

Treehuggers United = Invincible

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

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


Volume 2: March 21, 2023



Photo: WorldAtlas.com 

Scenes of the Chipko Movement, one of the strongest movements to conserve forests in India. Women played an important role in making the Chipko Movement a successful endeavour to save the environment.

Risking Life To Save Trees: The Chipko Movement Of India, An Inspiration To The World

By Amber Pariona 
World Atlas: April 25 2017

**Idea Submitted by Robert Burrowes
Australia**

What Is The Chipko Movement?

The Chipko Movement began as a form of non-violent protest aimed at forest conservation in India. With time, it developed into an overall environmental movement, one of the first of its kind. The Chipko Movement was successful in exposing deforestation, spreading public environmental

education, and proving that organized people can achieve change.

Drawing attention to environmental issues worked to also draw attention to the challenges faced by indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. It particularly drew attention to the issues of women, who are most likely to feel the impacts of environmental degradation. In their daily lives, women are usually responsible for collecting firewood and water, both of which become scarce resources where deforestation occurs. Women

became a critical component in the Chipko Movement's reforestation efforts as well.

Today, the Chipko Movement is considered an ecofeminist movement. Advocates of ecofeminism try to show the relationship between capitalism (believed to be rooted in patriarchal ideals) and the abuse of nature. Its followers believe that this relationship promotes the oppression of females and other non-human objects seen as feminine (such as nature).

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Introducing a New/Old Column by Iona

The Go-Back Club: A Simple-Living Brigade

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.

Note from Iona: *I started The Go-Back Club several years ago aimed at helping my sister/fellow Americans give up the frivolous and deadly ways of life we have grown to accept as normal here. But when most of my readers were African activists, trying to establish the basic necessities of life in their communities, I dropped it because they didn't need to "go back."*

Now that I'm working here in New Jersey and developing new readers who are Americans, I feel that it's time to reinstitute this column to help alleviate the worsening conditions our lifestyles are creating like climate change, deep seabed mining, and now whale deaths off the Jersey coast in part (or perhaps totally) due to the construction of a wind farm on the ocean floor.

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon foot-

print grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are *"like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards,"* wrote Michael Mann (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change),

to John and Iona Conner about climate tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is the director of the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media.

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose."

Henry David Thoreau

Thomas Merton as quoted in *The Myth of Normal: Trauma, Illness, and Healing in a Toxic Culture* by Gabor Mate.

"We live in a society whose whole policy is to excite every nerve in the human body and keep it at the highest pitch of artificial tension, to strain every human desire to the limit and create as many new desires and synthetic passions as possible, in order to cater to them with the products of our factories and printing presses and movie studios and all the rest." (*The Seven Story Mountain*)

Please send us your stories and photos. We rely on our members' contributions. Thank you!

How to Subscribe and Contribute

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.

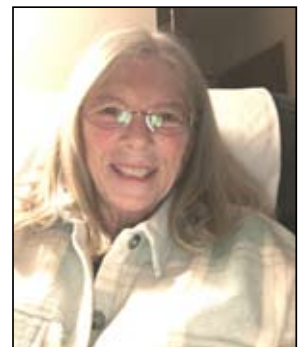
I'd like to see this become a team effort as it has

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 like using Zelle or PayPal, please reach my bank via dosomething@pa.net. Thank you!

For the Earth and the Trees,

Iona



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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





Photo: India Today Archives 

Chipko Movement pioneer Sunderlal Bahuguna dies of Covid-19 at AIIMS Rishikesh on May 21, 2021. Sunderlal Bahuguna was a life-long environmentalist and credited for pioneering the Chipko Movement in 1970s.

History of the Chipko Movement

The roots of the Chipko Movement date back to the Indian Forest Act of 1927, which limited the access that local communities had to forested land. With this limitation, rural communities living in poverty were unable to use the land for agricultural purposes. Additionally, high rates of deforestation resulted in erosion, soil degradation, and depleted water sources. These combined issues gave rise to increased rural to urban migration, particularly during the 1960's.

A small organization, the Dasholi Society for Village Self-Rule (DGSS, later: DGSM), was established in the town of Gopeshwar in the state of Uttarakhand. Its objective was to use local trees to craft farm tools for local communities. However, the organization was prohibited from effectively achieving its goal by restrictive forest regulations. Preference for forest use was given to large, sometimes foreign, organizations. Simultaneously, landslides and flooding became more common as

a result of large deforestation practices and by the early 1970's, villagers began organizing protest marches against Forest Department policies.

In 1973, the Indian government denied then-DGSS the permit to use 10 trees for farm tools. The government then approved Simon Company (a sporting goods company) to use 300 trees to create tennis rackets. When the Simon Company crew came to cut down the 300 trees, hundreds of villagers drove them off with protests, music, and blocked access. This moment, on April 24, 1973, is largely considered the first event of the Chipko Movement.

Tree Hugging

With the success of the villagers' non-violent protest, the government canceled the Simon Company contract and instead awarded it to DGSS. The forest protection movement spread and small communities fought against large government contracts. The movement culminated in 1974 when the government sold 2,500 trees near Reni village, despite protests.

The government then distracted DGSS workers, mainly men, by creating a false payment site in Chamoli, a different village. On March 25th, with the local men in a different village, contractors came to remove the 2,500 trees.

A young girl saw the contractors and ran off to inform the village leader, Gaura Devi. Devi then organized 27 village women to take actions. The contractors threatened them and refused to turn away, so the women were motivated to hug the trees. The women continued this all night until some of the loggers left and the DGSS workers returned. Word spread to neighboring villages and more people got involved in the tree hugging. Four days later, the rest of the loggers left.

Turning Point for the Chipko Movement

Because of the attention the 1974 event received, then-Chief Minister Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna looked into the incident further. He organized an in-

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Risking Everything to Defend the Rainforests of Borneo



[Email from Rainforest Action Network March 8, 2023]

Risks to land defenders everywhere are high – bullying, harassment, surveillance, arbitrary detention, assault, and even deadly violence. No one understands these risks more than women land defenders, who also face threats of gendered violence and discrimination by powerful, extractive systems that view them as second class citizens.

Kristina Yeq is an Indigenous leader fighting for her ancestral rainforests in Long Isun, Borneo. For years, the women of Long Isun have been at the forefront of efforts to defend their community's ancestral rainforests in East Kalimantan, Indonesia from Harita Group, a corporation closely tied to Oreomaker Mondelez International. But the women of Long Isun refuse to back down: Help them tell the CEO of Mondelez International to protect their rainforests.

This International Women's Day, will you add your name and support women defending Borneo's rainforests?

Add your name at https://act.ran.org/page/48940/action/1?ea.tracking.id=e_en&en_og_source=e_en&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=EngagingNetworks&utm

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vestigative committee, which later ruled in favor of the protestors. This decision was considered a huge success for the environmental movement the world over and inspired many activists to continue their fight against the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Growth of the Chipko Movement

The turning point in the Chipko Movement empowered women all over India to get involved in the protests against deforestation. Non-violent, tree hugging protests grew in numbers throughout various districts and after 10 years, it was being practiced throughout the Uttarakhand region. Locals began to insist on their right to have control over natural resources on their land.

The fight took more of an economical stance as Chipko protesters demanded that the government invest in local enterprises instead of allowing large, foreign entities to take advantage of the land. They pushed for the right to a minimum wage and spread the message that environmental exploitation was detrimental to their very survival.

This idea of the rural poor being more seriously affected by environmental degradation even provided a topic for academic research.

The Role of Women in the Chipko Movement

As previously mentioned, the Chipko Movement is often considered an ecofeminist movement and has largely grown and been successful due to the involvement of women. Women really brought attention to the wide range of social issues affected by environmental degradation and exploitation. They worked to create cooperative groups that looked after and protected large areas of forest and ensured sustainable local agricultural production. Additionally, they worked to replant trees and other plants in areas that had been destroyed by large exploitation projects. Because of their efforts, then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took note of the situation. In 1980, she enacted a 15-year ban against deforestation in the Himalayan region. The aim of this ban was to allow regrowth of the decimated forests there.

Legacy of the Chipko Movement

The Chipko Movement went on to influence other environmental protests, including movements against mining and river dam projects. Because of its success at winning back local lands, it became the bar against which other environmental movements across the world were compared and created.

The Chipko Movement also led to the creation of the Appiko Movement in the state of Karnataka, which also works to protect forests. The Chipko Movement legacy continues through recycling programs, water management policies, reforestation initiatives, and energy use. Additionally, many academic scholars and researchers have taken up the topic of environmental degradation and its social, environmental, and economic consequences, focusing on conservation issues in the Himalayan regions and elsewhere in India.

Source: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/risking-life-to-save-trees-the-chipko-movement-of-india-an-inspiration-to-the-world.html>

[**Note from Iona:** *I met Derrick Jensen briefly after one of his presentations about 20 years ago and immediately sensed the right-ness of what he was saying. Since that time, I have read many of his books and published excerpts so that his and his co-authors' Deep Ecology thoughts and feelings could be shared with others who love Earth and want to protect it. That's what I'm doing now. Global forests need us more than ever! This book was written in 2003 and things have only gotten worse, LOTS worse!*]

Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan,
Excerpt

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

Deforestation

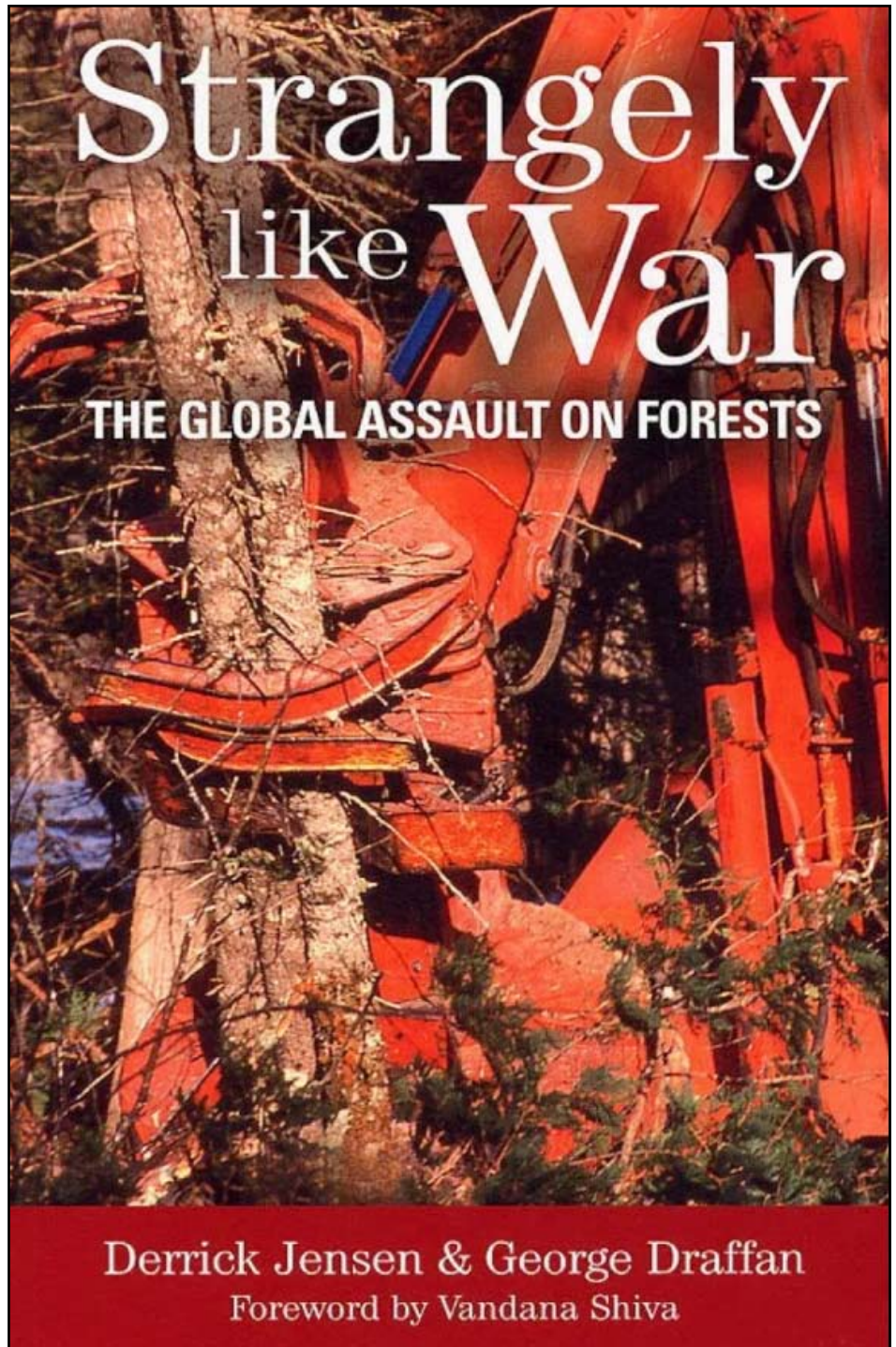
It was strangely like war. They attacked the forest as if it were an enemy to be pushed back from the beachheads, driven into the hills, broken into patches, and wiped out. Many operators thought they were not only making lumber but liberating the land from the trees. . . .

~ Murray Morgan, 1955 ~

The very day we wrote the final words of this book, scientists declared that yet another subspecies of tiger has gone extinct in the wild (with only captives remaining, so discouraged they're dosed with Viagra to try to make them breed). *Gone Extinct*. Such a passive way to put it, as though we know no cause, can assign no responsibility. It's almost as though we were to say that victims of murder *passed away*, or that victims of arson *decided to move*.

The South China tiger joins its cousins the Caspian tiger, Bali tiger, and Javan tiger, all victims of logging, roadbuilding, and the leveling of forests under this excuse or that. The other tigers will almost undoubtedly join them soon.

It doesn't matter much to the tigers whether the forests are cut because



Mao decided that "Man Must Conquer Nature," or whether the World Bank decided that "Man Must Develop Natural Resources." The forests are cut, the tigers dead.

#

The forests of the world are in bad shape. About three-quarters of the world's original forests have been cut, most of that in the past century. Much of what remains is in three nations: Russia, Canada, and Brazil. Ninety-five percent

of the original forests of the United States are gone.

We don't know how fast the surviving forests are disappearing. We don't know how many acres are cut each year in the United States, nor how much of that is old growth. We have estimates, and we'll give them through the book, but the paucity of information even on present levels of cutting reveals more than it hides: it reveals how desperately out of

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control is the whole situation.

The United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management sell trees from public forests – meaning they belong to you – to big timber corporations at prices that often do not even cover the administrative costs of preparing the sales, much less at full market value. For example, in the Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska, 400-year-old hemlock, spruce, and cedar are sold to huge timber corporations for less than the price of a cheeseburger, and taxpayers have paid for the building of the logging roads as well. The United States Forest Service loses hundreds of millions of dollars a year on its timber sale programs. In other words, if you pay taxes, you pay to deforest your own land.

If you live in the West, Southwest, South, Northeast, Midwest, Alaska, or anywhere else in the United States where there are or were forests, chances are good you've seen or walked clearcuts, sometimes square mile after square mile, cut, scraped, compacted, and herbicided. You've seen lone trees silhouetted on ridgelines, and you've seen once-dense forests reduced to a handful of trees per acre. You've suspected and later learned that these few trees were left so the Forest Service and big timber corporations could say, more or less truthfully, that they did not clearcut this particular piece of ground. And maybe you came back another time and saw that the survivors, too, were gone.

You've probably driven highways lined by trees, then pulled over to look around, only to discover that just like in old westerns, where false fronts hid the absence of real stores, you've been sold a bill of goods: a few yards of trees separate the road from yet more clearcuts. This fringe of trees, which reveals recognition on the part of timber corporations and government agencies that industrial forestry requires public deception, is ubiquitous enough to have been given a name: the beauty strip.

Do yourself – and the forests – a favor. Next time you fly over a once-forested

region on a clear day, look down. Pay attention to the crazy quilt of clearcuts you see below, to the red roads linking clearcuts and fragmenting forests, roads that wash out in heavy rains to scour streambeds and destroy fisheries.

Only 5 percent of native forest still stands in the continental United States. 440,000 miles of logging roads run through National Forests alone. (The Forest Service claims there are “only” 383,000 miles but the Forest Service routinely lies, keeping double books – a private set showing actual clearcuts, and a public set showing some of the same acres as old growth – attempting to mislead the public by labeling clearcuts “temporary meadows,” reducing the stated costs of logging roads by amortizing them over a thousand years, and so on). That's more road than the Interstate Highway System, enough road to drive from Washington, DC to San Francisco a hundred and fifty times. Only God and the forests themselves know how many miles of roads fragment forests altogether.

The forests of this continent have not always been a patchwork of dwindling and increasingly isolated natural communities. Prior to the arrival of our culture, unbroken forests ran along the eastern seaboard, leading to the cliché that a squirrel could have leapt tree-to-tree from the Atlantic to the Mississippi never having to touch the ground. Today, of course, it could still do so and never touch ground, but instead walk on pavement. Polar bears wandered as far south as the Gulf of Delaware, martens were “innumerable” in New England, wood bison cruised that region, passenger pigeons passed overhead in flocks that darkened the skies for days at a time, Eskimo curlews did the same, rivers and seas were so full of fish they could be caught by lowering a basket into the water. American Chestnuts ran from Maine to Florida so thick on the dry ridge-tops of the central Appalachians that when their crowns filled with creamy-white flowers the mountains appeared to be covered with snow.

Before European “settlement” – read conquest – of America, there was no such thing as “old-growth,” no such thing as “native forest,” no such thing as “ancient forest,” because *all* of the forests were mixed old growth, they were all native, they were all diverse, ancient communities.

Difficult as all of this may be to imagine, living as we do in this time of extraordinary ecological impoverishment, all of these images of fecundity are from near-contemporary accounts easy enough to find, if only we bother to look.

Worldwide, forests are similarly under attack. One estimate says that a hectare (two-and-a-half acres) of forest somewhere in the world is cut every second. That's equivalent to two football fields. One hundred-and-fifty acres cut per minute. That's 214,000 acres per day: an area larger than New York City. Seventy-eight million acres (121,875 square miles) deforested each year: an area larger than Poland.

The reasons for international deforestation are, as we'll explore in this short book, often similar to those for domestic deforestation. Indeed, those doing the deforesting are often the same huge corporations, acting under the same economic imperatives with the same political powers.

Apologists for deforestation routinely argue that because pre-conquest Indians sometimes “managed” forests by setting small fires to improve habitat for deer and other creatures, industrial “management” of forests – deforestation – is acceptable as well. But the argument is as false and unsatisfying as the beauty strips, and really serves the same purpose: sleight of mind to divert our attention from deforestation. The argument – unfortunately as common, also, as beauty strips – is analogous to saying that because someone once clipped a partner's fingernails that it's okay for us to cut those fingers off. . . .

To be continued next time. If you would like a copy of this book, please contact Derrick at derrick@derrickjensen.com.

Breton Woods Purchase in Brick OK'd by Ocean County Commissioners

By Karen Wall

NJ Patch, Brick: March 2, 2023

TOMS RIVER, NJ – William Guzzy has spent thousands of hours walking in the woods near his home in the Breton Woods section since his family moved to Brick Township in 1977, when he was a teenager.

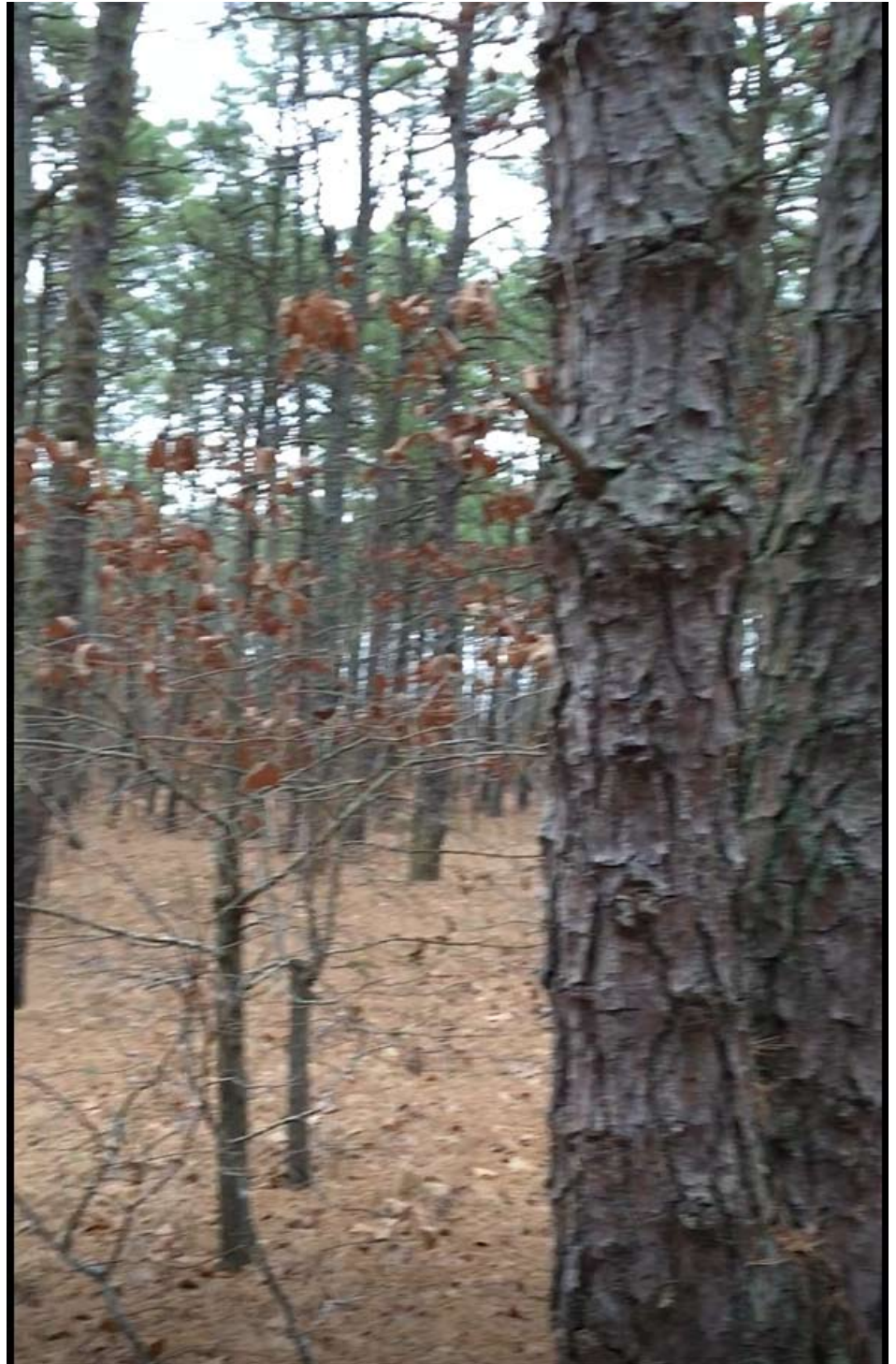
“I’ve raised my dogs there,” Guzzy said Wednesday as he addressed the Ocean County Board of Commissioners during a public hearing on a proposal to spend \$6.84 million to purchase the 31.6-acre wooded parcel that has been a second home.

“To think that kids will be able to go there and those woods will still be there 50 years from now,” Guzzy said, pausing as his emotions rose in his throat, “we can’t thank you enough. You just set a course that changes the future.”

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a plan to spend the money, the county’s share of an \$8.55 million negotiated price for the parcel in Brick that has been the subject of a proposal for a 59-home development that residents of Breton Woods have been fighting for nearly two years.

Source: <https://patch.com/new-jersey/brick/6-84m-breton-woods-purchase-brick-okd-ocean-commissioners>

Photo by Iona from a screenshot of a video taken in the woods when she went to check it out. The neighbors had done all the hard work of saving this with the help of the Brick Environmental Commission.



I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.

~ Anne Frank ~



March 21: International Day of Forests

Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)
March 21, 2023

Around the world, indigenous peoples and local communities who live in forests – and depend on them for their livelihoods – face serious and systematic violations of their human rights.

This month we launch a new briefing from the series ‘Transforming Conservation,’ exposing injustices linked to current exclusionary models of conservation. The series also showcases practical and positive ways forward for the care of forests, lands, and ecosystems led by indigenous peoples and local communities. Also on this theme, we bring you an article unpacking the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Agreement, in which we identify key advances and making them work. <https://www.forestpeoples.org/conservation-human-rights>

Next month we’ll bring you a Special Edition of *Oryx – The International Journal of Conservation*, which we are developing in collaboration with the University of Oxford on human rights and conservation. Stay tuned for the special edition, but for now you can read the first three featured articles in *Oryx* journal at

<https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/2023/transforming-conservation-a-briefing-series-from-fpp-and-partners>

Transforming Conservation A briefing series from FPP

“If you want to work with us to protect our forests and lands you must understand us and adapt yourself to our ways of working and living.”

~ Tim Emini, Baka activist from Cameroon

Tim Emini’s comment sums up what needs to change in the world of biodiversity conservation. For far too long the dominant voice in conservation has tended to be European or North American and the product of formal education and a culture that is to a large extent in denial about the damage being caused to the planet.

Tim is putting the case for turning conservation on its head – for starting from the place of knowledge occupied by the indigenous peoples and communities who have a deep connection with the lands and living things that they have cohabited with for many generations.

Many of FPP’s partners and the com-

munities we work with are suffering from the consequences of – and, in most cases, still battling against – being forced out of their homes to make way for “conservation” while simultaneously asserting their own roles and contributions to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In response to this and many other cases, FPP has launched a series of briefings titled “Transforming Conservation: From Conflict to Justice,” that challenge this exclusionary model of conservation and offer ways that indigenous peoples and other communities with strong ties to their lands can lead on caring for those lands. These briefings call attention to both the damage caused by inappropriate policy and to progressive opportunities to restore and support alternatives.

We hope that these briefings will contribute to the debate around rights-based, community- and people-centered conservation and will offer practical ways forward.

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/forest-peoples.org/february-update-from-fpp-15348457?e=a36e05a858>

Combat the Climate Crisis with the Nation's First Climate Preserve

Submitted by Carol Gay
New Jersey USA

Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) supports changing the designation of Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest, administered by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), to Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve, under the Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS). Federal legislation would transfer administration of these federally owned lands from USDA to NPS.

- Mature deciduous forests store massive amounts of carbon, mitigating climate change. The Shawnee's biological diversity, recreation areas, 80+ Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites, seven Wilderness areas, and scenic landscapes are unmatched across Illinois.

- The Midwest has few national parks. Tourism-based businesses have grown across Southern Illinois since logging was suspended in the Shawnee during the 1990s, providing positive, long-term economic impacts on the region.

- National Preserves are areas often associated with national parks. Public hunting, trapping, fishing, backcountry camping, and other traditional uses are permitted. A National Climate Preserve is a new concept, preserving areas where forests grow as intact ecosystems, free from CO₂-releasing resource extraction. This "proforestation" approach encourages carbon sequestration, thereby reducing climate change while providing



View from High Knob, Shawnee National Forest.

Photo Courtesy PDA

recreational opportunities.

Please use our Action Alert to urge Members of Congress to support federal legislation redesignating the Shawnee National Forest as the Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve at <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/combat-the-climate-crisis-with-the-nations-first-climate-preserve/>.

Because the Shawnee contains the largest single ownership of these carbon-trapping forests in Illinois, as well as diverse historic and scenic landscapes, clearly our best use of the Shawnee is keeping its unique natural and historic features intact.

A new national park and climate preserve would attract more regional tourism and bring long-term sustainable jobs and businesses to Southern Illinois.

The USDA Forest Service currently plans to log more than 7,000 acres of the Shawnee's forest, employing clear-cut style shelter wood logging practices, thereby releasing tons of climate-changing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. As a

national forest, much of the Shawnee's land is also available for oil and gas development and mining.

This new designation will benefit our changing climate, wildlife, recreation users, and local citizens, while stimulating much-needed economic development in Southern Illinois. Climate preserves are a vital tool in combatting the climate emergency. Protecting the Shawnee merely involves transferring management responsibility of already federally owned land from the USDA to the NPS.

In 1872, Yellowstone became the world's first national park, initiating the concept of keeping natural lands in trust for the people. Help put an end to resource extraction in the Shawnee. Please support federal legislation to establish the new Shawnee National Park and the nation's first Climate Preserve.

Source: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/combat-the-climate-crisis-with-the-nations-first-climate-preserve/>




Photo: Guy Shrubsole

Black Tor Beare, a rainforest on Dartmoor in south-west England.

The Search for Britain's Lost Rainforests and the Battle to Save Them

Submitted by **Bill Boteler**
Maryland USA

By Guy Shrubsole, *excerpt* 
New Scientist: 28 November 2022

Fragments of temperate rainforest grow in parts of England, Wales and Scotland, and with the right action we could help them thrive.

For most of my life, I didn't realize that Britain has rainforests. But then, two years ago, I moved to Devon. Exploring woods in forgotten valleys and steep-sided gorges, I found places exuberant with life.

I witnessed branches dripping with mosses and trees festooned with lichens and liverworts. Even in winter, when deciduous trees lose their leaves, these woodlands were green with a verdant luminos-

ity due to the plethora of species clinging to them. My adventures took me to places that felt like green cathedrals. Sunlight picked out the arches of tree trunks with their haloes of moss.

I was enraptured. Surely, I thought, such rich woodland belongs in the tropics, not the UK. But it is true. The British Isles harbor fragments of a globally-rare habitat: temperate rainforest.

While tropical rainforests are characterized by being rainy and hot, temperate rainforests are rainy but cool. They are rarer than the tropical variety, covering just 1 per cent of the world's surface. They can't match Amazonia for scale, but these habitats nonetheless teem

with species and may be important carbon sinks.

Tragically, however, the British Isles have lost most of their rainforests to deforestation. In England, Scotland and Wales, the remaining fragments total at most 130,000 hectares (321,237 acres). But there is hope for their future. With the right action, I believe the area they cover could double within a generation – and that by helping these rainforests flourish, the UK would send a powerful message on the importance of protecting rainforest ...

Source: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25634150-100-the-search-for-britains-lost-rainforests-and-the-battle-to-save-them/>

Messages from Our Friends

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

Thanks a million for passing along that draft copy of your premier edition of *Treehuggers*. I admire your unstinting efforts to defend the planet from the damages wrought by climate change. Of course, your new journal is beautiful!

The 2nd paragraph of this summary may help you to identify which evergreens are actually spruces ...

<https://www.thespruce.com/twelve-spruce-trees-and-shrubs-3269669>

It may even be possible to rescue the fonts you once used – and “erased” – in InDesign, provided there’s an external hard drive attached to your computer that automatically backs up your data every day.

Allen Hengst, USA

[Note from Iona: *I finally had to create my own page numbers.*]

Hi Iona. I’d love to receive your *Treehuggers* newspaper as I teach workshops on trees; mainly, “Meditation with Trees.” Thank you!

Doug Davis, New York USA

Hello Iona Conner. I’m very happy today because we can chat again with you because I have been off for the last one month, but I’m still alive, so 2023 we want to change the world, when we are together with you, so let us work, and be the part of my project, and respond to any thing happened.

Yes the world is burning really and there no rain – people luck good.

James Onyony, Kamuga Community Permaculture Project, Kenya

Beloved Iona,

Of course, I would love to receive your new *Tree Huggers United = Invincible!* Let us all know what your subscription fee is.

Glory to you,

Marita Grudzen, California USA

Greetings from SCOPE Kenya.

Many thanks for keeping in touch

with us, even after shifting to your new role on taking care for the trees. We all know that without trees, there will be no hope and life on Earth. Therefore, we should all rise up and nurture a culture of growing and caring for trees. To remain connected and in touch with you now and in future, kindly add my email address in your list.

Please find attached photograph, which I took last week, when I visited St. Denis Libolina, which is one among schools we work with across the country. Out of the 200 grevillea (silk oak) seedlings we planted on 18th July 2022, 196 survived.

With Kind Regards

John Macharia,

National Coordinator
SCOPE KENYA

Promoting Practical Agroecology Education in Schools to reconnect children with Nature, healthy lifestyle, & environmental stewardship.

Phone: +254 724 628 386

Website: www.scopekenya.net

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/scopekenya2/>

Please add me to your *Treehugger* newspaper. It was very exciting to read. This is great, thank you so much! So looking forward to more. I’m trying to get Frederick City to approve a Food Forest. Trees are what keep our Cities cool. I’ll let you know how things go.

Sending Love,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

So, we’ll start discussing specifics of the class early next week. Here is the note I sent out a couple of weeks ago. if you’re interested, send me an email soon to derrick@derrickjensen.org with your email address and which class or classes you are interested in.

I’m ready to start planning the next writing class and the next ecophilosophy class. They will be the same as before: 3 hours once per week for 12 weeks, costing \$180 for the full class.



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I will be offering two separate classes. One for writing and one for ecophilosophy. They will be on Zoom. The writing class will be for everyone from beginners to experts, and cover both fiction and nonfiction. There is plenty of time for you to read your work in class and for me to respond (kindly: one previous class member has commented that I am “relentlessly nice,” but I can still give tips on improving writing). The ecophilosophy class will be mainly Q and A, and mainly about anything I’ve written about in any of my books.

If you are interested in either or both send me a note including your email address and which class (or classes) and I’ll add you to the information list for that class (or those classes). This is no commitment yet, since we haven’t even agreed on a time. That will be one of the things we will do over the next few weeks.

Thank you.

Derrick Jensen, California USA (see page 5)

I hope all is well with you.

I want just to congratulate you for the good work.

Yes, although I am always busy, but I feel like following you and the good work, which to me is a calling.

With Kind Regards,

Isaac Wabuge, Kenya

It is a great idea to start up the newspaper. I will be happy to contribute articles.

Frances Tugumisirize Bairo, Uganda

Thank you for your hard work done for humanity.

Blessed

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Your *Treehugger* paper looks great! I love all the pictures and Rainbow’s/your Shaklee story... I don’t think I ever heard that!!!! It was inspiring!!!! I read most of the paper. I want to finish the “Imagine” article... I loved the first part... but it started bugging me to read on my phone so I stopped. I’ll finish it today! Reminds me of John Lebanon’s song IMAGINE... always one of my favorites!

Linda L., Idaho USA

I just read it, Iona, what a GREAT newsletter! You are truly amazing!!

David Hunter Bishop, USA/world traveler

(first email) Sure, please add us to your new email list for *Treehuggers United = Invincible!*

It sounds like your new volunteer position is inspiring you to somewhat refocus so we hope that works out well for you.

(second email) Just received *Treehuggers* No. 1. so thank you: we look forward to reading it.

I have done a lot of work in non-violent campaigns against rainforest destruction myself and some on old-growth forests in Australia, too.

15-minute graphic video of the campaign of the Melbourne Rainforest Action Group from 1989-1991 here if you or your readers are interested:

Time to Act: Nonviolent Struggle for the Rainforests at <https://nonviolent-strategy.wordpress.com/case-studies/>

The following article at that link describes the Chipko Movement in India: the original treehuggers, which might interest people as well.

Hugging the Trees: The Story of the Chipko Movement at <https://nonviolentstrategy.wordpress.com/case-studies/hugging-the-trees/>

(third email)

Well, that is great!

I am very glad now that I sent the

links to you!

Yes, a much younger me in the video, including as the speaker about the campaign and what it was about, but no Anita. We hadn’t quite met yet.

And I knew the original Chipko story would appeal so felt confident about that.

Happy to help get your next issue off to a flying start!

Love,

Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone, Australia

You can certainly keep me on any mailing list you have going.

I think you and I agree on the importance of nature-based solutions. Your newest newsletter certainly sends that message in a nice way.

As you also know, nature-based solutions are actually the main reason that I so fully support and encourage regenerative agriculture as a whole. I feel that all responsible efforts to promote healthy soil can have a tremendous impact on both the climate and the production of our world’s food supply.

And don’t forget about the amazing importance and effectiveness of efficiency in all our daily actions – and your entire Go-Back Club agenda! [see page 2]

Regards and best wishes,

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania USA

(March 8) Wishing you a very Happy Women’s Day! Thank you for doing all that you do. And I appreciate your support, care, and love you always extend towards our children in Uganda.

May God bless you and your family
Quido Rbuangakene, Uganda

I wish you a very warm Women’s Day, Mom. You are truly an inspiration and pride for me. You have shown me how incredible of a woman you are since my childhood, and I’m blessed for it.

Mukama Awali, Uganda