



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. 50: May 2019

Iona's Column: Earth Day Awakening



Dear Reader,

I listened excitedly to the We Don't Have Time Climate Conference 2019 on Earth Day. I had received an invitation from Gbu-jie Daniel Chidubem, founder and CEO of

Team 54 Project International.

First I listened to his 2-minute, 12-second video and was once again awed by his brilliance and enthusiasm in describing his commitment to Africa and climate. I had tears in my eyes and suddenly felt alive again.

Then I waited for the show to start as an online participant. There were dozens of amazing speakers describing their amazing climate projects, thoughts, and feelings. I was totally enthralled and took some notes, which are transcribed on page 3. I want to share as much as I can and hope you'll be able to watch the entire four-hour event for yourself at <https://togetherweareresolution.confetti.events/>. My notes are sketchy and some of the names are probably spelled wrong but I'm doing my best for you.

Friday night a tornado blew through my favorite woods about 3/4 mile from our home, knocked down dozens of trees and and at least four electric poles, and killed our power. Since we live in the country and depend on well water, we were plunged into a state similar to that in which many Africans and others live. No power. No pump. No water.

This lasted more than 25 hours and made me acutely aware of how fortunate we are here and how difficult it is to carry on with normal activities and communications for those who live daily with such outages. My personal energy was drained trying to overcome each obstacle. I shouted for joy when our power was restored.

For the Earth Always,

Iona



Photos: Climate Spring for Future's post in Global Climate Strike for Future

"That future was sold so that a small number of people could make unimaginable amounts of money. It was stolen from us every time you said that the sky was the limit, and that you only live once." Part of a speech at the British Parliament by Greta Thunberg. Full speech at <https://www.facebook.com/732846497083173/posts/816708645363624>

Students Lead Massive Global Climate Strike for Future: Friday, May 24

Friday, May 24, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. UTC+02
(4 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST)

More than 1.5 million young people in 2069 cities of 125 countries across world. What a great Strike! Congrats to everyone.

Now think about our impact if we could mobilize not only schools but all sectors of

the economy?

Let's do this for that second global strike!

Therefore we invite you to start your local event as soon as possible and spread the word so we can centralize all events on the world map dedicated and beat all records.

Here is the global event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/313546356029054/>



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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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 im-

pacts 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Fair Use Logo



Photo: TED YouTube

Tessa Kahn spoke about the annual global temperature rise as depicted in this graphic at the WeDontHaveTime conference and at a TED talk in January. This shows a record of warming from 1850 to 2017 going from cooler in blue to warmer in red. 2015, 2016, and 2017 were the three hottest years on record.

#WeDontHaveTime No-Fly Climate Conference Earth Day 2019: Iona's Notes

By Iona

(These are just a few of the speakers. I was mesmerized by so many of them that I stopped taking notes.)

Tessa Khan is a climate change and human rights lawyer and part of the Urgenda Foundation. In 2015, Urgenda won a historic Climate Case it had filed against the Dutch Government, forcing the Dutch State to take more measures against climate change. In her talk, Tessa explained the role of national governments in the climate crisis, and the work of Urgenda and others in holding these governments accountable for their policies. Tessa ended by urging us to take our own action to achieve lasting political impact, by scrutinizing governments and mobilizing our voices to make climate change an issue that governments can no longer ignore. She wants to see a “just, sustainable, and beautiful future.”

Vote Earth was also featured. In countries where voting counts and is honest, the best way to make headway on climate is to publicize and vote for candidates who will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, and generally do the right thing for Earth and her people.

Someone mentioned that we must have

a 364/24/7 climate movement, excluding the one day of the conference in that calculation. Our goal is to, “knit these efforts together so corporations and governments are afraid of us.”

Per Sepan Stockness of Norway spoke about social tipping points and called this the “One Degree War,” meaning the fight to get carbon dioxide levels back to 350 parts per million instead of the dangerous 411.97 in March 2019 (www.co2.earth).

There are cultures where certain topics don't come up because they create conflicting ideas. Politics and religion are two of them here in the United States. Climate is a third. This reflects denial, but most climate activists consider it imperative to talk climate everywhere to everyone to raise the awareness and get action. Trust needs to become a common value.

A man from Sweden has made three documentaries, one of which resulted in a ban on plastic bags. He represented Climate Students Sweden and Climate Students International, which was started in Sweden.

Emma Bergeling works with universities in an effort to get academia in line with Earth-friendly practices. Her group is #practicewhatyouteach. This group is hosting contests among universities to spark interest and get real action in a spirit of fun,

something we all need from time to time.

Dr. Chris Johnstone of Scotland wrote a book with Joanna Macy called *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy*. Macy is a long-time and highly respected peace activist who also loves Earth. I loved Johnstone's talk so much that I ordered the book. It's about how we talk to ourselves. Our hope levels rise and fall. His workshops strengthen us and helps our capacity to make hope more likely to occur, something we can practice every day to support the well being of our world and ourselves, to nourish and cultivate hope. Even when we have deep depressions, we can still respond. His Active Hope trainings help people rise out of depression.

Johnstone spoke of four steps that nourish us: gratitude, honoring our pain for the world as an alarm call, seeing with new eyes, and finding our own unique role to play. He gave those of us in the audience some open sentences to finish in our hearts. “When I look out at the world, what concerns me is . . .”, “What happens through me is . . .”, and “What is our role? A place I want to focus my energy is . . .” Active hope supports the future, recovery of the world, and us.

Jeffrey Sachs had a great line and I'll end with it, “It's time to tear down the wall.”

Life Within The Wall Keeps the Others at Bay

What would it be like to live behind a barrier built to keep the world out? *The Wall* explores a post-climate change world.

By Kieran Cooke
Climate News Network: April 25, 2019

LONDON – John Lanchester’s latest novel, *The Wall*, is pure fiction. Isn’t it?

It has haves and have-nots battling each other in the aftermath of dramatic alterations in climate. Right now, ignored for the most part by the outside world, thousands of people are being held in appalling conditions in camps in Libya.

Libya is a key setting-off point for migrants, mostly from countries in Africa, seeking a better life across the Mediterranean in Europe. Often they are fleeing from violence and persecution in their home countries. Many are escaping from hunger and the impact climate change is having on agricultural communities.

The European Union, anxious to secure its borders, has been sending millions of euros to military forces in Libya to control the migrant flow.

Now there is a growing threat of full-scale civil war in Libya, and the migrants are trapped – often going for days without provisions – as fighting goes on around them. It is a humanitarian disaster – and a terrible indictment of EU migration policy.

Frantic Search

In Lanchester’s futuristic novel *The Wall*, people are roaming the world in ever greater numbers. We are not told when the book is set but, as with those migrants captive in Libya today, they are desperately searching for some sort of safe haven.

To prevent incursions, a massive concrete wall has been built around the entire coast of Britain.

Kavanagh, the book’s main character, is what’s called a Defender, part of an army of guards which patrols the wall to prevent it being breached by the seaborne forces of those known as the Others – in today’s parlance, migrants or refugees.

Slowly, as in the best kind of mystery writing, we accumulate some background. There has been a momentous event which, in Defender terminology, is referred to as the Change but in the language of one of the Others is called *kuishia*, a Swahili word that means “the ending.”

We are not told directly about the

Change but can surmise it refers to a profound shift in the global climate leading to, among other things, a sudden rise in sea levels.

It is a harsh, amoral, world. For Kavanagh and his fellow Defenders, all Others are the enemy and have to be killed. The only Others allowed to exist within the wall are what are called Help – virtual slaves who assist in doing menial jobs or who can be called upon to act as carers.

Lanchester might be writing of an imagined future, but there are striking parallels with today’s labor market in the UK and elsewhere. And of course the book appears at a time when countries seem to be increasingly turning in on themselves: walls and other barriers are not going up just in the US.

In the book the Change is described as happening over a relatively short time span, in the space of a single generation.

Culpable Generation

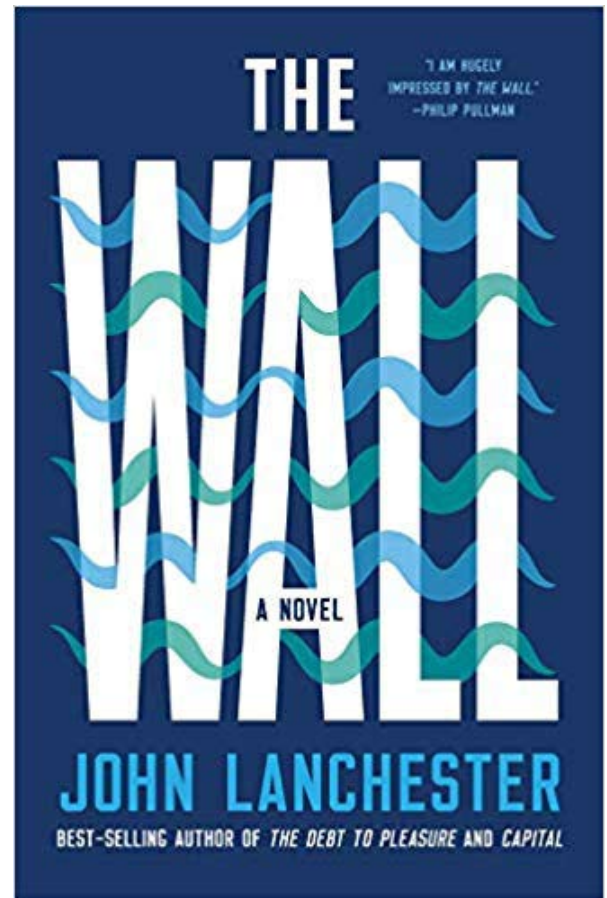
“It’s guilt: mass guilt, generational guilt,” Kavanagh tells us. “The olds feel they irretrievably fucked up the world, then allowed us to be born into it. You know what? It’s true. That’s exactly what they did. They know it, we know it. Everybody knows it.”

The world’s beaches have disappeared, along with the old riverscapes. Kavanagh leaves his parents as they watch images of the past on TV – an old documentary showing golden beaches and surfers car-vorting in the waves.

An elite constantly warns that as the Change continues and intensifies, the numbers of Others attempting to scale the wall will grow. There are traitors within who might even try to assist these invaders.

We are drawn into Kavanagh’s world. He is bored, he yearns to be away from the wall, yet it becomes a part of him.

Kavanagh falls in love. He gets drunk. He is hungry. (Britain has become self-sufficient in food, though this seems limited to berries and root crops, with turnips a staple).



Fierce Fighters

There are dramatic, deadly, fights. Lanchester is a master at letting the reader’s imagination fill in the blanks. Only once are we given some hint of the Others’ identities. “They were trained and competent. They were from sub-Saharan Africa. It was quite likely that they had been professional soldiers in their previous lives.”

For failing to stop a group of Others from vaulting the wall, Kavanagh and his fellow guards have their all-important identity microchips removed from their bodies and are left to fend for themselves on a boat at sea. They come across an outcrop.

“We stood for a moment and looked at the island and I imagined what it had once been like – beaches, gentle slopes, maybe a few houses down near the water.

“In living memory the sea floor below us was dry land. All drowned now. Part of the old drowned world.”

Some might view Lanchester’s book as pure fiction, a rattling good yarn set in a future that will never come about. Let’s hope, for all our sakes and for the sake of future generations, they are right.

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/life-within-the-wall-keeps-the-others-at-bay/>



Photo Ray in Manila/Flickr/cc

Most people do voice care about the environment. But very few of them vote for candidates primarily based on their environmental stances.

Earth Day 2019: We Don't Have Time

“Although our planet faces major tipping points on climate change, the environment is not a top-tier political issue. Anywhere!”

By Kathleen Rogers and Ingmar Rentzhog
Common Dreams via *Mercersburg Journal*
April 21, 2019

Generally speaking, humans have demonstrated over and over a remarkable ability to cooperate in a crisis. The tragic fire at the beloved Notre Dame's Cathedral was a case in point. Firemen and even members of the public rushed into the inferno, while millions of people around the world paced in front of their TV sets, wanting to jump in and help, anxiously waiting for the fire to be put out, and breathing a collective sigh of relief that there was hope for its survival. Donors rushed in behind first responders, generating a billion euros within 24 hours in financial support to rebuild.

Humans have also aligned themselves around seemingly perpetual, slow burning crises to advance social and civil rights issues. Together with governments, people have established a number of functioning democracies, have mostly abolished slavery, and in a remarkable show of global support, the Paris Agreement on Climate

Change opened for signature on Earth Day on April 22, 2016. The Climate Agreement was a reminder of what can happen when the planets of science, people's movements, bureaucracies, and economic interests come into alignment around a crisis.

Yet despite that global consensus, the world's annual carbon emissions reached an all-time high last year (a year that was the fourth hottest on record) and saw massive wildfires, continued Antarctic ice mass loss, astonishing accelerating species losses, and a harrowing IPCC report warning humanity that going above the Paris lower limit of 1.5 °C global warming will have catastrophic consequences.

The slow-burning climate crisis has turned into its own massive inferno. The quantifiable impacts of climate change's environmental destruction are orders of magnitude greater than any single storm, fire, flood. These impacts have been documented by legions of physicians, epidemiologists, chemists, climatologists, conservation biologists, economists, and other experts. But they are politically inconsequential.

Scientists and environmentalists have been the first responders, but we have been overwhelmed with fires, both literal and figurative, and slow government action, lacking coordination, funding, and most important determination. Worse, some

government leaders are backing away from commitments and will be remembered for centuries in the future – Nero-like puppets, playing fiddles built with fossil fuel money.

In the meantime, public support for the environment remains broad-based but it has been remarkably mild-mannered in the face of the acceleration of climate change. Although our planet faces major tipping points on climate change, ocean acidification, fresh water depletion, topsoil loss, toxic chemicals, antibiotic-resistant diseases, and an epidemic of extinction, the environment is not a top-tier political issue. Anywhere! Most people do voice care about the environment. But very few of them vote for candidates primarily based on their environmental stances. Politicians know they can shred environmental safeguards without suffering political consequences. The very enormity of environmental threats produces self-defeating responses: (1) flat-out denial; (2) a sense of personal impotence; or (3) paralysis. We pay attention to problems where we can identify the victims and where our actions appear likely to make a difference.

Faced with this lack of urgency, a consensus has developed that only an authentic, broad based, tactical, coordinated, and diverse citizen action campaign will be effective. On-the-ground organizing and

Earth Day *continued on page 14*



Photo Montage by Lucy Kade

It's time to respond to the emergency of climate change the same way people responded to the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral, with urgency and generosity.

Climate Action: It's Time to Switch to Cathedral Mode

By Rolly Montpellier
Below 2C: April 20, 2019

Let's imagine for a few chilling moments that our house is on fire. That our house is being destroyed, falling apart in front of our very eyes. Then think Notre-Dame Cathedral – the symbolic home of millions of Catholics in France and around the world. Then think climate action. Then think of the glaring dissimilarity of response for both. Let that sink in for a few seconds.

I was amazed at the outpouring of support for the rebuilding and restoration of such an important structure, a work of art many would say. At the same time, the

hypocrisy surrounding Notre-Dame is inescapable. If we could only react to the climate crisis in the same way. If we could only switch to Cathedral Mode immediately.

Cathedral Mode for the Climate

The hypocrisy did not go unnoticed by Greta Thunberg, currently the world's foremost climate activist. During her recent speech to the European Parliament, Greta highlighted the urgency to act on climate change.

If our house was falling apart our leaders wouldn't go on like we do today... Well, our house is falling apart and yet nothing is happening. We'll have to switch to cathed-

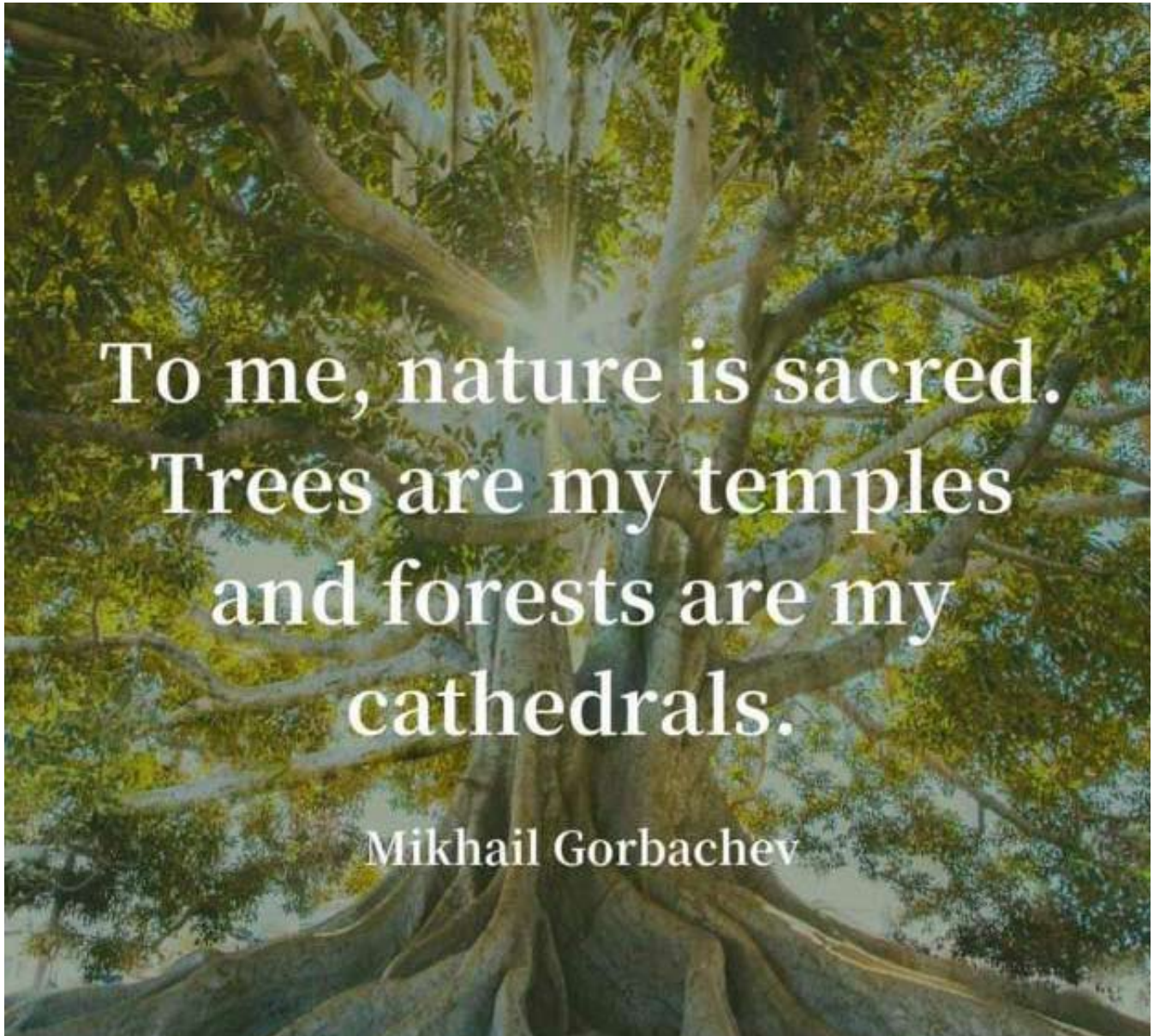
ral mode. I ask you to wake up and do what is necessary.

As Notre Dame was still burning – in less than 24 hours – over 1 billion euros were committed to the rebuilding and preservation of the cathedral. This is more than France's total pledge to the Green Climate Fund – a new global fund to support developing countries to respond to the climate challenge. Donations began to pour in as the fire was still burning.

Urgency of Climate Action

A number of new climate movements such as Fridays For Future, Extinction

Cathedral Mode *continued on next page*



To me, nature is sacred.
Trees are my temples
and forests are my
cathedrals.

Mikhail Gorbachev

Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

Cathedral Mode *continued from previous page*

Rebellion, and We Don't Have Time represent exciting new voices sounding the alarm globally about the urgency of climate action.

"While Notre-Dame is undoubtedly a tragedy, it shows that money and resources can be mobilized rapidly in times of anguish. Why are we not seeing the same reaction on climate change?" writes James Ellsmoor in his *Forbes* Opinion piece.

In fact one could argue that the opposite is happening. The evidence on the ground is disheartening. Global banks led by JP Morgan Chase have invested \$1.9 trillion in fossil fuels since the signing of the Paris Accord in 2015. Canada's five largest banks have invested \$338 billion.

Global emissions rose nearly 3% to an all-

time high in 2018. And in Canada, emissions continue to grow, pushing us further away from our Paris pledge to slash greenhouse gases by 70% by 2030, based on 2005 levels.

The top four hottest years (as a group) are the last four, 2015-2018. Furthermore, scientists at the Climate Prediction Center at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warn that 2019 will likely become the warmest year yet.

It's obvious that the current climate action path the world is on is failing. So how can we switch to Cathedral Mode quickly?

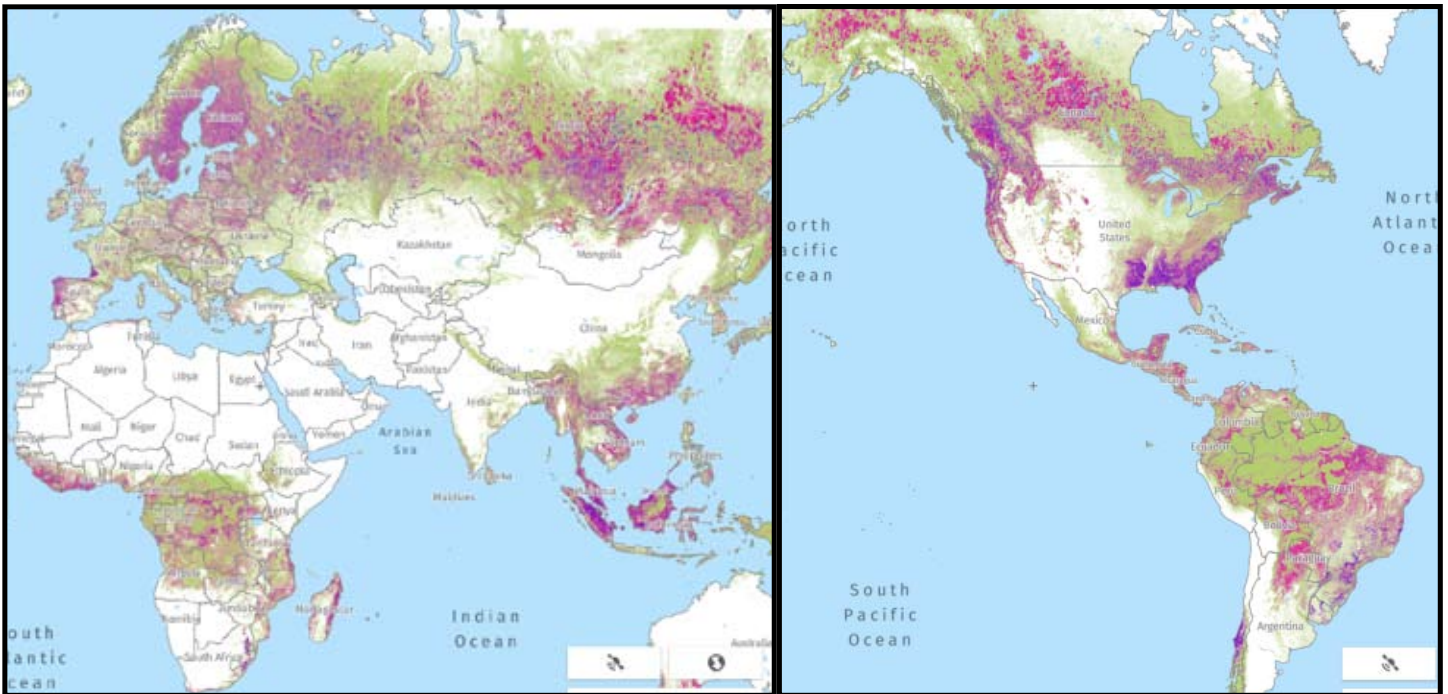
Greta Thunberg started her recent EU Parliament speech by saying "I want you to panic. I want you to panic like your house is on fire...when your house is on fire and you want to keep your house from burning to the ground, then that does require some level of panic."

Cathedral Thinking

"If our house was falling apart" is a phrase she repeated numerous times during her speech to highlight the tremendous inertia of current political thinking about climate action. She ended her speech with these words: "What we are doing now can soon no longer be undone...It will take cathedral thinking. To do your best is no longer good enough...I beg you, please do not fail."

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Source: <https://below2c.org/2019/04/climate-action-its-time-to-switch-to-cathedral-mode/>



The maps above are from <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/map>. These are interactive maps so you can find your area and click for more information. The reddish/purplish areas represent tree cover loss and the blue areas represent tree cover gain.

World's Forests 'In Emergency Room' After Years of Losses

By Adela Suliman

Thomson Reuters Foundation: April 25, 2019

LONDON – The world lost 12 million hectares (30 million acres) of tropical tree cover last year – the equivalent of 30 football pitches a minute – researchers said on Thursday, warning the planet's health was at stake.

It was the fourth highest annual decline since records began in 2001, according to new data from Global Forest Watch, which uses satellite imagery and remote sensing to monitor tree cover losses from Brazil to Ghana.

“The world's forests are now in the emergency room,” said Frances Seymour, senior fellow at the U.S.-based World Resources Institute (WRI), which led the research. “It's death by a thousand cuts – the health of the planet is at stake and band aid responses are not enough.” Seymour said the data represented “heartbreaking losses in real places,” with indigenous communities most vulnerable to losing their homes and livelihoods through deforestation.

The loss of huge swathes of forest around the world also has major implications for climate change as they absorb a third of the planet-warming greenhouse gas emis-

sions produced globally.

“Forests are our greatest defense against climate change and biodiversity loss, but deforestation is getting worse,” said John Sauven, executive director of Greenpeace UK. “Bold action is needed to tackle this global crisis including restoring lost forests. But unless we stop them being destroyed in the first place, we're just chasing our tail.”

The study found much of the loss occurred in primary rainforest – mature trees that absorb more carbon and are harder to replace.

The rate of destruction in 2018 was lower than in the two previous years. It peaked in 2016 when about 17 million hectares (42 million acres) of tropical forest were lost due partly to rampant forest fires, according to the WRI.

The study highlighted new deforestation hotspots, particularly in Africa, where illegal mining, small-scale forest clearing, and the expansion of cocoa farms led to an increase in tree loss in countries such as Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

Indonesia was a rare bright spot, with primary forest loss slowing for two years running, after the government imposed a moratorium on forest-clearing.

Indonesia has the world's third largest total area of tropical forest and is also

the biggest producer of palm oil. Environmentalists blame much of the forest destruction on land clearance for oil-palm plantations. “We hope that this is a sign that our policies so far are having an effect,” said Belinda Margono, a director at the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Last year, leading philanthropists pledged a \$459 million commitment to rescue shrinking tropical forests that suck heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at a Global Climate Action Summit in California.

But experts said more needed to be done. “Deforestation causes more climate pollution than all the world's cars, trucks, ships, and planes combined,” said Glenn Hurowitz, chief executive of Mighty Earth, a global environmental campaign organization.

“It's vital that we protect the forests that we still have.”

Source: <https://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5N2254HP>



Photo by Iona

Where the tornado struck near Iona's home. This section is her cathedral. Dozens of trees were down – a very sad reminder of climate chaos.

Trees Fight Climate Change: Get Your Shovels Ready!

By Iona

I love trees. Do you? Don't we all? They give so much and ask so little.

Trees are a crucial factor in lowering carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, thereby helping reduce the catastrophic effects of climate chaos. They are an essential part of global water cycles. Where there are more trees, there is more rain. When there is too much rain, their roots help prevent flooding. They give us oxygen, food, lumber, and shade in summer. While doing all of this, they provide astounding beauty as well as homes for birds, insects, and squirrels.

Here are a few examples of individuals who have taken on the cause of planting trees. First, on March 19th, The New York Times ran an article called "The Poet Who Planted Trees." W. S. Merwin planted a tree every day for years on 19 acres in Hawaii. Author Dr. A. Hope Jahren described the little paradise, "... [I]n 2017, it was a verdant throng: 400 different species of tropical trees all springing from the same sumptuous soil. A crew of gardeners and botanists assisted the professors and students who had come to study this man-made natural wonder. . . ."

I learned about a second amazing tree-planting extravaganza in a February 20th article by Efforts for Good: "Brazilian Couple Created 1,502-Acre Forest in 20 Years." Sebastiao Ribeiro Salgado and his wife Lelia organized a tree-planting of two million saplings with 293 species. They restored 1,052 acres of tropical rainfor-

est on a section of deforested land where they live. "More than 172 species of birds, 33 species of mammals, and 15 species of amphibians and reptiles have been seen in the new forest."

Third, 24-year-old Emmanuel Niyoyabikoze in Africa created #GreeningBurundiProject. He and his team of seven started a tree nursery to bring his dream of planting one million trees to life. They grow baby trees to fight climate change; Emmanuel included fruit trees to fight hunger.

On March 25th, Emmanuel posted this on Facebook, "After completing the first phase of my project "Greening Burundi" and planting around 43,700 trees on schools, mountains, shores, and roadsides, the population received the trees to plant them in their residences.

"Today, I started the second phase of the project. I did a transplanting of fruit trees (avocado and mangoes). I would like to be supported materially and financially to succeed [with] this project.

My goal is to make a nursery of more than 100,000 trees that will be planted in a period of September-November 2019. Together we are powerful."

Alexis Charrett in Portugal heard about Emmanuel's vision and sent a package of seeds. Alexis has a dream, too. He's running a campaign at AAVAZ.org to gather one million signatures to inaugurate a global day off called Day of the Trees. "If we start to see trees as members of our family, if we have consciousness of what they give us...then we will use less plastic,

we will consume less energy, and so on and so on..." he wrote in an email.

Meanwhile, in Australia another group had the idea of giving trees email addresses so people could notify officials when branches looked like they needed to be cut. But instead, people write love letters to them. "When You Give a Tree an Email Address" was featured in The Atlantic. Adrienne LaFrance wrote, "...there was an 'unintended but positive consequence,' as the chair of Melbourne's Environment Portfolio, Councillor Arron Wood, wrote. People started writing directly to the trees. 'The email interactions reveal the love Melburnians have for our trees,' Wood said."

What Can YOU Do?

1. Plant at least one tree. Be sure to give it love and care.

2. Read Dr. Seuss's children's classic, *The Lorax*, to as many people as you can. Even teens and adults love this book. The movie is too high-tech and doesn't have the same poetic, heart-warming pace.

3. Buy products made from recycled paper. If you're already recycling paper but not purchasing the end results of your efforts, you're not completing the loop. It's important to boost the demand for recycled paper products so that recycling efforts continue to be profitable and trees continue to be saved.

Turn your love for trees into action. The world needs both love and trees to deal effectively with climate change. You, too, can be part of the solution.



Image by Andrew Seaman on Unsplash

Keeping cities cool is urgent: Trees can cut the heat effectively.

Trees' Shade Can Cool Cities by 5°C

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: April 11, 2019

LONDON – Tomorrow's sweltering cities could be tamed, thanks to their trees' shade. Leafy figs and magnolias, beeches and birches, planes and chestnuts in the sterile tarmac and cement world of the great modern city could deliver canopies that could bring temperatures down by more than 5°C in the hottest of the heat wave summers.

And researchers now know this, not because they tested it with computer simulations, and not because they interpreted the radiation signal from satellite studies. They know it because one scientist fitted one bicycle with its own tiny weather station and took the temperature every five meters (16 feet) along 10 rides or transects, each along roughly seven kilometers (4.35 miles) of highly built-up city infrastructure.

To make sure of her readings, Carly Ziter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, repeated each ride between three and 12 times at different times of the day

And the conclusion: The city streets were hot as sunlight slammed down on the hard, impervious surfaces of street, pavement, flyover, and square. But where there was green sward or shade from a tree, the temperature dropped.

In those patches where two or more trees met and two-fifths of the sky was screened by foliage, the temperature dropped by an average of 3.5°C and sometimes – especially where the number

of trees and their proximity delivered ever more shade – by up to 5.7°C.

Trees not only deliver shade, they transpire. That is, they exhale water through the stomata in their leaves and provide a second outdoor air-conditioning mechanism. The difference, too, between shade and sunlight temperatures can set up an air flow.

The results, reported in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, "suggest strategies for managing urban land-cover patterns to enhance resilience to cities' warming." In other words, trees are good things to plant, anywhere, but especially in the concrete jungle.

Once again, this is no surprise. Researchers have been looking at what might be called the green response to urban warming for years, and found that urban tree cover can add as much as \$500,000,000 to the economies of the great cities.

Urban trees don't just deliver shade, they can soak up atmospheric carbon in ways that match any rainforest giant, and the simple presence of trees in suburban roads can add appreciably to property values as well as simple amenity.

Hotter Cities

And tomorrow's cities will need help from the trees. More than half of the world's population is already crammed into cities, and all cities are plagued by what is known as the urban heat island

effect: that is, because of lighting, central heating, air conditioning, traffic, tarmac, tiles and slate, metro systems, and light industry, cities can be hotter than the surrounding countryside by 3°C or more.

With global warming so far on track to reach a global average of 3°C higher than at any time in human history by the century's end – when cities will be even more crowded as population soars – city planners need a low-cost answer to what promises to be the serious and potentially lethal health hazard of ever more intense and prolonged heat waves.

And not only do trees deliver cool shade: there is even research to suggest that they do better in the warmer cities. The Madison studies offer fine detail to something most city dwellers know intuitively. Cities need green spaces and tree-lined avenues. The next step is to work out how best to use such findings.

"It's not really enough to just kind of go out and plant trees, we really need to think about how many we are planting and where we're planting them. We're not saying planting one tree does nothing, but you're going to have a bigger effect if you plant a tree and your neighbor plants a tree and their neighbor plants a tree," Dr. Ziter said. *"The trees we plant now or the areas we pave now are going to be determining the temperatures of our cities in the next century."*

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/trees-shade-can-cool-cities-by-5c/>



Photo: Nicholas Tonelli/Flickr/cc

A new campaign calls for “drawing carbon dioxide out of the air by protecting and restoring ecosystems.”

Bold New Campaign Highlights How ‘Nature Can Save Us’ From Climate and Ecological Breakdown

By Jessica Corbett
Common Dreams: April 3, 2019

A group of activists, experts, and writers on Wednesday launched a bold new campaign calling for the “thrilling but neglected approach” of embracing nature’s awesome restorative powers to battle the existential crises of climate and ecological breakdown.

Averting catastrophic global warming and devastating declines in biodiversity, scientists warn, requires not only overhauling human activities that generate planet-heating emissions – like phasing out fossil fuels – but also cutting down on the carbon that is already in the atmosphere.

In a letter to governments, NGOs, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity, and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Natural Climate Solutions campaign calls for tackling these crises by not only rapidly decarbonizing economies, but also by “drawing carbon dioxide out of the air by protecting and restoring ecosystems.”

“By defending, restoring, and re-establishing forests, peatlands, mangroves, salt marshes, natural seabeds, and other crucial ecosystems, very large amounts of carbon can be removed from the air and

stored,” the letter says. “At the same time, the protection and restoration of these ecosystems can help to minimize a sixth great extinction, while enhancing local people’s resilience against climate disaster.”

The letter urges the politicians, nonprofits, and international bodies to support such solutions with research, funding, and political commitment – and to “work with the guidance and free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous people and other local communities.”

The campaign also put out a short video that outlines, “How nature can save us from climate breakdown.”

The video notes that, “Exotic and often dangerous schemes have been proposed” to reduce atmospheric carbon – referencing controversial geoengineering suggestions favored by some politicians and scientists – “but there’s a better and simpler way: let nature do it for us.”

Writer and environmentalist George Monbiot, a leader of the campaign, laid out the scientific support for this approach to carbon drawdown in an essay on the campaign’s website as well as in his Wednesday column for *The Guardian*.

Detailing the potential impact of restoring lands worldwide, Monbiot wrote for the newspaper: *The greatest drawdown po-*

tential per hectare (though the total area is smaller) is the restoration of coastal habitats such as mangroves, salt marsh, and seagrass beds. They stash carbon 40 times faster than tropical forests can. Peaty soils are also vital carbon stores. They are currently being oxidized by deforestation, drainage, drying, burning, farming, and mining for gardening and fuel. Restoring peat, by blocking drainage channels and allowing natural vegetation to recover, can suck back much of what has been lost.

“Scientists have only begun to explore how the recovery of certain animal populations could radically change the carbon balance,” he acknowledged, pointing to forest elephants and rhinos in Africa and Asia and tapirs in Brazil as examples. “Instead of making painful choices and deploying miserable means to a desirable end,” Monbiot concluded, “we can defend ourselves from disaster by enhancing our world of wonders.”

Key supporters of the campaign include youth climate strike leader Greta Thunberg, journalist Naomi Klein, author and activist Bill McKibben, Penn State climate scientist Michael Mann, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed, and activist Yeb Saño, along with more than a dozen

Bold Campaign continued on next page

Fossil Fuels Outbid by Renewable Revolution

Rapid progress in the solar and wind industries means they are outcompeting fossil fuels in key markets – a renewable revolution.

By Paul Brown

Climate News Network: April 30, 2019

LONDON – There's a renewable revolution under way: the cost of wind and solar power is now undercutting fossil fuels across the world.

One recent week brought news of the world's longest turbine blade, a monster capable of producing enough electricity on its own to power a small town. The fact that solar power, in combination with batteries, is now a cheaper way than gas to produce electricity in the United States is cheering news for those battling against climate change.

The single blade, 107 meters long (351 feet), was produced at a factory in Cherbourg in France, the country most reliant on nuclear power. After tests, the blade will power a 12-megawatt turbine, the largest in the world, situated off the French coast, and capable on its own of powering thousands of homes throughout its 20-year design life.

In the U.S., the states of California and Arizona, where sunshine is plentiful, have solar plants incorporating battery storage that are now a better investment than gas over a 30-year period – even though the U.S. has some of the cheapest gas in the world, because of fracking.

The key problem for solar power during its years of development has been that when the sun does not shine, other generation systems have to be used. Advances in battery technology and in molten salt and other heat storage methods over the last 12 months mean that electricity can now be produced from solar power at any time of the day or night, obtaining the highest revenue returns at peak times.

American companies are now claim-

ing that they can out-compete gas in any part of the country to produce peak-time electricity. (<https://tinyurl.com/y2ag-susv> file:///Users/paulbrown5/Desktop/Solar+storage%20can%20outcompete%20“mid-merit”%20gas%20units,%20not%20just%20peakers%20-%20pv%20magazine%20USA.webarchive)

Across the world most new large solar farm developments are including energy storage facilities in their initial construction – either batteries, heat storage or electrolysis (passing electricity through water) – to produce hydrogen.

In Scotland, surplus wind and wave power is being used to produce hydrogen for a number of schemes, including powering buses and ferries. But the hydrogen can also be sold to make more electricity at peak times, or to be fed into gas mains to top up natural gas supplies and reduce carbon emissions.

Cheaper than India

These developments in the U.S. and France follow news that electricity produced by solar power is now about one-third cheaper than from coal plants in India.

This is forcing Indian coal plants to sell their electricity at lower than cost price, an unsustainable practice which threatens their future. Many coal plants are considered unviable even in a country desperate to increase energy production because of a national supply shortfall.

With more than 10 million people now employed in renewable energy industries worldwide, the sector is beginning to develop real political clout. This, plus the Extinction Rebellion protestors who have been causing disruption in London and other British cities and elsewhere, and the now worldwide schoolchildren's strikes for the climate, is putting politicians under real pressure to change policies.

So far this does not appear to have affected President Trump and the Republican Party in the

U.S., which still relies heavily on the fossil fuel industry for campaign donations, but many of the country's coal plants are closing simply because they can no longer compete with cheap gas, wind, and solar energy.

Prospects Altered

The rapid development of offshore wind, spurred by ever-larger turbines which have both increased production and seen prices tumble, has changed the prospects of many coastal countries in their fight to reduce carbon emissions. Europe could now produce all its electricity from offshore wind.

The latest development by LM Wind Power in France shows how fast the industry is developing. It is only two years ago that the company was boasting about its eight-megawatt turbine blades, now able to generate half as much power again.

Lukasz Cejrowski, project director for the 107m blade at LM Wind Power, said: “The LM 107.0 P is one of the biggest single components ever built. This is an amazing achievement, not only for LM Wind Power and GE Renewable Energy, but for the entire wind industry.”

Alexis Crama, vice-president of the company, said ever-larger and more reliable rotor blades captured more wind, and would ultimately deliver lower cost energy.

Source: <https://climateneutralnetwork.net/fossil-fuels-outbid-by-renewable-revolu->



Bold Campaign *continued from previous page* others who signed the letter.

“Healing and restoring the natural world is key to carbon drawdown,” Klein tweeted Wednesday, “plus it makes life fuller and richer and can create millions of jobs.”

Despite the high profiles of many supporters, the campaign launch did not at-

tract the attention of the corporate media.

Monbiot took to Twitter to call out broadcast outlets for failing to cover not only the climate and ecological crises, but also potential solutions like those offered by the new campaign. As he put it, “They are living in a world of their own.”

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/04/03/bold-new-campaign-highlights-how-nature-can-save-us-climate-and-ecological-breakdown>

Women Have a Place in Society

By Amb. Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

Women are the inherent part of our society and cannot be neglected due to their less power and authority. They are created as a companion for men and men have to make them walk in the course of life. Man and woman have to be rightly compared to the wheel of the same carriage. The carriage cannot run properly if one of the wheels is defective. So, women have the integral place in society. It is often said that, "An educated woman has direction. She has the hope. She will become a mentor to other girls and she will change the world based on her innovation and potential." Women are our mothers, they don't need to be humiliated in society, but rather work with them constructively.

As a mother, her position is unique. She brings up the child with extreme care. The first education of a child is the lap of his or her mother. It is quite true that great men had great mothers. Napoleon said, "Give me good mothers and I will give you a good nation." Women are always subjected to violence and then never given basic rights for the proper education and freedom. They are the victims who face violence and abuses in the male-dominated country. A woman needs to be empowered instead of treating her as a helpless victim in society.

The negative perception of women as weak and fragile creatures responsible for childbearing is derogatory and null. Truly, a society with empowered girls is [more] developed and peaceful than a society with male chauvinism perception. Women have a potential and dynamic role to play in the virtual building process of our country. Empowering women means empowering the nations. This empowerment is best served through a rapid economic growth with social change. Our mother has a place in society to be a great contributor to changes.

The wave of realization of women power is massive and fruitful. There are no tools for development more effective than the empowerment of women in society.



Photo by Emmanuel Tailey

Amb Hanson (left) with his teammate, Fanta, speaking to one of the community dwellers about World Earth Day. On April 22, 2019, a group of young change makers gathered at the slum community in West Point for Awareness of Plastic Pollution on World Earth Day. This awareness helps citizens to understand the meaning of plastic pollution within their community. This youth-led organization is PAVON.

Women have a great place in society to contribute.

MENTEE OF CIVICUS BARSIGIAH

Earth Day Post on Facebook

Amb Hanson Gonsia Blayon is feeling excited with Leydi Laura Calva and Iona Conner at West Point City.

April 22 at 4:15 PM ·

#Earth Day encourage us to reflect on what we are doing to make our planet a more sustainable and livable place. The planet is a vast and beautiful place, full of exciting and wonderful people. World Earth Day Awareness of Plastic Pollution into the ocean in West Point by the group of change makers from PAVON. Thanks to our team today for the great job. Let save

our planet from plastic pollution.

#Positivethinker

#PAVON

#MYTEAMMATEPOWERFUL

#WEARECHANGERMAKERS

#BETHECHANGE

#WORLD EARTH DAY

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KNOWING THAT YOU LOVE THE EARTH CHANGES YOU, ACTIVATES YOU TO DEFEND AND PROTECT AND CELEBRATE. BUT WHEN YOU FEEL THAT THE EARTH LOVES YOU IN RETURN, THAT FEELING TRANSFORMS THE RELATIONSHIP FROM A ONE-WAY STREET INTO A SACRED BOND.

- Robin Wall Kimmerer -

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/676243700274302451/>

Flower photo by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

My Life, My History, and a Brief History of Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation

By Mark Uwineza, Uganda



Mark Uwineza

Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation (FPHF) is a nongovernmental organization that was established in Uganda in 2008 after observations that the needy and

marginalized youth, children, disabled, elderly, orphans, pygmies, and abandoned were suffering as the result of wars, HIV, and disease.

We felt that training and skills would enable them to attain a brighter future through the establishment of training institutions such as Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary Schools, and Vocational/Technical Institutions while advocating for their rights. For disabled and the elderly, seminars and workshops will be conducted to train them in various skills and income-generating activities.

Some needy and marginalized groups are neglected by their parents and some of them end up on the streets. As a result, some end up becoming sex workers, carrying out theft, doing petty businesses like selling polythene bags and empty plastic bottles, doing child labor, and begging, resulting in increased crime, poverty, school dropouts, poverty-related diseases, affrays in centers, unwanted pregnancies, and early marriages.

Following the 1990 war of Rwanda that resulted in Genocide, millions of people lost their lives leading to an increase of orphans and many others who were forced to flee the country to find settlement as

refugees in the neighboring countries – mainly Uganda.

Born in 1989, Uwineza Mark lost his mother in 1994 to Genocide. He lost track of his father who had gone to war. It was at this time in December 1994 that Mark was picked up, alongside the border of Rwanda and Uganda, by a Good Samaritan woman named Maria, from Uganda, as he tried to flee from the conflict, and brought him to her home in Kisoro District in Uganda.

Another tragedy occurred when Mark's savior guardian Maria died when Mark was 11 years old, becoming a double orphan, and life became a hustle once again. At that young age he was subjected to child labour in order to sustain himself.

Mark became a member of The Red Cross Society at the age of 11 where he made many friends. Together with his friends, they formed a drama club, "Virunga Allied Actors for Dynamic Society," where he spent much of his time engaged in social work like AIDS sensitization, conserving the environment, working in refugee camps, and various sports activities.

As he grew, he became frustrated with the government's lack of will to address war conflicts and their abuse of illiterate youth by recruiting them into armed conflicts as soldiers and causing political coups, hence leading to dictatorship governments.

Having been inspired by reading about Henry Donunt the founder of Red Cross International, who had turned into a leading advocate of human rights, Mark also had witnessed the suffering of people and recognized the need to help and hence formed FPHF.

The region of East Africa, referred to as the Great Lakes Region, comprises developing countries with a high influx of refugees.

The region continues to suffer economic challenges with production going down in agriculture, manufacturing, and exports. Most governments are corrupt and several countries suffered political coups, ethnic violence, and oppressive dictators.

Since the end of colonialism, the region has endured the following conflicts.

- AL – Shaba insurgency in Somalia,
- Darfur conflict in Sudan,
- Congo war,
- Civil war and Genocide in Rwanda,
- LRA insurgency in Uganda,
- Ethiopian Civil war,
- Burundi Civil war,
- Tanzania/Uganda war,
- Kenya riots due to election malpractice that killed thousands of people, and
- Al-Qaeda has also targeted recruits in tourism activities.

However, it remains a challenge to implement the desired goals due to limited funds. Our team is seeking support from both the natives and any well-wishers (donors). This will help in running the programs. We welcome advice and moral, technical, and financial support

If it was your family, your child, or even yourself, wouldn't you want someone to reach out to help you?

We do reap what we sow, and if we see or know of a need, and it is in our power to help, and we don't reach out, then there will be a price that we will have to pay. Jesus said that we would have the poor with us always, but we are to help any way.

Find an organization you can trust, help take care of our hungry children no matter what country they are in. After all they are our future and if we don't give them hope, and then our future has no hope. I know Jesus is the Hope of glory, so please, no

Peace and Hope *continued on next page*

Earth Day *continued from page 5*

social media are the tools that should be wielded against anti-environmental or uncommitted corporations and spiritless or purchased politicians. In raising the stakes, the movement will focus on demonstrating that the failure to support policies and technologies that solve the climate crises will have consequences. The goal of our strategy is to intensify support for environmental values to the point where it will produce sweeping consequences.

Behind the scenes, a new social and political movement is growing, aided by a coordinated environmental coalition along with high school kids, faith groups,

mayors, and investors who are standing up to politicians and corporations that put profits above people and the planet.

This network and the platforms that we will use will focus on elections, consumer campaigns, corporate governance, and decision-making processes. Our goals are to mobilize a huge, diverse, intense movement in the recognition that the crisis is urgent and that we don't have time.

Earth Day 2019 is a great day to launch this global initiative. It is the people's day, the one inspired by 20 million boots on the ground in 1970. The world is mobilizing again, tapping into the power of a con-

scious, concerned, and coordinated global citizenry to meet a crisis that can't wait another minute.

Kathleen Rogers, president of Earth Day Network, is the lead organizer for the Earth Day March for Science rally and teach-ins on the National Mall. Ingmar Rentzhog is the CEO and co-founder of We Don't Have Time, whose goal is to create a social media platform for the future, focused on the biggest challenge of our times – the climate.

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Peace and Hope *continued from previous page*
unkind remarks. Our children need US.
And I say our children because we are all
one in God.

Our kids need to eat and to be clothed
and to be housed and schooled. OUR
children are all over this Earth that God
has created!

I know there are some people out to
scam through charities and fake organiza-
tions, and that will always be, too. But we
shouldn't let that stop us from researching
and finding a legitimate charity to support.
There are so many needs and if we can get
to the place to just give as little as we can,
that little that seems like nothing to us, will
be a life saver for a hungry child!! Please,
start reaching out. Our children need us!!

"We make a living by what we get, but
we make a life by what we give."

How wonderful it is that nobody need
wait a single moment before starting to
improve the world. Please donate to our
noble cause for a better world of tomorrow.



Photos courtesy FHPF

Mark Uwineza stands with his arm outstretched amidst the children his organization is trying to help. If it was your family, your child, or even yourself, wouldn't you want someone to reach out to help you?"

FPHF School Concept

Problem Statement

Establishing our own school will address
all problems related to providing for the
orphans and vulnerable children in Kisoro
as far as education is concerned.

Objectives

*To establish a school that will provide
a stable and sustainable source of income
to the organization and that will help
bring together all orphans and vulnerable
children under the organization to access
better education.

*To provide affordable education
services to less fortunate children within
Kisoro communities.

*To start up a school that is affiliated to
church.

Methodology

The organization shall inform all of
its supporters and ambassadors to col-
lectively contribute financially towards
implementation of this idea to have it in
place. The financial aid shall be used to buy
needed scholastic materials, renting school
premises (renting shall be for a short time
as the organization shall be considering
purchasing its own land where the school
shall be constructed as per availability of
funds) and paying for volunteers who will
be providing education services and care
to the orphans and vulnerable children.

Admitting other children within the
community who will be contributing a
little fee for the services provided will act
as one way to obtain sustainable funds.

Every child will be required to pay certain
fee every term for three terms in a year for
all the years of pre- and primary-level.

The organization shall seek volunteers
from the community who will be assist-
ing as teachers, care takers, and leaders in
providing educational services and care to
the orphans and vulnerable children.

The organization shall keep in touch
with its current partners to provide the
necessary advice to the organization and
backup to ensure maximum success.

The organization wishes to coordinate
with her ambassadors and partners to
obtain individual sponsors to individual
orphans so that all children can be assured
of their sustainable stay at school.

Outcomes

At the end we expect to have a fully reg-
istered, functioning school with accommo-
dation facilities suitable for orphans and
vulnerable children – those under FPHF
and those enrolled on a private basis. A
sustainable source of income and togeth-
erness of children under FPHF.

*"God bless you the reader and supporter
of the idea."*

Requirements

1. Classroom/structures: For the school
to start, we shall need seven classrooms,
four dormitories, and an administration
block. We have already identified a place
in Kisoro Hill Village where we can rent an
adequate structure enough to accommo-
date 250 children. We shall reside in this
rented place for at least three years until we

have established our own structures.

**2. Furniture/and other classroom
materials:** Furniture and other classroom
structures including chalkboards, chairs,
benches, beds, and beddings will be pur-
chased by the organization.

**3. Textbooks and other scholastic
materials:** We shall need a number of
textbooks for the teachers to use for both
learning and teaching. We shall need text
books for each year stage, a teacher's guide
for every genre of book bought. We need
preparation note books, lesson planning
books, curriculum/syllabus books, schem-
ing sheets, charts, cards, and play materials
for children and teachers.

4. Office requirement: We need chalk,
chalk boards, and stationery for office use.

5. Administration/employees: The
school will employ over 10 teaching and
non-teaching support staff.

Completion

If we get all the funds as required this
year (2019), we shall purchase all the
necessary materials, recruit workers, and
by the beginning of February next year
2020, we shall be able to kick off following
the academic calendar of the Ministry of
Education and Sports of Uganda.

We have already realized that there is
need for a school around that location
because learning takes a long distance to
get to the nearby school. There is an urgent
need to rehabilitate street children who
have become a mess in Kisoro town.



Photo by Ngo Banfogha Abdulai

The speaker at this event is Ngo's project coordinator, Mbiyminyiny Marius Kongsno.

Music for Peace & Sustainable Development

Dear Hope for A Better Future (H4BF) Cooperative,

We today kick start the phase 1 of our Music for Peace and Sustainable Development project. It's started by inviting a group of artists in an interactive workshop which seeks to bring together 10 artists who are victims of the ongoing crisis to advocate for peace via music.

The main goal of this project is to end recruitment of young people into armed separatist groups, end violence and extremism between armed groups, and promote the process of peace and return to normalcy in this country.

In order for us to effectively achieve the objectives set in the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to utilize all tools. #H4BF takes the front line to use the power of music to promote peace and sustainable development in Cameroon. Music has a special power to positively impact development and peace. Music has the ability to bring people together; it bridges social, cultural, and economic divides. It teaches principles of cooperation,

respect, and understanding. Music builds resilience, self-esteem, and self-efficacy, which are all invaluable to the sustainability of any program.

At H4BF, we are set to exploit the power of this incredible gift of talents portrayed by youths. We will also be using songs to boost our online fundraising campaign to support persons internally displaced in Bamenda. We have got just four days to remain a permanent partner with Global Giving, after which the donate link will expire if we are not able to reach the goal of \$5,000 within this remaining four days. We still have \$4,975 to go and believe with your support of sharing or donating, it's still possible we can reach this goal. (**Recent email from Ngo:** About the fundraising, we only raise \$25 and did not qualify for Global Giving March acceleration; we have been programmed to try again in June. We are still learning though, we are so happy for your inputs and willingness to help toward the success of the Peace song project. We only managed with contribution from members and some local groups

though still very limited to keep us going.

About the Peace event, you can read more on this link: <https://mailchi.mp/0aff446c9304/music-for-peace-and-sustainable-development>.)

Our next siting will be to visit a music studio and record the song which is Saturday next week. This project also includes a music video which we will share the success as we progress. One we have already made is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGcpkXDDdbU>.

We thank you for your continues support and partnership. #peaceadvocates
Ngo Banfogha Abdulai
Founder and Executive Director, H4BW
You can find more about H4BF on:
Website: www.h4bfcooperative.com.
Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/h4bf.Cooperative/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/h4bfcooperative>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/h4bfcooperative>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/h4bf-cooperative-610b97151/>

Doubt is Our Substance: Comparing Tactics of Tobacco and Oil Companies

By Precious Nzeribe, Nigeria

Big Tobacco found numerous ways to 'dismiss' epidemiology studies. The Big Tobacco industry has been influential on the decision bordering on the effect of tobacco on the public's health for a very long time. Being that this decision outrightly affects the success and sustainability of their industry, they have been coming up with countless ways to make these decisions favorable to their interest.

These tobacco companies have always had foreknowledge of the detrimental effects of the constituents of tobacco smoke/nicotine on the health of the public but have fought tooth and nail to counter these claims, and sometimes water down the effects to make them seem less harmful and more tolerable. Of the scientific evidence showing the deleterious effects of tobacco smoking to the populace, the epidemiological studies have been most damning to the Big Tobacco industry. Innumerable epidemiological data have shown time and time again the costly effect of tobacco on public health, this cost has been quantified in both human and financial terms, the results being damaging.

Big Tobacco have been able to achieve their aims through several ways, and these ways are all geared towards manufacturing doubt within the public with the hope of perpetuating the use of their products. They continuously influence scientists and their studies for the benefit of their industry. They do this by various means which include funding of "sound science," a term which they coined to describe their science and their methods to counter science (junk science) which is contradictory to their claims. By funding research, they create an unconscious bias amongst scientists carrying out these research projects. This bias has been termed "Funding Effect." Such studies end up supporting their cause as compared to studies not funded by them. The scientists who come up with counter-epidemiology data for Big Tobacco companies are cherry picked to help support their position. Studies chosen by Big Tobacco are sometimes custom-made and selected, with no full disclosure.

Although Big Tobacco claims that the anti-tobacco supporters gang up against them by choosing not to publish data supportive to their cause, however, this has not been the case as Big Tobacco has so much wealth at their disposal to get their findings

published and influence the media.

Another trick up their sleeve for dismissing epidemiology is the fighting of scientific evidence. Big Tobacco hires scientists who reanalyze the data published by anti-tobacco scientists with the aim of coming up with flaws in their studies, thus, manufacturing uncertainties in their results. They go about this by asking for the raw data of those studies instead of coming up with their own studies to counter the evidence. This reanalysis comes up with findings that helps them dispute the validity of the science behind the damning evidence, as such helps stall policies that should be made based on those findings. This inconclusive science by the anti-tobacco scientists is what the Big Tobacco calls "Junk Science."

Furthermore, Big Tobacco also wields much power among policy makers and government. This helps them influence decisions regarding the conduct of science, it's interpretation, and subsequently the effect of the evidence on the public. By dismissing epidemiology studies contradictory to their stance through these means, they make the public oblivious of the latest findings, and make them comfortable with their tobacco habits.

Big Tobacco supporters do hold advisory and regulatory positions on decision-making boards, and their influence on these decisions can be biased. Their reach of influence is even evident on their ability to define what holds as general epidemiological principles (GEP). By this definition of GEP, they can define the guidelines for reputable epidemiological findings with the aim of impeding adverse legislation from studies that are counter to this principle.

This and many more have been the case with Big Tobacco and their dismissal of epidemiological studies contrary to their position.

Question: Use your imagination to consider other major Environmental Health issues (e.g. global warming, use of neonicotinoid pesticides, lead poisoning in urban areas, radiation poisoning in Fukushima, etc.). How could some of the actions used by the Tobacco industry be repurposed to deal with these issues?

The countless actions of the Big Tobacco industry towards dismissal of epidemiological studies for their selfish end have been similarly employed by other industries. Numerous policies to deal with

Environmental Health problems have been stalled because of the doubt/uncertainty manufactured by some industries.

The environmental issue of global warming has been plaguing Earth for centuries. Since the advent of the 20th century, substantial evidence has shown that man-made activities continue to warm up the Earth at an astonishing pace, and efforts should be made to put these activities in check. Various industries are culpable for these acts, the most notorious of them being the Oil industry which specializes in the mining and use of fossil fuels for energy. This is an industry that has remained the backbone of the economies of many nations with enormous financial output. They have refused to agree to scientific evidence clamoring for the halt/slow-down of these harmful activities that is damaging to the Earth. Instead, they have come up with counter science, and questioned the epidemiological and scientific findings, thus, creating doubt and subsequently halting policies that are against the interests of their industries.

Many leaders and decision makers have bought into their counter claims and seem unfazed to deal with the issue of global warming. They continue to perpetrate their harmful acts unchecked in many parts of the world. Their methods are quite similar to that used by the tobacco industry for continued survival.

Taking a leaf from the actions of Big Tobacco, and knowing how they went about creating these uncertainties, the global warming issue will benefit from collective agreement between scientists on the evidence showing the existence of global warming, and the effects arising from it. This consensus should also be supported by studies done by unbiased scientists that are not being funded by industries.

There should also be a disclosure policy on funding for any study done on global warming, and any evidence used for policy making should be peer-reviewed extensively to promote valid results. This will help reduce bias and conflicts of interest on results concerning global warming.

Decisions for the greater good shouldn't be stalled because of the interest of a lesser few who benefit outrageously from such indecisiveness. This has been the case for global warming whereby different opinion leaders consider their personal interest over the public good in making rational decisions that will help curb global warming.



Photos Courtesy Nature and Culture International

Old World and New World monkeys.

New Conservation Area in Peru to Help Endangered Monkeys

Nature and Culture International Email
April 30, 2019

Long ago, nearly 40 million years before today, a raft of monkeys found themselves adrift in the Atlantic. They had been blown out to sea by an intense storm on the African coast. Floating on a raft of storm-tossed vegetation, they drifted to a new continent – South America.

Sounds like fiction, but fossil teeth discovered in the Peruvian Amazon confirm the tale! According to findings from paleontologist Mariano Bond and colleagues, the monkeys that thrive in the Americas today are the descendants of prehistoric primates fortunate enough to survive the

journey.

From tamarins to marmosets, the Americas are now home to at least 53 monkey species, or New World monkeys. This month's mammal is the yellow-tailed woolly monkey, found in the newly-declared San Pablo-Catarata Gocta Conservation Area in Peru.

Yellow-tailed woolly monkeys are endemic to a small area of cloud forest in the Peruvian Andes. They are easily recognizable due to their long, dark coat and white ring of fur around their mouth. However, the most conspicuous feature of this species is the small, yellow-colored strip on the underside of their tail. Like many New World monkeys, they have a prehensile tail (able to grasp) to hold onto tree branches.

These primates are social animals, active during the daylight hours. They form groups of 4-30 individuals, including a single dominant male, multiple mature individuals of both genders and young monkeys. Communication between communities is performed through vocalizations such as a loud, barking call, which is commonly used as an alarm call or a territorial display.

These primates are herbivores, feeding upon leaves, fruits and flowers.

The tiny natural range of this species covers parts of the Peruvian Andes, namely, the Department of San Martín in the east and Amazonas in the west. Due to deforesta-

Monkeys continued on next page

Monkeys *continued from previous page*



Photos Courtesy Nature and Culture International

Spanning 6,500 acres in Amazonas, Peru, San Pablo-Catarata Gocta protects critical habitat for the Critically Endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey.



*Yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*)*



These primates are herbivores, feeding upon leaves, fruits and flowers.

tion and habitat fragmentation in the area, the yellow-tailed woolly monkey is listed as Critically Endangered. The species also suffers from continuous hunting.

Declared just yesterday by Peru's Ministry of Environment, San Pablo-Catarata Gocta Private Communal Conservation Area is part of Nature & Culture's efforts to protect the yellow-tailed woolly monkey and other sympatric species in the Peruvian Andes.

Spanning 6,500 acres in Amazonas, Peru, San Pablo-Catarata Gocta protects critical habitat for the yellow-tailed woolly monkey among other threatened species such as Johnson's tody-flycatcher

(*Poecilatriccus luluae*) and the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*). The area will also conserve important Andean ecosystems and water sources, including the Gocta Waterfall, the third highest in Peru.

San Pablo-Catarata Gocta was established with support from our generous donors and partners, including Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Robert W. Wilson Charitable Trust. We look forward to working with the local community of San Pablo de Valera to effectively manage this critical habitat.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends



Hello Iona,

I hope all is well with you over there in United States. Thank you for your friends and I am very delighted to introduce you and your work to the managers of Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation.

Iona is a friend of mine from United State who runs online newspapers and her interest is to support poor communities in Africa through publishing in her newspaper.

Please meet the managers and partners of Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation, a fully registered none governmental organization based in Uganda.

I have attached some information about me and the organization which I hope you might like it and publish it in your newspaper to enable us to raise awareness of the organization and also some project proposal for the school.

Note: At the moment I am in Australia and through our partners and generous people we are trying to find how we can get the organization registered here.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for anything. I hope to hear from you soon.

Let's always be thankful for small things with great love.

We both have greatness in our hearts.

I believe someone will help us out.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Uwineza Mark, Uganda

Founder & Director

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"Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy." (Leviticus 19:9-10)

Good luck to you Iona. Facebook is really a big time waster. It is nice to stay in touch with people and that's it. The rest

is a waste. So much better to actually see people or be involved in the world either making money or making something valuable or learning something!

If I were Catholic and had any say, I'd recommend Greta Thunberg to be a saint!

I just testified at the EPA against roll-backs on mercury and other chemicals in power plant emissions. It's going on all day.

Bill Boteler, Washington D.C.

Hello, Iona, I won't keep you but wanted to let you know I've written a few short bits. This one here is a little quirky but I had fun with it and was proud to be brave enough and post it about. lol. Also realized I hadn't commended you on putting April's Paper out. A great way for you to do things I thought admirable.

Here's an attempt at creative writing, loosely based on permacultures rule of observance (similar to telling a joke and needing to explain it). Had fun writing it though. Wives tales were often heard growing up both from Mom and Dad as well my great aunt. I've made use of a few of them here. Inspired to do so from a bit of reading material from a new friend, Iona.

On awaking early first thing Monday morning Mr. Withers looks forward to retrieve the morning paper. His slippers not being at the front door he quickly crosses his lawn barefoot thinking to himself no matter the grass is rather dry. On his return with the paper tucked under arm, he turns his sight towards the neighbor's lot as he clearly hears his neighbor call attention to a rather large flock of low-flying birds.

Once back in the house and closing the door he immediately gets the umbrella from the closet

for in too short of time he'll be heading off to work and that it will be raining he feels absolutely sure.

1. "When the dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass. When grass is dry at morning light, look for rain before the night."

(No dew on the grass would mean a cloudy sky or a strong breeze, both of which could mean rain.)

2. "When sounds travel far and wide, a stormy day will betide."

(Sound travels faster through a solid substance than it does through air. Air heavily laden with moisture rather than dry will allow for sound to travel better[clearly hearing his neighbors comment].)

3. "If birds fly low expect rain and a blow."

(When the air pressure is higher, birds fly can fly at a higher altitudes rather easily. Low air pressure, indicating bad weather, makes it more difficult for birds to fly high because the air is less dense).

Jeffrey Kleinschroth, Canada



Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/30396-those-who-contemplate-the-beauty-of-the-earth-find-reserves>