

# Treehuggers United = Invincible

**Invincible:** Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

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

Volume 3: April 6, 2023



Photo Courtesy CCL

*“People can dream up many scientific reasons to save trees and forests but sometimes we forget that they are living beings who provide beauty.” (Iona)*

## Why Are Trees Important to the Environment?

By Katie Zakrzewski  
Citizens Climate Lobby: April 4, 2023

When Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) announced their policy expansion in December of 2022, one of the four new areas they decided to explore was healthy forests. But you may be wondering – why are trees important to the environment?

### **Trees clean up air pollution.**

Climate change is the trapping of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing dozens of negative effects on the planet’s health, as well as the health of all living things on our planet. One of those greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>. Excessive amounts of this greenhouse gas have raised the global temperature across the

planet. Air pollution, caused by climate change, is often responsible for many negative health conditions and diagnoses across the world.

Fortunately, trees and healthy forests help reduce air pollution caused by climate change. When dirty atmospheric particles land on the surface of a tree or leaf, they are removed from the atmosphere and absorbed by the plant. This is also the case for the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Through photosynthesis, leaves absorb carbon dioxide to feed cells, in turn producing oxygen. Each year, American forests pull the equivalent of 12% of America’s carbon pollution out of the air. It’s estimated that American forests and trees are able to reduce emissions by up to 22% by 2030.

### **Trees keep wildlife healthy.**

Trees also help wildlife by providing materials to eat and build a home. Trees provide a home for many animals, such as birds and squirrels and other forest-dwelling creatures. Beavers are even well known for cutting down trees to build dams and other important wildlife structures. These structures create a safe environment for animals to reproduce and hide from predators. Some animals, such as birds and deer, might even eat foliage or nuts and berries produced by trees.

### **Trees fight climate change overall.**

Climate change has caused excessive heat to get trapped in our atmosphere, severely elevating temperatures. In some American cities, due to historic discrimi-

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# 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 bring this idea back to life.*

Even as a child, I hated commercials. In my young adulthood, I read Jerry Mander's *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television* (1978).

**Elimination**, not cutting down; **ELIMINATE**. I still have that book. Later on I read Chellis Glendinning's *My Name is Chellis and I'm In Recovery from Western Civilization* (2007). And ever since I met Derrick Jensen about 20 years ago, my feelings about the evils of the insane culture I happen to live in are even stronger. I see what's happening to the Earth and to people

in the global South and I'm horrified and sad that commercials in all forms encourage unthinking people to crave our unsustainable ways at their own peril and that of our planet.

The tragedy is that with the spread of TV and the Internet, people who knew how to live without jeopardizing the Earth are reaching for wealth and accumulating excessive, useless junk. In China and a rural part of South Korea I visited several years ago, there were no refrigerators. I saw their staple kimchi being made in large ceramic pots outside of very simple homes with no electricity. Again in China, we used to see thousands of bikes as people went to and from work or shopping. Now we see traffic and horrible air pollution there.

At my age of 77, I have lived and seen more sane and sensible ways of life. Recently I started wondering what my grandmother did with her garbage? I do not know, but I do remember when we had 20-gallon garbage cans; then they expanded to jumbo size and often even these are overflowing waiting for pickup at the curb. I just sit here shaking my head and wondering

what on Earth can we do now?

If we Americans would tune out commercials, we'd have a better notion of what we really need. If we could only settle down when we have accumulated ENOUGH, life would be more peaceful and less expensive.

If we made Nature's plight our priority, we would feel better, not so guilty. If we were more creative and courageous, we would drop out of that rat race. We would have more free time to do more important things than shopping and have more money to use for worthwhile projects. Our minds would be free to explore and learn about issues that are dear to our hearts and souls.

**CONSUMER LIBERATION** is my theme. Let us not be slaves to things. I repeat this motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. Maybe you can memorize it like I have done, and then share it with everyone you know.

Please join my simple living brigade, a group of people who have something in common, who work together to put out fires, and in our case, to seriously fight global warming/climate change.

## How to Subscribe (\$20 a year)

Dear Sister/Fellow Treehuggers,

If you'd like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at [grassrootscoalition@pa.net](mailto: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.

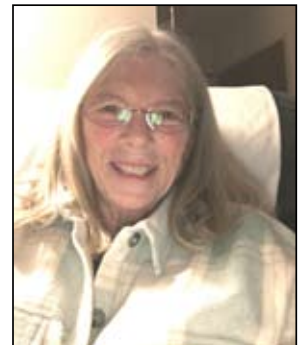
I'd like to see this become a team effort as it has

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 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: Robert Llewellyn

*“The Old-Growth Forest Network is the only national network in the U.S. of protected, old-growth, native forests where people of all generations can experience biodiversity and the beauty of nature.”* (<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>)

natory policies, trees are often sparse in neighborhoods with more low-income families and people of color. On a hot day, these neighborhoods can experience temperatures more than 15°F (8.5°C) hotter than wealthier neighborhoods in the same city. Planting trees is the cheapest, fastest, and most effective way to directly lower temperatures and save lives in cities. Adequate tree coverage can reduce temperatures as much as 10°F (12°C).

For this same reason, trees help lower the city-wide strain on electrical grids. A heat-triggered power outage in a major city could leave millions at risk of heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Because trees help keep things cooler, they reduce air conditioning usage and the risk of a major power failure.

### **How do we support trees and their impact?**

Fortunately, Citizens’ Climate Lobby supports trees and their impact through our policies and advocacy work. We support policies that:

- Help to increase urban forests;
- Help to preserve existing forests nationwide; and
- Focus on neighborhoods that suffer from a lack of tree equity.

Oftentimes, the best urban forest and tree-equity policies are local or state initiatives. To bring this issue to light, CCL advocates for increasing urban forests by supporting local groups and community leads with tree-planting initiatives and helping local communities take advantage of available funding for tree planting.

We support the following policy currently in Congress:

**The FOREST Act** – Fights deforestation worldwide by restricting the importation of products made of commodities produced on land undergoing illegal deforestation. See <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/get-loud-take-action/forest-act/>.

Learn more about preserving America’s forests to fight climate change at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/our-climate-solutions/healthy-forests/>.

Learn about Citizens Climate International at <https://citizensclimate.earth/>.

**Source:** <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/blog/policy/why-are-trees-important-to-the-environment/>

[**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 from pages 9 & 10*

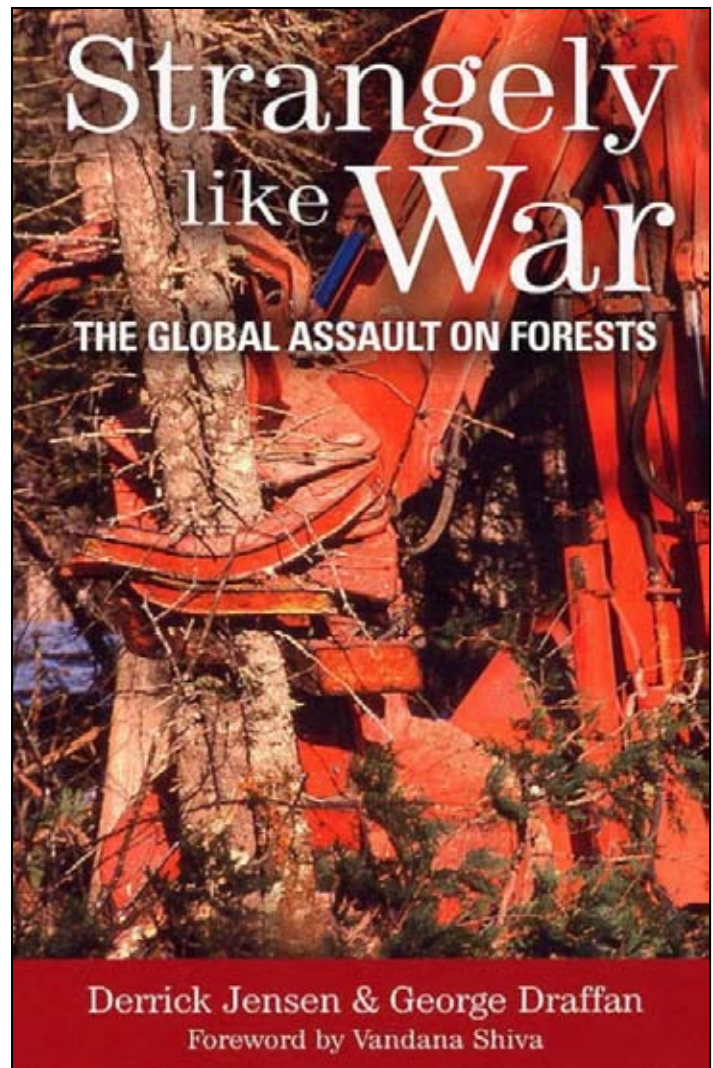
In this book, 'I' refers to the primary author, Derrick Jensen, and 'we' refers to both authors.

*(segue from the end of last month's excerpt)* 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.

I saw this argument presented again just today in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, in an op-ed piece by William Wade Keye, past chairman of the Northern California Society of American Foresters. He wrote, "Native peoples managed the North American landscape, cutting trees and using fire to perpetuate desirable forest conditions. There is no reason that we cannot equal or better this record of stewardship."

Well, there are actually many reasons. Indians lived in place, and considered themselves a part of the land; they did not come in as an occupying force and develop an extractive economy. They did not participate in an economy and culture that values money over life. They were smart enough not to invent chainsaws and feller-bunchers (huge shears on wheels that roll along the ground, severing trees and stacking them into piles). They were smart enough not to invent wood-chippers, and not to invent pulp mills. They were smart enough not to invent an economy that ignored everything but cash. They were smart enough not to invent limited liability corporations. They didn't export mountains of timber overseas. They knew trees and other nonhumans as intelligent beings with precious lives worth considering, and not as cash on the stump, nor as resources to be managed, nor even as resources at all. Their spiritual beliefs did not include commands to "subdue the Earth," nor was their cosmology based on the absurd notion that one succeeds in life by "outcompeting" one's human and nonhuman neighbors.

And the Indians didn't subdue the Earth. There is absolutely nothing in our culture's history to suggest that we can "equal or better this record of stewardship." There is everything in our culture's history and present practices to suggest that the deforestation will continue, no matter the rhetoric of those doing the deforestation, and that ecological collapse will be our



downfall, as it has been for earlier civilizations.

But believe neither us, nor even contemporary accounts of early explorers who wrote of the extraordinary richness of native forests, nor especially the handsomely paid liars of the timber industry and the government.

For the truth lies not in what they say, nor even in what we say. The truth lies on the ground. Go out and walk the clearcuts for yourself. Rub the dried soil between your fingertips. Walk the dying streams, listen to the silence in the skies (except for the whine of chainsaws and roar of distant logging trucks). Walk among ancient ones still standing, trees sometimes two thousand years old. Put your hands on their bark, on their skin. Taste the difference in the air. Smell it. Reflect on the beauty of what's still there, and on what has been lost – what has been taken from us.

When you've finished crying, and if you want to know more about the current crisis in the forests – where we are, how we got here, and where we're going – then come back and read the rest of this book.


*To be continued next time but until then, if you would like a copy of this book, please contact Derrick directly at [derrick@derrickjensen.com](mailto:derrick@derrickjensen.com)*



Photo Courtesy Fundación Proaves

*Ninfa Carianil Damaso, first female forest ranger of Fundación ProAves, poses in front of a nature preservation sign. Women often suffer the most from environmental degradation. A nonprofit in Colombia is trying to make their needs central to conservation.*

## To Save a Forest, Look to the Women

By Veronika Perkova 

YES! Magazine: April 19, 2022

Sara Inés Lara, leader of Colombia-based bird conservation organization Fundación ProAves, got her first taste of conservation’s potential more than 30 years ago. She grew up in one of the most biodiverse places in the world, seeking refuge in the forests, mountains, and pools of the Andes. Then, in 1998, she learned about the yellow-eared parrot (see photo on next page courtesy of Fundación ProAves.)

It was once a common bird near her hometown and across the Colombian Andes, but its population had dwindled to a flock of 81 individuals. Captivated by the fate of the little bird, she abandoned her career as a civil engineer and, along with British ornithologist and her now-husband Paul Salaman and a group of other conservationists,

founded ProAves to protect it.

With the help of nearby communities, especially local women, the group successfully fought for an end to the logging of wax palms – the bird’s nesting and feeding site – and hunting of the parrot for sport. The yellow-eared parrot was adopted as a regional emblem. Soon, the population started growing rapidly. Today, there are more than 2,800 individuals, and a couple of years ago, a flock of two dozen parrots was spotted near Lara’s hometown.

It was a huge win, and it taught Lara an important lesson: Women are instrumental in conservation. Women often feel the adverse effects of environmental degradation hardest, and their participation in ProAves’ work quickly demonstrated that they were essential to the success of community-based conservation projects. In many rural

communities in Colombia, women are responsible for meeting their families’ most basic needs from nature, including water, firewood, and food – all of which become increasingly difficult as the environment suffers. But the women she encountered needed support, too.

“Many of the women I met were exhausted from childbearing, they did not have any food to feed their children, and they were desperate to have access to family planning,” says Lara.

In 2004, Lara founded Women for Conservation to increase access to public health, family planning, economic opportunities, and environmental conservation. The nonprofit organization aims to build the health of the communities bordering nature reserves, so they can be more economically independent

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and better able to protect their local environment. The organization runs workshops and trainings, ranging from environmental education to sustainable livelihoods and family planning, for women in 10 communities. It became independent of ProAves in late 2019, and reports that it has since directly reached more than 2,200 people, mostly women and young girls.

Women for Conservation also teaches women to produce wildlife-friendly artisan crafts to replace dependence on cattle ranching and prevent deforestation. In Puerto Pinzón, for example, as part of a broader project to protect the blue-billed curassow, the organization taught women to collect tagua nuts, the seeds of palm trees that are known as “vegetable ivory,” and to produce jewelry that they can sell on the market. Women for Conservation also encouraged the local community to ban hunting, use fuel-efficient stoves to decrease deforestation, and start a tree nursery.

Women for Conservation also runs workshops aimed at training women for careers in conservation and ecotourism.

Ninfa Estella Carinialli was the first woman forest ranger trained and

sponsored by Women for Conservation and ProAves. She obtained the International Ranger Award from the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2021, and she works in the Águila Harpía ProAves Reserve, which is located in the eastern Colombian state of Guainía.

Carinialli’s first few years as a forest guard were hard. “My son drowned and my husband passed away from Covid,” she remembers. But, as it had with Lara, the forest proved a refuge. “I felt a deep sadness, but I am thankful for the memories I have with them, and for the opportunity to work in conservation, which makes me happy and fills me with peace.”

### Overcoming Myths and Barriers

*Photo on next page courtesy of Veronika Perková:* Ana Marquis, a local to the area, received treatment from the reproduction and family planning clinic One of the most important – and sensitive – tasks Women for Conservation has taken on is a focus on reproduction and family planning in local communities. Lara initially had to deal with pushback from local communities.

“When we started talking about

family planning, we had a couple of incidents where women were severely beaten up for participating in our workshops,” she says. “I learned in a hard way that we need to present women’s empowerment not as a threat, but as a benefit for the family.”

In partnership with the reproductive and family health organization Profamilia, Women for Conservation organizes reproductive health workshops and provides family planning services.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the organization reports it has facilitated 360 contraceptive implants and 27 surgical procedures, including tubal ligations and vasectomies.

The ability to plan pregnancies becomes vital for women and girls when they can’t depend on the natural environment for basic survival needs, says Kelly Donado, who organizes logistics for the family planning brigades at Women for Conservation.

“When there’s ever-less food, jobs, and water, it scares me to think of bringing more babies into the world,” she says. “What kind of situation are we bringing them into? When girls have unplanned pregnancies, they cannot be adequate carers, and often, they’re not able to provide for their babies.”

Donado is leading a campaign in Zona Bananera, a municipality of Santa Marta, which suffers from water scarcity due to diversion for banana and palm growing. Her sister is a local nurse and has offered her home as a center for the clinics and workshops, as there are no medical clinics in the area. Ana Marquis, an 18-year-old from the area, is one of those who participated and decided to get a contraceptive implant.

“It lets me decide when to have my children,” she says in Spanish. She lost two pregnancies in recent years. “Right now, I’m looking after myself so that I can study and not have to worry about getting pregnant.”

In February 2022, Women for

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Conservation provided 72 women in Zona Bananera with contraceptive implants, in addition to offering cancer screenings, follow-ups, and reproductive education workshops. By the time the group's representatives returned in March for checkups, more than 190 women and girls had added their names to the waiting list. Men also began requesting contraception from Women for Conservation, which resulted in the first vasectomy procedures in the Zona Bananera region in February 2022.

"Family planning has myriad social, economic, and environmental benefits: It improves the livelihoods and well-being of people and the planet and relieves population pressures on the natural environment, as well as on food production and water scarcity," says Catriona Spaven-Donn, the Empower to Plan project coordinator for the British charity Population Matters, which supports Women for Conservation.

While Women for Conservation has made significant progress destigmatizing family planning, resistance remains. Marquis says her family forbid her from getting the implant until she was 18, as they have for her 16-year-old sister.

Some families believe that denying teenagers access to contraceptive resources will prevent them from engaging in sexual activity, a belief that has been widely debunked.

Women for Conservation also faced resistance from its peers in the environmental world. Lara remembers other conservation leaders telling her that working with women was nice, but it was not a priority. Whenever she spoke about the link between a growing population, increasing poverty, and environmental impacts, she was told to avoid talking about population.

That's a trend in recent decades among development, environmental, and reproductive rights community groups. The focus is instead on sexual and reproductive health, choice, and rights of individuals, rather than ad-



ressing demographic factors.

"In the past, people wasted a lot of time stereotyping our planetary crises, asking whether the main problem is population or consumption," says Phoebe Barnard, professor of global change science and futures at the University of Washington, and founding director of the global Stable Planet Alliance, which aims to stabilize and reduce consumption and global population. "Well, of course, it's not either/or. It's both. Investing in women's education, leadership, and opportunities remains a really powerful way to bring benefits not only for women, but for families and children, nature, and the future of our whole civilization."

Still, even the issues of reproductive health and women's rights can be difficult to raise among poor, rural Colombian women living in communities where maternity and a large number of children are often viewed positively, and where men may feel a loss of control over women's sexuality when women use modern contraceptives. In such contexts, contraception is sometimes seen as undermining the

traditional gender roles and the stability of the couple and is therefore not trusted or not used.

What's clear is the close tie between women's empowerment and environmental outcomes. Recent research found that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women. The U.N. made gender equality an integral part of its Sustainable Development Goals, from equal access to education to family planning.

That link has pushed Women for Conservation beyond family planning to providing basic services to ensure Colombian women are healthy and safe.

Breast cancer is the most diagnosed form of cancer in Colombia, so last year, the NGO started providing mammograms and training women on how to conduct a self breast exam. With a drastic increase in calls to domestic violence hotlines during the pandemic, Lara has also started leading workshops and education on the subject.

**Source:** <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2022/04/19/women-forest-conservation>



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Julie Dermansky

April O'Leary checks on flood damage in Conway, South Carolina, USA almost two weeks after Hurricane Florence hit, on September 26, 2018.

## IPCC Report: What Did it Say?

By Laurie Goering (*emphasis added*)  
Context: March 21, 2023

### Last call for 1.5C

Climate scientists for years have urged governments and businesses to slash climate-changing emissions, with limited success.

On Monday, they changed tack and **appealed directly to everyone on the planet** to seize a dwindling chance to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, or risk fundamental harm to both people living today and their descendants for thousands of years.

With easy-to-grasp graphics showing the scale of coming heatwave risks likely to affect everyone from babies to retired people within their lifetimes, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned

**“there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”**

It showed “high” or “very high” confidence by scientists about the scale of coming risks and emphasized that shifting to clean energy made sense – for health and well-being reasons – even for those relatively unconcerned about climate change.

For too long, “[W]e at all levels – governments, communities, individuals – have made climate change somebody else’s problem” – a reality that needs to change, said Peter Thorne, one of the authors of the new summary report of climate science and a geography professor at Ireland’s Maynooth University.

### Water Warning

Water risks also need more attention, scientists said this week as a major U.N. water summit gets underway in New York.

Human activities – from **destroying forests** to burning gas, oil, and coal for energy – are disrupting the rainfall the world depends on, fuelling huge economic, health, and social stability threats, they warned.

“We’ve built our economies on the assumption we can rely on precipitation,” said Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and co-chair of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water.

But “what we’re finding is climate

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Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Julie Dermansky

Cover of the latest climate report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report issued March 20, 2023.

change and land use change is shifting that very significantly,” he said.

**Deforestation**, for instance, is shifting the flows of water vapor that rise from forests like the Amazon, causing worsening drought in distant places that depend on those flows.

Protecting water security in the future will require taking a much wider look at what has often been thought of as a local or regional problem, scientists said.

“Behind food production, behind energy, behind all the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), there is a volume of freshwater that powers the delivery of that service,” Rockström said. “Right now we just take it for granted.”

### Ending oil?

But changing what needs to be changed – swiftly – is rarely easy.

A bold plan by Colombia’s president to phase out the country’s reliance on oil and coal revenue as part of its clean energy transition will likely take decades, economists warned, particularly amid uncertainty over whether efforts to scale up alternatives – such as boosting tourism and agriculture – can work.

For now, the government has not yet put a ban on new oil exploration contracts into writing, or into its four-year development plan, unveiled in February.

“The decision to replace fossil fuel exports is a responsible one .... no one said it would be easy,” said Giovanni Pabón, energy director at Transforma, a think-tank on climate action.

But researchers at the World Resources Institute have some ideas about how Colombia and other emerging economies could get started now on a shift away from oil and gas, while helping the workers and communities who might lose out.

**Source:** [https://www.context.news/newsletter?id=691423435bea720d0fa03777651bd883&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=context-climate](https://www.context.news/newsletter?id=691423435bea720d0fa03777651bd883&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=context-climate)

## AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023

The IPCC finalized the Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Report during the Panel’s 58th Session held in Interlaken, Switzerland from March 13-19, 2023.

### Losses and Damages in Sharp Focus

“Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected,” said Aditi Mukherji, one of the 93 authors of this Synthesis Report.

“Almost half of the world’s population lives in regions that are highly vulnerable to climate change. In the last decade, deaths from floods, droughts and storms were 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions,” she added.

Read the Summary for Policymakers at [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf).

# Critical Next Step in the Decolonization of Land Relations: Restitution of Protected Areas to Indigenous Communities

Briefing paper by Liz Alden Wily  
Forest Peoples Programme: March 13, 2023

**Region:** Tanzania, Liberia, Ghana  
**Work theme:** Lands, Forests & Territories, Rights-based Conservation

Indigenous communities in Africa are increasingly assertive about the need to have their customary ownership and custodianship of forests recognized by the state. This includes their forests currently under government ownership and management.

This briefing looks at 20 countries around the world where restitution to communities has already taken place or is proactively demanded. African indigenous peoples and governments may wish to take inspiration from these examples to adapt and apply them to their own contexts.

This brief arises from research into restitution of state Protected Areas (PAs) undertaken in collaboration with Forest Peoples Programme (FPP). An international law firm contributed significantly with pro bono reviews of relevant legislation in 10 of the 20 countries sampled.

Country selection was purposive, drawing from states known to be proactively returning PAs to community ownership. Many more countries than the 20 selected could have been researched, had more time and resources been available. The total number of countries which legally provide for restitution of PAs to customary community claimants is not known.

A main prompt for the research was the Rulings of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights in May 2017 and especially in June 2022 ordering the Govern-

ment of Kenya to reconstitute Mau Forest Complex to the Mau Ogiek people under registered community land title. This sets an encouraging precedent for other indigenous forest peoples in Africa who are making similar demands.

A further prompt is the important role which intact forest plays in climate change mitigation. The global community is in the process of finalizing pledges to raise Protected Areas to 30% of the Earth's area. PAs cover 17% of global lands. Globally, more than 90% of the 625,000 PAs declared are owned and/or controlled by governments. New PAs are declared annually, almost always resulting in community dispossession and displacement.

## Key Points

1. The return of PAs to indigenous communities who are the rightful owners of these lands is common practice in some states and expanding in others.
2. Land can be environmentally protected without having to be owned by Government.
3. Returning PAs to communities leads to fuller, cheaper, and more effective environmental protection.
4. Communities may choose to involve (and even to lease out a PA to) a relevant state or approved private conservation agency.

5. Systems of protection and governance of returned PAs are still in evolution in all the country cases reviewed.

## About this Briefing Series

In 2003, at the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, the conservation world made commitments to return lands to indigenous peoples that had been turned into protected areas without their consent, and to only establish new protected areas with their full consent and involvement. Those commitments have not been realized.

This series offers case studies, testimony, research, and analysis from FPP and from our partners that examine the current state of play of the relationship between conservation and indigenous peoples, and local communities with collective ties to their lands. It will expose challenges and injustices linked to conservation operations, showcase practical, positive ways forward for the care of lands and ecosystems, led by indigenous peoples and local communities themselves, and reflect on pathways to just and equitable conservation more broadly.

**Source:** <https://www.forestpeoples.org/en/transforming-conservation/03-decolonisation-land-relations>. Read the paper in: Français, English, Español and Swahili



Elgon Ogiek community lands at Chepkitale, Mount Elgon, Kenya.

Photo: Justin Kenrick, FPP

# Messages from Our Friends

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

Actually my goal is to seek for permission from Uganda Wildlife Authority with the help of some key elders and access our forest of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park to get different species of trees people would wish to have and plant them within the community most especially in towns, school premises, at churches, and establish a cyber and research center meant for community awareness.

By doing this, we shall be giving an alternative to people other than resorting to the Forest.

My focus is on indigenous and medicinal trees.

**Amos Mugarura**, Comforter of the Voiceless Child Friend Space, Uganda

I'm very happy for you in my heart. Never seen the friend like you who brings hope to me that has lost. Thank you for your support in different ways.

Have a nice day.

Best regards.

**Feruzi Juma Kikuni**, Kenya Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation for Developing, Educating, Empowering, Promoting, Protecting, Learning and Youths Support

Thanks for sharing!

I'm planning to plant 4,000 trees by next year.

**Pauline Anyaitine**, Uganda (Director, Sopadad Initiative) Uganda

Forests must be preserved.

**Carol Gay**, Brick, New Jersey USA



Photo: Bill Boteler

"I was working one morning and saw something glittering. I walked towards it. It was a spider web up in the trees in the morning sun."

I'm going back to visit Costa Rica for a couple months, again, to volunteer doing parrot research (bird watching and data gathering and Excel spreadsheets). One parrot that they are trying to help is the Yellow-naped Amazon parrot which is going extinct from the pet

trade and deforestation. It's cheap to go there and stay compared to other places.

The scientist seems to like me and my work. I also helped edit their publication a little. They needed people again, so I reapplied. I

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feel it's better that sitting around in Maryland getting older while adding nothing new to my resume.

The rainforest is so beautiful. It's full of all kinds of trees, butterflies, wildflowers, howler monkeys, hummingbirds, leaf-cutter ants, just endless things. It has rushing rivers of cold mountain water cutting through deep ravines with huge cliffs.

This is mostly second growth but there are some patches of huge old-growth trees.

Forests everywhere are incredibly more valuable standing and must be preserved and/or regenerated. The fresh water provided is enough economic justification. You cannot re-plant an ecosystem. There are just too many things living in it to ever regain.

**Bill Boteler**, Maryland USA

Hi Iona, It is so good to hear from you. Congratulations on your new venture. We pray that everything goes great for you.

**Ron & Linda Feagley**, Pennsylvania USA

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW POSITION.

They are lucky to have you with all your background, experience, and passion for our Environment, Pacha Mama.

Yes, add me to your email list.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter.

**John and Maureen Sheehan**, Massachusetts USA



Photo: Nsabinana Ernest

*"We are growing Moringa in Nakivale refugee settlement. We have over 10.000 baby trees," wrote Fidel Hitimana, Executive Director of New Hope for All.*

Nice one Iona, I think the trees will love this, its hugging.

**Ajibono Tolulope**, Nigeria

Hello Iona! Since my parents died, I have had five acres of theirs in a forest preservation program here in Frederick County. I will never let anyone touch those trees, some of which are quite large. I do have a story about that but I have to get my computer back online. I will stay in touch and try to read your little newsletter. It's good that you have found this calling at this age stage of your life! And that John is your inspiration. How beautiful!

**Christine Songbird**, Maryland USA

Hi Mom.

Here is our project.

We are growing Moringa in Nakivale refugee settlement.

We would wish if we may get Samaritans that can empower us.

Here is our nursery bed.

Thank you for your interest.

We have over 10.000 baby trees. A part it's importance as you know other trees, Moringa is a miraculous tree that serves as medicine, tea, its seeds are so nutritious. They produce oil and others. We would wish if can be empowered for a better implementation of this project within our community.

Best regards,

**Fidel Hitimana**, Executive Director New Hope for All community-based organization serving both refugees and host community and implementing the Moringa Project in Uganda