the emissions. It’s black and white.”

“**We do need hope. Of course, we do. But the one thing we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act, hope is everywhere.**”

“The politics needed to meet the Paris agreement does not exist anywhere today. Not one single political party to my knowledge is even close to approaching the solutions required for the IPCC 1.5. But that is about to change. We, the people, have started new movements. Join in!”

“Political decisions are necessary. But as they do not exist yet we have to do what we can ourselves to make the political movement come alive.”



“I ask you to stand on the right side of history. I ask you to pledge to do everything in your power to push your own business or government in line with a 1.5C world.”

“...and some people say the climate crisis is something we all have created but that is not true. Because if everyone is guilty, no one is to blame. And someone is to blame...some people, some companies, some decision makers, in particular, have known exactly what priceless values they have been sacrificing to continue making unimaginable amounts of money. And I think many of you here today belong to that group of people.”

“Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people to give them hope. But I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house was on fire. Because it is.”

Share this at <https://climateawarenessreport.wordpress.com/2019/01/28/greta-speak-our-house-on-fire/>




Submitted by Sadrach Nirere on Facebook. Mobilizing for the students #GlobalClimateStrike March 15th; #Youth4Climate; #KeepMamaAfricaGreen; - @GreenCampaignAf ; - @Fridays4FutureU



# 7th-Grader's Strike Against Climate Change Exploded into a Movement in U.S.

Submitted by John Conner  
Pennsylvania USA

By Sarah Kaplan, *excerpt*   
*The Washington Post*: February 16

NEW YORK, New York – On the ninth Friday of her strike, 13-year-old Alexandria Villasenor wakes to a dozen emails, scores of Twitter notifications, and good news from the other side of the planet: Students in China want to join her movement.

Every week since December, the seventh-grader has made a pilgrimage to the United Nations Headquarters demanding action on climate change. She is one of a cadre of young, fierce, and mostly female activists behind the School Strikes 4 Climate movement. On March 15, with the support of some of the world's biggest environmental groups, tens of thousands of kids in at least two dozen countries and nearly 30 U.S. states plan to skip school to protest.

Their demands are uncompromising: Nations must commit to cutting fossil-fuel emissions in half in the next 10 years to avoid catastrophic global warming.

And their message is firm: Kids are done waiting for adults to save their world.

"Mom, this is so cool," Alexandria says, as she reads the latest list of countries where kids have pledged to participate in a global strike: Australia, Thailand, Ghana, France. "Where is Gir--, Girona?"

"That's in Spain," replies her mother, Kristin Hogue. They sit on the couch, still in their pajamas, and Alexandria pulls out the planner she purchased to keep track of all her commitments. . .

"My generation is really upset." The deal struck at COP24, the U.N. climate meeting in December, was insufficient, she says. "We're not going to let them ... hand us down a broken planet. . . ."

Afterward, she changes into her striking uniform: waterproof ski pants and a down jacket, all in white, just like the congresswomen at the State of the Union and the suffragists of old. She packs her bag – planner, thermos, gloves – and grabs her plastic-encased cardboard signs, which read "SCHOOL STRIKE 4 CLIMATE" and "COP 24 FAILED US."

She holds the signs facing inward so other commuters on the subway can't see them. She doesn't like it when people stare. They'll probably think it's just a science project," Alexandria tells her mother. Then she laughs. "Well, technically it is. It's project conservation. Project Save the Earth."



Photo: Sarah Blesener/For The Washington Post 

*Alexandria Villasenor, 13, skips school to strike in front of the United Nations, with signs reading: "School Strike 4 Climate" and "Cop24 Failed Us."*

## 'My future on the line'

It's been four months since Alexandria decided the Earth needed saving. Last year, during a visit with family in northern California, she was caught in the cloud of smoke from the Camp Fire, which killed nearly 100 people and filled the air with unbreathable smoke. The girl suffers from asthma, and for days afterward she felt physically ill and emotionally distraught.

This isn't normal, she thought. This isn't right. She began to look up articles about the West's historic drought, read reports about recent global temperature rise, asked her mother, a graduate student in the Climate and Society program at Columbia University, to explain the drivers behind global warming. She joined the New York chapter of Zero Hour, a network of young American climate activists. . . .

In the midst of all this, Greta Thunberg, a then 15-year-old from Sweden, took the podium. "You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes," the girl proclaimed to a room full of stunned adults. "We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not."

Recalling that speech, Alexandria's eyes light up. "She just put them in their place," Alexandria says. "That was extremely satisfying."

Alexandria searched Greta's name online and found stories about the Swedish girl's climate strike in front of her country's parliament building, then in its fourth month. Greta said she had been inspired by student activists from Parkland, Florida, who said they would not go back to school until gun-control legislation was passed. "I am too young to vote and to lobby," she told *The Washington Post* this week. "But I can sit down with a sign and make my voice heard."

Alexandria knew what she needed to do.

She made her first pilgrimage to the United Nations Headquarters on December 14. The next week she was back – with an umbrella. She has endured relentless rain and brutal wind off the East River (weeks three and four). She has braved the polar vortex that sent temperatures plummeting to 10 degrees (week eight).

Few of the New Yorkers bustling by ever stop to talk to her. And in her first eight weeks of striking, no one offered to join.

"But I stay motivated," she says. "Of course. It's my future on the line. . . ."

Source: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/how-a-7th-graders-strike-against-climate-change-exploded-into-a-movement/2019/02/15/e20868e2-2fb4-11e9-86ab-5d02109aeb01\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/how-a-7th-graders-strike-against-climate-change-exploded-into-a-movement/2019/02/15/e20868e2-2fb4-11e9-86ab-5d02109aeb01_story.html)



Photo by Nzigamasabo Léonidas

World Merit Burundi was empowering the community through interactive lessons on DVDs. The picture was taken after the event. The DVD lesson was: "Avoiding Malaria; Bednets Can Save lives"

## Environment Protection by World Merit Burundi

By Nzigamasabo Léonidas, World Merit Burundi

### About World Merit

World Merit is an international community of more than 100,000 Change Makers, representing every country in the world. The World Merit community is taking steps to make a positive difference, both locally and globally. In collaboration with the United Nations, World Merit focuses on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to end extreme poverty, address climate change and eliminate inequalities. Our online platform connects young, active citizens from around the world and provides a forum for debate on global issues, collaborating on projects and demonstrating their impact. Each month, we set a number of different challenges that allow our members to develop their personal and professional skills while having a positive impact. These challenges are rewarded

with life-changing opportunities such as mentoring, cultural exchange, conferences, internships, scholarships, and jobs. Out of 500,000 acts of merit, specifically aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the community has reached more than 7.5 million people worldwide.

World Merit Burundi is a group of young Burundian volunteers who, recognizing the values of World Merit, want to ensure that Burundi is on the representation map of this great international community. In addition, our national vision is to use the World Merit platform as the unifying point of the Burundian youth in activity through our various initiatives.

World Merit vision is to improve our world by providing young global citizens radically inclusive opportunities. Our mission is to unleash the upcoming generations and our core values are: empowerment, pioneering, integrity, and collaboration.

### Our Projects

We work in a very diversified area responding to each of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Goals. We have recently launched different events in Bujumbura city and in the country related to the sensitization of youth on sexual reproductive health to young high school students. We also held a session of exchange on nonviolent communication and conflict management in the University of Burundi. We definitely started World Merit Club and recruited other change makers in each of the institution where we held different events.

### The Project on Environment Protection

Convinced that the environment is the shelter that covers our life, and that we cannot live without it, its protection has distinctively taken our attention this recent

**Burundi** continued on next page

Burundi continued from previous page



Photo above taken by Pascal Nsavyumukiza, Local Merit Bujumbura, while collecting the plastic wastes  
Photo below: World Merit Burundi teaching class on UN's Sustainable Development Goals at Vugizo Lycee

time. World Merit Burundi is in addition convinced that the single little action undertaken in the sense of protecting our environment is a step to a sustainable life. We have therefore developed particular efforts to deal with this serious issue while we organized a big event that we baptized “Zero Plastic Waste in Our Town” through Clean Up Plastics activities in Bujumbura city and at Lake Tanganyika.

We organized and invited other youth associations to join us to collect plastic wastes made of sachets and plastic bottles. The target of our activity was the Tanganyika Lake; however, we started cleaning the town while heading to the lake.

It is only when you are on the ground that you realize that there is still much to do. For this, we took an engagement to organize such cleaning activities at least once in a month where we would love to engage many other stakeholders including the government, individuals, Youth Organizations, the police, etc. We want to put public trash [receptacles] on each road and street of Bujumbura city and have the population trained on the environment protection.

### Funding Page

With our very limited funds, we were able to accomplish the valuable work of collecting plastics from Bujumbura town to

the lake. We however noticed that we really still have much to do as we couldn't make safe even one zone. As the follow up of our project, we need funds for, but not limited to, the following actions:

- Buying and installing public trashes on each road and street of Bujumbura city;
- Holding official meetings and workshops with government officials and the police so that they take serious decision to use the trashes;
- Holding meetings and workshops with drivers, especially public transportation drivers and sensitize them to have trashes in their cars and appropriately use them;
- Buy gloves shoes for protection, mufflers, bags; and
- Buying at least one truck which will help to transport the waste to the transformation places.

In short, though working in different domains responding to various SDGs, World Merit Burundi considers the environment issues as the most alarming and is therefore fully engaged to undertake all the actions judged relevant to save and protect the environment and all what is related to it.

“This Campaign of clean up plastics Burundi needs technical and financial support. I invite individuals, NGOs, Foundations, UN Agencies, Policymakers,...to support my initiative.”

If you want to support, you can reach me at [leonidas.nzigamasabo@worldmerit.org](mailto:leonidas.nzigamasabo@worldmerit.org) or on my phone +25761555324/ or Whatsapp: +25775755324. Thank you.



# Malawi Community Works Hard to Protect Forests, Plant Trees, and Educate Children

By Steven Makumba, Malawi

In Malawi more than 80% of the population lives in rural areas and depends on natural resources for survival. This dependence affects environment and accelerates environmental degradation. There is need of different initiatives to aid in alleviating impacts of environmental degradation, which is common through deforestation.

High levels of deforestation in Malawi have been the subject of intense debate at policy, planning, and community levels. Between 2001 and 2009 Malawi has lost approximately 100,000 hectares (nearly 250,000 acres) of forest per year or 3.49 per cent annually (Cassells, 2011).

The high levels of deforestation are being attributed to demand for land from an increasing population. Much of the population expansion is in rural areas, where people are poor and almost completely dependent on natural resources for their livelihood.

Wood is the main fuel in Malawi, and 95% of homes still use wood or charcoal for cooking. Nearly everybody uses three-stone fires for cooking, and each fire consumes about three large bundles (weighing about 30kg each, 66 pounds) of wood per week. In many areas, wood is now becoming very scarce.

Although the government has a number of laws to restrict the sale of wood and charcoal without a license, the practice is very common throughout the country. The use of charcoal for cooking is more common in the major towns, but charcoal production and the sale of charcoal is illegal. However, despite this, the people in rural areas produce many bags of charcoal which are sold to towns. This fuel is incredibly wasteful as it uses a considerable number of trees to produce one bag of charcoal.

This deforestation leads to loss of animal habitats, reduction of fuel wood, increases soil erosion, silting of rivers, desertification, relocation of wildlife, reduced construction material, affects the water cycle, affects life quality, affects ecosystems, loss of species both flora and fauna (species extinction), and climate change. Trees act as carbon sinks that store the carbon dioxide that do affect the ozone layer and drive us to global warming. Deforestation also drives climate change. Forest soils are moist, but without



Photos by Steven Makumba

*Steven Makumba's tree planting project in Kalimaziche Primary School. (above) The kids were sorting out trees based on species. (below) A tree planting exercise.*

protection from sun-blocking tree cover they quickly dry out. Trees also help perpetuate the water cycle by returning water vapor back into the atmosphere. Without trees to fill these roles, many former forest lands can quickly become barren desert.

As part of the solution through NatureKit.org we provide fuel briquettes

under our Clean Sustainable Project, these briquettes are an alternative source of energy to replace the use of charcoal and firewood. Briquettes are made from waste and sawdust; hence, they are not only an alternative source of energy, they also help in waste management. These briquettes

**NatureKit** continued on next page



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have high calorific value, they produce less smoke, produce less ash, and last long. The fuel briquettes are being produced by a group of four widows to ensure women empowerment. The profits made from the sales are used for machine maintenance and livelihood of the women.

Tree planting is another critical step that we are taking; during each planting season we manage to raise seedlings for distribution to schools. Through this program, we educate the children on the roles and importance of trees in the ecosystem and how wildlife is dependent on the trees.

This program creates an effect tool of communication between the learners and the environment.

NatureKit.org also provides environmental education programs to students to impact knowledge in youth about wildlife conservation and climate change. Targeting school-going youth is vital if this is to achieve change. Getting learners to start thinking about the wildlife and climate change concerns in their own community at an early age could ensure future generations will be able to conserve Mother Nature.

There is a wonderful video about how to make briquettes at <https://youtu.be/PdKyzN0LL2U>.

**Briquettes-making photos by Steve Makumba. Bottom right photo by Caroline Tembo**

*(top) Chikondi women's group is standing behind a briquette-making machine. (middle) Women mixing paper and saw dust. (bottom left) Finished Briquettes drying for a few days, depending on the weather; they weigh up to 500 grams or one pound each. (bottom right) Steve Makumba giving a presentation on climate change using a black board since they do not have a projector.*

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# Team 54 in Sierra Leone: My Story on the Economic Effects of Climate Change

By Alimamy Sesay, Sierra Leone

## Introduction

My full name is Alimamy Sesay. I am a Sierra Leone. I was born and bred in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone.

I came in contact with Dr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, who is the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and founder of Team 54 Project International. I became interested in his project and organization, which is mainly concerned with environmental issues. I immediately applied for the position of National Coordinator. The Chief Executive Officer assured me that I have been chosen as the Assistant National Coordinator for my Country for the above project.

Before embarking on the ways and means of helping people grow more food for better living conditions, let me first of all take this opportunity to deliberate on the economic effects of climate change.

By climate change it implies the various changes in the atmosphere due to poor climate or weather conditions. The effects of climate change in Sierra Leone today have become alarming, great.

It all started as a result of the clearing of bushes, cutting down of trees, burning and destruction of the forest trees, as well as the deliberate attempt by unscrupulous farmers who go about uprooting the forest trees for their own selfish desire or finding their ways and means of livelihood.

Other causes are due to accidental means or natural occurrences. These no doubt wreak great havoc on the environment, as they hinder the process for the development of food security.

According to statistics, about 80% of our rural farmers practice subsistence farming, which to a great extent destroys our environment along with our soil texture. Subsistence farming brings about little or no profit at all to farmers who get only minimal livelihood from their proceeds.

The only way we can grow more food to improve the living conditions of our people is to first off strategize a sensitization program towards deforestation, (the cutting down of forest trees). This could be done through the press and the social media platforms. It could also be done through workshops to raise awareness about the requisite impact of subsistence farming to the community.



Photo by Fatmata Sesay

*Alimamy Sesay and his colleagues are seated in a roundtable conference posture. They are trying to figure out ways and means to combat climate change as well as raise awareness among the local community about the effects of climate change. (left to right) Abu Bakar Jabbie, Saio Kamara, Alimamy Sesay, Foday Kamara, Mohamed Kamara. All of these mentioned personalities are young graduates from different universities in Sierra Leone.*



Photo by Alimamy Sesay

*Here, a man is seen breaking stones to sustain his livelihood. These people break stones on a daily basis from dawn to dusk every day. This is a way such people get their livelihood.*

**Economics** *continued from previous page*

### My Hopes

My hopes are to minimize the impact of climate change on the community and the country as whole. This I presume could be done by either preventing or discouraging deforestation, which is a key factor towards climate change as well as towards the poor living conditions of the people.

I also wish to recommend that alternative livelihood be provided for the poor as well as for the farmers who engage in deforestation.

### My Dreams

I dream to realize a beautiful and blissful environment in present day Sierra Leone where people will have opportunities to live in better living conditions.

### My Current Project

As of now, we are raising awareness among locals and the community as a whole, about climate change and its effect on the community and the entire country. We are currently using social media platforms, where we sensitize as well as educate people of the dangers and effects of climate change and deforestation. We are now intending to plant a million fruit-bearing trees to restore the numerous trees cut down by farmers and the community people and to make up for the lost vegetation

Currently, I would very much need some funding to commence and to finalize the project in earnest.

### How to Contact me

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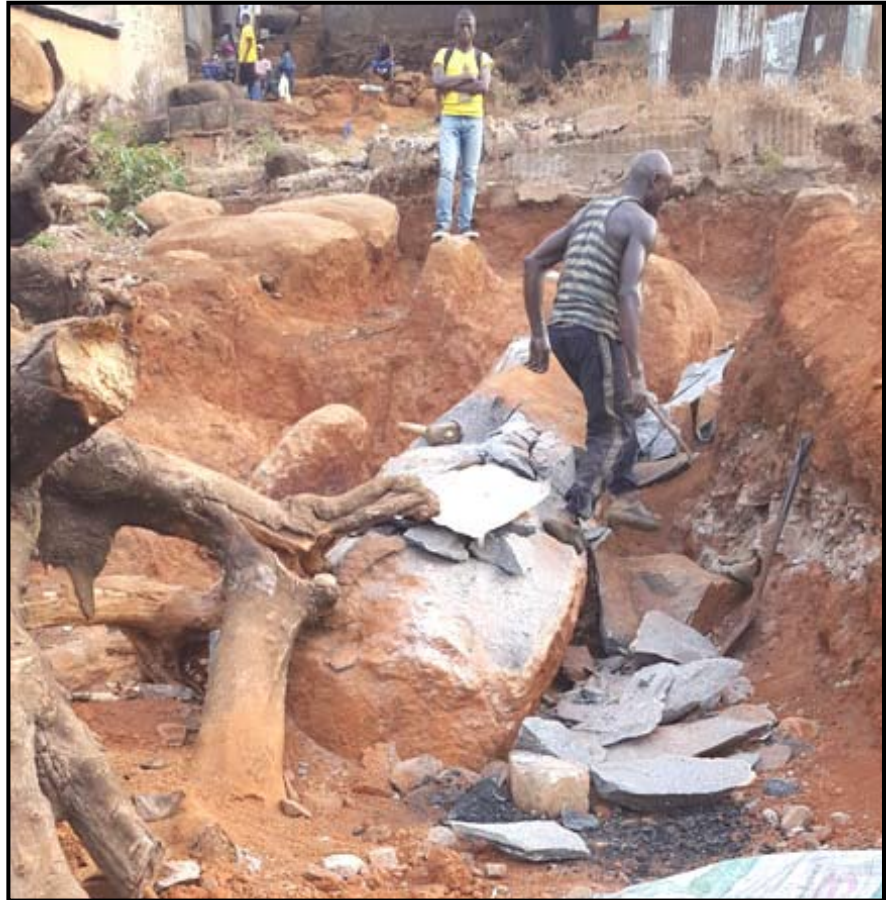



Photo by Alimamy Sesay

*The man in the foreground is searching for gold. He is washing gravel to extract gold from it; he sells it to his gold customers. That way he also survives.*

## Women 'Uniquely Placed' to Inspire Climate Action, Mayors Say

By Zoe Tabary, *excerpt*   
ThisPlace.org: February 21, 2019

PARIS – Women's untapped communication skills make them "uniquely placed" to explain the damaging impacts of an overheating planet and spur climate action by the public, mayors said on Thursday.

From leaders to citizens, women must be at the center of efforts to curb global warming if the world is to limit wilder weather and rising seas, said officials at a conference organized in Paris by C40, a global alliance of cities.

For Karla Rubilar, mayor of Santiago in Chile, the fight against climate change has one major problem. "The conversation by experts seems elitist, removed from reality, and people don't always understand how it affects them," she said. "But women are good at listening and at communicating, which makes them uniquely placed to

explain what action citizens can take," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on the sidelines of the Women4Climate event.

Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said women had staying power. "Think of the women in your families – how determined they are to nurture relationships and how they follow through with everything," she said in an interview. "Now apply that to climate action: women just get the job done."

The same is true of young people, said Santiago's Rubilar, citing recent student strikes for the climate around the world and lawsuits against governments to protect future generations.

"Kids are the ones who can change their parents' minds and are the leaders of tomorrow ... so we must hear what they have to say (on climate)," she said.

Climate solutions too often ignore women and gender issues, perpetuating a

bias of infrastructure and services designed predominantly for men, said a C40 report released this week.

It called for mentoring programs to strengthen female leadership in climate action, and better evidence – including gender-split data – of how women are affected by climate change.

### 'GET OUT OF OUR WAY'

Governments' inaction or retreat on climate change – such as U.S. President Donald Trump's move to pull out of the 2015 Paris Agreement – has pushed cities to take matters into their own hands, mayors said at the event.

"If governments don't want to step up on climate action, then they should at least get out of our way," said Sydney's Moore, who has run the Australian city since 2004. . . .

**Source:** <http://www.thisisplace.org/i/>

# Fundraiser for Woman Entrepreneur in Uganda to Start Nut-Grinding Business

By Michael Josefowicz, New York USA

I am Michael Josefowicz, Coordinator of the Printernet Project for the Global Center for the Study of Social Enterprise. I am raising \$2,668 to help Orishaba Mary launch her business and serve her village, as well as to help continue the ongoing and important work of Greening Uganda. A detailed breakdown of costs is at the bottom of this post.

You can find me on twitter @toughloveforX <https://twitter.com/toughLoveforX> and the Printernet Project on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/146359786049198/.....](https://www.facebook.com/groups/146359786049198/)

Thinking like a business person is among the hardest thing for a passionate person doing the good work.

All of my work in Africa is about coaching people to have a successful business. Atwongyerie Joseph in Uganda started with two computers and Internet-connected WiFi. He started by charging 25 cents an hour for computer time. Now he has seven computers, an Internet-connected TV, and gives computer skills courses for \$19 for three weeks. For that last few months after all his expenses, he is making \$500. In Uganda the average salary is \$285 a month.

I just started a GoFundMe for a woman in his village. She is another one starting a profit-making business in order to have the resources to improve life in the village.

<https://www.gofundme.com/woman-owned-business-in-uganda>

## Introducing Orishaba Mary

After receiving her degree in Business Studies, Orishaba Mary has returned to her village to start a family and launch a social enterprise business.

Her goal is to achieve social good in her community as she earns a profit from her proposed business. She plans to donate 10% of her profit to Greening Uganda, to support the tree-planting program.

Orishaba Mary plans to grind ground nuts and locally-grown peanuts into flour form and sell the product locally.

Those who have heard about another local business initiative in Nyarushaje village, know that a little bit of financial help can go a long way.

Last year I helped launch The Printernet Cafe with \$1,500 seed money to fund solar-powered Wi-Fi and two computers.

This small business, operated by Atwongyerie Joseph, now operates successfully and sustainably. One year later, the



Photo Supplied by Orishaba Mary

*Mary Orishaba poses with her daughter.*

cafe has seven computers, a large-screen TV, serves coffee and snacks, and gives courses in computer skills. I am proud to report that The Printernet Cafe earns between \$400 and \$500 per month without any further support needed from outside the village.

I have every reason to believe Orishaba Mary's start up business will travel the same path. Orishaba Mary has analyzed the market potential for her business.

She reports that there is a need and desire for nuts to have a grinding process close by. Although nuts are grown in the area, villagers must travel great distances to purchase the ground product. The members of her community have a dietary preference for her product, so she foresees her business to have an ongoing need.

Her grinding operation will benefit area nut farmers who can sell competitively and create local demand. Her business will allow the product to be produced and priced affordably for villagers because the cost of transporting nuts long distances will not be a factor.

She explains, "South Western Uganda is a leading grower of ground nuts in Uganda, where it's the main source of income to many families... but the farmers have not benefited much, especially that most ground nuts sold in markets is not grinded and no value addition added, thus farmers lose a lot."

She continues, "Ground nuts, which contain 45% oil and 26% protein, is said to

[be] one of the diet most liked, but with the presence of no grinding machine to add value in our area, it is a challenge."

Mary notes, "This has made people buy the same ground nuts at a lower price. Once it's transported to city for further processes, the same product that is grown in the same area will come back in the village when its highly priced. We are looking at making it more affordable for local people, since it will be produced and processed within the village.

"My business will grind ground nuts and locally grown peanuts into flour form."

### Startup funds requested:

Grinding Machine	\$446
Installation Fees	\$32
License	\$20
Furniture.	\$150
Electricity.	\$50
Padlocks	\$20
Rent	\$400
3 months salary	\$250
Stock of Raw Nuts	\$1300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2668</b>

Thank you for your support of local entrepreneurs who balance profit with doing good. I appreciate your financial contributions as well as your goodwill in sharing the stories of these fine business people.

**Michael Josefowicz has a lifetime of experience helping motivated entrepreneurs and students of business aim high and achieve their goals.**





Photo Courtesy Wiard Werk

(left to right) Haji Ally, Mayaya Mack, Mzee wa cheju, Saidi Mwinyi, Estber Gervus (a trainer now), Bi Mronge. Photo from Wiard Werk's post in Let's Learn: Promoting Education and Empowerment in Developing Countries.

## Team 54 Member in Tanzania on His Passion: "Bees Are Teachers of All Teachers, Leaders of All Leaders,..." in Many Ways Like Humans

By Mayaya Mack, Tanzania

Bees are teachers of all teachers, leaders of all leaders, super security, and citizens here under the sun and heavenly, I think!

When you deeply look and observe closely at the buzzing Friends you come to realize that anything happening was copied from the buzzing friends.

Look – how buzzing bee friends take off and how a plane takes off and lands; drone bees – a drone plane; bee Queen and colony – UK leadership and leading system; the scout bees – FBI and Interpol; castes in a bee colony – division of labor at a family and community level but young bees (nurses) are more responsible and respectful than our kids, they are really United rather than our insanity, they never ever waste time than we do, they go for work very early around 3:00 a.m. and close the shop around 6:30 p.m. depending on the sunrise and sunset.

They do make [more] delicious and nutritional balanced food than we do, they

care for nature and others and share fairly (pollination services).

They are my buzzing friends, they are our buzzing friends too, Yes our friends for good!!!

The Sustainable Beekeeping and Human Development (SuBeHuDe) has been training communities on sustainable commercial beekeeping, sustainable practical permaculture, healthcare, clean drinking water, biodiversity, and environmental conservation, sustainable resource management, and community capacity building.

The other duties of the organization are to promote access to quality education for all and human achievement.

Beekeeping and Permaculture Short Courses for the year 2019. We're proud to offer the following courses:-

- #2Days Training Course
- #1Week Training Course
- #2Weeks Training Course
- #1Month Training Course
- #2Month Training Course

#3Month Training Course

% for beekeepers, farmers, entrepreneurs, and environmental conservation stakeholders.

Let us know that you saw this post in *Groundswell News* and we'll offer you an apiary selection, project planning, and consultation services.





Photo by Tandi Timia

Founders and board members of NASLA from left to right: Lum Joyce, Manka Melvis, Tendong Denis, Chiara Lum, and Bib Chante

## Empowering Youths to Build Sustainable Communities in Cameroon

By Tendong Denis, Cameroon, *excerpt*

On behalf of NASLA, it is my pleasure to present you with a brief summary, or concept note.

### Background

The Network of Agric and Sustainable Leaders for Africa (NASLA) was established out of the need to meet the below increasing socio-economic challenges affecting young people in Cameroon and Africa and the global environmental ills which threaten the existence of humanity and the wellbeing of our Mother Earth

NASLA is a youth-led, Not-for-Profit organization founded in 2016 and officially established in 2018 with the vision to create a supportive and enabling environment that allows young people to connect, gain inspiration, develop viable ideas, and implement sustainable actions for an improved livelihood. Through partnerships, workshops, conferences, mentorships, advocacy, and hands-on training, our goal is to empower young people to discover and bring out their full potentials to contribute in achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals on hunger, poverty,

decent work and economic growth, climate action, sustainable cities and communities, partnership for the goals, and responsible consumption and production.

### Activities

In order to achieve these objectives, our overall goal is to set up a Youth Agric-entrepreneurship and Perm-agroecological Center (YAP-Center). The YAP Center will be host to:

- **Entrepreneurship development:** Through summer workshops, volunteer programs, and youth conferences we build the capacity of young people to generate creative and innovative ideas for self-sufficiency and societal growth.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Agroecology:** Through Agripreneurship seminars, volunteer/student internships program, support partnership programs, and hands-on skills building, we support and train young people on agribusiness development and different sustainable agricultural practices and systems ranging from organic farming, agroforestry, agroecological farming, to animal husbandry.

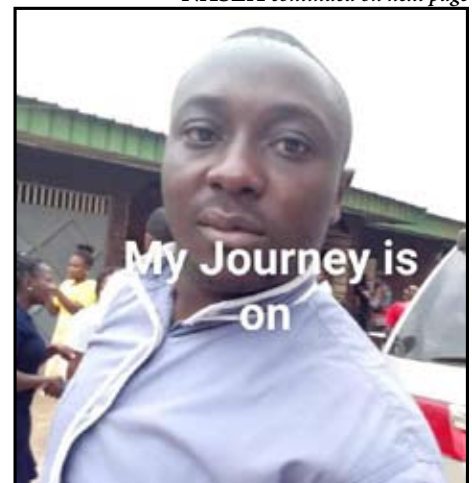
### Long-Range Activities

As our organization grows, we further plan to promote our vision through:

#### Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Activism and Advocacy:

In collaboration with other organizations, individuals and networks, we are working towards a common objective to raise awareness and reduce our individual and

NASLA continued on next page



Tendong Denis

NASLA continued from previous page



collective impact on climate change. Our objective for environmental sustainability is reached through sensitization and education for young people on the dangers of poor waste management, chemicalized agriculture, and over deforestation.

**Permaculture and community development:** As a strategy to enhance community development, restore depleted land, maintain good water quality, and ensure healthy consumption and production while promoting ecological living systems, we introduce and train young people on the concept of permaculture as sustainable path to community resilience. The exact nature of these programs and their connection to the YAP-Center are as yet unde-

terminated and will largely depend on funding.

I have succeeded to launch my Campaign to raise money for my First Agroforestry project.

Here is the link. [https://www.gofundme.com/bongop-agroforestry-project&rcid=r01-154976448043-fec84bb80d534784&pc=ot\\_co\\_campmgmt\\_m](https://www.gofundme.com/bongop-agroforestry-project&rcid=r01-154976448043-fec84bb80d534784&pc=ot_co_campmgmt_m)

We are building our website at <http://www.naslayounginitiati.wixsite.com/mysite-1>. Here is our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/NASLayouthinitiative](http://www.facebook.com/NASLayouthinitiative)

Together we are Paving the way for an Improved Livelihood.

Contact Tendong at [denistendong9@gmail.com](mailto:denistendong9@gmail.com).



Photos Courtesy NASLA

*Tendong's words: (photos on left) I have been running my personal pig and layer birds' farm for three years, though I dropped it one year ago due to financial constraints. So since I have always grown with love for agriculture, I met a friend who has really established into the same line of business, so I was happy to visit his farms and that is where I took the pictures. (photo above) The pepper garden is my small-scale prototype garden behind my home, as gardening is one of the major projects I will be venturing into under agriculture.*



## Post by NASLA Member Sheena



What Force is motivating you in Life???

Many young people are beginning to forget who they are and instead trying to be who they are not.

Comparison is causing people to forget their own potential.

Don't be scared to be who you want to be! But be proud of who you can become! because you have the power in you and only you can unlock that power.

#Be Inspired

#Njweng T #Sheena. #Sheeny\_IVY



Photos by Bigboy Museumwa

Repair Earth Projects members get the land ready for planting. Learn more about Repair Earth Projects at <https://repairearthprojects.wordpress.com/>.

## Explanation of Permaculture and Plea for Donations in Zimbabwe

Permaculture is about cautious perception, watching the land, the sun, the shade, climate designs, the ecological systems and cycles, creatures, etc. An astute permaculturalist does this before actualizing a structure. He/she develops the plan from a study of the area, fully established in permaculture's principals, morals, and collective wisdom from the community. Wise regenerative structure starts out very modestly, with escalated frameworks (rather like scaffolding, a collective support) which supports our particular need. Permaculture (permanent culture) is a most needed and worthy practice, needing attention to every facet of its practice. Repair Earth Projects has great potential for growth but we face financial constraints denying us the chance to grow to our projected level.

Times are hard. Sometimes monies are few and far between. If at all able to contribute, our campaign link is [fundly.com/repair-earth-projects](https://fundly.com/repair-earth-projects).

On behalf of Mr. Museumwa, Scott John-

son and the team at REP  
Thanking you,  
**Jeffrey Kleinschroth**

**From Zimbabwe  
Institute of Permaculture**

To Whom it May Concern,

This is to confirm that Bigboy Museumwa of the Repair Earth Projects has completed a Permaculture Design Course. This is a 72-hour full Permaculture design course which follows an internationally recognised curriculum and offers information about and some hands-on experience of the basics of Permaculture designing for sustainability in all walks of life. We do not hesitate to recommend him to allocation of a portion of land and we are also committed to assist him putting into practice the learnt theoretical aspects towards his attainment of a higher qualification.

Looking forward to your helping hand.

Yours Faithfully,  
**Shepherd Mudzingwa** (Training Officer)



Grafted mango tree. Repair Earth donations can be sent via PayPal at <https://bit.ly/2UmiZi>.

# The Supremacy of Peace

By Amb. Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

There are simple solutions to peace. The solutions are Eliminating Conflict, Communication, and Respecting people from different backgrounds despite their religions, sex, race, and gender.

Peace is the beauty of life. It is the sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, and the togetherness of a nation.

Many of our loved ones have died in our civil unrest and other conflicts. And regardless of where one is from, we can all agree that death is a tragedy that can't be avoided. Soldiers are risking their lives and leaving families in fear, wondering whether or not they will return home safely. There is a vast amount of people from various counties who have no food or shelter.

Meanwhile, we are disputing over unnecessary issues such as race, money, tribe, and culture differences, which lead to war! People should not judge by who they are or what they have, or what they believe in. For example, a child who is 10 years old who has to cope with and accept his disability of being deaf and dumb. I wouldn't want people to judge his disability. He is no different than anyone else.

Everyone needs to put forth an effort to communicate in order to avoid conflict in society. Without communication, it would be very challenging to come together as one and promote peace. It takes a team-work effort to make the world a peaceful place. It's encouraging how the world works together in a synergistic union to make the world part of a more effective peace universe. If we don't respect people's differences, then we don't have peace as a people of this nation, Liberia. You can't just look at somebody and judge them because they are different politically, socially, and religiously.

We need to love each other equally and put our country, Mama Liberia, first. I can hear the laughter of families floating across the border of the 15<sup>th</sup> political sub-division of our counties.

Laughter and communication skills are universal languages. I can taste the various food across the counties, blending seamlessly together, making their way to the less fortunate. I can smell the clean air from the North, West, East, and South knowing that everyone needs air to breathe and enjoy feasting on the various aromas weaved throughout the world.

Most importantly, I can feel the sense and feel the supremacy of peace when I



Photo and Card Courtesy Amb. Hanson G. Blayon

*The author writes: "I can feel the sense and feel the supremacy of peace when I meet a stranger and offer a peaceful greeting without judgmental.*

meet a stranger and offer a peaceful greeting without judgmental. Youths, Adults, Teachers have much to offer, whether it can be an act of kindness or discovering a cure for an illness. Joined together, different types of people are a powerful force and could inspire the world to function more successfully and peacefully as a people. I may have disability, but I have the power to promote peacefulness on a daily basis in Liberia and the world at large.

All the things that I have mentioned

should be practiced on a daily basis to see a peaceful society. If we all put our best ideas forward, then the world will be a better place. So, as you can see, if we try to avoid conflict, communicate more, and respect each other's point of views, we would have a more peaceful country. Peace is the triumph of truth. We can change our world.

Thanks.

Mentor: Civicus Barsi Giah



Photos Courtesy <https://latinamericanrelieffund.org/>

From <https://latinamericanrelieffund.org/>: “The Refugee Relief Project, under the auspices of the non-profit, the Latin American Relief Fund, aids those fleeing violence in Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras). We provide financial assistance to a migrant shelter, Alberque ABBA, established in 2014 in Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico. ABBA means “father” in Hebrew and symbolizes the caring nature of its founder, Protestant Pastor Ignacio Martínez Remírez, who offers to all migrants three days and nights stay with meals, in a safe environment, free calls home to their families, medical and psychological assistance, and information on applying for asylum when qualified.”

## Compassionate Help for Migrants Fleeing Violence in Latin America

Submitted by Gloria DeSousa  
Vermont USA

From: Anne Damrosch <[annedamrosch@gmail.com](mailto:annedamrosch@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Feb 21, 2019, 1:28 PM  
Subject: Migrants in Mexico  
To: Anne Damrosch <[annedam@comcast.net](mailto:annedam@comcast.net)>

Dear Family and Friends Near and Far:  
Please forgive the mass emailing! But this feels important.

Recently the story hasn't been as much in the news, but the plight of Latin American migrants continues. There is still a steady stream of people, mostly fleeing violence in Honduras, walking and riding freight trains through Mexico to the U.S.

border. In the past weeks that I've been in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, I've had the opportunity to meet a number of North Americans who volunteer at a place called ABBA House in Celaya, 26 miles from San Miguel. Celaya is located at a junction of major highways leading north, where the freight trains also pass through. I can hear the haunting whistles of the freights at night from my own cozy bedroom.

ABBA House gives migrant men, women, and children a safe, friendly place to rest for three nights. They are given warm beds, showers, potable water, medical attention, and hot meals. They leave with new shoes and backpacks containing basic necessities. Many who arrive, especially young men, have been traveling alone. But

when they leave, they walk with friends.

Any amount you can give will make a difference. Less than \$8 buys a pair of new shoes. Every dollar will go to the migrants and helps pay the rent, keeping the Safe House open. ABBA is a grassroots organization, started by a Mexican pastor, staffed by him, his family members, and by Mexican and expat volunteers.

To make a donation click on this link: <https://latinamericanrelieffund.org/>

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!**

Anne

P.S. Please feel free to forward this email to others, and share on Front Porch Forum and other online sites.

# Very Young Boy Wants People to Stop Cutting Rainforests

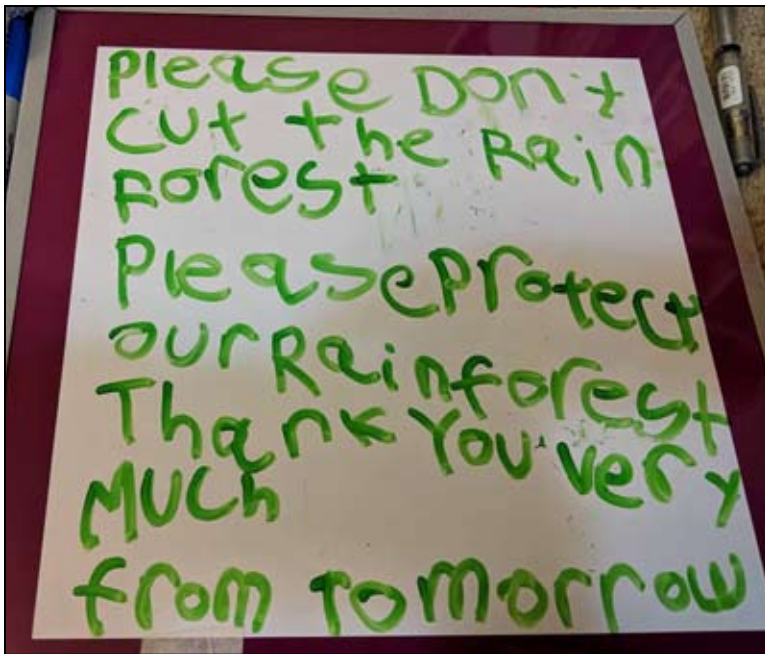


Photo by Nancy Hu

By Nancy Hu, California USA

Five-year-old was eager to share this with the world after seeing a picture of a rain forest being burned and cut down. "Please don't cut the rain forest. Please protect the rain forest. Thank you very much. From tomorrow (going forward)." He ran out of room the write the last two words.

We donate monthly to Conservation International to help protect the rainforests. <https://www.conservation.org/Pages/default.aspx>

How do you protect the rainforests?

From Conservation.org: "People need nature – and for over 30 years, Conservation International has worked to protect it. Through cutting-edge science, innovative policy and global reach, we empower people to protect the nature that we rely on for food, fresh water, and livelihoods.

"From whale sharks to pangolins, wildlife face threats on land and sea. With populations declining, these species would greatly benefit from our love.

"Restore critical forests, protect biodiversity and help millions resist the effects of climate change. All it takes is a carbon offset."

## Emmanuel's Dream Coming True



Trees. Thanks to them we can breathe, they feed us, they heal us...and they ask nothing in return.

And here we meet him. His passion is planting trees.

Waaaw. The most respect I have for him.

He teaches children to have respect for trees! He plants trees everywhere... hills, schools, gardens. He is not part of any organization. But he is humble, confident, and walks his path. He is on a mission!

Today I lived a very beautiful day thanks to:

His name: Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze

His home: Bubanza, Burundi

His project: Greening Burundi

Age: 24

His goal: To plant a million trees and fight deforestation.

His energy: Love

Twitter: @EmmanaGang

*Stephan Doukhopelnikoff*

January 26, 2019

Today is a great day to have received five visitors from America and England at site of my tree nursery and it was really wonderful to me and provided me a moral support.

I was able to talk about my project and show them the different types of trees available in my nursery.

"Together for a better world"

*Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze, Burundi*



Photo: UN Climate Change

ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) tools helps Colombian farmers build resilience.

## Applications for 2019 UN Global Climate Action Awards Now Open

Submitted by Negar Ekrami, Iran

UN Climate Press Release  
February 11, 2019

BONN, Germany – Starting today, organizations, cities, industries, universities, governments, and others taking bold leadership on climate change can nominate their work for a UN Global Climate Action Award. The award, the focus of United Nations Climate Change’s Momentum for Change initiative, recognizes the most innovative projects in the field of climate action. Winning activities encompass scalable and replicable examples of what people are doing to address climate change, in the hope of inspiring others to act. The selected activities will be recognized and celebrated at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) in Chile. Past recipients of the award have maximized their impact and scaled up globally.

For example, Bhungroo, a rainwater management system used in dry spells to provide food security and sustainable livelihoods to marginal farmers across India, won the award in 2015. Today, Bhungroo is also being implemented in Ghana, Zimbabwe, Togo, and Madagascar.

Liter of Light, a solar lighting project that can be implemented with everyday objects and carpentry skills, won the award in 2011. It began in the Philippines and has since spread to 30 countries. In 2015, Liter of Light went on to win the coveted Zayed Future Energy prize.

Past winners have also included Google, Microsoft, and the Government of British Columbia, Canada.

“With the adoption of the Katowice Climate Package, we have entered a new era in our collective efforts to address climate change, one demanding increased climate action at all levels,” said Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change.

“The UN Global Climate Action Award is an opportunity to recognize leaders who are not only taking such action, but providing an inspiring example for other governments, businesses, cities, and communities to follow. I therefore encourage those currently leading projects – from large corporations to small cooperatives – to apply.”

The 2019 award will recognize climate action that is already achieving real results in four categories:

**1. Planetary Health:** Recognizing novel solutions that balance the need for both human health and a healthy planet.

**2. Climate Neutral Now:** Recognizing efforts by individuals, companies, and governments that are achieving real results in transitioning to climate neutrality.

**3. Women for Results:** Recognizing the critical leadership and participation of women in addressing climate change.

**4. Financing for Climate Friendly Investment:** Recognizing successful financial innovations for adaptation and climate mitigation.

The award’s Advisory Panel, made up of senior experts from various fields and countries, will select the winners. The panel is part of the secretariat’s Momentum for Change initiative, which is implemented with the support of The Rockefeller Foundation and operates in partnership with Climate Neutral Now, donors supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, and the World Economic Forum.

Applications for the 2019 UN Global Climate Action Award will be accepted from 11 February through 30 April 2019 at: <https://momentum.unfccc.int/>

For more information, please contact:  
Sarah Marchildon, Momentum for Change Team Lead, UN Climate Change  
[SMarchildon@unfccc.int](mailto:SMarchildon@unfccc.int) | +49 228 815 1065

OR

Melissa Angel, Momentum for Change Communications Specialist, UN Climate Change  
[MAngel@unfccc.int](mailto:MAngel@unfccc.int) | +49 228 815 1602

Digital assets available for download at <https://trello.com/b/ppKP70S2/un-global-climate-action-award-call-for-applications>.  
Source: <https://unfccc.int/news/applications-for-2019-un-global-climate-action-awards-now-open>





*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



We have not to leave the world as we found it..we must do even a small change...  
**Paul Claudel**, Burundi

Wanted to inquire if you may love to share some of your inspirational write-ups about youths, Environment, climate change and Agriculture on my Facebook page. One challenge we face here is that many youths don't love to read articles that have too much writing. Wondering if it's possible you could summarize before posting.

Your Newspaper is very inspiring. I love it. Though have not read all the articles but am already falling in love with the article on Emmanuel's project of "Greening Burundi." I wish you the best in your work and your contribution to raise awareness on Climate change. As humans, we are always faced with that fright at first. I know you are able and will make it.

When I got connected to you on Facebook, I also connected to Mr. Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, the Founder and CEO of Team 54 Project. 30 minutes after I sent him a friend request, he gave me a video call via messenger, which he had to share with me more about his Team 54 project and what made him to start and how he started the initiative. I was so motivated to learn from how he started and inspired about how fast the initiative has advanced.

I had the chance to share with him the challenges I face as of now in my newborn organization and so lovely, he advised me to create a website using the free site (www.wix.com) and further promising to support my initiative through the Team 54 project.

For the past five days, I have been working to design my free website. Here comes my first design. www.naslasyounginitiati.wixsite.com/mysite-1. Not quite an IT expert, but trying to learn and come up with something. A new friend has also suggested I send her a concept note for my project. Another milestone on my side as a first-timer. Have never written one before, so wonder how am going to achieve that. Just a line of analysis to say how we can always meet our needs, if we are determined.  
**Tendong Denis**, Cameroon (See his concept paper on page 26)

I'm happy to hear from you. Thanks for the messages. They're really good and interesting. They can move our heart and our lives. May God bless you and keep you long and your family and your husband.  
**Winnie Williams**, Uganda

You are welcome back and I'm so much proud to hear from you from the news room chat group this year.

And I pretty hope it will be much better this year as we all join in hands to push your agenda on board by supporting Go-Back-Club and *Groundswell News*.

Wishing you all the best.  
**Maxwell Nana Maankwah**, Ghana

I am happy to hear about your club. It is so amazing! Thank you very much for talking about climate change it is a real issue. I am glad to share with you my charity project too. [www.sunbeamproject.org](http://www.sunbeamproject.org).

Wow! Thank you. Will be so happy if you put my work in your newsletter. I am also involved in environmental conservation education in schools neighboring mountain gorilla national parks. The newsletter might be a great educational resource.  
**Tugumisirize Frances**, Uganda

Devastating floods everywhere across the globe. Human-induced climate change. It is high time to act. Can't we prioritize our actions? Global debt is increasing heavily due to wrong priorities and wasteful expenditure. We are not getting what we want.

This needs to change and it is applicable all across the globe. Sustainable Development to provide lasting happiness should be our goal for our survival. Sharing. Kerala, India. #newworld,#climatechange,#sustainabledevelopment, #newIndia, #newkerala2018, #stayunited, #weshallovercome.  
**Dr. UN Nandakumar**, India

I am from Nepal. I am happy to be a member from Nepal.  
**Sharad Sharma**, Nepal

I was told by Iyaknse Udoaka from Nigeria about what you are doing to save our planet and I wanted to join in to learn from

you and to replicate the lessons. Thank you for your efforts.

**Ediong Samuel**, Nigeria

I'm excited to be part of the Go-Back-Club, I'm looking forward to updates, news and articles as I will contribute my quota too.  
**Sussan Kwaghdoo Agber**, Nigeria

Hi Iona, I don't know if you remember me from GDAC (Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition). This seems like a real, concrete step for individuals to take to improve the future of this planet. Thanks.

**Mary Rodriguez**, Pennsylvania USA

Dear John and Iona,

Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do for Earth and her inhabitants. We have received your writings through the years and have passed them to others. We know that something like this is a "partnership" so addressed it to both of you.

We are sorry John, for all your physical problems. Enclosed is a very small check compared especially to all you are faced with. We are in our 80s and still working but not at lucrative jobs but we wanted to share something.

So please continue on the mend and hopefully no more physical problems!  
**Carolyn and Tom Horvath**, Ohio USA

Wow! Thanks Iona and am terribly sorry for the long article. I realized I took up much of the space. I will be limited to two pages next time! Great stories in there. I am still on "How 12 Teens Invented a Solar-Powered Tent for the Homeless (in an email blast)." After am done with that I will embark on *Groundswell News*! Looks like it will be a great evening for me today with lots of informative articles to read! Thanks once more Iona and keep up the good job. Cheers! "Asante" (Thank you in Swahili),  
**Vincent Fatfree Kenyani**, Kenya

God bless more to tackle this international crisis. The planet Earth is a global village in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One environmental problem in one country will automatically affect the country in one way or the other. This is a Godly job. I make

**Messages** continued on next page

**Messages** continued from previous page  
starvation, I sacrifice myself, I work day and night, I use all my efforts in order to realize my dreams of planting 1 million trees that bear fruit for human consumption and serve as a forest forever.

**Alimamy Sallieu Sesay**, Sierra Leone (See his story on page 22.)

I have an idea. About a month ago I was researching carbon capture and researching plants that capture carbon best, I found them to be corn and sugarcane. I watched a TED talk on how herding can revitalize soils, which I later found to be ridiculous, but from that came a better idea. Use corn to capture carbon and, immediately after harvest, turn it into biochar, sequestering the carbon picked up by the corn in the soil. Corn causes a huge difference in CO<sub>2</sub>, if we are able to grow it everywhere and biochar it, we may be able to sequester carbon and create fertilizer to better grow more corn and at the same time feed the population.

Another new idea of mine is create a Clean Energy Implementation Commission who will coordinate closure of fossil fuel facilities but keep people employed, and another is to require that part of the dividends from a carbon fee and dividend to go towards replacing fossil fuel car(s) with hybrid or electric vehicle(s) and homes above a certain latitude are required to put insulation (unless they already have it) and replace incandescent bulbs with LED light bulbs, unless they already have them.

I also want to go talk to congress members in DC. But I'm not sure how do that.  
**Brendan Wissinger**, Pennsylvania USA

Thanks for sharing! You are doing a wonderful job. We are pleased to have you on board.

**Sukpa Sam Nloin**, Cameroon

You are really doing a great job to communicate and raise awareness about this international crisis called climate change

or environmental problems. You are a true legend of our time. May God continue to give you the strength and the financial connection to create more impact.

I live a country called Sierra Leone and is very rich in terms of natural resources and endowment but the people are relatively poor because of bad governance and greed to our leaders. In my own little experience, what I saw with climate change and environmental problems has done in my community is beyond imagination and a lifetime experience that I can imagine. In 10 minutes time, climate change has damaged millions of U.S. dollars worth of properties and killed more than 1,000 innocent people term as the mudslide.

I am among the first batch of people who visited such horrific land site mark. So, in stepwise those of you who dedicated your energy to play your roll to combat this alarming crisis called climate change, you are doing really a Godly job.

**Sallieu Sesay**, Team 54, Sierra Leone (See his story on page 22.)

Hello! I am delighted to meet you. Talking about dance, I was a dancer in high school, I did a bit all African dance, American, but right after my graduation I stopped. Dance for Life was my group.

Now instead of expressing ourselves on a dance floor with my friends, we are now organizing English clubs where we discuss lots of topics such as the development of Africa, climate change, agriculture ...  
**Goldy Godard**, Congo

The newspaper is very interesting and unique with informative and educative stories. Below are emails of some individuals that you can include on the list of contacts.

These are just few. I will send you more.  
**Mohammed D. Konneh**, Liberia

I am trying to raise each charity according to where they are in food sufficiency to the next level. As they produce more,

some of it can be stored or sold. Both are important. Sold food will help them move forward where money is a limiting factor.  
**Lynn Thomas Dostal**, Florida USA

Thanks for the email. I appreciate working with you based on your developmental orientation in ensuring the world a peaceful place. I am glad to receive your email and documents. We will further discuss on Messenger for some understanding about your institution. Thanks once again.  
**Amb. Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia (See Supremacy of Peace, page 29.)

Thank you so much dear sister for that your heart you have for helping people like us. Please let we keep our connection on touch. I will appreciate any support from you and your network connection with your friends.

**Joseph Adiany**, Kenya

Hello estimated readers. This is Ainebyona Marium from Uganda. I am a student of Ethics and Human Rights at Makerere University. It has been so hard throughout my education and it's even harder now as am ending my courses but tuition and upkeep is nowhere to be seen.

My poor mom is not able to help raise any of those. If there is anyone who can really help me out of good heart please do. I will never forget all the help granted to me by you. I can send the time table for the course units am taking and the invoice for the tuition I have to pay this semester if you want to see them.

Thanks everyone for continued support for this paper. May the good Lord richly bless from above his throne.  
Contacts: 0785044764  
sheremunezero@gmail.com



## Starving Orphans Still Need Help



Trees don't breathe their own oxygen, Flowers don't smell good for themselves and Sun don't warm itself in its rays!

Likewise you won't find your happiness or have your heads met by yourself. All of creation is designed to grow and thrive as it loves and supports other created things. Even a body of water will die if all tributaries flow into it without it giving back.

If you truly live then give  
SEEK JOY IN WHAT YOU GIVE, NOT IN WHAT YOU GET.  
GOD BLESS YOU.

**Ssengendo Yasin Siginalaminat**,

The orphans are not getting donations for food and rent. Please consider sending \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80, and others – even \$5 can help.

Wave (send money to Africa) world remit or mobile wallet, moneygram, Uganda GoFundMe  
Contact Ssengendo at ssengendo80yasin80@gmail.com