

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. 72: January 14, 2021



Photo: Kristell Hergualc'h/CIFOR, via Climate Visuals

Time is getting short: Measuring peat degradation in Peru.

Seven Years to Ground Zero for the Climate Crisis?

By Tim Radford

Climate News Network: January 4, 2021

LONDON, UK – Within the next seven years, the world could undergo irretrievable change. It could emit enough greenhouse gases from fossil fuel combustion to cross the threshold for dangerous global heating in the year 2027.

Or it could exceed what is supposed to be the globally-agreed target for containing catastrophic climate change – just 1.5°C above the average level for most of the last

10,000 years – a little later, in the year 2042.

But on present trends, according to new research, the world is committed, whatever happens, to the crossing of its own threshold for irreversible climate change within that 15-year window.

If that happens, then there is a high probability that some of the politicians and world leaders who, in Paris, in 2015, agreed in an almost-global accord to contain climate change to “well below” 2°C, will have to address their own failure to make it happen.

For the past 40 or more years, cam-

paginers, climate scientists, and environmental researchers have repeatedly warned that inaction or sluggish responses to the increasingly ominous threat of climate change would present an increasingly urgent threat to the world, to be inherited by their children and grandchildren.

And over the last decade or so, researchers have stressed the need for more urgent action: one study seven years ago predicted that some regions could be experiencing irreversible climate change by 2020.

Seven Years *continued on page 3*

CONTENTS

CLIMATE
EMERGENCY
PAGES 1 - 8

EARTH
REGENERATION
PAGES 9 - 15

ENDING
INEQUALITY
PAGES 16 - 17

HUMAN
INTEREST
PAGES 18-27

MESSAGES FROM
READERS
PAGES 29 - 30

What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

Coalition Founders: John and Iona Conner
Editor/Publisher: Iona Conner
Wire Editor: Allen Hengst
Established: September 2013
Web site: www.groundswellnews.org
Board of Directors: Jeannette Bartelt, Bill Boteler, Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Iona Conner, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Mr. Kennedy Kwuelum, Mukesh Nand, Rituraj Phukan
Advisory Board: Dan Adams, Robert Burrowes, Fr. Ted Cassidy, Michael Mann, Mar-iam Nabukeera
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Contributors: Ngo Banfogha, Robert Burrowes/Anita McKone/Anahata Giri, Steve Cassis, Derrick Jensen, Stephen Leahy, Paul Odiwuro Ogola, Benson Udoh

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.

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

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

- (1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
- (2) Nature of the copyrighted work.
- (3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
- (4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.



Iona's Column: *'My' Woods and Women*

Dearest Global Family,

Last month I mentioned the beautiful little woods I love to walk in, which has a For-Sale sign that made me feel awful. I want to do everything I can to protect that sacred place. I said that I would keep you posted. I attended the Brick Environmental Commission Zoom meeting on December 15th. I learned that the property has already been subdivided into four lots and that will make it more difficult to save. I still believe there may be a way for the town to buy it with state Green Acres funds or something similar so I'll keep on it.

Another issue is, while so many of the wonderful men whose stories I publish are working on women's education and empowerment, so few women send in stories. I can find stories by and about women who are strangers but I would much prefer to have women in our Global Family start contributing to *Groundswell News Journal*. If you're involved with women or girls who can write about their projects and take a couple of pictures, please be sure to send them my way at groundswellnews@pa.net.

If you've been on my email list for the past year or longer, you have undoubtedly read my pleas to use email for communicating with me instead of Facebook. I'm thinking of deactivating my Facebook account and will start relying on others to find great local stories. I know this is possible.

In trying to earn more money to keep things going I need to devote more time to my Mary Kay business. We hardly ever get ads so I created one for myself (smile, publisher's prerogative). It's on page 28. I'm looking for customers, hostesses for Zoom parties, referrals, and team builders. Thank you in advance for helping me.

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

EN (Energy) -Power Vocational Training in Bafoussam, Cameroon 2020-2023

By Ngo Banfoga, Hope for a Better Future, Cameroon

ATTENTION READERS IN AFRICA:
This is an amazing foundation. I recommend checking out the funder's website, in which Ngo's renewable energy program is described: http://www.turingfoundation.org/onderwijs_uk.html#masterp20.

Masterpeace is a network organization of 50 local clubs in 40 countries. Its mission is to give young people perspective to combat polarization, poverty, and migration. Hope for a Better Future (H4BF) is one of the local Masterpeace clubs. It works with and for communities in rural areas on various themes, such as employment.

H4BF is setting up a training program for 300 young people to learn subjects in the growth areas of sustainable energy and information and communication technology (ICT). It is involving at least 30 companies in the training program so that the content is in line with market needs.

Together with the Chamber of Commerce, it is improving the business climate so that these companies can flourish and create jobs. Six Cameroonian teachers are being trained by international expert partners, so that they, in turn, can train 25 other teachers to teach these subjects. An open-source platform including best practices and teaching modules makes it easy for other clubs to roll this out in their country.

The Turing Foundation is contributing €90,000 (\$109,542) towards this project (of



Photo Courtesy H4BF

Six Cameroonian teachers are being trained by international experts, and then they can train 25 other teachers.

which €13,000 or \$15,774 in 2020).

The Turing Foundation regards education as a means to offer people new opportunities in their lives in a constructive, structural, and respectful way. Moreover, education benefits not only the individual, but also his or her environment and society as a whole. It can be seen as a sustainable method of poverty reduction.

We aim to increase the availability of vocational training and teacher training for

quality education in eight African countries: Burkina Faso, D.R.Congo, Guinea, Cameroon, Liberia, Mali, Niger, and Sierra Leone.

Contact Ngo at:

Address: Mile 3 Nkkwen, Bamenda

Country: Cameroon

Email: info@h4bf-foundation.org

Phone: +237 6 50 48 49 00

Website: www.h4bf-foundation.org

Seven Years *continued from page 1*

Again and again, last year alone, scientists found that conditions initially proposed as the unlikely “worst case outcome” are already taking shape.

On the evidence of the latest study in the journal *Climate Dynamics*, however, they now have even less time in which to enforce dramatic cuts to fossil fuel use.

The new study is based on a new approach to climate simulation based on computer modelling, claimed by its authors to reduce the ranges of uncertainty that inevitably accompany all predictions of the future.

This uncertainty is a consequence of an as-yet unsolved riddle called climate sensitivity – climate science shorthand for a burning question: How much extra carbon dioxide has to build up in the atmosphere to raise global temperatures by a single

degree, or half a degree Celsius?

Direct Observations Used

The climate models that underlie predictions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assume that if the atmospheric ratios of carbon dioxide double – historically, these have been at around 285 parts per million, but have now passed 400 ppm – then the world is committed, by the year 2100, to a global temperature increase of at least 1.9°C, and possibly 4.5°C.

But three Canadian scientists suggest another way of modelling the near future: they based their simulation not on the theoretical relationships suggested by atmospheric physics but on historical climate data.

“Our approach allows climate sensitivity and its uncertainty to be estimated from direct observations with few assumptions,” said Raphaël Hébert, once of McGill Uni-

versity in Montreal and now at the Alfred-Wegener Institute in Potsdam, Germany.

And a co-author, Shaun Lovejoy of McGill University, warned, “Now that our governments have finally decided to act on climate change, we must avoid situations where leaders can claim that even the weakest policies can avert dangerous consequences...With our new climate model and its next generation improvements, there's less wiggle room.”

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/seven-years-to-ground-zero-for-the-climate-crisis/>

Climate Emergency

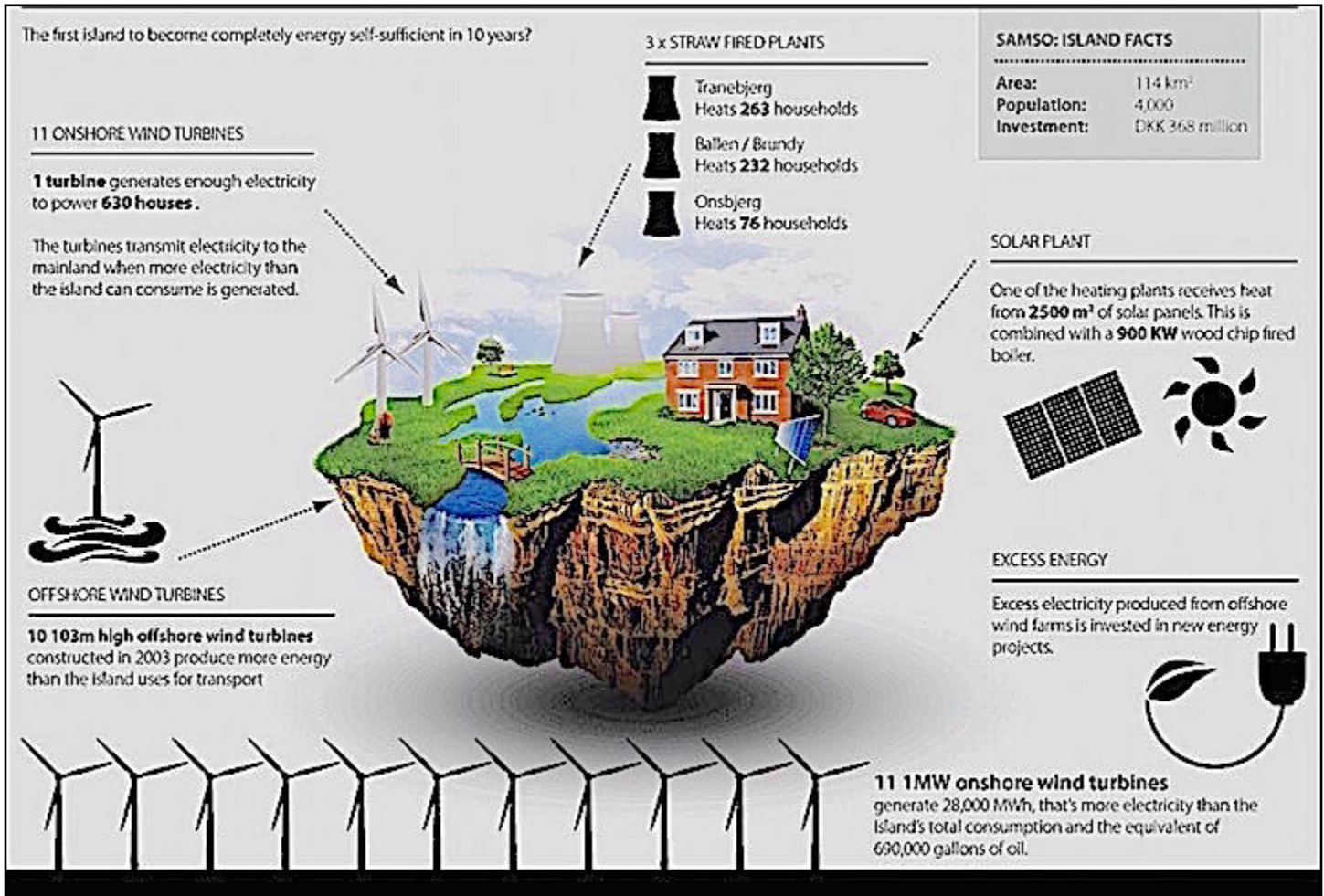


Photo: Power and Energy

Samsø Island won a national competition to find a Danish Renewable Energy Island. The contest sought to identify the island or area with the most achievable plan for becoming 100 percent self-sufficient in energy production.

The Island Where Everyone Owns the Wind

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Andrew Wear, *excerpt*
 Reasons to Be Cheerful: December 25, 2020

Although it's a rather agreeable place, there's nothing particularly exceptional about Samsø Island at first glance. Located off the coast of Denmark's Jutland Peninsula, this former Viking outpost is home to a traditional farming community, best known for producing the country's first potatoes each year. After arriving by ferry, as you travel around the largely flat island – perhaps by bicycle – you'll see cows and sheep grazing leisurely, weathered farmers driving tractors and the occasional farm dog.

This very ordinariness is what makes it so remarkable that, for the past 20 years, Samsø has been a world-leading green energy community. All of Samsø's electric-

ity comes from massive community-owned wind turbines, while biomass boilers burning local straw meet 70 percent of the island's heating needs. Each of Samsø's 3,724 residents now emits an average of negative-3.7 tons of greenhouse gas per year.

The success of Samsø Island is indicative of broader efforts in Denmark to address climate change. It ranks second in the world (behind Sweden) on the Climate Change Performance Index, and it has succeeded in halving its per capita greenhouse gas emissions over a relatively short time frame. However, Denmark is determined to go much further. With a remarkable political consensus, it has committed to energy agreements that by 2030 will see 100 percent of its electricity generated from renewable sources.

The experience of Samsø Island, and Denmark as a whole, shows that it's pos-

sible to almost eliminate carbon emissions using existing technology – we do not have to wait for some indeterminate future point in which new technology comes to market. It also shows that local communities, with the right leadership and supported by national policy, can drive real change.

In 1997, Samsø was struggling. The abattoir [slaughterhouse] – the largest private employer on the island – had just closed, taking with it 100 jobs. Like many rural communities around the world, the island's population was both aging and declining.

The Danish government, looking for a showcase opportunity to demonstrate that the 21 percent emissions reduction target in the Kyoto Protocol was possible, launched a national competition to find a

Island *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

Island *continued from previous page*

Danish Renewable Energy Island. It sought to identify the island or area with the most achievable plan for becoming 100 percent self-sufficient in energy production. The Danish Energy Authority would provide funding to aid the transition ...

Although the focus was on using existing available technology, the government was interested in exploring new ways of organizing, financing, and owning the technology. The winning location was expected to function as a demonstration of Danish renewable energy expertise that could be displayed to the rest of the world. Samsø's municipal government submitted an application, and in 1998 it won, beating three other islands and a peninsula. The prize included funding for a coordinator to develop a 10-year plan.

This role piqued the interest of Søren Hermansen, director of the Samsø Energy Academy ... "I was asked if I wanted to be the manager of the Energy Island. I accepted the position, just to give it a go, and had to keep on farming. But it very soon turned into a full-time job, so for the last 20 years I've been working in this field" ...

Initially, the project met with some community resistance. "People were like, "Thank you but no thank you. It sounds really expensive and complicated and we can't do this alone."

To engage the somewhat skeptical locals, Hermansen spent a lot of time talking with them. If a section of the island was holding a town meeting or an event, Hermansen would turn up, bringing sandwiches or beer. He'd go door to door, talking with people in their kitchens. The plan was to quickly transition the island to wind power.

By 2000 – just two years after winning the competition – 11 wind turbines were due to be installed, each with capacity to generate one megawatt of power. The idea was not universally beloved. Residents had concerns about the potential noise and visual impact of the turbines ...

[Hermansen and his team] undertook extensive public negotiations over the location of each turbine. A crucial step in gaining community support was to invite locals to own the turbines ... A decentralized structure was created, with cooperatives being formed, or shares being sold in each turbine.

Hermansen says that, "Everybody who lives in the neighborhood had a chance to invest their money in the turbines, giving a sense of local ownership that was strong enough to overcome the flip side of the turbines."

Locals signed on to this scheme enthusiastically, contributing enough through cooperatives to purchase two turbines, while individuals purchased the remaining nine. These 11 turbines generate enough power to make each of the island's 22 villages self-sufficient.

In 2002, to offset emissions from the island's cars, tractors, and ferries, a further 10 offshore turbines were installed, with a combined capacity of 23 megawatts of power ...

Offshore wind farms such as this are increasingly the norm in Denmark, as its ocean areas have strong and consistent wind patterns ...

Two of Samsø's offshore turbines are cooperatively owned. The municipality owns a further five turbines, which generate income that the local government can reinvest in sustainability measures. This includes smarter methods of heating and incentives for the purchase of electric cars...

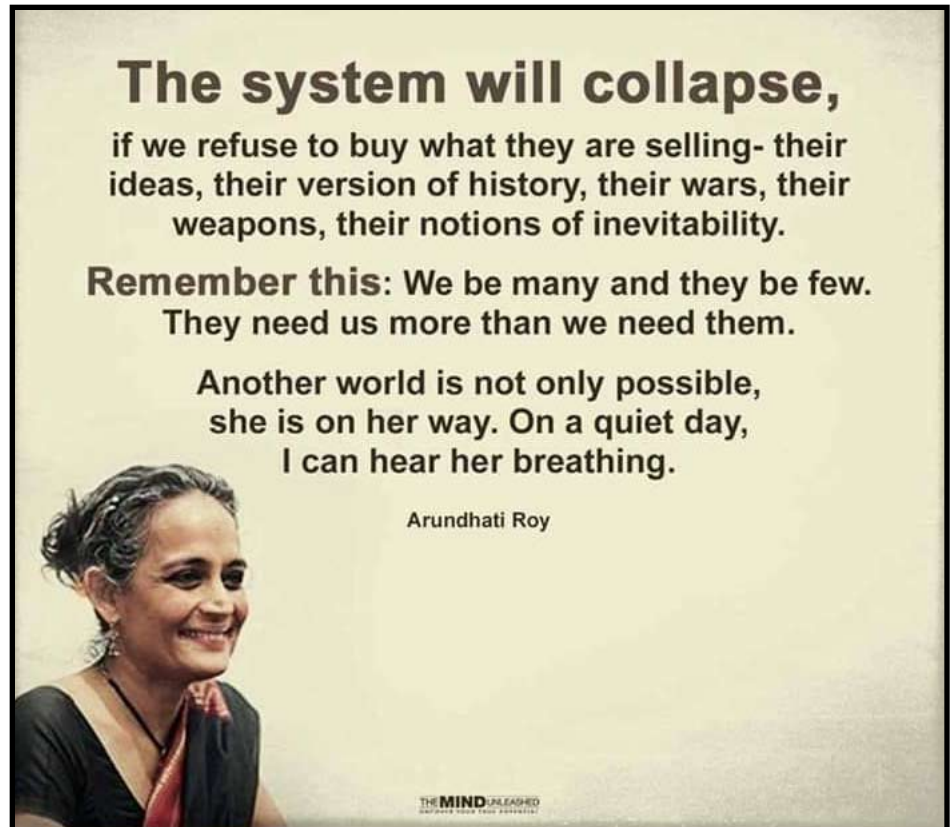
To address the island's heating needs, three plants were installed between 2002 and 2005. These burn biomass, mostly local straw, and supply 70 percent of the island's heating requirements. Many of those not on district heating have replaced

old oil furnaces with solar collectors or biomass burners of their own.

Like much of the world, electricity use on Samsø has increased over the past two decades, as people use more appliances more often. However, because of the emphasis on retrofitting old houses with energy-efficient electric heat pumps, and thick insulation made from recycled materials, consumption has decreased more than 20 percent since 1998. Samsø also has the highest number of electric cars per capita in Denmark. The municipality changed its fleet to electric vehicles, powered by solar panels ...

The experience of Samsø Island is instructive. This small rural community has shown that, with leadership and commitment, climate change is a challenge that we can take on. It has inspired community efforts across the world, such as Hepburn Wind, a community-owned wind farm in Australia, and Sustainable Molokai, a community-based sustainable energy group in Hawaii.

Source: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/the-island-where-everyone-owns-the-wind/>



**The system will collapse,
if we refuse to buy what they are selling- their
ideas, their version of history, their wars, their
weapons, their notions of inevitability.**

**Remember this: We be many and they be few.
They need us more than we need them.**

**Another world is not only possible,
she is on her way. On a quiet day,
I can hear her breathing.**

Arundhati Roy

THE MIND UNLEASHED
EXPLORE YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL

<https://peaceinthenout.tumblr.com/post/133624174698/the-system-will-collapse-if-we-refuse-to-buy-what>

Climate Emergency



Photo: Hams Nocete, via Wikimedia Commons

A modern road skirts the Royal Belum Rainforest in Perak, Malaysia.

Big Builders' Plans Threaten to Wreck Forest Survival

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: November 24, 2020

Plans by corporate power and government investors risk corporate good intentions and national vows for forest survival.

LONDON, UK – Forest survival in the world's great conservation targets – the Amazon, the Congo, and South-east Asia, for example – is at risk from not just ranchers, loggers, and illegal foresters: it's also under assault from some of the planet's biggest spenders: governments and the big banks, giant mining corporations, and road builders.

A new report warns that in the Amazon region alone – across Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador – governments have promised \$27 billion worth of investment on 12,000 kilometers (7,456 miles) of roads over the next five years. If all the promised infrastructure goes ahead, that could mean the loss of 24,000 square kilometers (nearly 15,000 square miles) of forest in the next 20 years.

The Indonesian government is planning to drive a 4,000-kilometer (2,485-mile) network of highway through a national park in Papua, western New Guinea, for access to 500 square kilometers (311 square miles) of mining concessions. A new planned railway in Kalimantan, Indonesia, will open up new opportunities for palm oil plantations and coal mining concessions.

And in sub-Saharan Africa nations, there are dozens of "international development corridors" planned to provide access to minerals and to energy. The plans threaten to cut through 400 protected areas and degrade another 1,800.

Threat Intensified

"Big new projects under way or planned in the Amazon, Indonesia, Meso-America, the Congo basin, and beyond, reveal that our insatiable appetite for coal, minerals, metals, energy, and agricultural commodities like soy has opened up a new front in the battle to protect the world's forests," said Franziska Haupt, executive director of Climate Focus, Berlin, and the lead author of a new report on efforts so far to

limit the destruction of the world's forests. "Some governments are compounding this threat and rolling back forest protections, as countries struggle to cope with the economic fallout of Covid-19."

Forests are key to limiting climate change. It is not enough simply to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy to halt global heating: the climate emergency also requires nations to halt the destruction of, and restore, the world's great forests.

But much of the promised investment will be devoted to destroying forest and then compounding the damage by producing new reserves of fossil fuels to increase levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Many of these projects would never get the green light if the true value of forests was factored in – their role in reducing climate change, protecting animal habitats, and reducing the spread of zoonotic diseases [infections caught from other creatures], keeping water sources clean, providing economic opportunity, and a long list of other benefits without a price tag," said Erin Matson, a consultant at Climate Focus,

Builders *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

Builders *continued from previous page*

and a co-author. “Forests are at a dangerous tipping point, and these new large-scale infrastructure projects could push us over the edge and undermine global efforts to stop deforestation... There’s a very small – and closing – window of opportunity now to rethink and re-orient these projects in a more sustainable direction. Governments, companies, and investors all need to step up, commit to more transparency, and act quickly to avoid further harm to people, wildlife, and nature.”

The report points out that mining is the world’s “most violent” economic sector, with the largest share of environmental conflicts. In 2019, 50 environmental defenders were murdered.

“Local peoples tend to have little say in economic development approaches and the allocation and use of forest lands,” the report says. “Instead, powerful corporations

and national elites influence decision-making to facilitate resource exploitation, while grassroots actors who express their preferences are often shunted aside or ignored.”

Doubtful Promise

Forest survival is tough going. Roads, too, are part of the problem: roads and road networks make it easier for farmers and loggers to clear land. They could account for as much as 16% of the destruction of tropical and subtropical forests.

Six years ago, in what became known as the New York Declaration on Forests, endorsed by the world’s governments, multinationals, and non-governmental organizations, there were international pledges to halve deforestation by 2020, and end it by 2030.

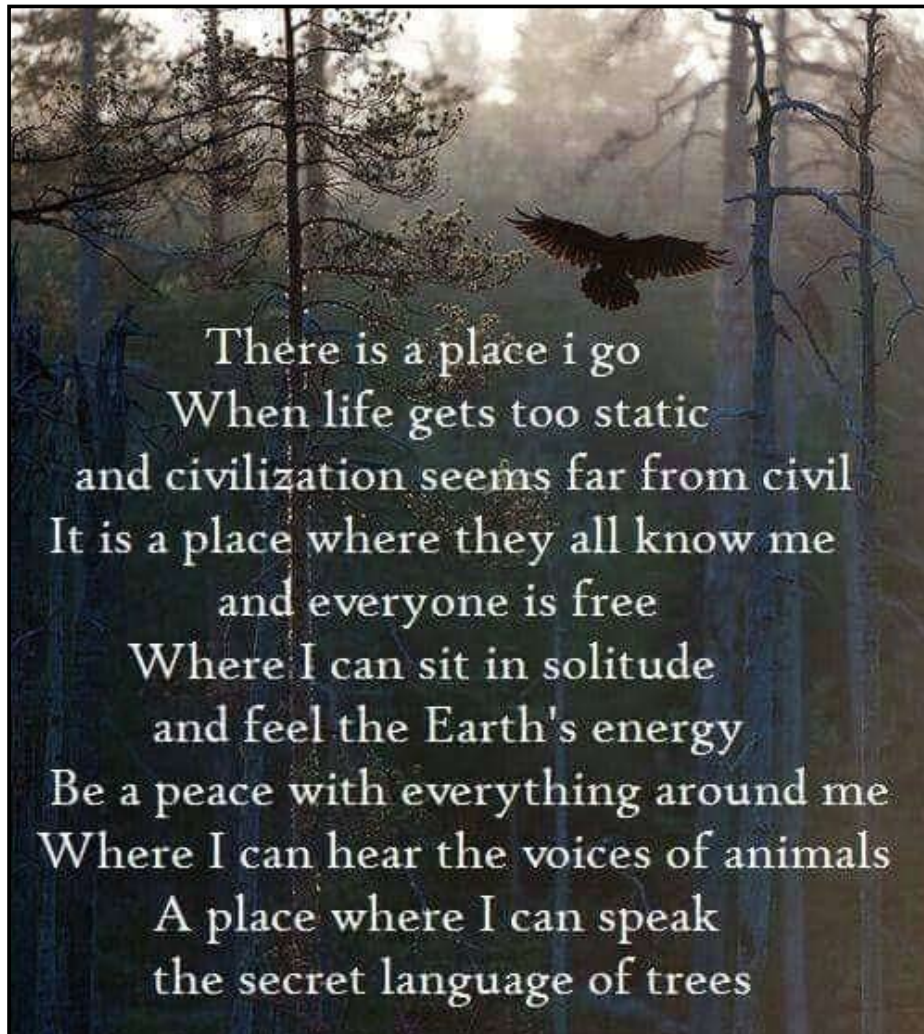
The 2020 target will not be met. The 2030 pledge looks increasingly improbable. In 2019, a World Bank analysis of 29 case stud-

ies of sites of large-scale mining in forests could not find a single example of a mining operation that properly addressed and limited the risks to the forest and its biodiversity.

“This is a salutary reminder that we are living in a dream world of pledges, but a reality of very little progress, lack of transparency, vested interests and short-termism,” said Robert Nasi, director general of the International Centre for Forest Research. “Alas, reality will always catch us up.”

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/big-builders-plans-threaten-to-wreck-forest-survival/>



Quote by Emilia, Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1261005497273939&story_fbid=4556377524403370

Climate Emergency

Please, Let Us Not Return To Coconutarianism

How I Met a Russian Climate Challenge, True Story

By Stephen Leahy, Canada

In the 1920's an assistant pharmacist named August Englehardt living in Bavaria championed a nature-based lifestyle beyond vegetarianism and veganism. Englehardt believed for various reasons that people should live solely on what he considered the most sacred of plants: the coconut. This lifestyle didn't work out too well as Setfano Mancuso documents in his delightful book *The Incredible Journey of Plants*.

Living completely off coconuts in Bavaria was a non-starter, so Englehardt bought and moved to a coconut plantation on an island in what is part of Papua New Guinea today. Energetically promoting his ideas and providing free passage from Germany to the island, Englehardt soon had a small colony of coconutarians. Not surprisingly, it wasn't long before the colonists started dying of malnutrition and infections. Alone, Englehardt persisted in his belief until he too succumbed to malnutrition.

So, back to climate, I'm in this grotty little bar in Warsaw, Poland talking to this Russian journalist I'd just met. "This global warming is just too complicated for people to know if it's real or not," Yuri (not his real name) shouted over the Saturday night roar of voices.

"You don't think climate change is happening?" I asked quite surprised since we were both in Warsaw to cover the annual United Nations climate change treaty negotiations.

"No one has been able to give me a good explanation to prove its real," Yuri said shrugging his shoulders, not wanting to be marked as a climate-denying troll amongst thousands of climate activists.

I took a long sip of my beer and said: "It's actually very simple. I can explain it to you in one minute."

At first he thought I was joking and when I repeated "in one minute" I got the journalist's 'go ahead, try and convince me' look.

"150 years ago scientists proved that CO2 traps heat from the sun. And that's been confirmed over and over. It's as solid as our knowledge that the Earth is round. We also know without a doubt that burn-

ing fossil fuels emits CO2.

Measurements, not models or theories, measurements show that there is now 42% more CO2 in the atmosphere than 150 years ago – before massive use of fossil fuels.

That's 42% more heat-trapping CO2 in the atmosphere today. It would be beyond astonishing if that did not heat up the planet and screw up our climate.

That's it."

Yuri, who'd been watching me closely, shifted his gaze to look out the window

onto a bustling Nowy Swiat street. Finally he said: "I guess that makes sense...No one's ever explained it that way," he said trying to be polite I suspect.

I doubt Yuri changed his views that night but hoped maybe it gave him something to think about...

Here's my Climate Change Explained in 165 Words graphic based on that story. Feel free to copy and share.

Source: <https://leahy.substack.com/p/please-let-us-not-return-to-coconutarianism>



Climate Change explained in 165 words

The moon has no atmosphere so it is scorching hot (+100C) during the day and bitterly cold (-150C) at night. The Earth has an atmosphere made up of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other gases. Over 150 years ago scientists proved that CO₂ traps heat from the sun. We also know without any doubt that burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal emits CO₂.

Measurements, not computer models or theories, measurements show that there is now 46% more CO₂ in the atmosphere than 150 years ago before massive use of fossil fuels. That extra CO₂ is like putting another blanket on at night even though you are already nice and warm.

The Earth is now 1.0 C hotter on average according to the latest measurements. Heat is a form of energy and with so much more energy in our atmosphere our weather system is becoming supercharged resulting in stronger storms, worse heat waves, major changes in when and where rain falls and more.

Need to Know: Science and Insight by Stephen Leahy
<https://leahy.substack.com>

Earth Regeneration



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 deserve you to help through this campaign below in the link.
I am Paul Odiwuor Ogola a qualified permaculture teacher and designer. I trained with Steve Jones from Wales UK of Sector29.co.uk, travelling to Uganda for the first time to complete a full two-week PDC 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.com>
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Lesson on Captions for Our Groundswell News Author/Journalists

By Iona Conner

Sometimes I have trouble getting good captions and photo credits for stories because the people I love to feature are super busy doing wonderful work. Plus, I do not like being on Facebook too much or too long trying to get answers to simple questions. I always prefer emails.

In the case of Paul Odiwuor Ogola's Permaculture story for the work he's doing in Kenya, I didn't get his replies in time so I made up my own captions for him.

Paul founded the Permo Africa Centre and his story was on page 14 in the last issue of *Groundswell News* titled "Permaculture for Beginners."

Paul replied with this BRILLIANT idea for answering the questions I had asked him in an email and I decided to use it to

write my first "lesson plan." (smile)

If you are writing a story for *Groundswell*, please take note of the following.

- I always need to know who's in the picture if only a few people; this is not necessary in a group shot.
- I always need to know who took the picture.
- I always need to know what's going on. What are you doing? How does it relate to your story?

If you would like a copy of my Guidelines, please email me at groundswell-news@pa.net.

Now, let's move along to the correct captions Paul provided.

PAUL'S EXPLANATION: *The picture with 1 red dot shows Paul with a community farmer in the project tree nursery.*

The picture with 2 red dots shows Paul on his way to the community permaculture training center. The picture with 3 white dots shows the Bamboo keyhole garden we designed. The picture with 2 green dots shows us teaching people how to save seeds. The picture with 1 green dot shows permaculture farmers being taught more about the moringa plant. The picture with 4 green dots shows our community permaculture's training center. The photo with 3 green dots shows Mr. Paul's permaculture training certificate.

Thank you, Paul, for doing such a great job of identifying every picture. I don't usually use so many photos but in this case, I did. Normally, I prefer just 2-3 photos so I can make each one larger.

Earth Regeneration

Our Distance from Dirt

By Takondwa Semphere
Africa Is a Country: December 14, 2020

Can we move from temporary shame about our endless consumption of unethically sourced jewels and smart phones to concrete action?

It seems that every other month, a different segment of the online population awakens to the horrors of unjust extractive labor on the continent and elsewhere in the world. Clips of young children working in fields and toiling in ruthless mines beam up on our coltan-powered iPhones in punchy, bite-sized expository threads that at once arrest and implicate us. We clutch our unethically sourced pearls and confront these ugly truths of our consumption. Some of us linger on the news, some share and sign petitions and others, in the sort of torpor that fast-paced timelines tend to inspire, scroll on. For a moment, we rage but in time, another shareable injustice snags at our attention and we forget.

It is easy to forget when the mines are far away from our mobile phones. Many on the African continent who can consume these goods that are manufactured from violently extracted materials are, ourselves, distant from the land. This distance is built into our world, encoded in our economies and facilitated by how we consume. We pluck our food from shelves instead of branches, and source it from supermarkets rather than unearth it from the soil ourselves. We do not bend to wells or rivers, and our hands do not know the weight of hoes hoisted up into the air and hurled onto the soil. This distance is a part of how we live, and has significant implications on how we seek to make the world more equitable.

Marx's theory of alienation offers something of a point of departure when I consider this distance. For those who aren't familiar, Marx asserts that workers under capitalism are alienated from what they have a hand in making, and consumers are alienated from the goods they buy. This alienation accounts for our seasonal, short-lived shock. We are estranged from land and so far from the source of products and produce we use that their impact on people and on the environment is outside our view. But it matters to consider the extent and origins of this alienation, especially as



Photo: South African Tourism

Lost City Eatery, Sun City.

we seek to imagine more equitable and just configurations of our world.

Part of this distance can be attributed to our colonized cosmologies. In them, notions of personhood are individualized, and decouple person from place, as if people exist in staunch separation from others and from the earth that they inhabit. In this framework, land is reduced to a commodity. Where land was once a sociocultural, spiritual, and filial entity, it is increasingly a purely economic one – a thing to be owned, mined, and expropriated, rather than a thing to be revered, protected, or exist in relationship with. This is one of the more insidious causes of our alienation, and is perhaps the one that should cause us the most grief.

A second factor is our discourses of development, which slot us along trajectories that set up Western standards and ideals as our destination. It is necessary for us to problematize these narratives, that are rooted in neoliberal ideas of what “progress” is. These aspirations hearken back to colonial frameworks of civilization, under which indigenous ideologies were relegated to the realm of dated primordial practices that are supposedly antithetical to modernity. They do not count our relationship (or lack thereof) with nature. They do not

count the impact of our economic activity on our perception of the land.

Capitalism exacerbates this distance. It changes our connection to it from a relationship to a proprietorship. It puts land on a production line, puts tables far from the farm, and siphons water through pipes from distant lakes and rivers. It transforms us from producers of food to its consumers. It detaches us from the truth and violence that its conveniences necessitate. There is much to revisit, return to, and reconstruct in these ideas.

What happens when we reframe our understanding of what land is, beyond asset and capital? Land does, after all, hold significance that transcends discourses of development – land is about origin, about ancestry, and about our very notions of self. Distance from the land, in this sort of ideation, is a distance from ourselves. Re-centering the earth in our notions of selfhood and community is a necessary decolonial reframing. Until we stop considering the matters of land in such disembodied, impersonal ways, we will continue to exact and remain complicit in the kind of violence that capitalism requires for the maximization of profits. For as long as land is merely thought of as object, we will continue to slip

Dirt continued on next page

Earth Regeneration



Photos Courtesy William Campbell

Emigrant Gulch aerial view.

Victory: Final Blow to Gold Mine Plan Near Yellowstone

A giant gold mining project proposal near Yellowstone National Park is officially dead, and Montanans' right to stop such unlawful projects is upheld, with far-reaching impacts.

By Jessica A. Knoblauch
Earthjustice: December 9, 2020

Who says men (and women) can't move mountains? Paradise Valley, the northern gateway to Yellowstone National Park, is officially now safe from a destructive mining project after the Montana Supreme Court ruled a Canadian company's bid to

Victory *continued on next page*

Dirt *continued from previous page* further into estrangement from it.

The solution to our alienation from land is partly ideological. It entails radically rethinking our world, calling what we consider normative into question and returning to ways of being that we were asked to shun. It means reconsidering our cosmologies and our theories of not only who, but *what* has life and is worthy of dignity, and reconfiguring our understanding of personhood as it relates to nature and nature as it relates to personhood. It means acknowledging that our relation-

ship to land informs our relationships to each other and to ourselves.

We need to be able to consider alternative possibilities of living with the earth on this continent. If there is not a restoration of notions of land that do not regard it merely as a thing to be transformed for capitalist gains, our forgetting will continue.

Part of the answer to this lies in centering those of us who are closest to the earth – who are not in suits in big boardrooms in tall buildings. Those who are on the outskirts – who do the least damage to the earth and bear the greatest brunt of its deg-

radation. It means forsaking our colonial notions of modernity and turning toward rurality to learn from those whose very survival entails that they live and work in tandem with the earth they inhabit. It is a shirking of systems that demand that we think of land as outside of ourselves. The land is ours, and it is us.

Takondwa Semphere is a Malawian writer based in Johannesburg, where she spends her time teaching African Studies.

Source: <https://africasacountry.com/2020/12/our-distance-from-dirt>

Earth Regeneration

Victory *continued from previous page*

mine for gold is illegal.

Earthjustice brought a case challenging the mine on behalf of two local organizations. In its December 2020 ruling, the court found that the state acted illegally when it permitted mineral exploration. The court said Montana overlooked harm to wildlife and failed to provide a plan to prevent pollution of groundwater and streams. The justices further ruled unanimously that a provision in Montana Environmental Policy Act that stripped Montanans of the ability to stop such unlawful projects was unconstitutional. This outcome will have far-reaching impacts on challenges to mining and other industrial projects in Montana.

Proposed in 2015 by Canada-based Lucky Minerals, the company's plans to develop a large-scale gold mine in Paradise Valley would have caused irreversible environmental harm to the park and frayed the economic fabric of the region. Travelers gazing at the majestic Emigrant Peak jutting up from the Absaroka Mountains – a refuge for bighorn sheep, elk, grizzly bears, wolverines, and other creatures – would have been confronted with the destruction of an industrial mining operation.

But a blemished view of the cinematic Yellowstone landscape was just one of the problems anticipated with this proposal. At full scale, the Emigrant mine threatened to send acid runoff flowing into tributaries of the Yellowstone River, while nearly 100,000 tons of waste rock containing elevated levels of arsenic would have been dumped near tributary headwaters. Even mineral exploration alone threatened to pollute these waters with heavy metals and acid runoff.

Mining and mineral exploration would also carve up precious habitat for endangered grizzly bears, as well as wolverines, lynx, elk, and other species. The industrial activity would have also harmed the local community, which relies on large swaths of connected wild land to support sustainable recreation and a healthy tourist economy. Lucky Minerals barreling ahead with gold mining and exploration for short-term financial gain would have come at the expense of the primary driver of economic growth in the Yellowstone area: an intact



A Montana district court blocked an access road for drilling rigs and heavy equipment from tearing up this landscape.

landscape that attracts millions of visitors from around the globe and supports a robust business community and highly skilled workforce.

Earthjustice, together with local and regional groups, challenged the gold exploration proposal in September 2017 under the Montana Environmental Policy Act, arguing that state regulators downplayed and dismissed some very serious environmental risks posed by the project. Those include potentially long-term harm to the iconic wildlife of the Yellowstone region, particularly grizzly bears and wolverines, and threats to clean water in Yellowstone River tributaries. We also argued that the state didn't seriously consider the potential that this exploration could lead to much larger-scale development.

In May 2018, the court agreed with us on all of our claims. But due to a Montana state provision prohibiting courts from invalidating or enjoining mining projects, even if the project is unlawfully authorized, Lucky Minerals could have insisted on proceeding with gold exploration while regulators conducted a new environmental analysis.

That didn't sit well with us or our clients, so our attorneys went back to court to stop the project entirely. We argued that allowing

an illegal project to go forward violates the public's environmental and public participation rights under Montana's Constitution.

In April 2019, the court again agreed with our argument. Lucky Minerals wasn't ready to give up though, and it appealed the case to Montana's Supreme Court.

But with the December 2020 decision, the company's luck has finally run out.

Says Earthjustice attorney Jenny Harbine, who represented our clients in the case, "This latest ruling ensures that Lucky Minerals can't harm clean water and native wildlife at the gateway into Yellowstone National Park under cover of a license that was never legally issued in the first place. Lucky Minerals should have read the writing on the wall a long time ago."

(This blog was originally published in May 2018 and updated to reflect the latest court victory.)

Jessica is a former award-winning journalist. She enjoys wild places and dispensing justice, so she considers her job at EarthJustice to be a pretty amazing fit.

Source: <https://earthjustice.org/blog/2018-may/montana-court-agrees-yellowstone-gateway-more-valuable-than-gold>

Earth Regeneration

Historical Lessons of Successful Conservation Movements

We do not want those whose first impulse is to compromise. We want no straddlers, for, in the past, they have surrendered too much good wilderness and primeval areas which should never have been lost.

– Bob Marshall on the founding of the Wilderness Society –

By George Wuerthner/Counterpunch
Deep Green Resistance: November 15, 2020

There is an unfortunate tendency on the part of conservationists to forget or ignore history. A greater appreciation of past conservation victories as well as defeats can inform current efforts. In far too many cases, there is a tendency to believe that it is necessary to appease local interests typically by agreeing to weakened protections or resource giveaways to garner the required political support for a successful conservation effort. However, this fails to consider that in nearly all cases where effective protective measures are enacted, it has been done over almost uniform local opposition.

In those instances where local opposition to a conservation measure is mild or does not exist, it probably means the proposal will be ineffective or worse – even set real conservation backward.

Nevertheless, many environmentalists now believe that due to regional parochialism and lack of historical context, significant compromises are necessary to win approval for new conservation initiatives.

These compromises demonstrate a failure to learn the lessons from conservation history. In particular, it is striking that in today's era of greater environmental awareness, many environmentalists are willing to propose compromises that offer far weaker protections for our public lands heritage than what was accomplished decades ago, when resource extraction industries had a much greater influence over local and regional economies.

LESSON ONE: Nearly all worthwhile conservation successes were established over strong local objections. This opposition is not surprising. Current land users

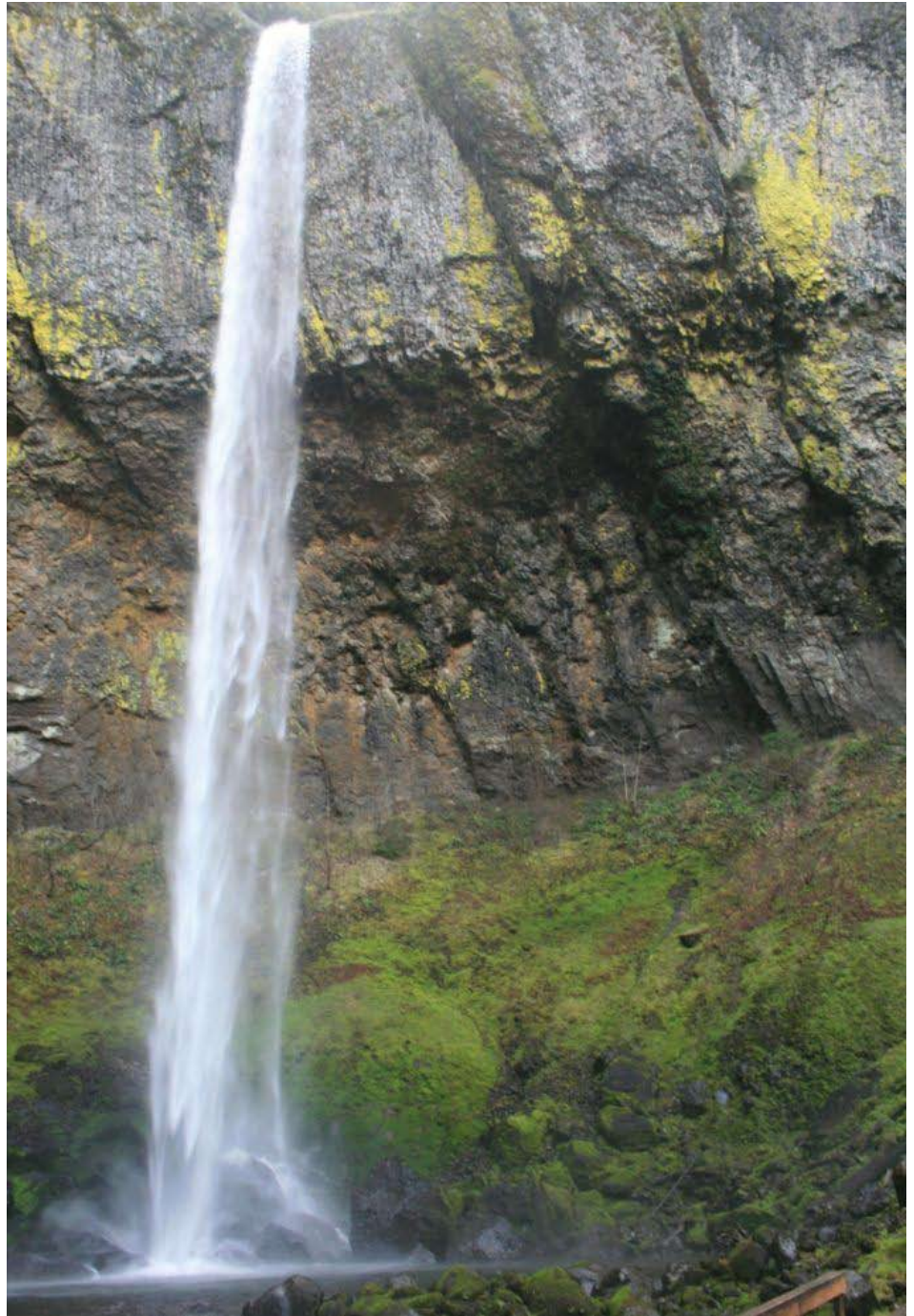


Photo: Jeffrey St. Clair in CounterPunch

LaTourelle Falls, Columbia Gorge, Oregon. Latourell Falls is a waterfall along the Columbia River Gorge in the U.S. state of Oregon, within Guy W. Talbot State Park with a 249-foot drop. There are so many amazing waterfalls – 90 on the Oregon side of the river alone – that the Columbia River Gorge is considered to have the highest concentration of waterfalls in the entire country!

Lessons continued on next page

Earth Regeneration

Lessons continued from previous page

have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Though environmental protection has been shown repeatedly to provide long term economic and social benefits to regions, those who benefit are often different from those who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. We nearly always hear that protection will ruin the local economy.

Thus Yellowstone National Park was created by Congress mainly over the opposition of locals in Montana Territory, who wanted the park to remain open to homesteading, logging, and ranching. Indeed, annually for 20 years after establishing the park, Montana's Congressional representatives introduced bills into Congress to undesignate the park. Fortunately, due to strong support for the park from the "dreaded eastern establishment," these efforts did not succeed.

Similarly, when Franklin Roosevelt established Grand Teton National Monument in 1943, Jackson's local leaders declared that Jackson would become a "ghost town," and Wyoming's Congressional delegation introduced a bill to eliminate the park. The bill successfully passed both branches of Congress. The monument only survived because Franklin Roosevelt vetoed the bill.

Early efforts to create a park in the Olympic Mountains with the first park bill were introduced in 1904 – a statement that was vigorously opposed by local timber interests. Teddy Roosevelt responded and established the Olympic National Monument in 1907 and put vast tracts of virgin timber off-limits to logging when logging was king.

Nevertheless, opposition from logging interests continued. However, in 1938 outside interests lead to the establishment of Olympic National Park. In the long run, the park's creation has been shown to have substantial long-term benefits to the residents of the Olympic Peninsula. However, those who made their living by cutting down the Olympic Peninsula trees are not necessarily the same people who are now making a living from the park's scenic, ecological, and tourism values.

LESSON TWO: Don't assume all locals are opposed. Typically the most vocal opponents are those with the largest vested interest in maintaining the status quo. There may even be a "silent majority" that is at least neutral or mildly supportive of your proposal, but they are not the ones who control the local politics. However,

whether one or many local supporters, nearly all successful conservation efforts rely upon outside leadership to issue a state or national concern. And there is usually some visionary (or group of visionaries) that led this national campaign à la John Muir (Yosemite), David Brower (Dinosaur), Bob Marshall (Gates of the Arctic), Olaus Murie (Arctic Wildlife Refuge), Willard Van Name, Rosalie Edge, and Irving Brant (Olympic), George Dorr (Acadia), etc.

LESSON THREE: Creating and generating the political case for strong conservation protection, as opposed to more limited or weak gains, often takes a while, sometimes a long time. For instance, in the 1930s, Bob Marshall publicly called for protecting all of the Brooks Range north of the Yukon River as a national park. It took until the 1980s for his vision to become a reality. Look at a map of northern Alaska. You will see that nearly the entire Brooks Range is now in some protected status between national wildlife refuges, national preserves, and national parks.

LESSON FOUR: Pragmatists, in the end, leave messes for future generations to clean up. Capitulating to local interests with half-baked compromises in the interest of expediency typically produces uneven results. Either they do not adequately protect the land or create enormous headaches for future conservationists to undue often at a significant political and economic expense.

For instance, when the national forest system was first established, the lands were protected from commercial uses, much like our current national parks. However, in 1905, Gifford Pinchot proposed expanding this system of national forest reserves into national forests, opposition to the forest system from mining companies who wished to use timber from national forests for mining timbers and other mine construction lead to a compromise that permitted commercial logging. Some conservationists like John Muir were opposed to this compromise, but they lost in their efforts. Others felt that a compromise was needed, and besides, it was reasoned such a compromise would be harmless because most of the best timber was outside of the forest preserves and on private lands. No one could imagine there would be much demand for logging on national forest lands.

A similar compromise was also made regarding commercial livestock grazing to

win over western ranchers. So commercial logging and ranching were put in place to neutralize western opposition to the forests – but we are still paying the price for that decision today.

Another example is Lake Tahoe – the gem of the Sierras. Initially, there was a movement to protect the lake as a national park. But in the interest of expediency and due to local opposition that wanted to log the great pine forests surrounding the lake, the park proposal was dropped in favor of national forest status. Today many of the problems that plague the Tahoe basin, including water quality decline, are a consequence of this decision, including the abundance of private lands (which could be settled within national forests but not parks).

Point Reyes National Seashore in California represents another example. The park was created by the purchase of private ranchlands on the Point Reyes Peninsula. As a compromise, any rancher that wanted to remain on their former property and continue ranching/farming was given a 25-year grace period, after which they would be required to leave the property. Almost immediately, the ranchers began to lobby to extend the grace period. Today, 50 years later, they are still operating on the public lands and damaging the water, wildlife, and plant life of the peninsula. Had the Park Service and Congress done what any other property owner does upon purchasing land, which is to pay for the land and have the former owners leave, we would not be facing the prospect of another 20 years of livestock production on these parklands.

We'll never know whether these compromises were necessary. One could argue that we would not have any national forests today if we had not made such compromises, but this is mostly conjecture. National support for parks and other preserves was very high, and it is likely national forests without logging and grazing would have won Congressional approval.

LESSON FIVE: Over time, most locals view conservation areas as an asset and source of pride. This change typically takes a couple of decades, but I know of no exceptions. Despite this realization that any particular park, wilderness, etc. is overall a benefit to the local and regional society does not typically result in local support for new conservation proposals as they come along. In other words, though people in Montana have grown to love Yel-

Lessons continued on next page

Earth Regeneration

Lessons continued from previous page

lowstone National Park, there was still stiff local opposition to new wilderness areas adjacent to Yellowstone National Park like the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness when it was created in 1978.

To illustrate one example, I will highlight the chief milestones along the way towards today's Grand Canyon National Park.

Grand Canyon

1882. Senator Harrison (later president) introduces three proposals for a Grand Canyon National Park into Congress without success.

1883. Harrison, elected president, creates 15 forest preserves, including one surrounding the Grand Canyon.

1898. Coconino County Board of Supervisors passes resolution opposing new forest preserve – and attempts to have protections lifted.

1903. Teddy Roosevelt visits the canyon.

1906. Roosevelt signs a bill to create a large game range at canyon again over local opposition.

1908. Roosevelt asks his attorney general whether there was any limit on the size of areas that could be protected using the recently passed Antiquities Act (1906). The Act was created to protect “small” sites like Indian ruins. However, according to the attorney general, no size limit exists – so Roosevelt uses the Antiquities Act to create a million-acre Grand Canyon National Monument.

Residents in Arizona were outraged. Arizona's congressional delegation succeeded in blocking all funding for the implementation of monument protection. They sued the federal government and went all the way to the Supreme Court. They argued that Roosevelt exceeded his powers and the original intention of the Antiquities Act. Supreme Court upholds the use of the Antiquities Act, and Grand Canyon National Monument remains.

Failing to eliminate the monument, opponents took a new tact – like Healthy Forests Initiative – they used the conservationists' language to hide their real intent – to undercut protection. Knowing the national popular support for parks, in

1917, Arizona Senator Henry Ashurst introduced a bill to make the Grand Canyon a national park (NP).

1919. Grand Canyon NP was signed into law – but freed up much of the valuable mining, timber, and grazing lands to satisfy local interests. The bill removed monument and park protection to grazing and timberlands, reducing the overall acreage protected by the national monument by 2/3!

1927. Growing popular support for parks and the Grand Canyon lead to the expansion of Park boundaries to 646,000 acres.

1932. Herbert Hoover declared a new Grand Canyon NM to protect an additional 273,000 more acres surrounding the existing national park.

1969. Marble Canyon New Mexico (NM) was created.

1975. Grand Canyon Enlargement Act adds Marble Canyon and Grand Canyon NM to the existing Grand Canyon National Park. Creating a park of 1.1 million acres that finally equals in size the original national monument that Roosevelt had protected in 1908.

1979. UNESCO declares Grand Canyon, an official World Heritage Site.

1990s. In the 1990s, when federal budget issues threatened to close the park to visitors, the state of Arizona offered to pay rangers salaries to keep the park open – illustrating the complete change in attitude that now prevails.

2000. President Clinton designates just over 1 million acres as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument to protect much of the North Rim region of the canyon over locals' objection. (I predict that someday these lands will be added to Grand Canyon National Park.)

Conclusion

The most important lesson is not to be discouraged when local people do not widely hold your idea for conservation protection. This should not prompt an immediate compromise to whatever legislation or goal you are pursuing. Instead, stick to the plan, and in many instances, you will prevail. Try to neutralize local opposition,

but generate outside support if possible, make the issue a state or national issue.

For instance, it was downstate supporters in New York City that provided the political muscle to create the Adirondack State Park over residents' objections. This park, now 6 million acres in size, has a clause that prohibits all logging on state lands. If early park advocates had tried to mollify locals to accept park establishment, there would have undoubtedly been logging permitted in the new park. Instead, park supporters successfully rallied people from outside the region to help create the wilderness park we have today.

All legislation is compromise, but don't be the one to do the compromising – that's the job of Congress. Make your best case for the best protection. If you don't achieve that goal in any particular legislation, you can decide to oppose it and attempt to stop it or accept it with compromises.

For instance, if you want all the roadless country in a particular area designated as wilderness, propose it all as wilderness and make your best case to save it all. If Congress cuts that in half, you have still successfully made the case that all the roadless lands are qualified for wilderness, and you can always try to enact more protective legislation in the future for these lands. However, if in attempting to secure local support, you automatically say or accept the notion that some of these roadless lands are ecologically unimportant or are throw away lands that can be developed; you have lost your moral authority to fight for protection later.

When and where you compromise affects the outcome, not only on current issues but shaped future expectations. Thus a long-term vision should always be kept in mind.

George Wuerthner has published 36 books including Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy. He serves on the board of the Western Watersheds Project. Original article at <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/11/03/historical-lessons-of-successful-conservation-movements-2/>.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance/strategy/historical-lessons-of-successful-conservation-movements/>

WHEN YOU DO THINGS FROM YOUR SOUL, THE RIVER ITSELF MOVES THROUGH YOU.

~ Rumi ~

<https://www.passiton.com/inspirational-quotes/7483-when-you-do-things-from-your-soul-you-feel-a>

Ending Inequality



Photos Courtesy Anti-Slavery International

Senegal, children at modernized 'daara,' where children are not forced to beg.

Anti-Slavery Society: How We Work to End Slavery

We firmly believe that freedom is a fundamental right, everywhere, always.

Freedom is a fundamental right, everywhere, always. Everyone should be able to make choices about their lives and how they live them. This is what drives us every day in our work to make sure everyone can enjoy their freedom.

People end up trapped in modern slavery because they are vulnerable to being tricked, trapped, and exploited, often as a result of poverty and exclusion. Political, economic, and social systems

that disadvantage some groups in society push people into taking risky decisions in search of opportunities to provide for their families. At the same time people may not have access to the sort of help and support that we take for granted – such as going to the police for help.

At Anti-Slavery International we look at those systems, those root causes, and do everything we can to try and re-balance them to provide people at-risk from slavery with an opportunity to build sustainable futures.

Who We Work With

Such complexity means we can't tackle it alone, which is why partnerships have

always been at the heart of what we do. Working together, just as the first abolitionists did, we have built an anti-slavery movement in collaboration with service providers, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, trade unions, lawyers, businesses, and government authorities. And of course, you – our supporters.

This allows us to support tens of thousands of adults and children affected by slavery every year to gain and keep their freedom, as well as to campaign to change the systems that trap them – social, economic, legal, and political.

We adapt our response to the local context in all countries we work in. In

Anti-Slavery *continued on next page*

Ending Inequality

Anti-Slavery continued from previous page



Niger school children smiling. Niger is building schools and projects for communities of people who escaped their traditional masters. Help free adults and children from slavery today and protect people from exploitation tomorrow. Become a member of Anti-Slavery International today.

Niger, it's building schools and projects for communities that escaped their traditional masters, in Mauritania it's providing education and microloans to women rebuilding their lives in freedom, or in Senegal, it's working with whole communities to protect children from local schools from being forced to beg.

We influence decision-makers on all levels. We have been instrumental in the development of all major laws against exploitative practices. We have lobbied national Governments to improve their response to slavery practices, campaigned to introduce anti-slavery laws, and challenged Governments in courts when they have failed to protect their citizens from the effects of slavery.

In the commercial sector, we work with businesses to help them identify the risks of slavery practices in their supply chains and devise policies that would address

them. We also campaign for laws that would make businesses legally responsible for potential slavery abuses in their global supply chains.

All our work is based on robust evidence-based research, informed by the lived experience of people who have been exploited in slavery.

We do all this because we firmly believe that freedom is a fundamental right, everywhere, always. Everyone should be free to make choices about their lives and how they live them.

Today more and more people – from charities and the faith sector to global brands and young people – are making securing freedom for children and adults from the trap of slavery, their concern. Working together, untangling people from slavery and dismantling the systems that enable exploitation, we can deliver true freedom to people across the globe.

Join the Movement to End Slavery

Help free adults and children from slavery today and protect people from exploitation tomorrow. Sign up at <https://www.antislavery.org/donate/>.

www.antislavery.org

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Source: <https://www.antislavery.org/what-we-do/how-we-work/>



Human Interest



Photos: GEOMAR (CC BY 4.0)

(top) A remotely-operated machines set to scrape the ocean floor. (bottom) A vehicle in the North Pacific Ocean collects a metallic nodule with a deep-sea creature growing on top.

#Defendthedeep: Stop Deep Seabed Mining NOW

Submitted by Issouf Pazini Kone
Côte D'Ivoire

For decades, large corporations have poisoned rivers, devastated forests, and displaced communities, and now they're rushing to mine minerals from the last untouched frontier on the planet – the deep sea.

The deep sea may be vast and unexplored, but it is incredibly important. It encompasses 95% of the ocean's volume and is the largest and least explored of Earth's biomes. Some scientists believe that the deep sea and its water column may be the largest carbon sink on Earth. Plus, new species are still being found there, and sometimes, entirely new ecosystems are discovered.

A UN body called the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is responsible for governing and protecting the deep seabed

on behalf of humankind as a whole. In practice, the ISA Secretariat routinely prioritizes the interests of pro-mining governments and companies over the protection of our fragile ecosystems. Since 2001, the ISA has granted 30 exploration licenses for contractors to explore mineral wealth beyond national jurisdiction in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. These licenses could result in irreversible ecosystem loss.

As citizens concerned about the future of our planet, we ask you to support a moratorium on seabed mining so we can learn more about its potential impact on deep-sea ecosystems.

Do your part to stop

deep-seabed mining. Fill out the forms on the righthand column of #defendthedeep or at <https://www.theoxygenproject.com/deepseamining/>.

Source: <https://www.theoxygenproject.com/deepseamining/>



Human Interest



Image: The Future's Not in Plastics report, Carbon Tracker

Photo: The Future's Not in Plastics Report, Carbon Tracker

This photo needs no explanation. You know, I know, we all know this is insane. Boycott these disastrous products; filter your own water and stop buying these bottles.

The Future of the Oil Industry is Not in Plastics

Below2C | Primary Source | Carbon Tracker
September 26, 2020

The Future's Not in Plastics report finds that mounting pressure to curtail the use of plastics – now a worldwide public concern – could slash virgin plastic demand growth from 4% a year to under 1%, with demand peaking in 2027.

This post is sourced from Carbon Tracker's The Future's Not in Plastics – Why plastics demand won't rescue the oil sector report, analyses, and related information releases.

Why Investors in the Oil Sector Should Care

“Remove the plastic pillar holding up the future of the oil industry, and the whole narrative of rising oil demand collapses.”

– Kingsmill Bond, Energy Strategist –

Forecasts from BP and the International Energy Agency (IEA) both see petrochemicals as the largest driver of expected oil demand, making up 95% and 45% respectively.

But plastics demand is likely to peak as the world starts to transition from a linear plastic system to a circular one and governments act to hit climate targets. The implication is peak oil demand and \$400 billion of stranded petrochemical capital expenditure (capex).

The implication for big oil is that the industry will lose its primary growth driver, making it more likely oil demand has already peaked in 2019.

There Are Solutions

Moreover, the Covid shock is likely to reduce plastic demand by around 4% this year and give policymakers more room to act.

Key Findings of The Future's Not in Plastics Report

The future's not in plastics. The oil and petrochemical industries are betting their future growth on demand for plastics.

Plastics drive growth. As demand growth drivers like transportation have fallen, so plastics make up all the expected growth in oil for petrochemicals, and are the largest driver of expected oil demand, with 95% and 45% of oil demand growth in the central forecasts of BP and the IEA.

Plastics are uniquely vulnerable. Plastics impose a massive untaxed externality upon society of at least \$1,000 per ton (\$350 billion a year) from carbon dioxide, health costs, collection costs, and ocean pollution.

There are technology solutions. There are three main solutions – reduce demand

Plastics *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Activists *continued from previous page*

through better design and regulation, substitute with other products such as paper, and massively increase recycling.

Why now?

Policymakers in Europe and China are implementing much more stringent regulatory regimes using the five key tools of taxation, design rules, bans, targets, and infrastructure. Moreover, the Covid shock is likely to reduce plastic demand by around 4% this year and give policymakers more room to act.

Peak oil demand. If demand for virgin plastic stops rising, the oil industry would lose its primary growth driver. This makes it all the more likely that 2019 was peak oil demand.

Stranded petrochemical assets. There is a stark contrast between the plans of the petrochemical industry for 4% annual capacity growth and the threat of lower demand growth. The petrochemical industry already faces huge overcapacity, but is planning to spend a further \$400 billion on 80 metric tons of new capacity. Unless stopped, this will result in continued low prices and stranded assets.

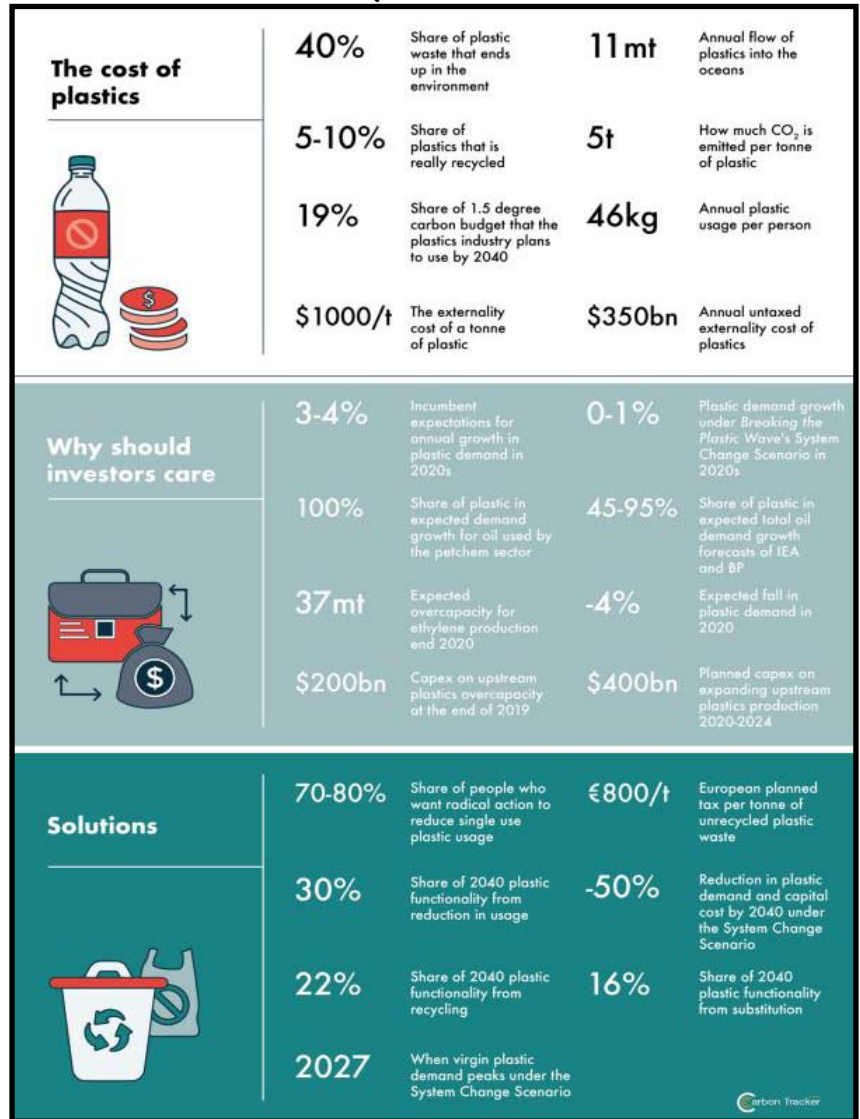
Graphic: Carbon Tracker

This chart sets out the societal cost of plastics and why investors must take notice of emerging trends. But more importantly, it shows solutions to the plastic epidemic facing humanity.

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Source: <https://below2c.org/2020/09/the-future-of-the-oil-industry-is-not-in-plastics/>

Externality Costs of Plastics



IF WE WISH TO STOP THE ATROCITIES, WE NEED MERELY TO STEP AWAY FROM THE ISOLATION. THERE IS A WHOLE WORLD WAITING FOR US, READY TO WELCOME US HOME.

~ Derrick Jensen ~

<https://derrickjensen.org/endgame/we-are-going-to-win/>

Human Interest

New Jersey Bans Single-Use Plastic, Paper Bags in Stores, Food Businesses

Submitted by Fran Staret
Pennsylvania USA

Press Release: November 4, 2020, *excerpt*

Strongest Bag Ban in Nation

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed S864, which prohibits the use of single-use plastic and paper bags in all stores and food service businesses statewide. This bill is a significant step to reduce harm and pollution that these products cause to our environment.

“Plastic bags are one of the most problematic forms of garbage, leading to millions of discarded bags that stream annually into our landfills, rivers, and oceans,” said Governor Murphy. “With today’s historic bill signing, we are addressing the problem of plastic pollution head-on with solutions that will help mitigate climate change and strengthen our environment for future generations.”

Starting May 2022, both plastic and paper single-use bags, as well as disposable food containers and cups made out of polystyrene foam, will be banned. Paper bags require resources and energy to produce, contributing to pollution. Moving forward, the focus throughout the state will be on using reusable bags. The following products will be exempt for an additional two years after May 2022:

- Disposable, long-handled polystyrene foam soda spoons when required and used for thick drinks;
- Portion cups of two ounces or less, if used for hot foods or foods requiring lids;
- Meat and fish trays for raw or butchered meat, including poultry, or fish that is sold from a refrigerator or similar retail appliance;
- Any food product pre-packaged by the manufacturer with a polystyrene foam food service product; and
- Any other polystyrene foam food service product as determined necessary by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Under the new law, food service businesses will be allowed to provide single-use plastic straws only upon request starting November 2021.

“From our cities to our shores, single-use plastic bags unnecessarily litter New Jersey’s most treasured spaces and pollute our ecosystems,” said New Jersey DEP Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe. “By

banning single-use plastic bags, Governor Murphy and our legislature continue to make a New Jersey a national leader in environmental protection and the DEP stands ready to implement these new measures and educate the public.”

“Environmental activists and supporters of this bill have been waiting years for this moment. Plastic pollution has caused untold damage to the environment and to our public health,” said Senator Bob Smith, chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. “Taking action to fight plastic pollution now is key to moving towards a plastic-free future. I want to thank the Governor for being a strong partner on this legislation.”

“If you go to the shore, you see plastic buried in the sand and floating in the ocean. There are an estimated 150 million metric tons of plastics currently in our oceans and about eight million metric tons are added each year,” said Senator Linda Greenstein, vice-chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. “We have heard from countless activists and residents around the state, and they have made it clear that they are sick of plastics polluting our ecosystem. Now that this bill is signed by the Governor, New Jersey is closer than ever to a cleaner, greener future.” . . .

“It’s a good day for marine critters and the power of the people,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action (COA). “For over 35 years, thousands of COA’s Beach Sweep volunteers have collected over 7.2 million pieces of trash, mostly plastic, off NJ’s beaches. Thanks to Governor Murphy and the NJ Legislature, we’ve successfully drawn a line in the sand and made NJ a world leader in reducing the plastic plague on this marvel of a planet.”

“Kudos to Governor Murphy and Senator Smith for having the guts to do something big to help clean-up our waterways. Barnegat Bay and our beaches will be cleaner for people to enjoy and wildlife to thrive. We are grateful for your leadership especially during these challenging times,” said Britta Forsberg-Wenzel, Executive Director, Save Barnegat Bay.

“The Surfrider Foundation applauds the Governor’s decision to sign this bill. New Jersey regains some leadership on environmental issues by taking on single-use bags, foamed plastic, and plastic straws all at once with this legislation,” said John Weber, Mid Atlantic Regional Manager for

the Surfrider Foundation.

“This is a great day. New Jersey has now become a national leader in going after plastics and protecting our environment. This statewide plastic ban will help protect our rivers and streams from plastic that has been known to kill whales, get into our environment, and into us. This comprehensive plastic ban not only bans plastic bags, but also polystyrene and the offering of plastic straws. This is a critical step forward when it comes to protecting our environment from plastics,” said Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.

“There were those who wanted legislation that only put a fee on plastic and fought for a weak bill 2 years ago. We want to thank the Governor for all he did signing this bill and vetoing the weaker bill. Now we have the strongest plastic ban in the nation.” . . .

“Hats off to Governor Murphy for signing this sweeping plastic reduction law. This is exactly the type of law we need to reverse the projection that in the next decade, there will be one pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish. This never would have happened without broad public support and local governments first adopting their own plastic reduction laws. Now is a good time for all residents of New Jersey to start using reusable bags and avoid polystyrene and not even wait for the new law to kick in,” said Judith Enck, President of Beyond Plastics and former EPA Region 2 Regional Administrator.

“This is an historic day for New Jersey,” said Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. “This law marks a monumental step forward in the fight against the fossil fuel industry and their production of disposable plastics, and a win for wildlife, clean rivers, and our ocean. After years of local officials taking steady, incremental steps towards banning single-use plastic by passing 130 local ordinances, we are finally doing away with polluting plastic bags and polystyrene food containers for good. This law is a product of many stakeholders and legislators working together to ensure all voices are heard, and we thank Governor Murphy for signing this bill into law.”

Source: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/20201104a.shtml>

Human Interest

Excerpt From a Wonderful Book

By Derrick Jensen

A Language Older Than Words, pp. 188-190

It is desperately true that we each need to look inside, to make ourselves right – as a poet friend of mine writes, “The Old One says you must put your house in order before you can have guests” – but it’s also true that because we are embedded in and dependent upon this planet, and because we owe the planet our lives for having given us life, and because (one hopes) a deep spring of love lies hidden within us, this making ourselves right, this inner work, if it is to mean anything at all, must of necessity lead us to effective action, to actions arising from the love and responsibility we feel toward our neighbors.

The members of the panel on Buddhism blew it. Each in turn stated that the most important thing is to have compassion for the killer, to see the Buddha-nature in each of us. That was a very fine, enlightened position, I thought, but one that helps neither the children nor the trees, nor for that matter the murderers. Nor, in fact, does it help the bystander. Enlightenment as rationalization for inaction. Pacifism as pathology. As Shakespeare so accurately put it, “Conscience doth make cowards of us all.”

I mentioned this to George, who has been a Buddhist since his early teens. George’s response was even more direct than mine. “That’s bullshit,” he said. “There’s a story that the Buddha killed someone who was going to later be a mass murderer. He did it so that he, instead of the murderer, could take on the bad karma caused by killing. And also, presumably, to save the innocent lives. The appropriate response is to stop the murderer by any means possible, as mindfully and compassionately as you can. If you must use force do so, and if you must kill, do that, too, the whole time being fully aware of the implications of what you’re doing.”

I related to George a story I once heard of a samurai whose master had been killed, and so who was bound to track down the murderer. For years he followed him, until finally he cornered the man in a room. The samurai raised his sword, and from terror the other man spat in the samurai’s face. The samurai held the sword poised, shaking now with anger. Finally he sheathed his sword, wiped his face, and walked away. He could not kill the man in that moment,

because had he done so it would have been for the wrong reason.

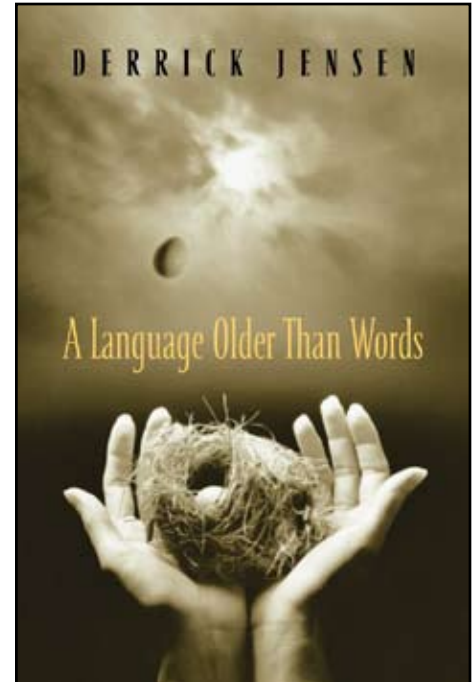
The stick was close now, only two people away. I didn’t know what to do. I thought of a conversation I’d had with Jeannette and one of the Maoris. I said that I feel bad whenever I drive, because I’m adding to global warming. The Maori nodded agreement. So did Jeannette. Then she added fervently, “But you didn’t set up the system. Do what you can, but don’t identify with the problem. If you internalize what is not yours, you fight not only them but yourself as well. Take responsibility only for that which you’re responsible – your own thoughts and actions. You didn’t make the car culture, you didn’t set up factory farming. Do what you can to shut those things down.”

The stick came to me. I took it, despite my earlier misgivings, and suddenly calm, said, “There can be no real peace when living with someone who has already declared war, no peace but capitulation. And even that, as we see around us, doesn’t lead to further peace but to further degradation and exploitation. We’re responsible not only for what we do, but also for what is in our power to stop. Before we can speak of peace, we have to speak honestly of the war already going on, and we have to speak honestly of stopping, by any and all means possible, those who have declared war on the world, and on all of us. Those who destroy won’t stop because we live peacefully, and they won’t stop because we ask nicely. There is one and only one language they understand, and everyone here knows what it is. Yet we don’t speak of it openly.”

I took a breath, then continued, “I have to be honest here. During the reading last night I told you of my childhood, but I didn’t tell you this: If I were once again a child, with only the options open to me as a child – in other words no running away to fend for myself – but also knowing what I know now of the futility of trying to talk my father out of his violence, I know I would have killed him. How else do I protect the innocent, the little boy who was me? Pacifist as I am – I’ve never been in a fistfight, nor even shouted in anger – I still would have killed him. And I don’t think that would have been wrong.”

I looked at the faces around the room: some people were stunned, some looked away, a few disappeared behind a mask of impassivity, many looked intrigued,

and quite a few nodded, eyes fierce with solidarity of understanding. I continued, “The point is that we’re all in a room with a cannibal, with a mass murderer, and we need to figure out what to do about it.”



At once a beautifully poetic memoir and an exploration of the various ways we live in the world, *A Language Older than Words* explains violence as a pathology that touches every aspect of our lives, and indeed affects all aspects of life on Earth. This chronicle of a young man’s drive to transcend domestic abuse offers a challenging look at our worldwide sense of community, and how we can make things better.

This narrative moves elegantly between the microcosm of the author’s dysfunctional family and the macrocosm of History. Readers are initiated into the stifling world of child and spousal abuse, and then beyond, where Jensen finds the same dynamics tricked out on the grand stage of Western civilization. The prose is as lyrical and cogent as it is convincing.

Available at <https://derrickjensen.org/purchase/#language-older-than-words>; PayPal=\$26.95, check or money order=\$25.95. Price includes shipping to the U.S.

Human Interest

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



“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>

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.

Human Interest

Leadership and Listening for Liberation

By Kara Huntermoon
Deep Green Resistance News Service
December 12, 2020

Liberation Listening is a radical community healing method designed to increase the effectiveness of change-making organizations in the face of systems of oppression and a collapsing society. A major focus of our work is in developing and supporting leadership. Although readers of this article may be unfamiliar with the practices of Liberation Listening, the principles of leadership apply to all kinds of human groups.

In Liberation Listening we define leadership as the ability and willingness to make a commitment to see that everything goes well to the limit of one's resources.

Leadership is the commitment to help everything go well in your family, community, and environment. It is realizing that you are responsible (able to respond) to the challenges that face us.

In order to do this, we must heal the old distresses that cause us to feel helpless. The truth is that we are powerful, capable, loving, and intelligent. The challenges before us are large, and we are the best people for the job.

Leadership is an inherent human characteristic. In any group of people, leadership functions must be performed in order for the group to function well. At least one person must think about the group as a whole rather than about just her or his role in it.

It is possible to deliberately create sanctuary spaces where we can connect with other humans, think, release emotions, and heal from old traumas. This creation of sanctuary space can help the group to function better in terms of addressing the real-time challenges we encounter. It is not necessary for all people in the group to be committed to specific emotional healing paths in order to use the safety of the group for their own healing. It is only necessary that we make and follow agreements that lead to a greater sense of safety, trust, and connection with each other over time.

Leadership may include listening respectfully to people in your group who are unawarely acting out old emotional trauma. Usually, this listening requires us to decide that we are not actually threatened by the person's emotional reactions. By listening respectfully, we give the person time and space to heal themselves with the help of our positive regard. We may also need to give ourselves attention for challenging emotions that arise while lis-

tening. This form of listening assumes that each person has always done the best they possibly could with the resources available to them at each moment. By listening, we offer a moment with additional emotional resources, to see if that may be what they need in order to do better than before.

Be aware, however, that it is not always effective or advisable to use compassionate listening skills on someone who unawarely acts out emotional distress in your group. Sometimes the best option is to set clear boundaries and expectations for behavior and ask people to leave the group if they cannot follow these agreements. The specific appropriate response to each incident will require the thinking of the group, and while we can learn from other groups' successes, we will require fresh thinking to solve our group's problems. Giving time to really hear all group members' thinking is a valuable tool.

It is not the leader's job to do all the thinking for the group. Rather, a good leader listens to the thinking of every group member, fills in any gaps, and organizes the thinking into a consistent form. The leader then communicates this synthesis of ideas back to the group well enough to secure their agreement, and, if possible, their commitment to it.

Being a leader opens you to attacks. People have lots of old trauma about power dynamics in their past. People also project hopes and frozen needs onto leaders. A frozen need is something you needed in childhood but did not get. It continues to feel like something you need, even though it can never be met because it was actually a need in the past, not the present. For example, many people have both current needs for connection, and frozen needs for connection from too much isolation as young children. Frozen needs can never be satisfied, so when they are projected onto leaders, they are bound to be disappointed. People often react to this disappointment by blaming the leader. (We can never satisfy our frozen needs, but we can heal them by mourning the developmental loss.)

As leaders, we must be ready to listen compassionately to ourselves and others in times of attack and use it as an opportunity for further healing. Peer support is essential in these situations. Use your listening relationships to stay resilient during, and to recover from, attacks. Look at it as an opportunity to heal old traumas and free more of your thinking from the binding power of past hurts.

Within the context of Liberation Listening, we agree to support the leaders of classes and workshops in several specific ways. These include:

1. Continuing to do our own thinking, and considering what we as individuals can do to help the classes and workshops go well.

2. Supporting the leader's thinking, even when that thinking is different from our own. This may include agreeing to take on roles delegated to us by the leader.

3. Sharing our thinking with the leader. If we think the leader is making a mistake, or missing valuable information, or acting out distress in the class, we find an appropriate time to share our criticism. The goal is not to make the leader change direction, but to give the leader more information with which to make good decisions.

4. Using Listening Skills on the leader. All people have patterns of behavior based on old trauma that they are not yet aware of. In order to help the leader move forward on topics that will make future classes go well, the class is asked to think together about the leader and use listening skills on the leader at the end of every class series. Feel free to push the leader with persistent listening outside of class as well. Of course, do this as two people thinking about one person – in other words, include the leader in your thinking about how you plan to use listening skills on her or him in persistent sessions.

5. Using time in your listening sessions to talk about leading and leadership. What distresses make you want to avoid leadership or rigidly take on leadership?

6. Learning to take on leadership ourselves. If there is a topic that is underrepresented by current Liberation Listening leaders, learn about the topic and do extensive listening sessions on the topic. Prepare yourself to lead on that topic. Solicit the support of the leadership team in reaching for your goals.

Directions for Listening Sessions

You can try doing this with a friend or co-revolutionary: Set a timer for 20 minutes. One person talks while the other person silently listens with curiosity and interest. When the timer goes off, switch roles and start the timer for another 20 minutes. The second person talks while the first listens. It's important for each person to get the same amount of time. Hold what you hear with confidentiality.

Listening *continued on next page*

Human Interest



Listening *continued from previous page*

If you prefer to do this work alone, try journaling on the topic, or daydreaming. You can also try telling your thoughts to a tree, animal, or rock.

Use the following prompts for your work on leadership:

1. Tell memories of good leadership in your past: mentors, people you admired, people who could think well about you and the group, people who helped things go well. If you can, start with the earliest memory, and tell each memory in chronological order.

2. Tell memories of poor leadership in your past: authority figures, people whose power over you or over the group was tainted by their distresses, people who had

power but could not accept feedback, etc. If you can, start with the earliest memory, and tell each memory in chronological order.

3. What happened in the past when you tried to right a perceived wrong?

4. Tell memories of your own leadership or attempted leadership. If you can, start with the earliest memory, and tell each memory in chronological order.

5. What does it mean to you to be out in front? When you are in a group, and everyone is looking to you for guidance or leadership, what emotions arise in you? What thoughts come into your mind? How does your body feel?

6. What groups are you a part of? How could you help those groups function bet-

ter? Think about the group's current functioning. What are the needs and challenges of its members? How can the group meet those needs and address those challenges?

Kara Huntermoon is one of seven co-owners of Heart-Culture Farm Community, near Eugene, Oregon. She spends most of her time in unpaid labor in service of community: child-raising, garden-growing, and emotion/relationship management among the community residents. She also teaches Liberation Listening, a personal growth process that focuses on ending oppression.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/resistance-culture/leadership-listening-for-liberation/>

Human Interest

Nonviolence Charter: Progress Report 17 (Oct 2020)

By Robert J. Burrowes, Ph.D., Anita McKone and Anahata Giri
TRANSCEND Media Service: October 26, 2020

Note from the Editor: Robert is on our Advisory Board. I'm sorry I'm publishing this so late, Robert!

Dear fellow signatories of the Nonviolence Charter,

How are you all? And welcome to our most recent signatories and organizations!

This is the latest six-monthly report on progress in relation to 'The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World' (<https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/>) – with the Spanish translation kindly done by Antonio Gutiérrez Rodero in Venezuela, here: 'Estatuto De Los Pueblos Para Crear Un Mundo No Violento' (<https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/espanol/>) – together with a sample of news about Charter signatories and organizations.

Since the last report in April, we acceded to requests to revise the Charter by adding to it the new item 29 (in relation to the deployment of 5G electromagnetic radiation technology) which some signatories believed to be important. So, the revised (and updated) Charter is now posted at the links above with the Spanish translation again kindly done by Antonio Gutiérrez Rodero.

Hopefully, you will find nothing objectionable about the update but please advise us if you do.

At the time of today's report, we have signatories in 105 countries. We also have 118 organizations/networks from 39 countries. If you wish, you can see the list of organizational endorsements on the Charter website at <https://thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com/organisations/>. If you wish to see individual signatories, click on the 'View signatures' item in the sidebar. You can use the search facility if you want to look for a specific name.

Happily, our collective effort to resist violence and build a worldwide consensus against its use in all contexts continues to make progress.

Our last (very brief) report on 6 April 2020 was kindly published by Antonio C.S. Rosa in the TRANSCEND Media Service Weekly Digest: 'Nonviolence Charter: Progress Report 16 (April 2020)' at <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/04/nonviolence-charter-progress-report-16-apr-2020/>. Many thanks Antonio!

The latest progress report article,



Our friends in Australia (left to right) Anahata, Anita (Robert's wife), and Robert

showcasing the efforts of several Charter signatories, was recently distributed to many progressive news editors: it has been published by a number of outlets, thanks to very supportive editors. Again, special thanks to Charter signatory Antonio C.S. Rosa at 'TRANSCEND' where you can read the article: 'Working to End Human Violence in the Time of Covid-19' at <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/10/working-to-end-human-violence-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>.

If you feel inclined to do so, you are welcome to help raise awareness of the Nonviolence Charter using whatever means are easiest for you.

And our usual invitation and reminder: You are most welcome to send us a report on your activities for inclusion in the next report. We would love to hear from you!

Anyway, here is another (inadequate) sample of reports of the activities of individuals and organizations who are your fellow Charter signatories but sadly prefaced by news of the passing of two giants of the U.S. peace movement: Sr. Ardeth Platte, O.P. on 30 September 2020 and Kevin Zeese on 6 September 2020.

Sr. Ardeth was a nun of the Dominican order who was active in anti-war and anti-nuclear resistance for decades and spent years in prison for her involvement in Plowshares actions and other nonviolent

resistance. According to her great friend and fellow nonviolent activist, Sr. Carol Gilbert O.P., in a letter she wrote to women in prison with whom they had both been incarcerated, Sr. Ardeth, aged 84, 'died peacefully in her sleep' at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House in Washington, D.C. Among Sr. Ardeth's many claims to fame, which include her committed nonviolent resistance to war and nuclear weapons, as well as her articulate advocacy of these and other causes, perhaps her most famous line was simply, "I refuse to have an enemy. I simply won't." To find out a little about her remarkable life and struggle for a better world, you can watch a video titled 'Conviction' (<http://robintruesdale.com/films/conviction/>) and read a number of tributes to Sr. Ardeth compiled in 'The Nuclear Resister' at <http://www.nukeresister.org/2020/10/01/ardeth-platte-dominican-nun-dedicated-to-no-nukes-cause-dies-at-84/>.

Kevin was a lawyer by training but a nonviolent activist committed to peace and justice, in all of their dimensions, by vocation. Known for his many roles in the wider social change movement, ranging from writer to organizer to co-director of 'Popular Resistance' (<https://popularresistance.org/>) with his partner Dr. Margaret

Nonviolence *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Nonviolence *continued from previous page*

Flowers, his activism spanned more than 40 years. Kevin passed away on 6 September 2020 at the age of 65. You can read evocative tributes to Kevin's life and commitment, and watch the online tribute as well, in the following articles, the latter two written by Margaret. See 'US Activist and Friend to Venezuela Kevin Zeese Passes Away' (<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/us-activist-and-friend-to-venezuela-kevin-zeese-passes-away-20200906-0005.html>), 'Kevin Zeese: His Last Words For The Movement And Carrying On' (<https://popularresistance.org/kevin-zeese-his-last-words-for-the-movement/>) and 'Rest in power, Kevin Zeese' (<https://popularresistance.org/rest-in-power-kevin-zeese/>). You can also see Kevin's bio and his portrait painted by Robert Shetterly on Robert's website 'Americans Who Tell the Truth' (<https://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/portraits/kevin-zeese>).

Sami Awad is founder and director of the The Holy Land Trust in Palestine (<https://www.holylandtrust.org/>), committed to fostering peace, justice, and understanding in the Holy Land. But rather than read about their wonderful work here, we encourage you to watch the incredibly evocative and compassionate four-minute video featuring Sami, accessible from their website. Superb Sami!

Tess Burrows in the UK continues her life as, in our words, the world's greatest activist-adventurer. Describing herself more modestly as an "adventurer, peace activist, author, speaker, healer, mother, and grandmother," Tess has spent years collecting peace, climate, and other messages/pledges and then speaking them out from far high places – already from the North and South Poles, Himalayas, Andes, Pacific, and Africa – to help achieve peace and harmony in our world. If you would like to be part of the next Peace Climb with Tess, you can do so by adding your own message/pledge to her latest initiative: New World Messages/Pledges at <https://www.tessburrows.org/hello-peace-messages>.

Tess' new book, *Don't Blame the Yeti* is a work of fiction based on her Peace Journey walking across the Himalayas, up through north-west Nepal, into Tibet and around the legendary Mount Kailas, while undertaking prostrations. "Join 12-year-old Torma who makes an impulsive promise to take on a quest to find the heart of a country and a lost penguin. Along the way it also becomes a vital secret mission to protect the planet from Shady Forces." The

book is suitable not only for youngsters but also as light reading for adults. Just how many prostrations was that Tess?

In yet another evocative reflection – this time on the crucial importance of indigenous peoples and cultures to the stewardship of Earth – Bob Koehler shares a fundamental truth: While "the indigenous people of Planet Earth... are still enduring the forces of colonial genocide... The world's eco-salvation requires that we learn from indigenous cultures, not blot them out." For his insightful and compassionate commentary on this disturbingly ongoing problem, see 'We're So Certain of Our Colonialist Selves That We're Destroying Our Own Planet' at <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2020/07/16/were-so-certain-our-colonialist-selves-were-destroying-our-own-planet>.

Daniel Dalai at Earthgardens in Guatemala reports that the Eco teams are very popular now, owing partially to the lack of school activity for kids, who miss social interacting. "We are cleaning rivers, planting trees, and, lately, providing pictures for the Guatemala tourist board to promote this land with an 'eternal SPRING' climate." Daniel attached several photos but you can see plenty of photos of the girls in these Eco teams at Earthgardens, including the 'nature princesses,' on their colourful website, <https://riverprincess.tripod.com/>.

Dr. David Halpin, an 81-years-old retired doctor and trauma surgeon in the UK, who has spent much time in Gaza working to surgically restore many Palestinians injured by Israeli weapons, has been outspoken in his denunciation of the official response to Covid-19 in which, "Expert doctors and scientists who have sought to inform and plead for logical and scientific management have been ruthlessly censored by governments. Literally hundreds of 'videos' on Youtube, etc. have been 'taken down' within hours. This confirms that the Covid-19 (C19) 'management plan' is a lie, and disastrous for humans worldwide." You can read just one of his many articles on the subject in 'Masking the Covid-19 virus in this

"pandemic" i.e. 'epidemic' in which he explains why, "There is no logic, nor reason based in medical science, for the wearing of paper or cloth masks in the context of the epidemic of this virus – C19." But you can read many more articles critiquing the official response to Covid-19 on his website, <https://dhalpin.infoaction.org.uk/52-articles/covid-19/318-masking-the-covid-19-virus-in-this-pandemic-ie-epidemic-2>.

Anita McKone in Australia recently wrote an article reflecting on her own experience with the medical establishment and why it lacks credibility in relation to Covid-19. You can read her article 'Questioning Covid-19: Why I Will Never Trust the Medical Establishment about Respiratory Disease: My Case History' at <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/08/questioning-covid-19-why-i-will-never-trust-the-medical-establishment-about-respiratory-disease-my-case-history/>. You can also check out her Songs of Nonviolence on her website, <https://anitamckone.wordpress.com/>.

Source: <https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/10/nonviolence-charter-progress-report-17-oct-2020/>

Image below: Posted on Zimbabwe's Bigboy Museumwa's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/bmuseumwa>.





Iona Starting Mary Kay Business

I have been using many Mary Kay products and am very happy with them. I especially like the face, feet, and hand creams. I hope you'll give them a try. The e-catalogue is at <https://www.marykay.com/en-us/tips-and-trends/makeover-and-beauty-tools/ecatalog>. Any purchases you make will help sustain this newspaper. My personal website is www.marykay.com/IonaConner. Thank you for your support.

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Email Iona at groundswellnews@pa.net and she will put you on our email list. "Every new one makes us stronger," sings Pete Seeger.



Groundswell News

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Thank you.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



This beautiful animal (Coyote resting on snowy day) makes me think of you – determined, strong, intelligent.

Next year will be a better year and exciting with a new person running our country.

Tyla Matteson and Glen Besa, Virginia USA

Thanks for the amazing news and I duly appreciate you inspiring us with amazing stories. Thanks so much, Mom.

Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

The Mentor (No Die No Rest)
“FACE FEAR or FEAR FACES YOU”

In life, it doesn't matter if you don't have a complete map or compass to give you directions. You can just start by taking the first step in any direction with a positive mind and eventually, as you walk through the rubbles, you will craft your own map and compass that will make complete sense to you even if you don't understand it. You don't have to fear about how to begin the journey. Fear is not an option, either you face it or it faces you and keeps you down at all times. There's no harm in trying to make sense out of anything, even

when most are just doing wishful thinking. Everyone has something special hidden, all it takes is an effort to awaken it.

Mohammed D. Konneh (The Mentor),
Liberia

#GATEAFRICA_LIBERIA_INC.

#You_Have_The_Right_To_Be_Motivated.

#TheEntrepreneur_Mindset.

Thank you for yet another superb production of *Groundswell News*. You certainly pack a lot of great and inspiring information into it along with such lovely photos.

Good luck with your business venture with Mary Kay. I just do not need anything like this right now but will keep in mind for future. Trying to maintain my previous personal lifestyle on Social Security.

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

I had wanted to respond more quickly to both your comments to my email, your wonderful gift, and the newest edition of your journal - each one such a gift in itself. Of course, I am thrilled that you have put a subscription fee of \$30 out there.

Your journal is really invaluable covering so many issues, and even solutions, to climate issues. There is a month's worth of reading and absorbing, reflecting on these articles.

My husband and I were Maryknoll Missioners in Kenya for nine years.

Marita Grudzen, California USA

I hope you are able to protect your precious little patch of woods! Think of all the critters it shelters (besides you). Thank you for all the uplifting news about good works. I am about to order some of Derrick Jensen's cards!

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

Such a beautiful newsletter! Good luck in the New Year, you are doing good work.

Sylvia Diss, Maryland, USA

I am co-host of Eearth Feels Podcast. Just came across your *Groundswell* Project and thinking it might be great fun to collaborate a bit.

We publish two episodes weekly: One, a Best in Climate where we feature the best blogs and articles that we have come across

in order to give our listeners access to work they may not yet know about, and Two, a discussion or interview with someone working in the climate arena.

Give us a listen at www.EearthFeelsPodcast.com and see if you think we could be a match.

Rose Tenaglia Dunn, Massachusetts, USA

My name is Solomon Sehgren. For now I'm still school and am not working, but I learned a trade called P.O.P. I worked with an organization before but it didn't last long and it was not up to standard.

Thank you so much for your understanding, you have made me to understand everything. I want to join you guys. I love helping people so I love the human rights work that you saw.

Thanks again for your understand; I think I have made you understand?

Solomon Sehgren, Liberia

Dear Partner & Friends!!!

ONE VILLAGE TOUR & TRAVEL.

In 2020 our trade was and is still facing a very challenging situation due to the Covid crisis. I have to admit, that also Herbert (One Village Tours) is facing challenges and there were moments this year, when fear was greater than Hope. But fear is a bad counsellor and hinders seeing and seizing opportunities and taking decisions. Courage and Trust are definitely better counsellors which led me to invest further in my network, expertise, know-how, and product portfolio.

With the vaccinations starting now, we all see a silver ray at the horizon and am convinced, that slowly but surely our beloved travel and tourism industry will not only recover but thanks to its innovation capability return stronger and more sustainable than ever before.

In this sense, I wish you, dear partners and friends, a courageous, prosperous, and healthy 2021 and that we again have the opportunity to meet and work together.

Stay safe and stay courageous,

Herbert Bagyenyi, Uganda

Messages continued on next page

Messages continued from previous page

Hello! I am delighted to meet you. Borgia Joy told me about you and what you do about climate change I am very interested; that's why I sent you this request on Facebook talking about dance. I was a dancer in high school, I did a bit of African dance, American, but right after my graduation I stopped. Dance for Life was my group. Now instead of expressing ourselves on a dance floor with my friends, we are organizing English clubs where we discuss lots of topics such as the development of Africa, climate change, agriculture ...

Goldy Godard, Republic of the Congo

The situation is really bad. And so, I have made a crowdfunding project. We want to install a solar-powered water pump to provide clean drinking water in the community. If I can first get support from acquaintances, my project can then receive support from users worldwide, so please help by giving support!

All donors will be publicly acknowledged on our project page. You can help a lot not only by just supporting us but also by sharing about my project, so please have a look! <https://www.airfunding.net/s/f2256303-750e-41f1-9a9d-eba4d72832ed>

Appeal for help to drill a well. See Benson's photo at right.

Benson Udoh, Founder, Africa Coalition for Climate Action (ACCA), Nigeria



World's Rarest Turtle Could Avoid Extinction After Potential Mate Found in Vietnam Lake

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Nick Allen
Yahoo!News: January 1, 2021

A female specimen of the world's rarest turtle has been discovered, meaning the species now has the chance to avoid extinction.

Until this year a male Swinhoe's softshell turtle living at Suzhou Zoo in China was thought to be the last of its kind.



Photo: Gerald Kuchling

Yangtze giant softshell turtle.

But genetic testing has confirmed that an animal found in Dong Mo Lake in Vietnam in October is a female of the same species – *Rafetus swinhoei* – which is also known as the Yangtze giant softshell turtle.

Hoang Bich Thuy of the Wildlife Conservation Society in Vietnam said, "In a year full of bad news and sadness across the globe, the discovery of this female can offer all some hope that this species will be given another chance to survive."

The species, which is the largest freshwater turtle in the world, was named after the 19th Century English diplomat and biologist Robert Swinhoe.

It later became virtually extinct due to hunting for food, and the sale of its eggs as medicine in China.

Since 2008 scientists at Suzhou Zoo had been trying, unsuccessfully, to breed the last known remaining male with a female. That female died in April 2019 after an attempt at artificial insemination. Scientists then began a search for

another female in the wild in Vietnam.

In addition to the 86-kilogram (nearly 200-pound) female found in Dong Mo Lake on October 22, they believe there may be one more Swinhoe's turtle there, and potentially another in a nearby lake.

They plan an attempt to capture the additional turtles later this year.

Genetic tests will be carried out to confirm the species of the animals, and their gender will be determined.

Timothy McCormack, program director of the Asian Turtle Program of Indo-Myanmar Conservation, said, "It is so important that we are taking these steps, confirming the sex of the identified animals... Once we know the sex of the animals in Vietnam we can make a clear plan on the next steps.

Hopefully, we have a male and a female, in which case breeding and recovery of the species becomes a real possibility. We need to be looking at bringing these [turtles] together as part of the broader conservation plan for the species."

Source: <https://news.yahoo.com/worlds-rarest-turtle-could-avoid-190406438.html>

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Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice
c/o Iona Conner
2170 Route 88
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Fold on dotted lines and tape edges.

YES! I want to support *Groundswell News Journal* and its mission of continuing to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting publication, which educates and enlightens people about the climate crisis through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources, especially in Africa. All donations are gratefully received. Please use this page to enclose a check or money order payable to "Grassroots Coalition." You can also make donations though PayPal using groundswellnews@pa.net. Thank you from my heart! Iona Conner

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