

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. 74: April 17, 2021



Photo Courtesy TIYEPAD

Thuchila Youth Empowerment Programme and Development Network (TIYEPAD) sponsored football (soccer) matches to engage young people in creating more awareness of their environment. Author Jonas is in the foreground. The sign says, "Protect children & youth globally with positive primary prevention by using an evidence-based method; the contract concept."

Youth for a Sustainable Environment Through Sports in Malawi

By Jonas Chabroka Fadweck, Malawi
April 4, 2021, from the field

After the church service, we are here! Scouting ever! The game started 10 minutes ago. It's SMART CLUB MALAWI Bonanza Football Match finals.

Last week, Thuchila Youths launched SMART CLUB MALAWI with the Positive Youth Behavior Change Campaign

through Sports.

Today, I am here at Mbande ground (seen in front). After the match, there will be lots of prizes, gifts, as well as refreshments. We may be live in our YouTube Channel and later follow us in our blog sites for more. The main agenda is young people in sustaining environment.

[Read more about this organization on page 17.]

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Source: <https://www.facebook.com/100003137835756/posts/4490623934385490/>

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What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

Coalition Founders: John and Iona Conner

Editor/Publisher: Iona Conner

Wire Editor: Allen Hengst

Established: September 2013

Web site: www.groundswellnews.org

Board of Directors: Ngo Banfogha, Jeanette Bartelt, David Hunter Bishop, Bill Boteler, Iona Conner, Eric Kifampa, Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Rituraj Phukan

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

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Our Motto:

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

Our Slogan:

The way forward:
cycle back to basics.

Mission of Our Journal

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting journal which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources. We are a global family.

What is the Grassroots Coalition?

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

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us.

What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

Our Values

This journal is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life – plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at groundswellnews@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

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

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.

Fair Use Logo



Iona's Column: *Welcoming New Members*

Dearest Global Family,

I have been gradually building up the membership of the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice as my confidence in running Zoom meetings increases. A snapshot of our meetings is on page 10. It doesn't cost anything to become a member but we ask that you be working seriously on environmental or social justice issues and are a compassionate person. English is our main language. Having a robust Internet connection is extremely helpful but we do our best when people's connections are spotty. Please try to set yourself up where the connection is good.

I came up with another requirement. I want you to watch Rituraj Phukan's TED talk at <https://youtu.be/SBy4irpWRr8> (see page 29) and once you let me know you want to be a member, I will send you some basic information.

We are having our most important meeting of the year May Day (May 1) at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (New York time). Our meetings are wonderful and we're developing a special project with a core group, which we will describe during that meeting.

My break is coming to an end and I'm finding it difficult to keep up my monthly publishing schedule so you may receive these a little less often. My Mary Kay business has not gotten off to a very strong start so I must work harder on it to establish financial security here on the home front.

I'll be looking forward to greeting new members. The ones we have already are amazing! You will enjoy being part of our Global Family.

With love and hope for all the places and people we cherish,

Iona

Climate Emergency



Highlights from the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2020

By Rituraj Phukan, India

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2020* finds that, while nations have advanced in planning, huge gaps remain in finance for developing countries and bringing adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real protection against climate impacts such as droughts, floods, and sea-level rise. The fifth edition of the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report (launched in a high-level online press event on January 14, 2021) looks at progress in planning for, financing, and implementing adaptation with a focus on nature-based solutions.

The Paris Agreement requires all its signatories to plan and implement adaptation measures through national adaptation plans, studies, monitoring of climate change effects, and investment in a green future. The Adaptation Gap Report finds that such action is lagging far behind. It finds that while nations have advanced in planning and implementation, huge gaps remain, particularly in finance for developing countries and bringing adaptation projects to the stage where they bring real reductions in climate risks.

Adaptation means reducing countries' and communities' vulnerability to climate change by increasing their ability to absorb impacts and remain resilient, and it is a vital component of the Paris Agreement. The agreement requires all signatories to plan and implement adaptation measures through national adaptation plans, studies, monitoring climate change effects, and investment in a green future.

There is no doubt that adaptation makes economic sense. The Global Commission on Adaptation in 2019 estimated that a USD 1.8 trillion investment in adaptation

measures would bring a return of USD 7.1 trillion in avoided costs and other benefits. Achieving the 2°C target of the Paris Agreement could limit losses in global annual growth to up to 1.6 per cent, compared to 2.2 per cent for 3°C.

2020 was not only the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also the year of intensifying climate change: high temperatures, floods, droughts, storms, wildfires, and even locust plagues. Even more worryingly, the world is heading for at least a 3°C temperature rise this century. Nations must urgently step up action to adapt to the new climate reality or face serious costs, damages, and losses.

Urgent global action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting warming to "well below 2°C and striving for 1.5°C above preindustrial levels to limit the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and ecosystems." The report emphasizes the role of nature-based solutions and locally-appropriate actions that address societal challenges, such as climate change, and provide human well-being and biodiversity benefits by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems.

The report looks at where the world stands in planning, financing, and implementing adaptation actions. It finds that while nations have advanced in planning, more financing is needed to scale up adaptation projects so they can help protect against climate impacts such as droughts, floods, and sea-level rise. Public and private finance for adaptation must be stepped up urgently, along with faster implementation.

While Covid-19 and its economic fallout

has seen adaptation fall down the political agenda, at the same time, pandemic recovery and stimulus packages could lead to a more climate resilient and low-emission recovery if implemented well. The Adaptation Gap Report 2020 celebrates the global progress that has been made on adaptation over the last decade. But further ambition and action, backed by finance, is urgently needed.

*United Nations Environment Programme (2021). Adaptation Gap Report 2020 – Executive summary. Nairobi.

Source: <https://climateawarenessreport.wordpress.com/2021/02/07/unep-adaptation-gap-report-2020/>

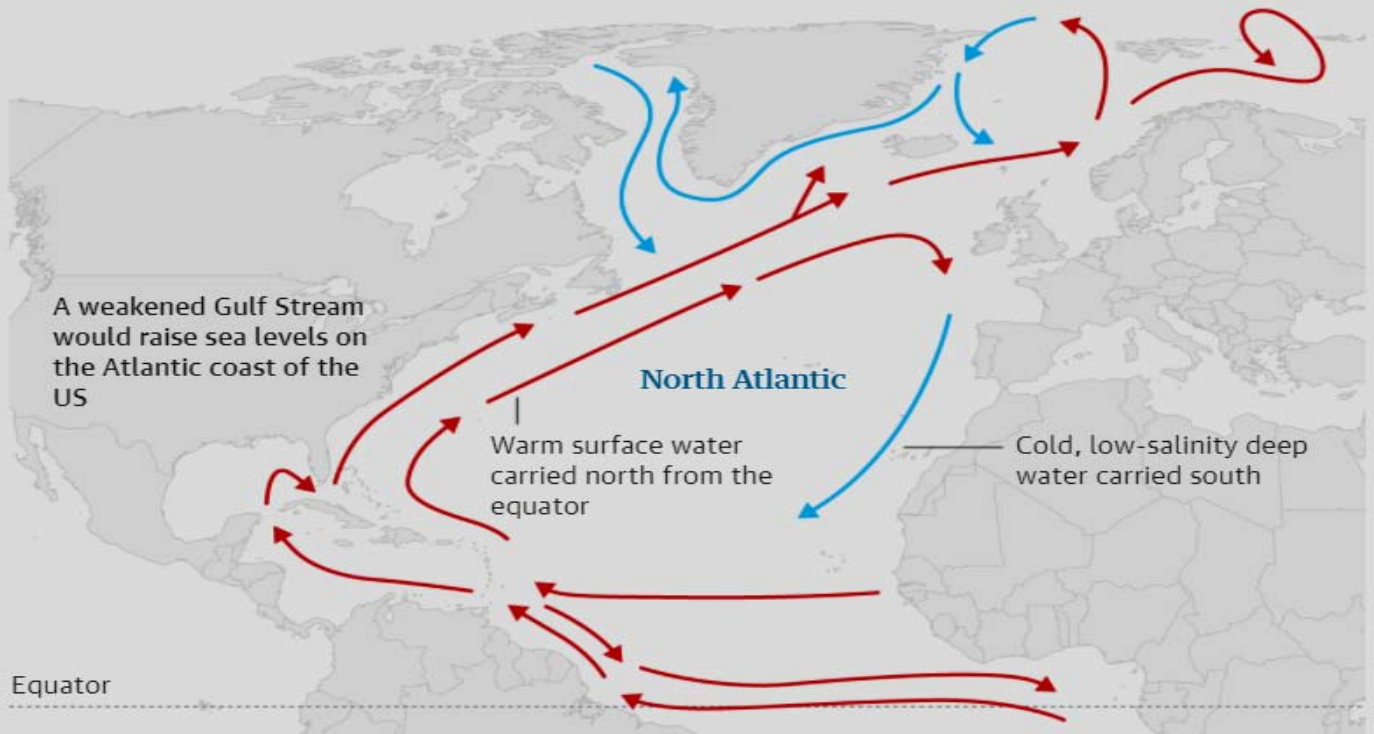


<https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2020>

Climate Emergency

Atlantic Ocean Circulation at Weakest in Millennium

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation is at its weakest for a millennium, according to new data



Guardian graphic. Source: NOAA, S Rahmstorf et. al. from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

Graphic: Potsdam INstitute for Climate Impact Research

Rahmstorf: "The Gulf Stream System works like a giant conveyor belt, carrying warm surface water from the Equator up north, and sending cold, low-salinity deep water back down south; it moves nearly 20 million cubic meters of water per second, almost a hundred times the Amazon flow." (Levke Caesar) The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) is one of the world's biggest ocean circulation systems, carrying warm surface water from the Gulf of Mexico towards the north Atlantic, where it cools and becomes saltier until it sinks north of Iceland, which in turn pulls more warm water from the Caribbean. This circulation is accompanied by winds that also help to bring mild and wet weather to Ireland, the UK, and other parts of western Europe.

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Fiona Harvey, excerpt
The Guardian: February 26, 2021

The Atlantic Ocean circulation that underpins the Gulf Stream (the weather system that brings warm and mild weather to Europe) is at its weakest in more than a millennium, and climate breakdown is the probable cause, according to new data. Further weakening of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) could result in more storms battering the UK, more intense winters, and an increase in damaging heatwaves and droughts

across Europe. Scientists predict that the AMOC will weaken further if global heating continues, and could reduce by about 34% to 45% by the end of this century, which could bring us close to a "tipping point" at which the system could become irrevocably unstable. A weakened Gulf Stream would also raise sea levels on the Atlantic coast of the U.S., with potentially disastrous consequences.

Stefan Rahmstorf, of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who co-authored the study published on Thursday in *Nature Geoscience*, told *The Guardian* that a weakening AMOC

would increase the number and severity of storms hitting Britain and bring more heatwaves to Europe. He said the circulation had already slowed by about 15%, and the impacts were being seen. "In 20 to 30 years it is likely to weaken further, and that will inevitably influence our weather, so we would see an increase in storms and heatwaves in Europe, and sea level rises on the east coast of the U.S.," he said. . . .

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/feb/25/atlantic-ocean-circulation-at-weakest-in-a-millennium-say-scientists>

Climate Emergency

'We Have to Act': Atmospheric CO2 Passes 420 PPM for First Time Ever

By Kenny Stancil, excerpt
Common Dreams: April 6, 2021

"It is truly groundbreaking," Greta Thunberg said of the growing concentration of the heat-trapping gas. "And I don't mean that in a good way."

The concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide surged past 420 parts per million for the first time in recorded history this past weekend, according to a measurement taken at the Mauna Loa Observatory on the Big Island of Hawaii.

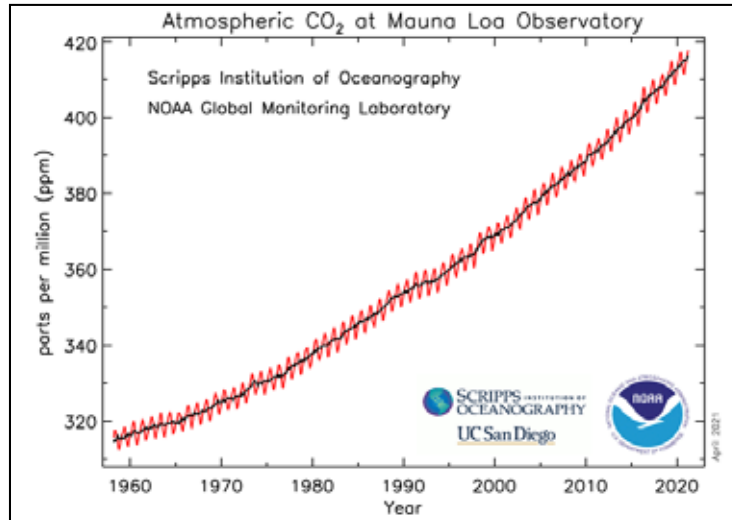
When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research station "began collecting CO2 measurements in the late 1950s, atmospheric CO2 concentration sat at around 315 PPM," the Washington Post reported. "On Saturday, the daily average was pegged at 421.21 PPM – the first time in human history that number has been so high."

Climate activist Greta Thunberg took notice of NOAA's most recent data on CO2 levels. She described the first-ever documented eclipse of 420 PPM of CO2 in Earth's atmosphere as "truly groundbreaking."

Exceeding 420 PPM of the heat-trapping gas "is a disconcerting milestone in the human-induced warming of the planet, around the halfway point on our path toward doubling preindustrial CO2 levels," the Post noted, adding:

There is special significance in reaching and surpassing a concentration of 416 PPM. It means we've passed the midpoint between preindustrial CO2 levels, around 278 PPM, and a doubling of that figure, or 556 PPM.

The record of 421 PPM reached Saturday is just a single point and occurred as CO2 levels are nearing their yearly peak. But the levels over the past two months, of more than 417 PPM, signal that the annual average concentration is likely to exceed 416 PPM.



Graphic: <https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/>
The graph shows monthly mean carbon dioxide measured at Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii. The carbon dioxide data on Mauna Loa constitute the longest record of direct measurements of CO2 in the atmosphere.

While the growing concentration of atmospheric CO2 – which increases the global average temperature and the number and severity of extreme weather events – is a long-term trend that corresponds with the rise of fossil fuel-powered capitalism, it has accelerated particularly rapidly since the 1970s.

The doubling of atmospheric CO2 is expected to increase Earth's temperature by 2.6 to 4.1°C above preindustrial averages, a level of planetary heating that would "rul[e] out more modest warming scenarios," as the Post noted.

"Even if greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were to plummet overnight, the planet would continue warming for years to come," the Post added. That's because, as Zeke Hausfather, a climate scientist at the Breakthrough Institute in California, told the newspaper, "The amount of warming that the world is experiencing is a result of all of our emissions since the industrial revolution – not just our emissions in the last year."

As *The Post* reported, CO2 isn't the only GHG with "worrying trends." Emissions of methane and sulfur hexafluoride have spiked, too.

"Although methane doesn't remain in the atmosphere as long as CO2, it absorbs

heat much more effectively, which means that it greatly exacerbates the climate crisis. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, methane is 84 times more potent than CO2 in the first two decades after its release.

Here's *The Post* on sulfur hexafluoride, a GHG that "results from the production of insulators used on electrical grids [and] also reached all-time records of 10 parts per trillion":

While its concentration remains orders of magnitude more dilute than that of most other major greenhouse gases, its rate of increase in the atmosphere has doubled since 2003.

Sulfur hexafluoride is also thousands of times more potent—a single molecule can cause 23,900 times more warming than a molecule of CO2. And a single molecule of sulfur hexafluoride can stick around in the atmosphere for more than three millennia.

While the Paris climate agreement seeks to limit the rise in annual mean global temperature to 1.5°C above preindustrial averages by the end of the 21st century, the World Meteorological Organization warned last year that there is a 20% chance the world will hit or surpass that level of warming in at least one year by 2024.

"The science is clear," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said in December. "Unless the world cuts fossil fuel production by 6% every year between now and 2030, things will get worse. Much worse."

As forest ecologist Giorgio Matteucci tweeted Monday, "We have to act!"

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/04/06/we-have-act-atmospheric-co2-passes-420-ppm-first-time-ever>

Climate Emergency

Fracking Banned in Delaware River Basin!

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Marisa Guerrero & Kimberly Ong, *excerpt*
Natural Resources Defense Council: February 25, 2021

In an historic move, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) – the body responsible for safeguarding the water quality of the Delaware River Basin – voted to outlaw fracking in the region. Four of the five Commissioners, including the governors of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, voted for the ban, taking a strong stance that fracking “poses significant, immediate, and long-term risks to the development, conservation, utilization, management, and preservation of the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.”

The Delaware River Basin is the watershed at the base of the majestic Delaware River, the longest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi. The Delaware stretches from the Catskills in New York State through parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, providing drinking water to 17 million people. It is one of the most important fisheries in the country, a critical habitat for countless species of flora and fauna, including native trout, American eels, and bald eagles.

The pristine Delaware River Basin has long been at risk of being used for hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Fracking is the process of extracting fossil fuels, like oil and gas, by injecting a mixture of water, salt, and thousands of toxic chemicals into the earth. It is an incredibly dangerous activity; the chemicals used are toxic pollutants that have been linked to cancer, mutations, and other adverse impacts on human health, and are destructive to



Photo Courtesy NRDC

View of the Delaware River east of Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania. (Unsplash)

aquatic life and ecosystems.

If the Delaware River Basin were to be used for fracking, around 45,000 people would find themselves living within one mile of the planned fracking well pad locations, now at high risk of those health threats. What’s more, fracking contributes to the intensifying global climate crisis. At all stages of extraction, transmission, and combustion, fracking releases methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. Concerningly, building fracking infrastructure in the Basin would signal support for the development, transmission, and use of fossil fuels, the leading driver of climate change.

Banning fracking in the Delaware River

Basin is an historic event. It marks a commitment to protecting human and environmental health – not just for those who depend on the Delaware River, but for an entire planet threatened by climate change...

Following nearly 10 years of efforts forged by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and our partner environmental groups to protect the watershed, the Delaware River Basin Commission first proposed today’s fracking ban in 2017. Since then, NRDC and our partners have waged a comprehensive campaign to support a full ban on fracking – central to our campaign has been the push for a ban on additional fracking-related activities, like the disposal of toxic fracking waste into the Basin...

Additionally, our staff have spoken at Commission meetings, offered written comments, and submitted an *amicus brief* for consideration in a lawsuit challenging the Commission’s authority to regulate fracking in the basin... The decision about whether or not to permit fracking in the Delaware River Basin is one of the most important decisions the Commission has made in recent years – if not of all time.

The Basin now joins New York, which recently banned fracking across the state, as a leader in the move away from fossil fuel infrastructure and toward a cleaner and greener future.

Source: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/marisa-guerrero/fracking-banned-delaware-river-basin>



Press event before DRBC Hearing, Photo: Jhena Vigrass, NRDC

Climate Emergency



Photo: Hg marigny, via Wikimedia Commons

Bringing in the hemp harvest in France, Europe's largest producer.

How Hemp Can Help Moderate the Climate Crisis

By Alex Kirby

Climate News Network: January 22, 2021

Hemp, a plant grown centuries ago in England as a national duty, could help to restrict climate heating.

LONDON, UK – There are high hopes that new technology and novel materials may save the world from the worst of the climate crisis. Fine. But don't forget some of the old remedies – like hemp.

In the UK, hemp used to be a common crop which it was a patriotic duty to grow. In 1535 the English king, Henry the Eighth, required all farmers to sow a quarter of an acre (1,000 square meters) of hemp for every 60 acres they owned.

That was because hemp, one of the fastest-growing plants in the world, was recognized then for its value as a building material. Its reputation is now often tarnished by its relationship to cannabis, and it is usually called industrial hemp to distinguish it from its recreational and medicinal cousin.

Industrial hemp remains useful for many purposes, including construction, and not least as a substitute for concrete, the enormously carbon-intensive substance which is often the builders' first choice.

“Hemp can be a lifesaver: it is naturally resistant to fire, providing greater protection against blazes overwhelming residential high-rise blocks.”

The cement industry is one of the largest contributors to global warming, accounting for 5% of all carbon dioxide emissions. The reason it is so energy- and carbon-hungry is because of the extreme heat required to produce it. Turning out a ton of cement requires about 400 pounds of coal and generates nearly a ton of carbon. Global production is growing, and is expected to rise to 3.7 to 4.4 billion tons annually by mid-century.

The UK-based Rapid Transition Alliance (RTA) argues that humankind must undertake “widespread behavior change to sustainable lifestyles ... to live within plan-

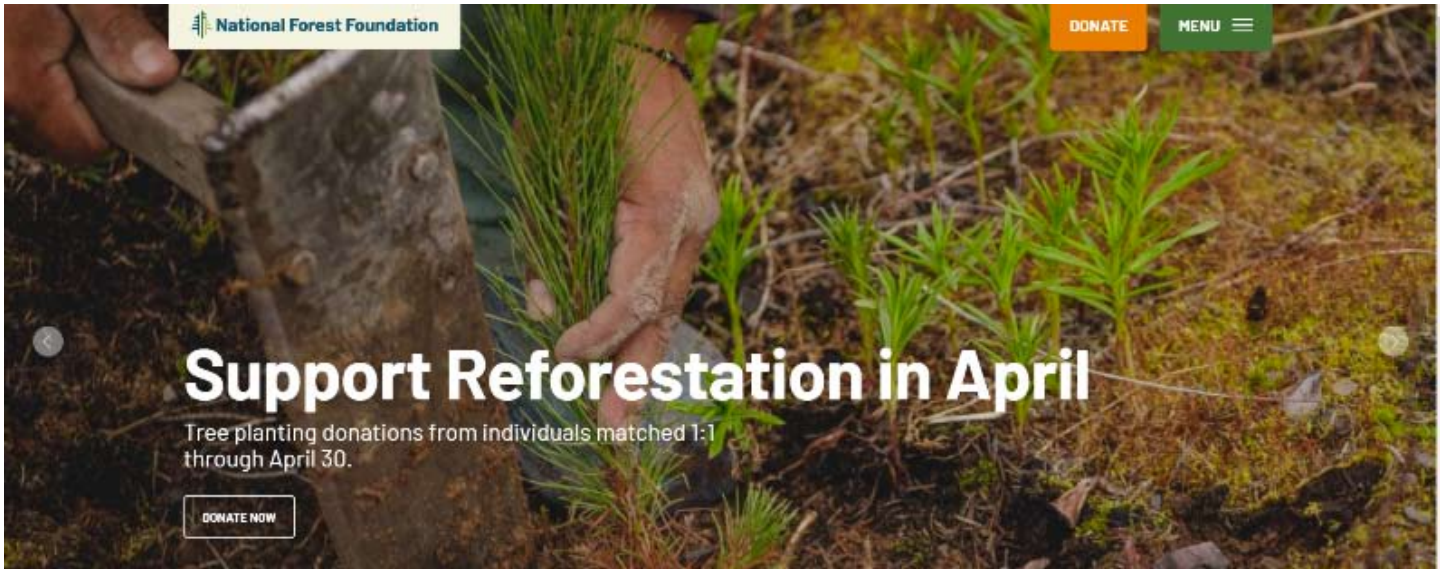
etary ecological boundaries and to limit global warming to below 1.5°C” (the more stringent limit set by the Paris Agreement on climate change). It believes the world's profligate use of cement means it needs to rediscover the virtues of hemp.

The plant, it argues, could help to build low-carbon homes which would benefit the construction industry, employment, peoples' health – and the environment. Hemp is also suitable not just for new buildings but for renovating and improving existing ones, something which will become increasingly important as countries seek to upgrade their housing stock enough to cut the need for heating and the carbon emissions it causes.

Hemp has already proved its worth to a large British industry. In 2006 Adnams' brewery in eastern England built a huge carbon-neutral distribution center. One visually striking feature is its arched roof covered in greenery, home to over half a million bees, with its own beekeeper.

Hemp continued on next page

Climate Emergency



To Fight Climate Change With Trees, America Needs More Seedlings

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Alex Fox, *excerpt*

Smithsonianmag.com: April 8, 2021

Many government commitments to fight climate change hinge on planting huge numbers of trees in hopes that the plants will remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their trunks. Scientists have criticized the suggestion that mass tree planting could be a climate change panacea, but a new study suggests there may not even be enough seeds to reach the lofty reforestation goals of initia-

tives such as the World Economic Forum's one trillion tree campaign.

In the United States, the "Trillion Trees Act" proposed planting 24 billion trees over the next 30 years. A 2020 analysis from the World Resources Institute stated that there was ample space to achieve 60 billion new trees by 2040, if all suitable land across the country was reforested without reducing food production. The new study was published last month in the journal *Frontiers in Forest and Global Change*.

The U.S. would need to double its current seedling production – and then some – to plant roughly 30 billion trees, which

is the amount the authors estimated would fit on the lower 48 states' natural and agricultural lands, reports Kyla Mandel for *National Geographic*.

"You can't plant a tree until you grow it. And you can't grow it in the nursery until you have the seed," Joe Fargione, science director for The Nature Conservancy's North America Region and the study's lead author, tells *National Geographic*...

Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/seedling-shortage-could-hamper-bids-fight-climate-change-trees-180977446/>

Hemp *continued from previous page*

Ideal for Beer

The building relies on a construction material that could help future house-builders trying to provide for growing populations while also reducing carbon emissions. Its walls are built entirely from more than 90,000 lime and hemp blocks made of "hempcrete," a lightweight mixture of lime and hemp stalks, making it the biggest building in the UK to use the material.

Hemp is light, good at regulating moisture and heat, and a good insulator. It's also cheap, easy and fast to grow, and non-toxic to handle. The hemp construction lets Adnams save 50% on electricity and gas through its strong insulation qualities; it has a natural ability to maintain a constant cool temperature which is ideal for storing

beer and other drinks.

Air locks and active airflow management are all that's needed to keep the beer at the right temperature, without any artificial cooling or heating.

"By no means the least of the virtues of hemp is the fact that it can be a lifesaver: it is naturally resistant to mould and fire, reducing reliance on chemical fire retardants that have been linked to health problems and also providing greater protection against blazes overwhelming residential high-rise blocks." When a fire broke out in Grenfell Tower, a 23-storey tower block in London in 2017, it killed 72 people.

The Rapid Transition Alliance is coordinated by the New Weather Institute, the STEPS Centre at the Institute of Development Studies,

and the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, UK.

The Climate News Network is partnering with and supported by the Rapid Transition Alliance, and will be reporting regularly on its work. If you would like to see more stories of evidence-based hope for rapid transition, please sign up at <https://www.rapidtransition.org/>.

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

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/how-hemp-can-help-to-moderate-the-climate-crisis/>

Earth Regeneration

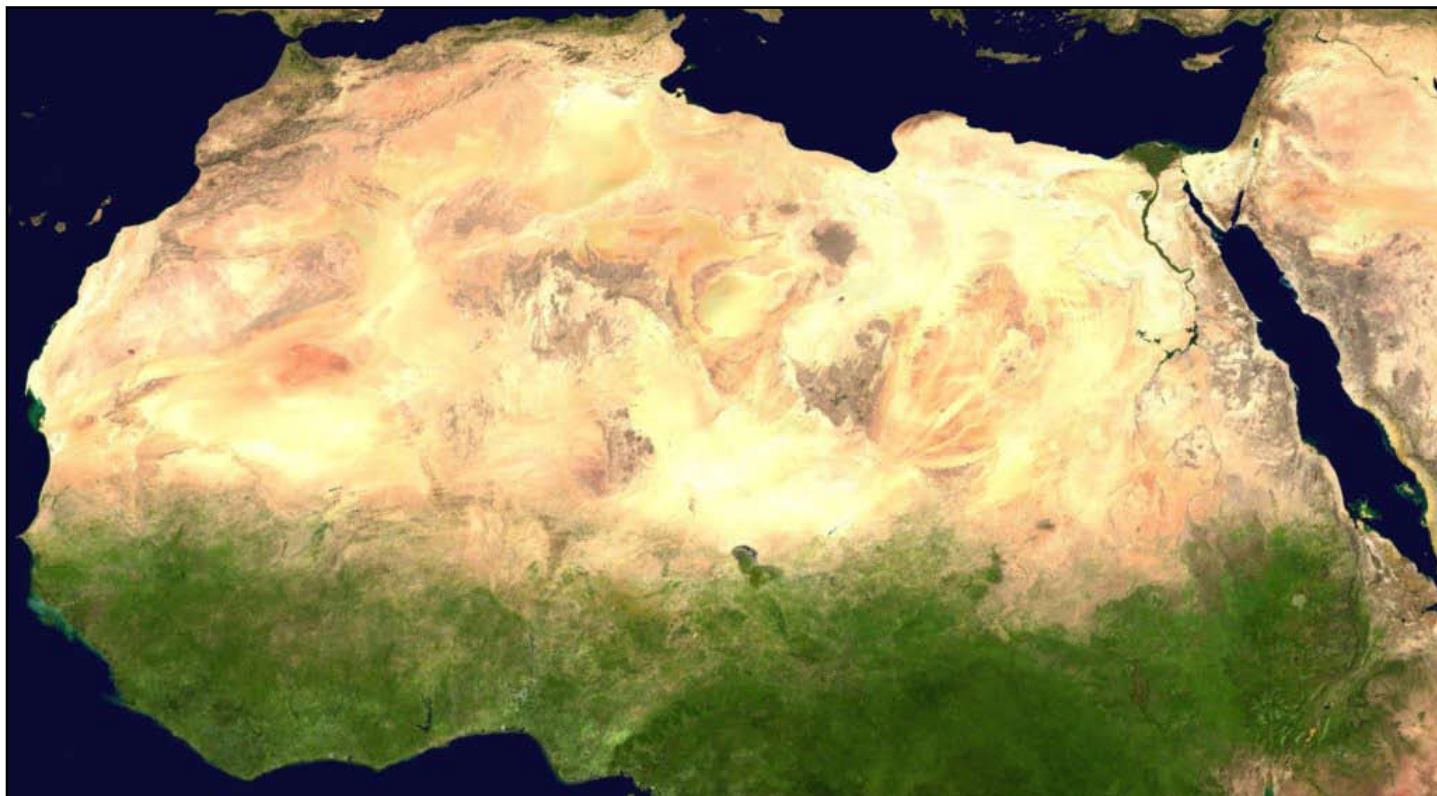


Image: NASA via Wikimedia Commons

Seen from space: The Sahara desert, with the Great Green Wall cutting across Africa beneath it.

How to Rebuild a Forest in a Growing Climate Crisis

By Alex Kirby

Climate News Network: February 19, 2021

A global energy company's mistake renewed debate on how to slow the climate crisis. Trees can help – but where, and how?

LONDON, UK – The oil company Shell recently miscalculated the extent of its reserves on a pretty massive scale. The mistake meant its new scenario for meeting the internationally-agreed 1.5°C climate target would need a new forest about the size of Brazil. And that renewed a debate about just what trees can do to ease the climate crisis.

Tree-planting to tackle possibly irreversible climate change is one hopeful route. Trees not only breathe carbon dioxide in; they also breathe out oxygen. But tree-planting is more complex than it may seem.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says in its 2018 Special

Report, that if the world wants to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2050, an extra one billion hectares (2.4 billion acres) of trees will be needed. But what types of trees, and where? Many different initiatives across the world have tried to restore woodland, but what works best for people and the biosphere?

The UK-based Rapid Transition Alliance (RTA) argues that humankind must undertake “widespread behavior change to sustainable lifestyles ... to live within planetary ecological boundaries and to limit global warming to below 1.5°C” (the more stringent limit set by the Paris Agreement). It has several suggestions for understanding how trees might best help to cool the climate crisis, not least relying on natural forest regeneration rather than commercial plantations.

Over the last decade, several reforestation and afforestation schemes have sprung up under the programme of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

National and regional reforestation initiatives include China's forest rehabilitation program and Africa's Great Green Wall scheme linking North Africa, the Sahel (the area south of the Sahara desert), and

the Horn of Africa.

In 2019 the Food and Agriculture Organization launched a similar reforestation plan targeting cities – the Great Green Wall for Cities initiative. This is expected to remove from 0.5 to 5 Gigatons of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year.

In 2017, Pakistan met its target of planting a billion trees and made a commitment to reach 10 billion trees within five years. In its neighbor India, 66 million trees were planted in a 12-hour record-breaking campaign involving 1.5 million volunteers. Some countries have relied on equally novel methods; Myanmar used drones to plant trees.

Ambitious projects like these can sound attractive. But their ability to achieve their goals sometimes proves controversial.

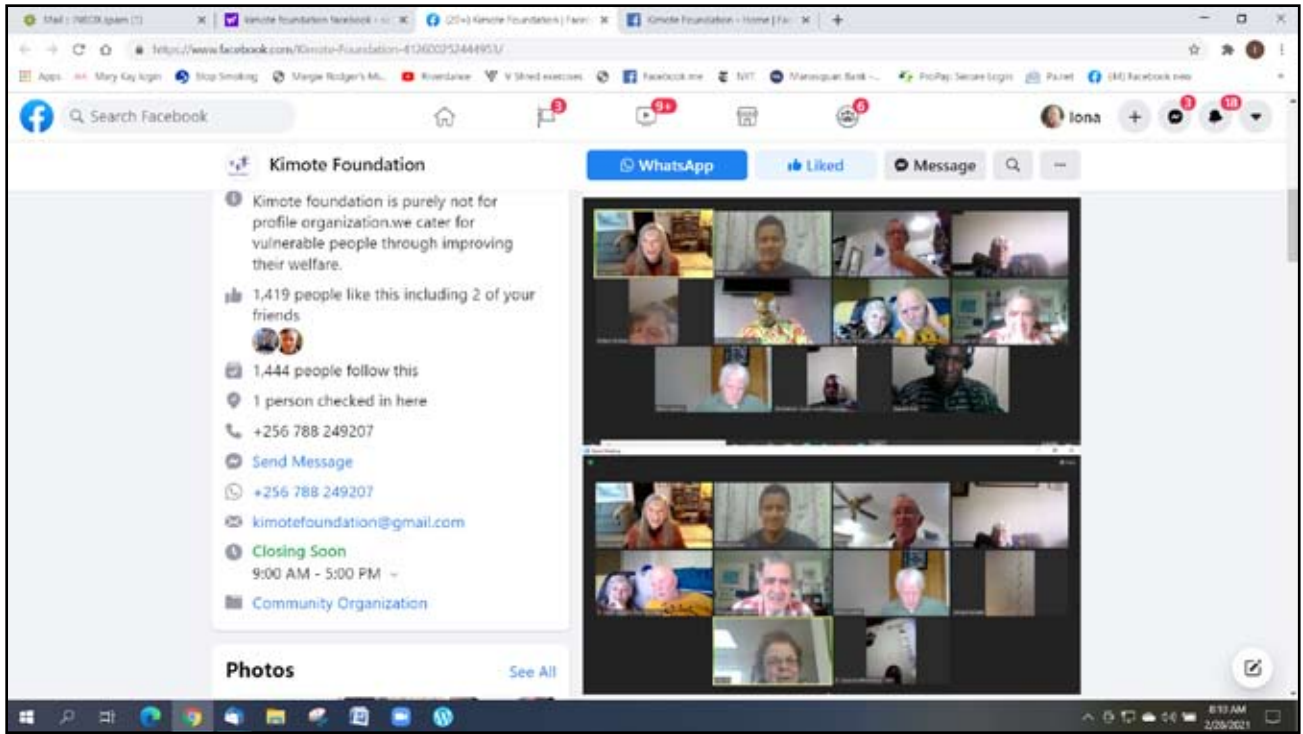
Several climate and forest scientists favor what they call “natural forest regeneration” – essentially letting the forest grow back naturally – which often proves to be the most efficient and cheapest approach in achieving natural carbon sequestration.

Regeneration Neglected

Rebuild Forest *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

Many thanks to Eric Kifampa for posting the screenshots of our meeting on his Facebook page.



Rebuild Forest *continued from previous page*

However, only 34% of the total area dedicated to forest restoration plans covered by the Bonn Challenge is earmarked for this approach.

A further 21% of land is reserved for agroforestry, a method promoting the production of multiple plants and crops side by side. The remaining 45% of the land area is given up to the monoculture production of trees.

Better ways of doing things are exemplified by Ghana and Malaysia, for example, where people restored their local forests after being granted ownership of the land.

In Ghana, the forest restoration projects found to be most successful were those which included a “rights-based approach.” Strengthening community rights contributed to the protection of forests from appropriation and privatization and ensured greater accountability, the right to speak out, and provided safeguards against illegal practices.

In Malaysia, an NGO supported Penan indigenous communities in fighting for their legitimate entitlement to land rights in court. The Penan have strong ties with the land and forests, which play a strong role in maintaining local biodiversity.

Four Pathways

Tree planting programs have had very

mixed results. Many failures occurred because the trees planted were not suitable for local climate conditions, and others depleted groundwater reserves, leaving nearby soils dried out and damaging local agricultural production.

Natural forest restoration is the most effective way to store carbon from the atmosphere, the RTA argues. These forests are 40 times more effective than plantations and six times better than agroforestry at retaining carbon. Their complex ecological systems are also better for biodiversity.

The RTA says there are four main ways for countries to encourage the successful restoration of natural forests so as to temper the effects of the climate crisis:

1 They should increase the proportion of their land allocated for regeneration to natural forest.

2 Priority should be given to humid tropical areas, such as Amazonia, Borneo, and the Congo Basin, which support high biomass forest. International climate adaptation and conservation funds could be used to support such action.

3 Countries should focus on naturally regenerating existing carbon stocks such as degraded forests and partly wooded areas, using treeless regions for plantations or agroforestry.

4 Restored forests must be protected,

perhaps by giving title rights to indigenous peoples who protect forested land, changing the legal definition of land-use so that it cannot be converted to agriculture, and ensuring that commodities companies cannot clear restored forests.

Restoring natural forests, the Alliance concludes, is the most efficient, fastest, safest, and under-valued carbon sequestration tool.

The Rapid Transition Alliance is coordinated by the New Weather Institute, the STEPS Centre at the Institute of Development Studies, and the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, UK. The Climate News Network is partnering with and supported by the Rapid Transition Alliance, and will be reporting regularly on its work. If you would like to see more stories of evidence-based hope for rapid transition, please sign up at <https://www.rapidtransition.org/>.

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

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/how-to-rebuild-a-forest-in-a-growing-climate-crisis/>

Earth Regeneration

Nature Left Alone Offers More Than If We Exploit It

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: March 19, 2021

Save nature, save money. It's a simple argument. Wilderness cleared and ploughed offers us less than nature left alone.

LONDON, UK – British scientists have once again made the commercial case for conserving wilderness. They have demonstrated that in its pristine state – mangrove swamps, wetlands, savannahs, forests, and so on – nature left alone is of more value to humankind than as exploited real estate.

This argument has been made already, and more than once. But this time the researchers can provide the detail for their argument: they report in the journal *Nature Sustainability* that they had devised an accounting methodology to test such arguments, and then applied this in 24 selected sites around the planet.

Some of the value would be in intangibles such as providing a shelter for the wild things and wild plants; some of it would be measurable. For instance, if the damage inherent in carbon spilled into the atmosphere through habitat destruction or fossil fuel combustion presents an overall cost to society of \$31 a ton – and this is a conservative estimate – then almost three quarters of the sample sites have greater value simply as natural habitats.

And that includes 100% of all forests. If that greenhouse gas carbon was valued at a paltry \$5 a ton, almost two thirds of the sites would still be, over a 50-year period, a better investment left untouched.

But what climate scientists now call “natural capital” – the invisible services provided by nature in crop pollination, water filtration, and planetary air conditioning – is of measurable commercial value even without the vital role of carbon sink. Of the 24 sites, 42% would still be worth more in their natural form than converted to cropland.

“Stemming biodiversity loss is a vital



Image: Maxwell Ridgeway on Unsplash

Mangrove swamps are one type of natural asset that's more use if we don't try to exploit it.

goal in itself, but nature also fundamentally underpins human wellbeing,” said Richard Bradbury, of the University of Cambridge. “We need nature-related financial disclosure and incentives for nature-focused land management, whether through taxes and regulation or subsidies for ecosystem services.”

And his Cambridge co-author Andrew Balmford said, “Current rates of habitat conversion are driving a species extinction crisis unlike anything in human history. Even if you are only interested in dollars and cents, we can see that conserving and restoring nature is now very often the best bet for human prosperity.”

In fact the researchers made their conclusions based on 62 sites, but concentrated on 24 simply because in these cases they had the most reliable information about the potential commercial value of their sample against which to measure the value of restoring it, or protecting it, or both.

Valuable Saltmarsh

If Nepal's Shivapuri-Nagarjun National Park was turned from forest to farmland, investors would gain immediate capital from the value of the timber, and a longer-term income from crops. But the loss of

carbon storage would be 60%, and the damage to water quality would be 88%, and Nepal would be \$11,000,000 worse off.

Even a saltmarsh near Preston in the United Kingdom proved to be worth \$2,000 a hectare in terms of its value in mitigating carbon emissions: no income from crops or forage grazing could match that.

That left 38 sites for which the economic data was less certain: even in these cases, the “goods and services” delivered by the site in its natural state was, for two thirds of them, of more value to humankind as a whole than calculated exploitation by a few.

“Our findings indicate that, at current levels of habitat conversion, conserving and restoring sites typically benefits human prosperity,” the authors say.

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/nature-left-alone-offers-more-than-if-we-exploit-it/>

Ending Inequality



Photos by Prudence Amanya

Hands on skills training

College Grad Helps Community in Uganda

Note from the Editor: John and I met Marium electronically about two years ago when she was struggling to get her Bachelor's degree in Ethics and Human Rights. Now she's going gung-ho to help others and I'm so proud of her.

By Marium Ainebyona, Uganda (Nurturing for Future Development Organization)

The year 2020 was a year of great achievements for Nurturing for Future Development Organization (NFDO), Uganda. During the month of March, we managed to register the organization after a couple of months functioning without official registration. And in the same month we managed to establish offices.

The Organization registered a success in its fundraiser during the month of June; the funds were used for Covid-19 relief in the form of food and other basic needs to starving women and girls. With the same fundraiser in the month of August we raised more money and carried out the "Reach Out to Vulnerable Families" project and gave them basic needs

In the month of September, we fundraised for Olivia (a widow) and her five children and managed to construct a house

for them after a long time of misery without a roof on their heads.

After a long period of closure of schools due to the pandemic, they were opened in October and we managed to support 18 girls who dropped out of school and get them back to school.

During December (Christmas season), we reached out to hungry families, orphans, and vulnerable girls and women; we gave them food and clothes. In the same year we managed to get 18 girls individual sponsors for their Education.

Challenges

Being a grassroots organization, it was not easy for us to get funding from funding organizations and hence none of them funded us.

Having no Organization vehicle, we used public transport means or even walked, which has made our work so hard.

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Phone: +256706363720



Teenage girls were given scholastic materials.

Helping Others *continued on next page*

Ending Inequality

Helping Others *continued from previous page*



(above) Olivia's house before reconstruction. (right) Olivia's house after reconstruction.
(below) Teenage girls being sponsored under NFDO Uganda.



**COMPASSION IS
AN ACTION WORD
WITH NO BOUNDARIES.**

~ Prince ~

<https://line.17qq.com/articles/ijedghbhdz.html>

(left to right)
Board members
of the organization.
Komujuni Annah,
Mashemererna
Alexander,
Mbabazi Gabriel,
Sservadda Fabadi,
Ainebyona Marium,
Turyatunga Bob
Maabe, and
Mucunguzi Prossy.
Not shown, Sonia
Stoneman from
Australia.



Ending Inequality



Photo: World Trade Organization

Director General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, hits the ground running. She started this job on March 1, 2021.

Black Woman Is World's Top Trade Official for the First Time

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

World Trade Organization: March 5, 2021

On March 5, the new Director-General (DG), Nigerian Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, met with the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) as well as the Friends of the System, an alliance of small and mid-sized members from different regions and development levels that are committed to a well-functioning multilateral trading system.

DG Okonjo-Iweala also addressed the first meeting of the Structured Discussions on Trade and Environmental Sustainability, at the invitation of the 53-member group that is exploring ways trade and the WTO can better contribute to achieving environmental goals.

In her discussions with the LDC Group, the Director-General noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had reversed one or even two decades of development progress for many LDCs, and that it continued to disrupt key LDC exports, whether of tourism services, commodities, or manufactures. Trade and the WTO had a critical role to play, she said, both in making Covid-19 vaccines

more affordable and accessible, and in driving a global recovery in living standards. "We are here to make life in LDCs better," she added. "If we don't succeed with LDCs, we will not have succeeded."

Speaking to the Structured Discussions on Trade and Environmental Sustainability, the Director-General expressed agreement with the group on the "need to harness the power of trade for the environment," drawing particular attention to climate change and the potential to create jobs in sectors such as renewable energy.

She suggested the group could look at issues including trade in environmental goods and services, how trade could help meet net-zero carbon targets, ways WTO rules could foster circular economies, and options for addressing environmentally harmful subsidies. At the same time, DG Okonjo-Iweala emphasized that, "The green transition must be just and fair," with support for countries that need it, and care to ensure that environmental measures are not misused to discriminate against the exports of developing and least-developed countries.

She thanked the Friends of the System

for their efforts to help the wider membership find workable compromises on issues that have long been at an impasse.

Since taking office, DG Okonjo-Iweala has met bilaterally with a large number of ambassadors in Geneva and has spoken to heads of government, ministers, and her counterparts at other international organizations. She has also started meeting with regional and issue-based groups, including the Group of Latin American and Caribbean members earlier in the week.

In all of these discussions, the Director-General has urged members to engage with each other, show flexibility, and work towards concrete deliverables at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference to be held in Geneva in the week of November 29.

A top priority for her will be to continue her meetings with individual ambassadors and groups, including the African Group, the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific states, and the Association of South-east Asian Nations next week.

Source: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/dgno_05mar21_e.htm

Human Interest

Giving More Than Jeff Bezos

By David Hunter Bishop

Nomad living in Mexico for a while: March 19, 2021

I feel like I'm living the life of a wealthy philanthropist this week.

I received my stimulus check from Uncle Joe Biden on Wednesday, and since it's such a nice windfall, I'm setting aside more than half of it for the charitable organizations that I like to support when I can.

Normally I'm just a budget solo traveler on a modest, fixed retirement income. But the lack of travel this past year has allowed me to save some money, especially since I've been riding out the pandemic mostly in an affordable, low-income country, not the U.S.

With an extra USD1400 this month, on top of the USD1800 I received in the first two stimulus checks, I'm doing alright.

So I'm celebrating by helping the good people I know who do good work for others, which is a deeply satisfying use of my money. And by doing so, I gain the distinction of contributing a significantly larger portion of my net worth to good causes than that skinflint multi-billionaire, aka, the richest man in the world, Jeff Bezos!

Which is really cool. Here's who I'm giving money to, if you want to know:

FLYTE (Foundation for Learning and Youth Travel Education), sponsored by The Nomadic Network, provides opportunities for high school students in underserved communities to experience the transformative powers of international travel by sending them on trips abroad. <https://thenomadicnetwork.com/flyte>

The Zimbabwe Umuntu Permaculture Project, Harare, Zimbabwe, which is building a prototype permaculture garden for healthier, more sustainable communities that will be a model for future projects throughout Zimbabwe. <https://www.facebook.com/Zimbabwe-Umuntu-Permaculture-Projects-100743338294089/>

The Bail Project (USA), which raises funds to release pretrial detainees who are unable to afford bail. The Project keeps families together and addresses an unheralded problem in the U.S. that disproportionately affects poor and minority communities. <https://bailproject.org/>

The Pegasus Education Foundation, Paulsboro, NJ, USA, provides funds for educational enrichment programs in the local public schools that are not funded by the school district. Paulsboro is where I grew up and attended public school. <https://www.paulsboroeducationfoundation.org/>



Photo: Courtesy FLYTE

Students from B.E.S.T Academy of Bankhead, Georgia (USA) pose in front of the Chichen Itza pyramids on a visit to Yucatan, Mexico, in 2016 on a trip sponsored by the Foundation for Learning and Youth Travel Education (FLYTE).

Aniquem, in Lima, Peru, is the only long-term care facility for children with severe burns in Peru. Co-founded by a friend I met while traveling, I was introduced to the critically important work that Aniquem provides to burn victims and their families through sustained care and rehabilitation. <https://www.aniquem.org/>

The Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, based in Brick Township, NJ, USA, is an international organization of activists striving to save the planet and make it a better place to live. The *Groundswell News Journal*, a climate emergency newspaper, is a project of the Grassroots Coalition. <https://groundswellnewsorg.wordpress.com/>

The American Cancer Society (USA) is a national organization dedicated to the elimination of this terrible disease through research, public policy, education, and service. I'm sure we all know someone who has succumbed to cancer. In my case, both my parents and my only sibling. <https://www.cancer.org/>

The Indonesian-based Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project works

to prevent the extinction of orangutans and other wildlife, and to protect their native habitats from deforestation, through the application of scientific research, conservation, and education. <https://savegorangutans.org/>

I invite all my American friends to join me if you can by putting a portion of your own stimulus check toward people and organizations that are trying to make this a better world. Contribute to any of one of my favorites or choose one of your own. Or, you could even just drop a few bucks on a neighbor or friend that you know could use a little help.

There is no end to the need, and the satisfaction you receive is priceless.

David Hunter Bishop is a retired journalist from Hawaii who quickly grew tired of retirement and took to the road in 2016 as a full-time senior solo traveler. He's been to four continents and more than 20 countries, while experiencing a life-changing fulfillment of his dreams. His journey continues.

Source: <https://davidhunterbishop.medium.com/giving-more-than-jeff-bezos-f35c208b10e4>

Human Interest



Photos: savegorangutans.org

GPOCP's mission is to protect orangutan populations and forest biodiversity in and around Gunung Palung National Park. Recognizing that most threats to orangutan survival are human induced, we take a multi-faceted community-based approach to orangutan conservation. We have developed a variety of initiatives that enable us to respond to both immediate threats to orangutan habitat (e.g., illegal land clearance) as well as longer-term ones (e.g., attitudes of villagers towards the forest).

Gunung Palung Orangutan Project

Scientific Research • Conservation • Education

Since 1994, Dr. Cheryl Knott has been leading scientific research on the orangutan population in the Gunung Palung National Park under the Gunung Palung Orangutan Project, one of the longest running studies of wild orangutans in existence.

Scientific research plays a critical role in the conservation of Gunung Palung's orangutans because it is essential to monitor the population's size, health, and habitat use in order to a) understand what conservation approaches will be most useful and b) assess the impact of these conservation actions.

Our research program uses cutting edge scientific techniques to investigate orangutan reproduction, behavior, social organization, and physiology within an ecological context. Detailed behavioral data are collected in addition to urine samples from which hormones can be measured. All orangutan foods are collected and processed to analyze the caloric and nutrient composition of the orangutan diet.

The project is also investigating broader issues related

to great ape and human evolution. The project has relevance for understanding the limits on the reproductive potential of orangutan populations and is important for conserving this endangered species.

The Cabang Panti research site in Gunung Palung National Park is one of just a handful of long-term research sites for orangutan biology and behavior. We monitor a study population of over 80 individuals living in this rich rainforest habitat.

Because the continued survival of the approximately 2,500 orangutans living within the National Park depends on

the conservation of this habitat, Cabang Panti is an important site for both international orangutan research and rainforest conservation. In fact, the Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program (GPOCP) grew out of the original Gunung Palung Orangutan Project, with the goal of building support for orangutan conservation with local officials and communities around the park.

Donations can be made at <https://savegorangutans.org/how-to-help/donate/>.

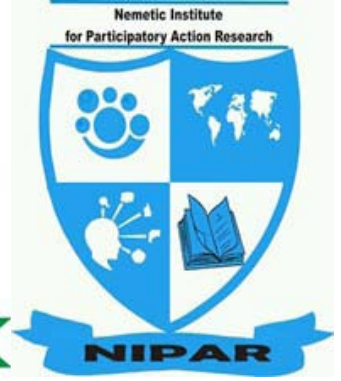
Source: <https://savegorangutans.org/research/>



Dr. Knott and field assistants observe female orangutan Kristen in the peat swamp forest of GPNP

Human Interest

Our Global Family Lost a Wonderful Man



Independent Publishing Center-Malawi

By Jonas Bauleni Fadweck, Thuchila Youth Empowerment Programme and Development Network (TIYEPAD)

Tribute and in Loving Memory of Michael Josefowicz (1946-2021) Founder and Consultant of Printernet Project - New York

You were like my father regardless of my race, tribe, age, color, and background. I still remember when we met on social network you said to me, "Don't wait to be rich to help someone, truly rich are those possess a rich heart rather than lots of money." Your kindness has turned me to most beautiful and important person in the world. You closed your eyes on Earth but shall shine upon us. I will remember you with, "Make things (happen) suck a little less; HPT/PM, onward ever forward." Missed by Malawian family and community. R.I.P

Internet and Computer Technological Challenge in Malawi and How Printernet Was Born

By Amos Magareta, TIYEPAD Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, *excerpt*

Printernet Project become an informal global network of independent publishing centres which use the power of print and Internet in the services of social justice based on social investing. Every Printernet Project was named according to the country/partner leaders. Other Printernet Malawi activities were about 10 posters concerning HIV/AIDS written in Malawi, edited, and designed in Portugal and distributed in the Malawian community.

The next step was the design and printing of a wonderful Newsletter which was distributed over the community, the micro SMART Goal projects.

The last but not least is the current project of installed WIFI to the village which also shocked community leaders. "It's so grateful to see my young people doing wonderful, unbelievable, and recommendable work in my community and I promise to give these youths a land and labor effort support to build their Printernet Telecenter Office," said Group Village Head Nkando.

Today the Printernet Project Site is under construction in the village for the first time ever (photo at right). However construction materials are still needed for completion of the building and 50% contribution is from community efforts.

Email from Jonas April 2: The late Michael's dreams were to build local villagers to become leaders for the next generation. In his teachings,

he used HPT as High Performance Team whereby everyone is a leader to make the non-doable become doable. Those who think they can not lead the society should have to lead. In every conversation he had to any folk, he usually closed with PM meaning Productive Meeting because he honoured every minute he spent with anyone. Since the demise of Michael we are surviving hand to mouth.

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Blog site: thuchilayouth.wordpress.com



Printernet Project building under construction.

Photo: Jonas Bauleni Fadweck

Human Interest

BREAKING

**NONPROFITS SEEK TO OVERTURN RULING THAT
COULD THREATEN THE PUBLIC'S ABILITY TO
INVOKE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**



By Melissa Marshall, Esq.
Mountain Watershed Association: March 18, 2021

Clean Air Council, Mountain Watershed Association, and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network petitioned the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to take up an appeal with big implications for the public's ability to access the courts to protect their environmental rights. If successful, the appeal will overturn a split decision by the Commonwealth Court which makes it nearly impossible for someone successfully appealing a permit issued under the Clean Streams Law to get reimbursed by the permittee for their legal expenses.

The Commonwealth Court affirmed the Environmental Hearing Board's decision that denied the groups' request for attorney's fees and costs stemming from a legal appeal of Sunoco's Mariner East 2 pipeline permits. In its decision, the Board raised the bar for having permit recipients, also known as permittees, pay legal fees after a successful challenge to an environmental permit. In addition to the normal standard for showing that an appellant should be awarded fees from another party, the appellant must also show that a permittee acted in "a dilatory, obdurate, or vexatious way" – a high bar that would be extremely difficult to prove.

This essentially limits permittees from ever having to pay legal fees, leaving only the state-funded Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to cover costs when permit challenges are successful. The Board has acknowledged that its practice places a burden on the taxpayer and has even cited this burden as justification for continuing its trend of awarding very small amounts of legal costs, if any.

"Fee shifting" provisions such as the one under the Clean Streams Law exist in order to incentivize individuals or groups to bring cases that stop discriminatory behavior, achieve improved access, or protect a

natural resource – all goals that are in the public interest but that may not result in a financial award. Legal experts, fees, and other costs necessary for these cases can easily reach tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the cases can go on for years or even decades, making appeals like this out of reach for most absent the ability to recoup costs.

Melissa Marshall, Community Advocate with the Mountain Watershed Association, commented that, "Without fee shifting provisions, attorneys would only be able to take ultra-wealthy clients. Removing fee shifting provisions – or severely restricting them as the court has done here – quickly leads to a scenario where everyone but the uber-rich is *de facto* stripped of their rights. The communities who are the most impacted by polluting activity are left without any way to gain representation, and hence, without a way to enforce the laws when they are violated by the acts of private industry or government during permitting."

"Having clean water to drink in Pennsylvania is not a given," said Joseph Otis Minott, Executive Director and Chief Counsel of Clean Air Council. "The Clean Streams Law only works if the public can enforce it, and the public can't enforce it if they're driven into bankruptcy appealing permits for industrial projects that pollute our streams and rivers. We're not going to sit

aside and watch as the laws protecting our drinking water are hollowed out."

The legal filing can be found at <https://cleanair.org/petition-for-allowance-of-appeal-pdf/>

Melissa Marshall, Esq.
Community Advocate
Mountain Watershed Association
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www.mtwatershed.org

Clean Air Council is a member-supported, non-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting everyone's right to a healthy environment. The Council is headquartered in Philadelphia and works through public education, community advocacy, and government oversight to ensure enforcement of environmental laws. For more information, please visit www.cleanair.org.

Mountain Watershed Association, home of the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, is a community-based non-profit organization concerned with the protection, preservation, and restoration of the Indian Creek and greater Youghiogheny River watersheds. For more information, please visit <https://www.mtwatershed.com/>

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a not-for-profit membership organization with over 25,000 members who live, work, and recreate within the Delaware River Watershed. Delaware Riverkeeper Network was established in 1988 to protect and restore the Delaware River, its tributaries and habitats. For more information, please visit www.delawareriverkeeper.org.

Source: <https://cleanair.org/nonprofits-seek-to-overturn-ruling-that-could-threaten-the-publics-ability-to-invoke-environmental-protections/>



Photo: commons.wikimedia.org

Human Interest

Is Technology Running Away With Your Life, Your Brain? TAKE CONTROL

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA with this note: Fighting back against too much tech in our lives.

Center for Humane Technology (CHT)
February 14, 2021

Here are a few important steps you can take right now to increase your well being and regain control. Start with your own devices and invite friends or family to join you. Our collective individual actions are creating a powerful growing movement. Together, we can change the system.

Note: The resources linked here will direct you to organizations who we think are doing great work. These third-party sites are not formally affiliated with CHT and their content may change without notice. Please review with care and discretion.



Turn Off Notifications

Red is a trigger color that instantly draws our attention. Reclaim your time by turning off notifications.

TAKE CONTROL

- Go to Settings > Notifications, or swipe left on any incoming notification and hit Manage > Turn Off

Remove Toxic Apps

Remove apps that profit off of addiction, distraction, outrage, polarization, and misinformation.

TAKE CONTROL

- Remove Facebook → Message friends with Signal (<https://signal.org/en/>)
- Remove TikTok → Send video messages by direct text or with Marco Polo (<https://www.marcopolo.me/>)



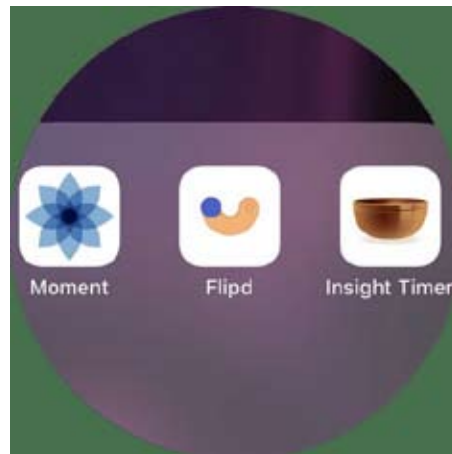
- Remove Snapchat → Get creative in Text instead
- Remove Instagram → Use VSCO for photography (<https://vsco.co/>)

Download Helpful Tools

While we can't solve tech with more tech, there are some tools out there that can help. Here's our short list (see our longer list at the bottom of this page).

TAKE CONTROL

- Get more sleep and remove blue light → Flux (justgetflux.com)
- Track your screen time & change habits → Moment (<https://inthemoment.io>)
- Reduce distractions → News Feed Eradicator (<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/news-feed-eradicator-for-fjldmjmhkklehbachiaopjklilhgg?hl=en>)



- Stay focused on your goals → Flipd (<https://www.flipdapp.co/>)
- Practice mindfulness → Insight Timer (<https://insighttimer.com/>)

Eliminate Outrage from Your Diet

We vote with our clicks. Don't support sites that pollute our cultural environment with vitriol via clickbait and outrage.

TAKE CONTROL

- Unfollow outrage-chasing voices on Twitter → Use iUnfollow (<https://iunfollow.com/>) to clean up your Following. Start fresh and intentionally choose the voices you expose yourself to
- Unfollow outrage driven Facebook Groups → Check your Groups > Settings > Following (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>)
- Remove sharply polarized media outlets from your news feed → Both MSNBC & FOXNews



Follow Voices You Disagree With

Social media serves us content we already agree with to keep us online longer, eroding our ability to engage with people who don't share our views. To solve problems from poverty to racism to climate change, we have to come together and expose ourselves to different perspectives.

TAKE CONTROL

- Check news sites whose perspectives you disagree with → AllSides (<https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>) gives readers a cross-partisan view of world events covered by the media, and sustains itself on a consciously created hybrid revenue model to avoid bias and clickbait incentives

Be Compassionate

Social media profits off hate and anger

Take Control *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Take Control *continued from previous page*

because it generates more engagement. Let's fight back with compassion.

TAKE CONTROL

- Pause → Remember there's a real person behind the screen: Don't be so quick to unfollow or publicly argue with someone who posts something you disagree with
- Be compassionate → Try a private message to ask why they feel that way, with genuine curiosity and a desire to understand



Set Boundaries

We use our phones and news feeds from the moment we wake up, to falling asleep, and even in the bathroom.

TAKE CONTROL

- Clear your morning & evenings → Set clear bounded blocks of time without technology
- Device-free dinners → Play a game where the first person to check their device does the dishes
- Create a shared charging station at home → Charge your family's phones away from bedrooms overnight
- Buy a separate alarm clock → Wake up without getting sucked into your phone first thing in the morning



Fully Disconnect 1 Day Per Week

Disconnecting can be a powerful way to reconnect with yourself and your loved ones. It's not only good for you — collectively we can reduce time spent on social media platforms by 15%, impacting bottom lines.

TAKE CONTROL

- Pick a date and let your friends and family know you'll be offline → Or better yet, invite them to join you



Remember the Positive

If you receive 99 positive comments on a post and 1 negative comment, which do you focus on? Our survival-biased brains

tend to focus on the negative, even after we turn away from our tech.

TAKE CONTROL

- Take screenshots of the positive messages you receive to store in a folder on your phone → Let the rest go. Tech warps how our brains receive feedback, and we can fight back by remembering the positive
- Practice cultivating gratitude for others and using technology to share your love → Send a special video to a friend with Tribute (<https://www.tribute.co/>) or Montage (<https://getmontage.co/>)

Support Local Journalism

Don't force your local newspaper to play social media's clickbait game. Support your local newspaper directly by paying for a subscription so that we can remain the customer, not the product. Democracy doesn't work without healthy journalism.

TAKE CONTROL

- Find your local newspapers and support them → USNPL directory (<https://www.usnpl.com/>)
- Upgrade your membership on platforms that provide meaningful content
Ready to join us and help change the system?

Additional Resources

Get More Sleep

- Turn on NightShift (iOS): Blue light from screens late at night tricks our body into believing it's still daytime, which disrupts our natural ability to sleep. Go to your Settings > Display & Brightness > turn on Night Shift.
- Flux (Mac, Windows): Reclaim 15 mins of quality sleep by cutting the blue light from your screen.

Understand Your Screen Time

- Moment (iOS): See how much time you spend on your phone and learn how to change your habits with daily coaching.

Source: <https://www.humanetech.com/take-control>

LET THE SOUND OF HEART-FILLED STILLNESS RING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,
CUT THROUGH THE CONFUSION AND CALL US TO OUR HIGHEST!

~ Joe Weston ~

<https://blessyourhearts.blogspot.com/2021/01/let-sound-of-heart-filled-stillness.html>

Human Interest



Photo: Helen H. Richardson/Denver Post

Media films water protectors at the Oceci Sakowin camp at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on December 4, 2016

Pipeline Company Issues Broad Subpoena to News Site

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Alleen Brown & Sam Richards
The Intercept: April 3, 2021

Last week, members of the nonprofit news organization Unicorn Riot received a subpoena from the pipeline giant Energy Transfer seeking a wide range of documents, including newsgathering materials that would identify sources. The subpoena is part of an aggressive, years-long legal effort launched by Energy Transfer in the wake of the Standing Rock movement, when thousands of opponents of the corporation's Dakota Access pipeline came to camps at the border of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in an attempt to stop pipeline construction and protect the tribe's drinking water from contamination.

Through a series of expensive conspiracy lawsuits against a disparate range of actors, the pipeline company has sought to paint the Standing Rock movement as the product of a vast misinformation-driven conspiracy to damage Energy Transfer.

Now, as part of that effort, Energy Transfer is demanding Unicorn Riot turn over virtually any documents, video footage, audio, article drafts, and communications related to the firm and its pipeline. The

subpoena also sought information about the nonprofit's organizational structure, social media accounts, and names of employees, volunteers, and supporters.

Niko Georgiades, who was among the Unicorn Riot reporters covering Standing Rock, was separately subpoenaed ...

Said Trevor Timm, executive director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation: "The breadth of the subpoena is striking: not only encompassing things like story drafts and internal communications, but also the personal information of Unicorn Riot's donors. The judge should see this for what it is: a menacing attempt to intimidate a news outlet whose only 'crime' is being critical of the company. It should be thrown out immediately" ...

Over the course of months of protests at Standing Rock, Unicorn Riot developed a reputation for its immersive livestreams, video news reports, and public information requests, which provided powerful evidence of the aggressive tactics used by law enforcement agencies and Energy Transfer. The organization's work leans to the left politically and tends to be critical of law enforcement agencies, with journalists often reporting from within movement spaces.

At Standing Rock, law enforcement offi-

cials at times viewed the group's journalists as members of the movement, subjecting them to repeated arrests as well as "less than lethal" weapons. Unicorn Riot has fewer than a dozen members and is entirely supported by private donations from individuals who seek out their coverage of social movements and protests ...

Energy Transfer, meanwhile, reported nearly \$5 billion in revenue in 2019 and has somewhere in the neighborhood of 13,000 employees. Fighting back will be an immense financial burden for a tiny organization like Unicorn Riot. The group has launched a fundraiser at <https://donorbox.org/unicorn-riot-nodapl-legal-defense> to pay for a First Amendment lawyer.

Critics say the toll exacted by fighting legal attacks is exactly the point of what Energy Transfer is doing. The Unicorn Riot notice was just one of a slew of subpoenas related to Energy Transfer's case over the last month to a wide range of individuals and groups who were involved in the Standing Rock movement. Among them were legal collectives, groups that provide nonviolent direct-action trainings, and Standing Rock tribal officials.

The Water Protector Legal Collective, which also received an Energy Transfer

Pipeline *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Pipeline *continued from previous page*

subpoena, described the subpoenas as part of a set of tactics “designed to bury organizations in litigation and force organizations to spend precious resources, time, and energy defending against corporations.” Energy Transfer “is on a fishing expedition for information that could lend credence to their ill-founded notion that nonprofit organizations and Water Protectors seeking to protect human rights and the Earth for future generations were allegedly engaged in illicit activity,” said staff attorney Natali Segovia in a statement. “In reality, it is ETP and large corporations that break the law with impunity.”

The subpoenas are part of a follow-up effort to a sprawling federal racketeering lawsuit Energy Transfer filed in 2017 against a range of defendants, including the environmental group Greenpeace; BankTrack, which is a nonprofit that pressures banks to stop financing harmful activity; and several individual pipeline opponents. The federal complaint alleged that thousands of people came to camps at the border of the Standing Rock reservation because of a Greenpeace misinformation campaign.

Widespread evidence, including a robust public record, show that water protectors instead were galvanized by calls for help made by tribal members and the publication of shocking footage showing Dakota Access pipeline security contractors siccing dogs on pipeline opponents.

Energy Transfer claimed it sustained \$300 million in damages, a total that could translate into triple the penalties — nearly \$1 billion — under the federal law called the Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations Act, known as RICO. The legal effort has been labeled a SLAPP suit by Greenpeace, short for “Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.”

The SLAPP designation refers to efforts designed to silence a powerful plaintiff’s critics by using the legal system to drain them of resources. The goal is not solely to win the lawsuit but to force a corporation’s political adversaries to hemorrhage money, time, and morale through relentless legal filings...

In February 2019, a judge summarily dismissed Energy Transfer’s initial federal RICO case. “Donating to people whose cause you support does not create a RICO enterprise,” he said [pg. 8]. “Posting articles written by people with similar beliefs does not create a RICO enterprise.”

Exactly a week after the dismissal, Energy Transfer filed a new complaint against Greenpeace in a local North Dakota district court. The new case basically repackages the old complaint without the federal RICO claims, adding instead allegations of trespassing and other property-based claims ... “The suit was brought to chill Greenpeace’s speech, drain our resources, and intimidate anyone who speaks out against pipeline projects,” said Greenpeace deputy general counsel Deepa Padmanabha ...

In the latest iteration of Energy Transfer’s legal attack, the corporation issued several subpoenas in recent weeks to individuals who are not defendants in the case. Among those subpoenaed are groups that provided legal services to people facing criminal charges during Standing Rock, including the Water Protector Legal Collective and the Freshet Collective. The Ruckus Society and Indigenous Peoples Power Project, which both promote non-violent direct action, were also subpoenaed. And so were officials involved in inspecting the pipeline route on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, including Dr. Kelly Morgan, an archeologist for the

tribe, and Tim Mentz, the tribe’s former tribal historic preservation officer, who submitted key testimony in a case arguing that the pipeline would harm culturally significant sites.

In an objection to its subpoena, the Water Protector Legal Collective (WPCL) noted that it has provided legal support in more than 800 criminal cases and argued that the subpoena is “seeking the records of a legal organization akin to a law office, including communications by, between, and among WPLC-associated attorneys, WPLC staff and its clients” [pg. 3]. The group said the subpoena was “an assault by Energy Transfer and Dakota Access upon the attorney client-privilege itself” and “a fishing expedition.”

The Water Protector Legal Collective subpoena even requested communications with members of the press. “This is a clear attempt to inhibit communications by an advocacy organization with the press in violation of WPLC’s first amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution,” the collective said in its objection [pg. 4] ...

Unicorn Riot has been forced to dedicate a sizable portion of its limited resources to deciding how to handle the sweeping subpoena, even as the group maintains round-the-clock coverage of the murder trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who killed George Floyd last summer and sparked a nationwide protest movement. “We are committed to bringing you hard hitting journalism and will not bow to attempts to intimidate or interfere with our reporting,” the organization stated on its new legal defense fund page.

Source: <https://theintercept.com/2021/04/03/unicorn-riot-dakota-pipeline-energy-transfer-subpoena/>

THERE COMES A TIME WHEN HUMANITY IS CALLED TO SHIFT TO A NEW LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS, TO REACH A HIGHER MORAL GROUND. A TIME WHEN WE HAVE TO SHED OUR FEAR AND GIVE HOPE TO EACH OTHER.

~ Wangari Maathai ~

<https://ml.pinterest.com/pin/208080445260236031/>

Human Interest

Invitation to Online Ocean University

The Trilogy of Ocean, Climate and Coast: The Urgency & Exigency of Literacy

Submitted by
Pariphat Promduangsri

The International Ocean-Climate School will be an international (IOCS) interdisciplinary, intercultural exploratorium.* It is open to all stakeholders with an interest in the intersection among the state of our climate, the well-being of our oceans, and the health of our coasts (where about half of the world's population live). The theme is:

The Trilogy of Ocean, Climate, and Coast: The Urgency and Exigency of Literacy.

The School will bring together four content areas: oceans, coastal processes, climate change, and geothics, as well as their interrelations. Several learning methodologies are used, including: participatory simulation, educational gaming, foresight & debriefing, in a spirit & context of international, intercultural, interdisciplinary sharing.

The School takes place on three Fridays, May 21 and 28 and June 4, 2021. The number of places is limited to 20, so you should apply early. For more information, please visit <https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate>.

The International Ocean-Climate School of the Ocean Open University will work for Ocean, coast, and climate literacy exploring the interrelations and influences among oceans, coastal processes, climate change, human activity, and sustainability and drawing on active- and experiential-learning methodologies. The October 2020 session of the IOCS was a success. Please see: <https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate/oct-2020>.

We will run a new session in May/June 2021. To be kept informed, please apply here: <https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate/admin>.

The International Ocean-Climate School is an exploratorium. Everyone with an



interest in the well-being of our ocean is invited to apply. The School will be of interest to people who, and organizations that, have a stake in planning and acting for the future of the oceans, especially the future of the oceans as they are being shaped by accelerating global warming and climate change. We will work at the intersection or nexus of oceans and climate.

*An exploratorium may be thought of as a participant-oriented forum for the hands-on, collaborative exploration of known issues through a new lens with the purpose of opening up pragmatic, action-oriented pathways to progress.

Stakeholders may include: Researchers, decision makers, citizens, scientists, students, activists, environmental organizations, NGOs, scientific institutions, local and central government agencies and their representatives, business and industry, local politicians, health, tourism, utilities, military, and transport.

Previous Schools have welcomed participants from a wide range of walks of life, skills, interests, experiences and qualifications:

• **Countries:** Brazil, France, India, Italy,

Iran, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, UK.

• **Qualifications:** high school leaving diploma, Bachelor's in business administration, BSc, hotel school diploma, Master, MBA, MSc, Engineering and PhD, and post docs.

• **Occupations:** environmental association volunteer, university, researcher, meteorology researcher, environmental studies students, researcher on reefs, CEO of a company, web developer, project officer, activist in climate NGOs, researcher in agent-based modeling, business person, founder and director of a climate NGO, freelance specialist in climate finance, international diplomat

and university president.

• **Gender balance:** Our goal.

• **Age range:** 18 and up.

• **Inter:** The above is a wonderful mix – *international*, *intercultural*, *intergenerational*, *interdisciplinary*, *interconnectedness*. Also the activities are *interactive*, the participants active, and we use the *Internet*.

Please note that our website is currently being modified and that information may change without notice.

In the meanwhile, stay safe.

Ocean Open University
Université Internationale de la Mer
Now: Online

Previously: Cagnes-sur-Mer & Sophia
Antipolis, French Riviera, France

Contact Ocean-Climate Literacy

<https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate>

International Ocean-Climate School
(IOCS)

https://twitter.com/IOCS_climate

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/iocs-ocean-climate/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Oceans.Climate/>

EACH MOMENT IS A CHANCE FOR US TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE WORLD.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh ~

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/16639-each-moment-is-a-chance-for-us-to-make-peace>

Human Interest

Faiths Institute Asks Gates Foundation to Change Tactics in Africa

Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA

By Fredrick Nzwili
Catholic News Service: February 22, 2021

NAIROBI, KENYA – An African faiths environmental institute is calling on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to stop funding green revolution technologies and genetically modified seeds for the continent, but instead support natural methods to help Africa achieve food sufficiency and protect its environments.

In an open online letter that is also asking for signatures, the Southern Africa Faith Communities' Environment Institute said the Foundation is fueling hunger and poverty by funding farming methods that fail to protect small-scale farmers and the environment.

The Gates Foundation said it is working to ensure that small-scale African farmers can lift themselves out of poverty.

The Southern Africa Faith Communities' Environment Institute concerns come as humanitarian agencies continue to warn that millions of people in Africa increasingly face hunger and poverty, partly due to climate change, conflict, and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This is a bold and strong call that is in line with Catholic social teaching principles of solidarity, preferential option for the poor, and care for our common home," Allen Ottaro, founder and executive director of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa, told Catholic News Service in a reaction to the petition. "It is in solidarity with the African smallholder farmers who are at risk of losing sovereignty over their food production in the long term, as well as the loss of a variety of food crops that are rich in nutrition."

The faith communities' institute said the Gates Foundation has been funding projects that promote growing of one specific type of crop in large fields at the expense of mixed cropping, a practice used by small-scale farmers in Africa for many years.

Also, the institute said, in the growing

of the single crop, the projects use heavy machinery, large amounts of fossil fuels, commercial fertilizers and pesticides in the approaches deemed to destroy the environment. At the same time, large tracts of land are acquired for the crop, leaving many ordinary farmers without farming lands. The actions disrupt the people's ability to cope with food-related challenges and withstand climatic changes.

"We urge the Gates Foundation to stop pushing a green 'revolution' that imposes technologies and seeds that are controlled by companies with vested interests. Rather, it should be looking at and learning from small-scale farmers from around the world who are working to build alternative food systems that are socially just and ecologically sustainable," said the faith communities institute, which includes some Catholic organizations.

Prince Papa, program coordinator of the Global Catholic Climate Movement in Africa, said ventures in agriculture, technology, or the entire economy should have Creation at the center of their desired outcomes.

"Resources should also be concentrated in the hands of small-scale holders and the least in the community. This does not mean that profits alone are 'bad,' but that a reassessment should be made where new information comes in, to reevaluate the driving force behind the development," Papa said in a response to the letter.

At the same time, Ottaro said Africa is one of the continents most vulnerable to the climate crisis. He said while its rich biodiversity can help absorb climate-related shocks, industrial-scale agriculture was chipping away this cushion. This weakens the resilience of local economies and food supply chains, as seen from the pandemic.

"The threats to biodiversity and land degradation" as a result of large-scale farming are concerning, "not just for the present but also future generations," said Ottaro, while stressing that highly centralized food-supply systems can be vulnerable to disruptions, and price increases, which often impact the poor most.

He cited recent border disruptions in East Africa where Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania demanded Covid-19 testing or certificates of tests from drivers and crews, resulting in delaying delivery of food commodities. This led to an increase in the prices of certain foods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Southern Africa Faith Communities' Environment Institute – which includes Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Baha'I, and African traditional faiths – said widespread hunger in the region during the Covid-19 crisis has highlighted a systematic failure of the current profit-driven system.

In a response to the Institute's letter, which was to be published officially February 23, the Gates Foundation said that, through its agricultural development initiative, it works to ensure smallholder farmers have access to a wide range of resources and innovations they need to improve their livelihoods and lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

"We do this by working with partners to help make smallholder crops and livestock more productive, to improve nutrition, and to empower women farmers," said a short statement from the Foundation sent to Catholic News Service. "Our work is guided by what smallholder farmers and local agriculture businesses say they need to succeed and by the priorities their governments have embraced in their national agriculture investment plans."

The Foundation said it believed there are many paths to achieving sustainable food production.

"African farmers, like farmers everywhere, should be empowered to choose from a range of innovations that can help them adapt to stressful conditions like high temperatures, droughts, floods, pests, and diseases, which continue to intensify due to climate change," the Foundation said.

Source: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/faiths-institute-asks-gates-foundation-change-tactics-africa>

OUR MOTTO: USE IT UP, WEAR IT OUT, MAKE IT DO, OR DO WITHOUT!

Human Interest

Our Readers Help Find Important News

Hi Iona,

I saw a troubling article about the direct risks to human survival as a species presented by chemical pollution in our environment. See the attachment "Environmental Pollution Causing Low Sperm Count."

See also the graph "The World's largest arms producers." Just think of the trillions of dollars America spends on developing tools of death and destruction. That money needs to go instead to developing means to support the health of the planet and creating a healthy, equitable society at home.

Best regards,
Anders Eklof, Sweden

Plummeting Sperm Counts, Shrinking Penises: Toxic Chemicals Threaten Humanity

By Erin Brockovich, *excerpt*
The Guardian: March 18, 2021

The end of humankind? It may be coming sooner than we think, thanks to hormone-disrupting chemicals that are decimating fertility at an alarming rate around the globe.

A new book called *Countdown*, by Shanna Swan, an environmental and reproductive epidemiologist at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, finds that sperm counts have dropped almost 60% since 1973. Following the trajectory we are on, Swan's research suggests sperm counts could

reach zero by 2045. Zero. Let that sink in. That would mean no babies. No reproduction. No more humans.

Forgive me for asking: Why isn't the UN calling an emergency meeting on this right now? . . .

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/18/toxic-chemicals-health-humanity-erin-brokovich>

The World's Largest Arms-Producing Companies

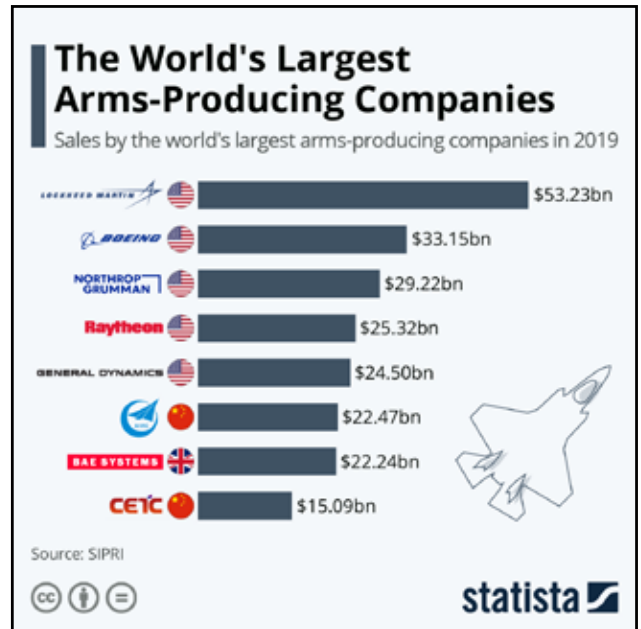
By Niall McCarthy, *excerpt*
Statista: December 7, 2020

Last year, sales by the world's 25 biggest arms companies were 8.5 percent higher than in 2018, totaling \$361 billion, according to new data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The 12 American companies in the top 25 accounted for 61 percent of that total. Lockheed Martin retained its place at the top of the biggest arms-producing companies with \$53.23 billion in sales. Boeing's arms sales came to \$33.15 billion last year, while Northrop Grumman came third with \$29.22 billion.

SIPRI noted that the

Middle East is now represented in the top 25 for the first time. EDGE was formed by the merger of 25 smaller companies in the United Arab Emirates and it came in at number 22, and it accounted for 1.3 percent of the list's total arms sales. There are three Chinese companies in the top 10 and a total of four in the top 25. They grew their sales by 4.8 percent between 2018 and 2019, mainly due to modernization programs being carried out by the People's Liberation Army...

Source: <https://www.statista.com/chart/12221/the-worlds-biggest-arms-companies/>



Cellphones: Pros and Cons

By Barrett Hnatt, New Jersey USA (Age 14)

Cellphones. One of the most commonly used items – most everyone uses one on a daily basis, right?

Yes, that's quite correct. According to global tech company Asurion, the average American checks their phone 96 times a day. That's once every 15 minutes!

I think that Smartphones are in fact useful, especially for things like GPS, music, texting. Face Time is great if you are an iPhone user, especially for talking to family and friends during times like Covid-19.

These are some of the good, helpful resources given to you by way of a Smart-

phone.

The question is: Are these things essential and needed to go on a daily life? The answer is "No" because we've lived without them before, but how much of an effect would that have on your daily life? For many, the effect would be drastic as the average American spends 5.4 hours a day or 5 hours and 24 minutes a day on their phones, according to 'sdnet.com.'

If we were just to use our phones for stuff like the essentials and disregarding social media and games, then I think that would be good, as the numbers show that most people are avid users of the Internet and social media. I think our electronic

devices have also benefited our lives as it opens a new net of jobs in computer science and marketing and advertising and things of that nature.

Along with that, social media also brings jobs but also things like GoFundMe.com bring awareness to people with unfortunate situations. People sharing their story, giving them hope and perseverance to keep going is really a great thing.

Overall, I don't think the production of new devices is all too necessary. As people will find ways to keep doing what they do on their phones regardless and it won't change that.

Human Interest

Bright Green Lies: How the Environmental Movement Lost Its Way and What We Can Do About It

By Derrick Jensen, Lierre Keith, and Max Wilbert

Advanced Praise for *Bright Green Lies*

“*Bright Green Lies* is a much needed wakeup call if we are to avoid sleepwalking to extinction – joining 200 of our fellow creatures and relatives that are being driven to extinction per day by an extractivist, colonizing money machine that is lubricated by limitless greed, and guided by the mechanical mind of industrialism. This destructive machine is labelled ‘civilization,’ and its violent and brutal imposition on indigenous cultures and communities is legitimized as the ‘civilizing mission’ for which exterminations of the rich cultural and biological diversity of the Earth is necessary for the linear, blind rush to progress. Religions change, extermination continues.

“But there are other ways: the ways of indigenous cultures to whom we must turn to learn how to walk lightly on the Earth.”

~ Dr. Vandana Shiva ~

Founder of Navdanya and the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Economy; author of *Earth Democracy* and *Making Peace with the Earth*

A note from the authors on Language

It’s customary when writing about nonhumans to use the relative pronoun *that* rather than *who*: “We cut down the tree that used to grow by the pond,” not “We cut down the tree who used to grow by the pond.”

The authors of this book use ‘who’ when speaking of nonhumans because we believe that how we speak of the world profoundly affects how we perceive and experience the world, which in turn profoundly affects how we act in the world. If we perceive the life around us as a collection of resources to exploit, then exploit them we will – and ultimately, we will destroy the world in our attempts to control it. As we see happening now.

If, on the other hand, we perceive the world as consisting of other beings with whom we share our home, then share our home with them we will – with all of the richness, beauty, and wisdom that this entails.

Changing language is no substitute for organized resistance to the ongoing destruction of this once-fecund and now-wounded planet, and it’s no substitute for the protection and restoration of wild places and wild beings, but it’s an important step toward changing our values, priorities, and actions.

* * * * *

***No technology is neutral.
That sentence carries
our only hope.***

Page 12, *Bright Green Lies* (Read more about this in our next issue of *Groundswell News Journal*.)

From *Bright Green Lies* cover:

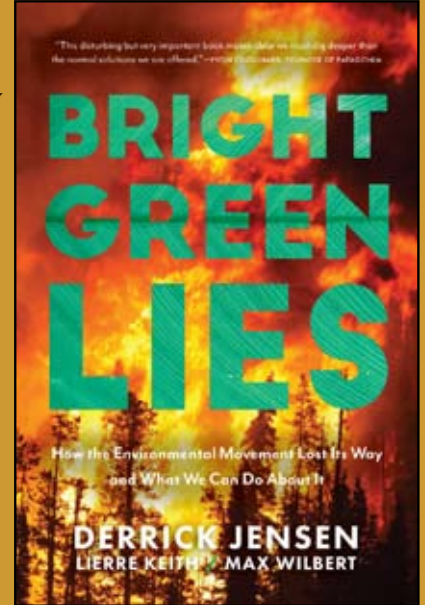
“*Bright Green Lies* exposes the hypocrisy and bankruptcy of leading environmental groups and their most prominent cheerleaders. The best known environmentalists, he illustrates, are not in the business of speaking truth, or even holding up rational solutions to blunt the impending ecocide, but a mendacious and self-serving illusion that provides comfort at the expense of reality. They fail to state the obvious. We cannot continue to wallow in hedonistic consumption and industrial expansion and survive as a species.

The environmental debate, Jensen argues, is, because of them, distorted by hubris and the childish desire by those in industrialized nations to sustain the unsustainable. All debates about environmental policy need to begin with honoring and protecting, not the desires of the human species, but the sanctity of the Earth itself. We refuse to ask the right questions because these questions expose a stark truth – we cannot continue to live as we are living. To do so is suicidal folly.

“Tell me how you seek and I will tell you what you are seeking,” the German philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein said. This is the power of *Bright Green Lies*. It asks the questions most refuse to ask and in that questioning, that seeking, uncovers profound truths we ignore at our peril.”

~ Chris Hedges, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *America: The Farewell Tour* ~

Purchase: \$26.95 via PayPal or \$25.95 check or money order at <https://derrickjensen.org/purchase/#bright-green-lies>, email Derrick at derrick@derrickjensen.org.



**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 ~



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.

Consumer Liberation

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

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

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



Groundswell News

Our beautiful journal will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at www.groundswellnews.org. Email groundswellnews@pa.net to be put on our e-list. It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

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Please consider placing your ad with us. Send me your material at groundswellnews@pa.net and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful.

Thank you.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



(first email)

Dear Lona.

On behalf of the organization and myself, I would like to express my appreciation towards this wonderful project you are doing.

I take this chance to request you and your team to consider partnering with Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Southwestern Uganda. For more information about us please visit our website www.pfohf.org.

We believe together we can make change and also we can do many projects. We can work together such as volunteering exchange programs where you will be sending volunteers to come to Uganda to explore new things in their life.

Also, we shall be providing some stories to publish in your newsletter.

Currently, the organization is struggling to keep its work through harder times especially when there are no donations, only my small financial support towards its implementation.

Thank you very much and hoping you might help us to raise some funds and raising awareness of our organization. If possible, you might contact me with a university to partner with us through volunteering exchange programs.

Also, we are looking for a professional volunteer willing to travel to Uganda to do a documentary for the organization. We are updating our site every month with testimonies from our sponsored children.

Once again thanks for everything you are doing. I wish you a wonderful week ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Uwineza Mark, Founder & Director

Address: Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation

P.O.Box 182 Kisoro, Plot 10 Mutanda Road, Kisoro Municipality, Uganda

Mobile phone: +256 (0) 772 192 550 or +256 (0) 782682508

Skype: uwineza.mark

Website: www.pfohf.org

Email: hopefoundationp@gmail.com, uwinezamarck@yahoo.com

(second email)

Dear Reader,

I work directly with the children that you support through your donations and was asked to write a short piece.

In my role as Founder, I grew up with hardships and I believe no children should suffer. These vulnerable boys and girls are suffering through no fault of their own and desperately need our help. Please donate today to our orphans through our PayPal account uwinezamarck@gmail.com

For more information please visit our website www.pfohf.org or official Facebook Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation.

As a Macklin, Christina lived in a house that was filthy and dangerous. She wasn't given enough food to eat and was often left to fend for herself. Sometimes she even ate from the rubbish bin. The thing that struck me most about Christina was how dirty her hands were. But Christina was too young to know any better.

At Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation we believe that no child should have to suffer neglect like this. As well as the suffering they have to endure, neglect can cause problems in later life such as self-harm, substance misuse, and difficulty in forming relationships.

Your donation can help the most needy orphans and neglected children and young people to grow up with the love, care, and protection they so desperately need.

A \$30 donation could buy emergency supplies like food and personal care kits for a street family.

A \$50 donation could provide a life-changing counseling session and business training at our incubation center for orphans and vulnerable children

I've seen first-hand the damage that living on the streets can cause. Please – help us to change the lives of these children before it's too late. Your kindness really will make such a difference.

Thank you,

Uwineza Mark

(email generously sprinkled with emojis)

Good morning Aunt Iona ma.

I remember when we just started talking on Facebook you told me about your other names, right now I don't remember but I will check it up again.

I want to thank you for publishing my Artwork, it meant a lot to me. It did Aunt. (See page 14, GNJ #73) I do get commission Aunt, and any commission from anywhere in the world is welcomed too.

I realized that I have a reputation to keep now seeing that several people in the world can see my artworks in different countries. I must do my best to maintain that level of detailing and improve.

Any commission is welcomed Aunt.

Thank you for the opportunity of putting my art up on stage. I said this year, many years ago that I'd be a world known artist (WKA) and I see that happening already, thank you Aunt.

Commissions are very welcome.

I have been sharing the newspaper with all of my friends and friends of friends, it's been incredible. I want to do more.

How can I contribute more to the work... Reading the newspaper I saw so much work done. The designs to the story(ies)... Fabulous.

You need the break, if I was the one doing this u definitely would be like going on breaks.

Keep enjoying your work, Aunt (with Mary Kay). Anything you need, lemme know.

Take care of you, I'll be writing to you from time to time on checking up on you.

Take care aunt, muuaaah!!!

Prince Timmy, Nigeria

Thank you for the wonderful Rotary work/service that you are doing. Greetings from Rotarian Herbert in Uganda. Uganda is your real destination in regard to your future travel. Maybe you have not thought about it or visited Uganda or even fall in love with Uganda, the pearl of Africa, or maybe never got a genuine partner like me to share with about this most world's

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travel destination in the world or join me in developing this love and relationship for Uganda travel. I motivate you to think about Uganda and what it offers under the planet Earth. www.onevillagetours.com

Herbert Bagyenyi, Uganda

The Mentor (No Die No Rest) "YOUR WORTH IS ONLY DETERMINED BY YOU" It's not about the outside voices that question your values. It seldom doesn't matter whether you are loved or liked by anyone. And it certainly does not matter how much you have been down, wrong, frustrated. What should be your greatest concern is YOU. You determine your worth and value. You don't have to prove yourself to anyone. Stop seeking for outside validation. You have everything in you. All you need is to believe in yourself and try to build yourself. Even if you don't have the needed financial means right now, but never cease to work on yourself. Make maximum use of any opportunity that comes by. Don't worry about what people will say. They are just another distraction. Be humble and generous to all and stay away from toxic people. If you feel lost and confused, just pray to God and the light shall be shown. Keep on walking as long there's a road to walk. In the end voices of the Naysayers will be like a dust on roof that is washed away by the rain and storms. If you need anyone to walk you through the storms, am available if you need one. Let's build the minds together. (Let's chat.) Am Your Mind Doctor (Leadership and Personal Development Coach) #GATEAFRI-CA_INSPARATION. #YOU_HAVE_THE_RIGHT_2BE_MOTIVATED.

Mohammed D. Konneh, Liberia

(first email)

Hi Iona.

Finally, a much-delayed response to your most recent *Groundswell*.

First, I must start by thanking you for publishing my recent article ("Destroying the Web of Life: The Destruction of the World's Biodiversity is Accelerating" in GNJ #73) and also the emails we sent to the Coalition welcoming its membership in the Non-violence Charter. It is

great to have our fine networks aligned.

As for *Groundswell*: All one can say is that it contains the usual combination of sobering material and uplifting news, as many 'ordinary' people who are not really ordinary at all put their heart and soul into efforts to improve the state of our world.

We also hope that your 'break' from Coalition activities as you endeavor to make your personal financial situation more secure goes well.

It says a great deal about our world that those of us who struggle so relentlessly are denied the economic security that less honorable employment offers. Still, we would not have it any other way for our own lives, hey?

In appreciation, Iona, of you and the Grassroots Coalition.

Love,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

(second email)

Hello everyone.

Thoroughly enjoyed reading what you all do.

Great stuff!

Look forward to hearing Raj's TED talk.

In sincerest appreciation;

Robert Burrowes, Australia

Here is the link to a TED talk the future Vice President of our Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (Rituraj Phukan) gave and a photo he sent. <https://youtu.be/SBy4irpWRr8>



Superlative environmental activist and educator Raj Phukan, who is also a Board member of the Grassroots Coalition, giving a powerful, eloquent, passionate TED talk earlier this year.

Hi Iona,

I should be grateful if you would send me your postal address so I can send you an article from *The New York Times* on the Spanish coop John so admired [Mondragon].

Sylvia wrote me that you were going to take a break from your Grassroots work to focus on "bread and butter" for a few months. When you resume environmental reporting, please reinstate me on your email list. I somehow slipped off. Thanks.

God bless you, and all that you do for our Earth! May it flourish.

Pat Miller, Colorado USA

Hi Iona.

Sorry I haven't been able to participate but I have been following along with wonder at how the Grassroots Coalition has been revived! Congrats!

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

Thank you very much for the update. You are doing great work and its pleasure to be a member in the inspiring network. It's a wonderful job you are doing.

I am here to connect with you in this pandemic era and in the midst of several challenges as I believe that "nothing comes in silver platter."

For the time being I would like to send you my latest April newsletter and hope I can send you both copies of February and March unconverted pdf copies for you to easily edit and copy as well as paste.

Jonas Bauleni Fadweck, Malawi (Thuchila Youth Empowerment Programme and Development Network, Printernet)

You can always check our website for stories about our work. www.ruralwatchafrica.org. I had published many stories so I will try get you links to these stories for you to read.

I would love to know the procedure for becoming a member. My organization is presently run by my single effort, so I would love to be sure it's what I could carry.

Uche Isieke, Nigeria (Rural Watch Africa Initiative, see his story in the next issue of *Groundswell*; also to become a member

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all one needs to do is email me at groundswellnews@pa.net. Donations are treasured but not necessary.)

Dear Iona,

Thank you so much for your lovely email. My team and I are really grateful for your help.

Thanks for pointing out the age thing. We expressed it wrongly. We accept people of all ages. 65 was for the oldest participant in our previous session. We have now corrected it on the webpage. And we will be very happy if you wish to participate: but the problem is time zone, not age.

I put *Groundswell* on our webpage "support." You will find it here in section D: <https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate/support>. If you would like to change or modify anything, please let me know.

I am not sure of how I heard about you. I think that I was looking through newsletters related to the environment.

Thank you for the last edition – I read through it quickly, and it looks absolutely wonderful and enriching! We will also mention your Journal on our social media!

Is there anything that you need to be able to write your article. You will find some

feedback from participants here: <https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate/oct-2020>

Warm wishes, Pariphat
Ocean-Climate Literacy
<https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate>

International Ocean-Climate School (IOCS)

https://twitter.com/IOCS_climate
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/iocs-ocean-climate/>

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Springtime in the USA Artwork by Maryann Daurio, New Jersey USA