

# TreeHuggers United = Invincible!

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

Volume 14: September 13, 2023

## ‘Absolutely Devastating News’: Antarctica Warming Quicker Than Models Projected

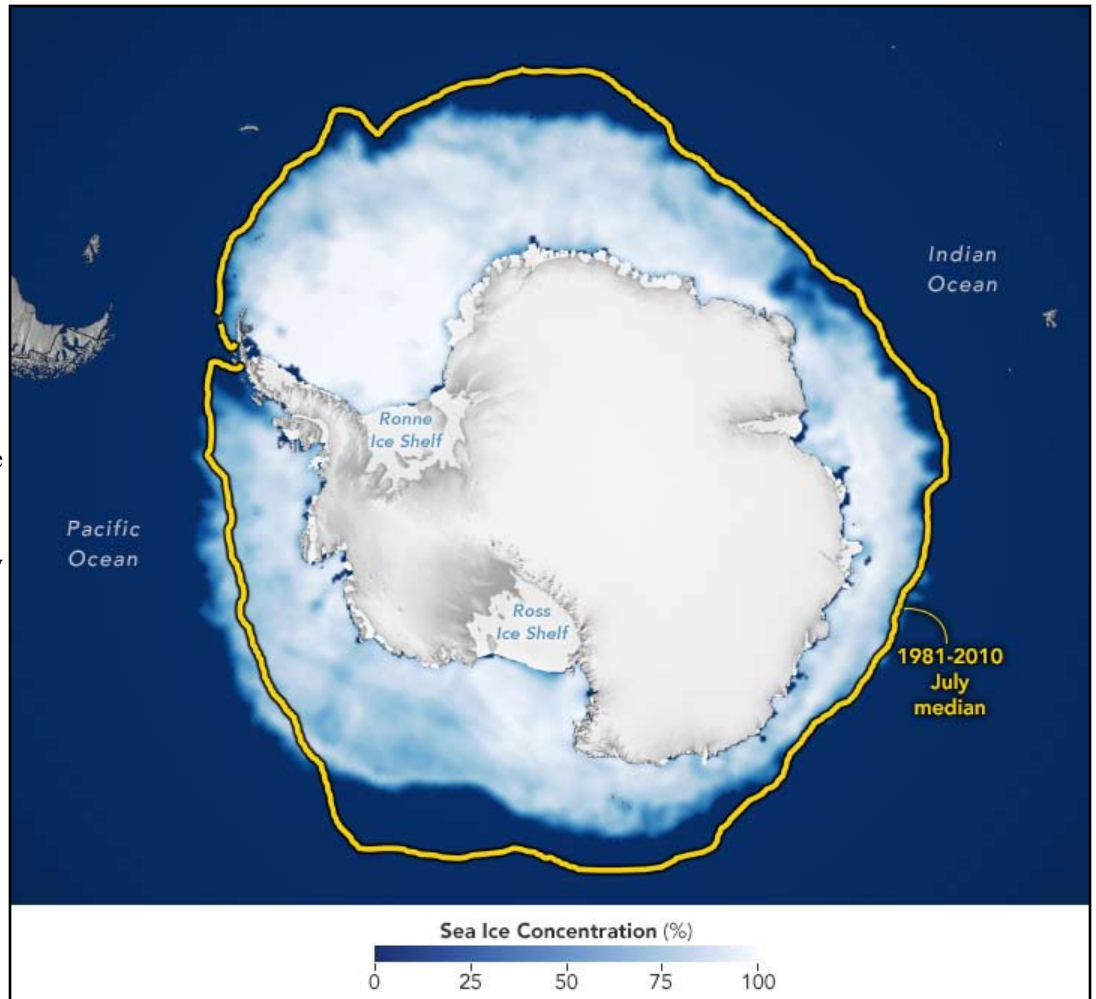
The new study’s lead author said that “it is extremely concerning to see such significant warming in Antarctica, beyond natural variability.”

By Jessica Corbett  
*Common Dreams*  
September 8, 2023

Antarctica is warming at about double the rate of the rest of the planet and far more quickly than widely cited models projected, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *Nature Climate Change* that swiftly alarmed scientists around the world.

“This is absolutely devastating news,” declared climate scientist and University College London professor emeritus Bill McGuire. “First, one has to wonder if perhaps we have already passed the West Antarctic collapse tipping point,” the expert added on social media. “Second, it begs the question, are other climate model projections underestimating the speed of climate breakdown?”

Polar amplification, a phenomenon that causes higher temperatures near the poles, is well established in the Arctic, with a study published last year showing that the northern region is warming nearly four times faster than the global average. However, it has



Graphic: NASA Earth Observatory

*Antarctica is in the depths of winter, yet the continent is surrounded by much less sea ice than scientists expected for this time of year. August 7, 2023*

been less clearly identified across Antarctica, where scientists must contend with limited available temperature records and natural climate variability.

Due to the lack of Antarctic weather stations covering more than the past six decades, the four researchers behind the new study – who come from various European institutions

– analyzed 78 ice cores to determine temperature variability over 1,000 years across seven regions.

The team found “direct evidence of Antarctic polar amplification at regional and continental scales,” which major climate models don’t show. The study states that, “Failing to consider

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the feedback loops causing polar amplification could lead to an underestimation of the magnitude of anthropogenic warming and its consequences in Antarctica.”

Lead author Mathieu Casado, of the *Laboratoire des Science du Climat et de l'Environnement* in France, told *The Guardian* that, “It is extremely concerning to see such significant warming in Antarctica, beyond natural variability.”

Kyle Clem, a scientist at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand who was not involved with the new research but has studied record high temperatures at one South Pole weather station, told the newspaper that, “The implications of this study are of particular importance for considering future changes in Antarctic sea ice, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and potentially even sea-level rise.”

“As far as sea-level rise, ocean warming is already melting protective ice shelves in West Antarctica and causing the West Antarctic ice sheet to retreat,” Clem said. He also highlighted the potential impact on coastal ice shelves that protect glaciers, explaining that, “This has already been seen

on the Antarctic peninsula in recent decades, and it could become a more widespread occurrence around Antarctica sooner than anticipated in a more strongly warming Antarctic climate.”

The research from Casado’s team was published the same day as a study about the West Antarctic ice sheet published in *The Cryosphere*.

“With more and more ice being lost in Antarctica over the last years, concerns have been raised whether a tipping point has already been crossed and an irreversible, long-term collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet has already been initiated,” noted lead author Ronja Reese of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany and England’s Northumbria University.

“The results of our studies deliver two messages: First, while a number of glaciers in Antarctica are retreating at the moment, we find no indication of irreversible, self-reinforcing retreat yet, which is reassuring,” Reese said. “However, our calculations also clearly indicate that an onset of an irreversible retreat of the ice sheet in West Antarctica is possible if the current state of the climate is sustained.”

The new studies follow findings

throughout this year that have elevated fears about the impact of human-caused global heating on Antarctica – from researchers revealing in February that Antarctic sea ice coverage hit its lowest January level ever recorded, to a May study that showed a 30% slowdown in vital deep water currents around the continent.

Research from last month warned it is “virtually certain that future Antarctic extreme events will be more pronounced than those observed to date” as humanity continues to burn fossil fuels, the key driver of the climate emergency. Another August study found that when Antarctic sea ice melted last year, it likely killed over 9,000 emperor penguin chicks.

Both Reese and Casado’s studies also cap off a week of alarming global data about the climate emergency. International researchers confirmed that greenhouse gas concentrations, global sea level, and ocean heat content broke records last year. Scientists also announced that this summer of deadly heat is the hottest on record.

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/antarctica-global-warming>

## How to Subscribe

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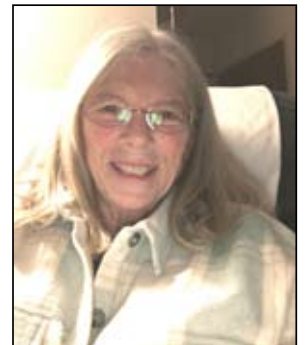
I’d like to see this be a team effort as it has been

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](mailto:dosomething@pa.net). Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth and the Trees,

*Iona*



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Photo: Josh Yoder/Look Loud

Freshly painted banners for the 'People vs. Fossil Fuels' protests are stored outside the White House prior to the start of a week of action from October 11 to October 15, 2021. 'A Reckoning': 500 Groups Endorse March to End Fossil Fuels.

## UN Puts Out 'Truly Damning Report Card' for Climate Action Before Global Summits

"This report is a wake-up call to the injustice of the climate crisis and a pivotal opportunity to correct course," said one expert.

By Jessica Corbett

*Common Dreams*: September 8, 2023

"The United Nations' polite prose glosses over what is a truly damning report card for global climate efforts. Carbon emissions? Still climbing. Rich countries' finance commitments? Delinquent. Adaptation support? Lagging woefully behind."

That's how Ani Dasgupta, president and CEO of the World Resources Institute, began his response to a "global stocktake" report released Friday by the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ahead of two global summits.

"This report is a wake-up call to the injustice of the climate crisis and a pivotal opportunity to correct course," Dasgupta continued. "We already knew the world is failing to meet its climate goals, but leaders now have a concrete blueprint underpinned by a mountain of evidence for how to get the job done."

"There are a few bright spots worth celebrating," he noted. "But overall, the report finds there are more gaps

than progress – gaps that can only be erased by transformational change across systems like energy, food, land, and transport. The future of our planet depends on whether national leaders use this stark assessment as a catalyst for bold systems transformation."

The UNFCCC report comes nearly eight years after countries finalized the Paris climate agreement, which aims to keep global temperature rise this century below 2°C, relative to preindustrial levels, with a more ambitious target of 1.5°C.

"The global stocktake was designed under the Paris agreement to assess our global response to the climate crisis and chart a better way forward," the UNFCCC explained Friday. "The global stocktake is held every five years and is intended to inform the next round of nationally determined contributions to be put forward by 2025."

Data collection began in 2021, ultimately resulting in more than 170,000 pages of written submissions and over 252 hours of meetings and discussions. The new synthesis report summarizes 17 key technical findings from the discussions.

"I urge governments to carefully study the findings of the report and

ultimately understand what it means for them and the ambitious action they must take next," said U.N. Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell. "It's the same for businesses, communities, and other key stakeholders. While the catalytic role of the Paris agreement and the multilateral process will remain vital in the coming years, the global stocktake is a critical moment for greater ambition and accelerating action."

As University College London professor of climatology Mark Maslin explained, the report "makes it clear that the Paris agreement was a game-changer" but also countries' greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction pledges are not in line with the 1.5°C target.

"The U.N. estimates that... we need to reduce global GHG emissions by 43% by 2030 and further by 60% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels and reach net-zero [carbon dioxide] emissions by 2050 globally," Maslin summarized. "This is a huge ask given that greenhouse gas emissions were at their highest level ever in 2022."

"All the technology exists to undergo the net-zero transformation but the huge increases in renewables, [electric

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vehicles], and batteries [have] to be even more rapid to make the huge cuts suggested by the U.N. – estimates are we need everything to happen five times faster,” he added.

The UNFCCC publication was released in preparation for the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP28) – scheduled for November and December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates – where the first global stocktake will conclude.

“This global stocktake report provides clear direction on how we can meet the expectations of the Paris agreement by taking decisive action in this critical decade,” said COP28 President-Designate Sultan Al Jaber – whose selection for the summit post is controversial because he also heads the UAE’s Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. “We must urgently disrupt business as usual and unite like never before to move from ambition to action and from rhetoric to real results.”

The report also comes just ahead of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres’ Climate Ambition Summit scheduled to begin on September 20 in New York City. In response, activists have planned the March to End Fossil Fuels on September 17.

Organizers of the NYC march are calling on U.S. President Joe Biden to stop federal approvals for new fossil fuel projects and repeal permits for “climate bombs” like the Willow project and the Mountain Valley Pipeline; phase out oil and gas drilling on public lands and waters; declare a climate emergency;

and provide a just transition.

Advocacy groups supporting the march issued fresh demands for action on Friday in response to the UNFCCC publication.

“This report makes clear that President Biden is squandering precious time every second he fails to take bold action on fossil fuels,” said the Center for Biological Diversity’s Jean Su, who previously authored a document detailing how an emergency declaration would empower the administration to tackle the climate crisis. “Every day we’re seeing and feeling the harms of fossil-fueled climate change from extreme heat to deadly wildfires and devastating floods.”

“As leader of the world’s largest oil and gas producer, Biden has more power than anyone to stop expanding the fossil fuels driving this deadly crisis,” Su added. “Ahead of the U.N.’s Climate Ambition Summit, thousands of people will be in the streets of New York on September 17 for the March to End Fossil Fuels. This is the perfect opportunity for Biden to declare a climate emergency, use all his executive powers to phase out fossil fuels, and finally secure a legacy as a climate leader.”

Greenpeace International policy coordinator Kaisa Kosonen on Friday called out governments across the globe, declaring that, “Our house is burning down and the people with the power to save us are still sipping coffee pretending it’s not happening.”

“No government can claim they didn’t know how to fix the climate

problem,” she said. “They’ve been thrown a lifesaver again and again by scientists, and now we have this report. What the world is waiting for is action, leadership. We need the biggest players to use their power to avert climate chaos, and to flex their muscle to protect human life rather than protecting corporate polluters.”

Looking toward COP28, Kosonen argued that, “At this year’s U.N. climate summit, governments must agree to end the use of oil, gas, and coal in a fast and fair way and make the polluters pay. Leaders can no longer smile and claim they support the Paris agreement and its 1.5°C warming limit, if they fail to give fossil fuels an end date and continue their expansion.”

“The solutions are ready – renewables are now the cheapest power source – but we’ve got to push the fossil fuel industry out of the way,” she stressed. “Fossil fuel corporations are holding us hostage, but their time’s up.”

The UNFCCC report and resulting calls for action follow a series of scientific findings throughout the week that also generated demands for a swift end to fossil fuels, including that Antarctica is warming more quickly than models project, this summer is the hottest on record, and last year greenhouse gas concentrations, global sea level, and ocean heat content all hit record highs.

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/un-global-stocktake-report>

**ABOUT THE MARCH:** The March to End Fossil Fuels will be held on September 17 in New York City. The New York City march is part of a mass global escalation to end fossil fuels, with mobilizations occurring around the world. The march will be held ahead of the United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Ambition Summit in New York City, the first-ever climate summit where countries are expected to present fossil fuel phaseout plans and commit to no new fossil fuel production. More information at [endfossilfuels.us](http://endfossilfuels.us).



Photo: Stop the Money Pipeline

1,300+ Scientists Urge JPMorgan Shareholders to Vote for End to New Fossil Fuel Financing. “It’s time for big banks to listen to the science and stop funding climate destruction,” said one advocate.

## Climate Campaigners Decry ‘Absolutely Horrendous’ Brutality Against Protesters at Fed Summit

By Brett Wilkins  
*Common Dreams*: August 25, 2023

Climate campaigners on Friday condemned the violent takedown of activists during a demonstration at the annual Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium in Wyoming, an elite gathering where U.S. Federal Reserve officials, central bankers from around the world, economists, and policymakers meet, mingle, and craft financial policies that critics say are exacerbating the planetary emergency.

Multiple videos posted on social media by the direct-action group Climate Defiance show law enforcement officers slamming a pair of activists on a hard floor as they chant, “End fossil finance” at the conference, which is hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. This year’s theme is “Structural Shifts in

the Global Economy.”

One activist – 25-year-old Teddy Ogborn of the group Planet Over Profit – was arrested, while other demonstrators were cited for criminal trespass, according to Eren Can Ileri, a policy advocate at the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition.

“I’m feeling a little sore but in pretty high spirits just thinking about the fact that someone has to be confronting these financial regulators who are actively choosing to fuel the climate crisis and burning the Rocky Mountains, where I’m from,” Ogborn told *Common Dreams*. “I am part of a global movement of young activists who see the world around us and know that progress is not being made fast enough on climate change,” he continued. “People are climate laggards, they


are climate delayists, they’re climate deniers, and all that together means death in the near term for our futures and society as we know it.”

“People want to do business as usual,” Ogborn added. “Financial regulators have billionaire friends who want to watch the world burn from space. And so we have no choice but to take direct action to put our bodies on the line because petitions, sign-waving, and chanting – we tried that for the past 50 years and it hasn’t worked – and we’re out of time.”

Ileri, who was also at the protest, told *Common Dreams*, “We tried to exert our democratic rights today. We tried to peacefully, nonviolently, and constructively engage the Federal Reserve on policy positions we believe are needed to save our futures.”

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## Cork Fabric Is a Sustainable Material Worth Embracing

By Gabriella Sotelo, *excerpt*   
Treehugger (not Iona): August 24, 2023

Plastic has become ubiquitous in the material world, thanks much in part to its low cost and durability. Unfortunately, those attributes are also the problem. Plastic takes centuries to decompose and is polluting every realm of the planet.

For textiles, non-plastic options are easy enough to come by. For more durable goods where leather is generally used, consumers have a choice between vegan leather, generally made of plastic – or an animal product. For many of us, neither option is desirable. Enter cork leather!

Cork fabric is a natural material or leather substitute that is made from the

cork oak tree. The bark harvested from the oak tree regenerates after the cork is stripped, making it a sustainable and biodegradable resource, and almost all cork products can be recycled.

Cork fabric is light, impermeable, compressible, and has low thermal conductivity. Cork material is used as a building material, in musical instruments, in rockets as insulation, packaging, shoes, furniture, and more recently, clothing and accessories.

The cork oak species (*Quercus Suber*) is native to the western Mediterranean basin. Portugal and Spain are the largest producers of cork. Portugal produces around 100,000 tons of cork per year, while Spain produces almost 62,000 tons. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.treehugger.com/what-is-cork-fabric-sustainable-material-5192626>

**Photo:** Cork Oak by Jim Robbins



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They showed us they were not open to conversation through their violence toward our activists but also by whisking the Fed chair away when we tried to approach him conversationally.”

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell once again took a hawkish stance during a speech in which he said that, “Although inflation has moved down from its peak – a welcome development – it remains too high,” and that the Fed is “prepared to raise rates further if appropriate.”

Powell did not address the climate emergency or the role central banks play in fueling it. Ileri asserted that, “By isolating themselves from communities facing the real economy impacts of the climate crisis,” Powell and other central bankers “are allowing themselves to define risk in a way that doesn’t match the risks that normal Americans face on a day-to-day basis due to the climate breakdown.”

Stop the Money Pipeline co-director and San Francisco Board of Supervisors candidate Jackie Fielder responded to the heavy-handed police tactics by telling *Common Dreams* that, “It’s absolutely horrendous how security and

law enforcement would assault young climate activists who are simply calling out climate denialism at the Fed.”

The direct action came as a coalition of more than 70 climate advocacy groups from around the world on Friday called on policymakers – especially in the banking and insurance sectors – to:

- Adopt a precautionary approach to risk mitigation, given climate change’s tipping points and unpredictable tail risks;
- Design capital buffers that specifically take into account the systemic risks of climate change; and
- Require the use of forward-looking tools, such as transition plans, which can help both authorities and market participants better understand and mitigate their own climate-related transition risks, as well as improve understanding of aggregated, systemic risks, and promote accountability.

“Any symposium entitled ‘Structural Shifts in the Global Economy’ without a single mention of climate disasters and the billions they have cost everyday people and local economies should concern every American with a pension who agrees that climate

change is here,” Fielder said in a separate statement.

Akiksha Chatterji, lead campaigner at Positive Money U.S., a research and campaigning group “working to reimagine money, banks, and our economy for the well-being of people, communities, and the planet,” said that “regulators are failing to act at the scale or pace necessary to curb the significant financial stability threats arising from climate change and fossil fuel financing.”

“Rest assured, climate risks will materialize, and we simply cannot quantify the precise nature and timing of these impacts as they are complex and ever-changing,” she continued. “Emergency measures taken after a climate-driven financial crash may not suffice to contain such a meltdown.”

“It’s time,” Chatterji added, “for the regulators and officials at this symposium to adopt a precautionary approach to climate and do their jobs before another financial crisis ensues.”

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/jackson-hole-economic-policy-symposium>

# African Climate Leaders Say Nairobi Summit Fell Victim to Corporate Interests, False Solutions

“The solutions do not lie with private capital and the age-old profit driven model,” said one advocate.

By Julia Conley

*Common Dreams*: September 8, 2023

The historic Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya this week marked the first time leaders from across the continent convened to focus on the climate crisis, but campaigners on Friday said the voices of the most vulnerable were largely silenced during the three-day summit while leaders drafted a declaration that critics say fell prey to “distracting false solutions.”

While the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action was applauded by advocates for its call to boost Africa’s renewable energy capacity to 300 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, critics said leaders across the continent showed they are still too eager to bend to the interests and desires of the fossil fuel industry and its financial backers.

The Declaration’s demands include:

- A global carbon tax on fossil fuels, maritime transport, and aviation;
- Financial reforms to help fund climate action in Africa and the end of a system in which African countries are forced to pay more to borrow climate funds, leading to recurrent debt crises; and

- Stronger regulations of the harvesting and processing of the continent’s minerals.

But groups including the think tank Power Shift Africa (PSA) said the commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars by international governments and development banks for carbon markets initiatives were “essentially, a diversion, and even wastage, of money that could go into investment in real climate solutions.”

PSA called the African Carbon Market Initiative “a wolf in sheep’s cloth-



Photo: PowerShiftAfrica.org

Power Shift Africa called the African Carbon Market Initiative “a wolf in sheep’s clothing” in a report released this month, warning that “polluters and investors” have for decades promoted carbon markets – in which fossil fuel companies claim to “offset” emissions by investing in conservation initiatives or sustainability – but the system enables “the wealthy to continue polluting, while giving an illusion of commensurate carbon neutralization through questionable accounting methodologies.”

ing” in a report released this month, warning that “polluters and investors” have for decades promoted carbon markets – in which fossil fuel companies claim to “offset” emissions by investing in conservation initiatives or sustainability – but the system enables “the

wealthy to continue polluting, while giving an illusion of commensurate carbon neutralization through questionable accounting methodologies.”

As *Al Jazeera* reported, the continent earns less than \$10 per ton of

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carbon removed from the atmosphere in its existing market initiatives, while other regions can receive over \$100.

Joab Bwire Okanda, a senior adviser at Christian Aid, welcomed the Declaration's call for a global carbon tax but told the *BBC* that, "To make polluters really pay, false solutions like carbon credits that allow polluters a free ride without taking meaningful action need to be consigned to the dustbin."

350.org said the summit should have ended with a renewable energy commitment that was far greater than 300 GW by the end of the decade, calling for 11,000 GW – "the level required to limit global heating to 1.5°C" over preindustrial levels.

"This is a good starting point, but it falls short of expectations," said Charity Migwi, regional campaigner for 350Africa.org. "As Africans grapple with the debilitating impacts of the climate crisis, African leaders engage in rhetoric and false solutions such as fossil gas and carbon markets that seek to delay meaningful climate action and the much-needed just transition away from fossil fuels, that is central to the fight against the climate crisis. African nations must walk the talk in regards to limiting global warming by shunning fossil fuels."

Zaki Mamdoo, campaign coordinator for StopEACOP, which aims to end French oil company TotalEnergies' East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, said the Nairobi Declaration "says little about the need to halt the development of new fossil

fuels on the continent," even after a Human Rights Watch report in July showed the project has threatened the homes of more than 100,000 people in Tanzania and Uganda, caused food insecurity, and pushed children to leave school while also likely having "devastating environmental effects."

"This summit has provided a platform for governments to flirt with big business while [advocacy groups], trade unions, [and] youth organizations are confined to the fringes with little influence on the outcome of high-level deliberations," said Mamdoo. "If we are to use the crisis of climate as an opportunity to simultaneously uplift our people out of poverty and ensure the well-being of all – then we need the interests of these groups to be at the forefront of decision-making. The solutions do not lie with private capital and the age-old profit driven model."

Others agreed that "local voices" of people who have been most impacted by the climate emergency were missing from the summit.

"Their stories of hope, perseverance, suffering, and disaster were glaringly absent, hidden away behind security barriers and military armament," said Yegeshni Moodley, climate and energy justice campaign lead for Friends of the Earth South Africa. "The use of top-down, technocratic false solutions negates the value of local knowledge and traditional practices that have sustained generations on their land. We must decry and lament the situation Africa has been placed into, where her

lands and riches are once again being sold away to the distress and poverty of her people."

As *Common Dreams* reported earlier this month when the summit opened, a report by Oxfam found that wealthy nations have provided a small fraction of what East Africa needs to fight and adapt to the climate crisis – just \$2.4 billion in aid in 2021, compared with the \$53.3 billion needed annually to meet the targets of the Paris climate agreement.

People across the continent are facing the effects of the climate crisis, which has been blamed for a famine in Madagascar and has forced more than 1 million people in Somalia to leave their homes as a prolonged drought has overtaken the country.

Advocates say that Africa must be recognized as a key ally in providing solutions to the climate emergency rather than cast aside as a victim.

"Our leaders need to know that people across Africa are waking up to what needs to be done," said Essokl-nam Pedessi of the Renewable Energy Coalition in Togo. "We are calling for less talk and more action. We need to break away from the failed approaches and distracting false solutions. Africa has abundant wind and solar to power up for 100% renewable energy."

"What it needs," she added, "is climate funding to unlock this potential."

**Source:** <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/africa-summit-carbon-credits>

**Peace, in its most fundamental form,  
is the connection of one human spirit to another.**

~ Bishop Desmond Tutu ~



## Strangely Like War

### The Global Assault on Forests

(2003)

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 30-32*

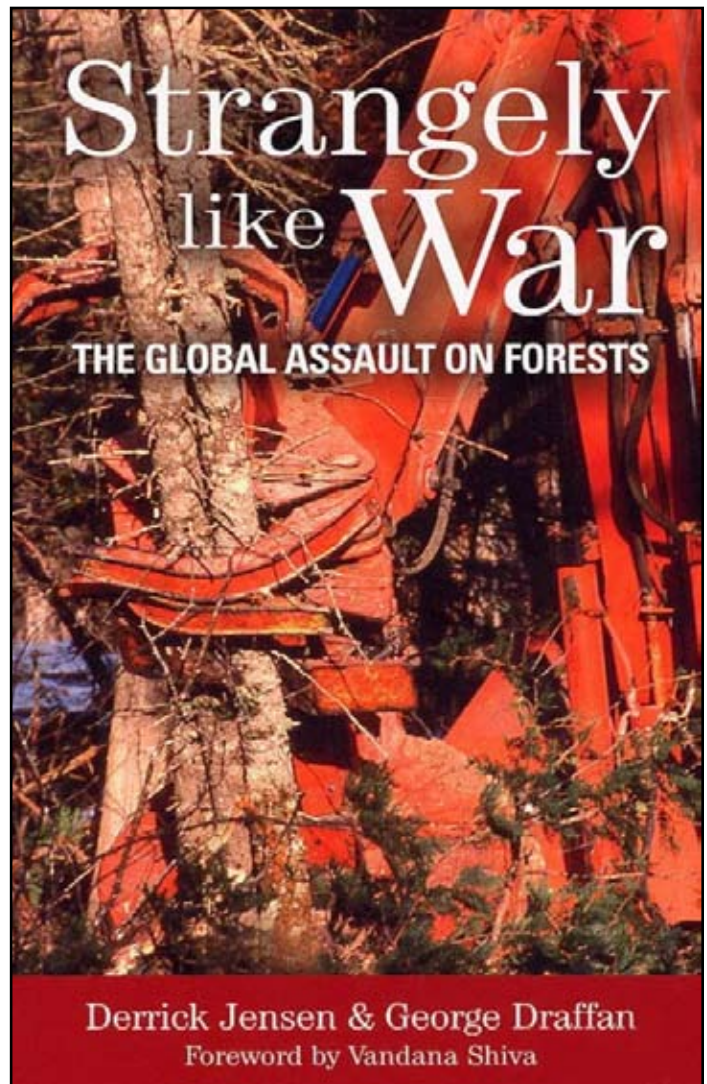
In this book, 'I' refers to the primary author, Derrick Jensen, and 'we' refers to both authors.

Simultaneously, his [Charles Hurwitz's] long-time partner-in-crime and number two man at MAXXAM, Barry Munitz, resigned to become Chancellor of the California State University System. They got a pet state Senator, Barry Keene, to secure the passing of a resolution creating the Center for the Resolution of Environmental Disputes, at the head of which would be, you guessed it, the Chancellor of the California State University System. Moreover, Pacific Lumber (PL) donated \$61,000 to California Governor Gray Davis. Davis then solicited and received a \$15,000 contribution from MAXXAM for one of Davis's political pals right when California was considering regulatory action against the company for water quality violations. You may have heard of this tactic under its street name: shake-down. It is commonly stated in California that Gray Davis is an honest politician, by which it's meant that when he's bought he stays bought. That's certainly true in this case: the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, with members appointed by Governor Davis, has repeatedly deferred action on water quality matters pertaining to PL.

PL routinely breaks state and federal law. Even with regulatory agencies in its pocket, it's been cited hundreds of times for violations of Forest Practices Rules, the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and so on. Mudslides from PL clearcuts have destroyed (human) homes. They've destroyed water supplies for (human) communities. A few years ago, after a logger threatened to kill protesters ("Ohh-hhh, fuck!" he is caught screaming on videotape, "I wish I had my fuckin' pistol! I guess I'm gonna just start packin' that motherfucker in here. 'Cause I can only be nice so fuckin' long") the logger actually did drop a tree on one of them, David Chain, making good his threat. The logger was never arrested. Indeed, Humboldt County sheriffs assaulted and arrested environmentalists instead, and the local district attorney issued an opinion that the environmentalists themselves should be charged with manslaughter.

Meanwhile, the cutting continues.

To much fanfare, and over the objections of local environmentalists, more of Hurwitz's pet senators, federal this time, notably Diane Feinstein, pushed through a deal that gave Hurwitz \$380 million in exchange for 7,500 acres (3,035 hectares) of redwoods. Even more important to Hurwitz than the money, if such a thing is possible, was that



as part of the bargain, the feds agreed to allow Hurwitz to deforest another 46,000 acres (18,615 hectares), including 2,000 acres (809 hectares) of old growth, over the next 10 years. Hurwitz will also be allowed to deforest much of the rest of the 200,000 acres (80,937 hectares) claimed by PL, including 8,500 (3,440 hectares) acres of old growth, over the next 50 to 100 years. Further, the deal waived compliance with the Endangered Species Act in many areas, tantamount to giving PL a 50-year permit to kill endangered species.

Local environmentalists sued over that deal, and in the three years since, PL and the government agencies that protect it have refused to hand over the applicable records to the court, presumably because of what they would reveal about the deal and the effects of PL's logging were they to become public. Finally, a judge issued a stay on all PL logging associated with the deal until documentation was released.

*To be continued next time. For a copy of this book, contact Derrick directly at [derrick@derrickjensen](mailto:derrick@derrickjensen).*

# What's New? Allen Hengst's News Briefs Page

**Note from Iona:** Allen was our Wire Editor for many years, supplying stories and doing the final proofing of my various global warming newspapers. He has added emphasis to important words and phrases; we are publishing these briefs under the Fair Use law.

## Fukushima Fears: 92% of South Koreans Reduce Seafood Consumption

By Raphael Rashid

*Al Jazeera*: August 28, 2023

SEOUL, South Korea – Lee Jae-seok, the owner of a barbecued eel restaurant in Seoul's Seongdong district, is anxious. After struggling through the Covid-19 pandemic, Lee's livelihood is in the firing line yet again following Japan's decision to release treated water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant. Despite the scientific **consensus** that Japan's plan does not pose a risk to the public, many South Koreans are not convinced that seafood and fish are safe. In a recent survey by Consumers Korea, 92.4 percent of respondents said they would reduce their consumption of seafood after the release. "Of course I'm concerned," Lee told *Al Jazeera*. "It's not just about my business; it's about the entire seafood industry," he said. "Negative perceptions could lead to a decline in seafood consumption across the board. That would hit us all hard. I worry about the ripple effect this issue might have on the entire market. . . ."

**Source:** <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2023/8/28/south-koreas-seafood-sellers-reel-as-science-fails-to-ease-fukushima-fears>

## 19th-Century Legacy: Pineapple Plantations Turned Maui into **Tinderbox**

By Claire Wang

*The Guardian*: August 27, 2023

In the late 18th century, when the Hawaiian Kingdom became a sovereign

state, Lahaina carried such an abundance of water that early explorers reportedly anointed it "Venice of the Pacific." A glut of **natural wetlands** nourished breadfruit trees, extensive taro terraces, and fishponds that sustained wildlife and generations of Native Hawaiian families. But more than a century and a half of plantation agriculture, driven by American and European colonists, have depleted Lahaina's streams and turned biodiverse food forests into tinderboxes. Today, Hawaii spends \$3 billion a year **importing up to 90%** of its food. This altered ecology, experts say, gave rise to the 8 August blaze that decimated the historic west Maui town and killed more than 111 people. "The rise of plantation capital spawned the *drying* of the west side of Maui," said Kamana Beamer, a historian and a former member of the Hawaii commission on water resource management, which is charged with protecting and regulating water resources. "You can see the link between extractive, **unfettered capitalism** at the expense of our natural resources and the ecosystem..."

**Source:** <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/27/maui-wildfire-water-plantations-ecology>

## Climate Solutions: Countries Begin Granting Wild Animals **Legal Rights**

By Teresa Tomassoni

*Washington Post*: August 26, 2023

ARMILA, Panama – It was just past midnight when marine conservation biologist Callie Veelenturf spotted the telltale tiny zipperlike trails in the sand on a remote Caribbean beach. Under the beams of red-light headlamps, she and a group of volunteers from the local Indigenous Guna Yala community tracked the fresh imprints. "Aquí, Aquí!" yelled one of them in Spanish. "Here, here! They are trapped!" A pair of leatherback sea turtle hatchlings

wriggled inside a cracked white plastic bucket turned on its side, fluttering their minuscule flippers in a desperate attempt to escape. "Take a picture," said Veelenturf, founder of the Leatherback Project, a conservation nonprofit. "That can maybe be used as evidence someday." These hatchlings have legal rights in Panama. A law passed by the country's National Assembly earlier this year guarantees sea turtles the right to thrive in a healthy environment, a protection until now typically reserved for humans. Panama is part of a growing list of countries and communities around the world latching on to the *Rights of Nature* movement, which seeks to grant wildlife a similar legal status to that of individuals and companies. While the strategy has so far been mostly used to protect whole ecosystems, such as forests and rivers, advocates of wild animals are starting to deploy it as well, hailing it as an essential tool to combat the **biodiversity crisis**. Despite existing environmental protections, the world continues to lose animal species at an alarming pace. "We're still looking at this crazy increasing extinction rate," said Nicholas Fromherz, an international wildlife law expert at the Lewis & Clark Law School's Global Law Alliance for Animals & the Environment, a group of legal experts that focuses on protecting animals. "All these other protections just aren't enough." Unlike more traditional animal protections, which usually kick in when a species is threatened or endangered, rights of nature laws are meant to **prevent** that from happening. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/08/26/leatherback-turtle-nature-rights-panama/>

**Contact Allen** at [ahengst@verizon.net](mailto:ahengst@verizon.net) to be placed on either his Climate or Political (USA) email list – or both! These are simply briefs but Allen's actual work is much more thorough and extensive – and very important!

# Messages from Our Friends

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

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

**Hi Iona,**

Here are my thoughts. I was a Boy Scout leader for 28 years. The boys took the environment very seriously. They camped in the woods and left their campsite cleaner than they found it.

We as adults must take time and physically teach young people. The United States is doing a good thing. But we are going to extreme measures that make no sense. One example doing away with ceiling fans. I would not take time and the scouts time to teach this.

I am 79 years old and believe in common sense (not stupid things). The Boy Scouts of America teach about mother nature. We as one nation can not save the world. As for the other nations, they must get there act together and do the right thing. Thank

you Iona for all the good you do.

Your friend forever,  
**Ron Feagley**, Pennsylvania USA

**Iona,**

I'd rather not waste precious time communicating with people (principally greedy capitalist wing-nuts) who don't care about the environment. IMO, there aren't any rational people – regardless of their occupation, political persuasion, or station in life – who don't already passionately “care about the environment” where we all live. Maybe your question should more productively ask:

1) *How do we get people to care enough about the environment to actually do something – anything – to help protect it from further harm?*

Once we succeed in moving others to care that much, the next logical

follow-up question must be:

**“What” specifically** should we ask them to do?

I can't wait to see how your other readers respond to this open-ended query.

**Allen Hengst**, Washington DC USA

I garden for wildlife and when neighbors see the birds, bees, and butterflies in my yard they probably see how making small changes can mean a great deal to wildlife. I also have signs telling my neighbors why I garden this way. A birder friend read Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* and realized he wasn't helping birds in his yard, so now he has a wildlife habitat garden.

**Marney Bruce**, Maryland USA

See photo below for Marney's signs.

**Messages continued on next page**



**Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act.**

~ Rebecca Solnit ~

**Continuation from previous page**

Your publication is not only informative it is stunningly beautiful!

Earth Care/Earth Share – ethics, environment, and economics – all go together. We cannot have justice in Africa with hegemonic imperialism ongoing. This is where the economics comes in.

**Alanna Hartzok**, Pennsylvania USA

These are great! Thanks again for All You Do!

For Us All,

**Jeannette Bartelt**, Maryland USA

Read most of *TreeHuggers*. The article about the Ugandan forest and birds made me think about the beautiful gorillas that are so endangered also in Uganda.

Makes me crazy when I read about how the climate change is affecting the Earth... getting worse and worse.... well the part that makes me crazy is that so many people here think it's all a bogus idea from the liberal Democrats! Isn't that insane! So many people don't care. So, keep up the great work making people aware!!!!!!

**Linda L.**, Idaho USA

The topics have been particularly relevant for some of my interests!

Thanks, Iona.

**MaryAnn Sorensen Allacci**, New Jersey USA

Check out this article:

If the mass extinction of insects isn't reversed, it will decimate the entire food chain, threaten crop pollination, and generally cause havoc.

<https://wapo.st/3PoD4uo>

**Marney Bruce**, Maryland USA

Hi IONA, Great news\* and keep up the good work you're doing.

**Ron & Linda Feagley**, Pennsylvania USA

\*From Rainforest Action Network: "The palm oil industry has made a pact to end deforestation and respect Indigenous customary rights in East Aceh, Sumatra."

Outstanding! Let's just hope they keep their promise (always the skeptic).

**David Hunter Bishop**, USA

Apologies for the delay: Hopelessly overloaded....

Your question about children: Believe it or not, I decided at a very young age I would never have children.

I knew only too well how horrendously they are treated and with all the violence in the world (including overtly in Africa and elsewhere) it just seemed more fruitful for me to work out some answers to important questions.

Fortunately, Anita had her own reasons and agreed with me.

Anyway, it is great that you can remember your own childhood, reflect on your own parenting, and observe how your grandchildren are being parented.

It isn't comfortable, is it, but when is the last time meaningful change was 'comfortable'?

Thank you for acknowledging the gift. Needless to say, most people run a mile!

Hence, little can change.

Love,

**Robert Burrowes**, Australia

Robert has only just drawn this to my attention. (He's a bit hectic!)

Hope you enjoy(ed) the article.

If people could actually feel and express their feelings about what happens to them, the world would be a much better place.

We did a whole website on it (which you might know about): Feelings First <https://feelingsfirstblog.wordpress.com/>

Love,

**Anita McKone**, Australia

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

**To my TreeHuggers readers,**

Thank you for being there as recipients of the good and sometimes not-good stories I collect for you. I'm

even more grateful for the stories you submit to me. Although I create these newspapers for you, they have turned out to be primarily for me, to keep my spirits up in the face of ever-increasing calamities cause by us humans and the ungodly consequences of global warming, or more currently called global boiling. Everything is getting hotter and more disastrous by the day. You know that as well as I do; we just respond differently. You do your work and I do mine.

YOU, however, help keep me going when you send encouraging emails. I know you also struggle with despair and frustration and those of you in Africa have to deal with so much harder situations than we here in America do. For you, just keeping alive can be its own challenge whether from lack of food or civil war or from the powerful backlash corporate and government "employees" hoist upon people who protest peacefully or criticize their merciless, ruthless ways to steal our/your resources.

I've been thinking a lot about violence recently and will be studying its roots so that I can, in the end, do my best to formulate a strategy for helping us dig deeper into the causes and work to prevent them. Preventing violence complements our efforts to stop the destruction of our planet. It's all tied together. If we can work to bring hope, respect, and love to others who are different from us perhaps we will play a small role in guaranteeing the survival of all life.

As I type this, I think of the wonderfully different personalities and activities of my readers. Each one of you is precious to me whether you know it or not.

And so, I keep going because I care deeply about the fate of the Earth and our shared destiny. I'll be taking a 3-month break from publishing so that I can work on this while I'm taking Derrick Jensen's 3-month writing class, hoping to come back stronger.

Love, **Iona**