

Groundswell News Journal

A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice
We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.

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

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

A Celebration of Youth. www.groundswellnews.org. Issue No. 78: July 17, 2021



Photo: Carlos Motta

Indigenous People World Map by Carlos Motta, 2009. Indigenous peoples have special relationships with their land; we must learn from them.

Indigenous People & Climate Change

By Rituraj Phukan, India

Who We Are, Our Roots

The Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum is a place to highlight the plight of indigenous communities at the frontlines of climate change, share impact stories of traditional knowledge, cultures, and community resilience, and document changes for ensuring environmental and social justice.

There are over 476 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries across the world, accounting for 6.2 per cent of the global population. Indigenous peoples are the holders of unique cultures, traditions, and knowledge systems and have a special relationship with their lands and hold diverse concepts of development based on their own worldviews and priorities. At the same time, Indigenous peoples face numerous challenges, such as little or poor access to sanitation, lack of clean water, inadequate medical services, widespread stigma and discrimination, as well as land grabbing and encroachment on their lands. Climate change has exacerbated the dif-

ficulties already faced by vulnerable indigenous populations in many regions. These communities are often found to be sharing a close relationship with nature and dependent on natural resources but face widespread discrimination, including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, etc. Indigenous peoples around the world are often found at the frontlines of climate change and they are among the first to face the direct impacts of warming and rapid changes in the living environment.

Nowhere are the indigenous people more threatened than in the Amazon with
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What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

Coalition Founders: John and Iona Conner

Editor/Publisher: Iona Conner

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Established: September 2013

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Our Motto:

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

Our Slogan:

The way forward:
cycle back to basics.

Our Word: INVINCIBLE

Mission of Our Journal

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

What is the Grassroots Coalition?

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

Who are we trying to attract?

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

What are we trying to achieve?

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

Our Values

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

Guidelines for Submissions

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

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

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

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

Fair Use Logo



Iona's Column: *Apologies & Correction*

Dearest Global Family,

I really goofed last time by placing the wrong photos in Prince Kamundala Kitumaini's article in French on page 25 about his wonderful work in DR Congo. I was not able to get an English translation in time, so I simply chose a couple photos he had sent of planters made from repurposed plastic bottles, but that is not what his article was about. Now I have two separate English translations so I'm going to redo this error with multiple apologies to Prince.

Also, in the article on page 14 (“Two Groups Run by Grandmothers Networking for the Earth”), I failed to mention that I'm the other grandmother! I have seven beautiful grandchildren, in case you don't know. I love working with Valerie. She lives in Wales and I have Welsh ancestry, so we have a lot in common.

That clears up some mistakes from last time. As of this moment – 4:39 p.m. July 3, 2021 – my awareness of our fight to save life on Earth being a war was heightened by watching a video about starving children and families in Madagascar and reading the article our Board member Jeannette Bartelt sent me yesterday: <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2021/07/how-to-live-in-a-climate-permanent-emergency.html>. I have considered this entire effort a war for years, even though I have strong Quaker pacifist tendencies. The pain of the poor is too brutal to sit around and not work harder and more intelligently on climate and social justice issues like my husband, John, did while he was alive. He was a true warrior for justice. I need to be more like him.

Love,

Iona

Climate Emergency

Indigenous Peoples *continued from page 1*

the invasion of indigenous land by miners, loggers, and farmers in Brazil. Across the Amazon, extractive industries implemented without the consent of indigenous people are threatening their livelihoods. Deforestation is a major cause of climate change, and it is having a profound impact on the indigenous communities of the Amazon.

Indigenous communities in Africa, Australia, and on the small island nations are facing multiple existential threats. Encroachment, water scarcity, food availability, and disease are aggravated by climate change impacts. Rising sea levels may force the abandonment of some Pacific island nations and displace hundreds of thousands. Climate change impacts will likely lead to the worst ever humanitarian crises, with indigenous communities being the worst affected.

The evidence suggests that the livelihoods and cultural identities of the more than 370 million indigenous peoples of North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific are already under threat. The utilization of traditional knowledge for conservation of the natural ecosystems has emerged as one of the vital components for resilience development. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes the right of indigenous peoples to the conservation and protection of the environment of their lands and resources.

The implications of climate change on indigenous populations is most pronounced in the Arctic region, which is warming at least three times faster than the rest of the world. In the high Arctic region, indigenous communities have survived the extreme cold for tens of thousands of years, depending on hunting walrus, seals, reindeer, and polar bear. Their economic, social, and cultural existence and identity is associated with hunting, as well as herding reindeer and fishing.

The Sámi, Europe's only recognized indigenous population, inhabit the northern regions of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia, extending across 388,000 square kilometers (241,092 square miles). The Sámi people have been herding reindeer in the frozen landscapes since the last Ice Age. Reindeer herding is vital to the culture, subsistence, and economy of all the inhabitants of these regions, not just the indigenous communities. It will take all of the Sámi traditions, local knowledge, and methods of land and resource management and local knowledge to adapt to these rapid climatic changes.



Photo Courtesy of Author

The impact of climate change on native biodiversity used as food and medicine by indigenous communities is an unknown but expected consequence.

The Inuit who live in northern Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka in Russia are hunters and the changing climate and landscape has forced them to alter hunting and harvesting times. They are worried about the loss of sea ice and extinction threat to animals like the polar bears, walrus, seals, and marine birds who rely on sea ice as habitat. The Inuit culture and relationship are uniquely related to the Arctic ecosystem, and what happens to the species directly affects their future.

Other indigenous people of the Arctic, namely, the Aleut in the Aleutian Islands, Gwich'in in North America, Nenets, Chukchi, and many others in northern Russia face similar existential challenges.

It is expected that the opening up of the High Arctic sea routes and the race to exploit minerals and hydrocarbons of the hitherto inaccessible north will further compromise the survival of the indigenous communities of the region.

India is home to about 700 tribal groups which constitute the second largest tribal population in the world after Africa. Many of these communities are forest or fringe forest dwellers, impoverished, and dependent on natural resources for sustenance. Loss of forest cover, invasive vegetation, and loss of indigenous food sources have

emerged as direct threats to the food security of millions. The impact of climate change on native biodiversity used as food and medicine by indigenous communities is an unknown but expected consequence.

The impacts of Eastern Himalayan warming are already manifest in the north-east of India, which is home to numerous indigenous communities. Blessed with natural largesse, the region is vulnerable to natural disasters. In December 2018, Assam and Mizoram were named as the most vulnerable to climate change among 12 Himalayan states at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) at Katowice, Poland.

Recent policy decisions by the government of India will exacerbate these challenges. The decision to open and extend coal mining, allowing the private sector into ancient forested areas, and the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification (EIA 2020) will have a profound impact on the wellbeing of indigenous communities. These decisions are being seen as contrary to the commitments made by the country for pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals and as signatories to several global agreements.

Indigenous People *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency



Photo: Alfindra Primaldhi, via Wikimedia Commons

Indonesia's Puncak Jaya, known also as Carstensz Pyramid, has lost more than 90% of its ice since 1980.

Melting Tropical Glaciers Sound Early Warning

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: July 5, 2021

LONDON, UK – The world's remotest water towers are in retreat. The snows of Kilimanjaro in Africa are diminishing: between 1986 and 2017 the area of ice that crowns the most famous mountain in Tanzania has decreased by 71%. A tropical glacier near Puncak Jaya in Papua in Indonesia has lost 93% of its ice in the 38 years from 1980 to 2018. Melting tropical glaciers are together sounding an ominous warning.

The frozen summit of Huascarán, the highest peak in the tropics in Peru, has decreased in area by 19% between 1970 and 2003. In 1976, U.S. scientists first took cores

from the ice cap of Quelccaya in the Peruvian Andes: by 2020, around 46% had gone.

The darkening summits of the highest tropical mountains have a message for the world about the rate of climate change. "These are in the most remote parts of our planet – they're not next to big cities, so you don't have a local pollution effect," said Lonnie Thompson of Ohio University. "These glaciers are sentinels, they're early warning systems for the planet and they are all saying the same thing."

Millennial Climate Records

He and colleagues report in the journal *Global and Planetary Change* that they analyzed the impact of warming on what they

call "rapidly retreating high-altitude, low-latitude glaciers" in four separate regions of the planet: Africa, the Andes in Peru and Bolivia, the Tibetan Plateau, and Himalayas of Asia, and the mountains of Papua province in Indonesia on the island known as New Guinea in the southwestern Pacific.

Each of the sample glaciers has yielded cores of ice that preserve, in their snow chemistry and trapped pollen, a record of many thousands of years of subtle climate change. And, since 1972, Earth observation satellites such as Nasa's Landsat mission have monitored their surfaces.

In a world now heating as a response to greenhouse gas emissions into the atmo-

Glaciers *continued on next page*

Indigenous People *continued from previous page*

Climate change poses a danger to the survival of indigenous communities worldwide, even though indigenous peoples contribute little to greenhouse emissions. However, indigenous peoples are vital to creating a dynamic adaptation and mitigation pathway. Involvement of local communities in conserving and restoring the natural ecosystems is important to enhance resilience. It is widely recognized that

traditional knowledge and solutions must be harnessed for appropriate localized responses to help cope with these challenges.

There are many examples of the fact that indigenous people interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions which may help society at large to cope with impending changes. Planning for

the future should include enhancement and support for the adaptive capacity of indigenous peoples integrated with disaster preparation, land-use planning, environmental conservation, and sustainable development strategies.

Source: <https://www.indigenouspeoples-climatejusticeforum.com/post/indigenous-people-climate-change>

Climate Emergency

Climate Heat is Changing Earth's Water Cycle

By Tim Radford, *excerpt*
Climate News Network: June 29, 2021

LONDON, UK – Prepare for a hotter, drier world, even in monsoon country. As global temperatures rise in response to greenhouse gas emissions, the northern hemisphere rainy seasons are likely to arrive ever later as Earth's water cycle reacts.

And even though more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere means more fertility and more moisture in the atmosphere, in the last 30 years the world's green canopy has become more and more water-stressed, according to an entirely separate study.

U.S. scientists report in *Nature Climate Change* that humankind has, in effect, begun to alter the planetary hydrological cycle. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and falling emissions of aerosols from car exhausts and factory chimneys have together combined to affect the tropical rainy season.

The Asian monsoons are arriving four days later, along with the rains over the Sahel in sub-Saharan Africa. By the century's end the monsoons could sweep over India five days, and over the Sahel eight days, later.

A warmer world should be a wetter one: standing water evaporates more swiftly, and with every degree Celsius temperatures rise, the capacity of the air to hold moisture also rises significantly. But, paradoxically, this extra atmospheric moisture is also the problem: ever more energy is needed to warm up the atmosphere as spring becomes summer.

The problem is compounded by cleaner air; industrial pollution had the effect of reflecting sunlight and damping down the global warming trend. As nations enforce clean air legislation – and create conditions for healthier lives – more sunlight gets through, to escalate both warming and rainfall delays. Later rains will mean later crop harvests, more extreme heat waves,



Photo: Chettouh Nabil, via Wikimedia Commons

Ksar Taghit, in the Algerian Sahel: An arid environment that needs all the rain it can get, not the week-long monsoon delay it faces annually by 2100.

and more intense wildfires.

“For monsoon regions, like India, with an agrarian economy, a delayed onset of summer rainfall could devastate crop production and jeopardize the livelihoods of large populations, unless farmers recognize and adapt to the long-term changes amidst highly variable monsoon onset dates,” said Ruby Leung, of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, one of the authors.

And in a second study, in the journal *Nature Communications*, another U.S. research team warns that vegetation in the northern hemisphere has been becoming increasingly (as they put it) “water-limited” over the last 30 years.

Inflexible Limits

In what they say is a first-of-its-kind large-scale study, scientists analyzed satellite and weather data from 604,800 locations each year over the three decades from 1982 to 2015. They identified a kind of vegetable go-slow overall: those areas

where water supplies for plant growth were constrained had expanded, while those places where there was plenty of water tended to shrink.

In recent decades, plants have responded to extra atmospheric carbon dioxide by growing more vigorously to “green” the planet a little more measurably and slow the rate of climate change. This, however, looks as though it cannot last, because ultimately growth is limited by water availability.

“Without water, living things struggle to survive. Changes in vegetation response to water availability can result in significant shifts of climate-carbon interaction,” said Lixin Wang, of the University of Indiana, one of the authors. . . .

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/climate-heat-is-changing-earths-water-cycle/>

Glaciers *continued from previous page*

sphere, where once snow had fallen, there is now rain to wash away the high-altitude ice. Glaciers serve as sources of fresh water for farmers and villagers in the tropical mountain zones: they also provide the river melt for many millions downstream.

The latest research confirms something climate scientists already knew: that almost everywhere, mountain ice is in retreat, with potentially devastating consequences for local economies. And the culprit is climate change driven by profligate fossil fuel combustion.

The Ohio researchers say, “Since the beginning of the 21st century the rates of ice loss have been at historically unprecedented levels.”

Within two or three years, the high snows near Puncak Jaya – these have powerful religious and cultural significance for the local people – will have gone.

But, the scientists argue, it is not too late to slow or stop the rate of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, and to slow or stop the retreat of many tropical glaciers.

“The science doesn’t change the trajectory we’re on,” said Professor Thompson. “Regardless of how clear the science is, we need something to happen to change that trajectory.”

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/melting-tropical-glaciers-sound-an-early-warning/>

Climate Emergency



Photo: Global Ban on Fracking Petition

Support for a United Nations Global Ban on Fracking Proposal by Ireland: “We, the undersigned, support a call for a global ban on fracking being proposed by Ireland at the United Nations General Assembly on climate-mitigation, public-health, environmental-protection, and human-rights grounds.

Ireland Presses UN to Agree to Global Fracking Ban

By Mitchell Beer
Climate News Network: June 30, 2021
(Courtesy of The Energy Mix)

Economic future looks dim for Appalachian fracking, plastics production; sign petition.

OTTAWA, Canada – A grassroots group from Ireland which has been seeking to persuade the Irish government to call for a global fracking ban at the UN General Assembly in mid-September, just six weeks before this year’s UN climate conference, COP-26, convenes in Glasgow, is making progress.

“Ireland has not yet agreed to such an initiative, so it is vitally important that the Irish government can witness that this move would have broad societal support,” wrote Johnny McElligott of Safety Before LNG (Liquid Natural Gas), in an appeal early last month obtained by The Energy Mix.

But on May 18, the Irish government published the world’s first policy statement against fracked gas imports, a move which Safety Before LNG says requires the government to agree to propose a resolution at the UN calling for a global fracking ban. Organizations can sign the Global Ban on Fracking petition in **English, French, or Spanish** at (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGfUdrM6ZnDdXBip2ilCUwBA2uwnIFz_VV1N9CHYX13xM-WTA/viewform).

The national government had earlier expressed “Ireland’s willingness to tackle powerful fracked-gas-vested interests head on, and express solidarity and empathy with communities in Pennsylvania, Texas, Northern Ireland, Namibia, Botswana, Argentina, and worldwide affected by, or

threatened with, the scientifically-proven harmful process of fracking,” McElligott had said. “But we want Ireland to go even further by calling for a Global Ban on Fracking at the UN,” so that grassroots groups will no longer have to “reinvent the wheel each time the fracking companies come into new territories.”

Rapid Action Possible

It may be a very long shot, trying to push a notoriously process-driven, global institution to exert pressure on a global climate conference known for moving at a glacial pace – when it moves at all.

But the first step is to get a UN member state to propose a resolution, and “Ireland is uniquely well-positioned to lead the effort against fracked gas,” wrote Friends of the Earth Ireland, with a “strong legislative ban on fracking” already in place, the import ban coming up, and legislation recently introduced to pull the state investment fund out of fossil fuels.

Building on that history, “Ireland can move very quickly on this because it is possible to bring forward a UN General Assembly resolution at any time,” McElligott told The Mix. Groups lodged the request with Green-affiliated Climate Action Minister Éamon Ryan on Earth Day, April 22, and “as Ireland has already banned fracking, then it would only be calling for the same in a UN resolution,” he added. “If a large number of groups from all over the world sign this petition of support for a UN resolution on banning fracking, it will be a clear message to the Irish government to answer the call that it cannot ignore.”

Once a resolution reached the General Assembly, “a resolution coming from a global-south and a global-north member state would send a clear message, and we

believe that a strong global campaign will deliver at least the 50%-plus majority that we need,” he added. “If groups campaigning for human rights, climate mitigation, environmental protection, and public health engage with this campaign, we have a very realistic hope of success.”

A successful General Assembly resolution ahead of COP-26 “would bring the elephant in the room – which is methane leakage from fracking – front and center,” McElligott added.

The push for the Irish government to back the resolution “follows on from an open letter to the UN Secretary-General in 2019, signed by over 450 grassroots groups, organizations, celebrities, and scientists from around the world, which demanded that the UN champion efforts to stop fracking,” Friends of the Earth says.

“Since then, a core group of these international campaigners has been doing a lot of the background work in finding a Member State that would propose this resolution at the UN,” McElligott explained, while a group of specialists in human rights law prepared a draft resolution that could be presented at the UN in support of a global fracking ban.

Despite the focus on international institutions, Safety Before LNG’s motivations are decidedly local as well as global. “The communities that live in the Lough Allen gas basin in Ireland believe they are not safe until there is a global ban,” McElligott wrote.

Pressure on COP-26

“The company that initially tried to frack in Ireland has now applied for a fracking licence in Northern Ireland, where legislation to ban fracking has still not gotten across the line.”

Fracking Ban *continued on next page*

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Fracking Ban continued from previous page



Photo: FrackTracker Alliance/flickr

Economic future looks dim for Appalachian fracking, plastics production.

Despite the national ban in 2017, “Our experience fighting the fracking companies over the years has taught us that they will try to come back if they get half a chance, so we all feel under threat. We are not safe until everybody is safe.”

In Canada, Environnement Vert Plus spokesperson Pascal Bergeron said a UN resolution “could be a major game changer, and affect gas pipeline and LNG projects, among others, all across North America.” But not by prompting Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau to take a strong stand against fracking at the General Assembly. “I expect him to say how they can make fracking better and climate-friendly, which will always remain false” when fossil gas “can only contribute to the increase of GHG (Greenhouse Gas) levels in the atmosphere,” he said.

But, “A UN resolution against fracking will put pressure on all heads of state who wish to appear to be making climate their priority. If the UN rules against fracking, Trudeau and

President Joe Biden will have to tie their climate commitments to policies of rapid fossil fuel exploitation decline at COP-26.”

Mitchell Beer is a climate and energy communicator and curator of The Energy Mix, a Canadian e-newsletter on climate, energy, and the shift to a post-carbon future.

Sources: <https://www.theenergymix.com> via <https://climatenetwork.net/ireland-presses-un-to-agree-a-global-fracking-ban/>

AT FIRST DREAMS SEEM IMPOSSIBLE, THEN IMPROBABLE, THEN INEVITABLE.

~ Christopher Reeve ~

<https://philosiblog.com/2012/09/25/at-first-dreams-seem-impossible-then-improbable-and-eventually-inevitable/>

Climate Emergency



Why people are risking arrest to join old-growth logging protests on Vancouver Island

May 27, 2021 4:40pm EDT

Photo: [theconversation.com](https://www.theconversation.com), Shutterstock

Close to 25 per cent of the world's remaining temperate rainforest is in B.C., mainly along the coasts.

By David Tindall, Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia
June 14, 2021 Deep Green Resistance News Service; this article originally appeared in *The Conversation*.

The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) has recently been arresting protesters who had set up blockades to prevent the logging of old-growth forests on Vancouver Island. Environmentalists say the Fairy Creek watershed near Port Renfrew is the last old-growth area left on southern Vancouver Island, outside of protected areas.

The contested forested areas lie close to the internationally known West Coast Trail, and within the unceded traditional territory of several First Nations, including Pacheedaht and Ditidaht.

Some of the trees are more than 1,000 years old and are part of rare ecosystems that some independent estimates suggest make up less than one per cent of the remaining forest in B.C. (British Columbia). Close to 25 per cent of the world's remaining temperate rainforest is in B.C., mainly along the coasts.

The demonstrators established the first blockade in August 2020 along the logging roads into the Fairy Creek watershed, where Teal-Jones has a "tree farm license" to harvest timber and manage forest resources. Now dozens of people, including some First Nations youth, have been arrested for violating a B.C. Supreme Court order that restricts protesters from blockading the logging roads.

This dispute resembles the protests over Clayoquot Sound (also on the west coast of Vancouver Island). Dubbed the "War in

the Woods," more than 850 people were arrested in 1993 for blockading logging roads. That protest, sparked by a decision to allow logging in the area, was the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history and a seminal event in the history of the environmental movement.

As a researcher of social movement and environmental issues, I have been surveying the general public and environmental activists about their attitudes and behaviors for about three decades. I am particularly interested in environmental conflicts and the factors (such as social networks) that explain why people get involved in collective actions to protect the environment or to protest against such actions (pro-industry protesters).

This research can shed light on current and future conflicts. People who support the goals and values of a movement can be drawn into it, what social movement scholars call "the mobilization potential." However, involvement is often contingent upon other factors, such as social ties to other participants.

'War in the Woods' Redux?

The connection between Fairy Creek and Clayoquot Sound was highlighted when Tzeporah Berman – a high-profile environmentalist and a leader of the Clayoquot protests – was arrested at a road leading into the Fairy Creek watershed in May.

Berman, who is also the director of the environmental organization Stand.earth, co-ordinated the blockade in Clayoquot Sound 27 years ago. She was arrested then too, although the long list of charges was

eventually dismissed on constitutional grounds. No large-scale industrial logging occurred in Clayoquot in the aftermath of the protests.

More recently, anti-logging protests focused on the old-growth forest in the Great Bear Rainforest. Environmentalists, the forestry sector, First Nations, and the B.C. government eventually worked together to establish a 2016 agreement to protect the Great Bear Rainforest.

Since then, various environmental groups have continued to campaign to protect old-growth forests. But these efforts have often been overshadowed by protests against oil and gas pipelines and overarching activism about climate change.

Understanding Beliefs About Old-Growth Forests

An old-growth forest is one that has not been disturbed by large-scale human activities, such as industrial logging. In B.C., these forests have been growing since the last ice age, about 10,000 years.

They include gigantic trees such as red and yellow cedars, Sitka spruce, hemlock, and Douglas firs, which are sometimes as tall as a football field or soccer pitch is long. One-thousand-year-old trees may be the most iconic features of coastal old-growth forests, but the forests also promote biodiversity by providing habitat to numerous wildlife species, many of which do not thrive outside of old-growth forests.

Logging has contributed to the dramatic decline of B.C.'s old-growth forests. One independent study suggested that the major-

Risking Arrest *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

Risking Arrest *continued from previous page*



Photo: The Canadian Press/Jen Osborne

RCMP officers preparing to remove two protesters chained to a tree stump at a blockade in Cayuse, B.C.

ity of B.C.'s productive old-growth forests have been logged, and there are plans to log the majority of what remains.

In a 2007 survey, my group found that 75 per cent of the general public completely or mostly agreed that "clearcut logging should not be allowed in old-growth forests." So did 93 per cent of environmentalists.

We also asked about the statement: "Some forested areas should be set aside in order to protect endangered and threatened species (e.g., the spotted owl, the spirit bear)." Here, 94.2 per cent of the general public and 98 per cent of environmentalists completely or mostly agreed.

In 2005, I surveyed members and supporters of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound, one of the main organizations involved in the protests. That study asked people about various types of civil disobedience, and found that 90 per cent of environmentalists believed that blocking logging roads greatly or somewhat helped the cause, and 84 per cent believed that occupying trees greatly or somewhat helped the cause.

It is difficult to assess the outcomes of

social movements, but civil disobedience has been successful in the past. Media attention, changing public opinion, and disruption can put pressure on governments to change course.

Growing Protests

Protesters have been blocking access to logging roads and positioning themselves high in trees to disrupt harvesting operations in the Fairy Creek area, drawing the attention of the media and the public and putting pressure on government. The RCMP responded slowly at first, but recently began to enforce the court injunction and have restricted access to the protest sites.

While the protest has been going on since late last summer, its activities have recently heated up. Environmentalists want the government to adopt the recommendations from a new advisory report on old-growth forests. It seems likely that the protest will grow.

A large number of people see civil disobedience as being effective and are willing

to do it. Once the B.C. government eases Covid-related restrictions, more people will likely become involved in protests. Pleasant weather and flexible summer schedules may encourage others to join. Satellite protests regarding the threat to old-growth forests will also continue in urban centers.

The RCMP says it has arrested more than 100 people already, and 75 seniors from the Victoria area have joined the protest at Fairy Creek. This may just be the beginning of another "War in the Woods."

David Tindall receives research funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This is an agency that provides funding for academic research. The funding is for research expenses, not the salary of the author. David Tindall has a volunteer affiliation with the Climate Reality Project Canada, for whom he periodically gives educational presentations to public audiences on climate change.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/habitat-loss/why-people-are-risking-arrest-to-join-old-growth->

Climate Emergency

Top Exxon Lobbyist Reveals Plan to Weaken Biden's Climate Efforts in Undercover Footage

Greenpeace Press Release
June 20, 2021

London, UK - Oil giant ExxonMobil is still fighting efforts to tackle the climate crisis in the United States despite publicly claiming to support the Paris climate agreement, an undercover Unearthed investigation has found. You can read it at <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2021/06/30/exxon-climate-change-undercover/>.

Watch the video at <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2021/06/30/exxon-climate-change-undercover/>.

A senior lobbyist for Exxon told an undercover reporter that the company had been working to weaken key aspects of President Joe Biden's flagship initiative on climate change, the American Jobs Plan.

He also described Biden's new plan to slash U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as "insane" and admitted that the company had aggressively fought early climate science through "shadow groups" to protect its investments. No serving Exxon executive has ever before admitted that the company fought climate science to protect its financial interests.

Keith McCoy – a senior director in Exxon's Washington DC government affairs team – told the undercover reporter that he is speaking to the office of influential Democratic senator Joe Manchin every week, with the aim of removing "negative stuff", such as rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions, from Biden's plan. Manchin is widely regarded as crucial to the White House's efforts to steer climate legislation through Congress.

Last week – after weeks of bipartisan talks – President Biden conditionally endorsed a scaled-back version of his infrastructure plan, which eliminates hundreds of billions of dollars of proposed support for climate initiatives.

During the meeting, which took place via Zoom in May, McCoy also suggested that Exxon's public support for a carbon tax as its preferred way of tackling climate change is actually an "advocacy tool" and



Image: Unearthed (greenpeace.org)

White text reads, "Inside Exxon's playbook: How America's biggest oil company continues to oppose action on climate change." Small text at bottom reads, "ExxonMobil aims to drastically weaken Biden's climate plans and used shadow groups to 'aggressively' fight climate science, insider tells undercover reporter. Words at the bottom left where the tape is reads, "Image: Emily Buchanan."

"great talking point" but will never actually happen. "Nobody is going to propose a tax on all Americans and the cynical side of me says, yeah, we kind of know that but it gives us a talking point that we can say, well what is ExxonMobil for, well we're for a carbon tax," McCoy said.

Commenting on the findings, Greenpeace UK's senior climate campaigner Charlie Kronick said:

"The mask has slipped. No matter how much Exxon wants you to think they care about the climate crisis, this shows as clear as day that the tiger hasn't changed its stripes. The oil giant is still using every trick in the lobbyist's playbook to weaken or derail climate action in the U.S. We now know for sure that Exxon's support for a carbon tax is just a cynical ploy based on their belief that it will never happen."

"As a record-breaking heatwave engulfs the Pacific Northwest, people will remember President Biden's big promises about transforming the U.S. economy to avoid catastrophic climate change. If he wants to succeed, he can't allow Exxon to undermine his flagship climate legislation. Either the White House stands firm on key measures about electric cars and clean energy, or this may go down in history as the Exxon bill."

A second Exxon lobbyist, Dan Easley – who left the company in January to join a clean tech firm after working as its chief White House lobbyist throughout the

Trump administration – laughed when asked by an undercover reporter if the company had achieved many policy wins under Trump, before outlining victories on fossil fuel permitting and the renegotiation of the NAFTA trade agreement.

"The wins are such that it would be difficult to categorize them all," he said, adding that the biggest victory was Trump's reduction in the corporate tax rate, which was "probably worth billions to Exxon."

Unearthed reporters posed as recruitment consultants looking to hire a Washington DC lobbyist for a major client and approached McCoy and Easley for a meeting over Zoom. During the meeting reporters asked questions about Exxon's current and historical lobbying on environmental issues.


Responding to the investigation, an Exxon spokesperson claimed the report contained "factual misstatements" at odds with the company's actual positions including support for climate action under the Paris agreement and its "firm commitment to carbon pricing."

The spokesperson added that its lobbying efforts on the infrastructure bill are related to the tax burden and reaffirmed Exxon's right to engage in lobbying on issues which affect the corporation. It noted its lobbying efforts are publicly disclosed and comply with all laws.

Earth Regeneration

Bill Gates Should Stop Telling Africans What Kind of Agriculture Africans Need

Submitted by Jeannette Bartelt, Mayrland USA with this note: A very interesting article about agriculture in Africa and GMO's. A complete travesty! For Us All, Jeannette

By Million Belay, Bridget Mugambe, *excerpt*  *Scientific American*: July 6, 2021 FU

Africans have long been told that our agriculture is backward and should be abandoned for a 21st-century version of the Green Revolution that enabled India to feed itself. Western science and technology, in the form of seeds modified by science and technology, synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, petroleum-fueled machinery, and artificial irrigation were key to that miracle, we are informed, and we too need to tread that path.

A primary proponent of this view is the Cornell Alliance for Science (CAS), founded in 2014 to “depolarize the charged debate” around genetically modified (GM) seeds. With \$22 million in funding thus far from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the CAS in fact consistently defends GM seeds, arguing that they are healthy,

productive, and environmentally friendly, while attacking agro-ecology as economically and socially regressive.

In contrast, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), which represents more than 200 million farmers, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, women, consumers, and others across all but five African countries, holds that agro-ecology is what our continent needs. Small-scale, eco-friendly cultivation methods using indigenous knowledge and inputs and cutting-edge science increase the variety, nutritive value, and quantity of foods produced on farms while stabilizing rural economies, promoting gender equity, and protecting biodiversity.

This mission has put our Alliance, the largest social movement in Africa, at odds with the CAS and by extension the Gates Foundation. And they are winning.

On June 17, 2021, GRAIN, a small nonprofit organization based in Barcelona, Spain, tracking the foundation's grants from 2003 to 2020, reported that, the foundation has granted 6 billion USD, 5 billion of which was supposed to serve Africa.

More worrisome, the CAS, which characterizes AFSA's interpretation of agro-ecology as “restrictive” and worse, has succeeded in undermining support for the paradigm among Africa's scientists and political leaders. Those of us at AFSA, in contrast, see our version of agro-ecology as liberating – based on farmers' rights to choose seeds and methods of cultivation, and free of corporate interference and control.

Through its Global Leadership Fellows Program, the CAS has trained 112 fellows to date, nearly two thirds recruited from Africa and many of them from countries where the biotech industry has been seeking regulatory approvals for GMOs: Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and Ghana. In these critical battleground countries, CAS graduates work in media and government to argue that African governments should institute investment-friendly policies to help import the technologies that will rescue the continent's farmers from their anachronistic traditions. . . .

Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/bill-gates-stop-telling-africans-what-kind-of-agriculture-africans-need/>

Pesticides Are Killing Soil Organisms – the Foundations of the Web of Life

By Sustainable Pulse: May 11, 2021, *excerpt*
Photo: Healthy soil with earthworms

A new study published May 4 by the academic journal *Frontiers in Environmental Science* finds that pesticides widely used in American agriculture pose a grave threat to organisms that are critical to healthy soil, biodiversity, and soil carbon sequestration to fight climate change. Yet those harms are not considered by U.S. regulators.

The study, by researchers at the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth U.S., and the University of Maryland, is the largest, most comprehensive review of the impacts of agricultural pesticides on soil organisms ever conducted.

The researchers compiled data from nearly 400 studies, finding that pesticides harmed beneficial, soil-dwelling invertebrates including earthworms, ants, beetles, and ground-nesting bees in 71% of cases reviewed.

“It's extremely concerning that 71% of cases show pesticides significantly harm soil

invertebrates,” said Dr. Tara Cornelisse, an entomologist at Center for Biological Diversity and co-author of the study. “Our results add to the evidence that pesticides are contributing to widespread declines of insects, like beneficial predaceous beetles and pollinating solitary bees. These troubling findings add to the urgency of reining in pesticide use.”

The findings come on the heels of a recent study published in the journal *Science* showing pesticide toxicity has more than doubled for many invertebrates since 2005.

Despite reduced overall use of insect-



icides, the chemicals most commonly used today, including neonicotinoids, are increasingly toxic to beneficial insects and other invertebrates. Pesticides can linger in the soil for years or decades after they are applied, continuing to harm soil health. . . .

Source: <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/pesticides-are-killing-soil-organisms/>

Earth Regeneration



Photo: <https://www.afar.com/places/> ©

Karura Forest, Nairobi, Kenya. It's not just about biodiversity – it's about the economy. The moment to act is now.

Fund Nature Protection Now or Face Huge Losses

By Michael Taylor

Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 1, 2021

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia – The global economy faces annual losses of \$2.7 trillion by 2030 if ecological tipping points are reached and countries fail to invest more in protecting and restoring nature, the World Bank said on Thursday, calling for a greener Covid-19 recovery.

In its first “Economic Case for Nature” report, the bank looked at how many economies rely on biodiversity and how they would cope if certain services provided by nature collapsed. It found that sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia would be worst hit. The study identified key “ecosystem services” that it said were close to tipping points, including wild pollinators and provision of food from marine fisheries and timber from native forests.

“It’s not just about biodiversity – it’s about the economy. The moment to act is now,” report co-author Gianni Ruta, lead environmental economist at the World Bank, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

Better conservation and management of natural areas, such as parks, oceans, forests, and wildernesses, are seen as essential for protecting the natural systems on

which humans depend and meeting targets to reduce planet-warming emissions.

Global annual spending to protect and restore nature on land needs to triple this decade to about \$350 billion by 2030 and rise to \$536 billion by 2050, a U.N. report said in May.

But many political leaders have yet to grasp the economic benefits of conservation, relying instead on exploitation of natural resources to lift their people out of poverty, environmentalists say.

The World Bank projected that 51 countries – with a combined population of 1.6 billion people – would experience an overall fall in gross domestic product (GDP) of 10-20% by the end of this decade if vital ecosystem services collapse. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia would face an annual GDP contraction of 9.7% and 6.5% respectively, it warned.

This is because they depend on pollinated crops and, in the case of sub-Saharan Africa, on forest products. They also have a limited ability to switch to alternatives that will be less affected by climate change, pollution, and land degradation, the report said.

Among the hardest-hit will be Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, it added.

Ruta said governments should channel agricultural subsidies away from things that harm biodiversity such as fertilizers, diesel for irrigation equipment, and incentives to farm unsuitable land. Instead, he urged them to promote sustainable farming and reward groups that conserve natural areas on their land. He also called for a global funding mechanism to help developing nations achieve green shifts.

A coalition of about 60 countries is currently pushing to protect at least 30% of land and oceans by 2030 (30x30), ahead of a U.N. biodiversity summit in China, in October.

The World Bank report urged more nations to back the 30x30 proposal, adding that the financial benefits from maintaining ecosystem services would almost completely offset the costs of protecting additional land to meet the target. Governments should also include more green policies in their pandemic stimulus packages, it added.

“Preserving nature and maintaining its services are critical for economic growth,” said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210701114848-tegih/>

Earth Regeneration



Photo: Iona Conner

From Iona: *As long as I've been in the environmental movement trying to find eco-friendly products, I had never seen this! There was a time when John and I even sold fair-trade tea, coffee, and chocolate from Equal Exchange. I was shocked when I actually looked closely at this label. I bought these in a regular food store.*

My Bag of Chocolate Chips Can Help Farmers and Save Rainforests!

Note from the Editor: *I had no idea I had bought sustainably sourced cocoa until I was ready to throw out the bag. Then I read the label and learned about UTZ Certification, which totally supports my values. The following information is from the UTZ website.*

Rainforest Alliance Certification of Coffee, Cocoa, Tea, and Hazelnut Products

UTZ is a certification program for sustainable farming of coffee, tea, cocoa, and hazelnuts. The program is part of the Rainforest Alliance, an international non-profit organization working to create a better future for people and nature.

UTZ is the benchmark for the sustainable production of coffee, tea (including rooibos and herbal teas), and cocoa. Our years of experience in these sectors means consumers can be sure that UTZ certified

products have been sourced in a way that is better for producers and the environment.

Our new program, including the Sustainable Agriculture Standard, delivers more value to the many people and businesses that use it.

The Rainforest Alliance 2020 Certification Program defines our long-term vision for the future, and the path required to get us there. The Sustainable Agriculture Standard, along with its assurance and technology systems, are designed to deliver more value to the two million farmers and thousands of businesses that use Rainforest Alliance certification to drive more sustainable agricultural production and responsible supply chains.

Why UTZ certified cocoa?

The cocoa sector faces several challenges. Poor soil fertility management, aging tree stocks, improper use of chemicals, and

uncontrolled deforestation are threats to the sustainability of cocoa farming. At the same time, farmers are faced with poor labor conditions and low income. Consumers are increasingly aware of these situations, and demand products that are grown in a responsible way.

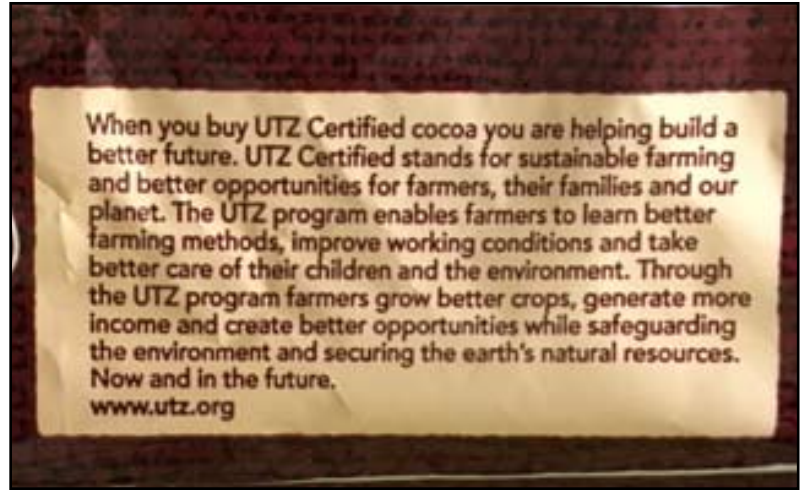
Working together with key industry members such as Mars, Nestle, and Heinz, UTZ is committed to making a difference for the cocoa sector. Our goal is to create an efficient sustainability program with effective certification and traceability tools for socially and environmentally responsible cocoa production that meets the needs of both producers and markets.

Why UTZ certified Coffee?

Today's consumers are increasingly demanding that their coffee is produced responsibly, with care for people and the **Chocolate Chips** *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

Chocolate Chips *continued from previous page*



Photos of Chocolate Chip Bag: Iona Conner

The labels say: (left) Sustainably Sourced Cocoa. (right) When you buy UTZ Certified cocoa you are helping build a better future. UTZ Certified stands for sustainable farming and better opportunities for farmers, their families, and our planet. The UTZ program enables farmers to learn better farming methods, improve working conditions and take better care of their children and the environment. Through the UTZ program farmers grow better crops, generate more income, and create better opportunities while safeguarding the environment and securing the Earth's natural resources. Now and in the future. www.utz.org.

environment. This means appropriate and modest use of fertilizers, pesticides, water, and energy. It means children of coffee farmers sent to school rather than put to work. Farm workers given decent labor rights, housing, and healthcare. And farmers empowered to act as professionals and become better businessmen and women.

All this, as well as the same good taste, quality, and price consumers are used to. Together with key players in the industry, including farmers, roasters, and retailers, UTZ is committed to creating a sustainable, viable coffee market. How? Through an efficient certification and traceability program for more responsible coffee production that meets the needs of both producers and markets.

UTZ certification answers two crucial questions: where does the coffee come from, and how was it produced? UTZ certified coffee is traceable from producer to roaster to consumer.

Why do we need sustainable tea?

The tea sector serves millions of customers worldwide, and employs hundreds of thousands of workers. But tea producers face a variety of challenges. For example, climate change is a key issue in many countries including Malawi, with erratic rainfall leading to lower productivity. In Sri Lanka, tea farmers often struggle to access international markets for certified tea. And in many tea-producing regions, for ex-

ample the Assam region in India, there are ongoing challenges with social issues such as working and living conditions.

By becoming UTZ certified, tea producers learn new techniques to farm more effectively, protect their workers and the environment, and ultimately earn a better, more sustainable income.

The UTZ Code of Conduct for tea was developed in partnership with local and global experts and stakeholders including farmers, local tea experts, government officials, NGOs, traders, and tea packers to ensure that the needs of both producers and businesses are met.

UTZ and Rooibos

Rooibos was added to the UTZ certification tea program in 2010.

Rooibos literally means 'red bush', and comes from the Western Cape province of South Africa, which enjoys a very large and unique biodiversity. Rooibos bushes are very different from tea bushes, with very fine leaves similar to pine needles.

UTZ offers rooibos buyers worldwide the opportunity to contribute to the sustainability and long-term preservation of rooibos farmers and their unique region.

UTZ and Herbal Tea

In 2015, UTZ and the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) developed a new program for herbal and fruit tea, which means we now offer the UTZ label for all teas.

The collaboration with UEBT provides a good solution to address sustainability issues in the global herbal tea sector, which is complex due to the high diversity of ingredients and relatively small volumes.

The resulting UTZ certificate covers all plants and parts of plants (leaves, fruits, flowers, seeds, roots) that are used to make herbal and fruit teas, both from cultivation and wild collections. This will contribute to the sustainable wild collection of herbs, promote long-term relationships between producers and buyers, and advocate for biodiversity conservation practices.

Choose UTZ Certified Tea Products

Interest from retailers and industry is strong and growing; more and more companies share our sustainability vision. You can now drink UTZ tea in 27 countries worldwide, and over 45,000 tea workers are benefiting from UTZ certification.

Why hazelnuts?

Low productivity is a problem for many hazelnut farmers, and this is a sector that has been associated with child labor and poor conditions for migrant workers. The UTZ program is the world's largest certification program for cocoa, and four of our cocoa partner companies – Migros/Delica, Natra, Rewe Group, and Jumbo Supermarkets – joined forces with UTZ in 2014 to start the hazelnut program. Ever since, the

Chocolate Chips *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

Chocolate Chips *continued from previous page*



Photo: UTZ.org

Bruno Valderrama Villafuerte, certification manager at ACOPAGRO

UTZ hazelnut program brings together a strong coalition of over 100 market players worldwide to tackle these sustainability challenges.

The Journey So Far

The UTZ program is the first independent, third party certification program in the hazelnut sector. Working together with farmers, traders, NGO's, and governments is what we are good at. Together we are driving improvement of productivity and social issues. Over 200 hazelnut products already carry the UTZ label. And farmers appreciate the focus on good agricultural practices, as this contributes to an increased productivity on hazelnut farms.

Over 6,800 hazelnut farmers now apply the UTZ standards for sustainable farming, connected to 80% of the largest exporters.

In parallel, we work of the prevention and elimination of child labor on UTZ certified farms.

Child labor is a complex problem that we cannot tackle on our own. We are working with other local and international organizations, finding ways to collaborate and complement our program.

Worldwide Program

Turkey produces three quarters of the world's hazelnuts. Therefore our efforts and commitment are focused on this country. Nevertheless, to truly enable sector change, the hazelnut program has opened up to other producing countries as well.

Outlook

We work with over 100 members including many of the major supply chain actors and producers in the hazelnut sector. We look forward to increasing the demand for sustainable hazelnuts and scaling up the program in the field, reaching out to more farmers in the years to come from countries all over the world.

Voices From the Field Strength in Numbers: How Group Working Benefits Small-Scale Farmers

Being part of a well-organized farmer group can be vitally important for small-scale farmers. We visited ACOPAGRO, a cocoa cooperative in Peru, to find out why this is the case.

Part of a Family

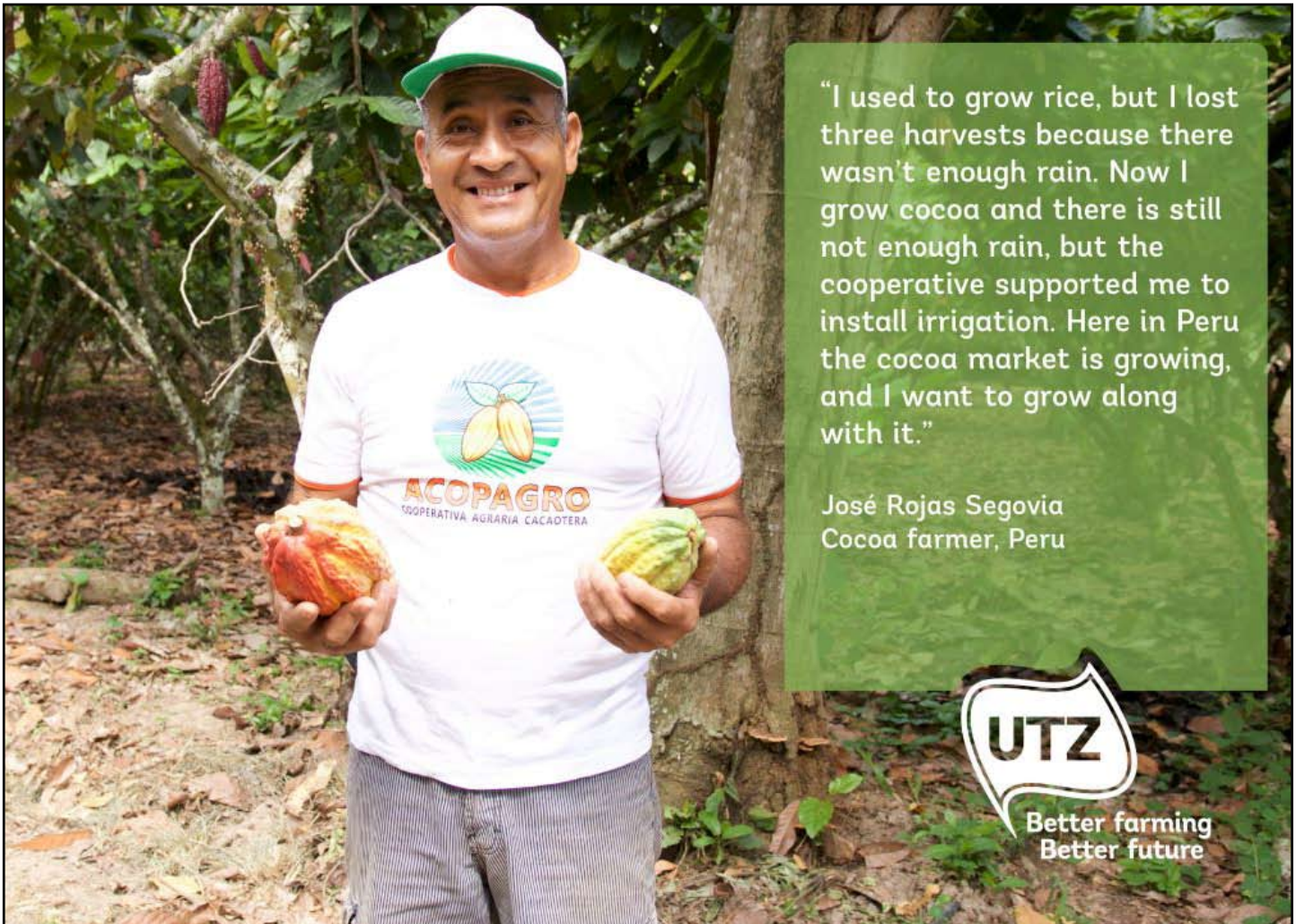
"As a cooperative, we have a relationship of trust with farmers," says Bruno Valderrama Villafuerte, agricultural engineer and certification manager at ACOPAGRO. "We make them feel part of a family. Our mantra is "If I tell you I'll do something, I'll do it" – and that's why members are loyal."

The ACOPAGRO coop was founded in 1998, and now has 1,800 members. All members farm organically and 1,000 are currently UTZ certified. Bruno has been working here since 2010.

Chocolate Chips *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

Chocolate Chips continued from previous page



“I used to grow rice, but I lost three harvests because there wasn’t enough rain. Now I grow cocoa and there is still not enough rain, but the cooperative supported me to install irrigation. Here in Peru the cocoa market is growing, and I want to grow along with it.”

José Rojas Segovia
Cocoa farmer, Peru



Photo: UTZ.org

The sign reads, “I used to grow rice, but I lost three harvests because there wasn’t enough rain, but the cooperative supported me to install irrigation. Here in Peru the cocoa market is growing and I want to grow along with it.” José Rojas Segovia, Cocoa Farmer, Peru. Logo: UTZ, Better Farming, Better Future.

What do small-scale farmers get from UTZ certification? “UTZ certification represents to us the way to do things in a better way – it is more than just a label,” says Bruno.” We have made improvements in many areas – management, farming, and so on.”

Sharing Expertise

ACOPAGRO operates a ‘choba choba’ system, which means ‘today I work for you, tomorrow you work for me.’ Farmers trained in good agricultural practices work for each other, to address a lack of available local labor. Swapping labor in this way saves on the need for upfront investment and creates a shared sense of ownership.

The cooperative also arranges training

for farmers and makes connections within the community. For example, rice and papaya are other common crops grown in the local area, but they are often not very well managed. Rice and papaya farmers tend to use too many pesticides and implement too little environmental protection on these crops, leading to polluted soil and water

ACOPAGRO uses the example of the rice and papaya farms to show cocoa farmers what happens if they don’t manage their farm well.

This is especially timely in light of increasing problems caused by climate change. The cooperative is able to guide farmers on picking the best varieties of crops to grow, as well as effective use of shade trees and irrigation.

Benefits of Certification

While certification means an initial amount of work for farmers to meet the necessary requirements, once they reach this stage there are big benefits. With training and access to the tools and resources they need, cooperatives provide a thorough support mechanism for change.

“Implementing a sustainability standard is not easy. It requires time, money and commitment to make a farm sustainable,” says Bruno, “But here at our cooperative the farmers can see the impact of certification. They see their farms improving and their incomes going up.”

Source: <https://utz.org/>

Ending Inequality

Cut Poverty and Energy Use to Cool the Climate

By Tim Radford

Climate News Network: July 1, 2021

To cut poverty and energy use would cool the planet, build a more just society – but end dreams of economic growth.

LONDON, UK – Containing climate change is really quite simple. The answer? Cut poverty and energy use: higher living standards for the poorest people, together with using less energy more economically, would produce a cooler planet and a more just society. The two demands may be inseparable.

And if that wasn't a tough enough call, citizens everywhere have already in the same month been asked to contain climate change while at the same time protecting and restoring the wild things on the planet. Once again, the two challenges are necessarily intertwined.

The latest research, published in the journal *Global Environmental Change*, is about sustainability in a world in which billions are still deprived of basic needs. It is also about how the economic world is organized.

As the researchers say delicately: “The way societies design their economies thus seems misaligned with the twin goals of meeting everyone's needs and remaining within planetary boundaries.” They also suggest that extraction of planetary resources and demand for riches beyond modest affluence are “associated with lower need satisfaction and greater energy requirements.”

The question then becomes: How do you provide for the basic human needs of all while using energy most efficiently and sustainably?

So the researchers start with a simple number for a worldwide measure called final energy use: the number 27. To keep the promises 195 nations made in Paris almost six years ago to contain global heating to no more than 1.5°C by 2100, nations must limit final energy use per person to what, in scientific units, would be 27 gigajoules – 27 billion joules (GJ) – by 2050.

Comparisons help to deliver meaning to such an enigmatic number. Canadians and Americans right now use more than 200GJ per head. People in the UK consume 81GJ. The global average is 55GJ. In the poorest nations such as India, energy use is as low as 19GJ per head. Vietnamese citizens each



Photo: Willy Ssenindde

Children at God's Support Orphanage Ministry in Uganda get bread. Email from Willy, "I sent you other pictures to show you our situation. Am requesting your help; these children are very hungry." See page 30.

consume about 27GJ. The message is clear: energy is not separable from wealth.

But global energy demand of the kind that threatens climate catastrophe without precedent in human history is what drives global heating. The global challenge is to find ways to establish decent living standards – food, sanitation, education, health care, and livelihoods – for everybody while reducing individual energy consumption dramatically.

“Decent living standards are crucial for human wellbeing, and reducing global energy use is crucial for averting catastrophic climate changes. Truly sustainable development would mean providing decent living standards for everyone at much lower, sustainable levels of energy and resource use,” said Jefim Vogel, of the University of Leeds, UK. “But in the current economic system, no country in the world accomplishes that – not even close. It appears that our economic system is fundamentally misaligned with the aspiration of sustainable development: it is unfit for the challenges of the 21st century.”

Tax Rich Harder

The 27GJ target was set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The

latest study addresses ways to achieve this dramatic reduction while raising living standards for the poorest, who will be hardest hit by climate change.

The answer: to abandon pursuit of economic growth in affluent countries, reduce extraction of oil, gas, coal, and minerals, and prioritize public services, basic infrastructure, and fair income distribution everywhere.

“Our findings suggest that improving public services could enable countries to provide decent living standards at lower levels of energy use. Governments should offer free and high quality public services in areas such as health, education, and public transport,” said Daniel O'Neill, a co-author at Leeds.

“We also found that a fairer income distribution is crucial for achieving decent living standards at low energy use. To reduce existing income disparities, governments could raise minimum wages, provide a Universal Basic Income and introduce a maximum income level. We also need much higher taxes on high incomes and lower taxes on low incomes.”

Source: <https://climatenetwork.net/cut-poverty-and-energy-use-to-cool-the-climate/>

Human Interest

Shape-Shifting Birds in U.S. Skies Surprise Science

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: June 25, 2021

The seasons are changing: American avian migrants are now increasingly shape-shifting birds. Their corpses tell an odd story.

LONDON, UK – America’s migratory birds are setting off for the breeding grounds ever earlier. That’s not the only change. As global temperatures creep ever higher, the birds’ bodies are getting smaller – but their wings are getting longer. And, a little unexpectedly, the changes producing these shape-shifting birds may not be connected, according to new research.

“We know that bird morphology has a major effect on the efficiency and speed of flight, so we became curious whether the environmental pressure to advance spring migration would lead to natural selection for longer wings,” said Marketa Zimova, of the University of Michigan. “We found that birds are changing in size and shape independently of changes in their migration timing, which was surprising.”

The study, in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*, is however a lesson for non-scientists and natural historians in the extraordinary value of museum collections, and a bleak reminder that humankind is casually but relentlessly reducing the numbers and variety of the living things that keep planetary ecosystems – and humans – in good health.

Migrants’ Problems

The researchers arrived at their conclusion simply by examining the bodies of birds that had flown into the windows of tall buildings and died on the spot. The scale of this is alarming: between 1978 and 2016 the Field Museum in Chicago assembled 70,716 carcasses of migratory birds, all preserved and recorded with the date of death. Chicago, the researchers write, “is one of the most dangerous cities in the United States for building collisions driven by artificial light at night.”



Photo: Robert Woeger on Unsplash

Woodpeckers are one of the species examined by the researchers after the birds had crashed to their deaths.

Within this vast haul of accident victims they counted 11 families, 30 genera, and 52 species. All but two of the species – a rail and a woodpecker – were passerines, perching songbirds. To make sure their specimens reliably told a tale of migration timing, the scientists selected only those species of which they had 100 or more individuals and, of those, there had to be at least 10 from each decade in the last 40 years.

Global heating has begun to impose change on the natural world: vulnerable species are at risk, and the sheer numbers of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals have fallen dramatically as human numbers and human economies have grown.

Climate change creates special problems for migratory birds because food supplies may not be in step with earlier seasonal shifts, and there has been repeated evidence of change either in bird numbers or bird behavior as thermometer levels rise. And this is as true for North American birds as for those on any other continent.

So the mere existence of a huge and growing reservoir of accidentally-killed specimens gave the researchers a chance to examine the links between physical

change, higher temperatures, and earlier springs in more detail.

On the evidence preserved in the Field Museum the earliest spring migrants are arriving five days earlier than 40 years ago, with the earliest fall migrants heading south 10 days earlier than once they did.

In a warming world, creatures tend to become smaller – because with a bigger surface-to-volume ratio it’s easier to keep cool – but the shift to longer wings is less easy to explain. It’s just possible that with earlier springs, birds flying north don’t need to stop so often.

“And there might be other adjustments that allow birds to migrate faster that we haven’t thought about – maybe some physiological adaptation that might allow faster flight without causing the birds to overheat and lose too much water,” Dr Zimova said.

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/shape-shifting-birds-in-us-skies-surprise-science/>

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

Human Interest



Photos Courtesy A.S.E.

Prince Kitumaini Kamundala in the DR Congo and his team have created many beautiful things from plastic waste.

Mes Réflexions Sur la Journée Mondiale de L'environnement

Note from the Editor: *One of our Board members suggested we publish something in French so here we go. When our last issue went to press, we didn't have an English translation. If you'd like to apply for the volunteer job of translating stories from French to English, I would be delighted to have you on board. Last month I put the wrong photos in. This time, I have an English translation and the correct photos. So sorry, Prince!*

By Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, DR Congo
Action for Environment Care and Business and
Ecosysteme Management

ANALYSE ENVIRONNEMENTALE

Actuellement, le volume de déchets produits par chaque ménage ne cesse d'augmenter. Ils envahissent l'environnement et sont un fardeau pour la société. Comme la plupart des déchets sont dégradables, le cas des plastiques ne sont pas et sont la source de pollution dans le

pays qui est présent sous forme de:

- * Pollution directe, car les plastiques, lorsqu'ils sont dans des décharges non contrôlées, sont portés par le vent et s'accrochent aux végétaux, bouchent des dalles ou des canaux et paysage;

- * Pollution indirecte, car la combustion de ces déchets plastiques provoque une pollution de l'air en émettant produits toxiques; et si ces plastiques sont enterrés avec les déchets biodégradables dans le sol, ils sont imperméables et empêchent les gaz inflammables de s'échapper ce qui augmente le risque d'incendie ou d'explosion.

Aussi, la valorisation des déchets plastiques pour la fabrication de matériaux de construction locaux, à savoir tuiles, briques et pavés autobloquants, c'est-à-dire que le recyclage des matériaux est sans doute le plus efficace en termes de valeur ajoutée environnementale.

Le recyclage matière d'un kg

d'emballages plastiques mixtes réduit la production de gaz à effet de serre de 0,95 kg d'éq. CO₂.

Il économise également du matériel (par exemple de l'huile).

CONCLUSION

Les études menées dans le cadre de ce travail nous ont permis de démontrer qu'il est possible d'améliorer déchets plastiques pour la fabrication de matériaux de construction locaux tels que tuiles, briques et pavés autobloquant.

En effet, après une étude bibliographique sur les plastiques, l'étude, la conception de matériaux pour fabrication de matériaux, nous avons effectué des tests de production de matériaux à l'échelle pilote. Tentatives.

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243974595199

Recycling Plastic *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Recycling Plastic *continued from previous page*



My Thoughts on World Environment Day

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Currently, the volume of waste produced by each household continues to increase. They invade the environment and are a burden on society. As most of the waste is degradable, the case of plastics are not and they are the source of pollution in the country which is present in the form of:

* Direct pollution, because plastics, when in uncontrolled landfills, are carried by the wind and cling to plants, block up slabs or canals, and ruin the landscape.

* Indirect pollution, because the combustion of this plastic waste causes air pollution by emitting toxic products, and

if these plastics are buried with the biodegradable waste in the ground, they are impermeable and prevent flammable gases from escaping which increases the risk of fire or explosion.

Also, the recovery of plastic waste for the manufacture of local construction materials, namely tiles, bricks, and interlocking paving stones, i.e. material recycling is undoubtedly the most efficient in terms of environmental value added.

Material recycling of one kilogram of mixed plastic packaging reduces greenhouse gas production by 0.95 kilograms (2.09 pounds) of CO₂ equivalent.

It also equally saves material (e.g. oil).

CONCLUSION

The studies carried out as part of this work have enabled us to demonstrate that it is possible to enhance plastic waste for the manufacture of local building materials such as tiles, bricks, and self-locking paving stones.

Indeed, after a bibliographical study on plastics and the design of materials for fabrication in manufacturing, we have performed tests of production materials at the pilot scale, tentatively.

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Recycling Plastic *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Recycling Plastic *continued from previous page*



**A Lot of Creativity and a Lot of Hard Work
Helps a LOT of Plastic Be Recycled**

The recovery of plastic waste for the manufacture of local construction materials, namely tiles, bricks, and interlocking paving stones, i.e. material recycling is undoubtedly the most efficient in terms of environmental value added.

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Human Interest



Whale shark feeding the ocean surface. Image by Rhett A. Butler for Mongabay.

New Australian Marine Parks Protect Area Twice Great Barrier Reef's Size

Deep Green Resistance News Service
June 10, 2021

This article originally appeared on Mongabay.

The Australian government has moved to create two new marine protected areas that cover an expanse of ocean twice the size of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

The two parks will be established around Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean to the northwest of continental Australia. The new parks cover 740,000 square kilometers (286,000 square miles) of ocean.

The decision was immediately welcomed by conservation groups.

“Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are uniquely Australian and globally significant – there’s nowhere like them on Earth,” said Michelle Grady, Director of The Pew Charitable Trusts, in a statement. “Most famous for its annual red crab migration, Christmas Island was referred to as one

of the 10 natural wonders of the world by David Attenborough himself. Its thriving rainforests, deserted beaches, and fringing reef provide a haven for unique and rare seabirds, land crabs, and marine life.”

“Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are recognized as globally significant standout natural wonders,” added Darren Kindleysides, CEO of the Australian Marine Conservation Society, in a statement. “Oceans across the globe are in deep trouble from pollution, overfishing, habitat loss, and the very real and immediate impacts of climate change. Establishing marine parks to provide a safe haven for our marine life is critical in helping stop our oceans reaching a tipping point.”

Christabel Mitchell, Director of the Save Our Marine Life Alliance, applauded the move but urged the Australian government to work “collaboratively” with local communities to “co-design” the protected

areas. “Healthy oceans and sustainable fishing are central to the Christmas and Cocos Islanders’ way of life, their culture and their livelihoods,” said Mitchell in a statement.

“Creating world-class marine parks for this region will provide crucial protection for a wealth of marine life, make a significant global contribution to the health of our oceans, and support the local communities’ culture and aspirations,” said Mitchell. “We look forward to working with the government and the island communities to preserve this unique part of Australia, for our marine life and future generations.”

The new parks will bring the percentage of Australian waters under protection from 37% to 45%. Conservation groups around the world are pushing for the protection of 30% of global oceans and land mass by 2030.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/habitat-loss/new-australian-marine-parks-protect-area-twice-great-barrier-reefs-size/>

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 from pages 47-51

We are long out of time to break through our cultural denial about this fact: No technology is neutral.

* * *

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,

One pro-industry researcher blandly describes Germany's increasing reliance on biofuels: "As North West European wood resources are not sufficient for this sudden demand, the region relies on imports from abroad."⁴⁰ Germany also deforests its own lands: almost half of Germany's timber production is simply cutting down trees, pulping them, drying them into pellets, and burning them.

It's even worse than this. As *Climate Central* reporter John Upton makes clear, "Burning wood pellets to produce a megawatt hour of electricity produces 15 to 20 percent more climate-changing carbon dioxide pollution than burning coal, analysis of [biomass corporation] Drax data shows. And that's just the CO₂ pouring out of the smokestack. Add in pollution from the fuel needed to grind, heat, and dry the wood, plus transportation of the pellets, and the climate impacts are even worse. According to [biomass corporation] Enviva, that adds another 20 percent worth of climate pollution for that one-megawatt hour."⁴¹

So, how can the bright greens call this carbon neutral?

One argument is that because trees originally sequestered carbon in their bodies as they grew, and will eventually release this carbon when they die, we may as well cut them down now and burn them.

As the industry lobbying group American Forests and Paper Association (AFPA) puts it: "As forests grow, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is removed from the atmosphere via photosynthesis. This CO₂ is converted into organic carbon and stored in woody biomass. Trees release the stored carbon when they die, decay, or are com busted. As the biomass releases carbon as CO₂, the carbon

cycle is completed. The carbon in biomass will return to the atmosphere regardless of whether it is burned for energy, allowed to biodegrade, or lost in a forest fire."⁴²

Their argument boils down to this: If you're going to die someday anyway, why don't I just kill you now?

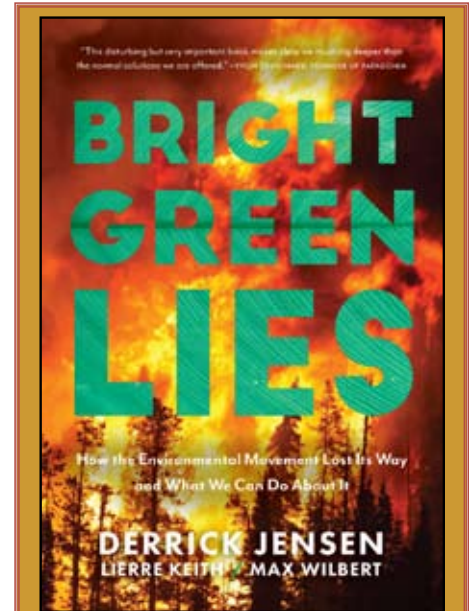
And it's profoundly misleading. As forests grow, they sequester more and more carbon. Individual trees (and whole forests) sequester more carbon per year with age. Forests also create soil, which can store carbon for tens of thousands of years. Logging destroys that soil, which is one reason logging in states like Oregon is by far the largest source of carbon emissions.⁴³ As one researcher wrote, "The [carbon emission] accounting rules were written by loggers for loggers."⁴⁴

The AFPA's argument also ignores the importance of dead trees to the health of forests. Dead trees – the ones being "allowed" to biodegrade – are habitat to even more species than are live trees (think, for example, of birds nesting in holes in standing dead trees).

It shouldn't surprise us that the AFPA ignores the role of dead trees to forest health, not only because the AFPA lobbies for an industry, and therefore lies, but also because the entire industry for which it lobbies is based on systematically devaluing the role of *live* trees to the health of forests; otherwise, it couldn't cut them down.

Another way to put the argument for the "carbon neutrality" of biomass is that, since the carbon was already stored when the trees grew, all that's being done is the rereleasing of previously stored carbon – which is kind of like spending money we already put in savings. That, too, is crap, for a few reasons. The first is that we didn't store that carbon. Trees did. This is analogous to you putting money into your savings account, and someone else taking it out and spending it, then calling it even. You might call that theft, but bright greens might call that "dollar neutral": *A dollar was put in, and a dollar was taken out, so what's your problem?* It's also crap because you can make the same argument about coal and oil: *The carbon got sequestered by algae in the time of dinosaurs, and we're just taking it back out.*⁴⁵

And it's crap for yet another reason: Trees do not exist to clean up our messes. Nor are they dollars on the stump. Nor do they exist just for us to burn. They have their own lives and play their own roles in their own natural communities. There are five million



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@derrickjensen.org.

species who directly depend on forests⁴⁶ – fully 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity.⁴⁷

Ursula K. Le Guin said the same with more poetry and fewer numbers: "The word for world is forest."⁴⁸ Now, humans have killed more than 50 percent of forest animals in the last 40 years.⁴⁹ Do these forest animals count? What of the trees themselves – beings who feel, learn, communicate, and care for each other?

Dr. Suzanne Simard writes that she was "staggered" to discover that paper birches were feeding firs "like carers in human

Bright Green Lies *continued on next page*

Human Interest



10 years of EU's failed biofuels policy has wiped out forests the size of the Netherlands - study

By Arthur Neslen

Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 4, 2021

Photo: <https://www.transportenvironment.org/>

BRUSSELS, Belgium – European Union targets to boost biofuel use are likely to have led to the deforestation of an area roughly the size of the Netherlands over the last decade to expand soy, palm, and other oil crops, a report said on Monday.

About 4 million hectares (9 million acres) of forests, mainly in Southeast Asia and South America, have been cleared since 2011 -- including about 10% of remaining orangutan habitat, according to estimates by campaign group Transport and Environment.

That suggests efforts to replace polluting fuels such as diesel with biofuels are paradoxically increasing planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions, said Laura Buffet, T&E's energy director. "A policy that was supposed to save the planet is actually wrecking it," she said. "We cannot afford another decade of this."

The report analyzed biodiesel production and consumption data from three statistical and market analysis agencies – Oil World, Stratass Advisors, and Eurostat.

It found that EU demand for biodiesel required the cultivation of 1.1 billion hectares (2.7 million acres) of palm in Southeast Asia and 2.9 million hectares (7.2 million acres)

of soybeans in South America.

An EU spokesperson could not immediately be reached to comment on the report.

Hit by criticism of deforestation linked to palm oil use in biodiesel, the EU agreed in 2018 to phase out the use of palm oil in transport fuels by 2030.

But a resulting surge in the use of soy oil in European biodiesel is now threatening to displace deforestation from Southeast Asia to South America, the researchers noted.

Soy oil used in biodiesel production spiked 17% in 2020, while palm oil volumes rose just 4.4%, the report's data showed.

Since 2018, soy oil in European energy systems has risen from 34% of the total soy oil consumed in Europe to 44%, solely because of biodiesel, the report said.

"This trend is troublesome because soy could easily become the new palm oil," researchers noted.

Critical Ecosystems

Soy has slightly lower emissions from field to wheel than palm oil - but these are still twice as high as emissions from diesel when direct and indirect forest loss are taken into account, the study said.

Expanding soy cultivation is a major cause of rapidly rising deforestation in the Brazilian

Amazon and other critical ecosystems, which is accelerating climate threats as carbon-absorbing trees disappear, scientists say.

If the EU maintains its current biofuel policies, it will emit an extra 173 million tonnes of climate-changing carbon dioxide from palm and soy by 2030, the report said - as much as 95 million extra cars on the road in one year.

In 2020, diesel and petrol use in Europe fell by 8.3% and 11.6% respectively as Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns slowed travel and business, the T&E report noted.

But biodiesel use rose 1.3% in 2020, in line with an EU mandate for a 10th of transport fuels to come from renewables by 2020, the report said.

The EU aims to get about a quarter of its transport fuel needs by 2030 from renewable sources including e-fuels, hydrogen and advanced biofuels made from wastes and residues.

Up to 5.1% of that figure could come from crop biofuels, according to an analysis by the European Commission.

A final decision on the increase is expected on July 14 as part of a long-awaited EU climate package.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210704214841-rrbxn/>

Bright Green Lies *continued from previous page*

time, the trees took turns being the carer, depending on the season: "Mother trees recognize and talk with their kin, shaping future generations.... Injured trees pass their legacies on to their neighbors, affecting gene regulation, defense chemistry, and resilience in the forest community." There has been careful scientific research discovering plant sentience. They are beings not so different from us, as it turns out.

A discussion of whether deforestation is carbon neutral without a simultaneous discussion of whether deforestation is morally

neutral is only possible if you believe humans are the only beings who subjectively exist on the planet. Understanding that trees – and the five million species they cradle, nourish, and protect – also subjectively exist changes everything.

Footnotes:

40 Clemens von Wülsch, "Financial analysis of the transport of wood chips as an option among other solid fiber-based combustibles from the USA to Germany" (Master's Thesis, abstract, University of North Carolina – Wilmington /

Bremen University of Applied Sciences, 2011).
41 John Upton, "Pulp Fiction," *Climate Central*, October 21, 2015.

42 "Biomass Carbon Neutrality," American Forest and Paper Association, July 2014.

43 Carl Segerstrom, "Timber is Oregon's biggest carbon polluter," *High Country News*, May 16, 2018.

44 Michael Le Page, "Logging study reveals huge hidden emissions of the forest industry," *New Scientist*, September 10, 2019

45 It's like an inheritance, and there's no money more fun to spend than money you didn't earn! As we see, the same is true for energy.

Human Interest

Sustainable Produce Container



Our Sustainable Produce Container is the perfect replacement for plastic clamshells and can carry all kinds of produce:

Cherry tomatoes, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, mushrooms, peppers, apricots, cherries, gauva, snap peas, green beans, dates, figs, dates, kiwi, Campari tomatoes, heirloom tomatoes, taramind pods, cucamelons, brussel sprouts, MICROGREENS, etc, etc!



What is the container material made of?

The brown containers are a 0.024 thickness KraftPak. Kraftpak is an unbleached, uncoated virgin paperboard that is commonly used in bakery and beverage boxes. It is a low density, high-yield product which provides outstanding strength and durability while using less fiber. This white side is a variation of Coated Unbleached Kraft Paperboard (CUK), that is direct food contact compliant, is strong in moist environments, and offers a white printable surface created by coating it with a naturally-occurring mineral.

Creative Solutions for Buisness Owners

Are you sick of plastics as much as we are?

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA...
...with this note: Put THIS in your paper!

These are the people I get my cancer-preventing broccoli seeds from. Bulk ordering at <https://seeds.toddsseeds.com>.



Replace hard-to-recycle plastic hinged clamshells with this sustainable, recyclable, compostable produce box made from brown Kraftpak paperboard for your cherry tomato, Campari tomatoes, kiwi, figs, mushrooms, microgreens, and much more. This one-quart size holds 1 pound of strawberries. The price is close to the cost of clamshells.

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 a 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

Revelation and Healing: A Father and Son Reunion

By Morgan Zo-Callahan

Not just a tale of pain, although there is pain, nor one of easy resolution, although there is eventual closure, this book recounts the author's slow journey from an adoption that left him longing for his biological mother and wondering about his biological father.

Discovering, while in high school, his mother's identity, years later he found that of his biological father, Lionel Durand, a Black man born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Suddenly the author realized the source of his own immediate empathy with Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement he led.

Recovering painfully from his years of estrangement and loss, the author shares the often-shocking details of his adoption and the therapies that brought him healing, therapies helpful not only to adoptees but to all who need healing from emotional suffering and losses of all kinds.

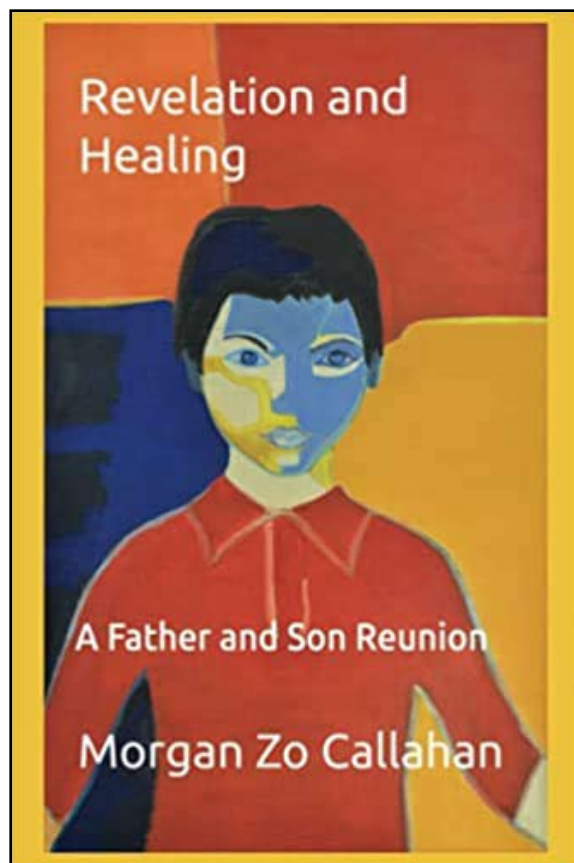
With a heart "stretched large" by his own experience, the author has traveled to El Salvador and Mexico to accompany the many there who are suffering from collective trauma, poverty, and discrimination, victims of systemic injustice, wounded yet unbowed.

Finally, with filial admiration, the author traces the life of his beloved father, Lionel Durand, an internationally acclaimed newsman and journalist, who fought in the French Resistance during World War II, and whose struggles for peace and justice mirror those of our own day.

Welcome to this reading journey and its wondrous surprises!

Available at Amazon.com: 257 pages, paperback \$18.00, Kindle \$7.95; <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0976276FC>. Profits will be donated to Faith in Action, Haiti.

(Paid ad; message from Iona: This is a fantastic, heart-warming book!)



Fundraising for Faith in Action Haiti

Dear Friends,

I am excited to announce a fundraising invitation for Faith in Action Haiti, on the occasion of the publication of my book *Revelation and Healing: A Father and Son Reunion*, which is now available on Amazon (released on the Juneteenth national holiday!) and whose royalties from the first three months will be donated to Faith in Action Haiti, founded by my friend, John Baumann, SJ.

"Revelation and Healing is an interesting and revealing story of love, compassion, and a deep desire to belong. Finding one's roots can definitely bring inner peace to one's self. It is an honor to be a part of this book." —Dr. Francois Pierre-Louis Jr., Professor of Political Science at Queens College, City University of New York. Francois served in the private cabinet of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991, and on the senior staff of Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis in 2007-2008.

Dr. G. Donald Maloney of Xavier University describes the book. "Not just a tale of pain, although there is pain, nor one of easy resolution, although there is eventual closure,

this book recounts the author's slow journey from an adoption that left him longing for his biological mother and wondering about his biological father. Discovering, while in high school, his mother's identity, years later he found that of his biological father, Lionel Durand (1920-1961), a Black man born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Suddenly the author realized the source of his own immediate empathy as a boy with Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement he led. The author shares the often-shocking details of his adoption, and the therapies that brought him healing, therapies helpful not only to adoptees but to all who need healing from emotional suffering and losses of all kinds. With a heart "stretched large" by his own experience, the author has traveled to El Salvador and Mexico to accompany those who are suffering from collective trauma, poverty, and discrimination, victims of systemic injustice, wounded yet unbowed. Finally, with filial admiration, the author traces the life of his beloved father, Lionel Durand, an internationally acclaimed newsman and journalist, who fought in the French Resistance during World War II,

twice imprisoned, twice escaped, and whose struggles for peace and justice mirror those of our own day. Welcome to this reading journey and its wondrous surprises."

Here is the link to purchase the book on Amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0976276FC>

To learn more about Faith in Action Haiti, visit <https://faithinactioninternational.org/where-we-work/haiti/>

Thank you for considering buying the book, as well as for making a critically needed donation directly to FIA Haiti (any amount gratefully received) at this link:

Click here to DONATE NOW to FIA Haiti: <https://faithinactioninternational.salsalabs.org/faithinactioninternationaldonationpage/index.html> (Indicate Haiti as the specific campaign for your donation.)

If you prefer, mail a check payable to Faith in Action Haiti and mail it to:

Faith in Action Haiti
Oakland, CA 94610-1316
With appreciation and best wishes,
Morgan Zo Callahan

*A good deed doesn't just evaporate
and disappear. Its consequences
saturate the universe and the goodness
that happens somewhere, anywhere,
helps in the transfiguration
of the ugliness.*

~ Desmond Tutu ~

<https://bit.ly/wordfortheday>



Consumer Liberation

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

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

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



Groundswell News

Our beautiful journal will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at www.groundswellnews.org. Email groundswellnews@pa.net to be put on our e-list. \$30 per year if you can afford that. Pay with PayPal using groundswellnews@pa.net or mail to the address on page 2. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

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

Thank you.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



Thanks Iona for the coordination and quality work in the network. Mr. Bill, thanks for minutes taking; I do appreciate all the efforts. Yes, Iona, sure cooking stoves play a great role in addressing climate change challenges worldwide. They reduce the number of trees that would be cut down for Charcoal since they save a lot.

I have not been able to join the meetings, Uganda is under covid total lockdown and I'm up and down to raise something for our communities to have something to feed on.

The situation in Uganda is a humanity-trying moment. I can compare to Noah's Ark time, where everyone is looking for the ways to finish at least a day as others are losing their lives due to limited covid medical services.

Any covid-positive patient, to be admitted in any private hospital, must be with over \$1,445.

So for sure it's a hard situation; at times we are out to fundraise or even online fundraising, spending almost an hour convincing a possible individual donor to send something to buy a family at least 1 kg of posho to spend the day.

Those who will be able to support, the link is <https://www.givingway.com/campaign/5eb5c9> and can also contact me directly for swift code in case of supporting directly through the organization account.

Otherwise, members are trying and wishing this network success in getting further established.

Be blessed all.

Bob Maah, Uganda
www.skillsdoryouths.org
UYSTO.
www.skillsforyouths.org

Dear Iona,

Thank you for the efforts you and Allen have put in to publish this powerful issue of the *Groundswell News*. It is inspirational to see all the good work at the grassroots.

In the past week I have set up a new organization - Indigenous Peoples Climate Justice Forum, although it is only a virtual

entity now, and registration will take some time as we are still in partial lockdown.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Regards,

Rituraj Phukan, Vice President of the Grassroots Coalition, India

National Coordinator for Biodiversity, The Climate Reality Project India

COO, Walk For Water

Secretary General, Green Guard Nature Organization

Member, IUCN Wilderness Specialist Group; Commission Member - IUCN WCPA Climate Change, IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation, IUCN WCPA Indigenous People and Protected Areas Specialist Groups, IUCN WCPA South Asia Region and IUCN WCPA-SSC Invasive Alien Species Task Force

National Coordinator, CCL India

Assam Coordinator, Kids For Tigers, the Sanctuary Tiger Programme

Associate Editor, Igniting Minds

Member, International Antarctic Expedition 2013; Climate Force Arctic 2019

Ambassador, Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary

Dear Idris, Clement, Leon, Iona, and Allen,

Just a brief note of appreciation of your exceptional work (which is not to exclude the efforts of others on this remarkable list). I have downloaded the photos of your Rescue a Girl project, Idris; downloaded the photo of your solar stove, Clement; known about your fine work in the Congo for years, Leon (and great to be back in touch) and, of course, another fine *Groundswell*, Iona and Allen.

Obviously Leon, I will be watching your film 'Fossil Free Virunga' too.

It is a measure of how far our world has descended into such a perilous state that some people view places like Virunga as simply resources for humans to exploit. Sadly, with fossil fuel companies keen to exploit the kavango Delta (Namibia) as well, this issue is not going away any time soon and will no doubt require many fine struggles.

Anyway, many thanks for your inspiring efforts. They are sincerely appreciated by those of us who share your struggles, one way or another.

Love to you all,

Robert Burrowes and **Anita McKone**, Australia

Hello my grandma.

How are you?? I hope are you good.

Why a lot of silence and you will forget me? Please think of me too and how is the story you told me to send you photos for recycling photos? When you are finished, you will send to me. Also looking forward to them and you can share in your group.

Thank you, together for the best world peace and joy.

Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, DR Congo

Hello everyone!

Hope this reaches you well?

I am so happy my team got featured this month, thank you so much mommy Iona for your support always. My volunteers are all happy and thanking you for your kindness, wishing you more grace.

While I also want to use this opportunity to thank everyone who said good wishes, encouragement words, and even donated to my Rescue A Girl project. With all my heart, I really appreciated a lot. If you're still interested to donate, link us here: https://shareyourself.org/project_detail/external/id/1042/activity/zkkjxgz/share/1

Very easy, smiling, don't forget to share with your network, family, and friends to support us!

Thank you, stay safe and strong with love all!

Your humble son & friend,

Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu' Lau, Nigeria
+2348167185897
bilyaminuidrisndasadulau@gmail.com

Thank you, mom.

What you could see in that video is a classic example of what many poor

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communities are going through here in Nigeria.

Sadly, many such issues are not reported. They need help, sharing the video could be a way of letting help come their way.

Please you can post and share. Kindly, let me know whenever the other story is published so that I can read and share it with my audience.

Uche Isieke, Nigeria

(Published in issue #75, May 26, 2021)

[with \$30 subscription renewal]

Dear Gentle Warrior for our Mother Earth,

Your journal is an arrow to our hearts as well as food for our consciousness.

May you be able to carry on this work for a long time.

Marita Grudzen, California USA

Iona:

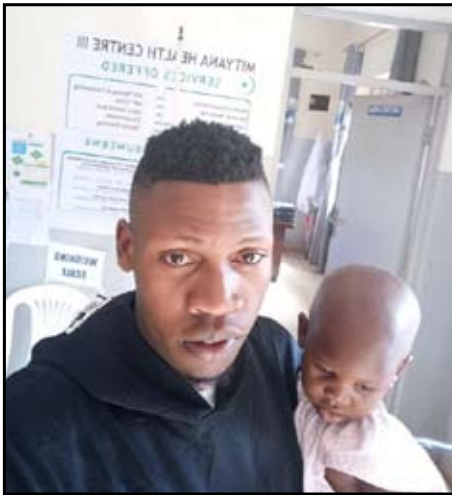
I don't think I will be with the group for tomorrow's meeting but I hope it goes well; I'm sure it will.

This issue of the "News" is just very nice. Very attractive and interesting to look at + a lot of great information in the articles. Great work!

Hoping you enjoy the weekend,

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

How are you doing today Mrs. Iona?



May God bless you and your family please. (many prayer emojis)

You can make a PayPal donation using churchministrymityana@gmail.com

[second email]

Thank you so much Mrs. Iona for replying to me. Please may God bless you and your family please. (four prayer emojis)

Today I have a problem; one of our children she is so sick typhoid vomiting too much. Am requesting you please Mrs. Iona to help us please because am not working because of the pandemic. I don't have any



some money for medicine please if possible you can help us a little please.

[third email] Thank you so much Mrs. Iona, she is called Nakigozi Sharon, 3 years old, I'm sorry to say that please the doctor he refused to give her treatment because I don't pay anything. Please for sure she is so sick she is crying. May God bless you and your family please. (many prayer emojis)

[fourth email] Thanks Mrs. Iona I lost my parents a long time ago when I was 5 years old. Please may God bless you and your family please. (prayer emojis)

Willy Sseninde, Uganda, God's Support Orphanage Ministry

Thanks to you so much chief for your usual sending to me. I'm very happy indeed about your Newspaper.

Chadrack Deng Apiu Amuk, South Sudan

To me, there is so much that needs healing in this world that it is hard to understand why people want to dedicate their lives to becoming very rich.

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

Dear Iona,

Frequently I find or someone sends me another article on PFAS. It is popping up in so many things.

Cosmetics is an area where the chemicals could be banned, I think. I did some research and PFAS is found in the coating on paper plates, for example.

PFAS chemicals are in small quantities, and don't get listed as ingredients; so later we read about some study done to detect it.

I tried to find if Mary Kay products contain the chemicals but didn't find anything.

Apparently PFAS is present in 50% of

cosmetics. Mascara has been mentioned quite often for PFAS, as well as liquid lipstick, providing water-resistant properties.

Cautions on PFAS use in makeup:

https://eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-06/gspi-upc060821.php

Proposed federal legislation to ban PFAS in cosmetics: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/06/15/toxic-pfas-makeup/>

Tyla Matteson, Virginia USA

(From an email exchange with Soil Sponge people)

I had an interesting discussion with our local Saugeen First Nation about invasive species. They are pretty relaxed about them – and say that ecosystems are in flux, not static. Maybe a way to make peace with invasive humans?

Along the line of Christina, they say that we have changed environmental conditions such that new species need to move in. If we want the native species, we have to manage landscapes like the native Americans did... in our region (Southwestern Ontario), this means a mosaic of different successions. We cannot even re-create this landscape locally – the "successional" nature requires large areas of land managed this way.

On its head, this argument also means: Unless we start managing entire landscapes like the natives did, we will have dramatically increased susceptibility to invasive species. And we have to learn how we can live with them.

I found that quite an interesting point, especially in the context of North American settler culture.

My blogs are mostly "unfinished work" – more questions than answers. I started a few blogs that have moved beyond unfinished business as well.

I am currently not offering classes - too much is going on in the Internet, so I leave it to the "gurus" that have taken the market. I wish to host "in-person regeneration academies" again, three-day retreats that include analysis, regeneration learning, practical workshops (e.g., tree planting & tree propagation), joined from-scratch cooking, and body-mind connection work (Argentine Tango, Aikido).

In my experience, body-mind connection work is fundamental to understanding our disconnection from the natural world. With Covid, I have suspended these totally... but thank you for encouraging me – maybe it will be time to start something again.

Thorsten Arnold, Canada

<http://thorstenarnold.com/>

I live at the base of the Saugeen (aka Bruce) Peninsula, on the traditional land of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.