

# Groundswell News Journal

A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice

*We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.*

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

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

*A Celebration of Youth. [www.groundswellnews.org](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Issue No. 76: June 12, 2021*



Photos Courtesy HOBEFI

The banner reads: *Insittut De Formation Professionnelle "Hope for a Better Future."* Then it lists all the courses which will be offered; they are also listed on page 3.

## Hope for a Better Future Vocational Training Institute Opens in Cameroon

By the Hope for a Better Future Team

### Overview

Hope for a Better Future Vocational Training Institute (HOBEFI), with authorization from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, Cameroon, is in partnership with Master Peace International, Turing Foundation, and Noorderpoort to prepare students for a better life with a three-year comprehensive practical training in very useful trades and skills.

It seeks to provide sound practical training to youths with much priority to young women. It also seeks to impart to her students sound moral and spiritual values. The Institute is aimed at inculcating in the students a high sense of civic responsibility

through community participation in its activities; for example, peace building and employment creation.

HOBEFI provides skill development through technical and vocational training in order to equip youths with relevant skills demanded by the labor market. Upon completion of the vocational courses, students will be attached to the respective companies for industrial training to acquire hands-on skills and experience. This exposure to the world of work is expected to increase their employability and subsequently, sustainability.

The project was jointly developed by Ngo Banfogha (founder of H4BF) and Dorothee J.C. Meijer (MasterPeace Foundation's African's clubs coordinator). Mas-

terPeace is a young, positive, international peace movement. They are active in more than 40 countries. The project was funded by Turing Foundation and Noorderpoort, who will assist in developing the training courses and also train trainers who will manage the center. We are still in need of both funding and technical partners to fill gaps in various sectors.

### Our Target Group

Our target group is youths, who will subsequently establish businesses and create employment opportunities for other youth in the Renewable Energy value chain, ICT industry, Textiles, and Agriculture through courses like Web and

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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](http://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

**Contact:** Grassroots Coalition, c/o Iona Conner, P.O. Box 542, Point Pleasant Boro, NJ 08742-9996; [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net)

**Contributors:** Dan Adams, Ngo Banfogha, Jeannette Bartelt, Jonas Bauleni Fadweck, Dubem Daniel Gbujie, Derrick Jensen, Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, Frank Kromkowski, Jussa Kudherezera, Stephen Leahy, Rituraj Phukan, Olusanya Temitope Prince

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: *So Many Earth Activists!*

Dearest Global Family,

I am delighted to present this issue of *Groundswell News Journal* because it's full of activities our friends and members of the Grassroots Coalition did on World Environment Day (June 5). If you want to watch the program I was honored to participate in (page 7) with my friend Dr. Daniel Dubem Gbujie, founder of Team 54 Project International, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvI5DYIg7N0>.

It was exciting to get photos from Jonas Bauleni Fadwick in Malawi, Prince Kitumaini Kamundala in DR Congo, and Grassroots Coalition Board member Jussa Kudherezera in Zimbabwe, all of whom were outdoors doing physical work on behalf of Planet Earth and therefore on behalf of all of us and all life.

Also thrilling is our front page story about the Vocational Training Center recently completed by Hope for a Better Future in Cameroon. A core group of us has been working hard with Ngo Banfogha, founder of the group, on two proposals for funding. We hope that once these proposals are complete, we can reach out to other members of the Coalition and help them get funding for their projects, too. But the process is in its infancy so we all need to be patient until we have taken these first steps. Ngo has been an incredible leader; he's very knowledgeable about grants.

We will be discussing this at our June 19th Zoom meeting. If you're not already a member of the Grassroots Coalition and want to be included, please email me at [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net). Thank you!

Hope you enjoy reading this issue and will network with some of our friends.

Love,  
Iona

## Climate Emergency

Training continued from page 1



Students learning about solar energy. Upon completion of the vocational courses, students will be attached to the respective companies for industrial training to acquire hands-on skills and experience.

App Development, Computer Networking & Maintenance, Fashion and Designing, Database Administration, and Agriculture in order to enable them become better entrepreneurs.

### Our Objectives

- Promote the welfare of youths with priorities given to women and girls, especially vulnerable ones like Persons with Disabilities.
- Train youths from the ages of 16 to 30 in self-reliant life skills, so that they will be able to carry out economic activities which enhance their self-esteem and enable them to be part of the mainstream of the development of their communities.
- Provide start up initiatives to graduates, to enable effective integration and job creation abilities in their various communities.
- Train them in basic management skills, record keeping, and entrepreneurial skills.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of graduates for some years for any pos-

sible backfilling.

- Set up a revolving micro finance scheme to benefit ex-trainees with symbolic interest.

### Expected Results

After the training, we expect the trainees to:

- a) Be well equipped in at least one life skill that fully empowers them economically and socially;
- b) Be armed with leadership and basic management skills to run a good business;
- c) Start up a self-owned workshop.

### Fields of Study/Courses

HOBEFI offers the following courses with its modules, which are developed by our course instructors with supervision from a team of European partners that is well experienced in the sector.

- RENEWABLE ENERGY
- APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT
- WEB DEVELOPMENT
- COMPUTER NETWORKING AND MAINTENANCE

- DATABASE ADMINISTRATION
- SMART AGRICULTURE
- FASHION AND DESIGNING

### Study Mode

Lectures and tutorials are done on site and online. Upon completion of the vocational courses, students will be attached to the respective companies for industrial training to acquire hands-on skills and experience.

The training modules of the various courses are developed and will be supervised by our European education partners, Noorderpoort, who are renowned experts in the sector.

### Registration Procedure

For all academic programs, registration is both online and on campus. Completed application forms are returned to the admission office of HOBEFI or through the school's email address.

Training continued on next page

*Climate Emergency*

# Grassroots Coalition Members Celebrate World Environment Day on Three Continents, On the Ground and Online



Photo: Tinashe Muzama

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) celebrated World Environment Day with stakeholders from Marymount Teacher's College, ZimParks, and youths in marginalized communities under the theme: "In memory of the youths who passed on due to Covid-19." In a statement, ZimParks representative, Mr. Mashava, urged the youths to plant as many trees as they can for environmental conservation. Moreover, Dean of Students for Marymount Teacher's College, Mrs. Matsongoni, said, "We urge people to plant trees as a way to mitigate climate change. We should develop a culture 'teach them young' thus encouraging children to be involved in tree planting activities." Contact MAYA by email: [manicayouthassembly@gmail.com](mailto:manicayouthassembly@gmail.com); phone: +263772351138; Twitter: @ManicaYouth; website: <https://manicayouth.org>

**Training** continued from previous page

## Admission Requirements

- Complete application form.
- A copy of GCE O/L or Probatoire (at least 4 papers).
- A copy of GCE A/L or Baccalaureate (at least 2 Papers).
- Copy of Birth Certificate.
- Two color passport-sized photographs.

## Duration of Training

The training duration ranges between one and three years depending on the trade and on the learning ability of each trainee.

## Fee Structure

Fees are moderate and are reviewed at the end of each academic year for adjustments if necessary.

The total amount of fees to be paid by each student for an academic year is subdivided into three parts (see fields of study).

For more information concerning the fee structure, please contact the bursary of HOBEFI through the provided contacts or through the school website at: [www.hobefi.org](http://www.hobefi.org).

## Academic Calendar

**Admission begins:** 1st August  
**Classes begin:** 20th October

**Orientation:** 22nd October

**Publication of list admitted Students:**  
24th November

**Matriculation:** 28th November

**Registration is Currently Ongoing for the 2021/2022 Academic Year**

## CONTACT US

Carrefour Maitre Bopda, Bafoussam, West Region

**Phone:** (+237) 650 139 070 / 658 977 567

**Email:** [info@hobefi.org](mailto:info@hobefi.org)

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

Climate Emergency



Happy world environment day together for a better the world

(left) Jonas Bauleni Fadweck, Malawi (Thuchbila Youth Empowerment Programme and Development Network, Printernet) (right) Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, DR Congo (Action for Environment Care and Business and Ecosysteme Management)

(below) Grassroots Coalition Vice President, Rituraj Phukan, gave many webinars and had an important article published in his local newspaper.

4 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

MESSAGE FOR TODAY  
*The only good is knowledge, and the only evil, ignorance.*  
- DIOGENES

**The Assam Tribune**

**Protecting journalists**

Journalism is a hazardous profession, not only in authoritarian nations, but even in countries which profess to be democratic. At the global level, recent developments, such as the forced landing of a commercial airliner by Lithuania to arrest a dissident journalist, the imprisonment of a media mogul in Hong Kong, or the arrest of journalists in Myanmar, are telling examples of the pitfalls which beset professionals in this line. The tragedy is that even in a democratic regime like India, journalists often face the ire of the ruling dispensation, simply because they criticise certain actions taken by it. For instance, earlier this year, multiple FIRs alleging sedition and creation of communal disharmony had been filed against journalists Rajdeep Sardesai, Vinod K Jose, Anant Natta, Parash Nath, Mridul Pandey and Zafar Agha in connection to tweets and coverage on a farmer's death in Delhi on January 26. At that time the Uttar Pradesh Police had also filed an FIR against The Wire, its founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan and reporter Iman Arora for a report on the farmer who died in the tractor rally on Republic Day. In fact, throughout the period after independence, it had required the intervention of the Judiciary to protect journalists from being at the receiving end of the ire of our this-skinned politicians and bureaucrats who do not like it when their actions are criticised, and react beligerently.

It is in this context that the quashing of the sedition case against journalist Vinod Dua by the Supreme Court of India must be viewed. Over a year ago, a local BJP leader in Shirdi had filed an FIR against Dua over comments circulating that the Central Government, the complainant had alleged that Dua had accused Prime Minister

## Restoring the wild to forge new ties with nature

**Rituraj Phukan**

We now know that human well-being is directly dependent on healthy ecosystems and we must strive to build our resilience and adaptability with Nature. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the limits of our dependence on earth and underlined development goals and aspirations. The environmental crisis this year reflects the new proactive approach with emphasis on restoration and rewilding of degraded landscapes to bolster regenerative conservation efforts.

The unprecedented loss of biodiversity magnified our spotlight fall on to restore any of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the past decade. In response, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) came up with the vision of 'Zero-degradation 2020 global biodiversity showcase' which includes to be adopted by countries at the ministerial summit in October this year. The framework aims for the protection of at least 30% of all land and sea areas to stable biodiversity by 2030 and effect recovery of fragile ecosystems by 2060, aligned to UN's vision of 'living in harmony with nature'.

"To restore stability to our planet, we must restore its biodiversity, the very thing that we've removed. It's the only way out of this crisis we've created - we must be wild the world," said British author Sir David Attenborough, Conservation and process co-ordinator may no longer be enough to

think about environmental through leaders.

The World Environment Day branch of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration makes the next 10 years critical for humanity and life on earth. The focus for 2021 is 'Restoration Biodiversity' aligned with the decade UN goals for urgent action to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide. Ecosystems are defined as the interaction between living organisms with their surroundings, which includes natural as well as man-made systems such as cities or farms.

The first World Prime Summit also emphasized global sustainability as the only viable path to human safety, equity, health and progress. The call for action stated that in the need for humans to restore the relationship with Planet Earth for effective stewardship of the global commons - the climate, air, land, water, biodiversity, forests, soils and biodiversity for ensuring the future of all life on earth. The summit statement called for recognizing the concept of 'one health' of the intimate connections between human health and that of other animals and the environment.

The UN General Assembly also passed a landmark resolution, the first ever on transboundary conservation. Resolving that

biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use," organizing on nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and for avoiding future positions.

This year's theme for Earth Day, 'Restore our Earth', was aimed at shining light on natural processes and emerging green technologies that can restore the world's ecosystems, while rejecting the notion that mitigation or adaptation is the only way

has come. This annual observation will expand awareness of rewilding and empower people to take simple actions that restore nature and help combat climate change.

Rewilding means helping nature heal itself. It is about the most intact remaining places on Earth at the moment as recovering the life-supporting functions of nature in its land and seascapes. It is about the web of life, from the smallest plants to the largest animals, by long-term interventions to restore social, and ecological challenges. It also about the ecological man history in the future; we must again learn from our mistakes.

The United Environment programme 'Make Nature' drives the path to restore ecosystems or restoration that also has three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

The authors acknowledge the challenges, continued commitment, and the need for policy decisions for attaining Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and a carbon neutral 2050. Focusing on action

on biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, with success in restored ecosystems and healthier lives as well as a stable climate.

"The best way we have been waging a successful and scaled war on

On the Occasion of  
**World Environment Day, 2021**

**CHIEF GUEST and SPEAKER**  
**RITURAJ PHUKAN**  
Environmental Activist, Author & Naturalist

**JUNE 05<sup>th</sup>**  
STARTING 10:00 AM (IST)

**REGISTER NOW**

For More Details contact us / whatsapp  
**+91-8486325344**  
**+91-7030559976**

*Climate Emergency*

World Environment Day continued from previous page



Green Brigade  
The Environment Society of CVS

## Virtual Earth Conference 2.0

**Rituraj Phukan**  
National Coordinator for biodiversity  
*Speaker & Panelist*

**Speech Topic:** Connecting the 3 W's: Warming, Water & Wildlife  
**Panel Discussion Topic:** Should Nuclear Energy fuel our Future?

5th June 4 PM Onwards YouTube

Register at: <https://rebrand.ly/VEC-2>



**LIVE WEBINAR**

#LETSHEALTHTHEPLANET

## Actionable Steps for Ecosystem Restoration in India

5 JUNE '21 SATURDAY 11 AM

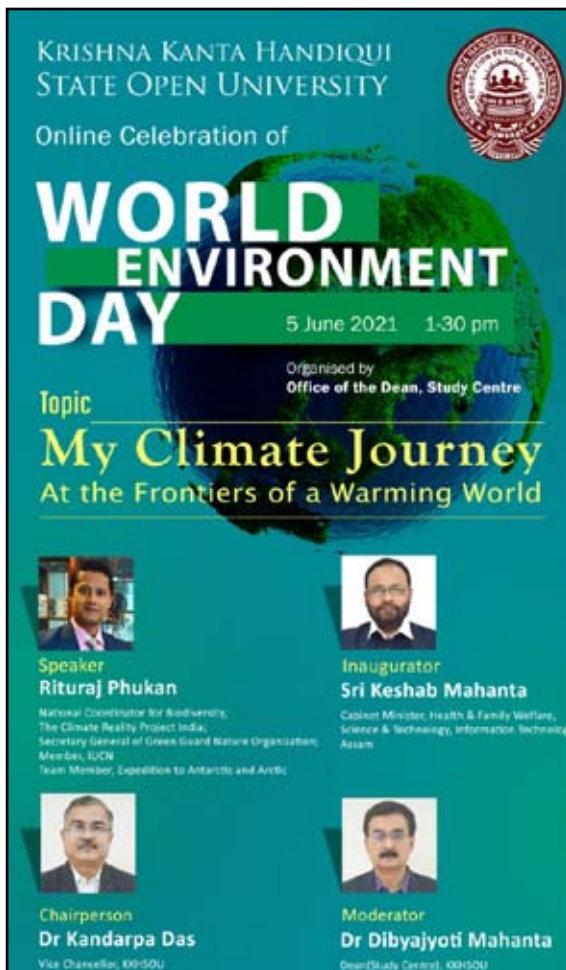
TOPIC: Biodiversity & Wildlife Restoration

**Mr. Rituraj Phukan**  
National Coordinator for Biodiversity for The Climate Reality Project India, Chief Operating Officer of Walk For Water, and Secretary General of Green Guard Nature Organization

REIMAGINE RECREATE RESTORE | WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY | UN 50th anniversary

KF | wantum | The Climate Reality Project

Watch Live at: [/kaushalyafoundation](https://www.facebook.com/kaushalyafoundation) | [/kaushalyafoundation](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkaushalyafoundation) | [/kf\\_india](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkf_india) | [/petnaglobahappers](https://www.facebook.com/petnaglobahappers)



KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Online Celebration of

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5 June 2021 1-30 pm

Organised by Office of the Dean, Study Centre

Topic: **My Climate Journey**  
At the Frontiers of a Warming World

**Speaker**  
Rituraj Phukan  
National Coordinator for Biodiversity, The Climate Reality Project India, Secretary General of Green Guard Nature Organization, Member, IUCN, Team Member, Expedition to Antarctic and Arctic

**Inaugurator**  
Sri Keshab Mahanta  
Cabinet Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology, Information, Technical, Assam

**Chairperson**  
Dr Kandarpa Das  
Vice Chancellor, KOU/SOU

**Moderator**  
Dr Dibyajyoti Mahanta  
Dean (Study Centre), KOU/SOU



## STORIES ON RESTORING THE HEALTH OF MY PLANET, MY ONLY HOME

LET'S CREATE RIPPLES TOGETHER

SKILL ENHANCING PRACTICE-BASED SUMMER PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

### ACTIVITY 01- MEET OUR BIODIVERSITY EXPERTS

06TH JUNE 2021 DURATION- 100 MINUTES TIME- 05:00-6:40 PM

 <b>RITURAJ PHUKAN</b> National Coordinator, Biodiversity, Climate Reality India	 <b>PARTH JOSHI</b> National Livelihoods Specialist, SECURE Himalaya, UNDP	 <b>ELSIE GABRIEL</b> National Coordinator, Oceans, Climate Reality India	 <b>DR. PRADNYA GIRADKAR</b> Scientist and Socialist Wildlife Conservation & Rural Development Society
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@TCRPINDIA | CLIMATEREALITYINDIA | CLIMATEREALITYINDIA | The Climate Reality Project

World Environment Day continued on next page

*Climate Emergency*

World Environment Day continued from previous page

**TEAM 54 PROJECT INTERNATIONAL**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**



**JILL MACINTYRE WITT**  
Senior Lecturer  
Western Washington University  
US/Climate Reality Mentor  
Topic: Connecting the dots between climate justice and changing diet



**IONA CONNER**  
CEO/Publisher  
Groundswell News Journal US  
Topic: Communicating the climate crisis effectively to the unaware



**2021**

Team54Project  
International



**Johnbosco Ife**  
Moderator



**Dr. Dubem Gbujie**  
Co-Moderator



**JUNE 5**  
**04:00 PM**  
**(WAT)**

Meeting ID:  
**535 156 6953**  
Passcode: **9ZqZrr**

**PERHAPS THE MOST RADICAL ACT OF RESISTANCE  
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY IS TO LIVE JOYFULLY.**

~ Ari Honarvar ~

<https://gratefulness.org/word-for-the-day/perhaps-the-most-radical-act-of-resistance-in-the-face-of-adversity-is-to-live-joyfully/>

*Climate Emergency*

## Team 54 Project International Founder Goes to Bat for Youth

By Dubem Daniel Gbuje, Facebook post May 27, 2021

Special thanks to Hawa Taylor-Kamara Diallo, Jayathma Wickramanayake, our UN Youth Envoy, who was instrumental in expanding more Africa voices at the UN.

I must appreciate Jasmin Akter Promi, our Executive Director, who together helped me prepare our organization's position paper, and will also want to acknowledge the ex-President and current president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Rhonda King, and Mona Juul, of Norway, respectively.

Together these wonderful women, have reignited the importance of collaborative multilateralism. And I share the sentiment of H.E Juul that should accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the global partnership framework for sustainable development.

Special thanks to Mr. Liu Zhenmin, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who advises the UN Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and truly has been reaching out to non-traditional partners among civil society organizations. In his World Health Day speech this year he again reminded the world about the importance of inclusive participatory agendas in any governance model practice, and the importance of social equity for all which the SDGs champion.

Being featured on the UN website (especially for the views I passionately share) during international engagement is indeed wonderful, though it's over one year old.

I remember yesterday what I said to world leaders especially about the state of things in Africa, especially in my homeland, Nigeria. SDGs' effects still need to go beyond the paper and adoption which all African leaders have signed up to in 2015, yet none of them are looking likely to meet up to 30% goal. Entire West Africa will not be able to meet 20% of the mandate. Solely because this crop of leaders wants to seat in power and run ethnoreligious agendas rather than the people's mandate which the SDGs embrace.

Consequently, successes of the SDGs will require direct cooperation and collaboration with the people impacted, especially when foreign governments want to assist.

While the national government observes and creates a conducive environment, more direct engagement and intervention must now be directed to the various national and local civil society groups, cooperating entities, educational institutions, and youth who have organized themselves into cooperatives.

This is what will allow us to build back better during this Covid-19 era, though the pandemic further exposed the hypocrisy that certain leaders often express when they engage the UN and other funding partners to the detriment of their people.

I want to appreciate other organizations within the UN who have been so helpful in getting the African Youth voice out in the open, hoping that someone will hear and focus attention on what's happening on the continent, especially as it pertains to the future that we fear is being mortgaged for a few foreign corporate crumbs.

Thanks to all the agency UNICEF Côte d'Ivoire Sophie Chavanel; I know you are in UNICEF Congo now; thanks a lot.

United Nations, thanks for the invite to speak at the General Assembly @unitednationdepartmentofglobal and our members across the globe. Thank you all.

On behalf of Team 54 Project we want to thank all our partners:

Parvati Devi #MAPS parvati.org, let'sdoitworld.org (led by my great friend Heidi Solba), and relatives who have been part of this journey.

Let's continue to engage diverse groups within our community, especially those who are vulnerable.

Please do help us raise awareness about what's happening in Nigeria and other parts of the world; young people are just tired and want a better future.

Thanks for the feature but let's do more for all our people and others in Earth. See link at <https://www.un.org/en/desa/key-topics/enhancing-global-partnerships>.



Welcome to the United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### Enhancing Global Partnerships



The achievement of the 2030 Agenda will require an unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration among all levels of government, civil society, business, foundations, academia, and others, and finding new ways of working. UN DESA engages diverse stakeholders at all levels, in the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, providing platforms – both in person and virtual – to discuss and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs.

**Partnership for SDGs | 2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator | SDG Acceleration Actions | Civil Society Support**



*Climate Emergency*



Photos: Robin Loznak

*Juliana youth plaintiffs in New York City.*

## Big Advances on Climate in Global Courts

Submitted by Joan Daurio, New Jersey USA

Our Children's Trust: June 2, 2021

It was a big month for global climate litigation!

Last month, our global partners and allies – two of whom utilized the groundbreaking youth rights-based climate litigation strategy pioneered by Our Children's Trust – achieved court victories in three different global domestic courts: Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia. This is important news because these court decisions are building the necessary judicial precedents for the responsibility of governments to uphold and protect human rights, children's rights, and climate justice.

### Years in the Making!

Our Children's Trust has spent many years collaborating and consulting with fellow attorneys around the globe on these and similar cases and are delighted today to celebrate their victories. **Congratulations to our European and Australian partner attorneys and their courageous clients!**

### Continuing on the Path...

As we celebrate these important wins, we're also continuing to advance youth-led litigation in federal and state courts in the United States as well as in other global jurisdictions like Canada, Mexico, Uganda, India, and Pakistan.

Importantly, in our U.S. federal case, *Juliana v. United States*, later this month, we and our youth clients will have our first settlement conference with the U.S. government and a settlement judge for confidential talks to discuss if and how we might come to agreement on resolving the youths' constitutional claims, working together to protect our young people's rights to a safe future.

*Juliana* is also scheduled for oral argument on June 25 before Judge Aiken and we will continue on our quest to secure another trial date (in case we don't reach a settlement agreement) to present evidence in open court of the government's ongoing energy system policies and practices that are known to endanger and harm our children.

"It is difficult to characterise in a single phrase the devastation that the plausible evidence presented in this proceeding forecasts for the Children. As Australian adults know their country, Australia will be lost and the World as we know it gone as well. The physical environment will be harsher, far more extreme and devastatingly brutal when angry. As for the human experience – quality of life, opportunities to partake in nature's treasures, the capacity to grow and prosper – all will be greatly diminished. Lives will be cut short. Trauma will be far more common and good health harder to hold and maintain. None of this will be the fault of nature itself. It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults, in what might fairly be described as the greatest inter-generational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next." (From the decision written by Justice Mordecai Bromberg in *Sister Marie Brigid Arthur v Minister for the Environment. Australia.*)

**Global Courts** *continued on next page*

## Climate Emergency

Global Courts *continued from previous page*

### A Clarion Call to U.S. Courts

All three of the courts in Germany, The Netherlands, and Australia embraced the right of people to *be in court* on these vital legal and factual climate questions. That is access to justice. Courts in the United States should similarly open their doors and engage with these vital questions of human rights and public harm. The courts become even more politicized when they take a seat on a question of fundamental rights and science without first considering and weighing the evidence, thus letting the dominant political faction's actions go unchecked.

It is also critical that the U.S. courts join these other democratic nations in protecting human rights and abating their contributions to the climate crisis. The U.S. is an absolutely necessary partner in global climate mitigation, if for no other reason than the U.S. is responsible for 25% of the world's historic emissions! **U.S. courts must step up alongside their counterparts around the world if we are to accomplish a science-based remedy to the global climate crisis.**

### Resilience is Key

It is never easy being a pioneer. In our case, the waves we've helped to launch are landing in other nations but are taking longer to reach our own shores. The unparalleled politicization of the climate crisis in the U.S. and the vast amount of money and power invested in keeping fossil fuels as the foundation of our energy pyramid means we have to be that much more persistent in pursuit of justice. But judges



*Julia Olson, Our Children's Trust Chief Legal Counsel, walks with Juliana youth plaintiffs Aji, Levi, and Hazel.*

are doing their jobs across the continents and those court decisions, just like Judge Aiken's first *Juliana* decision in 2016, will have ripple effects around the world. **With your support**, we will pursue and achieve a durable solution to the climate crisis for our youth clients here in the U.S. and with our partners around the world.

Today, we congratulate the efforts of the **German, Dutch, and Australian** courts, claimants, and counsel who made

these court rulings possible, and we look forward to the day ahead when our global allies will be able to celebrate and salute the efforts of the U.S. judiciary to protect U.S. children with a lasting science-based solution to the climate crisis in a country most responsible.

Donate at <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/oss0mj405fu>.

Onward in solidarity,  
The Team at Our Children's Trust

"It is difficult to characterise in a single phrase the devastation that the plausible evidence presented in this proceeding forecasts for the Children. As Australian adults know their country, Australia will be lost and the World as we know it gone as well. The physical environment will be harsher, far more extreme and devastatingly brutal when angry.

"As for the human experience - quality of life, opportunities to partake in nature's treasures, the capacity to grow and prosper - all will be greatly diminished. Lives will be cut short. Trauma will be far more common and good health harder to hold and maintain. None of this will be the fault of nature itself. It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults, in what might fairly be described as the greatest inter-generational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next."

From the decision written by Justice Mordecai Bromberg  
in *Sister Marie Brigid Arthur v Minister for the Environment (Australia)*  
Posted at <https://blotreport.com/2021/06/07/justice-mordecai-bromberg-quote/>

*Climate Emergency*

## 17 "Red" States in U.S. to Fight Juliana Kids

Dear Friends,

More than 6 years in, Juliana v U.S. is still the most consequential climate case on the dockets!

Attorneys from 17 "red" states (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia) are so worried that Juliana is going to upset the monied status quo of the fossil fuel industry that they have just announced their intention to join forces, fight against children's constitutional rights to a safe climate, and obstruct any settlement that might be reached with the Biden administration. You can read the Press Release here.

For years, huge entrenched interests have been trying, unsuccessfully, to beat down Juliana v. U.S. But Juliana is as poised for success as ever. Just look at the ground-breaking history of the 21 youth plaintiffs' continued perseverance against the most formidable of opponents:

### For more than 6 years:

The U.S. federal government has tried every trick in the book to fight these children and keep historical government wrongdoing and climate science evidence from coming to light in open court, but:

The youth have persevered, winning nearly every defense brought against them, and U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken has now ordered the federal government to enter into settlement negotiations later this month, and will thereafter decide how the youth's case will proceed in her court.

### 4 Years Ago

Nearly all of the fossil fuel industry intervened in Juliana v. U.S. through their trade associations to fight these children and keep climate science evidence from coming to light in open court, but:

The youth persevered, the fossil fuel industry gave up their intervention and left the case, and the youth's case continued to move forward.

### And just Yesterday

The attorneys general of 17 "red" states decided to use their concentrated and well-funded political power to intervene in the case, protect the fossil fuel industry's monied interests, and obstruct these young people's efforts to protect their health, their safety, and their future by settlement or



finally a trial and judgment in their case. By seeking to stop Juliana, these state governments only harm the children of their own states, which are also ravaged by the climate crisis. However,

We are optimistic the youth will persevere again, and their case will continue its progress toward trial in open court where all the truths will finally be heard or to a meaningful settlement of their claims.

All of the defendants and intervenors over the last 6 years (the federal government, the fossil fuel industry and now these ten red 17 state AGs) know that Juliana v. U.S. will lead to a safe energy system grounded in renewable energy and based on scientific prescriptions for a safe climate. But that safe energy system will require transformation of the status quo fossil fuel based system in which all of these defendants and intervenors are so politically over-invested.

These government and corporate interests continue to leverage their clout and money as hard and long as they can to keep evidence of climate science out of court, to deny the equal rights of children, and to stop Juliana v. U.S., despite the fact that the case is so clearly:

- Grounded in science,
- Brought by kids to save their futures,

- Cemented in fundamental constitutional rights,

- Able to reveal hard evidence of the egregious actions of our governments that have caused the climate crisis.

Help us stop these politically motivated state politicians and their effort alongside the federal government defendants to decimate human rights and further delay the justice they know is imminent in Juliana v. U.S. These state attorneys general are not acting in the best interests of their states' children, public safety, health, or economy and jobs of our future. One of our very generous donors has agreed to double your donation to help us prevail against these formidable political and fossil fuel interests, so please double your impact and make a donation today.

On behalf of all children and future generations, we thank you for your continuing support as our progress continues, despite the fears and foils of the government defendants and intervenors. We are privileged to stand with you on the right side of history!

Donate now at <https://app.moonclerk.com/pay/oss0mj405fu> and your gift will be doubled.

*The Team at Our Children's Trust*

*Earth Regeneration*



Photo: Karl Anderson

*In the first part of this course, we will focus on fungi and their role in forest ecosystems. We will learn how mycorrhizal fungi and other forest life work together to share nutrients and nurture a soil microbiome.*

## Biodiversity: Forests, Fungi, and Living Shorelines Course Starts June 16

Dear Iona,

I am thrilled to announce the Summer 2021 edition of Jim Laurie's Biodiversity and Symbiosis class. Jim, our staff scientist and restoration ecologist at Biodiversity for a Livable Climate, will be leading his fourth online course, Biodiversity 4: Fungi, Forests, and Living Shorelines, over 12 weeks from June 16th to September 1st.

As those of us who have learned from Jim before can attest, his deep experience and unique perspective on ecosystem restoration, combined with his thoughtfulness and ability to lead illuminating discussions on complex topics make for an incredibly enriching learning experience. If you had a chance to join any of his previous three courses, we hope you'll return to explore fungal networks, soil health, and forest and coastal ecosystems. If you're new, this is an excellent opportunity to join our team of budding planetary restorers. No prior experience is necessary, and there will be plenty of people from earlier classes, like myself, to help bring new class members into the fold.

We will meet for 12 weeks on Wednesdays, starting on June 16th, and there will be two sessions to accommodate participants' schedules – from 1 to 3 p.m. ET and 7 to 9 p.m. ET.

### Course Description

How did nature create the great ecosystems that have supported our many diverse human communities? How can we in turn learn from natural processes to support life and the carbon, water, and nutrient cycles that regulate our planet?

In the first part of this course, we will focus on fungi and their role in forest ecosystems. We will learn how mycorrhizal fungi and other forest life work together to share nutrients and nurture a soil microbiome. A healthy soil microbiome acts like an immune system for the forest much like our personal gut microbiomes act in our own bodies. Understanding the symbiotic relationships between organisms is crucial to carrying out effective conservation and restoration efforts.

In the second part of this course, we will turn to oceans and the creation of living

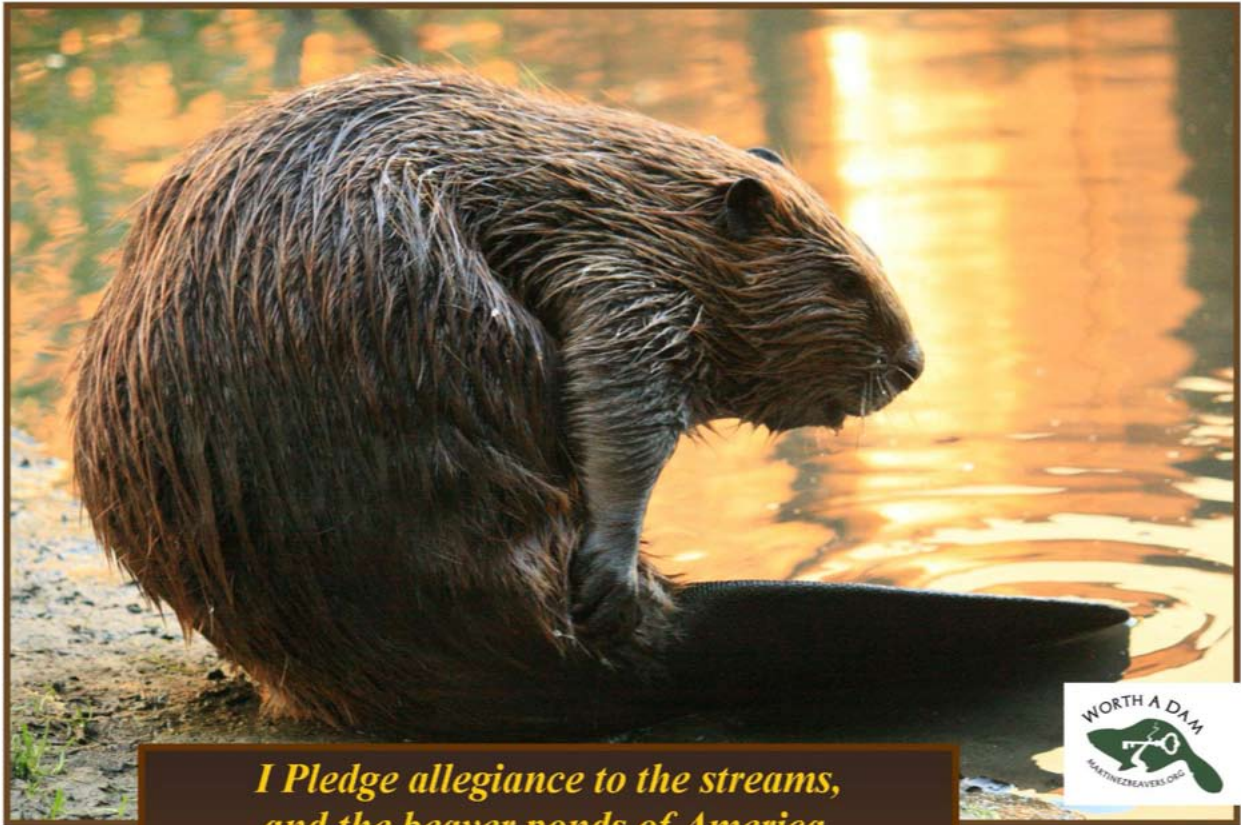
shorelines. In particular, we will investigate the coastal ecosystems on our North American East Coast, including Maine, Chesapeake Bay, and the Coral Coast in the Florida Keys, using Rachel Carson's *The Edge of the Sea*, which describes these areas from her perspective in the 1950s when these systems were still largely intact. In this book, Carson focused on the life cycles of invertebrates and the kelps and algae that start the ocean food web via photosynthesis. We will look at ways to restore coastlines even if seas rise several feet in coming decades.

As we face the reality of our planetary health, some of our most important tasks are to restore forests and wetlands to act as the powerful carbon sinks they can be, and to create living shorelines to buffer against rising seas and foster flourishing marine ecosystems. We will use our readings and discussions as a jumping off point to envision the restoration projects that can protect and regenerate living systems into the future.

Course continued on next page

*Earth Regeneration*

Course continued from previous page



*I Pledge allegiance to the streams,  
and the beaver ponds of America.  
And to the renewal for which they stand  
One river, underground, irreplaceable,  
With habitat and wetlands for all.*

Pledge at <https://www.martinezbeavers.org/wordpress/tag/beaver-pledge-of-allegiance/>

**Books**

*Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures* – by Rupert Sheldrake (Random House – 2020)

*Mycorrhizal Planet: How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Planet Health and Build Soil Fertility* – by Michael Phillips (Chelsea Green – 2017)

*The Edge of the Sea* – by Rachel Carson (Houghton Mifflin – 1955)

As the course develops, class members may want to share other sources or make recommendations.

The course is \$240 with significant discounts for students and those with tight budgets. When you register, please indicate your preference for 1 pm or 7 pm ET on Wednesdays. Classes are 2 hours long.

Register at <https://bio4climate.org/biodiversity-4-forests-and-fungi/registration/>. Jim will send you class study questions

and reading suggestions, and Bio4Climate will grant a certificate upon course completion.

I hope to see you in our first Zoom class on June 16th!

**Maya Dutta**

Research and Outreach Coordinator  
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate  
P.O. Box 390469, Cambridge, MA 02139  
**Phone:** 781-674-2339 (USA)

**REMEMBER THE PLANTS, TREES, ANIMAL LIFE WHO ALL  
HAVE THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR HISTORIES TOO. TALK TO  
THEM, LISTEN TO THEM. THEY ARE ALIVE POEMS.**

~ Joy Harjo ~

Excerpted from poem entitled "Remember," which is posted at <https://www.awakin.org/read/view.php?tid=2315>

*Ending Inequality*

# Montana



## Poor People's Campaign National Event June 21

Submitted by Frank Kromkowski  
Montana USA

The Poor People's Campaign (<https://www.facebook.com/aneppccis>) is building to June 21, when we will hold a National Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers Assembly, which will be held online [sign up for the link for the June 21 event at <https://www.3rdreconstruction.org/#join>] and at a socially-distanced rally in Raleigh, North Carolina USA.

On June 21, the Poor People's Campaign will launch a one-year campaign fighting forward every day towards a massive, generationally-transformative Moral March on Washington and Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly on June 18, 2022.

In the coming year, our Poor People's Campaign ranks will increase as we broaden our efforts and stretch the banner of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival even wider. We rise together because:

1. We rise to demand that the 140 million poor and low-income people in our nation – from every race, creed, color, sexuality, and place – are no longer ignored, dismissed, or pushed to the margins of our political and social agenda.

2. We rise not as left or right, Democrat or Republican, but as a moral fusion movement to build power, build moral activism, build voter participation, and we won't be silent any more!

3. We rise to change the moral narrative

and demand that the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy/militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism all be ended.

4. We rise to challenge the lie of scarcity in the midst of abundance.

5. We rise to lift the voices and faces of poor and low-income Americans and their moral allies with a new vision of love, justice, and truth for America that says poverty can be abolished and change can come.

People from every corner of the U.S. will converge and convene in the nation's capital in the summer of 2022 to create a national stage for the voices and leadership of people directly impacted by systemic racism, the denial of health care, ecological devastation, militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. We will demonstrate the power and resolve of poor people to make the Third Reconstruction (<https://www.3rdreconstruction.org/>) a reality.

Building a movement to overcome systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, and the war economy. Everybody's got a right to live.

**Third Reconstruction in America**  
<https://www.3rdreconstruction.org/>  
... The Third Reconstruction is a revival of our constitutional commitment to establish justice, provide for the general welfare, end decades of austerity, and

recognize that policies that center the 140 million in poverty or earning low wages are also good economic policies that can heal and transform the nation.

This Third Reconstruction Resolution – resolution text at <https://www.3rdreconstruction.org/#resolution>, video at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1384006888650256> – recognizes that in order to build a true Third Reconstruction we must simultaneously deal with the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the denial of health care, militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism that blames the poor instead of the systems that cause poverty.

Emerging from the pain and organizing power of the 140 million people living in poverty or with low wages in this nation, the congressional resolution for a Third Reconstruction reflects an omnibus vision for a fundamental restructuring of society that lifts from the bottom.

The non-partisan resolution comes as a response to years of movement-building to create the collective resolve necessary to implement real and transformational legislative action.

**National Poor People's Campaign**

**Contact:**

Martha Waggoner:

**Email:** [mwaggoner@breachrepairers.org](mailto:mwaggoner@breachrepairers.org)

**Phone:** 919-295-0802 (U.S.)

**Campaign** *continued on next page*

*Ending Inequality*

## Sad Bad News: Sign Asking People to Help Protect Mountain Stolen

By Jussa Kudherezera, Coordinator, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA), Zimbabwe

MAYA would like to share the regrettable news that a banner that we erected along Feruka Road opposite the Golden Peacock hotel was uprooted and stolen by unknown charlatans on the night of 26/05/21. As MAYA, we are naturally taken aback by this deliberate and unmitigated vandalism of our property, however, we would not speculate on the motive behind this uncivilized act. We leave the matter for our capable law enforcement to do their investigations and apprehend those responsible in the fullness of time.

We note with concern the rise in vandalism and theft of private and public property in and around the city, thus we categorically denounce this criminal and irresponsible behavior which takes us back to the Stone Age. We have seen road signs, taps, Zesa cables, toilet doors, railway sleepers, even park benches stolen or vandalized.

This is wrong and we must put an end to such activities and promote Ubuntu [I am because we are]. We urge citizens, especially the residents of Mutare, to take pride in our collectively-owned property and protect it not only for ourselves but for future generations. Though the banner that

was stolen had MAYA written on it, it belonged to us all because the environment we are protecting is for all Mutareans. We all deserve rich biodiversity, clean air, and an unsilted Sakubva River. Protecting the environment is in the good interest of everyone.

Those who steal or vandalize public property are the enemy of the people. The theft of the banner, however, does not in any way stop MAYA from conducting its mandate of protecting the environment and we hereby reaffirm our resolve to protect our environment and raise citizen agency around climate and environmental justice.

**Contact MAYA**  
**Email:** manicayouthassembly@gmail.com  
**Phone:** +263772351138  
**Twitter:** @ManicaYouth  
**Website:** <https://manicayouth.org/>



We published this picture last month with the following caption: This sign on Dangamvura Mountain is part of the ongoing hard work by the Manica Youth Assembly in Zimbabwe to protect and restore the mountain. The sign reads "This mountain is protected by MANICA YOUTH ASSEMBLY in partnership with MUTARE CITY COUNCIL. STOP Deforestation STOP Cultivation NGATICHENGETEDZE MITI NEMAKOMO" followed by the phone number +263713369180 and [manicayouthassembly@gmail.com](mailto:manicayouthassembly@gmail.com). Article posted at <https://manicayouth.org/?p=257>

**Campaign** *continued from previous page*

### Martin Luther King, Jr. and the History of the Poor People's Campaign

In 1968 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others called for a "revolution of values" in America and started the first Poor People's Campaign in 1968.

They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The first Poor People's Campaign in 1968.

Today, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up this unfinished work. <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

In December 1967, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. announced plans for a "Poor People's Campaign." It was a new effort to unite all those in the United States who were struggling to survive, in order

to demand together their rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

In announcing the campaign, Rev. Dr. King said:

*"The dispossessed of this nation – the poor, both white and Negro – live in a cruelly unjust society. They must organize a revolution against that injustice, not against the lives of the persons who are their fellow citizens, but against the structures through which the society is refusing to take means which have been called for, and which are at hand, to lift the load of poverty..."*

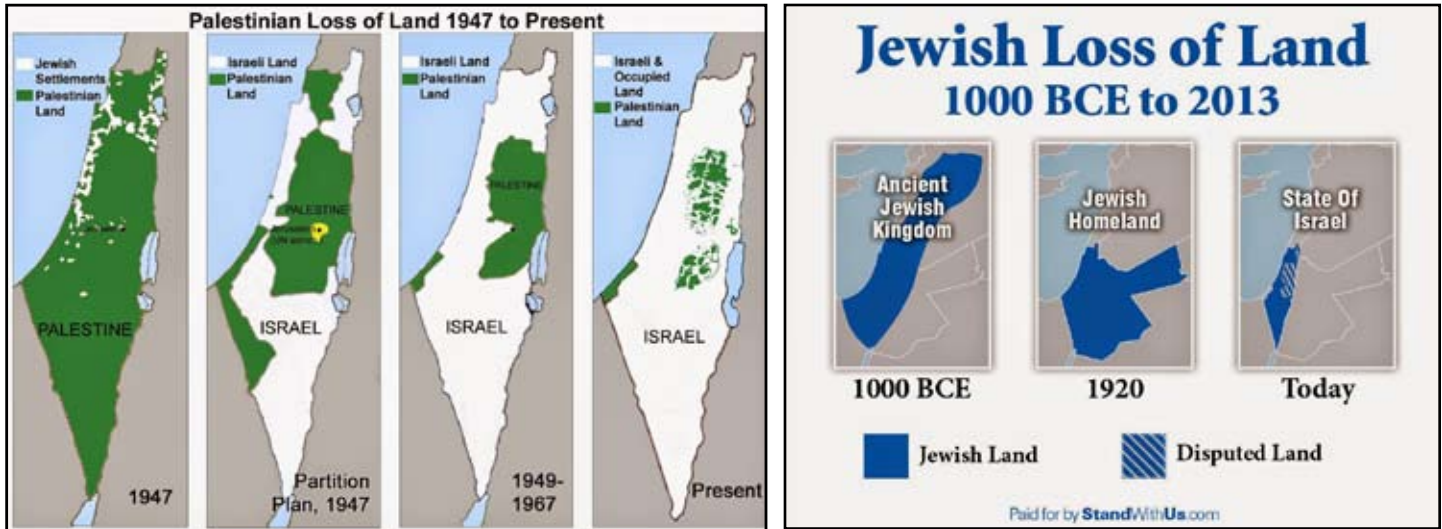
*"There are millions of poor people in this country with very little, or even nothing to lose. If they can be helped to take action together, they will do so with a freedom and a power that will be a new and unsettling force in our complacent national life."* (For more on the 1967 campaign, go to [poorpeoplescampaign.org/poor-peoples-campaign-1968/](https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/poor-peoples-campaign-1968/))

Calling for a new Poor People's Cam-

paign for today means taking up Rev. Dr. King's mission, and organizing to unite those of us whose very lives are threatened and treated as worthless by the systems and structures that dominate our society.

Developing unity among the poor, in the U.S. and globally, begins by learning about, listening to, and building trust with as many poor people's organizations and movements as possible around the country and the world. We want to develop a shared assessment of the global problems we face: problems of unemployment, economic insecurity, and low wages; of war and violence; of racial, national, ethnic, and gender-based oppression; and of ecological devastation and the poisoning of our communities. And we want to build forms of mutual support and collective action that can bring us together to solve those problems. (For more on the effort to build a new Poor People's Campaign for today, go to [poorpeoplescampaign.org/](https://poorpeoplescampaign.org/).)

*Ending Inequality*



Photos: <http://onlinemaps.blogspot.com/2015/03/territorial-evolution-of-israelpalestine.html>

*Territorial evolution of Palestine from the Palestinian point of view (left); Israel from the Israeli point of view (right).*

## Reflections on the Palestine/Israel Situation

By Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

[follow up to last month's message on page 27]

The crisis [with Palestine and Israel] seems to continue unabated. If this present outbreak should come to a halt, I think the picture will nonetheless be very much changed for the future. (1) It looks to me as though the Palestinians – even to the degree that they are currently separated from one other (i.e. by placement in different administrative units) – and their leadership – will be much more likely to speak out with a single – and much louder – voice. (2) I think this outbreak has simultaneously weakened overall levels of support for Israel while strengthening protest and opposition movements on a world-wide basis. (3) As part of that, I think that different countries, as well as international organizations, will feel more fully justified in looking at Israeli policies and practices more closely – and with a much sharper eye – especially from the point of view of human rights violations. And finally, (4) I think that everyone, at this point, will recognize with much greater emphasis and clarity the absolute need to chart a pathway forward towards a peaceful and effective resolution of this conflict for once and for all.

It has also helped me see that we may need (or want) to break that ‘pathway’ down into different phases – rather than trying to do everything at the same time. In other words, we (i.e. the combatants and

members of the international community) can start by insisting that Israel comply with accepted international standards in all its dealings with the Palestinian people (i.e. regardless of whether ‘within’ Israel or in the territories it has occupied). We should make clear what these standards are, and make sure they are observed, with distinct penalties being imposed for any future non-compliance.

Then, once this stage is complete, we can move forward into a second phase where we deal with and negotiate all future issues. That would include resettlement, reparations, legal equivalency, and investment in the Palestinian ‘infrastructure’ such as housing, education, medical facilities, employment opportunities, as well as sports, arts, recreation, and tourism. And at that point, the decision should be made as to whether to go with one state or two – and/or some other sequencing of the two.

So those are my thoughts at the moment. You should let me know, if and when you have the time, what your insights might be! Thanks.

[second email]

It's raining nicely here today – and imagine it is where you are too – helping to keep everything nice and green.

I don't think I knew that you were on a Kibbutz (where I'll bet rain was a rarity, if in fact it ever occurred while you were there) though you probably mentioned

your visit when we were all having conversations on the topic.

As for what I am doing, Iona – I think it's mostly a matter of writing letters and e-mails to people (including foreign embassies, U.S. legislators, and the White House) and trying to keep myself somewhat educated on the issue. We also did have a seminar (of sorts) on the issue at the library a couple of years back, I would say – with a focus on how differently the American and European media present the issues.

This time it's no different. Most American media (and the Administration) say that the Palestinians started the conflict by hurling rockets into Israel and that it was only within their rights that the Israelis should respond in kind; while the Europeans are more likely to look at the provocative actions taken by the Israelis as to what really instigated the crisis. “Democracy Now,” however, definitely falls into the European model.

The way news is handled and presented makes a huge difference, as you well know. But I do think that more and more Americans are getting wise to the difference as time goes on, and wanting to take actions urging our country to take a new course.

Right now, as I think implied in the earlier e-mail, I feel we are all in fact at a really new “starting point.” And I think that is good. People have a clearer idea of what is involved, who is doing what, and

**Reflections** continued on next page



## Ending Inequality

### Reflections *continued from previous page*

the vital importance of finding that new and better way forward. So to your question, I think what I am actually doing is “taking stock” and “reassessing.”

Regardless of what we do, I think it has to be “non-partisan” and “forward looking.” I keep on hoping that more Israelis – and quickly – will see that their only hope for real peace and security will come from making a real admission of equality with their Palestinian neighbors.

[third email]

I don't have much in the way of first-hand information as to whether young Israelis are more interested in engaging in peace-making with the Palestinians than preceding generations, but I honestly don't think so. I get the impression that the spectrum of political views crosses pretty evenly there from one generation to the next, meaning that there are probably the same proportion of ‘peace-oriented’ activists in each new generation as in the one before. But I could be wrong.

Did you ever hear of Martin Buber – or read any of his writing? He was originally from Poland (I'm pretty sure) – and emigrated to Palestine in the 1920's. He was very happy there, largely because he enjoyed the ‘intercultural’ experience of meeting people with many backgrounds – including the Palestinians he met. He was an early advocate for creating a ‘multicultural’ society in Palestine, but was swiftly outflanked by the more nationalistic minded, heavy-duty Zionists. I think he foresaw the many problems that the colonialist-style viewpoints of some of those Zionists were likely to lead to down the road.

Don't you suppose the Arabs living near you in the Negev were Bedouins? I would think so. I wouldn't suppose they would originally have considered themselves to be Palestinians *per se*; but by now they might in view of everything that has taken place since then. Not a happy story for any of them.

[fourth email June 3]

BBC newscasts (as seen via PBS) have been providing some good coverage on all this over the past few days. I am hopeful that this new coalition will go through as proposed because basically I think it is a very healthy development.

The coalition at the outset may look quite unwieldy, but, somewhat oddly, I think it will be workable. Primarily because its members will now be forced to ‘work together’ just in order to stay in power. So instead of posturing and

making great speeches to appeal to their own base, each party will now (more than likely) have to adopt a lower – and more pragmatic – tone in order to maintain its relationships with all the other parties.

Which is exactly what I think is most needed at this time. I also think that including elected Arab (i.e. Palestinian) representatives sets a perfect precedent for future dealings between Israelis and Palestinians because now (for once) working relationships between the two groups will need to be established that are based on power equality – not separation – as well as mediated out of a consideration for genuine concerns that are felt in common.

So that's how I look at it. Thanks very much for sending the article. And let me know – if you have the time – how you are reacting to all this.

I just wish you would add some of your own thoughts and observations to the mix, especially in light of your own experiences in the region!

### Excerpt from Iona's Memoir About Her Work on a Kibbutz in Israel in 1989

#### Why On Earth Did I Work on a Kibbutz?

My former husband was Jewish, so I had become somewhat familiar with Jewish culture. I was spending my spare time trying to save a farm in New Jersey, which was losing a farm a day back then. A small group of us wanted to buy one farm, create a community land trust, and build a few small solar homes clustered in a corner of the land, while farming and preserving the rest of it. That dream never worked out but I spent three years trying to pull it all together. Once I moved to Maryland to marry John, the project collapsed.

Below are excerpts from my journal.

*I worked on a Kibbutz in the Negev desert in Israel because I felt so stupid when I described Homeland and people asked in smart-alecky tones, “Well, have you ever lived in a community?”*

“No.”

“Have you ever worked on a farm?”

“No.”

*I was embarrassed by my ignorance and decided to develop one answer, “Yes,” to future interrogations by working in a farming community. Please don't ask how I decided to go all the way to Israel to gain experience I could probably have gained right here. I could not tell you.*

*My first impressions of Israel were weird – so many armed soldiers in the Tel Aviv airport; then I took a bus to the kibbutz and was startled to see the entrance guarded by a man with a gun. . . .*

*The way kibbutz life is structured, with shared work and shared resources, made so much more sense to me than anything I'd experienced as a working, suburban housewife in the U.S. I had SO MUCH FREE TIME – I mean, totally free! Once my job was done, I was free. Others did the food shopping, cooking, dish washing (except, of course, when that was MY job), laundry, ironing, even child care in the central Children's House, which resembled a miniature version of a normal home and reminded me of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs with little beds, little sinks, little toilets, little tables, little chairs. . . .*

*I was frustrated by not having assignments which furthered my cause of learning more about farming. When I realized that washing dishes wasn't supporting my vision and purpose, I asked if there was farm work I could do. In addition to the dairy, one man told me I could get up early and cut off chicks' beaks. The idea STILL turns my stomach. I'd rather do dishes.*

*But because I was in my 40s, they came up with an alternate plan for me and placed me in Seri-craft, the silk-screening business they had set up for “older” women. Insulted, I took it anyhow. Among other things, we decorated beautiful tablecloths with matching napkins on high-quality, durable, brightly-colored cotton with pomegranates (symbolic of something). I brought back three sets as gifts.*

*It was through one of the women who worked there that I was able to arrange my weekend “vacation” in a Waldorf\* kibbutz in Nazareth. Since Kibbutz Shoal was in the Negev Desert in the South and Harduf was in the North, I took a bus. It was fascinating to see Bedouin (Arab nomads) encampments along the way.*

*When I reached Harduf, it was dusk and the first person I met reminded me of Moses – a slim, serious and seriously bearded figure standing on a hill peacefully gazing out over the valley.*

*Zohar showed me around and became my teacher about Waldorf ways for the two days I was there. . . .*

\*Waldorf (Steiner) education is a humanistic approach based on the educational philosophy of the Austrian philosopher Ru-

Reflections *continued on next page*

*Human Interest*

# Shell Faces Shareholder Rebellion Over Fossil Fuel Production




Photo: Hollandse Hoogte/Rex/Shutterstock

*Extinction Rebellion campaigners demonstrate at a Shell station in The Hague.*

**Submitted by Fran Staret  
Pennsylvania USA**

**Shareholder resolution calling for carbon emissions reduction targets receives 30% of votes.**

By Jasper Jolly, *excerpt*  
*The Guardian*: May 18, 2021 

Shell has faced a significant shareholder rebellion on a vote calling for the oil company to set firm targets to wind down fossil fuel production.

A shareholder resolution calling for the Anglo-Dutch company to set binding carbon emissions reduction targets received 30% of votes at the oil company's annual meeting on Tuesday.

The Shell rebellion came on the day that

the International Energy Agency said that exploration for new oil and gas fields must stop this year if the world is to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Net zero emissions would contribute to limiting catastrophic global heating. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/may/18/shell-faces-shareholder-rebellion-over-fossil-fuel-production>

## **Reflections** *continued from previous page*

dolf Steiner, the founder of anthroposophy.

Steiner described child development as taking place in three distinct stages. These stages were reflected in his program of early childhood education, which focused on hands-on activities and creative play; elementary education, focused on developing artistic expression and social capacities; and secondary education, focused on developing critical reasoning and empathic understanding. The approach also placed unique importance on the role of imagination in learning, as well as focusing attention on the intersection of different elements of curriculum, eschewing spe-

cialization and compartmentalization.

The overall goal is to develop free, morally responsible, and integrated individuals equipped with a high degree of social competence. (Wikipedia)

\*\*\*

I have often told people that if I were Jewish, I probably would have stayed there; that's how much I loved the kibbutz lifestyle of sharing resources, work, and life, easing the burdens of what my life had been like prior to that visit as an American suburban housewife with jobs outside of the home.

I remember being horrified when I read about that U.S. activist Rachel Corrie' was crushed to death by an armored, Israeli bulldozer on March 15, 2003.

"Corrie placed herself in the path of a Caterpillar D9R armored bulldozer in the area and was run over by the bulldozer and fatally injured. After she was injured she was taken by a Red Crescent ambulance to the Palestinian Najar hospital, arriving at the emergency room at 5:05 pm, still alive but near death. At 5:20 pm she was declared dead." ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel\\_Corrie#Death\\_and\\_subsequent\\_controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Corrie#Death_and_subsequent_controversy))

*Human Interest*



Photo: Fridays for Future Uganda/Twitter

*An Ugandan activists holds a sign urging a stop to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.*

## Despite Risks, Climate Activists Lead Fight Against Oil Giant's Drilling Projects in Uganda

**Deep Green Resistance News Service**

**Editor's Note:** *The company has already sold a handful of its onshore oil blocks over the past 10 years, citing the need to cut risk due to community unrest and continued sabotage attacks on its oil installations*

*These blocks had been snapped up by Nigerian indigenous operators including Seplat Petroleum, Aiteo E&P, First Hydrocarbons and NPDC. This article originally appeared in Common Dreams.*

**“We cannot drink oil. This is why we cannot accept the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.”**

By Brett Wilkins, Common Dreams staff writer  
Deep Green Resistance News Service: June 6, 2021

Climate campaigners in Africa and around the world on Friday continued demonstrations against Total, with activists accusing the French oil giant of ecocide, human rights

violations, and greenwashing in connection with fossil fuel projects in Uganda.

On the 145th week of Fridays for Future climate strike protests, members of the movement in Uganda global allies drew attention to the harmful effects of fossil fuel development on the environment, ecosystems, communities, and livelihoods.

Friday's actions followed protests at Total petrol stations in Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, and Uganda on Tuesday – celebrated each year as Africa Day – against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), now under construction, and the Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas project.

“Total's fossil fuel developments pose grave risks to protected environments, water sources, and wetlands in the Great Lakes and East Africa regions,” said Andre Moliro, an activist from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during Tuesday's pan-African protests.

“Communities have been raising concerns on the impact of oil extraction on Lake Albert fisheries and the disastrous consequences of an oil spill in Lake Victoria, that would affect millions of people who rely on the two lakes for their livelihoods, watersheds for drinking water, and food production,” he added.

In Uganda, opposing oil development – an expected multi-billion-dollar boon to the landlocked nation's economy – can be risky business. On Monday, police in Buliisa arrested Ugandan human rights defender Maxwell Atuhura and Italian journalist Federica Marsi.

According to *Energy Voice*, Atuhura – who works with the African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), one of half a dozen NGOs that have pursued legal action against Total – and Marsi were about to meet with local community members when they were apprehended.

Marsi was released Monday and report-  
**Fight** continued on next page

*Human Interest*

**Fight** *continued from previous page*

edly told to leave the oil region “before bad things happen.” She was briefly rearrested later in the day. Atuhura remains in police custody. The World Organization Against Torture has issued an urgent appeal for intervention in his case.

United Nations special rapporteurs and international human rights groups have previously expressed serious concern over abuses perpetrated against land defenders and journalists in Uganda.

Despite the risks, actions against EACOP and the related Tilenga Development Project continue.

“We cannot drink oil. This is why we cannot accept the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline,” Ugandan climate justice activist Vanessa Nakate, founder of the Rise Up Movement, said during the Africa Day action. “It is going to cause massive displacement of people [and the] destruction of ecosystems and wildlife habitats... We have no future in extraction of oil because it only means destroying the livelihoods of the people and the planet,” Nakate added. “It is time to choose people above pipelines. It is time to rise up for the people and the planet.”

If completed, the \$3.5 billion, nearly 900-mile EACOP will transport up to 230,000 barrels of crude oil per day from fields in the Lake Albert region of western Uganda through the world’s longest electrically heated pipeline to the Tanzanian port city of Tanga on the Indian Ocean.

In partnership with China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), Total is also leading the Tilenga Development Project, which involves the drilling of 400 wells in dozens of locations, including inside the richly biodiverse Murchison Falls National Park.

Total says the project will “generate a positive net impact on biodiversity,” a claim vehemently rejected by environmentalists.

“Imagine a tropical version of the Alaskan oil pipeline,” environmental author

Fred Pearce wrote of EACOP last year. “Only longer. And passing through critical elephant, lion, and chimpanzee habitats and 12 forest reserves, skirting Africa’s largest lake, and crossing more than 200 rivers and thousands of farms before reaching the Indian Ocean – where its version of the Exxon Valdez disaster would pour crude oil into some of Africa’s most biodiverse mangroves and coral reefs.”

Although Total claims it chose the EACOP route to “minimize the number of residents relocated,” local residents and international NGOs say the pipeline’s impact will be anything but minimal.

According to *Mongabay*, more than 12,000 families will be displaced from their ancestral lands to make way for the pipeline, two-thirds of which will pass through agricultural zones. Farmers in the pipeline’s path and the Lake Albert oil region have joined civil society groups and international organizations in voicing their opposition to the EACOP and Tilenga projects.

The #StopEACOP coalition, which is made up of local and international activists and organizations, is attempting to block funding of the project by appealing to banks, investors, and insurance companies. A March open letter signed by more than 250 groups urged 25 commercial banks to not finance the pipeline.

In 2017, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Uganda published a report warning that the pipeline “is likely to lead to significant disturbance, fragmentation, and increased poaching within important biodiversity and natural habitats” that are home to species including chimpanzees, elephants, and lions.

Wildlife forced from natural habitats by oil development has in turn caused severe disruptions to farming families.

“We have always had a problem of human-wildlife conflict in this village, but with drilling and road construction across the park, the invasions are more frequent,” Elly Munguryeki, a farmer living just outside Murchison Falls National Park, told South

Africa’s *Mail & Guardian* earlier this month.

“We keep reporting the losses to park authorities but nothing happens,” said Munguryeki. “Each night a herd of buffalo, baboons, and hippos from the park would invade my farm and neighboring plots and eat our crops until dawn. Whatever they left would be eaten by baboons and wild pigs during the day, forcing us to harvest premature crops.”

A 2020 Oxfam report noted the EACOP “will cross poor, rural communities in both Uganda and Tanzania that lack the political and financial capital of the project stakeholders... The lopsided complications of this power dynamic are well-documented in similar extractive industry projects,” the report stated. “Powerful companies are often able to hide their operations behind local contractors and permissive government authorities. Often the only hope that local communities have for remediation or justice is through local government bodies that are often weak, fragile, or captured by corporate and national interests.”

Mary, an Ugandan farmer in Rakai near the Tanzanian border who was interviewed for the report, said that “when this pipeline project came, they promised us too many things. Up to now they have done nothing... What makes me worried is that they took my land but I have not yet been compensated,” she claimed.

A community member from Rujunju village, Kikuube District in Uganda told the report’s authors that, “The government and oil companies have not informed us about the negative impact that the EACOP will have on our well-being. All they tell us are good things that the EACOP will bring like roads and jobs. We also want to know the negative impact of the pipeline so that we can make informed decisions.”

**Source:** <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/habitat-loss/despiterisks-climate-activists-lead-fight-against-oil-giants-drilling-projects-in-uganda/>

**I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING ASKING MYSELF, WHAT CAN I DO TODAY, HOW CAN I HELP THE WORLD TODAY?**

~ Julia Butterfly Hill ~

<https://twitter.com/earth911/status/1310368748763852802>

*Human Interest*



Photo: Caroline Power

*Plastic trash floating in the Caribbean Sea.*

# Plastic Planet = Plastic People

By Stephen Leahy, Canada  
Need to Know: June 3, 2021

I've done many articles on plastic pollution – including some of the first ones on microplastics in the oceans and in the remotest parts of our increasingly plastic planet. Plastic is up there with climate change in term of its threats to the health and well being of our home and you and I. (The same petrochemical companies are behind both.)

Here are some brief need-to-knows:

**Need-to-Know 1:** Plastic is just a form of fossil fuel. Your plastic water bottle, your grocery bag, your foam tray full of cucumbers ... they're all made from oil or

natural gas. It takes lots of energy to make that happen.

**Need-to-Know 2:** If the plastics industry was a country it would be the 4th largest carbon polluter, after China, the U.S., and India.

**Need-to-Know 3:** Global demand for plastics is expected to increase by some 22% over the next five years.

**Need-to-Know 4:** Just 9% of plastic has ever been recycled a 2017 study shows. Recycling plastic is expensive compared to making virgin plastic. The plastics industry might be the world's most wasteful industry.

**Need-to-Know 5:** Nearly every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some

form today. Fish have been swallowing microplastics since the 1950s and the concentration of microplastics in their guts has increased over time new research shows. There were no plastic particles in fish gullets before mid-century according to researchers at Chicago's Field Museum where they have some two million fish specimens dating back to 1900.

**Need-to-Know 6:** 15 million tons of plastics enter the ocean every year according to the latest estimate.

**Need-to-Know 7:** Rich countries export the majority of their plastic waste to poorer countries.

The U.S. ships most of its plastic waste

**Plastics** *continued on next page*

*Human Interest*



**Plastics** *continued from previous page*

to Malaysia since China no longer takes it. Customs officials in Senegal, Africa recently seized a container with 25 tons of plastic waste from Germany.

**Need-to-Know 8:** Single-use plastics account for over a third of plastics produced every year.

Just 20 petrochemical companies led by ExxonMobil, Dow, and China's Sinopec produce over 50 per cent of all single-use plastic a new report reveals. Leading banks like Barclays, HSBC, and Bank of America provide the funding.

**Need-to-Know 9:** Lower oil prices in recent years has made plastic production more profitable.

With the shift to renewable energy and electric vehicles, the oil industry is now pivoting to plastics and investing \$ billions to increase production.

**Plastic Planet = Plastic People**

That's probably more than you wanted to know but bear with me for one more. Plastic pollution isn't just ugly, it's dangerous. Plastics, microplastics, and nano-plastics have been in found inside nearly every living thing including plants and the placentas of unborn babies.

Yes, you and I are now partially, and unwillingly, made of plastic.

How dangerous is this for us? No one knows. There's lots of research ongoing: One medical researcher spoke of her preliminary results about effects of microplas-

tic particles on human immune system :  
“...provokes an inflammatory response within the body, one wherein the immune system makes and directs more immune cells towards microplastics.”

**Need-to-Know 10:** Plastic particles are now found inside nearly every living thing including the unborn.

Here's some good news. There is some progress in dealing with plastics.

Across Africa, 34 countries have banned or taxed single-use plastics, according to the United Nations. China and India plan to phase them out by 2022. Canada has set a target of zero-plastic waste by 2030 and plastic is now considered toxic under Canada's primary environmental law. A coalition of oil and chemical companies including Imperial Oil Ltd., Dow Chemical Canada, and Nova Chemicals Corporation have sued the Canadian government over this.

Australia's Minderoo Foundation is launching an intriguing scheme to get plastic manufacturers to pay a voluntary financial contribution for every ton of new plastic they make. For example a virgin plastic tariff of U.S. \$200 per ton and, for the most difficult to recycle plastics, could be up to US \$5,000 per ton. By increasing the cost of virgin plastic it should greatly increase the collection and use of recycled plastics. The Foundation is committing U.S.\$300 million to set the whole thing up.

What you can do about plastic pollution?

Aim for a zero waste lifestyle. Impossible? Maybe, but I've interviewed a young millennial who downsized her yearly trash pile so it literally fits inside an eight-ounce jar. And also a suburban family who put out only one bag of trash a year. They provided some very helpful tips in this *National Geographic* article I wrote in 2018: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/zero-waste-families-plastic-culture>.

**Five Principles of Zero-Waste From the Experts\***

**1. Refuse:** Refuse to buy things with lots of packaging.

**2. Reduce:** Don't buy things you don't really need.

**3. Reuse:** Repurpose worn out items, shop for used goods, and purchase reusable products like steel water bottles.

**4. Compost:** Up to 80 percent of waste by weight is organic. But this rarely decomposes in landfills.

**5. Recycle:** It still takes some energy and resources to recycle, but it's better than sending stuff to the landfill or allowing it to become litter.

\*These are listed in order of importance.

**Source:** <https://leahy.substack.com/p/plastic-planet-plastic-people>

**NOTHING CONTRIBUTES SO MUCH TO  
TRANQUILIZE THE MIND AS A STEADY PURPOSE –  
A POINT ON WHICH THE SOUL MAY FIX  
ITS INTELLECTUAL EYE.**

~ Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley ~

<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2020/07/04/tranquil/>

*Human Interest*

## Grassroots Coalition Artist/Poet Member Enters Contest and Shares Work

### IRONY

By Ogunsanya Temitope Prince, Nigeria

a man without imaginations has no wings.  
I want to start with that.  
first its nice to imagine what could be possible. what tomorrow will be like,  
the kind of food we'll eat when we get home from work. Imagination is the first step to doing anything.  
No plan or Idea or Purpose can occur except through the repetition of thoughts and that's when you imagine.  
Napolean Hills.

I imagine a world of possibilities.(everyone does). a world where every human adopts a tree  
a world where every homeless person feels loved and cared for.  
a world of more humanity than humans  
a world of Cornucopia

In my country  
we concern ourselves with economic climate and the outlook of the country when in reality, in this fast paced world  
our system still runs on old, obsolete method in sectors that should have evolved.  
Building fine homes, roads and cities only change the outlook of the country to an extent when  
the real change is the heart of a man.  
but where is the battle for climate change in my country. where are the laws protecting the rights of mother nature  
we say the country is a joke but clowns don't frown.

Again I imagine.  
a generation growing into maturity and awareness of this cause.  
a Generation helping nature and humanity  
Ironic because we the children of nature, are killing mother earth.  
and the way forward is to go back.

*My name is Prince; I am an artist, a pencil artist, conscious writer, and singer. Art enthusiast and Son of God.*

**Title:** Irony-a4c2dab0  
**Author:** Ogunsanya Temitope Prince  
**Posted:** May 28, 2021  
**Website:** <https://dawnproject.org/irony>



# THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

A global initiative to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition

*Mother Earth Project has endorsed the Fossil-Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative, along with Fridays for Future and 400+ organizations, including the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. This supports the Paris Climate Agreement Goals and accelerates the phasing out of fossil fuels and a just transition. Sign on as an individual or as a group at <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/home>.*

*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, excerpt pages 33-34

We are long out of time to break through our cultural denial about this fact: No technology is neutral. “An industrial society,”  
\* \* \*

*We have written this book because life has been broken and is now fast draining away through the cracks. The cultures that have done that breaking need to be abandoned and their ruling sociopaths dethroned. Make no mistake, this will require a serious and dedicated resistance movement. It will also require an unsentimental understanding of which human activities constitute that breaking.*

...Assigning dollar values to living oceans or rivers or other natural communities presumes dollar values can mimic real values – that is, the intrinsic values of the oceans, rivers, or natural communities, and the relationships between all of these. For me to assign a dollar value to, say, a river, presumes I know what that river’s value is (or else I can at least guess at it), and, more importantly, that this value can be in any reasonable way represented by a dollar amount – which, of course, is nonsensical and arrogant.

How can I know the full value of salmon to a forest or the full value of phytoplankton, who provide oxygen for two out of three of animal breaths? How can I know the full value of wind on a hilltop or tidal energy to oceans or sunshine to a desert? How can I know the full value of prairie dogs to prairies, or even shadows of their full values? Why can’t we just accept that prairies and prairie dogs know best their value to each other?

For capitalists to assign dollar values to the lives of others presumes capitalism has the capacity to assign accurate value to these others. But if someone paid you a trillion dollars for all the phytoplankton in the world, what would you (or any other animal) breathe? In fact, if we assign dollar values to “ecosystem services” provided by the natural world, no sector of the industrial economy would be profitable. None. Not even the coal, oil, and gas sectors. Not one of them.

The industrial economy is based on systematic theft from land bases, and the conversion of these living communities into dead products. That’s what an industrial economy is. The economy does not create value for the real world: It destroys the real world.

Let’s say your community has been invaded by a terrifying occupier. It doesn’t matter who the invader is. It could be anyone from the Romans to the Imperial British to the Nazis to capitalists to space aliens to conspiracy theorist David Icke’s Lizardmen. These conquerors install a violent and exploitative extractive economy (sorry for the redundancy, but, once again, all extractive economies are violent and exploitative). They perceive you and everyone else in your community as inferior to them, and of less value.

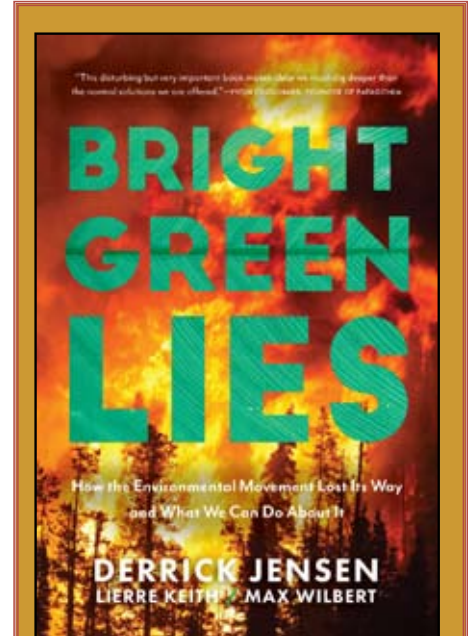
Indeed, none of you has any inherent value whatsoever; you are valued only to the degree that you’re useful to the occupiers.

The crassest occupiers place value on you only insofar as they can convert you directly into cash. If they value your labor, they’ll enslave you or pay whomever owns you for this labor. If you have no value to them as a laborer, they’ll put monetary values on other ways they can use you. Can they sell your flesh for food? Can your skin be made into jackets? Can your fat be made into soap? Can your teeth be carved into trinkets, or your bones be made into fertilizer? Can your body be used for housing? Can you be burned or otherwise exploited for fuel? Each of these uses adds value, and those values are determined by the overlords. Your value is not determined by you or by those you love, those who love you, or other members of your community.

But why would you put a financial value on yourself anyway? And why, unless you’re a sociopath, would you name a financial value for any other member of your community? For how many pieces of silver would you sell your mother?

The slightly more sophisticated of the occupiers recognize that it’s possible for you to serve them in ways that can’t be immediately monetized, so they’ll put dollar values on your “ecosystem services” instead. For example, if your poop can fertilize the soil they’re using to grow their crops, then they’ll tolerate you being on their agricultural fields so long as you only poop but do not eat their cash crops or otherwise interfere with them.

Because the occupiers are inflicting an extractive economy on your community, it begins to crumble. In fact, your community crumbles so much that it begins to interfere with the occupier’s ability to exploit and, ultimately, the occupier’s economy. . . .



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.

**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](mailto:derrick@derrickjensen.org).**



*Human Interest*

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SHARED VALUES**

**BUILDING HUMAN SOLIDARITY IN THE LIGHT OF POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER, "FRATELLI TUTTI"**

**AUGUST 19, 20, 21, 2021**  
Zoom and YouTube

Join an international interfaith conference bringing humanity together!

# Virtual International, Interfaith Conference: Bringing Humanity Together

### OUR VISION

Our conference will draw upon the experience of people from diverse religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds who are developing new ways to transcend many of the divisions that are afflicting the human community and our common home on planet Earth. We plan to engage global citizens to build transformative models of community development that bridge economic, political, religious, and cultural divisions in the world.

### OUR MISSION

We will examine the types of community-building activities that have successfully translated the hopeful message of *Fratelli Tutti* into actualizing educational strategies that build communities promoting new

bonds among diverse social, cultural, and religious groups in various parts of the world. We plan to use the latest technological platforms to publish the outcomes and recommendations of this conference.

The central hub of the conference will be located at Tangaza University in Nairobi, Kenya with other hubs in Rome, Indonesia, and California. There will be no charge to participate but donations are welcome.

Watch 35-second video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8La7IHLQ7A>.

### HERE ARE THE HUBS

- The Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies
- Global Ministries University
- UIN (State Islamic University) Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

### OUR PARTNERS

- Umma University
- The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns
- The Harmony Institute
- The Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Former Governor of California.



(Paid ad)

*Human Interest*

## Grassroots Coalition Member Publishes Book

**“Intimate Meanderings...is an inspiring array of insight and bears witness to human life and our innate movement towards wholeness.”**

– Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao, Abbot ZCLA, Buddha Essence Temple

Daniel Berrigan, S.J. (may he enjoy eternal peace), our great friend and contributor, says: “This book is an amazing potpourri of wisdom. I am so grateful to you, Morgan and the friends. *Intimate Meanderings: Conversations Close to Our Hearts* should be required reading in every Jesuit tent.”

“What appeals to me intellectually and emotionally about your book is that reading these pieces together creates a very new context to hold the experience of life. Spirituality, what you call meditation, is the glue that holds all the parts together. I feel that all your contributors are committed to integrate the fragments of what knowledge and methods we have acquired. . . with real life experience.” – John Lounibos, PhD

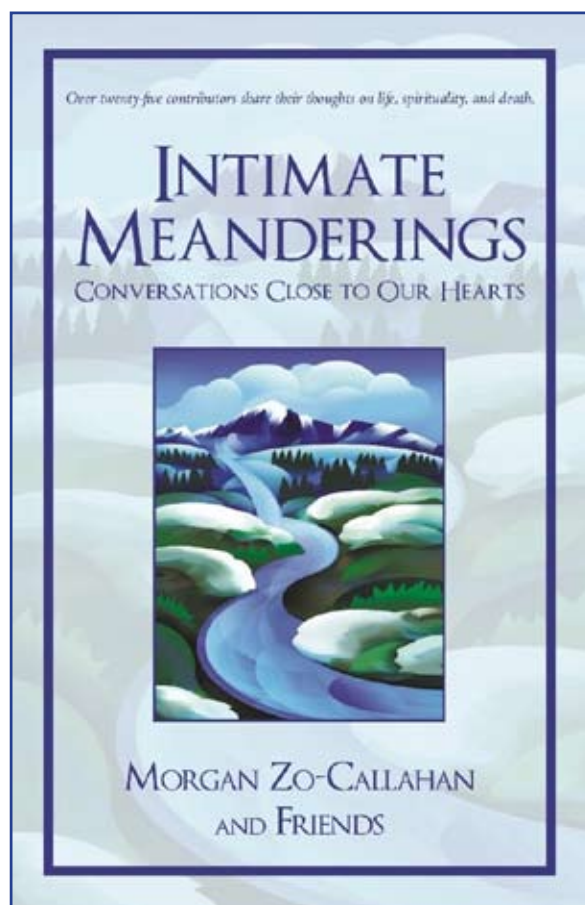
Twenty-six contributors offer interviews, reflections, stories, and poetry on meditation, religion, community involvement, hospice, eulogies, human journeys, living and dying well...piquing spiritual and literary curiosity in interested readers.

Among the friends who shared their perspectives in *Meanderings* are several former Jesuits and one Jesuit, Buddhists, Christians with strong Buddhist leanings, Hindus, women, activists, academics, and teachers. We are: Rufina Amaya, Dan Berrigan, Gene Bianchi, Bob Brophy, Morgan Zo-Callahan, “Ed,” Don Foran, Sam Haycraft, Ken Ireland, Jiyu-Kennet, Bob Kaiser, John Lounibos, Don Maloney, Doug McFerran, Joe Mitchell, Eng Moy, Robert Rahl, Elizabeth Russell, Gary Schouborg, Rebecca Sheppard, Joyce Sin, Dilip Trasi, Nitin Trasi, Dave W. Van Etten, and Harry Wu.

**Available:** Barnes & Noble (Paperback \$35.95, Nook Book \$6.49), Amazon and iUniverse (Paperback \$35.95, Kindle \$6.99).

<https://sites.google.com/site/intimatemeanderings/>

(Paid ad)



## *Awaken*

By Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

*From this day forward only Love will direct our path forward  
As caretakers brought here for the higher purpose  
Of knowing the true meaning of caring.  
Caring about the here and now  
About our connected futures.*

*For too long we have forgotten about our purpose for being here.*

*AWAKEN*



## Fundraising With Mary Kay Business

Iona's Mary Kay business helps support her work on this newspaper. Mary Kay® Eye Shadow Quad, which includes matte and shimmer shades that can complement everyone, allows for looks from blushing to bold. Plus, both quads fit nicely in the Mary Kay Perfect Palette® (sold separately). Available in Warm Pinks and Cool Pinks. Her personal website is [www.marykay.com/IonaConner](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.groundswellnews.org). Email [groundswellnews@pa.net](mailto:groundswellnews@pa.net) to be put on our e-list. It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

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*Thank you.*



*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends

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



[Note from the Editor]

I discovered the following notice while clearing out some old paperwork, which John (my husband in Eterity) sent to his 9,000-strong email list.

### **The Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice**

Would you Like to Live in a Country in which the Government is OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE?

And Works for the Welfare of All?

Would you Like to Live in a Country in Which All the Workers Earn a Living Wage?

And Have Security, Good Working Conditions and Full Benefits?

Would You Like to Live in a Country in which Each Citizen Regardless of Wealth Has an Equal Say

in How the Government Operates?

You CAN Live in That Kind of Country! Join the Grassroots Coalition.

We are Working Economically and Politically.

[This is a reply to an email I sent Allen.]

Who are “the mainstream environmental movement” leaders currently “obsessed with powering an unsustainable way of life?”

Who are “the mainstream environmental movement” leaders whose “lies and fantastical thinking” support “the notion that solar, wind, hydro, biomass, or green consumerism will save the plane?t?”

Attacking these straw men and red herrings undermines the mission of GNJ, giving aid and comfort to the true enemy: greed-based capitalism.

**Allen Hengst**, Wire Editor

Congratulations Iona!! I am also trying to raise funds for my children’s program if you can share this: <https://gofund.me/c1d53f18>.

Join our environmental education by signing this petition and this link will take you to our Go Fund Me to bring your concern and care to children’s voices in their concern over their planet from

plastics to climate. This petition contains videos of children’s voices of concern and the petition is your voice in banning single use plastics in Pennsylvania. Our outreach for this petition is to all U.S. Senators and legislators.

Go Fund Me link:  
<https://gofund.me/c1d53f18>

Our documentary can be found at [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com).

**Diane Christin Esser**, Pennsylvania USA

We just wanted to say you are doing a great job. Keep up the good work and you will be rewarded with a heavenly surprise someday.

With all our love and prayers,  
**Ron & Linda Feagley**, Pennsylvania USA

I am pleased to [receive] that information, it’s encouraging. Thank you for joining me, I wish you well.

**Magumba Lawrence**, Uganda

**Hi Dear Iona,**

Really enjoying and benefitting from your latest. Photos and articles are great. And thank you for the good-looking ad for [my] book. Soon will be sending you \$ for another ad. Take care and God bless you always.

Abrazos,  
**Morgan Zo-Callahan**, California USA

Thanks for the wonderful information grandma. I hope you’re doing better.

**Hanson G. Blayon**, Liberia

Is there a U.S.-based organization or person among us that focus on human rights and engagement of youths in the electoral process or related activities?. Am in need of one for a partnership opportunity.

**Ngo Abdulai Banfogha**, Cameroon (Hope for a Better Future)  
**Tell:** +237671977679

**Email:** [ngo@h4bf-foundation.org](mailto:ngo@h4bf-foundation.org)

**Website:** [www.h4bf-foundation.org](http://www.h4bf-foundation.org).



**Friends of Peace and Hope Foundation (FPHF)**

It is important that we take care of a child’s holistic growth, as such it is important to offer all basic necessities. There are many destitute children around our area. Many have no parents and others live with families that abuse them.

At FPHF, these children get a place to call home and enjoy being children.

To take care of the many children we have, we depend upon donors to sponsor the children. Currently only a few have sponsors and therefore we end up distributing rations to everyone [but] that is not enough to enable a proper development to the children. Kindly consider becoming one of our supporters and sponsors a child. The children live in Kisoro, Uganda.

To select a child to sponsor follow this link to our website: <https://www.pfohf.org>.

To make a donation directly to our PayPal account use this address:

[uwinezamark@gmail.com](mailto:uwinezamark@gmail.com)

Peace and Love,

**Mark Uwineza**, Australia

**Email:** [hopefoundationp@gmail.com](mailto:hopefoundationp@gmail.com),  
[uwinezamark@yahoo.com](mailto:uwinezamark@yahoo.com)

**Messages continued on next page**

Messages continued from previous page

[first email]

**Hello Dearest Iona Conner.**

I hope you are doing well, please, Our city of Goma, in DR Congo, we have been victims of Volcano eruption, we would like to get in contact with *Groundswell News* and see how to mobilize emergency aid grants to support humanitarian relief operations, including water, shelters, food, non-food Items, etc. for thousands of people who are fleeing their homes in Goma City during the night after a large volcano eruption. Mount Nyiragongo: DR Congo residents flee as volcano erupts.

I hope you can get us good contacts (grants or funds) to support these emergency assistance efforts.

[second email]

Thank you for sending me this material. I can see Grassroots Coalition has grown big, and it is real platform of great people

around the World for great challenges, Climate, environment, justice, and economy.

AJVDC means in French Association de Jeunes Visionnaires pour le Développement du Congo, or Visionary Youth Association for Congo Development. We used to call ourself and add "AJVDC Green Brigade." We are mostly working for climate actions, environmental education, and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) achievement.

Best Regards,

**Leon Simwerayi**, DR Congo  
AJVDC Green Brigade/Congo  
www.ajvdc.com

(Re: Project in Cameroon on page 1, which a Core Group of Nine Grassroots Coalition members is working on.)

Great work guys, thumbs up.

**Bob Maahe**, Uganda  
www.skillsforyouths.org

My goal is to see ONE VILLAGE TOURS & TRAVEL (www.onevillagetours.com) become the leading tours and travel business company in Uganda, East Africa region, and Africa as well as time goes on through offering excellent and better service and giving back to the community i.e. the poor and less privileged members of the community, thereby creating and enhancing sustainable Tourism for future generations' use as the best tool.

I run this with a small budget amidst Covid challenges, which I think that through global peace partners, business partners who would want to buy shares in the company, those who want to promote us and as well as volunteer with us, would help us achieve this goal of household income and sustainable development.

**Herbert Bagyenye**, Uganda  
http://onevillagetours.com/



By Uche Isieke, Nigeria

Originally published by Resilience.org

My late grandmother, Veronica Isieke (photo at right), was born in 1916 and died in 1997. During her time she was among the few women who made an impact in the community. She was a visionary and resilient person who believed that women's voices should be heard and be allowed to contribute to community development.

She didn't want to see her right or that of her fellow women trampled. This didn't mean she disrespected the male folks or her husband, but her measuring scale was equity and justice.

She came from a landlocked region where men believed that women do not have a right to own land. This became an issue after the demise of her late husband as family men pushed her with threats to give up all her late husband's land property now under her possession.

"You dare not try Veronica," some would say.

When she saw that what was perceived

as the dominant culture was going to rob her of her human rights and no one among the men was willing to stand by her, she employed every legitimate means and insisted not even a plot was removed from her land.

As a farmer who practiced on a subsistence level, her survival and ability to create income depended on how much land was available and her capacity to manage that land.

When soil erosion forced many to abandon their farmlands as their crops were consistently washed away by the rain, my grandmother introduced a plant that is widely used today to prevent erosion on farmlands.

Many who left their land began to come back as they now have a solution to the ecological problem in the community. This amplified food security and reduced deforestation, as the same tree can produce firewood for home use, thereby preserving the forest trees.

Growing under the watch of a focused, fearless, and nature-friendly grandmother contributed largely to my love for nature and belief that women have a right that should be preserved and respected.

Remembering her on this #InternationalWomensDay has further motivated and strengthened my quest to pursue those values for which she was known.

Today, I see Veronica written on the face of each of her female grand- and great-

grandchildren. I also hear and read her when they speak or act, and I smile with nostalgia and say that is my grandmom.

She was a woman who motivated many rural women, especially widows, to own and protect their land, and to have enough food and income to feed their families.

**Source:** <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2021-03-10/how-my-late-grandmother-veronica-isieke-defended-the-rights-of-rural-women-to-own-land-and-feed-families/>



Veronica Isieke