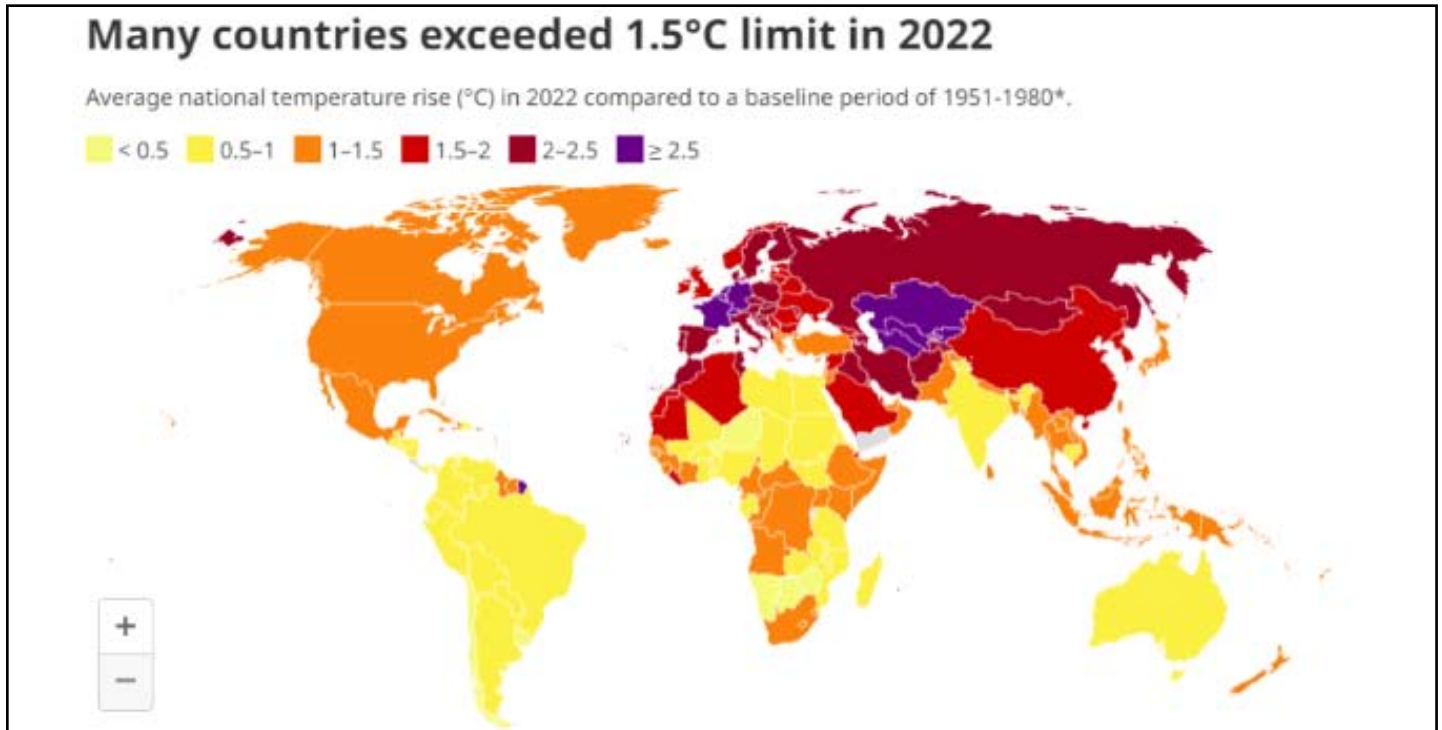


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Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

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

Volume 13: August 30, 2023



Map: Jack Graham, source FAO figures 2022, Context

The NASA GISS benchmark is about 0.3°C warmer than preindustrial times, providing a conservative estimate of global warming.

Heatwaves and Diplomatic Storms

By Megan Rowling

Context: August 29, 2023

Hot Earth

This year's sweltering, fire-ridden summer in the northern hemisphere hasn't allowed for much calm on the climate news front before the diplomatic storm kicks off again in September, starting with the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi and the U.N. chief's Climate Ambition Summit in New York.

We'll also get a technical paper from the U.N. climate secretariat outlining how governments are doing so far on their promises and plans to cut climate-heating emissions under the Paris Agreement. The expected verdict is: could do (far) better.

As with the last two COP climate summits, this year's COP28 in Dubai

will be given the unenviable – and increasingly difficult – task of keeping alive the Paris Agreement's 1.5C global warming limit.

The World Meteorological Organization has said we're likely to pop up above it for a full year in the next four to five years, with the current El Niño pushing global temperatures higher too. That wouldn't, the agency says, mean the Paris goal has been lost since it refers to warming staying at 1.5C for longer (we don't know how long exactly).

Still, as Alister Doyle reveals, for close to 3 billion people on the ground, the 1.5C discussion may be redundant in practice because they are experiencing local warming of that level or higher now.

"Many people are living in areas

that have already warmed more than 1.5C, and ... the main reason for this is that the land warms faster than the oceans," explains Robert Rohde, chief scientist at Berkeley Earth.

That's making life pretty uncomfortable, especially across large swathes of Europe and Asia – as you can see from the map above – although those living in coastal cities get at least some relief from cooling sea breezes.

Saline Soils

Along the southern coast of Bangladesh, however, times are tough for local farmers threatened by the impacts of climate change, our reporter Md. Tahmid Zami found.

They are striving to boost their resilience to rising salinity in the soil and

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water by growing salt-tolerant crops and turning to innovative agriculture techniques. Many also rely on livestock – mainly cows and goats – for income and food. Yet concerns are growing about how those animals will cope with worsening salinity, rising temperatures, and dwindling water.

The answer may lie partly with hardier sheep and a farming technique called “sorjan” – which involves planting vegetables on elevated ridges around an area that stores rainwater for the dry season.

Bangladesh, well-respected among climate researchers for its prowess in community-level adaptation, is also stepping up efforts to cope with worsening floods, as Tahmid outlines in this explainer drawing on a new study from the LSE’s Grantham Research Institute and the UK-based Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy.

Fossil Fuel Funding

Another September moment that could make a difference to the pace of global warming is the G20 leaders’ summit in Delhi – though ministers’ meetings have so far yielded decidedly tepid outcomes on climate action and energy transition.



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Md. Tahmid Zami

A shepherd brings a flock of a farmer’s sheep from Dacope, Khulna, Bangladesh, August 16, 2023.

Back in 2009, the G20 pledged to phase out “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies – and yet a new report last week showed that has been an abject failure so far, with government financial support for dirty energy rising to a record \$1.4 trillion in 2022 in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Researchers say G20 nations should define what they mean by “inefficient” subsidies – and then set a date for ending their backing for coal, oil, and gas (the G7 says it will do so by 2025).

G20 host India has made quite good progress on this in recent years – and so could encourage others to get on board, reports Bhasker Tripathi.

I, for one, don’t count maths among my strengths – but surely anyone can see that governments pumping trillions into fossil fuels isn’t going to help citizens already feeling the heat from warming of 1.5C or more.

Source: https://www.context.news/newsletter?id=8fa55456360f3d65fa406a292322cedf&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=context

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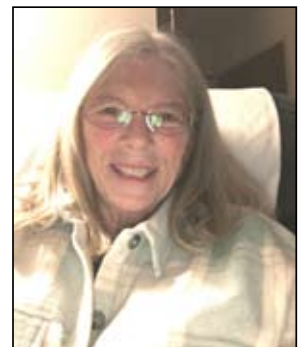
I’d like to see this be a team effort as it has been

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

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Photo: Ross Tsai via Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

A red-tailed monkey (*Cercopithecus ascanius*) in Mabira Central Forest Reserve.

Conservationists Work to Restore Last Remnant of a Once-Great Ugandan Forest

Submitted by **Bill Boteler**
Maryland USA

By Ryan Truscott
Mongabay: August 25, 2023

- *Earlier this year, conservation group Nature Uganda launched a forest restoration project aimed at restoring degraded areas and reducing illegal harvesting of forest products in Mabira Central Forest Reserve.*

- *A remnant of a much larger forest ecosystem, Mabira is home to 300 bird species, 23 reptile species, and 360 different species of plants.*

- *A community forest management scheme has successfully engaged nearby communities in self-regulating use of forest resources, but delays in renewing the scheme threaten that progress.*

- *“When we enter these agreements,” says one community leader, “we promote the sense of ownership so that we can share the roles of making the forest available and managing it sustainably.”*

Conservationists are working to restore Uganda’s threatened Mabira

Central Forest Reserve, a refuge for hundreds of species of birds, mammals, and plants in the center of the country. In April, the NGO Nature Uganda launched a forest restoration project aimed at reducing illegal harvesting of forest products and replanting degraded sections of Mabira with indigenous tree species.

The work will focus on 570 hectares (1,400 acres) of the reserve, whose roughly 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) are a remnant of a much greater ecosystem that once stretched from the Kakamega Forest in western Kenya, across the breadth of Uganda.

“Because it is a fragment, it has become a refugium of species which lost habitat,” says Achilles Byaruhanga, executive director of Nature Uganda.

Mabira Forest is one of just four holdouts of the Ugandan crested mangabey (*Lophocebus albigena ugandae*), a monkey listed by the IUCN as vulnerable to extinction, and a snow-white butterfly with large green eyes and distinctively rounded wings, named *Pseudopontia mabira* in the forest’s honor. It also contains 360 different species of plants, 23 species

of reptiles, and more than 300 species of birds.

“You can judge from that – a forest of 300 square kilometers with over 300 species of bird – this is a very high density and richness of species,” Byaruhanga says.

One of the forest’s iconic species is the Nahan’s partridge (*Ptilopachus nahani*), a secretive, ground-dwelling bird with a red face mask and a breast streaked with white and black plumage that only occurs in Mabira and two other forest reserves, Bugoma and Budongo, in the west of the country.

The partridges have a unique habit of roosting and nesting between the buttress roots of giant forest trees that are targeted by loggers seeking timber to supply the furniture and construction industries.

Research published in 2020 by a team of Ugandan scientists said loggers in Mabira used chainsaws to fell trees with prominent buttress roots used by the partridges and other species. Targeted tree species include the forest sandpaper fig (*Ficus exasperata*) and the pattern wood tree (*Alstonia*

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boonei).

“Loss of such trees reduces the breeding and roosting micro-habitats of the species,” lead author Eric Sande and his co-authors said in their findings published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

Mabira’s proximity to fast-growing urban centers appears to make it, and the animals that live in it, especially vulnerable. Although Mabira is partitioned into zones, including a central one designated as a strict nature reserve, and a buffer zone meant for tourism and low-impact extractive activities, all parts of the forest have been encroached upon.

Charcoal burning, overharvesting of non-timber products like rattan cane (*Calamus deeratus*), and illegal hunting have all taken their toll.

Sande’s 2020 study estimated that hunters in Mabira killed up to 18 Nahan’s partridges per week, a species estimated to number only 6,891 at the time. Other animals, including common duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*), a small antelope, were also targeted by hunters who used dogs to drive their quarry into nets strung between trees, the researchers found.

The teeming capital of Kampala is just 50 kilometers (30 miles) away, the busy industrial hub of Jinja even nearer, and there are a number of fast-growing towns in surrounding districts whose residents are eyeing the forest for extractable resources.

Despite these pressures, Nature Uganda’s Byaruhanga says he believes the biggest threat the forest has had to face in recent years doesn’t come from its surrounding communities.

In 2007, the Ugandan government unveiled plans to deregister more than 7,000 hectares (17,200 acres) of the reserve to expand a nearby sugarcane plantation. Conservation groups, including Nature Uganda, launched a successful campaign to save the forest that brought Mabira into the international spotlight.



Photo: pward via iNaturalist (CC BY-NC 4.0)

This butterfly, *Pseudopontia mabira*, is named in the forest’s honor.



Photo: Tommy Andriollo via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 4.0)

Nahan's partridge (*Ptilopachus nahani*) occurs only in Mabira and two other forest reserves, Bugoma and Budongo, in the west of the country.

“The forest was not taken, it still has its boundaries,” Byaruhanga says, though he concedes the ongoing extraction of timber and firewood does continue to cause degradation.

This is, however, not unique to Mabira. More than 80% of Uganda’s 45 million people lack access to electricity, and at least 41 million metric tons of firewood and charcoal are con-

sumed annually, according to Nature Uganda.

The impact on forest resources is severe. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) estimates that Uganda lost 3 million hectares (7.4 million acres) of its forests between 1990 and 2015, when it was left with less than 2 million hectares (4.9 million acres) of tree cover.

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The project launched in May, backed by the global Trillion Trees ReForest Fund and spearheaded by Nature Uganda, BirdLife International, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund, will aim to repair some of the damage to Mabira.

Degraded areas in the targeted zone are being allowed to regenerate, or are being supplemented through “enrichment planting” under the Nature Uganda project. Where degradation has been severe, such as in areas converted to croplands, the team is planting out indigenous tree seedlings raised by the NFA at its local nursery. These include mahogany trees, as well as various species of *Acacia* and *Albizia*.

Planting trees is one thing; ensuring communities stop their illegal practices is another, says William Olupot, director of conservation group Nature and Livelihoods and a co-author with Sande of the most recent survey on Nahan’s partridges.

Olupot says several studies conducted by his organization have pointed to the threat of illegal activities in Mabira Forest. Between 2015 and 2019, the NFA signed several collaborative forest management (CFM) agreements with nearby communities, which are supposed to strictly regulate where and when people can take resources. Olupot’s organization was supporting at least 16 community groups with enterprises such as beekeeping and poultry and pig farming during this period, so he had a firsthand view of their implementation.

“At that time, however, illegal activities were rife and the enforcement seemed weak,” he says.

“The collaborative management agreements that the NFA signed with the communities may sound good on paper but what I would really like to see is their strict enforcement on the ground.”

Under some of the current CFM agreements, community members

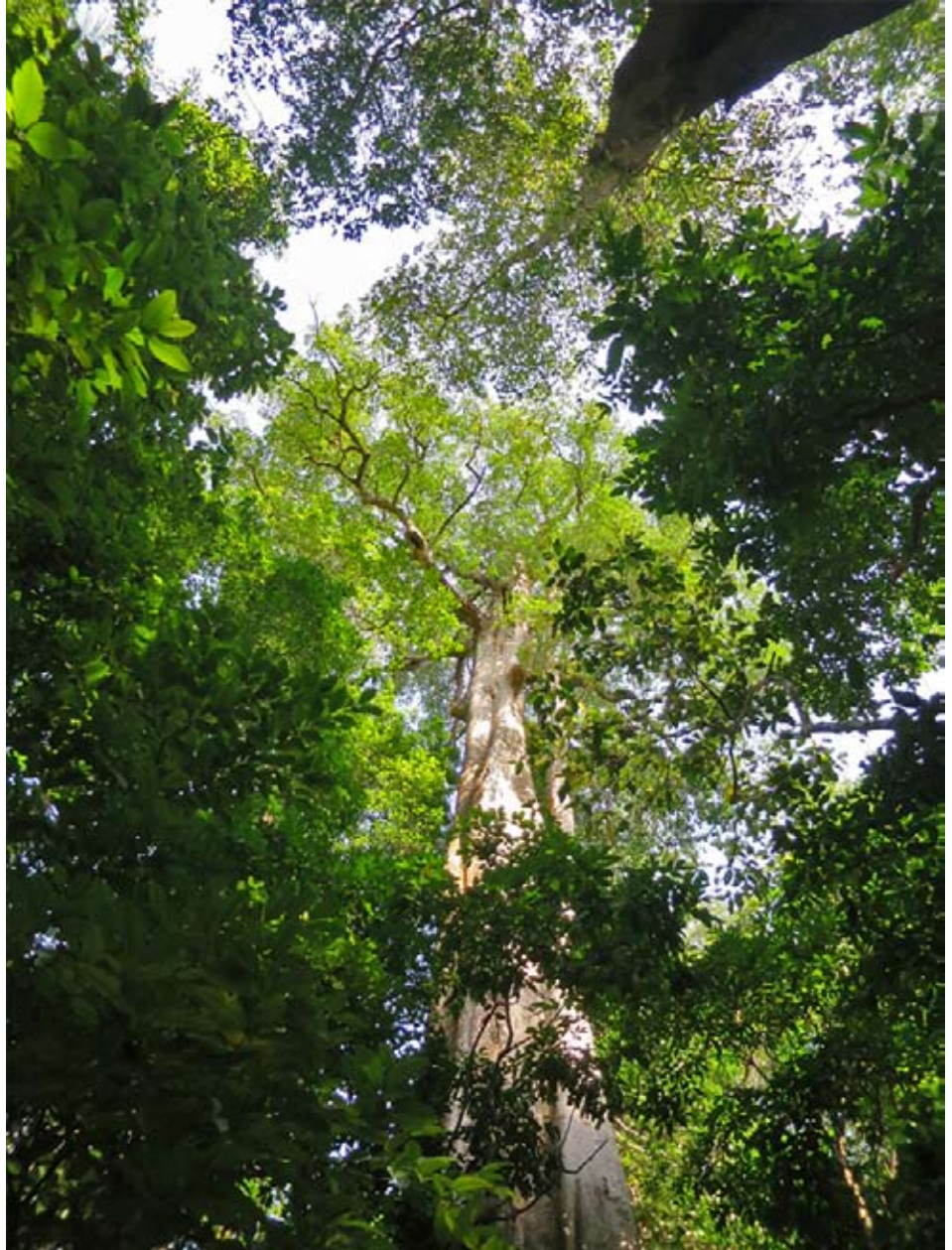


Photo: ricardofdelima via iNaturalist (CC BY-NC 4.0)
A pattern wood tree (*Alstonia boonei*), one of the trees with prominent buttress roots used by the partridges and other species.

living on the forest’s periphery are allowed to extract resources like firewood, honey, and herbs on a strictly regulated basis.

Community leader John Tabula says where it is up and running, the CFM strategy works well.

“This agreement gives us a right to own the forest,” he says. “When we enter these agreements we promote the sense of ownership so that we can share the roles of making the forest available

and managing it sustainably.”

The Conservation for Future Sustainable Development Association that Tabula chairs has 40 members. It regulates how much firewood is collected from Mabira by the residents of Buvunya and Koko, two villages situated near the forest edge in Buikwe district. Villagers are only allowed to collect firewood on Saturdays and Sundays, and people can only use ma-

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Photo: Benjamin Jumbe

Agnes Chandiru, a resident of Buvunya village on the edge of the Mabira Forest: there are two days a week when community members can collect firewood from the forest – Saturdays and Sundays.

chetes to cut the wood, not axes. The ban on axes is to ensure that living trees aren't felled, and only dry, dead wood is gathered.

"We sensitize the members, we talk to them on what we need to be done within the forest," Tabula says. "When you can't obey or accept our regulations, that means you will be denied [access to] some resources from the forest."

There are downsides. The area where Tabula's community is allowed to harvest resources extends across just 91 hectares (225 acres). Firewood is becoming scarce, and the community could use an area twice that size. Also, Tabula's association's 10-year-long CFM agreement with the NFA expired seven years ago, and a new one still hasn't been signed.

Such delays by the authorities undermine the efforts of those on the ground tasked with protecting the forest, says Mabe Manasseh, another Buvunya resident. He says he's noticed that forest degradation is once more on the rise.

"We have no mandate now to arrest anyone over any illegality in the forest," he tells Mongabay. "But we still have some little contribution [to make] because we love our forest and so we protect it on a small scale because we fear if we completely abandon it, it will be destroyed."

Citations:

Sande, E., Akoth, S., Rutazaana, U., & Olupot, W. (2020). Status of Nahan's partridge *Ptilopachus nahani* (Dubois, 1905) (Aves: Gal-

lifformes: Odontophoridae) in Uganda. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 12(15), 17063-17076. doi:10.11609/jott.5343.12.15.17063-17076

Olupot, W., & Isabirye-Basuta, G. (2016). Influencing SEPLS governance policy through action research: An assessment of recreational values to promote sustainable use of the Mabira Central Forest Reserve, Uganda. In *Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review*, 2, 59-70. Retrieved from https://www.iges.or.jp/en/publication_documents/pub/researchreport/en/5711/SITR+vol2+complete+set++web+version+NEW.rev1_.pdf

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/08/conservationists-work-to-restore-last-remnant-of-a-once-great-ugandan-forest/>

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Photos on this page by Benjamin Jumbe

(top) John Tabula (right), chair of a local association for sustainability, with Mane Manasseh who coordinates patrols of the forest. They are inspecting timber from Manasseh's private woodlot. Villagers have been provided seedlings to plant woodlots that, once mature, will provide a source of firewood and spare Mabira from encroachment. (bottom) John Tabula shows Mongabay a barricade placed at the forest boundary to block encroachment by loggers.

Strangely Like War

The Global Assault on Forests

(2003)

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 29-30*

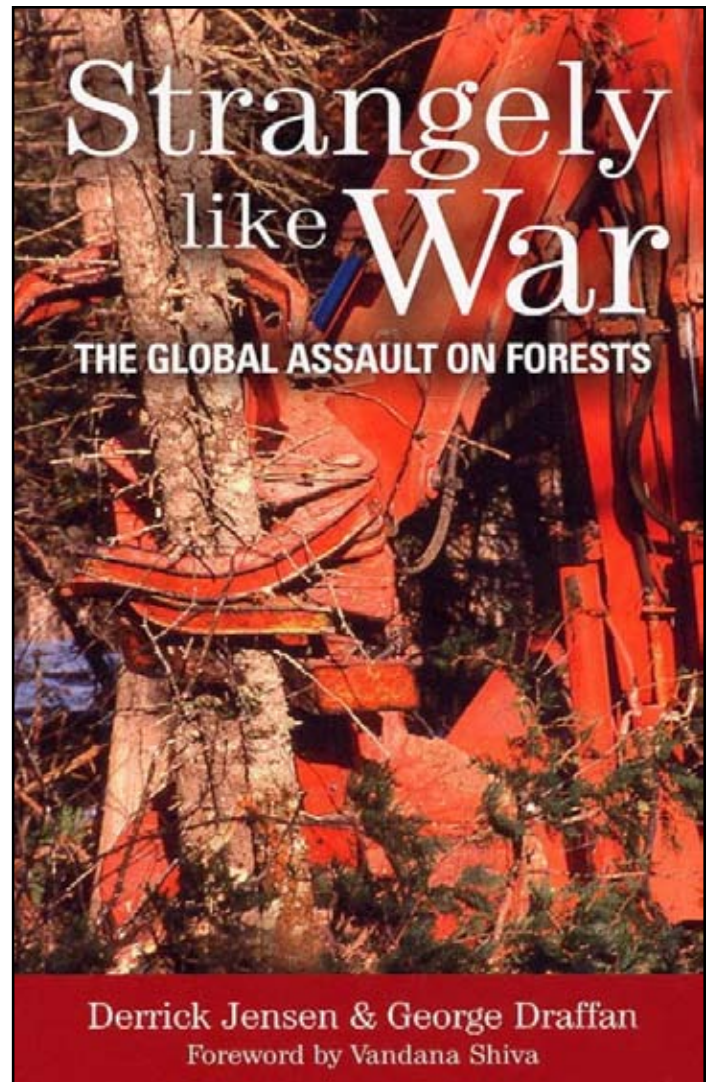
In this book, ‘I’ refers to the primary author, Derrick Jensen, and ‘we’ refers to both authors.

The military and police, and more broadly the government – any government – often promote deforestation, and spend far more time and energy working toward the theft of indigenous land than its protection. This was true in the days of Gilgamesh’s Mesopotamian city-state of Uruk, and in the days of the Israelites, and true in the days of the Greeks and Romans. It’s been true throughout American history, and it’s true today. This support is quite often direct, as when the military in Papua New Guinea machine-guns those who resist Freeport McMoRan’s copper and gold mining there, as when the Saramake people of Suriname are threatened with imprisonment when they resist the deforestation of their land by Chinese timber companies, as when the Indonesian military suppresses those in the path of ExxonMobil’s oil operations, as when police in the United States frequently use pepper-spray and “pain compliance holds” against those who attempt to halt deforestation here.

The support comes, sometimes, through intentional neglect, and through repeatedly refusing to enforce any kind of accountability on those who deforest. Enforcement officers, politicians, bureaucrats, police, judges, and businessmen are tied together in patron-client networks that promote their own interests rather than enforcing the community’s forest policies and laws.

We want to tell you, for example, a story about the relationship between the government and the on-going destruction of the last redwood forests in the United States. It concerns a timber company called Pacific Lumber (PL). As recently as two decades ago, PL was a family-owned company known for being fair to its workers and for being as sustainable as an industrial forestry company can be (which isn’t terribly sustainable, but one of the first lessons you learn as an environmentalist is to savor bright spots – or less gloomy spots – where you find them). Then the owners decided to take the company public.

The company was soon taken over by a corporate raider named Charles Hurwitz, famous for proclaiming and actualizing his version of the Golden Rule: He who has the gold rules. Hurwitz has a long history of illegal and antisocial activities, stretching back to his early twenties, when he was forced to plead no contest to the Securities Exchange Commission for illegal stock market dealings. He later acknowledged looting New York-based Summit Insurance out



of \$400,000. Next he raided the pension fund of Simplicity Pattern, causing retirees’ benefits to drop from \$10,000/year to \$6,000/year. That company, under the new name MAXXAM, became the holding company through which Hurwitz has raided many other companies, bilking retirees, stockholders, and the public out of money, breaking unions, and eventually, as we’ll see, devastating the landscape of northern California. During the Savings and Loan scandal of the 1980s, Hurwitz and MAXXAM looted the United Savings Association of Texas, costing taxpayers \$1.6 billion to bail out. More than a billion of this money remains unaccounted for, despite (or perhaps because of) lukewarm prosecution by the United States Department of Justice.

Hurwitz used some of his ill-gotten gains to take over Pacific Lumber in northern California. One of the first things he did was raid the worker’s pension fund, taking \$55 million from retired loggers and millworkers. Then he began liquidating the company’s assets, including the world’s largest stands of privately-owned (well, actually corporate-claimed) old-growth redwoods.

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



Color pencil on paper artwork by Carolina Caycedo

Clean energy projects are some of the most concerning threats to the rights of Indigenous people worldwide.

Transition to “Clean” Energy Is Hurting Indigenous Communities

Deep Green Resistance (DGR) editor’s note: *The FPIC (Free, prior, and informed consent) and UNDRIP (UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) are international standards, that some companies have adopted into their policies. The FPIC is an international human rights principle that protect peoples’ rights to self-determination. UNDRIP delineates and defines the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples. Both of these are important principles that improve the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples. However, neither of these is legally binding, which has disastrous outcomes.*

Companies and countries alike are bypassing these principles in favor of profitable ventures, most recent of which are clean energy projects.

Right now, companies that advance the “clean” energy transition are threatening the land and the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and peas-

ants. Demand for minerals like copper and lithium is skyrocketing, as every economic sector is being transitioned towards the fourth industrial revolution. But Indigenous peoples need to have their right to a say in decisions affecting to their land. Ecosystems and people living with the land are being victimized to serve an economy that is desperately trying to save itself from collapsing.

This story is published as part of the Global Indigenous Affairs Desk, an Indigenous-led collaboration between Grist, High Country News, ICT, Mongabay, and Native News Online. This story was originally published by Grist.

By Sarah Sax
Grist via DGR News Service
August 21, 2023

When Francisco Calí Tzay, the United Nations special rapporteur

on the rights of Indigenous peoples, spoke at the 22nd United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or UNPFII, last week, he listed clean energy projects as some of the most concerning threats to their rights.

“I constantly receive information that Indigenous Peoples fear a new wave of green investments without recognition of their land tenure, management, and knowledge,” said Calí Tzay.

His statements – and those made by other delegates – at what is the world’s largest gathering of Indigenous peoples, made clear that without the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous people, these “green” projects have the capacity to seriously impede on Indigenous rights.

Free, prior and informed consent – known as FPIC – has always been an important topic at the UNPFII, but this year it’s taken on a renewed urgency.

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Photo: Max Wilbert

Protest against Thacker Pass lithium mine.

Mining projects and carbon offsets put pressure on Indigenous groups.

“The strong push is because more and more of climate action and targets for sustainable development are impacting us,” said Joan Carling, executive director of Indigenous Peoples Rights International, an Indigenous nonprofit that works to protect Indigenous peoples’ rights worldwide.

Indigenous peoples around the world are experiencing the compounding pressures of clean energy mining projects, carbon offsets, new protected areas, and large infrastructure projects on their lands as part of economic recovery efforts in the wake of Covid-19, according to The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs 2023 report.

Green colonialism threatens ecosystems.

As states around the world trend towards transitioning to “clean” energy to meet their national and international

climate goals, the demand for minerals like lithium, copper, and nickel needed for batteries that power the energy revolution are projected to skyrocket. The demand could swell fourfold by 2040, and by conservative estimates could pull in \$1.7 trillion in mining investments.

Although Indigenous delegates say they support “clean” energy projects, one of the issues is their land rights: more than half of the projects extracting these minerals currently are on or near lands where Indigenous peoples or peasants live, according to an analysis published in *Nature*.

This can lead to their eviction from territories, loss of livelihoods, or the deforestation and degradation of surrounding ecosystems.

“And yet [...] we are not part of the discussion,” said Carling. “That’s why I call it green colonialism – the [energy] transition without the respect of Indigenous rights is another form of colonialism.”

However, standing at the doorway of a just “clean” energy transition is FPIC, say Indigenous delegates. FPIC is the cornerstone of international human rights standards like the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, known as UNDRIP. Though more than 100 countries have adopted UNDRIP, this standard is not legally binding.

Companies and governments don’t abide by communities.

Because of this, delegates are calling on countries and companies to create binding policy and guidelines that require FPIC for all projects that affect Indigenous peoples and their lands, as well as financial, territorial, and material remedies for when companies and countries fail to do so.

However, there is some push back. The free prior, informed consent process can lead to a wide variety of outcomes including the right for com-

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munities to decline a highly profitable project, which can often be difficult for countries, companies, and investors to abide by, explains Mary Beth Gallagher, the director of engagement of investment at Domini Impact Investments, who spoke at a side event on shareholder advocacy.

Indigenous Sámi delegates from Norway drew attention to their need for legally enforceable FPIC protection as they continue to protest the Fosen Vind Project, an onshore wind energy complex on Sámi territory, that the country's Supreme Court ruled violated their rights.

"We have come to learn the hard way that sustainability doesn't end colonialism," said a Sámi delegate during the main panel on Tuesday.

Across the globe Indigenous peoples face eviction.

In the United States, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the People of Red Mountain, and members of the Fort McDermitt Tribe filed lawsuits against the federal Bureau of Land Management for approving the permits for an open-pit lithium mine without proper consultation with the tribes. In the Colombian Amazon, the Inga Indigenous community presented a successful appeal for lack of prior consultation from a Canadian company that plans to mine copper, molybdenum, and other metals in their highly biodiverse territory.

Consternation over governments and multinational companies setting aside FPIC has long extended over other sectors, like conservation and monoculture plantations for key cash crops. In Peru, the Shipibo-Konibo Indigenous peoples are resisting several large protected areas that overlap with their territory and were put in place without prior consultation. In Tanzania and Kenya, the Maasai are being actively evicted from their lands for a trophy hunting and safari reserve. Indigenous Ryukyuan delegates condemn the ongoing use of their

traditional lands and territories by the Japanese and U.S. governments for military bases without their free, prior, and informed consent.

Implementing the FPIC is truly sustainable.

While delegates put a lot of emphasis on the lack of FPIC, they put equal emphasis on FPIC as a crucial part of the long-term sustainability of energy projects.

"FPIC is more than just a checklist for companies looking to develop projects on Indigenous lands," said Carling. "It is a framework for partnership, including options for equitable benefit sharing agreements or memorandum of understanding, collaboration or conservation."

The focus at this year's conference has emphasized the growing role of FPIC in the private sector. Investors and developers are increasingly considering the inclusion of FPIC into their human rights due diligence standards. Select countries such as Canada have implemented UNDRIP in full, although First Nation groups have pointed out irregularities in how it is being implemented. The European Union is proposing including specific mandatory rights to FPIC in its corporate sustainability due diligence regulation. Side events at the UNPFII focused on topics like transmitting FPIC Priorities to the private sector and using shareholder advocacy to increase awareness of FPIC.

Gallagher of Domini Impact Investments said companies have a responsibility to respect human rights, which includes FPIC: "If they have a human rights commitment or they have a commitment in their policies not to do land grabs, we have to hold them to account for that."

Indigenous leadership is at the center of negotiations.

In 2021, the world's largest asset manager, BlackRock, published an expectation that companies "obtain

(and maintain) the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples for business decisions that affect their rights." Large banks like Credit Agricole have included FPIC in their corporate social responsibility policy. But in most cases, even when companies have a FPIC policy it doesn't conform to the standard outlined in UNDRIP and is not legally binding.

"It doesn't do the work it's supposed to do to protect self-determination," said Kate Finn, director at First Peoples Worldwide. "It becomes a check-the-box procedure that's solely consultations and stakeholder consultation instead of protection of rights and self-determination."

"If communities aren't giving their consent, a company has to respect that," said Gallagher, who added "There's obviously points of tension where investors have different agendas and priorities but ultimately, it's about centering Indigenous leadership and working through that."

Not properly abiding by FPIC can be costly to companies in countries that operate where it is a legal instrument. It comes with risks of losing their social operation to license and financial damages. According to a study by First Peoples Worldwide, Energy Transfer and the banks that financed the now-completed Dakota Access Pipeline, lost billions due to construction delays, account closures, and contract losses after they failed to obtain consent from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in the United States.

Ultimately, Indigenous people need to be part of decision-making from the beginning of any project, especially "clean" energy projects mining for transition minerals on their territories, said Carling. "For us, land is life, and we have a right to decide over what happens on our land."

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/colonialism/a-transition-to-clean-energy-is-hurting-Indigenous-communities>

Messages from Our Friends

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

Always enjoy what you bring us.
Love You,
Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Another informative issue Iona.
Thank you!
Love,
Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone,
Australia

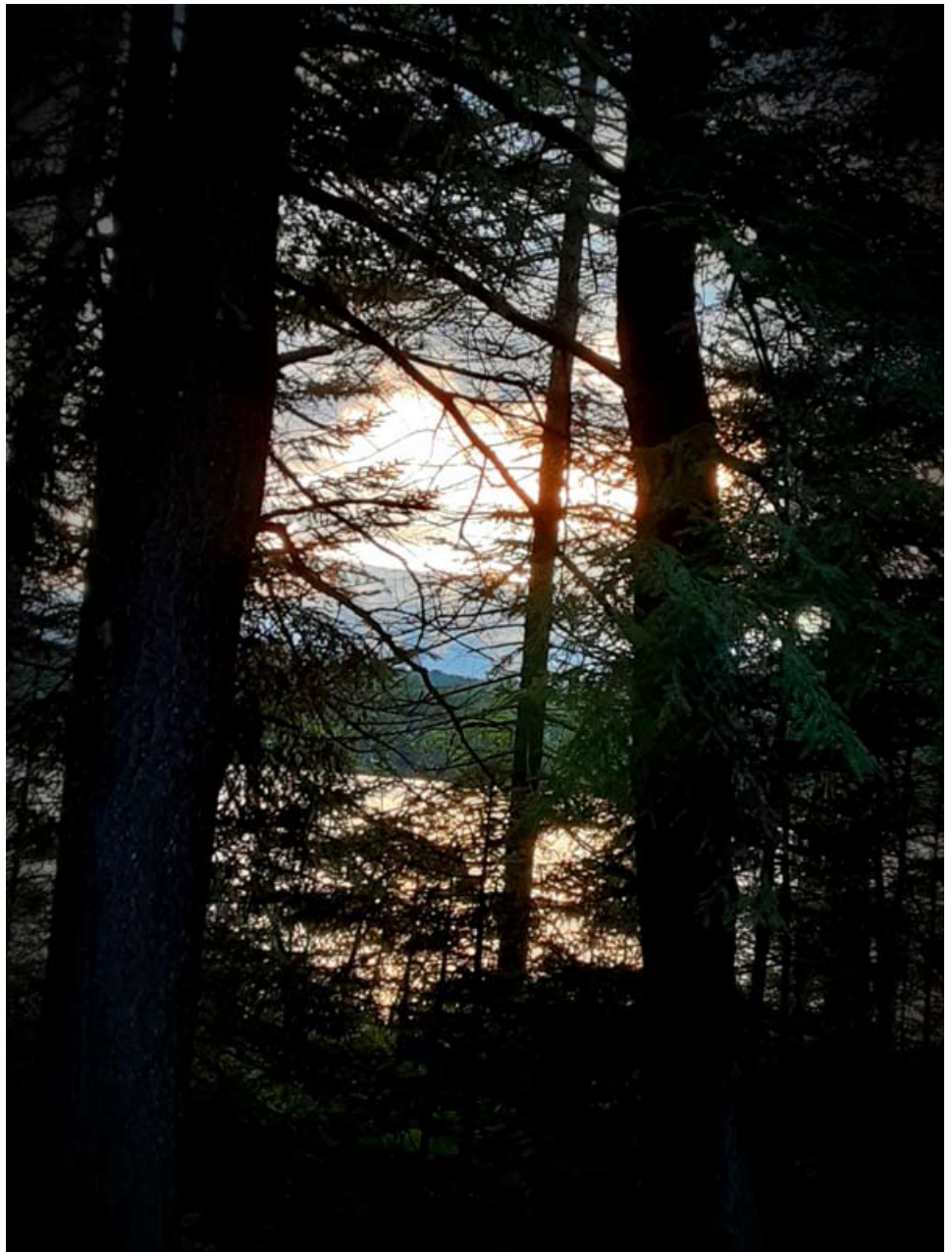
Beautiful story!
Love,
Ron & Linda Feagley
[more after sending an Action Alert
from Rainforest Action Network]
There is an old saying, whatever
floats your boat. It's good hearing
from you. Please take care of yourself.
Ron & Linda Feagley, Pennsylv-
ania USA

Perhaps I will although I've been
overwhelmed by this [social media].
You are good to focus on something
and avoid social media which scat-
ters us in 1000 directions. It's just
that we are all being overloaded. But
then people who don't care don't give
money or time to anything.

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

**Question: How do we
get people to CARE
about the
environment?
Looking for answers
from our readers!**

Please send me (Iona) your ideas
for this tough question to be
published as they come in. I'm
starting a serious investigation
about this as well as trying to
understand why there is so much
violence and destruction in our
world. Thank you.



Forever Wild: Adirondacks, New York State USA

Sunset August 26, 2023. The 6-million-acre Adirondack Park in upstate New York is larger than these four national parks combined – Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon. One of the unique things about this park is that all state-owned lands (approximately 45%), and the millions of trees on them, are actually protected by the state constitution. The line in the constitution reads as follows: “The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed.” This park is a paradise for lovers of trees, mountains, rivers, lakes, and all things Adirondack! Photo: Doug Davis