

# Groundswell News Journal

A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice  
*We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.*

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

**Our Slogan:** The way forward: cycle back to basics.

*A Celebration of Youth.* [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Issue No. 68: October 18, 2020



Photos Courtesy One Life to Love

*One Life to Love's Girl Education Program addresses the three main reasons girls drop out of school: family pressure, child marriage, no toilets for girls. In order to increase their enrollment rate in primary education and to ensure they graduate high school. Girls who manage to attend school are given free education only up to eighth grade, after which they are required to pay for their own books, uniforms, and other educational supplies. Because of this, and other factors, there is an alarming dropout rate of girls after eighth grade.*

## American Gives Up Easy Life in U.S. to Build Orphanage for Special Needs Children in India

**Courtney Deacon Lalotra**  
Founder & President  
One Life to Love, India

After graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City with an A.A.S in Jewelry Design and B.Sc. in International Trade & Marketing, Courtney began her lucrative career in the fashion industry. As she rapidly rose to the top of the ladder of success, she was unfulfilled and realized that she needed to find a deeper purpose in life.

In 2010, she made a last-minute decision to join a group of fellow alumni and professors on a trip to India. Courtney fell in love with the country and the people. A month later, Courtney did not return

to the USA with the rest of the group. Instead, she moved into a slum in north Delhi and began working with street and orphan children. The community quickly embraced her. They called her didi, meaning 'big sister.' She developed sincere relationships with the children of the slum and she had a vision for them: if they received the love and care that every child deserves, they could do amazing things.

Courtney would have spent her life in that slum had it not been for a chance encounter with Surrendar, an abandoned child with special needs. Surrendar was abused and left for dead on the roadside on a cold winter night. He was rescued by police and brought to the shelter home where Courtney was volunteering. He was non-verbal so he could not explain

what had happened to him. He was naked, scared, and covered with wounds. Courtney immediately took to the boy and would try to cater to his needs the best she could. After a few short weeks, Surrendar was able to tell her his name. It was truly a miracle. Courtney knew that Surrendar would soon make a full recovery as a result of the love and care he was receiving.

However, the shelter home was not willing to provide the space for Surrendar, stating that his special needs were a drain on their resources. He was sent to a state-run mental institution notorious for its mistreatment of children. Surrendar died a month later. Courtney's spirit was crushed. She found herself asking God, "Why?" and she felt as if God was asking her the same

**Orphanage** *continued on page 3*

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# What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

**Coalition Founders:** John and Iona Conner

**Editor/Publisher:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** www.groundswellnews.org

**Board of Directors:** Jeannette Bartelt, Bill Boteler, Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Iona Conner, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Mr. Kennedy Kwuelum, Mukesh Nand, Rituraj Phukan

**Advisory Board:** Dan Adams, Robert Burrowes, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Michael Mann, Mar-iam Nabukeera

**Contact:** Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, 2170 Route 88, Brick, New Jersey 08724; groundswellnews@pa.net

**Contributors:** Maher Antar, Ngo Banfogha, Robert Burrowes, Allen Hengst, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Courtney Deacon Lalotra, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Ezekiel Kulaba, Stephen Leahy, Bob Maahe, John Macharia, Anita McKone, Solomon Oluwaseun Samson's Ssengendo Yasin Sig-nalaminat, Mark Uwineza, Dylan Weiss, Valerie Wood-Gaiger

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

**Our Slogan:** The way forward: cycle back to basics.

## Mission of Our Journal

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting journal 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. We are a global family.

## What is the Grassroots Coalition?

John and Iona Conner started this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1990. The mission was and remains "dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns."

## 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 sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us.

## 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 journal 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.

## 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 groundswellnews@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Please email Iona at groundswellnews@pa.net for the full Guidelines. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

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(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.



Fair Use Logo

## Iona's Column:

### *Inspiration for Those Helping Orphans*



Dearest People Who Are Helping Orphans,

I was fortunate enough to speak with Courtney (on page 1) and after watching the short video of her and her work with special needs children, I was enthralled. First, I found it amazing that she gave up life here in America to live and work with very poor children and their families. Next, I was super happy that she has agreed to speak with or email others who are having some of the identical struggles that she has overcome. It's true that she has connections with Americans and a church full of generous members who are able to help her. You may not have those advantages but somehow I'm sure you will find her an inspiration.

In my history of working and living with John for 30 years, we traveled to dozens of churches. Among the mementos of our life together, I found his list of his contacts and when I have more time, I hope to reach out to the pastors we met together and see if they might be persuaded to "adopt" an orphanage or at least an individual who is doing their darndest to help orphans or street children. I can't guarantee anything but please know that I keep thinking about you and trying to figure out ways to get you and the children help.

With love and hope in my heart,

*Iona*

Orphanage *continued from page 1*



*From OLTL website: "Our children are given the security of a house they can call home. Children are enabled in a way that they develop the ability to recognize and express their individual interests and talents."*

thing. "Why?"

That is when Courtney decided to take a step of faith and open a home for abandoned and orphaned children with special needs. In 2014, with the support of friends, family and her hometown church, One Life to Love (OLTL) opened its doors and began rescuing children from the streets and slums.

Since its establishment, hundreds of lives have been transformed as a result of One Life to Love's unique approach. However, Courtney's vision was never to reach millions through One Life to Love. Her emphasis has always been on the innate value of every single individual. She believes in quality over quantity, stating, "Maybe I can't help 100,000 street children today. But I can change one child's life today, through love, care, and provision. And if I help one and you help one, then we are genuinely changing the world."

Courtney (33), her husband Yogesh, and their son Vikramaditya (5) reside in India, where Courtney continues to carry out One Life to Love's mission.

**A Home:** Our children are given the security of a house they can call home. Children are enabled in a way that they develop the ability to recognize and express their individual interests and talents.

**House Mothers:** OLTL HouseMothers are extensively trained women who provide constant long-term care, love, and support for our children. This team of compassionate, loving women are widows who thrive in the family-like environment they receive at OLTL's Beautiful Home.

**Family-like Environment:** The children are surrounded by a team of volunteer counselors, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and teachers, who become more like family members. The children consider each other siblings and feel secure in the

love and care given by the housemothers.

**A Village:** A Village! OLTL's Goal is to build a village, including several of our orphanages and a special education center among other projects thus creating a stable, secure, and supportive community environment.

Together with your support, we can rescue children from the streets and provide them the nurturing home environment they deserve for years to come.

One Life to Love's Home of Hope offers the ideal environment to inspire, encourage, and nurture these young children so they can overcome their challenges and work towards a brighter future.

You can help to give them everything they need for a happy, healthy life – nutritious meals each day, clothing, education, healthcare, and a loving family environment – all in a safe, community so they can experience the love and care that every child should.

Our team on the ground has identified a site to build a fully-equipped Home of Hope campus, and we are looking to transform this vision into a reality. We need a total of USD \$2 million to make this happen.

**Read more here:** Sponsor a Community <https://www.onelife2love.org/sponsor-a-community/> and here <https://www.onelife2love.org/about/>

**Watch a heart-warming, 15-minute documentary** at <https://www.onelife2love.org/why-oltl/>

**Contact Courtney:** [courtney@onelife2love.org](mailto:courtney@onelife2love.org) or +1(732)702-5515

**Source:** [https://www.onelife2love.org/our\\_team/courtney-lalotra/](https://www.onelife2love.org/our_team/courtney-lalotra/)

**ONE LIFE TO LOVE'S  
UNIQUE  
INTERVENTION  
MODEL ENSURES  
THE HOLISTIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF CHILDREN**

**THE FOUR R'S OF  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOR CHILDREN:**

- RESCUE
- RECONDITION
- REHABILITATE
- REINTEGRATE

OLTL conducts surveys in the villages and slums where we work. We identify girls who are not enrolled in school, have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out.

With the help of local officials and school personnel, we determine the reason/s why the parents are not supporting their daughter/s' education and provide counseling and information that substantiates the importance of education for girls.

If there is a financial burden, OLTL will provide free education and education materials for the longevity of the girl's studies.

*Climate Emergency*



Photo: 350.org/flickr/cc

*Climate activists protested outside ExxonMobil's annual meeting of shareholders in Irving, Texas.*

## **Taking Aim at ExxonMobil, Connecticut Joins 'Fast-Growing Wave of Climate Lawsuits' Targeting Fossil Fuel Giants**

**"This avalanche of climate litigation is Exxon's worst nightmare. The public increasingly understands Big Oil's role in causing and lying about the climate crisis."**

By Jessica Corbett, *excerpt*  
Common Dreams: September 14, 2020

In a move widely welcomed by climate campaigners and other critics of the fossil fuel industry, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong on Monday launched a state lawsuit against ExxonMobil for "an ongoing, systematic campaign of lies and deception" regarding the oil and gas giant's products and the climate crisis.

"ExxonMobil sold oil and gas, but it also sold lies about climate science," Tong said in a statement, referencing the company's decades of concealing internal science. "ExxonMobil knew that continuing to burn fossil fuels would have a significant impact on the environment, public health, and our

economy. Yet it chose to deceive the public."

"ExxonMobil made billions of dollars during its decades-long campaign of deception that continues today," he added. "Connecticut's citizens should not have to bear the expense of fortifying our infrastructure to adapt to the very real consequences of climate change. Our case is simple and strong, and we will hold ExxonMobil accountable."

With Tong's filing, his state joined what the Center for Climate Integrity (CCI) called a "fast-growing wave of climate lawsuits" targeting fossil fuel companies. According to the center, 22 other communities – including four other states – have filed similar suits since 2017.

Connecticut's suit is the fourth filed so far this month – following the state of Delaware and the cities of Charleston, South Carolina and Hoboken, New Jersey – and comes as climate change-fueled wildfires engulf the western United States and Gulf Coast residents prepare for a hurricane in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

As communities across the country have endured devastating extreme weather in recent years, that scientists warn will wors-

en as human activity continues to drive up global temperatures, fossil fuel companies have faced increased scrutiny for not only their contributions to the planetary crisis but also their concealment of research and campaigns to sow doubt about climate science – particularly in the wake of damning 2015 reports about ExxonMobil by InsideClimate News and *The Los Angeles Times*.

"This avalanche of climate litigation is Exxon's worst nightmare," CCI executive director Richard Wiles said in a statement Monday. "The public increasingly understands Big Oil's role in causing and lying about the climate crisis, and states and localities are stepping up like never before to demand justice and hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for their lies and deception..."

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/09/14/taking-aim-exxon-mobil-connecticut-joins-fast-growing-wave-climate-lawsuits-targeting>

*Climate Emergency*

# Lentils Can Feed the World – and Save Wildlife, Too

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: September 24, 2020

Wildlife could flourish if humans opted for a better diet. Think of humble, healthy lentils as the green choice.

LONDON, UK – U.S. scientists have worked out how to feed nine billion people and save wildlife from extinction, both at the same time – thanks to healthy lentils.

The answer is starkly simple: if humans got their protein from lentils, beans, and nuts rather than beef, pork, and chicken, they could return colossal tracts of grazing land back to the wilderness.

Nearly 40% of the planet's land surface is now committed to agriculture. And almost 83% of this proportion is used to graze animals or grow food for animals.

If it was returned to natural habitat, then humankind might be able to prevent the extinction of perhaps a million species now under imminent threat.

The same transition would dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help contain climate change, and perhaps even reduce the risks of new pandemics.

And best of all, the burden of action could sensibly fall on the better-off nations rather than the poorest.

"The greatest potential for forest regrowth, and the climate benefits it entails, exists in high- and upper-middle-income countries, places where scaling back on land-hungry meat and dairy would have relatively minor impacts on food security," said Matthew Hayek of New York University.

He and colleagues report in the journal *Nature Sustainability* that vegetation regrowth on once-grazed land could gulp down between nine and 16 years of human carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion, and buy time for a worldwide switch to renewable energy.

"We can think of shifting our eating habits towards land-friendly diets as a supplement to shifting energy rather than a substitute," he argued. "Restoring native forests could buy some much-needed time



Photo: Nutritional-Facts.com

*Get out your recipe book (unless you're a naturally creative cook) and discover the delicious and healthful meals you can easily make for you, your friends, your family, and our Earth Home while helping wildlife.*

for countries to transition their energy grids to renewable, fossil-free infrastructure."

The warning is only the latest in a long line of studies which conclude that if humans ate less meat, the world would be a safer, healthier, and better place.

## Russia-sized Area

The switch is unlikely to happen soon, or completely – in some places, animals are the principal food source – or very effectively. It isn't clear that in a rapidly warming world, forests would recolonize all farmed land, or that those forests would efficiently absorb the hoped-for atmospheric carbon.

But Dr. Hayek and his colleagues mapped only an area over which seeds could disperse naturally, and deliver dense and diverse forest. They identified an area that added up to seven million square kilometers (4.35 million square miles), in places moist enough to thrive naturally. This is an area the size of Russia.

The simple act of abandoning selected ranchland or pasture could work wonders

for water quality, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity. And it would work for human health as well.

"We know that intact, functioning ecosystems and appropriate wildlife habitat ranges help reduce the risk of pandemics," said his co-author Helen Harwatt of Harvard Law School. "Our research shows that there is potential for giving large areas of land back to wildlife. Restoring native ecosystems not only helps the climate but, when coupled with reduced livestock populations, restoration reduced disease transmission from wildlife to pigs, chickens, and cows, and ultimately to humans."

*Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.*

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/lentils-can-feed-the-world-and-save-wildlife-too/>



*Climate Emergency*

# The Vision of 20/20

By Dylan Weiss, Pennsylvania USA  
*Nevilwood Living*: July 2020

Who doesn't like to play "numbers?" Perhaps a game of 52 pickup? How about a roll of the dice? And what about a game of chance? Let's take a look at the mystical game of numerology, the belief in relationships between numbers and concurring events. For example, 911, meaning emergency, forever linked the date to the twin tower disaster. And did you know the day before Bin Laden was assassinated in 2001 was "May Day?" Could this have been an emergency "pay-back" warning in response to 911? How about the numbers 6666 and 666, Biblical references to good and evil. There are many examples. Think about your own lucky numbers, and how they came about.

With that in mind, let's consider some plausible relationships between our current year and Covid-19. To an ophthalmologist, 20/20 means perfect vision. So, what was the world vision in the spring of 2020? Depends on how you define world. If you mean the many countries within our blue globe, the results of your examination might be international blindness. But, if you define world as the blue globe itself, your examination would find perfect vision. Yes, Mother Earth has perfect vision.

Ask yourself what you were doing on April 22. Were you celebrating our Mother's "Earthday?" No? Well, you should have been. Perhaps our Mother was unhappy, tired or sick. How come? Because most of us, have not only ignored Her, but have actually been, and still are, abusive. We humans started out OK, using Mother Earth's God given gifts out of need. But with the advent of the in-dust-trial revolution we evolved from need to greed, hell-bent on money and power.

So, on April 22, of 2020 Mom announced ... "ENOUGH, I NEED A BREAK!" She sent us to our rooms. and



then celebrated her Birthday by enjoying the beauty of Her own air, water, and earth together with Her plant and non-human animal friends.

It isn't surprising that the human contribution to melting ice-caps, deforestation, dependence on fossil fuel, and many other abuses have not gone unnoticed and Mother Earth has reacted to our behavior accordingly. Simply, She has turned up the heat. Those with scientific minds have named this situation "global warming" while others prefer to call it "climate change." But, no matter the label, this is, in effect, a warning. So let's simply call it ... "Global Warning."

Over the years warnings like fires, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and other disasters have increased in size, intensity, and duration.

Have we paid attention? Nope! Although we are told about the weather *ad nauseam*, rarely do meteorologists point out the connection between weather and climate. Fortunately, our shared Mother is magnanimous. She has given us a final warning ... one last chance to right our wrongs.

This final chance has visited us "like a thief in the night," in the form of a green virus named Covid-19. Using Covid-19, Mother has effectively said "You're ground-

ed." How fitting that Her final warning was given during the spring solstice, just in time for several important religious holidays. How fitting to have added an additional plague to Passover's 10 along with the necessary cancellation of Easter Parades and family celebrations.

While mankind's self-healing is limited, Mother Earth's God given powers are infinite. While humans must wait to invent a vaccine and/or medication to cure an ill, our Mother has the ability to self heal immediately simply by eliminating human offenses.

Have you noticed how quickly Mother Earth recovered from our damaging behaviors? Within six weeks of sending us to our rooms, our trees are flowering more beautifully than ever, despite the cold and windy weather. Have you noticed you are breathing better given the reduction in air pollution? Have you enjoyed more time with your family? Has distance from friends increased your appreciation of them? Have you learned to Zoom around the country and around the world bringing many family members and/or friends together simultaneously? Are you now able to visit museums, attend lectures, listen to concerts, grocery shop, etc. without getting in your car, driving distances, or buying gas? And speaking of gas ... the price has plummeted. Just in time for an energy paradigm shift. Perfect!

Finally, in addition to the 20/20 vision reference, consider the proverb "Hindsight is 20/20." For, in order to correct a mistake, one must first recognize it. And how better to recognize mistakes when given an opportunity to look back upon them. Covid-19 has given us that opportunity. In response, it is imperative that we attend to Mother Earth's final warning. For, despite the many ills brought on by Covid-19, consider this pandemic an opportunity to recognize and act upon the need for change in order to survive.

**BE HUMBLE FOR YOU ARE MADE OF EARTH.  
BE NOBLE FOR YOU ARE MADE OF STARS.**

- Serbian Proverb -

[https://live.staticflickr.com/3845/14981171286\\_24ccab6da1\\_z.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/3845/14981171286_24ccab6da1_z.jpg)

*Climate Emergency*



Photo: Ken Dawson

*Road building in the old growth forests of the Renfrew Creek Watershed, part of the greater Fairy Creek Rainforest.*

## ***Forest Defenders Hold the Barricades to Protect Fairy Creek Rainforest***

An ongoing blockade to protect old-growth forests in western Canada has now lasted more than a month, but blockaders hope that a government report would help protect the Fairy Creek Valley have been dashed.

Deep Green Resistance: September 14, 2020

The forest defenders blocking road and logging access to Fairy Creek are devastated that it was not included in the government's announcement of deferrals of forest areas of the province. The Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) recommended: "immediate response to ecosystems at very high risk," through deferrals. That would emphatically include Fairy Creek, which lies within unceded Pacheedaht Territory. Instead, the government included Clayoquot Sound, which the review did not recommend deferring.

Roads accessing Fairy Creek were going forward and poised to enter the watershed when stopped. This constitutes imminent threat. Other old growth forests in southern Vancouver Island, either under im-

mediate threat or where active logging is taking place are: the Caycuse where there is active logging and roading; Edinburgh Mountain and the Central Walbran, both with multiple new approved cut blocks and road proposals; and the Nahmint Valley, where BC Timber Sales was censured by an internal review for violating its own legal requirements.

All of these areas deserve, and must receive, permanent protection from logging.

Among other areas of concern on Vancouver Island are the West Kuvichin River and the Zeballos Lake watersheds, both similarly intact watersheds at imminent risk from new logging and road building.

Fairy Creek has spectacular yellow cedar stands, a highly endangered and underrepresented species in British Columbia's forest inventory. The review calls for further protection of these species, yet the headwaters of Fairy Creek, and several adjacent old growth forests remain slated to be logged. Surely, the last intact watershed in the immense San Juan River drainage deserves a permanently protected designation.

We demand that the government immediately defer Fairy Creek and the other contiguous old growth forests from further incursions and permanently protect them from logging.

Until that happens, the blockades of the accesses into Fairy Creek will remain in place as support grows for protection following the OGSR report that highlights gross mismanagement, misinformation, and collusion between government and the forest industry, where the public interest and that of the standing forests seldom enters their calculations.

### **Contacts:**

- Carole Tootil: carole@ezpost.cam 250-709-8834
- Saul Arbess: sarbess@shaw.ca 250-383-5878
- Joshua Wright: jawrighter@gmail.com 360-989-8076

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/direct-action/occupation/forest-defenders-hold-the-barricades-as-the-bc-government-fails-to-defer-road/>

*Climate Emergency*



Photo: Alaska Conservation Foundation

*The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the largest of its kind in the United States, is home to myriad sensitive species, including the Porcupine caribou.*

## Largest Canadian Bank Refuses to Fund Arctic Oil Drilling

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Julien Gignac, *excerpt*  
The Narwhal: October 2, 2020

Canada's largest bank, the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), has quietly become the first major financial institution in the country to refuse to fund any oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. "Due to its particular ecological and social significance and vulnerability, RBC will not provide direct financing for any project

or transaction that involves exploration or development in the ANWR," reads RBC's updated policy guidelines for sensitive sectors and activities posted on Friday.

RBC is "committed to finding ways to balance the transition to a low-carbon economy while supporting efforts to meet global energy needs and our energy clients," Andrew Block, an RBC spokesperson, said in an email to The Narwhal.

The refuge, the largest of its kind in the United States, is home to myriad sensitive species, including polar bears and the

Porcupine caribou, a trans-boundary herd that undertakes one of the largest land mammal migrations on Earth. The bank's pledge comes on the heels of a controversial U.S. decision to open up part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development. The decision prompted swift reaction, with 13 environmental organizations taking the Department of the Interior to court...

**Source:** <https://thenarwhal.ca/rbc-oil-drilling-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge/>

**WHEN LIFE FEELS TOO BIG TO HANDLE, GO OUTSIDE. EVERYTHING LOOKS SMALLER WHEN YOU'RE STANDING UNDER THE SKY.**

- L.R. Knost -

[https://www.milkandlove.com.au/product\\_images/uploaded\\_images/lr-knost-quote-14.jpg](https://www.milkandlove.com.au/product_images/uploaded_images/lr-knost-quote-14.jpg)



*Climate Emergency*

## Climate Briefs

### Plan to Allow Seismic Blasts in Search for Oil Is Dead

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Darryl Fears and Dino Grandoni  
*Washington Post*: October 1, 2020

The Trump administration's plan to drill off the Atlantic Coast for the first time in more than half a century is on the brink of collapse because of a court development Thursday that blocked the first steps to offshore oil and gas exploration, as well as the president's recent actions that undermine his own proposal. Opponents of the drilling declared victory on Thursday after the government acknowledged that permits to allow seismic blasting in the ocean – the first step toward locating oil deposits for drilling – will expire next month and not be renewed.

Nine state attorneys general and several conservation groups filed a federal lawsuit early last year to block seismic blasting, arguing it could harm endangered whales and other marine animals.

The court battle dragged out so slowly that, in the meantime, time ran out on the permits. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2020/10/01/offshore-drilling-atlantic/>

### Portuguese Youth Sue European States Over 'Life-Threatening' Climate Change

Lawsuit filed with European Court of Human Rights aims to force governments to step up efforts to cut emissions.

By Umberto Bacchi, *excerpt*  
Thomson Reuters Foundation  
September 3, 2020

TBILISI, Portugal – Six Portuguese children and young adults, who have faced deadly wildfires and heatwaves, on Thursday filed a lawsuit against 33 countries with the European Court of Human Rights, claiming government inaction on climate change jeopardizes their future.

The applicants, aged between eight and 21, want the governments to ramp up efforts to curb planet-heating emissions, saying failure to do so threatened their lives and wellbeing.

"It terrifies me to know that the record-breaking heatwaves we have endured are only just the beginning," said Catarina Mota, one of four applicants from the Leiria region, which was among the worst hit by 2017 fires that killed almost 120 people.



Photo: GLAN

Four of the youth plaintiffs in a new climate change lawsuit are from the Portuguese town of Leiria, which was devastated by wildfires in 2017.

The two other applicants live in Portugal's capital, Lisbon, which has suffered from extreme heat in recent years, with temperatures reaching a record of 44°C (111.2°F) in August 2018...

The action targets the 33 largest greenhouse gas emitters among the 47 member states of the Strasbourg-based ECHR, including all European Union countries, Britain, Switzerland, Norway, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine, they said...

The six also argue that they are being discriminated against, because young people stand to suffer most from climate change. . . .

**Source:** <https://news.trust.org/item/20200903091021-09c8d/>



*Like the flash of a wing I came upon  
The loveliest thing since Avalon;  
White blossoming azaleas wan  
As a wounded king, as a dying swan.*

~ Joseph Auslander ~

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

<https://www.doaks.org/visit/garden/explore/swimming-pool-and-loggia>

*Earth Regeneration*



*If I Look Beyond the Choices Given*

By Anita McKone, Australia

Recorded: Earth Day, April 22, 2011 (with cords in the first verse so you can play along on your guitar or whatever you enjoy playing)

Am C G Am  
Some people say I have a choice between coal and oil and gas  
Am F D Em  
And the Fukushima nightmare spreading radioactive trash  
Am C FM7 FM7  
The Ranger mine is leaking, plants can't safely store their waste  
Am F G Am  
Self-destruction's the desire when self-hatred we can't face.

Others say I have a choice of new technology  
Of solar this and solar that, making most of wind and sea  
I've nothing against clever machines if they keep the Earth healthy  
But corporations' costly projects still sell us dependency.

So if I look beyond the choices given, the time to act is now  
Only reducing our consumption demonstrates effective power  
An unpopular solution because it's simple and it's free  
We're scared to lose destructive jobs, have faith in true economy

Some people say I have a choice between the dictator's regime  
And the freedom of democracy, but is all really as it seems?  
I cannot help but notice that the most destructive empire's  
A parliamentary democracy equipped with guns for hire.

If I look beyond the choices given I can plainly see  
True cooperation's based on conscious self-autonomy  
We're scared that if we lose control, we'll lose our freedom too  
But I never will obey; I'll never tell you what to do.

Some people say I have a choice between chaos and the law  
That law brings peace and more police bring an end to bloody war  
But there's a war against the people, there's a war against the heart  
And bureaucratic rules and threats keep us submissive and apart.

So if I look beyond the choices given, my soul speaks loud and true  
That my conscience is the voice of love, trusting others to love too  
You may say that I'm naive but I'm creating what is true  
When I stand against the insane fear that divides me from you.

But if you're lost in fear and desperate greed and want to bring  
about my end

They say I must use violence or I have failed to defend  
But if I look beyond the choices given, the violence stands un  
masked

As an endless, powerless cycle, a future driven by the past.

So if I choose to face my fear of death and defend nonviolently  
I'll be strategic and courageous while keeping my humanity  
Some people say I am not god, but who else could I be?  
But god and fear of being god, along with all I see.

**Source:** <https://anitamckone.wordpress.com/songs-of-nonviolence/if-i-look-beyond-the-choices-given/>

**Anita sent this note describing her song in terms of today's global events:** 'If I Look Beyond the Choices Given' is my favourite song of the few that I have written. I reckon I said everything I needed to say in it (it is a long song!), and as you say, the negatives have only intensified in the world since then. Even if the worst occurs, however, I reckon the universe (as one living being) must be learning a lot about itself from this experience. So perhaps the worst 'healing crisis' will lead to remembrance of the full truth and transformation.

**IT'S OUR CALL AND DECISION TO SERVE, SO WE KEEP TRYING.  
THERE WILL BE A TIME WE ABLE TO GET ALL THE HELP WE NEED  
TO HELP OTHERS. SO WE REMAIN HOPEFUL AND DONT BREAK.**

- Ngo Banfogha, *Hope for a Better Future, Cameroon* -

*Earth Regeneration*

**Groundswell Member Wins Photo Award from Seeds Embassy**

Solomon Oluwaseun Samson's Facebook page: "Congratulations to me."

**Notice from Seeds Embassy:**

To all our fans that participated in the photo contest, your farm photos are amazing and beautiful displays of the honorable work you do. The winner of our #giveaway was chosen based on other fans' reactions and we are excited to announce our voted winner on this page.

Congratulations to SOLOMON OLUWASEUN SAMSON of Nigeria, whose cucumber farm photo was voted the #photo of the day.

Happy #independenceday to all our fans and customers. Seeds Embassy hopes you keep making the best seeds choices for higher yield in all your endeavours.

#october1 #independenceday #nigerianfarmers #seedsembassy

**Seeds Embassy**

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**SCOPE Kenya Works During Covid-19**

By John Macharia, National Coordinator SCOPE

Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE) Kenya, has continued to empower and support school community in producing health food and planting of trees, to meet their food requirement during this Covid-19 pandemic period and regenerate the degraded land, through agroecology practices.

Over the last 6 months, school learners and teachers have remained at home. This makes it difficult for SCOPE Kenya to continue working with them while in school. Instead, we have come up with a Community Based Learning Program (CBLP), through which, we are able to reach out and work with teachers, learners and parents at community level.

Teachers, formerly trained in permaculture/agroecology land use practices, have been active and supportive in establishing their own nutritional gardens, facilitating learners and parents in establishing and

managing their nutritional gardens at the household level.

Through this initiative, parents have been collaborating with teachers and few learners in planting trees (fruit & indigenous) in schools. A good example is Karatina Special School, where the head teacher Mr. Stephen Gichuki has initiated a weekly agro-ecology training program for teachers, support staff, and parents among other interested community members, making the school become a Centre for community learning, in sustainable land use and Natural Resources Management.

To the right is a picture of Joseph Mbithi (SCOPE Field officer) and Florence (a parent). They are planting a Moringa Oleifera tree seedling in Kavyuni primary school through our Community Based Learning Program, where parents volunteered to be trained and work in schools even as learners stayed at home as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. They plant trees to rehabilitate bare and degraded land to create greener



and edible food forests with cool micro-climates, that are conducive for learning. Moringa Oleifera tree has high nutritional value and does well in arid and semi-arid regions. You can read about it at <https://consumereview.org/reviews/moringa/>. It's a wonderful superfood for people and fodder for the animals. Photo by John Macharia.

*Earth Regeneration*

# Ambitious Plan to Save Monarch Butterflies

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By D. André Green II, excerpt  
*The Conversation*: September 18, 2020

One of nature's epic events is underway: Monarch butterflies' fall migration. Departing from all across the United States and Canada, the butterflies travel up to 2,500 miles to cluster at the same locations in Mexico or along the Pacific Coast where their great-grandparents spent the previous winter. Human activities have an outsized impact on monarchs' ability to migrate yearly to these specific sites. Development, agriculture, and logging have reduced monarch habitat. Climate change, drought, and pesticide use also reduce the number of butterflies that complete the journey.

Since 1993, the area of forest covered by monarchs at their overwintering sites in Mexico has fallen from a peak of 45 acres in 1996 - 1997 to as low as 1.66 acres in the winter of 2013 - 2014. A 2016 study warned that monarchs were dangerously close to a predicted "point of no return."

The 2019 count of monarchs in California was the lowest ever recorded for that group. What was largely a bottom-up, citizen-powered effort to save the struggling monarch butterfly migration has shifted toward a top-down conversation between the federal government, private industry, and large-tract landowners.

As a biologist studying monarchs to un-

derstand the molecular and genetic aspects of migration, I believe this experiment has high stakes for monarchs and other imperiled species...

Decades of educational outreach by teachers, researchers, and hobbyists has cultivated a generation of monarch admirers who want to help preserve this phenomenon. This global network has helped restore not only monarchs' summer breeding habitat by planting milkweed, but also general pollinator habitat by planting nectaring flowers across North America.

Scientists have calculated that restoring the monarch population to a stable level of about 120 million butterflies will require planting 1.6 billion new milkweed stems. And they need them fast. This is too large a target to achieve through grassroots efforts alone.

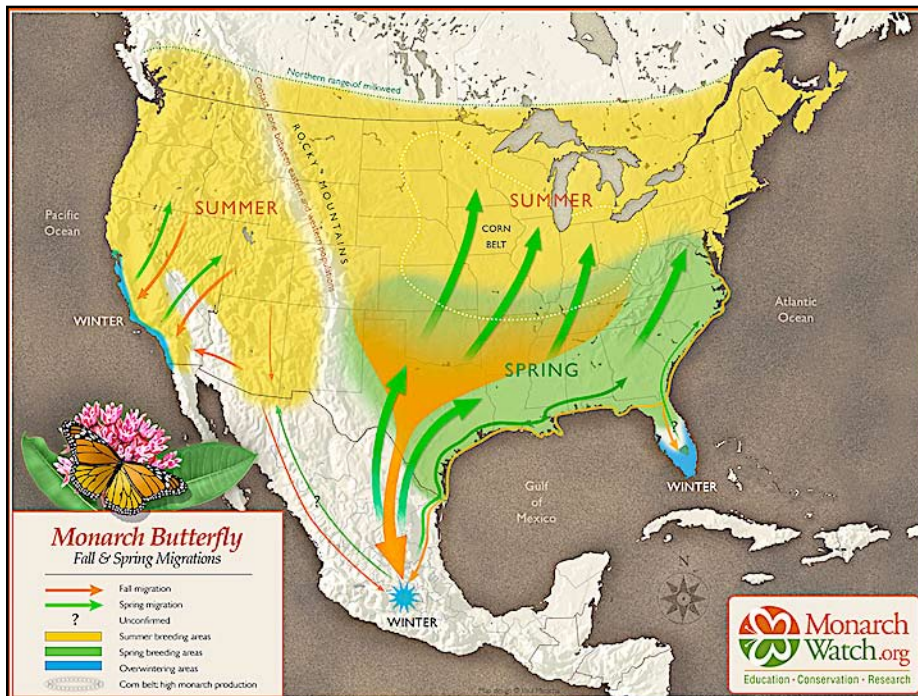
A new plan, announced in the spring of 2020, is designed to help fill the gap. The top-down strategy for saving monarchs gained energy in 2014, when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing them as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A decision is expected in December 2020. Listing a species as endangered or threatened triggers restrictions on

"taking" (hunting, collecting, or killing), transporting or selling it, and on activities that negatively affect its habitat. Listing monarchs would impose restrictions on landowners in areas where monarchs are found, over vast swaths of land in the U.S...

To preempt the need for this kind of regulation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved a Nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement for Monarch Butterflies. Under this plan, "rights-of-way" landowners - energy and transportation companies and private owners - commit to restoring and creating millions of acres of pollinator habitat that have been decimated by land development and herbicide use in the past half-century...

Under the plan, partners voluntarily agree to commit a percentage of their land to host protected monarch habitat. In exchange, general operations on their land that might directly harm monarchs or destroy milkweed will not be subject to the enhanced regulation of the Endangered Species Act - protection that would last for 25 years if monarchs are listed as threatened. The agreement is expected to create up to 2.3 million acres of new protected habitat, which ideally would avoid the need for a "threatened" listing. . . .

**Source:** <https://theconversation.com/monarch-butterflies-spectacular-migration-is-at-risk-an-ambitious-new-plan-aims-to-help-save-it-136479>



Art by Maher Antar, Egypt

*Earth Regeneration*



Image: The Leap/The Intercept/Illustration by Moll Crabapple

The film entitled "Message from the Future II: The Years of Repair" is a sequel to last year's "A Message from the Future with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez" and runs with the idea that the year 2020 became an "historic turning point" for the world, one in which "the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic and global uprisings against racism drive us to build back a better society in which no one is sacrificed, and everyone is essential."

## 'Years of Repair': New Animated Film Imagines the Future to Come Inspired by a Vision of Justice and the Common Good.

"The true power and possibility of this project is not onscreen," explains executive producer Naomi Klein. "That resides in the movement of movements that is fighting for this vision of radical repair every day."

By Jon Queally  
Common Dreams, October 1, 2020

To imagine a future in which humanity and global communities finally escaped the grip of neoliberal capitalism and the despair which stems from the interconnected crises of climate destruction, economic inequality, and the ravages of a pandemic that exposed entrenched injustices worldwide, a new animated short film released Wednesday features storytelling and perspectives from a range of frontline organizations and

activists explaining to viewers – especially in the shadow of Covid-19 and extreme weather disasters – that another world is not only possible, but represents a beautiful alternative worth fighting for.

The film – entitled "Message from the Future II: The Years of Repair" – is a sequel to last year's "A Message from the Future with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez" and runs with the idea that the year 2020 became an "historic turning point" for the world, one in which "the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic and global uprisings against racism drive us to build back a better society in which no one is sacrificed, and everyone is essential."

**According to the filmmakers:** People need a story about what they're fighting for, and what they're demanding from their governments. Not a laundry list of political demands – a vibrant story of how we win a safer, fairer world for all – and specifically, what that looks like. This is a group of artists and thinkers coming together to

put forward a narrative and a vision that does just that – describes how this moment could be a turning point for the better.

The struggle ahead, they continue, "is going to be a long one, but its goal is simple: a world in which no one is sacrificed, and everyone is essential. And in these challenging times holding to hope is in itself a form of resistance."

The 9-minute film – featuring a high-profile cast of narrators from around the world, including Emma Thompson, Gael García Bernal, Black Lives Matter co-founder Opal Tometi, and the Nigerian poet and activist Nnimmo Bassey – was streamed live in a global online premiere beginning at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Watch the film at <https://theleap.org/message-from-the-future-ii-the-years-of-repair/>.

Illustrated by artist and activist Molly Crabapple and written by Avi Lewis and Tometi, the film was created by The Leap

**Future** continued on next page

*Earth Regeneration*

# Deep Green Resistance Requires Repair of the Planet

By Lierre Keith  
October 1, 2020

Deep Green Resistance News Service  
Excerpted from Chapter 15: Our Best Hope in the book *Deep Green Resistance*

This principle has the built-in prerequisite, of course, of stopping the destruction. Burning fossil fuels has to stop. Likewise, industrial logging, fishing, and agriculture have to stop. Denmark and New Zealand, for instance, have outlawed coal plants – there’s no reason the rest of the world can’t follow.

Stopping the destruction requires an honest look at the culture that a true solar economy can support. We need a new story, but we don’t need fairy tales, and the bread crumbs of windfarms and biofuels will not lead us home.

To actively repair the planet requires understanding the damage. The necessary repair – the return of forests, prairies, and wetlands – could happen over a reasonable 50 to 100 years if we were to voluntarily reduce our numbers. This is not a technical problem: we actually do know where babies come from and there are a multitude of ways to keep them from coming. As discussed in Chapter 5 (Other Plans), overshoot is a social problem caused by the intersections of patriarchy, civilization, and capitalism.

People are still missing the correct information. Right now, the grocery stores are full here. In poor areas, the so-called food deserts may be filled with cheap carbohydrates and vegetable oil, but they are still full. But how many people could any given local food-shed actually support, and support sustainably, indefinitely? Whatever that number is, it needs to be emblazoned

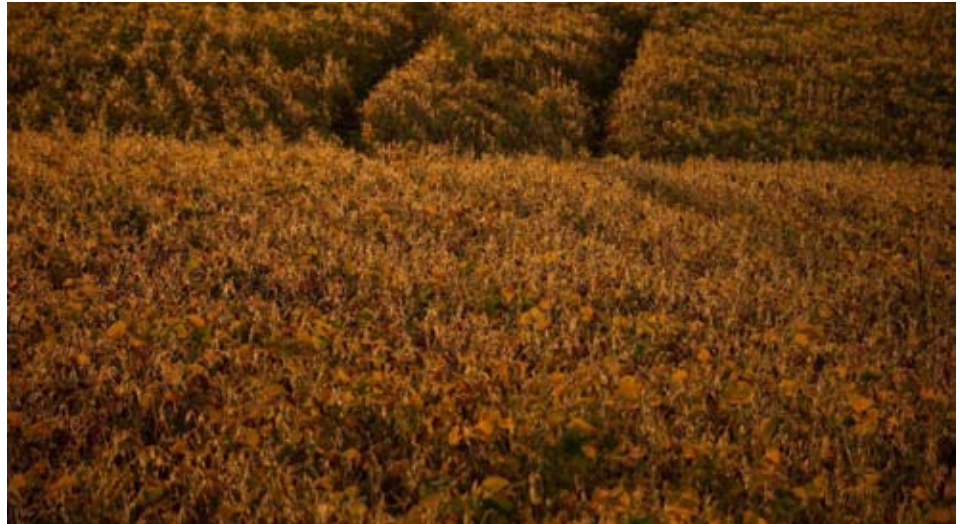


Photo: Pixabay

## *Soy plantation*

like an icon across every public space and taken up as the baseline of the replacement culture. Our new story has to end, “And they lived happily ever after at 20,000 humans from here to the foothills.”

This is a job for the Transitioners and the permaculture wing, and so far, they’re getting it wrong. The Peak Oil Task Force in Bloomington, Indiana, for instance, put out a report entitled “Redefining Prosperity: Energy Descent and Community Resilience.” The report recognizes that the area does not have enough agricultural land to feed the population. They claim, however, that there is enough land within the city using labor-intensive cultivation methods to feed everyone on a “basic, albeit mostly vegetarian diet.”

The real clue is that “vegetarian diet.” What they don’t understand is that soil is

not just dirt. It is not an inert medium that needs nothing in order to keep producing food for humans. Soil is alive. It is kept alive by perennial polycultures – forests and prairies. The permanent cover protects it from sun, rain, and wind; the constant application of dead grass and leaves adds carbon and nutrients; and the root systems are crucial for soil’s survival, providing habitat for the microfauna that make land life possible.

Perennials, both trees and grasses, are deeply rooted. Annuals are not. Those deep roots reach into the rock that forms the substrate of our planet and pull up minerals, minerals which are necessary for the entire web of life. Without that action, the living world would eventually run out of minerals.

Annuals, on the other hand, literally mine

**Repair** *continued on next page*

## **Future** *continued from previous page*

and The Intercept and produced by author and journalist Naomi Klein. It was the product of a collaborative effort by groups from around the world which included: The Movement for Black Lives, Public Services International, La Via Campesina, The Sunrise Movement, The NDN Collective, Global Nurses United, Amazon Watch, Greenpeace International, The Dream Defenders, Haymarket Books, and the Institute for Policy Studies.

In a piece authored for The Intercept to explain the origin and purpose of the film, Klein wrote that she and her co-creators

“searched for a unifying principle that could animate a future worth fighting for, we settled on ‘The Years of Repair.’ The call to repair a deep brokenness has roots in many radical and religious traditions. And it provides a framework expansive enough to connect the interlocking crises in our social, economic, political, informational, and ecological spheres.”

While no future can be accurately predicted or assured, writes Klein, the necessity of hope and vision remains a vital imperative. “The true power and possibility of this project is not onscreen,” she

wrote. “That resides in the movement of movements that is fighting for this vision of radical repair every day. If any of us still have the right to be hopeful, it is because of them.”

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/10/01/years-repair-new-animated-film-imagines-future-come-inspired-vision-justice-and>

*Earth Regeneration***Repair** *continued from previous page*

the soil, pulling out minerals with no ability to replace them. Every load of vegetables off the farm or out of the garden is a transfer of minerals that must be replaced. This is a crucial point that many sustainability writers do not understand: organic matter, nitrogen, and minerals all have to be replaced, since annual crops use them up.

John Jeavons, for instance, claims to be able to grow vast quantities of food crops with only vegetable compost as an input on his Common Ground demonstration site. But as one observer writes,

*“Sustainable Laytonville visited Common Ground. The gardens could only supply one meal a day because they didn’t have enough compost. The fallacy with Biointensive/ Biodynamic and Permaculture is that they all require outside inputs whether it’s rock phosphate or rock dusts, etc. There is no way to have perpetual fertility and take a crop off and replace lost nutrients with the “left-overs” from the area under cultivation ... even if the person’s urine, poop, and bones were added back.”*

I have built beautiful garden soil, dark as chocolate and with a scent as deep, using leaves, spoiled hay, compost, and chickens. But I eventually was forced to realize the basic arithmetic in the math left a negative number. I was shifting fertility, not building it. The leaves and hay may have been throwaways to the lawn fetishists and the farmers, but they were also nutrients needed by the land from which they were taken. The suburban backyard that produced those leaves needed them. If I was using the leaves, the house owner was using packaged fertilizer instead. The addition of animal products – manure, blood-meal, bonemeal – is essential for nitrogen and mineral replacement, and they are glaringly absent in most calculations I’ve seen for food self-sufficiency. Most people, no matter how well-intentioned, have no idea that both soil and plants need to eat.”

Annual crops use up the organic matter in the soil, whereas perennials build it. Processes like tilling and double digging not only mechanically destroy soil, they add oxygen, which causes more biological activity. That activity is the decay of organic matter. This releases both carbon and methane. One article in *Science* showed that all tillage systems are contributors to global warming, with wheat and soy as the worst. This is why, historically, agriculture marks the beginning of global warming. In contrast, because perennials build organic matter, they sequester both carbon and methane, at about 1,000

pounds per acre. And, of course, living forests and prairies will not stay alive without their animal cohorts, without the full complement of their community.

So be very wary of claims of how many people can be supported per acre in urban landscapes. It is about much more than just acreage. If you decide to undertake such calculations, consider that the soil in garden beds needs permanent cover. Where will that mulch come from? The soil needs to eat; where will the organic material and minerals come from? And people need to eat.

We cannot live on the thin calories of vegetables, no matter how organic, to which 50,000 nerve-damaged Cubans can attest.

So far, the Transitioners, even though many of them have a permaculture background, seem unaware of the biological constraints of soil and plants, which are, after all, living creatures with physical needs. In the end, the only closed loops that are actually closed are the perennial polycultures that this planet naturally organizes – the communities that agriculture has destroyed.

But as we have said, people’s backyard gardens are of little concern to the fate of our planet. Vegetables take up maybe 4 percent of agricultural land. What is of concern are the annual monocrops that provide the staple foods for the global population. Agriculture is the process that undergirds civilization. That is the destruction that must be repaired. Acre by acre, the living communities of forests, grasslands, and wetlands must be allowed to come home. We must love them enough to miss them and miss them enough to restore them.

The best hope for our planet lies in their restoration. Perennials build soil, and carbon is their building block. A 0.5 percent increase in organic matter – which even an anemic patch of grass can manage – distributed over 75 percent of the Earth’s rangelands (11.25 billion acres) would equal 150 billion tons of carbon removed from the atmosphere. The current carbon concentrations are at 390 ppm (411 ppm on October 7, 2020). The prairies’ repair would drop that to 330 ppm. Peter Bane’s calculations show that restoring grasslands east of the Dakotas would instantaneously render the United States a carbon-sequestering nation. Ranchers Doniga Markegard and Susan Osofsky put it elegantly: “As a species, we need to shift from carbon-releasing agriculture to carbon-sequestering agriculture.”

That repair should be the main goal of the environmental movement. Unlike the Nev-

erland of the Tilters’ solutions, we have the technology for prairie and forest restoration, and we know how to use it. And the grasses will be happy to do most of the work for us.

The food culture across the environmental movement is ideologically attached to a plant-based diet. That attachment is seriously obstructing our ability to name the problem and start working on the obvious solutions.

Transition Town originator Rob Hopkins writes, “Reducing the amount of livestock will also be inevitable, as large-scale meat production is an absurd and unsustainable waste of resources.” Raising animals in factory farms – concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) – and stuffing them with corn is absurd and cruel. But animals are necessary participants in biotic communities, helping to create the only sustainable food systems that have ever worked: they’re called forests, prairies, wetlands. In the aggregate, a living planet.

That same ideological attachment is the only excuse for the blindness to Cuban suffering and for the comments that 30 percent of Cubans are “still obese.” That figure is supposed to reassure us: “See, nobody starves in this regime.”

What such comments betray is a frank ignorance about human biology. Eating a diet high in carbohydrates will make a large percentage of the population gain weight. Eating any sugar provokes a surge of insulin, to control the glucose levels in the bloodstream. The brain can only function within a narrow range of glucose levels. Insulin is an emergency response, sweeping sugar out of the blood and into the cells for storage. Insulin has been dubbed “the fat storage hormone” because this is one of its main functions. Its corresponding hormone, glucagon, is what unlocks that stored energy. But in the presence of insulin, glucagon can’t get to that energy. This is why poor people the world over tend to be fat: all they have to eat is cheap carbohydrate, which trigger fat storage.

If the plant diet defenders knew the basics of human biology, that weight gain would be an obvious symptom of nutritional deficiencies, not evidence of their absence. Fat people are probably the most exhausted humans on the planet, as minute to minute their bodies cannot access the energy they need to function. Instead of understanding, they are faced with moral judgment and social disapproval across the political spectrum.

**Repair** *continued on next page*

*Earth Regeneration*

**Repair** *continued from previous page*

I don't want any part of a culture that inflicts that kind of cruelty and humiliation on anyone. Shaun Chamberlin writes, "The perception of heavy meat eaters could be set to change in much the same way that the perception of [SUV] drivers has done." Even if he was right that meat is inherently a problem, this attitude of shaming people for their simple animal hunger is repugnant. Half the population – the female half – already feels self-loathing over every mouthful, no matter what, and how little, is on their plates. Food is not an appropriate arena for that kind of negative social pressure, especially not in an image-based culture saturated in misogyny. Food should be a nourishing and nurturing part of our culture, including our culture of resistance. If Chamberlin wants an appropriate target for social shaming, he can start with men who rape and batter, and then move on to men who refuse to get vasectomies – that would be a better use of his moral approbation.

Getting past that ideological attachment would also bring clarity to the bewildered attitude that underlies many of these "radical" writers' observations about dietary behavior. Accepting that humans have a biological need for nutrient-dense food, it's no longer a surprise that when poor people get more money, they will buy more meat. They're not actually satisfied on the nutritional wonders of a plant-based diet.

Ideology is a thin gruel and imposing it on people who are chronically malnourished is not only morally suspect, it won't work. The human animal will be fed. And if we had stuck to our original food, we would not have devoured the planet.

Restoring agricultural land to grasslands with appropriate ruminants has multiple benefits beyond carbon sequestration. It spells the end of feedlots and factory farming. It's healthier for humans. It would eliminate essentially all fertilizer and pesticides, which would eliminate the dead zones at the mouths of rivers around globe. The one in the Gulf of Mexico, for instance, is the size of New Jersey. It would stop the catastrophic flooding that results from annual monocrops, flooding being the obvious outcome of destroying wetlands.

It also scales up instantly. Farmers can turn a profit the first year of grass-based farming. This is in dramatic contrast to growing corn, soy, and wheat, in which they can never make a profit. Right now six corporations, including Monsanto and Cargill, control the world food supply. Because of their

monopoly, they can drive prices down below the cost of production. The only reason farmers stay in business is because the federal government – that would be the U.S. taxpayers – make up the difference, which comes to billions of dollars a year.

The farmers are essentially serfs to the grain cartels, and dependent on handouts from the federal government. But grass-fed beef and bison can liberate them in one year. We don't even need government policy to get started on the most basic repair of our planet. We just need to create the demand and set up the infrastructure one town, one region at a time.

Land with appropriate rainfall can grow two steers per acre. But those steers can be raised in two ways. You can destroy the grasses, plant corn, and feed that corn to CAFO steers, making them and their human consumers sick in the process. Or you can skip the fossil fuels and the torture, the habitat destruction, the dead zones that used to be bays and oceans, and let those steers eat grass.

Either method produces the same amount of food for humans, but one destroys the cycle of life while the other participates in it. I can tell you with certainty which food the red-legged frogs and the black-footed ferrets are voting for: let them eat grass.

Repairing those grasslands will also profoundly restore wildlife habitat to the animals that need a home. Even if the rest of the above reasons weren't true, that repair would still be necessary. The acronym



Photo: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

*Heidi Rients, District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mitchell, South Dakota, was on a field visit April 24, 2014. She was delighted to find this excellent examples of healthy soil. Notice the Earthworms.*

HANPP stands for "human appropriation of net primary production." It's a measure of how much of the biomass produced annually on Earth is used by humans. Right now, 83 percent of the terrestrial biosphere is under direct human influence, and 36 percent of the Earth's bioproductive surface is completely dominated by humans. By any measure, that is vastly more than our share. Humans have no right to destroy everyone else's home, 200 species at a time.

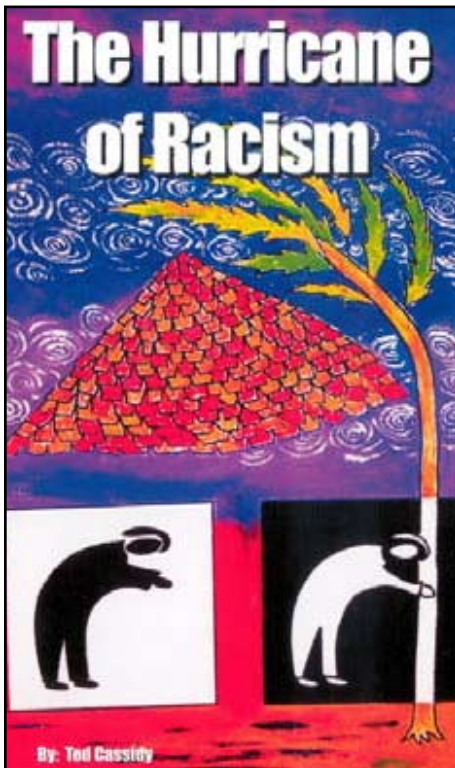
It is our responsibility not just to stop it, but to fix it. Civilizations are, in the end, cultures of human entitlement, and they've taken all there is to take.

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance-culture/deep-green-resistance-requires-repair-of-the-planet/>



*Ending Inequality*

# The Nature of Racism and How We Conquer It



By Fr. Ted Cassily, SM, Ohio USA  
Written in 2006

## Chapter 10 Finding Your Anger in the Racist Dysfunction

**Note:** We published the Introduction to this book in our January 2020 issue; Chapter 1 in February 2020; Chapter 2 in March 2020; Chapter 3 in July 2020; Chapter 4 in July 13, 2020; Chapter 5 in July 22, 2020; Chapter 6 in August 4, 2020; Chapter 7 in August 21, 2020; Chapter 8 in September 6,

2020, and Chapter 9 in September 22, 2020.

Finding and realizing your anger, denial, bargaining, and depression can lead to acceptance of racism and then to a determination to build the skills needed to eliminate it. However, it is not easy.

I have sought to remove my own denial of racism, but I know that I am not yet separated from this sickness. In this chapter I want to help the reader recognize his or her anger level.

I have listened to the anger in families that come to our Family Retreat House for prayer and healing, and I am convinced that anger can be constructive. I pray with my anger and my other feelings every morning. I usually write down my dominant feelings and then use them to help me face the day with the truth of what I am experiencing.

I see stable families who learn to express openly their feelings and then to process what can be done to work out good solutions to problems. One family spent years working with a son who was addicted to drugs and finally shared with him their true feelings without denial. The young man finally came to recognize his weakness and is living a powerful, sober, and useful life through the guidance of a 12-Step program.

If you scratch the outer shell of a Black person in America you will probably find some deep anger. A very well educated and retired Black man shared his feelings at a workshop about being treated as a second-class citizen while growing up. He had never brought to consciousness the feelings that prevented him from sharing his childhood experiences.

The white supremacy culture has become a way for white people to hide from their

true feelings. Through the years the prophets among us who have raised the cause of the underdog person of color have tried to awaken the consciousness of both white and Black people.

Martin Luther King, Jr., in his speeches, thought, and actions, expressed pathos for the deeper feelings of Americans. He and others like him have been a means for the nation to name its anger at the suffering of Black people, as well as a means for white people to name its deeper repressed anger at the same time.

Because they perceive that rights and privileges are being taken from them, the anger of white people is very deep in America. The anger of people of color – caused by being deprived of rights – is also very deep. This is all part of the dysfunction of our society.

To deal with racism is to face these angers in us. If churches, companies, schools, and other institutions in society fail to let this anger surface so that it can be dealt with in ways that bring about solutions, the anger grows infectious. It is the same as the dysfunction of anger caused by centuries of the Muslim and Western conflict.

Western culture has a deep fear of losing its dominance and its rights. Religion is used to protect this dominance. Rather than deal with the fear, defensiveness has been a cause of wars for centuries. Muslim people, on the other hand, turned to fundamentalism, which is a defense for being treated as second-class citizens and for a loss of rights. These very deep and active angers now operate in society.

A pdf of *The Hurricane of Racism* is available for free at <https://www.nacms.org/epubs/special-articles/hurricane-racism>.

**THE WHOLE IDEA OF COMPASSION IS BASED ON A KEEN AWARENESS OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL THESE LIVING BEINGS, WHICH ARE ALL PART OF ONE ANOTHER, AND ALL INVOLVED IN ONE ANOTHER.**

- Thomas Merton -

<https://quotes.yourdictionary.com/author/quotes/556805>

*Ending Inequality*

# New Website by Senegalese AI Expert Spotlights Africans in STEM

By Nellie Peyton

Thomson Reuters Foundation: September 15, 2020

The project, by the first Black female faculty member at Princeton's School of Engineering and Applied Science, showcases Africans working in science, tech, and engineering

Growing up in a trading town in Senegal, Adji Bousso Dieng loved school and had a particular talent for maths. But with a dearth of career role models, she had no idea which path to follow.

Some two decades later and a research scientist working on artificial intelligence at Google, Dieng wants to give young Africans the inspiring examples she missed out on.

"I didn't have a career role model to look up to and say, 'oh I want to be this,'" said Dieng, who recently earned a PhD in statistics and will next year become the first Black female faculty member at Princeton University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"It was not obvious to stay in school, in the context in Senegal where you're supposed to get married," she said.

This month, Dieng launched a website called "The Africa I Know," which features profiles of successful African professionals working in fields such as science, technology, and engineering.

Speaking by phone from her home in New York, Dieng said her mother had taught her to value education. The family business was selling fabric, and neither of her parents finished school.

"My father was polygamous, and so he had three wives which is very common in Senegal," Dieng told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "My mom was the only one who sent her kids to school."

Dieng went to the public school in Kaolack, a large town in the peanut-farming region of Senegal, where schools follow the French curriculum as a legacy of colonial rule. Computer science, which Dieng will teach at Princeton, was not something she knew about as a teenager. Her school had one room with old computers in it, and the instruction consisted of teachers saying "type this sentence" into Microsoft Word.

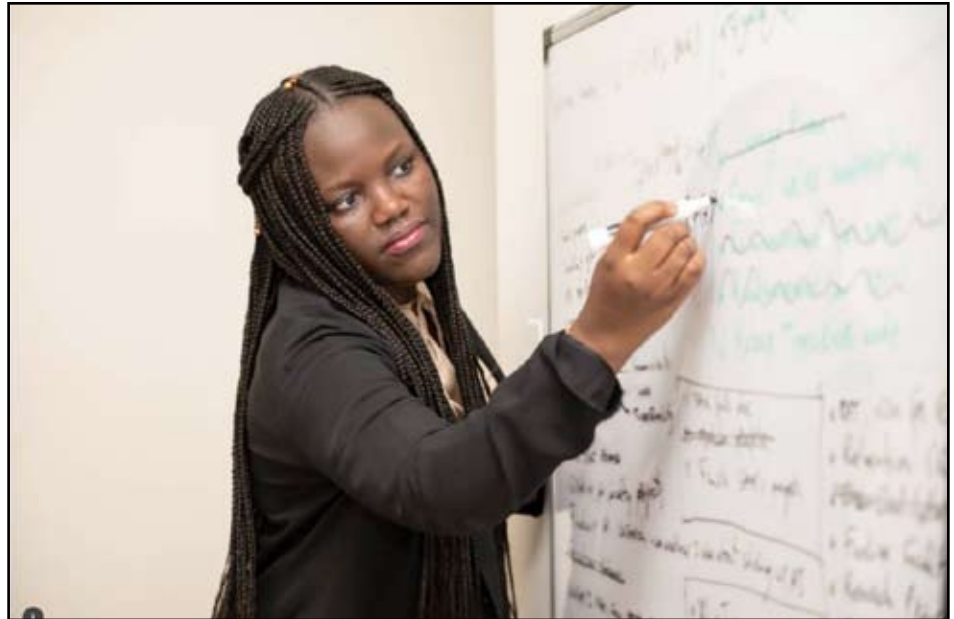


Photo Courtesy Adji Bousso Dieng

Portrait of Adji Bousso Dieng, undated.

But the quality of education in other subjects was high, she said.

At the end of high school she was chosen to represent Senegal at an excellence camp for girls' education in Burkina Faso, part of a program founded by the Malian astrophysicist and former Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra.

From there, she won a scholarship to attend engineering school in France.

"It was really exciting," Dieng said. "I went from Kaolack to Paris."

But her dream had always been to move to the United States, and after learning English she went on to pursue higher degrees at some of the top U.S. universities – Cornell and then Columbia University in New York.

The idea for "The Africa I Know" took shape during the Covid-19 pandemic, Dieng said.

"Everyone was like, 'it's going to be very bad in Africa.' I've found myself educating people and saying this is not true, we are doing well, Africans are capable," she said. "There's this narrative that Africans need help. People don't get to see everything that I see."

The website, which launched on September 1, is divided into three sections: inspire, inform, and educate.

Besides inspiring profiles of Africans working in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), the site includes informative examples of Africans using technology to solve problems.

The third section is dedicated to highlighting positive aspects of African history that are often overlooked.

"I took inspiration from, when I was growing up, what I would have wanted to see," Dieng said.

Now that she is setting precedents at Princeton – she will also be the first Black faculty member in the Computer Science Department, Dieng also hopes to encourage Black Americans and students of color from any background in the field.

"I never had a Black lecturer since I left Senegal, so I really understand how they feel," she said. "I'll be making sure that I admit students from everywhere, that they see representation."

**Source:** <https://news.trust.org/item/20200915114403-yx9ft/>

*Ending Inequality*

## VIDEO: Schitt's Creek Star Dan Levy Urges Canadians to Take Online Class on Indigenous History

By Katya Slepian, *excerpt*  
*Columbia Valley Pioneer*: Aug. 18, 2020

A Canadian-born actor is urging everyone to get educated on Indigenous issues and history in 2020.

Dan Levy, co-creator of the popular *Schitt's Creek*, posted a video to Twitter about Indigenous Canada, a free online course from the University of Alberta.

"It's a 12-lesson, massive, open, online course that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues from an Indigenous perspective," Levy said.

The actor said he would be hosting question and answer sessions with professors to delve deeper into the materials and learn about past and present issues that many students – including Levy himself – may not have learned in school.

"Because if 2020 has taught us anything, it's that we need to actively relearn history – history that wasn't taught to us in school – to better understand and contextualize our lives and how we can better support and be of service to each other."

According to the University of Alberta, the course "explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations."



Photo: The Canadian Press/Chris Young

*Schitt's Creek* co-creators Eugene Levy and his son Dan (left) arrive on the red carpet at the 2015 Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto on Sunday, March 1, 2015.

This year has also seen a fatal police shooting of Indigenous woman Chantel Moore during a wellness check and a confrontation between police and Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, with police seen on video punching Adam over an alleged expired license plate.

For more information, visit: <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html...>

Source (included video): <https://www.columbiavalleypioneer.com/trending-now/video-schitts-creek-star-dan-levy-urges-canadians-to-take-online-class-on-indigenous-history/>

## Uganda Woman Helps Orphans

By Iona

My friend, Lillian Kabahuma, who started Rise and Shine Women Initiative for Environment Protection and Conservation, has such a warm heart and has had such a hard time that I'm hop-



ing some of our readers will come to her aid, like I'm trying to do.

She used to have a beautiful herd of goats to finance her children's care, help widows, and do her projects, but 28 of them drowned in a massive flood a few months ago. When her friend died of HIV/AIDS, she took three of the orphans in but she already had her hands full, including one little boy with no hands, so they must help him with everything. She also took in two pregnant teens and brought them plus their babies into her home. Her new 12-year-old daughter, Purity, just left for school; Lillian had to pay her fees.

She wrote, "In 12 children I have four girls and two mothers. No one else helps me apart from the small help I get from my daughter. I'm in a small home with double-decker beds. I rent three rooms whereby my children sleep two-two, a decker has two beds, those are four children, another two beds four children, another two beds four children, every room has one bed for a mother and one room for girls, there's my bed, every room they sleep with a mother, including me."

Money can be sent via Western Union to Kabahuma Lillian, Uganda or you can email her at [kabahumalillian80@gmail.com](mailto:kabahumalillian80@gmail.com).

*Ending Inequality*

# The Value of Older People in Creating Kinder Communities

Join us in celebrating National Older Persons Day with a conversation and Q&A alongside our speakers;



**Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE**

Founder of 'Learn With Grandma'



**David McKinney**

Ageing Well Lead, Older People's Commissioner Team



**Meiriona Davies**

Carer and Campaigner for Carer's Rights

**Thursday 1st October : 1-2.30pm : Online on Zoom : Link to Register above**



## Groundswell Member Speaks for Elderly, Networks with Other Members

Email from Vallerie Wood-Gaiger (Wales) to Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat (Uganda)

Dear Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat, Iona has told me about Jinja Church-Children Home. I visited Jinja while I was in Uganda in 2014. After I returned home to Wales I started to promote Learn with Grandma on Facebook and the best way for us to be in contact & for me to help you is via the group for Uganda <https://www.facebook.com/groups/344240262301355/>

Learn with Grandma (LwG) was my retirement project – my Mission! LwG is

an international network with Facebook groups around the world promoting inter-generational learning and active ageing.

The main aim is to share ideas for how to use the Internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, and knowledge across the generations.

As a member you are welcome to post relevant news, events, and achievements. Please share anything that fits with LwG's goals & aims to:

1. Protect and cherish our people, our

community and planet – it's our home.

2. Reunite the generations using IT as a bridge.

3. Record all that is good from our histories, culture, traditions, heritage, and skills, etc.

4. Encourage teachers, parents, and grandparents to instil a love of learning, create lasting memories, and have fun together.

5. Encourage respect between the gen-

**Grandma** continued on next page

## Ending Inequality

**Grandma** *continued from previous page*

erations and show that each generation has skills they can learn from the other.

6. Encourage intergenerational learning and active ageing projects.

7. Research, create, and provide learning material and resources and encourage a reading culture.

8. Use the Internet to share knowledge of the world to every corner of the world. The Internet is a digital international library, accessible to all.

9. Work with organisations in other countries to promote these aims internationally.

But PLEASE remember that many people who are members of LwG either work for not for profits or already support various charities. We all understand that all organisations need money, but too many appeals are counterproductive!

Sharing posts and ideas can inspire people in your community to take local action. Please do share posts that can work in any country to LwG International at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489818234620407/>.

Sharing will not only give publicity to your initiatives, it can also inspire others to take Action!

It's also important that you understand that I cannot send anyone any money; neither can I fundraise for Jinjachurchchildrenhome – I am asked most days & it would not be fair. Plus I would have no time to do anything else!! My only income is the UK state pension. Learn with Grandma has no income & no funds

I decided that the best way I can help is by sharing ideas and making practical suggestions of things you could do that are Achievable, Affordable, and Sustainable. I also think that at my age – 79 – & imperfect health, it would be very wrong of me to encourage people to rely on my financial support.

God Bless & Keep safe!

**Val**

Mrs. Valerie Wood-Gaiger, Wales UK  
**Phone:** +44(0) 1550 721884 07484  
2263390 Please note no mobile signal in Myddfai. Do NOT leave a message on the mobile! Better to leave one on landline or Facebook!

**Email:** [valwoodgaiger@aol.com](mailto:valwoodgaiger@aol.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LwGInternational/>

### Valerie Also Networked with Robert Burrowes in Australia

*(first, from Valerie to Iona)*

Dear Iona,

So sorry I can't join you all tomorrow. Electricity permitting (it was off in Jinja, Uganda last weekend!!), Moses & I plan to film a presentation for a UNESCO conference in October. Another new way of using the Internet! I think it will be exciting to see me in Wales and Moses in Uganda talking on the same screen about a project we are working on. We will be able to share it after the conference.

I also wanted to thank RJBurrowes & AMcKone <[flametree@riseup.net](mailto:flametree@riseup.net)> for his very nice letter. I would love to know what you do Robert. If you use Facebook I'm very easy to find. The only Valerie Wood-Gaiger in the world!

*(second, from Robert to Val and Iona)*

Hi Val and Iona,

In answer to your question Val, my life passion is ending human violence. I have briefly explained why on my personal website's home page:

<https://robertjburrowes.wordpress.com/>

Anita and I have nine websites (all at end of this email) each of them more or less focused on explaining violence in one context or another, and a strategy for ending it in that context.

We are rather hopelessly overloaded, as you might imagine given the violence in the world, and so we do not use social media (although our critique of it would disincline us to do so in any case).

Anyway, as I probably mentioned in my previous email, if signing the Nonviolence Charter <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/> appeals to you, we are more than happy to promote your work in this network too as we do Iona's.

In any case, in sincerest appreciation of your own efforts to bring some sanity into our world. It is a long struggle as we 'oldies' (if you will both forgive my inclusion of you with myself!) know only too well.

Love to you and Iona from Australia,

**Robert**

*(third to Robert from Valerie)*

Dear Robert,

I have signed & if you can prepare a brief description of your aims & how to sign I will share to LwG – especially to Australia <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1505276623054477/>

It's a pity you don't use Facebook – it is a

wonderful communication tool.

I started promoting Intergenerational Learning & Active Ageing on FB in 2014 never expecting it to become an International network – I can no longer share every post to every group! From Australia to Canada; Ukraine to South Africa!! The main aim is share ideas of how to use the internet as a bridge to reunite the generations and help break down the digital age gap by sharing skills, love, & knowledge across the generations & of course I share posts against violence of all sorts.

Sadly – like you I am hopelessly overloaded – so behind with email it's embarrassing, but if you can prepare something I can post to FB – explaining violence in one context or another, and a strategy for ending it – I will share.

God Bless & Keep safe – this pandemic is NOT over! It is regaining strength. In UK the daily cases **have gone back up to about 4,000!!**

**Val**

*(fourth, from Robert to Iona and Val)*

Good morning Val and Iona,

In response to your email Val, your name does not appear on the Nonviolence Charter signature site – <http://pcnw-signatures.org/> – so you are welcome to have another 'go' at signing or, if it is easier, just let me know your home city/town (forgive me for not being able to tell from 'Brynamlwg, Myddfai, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire') and I will enter it for you.

And I will include the paragraph you wrote about founding LwG, together with your preferred link, in the next report to all signatories (which I'm planning to prepare and send out in October).

If this paragraph is suitable you are welcome to post it wherever you like. Many thanks. It is very kind of you.

*Robert Burrowes in Australia has a lifetime commitment to understanding and ending human violence, in all of its dimensions. If you would like to be part of the worldwide network dedicated to ending violence that Robert cofounded, you can read and sign 'The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World' <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/> or contact Robert at <[flametree@riseup.net](mailto:flametree@riseup.net)>.*

And Iona: our nine websites are listed at the end of this email sequence below.

Love to my fellow members of the 'hopelessly overloaded club',

**Robert**

**(Iona: Sorry, Robert, no room for 9 websites)**

*Ending Inequality*

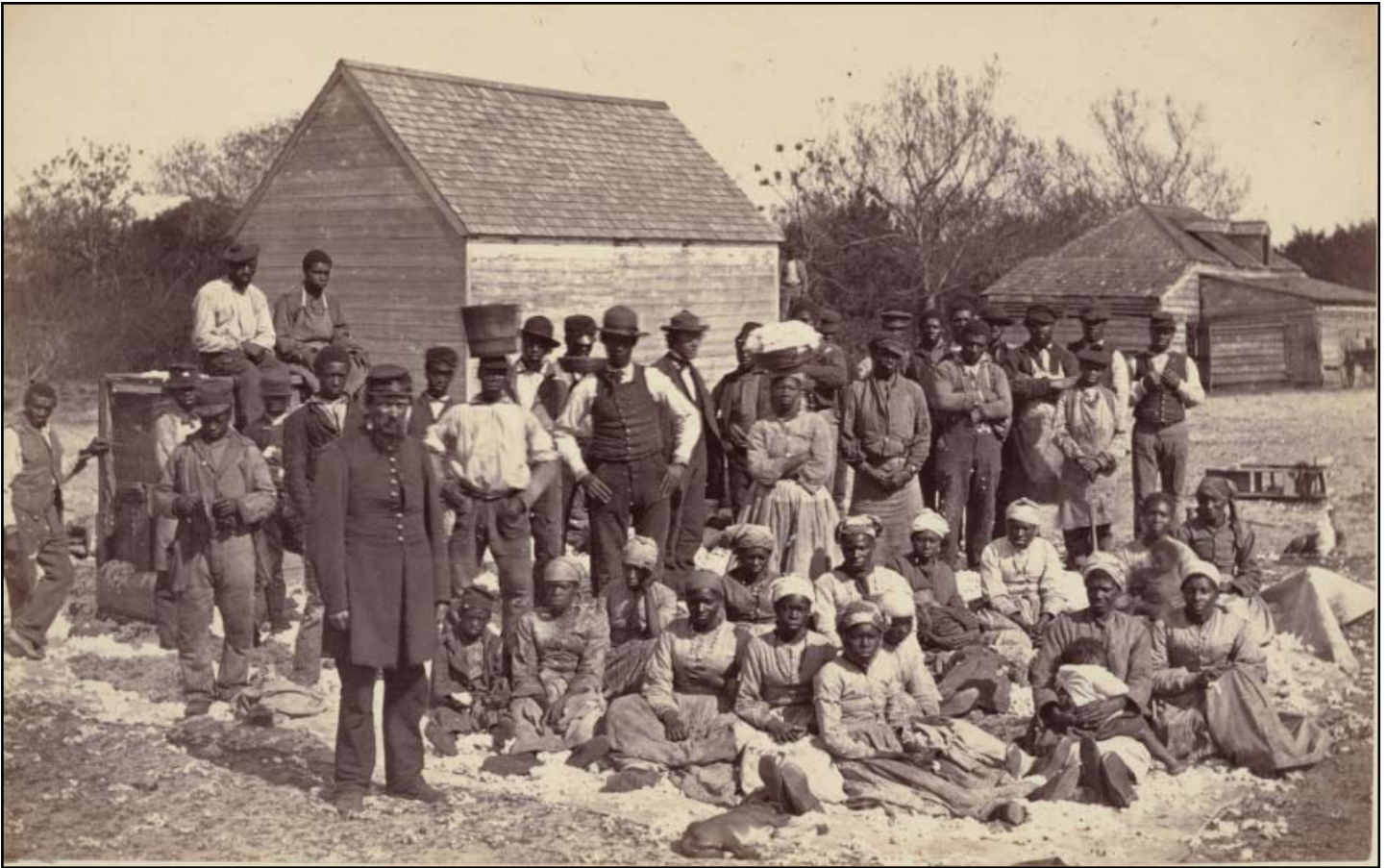


Photo: Henry P. Moore (American, 1835 - 1911)

*Slaves of General Thomas F. Drayton. This photograph, depicting a large group of slaves, was taken by Henry P. Moore at Hilton Head, South Carolina on the 700-acre Fish Haul Plantation belonging to Thomas Fenwick Drayton. The plantation was largely dedicated to producing cotton, and 52 slaves worked and lived there. Moore's photographs from this period document slaves' living quarters and include images of workers ginning and sorting cotton. This image depicts slaves who were in the process of being freed by the federal government. Photo posted at The J. Paul Getty Museum's Open Content Program.*

## Racism Continues for One Very Simple Reason

By Robert Reich  
Alternet: September 18, 2020

Since the first colonizers arrived in the United States to this very moment, wealthy elites have used the tools of theft, exclusion, and exploitation to expand their wealth and power at the detriment of Black, Latinx, Indigenous people, and marginalized people of color. It all boils down to this simple truth: Racism is profitable.

The profitability of racism sparks a vicious cycle called the Oppression Economy: Elite institutions are motivated to keep suppressing the economic vitality of people of color. That economic oppression in turn hinders their political power, and that political oppression kneecaps their ability to change the system.

This cycle plays out in every aspect of our economy and is particularly apparent

in mass incarceration. The criminalization of people of color is a multibillion-dollar industry: In 2017 alone, mass incarceration cost \$182 billion; trapping mostly low-income Black and Latinx people in a cycle of economic and political disenfranchisement.

If we follow the money, we find that some of America's largest banks, including Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and JPMorgan Chase, have all extended millions of dollars in credit lines to for-profit prison operators like GEO Group and CoreCivic.

The unregulated operations of prisons have increasingly mandated cheap service for maximum profit. For example, bail bonds companies, telecommunications, food, and commissary companies gouge both those incarcerated and their families. The exploitation doesn't stop upon release from prison.

The suppression of economic vitality of people of color is just beginning. Because of

discrimination, formerly incarcerated people face an unemployment rate of 27 percent – higher than the total U.S. unemployment rate during any historical period, including during this pandemic and the Great Depression.

Fines and fees associated with the criminal “justice” system have placed \$50 billion in debt on the shoulders of approximately 10 million people who have been through the system. To make matters worse, many states bar people convicted of felonies from receiving any government assistance. That's just incarceration.

Over the past four decades, the cost of policing in the U.S. has skyrocketed, almost tripling from \$42.3 billion in 1977 to \$114.5 billion in 2017. Of the 100 largest cities in America, the nine police forces that kill people at the highest rate per population

**Racism** *continued on next page*

*Ending Inequality*

**Racism** *continued from previous page*

all take up over 30 percent of their cities' budgets – leaving paltry resources to invest in housing, education, or health care.

This deliberate economic oppression suppresses political power of people of color, weakening their constitutional right to change the rules of a system that regulates whether or not profit can be derived from racism.

In our current system, the wealthy elite use their purchased political power to manipulate the system for their own gain at the expense of people of color.

Let's turn back to people who are incarcerated. In 48 states, those who are currently or formerly incarcerated face restrictions on their right to vote. Yet, inmates count as residents of where they are incarcerated, rather than their hometowns. That means people in prison have no representation, and are used as pawns to skew representational power towards the largely white, rural areas that house prisons.

This leaves incarcerated people's hometowns under-represented. The restrictions on voting power don't end upon release. 6.1 million people are prevented from casting a ballot due to a prior felony conviction, and 1 in 13 Black people have lost their right to vote due to felony disenfranchisement, compared to 1 in 56 non-Black people.

It's a never-ending cycle that has been churning for centuries: the profitability of racism motivates elite institutions to continue economic oppression of people of color that in turn hinders their political power, and that political oppression kneecaps their ability to change the system in which racism is so profitable.

So how do we break the cycle?

Let's start with supporting candidates and pressuring elected officials at every level of government who will support bold policies that dismantle the Oppression Economy and build a Liberation Economy – and remove those that don't.

To end the Oppression Economy, our government must end the criminalization of people of color, end their political suppression, and curb runaway corporate power.

And, to build a Liberation Economy our government must guarantee that all people of color have access to basic economic rights like guaranteed income and employment, universal health care, guaranteed housing, a free college education, and generational wealth.

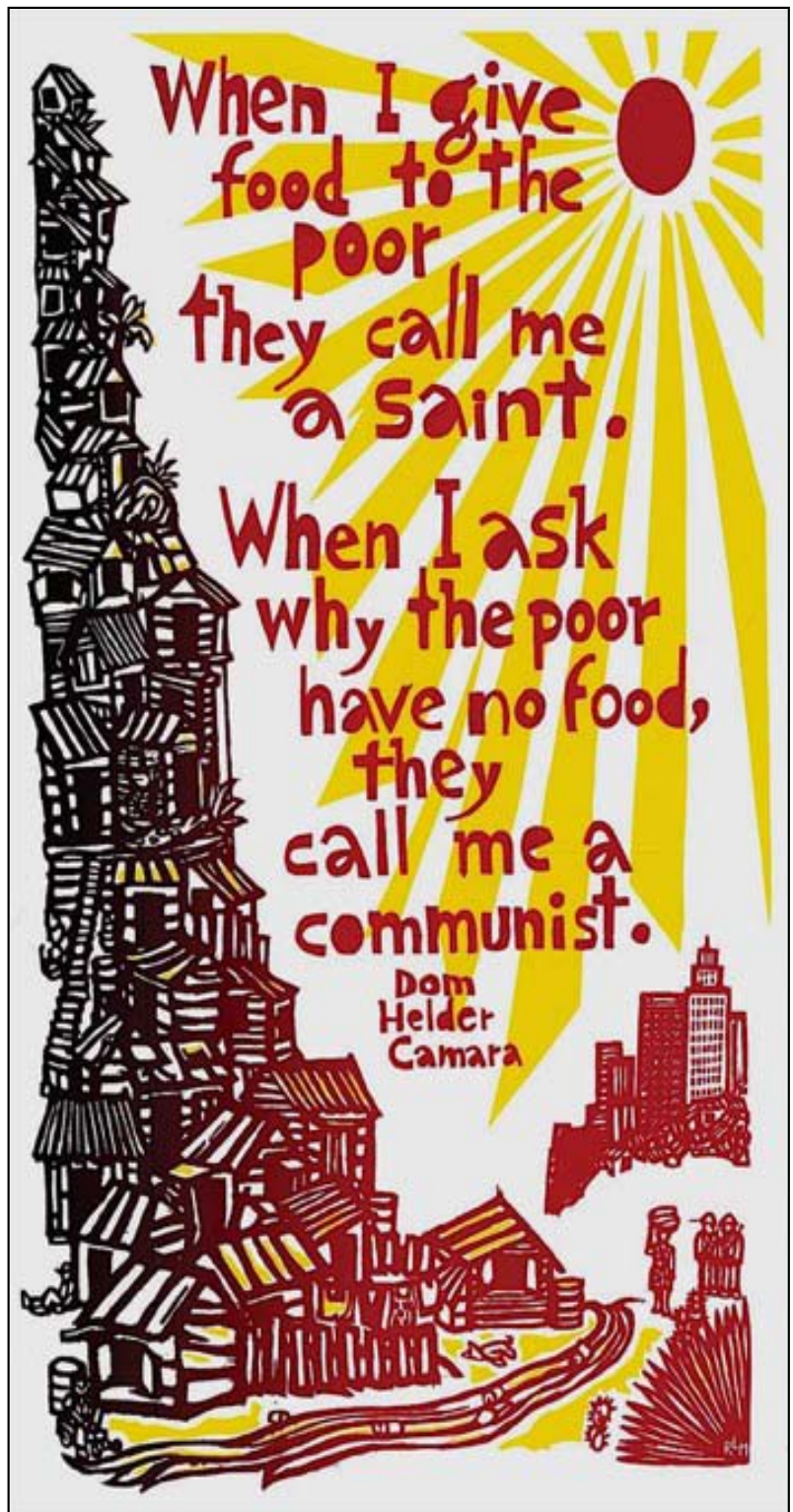
This Liberation Economy is within our power to create. As Teddy Roosevelt said, "We are the government." It does not belong to the corporations and the plutocrats that currently control them. It belongs to us, and it is within our power to take it back.

We can break this cycle, if we act together.

Let's get to work.

*Robert Bernard Reich is an American economic advisor, professor, author, and political commentator. He served in the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton. He was Secretary of Labor from 1993 to 1997. He was a member of President Barack Obama's economic transition advisory board. (Wikipedia)*

**Source:** <https://www.alternet.org/2020/09/robert-reich-racism-continues-for-one-very-simple-reason/>



Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

Quote by Dom Helder Câmara

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/TEITRDT/photos/a.218024488389450/1475812265943993/>

*Human Interest*



Photo Courtesy Need to Know

*The Kuna managed to protect more than 90 percent of the original rainforest in their territory, one of the best preserved in Central America.*

## Living Well Is Living Harmoniously With Nature

### Learning Indigenous Values and Ways of Being: A Visit to an Island of Rainforest Guardians

By Stephen Leahy  
Need-to-Know: September 29, 2020

When it comes to adventure, I'm a fish out of water. A fish that doesn't swim very well even when it's in the water. And so the rolling six- to eight-foot waves scared the hell out of me when I found myself in a thin pencil of a boat pointed into the middle of a darkly blue ocean. It wasn't long before I was wet as fish too, and desperately wrapping a torn piece of plastic around my backpack containing my laptop, phone, camera, and recorder – vital tools of my trade that would soon be useless.

How did I get myself into this? Only two days before I'd been in the lovely old university city of Montpellier in the south of France with its charming cafés and modern art. After a complicated journey that included a stomach-churning ride in

a small plane that ended with a bouncing landing on a dirt airstrip in the jungle, I found myself in a tiny wooden boat headed for a tiny island.

It was a roller coaster ride, sliding up and down the waves – my first experience in a small boat in a big ocean. With an iron grip on the plastic sheet and a heaving stomach, I bravely pretended to enjoy the ride as wave after wave of warm saltwater washed over my face. When we finally pulled up to a rickety wooden jetty my legs were too wobbly to climb out. Fortunately an albino teenager dragged me out of the boat and onto the island community of Ustupo.

Ustupo is a very small, low-lying island in the south Caribbean Sea about one kilometer (0.6 mile) off the coast of Panama. It's a surprisingly crowded warren of thatched-roof buildings that's home to 2,500 indigenous people called the Kuna.

The Kuna Indians inhabit the 'Comarca de San Blas' or 'Guna Yala.' This is an autonomous region that includes 365 tiny islands and a 225-kilometer-long (140-mile-long) strip of rainforest along the coast of eastern Panama. The Kuna are the

first indigenous group in Latin America to gain autonomy over their 2,360-square kilometer (1,466-square mile) territory. This self-rule was formalized in 1938 thanks to the Kuna albinos. (A fascinating quirk of history and science that I'll tell you about next time.)

Somehow I'd forgotten Ustupo had no electricity or cell service. Luckily the drinking water was pretty safe since I was stuck there for eight hot and humid days.

Why did this delicate northern flower (me) decide to go to a tiny tropical island on the Equator? Forests! I wanted to learn how the Kuna managed to protect more than 90 percent of the original rainforest in their territory, one of the best preserved in Central America. And, I was desperate to learn how indigenous values and ways of being could help us get out of the mess we're in.

### No Healthy People on a Sick Planet

It's great the Kuna will be able to grow food and obtain medicines and building

**Harmony** *continued on next page*



## Human Interest

**Harmony** continued from previous page

materials from their forest for another 100 years or longer. But why does it matter to us who live thousands of kilometers (miles) away? Aside from being an example of good guardianship, the Kuna are helping to keep nature, our life support system, functioning.

National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala explains it this way: "Every morsel of food, every sip of water, the air we breathe, is the result of work done by other species. Nature gives us everything we need to survive."

"Without them, there is no us," Enric told me during an interview last year. That might be the most important **need-to-know** I've shared. "Unfortunately we are losing 'them' at an accelerating rate and are close to a tipping point," he said.

### Indigenous territory is Where Nature is Richest

Luckily the Kuna aren't unique in protecting their forests. When Indigenous communities have control or can manage their forests unhindered, deforestation levels are low. Even in the beleaguered Brazilian Amazon, which has seen record deforestation this year, the territories managed by Indigenous peoples have experienced far lower levels of deforestation. That Indigenous communities are generally doing a far better job protecting nature than the rest of us is another **need-to-know**.

"The forest is a supermarket for us, it is not just about timber," Estebancio Castro Diaz, a Kuna member explained. Land is owned by the community not individuals. How the land is used is a community decision and any potential impacts on the well-being of future generations of Kuna are given serious consideration.

The regions where nature is richest and least degraded are the lands that indigenous people control, said Vickie Tauli-Corpuz, who is a member of the indigenous Kankana-ey Igorot community in the Philippines and the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The current market-based economic system was designed to dominate and extract resources from nature, Vickie told me some years ago at a climate workshop in Cairns, Australia. "Modern education and knowledge is mainly about how to better dominate nature. It is never about how to live harmoniously with nature. Living well is all about keeping good relations with

Mother Earth and not living by domination or extraction."

In addition to helping sustain humanity's life support system, forests under control by local people such as the Kuna, hold 38 billion tons of carbon. Another **need-to-know** is that a much larger area is held by communities under customary rights but these are not legally recognized by governments. At least 25 percent of our planet's land area is traditionally managed, owned, used, or occupied by an estimated 476 million Indigenous peoples. Indigenous territory is where around 80 percent of the Earth's land-dwelling species are found according to the World Resources Institute.

### Communities and Values We Can Learn From

There is no private property in Mexican Zapotec indigenous communities located in the Sierra Norte Mountains of central Mexico. Instead of operating their community-owned forest industry to maximize profits, Zapotec communities focus on job creation, reducing emigration to cities, and enhancing the overall well-being of the community. They still make a substantial profit but 30 percent goes back to the business, another 30 percent into forest preservation, and the final 40 percent to the workers and community services.

Protecting and managing Zapotec forest lands for their children and future descendants is considered part of the community obligation. Members take turns being part of community administration, on school and church committees as well as performing the actual roles of community policeman to municipal president.

What makes this all work is communal trust, deeply shared values that arise from long experience and knowledge, said David Barton Bray, a professor at Florida International University in Miami.

"These kinds of communities will be more important in the years to come because they can address vital issues that the state and the market cannot," said Bray, an expert on community forests in Mexico and Central America.

However, Indigenous cultures and values continue to be eroded and displaced by the dominant, unsustainable production and consumption systems that are destroying the planet's biodiversity concludes a new report released ahead of the UN Biodiversity Summit that took place on September

30, 2020.

What will it take to slow and reverse the decline of nature? Helping Indigenous communities secure rights to land is one thing. More broadly, is the need to transform our unsustainable economic system that is based on extraction and domination of nature. A place to begin that transformation is to incorporate the values of the world's Indigenous peoples such as reciprocity, seven generation decision-making, and the commons.

Part Two will look at how we can incorporate those Indigenous values which reflect our ecological reality. And it will have a story about how the Children of Moon saved a forest.

**Bio from Stephen:** I've been a freelance journalist covering **need to know** science and environmental issues around the world for the last 25 years. My latest project "**Need to Know: Science & Insight**," is a newsletter on what we all **Need-to-Know** about climate impacts, energy transitions, the decline of nature's support systems, living safely during a pandemic, and more.

My writing has appeared in dozens of publications including *National Geographic* news, *The Guardian*, *Vice*, *New Scientist*, *Al Jazeera*, *Maclean's Magazine*, *Changing America*, *The Toronto Star*, *Wired News*, and publications in Europe and Asia. I received the SEAL Award for Environmental Journalism two years running for my work documenting climate change impacts and solutions at *National Geographic* and *Vice*.

I previously received the Prince Albert/United Nations Global Prize for reporting on international environmental issues as a result of my years as the senior science and environment correspondent at the Rome-based, Inter Press Service News Agency (IPS), the world's largest not-for-profit news agency.

My one and only book, *Your Water Footprint* ("...a brilliant and shocking exposé on precisely how much water we use..." - *Publishers Weekly*) was awarded Best Science Book of the Year in Canada.

**Stephen Leahy**

**Need to Know: Science and Insight**

2019 SEAL Award for Climate Reporting  
Member: Society of Environmental Journalists; Writers' Union of Canada  
+1 905 862 3044 Mob: +1 905 904 9454

**Source:** <https://leahy.substack.com/p/living-well-is-living-harmoniously>

*Human Interest*



Photo: Jussa Nhari Kudherezera

Members of MAYA promoting Peace: (left to right) Melisa Mbaka, Roson Muzama, Tatenda Bindura, Rutendo Nyanda, and Tendai Nyamadzi.

## World Peace Day in Zimbabwe

By Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) joins the rest of the world in commemorating International Day of Peace. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace (September 21, 2020) is "Shaping Peace Together." Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the global pandemic Covid-19. We really need to spread compassion, kindness, and hope against myriad challenges posed by the Covid-19 which has affected economies worldwide.

MAYA advocates for a clean environment and the need to protect the species of trees. Despite the fact that Covid-19 is wreaking havoc globally, there are some

countries that are under severe conflicts which are still outstanding, adding more injury to the already fragile environment due to the health crisis. Without Peace there will be no meaningful development.

Work being done by MAYA and others hangs in the balance of we do not experience peace in our communities, worst for the women and girls where gender-based violence is exerted upon them.

Environment and peace are cross-cutting and relevant in all areas of conservation, sustainable development, and security. By reducing conflict and conflict potential and by strengthening environmental security we lay the ground for enduring social and environmental

sustainability. Peace should include gender equality and advocating for equal treatment of all citizens. Let's push for a peaceful coexistence so that the gains of Peace are maintained and expanded.

MAYA is ready to engage with other stakeholders to bring about peace in our communities. The organization engages in raising awareness on climate change, advocacy, youth mobilization, and empowerment for climate action and sustainable development.

MAYA categorically posits that Peace begins with You and Me.

**Email:** manicayouthassembly@gmail.com

**Phone:** +263772351138

**SO I SAY TO YOU, WALK WITH THE WIND, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND LET THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND THE POWER OF EVERLASTING LOVE BE YOUR GUIDE.**

- John Lewis -

Submitted by C. B., Pennsylvania USA

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

*Human Interest*

## Many Ways for Youth to Be Trained in Uganda

By Bob Maabe, Executive Director, Uganda Youth Skills Training Organization

We fundraise to help youths start up their initiatives. Uganda Youth Skills Training Organization (UYSTO, [www.skillsforyouths.org](http://www.skillsforyouths.org)) has for a long time been empowering unemployed youths to start their own initiatives with an aim of reducing unemployment levels.

Our methodology has been by mobilizing, mentoring, training, and providing start-ups. Due to Covid-19, we have found ourselves needing more support due to our tools-sending organizations also being affected by the same situation, and yet this is the time that our target groups need our support to start their own initiatives for self-reliance.

We train youths to use talents, skills, areas of interest, hobbies, community situations, and academic professional backgrounds to establish initiatives of their own. This can be for profit or not for profit making.

Our support to these youths' initiatives is majorly rendered at start-up levels and the support we always render after mobilizing, mentoring, and training is by providing them with:

1. Old or new computers, hand tools, printers, scanners, photocopiers, smart phones, projectors, music instruments or full music bands, games, and sports equipment and materials, bookshelves, tables, tablets, etc. Such support can be both in products/goods or financial means, which is receipted in the names of the fundraising organization "Uganda Youth Skills Training Organization."

2. Spaces for their meetings for those with no rented buildings. Thanks to schools and churches that play this role.

So far some of the outcomes of the projects are:

- Nurturing for Future Development (Groundswell member Marium Shere Munzero): [www.nfdo-ug.org](http://www.nfdo-ug.org)
  - Connecting People, Enriching Lives, Uganda: [ww.imkacdo-ug.org](http://ww.imkacdo-ug.org)
  - Muwanga Development Association: [www.muwada.org](http://www.muwada.org)
  - Mahefurniture (Facebook page): <https://www.facebook.com/maabeFurnitureSolutions/>
  - Yeb Music academy (Facebook page): <https://www.facebook.com/yeb.academy/>
- Those within our country (Uganda), can call us by telling us where we can collect



Photo Courtesy UYSTO

(left to right) Bob Maabe in the green shirt, behind him is Richard, a volunteer in plumbing service at UYSTO. He owns a construction company called JRM plumbing services and also underwent our training workshops of how to start an initiative. The table was made by students from Carpentry department.

support most specially for goods/products, like sewing machines, carpentry tools, mechanical, among others. For cash to buy items, you can write us an email at [bob-maabe@gmail.com](mailto:bob-maabe@gmail.com) for details how you can support us with cash but mentioning the kind of support you want to be bought with your money and ask us for accountability.

You can also ask to join our international WhatsApp fundraising group via at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/G1AKOxCB7aDHrZ7RAYInw9>. Only those with interests to donate or fundraise are the ones supposed to join the group and those interested to get support can always put their needs at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/G1AKOxCB7aDHrZ7RAYInw9>.

Youths in other countries (apart from Uganda) can also post their needs, with the link to their primary stories and ideas of their planed initiatives, at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/G1AKOxCB7aDHrZ7RAYInw9>.

Those willing to support UYSTO and the work of youth Initiatives formation and progress can donate via this link <https://www.givingway.com/donate/uganda-youth-skills-training-organization>.

Looking toward to hearing from you.

**Bob Maabe**, Executive Director UYSTO,

**Email:** [bobmaabe@gmail.com](mailto:bobmaabe@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.skillsforyouths.org](http://www.skillsforyouths.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/jrm-plumbingservices](https://www.facebook.com/jrm-plumbingservices)

*Human Interest*



## How Elephants Contribute to the Fight Against Climate Change

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

By Siobhán Dunphy  
*European Scientist*: July 17, 2019

The large appetites and feeding habits of African forest elephants may actually lead to more plant mass which stores more carbon to help mitigate climate change, according to a new study published on 15 July in *Nature Geoscience* (1). The authors quantified the impact of elephants on native forests, in particular, the structure, productivity, and carbon stocks in Africa's rainforests.

The international team of researchers incorporated elephant disturbances – in other words, foraging and eating – into the existing Ecosystem Demography model. The well-established computer model simulates demographic processes in forest ecosystems and the authors were able to use data from real forest plots in the Congo Basin to validate the model.

The findings show a reduction of forest stem density due to the presence of elephants actually promotes fewer but larger trees with higher wood density by altering the competition among trees for light, water, and space. The higher wood density increases the amount of carbon that forests can store, thereby mitigating some of the effects of climate change.

Elephants are intelligent and a highly social species known for their impressive size, which helps them ward off predators like lions and tigers. But also means they have an equally impressive appetite. Forest elephants live in densely wooded rainforests of west and central Africa and mainly feed on trees and plants with low wood density. This essentially means they filter out smaller trees, making more room for larger, high-wood-density tree species that soak up more carbon from the atmosphere.

But these “small” elephants also much more vulnerable than their larger relatives, which means that unfortunately, this elusive subspecies of the African elephant is heading towards extinction at an even faster rate. And if African forest elephants do become extinct, the above-ground biomass in central African rainforests would decrease by seven per cent, according to the authors. In monetary terms, this will cost around U.S. \$43 billion, based on a conservative carbon stock price. And of course, would worsen climate change.

The forest elephant population has decreased dramatically – it is less than 10 per cent of what it potentially could be – many of them have probably been killed by poachers to feed the ivory trade while others have been displaced by humans

infringing on their habitat.

Berzaghi and colleagues highlight the need for forest elephants to be considered their own species with a separate International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List status, which could help trigger new policies and actions to protect them.

All species play a certain role – often more than one – in their native ecosystem. The study provides further evidence of the important ecosystem services forest elephants provide in helping to stabilise the climate.

Protecting elephant species – and undoubtedly, all species – would not only help conserve this magnificent mammal but would also contribute to the fight against climate change. A growing body of evidence shows that biodiversity is crucial to supporting ecosystems and indeed, for ensuring the future of the human race and the planet. Incredibly, the behaviour of a single species can be linked to global climate impacts.

(1) Berzaghi, F. et al. Carbon stocks in central African forests enhanced by elephant disturbance. *Nature Geoscience* (2019). DOI: 10.1038/s41561-019-0395-6

**Source:** <https://www.europeanscientist.com/en/environment/how-elephants-contribute-to-the-fight-against-climate-change/>

OUR WORLD IS NOT DIVIDED BY RACE, COLOR, GENDER, OR RELIGION. OUR  
WORLD IS DIVIDED INTO WISE PEOPLE AND FOOLS.  
AND FOOLS DIVIDE THEMSELVES BY RACE, COLOR, GENDER, AND RELIGION.

- Mohamad Safa -

Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/quote-nelson-mandela/>

# Consumer Liberation

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

**Our Slogan: The way forward: cycle back to basics.**

*Email Iona at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist journal. "Every new one makes us stronger," sings Pete Seeger.*



## Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful journal will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Email [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) to be put on our e-list.. It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative source of news, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends

*(For many, English is not their native language.)*



I don't know how to show my big face of smile and hope for this great and amazing opportunity my beloved mommy Iona. For what you did to us and my struggles for the vulnerable Almajiri children and other humanity service in Nigeria. On behalf of my team YAPD (Youth Awareness and Peace Development) I personally and honorably thank you so much for your support, effort, and encouragement always toward me, YAPD, and other African organizations. I am thankful once again. I hope that one day we will all meet together to smile and share our thoughts together. This publishing will help me a lot at least people in America can know the Almajiri status in Nigeria and also, I hope fully that we will have more support by the God grace. Thank you so much mommy; I do appreciate.

Secondly, please did you know any Islamic Americans foundation?

Your Son,

**Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau**, Nigeria (Almajiri Project, Rescue a Girl, Youth Awareness and Peace Development)

Mother am so happy you have played a very big role in changing our lives.

Thanks goes to you and Matt.

Thanks goes to Jacquie.

As the August month started I explained to Jacquie that our major problem is land.

As there was Mr. So-and-So who was selling his property about \$8,000, Jacquie replied she can't manage it too much and explained to the man who was selling land. He said he can reduce to the amount \$4500.

And land saler brought an idea that we can do a deposit and later we pay the balance in payments.

Am so excited and we are so blessed that today 1st September 2020, Jacquie has donated to us some money on land so we are remaining with balance of \$2,500 so am really happy to lord has blessed us and the kids.

Thank you so much.

When the payment is down, we shall start farming and poultry.

And later we will start building a home for the kids and school home.

God bless you!

**Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat**, Uganda (Jinja Church Children's Home and Orphanage)

God Bless & Keep safe – this pandemic is NOT over! It is regaining strength. In UK the daily cases have gone back up to about 4,000 a day!!

Iona please share 'Granny keep safe' + Africa had not been so badly effected yet, but numbers are PROVING that dark-skinned people who get the condition are more likely to die and indeed suffer the effects for longer; full recovery can take months.

**Mrs. Valerie Wood-Gaiger**, Wales (Learn with Grandma)

*(next messages received after our Zoom meeting)*

It was nice being part of today's meeting. It was very productive with great ideas from all the participants. This is a group that has powerful ideas and capacity to transform a desert into a forest. I have learnt a lot and I look forward to bringong my strength in this group through future meetings. I will send you the story and pictures as I promised.

Thank you all, wishing you a peaceful weekend.

**John Macharia**, Kenya (SCOPE, see page 11)

The meeting was really cool, with everybody sincerely committed to planetary health. Kind regards, and stay healthy, the planet needs us.

**Ajibona Tolulope**, Nigeria (Bio4Climate and Friends of Fireflies)

At a cocktail party the other evening, the socially distanced group, all over 65 years of age, were asked if they planned to be vaccinated for the Wuhan virus when the vaccine first became available. I was quite surprised about the high percentage who said they would be unwilling until it was proven safe. The best answer of the evening.....the vaccine should be tested on politicians first. If they survive, the vaccine

is safe. If they don't, then the country is safe.

**J. D.**, New Jersey USA

Dear Order of the Earth (the name of my newspaper when it started in 2008), I love your publication!

Would it be possible to receive a complimentary copy or, perhaps even, a promotional issue, as well as your writer's guidelines? I would very much like to begin subscribing/submitting.

Appreciate you!

Truly,

**Shawn Younker**, Pennsylvania USA

I love this idea and might consider representing Pennsylvania but need to know how much time is involved as I am still involved in the anti-fracking movement and am working on a new children's book – long story. I was asked to write an article about myself for *Nevillewood Living* magazine. I write articles for them and they thought I might be moving to Ohio so wanted an article about me. I will send to you if you are interested. (See page 6.) Also, let me know what the duties would be and how much time is involved in being a Pennsylvania rep. for this fantastic global effort. Hope you are well.

**Dylan Weiss**, Pennsylvania USA

Lovely Iona! I'd love to forward your email to a dear friend I worked with when I was at Great Sage. She is embarking on a degree in environmental science with an emphasis on sustainability.

**Valerie Stanley**, Maryland USA

I don't know how to start thanking you for your support and kindness my beloved mommy. I have tried my best and the time also confused me. I hope you're doing well, how was the meeting? I am always and forever ready to represent my nation in your Grassroot Coalition movement, please take note. And also, I am so happy for the second newspaper putting in our work. Thank you so much for your efforts toward me and all Africans.

**Messages** continued on next page

Messages continued from previous page

Love you more mommy...

Your son,

**Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau**, Nigeria

Thanks for the awesome stories and I love reading them all the times Mom when I receive them. You do have wonderful moments Mom :). Keep inspiring us and stay strong.

Son:) **Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia

Hello Iona, thank you once again for posting our story. You are just the best. God bless you.

**Ngo Banfoghia**, Cameroon (Hope for a Better Future)

Thank you very much for your response.

I will prepare a good write up on what we are doing with schools, indicating how this is changing the livelihood of the poor, food insecure families, and the environment. From this, then we can attach at least two or three pictures. This will make it easy for you to use it the newsletter. I was sharing with you the various pictures, just to give you a wider picture of what we have managed to do in the last few months.

In regards, to the minutes, I forget to notify you the correct spelling of my second name. its written Macharia. (In my community it means, someone who likes searching).

I appreciate your offer to me, of becoming the country representative. I will do my best to ensure that you get good case studies and also spread the newsletter widely to benefit more people.

Thank you for the good work you are doing, and May almighty God bless you and give you strength and capacity to continue doing the work to benefit the most needy communities worldwide.

I am very happy to be in touch with you and looking forward to work with you for the benefit of all.

**John Macharia**, Kenya (SCOPE)

I just read the article about the Gates foundation and AGRA. That really pisses me off that these damn white billionaires like Gates thinks he is helping hunger and farmers when instead they have to abandon healthy nutritious crops like sweet potatoes for horrible maize/corn which is the absolute worst nutritious vegetable and most definitely it is probably making money for them... Gates. It's like raping these farmers and Africans over and over! Now on to the next article.

**Linda L.**, Idaho USA

(first email) Thanks Bill and Iona for these minutes.

Gave me a clear sense of the meeting

and more understanding of the great work that people are doing.

In appreciation of you all.

Love,

**Robert**

(second email)

Finally, just read your latest *Groundswell*.

Once again, the inspirational efforts of friends in Africa were the highlights for me.

I particularly note Lillian Kabahuma's compassionate engagement with poor widows in Uganda, Jussa Nhari Kudher-ezera's work on the plastics campaign in Zimbabwe, Ngo Banfoghia's empowerment work with women (and other initiatives) in Cameroon, Biggie Musemwa's intended tree nursery to grow 50,000 trees for afforestation projects in Zimbabwe, Prince Kitumaini Kamundala's many projects (including permaculture and beekeeping) in the DR Congo, and Ssendendo Yasin Sig-nalaminat's efforts to support orphans in Uganda. None of these projects proceeds without considerable challenges.

But, of course, there is more by many not mentioned here by me, including in other parts of the world.

I also appreciated reporting of other initiatives, including that by Derrick Jensen to 'reclaim environmentalism' (long overdue really), Diana Beresford-Kroeger's efforts to save our forests (one of my own long-standing passions) and the ongoing work to expose the violence and exploitation inflicted widely throughout the world by the Bill & Melinda Gates and Rockefeller foundations. It is truly tragic that so many people are willing to sacrifice human life to make a profit.

Still, it is those who work to overcome these systems of violence and exploitation who are truly shaping a future worth living.

Love to everyone,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

We send our warm greetings to you.

I missed to present to the Zoom meeting about the climate change in our country.

The current and expected effects of climate change differ locally, nationally, and regionally. The impacts of climate change effects on livelihoods, food and water security, ecosystems, infrastructure, etc., differ per country and region as well as community and individual, with gender a particularly important vulnerability factor.

This profile aims to give insight in the climate change effects and impacts in Uganda, with particular attention for food security and water. It also sheds light on the policies, priorities, and commitments of the government in responding to cli-

mate change and important climate-relevant activities that are being implemented, including activities being internationally financed.

In summary: A landlocked country, Uganda's regions – the mountain regions, lowlands, and the cattle corridor – differ in their vulnerability and adaptive capacity. Agriculture is the main economic sector, accounting for over 25% of its Gross Domestic Product and employing over 70% of the labour force.

Uganda faces several developmental constraints including high population growth (3.3%), post-conflict conditions in the north, soil erosion and degradation, and pernicious impacts of malaria and HIV/AIDS. Increasing variability in rainfall and rising temperature will present an additional stress on development in the country, especially with high dependency on rain-fed agriculture. Rising temperatures and shifting or increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns can reduce the amount of agricultural land, short growing seasons hamper crop production, undermine the (ground) water resources, and alter the occurrence and distribution of pests.

Regards,

**Kulaba Ezekiel**, Uganda (Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre)

Iona, Thanks for sending me these minutes. I am excited to join your global organization and will help to promote its vision and mission. Do you have vision/mission statement that I can use in a PR letter to my environmental/social justice contacts and also post on Facebook? (Note from Iona: You can see these on page 2 of every issue of *Groundswell*.)

It is the Jewish New Year (9/27/20) and wish everyone a healthy and safe year; a year in which we can embrace the needs of all people and promote global social justice for our environment.

**Dylan Weiss**, Pennsylvania USA

From Kenya, we congratulate you for getting the certificate. It's a milestone for the good work you are doing.

Having the meeting on 24th October will be Ok with me.

Best wishes

**John Macharia**, Kenya (SCOPE)

Wow, congratulations on the great news from Cameroon.

**Ngo Banfoghia**, Cameroon (Hope for a Better Future)

Happy to a great leader with global impact, you have influenced a lot of us in

Messages continued on next page

**Messages** *continued from previous page*

Africa and I believe you can do more to shake the Earth. God bless you my leader. I love you.

**Solomon Oluwaseun Samson**, Nigeria (See page 11)

I teach English officially, but I also am adjusted to organic gardening teaching. I do both these at my school. I have lessons with young people aged 10 to 14.

I am the 9th child to my parents. My family has a secular tradition in agriculture. I was educated to run a farm, too. Of course, times have changed and also mentalities. My relatives have big farms, and they started to screw up nature as they first bought their tractors five decades ago.

After that, everything went wrong. Animals began to be kept in dairy houses like prisoners, they eat salted cut corn and food from factories. European subventions have made them addicted to cut down vines and parcels of forest in order to produce meat and milk. They have bought big machines for everything, including to deliver food. Hand labor has been banished almost completely, so villagers must look for their jobs in cities. The word "sustainability" is misunderstood among farmers and population in general.

Also, the region where I live, Braga (Minho), in the North of Portugal, has its peculiarity of being very green, and farmers don't seem to be worried about environmental issues. Although they are killing insects and soil and tiny animals with chemicals, they keep far from thinking that they are destroying the environment.

Bees almost disappeared, which impoverished fruit production this year. But they still remain confident. Large fields are crossed at night with extremely strong lights and noise is immense. Too large tractors and other machines invade the narrow vicinal roads without respect for the cars.

I feel disappointed, I created a WhatsApp group for discussion, but the farmers I talked to asking them to participate in this group declined my proposition.

**Filomena Novais**, Portugal

*(first email)*

Thank you for the message you sent me via FB. Like I had informed you, a better environment for future generations is our ultimate goal. Feel free to publish whatever I reported and let us stay in touch via emails.

**Samuel Odhiambo**

*(second email)*

Our normal name is Asulma Centre Self Help Group and I am the project leader. Do not hesitate to ask any questions re-

garding our project. *(third email)*

Thanks for your mail and for connecting us with John Macharia of SCOPE. It will be a great pleasure to learn from him and also from *Groundswell News Journal*. I learned about your activities through FB and took my time to see what you do. I was pleased because I believe what you do and what we do, basically relate to environmental conservation. In the end, we strive to reduce deforestation and curb global warming.

**Samuel Odhiambo**, Kenya (Asulma Centre Self Help Group)

I recently gave a five-session webinar on Post Covid Economics. One part was on "Race and Class Viewed Through a Land Lens" – that shows the deep roots of what led to the slave trade post Enclosures. This lens shows a way to build movements for systemic justice. If you would like me to work that into a story for *Groundswell* let me know.

**Alanna Hartzok**, Pennsylvania USA

Hello madam hope you are doing well. Am NAKIBUUKA DORAH, 26 years old, currently working with Charity organization in Uganda called SAVE KYAMULIBWA ALLIANCE UGANDA... This organization caters for orphans, widows, and the desperate.

Madam, we carry out different projects in our organization like child sponsorship to orphans, food program to the needy families, safe water by constructing boreholes, health programs, women and girls EMPOWERMENT projects like tailoring, handcrafts-making, youth EMPOWERMENT projects to mention..... We are funded by some American friends who have visited UGANDA three times now. Our Charity organization is two years old now.

Any more inquiries,

am here dear friend.

**Dorah Nakibuuka**, Uganda (dorah-kibuuka08@gmail.com)

Greetings from Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre.

We ask whoever has support to come up and save this needy family and it is now the grandmother taking care but she can't support herself financially! They need food, clothing, etc. in order to keep these twins survive!

Their mother passed on 17th, September this year and during delivery, she was operated on so could be the cause of her death when the twins were only 2 weeks old! RIP. The twins are girls, Babirye and Nakato.

The father can't support the family since Covid-19 pandemic situation left him jobless!

**Kulaba Ezekiel**, Uganda (Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre)



**Photo: Ezekiel Kulaba**  
*(left to right) The father of the twin girls (Babirye and Nakato) is standing with his children while the babies' grandmother is holding them. Please help if you can.*