

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. 71: December 21, 2020



Photo: Fibonacci Blue/Flickr/cc

Hundreds of Indigenous and allied people gathered on the shore of Gichi-gami (Lake Superior) on September 27, 2019 to protest the Enbridge Line 3 tar sands pipeline.

'Strong Hearts to the Front!': Indigenous Water Protectors Take Direct Action Against Minnesota Tar Sands Pipeline

Construction on the Enbridge Line 3 extension – which will transport up to 760,000 barrels of the world's dirtiest oil daily – began earlier this week, despite strong Native opposition.

"Clean water and unpolluted land capable of providing sustenance is essential to our survival... [and] Line 3 poses an existential threat to our well-being."

– Minnesota Chippewa Tribe –

By Brett Wilkins
Common Dreams: December 4, 2020

Indigenous-led water protectors on Friday engaged in multiple direct actions against Enbridge's highly controversial Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota, on the same day that state regulators denied a request from two tribes to stop the Canadian company from proceeding with the project.

Water protectors blocked pipeline traffic and climbed and occupied trees as part of Friday's actions. Urging other Indigenous peoples and allies to "take a stand," the

Anishinaabe activists at one of the protests told other Native Americans that "your ancestors are here, too."

"Take a moment to speak to her, our Mother Earth is crying out for the warriors to rise again," they said. "Strong hearts to the front!"

In a statement, Line 3 Media Collective said that the pipeline "violates the treaty rights of Anishinaabe peoples by endangering critical natural resources in the 1854, 1855, and 1867 treaty areas, where the Ojibwe have the right to hunt, fish,

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What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

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

Fair Use Logo



Iona's Column: 'My' Woods

December 15, 2020

Dearest Global Family,

Almost every day I take a little walk in a small nearby woods. I have grown to love this sacred space and have never seen another human there.

What I have seen is a “For Sale” sign, claiming there are four building lots. Not only do I cherish this small strip of ‘real estate’ but there is a tiny stream running along the edge. I want to do everything I can to protect this micro-ecosystem.

When I lived in Brick, New Jersey, 40 years ago, I was on the Environmental Commission so I decided to call them and tell them that we need to do something. After a short conversation and discussing my background, he invited me to their Zoom meeting tonight. He thought that talking about my environmental activism over the years might inspire the group with renewed energy for 2021.

You can imagine that I'll be talking about this precious little forest and hoping I get some action started. I hate the fact that such a beautiful place might be destroyed. I have no idea what's going to happen or what the response might be. Maybe I'll turn my column into a series so you can follow the course of one environmental activist trying her best to save something she loves.

Derrick Jensen's new *Beneath & Beyond* cards are on page 23. One of the cards reads, “What is your favorite place in the world? What did it look like 100 or 500 years ago? What will it look like in 10 or 50 years?” The reverse side asks, “What power do you have to stop this culture from killing the planet, or more locally, from destroying some place you love?” Think about that.

With love and hope for all the places we love, *Iona*



Photo: NRDC.org

Denying Pebble's permit application was a great--and necessary--first step. But our fight continues until the threat of mining no longer looms over the people of Bristol Bay.

Pebble Mine Permit Denied ... Once & For All!

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Taryn Kiekow Heimer, *excerpt*
Natural Resources Defense Council
November 25, 2020

In a sweeping about-face, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) today rejected the Pebble Mine – the widely condemned gold and copper mine proposed at the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska. The Pebble Mine would have threatened the world's greatest wild salmon fishery that generates \$1.5 billion in annual revenue and 14,000 jobs. Salmon have sustained the subsistence culture of Alaska Natives for millennia. In a statement, the Army Corps "determined that the applicant's plan for the discharge of fill material does not comply with Clean Water Act guidelines

and concluded that the proposed project is contrary to the public interest." In denying Pebble's permit, the Army Corps is finally acknowledging the very real risks to Bristol Bay – and the economies, people, wildlife, and fish that depend upon it.

The Pebble Mine was always the wrong mine in the wrong place, and the Army Corps was right to listen to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of the Interior, tribes, commercial fishermen, businesses, independent scientists, and conservation groups who have all raised serious concerns about the project. But a permit denial will not protect the people and economy of Bristol Bay over the long term. A permit denial leaves the door open for future mining in Bristol Bay under more politically favor-

able circumstances. President-elect Biden has vowed to block the project:

"Bristol Bay has been foundational to the way of life of Alaska Natives for countless generations, provides incredible joy for recreational anglers from across the country, and is an economic powerhouse that supplies half of the world's wild sockeye salmon. It is no place for a mine. The Obama-Biden administration reached that conclusion when we ran a rigorous, science-based process in 2014, and it is still true today ... As President, I will ... protect Bristol Bay and all it offers to Alaska, our country, and the world...."

Source: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/taryn-kiekow-heimer/pebble-mine-permit-denied>

Tar Sands *continued from page 1*
gather medicinal plants, harvest wild rice, and preserve sacred sites."

"The state of Minnesota does not have the consent of many tribes that will be impacted by construction and spills," the group added...Last week, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa and the White Earth Band petitioned the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to pause its approval of Line 3 construction while challenges to the permits are considered by the Minnesota Court of Appeals."

On Friday, the MPUC voted 4-1 to reject the tribes' request. According to *The Washington Post*, the commissioners said that further delays would hurt workers who had traveled to northern Minnesota. They also cited Democratic Governor Tim Walz's designation of the project as "criti-

cal" during the coronavirus pandemic.

On Thursday, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) appealed directly to Walz:

"Indian people have lived along the lakes, rivers, and streams of northern Minnesota since time immemorial. The people of the MCT have flourished in the area for centuries due to the careful conservation of our resources. Clean water and unpolluted land capable of providing sustenance is essential to our survival... [and] Line 3 poses an existential threat to our well-being."

The vote and the water protectors' latest act of resistance come just two days after construction began on the \$2.9 billion, 1,100-mile extension.

According to Indigenous-led environmental group Honor the Earth, the pipeline will have the daily capacity to transport 760,000 barrels of tar sands oil —

known as the world's dirtiest fuel — from Alberta, Canada to a port in Superior, Wisconsin. Stop Line 3 says the pipeline will run "through untouched wetlands and the treaty territory of Anishinaabe peoples."

"We have the right to practice our treaty rights," stressed Gitchigumi Scout member Taysha Martineau, one of the Indigenous leaders at the Friday action. "We ask you to bear witness and protect our right to do so."

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/12/04/strong-hearts-front-indigenous-water-protectors-take-direct-action-against-minnesota>

Climate Emergency



Photo: W. Bulach, via Wikimedia Commons

There is a connection between Antarctic sea level change and mass ice loss in the Arctic.

Polar Link Unites Far Extremes of North and South

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: November 30, 2020

They are different worlds, one an ocean, the other a continent. But a polar link keeps them in touch with each other.

LONDON, UK – The Arctic and Antarctica are literally a world apart, but for an unlikely polar link. Change in the mass of ice in the north can and does precipitate change in the furthest reaches of the southern hemisphere.

According to 40,000 years of geological evidence, when the Arctic Ocean ice retreats, global sea levels rise to start washing away the sea ice around the shelf of the vast frozen continent at the other extreme of the planet.

This pattern of action at a distance is confirmed by computer simulations: the planet's two hemispheres are in a kind of conversation, according to a new study in

the journal *Nature*.

“Our results highlight how interconnected the Earth system is, with changes in one part of the planet driving changes in another,” said Natalya Gomez, of McGill University in Canada, who led the study.

“In the modern era, we haven’t seen the kind of large ice sheet retreat that we might see in our future warming world. Looking to records and models of change in Earth’s history can inform us about this.”

The Arctic is one of the fastest-warming places on the planet: what happens in the far north has reverberations throughout the hemisphere. And Antarctica, too, is changing swiftly.

Although both extremes of cold are vulnerable to global heating driven by profligate fossil fuel use and global-scale loss of forests, climate scientists have tended to consider them as separate cases.

But a closer look at geological records – ice cores and samples from the ocean bottom that offer evidence of iceberg drift across the millennia – revealed a connection. The polar link is real.

At the height of the last ice age more

than 20,000 years ago, the mass of ice in the north lowered global sea levels and the Antarctic ice shelf advanced. As the world began to warm again, ice in the north began to flow into the sea. Sea levels rose in the southern hemisphere and this began to force a retreat of the Antarctic ice.

“Ice sheets can influence each other over great distances due to the water that flows between them. It’s as though they were talking to one another about sea level changes,” Dr. Gomez said.

Dynamic Ice

“Polar ice sheets are not just large static mounds of ice. They evolve on various different time scales and are in constant flux, with ice growing and retreating, depending on the climate and the surrounding water levels... They gain ice as snow piles up on top of them, then spread outwards under their own weight, and stream out into the surrounding ocean where their edges break off into icebergs,” Dr. Gomez continued.

The evidence showed that sea level

Polar Link *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

Advertisements Harm the Planet, Researchers Say

By Alex Kirby

Climate News Network: November 27, 2020

Like them or loathe them, advertisements are everywhere. And they're worsening the climate crisis, say social scientists.

LONDON, UK – Part and parcel of modern society, advertisements are so familiar in the background of most of our lives that we probably scarcely notice them. That's a pity, because – if a new report is right – their influence may be indirectly causing climate and ecological damage.

The report, Advertising's Role in Climate and Ecological Degradation, was commissioned by the Badvertising campaign, which is run by the New Weather Institute, a group backing a rapid transition to a fairer economy, and the climate campaign Possible. It is published today to coincide with Black Friday, regarded as the start of the U.S. Christmas shopping season.

The report's message is simple: advertising makes us want more material goods and services, which damage the environment and the climate in both their provision and their use. So less and better advertising would be good for the planet.

Its author is Dr. Tim Kasser. Answering an argument often made in support of advertising, he told the Climate News Network, "Advertising does help people choose between products, but it also inculcates a general desire to want more of what is offered in the marketplace... When hundreds of millions of people have desires for more and more stuff and for more and more services and experiences, that really adds up and puts a strain on the Earth."

Dependent Media

Cautiously, perhaps, the advertising industry "indirectly" contributes to climate



Image: Silberio77, via Wikimedia Commons
Who better to boost sales than The Smoking Doctor?

and ecological degradation, the report argues. For this it holds responsible the industry's "encouragement of materialistic values and goals, the consumption-driving work & spend cycle," and the consumption of two products in particular – beef and tobacco.

Definitions may help here. *Materialism*, the researchers say, is people's desire to be rich as a result of "exposure to messages in their environment which suggest that happiness and a good life depend upon wealth and consumption."

And here's a spoiler alert for journalists: the survival of the media "typically depends on revenue obtained from presenting users with advertisements that encourage consumption." The more TV you watch, the more adverts you'll see, and the more materialistic you'll become, it seems.

On the *work & spend cycle*, the study says: "Individuals who live under consumer capitalism are subjected to numerous pressures to work long hours ... [one] is the desire to consume." So "advertising leads people to place higher value on consumption of what they see advertised and lower value on having more time available for non-work activities."

Advertisements can in fact mean "many people come to want to work, shop, and consume relatively more than to rest, recreate, and relate with others." And there's more: "Long work hours are associated with higher ecological footprints, greenhouse gas emissions, and overall energy

consumption."

When people work long hours, they have less time to engage in ecologically-sustainable and relatively time-intensive activities: bike-riding rather than car-driving, or growing food instead of buying it pre-packaged from a shop.

One of the researchers' selected products, *beef*, can cause environmental damage as it is produced: unsustainable water use, destruction of forests, high levels of both greenhouse gases and pollutants that cause excessive algal growth. It can also damage human health (for example, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, linked in cattle to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease). Excessive consumption has been linked with heart disease and cancer.

The lethal risks of smoking *tobacco* are all too familiar. Producing and using cigarettes, the report finds, has much the same environmental effects as the beef industry and, a familiar refrain, "scientific evidence is consistent with the conclusion that advertising indirectly causes climate and ecological degradation through its encouragement of the consumption of tobacco."

It may sound as though this demolition of advertisements is essentially an attack on the bedrock of capitalism. Andrew Simms, a co-author, told the Network it's not that simple: "Advertising is so clever at being attractive or entertaining that it's easy to forget it is manipulating us to get what it wants."

Broader Reach

"And what it wants is for us to consume more, regardless of the environmental consequences or, indeed, the impact on our mental health or personal debt... I find it helps to remember that advertising serves capitalist economies in much the same way that state-sponsored art served Stalin's Soviet Union, presenting a fake, idealized world that papers over an often brutal reality. But advertising in one sense is even

Advertisements continued on next page

Polar Link continued from previous page

change in Antarctica and ice mass loss in the Arctic were linked, over a sequence of at least 40,000 years.

"These ice sheets are really dynamic, exciting, and intriguing parts of the Earth's climate system. It's staggering to think of ice that is several kilometers thick, that

covers an entire continent, and that is evolving on all of these different timescales with global consequences," Dr. Gomez said. "It's just motivation for trying to better understand these really massive systems that are so far away from us."

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://climatenetwork.net/polar-link-unites-far-extremes-of-north-and-south/>

Climate Emergency



Photo: Bentley

Can an electric Bentley really be part of a real zero carbon future?

The Solution is the Problem

By Kevin Anderson and Dan Calverley
The Ecologist: November 24, 2020

A response to the UK Prime Minister's plan to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. Prime Minister (PM) Boris Johnson this week announced a '10-point plan' for a 'green industrial revolution' intended to create jobs and make 'strides towards net zero by 2050.'

Decarbonizing road transport features heavily, with measures to end the sale of petrol and diesel cars by 2030. Plus, around £2.4 billion (\$3.17 billion) of new funding for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure,

uptake, and battery development.

Although at first glance the announcement may sound welcome, in reality it is a delaying tactic. Irrespective of the praise heaped on the 'plan,' climate change requires immediate action, not a promise for action in 10 years' time.

Business as Usual

Waiting until 2030 will lock in emissions from personal transport for two more decades. It also risks locking out low-carbon alternatives to the private car that might otherwise have delivered on the UK's Paris Agreement-derived carbon budget.

The plan passes the buck of mitigating climate change to another future government, several electoral cycles down the line.

More importantly, it obliges our children to remove colossal quantities of (our) carbon directly from the atmosphere or attempt to live with the consequences of dangerous climate change.

The 10-point plans sits alongside the announcement in August 2020 of over £27 billion (\$36 billion) investment in road projects.

Far from being a 'green revolution,' this

Problem *continued on next page*

Advertisements *continued from previous page* more dangerous, because it is so pervasive, sophisticated in its techniques and harder to see through."

The authors also take a sideswipe at two other products: *flying for leisure*, and *sports utility vehicles*. For possible solutions they refer readers to the Badvertising campaign's toolkit at <https://www.badverts.org/toolkit>.

They sum up their report with a suggestion that there's more to come: "Substantial

scientific evidence exists to support the claim that advertising has indirect but real effects on climate and ecological degradation. It seems likely that similar dynamics occur for other products, services, and experiences."

Realists (or cynics) may conclude that the report simply proves that advertising really does work. Idealists may counter that that shows the researchers have not been wasting their time.

Alex Kirby is a former BBC journalist and environment correspondent. He now works with universities, charities and international agencies to improve their media skills, and with journalists in the developing world keen to specialize in environmental reporting.

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/advertisements-harm-the-planet-researchers-say/>

Climate Emergency

Problem *continued from previous page*

is simply business as usual, where the predict-and-provide paradigm of car ownership and road-building go hand-in-hand.

Too Little

In a carbon budget context, a policy pledge to end sales of internal combustion vehicles in 10 years' time categorically fails to address the urgency of the issue. The deadline of 2030 is too late as the entire Paris-compliant carbon budget for the car sector is used up before the policies even kick in.

We've written elsewhere about why we must be clear on the difference between 'net zero' and real zero. In short, 'net zero' assumes the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere at unprecedented scale, allowing emissions from fossil fuels to continue well into the second half of the century.

Should we choose not to gamble, and hand to the next generation the burden of developing and rolling out as-yet-unproven (at scale) negative emissions technologies, then we are forced to accept the hard logic of real zero.

In a world constrained by carbon budgets derived from the Paris Agreement, real zero invites a very different policy response to 'net zero.' The PM's latest announcement is a case in point.

While a clear market signal to remove petrol and diesel cars is absolutely necessary, the timescale and ambition of the current plan are completely at odds with the immediacy of the climate emergency.

For a fair chance of staying below 2°C, developed countries including the UK must bring about immediate and deep cuts in emissions from all sectors. That is to say, cuts of 10 to 15 percent year on year and with immediate effect.

To reiterate ... starting now. Not 10 years from now.

Cars

Cars are typically used for about 13 years between initial purchase to finally being scrapped. This time-lag means that waiting until 2030 to remove petrol and diesel cars locks in emissions for another two decades.

Given that almost two-thirds of the distance driven on UK roads is by cars under nine years old, new cars bought late in this decade will still be used and emitting carbon well into the next.

Therefore, in the absence of immediate and effective policies to cut emissions, the car sector can be expected to continue to

emit at its present rate for the rest of the 2020s and into the 2030s.

It has even been speculated that the signaled moratorium may trigger a short-term 'dash for gasoline,' increasing emissions as manufacturers push their more polluting, higher profit cars, while consumers enjoy a 'last fling' with petrol cars.

Also problematic is the 'hybrid loophole' in the PM's plan, whereby new hybrid electric vehicles remain available until 2035.

Although hybrids can be driven in electric mode, in reality 63–80 percent of the miles driven in modern plug-in hybrids are in internal combustion mode – i.e. using petrol or diesel. Again, this locks in continued emissions well into the 2040s for new hybrids bought in the mid-2030s.

Distraction

Electric vehicles have long been the darlings of technocratic governments, who see EVs as a magic-bullet for decarbonizing our society. But favoring EVs as a mitigation mainstay comes with a significant opportunity cost.

Many other key sectors also urgently need a ready supply of zero-carbon electricity. Housing, industry, and public services, not to mention freight transport and non-car passenger transport, all need to be rapidly decarbonized through electrification.

Even with a major shift to renewables, zero-carbon energy will remain a scarce resource for years to come. Therefore, a 'triage' approach is necessary; the most urgent, non-negotiable cases go to the front of the queue for zero-carbon electricity.

As such, it is neither a wise nor progressive policy to use such a scarce resource to transport a 70-kilogram/154-pound driver in a 1.5 ton car a few kilometers/miles to an out-of-town supermarket or to make the school run.

Locking Out

Promoting private car ownership, whether conventional or electric, works against efforts to stimulate other forms of mobility and access to transport, effectively 'locking out' other options.

First, there's the simple opportunity cost of continuing to back private cars. Every pound (dollar) spent on charging infrastructure or road widening cannot be spent on active or public modes of transport.

Second, the cost of car ownership already excludes a significant proportion

of society. This social exclusion may be exacerbated by the difficulty of home EV-charging in densely populated areas.

Moreover, the costly and disruptive roll-out of EV charging infrastructure, in already space-constrained urban settings – with thousands of miles of cables and excavations – may hinder active modes like walking if charging points encroach onto footpaths and cycleways.

Same but Different

Betting everything on EVs merely 'kicks the can down the road' with respect to a host of other environmental and social issues. It does nothing to address car congestion in our towns and cities. It merely swaps one resource-intensive traffic jam – petrol and diesel cars – for another – EVs.

Car infrastructure – such as roads, parking, fuelling stations, garages – takes up huge swathes of valuable real estate in our urban areas; space which is effectively denied to other users.

To this charge-sheet we must add the pollution and safety burden of widespread car use, in the forms of noise and particulate pollution from tires, road accidents, and poor health from inactive lifestyles.

A Bolder Vision

Taking account of all these points, we can start to envision a much more environmentally and socially sustainable model of personal mobility. A better option would be to shift away from cars, including EVs, as the default mode for moving around within our towns and cities.

To deliver immediate cuts in emissions consistent with a 2°C-derived budget, the UK Government could set a *maximum* emission standard of 90gCO₂/km for all new cars from 2022.

This is a level already widely available for all necessary car categories from super-mini to family estate – but notably excluding heavier executive and SUV categories.

Tightening the standard by 10-15 percent each year would send a clear, but non-technology-prescriptive, signal to manufacturers. In all likelihood, electrification will be required for new cars from the mid-2020s onwards as the standard drops below 50gCO₂/km.

However, in addition to tighter regulation on car emissions we should rethink the model of individual car ownership. Instead of extensively rolling out charging points and maintaining car-congested

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Climate Emergency

A Conversation and Covid Sparked Patrick's Award-Winning Climate Idea

By Markus Lutteman
We Don't Have Time: October 21, 2020

Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi from Kenya came up with a scalable idea on how to educate African schoolchildren about climate change.

The idea was shared on the We Don't Have Time network – and has now been awarded “Best Climate Idea of the year”.

”Together truly we are the solution to the climate change crisis, and we don't have time to wait”, says Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi.

Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi got involved in the climate movement about 20 years ago, when he became a member of a community-based organization in his home town Thika called ESCONET (Escarpmnt environment conservation network), which was working to rehabilitate the forests along the Great Rift Valley escarpment. He also got involved in the Greenbelt Movement, founded in 1977 by Wangari Mathai, who would later become the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

”It was during this time that I got to learn about climate change and some means by which we can try to offset the carbon footprint and to conserve our national Forest and natural resources,” says Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi in an email interview with We Don't Have Time.

Earlier this year Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi sat talking to his friend Robert Ndungu and his niece about climate change. That



Photos: WeDontHaveTime.org

”I love people and I love to help where I can. We are a team of guys who try to reach out to people and let them know about We Don't Have Time and get them to download the app,” says Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi.

conversation led him to create the award-winning climate review on the We Don't Have Time App.

”The conversation built on how the political class in Kenya is working so hard to destroy a lot of green spaces as forests and parks, and replace them with high-rise apartments, skyscrapers, or highways, and even blocking paths and habitats for wild

animals like elephants. In 2019, when the government of Kenya wanted to recover riparian lands and river spaces already occupied by buildings, some politicians and investors indicated that it might be better to change the natural course of rivers instead. It was really absurd and disturbing to me and to many others. We talked

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towns and cities, the development of urban and intercity public transport must be prioritized, along with the re-allocation of road-space to active modes.

Connecting with the public transport network, rental hubs could be established on the outskirts of cities where EVs can be picked up for longer journeys. Hence, we might replace streets jammed with multiple cars per household with livable, car-free cities.

Reducing the number of cars in circulation in this way would work to reduce both total energy and resource use. It would also facilitate a faster turnover of cars within the fleet, as individual cars are utilized

more effectively, hastening the throughput of efficiency improvements.

Back to the Present

It is now late 2020. Since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, we've had three decades of talk and empty promises on climate change. All the while, total emissions have continued to rise with a potentially devastating amount of warming already dialed in.

We now face a climate emergency.

What we do in the next few years, the next few months, is critical. We are the last generation that might still conceivably prevent environmental catastrophe. Bold

leadership and decisive action are urgently needed.

Sadly, set against the scale and urgency of the challenge, this week's announcement is not a plan fit for purpose – it is dangerous prevarication.

Kevin Anderson is Professor of Energy and Climate Change, with joint appointment between the Universities of Manchester, Uppsala and Bergen. He is a member of the Decarbonate transport network. Dan Calverley is an independent researcher with a PhD on decarbonizing the UK car sector.

Source: <https://theecologist.org/2020/nov/24/solution-problem>

Climate Emergency

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about how the older generation had time to commune with nature, and my friend's niece lamented the fact that her generation might not have the chance to enjoy such things in the future. She said her high school didn't even teach her about the realities of climate change and environmental degradation."

The conversation ended with two questions:

What would be the best way for a country and a community to ensure that the young people are given an all-round education, covering contemporary and emerging issues in all aspects of life, including climate change?

And secondly: How can the young people, whose future climate is being destroyed, reclaim these resources before the extractive economies destroy them completely?

The award for Best Climate Idea was presented at the Exponential Climate Action Summit, which was broadcast live to 8 million viewers on September 24.

At that time, the Covid-19 lockdown led to a lot of schools striving to move education onto online platforms. Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi and Robert Ndungu therefore started elaboration on using digitalization to spread information on climate change.

On April 25, Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi sat down in front of his computer to take part in the Climate Hackaton, organized by We Don't Have Time during Earth Day Week 2020. "I felt I had to share the idea of setting up an online platform to allow young people to participate and learn about their environment, climate change, and how they could become climate ambassadors."

He titled his idea "Borrowing from the Future," to remind us all that we have accelerated climate change and destroyed the global ecosystem to a point where we are now living on borrowed time, sadly borrowed from our future generation. Borrowing from the Future will seek to



Patrick with his mom. "She was so happy for the good news. She is my number one supporter," he says.



Patrick at Fourteen Falls, just outside of his hometown Thika, 1.5 hours northeast of Nairobi. Rainforest.

do a number of things. One is to provide a platform for young people in Kenya (scalable to Africa and the world) to access and interact with information on climate change and environmental conservation. Another is to use the platform to allow young people to exchange ideas and start participating in building climate-conscious economic and political systems."

What kind of response have you received?

"From the time I posted the idea in the app, we have received overwhelmingly positive ideas. I think this is well evidenced by the likes and comments on the app. A few people have reached out to us and would like to know more about the project and how they can collaborate. One is Mr. Kevin Njeru Mwiti, a lecturer at Mount Kenya University, Thika Main campus, with a keen interest in sustainability. He is interested in how we could implement this idea with learning institutions around the country and with help of the institution where he teaches. The other one is a service called Planet Centric Accelerator from the Finnish company Vincit, which I have now had a Zoom meeting with."

The grants and awards are instituted by

the We Don't Have Time Foundation, which is the main owner of We Don't Have Time.

Ingmar Rentzhog, CEO and Founder of We Don't Have Time, was part of the board member jury. He says, "It's a simple but very smart idea. It's about educating young people on the African continent on the climate crisis, with the help of digital tools. It is cheap, it uses a technique which is widely accessible, and it could have a great impact. If we could educate kids on the whole African continent we would soon have a lot of climate activists working on solutions."

The grant for the best climate idea is 1,500 U.S. Dollars. "The prize money is going to be very instrumental in helping me and my small team of friends to set up a structure that can allow the project to scale. We may need to register the initiative with the appropriate bodies in Kenya, develop a strategy, set up a website, and hold a meeting with a few opinion leaders in the climate movement and education sectors to see how best to roll the project down", says Patrick Kiarie Nyokabi.

Source: <https://medium.com/wedonthavetime/a-conversation-and-covid-sparked-patricks-award-winning-climate-idea-5abd95d4ff7b>

Earth Regeneration



Photo: Eirian Evans, via Wikimedia Commons

This traditional Welsh beef farm offers “win-win” gains.

Mixed Farming Beats Intensive Agriculture Methods

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: November 23, 2020

It sounds like the conservationist’s dream. But a return to traditional mixed farming ways could pay off for farmers too.

LONDON, UK – Once again, researchers have shown that it should be possible to feed the human race and leave enough space for the rest of creation, simply by going back to centuries-old mixed farming practices.

That would mean an end to highly intensively-farmed landscapes composed of vast fields that were home to just one crop, and a return to a number of once-traditional husbandry methods. It sounds counter-

intuitive, but European researchers are convinced that it could be good value.

They report in the journal *Science Advances* that they looked at more than 5,000 studies that made more than 40,000 comparisons between what they term diversified and simplified agriculture.

And they found that crop yield in general either kept to the same level or even increased when farmers adopted what they called diversified practices of the kind that sustained subsistence farmers for many centuries.

These include intercropping – different crops side by side – and multiple crops in rotation, strips of flowers to encourage pollinating insects, lower levels of disturbance of the soil and hedges, and forested shelter belts to encourage wildlife alongside farmland.

The payoff? Better ecosystem services such as pollination, the regulation of crop

pests by natural enemies, a more efficient turnover of nutrients, higher water quality, and in many cases better storage of carbon in ways that could mitigate climate change.

This, of course, is not how big agribusiness delivers much of the world’s food.

“The trend is that we are simplifying major cropping systems worldwide,” said Giovanni Tamburini, an ecologist at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, who led the study. “We grow monoculture on enlarged fields in homogenized landscapes. According to our study, diversification can reverse the negative impacts that we observe in simplified forms of cropping on the environment and on production itself.”

It’s an old argument. Is it better for a farmer to invest all in one vast crop of maize or wheat or soy, regularly nourished by commercial fertilizers, routinely

Mixed Farming *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration



Artwork by Maher Antar, Egypt

Mixed Farming *continued from previous page*

sprayed to suppress pests, molds and mildews, with the land ploughed and harrowed after harvest for the next crop, and always at risk of frost or flood, locust swarms, drought, or blight?

All-round Winners

Or would it be better in the long run for the farmer to spread the risk by changing and multiplying the crops, and to rely more on undisturbed soils and local habitats for birds and insects that would demolish some of the pests (and of course take some of the crop)?

Researchers have repeatedly argued that both to contain climate change and to preserve the natural world from which all human nourishment and almost all human

wealth ultimately derive, farming practices must change, and so must human appetite. The argument remains: What is the best way to set about change down on the farm itself?

There have already been a large number of studies of this question. There have also been meta-analyses, or studies of collected studies. Dr. Tamburini and his colleagues identified 41,946 comparisons embedded in 5,160 original studies. They also found 98 meta-analyses. And they took a fresh look at the whole lot to identify what could be win-win, trade-off, and lose-lose outcomes.

They found that diversification is better for biodiversity, pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling, soil fertility, and water regulation at least 63% of the time.

“Most often, diversification practices resulted in win-win support of services and crop yields,” they report. “Widespread adoption of diversification practices shows promise to contribute to biodiversity conservation and food security from local to global scales.”

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/mixed-farming-beats-intensive-agriculture-methods/>

Earth Regeneration



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Kagondú Njagi

Paul Njoroge, in white top, a member of the Karinde Youth Group, chats with a local person at a recently reforested site in Thogoto forest, outside Nairobi, Kenya, on November 21, 2020.

Kenyan Farmers and Young Guides Enlisted to Protect City Forests

By Kagondú Njagi
Thomson Reuters Foundation: November 30, 2020

Sustainable activities, like eco-tourism and beekeeping, are increasingly being promoted as a way to conserve forests near Nairobi and help people earn a living at the same time.

KARINDE, Kenya – Peter Wainana remembers when the forest near his home outside Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, was so

thick with trees and vegetation it was difficult to walk through.

Today, Thogoto forest, on Nairobi’s northwest edge, is dotted with open spaces that locals and environmentalists say have been illegally cleared of trees by loggers and property developers, Wainana said.

The destruction motivated the 49-year-old to join with a dozen other farmers from Karinde village to protect Thogoto’s trees through projects such as bamboo farming and beekeeping.

“Everybody wants a piece of this forest because it is near the capital city. Rich people are trying to steal its land, traders are taking (its) timber, even manufacturing companies are dumping toxic waste here,”

said the father of three.

Across Nairobi, community groups are working to stop encroachers from destroying the forests around the city, as conservationists allege that much of the activity is due to illegal deals between developers and local politicians.

Asked about the corruption allegations at a media briefing in November, Alfred Gichu, national coordinator for REDD+, the U.N.-backed conservation scheme, acknowledged that unlawful encroachment was rife in the country’s forests.

The problem, he said, is driven by the government’s inability to meet Kenya’s annual demand for 45 million cubic meters

Young Guides *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

Young Guides *continued from previous page*

(148 million cubic feet) of wood, with the state falling short by about 15 million cubic meters (49 million cubic feet) each year.

Violet Matiru, a conservationist with Millennium Community Development Initiatives (MCDI), a local environment charity, said grassroots projects had become necessary to protect Nairobi's forests.

"City forests are always on the radar of land grabbers because of the value they hold. Fighting them politically does not work, so we have to come up with creative ways of engaging communities (to help) keep them away," she said.

Like other members of the local conservation group he belongs to, Wainana farms in Thogoto forest under a state program aimed at tackling deforestation, the Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme.

Run by the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the initiative allocates farmers half an acre of land each – cleared by the KFS – in any Kenyan forest to grow crops like maize and beans for a period of up to four years.

In return, the farmers must plant and nurture trees until the saplings are mature enough to sustain themselves, explained Patrick Kariuki, a conservator of forests for the KFS.

Working in partnership with the MCDI, Wainana and the rest of the Thogoto Community Forest Association have gone beyond the scheme's remit by also planting bamboo to fill out the forest.

In addition, the plants' roots stop silt falling into the springs that flow through the area, which was causing their water levels to drop, Wainana explained.

To deter encroachers, older women in the group have turned to beekeeping among the trees, he added. They sell the honey to supplement their incomes, and because the bees need daily attention, the project ensures there is always someone in the forest to report illegal logging.

"I feel happy about this project because it is restoring the spring water in the forest, which was drying up due to deforestation. (And) it has boosted our food security, with the crops that we grow there," Wainana said.

Eco-Tourism

Scientists say protecting forests is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to curb climate change because trees suck carbon dioxide, the main gas heating up



Paul Njoroge, a member of the Karinde youth group, sips water from a spring at a protected site in Thogoto forest, outside Nairobi, Kenya, on November 21, 2020.

the planet, from the atmosphere.

According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya loses about 12,000 hectares (29,650 acres) of forest each year due to a combination of rising demand for wood fuel and charcoal, a growing population, the spread of infrastructure, and the conversion of forest into farmland.

Over the past three decades, the amount of land covered with closed canopy forests in Kenya has plummeted from 12% to below 2%, according to Chris Kiptoo, principal secretary of forestry.

Firewood harvesting, one of the major causes of deforestation around Nairobi, is mainly done by young locals who sell the wood to traders, noted Jared Babu, executive director at Sisi Kwa Sisi, a community-based conservation group.

"Some of the youth here (who are) addicted to drugs and alcohol have no regular source of income. They sneak into the forest to collect firewood, which they trade for their daily doses," said Babu, whose group's name means "together as one."

The Karinde Youth Group, another organization working with the MCDI, harnesses the energy of the city's young people for eco-tourism instead, said Mbugua Kamau, the group's chairman. Group members act as tour guides, charging each visiting party 1,500 Kenyan shillings (\$14) for the chance to hike through Thogoto

forest and go on retreats.

The youths make extra money by providing services like photo and video shoots and refreshments, said Kamau.

One of the tour guides, Paul Njoroge, 21, said they check every vehicle that goes in and out of the forest and report incidents of encroachment, logging, and waste dumping to forest authorities.

Njoroge also helps with tree planting and says that, since the group started in 2018, many of the once-denuded forest areas are now filled with trees.

In the past year, group members have seen no new deforested areas, he added, sitting under swaying trees outside a primary school on the eastern edge of Thogoto forest, where they meet.

For Njoroge, helping look after the forest is both about protecting his community and saving his future, as he is pursuing a career in tourism and conservation management.

"This work has kept me from idleness and being involved in drug abuse. If this forest is destroyed, it means I will not have a job in the next few years," he said.

(\$1 = 109.8 Kenyan shillings)

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20201130080356-lz92p/>

Earth Regeneration



Photos Courtesy Permo Africa Centre

Two members of the Permo Africa Centre pose in the nursery with dozens of baby trees ready for planting.

Permaculture for Beginners

By Paul Odiwuor Ogola, Kenya
Permo Africa Centre

Dear friends!!

This is such a crucial time for you to dig deep and help support our work... farmers have so much to contribute to a regenerative future for our planet, and with your support, we can help them achieve that potential. For that, we do invite you to help through this campaign; below is the link.

I am Paul Odiwuor Ogola, a qualified permaculture teacher and designer. I trained with Steve Jones from Wales UK of Sector39.co.uk, travelling to Uganda for the first time to complete a full two-week Permaculture Design Certificate in 2017.

After the training I was deeply inspired and I realized I had to start a community permaculture training centre.

Community Permaculture Training Centre

The result is for me to have a mission, that of teaching and facilitating Permaculture knowledge and technology to my community. Two years on and already so many children and people in the community benefit from this very practical and sensible way of living.

I am proud to say I am the founder of community permaculture project called PermoAfrica Centre <https://permoafrica-centre.weebly.com/>.

Photo at right: Paul Odiwuro Ogola

You can contact me at:

Paul Odiwuor Ogola

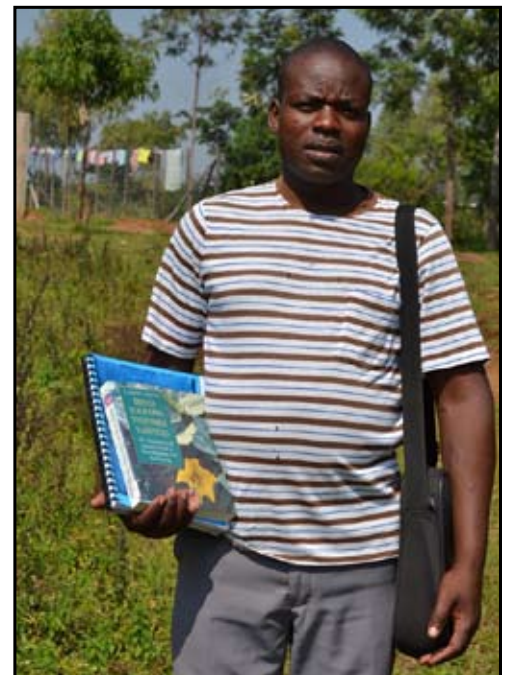
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Earth Regeneration



(top) One man's Permaculture education and dreams of teaching others are coming true. Notice the natural materials used in the Permo garden as crops flourish.
(middle left) A group of people is learning how to get the soil ready for planting.
(middle right) Adult permaculture students in Permaculture Design Course.
(bottom left) One of their first projects was this building.
(bottom right) Brochure cover.

Earth Regeneration



Photos: Mr. Mavhunga

(top) Bigboy Musemwa is relaxing for a minute during the building of a well with the builders in the background. (bottom) Mrs. Mavhunga is pouring water to make cement.

Zimbabwe Permaculture Center Builds Well

By Bigboy Musemwa, Zimbabwe

We are happy we managed to fence our seven-hectare (17.3-acre) plot as well to have built the well. However, we are now on stage 3 fundraising where we intend to build structures before we implement projects.

We aim to develop our land to a small permaculture village that produces water, tree planting, food forest security, produce garden, multiple small zone 1s (a division of land where housing and office structures are built), a village that has space for people to visit and be immersed in a working Permaculture Village.

We should also have a small orphanage and get the children to learn a big hand in the running of the permaculture centre.

For donations, feel free to donate via our fundraiser: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8uCnuvyfHO>

Bigboys Big Dream Project stage 3 (paypal.com)

By Roma Banks, Australia

Our next adventure with Bigboy moves to People-Care infrastructure. A

kitchen, toilets, and bathroom. Please support our project and be together for a better world.

Budget for Kitchen: \$335 (Door frame \$15; 2 x window frames \$24; 4 loads of thatching grass \$30; 16 roofing poles \$16; 8 bags cement \$80; 4,000 bricks \$120; labor \$50)

2 x Toilets: USD \$220 (3,000 bricks \$90; 6 bags cement \$60; Reinforcements \$20; Labor \$50)

2 Bathrooms: \$130 (2,000 bricks \$60; 4 bags cement \$40; Labor \$30)

Tree nursery: \$150 (nursery shade 20m x 5m one hectare maize project; 10 50kg bags organic fertilizer at \$24 each)

We bought seed already for \$240.

Goal Total: \$1,075US or \$1,461 AUS

Contacts:

Bigboy Musemwa (Umuntu Project Leader)

PO Box A 306

Avondale

Harare

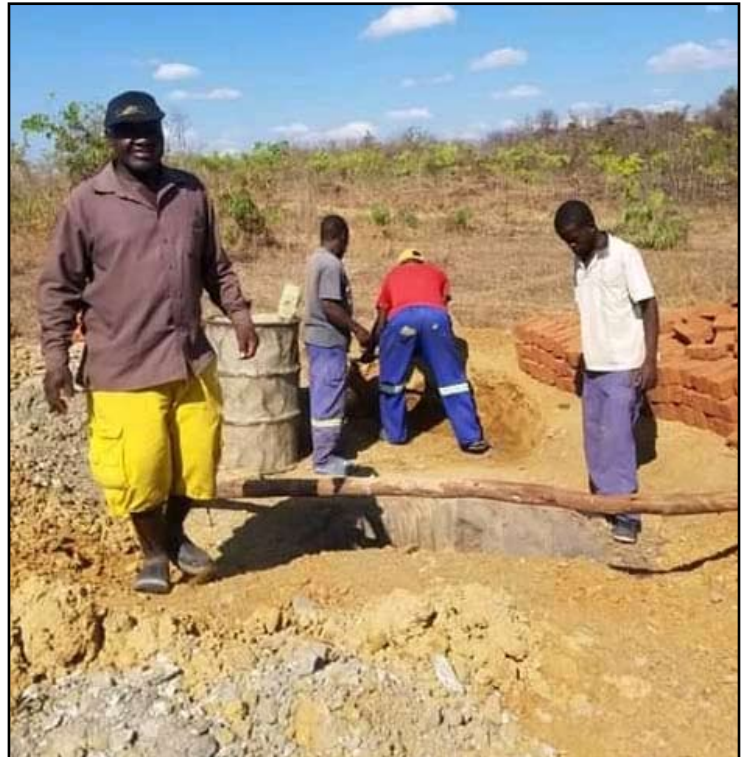
Zimbabwe

WhatsApp: +263 773-841-675

You can also email Bigboy's friend Roma Banks: craaaaaazywater@protonmail.com



Earth Regeneration



(top left) Bigboy (in yellow shorts) with the workers in the background getting the ground ready for the well. (top right) Assessing progress after the hole was dug. (bottom left) The Madzibaba brothers are laying bricks around the well, and (bottom right) – voilà – the finished well!

Earth Regeneration



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Mangroves are adapted to saline conditions. A pilot project that allows landless people to live in a protected area of Ranong could be an effective model of conservation.

Landless Thais Get Homes in Mangrove Forest in Conservation Push

By Rina Chandran
Thomson Reuters Foundation: November 16, 2020

BANGKOK, Thailand – Thai authorities have reached an agreement with a landless community that will allow villagers to live in a mangrove forest if they help protect the area, a unique collaboration that could work across the country, land rights groups said.

Under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the government, human rights groups, and about 45 families in the coastal town of Ranong, the community will not get ownership rights but will receive assistance in building homes and access to utilities.

The agreement, which was struck earlier this month and includes indigenous people such as the sea gypsies, is now being replicated in the coastal cities of Phuket and Krabi.

“The communities have been fighting for land for a long time, and we had been trying to find a solution through numerous negotiations,” said Maitree Jongkrajug, a manager at ChumchonThai Foundation, a nonprofit that is a part of the MOU. “This is a pilot project, the first of its kind – a model of cooperation between communities, civic organizations, and the government that can work for landless people in protected areas,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

About a third of Thailand’s 69 million people depends on land for a living, but nearly 80% of private land is formally owned by less than a fifth of the population, according to land rights groups who have long called for reforms.

Coastal communities are particularly vulnerable as a tourism boom has pitted them against developers keen on land that their boats, homes, and shrines sit on, while the government’s conservation efforts limits their access to the sea for fishing.

Varawut Silpa-archa, Thailand’s minister of natural resources and environment, had committed to resolving land conflicts and

Mangroves *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration



Photo: Courtesy Center for Biological Diversity

California commission OKs petition protecting Joshua Trees under state's Endangered Species Act during yearlong review.

Iconic Desert Plant Legally Protected

Center for Biological Diversity, *excerpt*
September 22, 2020

SACRAMENTO, California USA – The California Fish and Game Commission agreed today to accept a petition protecting western Joshua trees under the state's Endangered Species Act, granting legal protection to the iconic trees for at least a year.

Joshua trees are threatened by climate change, fire, and habitat destruction from urban sprawl and other development in their Mojave Desert home.

"This is a huge victory for these beautiful trees and their fragile desert ecosystem," said Brendan Cummings, the Center for Biological Diversity's conservation director and a Joshua Tree resident. "If Joshua trees

are to survive the inhospitable climate we're giving them, the first and most important thing we can do is protect their habitat. This decision will do that across most of their range."

Today's vote grants Joshua trees candidate status under the California Endangered Species Act, giving them legal protection during a year-long review to determine whether the species should be formally protected under the state law.

The vote affirms the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's April recommendation, which came in response to a petition from the Center.

Commissioners also agreed to give developers of 15 shovel-ready industrial solar

projects in Kern and San Bernardino counties so-called "take authorization," allowing them to kill Joshua trees. In exchange the developers must pay into a state fund that will be used to purchase and permanently preserve Joshua tree habitat.

This exemption applies only during the review period and requires developers to pay approximately \$10,000 an acre, based on a ratio of 1.5 acres for every acre of occupied habitat that's destroyed. . . .

Source: Source: <https://biological-diversity.org/w/news/press-releases/california-commission-oks-petition-protecting-joshua-trees-under-states-endangered-species-act-2020-09-22/>

Mangroves *continued from previous page*

landlessness when he took office last year. "It is a priority of the government to give land for those who need it for housing and farming," he said. "But the government must also strike a balance between land use and conservation of the environment."

Mangroves protect coastlines against storms, rising seas, and tsunamis. They also absorb planet-heating carbon from the atmosphere, and provide nurseries for young fish, which support the livelihoods

of coastal communities.

Earlier this year, a community in northern Thailand won a United Nations prize for their efforts in conserving a wetland forest, and halting efforts to turn it into an industrial zone.

In Ranong, Phuket, and Krabi, villagers will follow the conditions laid out by authorities for the conservation of the protected areas, Maitree said.

Months-long, anti-government protests

probably increased pressure on Thai authorities to address the long-standing issue of landlessness, he said. "This is about giving people justice, reducing inequality – which is among the demands of protesters also," he said. "The government is paying more attention to this issue."

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20201116060104-m46xj/>

Ending Inequality

UN Chief Calls for More Climate Finance for Poor Nations as 2020 Goal Slips

By Megan Rowling

Thomson Reuters Foundation: December 12, 2020

BARCELONA, Spain – Rich nations are “lagging badly” on a longstanding pledge to channel \$100 billion a year in funding, from 2020 onwards, to help poorer countries develop cleanly and adapt to the worsening impacts of climate change, the U.N. chief said on Saturday.

Antonio Guterres told journalists, on the sidelines of a virtual “Climate Ambition Summit” to mark the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, that a new report by climate finance experts estimated the promise would not be met this year.

Nor had donors responded adequately to the Covid-19 financial crisis to provide cash-strapped developing countries with liquidity and debt relief, he noted.

“There is a clear need to increase both forms of finance – and they should be inter-linked,” he said, calling for the pandemic recovery to be climate-friendly.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said the Covid-19 crisis was consuming resources that had been intended for emissions reduction projects.

In a best-case scenario, she noted, her Caribbean island nation aimed to eliminate fossil fuels by 2030 through an “energy revolution” that would put solar panels on roofs and electric vehicles in garages.

In 2009, wealthy governments agreed to increase climate finance for vulnerable countries to \$100 billion annually by 2020, and under the Paris Agreement they said they would negotiate a yet-higher amount that would kick in from 2025.

“Our collective goal must be to surpass the \$100-billion-dollar-a-year target in 2021 and to scale up international public finance in the period after,” Guterres said in a speech opening the summit.

Many developing-nation leaders, including from the Maldives and Kenya, told Saturday’s event they would need more financial support to achieve new, stronger climate plans to cut emissions and protect their people from wilder weather and rising seas.

Kenya’s president said losses caused by the impacts of climate change in the East African nation – from droughts and torrential rains to ecosystem destruction – could add up to as much as 3% of gross domestic product per year.

Kenya would require about \$62 million



UN Chief Antonio Guterres

between 2020 and 2030 to implement its updated climate action plan, with about two-thirds of that for adaptation, he said.

The vast majority would have to come from the international community, he said – as is the case for many other poor nations.

Guterres, pointing to recent storm-caused floods in Central America as one example, said it was clear that support for adaptation needed to be increased “to allow those countries to build the resilience that is necessary for their communities to resist the already inevitable impacts of climate change.”

He also noted that only about 20% of the \$79 billion in climate finance raised by wealthy governments in 2018 was earmarked for efforts to adapt to climate change, and said that share should be increased.

“We need a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience,” he said, noting that this was especially urgent for small island developing states, “which face an existential threat... Adaptation must not be the forgotten component of climate action,” he added.

Adaptation includes measures such as systems to warn people of weather threats, climate-smart infrastructure, water-harvesting for farmers in dry areas, and restoring protective coastal mangroves.

‘All but Silent’

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the summit her government would initiate an international process to raise more climate finance for the post-2020 period. She also said Germany would make available just under 500 million euros (\$605 million), in addition to its 4-billion-euro (nearly 5-billion-dollar) annual climate finance budget, to help developing nations improve their access to capital for emissions reduction efforts.

On the sidelines of the summit, Germany also made a new pledge of 50 million euros (\$61 million) for the U.N. Adapta-

tion Fund, while Italy announced 30 million euros (\$36 million) for the same fund.

Japan reiterated an earlier pledge to double its contribution to the Green Climate Fund, which assists developing nations, to a total of \$3 billion.

France said it would maintain its level of climate finance in the coming years at about 6 billion euros (\$7.29 billion), as in 2019, allocating about one-third of that to adaptation.

Tim Gore, head of climate policy at anti-poverty charity Oxfam, said the summit had been “all but silent on the question of new funds to lower-income countries to help them adapt to climate change and decarbonize their economies.”

He singled out France for not boosting its finance further. “Communities in developing countries deserve better and need more,” he added in a statement.

During the summit, Bhutan’s prime minister Lotay Tshering noted that at least 19 of the world’s 46 least-developed countries planned to meet a Paris Agreement deadline to submit a stronger national climate action plan by the end of this year.

“We are counting on the support of the international community to help implement these plans,” he said. “Because of a lack of resources and technical expertise we cannot do much and (these plans) would remain a mere vision on paper.”

Britain challenged other countries to double their climate finance in the coming five years, as it will do, to “make the \$100 billion a reality,” adding this was crucial to build trust for next year’s delayed climate negotiations in Glasgow.

“We must deliver for those at the front-line of climate change,” said Alok Sharma, Britain’s minister leading the talks.

The summit also saw the launch of a U.N.-backed “Race to Resilience” initiative that aims to help 4 billion people from groups and communities vulnerable to climate risks become better able to withstand the impacts of climate change by 2030.

It aims to build a coalition of business and civil society groups to transform urban slums into healthy, clean, and safe cities; equip smallholder farmers to adapt and thrive; and protect coastal homes and businesses against climate shocks.

(\$1 = 0.8257 euros)

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20201212190858-h7w2p/>

Ending Inequality



Photo: Screenshot, motleymopstersmovie.com/trailer/

The lead character in *Lady Buckit and the Motley Mopsters*.

How Nigeria's First Feature-Length Animated Movie Was Made

By Yomi Kazeem, Africa reporter
Quartz Africa Weekly Brief: December 9, 2020

When Blessing Amidu, a Lagos-based geologist, first had the idea for a feature-length animated movie in 2016, she paid a prolific Nollywood filmmaker to get the job done. But, after nearly two years and around \$40,000 spent, no headway had been made.

With much of the money mismanaged and the quality of work delivered deemed unsatisfactory, Amidu cut her losses and considered paying an animation studio in the U.S. or Asia to produce the movie for her. Predictably, that move proved too expensive and ultimately, beyond reach.

Seemingly at a dead end, she chose to try a more hands-on approach: she set up her own film production outfit, aiming to find the right balance of local creatives to make *Lady Buckit and the Motley Mopsters* (LBMM) – an animated film about a curious little girl that accidentally gets transported through time.

Much of her determination was linked to the fact that the story idea and some

of its characters were inspired by her four children, who had themselves become emotionally invested in seeing the film made.

Her new approach inevitably meant taking another shot at making the film in Nigeria but this time by bringing on a variety of experienced hands to midwife the production process. The first hire for the project was Chris Ihidero, the Lagos-based producer of MTV's *Shuga* series and writer of *Hush* and *Forbidden*, two popular TV dramas produced by Africa Magic, an arm of MultiChoice, the African pay TV giant. "It felt like a good challenge when she sent me the screenplay," says Ihidero, who joined Amidu's crew as consulting producer.

After signing on in August 2019, Ihidero set about recruiting a director to bring the animated film idea to life. There was just one problem: "Nobody in Nigeria had done an animated feature film," he tells Quartz Africa. After consulting industry contacts, Ihidero and Amidu settled on Adebisi Adedayo, an animation veteran with experience in making animated short

films and visual effects for live-action productions, most notably in *Game of Thrones'* final episode of season seven.

Behind the Scenes

When released on December 11, *Lady Buckit and the Motley Mopsters* was Nigeria's first feature-length animated film and marked a major milestone for a blossoming comic and animation scene which has increasingly seemed primed for the mainstream.

Indeed, Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, has hosted an annual Comic Con since 2012 with creators showcasing characters and stories in front of audiences that have since grown from hundreds to thousands.

In October 2019, YouNeek Studios also made a mark by releasing a 15-minute pilot for *Malika: Warrior Queen* – an animated film inspired by a 16th-century queen in northern Nigeria – to wide acclaim.

For its part, *Lady Buckit and the Motley Mopsters* will star some of Nollywood's most recognized actors, including veterans

Lady Buckit continued on next page

Ending Inequality

Lady Buckit continued from previous page

Patrick Doyle, Bimbo Akintola, and Kalu Ikeagwu.

Set in Oloibiri, a town in Nigeria's south where oil was first discovered in 1956, the movie's dialogue will also feature local Nigerian languages Ijaw, pidgin, and Yoruba in addition to English.

The process of making the film began in November 2019 with Adedayo and his team – made up entirely of graduates from a training school for animators he has run since 2014 – given a target of turning the film around within a year. But those initial plans were partially derailed by the Covid-19 outbreak and the resulting lockdowns in Lagos. “That took out of our production time and was one of the biggest challenges we had,” Adedayo tells Quartz Africa.

To meet up with the agreed schedule which was, in itself, a tall order, Adedayo managed a hectic process through several workarounds.

With character sketches already existing from Amidu's first trial to make the film, Adedayo's team started off by creating concept art and more character designs before working with Ihidero to rework the film's script to make it more fitting for animation.

“Once that was done, we began with the story boards for the entire movie and that took about four months. But while that was ongoing, character creation in 3D was also going on and the film environment was also being created at the same time,” he says. “We had about six processes going on at the same time. We were working on several parallel processes that were all interconnected and running at the same time – that's how we were able to pull this through.”

Ultimately, it took a team of 29 animators to manage these processes over the eight months it took to finish the animation. “Editing was also happening in parallel – before the final frame was being rendered, the rest of the film had already been edited,” Adedayo tells Quartz.

Working concurrently across several processes that typically happen consecutively meant keeping 18 high-performance computers on around the clock. But making the movie in Lagos meant the crew also faced unique, local challenges, especially Nigeria's infamous power cuts. The solution was to keep the studio running on four large, 8 kilovolt-amps diesel-powered generators for nearly a year through the process of designing, animating, editing, and rendering. “You just can't rely on grid power when you're working on a task like this,” Adedayo says.



Big Picture

Like most animated film projects, *Lady Buckit and the Motley Mopsters* faced the albatross of a lack of funding which is particularly acute for creatives in Nigeria. Having failed to secure backing from financial institutions “who couldn't understand what we were trying to do,” Amidu, a veteran of Nigeria's oil and gas industry, chose to self-fund the production which, she says, eventually came to a cost of just under \$1 million.

The hope however is that the film serves as a springboard for other players in the niche by showing the scale of local capabilities.

“It's important to note just how huge of an accomplishment this is,” says Roye Okupe, founder of YouNeek Studios which is working on plans for its own full-length animated movie as well. “My hope is that this sheds light on, and brings much-needed attention to, the amazing amount of talented artists that exist in not just the Nigerian creative industry but the African creative industry as a whole.”

But any chance of long-term progress inevitably revolves around the subject of funding. “We need more investors in this space,” Okupe says. It's a subject he's familiar with having bootstrapped a bulk of production costs for the release of the pilot for *Malika: Warrior Queen* last year.

“Often time, the difference between a local production and international standards is funding,” Ihidero says. “But there are people who can do amazing things here if properly funded and given the time required. I'm hoping this film makes people aware of the endless possibilities of creative people in Nigeria.”

The knock-on effect of more funding for the space will also be more opportunities for creators like Adedayo and the next generation of animators. So far, there's already one sign of the film's impact on the creative industry: six new students signed up for Adedayo's training school for animators soon after the film's trailer was released.

Info Digital (ID) Africa

For her part, after finally getting her film done, Amidu and her new production studio are not slowing down. A story idea for a sequel is already in the works as are plans for animated drama projects. While the film will be screened across Nigeria, cinematic releases are also planned in parts of North America and the UK – both home to large swathes of Nigeria's vast diaspora.

Amidu and her team will likely be banking on the increased focus on quality, which has seen recent Nollywood movies score big at local cinemas, to count in their favor.

But there's a lingering question about what appears to be the high-risk venture of a cinematic release amid a global pandemic which may yet see potential cinema goers avoiding public spaces.

Despite those fears however, Amidu insists postponing the film's release was not in question. “After all [the] hard work, there was no way we were going to push this back,” says Amidu. “We've already gotten this far.”

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1940063/nigerias-first-animated-feature-film-set-for-release/>

Human Interest

Beneath and Beyond Cards Draw You Deeper into Yourself, Others, and Nature



Beneath & Beyond

Cards for reflection and conversations about our relationship to this Earth, loved ones, friends, and to ourselves.

Created by Derrick Jensen and Fiona Corke

Beneath and Beyond...all of our beliefs, our social structures; Beneath and Beyond who we believe we are; Beneath and Beyond our questions are answers if only we knew how to really listen.

One hundred, double-sided cards, 196 questions plus introduction. The “Beneath” questions are on the black side and the “Beyond” questions are on the white side.

“Our hope is that these cards can be a useful guide in discovering more about ourselves and our place in the world and in the lives of others, both human and nonhuman. And our desire is that these questions may evoke reflection, conversation, and discussion about what’s most important in our relationship to this Earth, to our friends and loved ones, and to ourselves.

Directions: Randomly pick a card and place it question up. Take some time to reflect on your answer. You may need to read the question a few times to let the words sink in.

To get the most benefit from the cards, avoid Yes or No answers, offer an explanation or reason for your belief, create a conversation.

Questions can be answered solo or with friends. They can also be used in group work, workshops, and teaching.

Iona’s first card, white side: How many machines do you see daily? With how many machines do you have a daily relationship? Iona’s answer: computer, cell phone, toaster oven, landline, cars. I think that’s it = 4.

Black side: When are you happiest? Iona’s answer: (Oh Gosh, what a fantastic question!) I could answer with typical things like being with my family or friends or swimming gleefully in the ocean or riding my bike on a Nature trail with my grandson, but my atypical answer is: I’m happiest when I’m creating this newspaper for you and also for me since it helps restore my faith in us, the grassroots activists of the world.

PayPal: \$24.50

Check or money order: \$23.50

Email: Derrick at derrick@derrickjensen.org. Shipping is included in the price for delivery in the U.S. but international shipping is extra; please check with Derrick to learn how much you’ll need to add.

In Australia: \$29 plus \$9.50 for 1 to 3 sets anywhere in Australia. Contact Fiona at fiona.corke@hotmail.com. She has a paypalme secure payment account which she will provide when you order.



“If we wish to stop the atrocities, we need merely to step away from isolation. There is a whole world waiting for us, ready to welcome us home.”

– Derrick Jensen –

An interview with Derrick Jensen

By Dave Oswald Mitchell, *excerpt*
Briarpatch: August 1, 2008

Derrick Jensen has been called the philosopher poet of the ecological movement. His books include *The Culture of Make Believe*, the two-volume *Endgame*, and most recently *How Shall I Live My Life?: On Liberating the Earth from Civilization*. Common to all his work is a fierce commitment to expose the roots of the violence and destruction that underpin the comforts and privileges of civilization....

In March of this year, Derrick Jensen joined a Regina, Saskatchewan, audience via videoconference for a wide-ranging conversation. As usual, he challenged the audience to focus on protecting life rather than lifestyle, and urged them to recognize the breadth of the changes necessary to protect life on Earth.

Source: <https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/its-tremendous-fun-to-fight-back-an-interview-with-derrick-jensen>

Human Interest

Overcoming Fears and Risks to do the Right Thing

Time for governments and the oil and gas industry to make the honest choice of green energy.

By Stephen Leahy, Canada
Need to Know: November 12, 2020

Hello Friends: This issue is about taking risks to do the right thing – even if it is something as challenging as shifting from black to green energy production or something that’s personally terrifying. Here’s my story about getting off the couch to do the right thing despite the risks and my many fears. This trip occurred from April to July 2008.

I’m not brave or adventurous enough to be a drug mule. After collecting my bag at Johannesburg’s O. R. Tambo International Airport baggage claim, I pretended to be unable to find my way to the Customs and Immigration area like a nervous drug mule. I was afraid to leave the safety of the airport, and not just because Johannesburg is reputed to be one of the world’s most dangerous cities. I suddenly experienced an overwhelming anxiety about spending the next 70 days traveling on my own in Africa and Europe.

College football was to blame for my situation. I’d spent all of New Year’s Day 2008 mindlessly watching college football bowl games until I dragged myself off the couch for a walk. It was a cold night that came with a startlingly clear insight: No matter the personal risk or cost I had to do everything possible to alert people to the dangers of climate change and other environmental crises.

“Really? This is what I have to do?” I remember saying loudly to the dark, empty streets and star-filled sky. The answer was like a bone-deep bell ringing with certainty that it was.

Doubts and fears followed quickly and I asked again: “Really? Really? Do I have to?” The certainty that this was the right thing for me to do was as sharply clear as that cold January evening.

No one was pushing me to take a 70-day reporting trip. I didn’t have many article assignments, and would likely end up thousands of dollars out of pocket



Photo: Javier González

Arrivals Hall O.R. Tambo Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa.

and have to put our house up for sale. Nevertheless, the six key environmental conferences I wanted to write about were important and few, if any others, would be reporting on them.

And now, on day one, I wanted to run back home. For a good 20 minutes I dug around in my bags looking for nothing. There was no Wi-Fi, nor did my phone have any service, but I intently stared at them while standing on legs of jello.

Aware that the machine-gun carrying guards were watching, I finally joined the line to go through customs. When others lined up behind me, I stepped back, the courteous Canadian traveller: “Oh please go ahead of me, I’m in no rush.”

Meanwhile, sweating profusely, I was furiously thinking how to avoid leaving the safety of the airport. And then there was just me and the guards. I stepped up to the customs officials with a strained smile, but hoping there might be a problem with my passport or my luggage would be torn apart but I was casually waved through....

Timidly entering the busy public arrivals hall I began to recall the clarity of purpose that came to me on that cold New Year’s night. There was a bone-deep certainty this was the right place to be no matter how

miserably fearful I felt right then. “Must I really do this?” I asked myself, knowing the answer.

It was an incredible trip in terms of the people I met, experiences, and the articles I was able to write. It marked the beginning of a new chapter in my personal and professional life. Bad things did happen. There were paralyzing setbacks, illness, and my life was at risk more than once. I was right to be fearful and anxious. And I was right to leave the airport terminal and to do what I knew I had to.

I’m not a big risk-taker. I put countless hours and sleepless nights into planning that trip, trying to anticipate what might go wrong. As my departure date loomed, I wanted to cancel but knew I’d be disgusted with myself and miserable if I did. Business as usual was no longer an option given the multiple crises we are facing. And that meant leaving my safe, well-worn path.

Doing the right thing for the right reasons often involves risks, uncertainty, challenges, and setbacks. It also brings a range of co-benefits, including ones both unexpected and unimaginable.

This brings me to a disappointing new

Overcoming *continued on next page*

Human Interest

KIMOTE FOUNDATION
WHEELCHAIR PROJECT 2019



Left: Sseka Right: Sseka and Eric- Christmas 2018

Meet Sseka. He is a 28 year old man who was born crippled. He has never been able to walk. Soon after he was born, Sseka's father walked out on the family, leaving Sseka's mother to raise the children alone. Although he cannot walk, Sseka is an intelligent young man who wishes to go to school and learn English. Sseka's quality of life would improve greatly if he had a wheelchair.



Kimote Foundation

The Kimote Foundation is a purely not-for-profit organization that caters to vulnerable children and adults through improving their welfare.

Since 2018, the foundation has received 13 requests for wheelchairs for disabled and aged Ugandans in the area. Wheelchairs cost between approximately \$400-\$800 US dollars each. Each wheelchair will improve the living conditions of those who receive one, enriching their quality of life.

If you wish to donate to the Wheelchair Project either by donating a new or gently used wheelchair or making a monetary donation, please contact the foundation at kimotefoundation@gmail.com

Together we can make a difference!



Ine - Motivation

Sseka Ssekayonjo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=4241207185891138>

Overcoming *continued from previous page*

report this week. It documents how our governments have given more taxpayers' money to the oil and gas industry this year. Our public health and educational sectors are in desperate need of more funding, and millions of individuals and small businesses are enduring economic hardship. Unfortunately, we Need-to-Know that some of the world's richest companies have received enormous amounts of additional public funding in 2020.

I don't want to talk about this perverse situation, other than to point out two Need-to-Know findings in the report:

- U.S. \$233 billion of Covid-19 recovery funds ended up in the pockets of the fossil fuel industry.
- Canada was the worst offender.

Read the G20 Scorecard on Fossil Fuel Funding summary for yourself. It's from a very reputable apolitical organization: The International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Outrage is a normal reaction to all this. It's certainly my reaction. But I don't want

to be filled with outrage anymore. It's exhausting and unproductive. I've written many articles previously about perverse subsidies that reward companies with public monies while they wreck our climate, oceans, forests, and so on. I don't know what else to do about it. Maybe you have some thoughts?

I've told you about my long trip to offer an example of how taking risks to do the right thing – even if it is difficult and challenging like making the transition from black to green energy production – is worth doing on many levels. Not acting on what you know is right out of fear or uncertainty deprives you of so many wonderful opportunities and experiences, including ones unexpected and previously unimagined. There's also immense satisfaction in overcoming difficult situations, learning new skills, and using your abilities in new ways. And there is no feeling like knowing you are doing the right thing. That's a big Need-to-Know.

On your next walk feel the joy of being

outside and try to be open to any insight or subtle hint about what the right thing is for you. See if you can feel the certainty of this. It's a rare experience, and one that comes unbidden as the poets say. But when it comes, when it is clearly obvious what you should be doing, take the steps to act on it. Acknowledge and accept fears and doubts. It will likely be risky. It will be difficult. But when you know it is the right thing to do, there is no other honest choice but to act.

Until next time, stay safe.

Contact Stephen Leahy:

Phone: +1 905 862 3044 **Mob:** +1 905 904 9454

Website: <https://leahy.substack.com>

Email: leahy.steve@gmail.com

Stephen Leahy. Need to Know: Science and Insight; 2019 SEAL Award for Climate Reporting; Member: Society of Environmental Journalists; Writers' Union of Canada

Source: <https://leahy.substack.com/p/overcoming-fears-and-risks-to-do>

Human Interest



Photo: Rev. Fr. Samuel Kabogooza

Since 2016 we have worked with communities, especially the young people, street children, and vulnerable elderly families who lack nurturing as we guide them into becoming productive individuals, and a productive generation. Music and dancing are ways to bring joy to children's lives. Kimote's music teachers, Mr. Kasule Robert and Mr. Josephat taught these children the dance and song. You can see it at <https://www.facebook.com/412600252444953/videos/3061201920582781>

Helping People Through Dancing and Supplying Wheelchairs

By Eric Kifampa, Uganda

Greetings from Kimote Foundation, a purely not-for-profit community organization in Uganda. We cater for vulnerable people through improving their welfare.

We promote Healthcare, Education, Skills Development, Feeding Hungry, Human Rights Defenders, Environmental Defenders, and Raising Godly Communities.

Since 2016 we have worked with communities, especially the young people, street children, and vulnerable elderly families who lack nurturing as we guide them into becoming productive individuals, leading to a productive generation.

A nonprofit is as strong as the community that holds it up. We do more together, let's bring our abilities and passions together to bring real change.

Founders

Eric Kifampa, Rev. Fr. Kabogooza Samuel, Hawa Namulondo, Evelyn Nansubuga, Robert Nansubuga.

We started feeding street children and supporting needy families in slum areas of Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, and Mukono in 2016. Our capabilities expanded and we formed Kimote Foundation as a way to reach more communities and provide more opportunities to those who need them most.

Mission Statement

We advocate for social development and serving above humanity in Uganda.

Goal

Kimote Foundation works around the clock to provide and improve entrepreneurial skills to enable vulnerable persons to become self-reliant.

A wheelchair, prosthesis, eyeglasses, or hearing aid can allow children to play, adults to work, and reduce isolation. With the right Assistive Technology, a billion people can live more social lives. (See previous page.)

[Note from Iona: *Morgan is part of our U.S. team and after he sent a donation to Kimote, I asked Eric how he knew Morgan. This is his answer.*] Morgan knew me through his friend and he liked what we're doing in empowering and restoring hope in less privileged communities in Uganda. He has even donated to Kimote Foundation, which is a good sign of humanity. Morgan is a great man and we're proud of him.

Contact Eric and Kimote Foundation:

P.O Box 26708, Kampala, Uganda

Telephone: +256 788 24 92 07

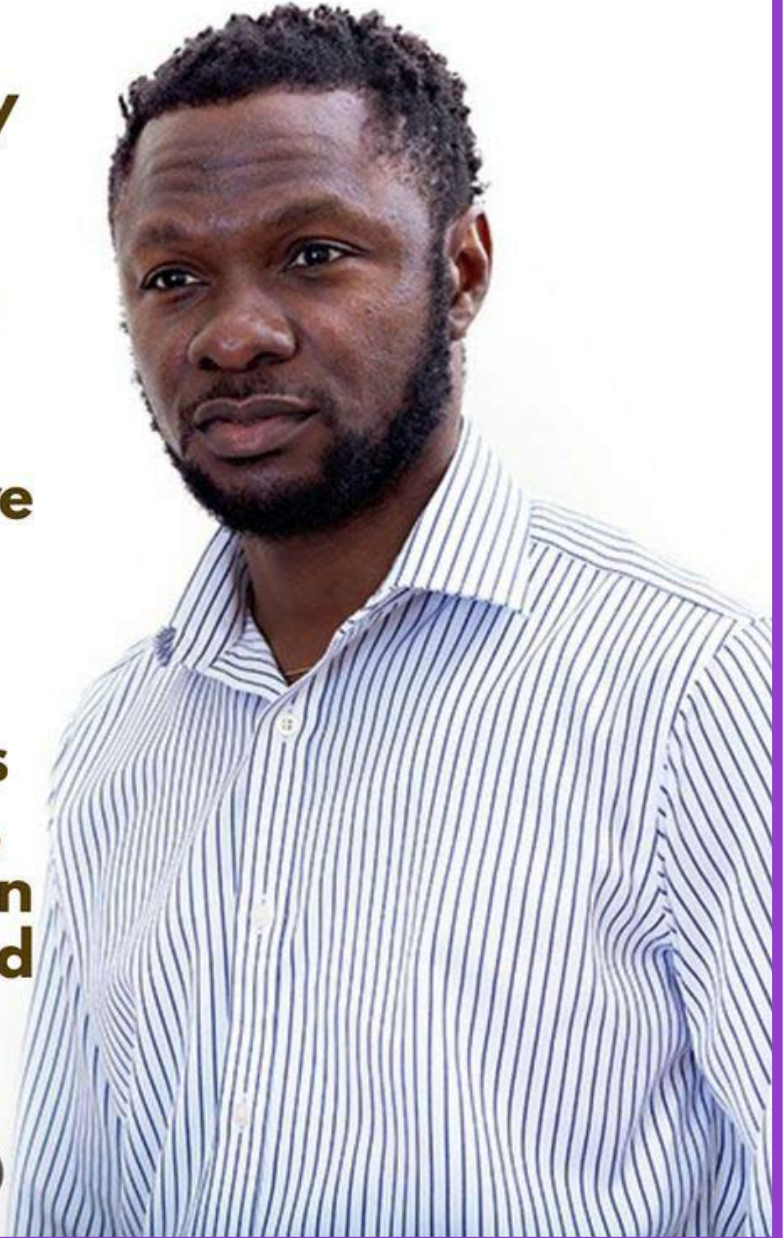
E-mail: kimotefoundation@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kimote-Foundation-412600252444953/>

Dear Rich fellow

Do not make mockery of a person who is going through hard times simply because you are not. Life teaches us all the lessons we need to live both as individuals and as a collective. The next time you meet someone who is having it tough in life, do well to share lesson notes for you will need it someday.

From the millionaire in-making
MR KENNEDY ©



Iona Starting Mary Kay Business to Help Finance Groundswell

OK, folks, here's the story. My fundraising efforts have not been successful so I decided to get work I can do from home, neither wearing a mask nor commuting. A very good friend has been a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant for 20 years and she loves it. She convinced me to start my own business and I have set up everything so you can order online at www.marykay.com/IonaConner.

I have been using many of their products and am very happy with the skin care products and even a little bit of makeup. I especially like the face, feet, and hand creams. I hope you'll give them a try. My website is www.marykay.com/IonaConner. Thank you.

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 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. Email 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.

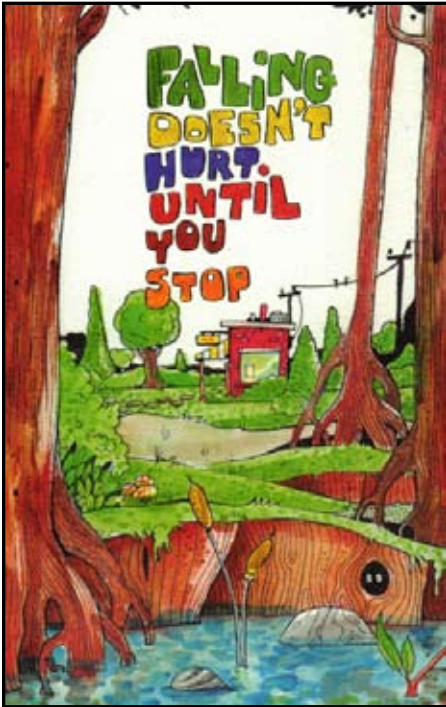


Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



(received Monday, November 29, 2020)

Of all Mondays, why is today the Measly one?

One short answer is because it's Cyber Monday and all our shiny stuff has to get its pieces from somewhere on Earth. With one-click ease, planet plunder and habitat destruction proceed with greater efficiency than ever before.

Another short answer is that, while buying stuff is a momentary relief from the tedium of life (pandemic and otherwise), another longer moment of want, wanting *something*, inevitably follows on its heels.

Cyber Monday, like Black Friday, is an invasive species, growing out of control, a party turned drunken bacchanal, leaving us with the hangover of the elusive, temporary, and measly joy of stuff.

Dare I say that the giving that really matters, the joy of generosity that never ends, is caring for Mother Earth and her gifts of caring for all of us? The simple eternal gifts of food, water, endless species always evolving, the unique beauties of an

infinitely rare living planet, and so much more.

We don't have to fall.

We can leave delirious buying days behind us and aim for another day, a day of abundance: taking care of one another and our precious, irreplaceable home – for seven generations and millennia to come.

As it so happens, that day is tomorrow, Giving Tuesday! Please stand with Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, as together we strive to emerge on a planet restored. It's bigger than any of us and it needs all of us. Please donate as generously as you can at https://bio4climate.org/donate-giving-tuesday/?blm_aid=61091841.

Many thanks and blessings as we prepare to leave 2020 behind us and begin a new era in 2021 and beyond,

Adam Sacks, Executive Director
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Wonderful. God bless you. I am in touch with Eric Kifampa who is director of Kimote Foundation (Uganda) as you know. Trying to transfer a modest donation from my bank to theirs.

Take care, see you at the next Zoom.
Morgan Zo-Callahan, California USA

Kimote Foundation helping with ALL needs in Uganda

(See pages 25 and 26.)

There is an increasing need in Uganda for additional funds for medical transportation on top of the other services the Kimote Foundation has been providing. The Coronavirus shutdown of the country has left some sick people very vulnerable and made everything more difficult for them.

Eric Kifampa, founder of the Kimote Foundation, helps feed street children in marginalized communities and slums around Uganda. His foundation is helping communities in Uganda in areas of Safe Water, Education, Health Care, and Safe Food. Please donate any amount small or large to support this great foundation. We have friends who personally have visited and seen the great work being done!

Thank you in advance.

Donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/>

let039s-help-kimote-foundation-help-the-children

Thanks so much Mom and I am really excited reading interesting stories from around the world. You're the best Ma and keep strong always as you inspire others around the globe.

Your dearest son,
Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

Wow I really miss you a lot mommy Iona Conner, I have been busy. Fighting for a neglected community in Jigawa State here, I am so worried about them...

Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, Nigeria

Last week, I shared information about the Grassroots Coalition with SCOPE Board members and representatives from the 16 NGOs in the Annual General Meeting. In two meetings, I projected the page with Brandon's picture you had sent.

All those present appreciated the good work of the Coalition and you in particular for considering to publish our story. I am happy that you were able to send it in such a time, though it was not expected. I am happy and I know Brandon will also be happy to see his picture in the newsletter. I will be meeting with the boys later this week.

I am sure that having the story will be a game changer in our work with schools and communities.

Thank you for your continued support.
John Macharia, SCOPE Kenya

Good job ma'am we really appreciate your efforts for the publication about *Groundswell News*. Keep up doing the good action!

Currently, I'm student in Taiwan undertaking the International Program for Sustainable Development via Jane Goodall Institute (bachelor degree).

Basically I'm learning about Sustainable development with a focus about environment. A part of the environment I'm learning about is climate change and watershed management.

Ndagijimana Stany, Burundi

Messages continued on next page

Messages continued from previous page

Dear Companions and Friends:

For those interested in matters of Climate Change around the world, you might want to take a look at the *Groundswell News Journal* compiled by Iona Conner, John Conner's widow and our Companion. This is a very polished, professionally published journal by a very competent journalist.

Iona holds a worldwide Zoom meeting periodically for her membership.

Let me know if you are interested in actively participating.

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Groundswellnewsjournal/>

Dear Iona,

Dave Van Etten sent me a copy of your newsletter. I was very moved and impressed by your journal. Please add me to your mailing list for the journal. I will send

a check to your mailing address.

I sense we are kindred spirits. I serve as the Chair of our Diocesan, Stewards of Our Common Home, and have worked in Kenya with my husband for nine years, now on Zoom continuing our working with Principals. Have also formed a spiritual community of Muslims and Christians of different denominations.

Marita Grudzen, California USA

Six Environmental Heroes Awarded Goldman Prize for 'Taking a Stand, Risking Their Lives and Livelihoods, and Inspiring Us'

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

This year's recipients of the annual honor hail from the Bahamas, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Mexico, and Myanmar.

By Jessica Corbett, *excerpt*
Common Dreams: November 30, 2020

After a long year of environmental disasters across the globe and in the midst of a public health crisis that has killed well over a million people, six "environmental heroes" were announced on Monday as winners of the 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize, an annual honor that recognizes grassroots activists from each of the world's inhabited continental regions.

"These six environmental champions reflect the powerful impact that one person can have on many," John Goldman, president of the Goldman Environmental Foundation, said in a statement. "In today's world, we witness the effects of an imbalance with nature: a global pandemic, climate change, wildfires, environmental injustices affecting those most at risk, and constant threats to a sustainable existence.... Even in the face of the unending onslaught and destruction upon our natural world, there are countless individuals and communities fighting every day to protect our planet," Goldman continued. . . .

This year's winners are Kristal Ambrose of the Bahamas, Nemonte Nenquimo of Ecuador, Lucie Pinson of France, Chibeze Ezekiel of Ghana, Leydy Pech of Mexico, and Paul Sein Twa of Myanmar. Although the foundation typically holds a ceremony for the recipients at the San Francisco Opera House in April, the prize was being awarded virtually, due to the pandemic.

Ahead of the live-streamed award ceremony, the foundation released videos and online biographies of the 2020 recipients,



Photos: Goldman Environmental Foundation

The winners of the 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize were announced Monday. Top row, left to right: Nemonte Nenquimo, Ecuador; Leydy Pech, Mexico; Paul Sein Twa, Myanmar. Bottom Row, left to right: Kristal Ambrose, the Bahamas; Chibeze "Chi" Ezekiel, Ghana; Lucie Pinson, France.

who join 200 activists from 90 nations who have been honored with the prize in the past.

Ambrose helped convince the government of the Bahamas to impose a nationwide ban on single-use plastic bags, plastic cutlery, straws, and Styrofoam containers and cups, which took effect this year. . . .

Nenquimo led an Indigenous campaign and lawsuit that blocked Ecuador's government from selling 500,000 acres of Waorani territory in the Amazon rainforest for oil extraction. . . .

The foundation calls Pinson "a climate soldier," pointing out that her activism not only "successfully pressured France's three largest banks to eliminate financing for new coal projects and coal companies" but also "compelled French insurance companies to follow suit." . . .

Ezekiel led a four-year grassroots campaign that compelled the Ghanaian government to cancel what would have been the country's first coal-fired power plant.

In 2017, the year after that 700-megawatt project was defeated, Ghana's president announced that all new energy projects would be renewable. . . .

An Indigenous Mayan beekeeper born and raised in Hopelchén, Pech spearheaded a coalition that took on American agrochemical giant Monsanto and secured a 2015 Mexican Supreme Court ruling that suspended the planting of genetically modified (GM) soybeans in Campeche and Yucatán, two states in Southern Mexico. . . .

Sein Twa, a member of the Karen Indigenous group in Myanmar, helped lead his people to establish 1.35-million-acre peace park in the Salween River basin, a major biodiversity zone home to Karen communities as well as Asiatic black bears, clouded leopards, gibbons, sun bears, Sunda pangolins, tigers, and teak forests. . . .

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/11/30/six-environmental-heroes-awarded-goldman-prize-taking-stand-risking-their-lives-and>