



Groundswell News

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

We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.

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

A Celebration of Youth. www.gobackclub.org. Issue No. 49: April 2019




Photo Robin Loznak/Our Children's Trust

Earth Guardians Youth Director Xiubtezcatl Martinez, one of the plaintiffs in the Juliana v. U.S. climate lawsuit, speaks outside the U.S. Supreme Court in 2017.

Kids Suing Government Over Climate: Seek Injunction to Halt Fossil Fuel Extraction

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Umair Irfan, *excerpt* 
Vox: February 27, 2019

The attorneys representing young people who are suing the federal government in a major climate change lawsuit recently took the unusual step of filing an injunction to stop all new leases for fossil fuel production. If the injunction is granted, it would lead to a nationwide moratorium on new fossil fuel permitting and leasing on federal lands and

waters until the lawsuit is resolved. No small matter; however, existing mining and drilling projects would still proceed.

The *Juliana v. United States* lawsuit, filed by 21 young plaintiffs, is currently going through pre-trial appeals at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments are expected in the first week of June. The suit alleges that not only did the federal government fail to act to limit climate change, it profited off of selling coal, oil, and gas rights. The government encouraged mining and drilling while knowing full well the hazards

caused by burning these fuels, namely climate change. In so doing, the government has deprived the plaintiffs – the youngest is 11 years old – the right to a safe and stable climate system.

The lawsuit was first filed in 2015 but has proceeded in starts and stops. At one point, the Supreme Court stepped in to pause the case days before the trial before allowing it to go ahead. An appeals court has now stepped in to consider the government's motion to dismiss the case.

Kids Sue *continued on next 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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Established: September 2013

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Mission of Our Newspaper: The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and

smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

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

What are we trying to achieve?

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

Our Values

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

good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at gobackclub@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end in case anyone wants to get in touch with you. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

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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. . . .

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Fair Use Logo

Earth Day is April 22 and Every Day! *Gentle Arms of Eden* Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer

on a sleepy endless ocean when the world lay in a dream
there was rhythm in the splash and roll but not a voice to sing
so the moon shone on the breakers and the morning warmed the waves
till a single cell did jump and hum for joy as though to say

this is my home, this is my only home
this is the only sacred ground that i have ever known
and should i stray in the dark night alone
rock me goddess in the gentle arms of eden

then the day shone bright and rounder till the one turned into two
and the two into ten thousand things, and old things into new
and on some virgin beach head one lonesome critter crawled
and he looked about and shouted out in his most astonished drawl

this is my home ...

then all the sky was buzzin' and the ground was carpet green
and the wary children of the wood went dancin in between
and the people sang rejoicing when the field was glad with grain
this song of celebration from their cities on the plain

this is my home ...

now there's smoke across the harbor, and there's factories on the shore
and the world is ill with greed and will and enterprise of war
but i will lay my burden in the cradle of your grace
and the shining beaches of your love and the sea of your embrace

this is my home ...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxbMd2AhEL8>

HAPPY EARTH DAY, EVERYONE!

Kids Sue *continued from page 1*

Then on February 7, the plaintiffs filed their injunction against new fossil fuel extraction on government territory. Philip Gregory, one of the lead attorneys representing the children filing suit, explained that the injunction request is meant to address the urgency of limiting climate change by reducing emissions from fossil fuels immediately.

With the case currently tied up in appeals, the plaintiffs wanted to make sure the current state of affairs with respect to climate change doesn't get worse as the wheels of justice slowly turn. "We would have preferred to go to trial, submit our extensive evidence, and have the judge require the defendants to come up with a plan, a national climate recovery plan, for how they're going to go about doing this," Gregory said.

As Gregory and the other attorneys for the children wrote in their injunction request, "This injunction is urgently needed because, despite long-standing knowledge of the resulting destruction to our Nation and the profound harm to these young Plaintiffs, Defendants' ongoing development of the fossil fuel-based energy system is actively harming Plaintiffs and jeopardizing Plaintiffs' ability to obtain the full remedy in their case."

Numerous experts including retired Navy Vice Admiral Lee Gunn, economist Joseph Stiglitz, and climate scientist Eric Rignot have also filed *amicus* briefs supporting the injunction against new federal fossil fuel development.

In response, the federal government argued last week that the injunction maneuver is a

ploy to bypass proper legal proceedings ...

On February 22, the plaintiffs also filed a response to the federal government's overall appeal to dismiss the case. They argued that the standard for appealing a case before it goes to trial has not been met and that existing laws don't already cover the civil rights violation they allege.

The *Juliana v. United States* is just one of more than a dozen climate change lawsuits underway in the U.S. right now. Besides suing the government, several counties and cities are seeking damages from coal, oil, and gas companies for contributing to climate change, which they say pose a public nuisance to these jurisdictions.

Source: <https://www.vox.com/2019/2/23/18234721/childrens-climate-lawsuit-juliana-injunction>



Photo by Hector Bottai, via Wikimedia Commons

On the way out: A curve-billed reedhaunter in Uruguay

Human Growth Robs Other Species of Space

As human growth adds to our numbers and demands, other species' survival chances shrink. Scientists can now name 1,700 creatures at ever greater risk.

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: March 11, 2019

LONDON – There is only one Earth, but human growth is ensuring that it carries steadily more passengers. And that leaves less and less room for humanity's companions on board the planet.

The Nile lechwe is an antelope that lives in the swamps of Ethiopia and South Sudan. Its Linnaean name is *Kobus megaceros* and it stands a meter high at the shoulders so you couldn't miss it. Except that you could.

That is because it is one of at least 1,700 species identified by biologists to be at risk from human action: quite simply, as humans take an ever-greater share of animal living space, the animals' chances of survival dwindle rapidly.

So the Nile lechwe joins the Lombok cross frog of Indonesia (*Oreophryne monticola*) and the curve-billed reedhaunter (*Limnornis curvirostris*) that lives in the marshes of north-east Argentina to be at

risk of extinction by 2070, simply because humankind will intrude on at least half of their geographic ranges.

Biologists, conservationists, and climate scientists have been warning for decades that the dangerous combination of human population growth and climate change driven by human-induced global warming puts whole ecosystems at risk, and will hasten the extinction of many species that are already shrinking in numbers.

These include many that underwrite the provision of food, medicine, fabric for the world's cities, and air and water purification systems on which human civilization is founded.

Most such warnings have been based on projections of economic growth, urban demand, and climate change. U.S. researchers approached the challenge in a different way.

They report in *Nature Climate Change* that they collected data on the geographic distributions of 19,400 species and combined this with four different projections of future changes in land use – a euphemism for scorched or felled forest, drained swamp, ploughed grassland, and so on – in the next 50 years.

Shared Responsibility

And they identified 1,700 species that, even with moderate changes in land use, will lose roughly a third to a half of their present habitat by 2070. This total includes

886 species of amphibian, 436 kinds of bird, and 376 mammals. And this loss of living space accentuates the hazard to their lives and futures.

Many animal citizens of Central and East Africa, Mesoamerica, South America, and Southeast Asia are particularly at risk. And, the authors warn, even though such losses would happen in national territories and involve species with limited range, the responsibility for their loss would be global.

“Losses in species populations can irreversibly hamper the functioning of ecosystems and human quality of life,” said Walter Jetz, an ecologist and evolutionary biologist at Yale University in Connecticut, one of the authors.

“While biodiversity erosion in far-away parts of the planet may not seem to affect us directly, its consequences for human livelihood can reverberate globally. It is also often the far-away demand that drives these losses – think tropical hardwoods, palm oil or soybeans – thus making us all co-responsible.”

To get on this free email list, contact: info@climatenewsnetwork.net.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/human-growth-robs-other-species-of-space/>



Photo Courtesy Kevin Krajick/Earth Institute

Meltwater runs through Greenland's Russell glacier.

Greenland's Winter Rain Melts Icecap Faster

By Tim Radford

Climate News Network: March 8, 2019

LONDON – The largest body of ice in the northern hemisphere faces a problem scientists had not identified before: Greenland's winter rain is accelerating the loss of its vast store of ice.

Two new studies have identified mechanisms for ever-faster melting of the ice. One is that the snowline keeps shifting, to alter the levels of radiation absorbed by the ice sheet that masks the Greenland bedrock.

The other is that ever more snow and ice is simply washed away by the rainfall – even in the Arctic winter. That is because global warming has raised Greenland's summer temperatures as much as 1.8°C, and by up to 3°C in the winter months.

Reports of winter rain over an icecap large enough – if it were all washed into the ocean – to raise global sea levels by more than seven meters (23 feet) are a surprise: glaciologists expect some melting of the polar ice caps each summer, to be replaced each winter by snowfall that insulates the ice below and then endures for much of the following summer.

Meltwater Matters More

Such icecaps are thought to shed most of their mass as glaciers deliver ice downstream to the coast, and icebergs calve and float south.

But research in the journal *The Cryosphere* tells a different and unexpected story. Direct meltwater now running off Greenland into the sea accounts for seven-tenths of the 270 billion tons of ice that Greenland loses each year. And increasingly, rainy weather is the trigger that sets off the rivulets of meltwater

streaming to the coast.

German and U.S. researchers took data from 20 Greenland weather stations between 1979 and 2012, and matched this with satellite imagery that could distinguish snow from liquid water. In the data they identified more than 300 episodes of melting in which the initial trigger was the arrival of rain.

And during the 33 years of data, they found that melting associated with rainfall doubled during the summer months, and tripled in winter. Nearly a third of all the flow of water from Greenland was initiated by rainfall.

Warm air can melt ice but, more potently, warming air can turn what might have been snow into rain. Liquid water carries considerable heat, to soak into the snow and melt it. And the clouds that bring the rain have a way of conserving the warmth in the air.

Some of the meltwater will refreeze as surface ice, darkened by dust and colonized by algae, to absorb solar radiation more efficiently than snow, and to melt more easily and much earlier in the summer.

“If it rains in the winter, that preconditions the ice to be more vulnerable in the summer,” said Marco Tedesco of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the authors. “We are starting to realize you have to look at all the seasons.”

Most of the winter rainfall is in the island's south and southwest, spilled by warm ocean winds from the south, and these may have become more common because warming has been linked to changes in the stratospheric jet stream.

Loss Not Gain

Marilena Oltmanns, of Germany's Geomar Centre for Ocean Research, called the discovery “a surprise to see. The ice should

be gaining mass in winter when it snows, but an increasing part of the mass gain from precipitation is lost by melt.”

But research in the journal *Science Advances* in the same week pinpoints another related factor in setting the rate of melting in Greenland: the snowline.

This varies significantly from year to year. Once again, snow tends to reflect radiation, and with darker ice to absorb it the new study suggests that even Greenland's icy mountains conform to simple physics.

Researchers flew drones inland across the bare ice to identify the snowline. A pause during a few days of high winds brought a big surprise.

No Specific Studies

“Suddenly the snowline was just gone. In a couple of days it had moved 30 kilometres (18.64 miles) or so up the ice sheet and was now out of the range of our drones.

“That was the first moment we thought we should investigate the effects of snowline movement on melt,” said Jonathan Ryan, of Brown University in Rhode Island, who led the study.

And Laurence Smith, a researcher based at Brown University, and one of the authors, said, “People who study alpine glaciers have recognized the importance of snowlines for years, but no one has explicitly studied them in Greenland before.

“This study shows for the first time that simple partitioning between bare ice and snow matters more when it comes to melting than a whole host of other processes that receive more attention.”

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/greenlands-winter-rain-melts-icecap-faster/>



Photo Submitted

Ada meeting with farmers and experts during her PhD research in 2015. Altogether, she interviewed 183 farmers.

How and When I Started Getting Aware About Climate Change!

By Ada Metaliu, Albania

It all began while watching live The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, which took place from 7-19 December 2009. At that time, I was pursuing my Masters degree in the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CHIEAM) in Crete/Greece.

Quickly I realized how sensitive was the agriculture sector to the impacts of climate change. I therefore decided to dedicate my research in identifying the economic effects of Climate change in the agriculture sector in my country, Albania.

I continued my scientific research concerning climate change even during my Ph.D program. The research was related to the challenges of Albanian farmers in adapting to climate change.

Moreover, as part of my advanced studies in Climate-related science in 2015, I was awarded with a PhD scholarship in socio-economic modelling related to climate

change by the IPCC and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. As part of the Ph.D programs, I have also published many scientific papers to international conferences and journals.

In the last 10 years I have been involved in many national and international NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations such as 350.org, World Wildlife Fund, Institute for Environmental Policy). I also have participated in many workshops concerning climate change for the Balkan region organized by the EU.

It was very empowering for me being trained by both the Climate Reality Training Program, which was organized by Mr. Al Gore in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 2017, and the Youth Assembly of the United Nation in New York USA during the 22nd session in August 2018.

It was in those trainings that I met our heartfelt climate activist and Founder/Chief Executive Officer of Team 54 Project International, Dr. Gbujie Daniel. From then we decided to collaborate together in contributing in achiev-

ing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Contact Ada Metaliu at: Agricultural University of Tirana; academic page: ametaliu@ubt.edu.al; mobile :00355672301163

Ada's Publications

Conference papers:

Metaliu, A and Luci, A. (2018) Agriculture vulnerability under climate change (case study: Shkodra region). Proceedings of Academics World 94th International Conference, New York, USA, 16th-17th August 2018

Metaliu, A. (2017). Impacts of Climate results in Albanian Agriculture. Shkodra region. ISERD, International Conference, 23-24 January Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Agricultural University of Tirana, ada.metaliu@yahoo.com.

Metaliu A, and Osmani, M. (2016). Smallholder's perceptions on climate change. International conference of Ecosystems (ICE2016) Tirane, Albania. ada.metaliu@yahoo.com; mosmani@ubt.edu.al

Albania continued on next page

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(left) Climate Reality training Pittsburgh Pennsylvania in 2017. Ada and Munir Agusbi, also from Albania, in front of displays. Photo by Climate Reality trainer.
(right) Ada gives a climate change workshop with kids in a private college in Albania 2016. Photo by Ines Cilka

Journal publications:

Metaliu, A. (2018). Evaluating the Impacts of Temperature and Precipitation on Albanian Crops by Using Dynamic Models. *International Journal of Inspiration & Resilience Economy*. 018; 2(3): 43-47doi: 10.5923/j.ijire.20180203.01

Metaliu, A. (2018) Albanian smallholders under climate change. A willingness to pay assessment. *Modern Environmental Science and Engineering*. Academic Star Publishing Company, 2017. <http://www.academicstar.us> 4, (02) 192-196 (ISSN 2333-2581).

Metaliu, A. (2018). The capacity of Albanian smallholders to adapt to climate change. *International Journal of Current Research*. 10, (03) 67286-67289.

Metaliu, A. (2018), The potential impacts of climate change on crops in Albania Case study Shkodra region. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Engineering, and Technology* Vol. 5(0 2), 5142-5149. ISSN: 2350-0328

South Africa President Starts New Green Program

Posted March 9, 2019 by Gbujie Daniel Chidubem
Photo Courtesy Team 54 Project International

(right) South African President Cyril Ramaphosa helps clean up litter.

The South African President has joined in organizing a clean-up exercise in South Africa. President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on South Africans to join the government in its efforts to make South Africa green again. He also launched a national campaign called the “One Good Green Deed a Day” project. He is leading by example; Africa will certainly be getting there.

All our members in South Africa, please take note that this initiative must be added to your action plans in South Africa. Motlatsi Makhasane, our country rep, take note.

Last week Ramaphosa presented to the nation the direction of his administration to the green economy, and to kick start he launched a cleanup exercise program that will officially be a practice.

We are highlighting the fact that he is thinking about the environmental impact of waste.

Excerpt from *Rwunda Podium*, March 7, 2019: “Ramaphosa will officially launch the programme, which aims to encourage individuals and organisations to come together to ‘conduct clean-up centred activities across South Africa’.. In his State of the Nation Address debate reply, Ramaphosa said the campaign would mobilise all South Africans to become environmentally conscious and change behaviour towards littering and waste in general.”





Photo Courtesy Survival International

Survival International called Bolsonaro's order (to open up the rainforest for development) "virtually a declaration of open warfare." The environmental impacts of this move could be far-flung. Scientists and officials increasingly view indigenous peoples among the best defenders of intact ecosystems, such as the Amazon rainforest.

Environmental Organizations Ramp Up Efforts to Protect the Amazon

NGOs and others are mobilizing action to support one of Earth's richest and most vulnerable ecosystems.

By Jeremy Leon Hance
Ensia: March 4, 2019

On October 28, 2018, Sarah Shenker was in the Brazilian Amazon visiting members of the Awa and Guajara tribes, which have called the rainforest home for millennia. On the same day, the nation elected Jair Bolsonaro its new president with 55 percent of the vote.

Shenker, a campaigner with indigenous-rights organization Survival International, said that despite Bolsonaro's election being

predicted for months, tribal members experienced the reality of it as a "shock." Currently around 13 percent of Brazil is demarcated as indigenous reserves. Bolsonaro, who has been reported to have expressed disappointment that the Brazilian cavalry hadn't been as efficient as the U.S. in exterminating Indians, pledged during his campaign to halt new reserves and attempt to abolish established ones. He also promised to open up the Amazonian rainforest to agriculture and industrial development.

Shenker says after the early emotions began to wear off, tribal groups began to speak of something else. "The reaction that I felt around me was one of resistance, people coming together ... and saying, 'Okay, well, this is now the situation we're faced with, what are we going to do about it?'"

It's a question environmental and indigenous rights non-governmental organizations based in Brazil and around the world have been asking themselves as well: What do we do now?

Massive Impact

Hours after being sworn in on January 1, 2019, Bolsonaro signed an executive order that shifted the nation's ability to create and

Amazon continued on next page



Photo iStockphoto.com/alffotoChiara Lum, and Bih Chante

Some people suggest enlisting the support of evangelical Christians to protect the Amazon. Fearnside says an argument should be made that the destruction of the Amazon "is an affront to God's creation."

Amazon *continued from previous page*

regulate indigenous areas from the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) to the agricultural ministry.

This may sound like just government shuffling, but observers say the move will have a massive impact. For more than 50 years, FUNAI had been charged with protecting Brazil's 300-plus indigenous tribes – making up nearly 1 million people – and the forest they inhabit. Meanwhile, the agriculture ministry is seen as having a deep conflict of interest: It wants access to indigenous lands to expand Brazil's powerful agroindustry. The executive order will stand for 120 days and then face a test in congress.

Survival International, in a press release, called Bolsonaro's order "virtually a declaration of open warfare." The environmental impacts of this move could be far-flung. Scientists and officials increasingly view indigenous peoples among the best defenders of intact ecosystems, such as the Amazon rainforest. Research has shown that in some cases indigenous lands have less deforestation than strict protected areas such as national parks.

Throughout his campaign, Bolsonaro threatened to abolish certain indigenous reserves. More recently, his fledgling administration has raised the possibility of having the agroindustry "rent" indigenous lands for farming.

Bolsonaro is backed by some of the most powerful political players in Brazil: the ruralista bloc. The ruralistas are a cadre of politicians often directly linked to big agriculture, including cattle and soy production, and wealthy landowners. They say that environmental regulations in the country, including a requirement to maintain a certain amount of land as natural, are too stringent and that agribusiness should be allowed to expand unrestricted.

Bolsonaro nominated Luiz Antonio Nabhan Garcia, the former head of the União Democrática Ruralista [Union of Democratic Ruralists] party as special secretary for Land Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Garcia has pledged to "clean up all land issues in Brazil." This includes reexamining not only indigenous lands, but also those belonging to *quilombolas*, the descendants of runaway slaves, and lands granted to landless workers through land reform.

"Everything has to be analyzed with a neutral and exempt eye, without any kind of tendency, political or ideological link, without the interference of NGOs," Garcia added.

Ruralista politicians contacted for comment did not respond.

Observers fear Bolsonaro's rhetoric and policies will increase violence across the Amazonian regions. In January, Bolsonaro made



Photo: Stockphoto.com/luomanChiara Lum, and Bih Chante®

The Brazilian Amazon is threatened by a variety of types of development, including farming and mining.

it easier for Brazilians to buy and own guns. Meanwhile, Brazil is known as the deadliest place in the world for environmental defenders, according to Global Witness, a nonprofit organization that works at the intersection of conservation and human rights.

"His rhetoric is allowing the actors who already operate illegally in the Amazon – the loggers, miners, and land grabbers – to operate with impunity. He's sending signals that these actions will not only be allowed but rewarded," says Christian Poirier, a program director with the nonprofit Amazon Watch.

Human rights and environmental organizations are also readying for a flood of new infrastructure in the Amazon, including the resurrection of controversial dam projects.

The Brazilian government's press office did not respond to a request for comments about its plans for the Amazon rainforest or how it intends to work with indigenous groups.

Poirier says environmental groups expect the new congress to change laws to weaken environmental protections and "rubber stamp" the permitting process for dams, highways, and mines.

Currently, the Brazilian constitution grants indigenous people rights to their traditional lands – but mapping and demarcating them has taken time and has often been slowed by politicians (it was supposed to be done within five years of the 1988 constitution). If Bolsonaro decides to attempt to change this, he would need a three-fifths majority in both houses in order to succeed. So far, Bolsonaro has decided to target FUNAI instead of attempting an amendment.

"[It's] the agribusiness lobby in Brazilian congress that has been really pushing for these changes in the Brazilian constitution to make it harder to protect indigenous land

and ... to open up existing territories," says Shenker.

Shenker says her organization is concerned that the political shift could lead to the extinction of entire indigenous tribes, such as the Kawahiva. The Kawahiva, who may be down to "a few dozen" according to Shenker, live in Mato Grosso, the Brazilian state with the highest deforestation on record. The Kawahiva are under constant threat from regional violence and disease.

Beyond Brazil

Environmental impacts of Bolsonaro's policies will likely extend beyond Brazil through an acceleration of climate change and biodiversity loss.

For 14 years, Brazil was a country that many pointed to as a model of how to better protect forests. Deforestation had dropped from over 25,000 square kilometers (about 10,000 square miles) in 2004 to less than 5,000 square kilometers (2,000 square miles) in 2012 – a remarkable turnaround in eight years. Now the question is whether Brazil will go back to its previous ways.

During the three-month presidential campaign, deforestation jumped 50 percent when compared with the same period in 2017. Moreover from August 2017 to July 2018, people cut down 7,900 square kilometers (3,000 square miles) – an area larger than Delaware. Many view this rise as directly linked to the belief that environmental protections would be slashed under a Bolsonaro presidency.

The global impacts of rising deforestation are undeniable. Not only does the Amazon basin hold more species than any other ecosystem (10 percent of all known species), but

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it also stores 150 to 200 billion tons (140 to 180 billion metric tons) of carbon and produces its own weather.

NGOs' Plans

Given the political winds battering the Amazon region, the big question lingers: How do environmentalists respond?

"I think indigenous groups and conservationists are very much in a 'hunker down and pray' mode," says William Laurance, an ecologist at James Cook University, who compared this period to the 1980s and '90s when Brazilian deforestation skyrocketed. "It's time to dig in, draw lines in the sand, and get ready to battle the Bolsonaro onslaught, one mega-project at a time."

Philip Fearnside, an ecologist at Brazil's National Institute for Research in Amazonia, takes a slightly different approach. He says that while Bolsonaro does not listen to scientists, that doesn't mean he's completely unreachable. According to Fearnside, there are three segments of society to which Bolsonaro will bend his ear: the military, big agriculture, and evangelical Christians.

"Although these groups of key supporters have obviously not given much priority to maintaining Amazon forest, they all have reason to question some of the [president's] positions on the environment," he says.

Fearnside says the military should listen to security concerns regarding climate change. And agroindustry must maintain standing forests if it's to ensure regional rainfall.

In March 2018 researchers predicted that leveling of 40 percent of the Amazon could lead to a tipping point whereby the vast majority shifts from rainforest to savanna. The drying of the region could have massive impacts on agriculture and rainfall.

"A large part of our economy is based on agriculture, which basically depends on climate equilibrium," says Nilo D'Ávila, campaigns director for Greenpeace-Brazil.

As to evangelicals, Fearnside says an argument should be made that the destruction of the Amazon "is an affront to God's creation."

Another possible pressure point, according to numerous sources interviewed for this story, is to skirt Bolsonaro altogether and pressure the global corporations buying agricultural products from Brazil, which account for around half the nation's exports, or those providing capital.

"Messages about these concerns could penetrate Bolsonaro's bubble if carried by the right intermediaries," Fearnside says.

"No one wants to buy a hamburger that comes from Amazon deforestation," says D'Ávila.

Amazon Watch executive director Leila Salazar-López made just this case in a recent



Photo Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Almost two-thirds of the Amazon rainforest lies in Brazil, a key focus for future protection efforts.

op-ed in *The New York Times*, asking companies to make a "clear and principled stand."

If Bolsonaro ignores environmental concerns, he will still "understand market signals," says Poirier.

Laurance, an expert on global infrastructure's impacts on the environment, suggests that activists keep an eye on China, which he says may be providing much of the funds for mega-projects in the Brazilian Amazon.

"Clearly [Bolsonaro] is taking his marching orders from those who want to exploit the Amazon for quick profits – most notably including China," he says, adding, "Bolsonaro has found his perfect partner in Chinese investors and corporations that won't blink at any environmental or social calamity."

Another track those working to protect the Amazon under the Bolsonaro agenda plan to take is to focus on the Brazilian courts. For example, Shenker says Bolsonaro's threats to eliminate indigenous reserves stands on precarious legal ground. "Whatever Bolsonaro says and whatever he does, unless many laws have changed in Brazil, it will still be illegal to destroy indigenous peoples territories," says Shenker.

"The courts are going to be crucial under Bolsonaro to provide a check to his reckless agenda," says Poirier, who adds that international groups can provide "financial support" for lawsuits.

The *quilombolas* have already brought legal action to the Supreme Court, demanding

long-ignored land rights.

Bolsonaro has pledged not only to target the Amazon for exploitation, but also to go right for the very groups that lobby for its protection. He has threatened to expel environmental groups like Greenpeace and WWF. And he has signed an executive order allowing the government secretary to "supervise, coordinate, monitor, and accompany" NGOs in the country. Ricardo Salles, the new environment minister, has also suspended all government partnerships with NGOs in the country for three months, a move that some called unconstitutional.

A number of local conservationists declined to speak on the record, citing fear of government reprisal. But those that oppose Bolsonaro's agenda are beginning to collaborate and plan, and are girding themselves for a long battle.

"We will create a broad and strong movement to defend the forest, inside and outside the country," says D'Ávila. Indeed, the strongest defense against Bolsonaro's policies may be coalition building.

Fearnside says environmentalists can't just wait for the next administration in Brazil to tackle environmental issues. "I believe it is important to do everything possible to improve the decisions of the [Bolsonaro] administration," he says.

Source: <https://ensia.com/features/bolsonaro-brazil/>



Image Credits: Instituto Terra

Lélia and Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado founded Instituto Terra in 1998, the organization which tirelessly worked to bring a forest back to life.

Brazilian Couple Created 1,502-Acre Forest In 20 Years, Which Houses 500+ Endangered Plant & Animal Species

By Sayantani Nath
Efforts for Good: February 20, 2019

In the early 1990s, Brazilian photojournalist Sebastião Ribeiro Salgado was stationed in Rwanda to cover the horrific accounts of Rwanda genocide. The on-ground experience left him traumatized. In 1994, he was returning to his home in Minas Gerais, Brazil, with a heavy heart, hoping to find solace in the lap of a lush green forest, where he had grown up. But, instead, he found dusty, barren land for miles and miles, in place of the forest. In only a few years, his beautiful hometown underwent rampant deforestation, leaving it fallow and devoid of all the

wildlife. For him, everything was destroyed. “The land was as sick as I was. Only about 0.5% of the land was covered in trees,” he shared in an interview with *The Guardian*. Salgado was shattered.

Saldago’s Wife Wanted to Recreate the Forest

It was at this time that Salgado’s wife Lélia made a near-impossible proposal. She expressed her wish to replant the entire forest. Salgado supported her idea, and together the couple set out on a heroic mission.

Salgado bought an abandoned cattle ranch from his parents and started build-

ing a network of enthusiastic volunteers and partners who would fund and sustain their mammoth project. In 1998, the couple founded Instituto Terra – the organization which tirelessly worked to bring a forest back to life.

Salgado sowed the first seed in December 1999. The couple hired around 24 workers in the beginning and was later joined by numerous volunteers over the years. They worked day and night – from uprooting the invasive weeds to planting new seedlings.

Soon, their hard work bore fruit as tropical trees native to the region started flour-

Forest *continued on next page*



Image by Weverson Rocio – 2012

Bulcão Farm, now a Private Natural Heritage Reserve

U.N. Decade Of Ecosystem Restoration

By Rituraj Phukan
Igniting Minds: March 2, 2019

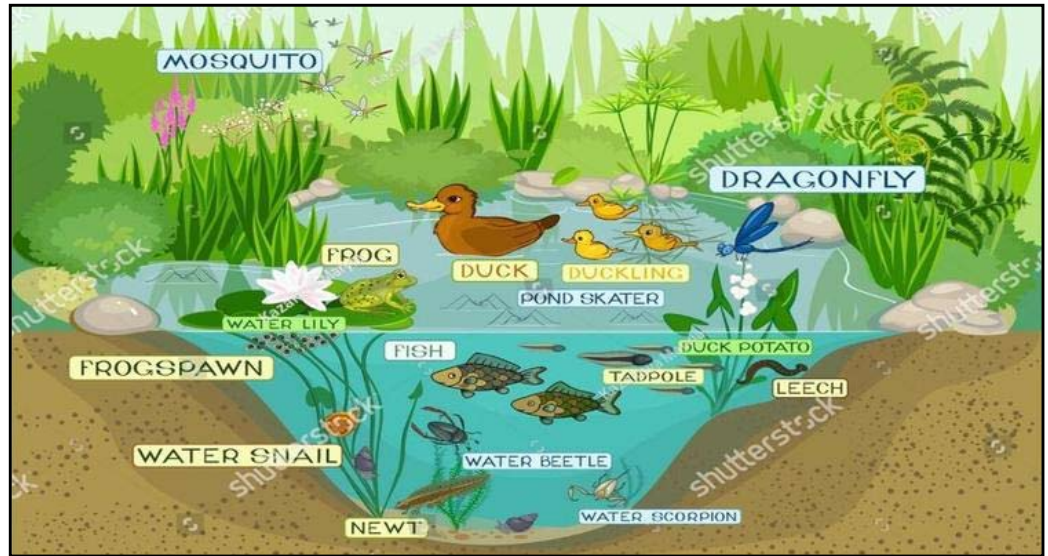
On 1st March 2019, the United Nations General Assembly declared that the 10-year period between 2021 and 2030 will be known as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will lead the implementation of the restoration that could potentially remove up to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

The Press Release from UN Environment stated that the declaration aims to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply, and biodiversity. It also stated that ecosystem restoration is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainly those on climate change, poverty eradication, food security, water, and biodiversity conservation. It is also a pillar of international environmental conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and the Rio Conventions on biodiversity, desertification, and climate change.

UN Environment is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Its mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UN Environment also stated that the degradation of land and marine ecosystems undermines the well-being of 3.2 billion people and costs about 10 percent of the annual global gross product in loss of species and ecosystems services. Key ecosystems that deliver numerous services essential to food and agriculture, including supply of freshwater, protection against hazards, and provision of habitat for species such as fish and pollinators, are declining rapidly.

It must be mentioned that the UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP14) (held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2018) had called upon the UN General Assembly to designate 2021 to 2030 as the



UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

The Director-General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, was quoted in the Press Release as saying that, “Ecosystems are being degraded at an unprecedented rate. Our global food systems and the livelihoods of many millions of people depend on all of us working together to restore healthy and sustainable ecosystems for today and the future. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will help countries race against the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.”

FAO is the custodian UN agency for 21 SDG indicators and is a contributing agency for a further four. In this capacity, FAO is supporting countries’ efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda. FAO believes that sustainable food systems can be the common thread that links the different challenges the world faces in building a sustainable future.

The Decade, a global call to action, will draw together political support, scientific research, and financial muscle to massively scale up restoration from successful pilot initiatives to areas of millions of hectares. Research shows that more than two billion hectares (five billion acres) of the world’s deforested and degraded landscapes offer potential for restoration. Currently, about 20 percent of the planet’s vegetated surface shows declining trends in productivity with fertility losses linked to erosion, depletion, and pollution in all parts of the world.

By 2050, degradation and climate change could reduce crop yields by 10 percent globally and by up to 50 percent in certain regions. It is estimated that the restoration of 350 million hectares (865 million acres) of degraded land between now and 2030 could generate USD 9 trillion in ecosystem services and take an additional 13-26 gigatons of greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

The Decade will accelerate existing global restoration goals, for example the Bonn Challenge, which aims to restore 350 million hectares of degraded ecosystems by 2030 – an area almost the size of India. Currently 57 countries, sub-national governments, and private organizations have committed to bring over 170 million hectares (420 million acres) under restoration. This endeavor builds on regional efforts such as the Initiative 20x20 in Latin America that aims to restore 20 million hectares (50 million acres) of degraded land by 2020, and the AFR100 African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative that aims to bring 100 million hectares (247 million acres) of degraded land under restoration by 2030.

UN Environment defines ecosystem restoration as a process of reversing the degradation of ecosystems, such as landscapes, lakes, and oceans to regain their ecological functionality, and to improve the productivity and capacity of ecosystems to meet the needs of society. It is believed that this can be done by allowing the natural regeneration of overexploited ecosystems, for example, or by planting trees and other plants.

In her message, the Acting Executive Director of UN Environment, Joyce Msuya, emphasized the importance of nature to address the fundamental challenge of life on Earth. “The degradation of our ecosystems has had a devastating impact on both people and the environment. We are excited that momentum for restoring our natural environment has been gaining pace because nature is our best bet to tackle climate change and secure the future.”

Source: <http://www.ignitingminds.in/igniting-minds/the-united-nations-decade-of-ecosystem-restoration>

We Are Being Lied Into War Again

Submitted by Bill Boteler
Washington DC, USA

This is not the first time our government and our media have conspired to drag the American people into war with another country – or helped create a coup that will inevitably have disastrous results.

By Lee Camp
Truthdig: March 8, 2019

I was 23 when we invaded Iraq, and I wasn't sure it was based on lies, but something deep down in me – just behind the spleen – told me it was based on lies. Kinda like if your blind date shows up and you notice he has a 2004 flip phone. It seems vaguely worrisome, and no explanation he can haltingly supply will put you at ease. Plus, anyone else who acts like it's normal also becomes suspect.

The invasion of Iraq just felt like it was a lie to me. And it turned out that I was right, that it was a lie, and that the entirety of the mainstream media and our government were either wrong or lying and, most of the time, both.

Now our government and our media are trying their damndest to lie us into another war, this one with Venezuela. They tell us the Venezuelan people are desperate for necessities like toothpaste, while independent journalists show piles of affordable toothpaste in Caracas.

And even if they didn't have toothpaste, that hardly seems like a good reason for America to be dropping our long-range bad decisions on the heads of innocent people. Turning a town into an impact crater for the sake of a battle to stop gingivitis seems a bit extreme.

The mainstream media and nearly the entirety of the U.S. government tell us Juan Guaido is the "interim president," even though he was never elected to that position and the current president is still leading the Venezuelan government and military. So I guess this "interim" is the time between Guaido being a nobody and the time when he goes back to being nobody but now gets to tell women at parties, "You know, I used to be interim president."

The mainstream media also inform us



Photo: CNN screen shot

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" to give host Jake Tapper the Trump administration's take on Venezuela.

that the Venezuelan military set U.S. aid trucks on fire, when video shows opposition forces doing it. Furthermore, the idea of Venezuela taking "aid" from the country whose sanctions are crushing them would be like the Standing Rock Sioux accepting gift packages from the construction crews Swiss-cheesing their land to lay down the Dakota Access pipeline. Unless the boxes are filled with industrial paper towels to help clean up oil spills, I fail to see how it would be beneficial. Sometimes you do indeed have to look a gift horse in the mouth (or should I say "gift dog").

This is not the first time our government and our media have conspired to drag the American people into war with another country – or helped create a coup that will inevitably have disastrous results. So I thought this would be a prime moment to go through the top four greatest hits.

Number 4: The Spanish-American War

This is widely considered to be the birth of modern media propaganda, because it was the first war actually started by the media. Newspapers fabricated atrocities in the never-ending quest for more readers.

And as *The New York Times* noted, "[T]he sensationalistic reporting of the sinking of the American battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898 ... and all the other egregious reporting leading up to the Spanish-American War might have been considered merely cartoonish if it hadn't led to a major international conflict."

I think maybe *The New York Times* got that quote confused with its mission statement: "Cartoonishly dragging America into major international conflict since 1851!"

Number 3: The Vietnam War

Sure, most everyone knows the catastrophic Vietnam War was precipitated by the Gulf of Tonkin incident, in which U.S. naval vessels were fired upon by villainous North Vietnamese torpedo boats. Following that skirmish, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara recommended that President Johnson retaliate, and the full-force Vietnam War had begun. But most Americans still don't know that there was no Gulf of Tonkin incident – unless you count U.S. naval ships literally firing their weapons at weather events they saw on the radar.

The 2003 documentary *The Fog of War* finally revealed the truth. Former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara confessed that the Gulf of Tonkin attack did not actually happen.

That's right. It never happened. Much like leprechauns or dragons or Simon Cowell's talent, it was a figment of our national imagination.

The lies of our government, followed by the fawning, credulous reporting from our media, led to the death of 58,000 U.S. service members and as many as 3.8 million Vietnamese.

The United States government has one of the most powerful Departments of Fabrication and Falsification ever assembled. It's a modern marvel on par with the Great Pyramid of Giza and Rafael Nadal's down-the-line running forehead.

Number 2: The Iraq War

Of course, there's the most obvious lie about Iraq, i.e., that Saddam Hussein had so many weapons of mass destruction that

Media Lies continued on next page

Media Lies *continued from previous page*

he would often use one to scrub hard-to-reach places while in the tub. But that wasn't the only falsehood manifested to bring about our complete annihilation of the sovereign nation Saddam ruled over.

There were others, such as the idea that Saddam was connected to al-Qaida and perhaps played a role in the 9/11 attacks. William Safire at *The New York Times*, in May 2002, wrote, "Mohamed Atta, destined to be the leading September 11 suicide hijacker, was reported last fall by Czech intelligence to have met at least once with Saddam Hussein's espionage chief in the Iraqi Embassy."

Yes, Safire was able to polish a load of bullshit so thoroughly it would sparkle like a sapphire. And that column is still up on *The Times'* website, without a correction or retraction. I would say the Times is only useful for covering the bottom of a birdcage, but I'd fear the paper would lie your pet cockatoo into an ill-advised invasion, killing millions.

But the propaganda didn't even stop there. There was also the anthrax attacks following 9/11. Anthrax was mailed to press outlets and the offices of politicians. To this day, many people still believe it had something to do with Iraq or al-Qaida because of award-winning national embarrassments like Brian Ross.

Brian Ross at ABC News wrote, "The anthrax in the tainted letter sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle was laced with bentonite' and 'bentonite is a trademark of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's biological weapons program.'" As Salon so clearly put it, "All of those factual claims ... were completely false, demonstrably and unquestionably so. ... Yet neither ABC nor Ross have ever retracted, corrected, clarified, or explained these fraudulent reports."

And, as you would expect, following that blatantly false reporting, Brian Ross did not lose his job. In fact, he wasn't put out to pasture from ABC News until last year, when he "reported that fired national security adviser Michael Flynn was ready to testify that Trump told him to contact the Russians during the campaign."

That report – much like the rumors of Brian Ross's journalistic integrity – turned out to be absolutely false.

(In my professional opinion, anyone who had anything to do with the selling, perpetrating, or planning of the Iraq War should never again hold a position higher than assistant trainee to the guy who picks up the shit of a dog that does not belong to anyone of any particular importance. If that position does not exist, we as a nation

should create it just for this moment.

Yet, despite my objections, Robert Mueller, head of the FBI at the time of the invasion and a big supporter of it, is leading the biggest investigation in the country. John Bolton, who advocated for the Iraq invasion as far back as the 1990s, is now national security adviser. Bill Kristol, who pushed for the war and said it would last two months, is now a regular panelist on MSNBC. And the list goes on.)

Unlike Defense Secretary McNamara, who admitted the Gulf of Tonkin incident never happened, we don't have a smoking gun showing that the Bush administration created these lies to get us into Iraq. ... Oh, wait! Turns out the paper shredder at the Bush Oval Office was on strike for a higher minimum wage in 2002, and in fact, we do have a memo written by Bush's defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, a year before U.S. forces unleashed a reign of terror on the Iraqi people. His memo about war with Iraq stated, "How start? U.S. discovers Saddam connection to September 11 or to anthrax attacks? Or maybe a dispute over WMD inspections?"

I'm not sure what's more striking — that this memo exists, or that it sounds like the Bush boys planned a massive international battle the same way a broke 35-year-old maps out his bad novel that he's sure is the ticket out of his mom's basement.

"How start horrible bloody war? Maybe Saddam found to moonlight as porn star?"

Point is, multiple completely false stories laid the groundwork for an invasion of Iraq that left well over 1 million people dead.

Number 1: The Bombing of Syria

President Bashar Assad gassed his own people, thereby guaranteeing more American involvement – and he did it just days after Donald Trump had told the Pentagon to begin withdrawing troops from Syria. At least, that's the story the corporate media repeated on-loop for at least a month, only pausing every 10 minutes to try desperately to get us all to buy more things with "baconator" in the name or to seek out a harder penis.

So we are expected to believe Assad did the one thing that would ensure more U.S. involvement just as he was about to win his war? It's kinda like how, when I'm about to win a fistfight, I often poke myself repeatedly in the eye. You know – just to keep it exciting.

Famed journalists Seymour Hersh and Robert Fisk have done great work showing that the chemical attacks never happened, but there's a new update. Just two weeks ago, a BBC producer came forward and

said the Douma, Syria chemical attack footage was staged.

His tweet said that after six months of investigations, he can prove that no fatalities occurred in the hospital. Yet our breathlessly inept mainstream American media, with little to no evidence, ran around saying, "There was a chemical attack! Those poor people! And they don't have toothpaste, either! We must bomb them to help them!"

The overarching point here is that we've replaced our media with stenographers to the ruling elite long ago. The ruling class comes up with a lie to manufacture American consent for its all-American war crimes, and that lie is then sprayed like laminate all over average American citizens. This goes on until such time as any average citizens who question said lie is looked at like they have two heads, and one of them is covered in rat shit.

For the "journalists" who hose the lies across the country the best, awards and private jets and rooftop drinks with midlevel celebrities like Chuck Norris await them.

Now we're getting to the point where the actual rulers – the Trump administration, etc. – are not even hiding their corruption. John Bolton stated on Fox News that the ultimate goal is to steal Venezuela's oil. But our media continue to tout the propaganda line. Even after Bolton said that, you won't see Anderson Cooper or one of Fox News' grand wizards saying, "Venezuela is undergoing a U.S.-backed coup because we'd like to steal their oil."

It's truly dizzying that the corporate media preserve the propaganda even after the "leaders" have revealed their true sinister intentions.

On the inside of Wolf Blitzer's eyelids, the phrase "Must Defend the Matrix" blinks in red.

The propaganda line for Venezuela right now is, "We want to help the poor Venezuelans."

Well, if you want to help them, then keep America out of their face. Don't force them to have anything to do with the country that came up with drive-through fried food served in a bucket and opioid nasal sprays.

At no point does anyone look at the Donald Trump presidency and think, "Wow, that country really has things figured out. I hope they bring some of their great decision-making to our doorstep."

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/03/08/we-are-being-lied-war-again>



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Morgane Mounier

A community fridge at the Food Academy in the East Ham Leisure Centre, in London, United Kingdom on March 6, 2019.

'Community' Refrigerators Aim to Freeze Out Food Waste

Communal refrigerators provide a place for excess or unsold food to be stored – and then picked up by those who need it.

By Shannon Larson
Thomson Reuters Foundation: March 6, 2019

LONDON – To combat food waste - and help ensure more people have access to nutritious food – a British environmental charity is turning to an innovative bit of technology: community refrigerators.

Set up in public spaces including community centers and a church, the refrigerators allow restaurants, supermarkets, home cooks, and others with excess food to donate

it while helping ensure it remains fresh.

Those in need of the food then can pick it up, free of charge.

“Food waste is a major issue in the UK – about 13 billion pounds worth of food gets wasted every year,” said Stine Wilhelmsen, who works with Hubbub, the environmental charity installing the fridges.

The charity, which has installed 50 community refrigerators so far, aims to put in place another 50 across Britain by the end of 2020, she said.

The initiative is part of the charity’s Community Fridge Network, launched in 2017 to tackle food waste by supporting groups trying to redistribute unused food, Wilhelmsen told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. “There are currently not that many solutions for redistributing perishable foods, such as bread, fruit and veg, which are also the most commonly wasted food items,” she

said. “Community fridges really offer a really nice solution to this problem.”

Users of one fridge at the Food Academy in east London, which aims to improve health through cooking and exercise workshops, said it had helped people who struggle with health issues, such as diabetes and obesity, access healthy food.

“It’s just brought the whole community together – there’s more awareness about healthy eating as well because the food and veg that is donated to us is very healthy,” said Manaza Nasa, a volunteer at the site.

People “are getting to try new fruit and veg that they’ve not tried before, because fruit and veg is more expensive than junk food,” she said.

She said she became involved with the Food Academy because of her own struggles with weight, and a desire to better edu-

Refrigerators *continued on next page*

Refrigerators *continued from previous page*



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Morgane Mounier

Chef Natalie Coleman (left) and volunteer Manaza Nasa (right) at the Food Academy Community Fridge in the East Ham Leisure Centre, prepare a Spanish tortilla with products from the community fridge in London, United Kingdom, on March 6, 2019.

cate her children on healthy habits.

On average, each community refrigerator site is visited by over 200 people a month – though that number can climb to about 1,000 visitors for busier locations, Wilhelmsen said. At the moment, the refrigerator network is helping redistribute 25 tons of food a month – or about 50,000 meals, she said.

Over the course of the three months Nasa has volunteered at the Food Academy, she said she has seen a noticeable increase in the number of residents making use of the refrigerator, which has become a community gathering spot.

“It’s definitely becoming more popular,” she said. “It brings (people) together. They

come here to meet other people and it gets that spirit going, that sharing spirit.”

“We exchange recipes with each other, how to cook healthy – it’s a lovely atmosphere.”


Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190306173414-k3hqB/>

**I BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD WAS CREATED AND APPROVED BY LOVE,
THAT IT SUBSISTS, COHERES, AND ENDURES BY LOVE,
AND THAT, INSOFAR AS IT IS REDEEMABLE,
IT CAN BE REDEEMED ONLY BY LOVE.**

- Wendell Berry -

<https://www.azquotes.com/quote/526578>

First Strike: Young Strikers Must Win

By George Monbiot 
The Guardian, February 20, 2019

This one has to succeed. It is not just that the youth climate strike, now building worldwide with tremendous speed, is our best (and possibly our last) hope of avoiding catastrophe. It is also that the impacts on the young people themselves, if their mobilization and hopes collapse so early in their lives, could be devastating.

To help this movement win, we should ask why others lost. We should ask, for example, why Occupy, despite the energy and sacrifices of so many, came to an end, while the institutions it confronted remain intact. We should wonder why the global justice movement of the late 1990s and early 2000s, despite the numbers involved, their courage and determination, has not changed the world. We should consider why Podemos, the Spanish party that rose so high on the optimism of the indignados movement, now seems to be spiraling into recriminatory collapse.

Those of us who witnessed these disappointments have, I feel, a painful duty to be as honest about them as possible, to help ensure their failures are not repeated. Much of what I propose here is controversial, and I can't promise I've got it right. So my first advice is this: don't listen only to me.

I believe a central task for any campaign is to develop a narrative: a short, simple story explaining where we are, how we got here, and where we need to go. Using the narrative structure that is common to almost all successful political and religious transformations, the Restoration Story, it might go something like this. "The world has been thrown into climate chaos, caused by fossil fuel companies, the billionaires who profit from them, and the politicians they have bought. But we, the young heroes, will confront these oligarchs, using our moral authority to create a movement so big and politically dangerous that our governments are forced to shut down the fossil economy and restore the benign conditions in which humans and other species can thrive."

This restoration narrative, I think, could be greatly strengthened by recent findings suggesting that ecological recovery – restoring forests, salt marshes, peat bogs, the seabed, and other crucial ecosystems – could, by drawing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, make a massive contribution towards preventing climate breakdown. (I'll write about it when I finish my research on the subject, in a few weeks).

I believe a successful movement should also define a clear and tangible objective,



Greta Thunberg speaks to a crowd.

perhaps a date by which nations achieve a zero carbon economy. It could recommend a pathway, such as a ramped-up version of the Green New Deal proposed by the most progressive Democrats. If so, it will need to set a series of waymarks, by which it can judge whether or not governments are on track. This ensures that the activists, rather than the government, keep setting the agenda.

This objective should be supported by a set of irreducible principles, that can be explained and spread with pride and conviction. Here are a couple of possible examples. "Human life is not negotiable; it cannot be exchanged for money." "The generations which have yet to be born have the same rights as those already alive."

Clear principles appear to be essential to the long-running success of a campaign. A fascinating report on Truthout explains how the indigenous people living around Lake Texcoco in Mexico confronted a \$13bn international airport – the biggest infrastructure project in Latin America – and, across 17 years, and despite all predictions, won. The campaign was built on the principle that their land and community were not for sale, however much money might be offered. This ensured that the Mexican government's only remaining strategy was force. But the people had created such strong community organizations and attracted so much support from other Mexicans that force soon ceased to be an option.

This suggests another crucial element: a protest community strong enough to resist all attempts at division and co-option. Such communities do not arise by accident, but are consciously and carefully constructed, often with the help of training, ceremonies, music, and fun. They must be strong enough to catch and defend people threatened by despair, burnout, or breakdown, especially when the response gets nasty.

Already, conspiracy theories are being spread by politicians and the media, suggesting that the young people have been

organized by unknown sinister forces: after all, how could children possibly organize themselves?

Greta Thunberg, whose school strike sparked this movement, has written a response far more dignified and mature than the articles attacking her in publications like the *Spectator*. But the nastiness has only just begun. As some of us can testify, the viciousness of the lobby groups funded by the fossil fuel industry (and the publications that amplify their message) knows no limits. As we have already seen, they treat even children as fair game.

I would suggest that the climate strikers develop clear rules of engagement, in order to give their opponents no ammunition. In my view, the global justice movement was gravely damaged by its failure to exclude or contain the Black Bloc: people dressed in black, some of whom came to protests tooled up for a fight, and often smashed up random local businesses, denting support for the mobilization with every blow. Some people in the movement believed that everyone had a right to join it on whatever terms they wished. I see this as an unaffordable indulgence.

A good exercise is to ask yourself what the police and authorities would most like to happen, then do the opposite. They would love a violent faction to emerge that would erode the young strikers' credibility and provide an excuse to send in the riot cops and break up the protests. Never give them this excuse.

Successful movements also need an organizational model, that allows them to keep growing. One promising approach is Big Organizing, that helped Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez take her seat in the U.S. Congress. They need clever, funny, and innovative tactics, that take opponents by surprise and create a sense of forward momentum. Designing such tactics, narratives, and principles is, I believe, best done by a small number of people, then put to the wider group for approval. I saw how Occupy became bogged down in the impossible process of developing complex policies through consensus.

All this is a lot to dump on young people. But there are plenty of veterans, many of whom have far more experience than I do, who are ready to offer advice and help. Any support must come on the young strikers' terms: they lead, we follow. But they carry a terrible burden: this is a struggle they cannot afford to lose. We will help them lift it, if they wish.

Source: <https://www.monbiot.com/2019/02/22/first-strike/>



Photo UN Environment.org

On any given morning in the locality of Al-Rabad in Sudan, women like Hava Abdullab, dressed in bright colors, can be seen turning up the earth of their land or scattering seeds on their tractors.

From Antarctica to Costa Rica, Women Team Up to Build a Climate-Safe Future

Empowering women on the frontlines of climate change – women are leading efforts to achieve the world’s climate goals – but more need to be involved, leaders say.

By Megan Rowling
Thomson Reuters Foundation: March 8, 2019

BARCELONA, Spain – When former U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres spent 20 days on a boat with 80 female scientists in Antarctica in January, she observed more than icebergs, whales, and penguins. She also saw how easily those women gravitated towards a shared purpose of saving the planet.

“It wasn’t about, ‘How do I improve my career, how do I get to the top of my ladder?’ It was, ‘How do I use my skills, my expertise, my knowledge, and my practice to contribute to a global issue?’” said the Costa Rican ex-diplomat, who leads Mission 2020,

an international campaign to cut carbon emissions.

Figueres spoke to the Thomson Reuters Foundation ahead of International Women’s Day, which this year has a theme of promoting the role of women in innovation and technology.

While those areas offer “unprecedented opportunities,” women are held back by their under-representation in related professions and by a growing digital divide along gender lines, according to UN Women.

Figueres noted that women on the “Homeward Bound” Antarctica expedition – all working in science, technology, engineering, maths, or medicine – wanted to make sure their work would help address climate change.

“I do have the feeling that we women tend to be more collaborative, we tend to be more long-term, we tend to be more global in our thinking because of our innate stewardship role ... in society,” she said.

That sentiment is playing out back in her home country, which last month launched an ambitious economy-wide plan to decarbonize the country by 2050, aiming to show

other nations what is possible in tackling climate change.

A key figurehead of that vision is the president’s wife Claudia Dobles Camargo, an architect and urban planner who has coordinated many of the country’s green public transport initiatives, including an electric train project.

Andrea Meza, climate change director at Costa Rica’s Ministry of Environment and Energy, said women were spearheading her country’s push to produce no more emissions than it can offset through efforts such as protecting its extensive forests.

From the first female CEO of the nation’s electricity utility to the planning minister and agriculture vice-minister, women in top government jobs were collaborating on a clean development vision for Costa Rica, she noted. “We are the ones with voices, and we want to demonstrate that women can lead in this area,” she said.

The same is happening at the local level too, she added, with women in rural communities driving efforts to fight climate change and improve lives into the bargain.

Women continued on next page



Photo United Nations

Women, whose traditional roles have been caring for children and performing household chores—have stepped into the role of providers. By renting fields for their livestock and crops, they have been able to sell goods at the market and earn a small income.

Women continued from previous page

FEMINIST DESIGN

Patricia Espinosa, the executive secretary of UN Climate Change, said women were at the heart of that same struggle around the world.

Some of their efforts are gaining wider recognition through the U.N. Momentum for Change initiative, which recognizes successful climate projects run by and for women.

They range from a campaign to get women cycling on the streets of war-torn Damascus to a “feminist electrification” drive in Haiti, and Indian women making compost from ceremonial flowers while cleaning up the River Ganges.

“We must build smarter (and) we must build with the future in mind,” Espinosa said in emailed comments.

“Women must not only be a ‘voice at the table’ but play a key role in planning, designing, building, and managing how that infrastructure and those communities are built.”

International Women’s Day this year aims to explore, among other things, ways to build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls.

That’s already happening at the world’s biggest furnishings retailer IKEA Group,

where the typical customer is a woman and about half of top executives are female, said its chief sustainability officer Pia Heidenmark Cook on the sidelines of a forum on climate-wise infrastructure in Barcelona this week.

A survey carried out by the Swedish company of public attitudes to climate change in 14 countries, published last September, showed younger people and women were more concerned and interested in acting on the issue than men, she added.

But doing so does not require “something new and fancy” – rather it means simply acting to ensure it is safe to breathe the air, drink the water, and be secure and healthy, she noted.

WOMEN’S MONEY TALKS

Younger women are increasingly aware of the threats global warming poses to those rights – a concern seen in their leadership of school strikes demanding climate action, many inspired by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg, observers say.

Kirsten Snow Spalding, program director for the U.S.-based Ceres Investor Network on Climate Risk and Sustainability, believes they may start to care more about how their money is invested. Her organization is looking to work with wealth management firms whose prosperous clients include millenni-

als. “My guess is that there are many more women in that group than there were 20 years ago,” she said.

For some of them, sustainability is likely to be a higher investment priority, and could lead them to accept larger risks to achieve it, she added.

For now, in the United States, there is anecdotal evidence of women stepping up their influence over infrastructure investment at the country’s biggest pension funds, said Snow Spalding, a priest and former chief deputy treasurer of California.

U.N. climate chief Espinosa said there was a need for more women to get involved to achieve equal participation and leadership in innovation, tech, and sustainable infrastructure. The change “must take place not only at the negotiations table, but in classrooms and communities throughout the world,” she added.

(Reporting by Megan Rowling @meganrowling; editing by Laurie Goering. The Thomson Reuters Foundation is the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, climate change, women’s and LGBT+ rights, human trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/climate>.)

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20190308094631-9xe9s/>



Photo Appalachian Voices/flickr/c

Ninety percent of coal plants examined by the Environmental Integrity Project are polluting nearby groundwater with coal ash, according to a new study.

'Wake-Up Call' for Nation: Study Using Industry's Own Data Finds 9 in 10 Coal Plants Are Causing Toxic Pollution

By Julia Conley

Common Dreams: March 4, 2019

A new study on the dangerous levels of toxic chemicals that nearly all U.S. coal plants are leaving in nearby groundwater should serve as “a wake-up call for the nation.”

That’s according to the environmental law non-profit Earthjustice, which worked with the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) to analyze the coal industry’s own data on the toxins its companies are polluting groundwater with, finding that out of 265 coal plants that monitor their surrounding areas, 242 reported unsafe levels of chemicals including arsenic, lithium, and cadmium.

The results of the study reveal that about nine out of 10 coal plants in the U.S. are endangering Americans by dumping coal ash into unlined pits, allowing chemicals to seep into groundwater.

“The pollution is basically everywhere you look,” Abel Russ, at attorney at the EIP, told *The Guardian*.

Some of the worst offenders, according to the study, include the San Miguel power plant near San Antonio, where unsafe levels of the neurotoxin lithium and cadmium,

a carcinogen, were found; Duke Energy in North Carolina where thyroid-damaging cobalt was detected; and the Jim Bridger power plant in West Virginia, where the toxic chemical selenium was found.

“This national report reconfirms what we already know about coal ash – every facility in the state is leaching huge amounts of dangerous heavy metals and other pollutants into our groundwater,” said Curt Chafin, head of the Alabama Rivers Alliance, in a statement.

A majority of the coal plants reported unsafe levels of at least four toxins, according to *The Guardian*.

The Trump administration, Earthjustice and EIP noted, is actively worsening the problem, making it more likely that coal plants will allow toxins to seep into groundwater.

Last July, President Donald Trump’s EPA loosened the regulations put in place by the Obama administration’s 2015 Coal Ash Rule, which had ordered coal plants to monitor nearby groundwater and to dump coal ash in lined pits, preventing toxins from leaking into soil.

One of EPA Administrator and former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler’s first orders

of business when he stepped in to serve as interim administrator last July was rolling back the rule, allowing coal plants to dump ash into unlined pits for 18 more months before complying – saving the industry tens of millions of dollars.

“Using industry’s own data, our report proves that coal plants are poisoning groundwater nearly everywhere they operate,” Earthjustice attorney Lisa Evans told *The Guardian*. “The Trump administration insists on hurting communities across the U.S. by gutting federal protections. They are making a dire situation much worse.”

“At a time when the EPA – now being run by a coal lobbyist – is trying to roll back federal regulations on coal ash, these new data provide convincing evidence that we should be moving in the opposite direction,” Russ said in a statement. “To make matters worse, contamination is happening in communities that could be using groundwater for drinking water and private wells,” he added.

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/03/04/wake-call-nation-study-using-industrys-own-data-finds-9-10-coal-plants-are-causing>



Photo Shutterstock

Some might say that the Green New Deal is too costly. It would be even more costly not to enact it.

It's Not Just Our Planet That Needs a Green New Deal – Our People Do, Too

By Hannah Estrada, Michael Estrada
Common Dreams: March 7, 2019

Should the richest country on Earth invest to keep the planet we all share inhabitable? We believe the answer is Yes – and fast. Unfortunately, not all lawmakers seem to agree.

Last month, our group, Youth Vs. Apocalypse, asked California Senator Dianne Feinstein to support the Green New Deal. She declined. The video of the encounter went viral.

Viral videos come and go. But this cause can't become yesterday's leftovers, because this issue will determine everyone's tomorrow. We know that this moment is pivotal for the survival of the human race.

To put it simply, if we don't act now, we'll leave the next generation a dead and uninhabitable planet. Science says human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change – we are the reason the Earth is dying – and we have barely a decade left to stop it.

Since we created this problem, we must find the solution. The Green New Deal is the first step. The Green New Deal, a resolution proposed by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey, addresses the related crises of climate change,

inequality, and declining life expectancy in the United States. It aims not only to address our climate crisis, but to include communities, like many of ours, that have historically been left out of the conversation.

It's a 10-year mobilization that will bring our country's greenhouse gas emissions to net zero, provide millions of family-sustaining jobs, invest in sustainable infrastructure and industry, build community resilience, and boost the economy.

That's important. It's not just our planet, but our people that need a Green New Deal. It's no secret that one job is no longer enough to support a family in this country. We need this investment in jobs with sustainable wages and fair benefits. We need to stop the transfer of jobs overseas. And we need a safety net for those whose income is dependent on the fossil fuel industry.

Not to mention we need clean air, clean water, housing, education, and adequate health care. It saddens us to say that a significant portion of the population goes without these things every day.

Some might say that the Green New Deal is too costly. It would be even more costly not to enact it. The longer we wait to take action, the more costly and devastating the crisis becomes. By 2050, wildfires will increase greatly, taking out whole commu-

nities and neighborhoods. Hurricanes will become more intense and frequent, leaving mass destruction behind.

By not acting, we risk \$1,000,000,000,000 – that's \$1 trillion – worth of damage to public infrastructure and real estate on our coasts alone.

Beyond that, how can we put a price tag on life? How can we not afford to take care of our own people? How can we deny clean air and water to our own neighbors? Life is not a luxury that can be bought. Life is priceless.

It's hard to understand the effects of a changing climate and even harder to understand how to combat it. But we cannot let people become ignorant to this issue. Not when we're risking so much.

Half the battle is understanding the problem – the other half is taking action.

We believe that our activism will decide whether or not we live – and we want to live. So, tell your own representatives to support the Green New Deal. Tell them it's for your brothers and sisters, your nieces and nephews, your kids. And for you.

Fight with us for our future.

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/03/07/its-not-just-our-planet-needs-green-new-deal-our-people-do-too>



Photo by Noah Opiyo

Group studies design for SPIRAL garden.

Sustainable Organic Farming Project Village in Kenya

By Joseph Adiany, Farm Manager, Kenya

These are our details for Nyathuon Gweno Village Project Farm in Homabay County, Kenya.

So, the main purpose of this project is to provide a space for people to work, prosper together in a flexible environment, and engage through organic sustainable farming and permaculture skills. We provide methods for individuals, families, and people to learn, teach, and experiment in a variety of sustainable and self-sufficient living skills with organic, sustainable farming.

Permaculture techniques and skills also help others, who can themselves prosper through organic and permaculture knowledge profit sharing in a community that provides a more wholesome and Earth-

friendly alternative lifestyle.

Here are some of our goals at Nyathuon Gweno Village Project Farm:

- To assist and encourage the application of these skills and ideas in our surrounding communities, and amongst our neighbors.

- To establish a network of these (similar/like-minded) communities, across the country and beyond, which function as way-stations for people in community, as well as hubs of learning and empowerment for a sustainable future.

- To be fun, but family friendly, while adhering to a positive work ethic that acknowledges the values of our neighbors and our community as a whole.

- To be as inclusive, fair, and efficient as possible while keeping a productive pace.

- To hold ourselves to a high standard,

therefore setting a good example.

Special message from Joseph on February 27, 2019: I'm in drought season I'm very suffering for water from the river to the farm garden project, even me, I need to buy a new wheelbarrow for carrying water from the river to the farm garden project, but I don't have money for purchasing that wheelbarrow. It's \$60 for a new wheelbarrow.

Contact Joseph:

WhatsApp: +254729597873

Email: nyathuongweno1998@gmail.com

PayPal for Donations: nyathuongweno1997@gmail.com

Kenya Farm continued on next page

Kenya Farm *continued from previous page*



Photo by Joseph Adiany

Joseph Adiany's four-year-old son, Climent Otieno Joseph. As Joseph says, "This is my last son. I took this picture because he likes permaculture design and techniques. So we were just planting some peppers around the spiral garden and in the middle of this design we just planted some onions."

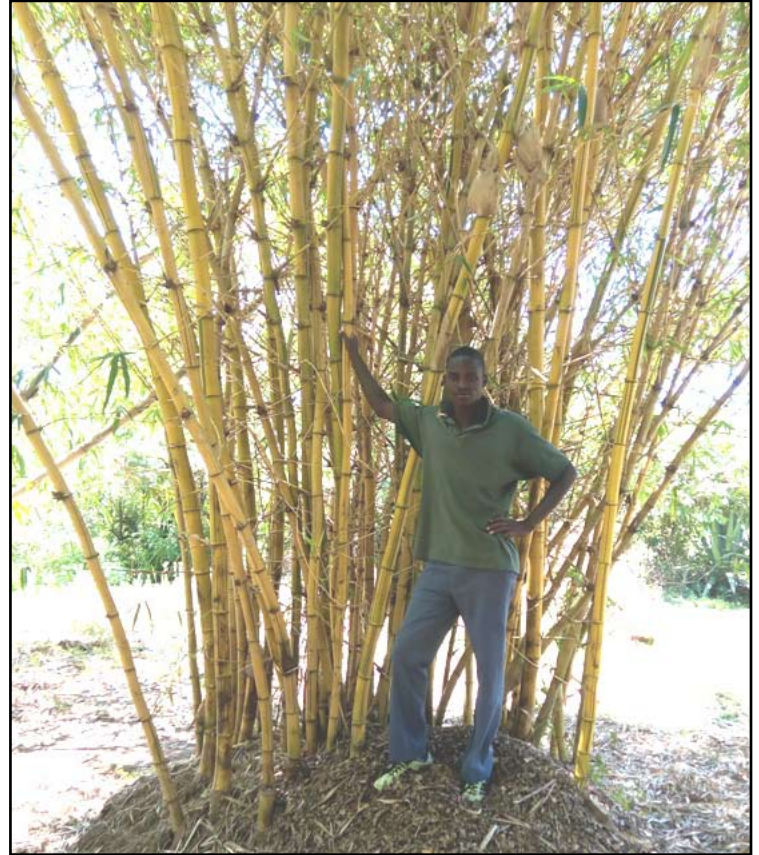


Photo by Jane's Ochieng

Joseph Adiany stands in front of farm's bamboo crop, which will be very important in building garden designs, constructing homes and making mulch.

Call for Papers for New Journal, *Learning Sustainability: Earth, Experience, Ethics*

Call for Papers (CfP)

You are invited to submit an article to a special issue of a Springer Nature journal on the theme: Learning Sustainability: Earth, Experience, Ethics.

The CfP is posted here: <https://e4l-jrnl.weebly.com/cfp-se-long.html>

The issue brings together four main areas:

- Sustainability of the Earth and humanity, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change,
- Experience (of all kinds),
- Learning, including experiential learning, and
- Ethics.

Articles need to be clear, but not necessarily high-brow academic. The journal aims to bridge lay community and science. See the above CfP web page for details.

Please feel free to contact the lead guest editor (David Crookall) at e4l.jrnl@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please forward this CfP to interested friends and colleagues.

Photo at right by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA



GATE: Greatness Achieved Through Excellence

By Mohammed D. Konneh, Liberia

When our passion exceeds our challenges, accomplishments become the virtues and spoken words of the day. It's not our images as individuals that defines our personalities rather the purity of our hearts and the enlightenment our minds.

Remember, that the only true way to external and internal peace is building positive thoughts and neglecting every seed of negativity.

GATE AFRICA INC is the source of wisdom and home of positivity.

Here are excerpts from our brochure:

GOOD MANNER

Good Manner is what every individual need in becoming a successful person in life. Without Good Manner a nation will not progress despite its existence on Earth.

Students particularly need to have Good manner; it is one of the primary qualities of a Good student. Students in various forms of education should have is Good Manner. Good Manner helps students to learn faster and become successful in their educational sojourn. Every foundation of learning should be taught Good Manner.

VISION AND MISSION

It is against the backdrop, GATE is a Pan African Organization that believes strongly in the betterment and progress of the continent, deems it necessary to bring together



Photos Courtesy GATE Liberia

GATE donated Laboratory protective materials to three schools: Liberia Dujar, Noah's Ark, and Sekou I Sheriff. The GATE blog is located here: <https://gatecorporation.wordpress.com/about/>.

potential and talented Africans under our umbrella to put into effect our expertise in eradicating or minimizing some of these ills that our continent and young student communities are faced with. GATE believes that the people of Africa, not the government, can move Africa forward on the progressive plane. GATE trusts in the abilities of the African in transforming the continent through unity.

As a young, conscious-minded African Organization, it will firstly start by eradicat-

ing and molding the minds and hearts of the young Africans through the following:

- Youth career development counseling,
- Youth developmental motivations,
- Public speaking training and tutorials,
- Debate exercises and quizzing,
- Community services,
- Leadership and entrepreneur workshops and
- Humanitarian services.

There are 15 active staff members and several volunteers.



GATE Africa-Liberia, Inc., and GATE Africa-Somalia; donated educational materials to schools in Lower Jubba and Monrovia (left); and sponsored beach cleaning to raise awareness about worldwide ocean pollution (right).



Photos by Kendal Oakleaf

Family photo taken during Nepali Teej festival with farm's U.S. volunteers.

Two Stories from Our Lovely Helping Hands in Nepal

By Kendal Oakleaf and Ian, USA

Our time at Amrit Farms was very positive and inspiring for us, and easily one of the highlights of our three months in Nepal. We only wish that we had visited sooner in our trip so that we could have spent more time there. The entire Bastola family was so welcoming to us, and we truly felt at home. Everyone was very patient in teaching us what they knew so well about permaculture farming, cooking, and daily life in rural Nepal. The family was able to speak and understand English very well, which made communication easier, us more at ease, and even taught us some Nepali. They were happy to answer any question we had as we learned new ways of doing things.

One of the times 'Ama' (Mother) was making Dal bhat, the traditional meal of Nepal and what is eaten twice a day, she had me sit in the kitchen and took the time to teach me all of the spices she used, how to grind them by hand, and their Nepali name. She was also very patient with our relearning to peel potatoes when we helped out! 'Baba' (Father) was extremely knowledgeable about traditional medicine/farming and was enthusiastic about teaching it.

We were fortunate enough to be able to spend Teej festival with the family and all of the visiting relatives, welcomed by all. Family is one of the most important things in Nepal and we were honored to be included.

Since we came during monsoon season and a festival, there were less intense projects to do on the farm at this time, but we were able to help with smaller projects such as tilling a vegetable plot by hand, harvesting grass for livestock, and preparing seedlings of black pepper plants. We learned a lot about both permaculture and traditional medicines even in such a short time frame.

We really hope to be able to come back to Amrit at some point and would highly recommend them to anyone else. If you have any questions we would love to answer them.

By Brian Redcliff and Whitney Shanon, USA

Hello, Namaste!!

This was our first ever agro-volunteer experience and it has truly been one of the most enjoyable experiences of our time in Nepal. We stayed for two weeks with the Bastola family and it was nothing short of wonderful. They made us feel a part of the family right away.

We learned so much – the culture, the food, the language, the plants, and more. We were immersed in nature. We woke up with the birds and bugs to wonderful views of the hills and lake. We helped with the digging and planting of vegetables, helped cut grass for the buffalos and goats, and harvested fruits and vegetables.

They have so many different useful plants (fruits, vegetables, and medicinal)!! The days were laid back and relaxing, and we were able to simply enjoy being there. We also enjoyed going to the lake as well as the waterfalls. The food was delicious (dherrai mitho chha!!) and the family was unforgettable.

We recommend Amrit Kunja to anyone looking for a true Nepali farming experience with a wonderful family.

Thank you Bastola family for everything. We miss you and are looking forward to returning.

Contact: Jeeban Bastola

Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm
Organic Farm Stay Nepal

Address: Pokhara -28, kaski Nepal

Website: amritkunja.com and farmstaynepal.com

Phone: 977-9825113728

email: anjanjb@gmail.com

Nepal *continued from previous page*



Photos Courtesy Amrit Kunja Organic Permaculture Farm

(left) Kendal, helping hands from USA, cutting grass for buffalo. (right) Jeeban milking a buffalo being watched and helped by Ian from USA.



Students in Hong Kong cut class with 100,000s worldwide on March 15.

Photo: Alex Hofford

Photos Courtesy 350.org

March 15 was an historic day. 100,000s of children and students walked out of school to strike for the climate. And their global call to action is only just beginning –with incredible images and video from Australia, the Pacific, Asia, Europe and Africa already flowing in. You can see them at 350.org.

Hungry Citizen of Mama Liberia: Prisoners Are Important to Society

By Amb Moialah Turay II, Liberia

I have come to realize that food is the problem for us as Liberians. While it is true that we need development, but food security comes first if we should have a developed Liberia.

The government must begin to alleviate hunger on the 80% of the Liberians living on less than \$1.25 per day taken into consideration that development can't be sustained in the midst of hungry citizens. They will destroy it all for their bellies for a nought of nothing because a hungry man is always an angry man.

We all understand that people go to prison for violating the law(s), and I just noticed something over the past time – that young people are loosely in prison without rehabilitation and correction. Sad time! Our brothers and sisters who are in prisons are parked together like sardines with no technical skills to help them perhaps when they're out.

It's time to take action and that Hon. Daniel Ziankah, Minister of National Defense, to make some use of our AFL to keep our young men and women safe, not limited to making use of the giant men and women of the Armed Forces to invest in Agriculture and other sectors than merely a parade on Armed Forces Day.

At times we call upon the Hon. Mogana Flomo, Minister of Agriculture, to establish Liberia prisoner Agriculture Training Center

for Rehabilitations and Corrections where some staff from the ministry of Agriculture can be able to teach them about Agriculture as well for better living standards.

I add my voice so that the government can support some prisoners through government farms to build their capacities and at the same time breed a great Agricultural output.

By doing this, each person, including prisoners and even the abandoned folks called the Zogoes, can also contribute in a professional way to build our nation.

It shouldn't only be holding onto the fact that Liberia is the only country where the government doesn't have their own farm to support and settle her food problems.

I think by this, the prisoners can grow more food and have the needed expertise to transform themselves to the better version.

We cannot be proud to call that Rice "pro-poor" with the instance where China gave the government 100 tons of Rice and the citizens are happy saying the government solved our problems.

My question is, "How many Liberians ate that Rice?"

I strongly believe that we Liberians are stronger to make our own farms only if we allocate resources to making farms and cease the habit of government giving lots of money to lawmakers in the name of Agriculture without any substantial farm-

ing.

I think the government needs to stop giving money to lawmakers for so called Agriculture break and focus on mechanized farming for the benefit of all Liberians.

We can't be begging for food all through. Let our government stop asking for food from other governments and make use of our rich soil.

We need to work together to improve our country now through Agriculture, or remain hungry forever.

Contact Amb at WhatsApp number: +231770029653 or turay2uray@gmail.com.



Amb Moialah Turay II



Prince Timmy (above) from Nigeria was discovered by Nexus Exchange several months ago. He is expanding his portfolio and created the piece to the left from a Pacific Island mask, blackened with his motif design. Contact Timmy at 08170324103 or Artaac on LinkedIn.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends



Thank you very much for the great work you are doing for our Mother Earth and keep up the good work. I really appreciate you personally.

As an agent of change and a Climate Advocate from Nigeria am ready to support your work by creating awareness for the Go-Back Club in Africa on climate change and its impact on our children and environments.

Thank you very much for your kindness. Together we can make the world greener.

I rise for Climate and change.
Oluwaseyi Abiola, Climate Advocate, Ivory Coast

Well received and it's full of exciting information.

Mohammed D. Konneh, Liberia

Greetings from Assam! Thank you for this outstanding edition of the *Groundswell News*. The effort you have put in to compile and publish all of these stories of climate news and action is incredible. There is so much good happening in the world and reading about the featured changemakers has been truly inspirational for me.

Thank you for carrying the compilation of 'quotes' from Greta, who is already inspiring change at a very young age. Best wishes to you and John.

Raj Phukan, India

Thanks for the inspirational stories you write about young people and the world. I am very glad for your work in promoting changes and talents.

I appreciate you a lot. Thanks again.

One goal, one objective, and one aim.

I am thankful to the GO-BACK CLUB for the publication of my unique article titled the Supremacy of Peace within their daily news magazine and news within the USA. My article is found on page number 29 of the *Groundswell News* March issue. Thanks for promoting my innovative works. I will always keep inspiring your institution and contributing to the global change as a changed maker. I am honored to share my ideas. Thanks once again Go-Back Club for promoting me.

#positivethinker

#Wecanmakechange
#Mama Liberia
#Son of a native lady
#Campus_Liberia
Amb. Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

I hope this helps just a bit towards your personal goals. I always enjoy reading your e-newspapers.

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Ever since I was a child I have had this instinctive urge for expansion and growth. To me, the function and duty of a quality human being is the sincere and honest development of one's potential.

@Teklo kpinkpin
Teklo G. Kpinkpin, Liberia

I have checked your website and it is exciting to read about it. I am an environmentalist and conservationist by passion. I will be more than happy if we can work together and constructively.

Ntihemuka Shami Paulin, Rwanda

I have put your newspaper here <https://e4l-jrnl.weebly.com/learning-sustainability.html>. It is incredibly well done.

Thanks, Iona – you, your newspaper, and organization deserve all the support that you can get – please feel free to do whatever you think is best with my call for papers – you can edit, etc. If you have outlets that you know of that would be interested, please forward also. Thanks.

David Crookall, Learning Sustainability: Earth, Experience, Ethics (page 24)

Thanks Iona, just read. You must feel so happy with all the responses from African young people! All your beautiful photos of them stir my soul.

You had included Ben Price's book announcement. I wonder if he still lives in Carlisle. Rob and I worked with him on Carlisle Peace College events over a period of years a while back before he started with CELDF.

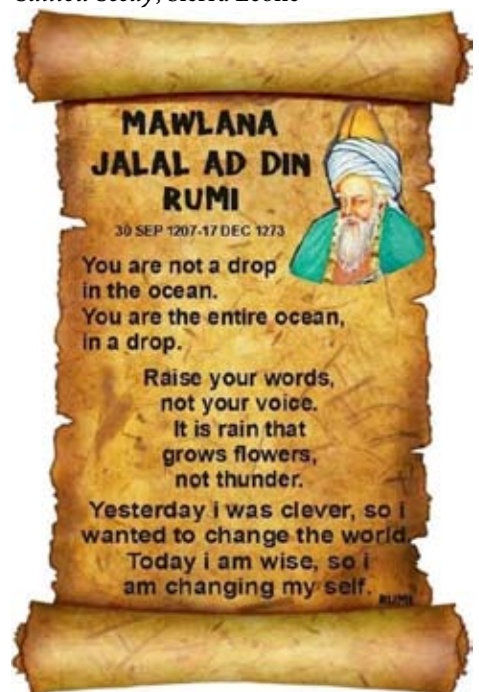
Bless you always, John, too,
Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

I don't think African people should feel any differently towards us in the U.S.

than they do towards Britain and France's colonialists. China is now poised to control Africa's resources. China may give money and build roads but also will take over land to feed its own population. Forests will be lost. Powerful countries take. The question is, "Do they take more than they give?"
Bill Boteler, Washington DC, USA

My scientific solution is to visit the natural order of man's life on Earth. Life on Earth is based on two theories, (A) the theory of creation, and (B) the theory of evolution, indeed are guiding man's activities on Earth, but our dream world made us tamper these theories, not knowing that we are harming ourselves.

Today, our urgent actions to combat this harm of climate change and its impact is to revisit our actions around the world because our activities are manmade and climate change is manmade. We can formulate our manmade theories to combat climate change and its Impacts through treaties, laws, equitable distribution of wealth, sensitization, or surveillance.
Sallieu Sesay, Sierra Leone



Submitted by Akhter Hussain, India