

TreeHuggers United = Invincible!

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.
Think about it: What are you doing to and for our future?

Volume 10: August 16, 2023



Photos Courtesy Our Children's Trust

Look them in the eye: Faces of Montana's Climate Kids. When they look back in 30 years on the decisions made by Montana's political leaders today, what will their verdict be on whether those denying climate change were right or wrong?

'This Is Huge': Judge Sides With Montana Youths in Historic Climate Ruling

By Julia Conley
Common Dreams: August 14, 2023

Climate advocates on Monday expressed hope that an unprecedented ruling by a state judge in Montana, siding with 16 young residents who

argued the state violated their constitutional rights by promoting fossil fuel extraction, will mark a sea change in the outcomes of climate lawsuits.

In *Held v. State of Montana*, District Court Judge Kathy Seeley ruled that rights of the plaintiffs – who range in

age from 5 to 22 – have been violated by the Montana Environmental Policy Act because the law has prevented the state from assessing the climate impacts of mining projects.

Fossil fuel emissions, including

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Montana's, "have been proven to be a substantial factor" in heating the planet and causing pollution, Seeley said in the nation's first ruling on a constitutional, youth-led lawsuit regarding the climate.

Because the Montana Constitution guarantees residents a "clean and healthful environment," the state's environmental policy law violates the document, said Seeley.

"This is HUGE," said meteorologist Eric Holthaus. **"This is a landmark decision establishing enforceable principles of intergenerational justice."**

Julia Olson, founder of Our Children's Trust, the non-profit law firm that helped represent the plaintiffs, called the victory a "sweeping win" that could have reverberating effects on the hundreds of lawsuits that have been filed in the U.S. arguing against the continued extraction of fossil fuels.

"As fires rage in the West, fueled by fossil fuel pollution, today's ruling in Montana is a game-changer that marks a turning point in this generation's efforts to save the planet from the devastating effects of human-caused climate chaos," said Olson in a statement.

In their defense, state attorneys

argued that Montana's fossil fuel emissions are insignificant compared to global emissions, but Seeley said in her ruling that the state's per capita emissions are "disproportionately large" and rank in the top six per capita emissions in the United States.

The state also ultimately rested its case on the argument that the state legislature should take up the issue of the environmental law rather than the judiciary – an admission, said Michael Gerrard of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, that the climate science underpinning the plaintiffs' case was indisputable.

"Everyone expected them to put on a more vigorous defense," Gerrard told *The Washington Post* Monday. "And they may have concluded that the underlying science of climate change was so strong that they didn't want to contest it."

During the trial, the plaintiffs testified about their own suffering due to pollution and extreme weather, while climate experts explained the connection between the state's fossil fuel activities and planetary heating, the wildfires and scorching heat that have overwhelmed parts of the West, and

other extreme weather.

"Judge Seeley's decision comes at a time when we're seeing the impacts of climate change accelerate – from low streamflows and lake levels to unprecedented heat waves, floods, and wildfires," said Melissa Hornbein, senior attorney at the Western Environmental Law Center, which along with McGarvey Law also represented the plaintiffs. "These are the climate realities the youth plaintiffs and expert witnesses told us about on the stand, while the state disclaimed any responsibility and dismissed them."

"We're relieved that the court recognized that these youth plaintiffs are already feeling the impacts of the climate crisis, as well as the dangers threatening their future if the state doesn't take meaningful action to address it," Hornbein added. "We're also delighted that Judge Seeley recognized Montana's significant role as an emitter on the global stage, as well as its ability – constrained only by a resistant government – to rectify its disproportionate contribution to the climate crisis."

The Sunrise Movement, the youth-led climate action organization, said

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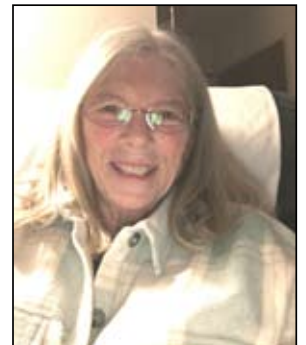
I'd like to see this be a team effort as it has been

in the past but we need time to develop this project and figure out ways to work together.

This is a labor of love but I always appreciate donations, which you can send to: Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road 4A, Brick, NJ 08723. If you use Zelle or PayPal, please reach my bank account directly via dosomething@pa.net. Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth and the Trees,

Iona



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(above) Eva, Age: 17, Livingston, Montana: “I am worried about climate change worsening the devastation it has already brought on my family, community, the local ecosystem, and my well-being – especially if immediate action to curb greenhouse gas emissions is not taken.”

the ruling is “proof that our generation is unstoppable – we have the power to bring down the fossil fuel industry and win a Green New Deal.”

As Common Dreams reported last month, lawsuits around the world have emerged as a key driver of climate action as a wide range of plaintiffs – from children in the U.S. to senior citizens in Switzerland – have argued that their human rights have been violated by the companies and lawmakers that have promoted fossil fuel production despite scientific evidence of the danger it poses.

Out of approximately 2,200 worldwide climate cases, about three-quarters have been filed in the United States, according to the United Nations Environment Program and the Sabin Center, and the number of legal challenges has more than doubled since 2017.

The outcome of the Montana case could “open up the floodgates for more climate lawsuits,” said Jamie Henn,

director of Fossil Free Media.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (Independent-Vermont) said that the next plaintiff to file a case against the fossil fuel industry should be the federal government, to hold companies accountable “for their role in the climate crisis.”

“This is a landmark decision establishing enforceable principles of intergenerational justice,” said Roger Sullivan, an attorney at McGarvey Law. “Simply stated, the government elected by this generation must abide its obligation to pass on a stable climate system to future generations.”

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/montana-climate-kids-lawsuit>

**Highlights from One Plaintiff
Eva, Age 17, Hometown: Livingston,
Montana.**

Montana’s rivers, forests, and mountains have always been an important part of Eva’s life. It’s where she’s

experienced her favorite activities like climbing, rafting, skiing, swimming, biking, hiking, camping, and backpacking.

However, rising temperatures and abnormal precipitation trends due to the climate crisis have harmed Eva. Frequent wildfires and smoke nearby have created poor air quality in Livingston, and more rapid snow melt has caused severe flooding in her area. Eva remembers the “Tsunami of 2018,” a flood on the Shields River that severely damaged a bridge near her home that her family needed to drive over to get into Livingston. Since 2018, flooding related to climate change has been impacting Eva almost annually.

“I know that older generations in Montana didn’t experience what my generation is having to live through, and it’s not fair.”

Source: <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/eva>



Photos: Tinashe Muzama

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) leading a tree-planting project at a local school. Jussa and his team have initiated dozens of tree-planting projects around Zimbabwe, and they have planted and dedicated more than 3,000 trees!

International Youth Day: Inspiration from Zimbabwe

By Global Tree Initiative

Our mission at the Global Tree Initiative is to Plant, Grow, Save!

Plant your tree,

Grow our forest,

Save the lives of our future generations!

In the light of saving our future generations and inspiring our youth, we are excited to hear from our Regional coordinator in Zimbabwe, Jussa Kudherezera, who is also the founder of our partner, Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA).

Jussa and his team have initiated dozens of tree-planting projects around Zimbabwe, and they have planted and dedicated more than 3,000 trees! MAYA inspires and empowers the Zimbabwean youth through tree planting, environmental cleanup, environmental education, and many other ways.

In the following story, Jussa tells us a bit more about the background of International Youth Day, the youth in Zimbabwe, and how MAYA works to benefit them.

MAYA and the Youth in Zimbabwe

By Jussa Kudherezera

Last weekend on August 12, we celebrated International Youth Day in collaboration with our partner, the Global Tree Initiative.

MAYA joins the rest of the world in commemorating Youth Day, whose theme for 2023 is “Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World.” The theme aptly captures the technological era we are in, which is driven by technology and innovation, traits which are vested in the youths as they were born and grew up in it, therefore making them adept and ready to innovate and change their situations!

We are aware by 2050, Africa will have the youngest population. Our youth have the potential to be innovative, fast, and tech upbeat. Thus, our youth should be champions of change, and encourage others to be sensitive to the environment and climate change. At the same time, our youth are energetic and capable of contributing to the economy and development.

So, International Youth Day is an initiative that recognizes the traits of young people and that acknowledges the challenges that today’s youths face on a daily basis. To support the elimination of these issues, **it is important that the youth have access to resources that will sustain and improve their well-being.** Additionally, International Youth Day provides a platform for youth to be heard and further encourages youth to take initiatives and actions that will increase opportunities for them and their peers in a fast-evolving world, where technology and artificial intelligence have taken root.

The youth of the world face different challenges and barriers to prosperity, depending on which part of the world they are living in. However, it is not *rocket science* to say that young people living in underdeveloped countries face extreme problems rooted in poverty and insufficient access to basic needs such as education, health, and employment.

It is a sad induction that today, 50% of the children between the ages of six and 13 lack basic reading and

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math skills whilst childhood poverty is a prevalent problem globally. It is in this purview that the United Nations came up with International Youth Day to help draw awareness to these issues which should encourage us to find solutions. It's a day for reflection but also a day for taking action. So, get involved!

Under the Community and Capacity Building project working with young people, we (MAYA) have planted various trees, initiated clean-up campaigns, and represented the youth in Mutare at the City of Mutare Budget Committee.

Our involvement has significantly impacted youth participation in the decision-making processes. This role has not only given us a platform to voice the concerns and needs of the youth within budget discussions, but it has also motivated many young people to actively seek out and engage duty bearers.

One major change in the way we conduct our work is that we now prioritize reaching out to youth groups and individuals to better understand their perspectives and priorities. This involves organizing meetings, focus groups, or surveys specifically tailored to gather their feedback on budget allocations and the impact on youth-oriented programs.

To effectively conduct our work, we actively participate in youth forums, engage with relevant stakeholders, and attend events targeting the youth demographic. This allows us to stay informed about emerging issues, trends, and concerns that directly affect young people. By maintaining a strong connection with the youth community, we can address their needs and advocate for their concerns more effectively within the committee.

Furthermore, we are also committed to increasing transparency and accessibility in the budgetary process. I myself, invest a lot of work towards **making information more available to young people through easily accessible platforms, public forums, and clear communication channels.** This



(top) Children in Mutare, appealing to MAYA. (bottom) MAYA member Tinashe Muzama helps children get ready to plant trees at a local school. Photo by Jussa Kudherezera.

empowers youth to engage, increases their understanding of decision-making procedures, and encourages their active participation. We call on young people to effectively participate in public processes, make their demands, and promote sustainable environmental management practices among communities with special focus factors such as deforestation, artisanal mining, veld fires, and stream bank cultivation to address underlying causes and effects of climate change.

This is a short summary of how the

Global Tree Initiative engages with our youth and how we try our best to empower them. Please visit <https://plantgrowsave.org/>, our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Manica-Youth-Assembly-MAYA/100067543898706/>, and stay up to date with all our projects and initiatives.

On this youth day, join us, and empower our youth to create a greener, better future!

#CatchThemYoung!

Contact Jussa: manicayouthassembly@gmail.com or +263772351138



Photos: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Tanmoy Bhaduri

A woman carries a basket of coal she picked on the fringes of a coalfield in Jharia, India, November 11, 2022.

Communicating Climate Change in Amazon Rainforest Is Belém Just the Beginning?

By Megan Rowling
Thomson Reuters Foundation/Context
August 15, 2023

Last week's Amazon summit in the Brazilian city of Belém fell short on practical measures to save the rainforest from damage by humans and a warming climate, with leaders of the eight nations that are home to the forest vetoing a proposed regional goal to end deforestation by 2030.

Neither did they sign up to Colombia's push to end oil development in the Amazon, or fix a deadline to end illegal gold mining. But there were some wins.

In the summit's final declaration, governments committed to set up a

joint police force to fight cross-border environmental crime and a technical body to produce authoritative reports on science related to the Amazon rainforest.

Another bright spot was the declaration's strong support for Indigenous rights and protections, which was broadly welcomed by Indigenous leaders and environmental groups, although they emphasized that political will must lead to advances on the ground and a bigger say in decision-making.

"It is not a finish line, rather a starting point," said Dario Mejía Montalvo, chair of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Also noteworthy was Brazilian

president Lula's call for a fairer share of benefits from the Amazon's natural resources – and international finance – to go to forest communities, as part of a "just ecological transition." That refrain is likely to be amplified on the global stage at this year's COP28 climate summit and beyond.

Breaking Language Barriers

As we at Context know from long years of covering climate change, it can take years for key concepts like "adaptation" and "loss and damage" to become widely understood, let alone spurring action that makes a difference to communities on the frontlines.

Now – as tackling warming becomes

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Women work on a millet farm in Kaurikala village, India, on July 12, 2023.

more urgent – some experts are looking for ways to speed up that process.

Indian researcher Sabir Ahamed, for example, took a linguist’s help to translate the term “just transition” into Bengali for his new study on the impact of coal mine closures on local people, settling on the poetic phrase “*kalo theke aalo*”, which literally means “from darkness to hope.”

“It’s catchy. It is not a direct translation but people do associate ‘*kalo*’ with coal so it gives an immediate context,” Ahamed told our correspondent Roli Srivastava.

And in Bangladesh, activist group YouthNet for Climate Justice has started posting Bengali commentary on social media about U.N. science reports, and wants community radio stations to discuss climate and energy issues in local dialects.

“Climate-related information hardly

ever seeps into the community and we are working to bring it close to the people,” said YouthNet’s executive coordinator Sohanur Rahman. Something worth considering across all branches of climate policy, campaigning, and research.

The Next ‘Super-Food’?

Lastly, in a week when a top U.N. official warned of disruption to global food supplies even if temperature rise is kept to the key limit of 1.5C, we published the second installment in our new series on the future of crops in a hotter world.

This time we’ve focused on millet – long a staple in Asia and Africa before rice, wheat, and maize started to take its place in fields and on menus about six decades ago.

As our India and Nigeria-based reporters found, the forgotten crop is

now making a global comeback riding on its high nutritional value and ability to grow on arid land – crucial to its appeal as climate change fuels droughts.

In India’s Odisha, where a state-led initiative is promoting the crop, a chef at the trendy Bocca Cafe in Bhubaneswar has been substituting rice with whole grain millet in a Mexican-inspired dish, while millet cookies are being served with tea in government meetings.

And... did you know the U.N. has named 2023 as International Year of Millets? You do now! That – coupled with it featuring on the White House menu when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited in June – could help it become the next quinoa.

Source: https://www.context.news/newsletter?id=80904615b2712af3ae0b43967ab93da1&utm_source

Strangely Like War

The Global Assault on Forests

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 20-24*

In this book, ‘I’ refers to the primary author, Derrick Jensen, and ‘we’ refers to both authors.

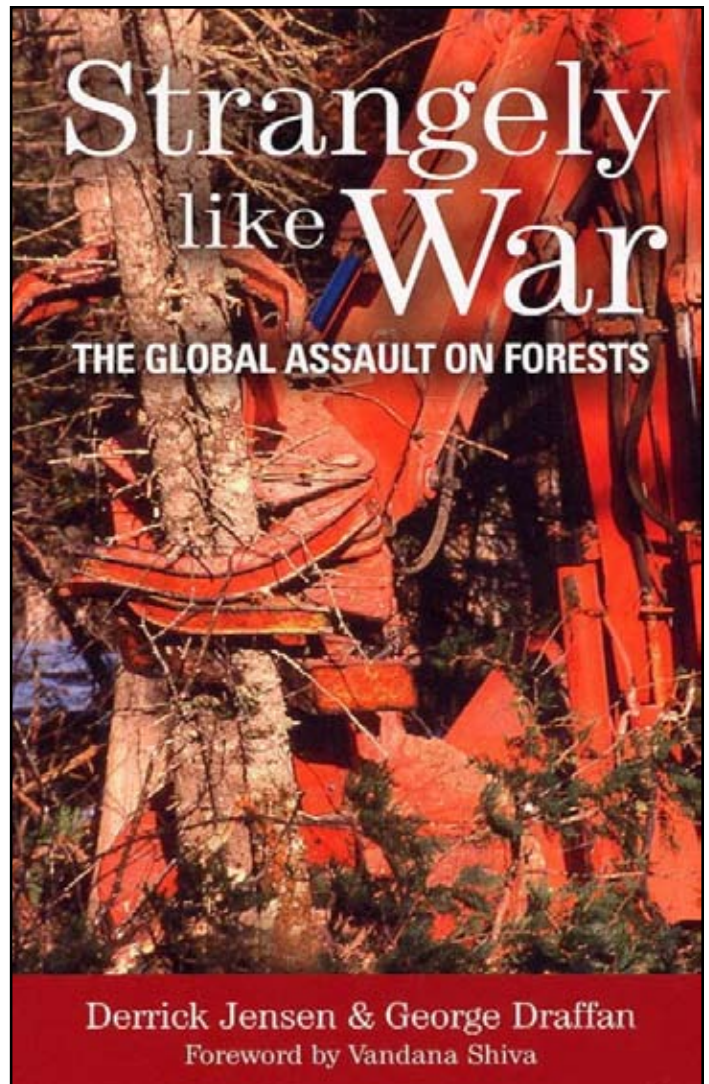
At every step of the way there have been humans living in the forests that have fallen to the axe, and now the chainsaw, people who do not look at forests with only an eye toward how they may be turned to profit, but instead toward how the people can live there forever. There were the indigenous conquered near the Fertile Crescent, whose sacred groves were cut by Gilgamesh and those who came after. The Canaanites and many others, conquered in the Promised Land, whose sacred groves were cut by the Israelites lest the Israelites be tempted to worship in their shade. The Indigenous of northern Greece, whose forests were cut to serve commerce, and who were called *barbarians* because they did not speak the language of civilization, and thus did not speak, but instead made sounds like *barbarbar*.

These people were conquered, their forests cut. The Indigenous of Italy, France, England, called *savages* because they lived in forests (*savage* etymologically derives from the root of *forest*: *savage*: “not domesticated, untamed, lacking the restraints normal to civilized human beings,” from Middle English *sauvage*; from Middle French, from Medieval Latin *salvaticus*; alteration of Latin *silvaticus*, of the woods, wild; from *silva*, wood, forest). These, too, were killed, their lands deforested.

Move across the ocean to the United States. A standard conceit of the settlers was that they faced not *terra incognita* but *terra vacuuis*, an empty land with trees ripe for cutting. But these were not empty lands, and they are not empty lands today. There are those who live there. There are nonhumans, whose lives are as meaningful to them as yours is to you and mine is to me. And there are humans, with lives just as precious.

Wilderness is a social construct. My niece recently moved to Louisiana, and sent me a note in which she stated how uncomfortable she is that an alligator lives on her Coast Guard base. “Call me crazy,” she wrote, “But I think it’s odd to have wild animals so close to where people are.” Not always would this have seemed odd. For almost all of human existence, it was simply how things were. And for some humans it still is. For them there is no city in here, no wilderness out there. No split between humans who exploit and a resource base to be exploited.

What all of this means is that so often when we talk about saving forests we too often forget about the people who call them their home. No, we’re not talking about those people with more cash than integrity who buy ecologically-



sensitive pieces of ground and threaten to construct vacation homes – with the real purpose being to extort money from those who wish to protect the land. Nor are we talking about (mainly successful) attempts by transnational timber corporations to “gain access to” (in other words deforest) wild forests the world over. Nor are we talking about loggers, many of whom truly do love to walk in the forests they’re destroying. Nor are we talking about environmentalists living in yurts and composting their feces into humature. We’re not *even* talking about writers and researchers who love to look at salmon and will do anything possible to help stop deforestation.

We’re talking about the Indigenous, those who live on the land that their ancestors lived and died on, going back so many generations that the distinction is lost between those who live on the land and the land itself. We’re talking about those whom we have never gotten to know, and who have never fit our self-serving stereotype that they are “beastly,” “savage,” “primitive,” somehow subhuman, living lives that are “nasty, brutish, and short.” This notion is self-serving because it reinforces the conceit that these people

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7 Easy Food Swaps That Help the Planet

Consider ditching resource-hungry foods for these delicious alternatives that leave a lighter footprint.

By Melissa Breyer 

Treehugger (not me): August 11, 2023

Imagine how simple it must have been back in the days when everyone basically just ate the food grown within a reasonable distance from where they lived. Of course, this is likely a thought to induce horror in the mind of the modern foodie – but the idea of not being faced with so many choices seems liberating. Navigating the food system in terms of the best nutritional choices is tough enough, but when we toss in making choices about the health of the planet as well, it can feel daunting.

But it actually doesn't have to be so hard; just starting with a few swaps and adding more to your repertory as you go is a great way to transition to eating in a way that is kind to both your body and the planet. Here are some places to start.

1. Broccoli for Asparagus

Asparagus might be the fancy cousin of girl-next-door broccoli, but doesn't the girl-next-door always prevail? In the case of broccoli versus asparagus



Photo: Daisy Daisy

Switching from almonds to pecans and hazelnuts helps save water. At a gallon per nut, California's almond crop devours 1.1 trillion gallons of water every year ... during California's historic drought years, 1.1 trillion gallons of water is not a drop in the bucket, so to speak.

and their water usage, the answer is a resounding “yes.” Broccoli uses 34 gallons of water per pound (around the same as cauliflower and Brussels sprouts, other good options); asparagus requires 258 gallons of water per pound.

2. Millet for Rice

Called by some “the new quinoa,” millet has graduated from bird food to trendy superstar, yay millet! That

said, millet has been a staple grain across the planet for ages, so Western gourmards are actually just catching on. The beauty of millet, aside from its great taste and ease of cooking, is that it is fiercely drought-resistant and requires very little water. In fact, it has the lowest water requirement of any grain. Rice, on the other hand, is a very thirsty crop.

One study found that in areas of

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would be better off if we civilize them, take them (by force if necessary) out of their childlike ways to live as adults (and not coincidentally take their lands). As Ronald Reagan put it, “Maybe we made a mistake in trying to maintain Indian cultures. Maybe we should not have humored them in that, wanting to stay in that primitive lifestyle. Maybe we should have said: No, come join us. Be citizens along with the rest of us.” Conveniently left unsaid is the theft of their land, and its ultimate despoliation.

Nor did or do the Indigenous live romantic lives wandering about picking a few berries now and then. They had and have serious long-term relationships with the plants and animals with whom they share their landscape.

Ray Rafael, who has written extensively on the concept of wilderness, has said, “Native Americans interacted with their environment on many levels. Fortunately, they did so in a sustainable way. They hunted, they gathered, and they fished using methods that would be sustainable over

centuries and even millennia. They did not alter their environment beyond what could sustain them indefinitely. They did not farm, but they managed the environment. But it was different from the way that people try to manage it now, because they stayed in relationship with it.”

To be continued next time but until then, if you would like a copy of this book, please contact Derrick directly at derrick@derrickjensen

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iodine deficiency in which millet is a major component of the diet, its ingestion may contribute to the genesis of endemic goiter, so if you have concerns about your thyroid, talk to your healthcare provider before binging on the grain. You can also add amaranth and teff into the mix, both of which are delicious and require fewer agricultural resources than rice.



3. Pecans or Hazelnuts for Almonds

At a gallon per nut, California's almond crop devours 1.1 trillion gallons of water every year ... during California's historic drought years, 1.1 trillion gallons of water is not a drop in the bucket, so to speak. And most of our almonds come from the Golden State.

Meanwhile, pecans and hazelnuts require much less water (although most nuts are, in general, thirsty crops), and both nut crops are grown in areas not victim to such a dearth of water. The leading pecan-producing state in the U.S. is Georgia, followed by Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma; they are also grown in Arizona, South Carolina, and Hawaii; 99 percent of all hazelnuts grown in the U.S. come from

Oregon's Willamette Valley, known for its abundant rainfall.

4. Sunflower or Safflower Oil for Palm Oil

Cooking oils are tricky; most have drawbacks. Olive oil takes loads of water; canola and soybean crops are predominantly GMO; coconut trees produce less as they age, meaning more farmland will be needed as demand for coconut oil continues to rise. But of all, palm oil is perhaps the most offensive as its production is responsible for the relentless deforestation of Indonesian and Malaysian rainforests, which is driving orangutans to extinction and threatening many other species.

We can't let our consumption of palm oil be the end of orangutans, we just can't. The best bets for cooking oil are likely from sunflower and safflower crops, which are generally GMO-free and not especially water-hungry. And they don't kill orangutans.

5. Legumes for Meat (At Least) Once a Week

The world is not going to transition to a plant-based diet overnight, but if everyone in the U.S. just skipped meat or cheese one day a week for a year, it would be the equivalent of taking 7.6 million cars off the road.

6. Whole Wheat for White

Be it bread, pasta, or what-have-you, opting for the whole-grain version is better for the planet than its refined cousin. While we know that whole grains are better for our health – a hard-to-miss fact that hovers at the top

of most healthy eating tips – they're also better for the planet in that the less processing a food undergoes, the lighter impact it has on resources.



7. Local Berries for Goji and Acai berries

If there's one thing I've been ranting about for years (which is funny because I've been ranting about plenty of things), it's superfoods from faraway places. Just because a trendy berry is grown in the Himalayas doesn't necessarily make it any more spectacular than berries grown in your own neck of the woods. Strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries are brimming with magic and don't require the resources used in transportation to get to your plate. See what berries and other antioxidant-rich fruits are grown locally near you and opt for those over-imported choices.

Melissa Breyer is Treehugger's editorial director. She is a sustainability expert and author whose work has been published by The New York Times and National Geographic, among others.

Source: <https://www.treehugger.com/easy-food-swaps-help-planet-4854291>

**Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful,
we must carry it with us, or we find it not.**

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~



Photos Courtesy Rainforest Action Network

There are fewer than 1,000 of these critically endangered Sumatran elephants left in the wild.

World Elephant Day | Rainforest Action Network

By Njambi Good, Deputy Executive Director, Rainforest Action Network, ran.org

August 12 was World Elephant Day, and we're celebrating by uplifting the story of these fascinating animals – especially the unique Sumatran elephants that have roamed the lush rainforests of Indonesia for generations.

So what's so special about Sumatran elephants?

Well, elephants are gentle giants, and the Sumatran elephant is actually the world's smallest elephant. Cute right?

But you know what isn't cute? That there are less than 1,000 of these critically endangered elephants left in the wild. That's a population drop of over 50% in just a couple of decades.

Sumatran elephants can live up to 60 years in the wild. They're highly intel-

ligent and empathic, and even mourn the loss of members of their communities. They're witnessing the decline of their own species in real time, so just imagine how much loss they've felt.

So what happened to all the elephants? They don't have many natural predators in Sumatra. In fact, the biggest threat to the Sumatran elephant's survival is a threat to all of us: massive deforestation.

This World Elephant Day, you can be part of the Sumatran elephant's survival story. Donate at <https://act.ran.org/page/55527/donate>.

How? Well, we need to talk about the elephant in the room when it comes to global deforestation: we know exactly who's responsible.

Across the globe, massive corporate

greed is driving the destruction of rainforests for short-term profits.

Entire ecosystems are being burned, bulldozed, and cleared to make room for cheap products like palm oil – to make the products that line our local grocery store shelves – and to line the pockets of some of the world's most recognizable corporations.

Help us fight back against the corporations behind rainforest destruction. Help us keep rainforests standing for all the creatures great and small who rely on them.

As we speak, Conflict Palm Oil plantations are spreading deeper into untouched rainforests, acre after acre – leading these endangered elephants to the edge of extinction.

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Messages from Our Friends

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

Again some wonderful information. I always love seeing your newspaper. Thank you so much for sharing! If we all care about each other and help with saving our environment we may be able to turn things around.

Sending Love,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

(After sharing this video: *This Place is Heaven by Green Renaissance*)

In this short film, Sayibonga shares

deep appreciation for his birthplace and how its rich daily treasures – culture, soil, food, community, nature, beauty – provide all he needs for a meaningful life.

This Place is Heaven – Grateful.org
<https://grateful.org/resource/this-place-is-heaven/>

Beautiful story! Love and Prayers.

Ron & Linda Feagley, Pennsylvania USA

It is beautiful and emotional.

Mukama Awali, Uganda

Agreed! Actually it does say it was made in Africa: Justine and Michael are a creative couple living in South Africa. Their project, Green Renaissance, works to spread positive stories that reflect the wonder of the world.

Thanks for sharing!

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

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As rainforests are destroyed, elephants lose access to food and water, and can no longer find their migratory trails. They're even forcibly removed from their homes, or directly killed. And they're still targets of poaching for their ivory.

But there's hope: We know the most effective way to protect the Sumatran Elephant. We have to protect entire ecosystems – because no species can

survive without their home.

Together, thanks to your overwhelming support through petitions, donations, and corporate pressure, we've secured the protection of a rainforest bridge that Sumatran elephants use to migrate within their habitat.

But there's still a long way to go. That's why we're taking on the world's largest corporations to help protect these critical rainforests, ensur-

ing Sumatran elephants have the vast, wild spaces they need to survive and thrive.

Will you join us, Iona? With YOUR help there's hope!

For the elephants,
Njambi Good
 Deputy Executive
 Director
 Rainforest Action
 Network

