

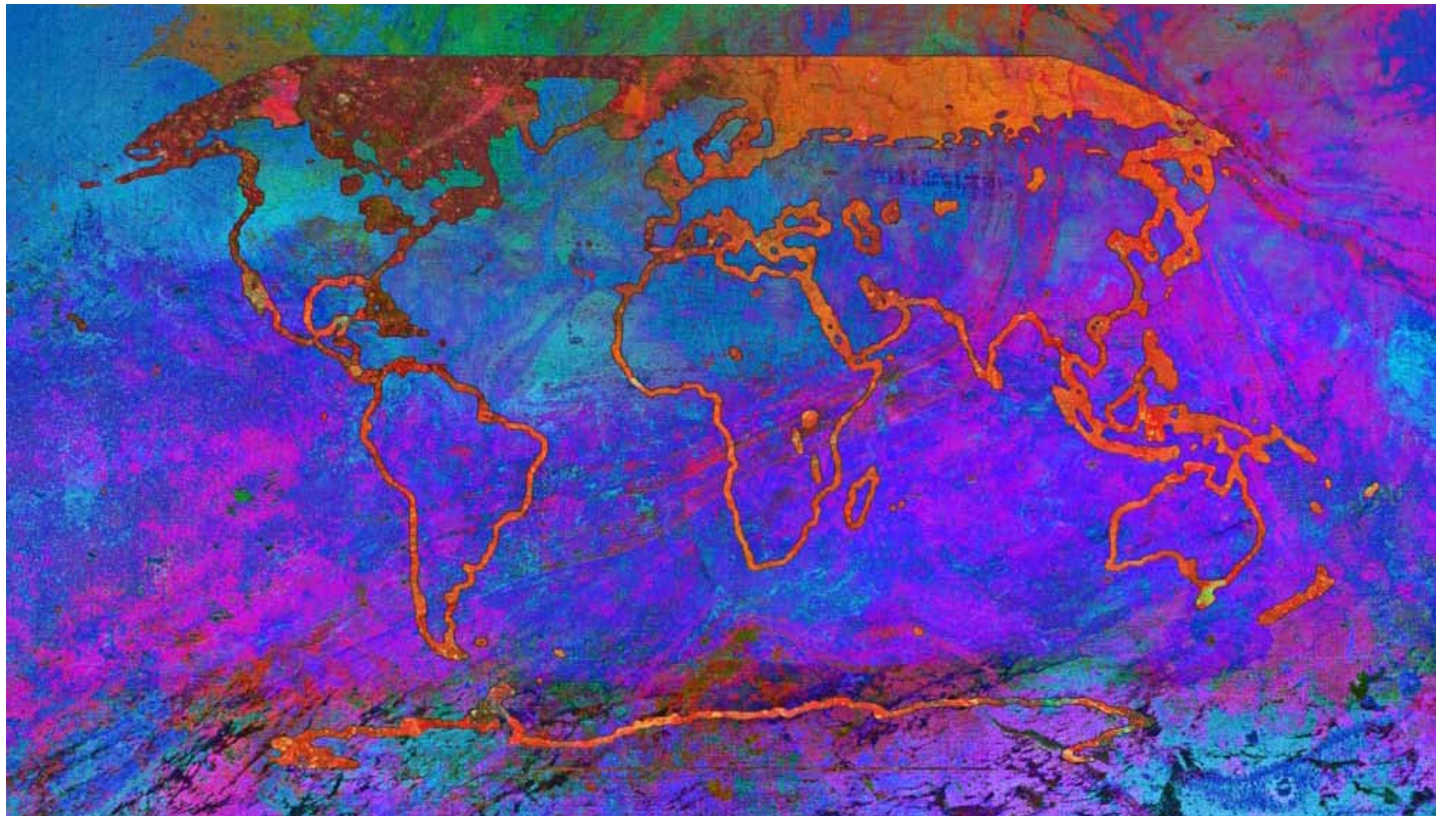
Groundswell News Journal

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. 79: August 14, 2021



Artwork: Alisa Singer

Changing [with slight cropping]. "As we witness our planet transforming around us we watch, listen, measure ... respond."

Greta Was Right: Our House is on Fire, IPCC Report

Submitted by Ngo Banfoga, Cameroon

IPCC Press Release: August 9, 2021

Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC

GENEVA, Switzerland – Scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, released today. Many of the changes observed in the climate are

unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion – such as continued sea level rise – are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.

However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize, according to the IPCC Working Group I report, Climate Change 2021: the

Physical Science Basis, approved on Friday by 195 member governments of the IPCC, through a virtual approval session that was held over two weeks starting on July 26.

The Working Group I report is the first instalment of the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), which will be completed in 2022.

"This report reflects extraordinary efforts under exceptional circumstances," said Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC. "The innovations in this report, and advances in climate science that it reflects, provide an invaluable input into climate negotiations and decision-making."

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What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

Coalition Founders: John and Iona Conner

Editor/Publisher: Iona Conner

Wire Editor: Allen Hengst

Established: September 2013

Web site: www.groundswellnews.org

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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>

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

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work.

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.

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

Fair Use Logo



Iona's Column: *Close to my Heart*

Dearest Global Family,

First off, I want to congratulate our Coalition Vice President, Raj Phukan, for his persistence in getting an electronic interview with Dr. Michael Mann, probably the most famous climate scientist in the world! See pages 5 and 6 for this brilliant work.

Secondly, I want to congratulate our Coalition Secretary, Bill Boteler, for grabbing the issue of deep seabed mining, running with it, and doing research in time for our deadline. See pages 11 to 14 for that brilliant piece.

About 40 years ago, I had my first mystical experience and wrote this:

I stood at the edge of the water, at the edge of my world as I knew it, at the edge of time, at the edge of the Universe. I stood. And as the sun was rising, my molecules – my body, my material physical self vanished. I was pure spirit. I was one with the Universe. I WAS the ocean!

About 20 years ago, as the education reporter for a Frederick, Maryland newspaper, I visited the Earth and Space Science Lab in an elementary school and vividly remember a huge mural of the dark, deep sea and the mysterious creatures who live there. I was mesmerized. But now that precious ocean floor is under threat of mining for minerals with vast destruction accompanying the effort to keep our electronics resupplied.

My activist spirit kicked in to overdrive. There are three websites I know of for protecting this priceless, precious part of the planet: the Deep See Conservation Coalition at <http://www.savethehighseas.org/>; <https://www.seabedminingsciencstatement.org/>; and <https://www.theoxygenproject.com/>. Please help us protect the deep ocean floor.

Love,

Iona

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Faster Warming

The report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

The report shows that emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are responsible for approximately 1.1°C of warming since 1850-1900, and finds that averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. This assessment is based on improved observational datasets to assess historical warming, as well progress in scientific understanding of the response of the climate system to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

“This report is a reality check,” said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Valérie Masson-Delmotte. “We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present and future climate, which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done, and how we can prepare.”

Every Region Facing Increasing Changes

Many characteristics of climate change directly depend on the level of global warming, but what people experience is often very different to the global average. For example, warming over land is larger than the global average, and it is more than twice as high in the Arctic.

“Climate change is already affecting every region on Earth, in multiple ways. The changes we experience will increase with additional warming,” said IPCC Working Group I Co-Chair Panmao Zhai.

The report projects that in the coming decades climate changes will increase in all regions. For 1.5°C of global warming, there will be increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons. At 2°C of global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health, the report shows.

But it is not just about temperature. Climate change is bringing multiple different changes in different regions – which will all increase with further warming. These include changes to wetness and dryness, to winds, snow and ice, coastal areas and oceans. For example:

- Climate change is intensifying the water cycle. This brings more intense rainfall and associated flooding, as well as more intense drought in many regions.
- Climate change is affecting rainfall

patterns. In high latitudes, precipitation is likely to increase, while it is projected to decrease over large parts of the subtropics. Changes to monsoon precipitation are expected, which will vary by region.

- Coastal areas will see continued sea level rise throughout the 21st century, contributing to more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas and coastal erosion. Extreme sea level events that previously occurred once in 100 years could happen every year by the end of this century.

- Further warming will amplify permafrost thawing, and the loss of seasonal snow cover, melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and loss of summer Arctic sea ice.

- Changes to the ocean, including warming, more frequent marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, and reduced oxygen levels have been clearly linked to human influence. These changes affect both ocean ecosystems and the people that rely on them, and they will continue throughout at least the rest of this century.

- For cities, some aspects of climate change may be amplified, including heat (since urban areas are usually warmer than their surroundings), flooding from heavy precipitation events and sea level rise in coastal cities.

For the first time, the Sixth Assessment Report provides a more detailed regional assessment of climate change, including a focus on useful information that can inform risk assessment, adaptation, and other decision-making, and a new framework that helps translate physical changes in the climate – heat, cold, rain, drought, snow, wind, coastal flooding, and more – into what they mean for society and ecosystems.

This regional information can be explored in detail in the newly developed Interactive Atlas interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch as well as regional fact sheets, the technical summary, and underlying report.

Human Influence on the Past and Future Climate

“It has been clear for decades that the

Earth’s climate is changing, and the role of human influence on the climate system is undisputed,” said Masson-Delmotte. Yet the new report also reflects major advances in the science of attribution – understanding the role of climate change in intensifying specific weather and climate events such as extreme heat waves and heavy rainfall events.

The report also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate. The evidence is clear that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the main driver of climate change, even as other greenhouse gases and air pollutants also affect the climate.

“Stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net zero CO₂ emissions. Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate,” said Zhai.

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Follow IPCC on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram

For more information go to www.ipcc.ch

Summary for Policymakers: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf

The website includes outreach materials including videos about the IPCC and video recordings from outreach events conducted as webinars or live-streamed events.

Most videos published by the IPCC can be found on our YouTube and Vimeo channels. **Photo below from Interactive video:** <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>

Source: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/08/IPCC_WGI-AR6-Press-Release_en.pdf



Climate Emergency



Photo: www.pachamama.org

The findings of a new report, said one expert, “show that the uncertain future is happening now.”

'Biggest Story in the World Right Now' – Humanity Has Flipped Amazon From Carbon Sink to Source

By Jessica Corbett

Common Dreams: July 14, 2021

Following years of warnings and mounting fears among scientists, “terrifying” research revealed Wednesday that climate change and deforestation have turned parts of the Amazon basin, a crucial “sink,” into a source of planet-heating carbon dioxide.

Though recent research has elevated concerns about the Amazon putting more CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than it absorbs, the new findings, published in the journal *Nature*, were presented as a “first” by scientists and climate reporters.

From 2010 to 2018, researchers for the new study – led by Luciana Gatti of Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research – conducted “vertical profiling measurements” of carbon dioxide and monoxide a few miles above the tree canopy at four sites in Amazonia.

The researchers found that “Southeastern Amazonia, in particular, acts as a net

carbon source” and “total carbon emissions are greater in eastern Amazonia than in the western part.” The former, they noted, has been “subjected to more deforestation, warming, and moisture stress” than the latter in recent decades.

As *The New York Times* reported Wednesday: “In an accompanying article in *Nature*, Scott Denning, a professor in the department of atmospheric science at Colorado State University, wrote that the paper’s ‘atmospheric profiles show that the uncertain future is happening now.’”

In an emailed response to questions, Dr. Denning praised the new study as the first real large-scale measurement – from various altitudes across thousands of kilometers and remote sectors – of the phenomenon, an advance beyond the traditional measurement at forest sites. The results show “that warming and deforestation in eastern Amazonia have reversed the carbon sink at regional scale and that

the change is actually showing up in atmospheric CO₂,” he wrote.

Gatti told *The Guardian* that “the first very bad news is that forest-burning produces around three times more CO₂ than the forest absorbs. The second bad news is that the places where deforestation is 30% or more show carbon emissions 10 times higher than where deforestation is lower than 20%.”

According to the newspaper – which noted the role of emissions from deliberately set fires for beef and soy production as well as the global criticism that Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has faced for encouraging the soaring deforestation:

“Fewer trees meant less rain and higher temperatures, making the dry season even worse for the remaining forest,” she said, “We have a very negative loop that makes the forest more susceptible to uncontrolled fires.”

Much of the timber, beef, and soy from the Amazon is exported from Brazil. “We

Amazon continued on next page

Climate Emergency

What to Know as Climate Change Drives Extreme Heat

By David Sherfinski

Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 7, 2021

Wonderful video at <https://news.trust.org/item/20210707222109-4gzzi/>

Graphic at right: Climate Reanalyzer.org on June 29, 2021

As heatwaves smash records and claim lives - including in unexpected places like Canada and the U.S. Pacific Northwest - climate scientists explain what's happening and why.

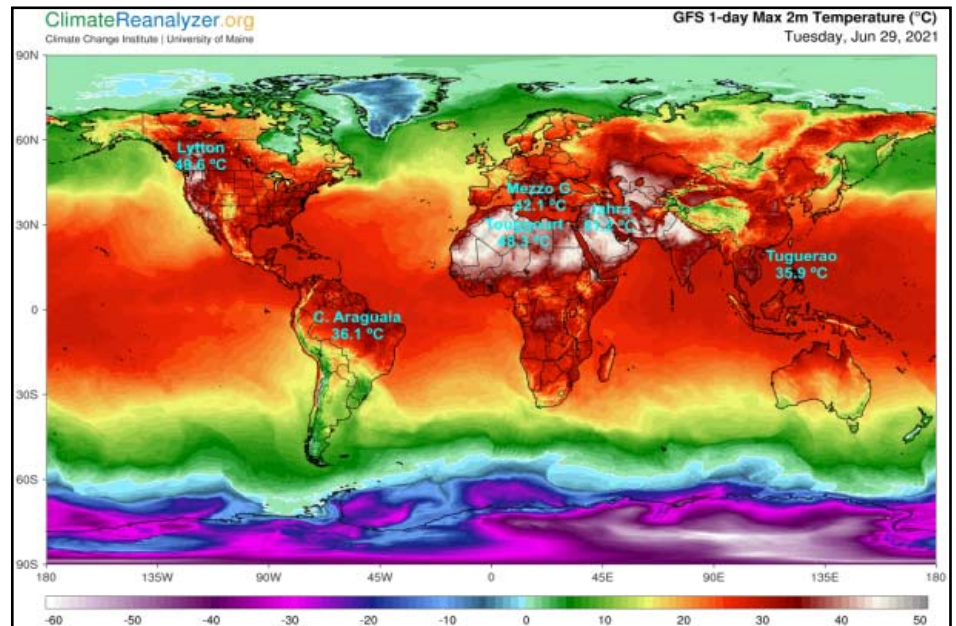
WASHINGTON, DC - An unprecedented heatwave that smashed heat records in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and western Canada in late June has shaken climate scientists, who say they are now unsure where or how often such killer heat might be repeated.

But such an extreme event would be at least 150 times rarer without the influence of climate change, they said in a rapid assessment study released Wednesday, a little over a week after the heatwave, which is thought to have left hundreds dead.

Here's what they say we know - and don't - about worsening extreme heatwaves and how widespread they might become.

Why is the recent "heat dome" event in the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Canada so significant?

The rapid spike in temperatures was well above what scientists thought was possible, even factoring in 1.2 degrees Celsius of



global warming since pre-industrial times.

"It was way above the upper bound," of predictions, said Dutch climate scientist Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, a co-author of the study produced by the World Weather Attribution group, which aims to pinpoint the role of climate change in extreme weather.

"It's rather surprising and shaking that our theoretical picture of how heatwaves behave was broken so quickly," said the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute scientist.

In late June, Portland, in the U.S. state of Oregon, hit 46.7 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit), topping its previous heat record by a whopping 5C (9F). Seattle,

further north, passed its former record by 8C (14F) and Vancouver, in Canada, by 3.8C (6.8F).

Normally records are passed by fractions of a degree, scientists said. The U.S. and Canadian June heatwave was "by far the largest jump in the record we've ever seen," said Friederike Otto of the University of Oxford.

Hardest hit was the British Columbia village of Lytton which broke Canadian temperature records three days in a row - hitting 49.6C (121F) on June 29 - before being largely destroyed by a heat-fueled wildfire.

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need a global agreement to save the Amazon," Gatti said. European nations have said they will block an E.U. trade deal with Brazil and other countries unless Bolsonaro agrees to do more to tackle Amazonian destruction.

The study comes after a March analysis, published in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, that took into account not only CO2 but also methane, nitrous oxide, black carbon, biogenic volatile organic compounds, aerosols, evapotranspiration, and albedo.

The new findings also follow an April study, published in *Nature Climate Change*, that focused on Brazil, which is home to the majority of the incredibly biodiverse and threatened rainforest that spans nine countries.

Comparing that research to Wednesday's,

Denning said that "they're complementary studies with radically different methods that come to very similar conclusions."

The researchers from the April study, who relied on satellite monitoring, found that between 2010 and 2019, the Brazilian Amazon released 16.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide, while only taking in 13.9 billion tons - meaning that over a decade, it released nearly 20% more CO2 than it absorbed.

"We half-expected it, but it is the first time that we have figures showing that the Brazilian Amazon has flipped, and is now a net emitter," said co-author Jean-Pierre Wigner, a scientist at France's National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA), at the time. "We don't know at what point the changeover could become irreversible."

Agence France-Presse reported that in a statement about the study, INRA said that,

"Brazil saw a sharp decline in the application of environmental protection policies after the change of government in 2019," referencing when Bolsonaro was sworn in as president.

"Imagine if we could prohibit fires in the Amazon - it could be a carbon sink," Gatti said Wednesday, noting the negative impact of converting swaths of the rainforest last for agriculture. "But we are doing the opposite - we are accelerating climate change."

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Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/07/14/biggest-story-world-right-now-humanity-has-flipped-amazon-carbon-sink-source>

Climate Emergency

Heat continued from previous page

What made the heatwave happen?

With drought and dry soils known to enhance heat, a particularly dry spring in the region is “kind of an obvious smoking gun” as a contributor, Van Oldenborgh said.

Scientists are also looking at whether changes in the jetstream of atmospheric air currents or in ocean circulation patterns might have played a role.

But the World Weather Attribution study said the sudden heat spike is mainly the result of human-driven climate change and would have been “impossible” without it.

“For heatwaves, climate change is an absolute game changer,” said Otto, a co-leader of the group.

What does an event that no model saw coming mean for our ability to understand what climate change might bring?

“It’s a strong warning we need to study heatwaves more,” Otto said, as it showed existing models “are really not a good indicator of what is to come, even at 1.5 degrees”, the lower warming limit set in the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Scientists now are much less clear on how climate change will impact heatwaves than they were just weeks ago, and “we should definitely not expect heatwaves to behave as they have in the past,” she warned.

Van Oldenborgh admitted that “a lot of people are very worried about this event,” noting “it was a very, very, very rare event but we cannot really say with any certainty how rare it was.”

Could that kind of heatwave happen in other places?

Yes – and lesser heat records are already

being set each year in many places in the world as climate-changing emissions continue to rise, the scientists said.

“Really what everyone needs to take from (the) study – whether they are in British Columbia or Washington or somewhere else in the world – is that how the impacts of climate change manifest today is to a large degree a stronger intensity and frequency of heatwaves,” Otto said.

Scientists say dramatically strengthening heatwaves could bring “cascading risks.” What do they mean by that?

Power shortages are often a threat during severe heatwaves, as demand for power to run air conditioners and fans surges, leaving people unexpectedly without cooling in dangerous temperatures.

Glacial ice can melt faster in extreme heat, raising the risk of flooding, and wildfires are more likely to get out of control in very hot, dry conditions, scientists say.

“We’ve seen cases of compound risks (where) smoke from wildfires led to the advice to keep windows closed – which, of course, makes it even hotter inside,” noted climate scientist Maarten van Aalst, another co-author of the WWA study.

How do heatwaves rank as a risk compared to other disasters, from floods to storms?

In the United States – and globally – extreme heat causes more deaths than any other weather-related disaster, the scientists said.

A study published Wednesday in *The Lancet Planetary Health* journal said high temperatures are now killing over 600,000 people a year globally, including an average of 224,000 in Asia, 179,000 in Europe, and

18,750 in the United States.

Van Aalst said awareness is growing of the seriousness of heatwave threats, including among disaster responders like the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. “It has risen to the top of our concerns, compared to say two decades ago,” said Van Aalst, director of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

How can we reduce the risks?

Researchers said public alert systems, making sure buildings and cities are better designed for cooling and raising awareness of the threats – including reminding elderly people to stay hydrated when temperatures spike – all can help.

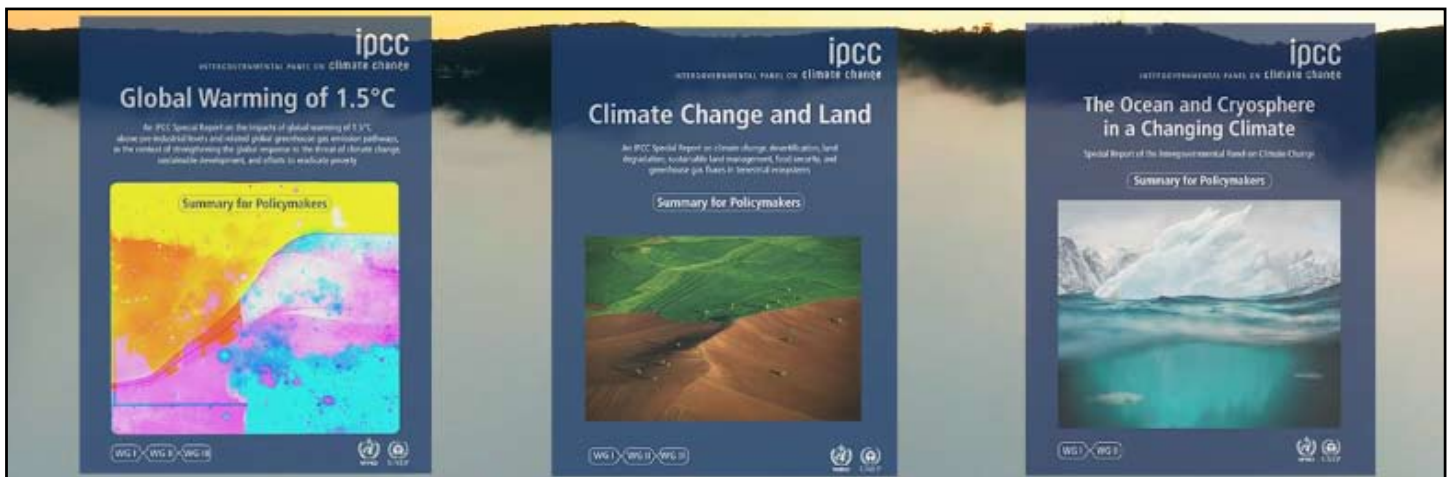
Seattle, scorched by the June heatwave, has the least air conditioning of any U.S. city – an example of how heatwaves may be particularly damaging for places that haven’t considered themselves at risk previously and now need to prepare, Van Aalst said. “This is going to get worse, so it’s a combination of that sort of small-scale local preparedness on short time scales and longer-term adaption of our cities and our houses,” he added.

The most important way to tackle worsening heatwaves, however, is by swiftly eliminating use of fossil fuels so temperatures increases don’t continue to accelerate, scientists said.

“Our emissions have risen much faster in recent years, global mean temperature has risen much faster in recent years,” Otto said. “That we see more extreme heat and more records broken is totally expected.”

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210707222109-4gzzi/>

Screenshot below: IPCC interactive video <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>



Climate Emergency

Grassroots Coalition VP Interviews World-Famous Climate Scientist, Dr. Michael Mann

Note from Iona: Rituraj Phukan of India, the Vice President of our Grassroots Coalition, interviewed John and Iona Conner's friend, Dr. Michael E. Mann, who is probably the most famous climate scientist in the world. When John first became interested in climate change, he wanted to meet Michael Mann in person. We were living in Pennsylvania and it was only an hour-and-a-half drive to Penn State, where Mike's office was.

We were already reading his earlier books and soaking up as much information as we could about the issue. We chatted leisurely with Mike and became friends, establishing the groundwork for trust. We visited him a few times and attended some of his lectures in Pennsylvania. He has helped me several times when I'm stuck on a scientific question. He's a great friend! And Raj is a great Vice President. I'm thrilled and honored to publish this exchange.

Rituraj Phukan: I have framed 8 questions for your consideration. Please feel free to edit or delete any of these, or add any more that might add to the narrative.

Q1. Rituraj Phukan: What is the context of your latest book, *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet*?

Are alarmism and doom-mongering emerging as a threat comparable to climate denial?

Michael E. Mann: Yes, in a phrase, the theme is "urgency AND agency." Yes, it's urgent we act now. But there still IS time to act. We can still avert the worst impacts of climate change if we act boldly and immediately. There is some reason for caution optimism that we will rise to this challenge, given the renewed leadership coming from the Biden administration and the heightened sense of urgency given the devastating climate-fueled extreme weather disasters playing out this summer.

Q2. Rituraj Phukan: The times have changed and scientists, who were earlier blamed for exaggeration, are now sometimes accused of understating the risks. Why has the perception changed and what does it mean for inspiring decisive action on the climate crisis?

Michael E. Mann: Yes, it's rather ironic that those who were first sounding the alarm are now accused of somehow understating the risks. Doomists often overstate

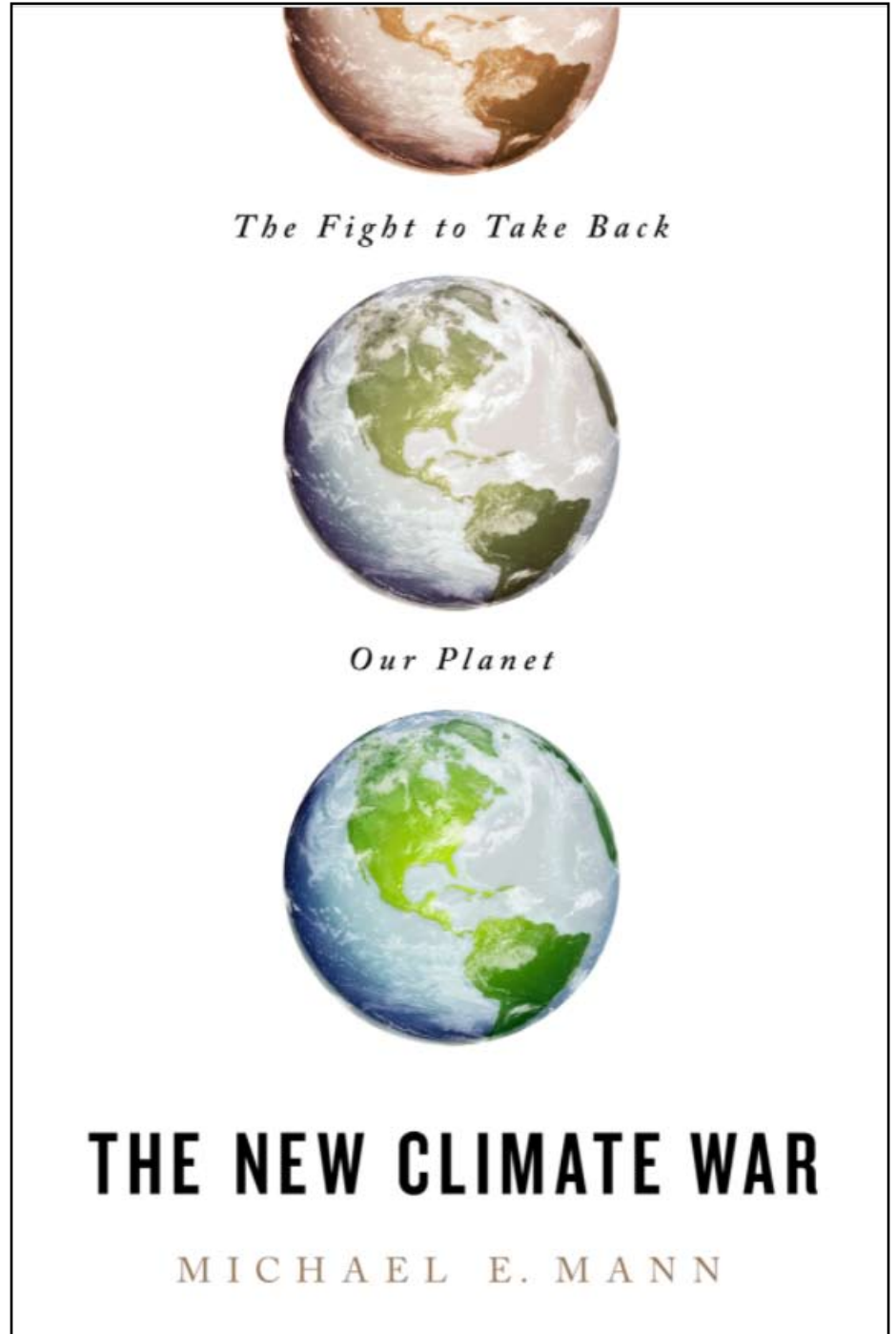


Photo: AbeBooks.com

The New Climate War received the 2021 Wainwright Prize. Named after nature writer Alfred Wainwright, the prizes are awarded to the work which best reflects Wainwright's core values and include a celebration of nature and our natural environment or a warning of the dangers to it across the globe. <https://michaelmann.net/books/climate-war>

Michael Mann continued on next page

Climate Emergency

Michael Mann *continued from previous page*

things to claim it's too late to act and they accuse climate scientists of understating the risks because we won't defend or promote their exaggerated claims. As I stress in *The New Climate War*, the truth is bad enough. We don't need to exaggerate the climate crisis to make the case for urgent action.

Q3. Rituraj Phukan: I always say that, "Water is the local issue of global climate change, for people and for biodiversity." As a Climate Reality Leader, I have developed a presentation "Connecting the 3 W's – Warming, Water & Wildlife," and delivered it to audiences hundreds of times. What are your thoughts about communicating climate science?

Michael E. Mann: I agree that we must bring the discussion home, emphasizing how climate change isn't some distant far-off threat. It's impacting us now, and already causing shortages of food, freshwater, and space, leading to greater competition for resources, and increased conflict. So once again, my philosophy is that we must communicate both the urgency and the agency. Yes, it's bad. But it will get far worse if we fail to act. And there is still time to act.

Q4. Rituraj Phukan: Why is carbon pricing important and how can developing countries like India benefit from a carbon fee and dividend policy?

Michael E. Mann: Carbon pricing is one important tool that we have at our disposal, but it's not a magic bullet. We need to use all of the tools available – carbon pricing, subsidies for renewables, blocking new fossil fuel infrastructure, climate-friendly land management and agriculture, etc. When it comes to developing countries like India, it is essential that the industrial countries, who had the advantage of two

centuries of cheap access to dirty fossil fuel energy, provide incentives to help countries like India leapfrog past the fossil fuel stage, developing energy infrastructure based on renewable energy instead. At the G7 meeting earlier this summer, there was emphasis in the importance of the U.S. and other major industrial countries providing cheap financing to countries like India to help them in this effort.

Q5. Rituraj Phukan: Do you foresee the application of technologies like solar radiation management and carbon dioxide removal to avert the worst impacts? What will be the implications for the Global South?

Michael Mann: As I argue in the book, geoengineering is a very dangerous road to go down. So-called "solar energy management" (I consider that a euphemism for dangerous tampering with our atmosphere) is fraught with great peril, and is used as a crutch today to justify continued fossil fuel burning. Certain technologies, like carbon removal, might prove necessary in the future, but they cannot be allowed to be a substitute for the immediate actions we need to take now, i.e. decarbonizing the global economy and rapidly moving toward renewable energy. There are a number of studies that suggest we have the technology now to decarbonize our economy. We don't need to wait for a "miracle," as some, like Bill Gates, unhelpfully continue to insist.

Dr. Michael E. Mann's accomplishments:

Michael E. Mann is Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State. He has received many honors and awards, including his selection by *Scientific American* as one of the 50 leading visionaries in science and technology in 2002.

Additionally, he contributed, with other IPCC authors, to the award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2018 he received the Award for Public Engagement with Science from the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Climate Communication Prize from the American Geophysical Union. In 2020 he was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He is the author of numerous books, including *Dire Predictions: Understanding Climate Change, The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches From the Front Lines, The Madhouse Effect, and The Tantrum that Saved the World*. He is on the Advisory Board of the Grassroots Coalition and lives in State College, Pennsylvania.

The New Climate War is available at <https://michaelmann.net/books/climate-war>.

Rituraj Phukan's accomplishments:

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; Vice President, Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice.

**NOTICING THAT EVERYTHING IS INTERCONNECTED,
THAT LOVE AND LIGHT EXIST AMID THE DARKNESS, AND
THAT NOT ALL IS LOST CAN NOURISH US ON OUR PATHS.**

~ Rose Zonetti ~

<https://www.chrysalis-wellness.com/everything-is-interconnected/>

Climate Emergency



Photo Courtesy Stand.earth

Cherry Point, a key deepwater port on the West Coast for exports. Over the years, refinery operations have regularly received major permits – including permits for two dangerous oil train transfer facilities — without the adequate public review needed to protect our local communities, the environment, or climate.

Whatcom County Council Approves Landmark Policy to Regulate Fossil Fuel Industry, Protect Salish Sea

Press Release Stand.earth: July 28, 2021

Traditional Lummi and Nooksack Lands (BELLINGHAM, Washington State USA) – On July 27, the Whatcom County Council passed permanent land-use policies prohibiting new fossil fuel refineries, coal plants, trans-shipment facilities, piers, and wharfs in the Cherry Point industrial zone in northwest Washington State. Cherry Point is home to two of the state's five oil refineries and is a significant source of tanker traffic in the Salish Sea. The County Council held a public hearing before approving these policies.

These regulations could usher in a **new era of fossil fuel policymaking in the U.S.**, where local municipalities can use existing regulatory power to restrict the growth of the fossil fuel industry in an era where the U.S. must swiftly transition to renewable energy sources. **In Whatcom**

County, this means no new fossil fuel refineries, trans-shipment facilities, or certain types of other infrastructure expansions can be built, while upgrade projects at existing refineries and terminals will also be subject to more rigorous environmental review and permitting processes. Upgrades that reduce pollution and improve safety will still be allowed if they meet these improved standards.

“Whatcom County residents are now safer from threats like increased oil train traffic or more polluting projects at existing refineries,” said Whatcom County Councillor Todd Donovan. *“When people ask local leaders to address their concerns, this is how it should be done – with input from all affected communities and industries, but without watering down the solutions that are most protective of public safety, the climate, and our waterways.”*

Five years ago community members,

following the leadership of Lummi Nation, helped prevent a massive coal export terminal proposed at Cherry Point. Since then, Bellingham-based environmental nonprofit RE Sources and Stand.earth's SAFE Cities movement have worked to build public support for stronger policies alongside local community members and environmental advocates, county elected officials and staff, while consulting closely with labor unions and fossil fuel industry representatives.

“This is a landmark victory for the local communities who have stood up and held firm for over a decade to protect the climate, the Salish Sea and their own health and safety from risky and reckless fossil fuel expansion projects,” said Shannon Wright, executive director for RE Sources. *“There's more to be done, including addressing the pollution burden borne by local communities, in particu-*

Policy continued on next page

Climate Emergency

Policy *continued from previous page*

lar Lummi Nation, who live in close proximity to existing heavy industry and fossil fuel operations, and continuing to counter the threat of increased vessel traffic across the region.”

Many cities across the U.S. have taken action to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions by limiting fossil fuel expansion and requiring new commercial and residential buildings to be fossil fuel-free. But as **one of the first refinery communities in the U.S. to pass these sorts of policies**, Whatcom County’s action represents a groundbreaking move by a local jurisdiction to restrict the types of projects that can be built on its existing heavy industrial land.

These policies offer refinery communities throughout the U.S. a roadmap for how they can enact stronger regulations to protect public health and vulnerable populations and local ecosystems, prevent the expansion of the fossil fuel industry, and expedite the transition to a clean energy economy in an era of accelerating climate change.

“For too long, the fossil fuel industry has been allowed to cloak its infrastructure and expansion projects in an air of inevitability,” said SAFE Cities Campaign Director Matt Krogh. “It has used this to diminish local communities’ concerns and then dismiss or ignore their voices. Whatcom County’s new, permanent policy is a clear signal that those days are over. Local communities and their elected officials do have the power to decide what gets built near their homes, schools, and businesses. Whatcom County’s policy is a blueprint that any community, including refinery communities, can use to take action to stop fossil fuel expansion.”

While these policies are an important step in the right direction, greater action by the County will be needed to address the pollution burden borne by local communities, in particular Lummi Nation, who live in close proximity to heavy industry and fossil fuel operations. Remedying local environmental injustices that have persisted for decades will need to be an ongoing campaign for concerned community members and elected officials.

Local communities and governments often lack power to influence decisions about pipelines, trains, and ships that run through their towns, but local elected officials do have authority to decide what can be built in their communities, based on mandates to protect public safety and environmental health. During this process, environmental advocates also worked to coordinate with labor unions and develop

shared understanding with the fossil fuel industry where possible, encouraging a collective effort over time towards a transition to a clean energy economy.

More communities are following this example and exercising their regulatory authority to demand input, transparency, and stronger protections against the risks and hazards presented by fossil fuel expansion projects. Communities are pushing for similar permanent protections from fossil fuel expansions in Tacoma, Washington.

Background on Cherry Point

For decades, the fossil fuel industry has focused expansion efforts on Cherry Point, a key deepwater port on the West Coast for exports. Over the years, refinery operations have regularly received major permits – including permits for two dangerous oil train transfer facilities – without the adequate public review needed to protect our local communities, the environment or climate.

The first oil refinery and pier, now owned by Phillips 66, started operating in 1954. A second pier and an aluminum smelter, owned by Alcoa’s Intalco Works, opened in 1966. The pier is now operated by Petrogas. A third pier and a second oil refinery, now owned by BP, began operating in 1971.

Whatcom County Council’s move to enact greater protections against the risks and impact of fossil fuel operations is the culmination of more than a decade of community mobilization, beginning in 2011 and led by Lummi Nation. In response, RE Sources, Stand.earth, and other environmental advocates began organizing Salish Sea communities against the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT), a coal export terminal proposed for Cherry Point that would have been the largest in North America, as well as the expansion of crude oil shipments and rail transport.

Called XwéchiéXen by the Lummi Nation, Cherry Point has been part of the Lummi Nation’s ancestral land, waters, and fishing grounds since time immemorial. By 2016, the fossil fuel industry was targeting Cherry Point as an oil, gas, and coal way-station for exports to Asia and around the world. Estimates showed these projects would have resulted in a staggering amount of carbon pollution, and had they been built, they would have more than doubled the total amount of carbon emissions created in Washington State. These waters, which include the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve, are of critical ecological importance and are one of eight state-

protected aquatic reserves in Washington State. They are home to an array of wildlife, including herring, a key feedstock for iconic salmon, which are a primary food source for endangered Southern Resident orca.

In 2016, the Army Corps of Engineers denied the GPT terminal proposal because it would have interfered with the Lummi Nation’s treaty-protected fishing rights. The Whatcom County Council implemented a temporary moratorium on all new unrefined fossil fuel export facilities, which has been in place since. The coal terminal and moratorium have been fierce local political issues with significant electoral spending by both advocates and opponents in elections in 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019.

About RE Sources

Founded in Bellingham, Washington in 1982, RE Sources is a nonprofit organization working to protect our climate, as well as the environment and communities of the central Salish Sea region. We catalyze community action to build a lasting legacy for all of us – clean water, protected shorelines, an end to dangerous fossil fuel projects, and recovery for orcas and salmon. We are a team of trusted and time-tested environmental advocates, educators, and scientists. RE Sources gives people practical ways to make a real difference for the planet, from passing stronger laws that protect the environment and empowering youth voices, to holding corporate polluters accountable and reducing waste. We do this through smart policy, grassroots mobilization, hands-on science, and environmental education.

More about SAFE Cities:

SAFE Cities is a growing movement of neighbors, local groups, and elected officials phasing out fossil fuels and fast-tracking clean energy solutions to ensure a just transition. Already dozens of cities and counties across the US – and several more around the globe – have passed concrete policies to keep their communities SAFE from fossil fuels, build renewable energy infrastructure, and create good, long-term jobs. The SAFE Cities movement’s focus diverges from other “sometimes fluff” policies like climate emergency declarations, pledges to support the Paris Agreement, or emissions reduction strategies that are too weak to accomplish targets. Instead, SAFE Cities empowers local governments to leverage their existing regulatory authority (like land-use codes) to stop the growth of the fossil fuel industry in their communities.

Source: <https://www.stand.earth/latest/fossil-fuel-free/historic-vote-whatcom-county-council-approves-landmark-policy-regulate>

Climate Emergency



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Atoba Longkumer

A dedicated cycle track built to encourage non-motorized transport in Nagaland, India.

Get on Your Bike: Indian Cities Tap into Pandemic Cycling Trend

By Anuradha Nagaraj

Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 7, 2021

Nationwide effort to foster green transport launched as Covid-19 boosts bike sales and interest in cycling in India.

* Cycling initiative targets air pollution, traffic jams.

* From bike sharing to cycle lanes, cities push pedal power.

* Covid-19 curbs boost bikes sales, interest in cycling.

CHENNAI, India – Cycling used to be considered a crazy idea in Kohima, a hilly city with narrow streets in northeast India. Nowadays, riding a bike is a fashion statement, according to the official leading local efforts to champion pedal power.

Kohima is one of 25 cities pioneering a shift to green transportation in a federal cycling initiative launched during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has boosted bike sales and interest in cycling in India

due to public transport curbs.

“Growing up we never imagined that we could cycle to school or to work because the general belief was that you cannot cycle in the hills,” said Atoba Longkumer, who is heading up Kohima’s participation in the government’s India Cycles4Change Challenge. “Over the last year, I’ve discovered that nothing could be farther from the truth,” Longkumer, 30, said by phone. “Today in Kohima, cycling has become a fashion statement.”

Bikes have generally been used in India by people who cannot afford other forms of transport.

The number of bicycle-owning households in India remained virtually unchanged between 2001 and 2011 as rising income levels increased access to motorbikes, cars, and public transport, according to a study by The Energy Report Institute.

Even in cities without Kohima’s steep and winding streets, cyclists can face an

uphill struggle in India’s notoriously congested urban hubs.

A survey undertaken by 50 cities ahead of the government’s cycling challenge, found speeding vehicles, traffic congestion, and pothole-riddled roads deterred residents from riding a bike. Other common complaints included a shortage of dedicated bike lanes, poor street lighting, and – for female cyclists – sexual harassment.

Time for Change

Under the federal initiative, more than 100 cities were encouraged to test quick and low-cost methods to promote cycling – from bike sharing to cycling clinics, no car Sundays, and cycle-to-work programs.

Kohima was among 25 cities shortlisted for their strategies to boost cycling infrastructure and encourage residents to pedal short distances as a way to tackle traffic congestion and ease pressure on overbur-

Bikes *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

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dened public transport services.

Indian cities have also been grappling with worsening air quality. A *Lancet* report late last year linked India's polluted air to 1.67 million deaths or 18% of all its deaths in 2019, up from 1.24 million deaths in 2017.

"For every 100 Indians we have 10 cars and despite this low density, what you see on the roads, across cities big and small, is traffic congestion," said Kunal Kumar, head of the Smart Cities Mission, which runs the cycling initiative.

"Covid-19 also does all the wrong things for public transport, with safe distancing not really possible," he added. "The time is ideal for a revolutionary change – from cycle for sport to cycle for transport."

'Wind in My Hair'

Lockdown restrictions and a reluctance to board crowded buses and trains have encouraged some Indians to rediscover cycling or take it up for the first time.

Hinotoli V Sena, 35, a disaster management specialist from Kohima, said she had fond childhood memories of cycling but had given it up for years. "I bought a mountain bike recently and love the feeling of the wind in my hair," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone. "It's such a practical mode of transport, though poor infrastructure and rash driving makes it a dangerous way to travel on Indian roads," she added.

In Aurangabad in western Maharashtra state, Arpita Sharad, 32, only learned to ride a bicycle last year and now works as part of the city's Cycles4Change Challenge



Atoba Longkumer takes a break during a cycling trip in northeastern state of Nagaland, India.

program. "It's important to face the traffic on the road to realize the challenges," she said. "I started cycling to work and the commute was an eye-opener. It helped me ideate and now we're in the process of putting a 20-km (12.5-mile) dedicated cycle lane in the city."

Across the country, 28 cities have identified a 340-km (210-mile) pilot corridor and 210 square km (81 square miles) of neighborhood areas focused on creating cycling infrastructure.

"Citizen involvement is key to this model and cities are using their feedback to co-create the solutions," said Shreya

Gadepalli, South Asia program lead of nonprofit Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP).

In collaboration with India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, ITDP is putting together an online exhibition showcasing Cycles4Change success stories.

"The exhibition, due to open later this month, is a way to celebrate what cities have done," Gadepalli said. "In stage two we are looking to rev up, inspire other cities, and scale-up the pilot projects."

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210707081624-sbkps/>

SARATOGA OCEAN

HERE IS WHAT LIFE HAS BEEN FOR US HUMAN BEINGS IN A NUTSHELL. WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO FIT IN AND CONFORM WITH A REALITY THAT IS TOTALLY UNNATURAL TO WHO WE REALLY ARE. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY FIT IN (WHICH NO ONE CAN REALLY DO), WE THINK THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH US. WE THINK WE NEED TO FIX OURSELVES IN SOME WAY. AS IT TURNS OUT – WHILE WE WATCH THIS FALSE REALITY COLLAPSING - IT WAS NEVER US THAT NEEDED FIXING. IT WAS THE FALSE REALITY THAT WE WERE SOLD AS THE TRUTH. SO NOW IT'S TIME TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH WHO YOU REALLY ARE AT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL, SPIRITUAL LEVEL. THAT'S WHAT A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING IS ALL ABOUT. HAVE FAITH IN YOUR HEART. HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF. THE LOVE THAT YOU NATURALLY FEEL WILL GUIDE YOU TO THE ACTUAL TRUTH ABOUT LIFE. BE AT PEACE AND LET YOUR INNER WISDOM BE YOUR GUIDE. HAVE A BEAUTIFUL DAY! MUCH LOVE TO YOU ALL.

XOXO

Submitted by Linda L., Idaho USA

<https://www.facebook.com/1568108180099904/posts/3116864665224240/?d=n>

Climate Emergency



Photo: <https://eandt.theiet.org>

Deep-sea mining: plundering the seafloor's minerals. "The deep sea is the largest biome on Earth. This mysterious and varied place makes up 90% of the marine environment and plays a vital role in regulating our planetary systems, not least by absorbing and storing vast quantities of the carbon dioxide emitted into the air by human activity," according to the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which has many deep sea mining fact sheets on this precious part of our oceans.

The Deep-Sea Mining Rush Threatens Ocean Floor, Biodiversity

By Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

On June 25th the Republic of Nauru, a tiny island nation with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, informed the International Seabed Authority (ISA) that it wants to commence mining the seabed in two years from June 30th. Nauru is one of several nations partnering with the company DeepSea Green a.k.a. The Metals Company (TMC), of Canada, to extract polymetallic nodules from the abyssal plain of the Eastern Pacific in an area called the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone.

The ISA is a 163-member organization of countries created by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Its purpose is to manage the deep seabed outside the national waters of states. The deep seabed is considered the area beneath 200 meters (656 feet) and outside of continental shelves.

When Nauru submitted its intentions, a two-year rule was triggered requiring the

ISA to devise a regulatory system for how to extract the nodules without damaging the ocean environment. The ISA was now "under the gun" to either create regulations or allow extraction to move forward in a regulation-free environment (or with inadequate regulations). Once this process begins, it could trigger a "gold rush" of other companies and nations to get in on the process.

While there are several proposed sources of seabed minerals, the present interest is in polymetallic nodules. These are potato-sized rocks lying on the seabed. They form slowly over a period of millions of years around small objects such as a piece of seashell or a shark's tooth. They contain cobalt, nickel, copper, and manganese as well as rare earth metals sought after for things such as batteries, cellphones, electric vehicles, and solar panels.

The Metals Company, which is represented by NORI in Nauru, is a Canadian company billing itself as a green solution to the need to accelerate production of

these metals to facilitate a post-fossil fuel economy. They claim that the demand for these fuels is going to spike as we move to build more electric vehicles and solar panels, as much as sixfold, and that existing land-based mining is ecologically damaging and costly. They site destruction of rainforests for mining in places such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as well as cruel child labor practices in the DRC. By comparison, they claim the seabed minerals can be extracted with less harm.

The immediate focus is on scooping up polymetallic nodules from an area called the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture zone (CZZ). The CZZ is a huge area of abyssal plain stretching from Hawaii to Mexico. The proposed mining area is eight times the size of Alaska. So far, the ISA is considering an area of 1.3 million square kilometers (nearly 1 million square miles) for seabed mining. The mining could begin

Deep Sea Mining *continued on next page*

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Deep Sea Mining *continued from previous page*

within three years.

Seabed mining machines that would be used resemble huge bulldozers – 30 times larger than a land-based bulldozer. They are fully robotic, tethered from a surface ship. They move along the sea floor sucking in and grinding nodules and sucking all this up, hydraulically, to the surface ship. From there, wastewater is reinjected into the ocean a depth.

This is just one of several proposed means of extracting seabed minerals. Two other sources of minerals have been targeted – seamounts and hydrothermal vents. Seamounts are exactly what they sound like, mountains rising from the sea floor but not attaining the status of islands. On their surface are deposits of sulfides rich in copper, lead, zinc, gold, and silver. These areas are also habitat for filter feeding animals like corals as well as dolphins, sea turtles, and tuna. It's proposed that similar machines could scrape the surfaces of these seamounts to extract these metal elements.

Hydrothermal vents were discovered as recently as the 1970's. They form where water heated deep in the Earth leaks to the surface, often along places where Earth's crustal plates meet such as the mid-Atlantic ridge, a mountain range in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean stretching from the Arctic to the Antarctic. These vents are surrounded with mineralized chimneys, "black smokers," where mineral-rich water is flowing out. It is also home to unique undersea ecosystems that utilize chemical energy instead of solar photosynthesis to support organic life. These "extremophile" organisms are being studied by scientists interested in life on other worlds.

Proposals to commence mining of the seabed have alarmed the ocean-scientific community. Their greatest concerns revolve around the unstudied effects of this activity as well as the fragility of deep-sea ecosystems. Scientists believe that these ecosystems cannot repair themselves.

An experiment was conducted called DISCOL which involved raking the center of a roughly 11-square-kilometer (nearly 9-square-mile) plot in the Pacific with an 8-meter (26-foot) plough. This simulation of mining created a plume that buried the area killing creatures on the sea floor.

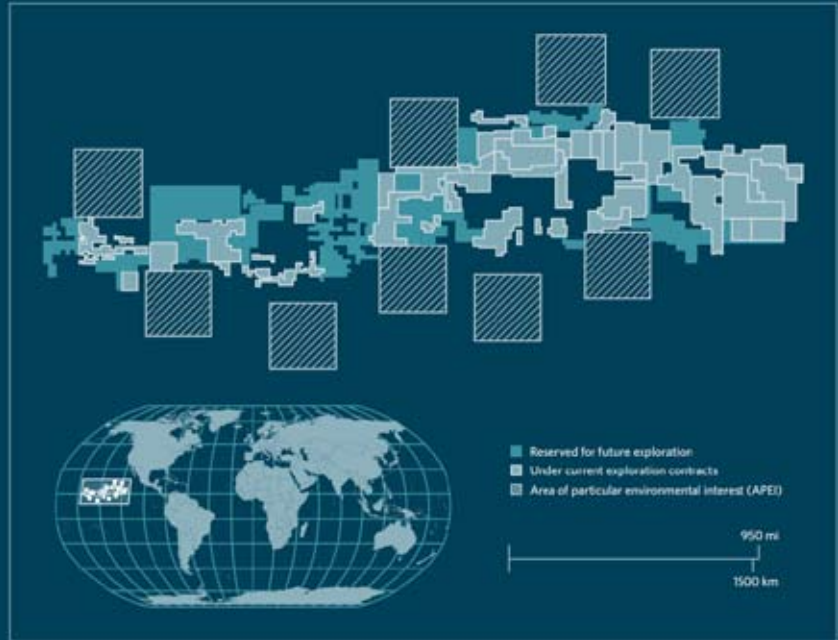
Mining of nodules, for example, cannot avoid destroying species that live on them or that are directly dependent upon them, and a recent study estimates that this would include 50% of species in the CZZ mining area.

Less direct but equally serious concerns

Deep Sea Mining *continued on next page*

Exploring the Clarion-Clipperton Zone

The Clarion-Clipperton Zone is in high demand. This map shows areas under current exploration contracts, areas reserved for future exploration, and areas set aside for protection of the marine environment.

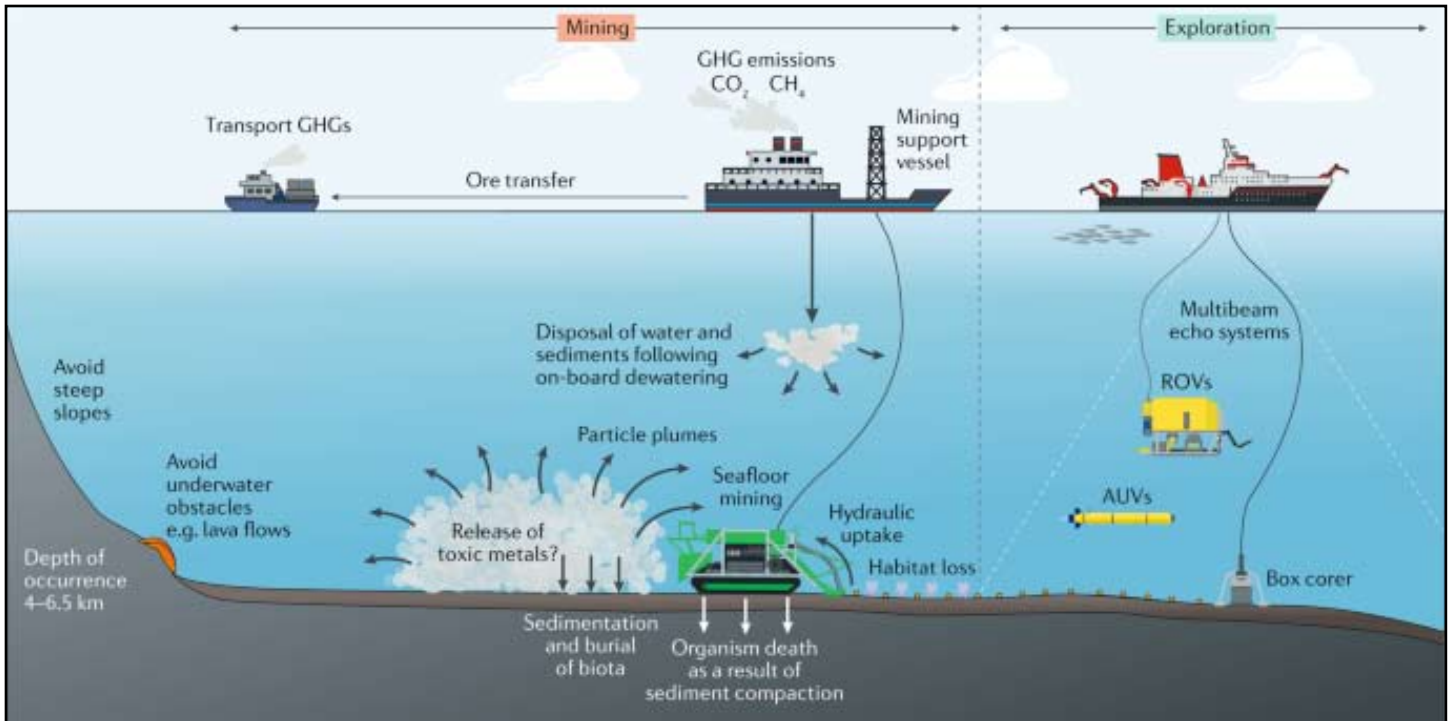


	<p>The ISA Environmental Management Plan for the CCZ recognizes nine subregions that differ in productivity, depth, and biology. It established no-mining areas in each to protect a range of habitats and biodiversity.</p>		<p>Many CCZ seamounts have peaks that rise to 2,000 meters (1.2 miles) below the surface. They are known for their biodiversity, hosting deep-water corals, sponges, and fish.</p>
	<p>Many creatures that inhabit the CCZ live more than 5,000 meters (3.1 miles) beneath the ocean's surface. These creatures have adapted in ways that allow them to survive crushing pressure in a near-lightless environment.</p>		<p>In 2016, scientists discovered a new species of octopus 4,000 meters (2.5 miles) below the sea. Dubbed the ghost octopus and nicknamed "Casper," it lays its eggs on sponge stalks anchored to manganese nodules.¹</p>
	<p>Polymetallic nodules are found on the abyssal plains of all major oceans. The CCZ has the largest concentration of nodule fields.¹</p>		<p>Scientists are continuously discovering new species in the CCZ. By one estimate, 90 percent of the species that researchers collect are new to science.³</p>
	<p>Xenophyophores are single-celled creatures the size of tennis balls, or larger, that live on the seafloor—often attached to nodules—and sediment to build protective coverings.⁴</p>		<p>A 1978 experiment to recover nodules removed a layer of sediment 4.5 centimeters thick and 1.5 meters wide from the CCZ area. Twenty-six years later, the disturbance was still clearly visible.⁵</p>

Graphic: Pew Charitable Trust 2017

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Deep Sea Mining *continued from previous page*



Graphic: <https://www.nature.com/>

“Deep ocean polymetallic nodules as a resource for critical materials,” Nature Reviews Earth and Environment.

arise about carbon capture and storage in the deep seabed. Scientist fear that disturbing the deep sea could release carbon or interfere with ecological processes that help capture it. One study also suggested that disturbing sulfide deposits could release methane, a greenhouse gas many times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Then there is an issue of “plumes” of seabed muck and mining debris that would be kicked up by the mining process. One study called MIDAS estimated that plumes could spread material tens of thousands of kilometers from the mining sites.



Photo: The Metals Company

An example of deep ocean polymetallic nodules

This also relates to the issue of discharged wastewater. This water creates plumes that could spread toxic metals throughout ocean food chains and affect fisheries such as tuna. Sediments could affect filter feeders such as sponges and soft coral.

Mining machinery would also subject the deep sea to loud, persistent noise which can affect whales and other sea creatures, and bright lights emitted in ordinarily dark waters could confuse animals that use bioluminescence to locate each other and mate.

For these reasons, a group of 558 marine science and policy experts have signed a statement calling for a moratorium on seabed mining until further study can be made concerning its impact. The famous marine scientist Sylvia Earle stated: “The more we disrupt it, the more we’re putting ourselves at risk.”

Their statement mentions these key points (abbreviated):

1. The loss of unique species and populations due to destruction of habitat even before they have been discovered or understood;
2. Production of persistent sediment plumes affecting

species beyond sites;

3. Interruption of important ecological processes connecting mid- and deep-ocean ecosystems;

4. Resuspension and release of sediments and toxins from ships and the seafloor, and contamination of marine life;

5. Noise pollution; and

6. Unknown impact on carbon.

If you visit TMC’s website, you will see that they present themselves (and may believe themselves to be) motivated by a green vision. In fact, they have also gone by the name of DeepGreen.

TMC argues that there is a short-term need to increase the quantity of certain metals if transition to a post-fossil fuel economy is to take place quickly enough. Arguing that land-based mining is ecological bad and that mineral deposits on land are of decreasing quality and cost more to extract, they believe that seabed minerals can carry us through until a time when they will become a company wholly based on closed-loop recycling of minerals – in 40 years.

Until then, they believe that seabed mining is more ecologically friendly, and they marshal extensive arguments for this on their website.

It is interesting to note, however, that

Deep Sea Mining *continued on next page*

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Deep Sea Mining *continued from previous page*

BMW, Volvo, Google, and Samsung recently signed on to a letter vowing not to use seabed minerals in their supply chains saying, "Before any potential deep seabed mining occurs, it needs to be clearly demonstrated that such activities can be managed in a way that insures the effective protection of the marine environment."

Meanwhile, the ISA is tasked with coming up with a regime to regulate this whole issue but, as GreenPeace recently pointed out, "Of the people who make the decision on what environmental decisions need to be made only 3 out of 30 members have biological or ecological expertise." If ISA cannot come up with a science-based (or any) policy of seabed mining regulation in the next two years, global seabed mining would proceed on a laissez-faire basis. It would be difficult to retroactively fix this.

One important goal of the Law of the

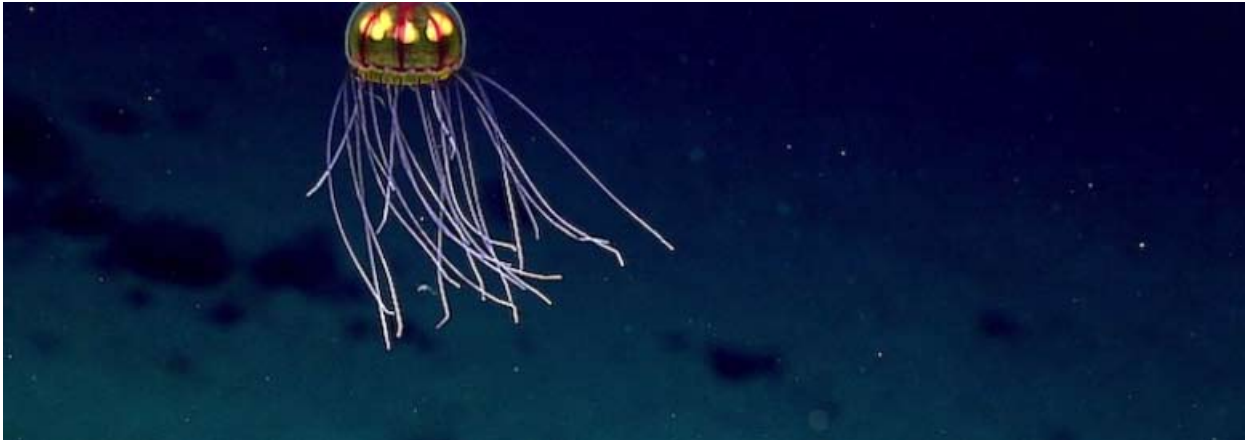


Photo: news.Mongabay.com

We don't know what kinds of beautiful, unique creatures live in the deep sea but we sure need to protect them, every single one of them.

Sea has been that the resources of the sea belong to all humanity. ISA commissioned a study from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to determine how much member states should receive in royalties from seabed mining. MIT determined a formula based on a corporate tax of 25% on sponsoring states (such as Nauru) plus a rate of profit sufficient to encourage companies to mine the seabed. According to the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, MIT determined that the annual royalty to ISA members for mining the CCZ would amount to \$60,000 to \$130,000 per year.

Most income from seabed mining flows to investors in nations that have seabed

mining companies. Deep sea mining would questionably compensate developing countries for use of their resources, especially considering damage to ecosystems. This despite the words of the Law of the Sea stating deep sea minerals should be "for the benefit of mankind as a whole... taking into consideration in particular the interests and needs of developing states.

So, we conclude that seabed mining will probably destroy biodiversity and ecosystems permanently, or for a very long time, in places where seabed minerals are extracted if not in areas affected by the extraction. It will not, as currently set up, be a great benefit to most developing countries and it will have questionable impact on climate by releasing carbon or damaging natural carbon sequestering processes and that there is not much time to stop it.

[**Note from the author:** I could not find the depth at which mining ships planned to release wastewater from the junk they already pumped up to the surface but it was hundreds of meters above the seafloor. Could not locate where I read that – only that this mining waste would then be left to drift where the ocean would take it.]

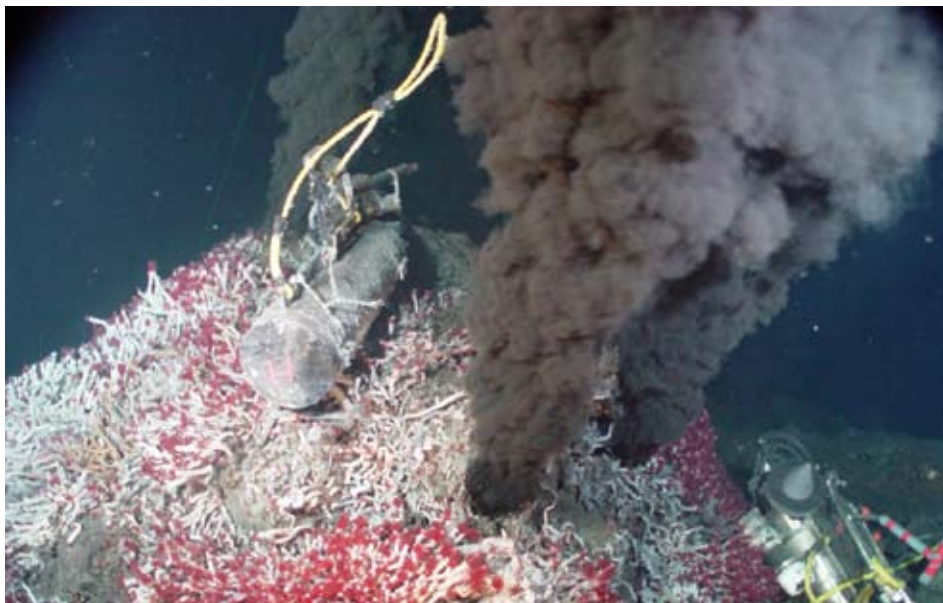


Photo: oceana.org

Deep hydrothermal vents are like hot springs on the sea floor where mineral-rich, hot water flows into the otherwise cold, deep sea. Complete ecosystems sprout up around these vents, and numerous organisms are supported by the energy given off at these rare sites. (Oceana.org)

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

MARINE EXPERT STATEMENT CALLING FOR A PAUSE TO DEEP-SEA MINING SIGNED BY 559 MARINE SCIENCE & POLICY EXPERTS FROM OVER 44 COUNTRIES

SIGN ON AT <https://www.seabedmining-sciencestatement.org/home/#sign-here> ALSO join the Deep See Conservation Coalition at <http://www.savethehigh-seas.org/>

Earth Regeneration



MORE VIDEOS

Photo: www.worldbank.org/

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,

Fund Nature Protection Now or Face Huge Losses

By Michael Taylor

Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 1, 2021

Great video at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/environment/publication/the-economic-case-for-nature>

Many countries could see significant falls in GDP by 2030 if they fail to better conserve biodiversity and natural systems.

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, set for 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: Jason Houston for USAID

Tikal National Park in Guatemala. Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquín grew up on a farm on the edge of the rainforest, where he saw how nature provided for countless species without lifting a finger.

To Save the Rainforest, Think Like the Rainforest

Submitted by David Hunter Bishop
Nomad in Turkey now

The wisdom of how the forest regenerates its resources may save the forest, uplift small-holder farmers, and help fix the climate crisis.

By Trevor Decker Cohen; July 16, 2021

This article is adapted from Bright Green Future, a book of stories from a global renaissance to heal the planet by empowering communities by Trevor Decker Cohen and Gregory Schwartz, PhD.

Several decades ago, Reginaldo “Regi” Haslett-Marroquín was on his way to agriculture school. The bus rumbled through the Guatemalan countryside, passing by

a Civil War that was hiding in the jungle. With help from his brother-in-law, he pulled together all the supplies he needed for school, including a new pair of boots donated from a friend in the army. He was riding into a new chapter of life.

For Regi, it had been a long journey to this point – one that began with a childhood dream. His family made their living by farming a small plot of corn and beans outside of town. From an early age, he worked the fields with his father and brothers. If the crops failed one season, he went to bed without anything to eat. For weeks, he would have to get by on nothing but lard and tortillas. But on the edge of the farm, he marveled at the surrounding rainforest. He saw how nature provided for countless species without lifting a finger. It became his dream to use this wisdom to grow food for those who go hungry.

He was only a few miles away from school when the bus came to a stop. They’d reached a checkpoint where the army searched for rebels among the civilians. A soldier came aboard and shouted, “Everyone off!” While the passengers lined up with their hands against the side of the bus, the soldiers went through each bag.

“Whose bag is this?” one of them asked.

Regi saw that it was his and, without thinking, raised his hand. As he tried to explain why he was carrying combat boots, one of the soldiers shoved him to the ground. They kicked him, accusing him of being a deserter or worse, a guerilla. Regi repeated the same story. “I have a telegram from the school. It is a government school. I am not a rebel.”

At last, one of the soldiers ordered them to stop. “Maybe you’re telling the truth.

Think continued on next page

Earth Regeneration

Think continued from previous page



Photos Courtesy of Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquín.

(left) In between rows of hazelnuts, Regi cultivates alleys of grain, vegetables, and other crops that chickens like to eat. As the fowl peck for insects and forage, they fertilize everything.

(right) “We are energy managers, not laborers,” Regi says of farmers and ranchers. “We don’t produce anything,” he declares. What he means is that we should look at a farm not as production line, but as an energy system.

We’re going to turn around and count to ten. When we turn back, we better not see you.”

He ran as fast as he could. He was aiming for a cornfield that seemed just out of reach. Each number felt like a second closer to his death. He kept running, hoping to put as much distance as he could between him and the soldiers. He heard them count ten. He dove to the ground. Gunfire erupted. Bullets passed over his head. He scrambled into the cornfield, searching for cover among the stalks. As he ran, he could make out the sound of the bus driving away.

That night, a farmer took him in, cleaned his wounds, and gave him a place to sleep. He awoke to find a few tortillas and enough money for a bus ticket to his school. Regi could have died that day on the road. He could have joined the hundreds of thousands of civilians who just disappeared. But he survived, and with him, so did his dream. He’d dedicate the rest of his life to turning conventional farming on its head.

Regi’s vision to access the wisdom of the rainforest stars an unlikely hero. It begins with a chicken. We might think of chickens as birds meant to roam free on an open range. But as Regi pointed out, “The chicken is a jungle bird.” They evolved in the rainforests of Southeast Asia, pecking for grubs under the canopy. When Regi designs a food system, he starts with

chickens under a canopy of hazelnuts and elderberries. He calls this “tree-range,” not “free-range.”

The chicken may be a “jungle bird,” but that doesn’t mean it has to live in the rainforest to be in its natural habitat. Today, Regi farms in a much different place from where he grew up. After graduating from agriculture school, he taught classes at an orphanage that was co-founded by his sister. It was there that he met Amy Haslett. She was a volunteer, teaching dance to the children. They fell in love, and when she moved back to the U.S., he joined her.

Today, their family farm sits on the prairie in Minnesota. In between rows of hazelnuts, Regi cultivates alleys of grain, vegetables, and other crops that chickens like to eat. As the fowl peck for insects and forage, they fertilize everything. Regi likes to think of their digestive system as a small part in the massive “digestive system of the Earth.” Just as the bacteria in our gut help break down our food into nutrients, animals break down nutrients for the entire planet.

He explained it like this. When we take crop residue or food scraps and throw them in a compost heap, they can take up to a year to fully decompose. If we feed that to a chicken or pig, the animal can break everything down into manure in two days. During the night, earthworms can break that down into a form that’s basically ready to fertilize a plant. “All of that happens within 48 to 72 hours. And it’s magnificent.”

With the chicken at the center, Regi is

able to produce a wide range of healthy food without any chemical inputs.

But, “We don’t produce anything,” he declares. What he means is that we should look at a farm not as a production line, but as an energy system. “All nature does is organize that energy in the form of cows and grasses and chickens and carrots and all of the stuff we call food. But we don’t produce anything,” he says. Nature has many “time-tested ways of organizing things that, on one side, are inedible to us, and [puts] them through a process by which they become edible.”

If farmers and ranchers aren’t producing anything, then what are they doing? “We are energy managers, not laborers,” he says. “When we manage energy instead of production, then we get into this space where we win significantly: reduce labor, reduce cost, and reduce stress on the landscape.”

By looking at farming as managing the flow of energy, Regi quadrupled the output of hazelnuts inside his tree-range poultry paddocks compared to those outside. He did it using zero inputs, other than manure dropped by the chickens as they roamed. In one flock, he experimented with only having his birds feed on forage and sprouted grain, and in doing so, reduced external grain consumption by 67 percent. “If you could drop that price [of raising chickens] right now, without actually doing anything else, but improving our ecology, would you do it?”


In the energy system of a farm, Regi compares soil to a battery. The more it’s fed, the stronger it becomes. “At the end of the day, we are harvesting between 30 and 40 percent of all the energy that was cap-

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Earth Regeneration

New Mexico Wilderness Area Grows With Large Donation

Submitted by C.B.
Pennsylvania USA


By Susan Montoya Bryan, *excerpt* 
AP: July 17, 2021

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, USA (AP) — U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland visited her home state Saturday to celebrate what marks the largest wilderness land donation in the agency's history and another addition to the nation's landholdings as the Biden administration aims to conserve nearly one-third of America's lands and waters by 2030.

The 15-square-mile (40-square-kilometer) donation from the Trust for Public Land increases the size of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in northeastern New Mexico by nearly 50%. The property includes rugged canyons, mesas covered by pinon and juniper woodlands, pockets of ponderosa pine trees, and savannah-like grasslands.

Haaland, who joined other officials at a remote site in San Miguel County, acknowledged that the area makes up part of the ancestral homelands of the Jicarilla Apache and northern pueblos of New Mexico. She said that, for generations, families have relied on the land for sustenance and that it means a lot to many



Photo: Felicia A. Salazar/U.S. Department of the Interior via AP 

In this Saturday, July 17, 2021 photo released by the Office of the Secretary Department of the Interior, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland looks out at the Sabinoso Wilderness in Las Vegas, New Mexico, after accepting a land donation from the Trust for Public Land to the Bureau of Land Management. The donation increases the size of the Sabinoso Wilderness in northeastern New Mexico by nearly 50%.

people who visit the area in search of peace and quiet. . . .

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/new-mexico-wilderness-area-haaland-interior-eaeb2059019ab8bdd95b1fa749d8445c>

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tured," he says. "That means 70 percent of that energy goes back into the system." It's the chicken manure, egg waste, crop residue, and leaf litter that charges the soil battery. Feeding the soil makes it so "your next cycle starts better off. And then the next cycle starts better off . . . There is no worse off. There are no diminishing returns."

To capture the most energy, Regi thinks of an acre in three dimensions. "Instead of thinking of an acre as 43,560 square feet, we think of an acre as at least 1,111,200 cubic feet." It includes tree trunks and branches that grow many feet up and roots that reach deep down. All that space is part of the same system working with the plants and animals on the ground.

Regi sees the knowledge of the rainforest as a blueprint to transform the food industry from the bottom up. Seventy-eight percent of the people working in agricul-

ture in the U.S. are immigrant laborers. As founder of the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, Regi is dedicated to building support systems and programming for beginning and transitioning farmers. He trains farm workers and aspiring farmers in his permaculture system. The organization provides an opportunity for those largely left out to become entrepreneurs, and to do so using nature's advantage.

Regi put chickens at the center because of the low barrier to entry. They're much easier to manage than larger animals like pigs, sheep, or cattle and only require a few acres and a coop to keep them safe. He designed the system to work on small plots. He estimated the annual gross income from chickens and nuts on a one-and-a-half acre plot can reach up to \$41,000. For a three-acre plot that number is \$148,000, depending on how the farmer manages

and markets their yield.

"If you're fighting nature, guess what? You lose every single time." But if we tap into the intelligence of how nature uses energy to transform soil, sun, and water into food, "We can not only feed the world many times over, but we can fix the climate many times over and regenerate rural economies all over the world."

Trevor Decker Cohen is an author with a passion for moving from climate change anxiety to action. His book Bright Green Future shares gripping stories from a growing renaissance to empower people and heal the planet. You can buy the book at <https://www.brightgreenfuture.com/>. Half of proceeds from your purchase support community-led initiatives to empower people and planet.

Source: <https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/to-save-the-rainforest-think-like-the-rainforest>

Earth Regeneration



Photos: Herbert Bagyenyi

“Be remembered by the tree you plant” is one of many themes of One Village Tours in Uganda. Herbert took these photos while on a trip with visitors to Uganda.

Sustainable Tourism Offers Rich Experiences

By Herbert Bagyenyi, Uganda (Member of the Grassroots Coalition)

Sustainable tourism facilitates community development that involves environmental conservation for future generations’ use.

(i) The community is the core team and conservers of protected areas for both classical tourism, community tourism, Eco-tourism, agritourism or Voluntourism, whichever you call it. So, meeting the needs of the community for them to realize the need for conservation, makes it easier and we do this through education and trainings, agriculture activities for production, etc.

(ii) Voluntourism is one way that we benefit both our travel-tourism/volunteers and communities where tourists will experience local people through participation in their day-to-day activities.

(iii) Agritourism is a broader way of life and understanding, AGR I tourism is better that community, cultural, and Eco-tourism on definition and practice. In this form, a tourist or volunteer will be immersed in real life experiences of a person or family that calls Uganda his other home. Tourists will have hours, days, weeks, and months

with the local community to plant a garden, a tree, fruit tree, raise a domestic animal, learn and prepare a domestic meal as well as enjoying HOME STAY EXPERIENCES.

(iv) Support & Donations, we can’t rule out people who travel people with a heart of support and donations. Our travels will give them a chance to learn, experience, study, or understand some areas of support and donations.

(v) Partnership: this is very critical in our sustainable tourism development. Uganda has untapped and undiscovered resources as well as knowledge. So, some of the travel businessmen/women will land on their areas of expertise and make investments and hence development for our people and country as well.

Thank you so much and for any questions, do not

hesitate to ask me.

Enjoy your day.
Herbert Bagyenyi
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See Herbert’s wonderful video, “Herbert Challenges August 2021, Happy Community Project” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmK2ZkVPOL0>

Tourism Photos continued on next page



Earth Regeneration

Tourism *continued from previous page*



Herbert Challenges Aug 2021



Play (k)

Earth Regeneration

Controlling the Regenerative Agriculture Narrative

By Thorsten Arnold, Canada; June 7, 2021

The planetary crisis – the train that is accelerating toward a wall, while human actions are also pushing the wall towards the train – stays in crass contrast to the promise of regeneration. Regenerative Agriculture, and more broadly ecosystem restoration, is caught between these two stories.

On one hand, we – the regenerative movement – need to recognize and acknowledge the planetary crisis with its self-perpetuating dynamics. This is scary, but we need to equip decision makers with simple test questions: Does that action degenerate Earth and speed up the train, or does it accelerate the wall by contributing to climate change? On the other hand, we need to build our capacity to regenerate through diversity. Does that action foster diversity or monocultures? Does it accumulate assets and power in few hands such that diversity comes to an end, or does it share decision power and provide a home and safe haven for communities locally and across the globe?

Regenerative Agriculture has embraced the opportunity of carbon sequestration, carbon trading, in order to attract resources and attention that our movement so dearly needs and deserves. At times, I fear that we are doing this at the expense of our narrative – we allow others to define the story of what our movement is about.

It sounds as if Regenerative Agriculture is mainly a weapon in the fight against climate change. This story focuses our attention on the wall that is moving towards the train – all eyes on the wall, while nobody watches who's firing up the train's engine. By letting others set the narrative around RegenAg, by letting us be drawn into the "carbon financialization" story, our story is distracting from the train.

Regenerative Agriculture mostly is about stopping the train. We regenerate biodiversity, our labor-intensive practices regenerate rural communities with meaningful jobs in agriculture. Soil regeneration can re-invigorate watershed functions and the terrestrial water cycle, with its life-sustaining cooling functions. Regenerative agriculture grows nutrition-dense food that nurtures our bodies, and a food culture that nourish our souls. All of these elements are looking at the train! In addition, regenerative agriculture helps us pay back agriculture's "carbon debt" (Sanderman et al., 2010). RegenAg also reduces our GHG emissions from fertilizer, soil degradation,

and diesel. Yes, RegenAg also slows down the wall! But that is a side-effect, almost a positive externality.

Organizations like the World Resource Institute (WRI, here) or the World Economic Forum (WEF, here) are promoting their own narrative, with the positivist normative power that Western organizations are so good at. If we let others create that narrative – even allow others to reduce RegenAg's narrative to "decelerating the wall" in carbon markets – then the public narrative loses the essence of RegenAg: it is a method for stopping the train. The "climate change narrative" of RegenAg will create economic opportunities for "slowing the wall at the expense of accelerating the train": logging rainforests to grow palm-oil biodiesel; planting carbon sequestration monocultures in the hands of few. The corporate world has decades of experience in "hideous accounting" and will find ways to create zero carbon budgets – innovative corporate accountants have discovered myriads of strategies to hide profits offshore. The corporate world will develop similar strategies around water and carbon accounting, and is already succeeding. Because they have successfully created a narrative that allows them to. By defining the narrative, they can control the paradigm – the way that we humans perceive our surroundings, how people see agriculture and the living world around us.

Conclusion

So let's be clear on our narrative – we simultaneously need to (1) STOP THE TRAIN speeding towards the wall, while also (2) DECELERATE THE WALL that is now moving towards the train. And we need to (3) BUILD SOCIETAL RESILIENCE that allows humankind to survive an inevitable crash. Regenerative Agriculture can accomplish all three – and it really is irrelevant how much it stops the wall. The debate with WRI is a distraction, a trap – and it is seductive to follow this trap. Let's politely refuse, and stay on track of our narrative: Stopping the train while slowing down the wall.

All other sectors need to help us with that "wall thing" that is climate change – it is ludicrous to believe that RegenAg alone can undo the harm from a century of fossil fuel emissions. In my eyes, even arguments [about] how much soil regeneration could buy us is a distraction from the train wreck. I believe that claims how "regenerative Ag can reverse climate change"

play into a misleading narrative. Fact is: if we don't regenerate our landscapes fast, our societies won't have resilience to deal with the climate change that is coming up, carbon trading or not. We don't really have a choice – regenerate now. Spiritually, emotionally, with all our hearts, all our assets, our management skills, our occasional blinks of wisdom to use technologies wisely – with everything that humankind has.

And yes, we can: if we don't hide from the truth (the train and the wall that are accelerating towards each other). And if we don't let false Gods distract us (those fancy technologies that promise to save our empty ways of living, those false financial instruments that promise easy paths to regeneration). Then we will set into a very joyful journey into a new age of humankind. One where our diversity creates balance in regeneration and degradation. Success stories are ample – Judy Schwartz has summarized some of them in her new book, *The Reindeer Chronicles: And Other Inspiring Stories of Working with Nature to Heal the Earth*. We just need to walk the walk, and first explain people why and how. Brutal truth keeps us on track of this journey of hope.

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Footnotes:

[1] Nordhaus WD, Stavins RN, Weitzman ML. Lethal model 2: The limits to growth revisited. Brookings papers on economic activity. 1992 Jan 1;1992(2):1-59.

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Thorsten Arnold is a resilience and food system analyst, business designer, and climate advocate. He has dedicated his work-life to promoting climate resilience in his various facets, and believes it is time for him to share his insights more publicly. With his wife Kristine Hammel, he co-owns Persephone Market Garden, an ecological vegetable farm that produces healthy, fair, and simply good food. We are slowly building this into a community hub, having integrated a summer farm camps, farming workshops, and now a private farm and forest school that offers holistic education in sustainable living. He lives at the base of the Sauguen (aka Bruce) Peninsula, on the traditional land of the Sauguen Ojibway Nation.

Source: <https://thorstenarnold.com/a-manifesto-for-brutal-truth-in-our-regenag-narrative/>

Ending Inequality



Image posted on Learn with Grandma International Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LwGInternational/>

Ending Inequality



Photo Courtesy Sebastian Barros via Thomson Reuters Foundation

(left to right) Peigh Asante and Nathaniel Cole, co-founders of London-based swimming club and school Swim Dem Crew, are pictured swimming in the sea.

Swimming for all? Poolside or at the beach, ethnic minorities face barriers.

By Lin Taylor and Carey L. Biron
Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 13, 2021

Despite being under-represented in swimming, more Black and ethnic minority groups are taking to plunge to occupy spaces by the water.

* Swimming rates among Black and minority communities lag.

* Gap also seen in beach access and water sports.

* Pandemic, heatwaves put new focus on inequalities.

LONDON/WASHINGTON – When Peigh Asante suffered a running injury at the age of 27, doctors said his recovery would be aided by swimming - something neither he, nor anyone else in his British-Ghanaian family, had ever learned to do.

But it only took a few lessons before he was hooked. “I fell in love with it, became addicted to it. It was quite daunting at the start, but it became really exciting. There’s a new space and this new world, and I was

excited to explore it,” Asante, now 36, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Just months later, Asante competed in his first triathlon, before co-founding Swim Dem Crew, an inner city swimming club and school in London that helps others take the plunge.

“If people can’t see people like themselves in those spaces, they’re not going to want to do it, and they’re not going to think it’s for them,” said Asante.

In Britain, less than 10% of Black and Asian adults swim regularly according to Sport England, the national swimming body. And Britain is not an isolated case.

According to the USA Swimming Foundation, 64% of the country’s African American children have little to no swimming ability, compared to 40% of their white peers. “Water safety for some communities is not: learn how to be safe in the water. It’s just: don’t go near the water,” said Mike Hawkes, inclusion and safety partner at Swim England. “Swimming is a key life

skill. And we don’t want certain communities to be precluded from being able to access that as a result of misconceptions and systemic inequalities,” he said.

Barriers

Financial constraints and a lack of nearby pools, suitable hair accessories or modest swimwear can deter some Black, Asian, and ethnic minority Britons from swimming, said Seren Jones, who co-founded the Black Swimming Association (BSA).

Jones, a former elite swimmer who started the association last year to increase diversity in water sports, said because hair is such an integral part of Black identity, the thought of getting it wet could also put some people off.

Not knowing anyone who can swim, or having little exposure to water sports or a coastal lifestyle, also dampen people’s interest in learning, she added.

“I’ve always known that Black women

Swimming *continued on next page*

Ending Inequality

Swimming *continued from previous page*



Photo Courtesy Surfrider NYC via Thomson Reuters Foundation

A youth program participant learns to surf at Rockaway Beach, New York, in 2016.

are extremely athletic and successful. We see them dominate dry land sports. But I always wondered why that isn't the case in water sports," said Jones.

Swimming, particularly at elite levels and in nations that bag most of the medals when the Olympics come around, has long been a predominately white activity.

Although Alice Dearing, a co-founder of BSA, will become Britain's first Black female Olympic swimmer, sporting body FINA was criticized for saying a swimming cap designed to fit over dreadlocks, braids, and afros could not be used at Tokyo.

FINA said it would review its decision.

All Access?

Months of coronavirus restrictions and last year's Black Lives Matter protests have put renewed focus on racial injustice, from access to public spaces to health inequalities.

Record heatwaves in the United States this summer have raised concerns over how accessible urban pools are, said Linda Hwang, director of innovation and strategy at the Trust for Public Lands, a nonprofit that advocates for public spaces.

Hwang said there is little data on how equitably pools are located in the United States but estimated it would mirror park access, where neighborhoods of color have

44% less green space per capita than white neighborhoods, according to the Trust.

Underfunding in cities often results in youths heading to pools in richer suburbs, raising questions over whether they "can feel safe coming into these locations," said her colleague Ronda Chapman, the Trust's equity director.

Though the importance of nature was spotlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic, the great outdoors, known to improve mental health, is not easily accessible to everyone, said a report by British walking charity Ramblers.

About 19% of white children visited the coast compared to just 5% of children from a Black, Asian, or ethnic minority background, according to 2018-19 figures from environmental group Natural England.

Jones from the BSA said having basic swimming skills was a gateway to leisure activities by the coast like sailing and surfing - hobbies where minorities are traditionally under-represented.

"If you can swim and feel comfortable in the water, you're opening up all these incredible opportunities for yourself."

Yet in the United States, access to beaches is still largely defined by a legacy of racial segregation, said Pete Stauffer, environmental director for the Surfrider

Foundation, which advocates for public access to beaches. In addition to racist laws aimed at guiding who lived where, many pools and beaches were off-limits for certain minority communities for decades.

Today, even if people live by the coast, like the community near New York City's Rockaway Beach, it does not mean locals feel confident using that space, said Moe Magali, who runs the Rockaway Youth program for the Surfrider Foundation.

"You have kids who have the whole beach in their backyard but don't know how to access it. It's not because they don't want to. It's lack of experience," said Magali, whose program helps local, low-income children learn to swim and surf.

In coastal areas across England and Wales, about 5% of the population are from an ethnic minority, according to the 2011 national census, while the rest are white.

For south Londoner Asante, it is important for ethnic minorities to be visible and show up in swimming spots and coastal areas.

"Obviously when you go to those places, you are the minority. But it's about still turning up and showing up because if you don't, then no one's ever going to go there," he said.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210713074917-lp3tc/>

Ending Inequality



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Charles Pensulo

Students sit on benches outside the newly opened 3D-printed school, which was built in 15 hours, in Salima, Malawi, June 18, 2021.

Can 3D-printed schools tackle Africa's classroom shortage?

By Charles Pensulo
Thomson Reuters Foundation: July 12, 2021

Faster, cheaper, and greener than regular construction, 3D printing could help African countries close their education gaps – once companies figure out how to make the printers more moveable.

* Malawi has a shortfall of 36,000 primary school classrooms.

* 3D printing is faster and greener than conventional construction.

* Many schools in Africa suffer from overcrowding, dropouts.

SALIMA, Malawi – Gathered under the hot sun, dozens of women danced and sang in jubilation as children from the village of Salima, in central Malawi, started their first day at their new 3D-printed school, which had been built from the ground up in only 15 hours.

Made of concrete placed layer by layer through a computer-controlled nozzle, the school is made up of a single room with rounded corners and is big enough to accommodate 50 students.

Olipa Elisa said her 10-year-old son used

to have to hike 5km (3 miles) every day to the nearest school, often arriving late and exhausted. “I am very excited that we now have a school closer to my home, and my child will not have to take the long journey,” said Elisa, 38. “What we need is more of these learning blocks to accommodate other classes.”

Run by 14Trees, a joint venture between Swiss cement manufacturer LafargeHolcim and British development finance agency CDC Group, the project was faster, cheaper, and less energy-intensive than conventional construction, said 14Trees managing director Francois Perrot.

Its success shows how 3D printing could be transformative in Africa, where there is a dire shortage of classroom space, he said.

The U.N. children's agency UNICEF estimates there is a shortfall of 36,000 primary school classrooms in Malawi alone, a gap that Perrot estimates could be closed in 10 years using 3D-printing technology. “Based on our calculations, if we rely on conventional methods it would take about 70 years to clear that backlog,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an email.

Large-scale 3D printing is gaining steam

around the world, with some projects producing a home in just 24 hours of printing time for a few thousand dollars.

By the time 14Trees had built the Salima school – which the company says is the first 3D-printed school in Malawi – it had already printed the walls of a prototype house in the capital Lilongwe in just 12 hours, compared to almost four days using conventional methods.

As well as cutting the time it takes to build a structure, 3D printing also reduces the quantity of materials needed and the amount of carbon emissions produced by up to 70% compared to conventional methods, said Perrot. As an example of the potential cost savings, he pointed to the “ink,” a dry mixture of cement, sand and additives that is mixed with water to form the concrete used to print the walls.

Perrot said that ink could be made in Malawi instead of being imported, as it was for the pilot school project. “Manufacturing the ink on the ground will dramatically reduce the cost of the building for buyers and create local jobs in manufacturing,” he said. “We

3D Schools *continued on next page*

Ending Inequality

3D Schools *continued from previous page*

(also) now have an indigenous Malawian team fully trained to operate the printer.”

‘Double Disadvantage’

Limbani Nsapato, country director for Edukans, an international development organization focused on education, said the shortage of classrooms around Africa is an urgent but overlooked issue.

The average ratio of pupils to teachers in Africa is 40-to-1, he said, but with only about 47,000 classrooms for nearly 5,420,000 students, the ratio in Malawi is closer to 115-to-1. Overcrowded classrooms lead to poor quality of education because teachers find it difficult to engage with every student in a class, he said.

To accommodate their large numbers of students, many schools move classes outside, but when the weather is bad, classes are often cancelled, Nsapato explained. “Pupils who live far from school have a double disadvantage because apart from getting (stuck) in congested traffic, they also have to face the challenge of covering long distances, which makes them late for class,” he added. “This makes them arrive at school tired, leading to poor concentration. Such students often drop out or repeat classes because of poor performance.”

Another company trying to solve that problem is Studio Mortazavi, a global architectural firm that has designed a 3D-printed school in Fianarantsoa, a city in southern Madagascar, for the U.S. non-profit Thinking Huts.

The school, which is due to be built next year, will be made of concrete and locally sourced construction materials and pow-



Students inside their new 3D-printed school, built to house up to 50 pupils, in Salima, Malawi, June 18, 2021.

ered by solar energy, said Amir Mortazavi, founder of Studio Mortazavi.

The project will comprise several pods that can serve different functions, including as classrooms, science labs, and dance studios.

Maggie Grout, founder and CEO of Thinking Huts, which is also working with 14Trees on the Madagascar school project, said 3D printing should make the project scalable while keeping down carbon emissions.

But first, the organization has to make sure it can get the printer to the remote rural areas where classrooms are most needed, so it is currently working on streamlining the printing process on a university campus in Madagascar, she said. “Once we launch



The new 3D-printed school in Salima, made of concrete placed layer by layer through a computer-controlled nozzle, in central Malawi, June 18, 2021.

the first school and more people know about our vision, we hope to conceptualize a new printer that is specifically created to be more easily transported to the communities we work together with,” Grout said in an email.

Cost

Catherine Sani, head of the Malawi Institute of Architects, worries that 3D printing may not be the cost-saving solution it is being touted as. “Given our gross need for quick classrooms, this would indeed seem like a good option given the speed in production,” she said. “However, we also note (that) this method is quick on a single site, but for multiple sites more 3D-printing equipment would be required, thus making this system very high-cost compared to other methods.”

As companies work on making 3D printing more portable and affordable, Tom Bowden, a trustee for Britain-based charity Building Malawi, said the technology holds promise in parts of the world where lack of funding can often stall or kill essential infrastructure projects.

His organization builds schools, libraries, and sports facilities which are operated by Malawian organizations.

Using earth bag construction or bricks and mortar, it costs about \$20,000 to build a double classroom, Bowden said. “The costs are high, we really can’t find cheaper solutions for the concrete floors, iron sheet roof, and metal window frames (and) our build process takes about 10 weeks, depending on the specifications,” he said.

Given all of those issues, “3D printing sounds interesting,” he said.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20210712024819-khr9q/>

Human Interest

The Need: Why Providing Women with Solar Products and Solar Stoves is Important

By Ngo Abdulai Banfogha
Cameroon

Over 600 million people in sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity and over 700 million depend on harmful fuels such as firewood and charcoal for cooking. Globally, smoke from cookstoves causes 2.6 million premature deaths and a host of harmful health conditions, including respiratory and vision problems. Lack of access to power locks people into poverty and affects all areas of life. Energy poverty has a multitude of direct and indirect negative consequences on the health, education, and incomes of women in particular and of off-grid communities in general.

Imagine you are one of over 300 million African women who wake up and go to bed without reliable power. Life is organized differently. Daylight hours are more important. At night, you buy candles, kerosene, or batteries for lamps and torches, or fuel if you are lucky enough to have a generator. You pay to get your mobile phone charged every few days. If you want your children to read in the evening, you make sure your flashlight hasn't run out of batteries.

To make dinner, you start early because it takes time – from collecting wood to making a fire to preparing produce to cooking the meal. You and your children will likely have stinging eyes and breathing problems from the wood smoke. The baby you carry on your back may develop serious health problems. You and your daughters will have to go farther and farther to cut trees for cooking. You may not boil drinking water to conserve fuel. Your daughter may collect water in the dark. You may wash dishes in the dark light of a kerosene lamp. You may look after a sick family member in the dark. You may give birth in the dark.

This is energy poverty.

For the great majority of low-income communities where we work, the burdens

of energy poverty fall on women. Women here are also the backbone of the economy – farming, preparing produce, selling at market, producing goods, and running side businesses such as traditional crafts or making drinks and snacks to sell at the roadside.

At Hope for a Better Future (H4BF), we know that solar and other forms of clean energy are the best ways to power off-grid homes and communities. From an urban health clinic to a family compound in a remote village, we believe renewable energy technology brings the healthiest, safest, most sustainable, and, ultimately, the cheapest way to power people's lives and improve wellbeing.

The solution to energy poverty must include a deliberate focus on underserved markets and the intentional inclusion of overlooked resources of women's enterprise. H4BF's solution is a market-based,

locally-led, women-driven approach to combating energy poverty. H4BF brings energy access and economic opportunity to women entrepreneurs in sub-Saharan African "last-mile" communities.

Each investment in the capacity of a local woman entrepreneur creates a local, sustainable, clean energy business that provides transformative income for the woman entrepreneur. The training and support she receives provide economic empowerment that enables her to expand her income opportunities, invest in her family's health and well-being, and improve her standing in her community. When more women work, families thrive, communities benefit, and nations prosper.

We need your donations. We accept donation through the link <https://www.givingway.com/donate/hope-for-a-better-future>.



Photo: Ngo Banfogha

Email from Ngo: "I can say we have just about 4 hours of electricity daily on average. It only gets worse like the past three days when it goes off completely and all they say is they carry out repairs for years without improvement. When I see an African child with high performance academically, I give so much respect. For they have limited resources." Hope for a Better Future's vocational training school is teaching women (and men) about solar energy so they can start their own businesses.

Human Interest

Grassroots Coalition Advisory Board Member Honored for Humanitarian Work

Posted on Facebook by Mariam Nabukeera, Uganda on June 1, 2021

I am speechless!
Listen! You may not have an idea how grateful, honored, humbled, and blessed I am to be appreciated – nominated – and then receive this message from one of the reputable International Foundations. Sometimes, I am encountered with several hurdles and challenges, I try to think that maybe my work is a burden to others. And indeed, it may be a burden especially when [it] requires external support.

Against all odds, I have just selected a few paragraphs from the letter for you, my beloved friends.

Dear Mariam,

Congratulations

I am happy to inform you that you have been nominated for the 2021 Tällberg-SNF-Eliasson Global Leadership Prize.

The Prize is awarded annually to outstanding leaders who demonstrate the willingness and capacity to address the complexity of 21st-century challenges in innovative, risk-taking, and ethical ways, and whose work is global in aspiration or implication and is rooted in universal values. Great leadership is not bound by geography or discipline.

Prize winners are honored not only for what they have already accomplished but for their commitment and capacity to continue seeking the kinds of positive change our societies demand.

The Tällberg-SNF-Eliasson Global Leadership Prize has several unique aspects:

- Nominations are made by anyone, anywhere through an open, online process – in practice, that means you might be surprised by the nomination and might not even know your nominator;*
- The Prize is based on the premise that*



Photo: Mariam's Facebook page

Mariam is the National Coordinator of WACENA (Women and Children's Empowerment Center in Africa) & Gender Park International., where a focus on empowerment requires a shift away from seeing women and girls as beneficiaries of health and development programs to viewing them as agents of change for their own individual and collective empowerment.

great leaders operate in a wide range of circumstances; we are not seeking to honor political or business or culture or any other constrained category of leaders;

- Winners not only receive an award and an honorarium, but also are invited to participate in the Tällberg Foundation's global network.*

Again,

Congratulations, not only on your nomination, but – more importantly – on the work that inspired the nomination."

[From Mariam] Whoever nominated me, wherever you are, thank you. Look! People die dreaming to go to the moon, become billionaires and so forth! But for you chose to dream with me in saving our Mother Earth, empowering girls and women, and making such a dream be known to the world! It has come to pass!!

We have walked this journey together! Congratulations to all of you my friends and those of Gender Park.

*Much Love to you all. xxx
Mariam Nabukeera, Uganda*

Human Interest



Photo: Jan Willem Sieburgh

Schoonschip Amsterdam, a circular community.

Going Circular Protects Climate and Nature, Creates Jobs, Enhances Prosperity

By Stephen Leahy, Canada

A **Circular Economy** is essential to keep global temperature rise **below 2C AND** to halt and reverse the **dangerous decline of nature** by reducing pressure on natural resources. Here's what you need-to-know.

Need-to-Know 1: If everyone lived like a Canadian or an American we'd need five planet Earths.

Even the global average means **we need 1.7 planets to keep going as we are.**

What exactly does this mean?

Need-to-Know 2: Humanity is now **consuming over 100 billion tons of materials a year.**

Take a second to consider that number: If you poured one billion (1,000,000,000) table-tennis balls into a big pit, it would have to be 40 meters (131 feet) deep and 40 metres (131 feet) per side.

And all those tiny, **featherweight table-tennis balls would weigh 2.7 million kilograms (6 million pounds).**

Imagine filling 100 of these super-sized ball pits every year.

100 billion tons is an astounding number. It is difficult to imagine that **each person on the planet consumes more than 12 tons of material a year on average** or that a **Canadian consumes 35 tons a year.**

Need-to-Know 3: The extraction, manu-

facture, use, and disposal of this material **accounts for 70% of global carbon emissions.**

I was very surprised by this number but it makes sense since lots of our energy is used to make stuff, grow food, and build cities.

Those need-to-knows are from the Circularity Gap Report 2021 which has been endorsed by leading sustainability experts. I recommend checking it out. Here's another one:

Need-to-Know 4: Only 8.6% of the +100 billion tons is circular. Yes, only 8 or 9 million tons is cycled back into the economy.

Effectively 90 odd billion tons is being extracted, consumed, and thrown away every year. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or an environmentalist to know this can't continue.

The Gap report makes it clear **we cannot keep global warming below 2C without reducing consumption.**

The current **pledges bring us over 15% of the way; the circular economy delivers the other 85%....** The good news is that we only need to close the Gap by a further 8.4% – **or roughly double the current global figure of 8.6%** – to get there.

A circular economy can satisfy societal needs and wants by doing more with less.

What exactly is a Circular Economy?

In nature cycles, such as of water and nutrients, are everywhere. What is discard-

ed become resources for others. Here's how one of the **first proponents of a circular economy, Walter Stahel**, director of the Product-Life Institute in Geneva, Switzerland, explains it:

"A 'circular economy' would turn goods that are at the end of their service life into resources for others, closing loops in industrial ecosystems and minimizing waste. The reprocessing of goods and materials generates jobs and saves energy while reducing resource consumption and waste.

"Cleaning a glass bottle and using it again is faster and cheaper than recycling the glass or making a new bottle from minerals."

Our current way of thinking, and the **way we've structured our economy, is linear** – it's about making ever more stuff. **A circular economy is all about sufficiency:**

- **Reuse** what you can.
- **Recycle** what cannot be reused.
- **Repair** what is broken.
- **Remanufacture** what cannot be repaired.

Ownership gives way to stewardship; consumers become users and creators. The remanufacturing and repair of old goods, buildings, and infrastructure creates skilled jobs in local workshops. Many **goods are sold as services** through rent, lease, and share business models.

Does this sound like a green pipe

Circular Economy *continued on next page*

Human Interest

Circular Economy *continued from previous page*

CLOSING LOOPS

Using resources for the longest time possible could cut some nations' emissions by up to 70%, increase their workforces by 4% and greatly lessen waste.

USE

Is controlled by buyer-owner-consumers of goods, or by fleet managers who retain ownership and sell goods as services.

DISTRIBUTION

Ownership transfers from manufacturer to consumer at point of sale.

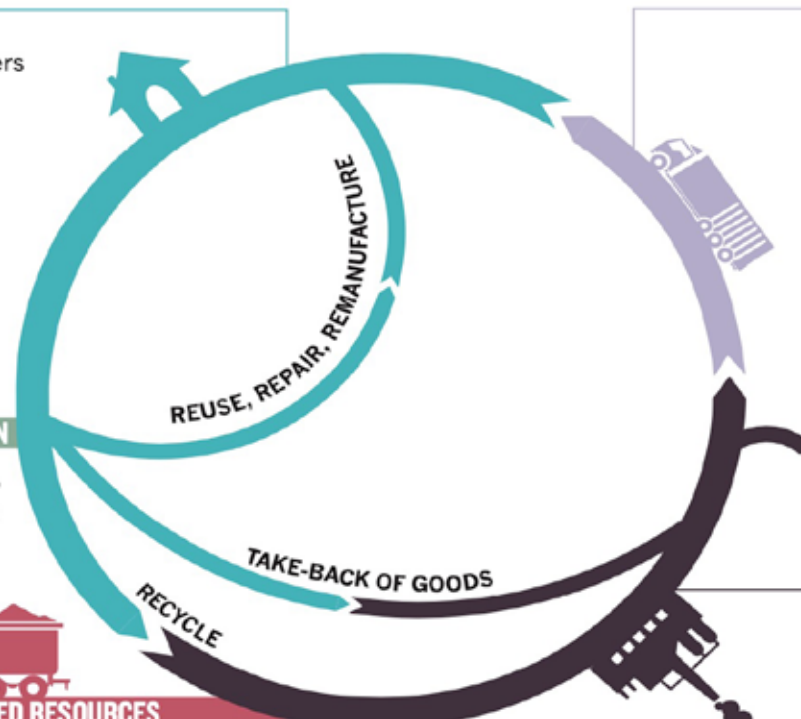
INNOVATION
Research is needed to transform used goods into 'as-new' and to recycle atoms.

EXTRACTED RESOURCES
Water, energy and natural resources enter the manufacturing process.

Resource losses partly recoverable by industrial symbioses.

MANUFACTURING

Renewing used products lessens the need to make originals from scratch.



dream? It did to me until I learned **Europe is already on the path to creating the first circular economy.**

The European Commission created a **Circular Economy Action Plan in 2020** that includes a mandate: a **universal charger for mobile phones** and a new **“right to repair” for electronic devices** by the end of 2021. Among its ambitious goals for 2030:

- 75% of all packaging must be reusable or recyclable;
- Only reusable or recyclable plastic in products;
- Slashing waste sent to landfill by 80 to 90%; and
- Ban on a wide range of single-use plastic products.

To make this happen, Europe is setting up a wide range of regulations among them **eco-design standards** for new products and packaging along with **eco-labelling** and **digital passports** to document

a product’s sustainability along its entire supply chain.

European countries and companies are already moving in this direction:

- The **City of Amsterdam** is working to become the **first Circular City**. Buildings are being built from reclaimed materials and constructed so their components can be reused. This has the potential to create a value of **\$100 million per year within the construction sector**.
- The district of **Schoonschip in Amsterdam** is already a **sustainable, circular community**.
- Since 2007 **Michelin** sells tires ‘**by the mile**’ to operators of vehicle fleets. It repairs and regroove tires at clients’ premises giving the company an incentive to develop longer-lasting products.
- **Philips Lighting** provides **lighting as a service not a product**.
- **Renault** is building **Europe’s first circular economy factory** for vehicles by

reconditioning vehicles with less carbon-intensive materials using 3D-printing. Used batteries will get a second life, while end of life vehicles will be disassembled for parts or recycling.

Not only is a transition to circular economy inevitable, it brings many benefits. Studies show this could **boost Europe’s GDP a trillion dollars by 2030**. Much of this comes from a tremendous savings in energy and material costs as well as the creation of 700,000 new jobs. And the **climate bonus** will be a big cut in carbon emissions.

Protect the climate and nature, reduce pollution, create more jobs, and enhance prosperity. What’s not to like? Every country, every community needs to **get moving and create a circular economy.**

Until next time, stay safe and think circular.

Source: <https://leahy.substack.com/p/going-circular-to-protect-the-climate>

Human Interest

Grassroots Coalition Board Member Starts Upcycling Business Based on the Circular Economy Model

CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLE

By Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Green Earth Goods exists for the sole purpose of reducing the amount of waste created by throw-away consumer products, such as paper and plastic bags, by introducing environmentally friendly, multi-use products for a variety of household and commercial applications. All products will be made in the U.S. from salvaged fabric materials, mill ends, and scraps from large manufacturers of fabric products. These scrap products are available in large quantity and at very low cost since the manufacturers consider them a burden and are glad to dispose of the materials, rather than sending them to the landfill. All products will be designed in-house and produced by local labor.

The founder of the company, Jeannette Bartelt in Maryland USA, has spent several years researching commercially viable solutions to reducing the waste stream created by the disposal of single-use products, such as plastic and paper grocery bags and storage bags. The solution harkens back to a bygone age where cloth bags were used almost exclusively to transport and store many grocery items and dry goods; however, the range of applications can be greatly expanded to include many other household and commercial items.

There are numerous advantages of cloth bags over plastic or paper, including the fact that cloth bags can be reused many times and are not thrown away after a single use. Cloth bags are also much sturdier and are thus capable of holding larger quantities of products without the fear of spillage. Cloth storage bags are air-permeable and certain groceries will therefore retain freshness far longer in a cloth bag than in a plastic bag.

Jeannette Bartelt, the founder and CEO of Green Earth Goods, intends to hire local seamstresses and other qualified personnel for the production of cloth bags and other products. All products will be produced entirely in

America, and with local labor. Due to the fact that most "stitchers" are female, the company seeks to hire local seamstresses and, whenever possible, disadvantaged or handicapped personnel.

Environmental Friendliness is not only a guiding principle but also a deep personal conviction carried by Jeannette Bartelt. The company will be managed and operated with extreme cost savings in mind by using materials that large manufacturers consider 'waste,' and by contracting with local seamstresses who will produce the products at home, thus creating a new cottage industry across the U.S.

Owing to the non-technical and non-challenging nature of the products, disadvantaged or handicapped people will be hired to engage in a number of activities outside of the actual 'stitching' operation.

In addition to cloth storage bags and cloth grocery bags, a number of other fabric products are in the pipeline and can be introduced fairly quickly once the manufacturing process is fully established.

Benevolent Intent

Things we do as a benefit to society are:

1. Portion of profits will go to funding housing for the elderly.
2. Reduce the amount of energy and water used for manufacturing by up to 80%

Envision the Company to be:

1. Prosperous
2. Self-supporting
3. Small branches throughout the U.S.A.
4. A place where people can get and give support to each other
5. Benefits that fit the needs of the individual employee
6. Hour-for-hour exchange - could also use volunteer hours towards benefit package
7. Located in co-housing communities, even in large cities.

Company History:

1. Eight stores - seven for 2 years, one for 1 year.
2. Frederick Farmers Market for 3 years
3. Numerous Expos highlighting environ-

mental businesses.

4. Worked with John and Iona Conner when they started their Grassroots Cooperative sewing project; helped design the clothes the stitchers were creating; offered professional consultation pro bono.

Strength Statement:

Able to get the biggest bang for the buck. Able to envision how to use scraps of fabric to make new items for everyday use.

Description of Products

Corporations can profit only if people work for them. Workers are therefore profit creators for the corporations, their stockholders, and their top management.

From The Little Blue Book

May 2021 GEG Green Earth Goods LLC

By Jeannette Bartelt

A cooperatively owned and run cottage business upcycling scraps and mill ends into everyday practical items for use around the home. Based in Frederick, Maryland.

• Balloon cover

- Made from fabric scraps,
- falls flat for easy transport
- can be used indoors safely
- use a 10-in or 12-in balloon: 2 included.
- each balloon cover is different design depending on available fabric scraps.

• Catnip cat toy

- Made from scrap fabric
- filled with quarter cup organic catnip
- Has whiskers and a ribbon tail for play.

• Dog Toy

- Rope; covered water bottle
- Rope:
- Made from fabric scraps
- braided and then knotted
- wonderful pull toy

•Cloth-covered water bottle

- Heavy weight fabric
- Bottle crinkles when chewed
- Once fabric is chewed through throw away.

Please see our ad on the following page.

LOVE INTENTIONALLY, EXTRAVAGANTLY, UNCONDITIONALLY. THE BROKEN WORLD WAITS IN DARKNESS FOR THE LIGHT THAT IS YOU.

~ L.R. Knost ~

<https://www.thindifference.com/2018/03/broken-world-awaits-you/>

Human Interest

Green Earth Goods is a innovative idea with a lucrative future. It's strength comes from it's organization because it's basic structure depends upon it's workers. Green Earth Goods is an environmentally sound sewing collective that produces functional household products made from pre-consumer recycled fabcircs.



Tug o' War Dog Toy



Crafted Reusable Grocery Bag

As with many collectives, the means of production and distribution of goods are operated by it's worker/owners. This eliminates unnecessary middlemen who profit greatly from the sweat of the workers. In this democratic structure, no hierarchical powers exist. Each member/worker is an active participant in all decisions. The collective created products will truly be our own. Profit from sales benefits each member equitably depending upon the amount of time and energy each member has committed.



Plastic Bottle Covered Dog Toys



Organic Catnip Toy

There already is an established market for these products of minimal environmental impact. The designs for several items are already selling. Products such as coffee and tea filters, cloth car trash bags, baby burp cloths, cloth cup holders for cars, pocketbooks and small purses are some of the creations from discarded fabric scraps. There is a need for people to become more self-sufficient and to regain control of the fruits of their labors which are rightfully theirs. The self-respect and self-esteem attained from this endeavor will be immeasurable. Please think of how you could benefit from being part of the Green Earth Goods and consider joining our effort.

etsy.com/shop/GreenEarthGoodsLLC

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 51-53

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,

A related argument for carbon neutrality is that although you may be cutting down trees and releasing carbon, since trees grow back, the carbon will be resequenced in the future, thereby rendering the process carbon neutral. As John Upton writes, “When power plants in major European countries burn wood, the only carbon dioxide pollution they report is from the burning of fossil fuels needed to manufacture and transport the woody fuel. European law assumes climate pollution released directly by burning fuel made from trees doesn’t matter, because it will be reabsorbed by trees that grow to replace them. The assumption is convenient, but wrong. Climate science has been rejecting it for more than 20 years. It ignores the decades it can take for a replacement forest to grow to be as big as one that was chopped down for energy – or the possibility that it won’t regrow at all. The assumption also ignores the loss of a tree’s ability to absorb carbon dioxide after it gets cut down, pelletized and vaporized. The accounting trick allows the energy industry to pump tens of millions of tons of carbon dioxide into the air every year and pretend it doesn’t exist.”⁵¹

The argument is that biomass is carbon neutral because the trees will grow back, and the carbon will be recaptured over the next 100 years. But this is accounting fraudulent enough to make Enron envious. Can you imagine what would happen to even a corporation (although nothing ever happens to corporations) that tried to claim its books were balanced because it was spending money now, and hoping to accumulate that same amount of money over the next 100 years?

It’s worse than this. Because the (de)foresters didn’t sequester the carbon, but rather

the forest did, the more accurate analogy would be an Enron-style company stealing from people, then saying this is not theft because in time their victims will earn more money to put back into the bank (which will then again be stolen – we mean, harvested – by the company).

“Growth of renewable energy [in the EU] since 2000...only really came from three energy sources: wind, solar, and biomass,” writes Wilson. “The absolute growth of biomass was 1.5 times greater than in wind and solar, and so far, the majority of new renewable energy since 2000 has come from biomass, not wind and solar.”

He continues, “Biomass is also the biggest source of renewable energy, on a final energy consumption basis, in all but two EU countries.... Denmark may get 30 percent of its electricity from wind farms, but it still gets more than twice as much of its final energy consumption from biomass than from wind farms.”

As for the German success story, he says, “The supposedly rapid expansion of solar power gets a lot of attention. The even more rapid expansion of biomass however has received absolutely no attention.... Absolute growth of biomass in Germany has ... been three times higher than for wind and solar combined.”

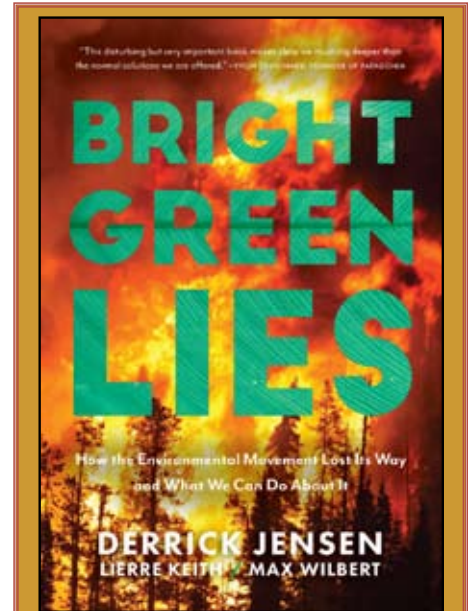
Forgotten in all of this, of course, are the forests themselves. Seventy percent of Germany’s “renewable” energy comes from biomass, from the wholesale slaughter of forests. Will you “speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues”?⁵² There’s not a forest in the world that has survived more than three rotations of being cut.⁵³ You can’t cut down a forest, take out all of that biomass (read: the bodies of those who live in and make up the forest), and expect the forest to continue to live. Yet bright greens, capitalists, and nations continue to count biomass as carbon neutral, and count it and its numbers as part of the German “success story,” while spring grows ever more silent.

Footnotes:

51 Upton, op. cit.

52 Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax* (New York: Random House), 1971.

53 Chris Maser, “Logging to Infinity,” *Anderson Valley Advertiser*, April 12, 1989. Maser said, “I know of no nation and no people that have maintained, on a sustainable basis, plantation managed trees beyond three rotations. The famous Black Forest in Europe is a



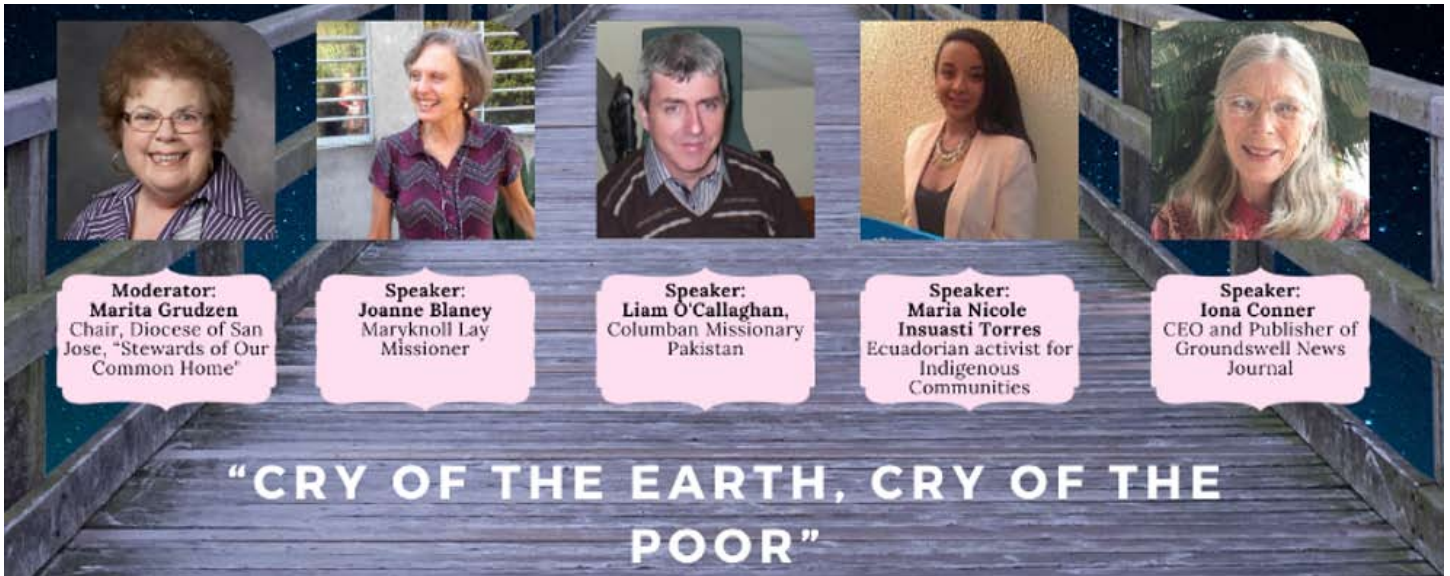
We cannot continue to wallow in hedonistic consumption and industrial expansion and survive as a species. The environmental debate, Jensen argues, is, because of them, distorted by hubris and the childish desire by those in industrialized nations to sustain the unsustainable. All debates about environmental 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.

plantation; it and other forests are dying at the end of the third rotation. The eastern pine plantations are dying. It’s the end of their third rotation. We do not have any third rotations here. I was quoted on this in a newspaper article, a little out of context, but not badly. One of the gentlemen from the industry said, ‘Well, geez, we’re in our third rotation and trees are growing better than ever.’ But he counted nature’s old-growth as one of those rotations. We’re only now cutting the second rotation, and the forest is not producing as it did. We do not value the land if we harvest the land’s products to a maximum and make payments in minimums. We spend the least amount possible on every acre and harvest the maximum amount possible. We are not in any sense willing to reinvest in any natural, renewable resource.”

Human Interest

BUILDING HUMAN SOLIDARITY in the Light of Pope Francis' Encyclical, FRATELLI TUTTI



Moderator:
Marita Grudzen
Chair, Diocese of San Jose, "Stewards of Our Common Home"

Speaker:
Joanne Blaney
Maryknoll Lay Missioner

Speaker:
Liam O'Callaghan,
Columban Missionary Pakistan

Speaker:
Maria Nicole Insuasti Torres
Ecuadorian activist for Indigenous Communities

Speaker:
Iona Conner
CEO and Publisher of Groundswell News Journal

"CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR"



Moderator:
Susan Gunn
Director, Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns

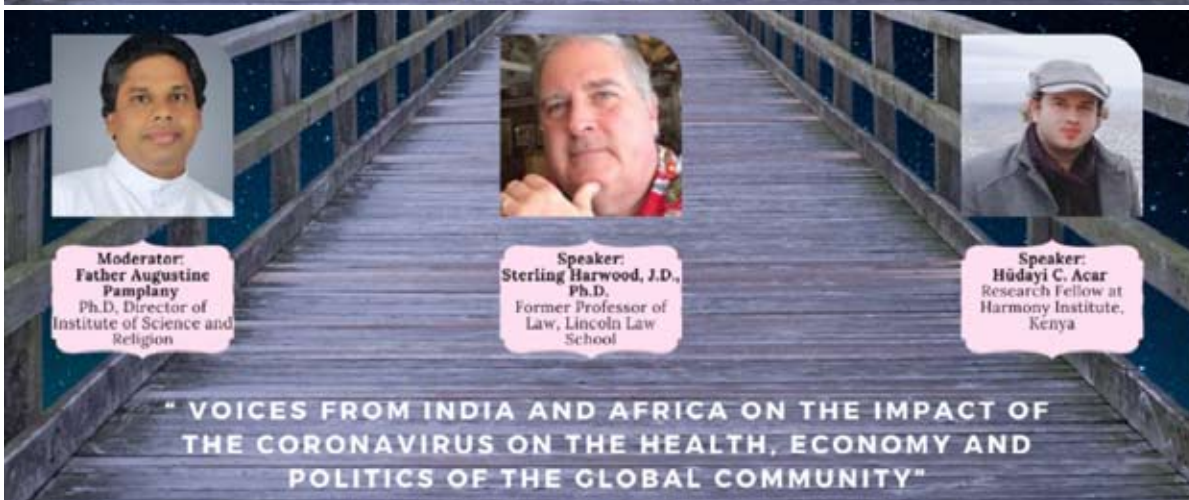
Speaker:
Ellen Mahli
Recipient of Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Interfaith activist and supporter of Indigenous Peoples

Speaker:
Simone Grudzen
Founder and filmmaker, Crown Shine Studios, Producer of films for Black Voters Matter

Speaker:
Samuel Ho
Administrator of Diversity Programs, San Jose City College

Speaker:
Nate Tinner-Williams
Co-founder and editor of Black Catholic Messenger

"ADDRESSING STRUCTURES OF RACISM AND BUILDING HUMAN SOLIDARITY IN THE UNITED STATES"



Moderator:
Father Augustine Pamplany
Ph.D. Director of Institute of Science and Religion

Speaker:
Sterling Harwood, J.D., Ph.D.
Former Professor of Law, Lincoln Law School

Speaker:
Hüdayi C. Acar
Research Fellow at Harmony Institute, Kenya

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(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.

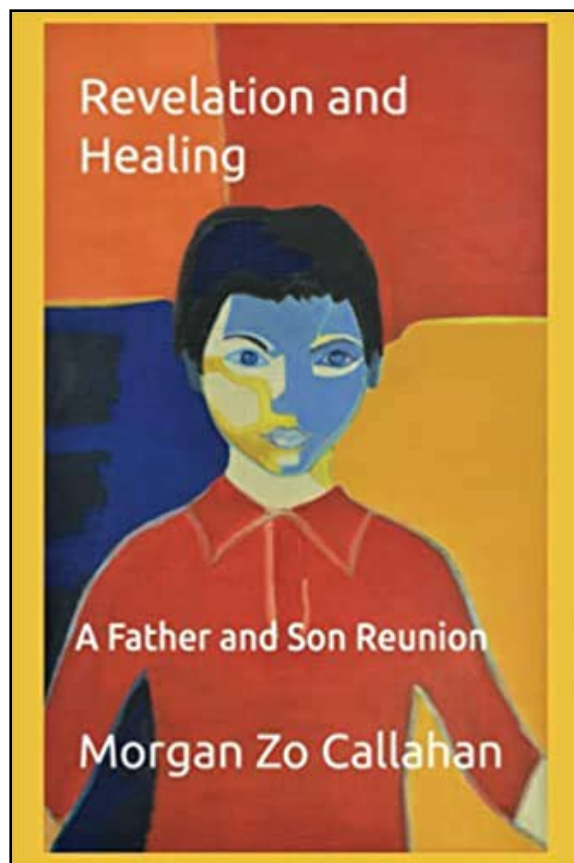
With a heart "stretched large" by his own experience, the author has traveled to El Salvador and Mexico to accompany the many there who are suffering from collective trauma, poverty, and discrimination, victims of systemic injustice, wounded yet unbowed.

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



JOIN THE DO SOMETHING CLUB NOW

Want to do something for the environment? Join the Do Something Club - forging the future with smaller ecological footprints. This course offers tips on simple living, encourages creative thinking, and helps you save money while leading a more sustainable life. Make new friends via Zoom or with in-person programs; share your ideas, experiences, and accomplishments with others and help to make this world a better place. Collectively we will make a difference. Hosted by Iona Conner, a former air pollution inspector in Middlesex County, NJ and former spokeswoman for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, Bureau of Community Relations. Currently Director of the non-profit Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Publisher of Groundswell News Journal, an online climate change newspaper. Contact Iona at dosomething@pa.net.

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>

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

Thank you.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

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



We are covered in smoke from all the fires in California and Oregon... Big fires! The smoke was bad here and effecting the air quality and looking at my weather page at home it's even worse at home! In the unhealthy category! So, the wind must have moved all the smoke there. I'm not looking forward to that, but it seems to be how the rest of the summer will play out. It's been so dry with no rain for so long.

Last night we watched the news (of course... my friends where I'm spending the night...can't live without watching the news) and it showed all the fires and a fire tornado in Northern California. It is really bad and this unheard-of heat for a month and a half now of 100 degrees every day. I should go visit my daughter in Los Angeles...LA has much better air quality and it's only 82!!! And no fires and an ocean!!! But I won't fly now, and you can't drive there because of the fires between here and there!!!!

I tried to talk about global warming to them, but especially she doesn't believe it! I was shocked at that! She is getting in the extreme side of all this pol stuff, too.

Linda L., Idaho USA

As for departing Mary Kay, you gave it a good try. One thing about you, is that you put lots of energy into the task at hand.

I tried Amway for a much longer time than you tried MK. It took me years before I realized it wasn't for me. I can't say we should have regrets.

Just move forward and do what we can do to make the world a better place. Nostalgically, that's what my father told me once as a child when I asked him what we live for.

You definitely are that person!!

Tyla Matteson, Virginia USA

TWO GRANDMOTHERS WORKING IN HARMONY FOR THE EARTH:

From: Iona Conner <ionaconner@pa.net>

To: Valerie Wood-Gaiger <valwood-gaiger@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 0:01

Subject: Rivercide, River Wye

<https://www.youtube.com/>

watch?v=5ID0VAUNANA

I'm watching George Monbiot studying the polluted River Wye now.

Love, **Iona**

To: Iona Conner

Subject: Re: Rivercide, River Wye

Shocking but I'm grateful you sent it

- Posted to Learn with Grandma International <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1489818234620407/?fref=ts>

This is the River Wye NOW!

It is without doubt the most shocking film re: our rivers that I have ever seen!! Seeing those poor fish gasping for breath before dying! Was revolting - reminded me of people suffering from Covid.

We are making our planet not fit to live in! The Wye River is not only disgusting, what has happened is also illegal but in this report, it says NO ONE has been prosecuted - why not??

I remember the delight of a few years ago when our polluted rivers were being cleaned up. I remember the fanfare when this Government announced that ALL our rivers would be clean by 2027. If you don't have time to see the whole film - do watch to 1 hour in Feargal Sharkey telling us that [the goal for cleanup] has now (without the publicity!) been changed to - when practicable!

Which means NOTHING!

Mrs Valerie Wood-Gaiger, Wales UK

Founder of Learn with Grandma - an international network of Groups on Facebook.

Website: <http://learnwithgrandma.org>
(See page 24)

[**Note from Iona:** I signed this as an individual and the Grassroots Coalition Board of Directors voted to sign as an organization.]

Hi everyone! We are thrilled to share exciting news from Canada: Toronto just passed a motion calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty nearly unanimously, with a 22-2 vote. A massive thank you to the brilliant climate campaigners, dedicated city councilors, and wonderful team who were behind this campaign from

the get-go and made today's endorsement possible. Please help us to spread the good news and push forward by sharing! See our posts for graphics and content inspiration:

- Share on Twitter
- Share on Facebook
- Share on Instagram
- Share on LinkedIn

Toronto joins Vancouver, Los Angeles, Barcelona, and other cities globally who have endorsed the Treaty and others who are running active campaigns for city endorsement. If you'd like to approach your city to ask them to endorse, please contact me and we can help.

Many thanks,

Seble Samuel

Global Cities Campaign Lead

Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative

+251 966 844 888

seble@fossilfuel treaty.org

Addis Abeba, Ethiopia (EAT)

Endorse at fossilfuel treaty.org

Wow!! What a beautiful Newspaper!!!! Will indeed share far and wide!!

Will talk to Kate (my Business Manager) about sponsoring an ad. Kate is an artist and may enjoy the creativity here.

Ella M. McElwee, ND, HmD, PhD, Pennsylvania USA; Founder and President of Health By Choice, Inc.

Our mission at Health By Choice is to encourage healthy choices in the pursuit of optimal wellness. To promote the development of a healthy body, mind, and spirit that can interact harmoniously with the environment. To offer the highest quality products and services. To pursue truth in all aspects of health and wellness. To expand our company for the benefit of all associates and clients.

Thanks IONA for this news version.

I also have a friend of mine having an organization in Cameroon, we met in South Africa in the Climate Reality Project training, where both us worked as mentors in the training over 2,000 mentees. This was facilitated by the former vice president

Messages continued on next page

Messages *continued from previous page*

of USA Al Gore.

This guy's organization works with women and children in environmental and WASH (WASH is a term used in MHM, Menstrual Health Management, programs that consists of things like changing rooms, disposal means, exercise facilities, menstrual hygiene products like pads, tampons, menstrual cups, re-usable pads, access to water etc.).

Maybe he could be a member, he might currently be staying in Germany but committed back home, overseeing the works of the organization.

I think I will connect him to you and share with him regarding joining us.

Bob Maaha, Uganda

[*Iona's reply*]

Dear Bob,

What a wonderful email with so much great information!!! Thank you from my heart. I didn't know that you were a mentor in the Climate Reality Project. That's fascinating news. It must have been a marvelous experience, both for you and the people whom you mentored.

I'd love to learn more about your friend. Please tell me his name and definitely connect us. Also, can you help me understand what "wash" means? All I think of is washing clothes or dishes and that reminds me that here in the U.S. most people have gotten so lazy that they have energy-intensive dish washers and clothes dryers. When I lived in Pennsylvania, John built me a very substantial and large clothesline. In our 30 years together, we never had a dryer. But I have a feeling when you say "wash" it's something else.

I'm so happy you are a Board member of our Coalition now, Bob!

Iona

My name is Mbenja Clovert A. I am the president/Founder of Rising Hope Foundation for Change (RHFC), a humanitarian and environmentally friendly organization that provides the best and fully sustainable projects to support the underprivileged (youths, physically challenged individuals, vulnerable women, and the girl child) in Cameroon and Africa. I got your contact from my long-time friend and mentored with the Climate Reality Project, Bob from Uganda. We both served as mentors to over 2,000 mentees in South Africa in the year 2014. I wish to be part of your network and to contribute my little quota of what we do in Cameroon to make the world a better and safer place for all by not leaving anyone behind.

It will be my pleasure to connect with Ngo Banfogha of Hope for a Better Future. I think I will learn more about all your

activities in the days ahead from Bob et. al. Once again thanks a million for this golden opportunity to network with change makers from around the world.

Mbenja Clovert A., Cameroon
President Founder RHFC
+4915214444199
<https://www.facebook.com/RHF4C/clovert.mbenja@risinghopef4change.org>
info@risinghopef4change.org
www.risinghopef4change.org

Hi all,

Another fine *Groundswell*, Iona and Allen, with the usual range of uplifting and heartwarming news from friends in Africa, India, and elsewhere.

Sincerely appreciated Raj's article 'Indigenous People & Climate Change': a timely reminder of something so central to our overall struggle.

Given that much of our daily news, and even some of the articles in this issue, make one angry or just want to cry, it is great to be able to appreciate the many fine grassroots initiatives taking place, 'out of sight' of the mainstream media.

Love to everyone from Australia,
Robert Burrowes and **Anita McKone**

[*Iona's reply*]

Dearest Robert and Anita,

I have grown accustomed to your wonderful, supportive feedback, Robert, and here you are again! Thank you so much.

You're right about being angry and wanting to cry. Wait til you see the next issue [*this one*], in which I will be focusing on the heat waves. Here in the U.S. Living on the Eastern Shore, I'm well protected from the fires raging through the Northwest by I have two friends out there.

Long, long ago – I'm thinking about 20 years ago – I KNEW this was War Against the Earth. That feeling has been rekindled now and even though friends who understood John and me referred to us as "warriors" the deeper meaning of that word had not sunk in; I took it rather lightly as a matter of fact.

NOW...NOW...it is very real. I'm entering battle to the best of my ability despite my Quaker/pacifist background. All I can think of doing is pumping out my newspaper more rapidly than ever, imagining a gentle spray of cooling water for my readers. I'm good at this. I love doing it. But maybe there is something else I need to be doing; I just don't know what it is, so I'll continue pumping with all my heart until I see things differently.

I know that's what you two are doing.
Love,
Iona

I'm UMAR ISA DANDAGO from Nigeria. It's been a long time, hasn't it? We used to chat on FB. We also used to exchange emails. I hope all is well with you and your family.

I'm glad to let you know that I'm so glad to receive your email newsletters. All the best.

I'm now a radio presenter on a local radio station. My show, Global Arena focuses on the biggest international issues of our time. I'll soon talk about Climate Change and I hope you will be able to participate. Plus, I want to interview you together with that young, vibrant Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg. I hope you can help link me to her so we can do it soon.

Umar Isa Dandago, Global Arena, Nigeria

[*Iona's reply*]

Dear Umar,

I REMEMBER YOU WELL!!! I wanted to keep track of good people whom I might never meet and whose names were very foreign to me, so I started a folder called "New Friends" and started putting photos in it. I just found yours, although it was pretty clear in my mind as I went searching.

I'm so happy you emailed me and it's always good to know that people are actually reading my newsletters so I thank you from my heart for contacting me.

Here's the truth in case you haven't gathered it yet from my emails: I hate Facebook. I try to avoid it like the plague. When I do get on, I try to get off as quickly as possible. You probably know that I'm 75 so I am not from the generation which grew up attached magnetically to a cell phone, computer, or laptop. Because I publish a newspaper, I have a really wide monitor and the minute I get onto Facebook, so many people are there wanting to chat that I simply shut down. I can't deal with being so rude to so many people. It makes me really nervous. Back when we were starting to get acquainted, I was eagerly looking for great stories and delighting in meeting new people but as time went on, that changed to this current situation, which I simply cannot handle.

I'm delighted that you have a radio program and I'd LOVE to participate!!!! (big smile) My apologies for taking so long to arrive at this point but that is the very first offer I've ever had to be on a radio program! And with Greta Thunberg there could be no higher honor. Thank you again, my friend!!!

NEWS FLASH: WOW AND DOUBLE WOW!!!! I decided to check your name

Messages *continued on next page*

Messages continued from previous page

and Global Arena before clicking "send" and I'm so glad I did. My heart swells with pride that I'm your friend. I'm so happy for you. You have achieved your dream!!!!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Fondly, **Iona**

Congratulations for another eye-opener edition of the *Groundswell News* and thank you for featuring my small endeavor on the front page. I will be sharing the paper to people on WhatsApp, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook, so that the impacts of this brilliant newspaper are multiplied.

You have my wholehearted support and best wishes for the educational Zoom initiative. I will be glad to contribute if needed; just give me notice to organize a presentation on any relevant topic that you might need to be addressed.

Thank you for all you do and take care.

Rituraj Phukan, India

Founder, Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum

National Coordinator for Biodiversity, The Climate Reality Project India

National Coordinator, CCI

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

(See pages 7 and 8)

Hope for a Better Future (H4BF) has been selected by UNICEF as an implementing partner. I will be taking part in a training in Douala from 26 to 30 July 2021. This training will focus on how to Manage UNICEF funds; this comes after efforts I started making in 2018 to get UNICEF as a partner for our child protection program. The partnership will include activities like WASH training in school, training teachers on how to best take care of pupils like providing psychosocial support, and lots more.

UNICEF funds USD100,000 yearly.

In other news, I submitted a concept note to African Development Bank. In the project H4BF through a Women-led renewable energy distribution model, in 36 months, delivers reliable clean energy solutions to the most energy-poor & vulnerable communities in Cameroon through a network of local women entrepreneurs. This gives them the power to earn income and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In this project I included Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice as an education partner, of which, if all goes well, the project will sponsor some selected members of the board or team to facilitate a workshop in Cameroon with women groups on the effects of fossil fuel's products on climate.

The project has one of the objectives to minimize carbon pollution within households by replacing 30,000 fossil fuel products with locally made (with technical assistance from foreign partners), durable, affordable, solar-powered products and clean stoves by 2024.

The link to the concept can be found on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrO4rJ7gSoo&t=4s>

Yours Sincerely,

Ngo Abdulai Banfogha

Founder and Executive Director, Hope for a Better Future (H4BF) Country Coordinator MasterPeace Cameroon

(See page 29)

[From Advisory Board member Robert] Sincerest congratulations Ngo!

A remarkable feat to secure such funding and clear testament to the superb work you are doing with Hope for a Better Future on various projects in Cameroon.

I enjoyed getting a sense of your own efforts: another wonderful example of initiative and work by someone focused on grassroots engagement, which always makes the most difference.

In appreciation Ngo,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

[reply from Ngo]

Thank you so much, Robert. I waited so long for this moment. Am glad it finally came. This was thanks to a strong recommendation from Cameroon WASH Cluster leader after a program visit to one of our project sites.

Ngo Banfogha, Cameroon

My name is Kambere Jolly, a human rights activist, social development worker. I love working and helping people with disabilities, children, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable groups of people in my country whose rights have been violated. [I] am the Programs Coordinator for Youth Partnership Uganda, a nonprofit community-based organization based in Kasese District in Uganda, that deals in human rights work, environmental protection, HIV/AIDS, and sexual reproductive health and rights, water sanitation and hygiene programs, and child sponsorship and education program for orphans, young mothers, and other vulner-

able children. We also empower community members in order to improve their livelihoods. Youth Partnership Uganda is a legally registered organization. For further information pertaining to our mission, vision, goals, objectives, and core values kindly feel free to read on our website and Facebook page www.youthpartnershipuganda.org

Jolly Kambere, Uganda

Please add me to the email list! I have been getting more and more frightened – not for me, I have lived my life well. But for my children. As someone slightly on the Asperger spectrum, I am struggling with lots of "usual" behaviors that, in my mind, will directly be responsible for the death of billions of people. The science is pretty clear – most "neurotypical" people seem to be able to live in delusion, obsessed with conformity. While people like myself, who suffer from what Buddhists call "brutal honesty," increasingly conflict with the "willfully ignorant" mainstream, and the "positive bias" of office culture.

Thorsten Arnold, Canada (See page 23)

Did you notice that Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream has announced that they will no longer be selling their product in the occupied West Bank or East Jerusalem. This is major. One for the history books, actually.

They will undoubtedly receive a heavy onslaught – so their supporters need to step forward – and prepare for what will undoubtedly be decisive battles on the legality of Israel's trying to impose "anti-boycott" laws on American legislatures.

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

Today 9 August 2021, marks the day when Zimbabweans remember the heroes and heroines who fought for the freedom of this country. Fighting for what is yours is hard but hope, faith, and bravery tell it all.

On a sad note, MAYA has been planting trees on Dangamvura Mountain to Regreen it. At this juncture, it is displeasing to announce that the area along Natvest Road where we planted our trees has been set ablaze by the enemies of progress. It is heart hindering that in as much as we are trying to develop the mountain, we are being pulled back.

As we celebrate Heroes Day, let us plant trees wherever we are. Our land is what our heroes fought for.

#stop veld fires

#environmental heroes

#the struggle is real

Happy Heroes Day

Jussa Kudherezera, Coordinator,

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA)

Email: manicayouthassembly@gmail.com