

# 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. Issue No. 70: December 1, 2020*



Photos: SCOPE-Kenya

*“On Friday last week, I spent my day out in the field planting fruit trees with children in one of the institutions that we work with. This was our little contribution towards combating climate change, reducing hunger and poverty.” John Macharia. <https://www.keystonelegacy.com/news/treekenya-stories-rescue-centre-tree-planting>*

## Tree Planting Day in Boys' Rescue Center

By John Macharia, National Coordinator SCOPE Kenya

Promoting Gardening in  
Thika Rescue Children Centre  
to Enhance Food and  
Nutrition Security

### Introduction

Thika Rescue Children Centre, located at the outskirts of Thika town, is a home for young boys aged between 5 to 18 years. These are children who have been rescued from the streets in Nairobi, and those who have lost contact with their relatives, as a

result of domestic violence at home or any other reason. Currently the Centre has a population of 98 boys.

Thika Rescue Centre is a government supported institution, whose main aim is to hold rescued boys until they are reunited with their relatives. However, not all

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

**Coalition Founders:** John and Iona Conner  
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**Established:** September 2013  
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## 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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(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.

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

Fair Use Logo



## Iona's Column: 'I Am Greta'

Dearest Global Family,

I was so excited to discover the movie 'I Am Greta' that I took a free trial at Hulu so I could watch it for a month before cancelling. Greta is far deeper, more brilliant, and more wonderful than I had ever imagined. You will LOVE this movie, too. If you can't manage the free trial, you can at least watch the trailer at <https://www.hulu.com/movie/i-am-greta-6eb88d15-22f0-4f7b-90aa-6933ddc2f90a>

With love and hope in my heart for Greta and all climate activists, *Iona*



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boys who get here are reunited with their relatives. Therefore, some boys stay in the Centre until they attain the age of 18 years, when they are released to the community. At this point, the government expects them to take care of themselves. While at the Centre, the government supports their food supply and medication. However, there is no budget allocation for clothes and school fees. Therefore, the institution management works closely with well-wishers, who support with clothes and paying school fees. Based on the annual budget allocation, the Centre management is unable to provide a balanced diet in their meals to meet their nutritional requirement.

The Centre has a total of a 13.2-hectare piece of land (32.6 acres). SCOPE Kenya has been supporting the Centre to use part of their land to establish a food forest, to produce vegetables and fruits, to supple-

ment their feeding program to improve the health of the young boys.

Over the last few years, the institution has managed to produce a diversity of vegetables like black night shade, amaranth, spinach, kales, cow peas, cherry tomatoes, and onions. Other food crops includes, sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas, and herbs like lemon grass and roselle (Hibiscus). They have also incorporated medicinal trees like Moringa Oleifera.

So far, the Centre is producing 40% of their vegetable requirement. This has not only improved the health of the boys, but it has also reduced their expenditure on external supplies.

**Tree Planting Day**

On Friday 13th November 2020. SCOPE Kenya joined Thika Rescue Children Centre in a tree planting day. In this phase, we

planted a total of 100 pawpaw and 50 sweet yellow passion fruit seedlings. Each boy was allocated two seedlings to manage, and once they are well established, we will hold another planting phase. This is to ensure that there is a high survival rate for trees planted.

On the same day, other crops like banana suckers, pumpkin seeds, Roselle (hibiscus), lemon grass, and moringa oleifera were also planted.

The purpose of this activity was to build the capacity of young children in tree planting and management, increase the number of trees planted in the garden, and to facilitate production of different fruits, to enrich their diet.

**Contact John Macharia**

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**Email:** [scope@scopekenya.net](mailto:scope@scopekenya.net)

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## Photo Gallery Of the Day's Event



(top right) John (left) explaining tree planting process to young boys and staff in Thika Rescue Centre. (top right) Digging holes for planting trees in progress. (bottom left) A young boy planting pawpaw seedling. (bottom right) Young boys support each other in tree planting. SCOPE website: <https://www.scopekenya.net/>

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## Climate Emergency

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(left) The Centre Manager demonstrates the process on tree planting to one of the boys. (right) Young boys plant a banana sucker under the guidance of John.

# Adopt a Tree Legacy Programme

By John Macharia, SCOPE Kenya

In life there are people who invest their resources in terms of positive ideas, time, or money towards reduction in human suffering and making the world habitable for current and future generations. As a result, their little contributions makes them be remembered by the current and future generations long after they are gone. At the same time, there are those who care less, do not mind whether the situation is good, bad, or worse and do not mind whether they will be remembered or not.

Alongside Covid-19 pandemic, we have Climate Change, which is threatening human existence on Earth. We know that climate change is as a result of human activities towards making profit at the expense of nature. Unless we change our approach and destructive activities, the situation will be worse than what we think.

The scientist tells us that to reduce global warming, we need to reduce emission of Greenhouse Gases, reduce carbon in the atmosphere by storing it in trees, plants, and in the soil. However, human beings have continued to develop innovations that emit more gases and in less developed and poor countries, trees have remained in the receiving end, as communities cut them down for firewood, charcoal, or for development of real estates.

When I think about this, I get worried about the situation in the world 50 and above years to come. I know that all is not lost and if today we make our little contri-

butions, we shall reduce human suffering and save a life that would be lost due to hunger or environmental calamities like flooding and landslides.

At this point, I have an idea of empowering and engaging young people and their communities, so that they can understand the current situation in the world we are living in today, where we have gone wrong, and how the situation will be worse if we all don't take action. Through this idea, I would like to bring on board and engage people who care about others and who would like to leave a positive legacy, which will make them be remembered many years to come.

Through Adopt a Tree Legacy Programme. I would like to promote tree planting in any Corner of this country. The main focus will be fruit trees, indigenous trees, or trees with medicinal values. This are trees that will feed the future generation, provide medicines, or provide shade under which future generations will find refuge during hot weather.

To start with, I am planning to identify the neediest schools and form vibrant environmental clubs through which program activities will be implemented. This will be followed by Capacity Building for young people. To raise trees for planting, my idea is to invite people of good will to make a donation of as little as \$1, which can buy one mango or avocado fruit tree seedling. The tree seedling will be handed over to a child in the identified school to plant and manage. Labelling will be done by putting the name of the person who

contributed money to buy the seedling together with the child who planted, next to that tree. Through this initiative, both will be remembered for their contributions in making the world habitable. For those who would like to donate and support establishment of a whole food forest, we will welcome and give them that opportunity. The food forest will be named after them.

On a yearly basis, we will be taking pictures of the trees planted and sending the pictures to the people who made the contribution to buy the seedling. Where possible, and if they wish to, we will be inviting them to come and visit, hold, bless, and take a picture next to the tree, once in their lifetime. They will also take a picture with the child managing the tree. People will be free to support in buying as many tree seedlings as possible. This is my idea on the Adopt a Tree Legacy Programme through which people in Western or developed countries who have no time to plant and manage trees, will have an opportunity to do so vicariously.

In our future *Groundswell* newsletters, we will have a page of those who have contributed and supported our tree planting. In case some have visited the trees, we will have their pictures and stories in the newspaper, too.

If you think this is a noble idea, which will contribute to greening the desert and reducing human suffering, join me and make your contribution through PayPal at [macharia@scopekenya.net](mailto:macharia@scopekenya.net) or contact John to discuss alternative methods. Thank you.

*Climate Emergency*



Photo: Ian Keefe on Unsplash

*Wooden homes could bring drastic cuts in cement industry greenhouse gas emissions.*

## Climate Crisis Finds Ample Answers in World's Trees

By Tim Radford  
Climate News Network: November 17, 2020

The world's trees can build cities, devour carbon, and feed developing countries' small farmers. It's time to branch out.

LONDON, UK – The great climate change challenge should consider the world's trees. New wooden cities and suburbs – that is, new homes fashioned from wood rather than bricks and mortar – could consume 55 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a year: that adds up to almost half of the annual greenhouse gas

emissions from Europe's cement industry.

And the bigger and more substantial the tree, the more value in the arboreal effort to limit global warming and contain climate change. A U.S. study has found that large trees – those with trunks of 53.3 centimeters (21 inches) at breast height – might make up only 3% of a measured plot, but contain 42% of all the above-ground carbon.

And trees could enhance human health as well as capture carbon: an international team believes that tree-sourced food – think mangoes, avocados, Brazil nuts, and so on – could deliver much more nourishment for tomorrow's supper tables.

The planet is home to at least 7,000 edible plants. Half the world's calories come from just four crops, all high in calories but low in nutrients – wheat, rice, sugar

cane, and maize – that simultaneously fuel both malnutrition and obesity. There are 50,000 tree species in the tropics alone, a number of them potentially new sources of high quality food.

The conclusions of all three studies are tentative. But they are also familiar: that is, other research teams have for years been investigating trees as fabric, trees as absorbers of atmospheric carbon, and trees as enhanced forms of farming.

But all three offer a new and more detailed look, and confirm the big picture: when it comes to climate, the world's trees are among the most important things on the planet.

Finnish scientists report in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* that they

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looked again at 50 case studies of timber as a way of growing cities: Europe builds about 190 million square meters (623 million square feet) of housing each year, largely in cities, and this demand for new homes is growing at 1% a year. Buildings worldwide – concrete, steel, glass, bricks, tiles, paving, and so on – account for one third of global greenhouse gas emissions.

If however 80% of new residential buildings in Europe were built of, clad with, and furnished from timber from sustainable forests, then this could represent a carbon sink of 55 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, represent a 47% cut in greenhouse gas emissions from Europe's cement-makers, and deliver energy-efficient homes.

"This is the first time that the carbon storage potential of wooden building construction has been evaluated on the European level, in different scenarios," said Ali Amiri, of Aalto University, who led the study. "We hope that our model could be used as a roadmap to increase wooden construction in Europe."

U.S. scientists report in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* that they took a close look at large diameter trees on National Forest lands in the states of Oregon and Washington.

### Size Matters

Trees with diameters greater than 21 inches, or 53.3 centimeters, accounted for only 3% of the total number of trees in the plots they chose to study. But when it came

to absorbing atmospheric carbon, these were the real heavyweights. They contained 42% of all the above-ground carbon in the entire measured ecosystem.

Trees bigger than 30 inches, or 76 centimeters in diameter, made up only 0.6% of the total number, but accounted for 16% of the total above-ground carbon. The message was, the bigger the better.

The forest giants are themselves natural habitat: they support birds, mammals, insects, microbes, and other plants; they serve as soaring water towers, tapping groundwater and cooling the environment through evotranspiration. And their value as a store of atmospheric carbon has been confirmed again and again.

"If you think of adding a ring of new growth to the circumference of a large tree and its branches every year, that ring adds up to a lot more carbon than the ring of a small tree," said David Mildrexler, of Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands, who led the research. "This is why specifically letting large trees grow larger is important for climate change."

And trees, researchers from five nations argue in the journal *People and Nature*, could be the healthy solution both to the climate crisis and to poor diet.

### Better Fed

Of the world's 100 most nourishing foods, 14 come from trees. The planet is home to 60,000 species of tree, and many – especially in the tropics – provide nutritious fruits, nuts, leaves, and seeds. Many are exploited

only by small rural communities.

In the Amazon basin, for instance, a shrub called *Myrciaria dubia* was found to have a vitamin C content 54 times that of an orange. The scientists looked at seven tropical nations to identify foods from 90 tree species: these provided local families with 11% of diet by mass but 31% of the daily intake of vitamins A and C.

Never mind the giant commercial palm oil plantations and cacao harvests: the researchers see tree crops as something that could sustainably help hundreds of millions of the world's smallholder farmers, by diversifying income and providing more and healthier food with a very low investment.

"The right type of trees in the right place can provide nutritious foods to improve diets sustainably while providing other valuable ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration," said Merel Jansen, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology known as ETH Zurich, who led the investigation. "It can also contribute to development issues related to poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, and food security."

*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/climate-crisis-finds-ample-answers-in-worlds-trees/>

## Youth Planting for the Future

For action to be compassionate,  
we need to eliminate the idea of  
object, we need to be here together  
doing exactly what needs to be  
done to relieve pain and suffering  
in the simplest way we can.

We need to listen.

~ Ram Dass & Mirabai Bush ~

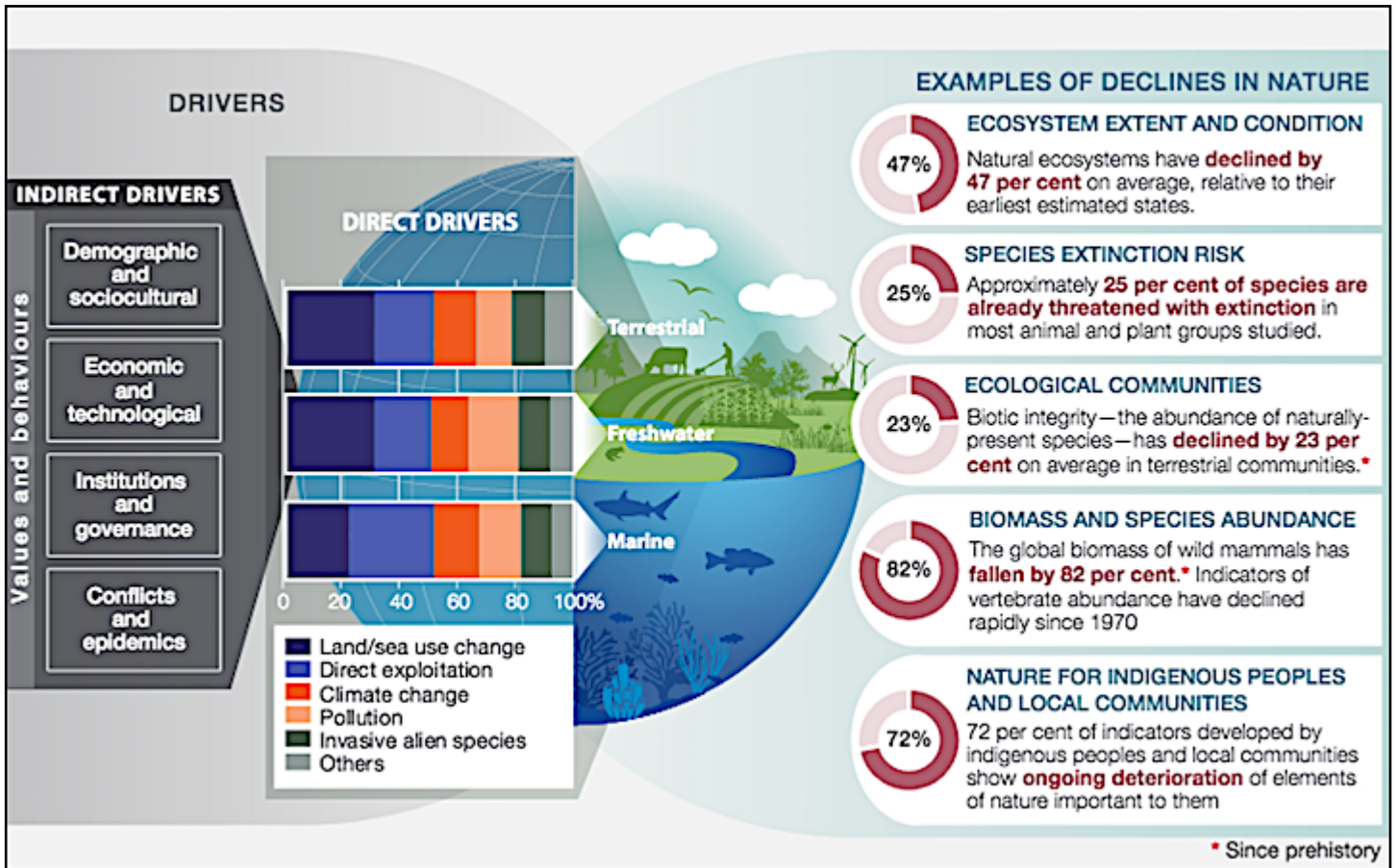
<https://thespiritualjournalist.blogspot.com/2020/11/tsj-11.html>



Photo: SCOPE Kenya

Brandon Kamau, aged 13 years, planting paw paw fruit tree seedling.

*Climate Emergency*



# Cheapest Climate Solution? Return Half of the Planet to Nature

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Brianna Baker, excerpt  
Grist: October 21, 2020

In September, the United Nations released a report indicting world leaders for failing to halt biodiversity collapse. Despite setting ambitious targets in 2010 to protect endangered ecosystems, we've lost a gut-wrenching 68 percent of species since 1970. This isn't just bad news for wildlife – it's bad for us humans. Without diverse species of birds, reptiles, mammals, and the lands they inhabit, humanity stands to lose ecosystems that regulate our climate, give us a buffer to prevent pandemics, provide vital natural resources, and keep our air and water clean.

The solution is protecting habitat: specifically, 50.4 percent of the Earth's land, according to the team of scientists led by Eric Dinerstein, wildlife scientist and director of the research organization RESOLVE. That's a major increase from

the 15.1 percent of land area currently protected ...

Dinerstein helped create the conservation protocols that are protecting some of the world's most beloved natural spaces, from the Galapagos to the Himalayas. His most recent call to action is a collaboration between RESOLVE, the University of Minnesota, Arizona State University, and art and science nonprofit Globaia. Called Global Safety Net, the report isn't the first to call for the conservation and rewilding of half the world. But it does go a step further. Researchers identified the exact land areas that need to be protected to prevent climate collapse and estimated the potential carbon storage for each region. The Global Safety Net app features an interactive map of those areas, made in partnership with Google Earth Engine. Here, Dinerstein talks about how the climate and conservation movements can join forces, and why saving half our land means saving the world ...

**Q. Climate change and biodiversity loss are clearly huge problems. How do we better connect the solutions?**

**A.** By nature, humans compartmentalize. People who know the most about climate science are often atmospheric scientists who don't study biodiversity science beyond grad school. Similarly, there aren't many biodiversity scientists who have a really fundamental understanding of atmospheric science. And institutions keep them apart even further. The United Nations has one agency for climate change, and one for biodiversity, and the two don't interact. But these existential threats are interdependent. Let's zoom in on the Amazon rainforest as an example. As temperatures rise and the atmosphere dries out, much of those incredibly rich areas for biodiversity revert to savannas. The trees that are adapted to wet rainforest conditions get pushed past their physiological  
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limits and croak, creating biomass fuel for wildfires, destroying habitats for wildlife. And instead of pulling carbon dioxide out of the air, burning trees are now pumping it back into the atmosphere, accelerating the climate crisis. Climate scientists and biodiversity scientists need to come together to form one field of “Earth Science” in the true sense of the word. It’s the only chance of saving life on Earth.

**Q. Global Safety Net calls for protecting half the world’s land. How do we get to that target?**

**A.** Fortunately, about 50 percent of the Earth’s surface is still considered intact, semi-intact, or slightly degraded – meaning that land has lost some but not all its health and productivity. So, there’s enough land that doesn’t overlap with human populations available for preservation, and the Safety Net proposal deliberately chooses not to intersect with existing agriculture and the built environment. Fifteen percent of the Earth’s land is already protected. An additional 12 percent of land is inhabited by Indigenous people, who are experts in biodiversity. If we officially give them land tenure and honor their right to steward those ecosystems – and in their decision-making power they allow us to designate that land as part of the Global Safety Net – then the total protected regions would reach 27 percent. All we need to do is set aside another 23 percent – and we can get there. Just look at Covid-19, and how the behavior of society can change on a dime if need be. We just need to recognize that we have to take certain measures to conserve our species and conserve our public health.

**Q. What about agriculture? Will that**

**leave enough land for growing?**

**A.** The truth is, the world was producing enough food in 2015 to feed 10 billion people – that’s 2.2 billion more people than we have on Earth today. The international food system is full of mismanagement and waste. Thirty-seven percent of the world’s surface is dedicated to intensive agriculture, but 77 percent of that land is used to grow crops to feed livestock. If Western, industrialized societies stopped eating so much meat and we dedicated land on each continent to grow and feed people locally, rather than shipping internationally, we could cut food waste and end hunger. We don’t need more land – we need to fix our broken food system.

**Q. What do we do with that land once it’s preserved? And how will it actually fight climate change?**

**A.** We have to draw down carbon dioxide to prevent the worst consequences of the climate crisis, and we can do that through restoration. Once the land is preserved, we must recreate damaged ecosystems along rivers and up and down mountains to allow larger mammals like tigers to migrate between habitats. That involves expertly replanting carbon-sucking trees and other native plants. In the process, we could employ hundreds of millions of people, which is desperately needed during the current economic crisis. All this should be done in combination with a moratorium on deforestation by 2040, and a transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. If we put these three pieces together, we have a safe pathway to a sustainable biosphere without having to invent any new technologies. We have the tools at our

disposal if we just do it.

**Q. Some of our world leaders can’t even admit that climate change is real. How do we get them to commit to this when we’ve got serious human problems going on – like a pandemic?!**

**A.** Well, pandemics happen as a direct result of biodiversity loss. There have been a number of cases of zoonotic spillover of diseases – or viruses jumping from wildlife populations to humans – in the past couple centuries. Scientists predict that the next pandemic is likely to come from the Amazon. As we clear more tropical forest, we expose ourselves to the interior forest and the animals that live there. By keeping these forests and these habitats intact, we’re creating a natural vaccine for the next coronavirus ...

And despite what those leaders might say, conservation is well within the world’s budget. The cost of executing the Safety Net is between \$100 and \$150 billion a year, which is a fraction of what world governments are spending on pandemic relief. And the financing is not going to be that expensive compared to fighting future pandemics or dealing with the worst of climate breakdown, like sea level rise or the kind of fires we’re seeing now, which will only become more commonplace.

**Source:** <https://grist.org/fix/the-cheapest-climate-solution-return-half-of-the-planet-to-nature-this-scientist-says/>

**Chart: United Nations IPBES global assessment report** (pg. 25) at [https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes\\_global\\_assessment\\_report\\_summary\\_for\\_policymakers\\_en.pdf](https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-02/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers_en.pdf)

*This is not a time of mere change. This is a time of transformation, and transformation comes not out of scarcity but out of the context of possibility, responsibility, and sufficiency.*

~ Lynne Twist ~

<https://www.facebook.com/consciousnessandhealing/photos/a.521180128024050/85191930828346>



*Climate Emergency*



Photo © iStockphoto.com | AlSimonov

*Heating water accounts for 25% of residential energy use worldwide, mostly achieved by burning fossil fuels. Solar water heaters do the job without combustion.*

## Why Aren't Solar Water Heaters More Popular in the U.S. Even in Solar-Friendly States Like California?

By Dina Berenbaum (scientist and environmental technology enthusiast) and Manoshi Datta (Computational biologist and freelance writer)  
Ensaia: October 28, 2020

For Gershon Grossman and Ed Murray, 1978 was a big year. Grossman, then a solar energy pioneer at the Technion, Israel's premier technological institute, was launching the first International Conference on the Application of Solar Energy. Murray, an idealist attending college, joined an upstart solar heating company in Sacramento, California's capital, drawn by a prescient concern about climate change and, as he puts it, an impulse to "save the world." For both, the excitement was palpable. Solar water heaters were surging into the market, solar thermal energy showed broad potential, and the two were riding the wave.

Four decades later, however, they live in two different worlds. In Israel, 85% of households get hot water from a *dud shemesh*, or "sun boiler." But in the U.S., despite decades of advocacy by Murray and others, the number of households that have a solar water heater is less than 1%. In California, many people don't even know the technology exists.

America's solar water heating deficit is often portrayed as a historical accident driven by the vagaries of politics and comparatively cheap fossil fuels. However, interviews with academic and commercial players on the front lines of the solar thermal industry, and a recent in-depth report on the now-expired California Solar Initiative-Thermal (CSI-T) program, suggest that the desire for simple, "magic bullet" solutions to climate change has also played a significant role in relegating this practical technology to the sidelines.

### A Mandate, an Election, and Two Roads Diverged

Heating water accounts for 25% of residential energy use worldwide, mostly achieved by burning fossil fuels. Solar water heaters do the job without combustion. Unlike solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, which convert sunlight into electricity, solar thermal systems collect solar energy as heat. Solar water heaters transfer this heat to water in a holding tank. Other energy sources, such as natural gas or electricity from a power grid, serve as a backup for cloudy days.

By tapping the sun, solar water heaters can reduce a household's water heating fuel consumption 50% to 70%. And Israel

is just one of dozens of countries with a variety of climates where this technology has been deployed. Solid performance and wide applicability have made the technology one of Project Drawdown's top 50 climate change solutions.

So why did solar thermal technology soar in Israel and sputter in California, setting Grossman and Murray on such different life paths? A pair of political decisions in the 1970s and 1980s had dramatic impact.

The Yom Kippur War of 1973 and subsequent oil embargo made energy independence a matter of national security worldwide, but the pinch was particularly painful in countries lacking oil production. For Israel, the threat was existential; as former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir famously quipped, "[Moses] took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil." In 1976, Israel mandated solar water heaters for all new residential buildings up to eight stories tall – a mandate that was extended to all residential buildings in December 2019.

For Grossman, now a professor emeritus at the Technion and head of the Energy Forum at the Neaman Institute for Na-

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Photo Courtesy Yaniv Hassidof

*In Israel, 85% of households get hot water from a dud shemesh, or “sun boiler.” In the U.S., it’s a different story.*

tional Policy Research, mandating solar water heaters made sense environmentally, even beyond Israel’s political agenda. “You just can’t argue with the numbers on how much [energy] you can save using solar water heating instead of electrical heating.”

The United States also felt the jolt of the oil embargo and feared running out of domestic oil. Supported by President Jimmy Carter’s 1978 federal tax credits for renewable energy, Americans installed nearly 1 million solar thermal systems by 1990, supplied by more than 200 U.S. manufacturers, including leading corporations such as Grumman Aerospace Corporation and Sears Roebuck.

However, in contrast to Israel, America’s commitment to renewable energy proved ephemeral. Under President Ronald Reagan, the federal incentives lapsed, dealing the solar thermal industry a body-blow. “We went from 650 companies in California that were installing solar [water heaters] to about 37 overnight,” recalls Murray, who is currently the president and CEO of two California companies dedicated to manufacturing, distributing, and installing solar thermal systems, as well as president of the California Solar and Storage Association.

Recent attempts to revive the residential solar water heater industry have had limited success. The CSI-T program, begun in 2010 as a larger push to incentivize solar installations statewide, aimed to add 200,000

systems, but received only 6,237 applications for residential retrofits in 10 years, according to the program’s December 2019 report. “I could put a sign over the front door of my office that says ‘free solar water heating,’ and they’d probably still stay away in droves,” Murray says with a wry laugh.

Larger installations for apartment complexes, hotels, and universities, and home pool heating have helped keep Murray’s solar thermal businesses afloat despite the lack of other residential demand. Ironically, the commercial sector isn’t as robust in Israel because the country’s original mandate only applied to residential properties – a move Grossman views as a significant oversight. Indeed, Grossman believes that an industrial mandate could increase Israel’s renewables usage up to fivefold.

### **The Limiting Psychology of Renewables**

The woes of the American solar water heater industry go far beyond politics, however. The industry also suffers a more insidious challenge: For the average consumer, “going solar” means just one thing: solar PV.

Solar thermal technologies, including solar water heating, provide a direct, thermodynamically efficient, and cost-effective method for decarbonizing heating. And for households in mild climates with low electricity bills, “Solar water heating can be one of the simplest ways ... to use renew-

able energy and save on energy bills,” says the CSI-T report.

But it’s solar PV that has exploded into the global electricity sector, thanks to manufacturing innovations and strong government support. Leveraging economies of scale, the price of solar PV panels has dropped by over an order of magnitude in the past decade. In California, additional boosts came from government-instituted solar feed-in tariffs, cheap financing plans, and private-sector investments. And, in a major coup for the industry, California mandated solar PV on new residences up to three stories starting 2020.

On the other hand, California’s residential solar water heater industry finds itself in a vicious cycle of low consumer demand and high prices. As the CSI-T report notes, “In contrast to conventional gas and electric water heaters, which are typically installed by plumbers, solar water heaters are installed by a range of firms and public entities.” In other words, consumers must actively seek out solar water heaters by relying on nonstandard sales channels.

This additional friction reduces consumer demand among all but the most motivated consumers, leading to higher marketing costs that drive up the customer’s bottom line. Prices in California are further exacerbated by past industry failures, which have led to strong, self-im-

**Solar** *continued on next page*

*Climate Emergency*

**'Huge News': Faith Institutions Divest From Fossil Fuels**

By Julia Conley

Common Dreams: November 16, 2020

Climate action campaigners applauded Monday after 47 faith institutions from 21 countries announced they would divest from fossil fuels, marking the largest-ever joint divestment by religious leaders in history.

Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org, gave credit to campaigners in the fossil fuel divestment movement, who in recent years have pressured banks, universities, and other entities to cut financial ties with the fossil fuel sector in an effort to help mitigate the planetary emergency.

"While government leaders cling to the economic models of yesterday, faith leaders are looking ahead to the energy future we share," said 350.org, noting that the G20 summit is set to begin this coming week-end under Saudi Arabia's leadership, two months after G20 energy ministers released a statement rubber-stamping fossil fuel bailouts amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"With renewables now growing at a faster pace than fossil fuels," the group noted, "institutional investors are increasingly moving toward sustainable investments in

the clean energy economy. Faith investors help lead this movement, constituting the single-largest source of divestment in the world, making up one-third of all commitments. To date, nearly 400 religious institutions have committed to divest."

The institutions which announced their divestment include the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union, Irish religious order the Sisters of Our Lady Apostles, the American Jewish World Service, and the Claretian Missionaries in Sri Lanka. Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish organizations joined the coalition.

"Today's announcement demonstrates that people of many faith traditions are committed to a better future in clean energy," 350.org said in a statement, noting that under Pope Francis, the Catholic Church has gone to new lengths to end its own participation in the polluting of the Earth. The Pope is convening an "Economy of Francesco" conference beginning on Thursday, at which leaders and young climate action campaigners will discuss ways for the Church to help develop a sustainable world economy.

"The economic power of faiths, turned to responsible investments and the green economy, can be a major driver of positive change, and an inspiration to others, as we rebuild better," said Inger Andersen, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program and under secretary-general of the United Nations.

The American Jewish World Service said it had decided to divest from fossil fuels earlier this year. The decision allows the organization, CEO Robert Bank said, to "align fully how we invest our funds with our global grantmaking to combat climate change and secure climate justice for the most vulnerable people in the world, ensuring that we live our Jewish values and take up our enduring commitment to repair our broken world."

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/16/huge-news-nearly-four-dozen-faith-institutions-announce-divestment-fossil-fuels>

**Solar** *continued from previous page*

posed regulations in the name of consumer satisfaction, says Murray. For example, after many cheaper solar water heating systems froze during the unprecedented 1990 freeze in California, only more expensive systems were allowed through the CSI-T program.

All told, the cost of the average solar water heater sold in California through the CSI-T program was U.S. \$7,400, compared to less than U.S. \$1,000 for a fossil fuel alternative. By contrast, a solar water heater in Israel can cost as little as U.S. \$700.

Rather than embracing the growing portfolio of technologies available to solve the carbon emissions problem, going all-in on one satisfies the very human need for "magic bullets."

Today, drumming up excitement for solar thermal remains difficult. According to CSI-T report interviews with solar water heater adopters, "Some interviewees remarked that it seemed tough to get others interested, theorizing that PV was so dominant in neighbors' minds that solar water heating hardly registered."

"It's just the sizzling, sexy PV [that] really captivates the audience," says Murray.

**Portfolios, Not Magic Bullets**

Entrepreneurs routinely caution, "Fall in love with the problem, not the solution." In this case, the problem is carbon emissions, and, against entrepreneurial advice, individual governments have tended to fall in love with just one solution. For Israel, Cyprus, Hawaii, and others, solar water heaters were that solution. For California, it's solar PV.

By committing to a specific technology, governments fall prey to a conceptual error that science journalist Ed Yong recently referred to as a "monogamy of solutions." (Interestingly, he argues this fallacy also shapes the government's response to Covid-19.)

Europe's Green Deal may model such a "portfolio" approach for the rest of the world, according to Bärbel Epp, a German physicist-turned-journalist with nearly two decades of experience studying the global solar thermal market. According to Epp, representatives from the European solar thermal market have lobbied the European Commission for over a decade to use solar thermal technologies to decarbonize the heating sector. "It took [the solar thermal industry] I don't know how many years, at least 10, of just continuously repeating the sentence that heat is 50% of our

final energy consumption in Europe. ... It was hard to lobby in Europe, but it's now obvious that we have to do something for heat." Whether these efforts will succeed in providing solar thermal a seat at the table remains to be seen.

To Grossman, solar water heaters are the first piece of Israel's portfolio. As Israel struggles to meet its Paris Agreement goals, Grossman says he believes solar PV panels will take their place alongside solar water heaters on Israel's rooftops.

Back in Sacramento, Murray is still battling for solar thermal. This year, he's lobbied the California legislature to extend the state's recently expired solar thermal subsidy program for one more year, citing Covid-19 as a barrier. The legislature hasn't budgeted, but Murray vows he'll keep going. He may be a lot older than he was in 1978, but the idealism is still alive.

*Enzia editor's note: Dina Berenbaum and Manoshi Datta wrote this story as participants in the Enzia Mentor Program. The mentor for the project was Peter Fairley.*

**Source:** <https://ensia.com/features/solar-water-heaters-israel-renewable-energy-thermal-photovoltaic/>

*Earth Regeneration*

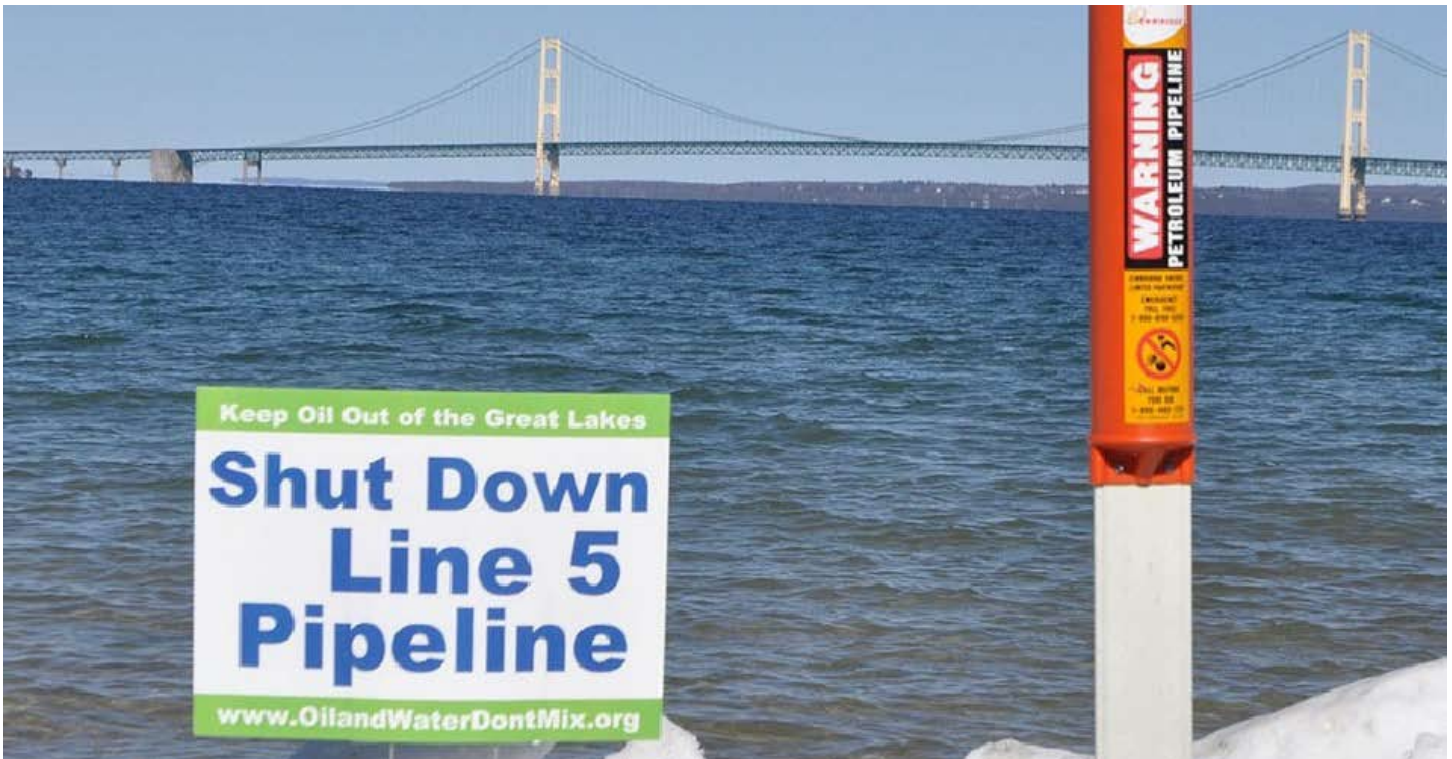


Photo: Jeffness/CC

*Environmental and Indigenous activists welcomed a move by the Michigan governor Friday to shut down the Line 5 pipelines.*

## **'This Is a Really, Really Big Deal': Michigan Governor Moves to Shut Down Line 5 Pipeline to Protect Great Lakes**

**“Enbridge has imposed on the people of Michigan an unacceptable risk of a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Lakes that could devastate our economy and way of life.”**

By Jessica Corbett  
Common Dreams: November 13, 2020

Environmental and Indigenous activists celebrated Friday after Democratic Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer took action to shut down the decades-old Enbridge Line 5 oil and natural gas pipelines that run under the Straits of Mackinac, narrow waterways that connect Lake Huron and Lake Michigan – two of the Great Lakes.

Citing the threat to the Great Lakes as well as “persistent and incurable violations” by Enbridge, Whitmer and Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Eichinger informed the

Canadian fossil fuel giant that a 1953 easement allowing it to operate the pipelines is being revoked and terminated.

The move, which Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel asked the Ingham County Circuit Court to validate, gives Enbridge until May 2021 to stop operating the twin pipelines, “allowing for an orderly transition that protects Michigan’s energy needs over the coming months,” according to a statement from the governor’s office.

The Great Lakes collectively contain about a fifth of the world’s surface fresh water. As Whitmer explained Friday, “Here in Michigan, the Great Lakes define our borders, but they also define who we are as people...Enbridge has routinely refused to take action to protect our Great Lakes and the millions of Americans who depend on them for clean drinking water and good jobs,” the governor said. “They have repeatedly violated the terms of the 1953 easement by ignoring structural problems that put our Great Lakes and our families at risk.”

“Most importantly, Enbridge has imposed on the people of Michigan an unacceptable risk of a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Lakes that could devastate our

economy and way of life,” she added. “That’s why we’re taking action now, and why I will continue to hold accountable anyone who threatens our Great Lakes and fresh water.”

MLive noted that the state attorney general’s new filing “is in addition to Nessel’s lawsuit filed in 2019 seeking the shutdown of Line 5, which remains pending in the same court.” Nessel said Friday that Whitmer and Eichinger “are making another clear statement that Line 5 poses a great risk to our state, and it must be removed from our public waterways.”

The “bombshell news,” as one Michigan reporter called it, elicited applause from environmentalists and Indigenous leaders within and beyond the state.

“This is a brave and just decision for the Great Lakes,” Mike Shriberg, the National Wildlife Federation’s regional executive director for the Great Lakes, told MLive. “It’s going to benefit the Great Lakes by removing what is probably the single biggest threat to water quality in the region.”

As the *Detroit Free Press* detailed Friday: Enbridge was responsible for one of the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history – a

**Great Lakes** *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

## Green Spaces Keep Hearts Healthy and Save Lives

By Paul Brown

Climate News Network: November 16, 2020,

LONDON, UK – A vast study of the incidence of heart disease, the amount of green spaces, and air quality in each county of the United States has shown that the presence of trees, shrubs, and grass saves lives.

It has long been known that particulate matter from industry and car exhausts is bad for lungs and hearts. While it is also accepted that the greenery absorbs pollution, it has been hard until now to relate the extent of the two effects.

Using the data collected by NASA from satellites to calculate the greenness of vast areas of the U.S., the researchers compared it with the national death rates from the Atlas of Heart Disease.

They overlaid this with data from the Environment Protection Agency's air quality measurements of particulate matter for each county and the Census Bureau's information on age, race, education, and income by county.

Using an internationally recognized



Photo: ChrisO, via Wikimedia Commons

*Green Park: Green space at the heart of London. "Areas with better air quality have higher greenness, and having higher greenness measures is related to having a lower rate of deaths from heart disease."*

system to measure the amount of green vegetation in any location, from a barren area of rock at one extreme (0.00 on the scale) to dense tropical rain forest (0.80)

at the other, they found a measurable link between greenness and survival rates.

**Green Spaces** *continued on next page*

### Great Lakes *continued from previous page*

major leak on one of its large oil transmission lines near Marshall in July 2010. That spill fouled more than 38 miles of the Kalamazoo River and took four years and more than \$1 billion to clean up. Enbridge in 2016 agreed to a \$177-million settlement with the U.S. Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency, including \$62 million in penalties, over the Marshall spill and a 2010 spill on another of its pipelines in Romeoville, Illinois.

A similar spill disaster on Line 5 in the Straits would devastate the Great Lakes shoreline communities and the Michigan economy, critics of the pipeline have long contended. Enbridge officials have countered that Line 5 is safe.

"Line 5 should have never been built in the first place," Shriberg told the Free Press. "Governor Whitmer is now bravely, and correctly, standing up for the Great Lakes.... This is a legacy-defining action by the governor," he added. "She is standing on the side not only of clean water, but clean energy and the jobs that go along with the transition to a renewable energy economy."

Dallas Goldtooth, Keep It In The Ground Campaign organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network, welcomed the "huge news" in a series of tweets that

acknowledged the years of campaigning by tribal nations against the Line 5:

"We are thrilled and thankful for Governor Whitmer's decision to revoke the easement for Enbridge's pipeline to run beneath the Straits," Bryan Newland, president of the Bay Mills Indian Community, said in a statement from Earthjustice. "Enbridge has consistently shown that it only cares about its profits and not about the communities of the Great Lakes. This is a monumental first step in rectifying the harm that the company has already inflicted upon Bay Mills and other tribal nations for decades."

The shutdown notice is "an enormous victory for the climate, and for incredible organizers who have fought for many years!" declared activist and author Bill McKibben, who co-founded 350.org. After thanking both Whitmer and "the indefatigable organizers," he added that "it's not often enough we Shut Stuff Down!"

Senator Gary Peters (Dem.-Mich.) also welcomed the development in a statement Friday. Peters, who secured a narrow reelection victory last week, is a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which oversees the federal agency responsible for pipeline

safety. "There's no question an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac would have catastrophic and long-term consequences to the economic and environmental health of Michigan and the Great Lakes," Peters said. "Unfortunately, here in Michigan, we already know from the Enbridge pipeline leak in the Kalamazoo River just how devastating and costly spills are to our state."

"Given the structural integrity and age concerns around Line 5 – particularly in recent years – and Enbridge's failures and inability to be transparent with Michiganders, it's clear that Line 5 poses too serious of a threat and must be removed in the coming months," the congressman continued, vowing to work with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the State of Michigan "to swiftly evaluate alternatives to Line 5 while continuing to hold Enbridge accountable."

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/13/really-really-big-deal-michigan-gov-moves-shut-down-line-5-pipeline-protect-great>

*Earth Regeneration*

## World BEYOND War

### Free Webinar: AFRICOM and Human Rights in Africa

Did you know the U.S. military has 29 military bases in 15 countries across Africa? The U.S. military established AFRICOM in 2008, despite the majority of African nations rejecting it. Under a false guise of providing security, the U.S. uses its military force to impose control of African land, resources, and labor to serve the needs of U.S. multinational corporations.

On December 4 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time (GMT-5), we'll be co-hosting a webinar on AFRICOM and Human Rights in Africa, featuring first-hand reports about AFRICOM's impact. See <https://peaceactionme.org/events/africom-human-rights-in-africa-upcoming-webinar.html>.

**Below submitted by Roma Banks, Australia**

War is the heart of capitalism  
War is the wellspring from which we all share in the capital or/and the deficit.

The reason why places like Nigeria, DR Congo, Ghana, etc. find it so impossible to lift out of poverty is that war and the following exploitation has blown a hole in the rhythm of life there.

The time it takes to sow seed is too many seasons away from the time it takes to fill bellies.

War tears the fabric of one place in the rhythm of the seasons.



### Green Spaces *continued from previous page*

#### Policy Shift Needed

For every 0.10 (12.5%) increase in what's called the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index, heart disease decreased by 13 deaths per 100,000. For every one microgram increase in particulate matter per cubic meter of air, heart disease increased by roughly 39 deaths per 100,000.

"We found that areas with better air quality have higher greenness, and that having higher greenness measures, in turn, is related to having a lower rate of deaths from heart disease," said William Aitken, a cardiology fellow with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Florida. "Given the potential cardiovascular benefits of higher greenness measures, it's important that dialogue about improved health and quality of life include environmental policies that support increasing greenness," he said.

The research is significant in the battle against climate change, too. Asian countries, particularly India and China, have severe problems with early death and disease as a result of air pollution. They have concentrated their efforts for reducing air pollution by reducing traffic and suppress-

ing coal burning.

It is clear from this research that they could both remove particulates from the air and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by increasing the amount of vegetation in polluted areas.

"Areas with better air quality have higher greenness, and having higher greenness measures is related to having a lower rate of deaths from heart disease."

The U.S. researchers hope their results will encourage clinical trials using built environment interventions (e.g., tree planting to increase the presence of vegetation) to improve cardiovascular health. "We will be performing a longitudinal study in Miami to assess if changes in neighborhood greenness over time are associated with changes in cardiovascular disease," Dr. Aitken said.

Commenting on the research, Joel Kaufman, a volunteer expert for the American Heart Association and a professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Washington, Seattle, said in addition to the actions that individuals could take to ensure healthy lives, such as not smoking, being physically active, and controlling cholesterol, environmental factors had turned out to be very important.

Ambient air pollution from burning fossil fuels is one of the major factors. Research over 20 years has shown that living in areas with higher concentrations of air pollutants, and breathing in the pollution, leads to higher rates of cardiovascular disease. Demonstrably, green spaces matter.

Dr. Kaufman said that community-led action had mostly been directed at increasing controls over the sources of air pollution affecting the environment. But another effective approach would be to increase the level of greenness, planting trees, shrubs, and grass.

In a statement, the American Heart Association said long-term exposure to air pollution reduced life expectancy by between several months and a few years, depending on its severity. Cutting pollution improved the health and life expectancy of those living in the area quite quickly.

**Paul Brown, a founding editor of Climate News Network, is a former environment correspondent of The Guardian newspaper, and still writes columns for the paper.**

**Source:** <https://climatenetwork.net/green-spaces-keep-hearts-healthy-and-save-lives/>

## Earth Regeneration



Photo: Tinashe Muzama

Members of MAYA getting the ground ready for tree planting in their all-out effort to restore Dangamvura Mountain and reduce the effects of climate chaos.

# MAYA Regreening Mutare, Concept Note: Bringing a Mountain Back to Life

By Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

## Introduction

Section 73 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe acclaims the right to a clean and safe environment. However, this right is being violated by human activities which are making the environment unsafe and this calls for human intervention at local to international levels. It is against this background that MAYA has chosen to contribute to this cause for a safe and clean environment through our afforestation (*establishment of a forest or stand of trees iwhere there was no previous tree cover*) and reafforestation (*replanting trees where there was once a forest which was destroyed or damaged*) projects along Dangamvura Mountain.

This project aims at planting various types of trees, improving biodiversity, and to further diminish the effects of natural disasters. The following are the project objectives:

1) To plant various types of trees in

Dangamvura Mountain and the surrounding areas in the City.

2) Enhancing the protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity by various key stakeholders.

## Context Analysis

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) has embarked on afforestation and re-afforestation programmes to respond to the deforestation crisis around Mutare and especially areas surrounding Dangamvura. Indeed, there are reasons that have resulted in deforestation of Dangamvura Mountain, Murahwa, Sheni, Fern Valley and even the games at Christmas Pass Mountain have been plundered for firewood/energy purposes. This has resulted in environment conflicts between human beings and the animals. For instance, monkeys and baboons have roamed and stolen from homes in Dangamvura, Chikanga, and Hobhouse and other areas since humans have destroyed their habitats. Temperatures in and around the city have markedly

increased due to this plunder, exposing people to various health risks.

Below are the activities that currently are being implemented:

- Tree planting,
- Environmental awareness campaigns,
- Training of community monitoring agent (CMA), and
- Collective engagement with local leaders.

MAYA observed that a robust afforestation and re-afforestation program through land preparation will result in planting of both exotic and indigenous trees and that will help keep the mountain intact. It is a transformative project that will help to re-green the mountains and increase the circulation of air in Mutare. The mountain and trees act as wind barriers which prevent the prevalence of natural disasters. Trees help to keep the soil intact which reduces soil erosion. The mountain will also help to preserve various species since they are at the verge of extinction.

**Mountain** continued on next page

## Earth Regeneration

**Mountain** *continued from previous page*

MAYA envisions a situation of transformative initiative which will become an ongoing event and expand to other districts in Manicaland. For sustainability of this project, MAYA has already partnered with Mutare City Council. The organization was approved to take the lead of Dangamvura Mountain for the afforestation and re-afforestation project. Tree planting has been recognized and encouraged as one of the most effective ways to combat and respond to the adverse effects of climate change.

As we approach the National Tree Planting Day in December, it is critical that we join hands with other progressive Citizens and Partners to respond to challenges and curb climate change, which has become a real

existential threat to the people of Mutare.

It is upon this background that we are engaging you to support MAYA with financial resources, trees, equipment, and any other educational materials such as flyers, booklets, and banners to use for advertising the event to the rest of the public.

**Donate** through Money Gram or Western Union:

**Name:** Tinashe Roson Muzama

**ID No.:** 75-446797 M71

**Phone:** +263775802968

**Bank Account:**

**Account Name:** MANICA YOUTH ASSEMBLY

**Address:** 155 Upper 3rd Street Mutare, Zimbabwe

**Bank Name:** ECOBANK ZIMBABWE LIMITED

SAM LEVY'S OFFICE PARK BLOCK A  
2 PIERS ROAD BORROWDALE HARARE

**SWIFT/BIC code:** ECOCZWHXXXX

**Account number:** 5783600007437

**Contact MAYA:**

**Email:** manicayouthassembly@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Organization/Manica-Youth-Assembly-MAYA-599494193802097/>

**Phone:** +263772351138

## Call for Chapters for Upcoming Book

**Dear Professor/Research Scholars,**

Greetings.

I hope you are fine and doing well.

We are happy to inform you that we are working on a book titled *Agricultural Waste Management through Circular Economy*, to be published by Wiley, UK.

Since you are a world-leading expert in this field, we would be honored to have a chapter from you in the proposed book. However, you have the flexibility to choose a topic around the sub-theme or any other thematic areas in which you are more comfortable. The detailed content of the book is as follows:

1. Generation and management of agricultural waste; a world wide view,
2. Various treatment technology used for the management of agricultural waste,
3. Sustainable physical methods used for the management of agricultural biomass,
4. Chemical treatment technology for the agricultural waste and their conversion to resources,
5. Biological method used for the treat-

ment of agriculture biomass,

6. Anaerobic treatment technology for the management of agricultural waste,
7. Agricultural waste to resource,
8. Potential of agricultural wastes for Industrial byproducts,
9. Pyrolysis of agricultural waste to useful byproducts,
10. Biological method used for the treatment of agriculture biomass,
11. Anaerobic treatment technology for the management of agricultural waste,
12. Agricultural waste to resource,
13. Potential of agricultural wastes for Industrial byproducts,
14. Pyrolysis of agricultural waste to useful byproducts,
15. Synthesis of Biochar Biofuel from Agricultural Biomass,
16. Potential of agricultural waste AW in biogas gas generations,
17. Biofuel from agricultural residue biomass,
18. Thermochemical liquefaction of agricul-

tural waste for bio-fuel, and

19. Future of agricultural waste as a resource.

**Following is the schedule for the proposed book:**

Abstract Submission: on or before 15th November 2020

Full chapter submission: before 15th March 2021

Final decision after revision: 1st May 2021

Final publication of the first volume of the book: Before 15th

June 2021

**\*\*Note:** There are no Publication Charges.\*\*

Please include the above timeline in invitations.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you so much for your attention and participation.

Please send your abstracts via email to [psingh.rs.apc@itbhu.ac.in](mailto:psingh.rs.apc@itbhu.ac.in) and this email: [moharanasil@gmail.com](mailto:moharanasil@gmail.com).

Best wishes.

Thanks and Regards,

**Moharana Choudhury**, India

**YOU MUST CHERISH ONE ANOTHER. YOU MUST WORK – WE ALL MUST WORK – TO MAKE THIS WORLD WORTHY OF ITS CHILDREN.**

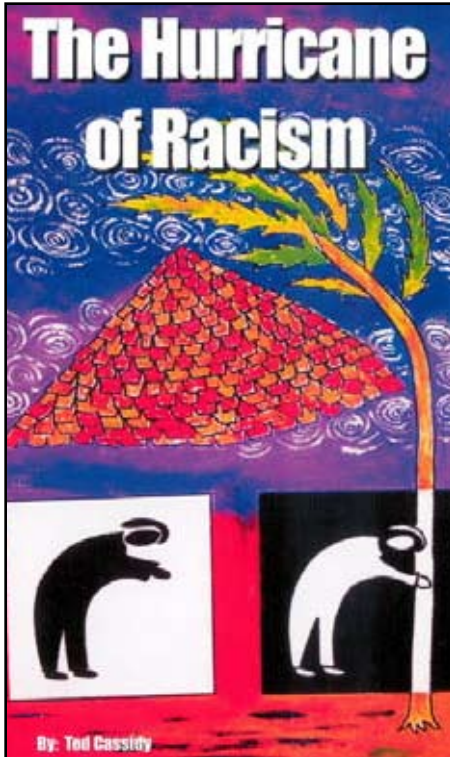
~ Pablo Casals ~

<https://twitter.com/GratefulnessOrg/status/1321416939516866565>



*Ending Inequality*

# The Nature of Racism and How We Conquer It



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

## Conclusion

**Note:** *This is the final installment in Ted's wonderful book. Even though he wrote The Hurricane of Racism 14 years ago, his knowledge is more relevant and important than ever for us in the United States today. It's with a grateful heart and hopes that you have enjoyed reading this book as much as I have enjoyed publishing it. A pdf of The Hurricane of Racism is available for free at <https://www.nacms.org/epubs/special-articles/hurricane-racism>.*

## Chapter 13

### Living in Acceptance

M. Scott Peck in *The Road Less Traveled* says that not many people travel the road processing their hidden motivations to become fine-tuned change agents in society. It is the exceptional person in society that recognizes the need for change and takes the initiative to bring it about.

Murray Bowen says that no person can be differentiated completely from emotional pulls. The human condition is such that it is impossible 100 percent of the time to act without being influenced by passions that pull us from objective judgment.

Clarence Williams says that acceptance is a commencement event because it is beginning a way of life where one is no longer dominated by intellectual illusions. Acceptance is being in a new state of self that is ready to begin the journey of processing one's reactions and seeking to transform the powers of society that keep racism in place.

Acceptance is not living in false consciousness as is sometimes thought by those who seek to live in a type of controlling assimilation. Acceptance is recognizing one's specific ethnicity. It is being in a state where the negativity is not pushed onto people of color and assumed into their psyche.

For generations those entering American society have sought acceptance by denying their own ethnicity. We have allowed cultural differences to keep us apart, a process that leads to marginalization. Here is an example.

A Latino family who lived in an Anglo Saxon neighborhood did not keep their house the way the neighboring families did. As a result, they were not accepted. The

Latino family was looked down upon and isolated from the rest of the neighborhood.

Differences can become the basis for separation and even hatred. People try to make dissimilarities disappear, just as the neighbors wanted the Latino family to disappear. What results is a separation into two conflicting parties. The dominant whites tend to feel that they are not responsible and they have no need to change. They do not think they are accountable to anyone. The people who are dominated begin to assume their own negativity and an assimilated hybrid can develop. They lose a sense of who they really are. Rather than being themselves, this group seeks to become both the dominated and the dominating. False judgments are made instead of differences accepted.

Society has highlighted differences and not fostered relationships. We begin to think that differences are impossible to live with. In *West Side Story*, Maria struggled to become herself. She was a Puerto Rican girl who didn't let the dominant culture keep her from recognizing her distinctiveness. This is an example of a way to accept oneself and also live with differences.

In my own struggle to be racially sober I have sought to be morally just to people of color. I have tried to change the institutions in which I live so that people within these institutions accept people of other races.

However, acceptance is an interior disposition. It is accepting myself for who I am and not pressuring others with the patterns I want for them. My personal self is a value. I have my own characteristics, which I trust and think are correct for me. I seek to appreciate my own background and to enjoy it. I seek to admit how I have

**Racism** *continued on next page*

**OUR FATES ARE TIED. WE HAVE THIS STRANGE NOTION ON THIS PLANET THAT OUR FATES ARE NOT TIED. IF IT WERE NOT SO WE WOULD NOT BE HERE TOGETHER. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.**

~ Luisah Teish ~

<https://opreach.org/2018/06/10/our-fates-are-tied/>

## Ending Inequality

**Racism** *continued from previous page*

let my white race keep me from appreciating the gifts I have as a person. For me to be racially sober is not to assimilate other people's cultures. It is to allow others to be themselves and for me to accept myself. I can then relate to the problems of society and create structures that are just and fair.

Acceptance also means recognizing the systems with which we live and work for what they are. According to a Japanese friend of mine, many Japanese firms are close-knit structures and it is difficult to leave as workers become part of the system.

Over-working can become endemic because of the emphasis placed on company loyalty. Many wives of workers eventually seek separation and divorce because husbands frequently overwork and are absent from their homes. Acceptance means realizing the good and bad effects of this system.

The hurricane of a system will forcefully seek to draw one into its homeostasis. To be differentiated means to accept the powerful forces in any system as realities and at the same time accept the gifts that one has as an individual not to be controlled by these forces.

Being at a point of graduation means growing from being unconscious of the systemic powers to recognizing the work that has to be done. Graduating in this way is taking the road less traveled but one that will lead to wholeness.

When one is beyond anger, denial, depression, and bargaining, one can seek to use power to be a corrective to the system.

### Chapter 14 Being Different in Unjust Social Systems

The history of the human race is full of establishing social systems and changing into new ones either by violent or non-violent means. Racism is one form of an unjust social system that keeps raising its ugly head. However, there are new systems that constantly try to take control of us. To conquer racism is to discover how to overcome any unjust social system.

For example, today we are in a struggle related to modern media and societal control. The principles spoken about in this book about racism are applicable in sorting out how the media system can take control of us. How often have you been in a discussion with another about politics? The views are often so emotional that it is impossible to get to the truth about an issue. On a grand scale the media and media conglomerates use emotion to control policies. We have operating today a new type of social control like racism by a few who have control of the media.

Racism, like any type of prejudice that becomes part of the social system, has its way of taking control of the system. To be aware of this power control by untruths in any social system and then to become differentiated from it is the purpose of this book.

Karl Jung speaks of the "collective unconscious" (the united mass of humanity from all over the world coming to a realization that is an advancement for all human beings). This worldwide consciousness is an extraordinary gift for the human race. Now in all parts of the world many people see a willingness to recognize the unjust

power plays that racism involves. Arising today is a consciousness related to the injustice of power systems that bring power and wealth to certain groups at the expense of others. Most human beings realize the injustice of these systems.

The white supremacy that is part of the American social system is a definite part of our dark side. We now have the ability to make racism history. We have the ability to make correctives in this system.

Systems of wealth have such control through media, finances, and other means that create unjust power systems.

This book is not naming any particular business, political party, or financial organization. It is naming the dynamics that are operative in these power plays. They are as follows:

- a. Power systems tend to stay in place,
- b. People tend to triangulate with others to keep their power,
- c. The suffering in the system is not the cause of the problem but the designated patient, and
- d. The system is corrected by staying involved and being different through a person (or people) in the system.

The process a person goes through while trying to be different is the following:

- a. Denial,
- b. Anger,
- c. Bargaining,
- d. Depression, and
- e. Acceptance.

After acceptance, a person needs to go about the work of maintaining a newfound realization and helping society correct the system.

## The Emergence of Connected Consciousness

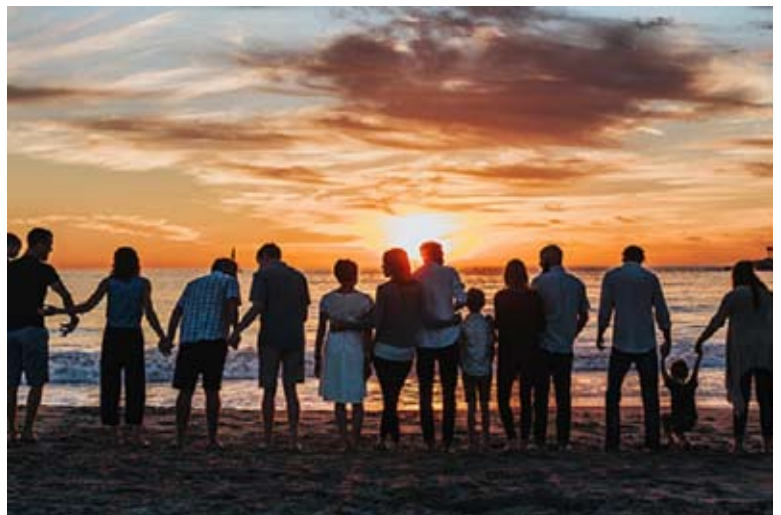
Submitted by Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

By Azriel ReShel, photo Tyler Nix  
Waking Times: July 22, 2020

Nature, when we're open enough to listen to it, always provides us with clues for living a harmonious life. A life of higher awareness where we are present and aware of everything around us. Sometimes things in Nature appear seemingly unconnected, even disconnected, yet, when you look a little deeper, they are more connected than we could ever imagine. Trees are an exceptional example of this, as are birds.

The murmuration of starlings is something exceptional to witness. There's a harmony and perfection that goes beyond the mind as thousands of individual birds move as one being. It's like watching a miracle. A mesmerizing pattern of life that appears almost as an animated sacred geometric screensaver but is in fact, a massive group of little black starlings; each

**Connected** *continued on next page*



## Ending Inequality

**Connected** *continued from previous page*

with their own life and consciousness. What is amazing is that these thousands of birds do not ever collide as they move as one in a connected consciousness, where their individuality is no more. They fly like one great bird.

### The Synchronistic Nature of Life

This incredible oneness and intuitive connection can happen with humans, too, and not just in the presence of great spiritual masters. Well-known author, Buddhist scholar, systems thinker, and deep ecologist Joanna Macy, is a respected voice in movements for peace, justice, and ecology. She shares her wisdom on connected consciousness in her book, *Active Hope*, co-authored with Chris Johnstone.

Something very interesting occurs when a group of jazz musicians improvises together. A number of separate individuals, all making their own decisions, act together as a whole. As the music flows, any of the musicians can take the solo spot, that leading role gliding seamlessly between the players. Who decides when the piano or trumpet player should come forward? It isn't just the person playing that instrument, for the others have already stepped back just a little to create an opening. There are two levels of thinking happening at the same time here – choices are made from moment to moment both by the group as a whole and by the individuals within it.

When people coordinate their actions through a collective thinking process, we can think of this as 'distributed intelligence.' No one person is in charge; the players act freely while being guided by their intention to serve the purpose of the group. For musicians to improvise together, they need to listen very attentively, expressing their individuality in a way that contributes to the overall sound. When they tune into the group and become connected with it, it is as though the music itself plays through them.

### Are We Ever Really Separate?

Something magical happens when we gather in groups, to meditate, sing, pray, create, dream, dance, tell stories, cook. The individuals drop away and there is a yoking. A synchronization, almost of breath and heartbeats; much like what can happen between deeply intimate lovers. We are never truly separate. Our survival depends on our interconnectedness. We need each other, for food, shelter, water,

and love. We depend on the generosity of others and the Earth, for our very life.

In these moments, it's like we let go of our individual identity in order to belong to and access something transcendent, and totally beyond ourselves. Our consciousness can shift into something universal.

*"A key feature of distributed intelligence is that no one part has to have the whole answer. Rather, the intelligence of the whole emerges through the actions and interactions of its parts."*

– Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone –

### Surrendering to the Whole

Joanna Macy speaks of this shift as a wider sense of self and one of the most exciting developments of our time. When we give up our individual wants and needs and surrender to the needs of the whole, we open ourselves up to experience and develop the most profound of spiritual qualities like humility, truth, service, unconditional love, connection, and trust. It's this shift into profound connection with something greater than each one of us, that will save the planet.

In a creative team, an idea may arise in conversation, then be added to and refined by other team members, its development shaped by everyone present. What allows a team to gel is a shift in identification, so that people identify with, and act for, the team rather than just themselves.

Could the next leap in evolution arise out of a shift in identification, in which we shed the story of battling for supremacy and move instead to playing our role as part of the larger team of life on Earth? Could the creativity and survival instinct of humanity as a whole, or even of life as a whole, act through us? Connected consciousness stems from a widening of our self-interest, where we are guided by the intention to act for the well-being of all life. Within Buddhism, that intention is known as 'bodhichitta.' Bodhichitta moves our focus from personal well-being to collective well-being.

... We stand at an evolutionary crossroads, and we, collectively, could turn either way. Our own choices are part of that turning.

We can choose, to borrow a phrase from Star Trek, the 'prime directive' of our lives. When our central organizing priority becomes the well-being of all life, then what happens through us is the recovery of our world.

Connected consciousness, or being at one with all that is, is not something to only be experienced by mystics or dedicated spiritual practitioners. It is the natural state of each one of us. And all we need do to experience it, is to let go of everything that blocks it. To return to our child-like innocence, trust, and reverence for all of life.

### We are Connected to All Things


We feel this connected consciousness when we commune with Nature, with animals, or with another human. It doesn't even have to be someone dear to us. Deep moments of profound connection can happen with perfect strangers if you're open and present. It's like when life slows down, much like a movie in slow mode, that we drop into this oneness, and connection with all that is. Too often we're rushing around in a state of busy nervous energy and miss the communications happening all around us all the time. The dog greeting us, the bird singing its joyful song, the person across the street, or the smiling child.

Life in its simplest and most profound is inspired connection and oneness with all things. Indigenous people know the heart of this stillness and connection and we can all remember and return to this place that we long for with all our heart, and the world will be better for it.

**Azriel ReShel is a writer, editor, yoga teacher, and social worker. You can read more of her work at [www.azrielreshel.com](http://www.azrielreshel.com). This article was originally published at Upliftconnect.**

**Source:** <https://upliftconnect.com/emergence-connected-consciousness/>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f\\_1\\_r80RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4f_1_r80RY)   
*Flight of the Starlings, National Geographic amazingly beautiful video.*

*Ending Inequality*



Photo supplied by Serlina Boyd

*Serlina Boyd and her daughter Faith pose for a photo, September 13, 2020.*

## **Cocoa Girl, Britain's First Magazine for Black Girls, Launches Under Lockdown**

Serlina Boyd struggled to find a magazine for her young daughter that celebrated Black culture. With extra time on their hands during lockdown, they created one together.

By Lin Taylor

Thomson Reuters Foundation: November 16, 2020

LONDON, UK – All Serlina Boyd wanted when Britain first went into lockdown this spring was a magazine that kept her six-year-old daughter Faith entertained, away from digital screens, and above all, feeling good about her British-Jamaican heritage.

To her surprise, nothing fit the bill.

“It was really important for me that whatever I was putting in front of my daughter had some sort of representation

because she wasn't liking what she looked like, her hair. She experienced some bullying in school,” Boyd said. “So when I went to buy some magazines to entertain her during lockdown, I was shocked to find that there wasn't anything. We just decided to do it ourselves.”

Now she runs a publishing company and has a book deal.

The kernel for the new Black business came when Boyd was forced to jettison plans to open a nursery after the first country-wide lockdown shut all childcare facilities and schools.

That left both mother and daughter with time on their hands, so they used the unexpected lockdown to knock heads and create *Cocoa Girl*, Britain's first magazine for Black girls.

Things have since taken off.

“It was just a small, little project that I could do on the side whilst waiting for the nursery to go through after the lockdown,” said Boyd, who has a background in publishing. “But now, obviously, I'm not doing childcare. I'm a full-time publisher. So that little project has turned into a proper job.”

Money reserved for the nursery was used to fund their publishing venture, with Boyd in charge of design, Faith – who is now seven – acting as head of content, and a sub editor making up the core team.

### **Diversity**

In 2019, about 37% of magazine covers featured a non-white person, according to U.S. fashion website The Fashion Spot, which analyzed nearly 750 covers across 51 titles worldwide.

When it comes to children's books,

*Cocoa Girl* continued on next page

*Ending Inequality*

## Greenpeace Demands Justice for All

We must “shift from an economy that is extractive and exploitative to one that regenerates and repairs,” a new report says.

By Andrea Germanos, *excerpt*  
Common Dreams: November 17, 2020

The “just, green, and peaceful future we deserve is possible and together we can build the power to manifest it.” This moment “calls us to be visionary in our pursuit to people – not corporations or wealthy elites – at the heart of governance and public life,” said James Mumm, Greenpeace USA.

So declares Greenpeace USA’s new “Just Recovery Agenda.” Released Tuesday and packed with more than 100 sweeping policy recommendations for President-elect Joe Biden and members of the next U.S. Congress to embrace, the visionary document plots out a path for erecting new systems that no longer put corporate greed above the public and planet’s well-being.

“Going back to normal is not an option,” the report bluntly states, because what “we knew as ‘normal’ was a crisis.” The coronavirus crisis has thrown that truism into relief, says Greenpeace, but the worsening climate



Photo: Michael Nagle/Greenpeace

*“Over the past four years, we have cared for one another,” said Greenpeace USA campaigns director James Mumm. “Now, we must come together to ensure that Joe Biden and the new Congress care for us, and to see that everyone – no matter their race or where they come from – has what they need to thrive.”*

and ecological crises and deep inequality have long made the case for a bold transformation of the dominant economic system.

With post-pandemic policies now being charting out – and a new presidential administration just months away – Greenpeace says it’s crystal clear now is the time for pivotal change.

“The policy choices we make in this

disruptive moment will shape the path forward for millions of people – the Covid-19 crisis and clarion call for racial justice in 2020 must mark a turning point for federal policy-making,” the report urges. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/17/greenpeace-releases-far-reaching-just-recovery-agenda-tackle-interlocking-crises>

### *Cocoa Girl* continued from previous page

nearly 27% of titles published in 2019 in the United States featured a person of color as the main character, said the Cooperative Children’s Book Center.

In Britain, seeing a non-white lead in a children’s book is more rare, despite 13% of the country’s population having a minority ethnic background, according to the 2011 census.

Just 5% of children’s books had a lead character who was Black, Asian, or an ethnic minority (BAME) in 2019, research by the Britain’s Centre for Literacy in Primary Education and children’s reading charity BookTrust showed. The report said only 8% of children’s books had BAME authors and illustrators over the past three years.

Boyd did not expressly set out to fill this Black hole in print media, but she quickly found herself doing just that.

*Cocoa Girl* launched in July, in the midst of a lockdown and after the death of George Floyd in the United States, which sparked global conversations around race and inequality.

Parents and children were hungry for representation in the media, as reflected in the thousands of shares and likes on her social media accounts, Boyd said. “I made a website that took about 10 minutes and posted the cover. Then I started to hear lots of pings on my phone – that was the magazine selling one a second. It went really crazy,” said Boyd. “A lot of people pre-ordered it before seeing it, they believed in it.”

Through word of mouth and social media, the mother and daughter duo sold nearly 16,000 copies of issue one.

In late October, nearly 5,000 copies of their November mag had already sold, with even a few schools now keen to stock it.

### Representation

*Cocoa Girl*, which costs 3.99 pounds (\$5.29), only features articles written by children, profiles Black role models, offers tips for Black hair, and always has Black children on its cover.

“Faith helps with choosing the content.

So, she has a notepad and she’s there, ‘Right mum, can we have this in the issue?’ And she will approve the covers as well.”

In September, *Cocoa Girl* was joined by *Cocoa Boy* – the first British mag for Black boys – and went on sale in supermarkets.

Boyd now wants to start a charity to help more people from BAME backgrounds get into publishing.

The pair has also secured a children’s book deal.

“The death of George Floyd made people – not just in my culture – but made everybody see that there hasn’t been a magazine like this before.”

“Why? Have we just been blindly going through life and just accepting things for what it is? When really there’s a group of children who have gone unrepresented for such a long time. You can’t be what you can’t see.”

**Source:** <https://news.trust.org/item/20201112152458-02foi>

*Human Interest*



Photos: Zechariah Sayou, Campus-Liberia International Media Office

(left) Community Engagements in the Township of West Point. (right) Team Campus-Liberia International.

# Ending Electoral Violence Campaign Led by Youths in Liberia

By Hanson Gonsia Blayon, Liberia

## Who are we?

Campus-Liberia International is a Non-Profit Organization (NGO) founded to embrace youth with talents and encourage cultural diversity among youth through Academic Excellence, Peace Building, Fight against Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitations.

## About the Campaign

The Campus4Liberia Campaign is a civic education and voter enlightenment program aimed to promote peaceful elections in Liberia and seeking to reorientate Liberian Youths to shift from using violent means of expressing their political views to peaceful and constitutional means. We believe collectively we can make a better Liberia through our peaceful involvement.

## Summary of our End Electoral Violence Campaign

The “End Electoral Violence Campaign” project seeks to provide civic education to young people residing primarily within volatile environments in Liberia: slum communities, Ghettos, etc. Moreover, it’s equally geared towards engaging youths in schools and youth forums/intellectual centers to empower them with a new perspective on democracy; one that champions peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and patriotism. The aim of this project is to help spread the message of sustaining the peace all Liberians enjoy as citizens.

We at Campus-Liberia believe that if Liberia is to prevent electoral violence in the upcoming election, there must be active awareness through civic education, enabling peer-to-peer discussions and community engagements. This campaign entails visits to major communities in Montserrado to provide education about Peace and Non-Violence. This is a non-partisan endeavor to strengthen civil national dialogue and promote sustained democratization and peace. The Campaign started on the 12th of November with communities’ engagement and ended on the 18th of November while the 4th of December is scheduled for the indoor program.

## Project Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of this project is to enhance efficient and effective youth participation in Liberia’s upcoming electoral processes without violence or political intolerance.

## Rationale

The rationale of our project is to raise critically needed civic awareness that engages youth across different ethnicities, religious affiliations, and political orientations in Montserrado County in understanding the importance of tolerance, civility, and peaceful dialogue in enhancing effective political participation and democratization.

## Social Media hashtags:

VOTE-NOT-FIGHT#VOTE4PEACE

#Campus4Liberia#VoteLiberia

## Contact for inquires or donations:

Phone: +231775138784/+231779182802

Email: info@campusliberia.org

Platform: www.campus-liberia.mn.co

(domain is not yet registered)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CampusLiberiaInc/posts/>

Twitter: Campus-Liberia



*Human Interest*



Photo: People & Nature, Friends of the Earth Scotland

More than half of UK oil workers would switch to work on renewable energy if given the opportunity to retrain, new survey shows.

## North Sea Workers Ready to Switch to Renewables

By Gabriel Levy  
The Ecologist: October 5, 2020

Workers are ready to move away from fossil fuel production as long as they can work and their families don't suffer, a new survey has found.

The survey blasts a hole in the argument by trade union leaders that every last drop of oil must be produced, supposedly to preserve jobs.

The 1,383 offshore workers who responded to the survey crave job security, above all. Nearly half of them had been laid off or furloughed since oil prices crashed in March.

### Workers

The survey, *Offshore: Oil and Gas Workers' Views on Industry Conditions and the Energy Transition*, was put together by Platform London, Friends of the Earth Scotland, and Greenpeace.

Many respondents complained about precarious employment and the contract labor now rife on the North Sea. The survey's authors seem to be the first people who have actually asked workers what they think.

The Scottish Government has a comfortably-funded Just Transition Commission, including trade union chiefs, that recently ran a consultation on its interim report.

But it was campaign groups, working with activists on the ground, who bothered to talk to offshore workers.

The survey, distributed via social media and targeted advertising, garnered 1,546 responses. The results excluded replies by 163 people who work in midstream or downstream industries, and are focused on the 1,383 respondents who work upstream. That's a representative sample: about 4.5 percent of the workforce.

### Transition

One of the survey's most sobering results is that, when asked if they had heard of a "just transition," a staggering 91 percent of survey respondents said no.

The term "just transition," nowadays used and misused by politicians, was coined by trade union militants in the 1990s to define the need to fight for social justice during the switch away from fossil fuel burning and other ecologically ruinous practices.

The *Offshore* report's authors comment, "Clearly, campaigners and NGOs lobbying for just transition, and policymakers tasked with implementing one, have failed to reach oil and gas communities – the people who ought to be most central to

transition plans."

Despite not sharing vocabulary with the chattering classes, North Sea workers are very clear that the future lies away from oil and gas.

Asked, "Would you consider moving to a job outside of the oil and gas industry?," 81.7 percent said yes, seven percent said no and 10 percent said they did not know.

The survey's authors commented, "The fact that a huge majority of workers are interested in leaving the industry speaks volumes about the stability and future of oil and gas.

"There are of course a multitude of reasons why anyone would consider changing jobs, but it is clearly that the offshore workforce is willing to make large lifestyle changes given the opportunity.

"In case studies and written responses, the vast majority of offshore workers state that they are fed up with the lack of security, decreasing employment rights, and hostile conditions."

### Precarious

Of the seven percent who would not consider moving, the three main reasons given were that they were close to retirement age, that the offshore work schedule

**Workers** continued on next page

## Human Interest

### Workers *continued from previous page*

allowed them to spend time with their families, and concern that their skills would not be transferable.

Asked what was most important to them in considering a move, respondents replied: (1) job security (contract length, pension, etc), 58 percent; (2) pay, 21 percent; (3) similar work schedule, 11 percent; (4) health and safety regulations, 5 percent.

The survey's authors reported "a palpable exhaustion with the precarious nature of work offshore."

North Sea workers are also ready to participate in the transition to renewable energy production, judging by the survey.

Asked, "If you could receive training or education to help you move to a new part of the energy sector, what education or skills training would you be interested in?" and allowed to choose as many of 10 options as they liked, the responses were: Offshore wind 53 percent, Renewables 51 percent, Rig decommissioning 38 percent, Carbon capture and storage 26 percent, Non-energy sector 20 percent, Solar installation 19 percent, Geothermal technologies 18 percent. Battery technologies 16 percent, Transport 15 percent, Electrical engineering 13 percent, and Other 2 percent.

### Training

A barrier to the transition to renewable energy is the lack of adequately-funded training schemes, the survey showed. Respondents complained that they are expected to pay for courses and qualifications themselves – and the bills are counted in thousands of pounds.

Survey respondents criticized the lack of government support for workers, "The overwhelming majority [of respondents] asked for some form of training, support to leave the industry, or investment in renewables. Other prevalent themes included a need to invest in decommissioning, financial support, and local supply chains."

The report ends by saying that Platform, Friends of the Earth Scotland, and Greenpeace will be running a participatory consultation of oil and gas workers across the UK. "Workshops will enable energy workers to draft policy demands for a transition that works for them and a renewables industry they want to work in."

The report urges "energy workers, union branches, local communities, environmental groups, or other stakeholders" to get involved.

"This report shows that North Sea workers are well aware that the false choice that trade union leaders talk about – fossil-fuel

production or unemployment – has nothing to do with reality.

### Economics

On the contrary, a move out of the oil industry could be, from workers' points of view, a chance to say goodbye to precarious contracts and the constant fear of sudden lay-offs.

Offshore workers' readiness to retrain to work on renewable energy, as shown in the survey, strikes a refreshing contrast with trade union officials' approach. They back the oil companies' and governments' plans to keep pumping oil until there is no more money to be made from it.

The oil companies present this climate-wrecking policy in "green" wrapping paper, Vision 2035 – which cynically claims to aim at "net zero" emissions, while continuing to pump a million barrels a day.

But the underlying strategy of "maximising economic recovery," i.e. wringing out every last drop, is unchanged.

This approach is not only incompatible with combating dangerous global warming, but also avoids focusing on the really urgent job of closing down oil and gas production and planning other futures for workers and communities (as NGOs have argued in the Sea Change report, for example).

### Insecurity

When the oil price slump triggered a new wave of lay-offs in April, the union bosses reiterated their sympathy for "a longer term investment strategy" in oil, rather than accelerating the switch to non-fossil technologies.

The Unite, GMB, RMT, Nautilus International, BALPA, and Prospect unions all fell in line, rather than treating the Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity to leave behind the fossil-fuel-centered economy.

Surely what is needed now is a real discussion in communities and among workers about how to shape the just transition, to achieve social justice and to contribute to tackling climate change. Hopefully, the participatory consultation proposed in today's report will be part of this.

One respondent to the survey wrote, "As I was self employed prior to April, the company put me on a PAYE contract even though the government delayed its implementation of the IR35 rule [rules that apply to off-payroll work contracts]. Consequently I now earn less, have to pay for all my courses out of my wages, and I have no employee safeguards or protection. "It seems the oil companies have got

away with everything but the workforce gets hammered. [...] A union won't stop this, it needs government intervention to hold these companies to account in the way they are treating the entire workforce."

### Ideas

Another wrote: "I've gone to agencies who employ contractors as staff, and have had to go back as an independent contractor and take a 25 percent pay cut... This is happening on a wide scale. It's very attractive to companies because they have to take on the risks of employees. I fear in the long term that IR35s will allow for companies to get rid of workers whenever they want. They have zero risk, they can take 150 guys and then get rid of 150 guys six months later."

On retraining, one worker said: "At my last job [...] our safety guy had worked in oil for 15-20 years. He applied for a job on [a wind farm] and it was going to be offshore. He was told he'd have to do the offshore survival course for wind. If he wanted the job he would have to spend at least £1000 for offshore wind qualifications... But the main theory behind offshore survival is surviving a helicopter crash, and it's the same helicopter if you are going offshore to a wind turbine or an oil rig. Even a half day conversion course would be better, because as it stands it's perceived as a money-making scam."

On the energy transition, another worker observed, "Up until now we've been quite reliant on oil and gas for transport, heating, and generation of electricity, and obviously that's going to have to change... If we want to look at training people towards understanding how we maintain our planet, it's really important that people understand that there are ideas out there that are fantastic. But of course, not all of them are that sustainable, including biomass... I'm interested in a degree in tidal generation, mostly because we live near Montrose and there's a three square mile basin that fills with seawater every day. [...] It empties and fills twice a day, and I can't help but think 'surely we could be taking advantage of that'."

*Gabriel Levy is a writer with an interest in socialism, ecology, and the former Soviet countries, who blogs at People and Nature, where this article was first published. He has been active in the labor movement all his life.*

Source: <https://theecologist.org/2020/oct/05/north-sea-workers-ready-switch-renewables>



*Human Interest*



Artwork by Maryann Daurio, New Jersey USA

## Permafrost Melt Creates Catastrophic Emissions

Humans May Have Passed the ‘Point of No Return’ in Climate Crisis, Says Study – But That Doesn’t Mean All Hope Is Lost

By Brett Wilkins  
Common Dreams: November 12, 2020

Humanity may have passed the “point of no return” in the climate crisis – even if everyone on the planet stopped emitting all greenhouse gases at this very moment, according to a study published Thursday.

In order to roll back catastrophic carbon emissions, humans must “start developing the technologies for large-scale removal of greenhouse gases from the

**Tipping Point** *continued on next page*

**Photo: Dave Fox – CC BY-SA 4.0**

*Twenty-five percent of the Northern Hemisphere is permafrost. By all appearances, it is melting well beyond natural background rates, in fact, substantially! Source: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/10/20/large-scale-permafrost-thawing/>*



*Human Interest*

**Tippling Point** *continued from previous page*



Photo: Charles Tarnocai/Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

*Melting permafrost in Canada's Northwest Territories sends carbon-rich sediment into the Mackenzie Delta.*

atmosphere,” says one of the study’s lead authors.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed British publication *Scientific Journals*, alarmingly asserts that, “The world is already past a point of no return for global warming” and that the only way to halt the catastrophic damage caused by greenhouse emissions is to extract “enormous amounts of carbon dioxide... from the atmosphere.”

The crisis “simply will not stop from cutting manmade greenhouse gases,” Jørgen Randers, one of the study’s two lead authors, told *Future Human*. Humanity, stressed Randers, “Should accelerate its effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions... and start developing the technologies for large-scale removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.”

What exactly does a “point of no return” mean for Earth and its inhabitants? The researchers describe, “A threshold which, once surpassed, fundamentally changes the dynamics of the climate system,” including, “by

triggering irreversible processes like melting of the permafrost, drying of the rainforests, or acidification of surface waters.”

The researchers used a computer model called ESCIMO to simulate outcomes from various levels of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions until the year 2500. They concluded that even an immediate reduction to zero greenhouse emissions would still result in a 3°C rise in global temperatures by 2500.

Using a more realistic simulation model in which carbon emissions peak in the 2030s and then decline to zero by the turn of the next century, the researchers still found that the planet would warm by the same 3°C, while sea levels would be 10 feet higher than they were in 1850.

Furthermore, the study found that the accelerated melting of Arctic ice and carbon trapped in melting permafrost may increase the amount of water vapor, methane, and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Recent research predicts that global heating will cause the planet’s average tem-

perature to increase by between 2.6°C and 3.9°C over the next few centuries. Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 2017 forecast worldwide sea levels to rise by between one and 8.2 feet – depending on the location – by the end of this century.

There is hope, said Randers, in carbon sequestration – sucking carbon from the atmosphere and returning it underground – but “it is a very big job... [It’s the] equivalent to the work involved in putting all the manmade CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, which has taken us 100 to 200 years of industrial activity,” said Randers. “Getting it out again will be the same type of effort,” he said.

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**Source:** <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/12/humans-may-have-passed-point-no-return-climate-crisis-study-doesnt-mean-all>

**YOU MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS, BUT YOU MUST NOT BE DEFEATED.**

~ Maya Angelou ~

<https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-quotes/7410-you-may-encounter-many-defeats-but-you-must>

**IN A TIME OF DESTRUCTION, CREATE SOMETHING:  
A POEM, A PARADE, A COMMUNITY, A SCHOOL, A VOW,  
A MORAL PRINCIPLE; ONE PEACEFUL MOMENT.**

~ Maxine Hong Kingston ~

<https://in.pinterest.com/pin/236227942939898211/> or <http://www.quotabelle.com/author/maxine-hong-kingston>

# 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.)*



*(first email)*

**Hi Iona and everyone,**

First my thanks to Bill for taking such comprehensives minutes. It makes an enormous difference to those of us not able to attend to get such a clear sense of what people are doing, what is challenging, how they are coping with these challenges, and ways others can sometimes offer support.

As for the efforts of those of you reporting at the meeting: My sincerest appreciation. It is really inspiring to be connected to such a wide network of genuine 'movers and shakers' in the real world. I often read of people talking of doing things that will make a difference. This network just gets on with making a difference!

So, once again, my thanks to all of you who are making a genuine effort to create the world we all need so desperately.

Love to you all,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

*(second email)*

Well after compiling and distributing the six-monthly report of the Nonviolence Charter, <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/10/nonviolence-charter-progress-report-17-oct-2020/>, which includes showcasing the work of the wonderful Grassroots Coalition, I have finally just read the latest edition (#68) of *Groundswell News*.

As previously, I can only say how much I enjoyed it and particularly because of the inspiring stories of those dedicated people who strive with such dignity and commitment to bring social and ecological justice to our world.

Courtney's work with One Life to Love in India is absolutely exceptional but, then again, so are the other initiatives described in the various stories you published.

Anita was also happy that you published her song 'If I Look Beyond the Choices Given' and hopes that people take advantage of the opportunity to listen to it.

Thanks, Iona for another inspiring read!

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

*(third email)*

Many thanks for your kind words. Yes, the Report is a monumental effort which

takes enormous time. Still, I get the chance to showcase some wonderful initiatives.

I am not surprised that you know some signatories: some amazing people hey? Including you!

Yes, you had signed the Charter previously. Your original signature (at the moment) is at the bottom of p. 50. I will remove your duplicate signatures and update your location to 'Brick'.

And if the Board agrees, I look forward to adding the name of the Grassroots Coalition as an endorsing organization. :))

Love to you Iona,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

*[Note from Iona: I sent this message as my cover email to issue #69 but never got any responses, so I'm putting it here in case you have any comments you'd like to send to me at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net). Thank you.]*

**Dearest Friends and Readers,**

Today I want to use this opportunity to get some feedback and see if you have ideas on how to improve *Groundswell News Journal*. I've been working extra hard lately and decided it was time to ask for your help so that we can reach more people and play a more lively role in combating climate chaos and racism or inequality while still maintaining my desire to have our newspaper reflect Love, Peace, Beauty, and Compassion.

Here are a few questions but feel free to add your own comments if they don't fit neatly into these categories.

1. What do you like best about *GNJ*?
2. What would you like me to change and why?
3. Is the length averaging 30 pages good for you?
4. Is my timetable for getting these published good for you or would you like to receive them more or less often?
5. Is there enough scientific information for you? Do you want more or less even if it's "bad news"?
6. Are you actively sharing our work with others?
7. Have you networked with any of the people whose stories we have featured?

That's all I can think of but please keep going if you have other comments. I'm thinking of publishing all the replies so let me know if you don't want me to publish yours.

Thank you from my heart for your honesty and friendship.

For the Earth Always,

**Iona Conner**

Director of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit

Publisher/Editor of *Groundswell News Journal*

[www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org)

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Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Groundswellnewsjournal/>  
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The mission of *Groundswell News Journal* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting publication, which educates and enlightens people about the climate crisis through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources, especially in Africa.

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CYCLE BACK TO BASICS

*(sent to his family of 12)*

If you are getting this it is because of the children you care for, and my obligation to pass this on to someone who I think cares about such things.

Check out the link [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org) and download the latest subscription, it's good stuff of other people and places and solutions to global problems.

**Jim Fennen, Sr.**, Pennsylvania USA

I was reading *Groundswell*. I thought it was pretty interesting that the satellite saw all those trees on the Sahara!!! Also, it piqued my interest reading about the Kuna peoples of Panama and the history. Kuna is the name of the town I graduated high school from and where Sherry lives. When I first moved there we were told that Kuna

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was an Indian name that meant “the end of the line” LOL... I felt like it was the end of the world for me!

Linda L., Idaho USA

Thanks for the update Mom and I duly appreciate reading the amazing stories.

Hanson Gonsia Blayon, Liberia

I certainly enjoy and appreciate the meetings we've had – and the opportunities they present to all who participate. It looks like a real group is happening here, which is certainly a very good thing.

I regularly think about the kinds of issues we are facing in this arena. Cooperative and energetic action – and imagination – certainly seem to be the best possible response to all that we can see before us.

I had not heard about Mr. Pompeo's latest pronouncement, so thanks for letting me know about it. I promptly sent off a note to the Biden campaign suggesting the importance of responding more constructively to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

Thanks for this masterpiece work. You are indeed doing a great work. Let us all join hands to achieve a better climate and work together towards eradication of social injustices.

With warm regards of the weekend,

Samuel Odhiambo, Kenya

We send you our warm greetings.

I am sorry to bring to your attention my daughter's tuition problem! She is Bekoba Lucky and she is 21 years old. Bekoba is our clan name and Lucky is her Christian name. She is offering a bachelor of Law degree and in her second year. She is supposed to register for exams but has a balance of \$461 and they need zero balance.

So my friend, it is my humble and kind request to help us and settle this matter because she is just crying all the time!

Any contributions or donations shall be highly appreciated to help her and do her exams. She is supposed to begin her exams on December 14th but all tuition should be cleared with this week and she needs a zero balance.

Regards,

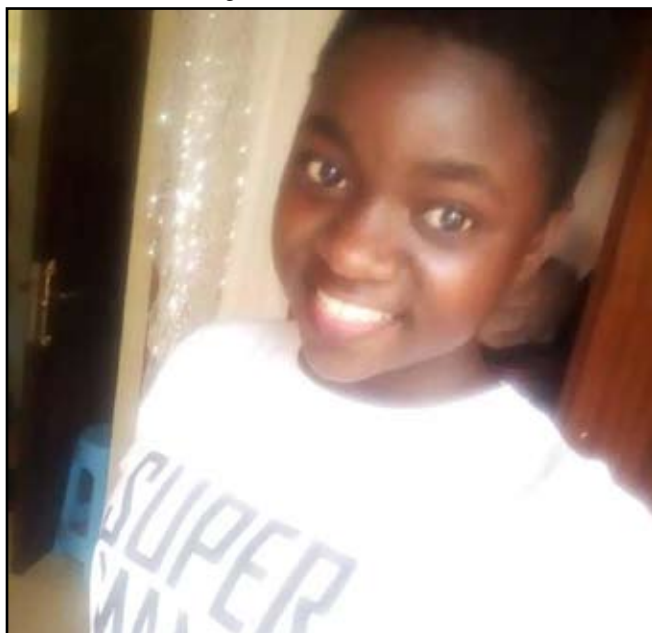
Ezekiel Kulaba, Uganda



Thank you my dear one. When I talk to you, I feel so delivered. Purity is now at home due to school fees, the owner of the school sent every child back home due to school fees. Next week they will do exams. He wants everyone to pay, but me now I'm still trying how I will get her fees.

Lillian Kabahuma, Uganda

(Purity is in the photo to the right. She is one of the orphans Lillian adopted after her mother died.)



*Once upon a time, when women were birds,  
there was the simple understanding that  
to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk  
was to heal the world through joy.  
The birds still remember  
what we have forgotten,  
that the world is meant to be  
celebrated.*

~ Terry Tempest Williams ~

Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

<https://fallintowonderland.com/2013/11/23/when-women-were-birds/>