

TreeHuggers United = Invincible!

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

Think about it: What are you doing to and for our future?

Volume 12: August 25, 2023



Photos: Sophie Pinchetti/Amazon Frontlines

Nemonte Nenquimo at an oil spill near Shushufindi, Ecuador.

‘Historic and Wonderful’: Ecuadorians Reject Oil Drilling in Precious Amazon Region

Submitted by Fran Staret
New Jersey USA

“A remarkable example for other countries in democratizing climate politics.”

By Jake Johnson
Common Dreams: August 21, 2023

Ecuadorians voted overwhelmingly on Sunday to reject oil drilling in a section of Yasuní National Park, the most biodiverse area of the imperiled Amazon rainforest.

Nearly 60% of Ecuadorian voters backed a binding referendum opposing oil exploration in Block 43 of the national park, which is home to uncontacted Indigenous tribes as well as hundreds of bird species and more than 1,000 tree species.

The *Associated Press* reported that, “The outcome represents a significant blow to Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso, who advocated for oil drilling, asserting that its revenues are crucial to the country’s economy. As a result of the vote, state oil com-

pany Petroecuador will be required to dismantle its operations in the coming months.”

Yasunidos, the civil society group behind the referendum, celebrated the vote as “a historic victory for Ecuador and for the planet.” Drilling operations in Block 43, which began in 2016, currently produce more than 55,000 barrels of oil per day.

Most of Ecuador’s oil is located under the Amazon rainforest, whose role as a critical carbon sink has been

Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page



Nemonte Nenquimo, second left, in the Yasuni national park, Ecuador.

badly diminished in recent years due to deforestation and relentless corporate plunder.

Sunday's win was decades in the making. As *The New York Times* reported ahead of the vote, the referendum is, "the culmination of a groundbreaking proposal suggested almost two decades ago when Rafael Correa, who was president of Ecuador at the

time, tried to persuade wealthy nations to pay his country to keep the same oil field in Yasuni untouched. He asked for \$3.6 billion, or half of the estimated value of the oil reserves."

"Mr. Correa spent six years in a campaign to advance the proposal but never managed to persuade wealthy nations to pay," *The Times* noted. "Many young Ecuadoreans, though,

were persuaded. When Mr. Correa announced that the proposal had failed and that drilling would begin, many started protesting."

Yasunidos ultimately collected around 757,000 signatures for the proposed ban on oil exploration in Yasuni – nearly 200,000 more than required to bring a referendum to a vote in Ecuador.

Continued on next page

How to Subscribe

Dear Sister/Fellow TreeHuggers,

If you'd like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at grassrootscoalition@pa.net. Also, email me if you have good stories and photos you'd like me to consider publishing in future issues. In the past, I have published a Messages page similar to Letters to the Editor so if you'd like to share your thoughts, please do so.

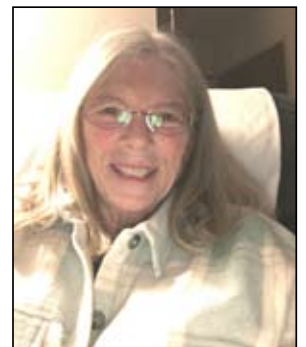
I'd like to see this be a team effort as it has been

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



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 pro-

vides 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.

Fair Use Logo



U.S. Appeals Court Halts ‘Climate Bomb’ Oil Rail Project Over Environmental Concerns

By Jessica Corbett

Common Dreams: August 18, 2023

U.S. Green groups and some Democratic politicians on Friday celebrated a federal appellate court’s ruling that pauses the development of the Uinta Basin Railway, a project that would connect Utah’s oil fields to the national railway network.

“The court’s rejection of this oil railway and its ensuing environmental damage is a victory for the climate, public health, and wild landscapes,” said WildEarth Guardians legal director Samantha Ruscavage-Barz. “The public shouldn’t have to shoulder the costs of the railway’s environmental degradation while the fossil fuel indus-



Photo: Creative Commons, Lindsey G.

Continued on next page

Williston North Dakota Oil Field Oil Rig.

Continuation from previous page

“The uncontacted Tagaeri, Duga-kaeri, and Taromenane have for years seen their lands invaded, firstly by evangelical missionaries, then by oil companies,” said Sarah Shenker, head of the Survival International’s Uncontacted Tribes campaign, following the vote. “Now, at last, they have some hope of living in peace once more. We hope this prompts greater recognition that all uncontacted peoples must have their territories protected if they’re to survive and thrive.”

Sunday’s vote makes Ecuador the first country to restrict fossil fuel extraction through the citizen referendum process, according to Nemonte Nenquimo, a Waorani leader.

“Yasuní, an area of one million hectares (2.47 million acres), is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth,” Nenquimo wrote in a recent op-ed for *The Guardian*. “There are more tree species in a single hectare (2.47 acres) of Yasuní than across Canada and the United States combined. Yasuní

is also the home of the Tagaeri and Taromenane communities: the last two Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation in Ecuador.”

“Can you imagine the immense size of one million hectares (2.47 million acres)?” Nenquimo added. “The recent fires in Quebec burned a million hectares (2.47 million acres) of forest. And so the oil industry hopes to burn Yasuní. It has already begun in fact, with the Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) oil project on the eastern edge of the park.”

Ecuadorians’ decision to reject oil drilling in the precious ecosystem drew applause from around the world.

“Historic and wonderful,” responded the climate group Extinction Rebellion Global. “Thank you and congratulations to the people of Ecuador for protecting their people, land, nature, future, and those of the rest of the world, too.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative – a global campaign that works to accelerate the transi-

tion to renewable energy – added that, “The historic vote sets a remarkable example for other countries in democratizing climate politics.”


Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/yasuni-national-park-ecuador>

Watch a wonderful interview with young Ecuadorian climate activist on Amy Goodman’s “Democracy Now.” Helena Gualinga, a youth Kichwa Sarayaku environmental activist from Ecuador who has fought against oil drilling all her life and says the results of the vote not only set a “crucial precedent” as the first time a country has voted by democratic ballot initiative on resource extraction in the Amazon, but also demonstrates that “Ecuador is a country that is committed to protecting the Amazon rainforest and to protecting Indigenous peoples.”

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx6zO6WEzz4>.

Continuation from previous page



Photo: Jason Blevins, *The Colorado Sun* 

A Texas railroad company plans to route crude oil trains from Utah's Uinta Basin through Gore Canyon along the Colorado River.

try reaps unprecedented profits from dirty energy.”

Although the ruling does not necessarily permanently block the project – which would cut through tribal land and a national forest – Carly Ferro, executive director of the Utah Sierra Club, similarly called the decision “a win for communities across the West and is critical for ensuring a sustainable climate future. . . . From its onset, this project’s process has been reckless and egregious. But today, the people and the planet prevailed,” Ferro added. “We will continue to advocate for accountable processes to ensure a healthy environment where communities can live safely, and this win will help make that possible.”

A coalition of advocacy groups and Eagle County, Colorado launched legal challenges to the project last year. Ruling on the consolidated case Friday, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated the Surface Transportation Board’s (STB) December 2021 approval of the railway, along with the federal agency’s related environmental impact statement (EIS) as well as a biological opinion (BiOp) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The panel found “numerous” violations of the National Environmental Policy Act “arising from the EIS, including the failures to: (1) quantify reasonably foreseeable upstream and

downstream impacts on vegetation and special-status species of increased drilling in the Uinta Basin and increased oil train traffic along the Union Pacific Line, as well as the effects of oil refining on environmental justice communities [in] the Gulf Coast; (2) take a hard look at wildfire risk as well as impacts on water resources downline; and (3) explain the lack of available information on local accident risk” in accordance with federal law, wrote Judge Robert Wilkins. “The EIS is further called into question since the BiOp failed to assess impacts on the Colorado River fishes downline.”

As the *The Colorado Sun* reported Friday, “The Surface Transportation
Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page

Board argued it did not have jurisdiction to address or enforce mitigation of impacts outside the 88-mile rail corridor.”

The appeals court ordered the Surface Transportation Board to redo its environmental review of the project. But the court did not agree with Eagle County and the environmental groups led by the Center for Biological Diversity that the Uinta Basin Railway could lead to the opening of the long-dormant Tennessee Pass Line between Dotsero and Cañon City.

The court also did not wholly agree that the transportation board failed to adequately consider the climate impacts of burning the new crude, which could increase pollution and account for 1% of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Still, the Center for Biological Diversity celebrated the decision, with senior campaigner Deeda Seed saying that, “This is an enormous victory for our shared climate, the Colorado River, and the communities that rely on it for clean water, abundant fish, and recreation... The Uinta Basin Railway is a dangerous, polluting boondoggle that threatens people, wildlife, and our hope for a livable planet,” Seed added. “The Biden administration needs to

dismantle this climate bomb and throw it in the trash can where it belongs.”

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and Congressman Joe Neguse, both Colorado Democrats, also welcomed the ruling in a joint statement.

“This ruling is excellent news,” the pair said. “The approval process for the Uinta Basin Railway Project has been gravely insufficient and did not properly account for the project’s full risks to Colorado’s communities, water, and environment. A new review must account for all harmful effects of this project on our state, including potential oil spills along the Colorado River and increased wildfire risk... An oil train derailment in the headwaters of the Colorado River would be catastrophic – not only to Colorado, but the 40 million Americans who rely on it,” they added. “We’re grateful for the leadership of Eagle County and the many organizations and local officials around Colorado who made their voices heard.”

Speaking to *Real Vail* on Friday, Eagle County attorney Bryan Treu pointed to a Norfolk Southern that was carrying hazardous material when it derailed and burned in East Palestine, Ohio in February – an incident that has since fueled calls across the coun-

try for boosting rail safety rules and blocking projects like the Uinta Basin Railway.

“It seems like we read every month this last year about a derailment somewhere,” said Treu. “So, there’s a lot to look at that. The circumstances have changed, and as this goes back to the Surface Transportation Board, they’re going to be looking at all those things.”

Reuters reported that while the STB declined to comment, “A spokesperson for the project – a public-private partnership that includes the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, investor DHIP Group, and rail operator Rio Grande Pacific Corp – said developers are ‘ready, willing, and capable of working’ with regulators during additional reviews.”

Meanwhile, some locals hope Friday’s ruling is a step toward killing the project. Jonny Vasic, executive director for Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment, said that, “The people of Utah can breathe a sigh of relief. Hopefully this is the beginning of the end for the Uinta Basin Railway.”

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/uinta-basin-railway>

**In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger, and hatred,
we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a
love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds.**

~ Henri Nouwen ~



Photos: GenZforChange.org

Gen-Z for Change is a group of young activists who use online platforms to effect positive social change.

GEN-Z FOR CHANGE: Young People Have Power. Let's Use It.

Bamboohr.com describes Gen Z or Generation Z as “the generational cohort following millennials, born between the late 1990s and early 2010s. Research indicates that Generation Z is the largest generation in American history and constitutes 27 percent of the country’s population. By 2026, Gen Z will make up the largest share of the U.S. consumer population at 82 million people, beating out millennials by 2 million.”

About Us

We are a collective of Gen-Z activists that leverage the power of social media to drive progressive change.

We are young activists who use online platforms to effect positive social change.

Our Background

We are dedicated to empowering our generation through education and civic engagement, using the power of social media to drive progressive change and hold those in power accountable. We collaborate with content creators and organizations to create impactful campaigns, promote responsible use of technology, and advance our vision for a better future. With a strong following and proven track record, we aim to continue our leadership in the digital progressive movement and work towards a more just and equitable world.

Who We Are

Whether it’s grassroots community organizing, social media content development, computer programming, or graphic design, we bring it all to bear

on our objective. We’re not scared to stand out for what we believe in and care about a wide range of causes.

We’re the place where the creator economy and progressive politics intersect on social media.

Digital + Community Organizing

We mobilize a network of influential users across TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, who together have access to over 500 million people. This innovative approach to community organizing strengthens the footwork of our activists.

What we’ve done.

Since launching in 2020, we’ve supported a variety of progressive campaigns, from union solidarity

Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page



and fighting abortion bans to holding social media companies accountable for their role in spreading disinformation. Our leaders have been on the forefront of digital organizing, raising over \$2m+ for abortion funds around the country and discussing the future of democracy with President Obama. Through our 2022 electoral work, we launched effective creator activations that generated a total of over 26 million+ views and supported many crucial campaigns with various celebrities and lawmakers.

How Can I Get Involved?

At Gen-Z for Change, we strive to create as many involvement opportunities as possible, for as many types of people as possible. Specifically, for activists and organizers, we encourage you to share your work with us via our Organizing on Display project, a series that we launched to amplify the incredible work that you are doing all across the country! Please submit your work at <https://genzforchange.typeform.com/organizing?typeform-source=genzforchange.org> if you are interested!

If you are just getting started in activism or organizing, we encourage you to visit the Our Work page to find easy-to-do yet impactful actions that make a change. Additionally, beyond our own calls to action, we strongly recommend looking into ways to organize locally around issues that matter to you.

Source: <https://genzforchange.org/about/>

I've found that there is always some beauty left – in nature, sunshine, freedom, in yourself; these can all help you.

~ Anne Frank ~

Strangely Like War

The Global Assault on Forests

(2003)

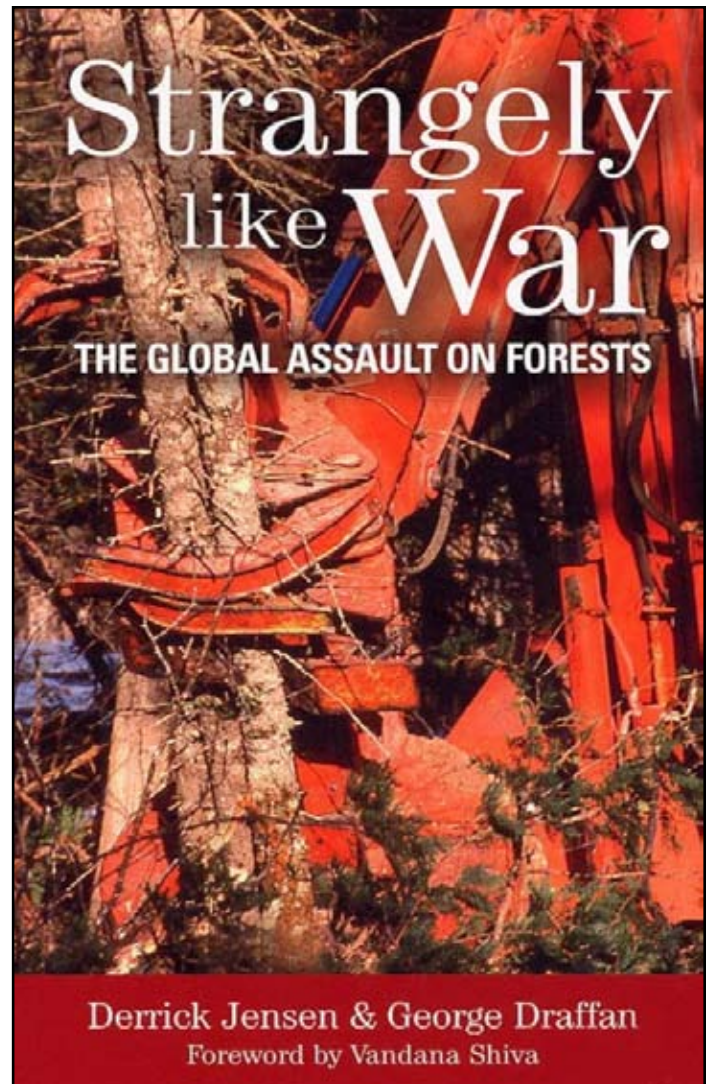
By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 22-27*

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

Theft of indigenous land is not ancient history, something that only happened a long time ago, something to express our regrets over as we continue to profit from their land. It happens today, all over the planet. Anywhere there are indigenous people living traditionally in forests, they are being threatened, harassed, arrested, dispossessed, killed, and their forests are being cut down. Here are a few current examples among far too many.

Africa: The Bayanga Wood Company deforests the homeland of the Ba’Aka (pygmies) of the Central African Republic. The Ba’Aka are forced into settlement camps at the fringes of their dying forests. The transnational timber corporations Rougier (French), Danzer (German), Feldmeyer (German), Wonnemann (German), and the Dutch-Danish-German consortium Boplac deforest the Congo. Pan African Paper Mills, Raiply Timber, and Timsales Ltd. are entering – and destroying – the forests of the Ogiek people of Kenya, who are being evicted from where they have lived, hunted, and gathered honey forever. In 1967, the World Bank decided that the Gishwati forest, home to the Batwa (pygmies), should be cleared to use for potato farming and cattle raising. The Batwa were not, of course, consulted. As a 61-year-old Batwa says: “We were chased out of our forest, which was our father because it provided us with food through gathering and hunting. . . . The State chased us out of the forest and we had to settle in the fringes, where we die of starvation. All the development projects that were carried out in Gishwati forest have done nothing for us and no Batwa has even received the benefit of a job.”

The genocide continues. Check out this news report (not from the corporate press, of course, but from the human rights organization Survival International) from 2002, which stated that the Botswana government “denied the Gana and Gwi Bushmen still in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve their only means of communication with the outside world, and turned back Bushmen bringing them essential supplies of food and water. Government officials seized solar powered radio transceivers, provided by [Survival International] for the Bushman communities. They also told two Bushmen bringing food and water to the beleaguered communities, whose supplies were cut off by the government last week, that entry to their ancestral lands was forbidden. The two were later allowed to deliver the food and water, but were told that in future they would have to have a special permit or pay to enter the reserve. The Central Ka-



lahari Game Reserve was set up in the 1960s as a home for the Gana and Gwi Bushmen, whose ancestral lands include the reserve area. Yet since the mid-1980s, the Botswana government has waged a campaign of harassment to force the Bushmen off the land that is theirs under international law. In past weeks many of the 700 Bushmen still living in the reserve in the face of this harassment have been forced to leave, and last week the government terminated supplies of water and food to those who are still resisting.”

Back to the “developed” world. **North America.** Canada granted huge timber concessions to the timber giant Macmillan-Bloedel, which made billions of dollars by clearcutting nearly all of Vancouver Island. In 1999, Mac-Blo, as it is commonly known, was bought out by the U.S.-based transnational timber corporation Weyerhaeuser, which had already liquidated forests in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Weyerhaeuser, like Mac-Blo before it, is clearcutting like mad, in part because the First Nations of Canada have never extinguished title to the forests being clearcut and are suing the Canadian government to exercise their rights to sovereignty

Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page

over this land, including not allowing it to be cut. The Haida have sued Weyerhaeuser for illegally clearcutting their land in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Guujaaw, chief of the Haida in British Columbia, said about Weyerhaeuser, "They've come and wiped out one resource after another. . . . We've been watching the logging barges leave for years and years, and we have seen practically nothing for Haida."

South America. The Guarani living in forests in Argentina do not believe land can belong to anyone: How can human beings, who are only passing through life, be owners? The Mocona S.A. Forestry Company, which is not a human being but a corporation, a legal fiction, is cutting down their forests. The company offered each community 74 acres on which they were to live. The Guarani rejected the possibility that the land could have any owner and found it absurd that they were being offered 74 acres of those communal lands where their ancestors had lived and where they themselves were already living, land they were, according to their worldview, borrowing from their children. The corporation raised the offer to about 500 acres, and continues to cut.

The Wichí have lived on the same land (in what is now called Argentina) for at least 12,000 years; now through deprivations of timber and agricultural corporations, their homeland has been reduced from more than 170,000 acres to less than 67. The remaining 67 acres are an oasis of green amidst a now-barren landscape.

The Mapuche of **Chile** have lost more than 95 percent of their original 27 million acres, and now logging companies are coming for the rest. Police murder children who protest the logging.

Asia. The Karen in **Burma** are under attack from Canada's Ivanhoe Capital Corporation, which in 1994 reached an agreement with the Burmese military regime to run the Monywa

wa copper mine. Safety measures are completely absent. Miners threaten to blow up local residents who complain about water pollution and skin problems. The Karen are also under attack by the United States' Unocal corporation, which along with the military has used forced labor to construct the Yadana gas pipeline. Mass murder and mass rapes are useful tools for enslaving a people and forcing them to destroy their own landbase. And the Karen are under attack by the Thai dam-building company GMS Power and the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, which are building a huge dam at the Salween River, the only remaining free-flowing major river in the area. One hundred and seventy-five villages will be relocated. Or perhaps not. The Burmese Army has begun a program of extermination.

The Togeans of **Indonesia** have taken to torching logging equipment of the transnational timber corporation destroying their home.

In the **Philippines**, logging companies and the military have taken over the forests of the Agta, who are now homeless and still menaced: a spokesperson for the Agta recently stated, "A certain colonel warned us that if we do not vacate our land, our tribe will be exterminated."

The Penan of **Malaysia** have been struggling for their lives and for the life of their forest for many years. But life was not always a struggle. As Ngot Laing, Chief of Long Lilib, Patah River, said, "In the past our life was peaceful, it was so easy to obtain food. You could even catch the fish using your bare hands – we only needed to look below the pebbles and rocks or in some hiding holes in the river." Urin Ajang concurred, "In the past, we did not fall sick, we did not have scabies, the water was clean. We did not have all these puddles that breed mosquitoes." But now, Ngot says, "The people are frequently sick. They are hungry. They develop all sorts of stomach pains. They suffer

from headaches. Children will cry when they are hungry. Several people including children also suffer from skin diseases, caused by the polluted river. Upper Patah used to be so clean. Now the water is like Milo, sometimes you can even find oil spills floating downstream." Another Penan, Lep Selai, said, "Living a settled life is just not our way. We are used to the forest. Besides, I do not know how to farm." This doesn't mean the Penan are too stupid to become farmers. The real point is, as Peng Megut put it, "We know that if we agree to settle down, it would in effect be a trade-off for our forest. The government is asking us to settle down, as if once when we are settled, they can do anything to our forest." Ayan Jelawing sums up, "We were the first people of this Apoh area. The waters did not have a name then, not until we gave it a name in our language. . . . The logging companies first entered into the Apoh area in the 1980s. When the Penan communities went to meet the companies' managers they would simply say that the Penan do not have any rights to this area. How could this be?" Ajang Kiew states, "We asked for forest reserves. We asked for school for the village. We asked for clinics. Instead they gave us the logging companies. Now it is oil palm plantations. We would end up as laborers for hire. The profits would only make other people rich. But the land they work on is land belonging to the Penan." And finally, Nyagung Malin gives a solution: "We are used to living in the forest. And life did not use to be difficult. If we needed to build our huts, we could easily find the leaves in the forest. If you really want to give us development, then do not disturb our forest."

The people of the forests aren't stupid, backward, or stubborn; they are loyal to the source of life.

To be continued next time. For a copy of this book, contact Derrick directly at derrick@derrickjensen.

10 Must-Read Environmental Books

By Gabriella Sotelo, *excerpt*

Treehugger (not Iona): August 15, 2023

Our recommended list of environmental books covers a broad range of topics, from climate disinformation to individual initiatives that have led to global change. Spanning different genres and perspectives on conservation issues, these 10 must-read environmental books are sure to spark the interest of the greenest bookworms.

1. Braiding Sweetgrass

Braiding Sweetgrass, by Indigenous author Robin Wall Kimmer, looks at the relationship between humans and the land. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kimmer ties lessons she learned from her culture and history to Western society's view of plants and aims to reveal the importance plants and animals have in our world.

The book also explores the lessons we may learn from plants and animals and how they relate to certain stories, like the creation story. In doing so, Kimmer hopes to widen the reader's ecological consciousness. *Braiding Sweetgrass* won the 2014 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award.

2. Merchants of Doubt

This non-fiction book by science historians Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway explores the parallels between the global warming "controversy" and the "controversies" surrounding tobacco, acid rain, and DDT.

Merchants of Doubt details how high-level scientists influenced by political connections ran disinformation campaigns against established science, delaying progress and policy implementation on those issues as well as global warming and the ozone hole. According to former Vice President Al Gore, "Anyone concerned about the state of democracy in America should read this book."

3. The End of Nature

Published in 1989, *The End of Na-*

ture describes the relationship between nature and humans. It expresses the idea that nature was previously independent of humans but has now been affected by them in every way. According to author Bill McKibben, the idea of wilderness is lost, and nature is no longer intact.

The book focuses on the concepts of nature and wilderness and the value they have lost. McKibben argues that true change will require a fundamental shift in how we view and interact with nature.

4. Silent Spring

Written by Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* has been described as a landmark work of environmental writing and is credited with bringing the environmental movement into mainstream focus.

The book highlights the effects of pesticides on the environment, especially DDT, which was a very popular insecticide until it was finally banned in 1972. The book eventually led to a reversal in the United States' pesticide policy and contributed to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

5. The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History

The Sixth Extinction, by Elizabeth Kolbert, describes previous mass extinction events and connects them to the many extinctions currently taking place.

Kolbert studies the relationships humans have with the environment and finds that we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction, this one caused by humans. The book looks at studies and research covering things such as the disappearance of the Panamanian golden frog and the effect of ocean acidification on corals. The Sixth Extinction won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction and the 2015 Massachusetts Book Award (Non-Fiction).

6. The Uninhabitable Earth

This book by David Wallace Wells provides a detailed look at how we treat the Earth and how our actions will affect us and the planet's future.

The Uninhabitable Earth argues that current actions will not be enough to prevent the effects of climate change. The author examines the disasters that have already occurred and looks ahead to the year 2100 and what climate change will do if we continue on our current path. Its opening line is incredibly telling: "It is worse, much worse, than you think."

7. Losing Earth

Losing Earth: The Decade We Could Have Stopped Climate Change, is the alternate title for the book, a rather appropriate observation, as the work examines the decade when we understood global warming and the ensuing climate denialism that led us to our current state.

The story by Nathaniel Rich reveals how the fossil fuel industry arranged misinformation campaigns in an attempt to stop climate policies. The book also contemplates the efforts of scientists and important figures who advocated for climate policy and solutions, such as former Vice President Al Gore and James Hansen.

Losing Earth won the Society of American Journalists Award and the American Institute of Physics, Science, and Communication Award.

8. Eating Animals

Eating Animals is an examination of farming, vegetarianism, veganism, and the ethics of food. From a philosophical standpoint, author Jonathan Safran Foer establishes a relationship between what we choose to eat and our ethical values.

The book is part investigative reporting and part memoir, as he looks into the consumption of meat and its possible implications. Instead of stating that eating meat is "bad," Foer looks at the greater context of meat

Continued on next page

Messages from Our Friends

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

Beautiful story!
Love and Peace,
Ron & Linda Feagley, Pennsylvania
USA

Thank you so much for publishing our statement.

Jussa Kudherezera, Coordinator,
Manica Youth Assembly, Zimbabwe

Thank you for including that article about Judge Seeley's favorable ruling in the closely-watched Montana youths' lawsuit on the front-page of TH #11. In her "Democracy Now" show this morning, host Amy Goodman interviewed Our Children's Trust chief legal counsel and executive director Julia Olson, who described this landmark climate case as "*a real watershed moment.*" The nonprofit's founder went on to predict, "*There's going to be huge ripple effects as other courts start stepping up and doing*

their role in our democracy to be a check on the other branches of government. Same as when we had our first same-sex marriage ruling that that was a constitutional right or when segregation was declared unconstitutional, I think this case will go down in history as significant as those. . . ."

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/8/16/montana_youth_climste_win

Allen Hengst, Washington DC, USA

Great stuff Iona!

Love,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

Hello Iona.

It's a lovely and beautiful great morning here in Kabale, southwestern Uganda, the Pearl of Africa.

Thank you so much for the great work you are doing for community development. Am so much proud to be

associated with you.

One Village Tours & Travel supports community, especially women empowerment through agriculture, handcraft, and children education among others.

My communication therefore is to seek for volunteers who can stay within our communities for days, weeks, months, and years depending on someone's time frame.

The volunteer will pay a small amount to cover meals and accommodations, and experience cheaper travels to Uganda while volunteering with us.

Further details, visit www.onevillage-tours.com.

Kindly connect with us women volunteers to help us create impact or positive change among rural women.

Thank you.

Herbert Bagyenya Kajoki, Uganda
What's app +256701233725

Continuation from previous page
consumption, including industrial farming and direct environmental destruction. Though Foer is not directly trying to convince readers to switch diets, he pushes them to question their choices.

9. An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It

Written by former Vice President Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth* explores the topic of global warming by intertwining personal anecdotes with scientific information, highlighting the political, social, and human perspectives of climate change.

Gore highlights the urgent need for global action to address climate change and its detrimental effects on our planet's ecosystems and future. A film was released at the same time as the book in 2006.

10. No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference

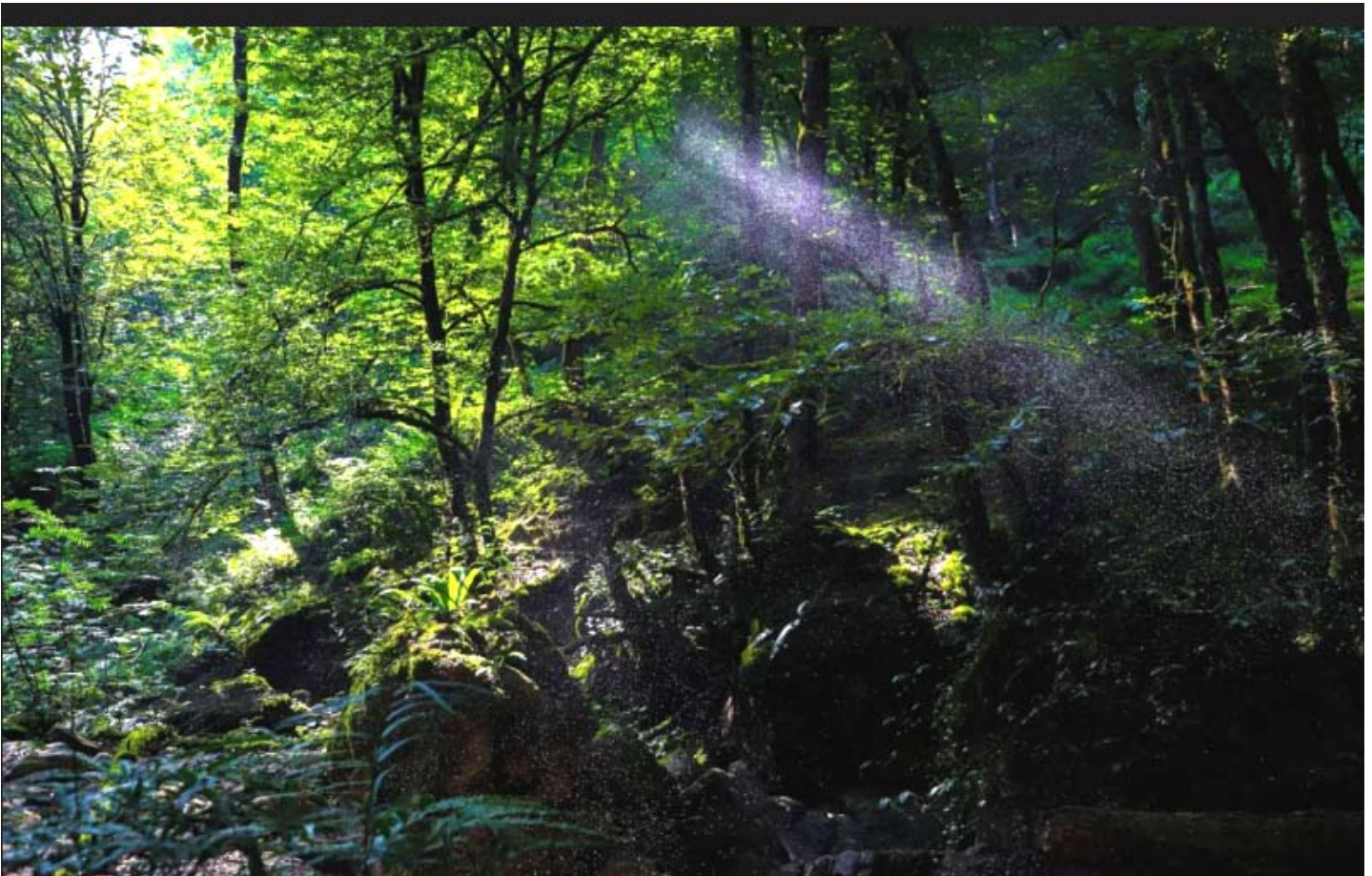
This book collects 11 speeches made by climate activist Greta Thunberg before audiences, such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the World Economic Forum.

Greta Thunberg was 15 when she started the School Strike for Climate, also known as Fridays for Future. She inspired protests worldwide, highlighting the issue of climate change and its impact on future generations.

Source: <https://www.treehugger.com/must-read-environmental-books-7643593>

Note from Iona: I get most of my books used and save a lot of money that way. Since I haven't owned a TV in about 40 years, I do a lot of reading and love it!





Listening To Earth

By Rebecca Wildbear
DGR News Service: July 11, 2021

I was diagnosed with cancer when I was 21. Scientifically, the odds were that I would die. They could have rolled me aside and let it happen, but doctors and loved ones did what they could to keep me alive. They tried to save my life even though they did not know if it would work.

The Earth is suffering. She does not want her rivers poisoned and dammed, her mountains blown up and mined, or her ecosystems and biodiversity destroyed. If she received the same care as me, perhaps we could stop the harm. Efforts to help show care and respect, whatever tomorrow brings.

When I have been abused, the most painful part is when no one sees it. Dismissing the harm that is happening to the Earth makes us complicit, even if particular philosophies seem to justify it (Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny, the American Dream, Gaia

theory, the Sixth Mass Extinction), “it’s already too late.”

If your child or lover were drowning or trapped in a burning house, you would try to save them. If it’s a reflex to save our endangered loved ones, why can’t we develop an auto-response to save bears, prairie dogs, mountain lions, horses, and forests?

To belittle or discourage those who work to save the last remaining species and wild places seems like a betrayal of the Earth and those on the front-lines, the majority of whom are Indigenous peoples (whose on-going genocide feeds the destruction of the planet).

Social psychology reveals that individuals commonly find ways to ignore those being harmed and consciously or unconsciously align with those in power, because it is safer.

Humans have imagination, soul, and agency. We can listen to the Earth, not only for our own re-wilding, but for what species, land, and ecosystems need, too.

Rivers, forests, and oceans can be restored. Once they are, the climate dramatically improves. Perhaps humans can stop those destroying the biosphere and the last remaining species and lands. Why not support those who try?

Visit a clear-cut forest, plowed prairie, or concreted wetland. Ask them what they need. Ask the squirrels, rabbits, owls, and blue jays who live once lived there. Ask the bears in Asia, tortured for their bile, if their suffering is Gaia’s plan. Ask wild buffalo or horses routinely slaughtered, if people should stop helping them because it’s too late. Ask the last remaining birds, orcas, polar bears, fish, rhinos.

“Please help us,” they tell me. Don’t take my word for it. Go ask them yourself. The narratives and people that inspire me most are the ones that make listening, honoring, and keeping alive these voices central.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/listening-to-the-earth/>