

Treehuggers United = Invincible

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

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

Volume 4: May 3, 2023

Special Report: Treehuggers Member Helps Save Exotic,* Endangered Parrots in Costa Rica

By Bill Boteler, Maryland USA
(volunteering temporarily in Costa Rica)

It's wonderful. I'm working hard on something I never thought about doing. I'm gathering data on parrots populations and behaviors, using binoculars.

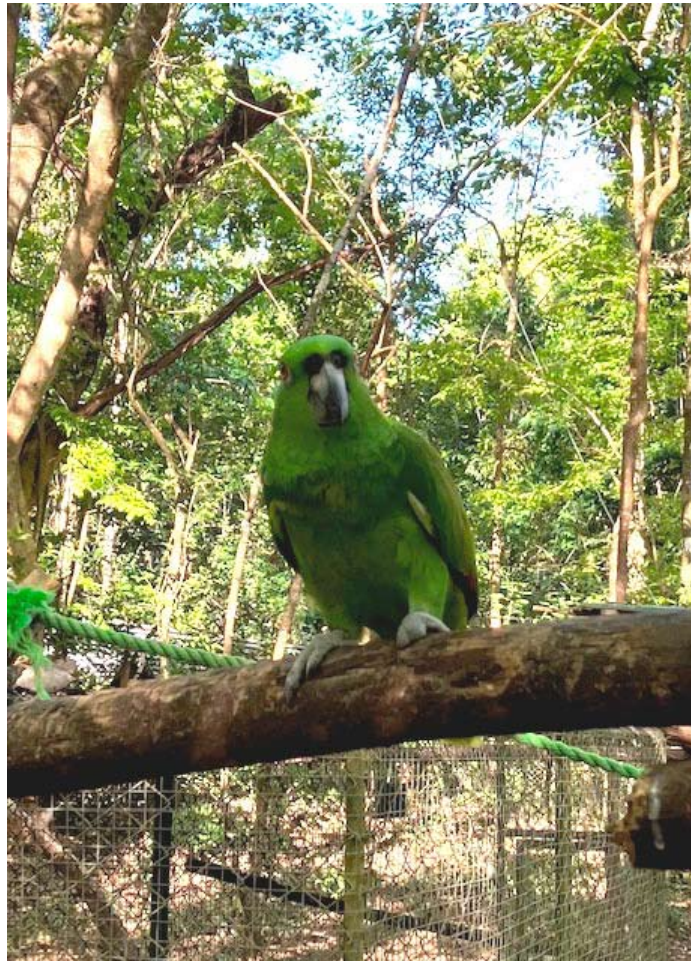
These particular parrots are confiscated pets that the government sent to Rescate Wildlife Rescue center near the capital city.

They bring confiscated or injured wildlife out to the Northwest part of the country on the Nicoya Peninsula. The zoo/rescue center keeps animals that cannot be wild again and uses them for breeding or education.

20-30 years ago, they bought this land which still had patches of old-growth forest but was mostly cattle pasture.

It has somehow regrown and is full of tropical plants and animals like orchids, hummingbirds, butterflies, monkeys, and such. I'm not working directly with the Rescate center. The Macaw Society is working with Rescate and I am working with them.

It's dry as a bone from December through May, unlike forests in other parts of the country. It even has cacti. Then in May the rain returns and can be torrential. Rivers that run through the mountain gorges swell with water



Photos: Bill Boteler

Yellow-napped Amazon parrot. If you want to see a short video of this beautiful parrot, contact Iona at grassrootscoalition@pa.net.

and are difficult to cross. You need knee-high rubber boots.

The whole point of this research is to have ongoing data about how these former pets become wild again. In the case of the Yellow-nap parrots it's important because the pet trade and deforestation are driving the species to extinction.

The thing that bothers me is there are so many endangered species now and the crucial thing to saving them is really their habitat, as you know. So many species live in these areas because the habitat was protected.

I think that gives you an idea. I meet people coming from many countries – Spain, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the U.S.

But at any time, there is a very small group of us. Because I'm working for months, I don't have to pay for anything.

**“Exotic” To ourselves, coming from the USA, they are exotic. I'd emphasize that 1. This species, like others, is being wiped out by the pet trade. Rescue centers try to put them back into nature. 2. But they need a natural place to live. Costa Rica has both outlawed wildlife pets and set aside more than a quarter of its land for nature.*

Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center

Rescate Wildlife Rescue Center (former Zooave) is a non-profit foundation dedicated to conserving Costa Rica's wildlife. The animal sanctuary and wildlife conservation center is the oldest of its kind with 30 years of experi-

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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.

**Are you addicted to technology?
I am! Cell phone, emails, etc.
Let's explore this more deeply.**

I still remember when I got my first email about 21 years ago. I resented the fact that the sender probably expected an instant reply. To this day, I still feel the same way and I do not like how nervous this "instant on" attitude is so I'm trying to break it.

The same thing applies to my cell phone. It took me a long time to realize that I need sleep more than I need to be "on call" 24/7 for my family and friends. That was how I felt and acted when I lived five hours away from my family but once I moved back close to them all in New Jersey, I started charging my phone in the kitchen with the volume basically off, though I can still hear little pings if I'm not totally asleep.

I dropped out of Facebook about a year ago when it was driving me crazy and I never even started other social media platforms. I couldn't handle it.

I recently watched an important documentary called "A Social Dilemma" on Netflix. It's about the destructive

effects of social media and technology on our world, on our children, on ourselves. The main characters are former CEOs and engineers from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. These men started out thinking they were doing something good for the world and now realize that the profit motive has driven these companies to do horrible things to sell us products. Their underlying premise is that every online interaction is calculated and our brains are subliminally stimulated to buy things or interact with people who share our values, be they good or bad, resulting in violence and chaos in addition to depression and lack of genuine community. It's not all interviews; there is a good movie woven in between the talks showing what life is like with a couple of totally hooked American teens.

It's really scary. Of course we know some of these things already, but this film is worth every ounce of data you can muster to watch it, every second of your life spent watching it so that you can hopefully start withdrawing from

some of these addictive activities.

Most of the men interviewed still hold out hope that the positive benefits of technology will last as the evil ones are changed or eliminated.

Here's the Netflix link: https://www.netflix.com/watch/81254224?trackId=255824129&tctx=0%2C0%2CNAPA%40%40%7C0d6209a7-e7e4-48ef-9a11-502f1f8c3184-116066771_titles%2F1%2F%2Fa%20social%20dilemma%2F0%2F0%2CNAPA%40%40%7C0d6209a7-e7e4-48ef-9a11-502f1f8c3184-116066771_titles%2F1%2F%2Fa%20social%20dilemma%2F0%2F0%2Cunknown%2C%2C0d6209a7-e7e

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. 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.

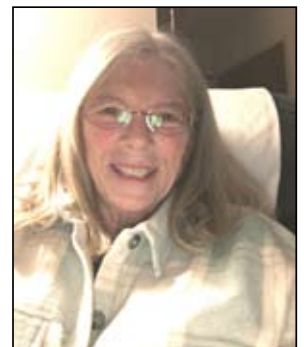
I'd like to see this become a team effort as it has

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 use Zelle or PayPal, please reach my bank account directly via dosomething@pa.net. Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth and the Trees,

Iona



Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances.

Section 107 of the Copyright Act pro-

vides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses – such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research – as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use.

Fair Use Logo



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ence in rehabilitating wildlife, breeding endangered species, preserving habitat, and providing lifetime care.

Rescate is a rare treasure in the outskirts of San Jose, based in Alajuela and only 20 minutes from SJO Airport. What makes us unique is our dedication to rehabilitating orphaned, injured, or confiscated animals in our Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to then releasing them back into the wild.

Through our two release sites, we provide ample protected habitat for released wildlife to thrive. Only those animals that would not survive in the wild due to health or behavioral reasons are kept in our wildlife sanctuary, and this is the only part of the rescue center that is open to the public. We receive about 2,700 animals on an annual basis and release the majority of them back into the wild.

A considerable part of our work happens in our animal conservation center with breeding programs that protect endangered species from extinction. Since the most significant part of our work is not visible to the public, we also depend on donations. Learn more about our Uniqueness and help us maintain our critical mission by making a donation to support our wildlife sanctuary and wildlife conservation center donation platform.

Source: <https://www.rescatewildlife.org/>



This is a Scarlet Macaw that made a nest in a dead palm tree outside the reserve. The deforested land around it is parched and dry. Part of that is natural. It shows that the land dries up when exposed to sunlight and no rain for 4 months a year.

Science needs a soul which would show respect and love of its subjects of study and would stress harmony and communication with the rest of the Universe.

~ Rita Arditti, Feminism and Science ~

Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 10-12*

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

I walk in an ancient forest. Redwoods who sprouted long before civilization reached this continent surround me. When a redwood falls, young trees often come up from burls around the base or underground, so when you see several 2,000-year-old trees huddled round a space that one day might have been another massive trunk, it's easy to find yourself slipping even further back in time, perhaps another 2,000 years, to when that parent tree sprouted.

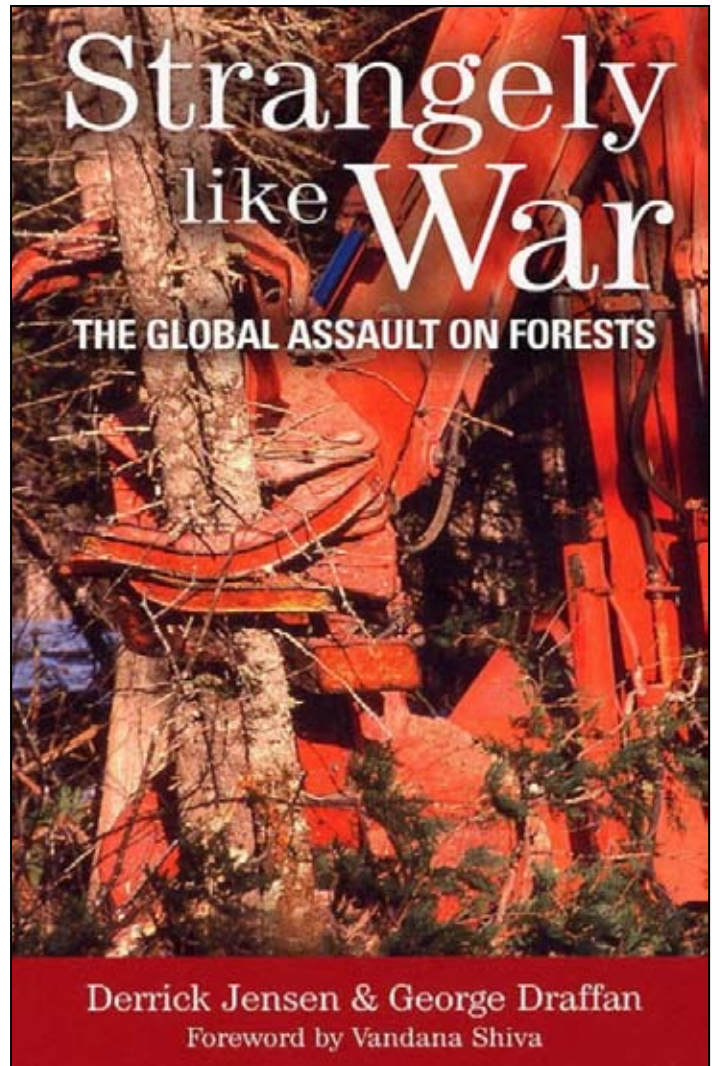
Many parts of this forest floor never see the sun. Big-bodied, small-headed beetles scurry beneath ferns that run like a carpet between trees. Hard-shelled centipedes wriggle through duff. Every step my feet encounter rough surfaces of redwood roots that twine together tree-to-tree to hold these trunks upright through storm and wind. The roots, I've read, seek each other out to form nets of mutual support. Would that we remember to do the same.

An old alder, downed in the last windstorm, cuts across the path. It died long before it fell, its branches then growing bearded with moss. It served the forest when it grew, it served standing after death, and now it will serve the forest as it slowly falls apart.

I make my way to a large stream. I stand in the soft soil of a thousand years of fallen leaves, and look out to see a salmon sweeping clean her nest. Her body is big and dark brown, her tail white and tattered from the journey upstream and from beating against the gravel beneath her. A sudden sound pulls my attention downstream, and I see another fish fighting her way up a series of rapids. She makes it halfway, then tires or maybe realizes she's chosen the wrong path, and floats back down. She rests a moment, then slides up again, sometimes shifting to her side – perhaps to keep as much of herself as possible under water or perhaps to keep her belly from scraping too much on the bottom, slowing her down – thrusting herself forward against the force of the water, this time heading directly for underwater paths she can most easily follow to the pool waiting above a final row of rocks. She swims for the only break in that row – revealing an extraordinary ability to read and analyze currents, to precisely predict upstream barriers by what she sees and smells and feels in the water moving around her – and makes it to the pool. She cruises quickly to the dark at the bottom, and I do not see her again.

#

When you consider the current landscape of the cradle of civilization – what is now Iraq and environs – what pictures



come to mind? If you're like me, the images are of barren plains and even more barren hillsides, goats or sheep grazing on a few scrubby bushes breaking a monotony of light brown dirt. But it was not always so. As John Perlin states in *A Forest Journey: The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization*, "That such vast tracts of timber grew near southern Mesopotamia might seem a flight of fancy considering the present barren condition of the land, but before the intrusion of civilizations an almost unbroken forest flourished in the hills and mountains surrounding the Fertile Crescent."


The trees were cut to build the first great cities, and for ships that plied the first great empire. Once the ships were built, wood was imported to make the cities even bigger: down went the great cedar forests of what is now southwest Turkey, the great oak forests of the southeastern Arabian peninsula, and the great juniper, fir, and sycamore forests of what is now Syria.

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.

U.S. Inventories Old-Growth Forests: Is Protection Next?

Submitted by Allen Hengst

Washington DC, USA

By Anna Phillips, *excerpt, emphasis added*
Washington Post: April 20, 2023 

In a first-ever finding that could increase protections for remaining U.S. forests, the federal government estimated Thursday that more than **100 million acres** of old-growth and mature timberlands are still standing on public lands, despite decades of commercial logging, wildfires, and climate threats. The findings, the result of a year-long review ordered last year by President Biden, are likely to inflame tensions with the timber industry over which forests – especially those in the western United States – should remain unlogged. But they are energizing many conservation activists, including those who argue that old-growth forests are vital for **storing carbon dioxide** that contributes to climate change.

“It’s extremely encouraging that the Biden administration is recognizing the value of mature and old-growth trees,” said Blaine Miller-McFeeley, senior legislative representative at Earthjustice. He said the environmental law group supports rules “that will protect and restore climate forests for future generations from the threats they face today, including **unnecessary logging**”

The report by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management is the result of an order Biden issued last year to protect older forests from wildfire, climate change, and other threats. While the order itself was controversial – environmentalists and the timber industry disagree over what counts as an “old” tree – the findings are likely to fuel debate over which forests deserve more protection.

The report found that more than 32 million acres of **old-growth** forests remain on public lands in the United States, representing about 18 percent of all forested land managed by the two agencies. The ages and sizes of these trees vary by species and region,



Photo Courtesy Old-Growth Forest Network

The forests in the Old-Growth Forest Network are chosen because they are among the oldest known forests in their county.

but most are well over **100 years old**. Scientists and environmentalists view these trees as vitally important to fighting climate change because they store vast amounts of carbon in their trunks, branches, and roots. The study also concluded that there are around 80 million acres of mature forest – about 45 percent of the agencies’ forested land. The agencies’ work suggests a much higher estimate of old-growth and **mature** forest than previous scientific studies have shown, a departure the report’s authors attributed to their **inclusion** of parts of Alaska, which other studies excluded, as well as “differing goals and methodologies” ...

Another difference that could contribute to the varying figures: the agencies’ decision to include 23 million acres of older trees in pinyon-juniper forests, which cover hot, arid land in Western states. Unlike California’s towering redwoods and the red cedars of Alaska’s Tongass National Forest, these trees built to survive in the high desert are **often left out** of discussions of iconic old growth ...

Steve Pedery, conservation director of the nonprofit Oregon Wild, said conservation groups have been pushing the two

agencies to map and protect the country’s oldest forests since the 1970s. “Looking ahead, what is key now is how the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management use these maps and inventory,” he said, “and whether or not they will adopt strong permanent rules to protect these forests.”...

The report also notes the **growing danger** that climate change-fueled wildfires pose to older forests. But the government’s plans to protect trees from fire often call for chain saws – an intervention known as thinning that is supposed to restore forests to a time when natural fire cycles regularly cleared away underbrush and small saplings. Experts said any new protections would have to achieve a delicate balance between protecting large trees and allowing agency land managers to use techniques that keep ecosystems healthy. While many forestry experts support targeted thinning of overgrown forests, some conservationists have accused loggers of using the projects **as cover to cut large, old trees**.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/04/20/biden-old-growth-forests/>

Could Breadfruit Help Trinidad and Tobago Brace for Climate Change?

Despite its colonial origins, breadfruit is now the subject of international research to evaluate its potential as a staple crop in a warming world.

By Jade Prevost-Manual, *excerpt*
YES! Magazine: January 2, 2023

It's early on a Saturday morning, but already, the scorching November sun – a rarity following five months of unusually torrential rains – has thinned the crowd at Trinidad's Chaguanas farmers market. Here, local farmer Wayne Ramrattam sells his produce. Customers reach for the coconuts, dasheen, plums, and mangoes in his stall. But it's the breadfruit, the farmer says, that Trinbagonians really can't get enough of. This soccer ball-sized fruit has a bumpy green exterior and a potato-like interior that makes it incredibly versatile.

"It's a fruit that people love," he says, and the single breadfruit left at his table is a testament to its popularity. "Anything you does make with it, it taste good. If I bring 200 breadfruit here, it sell out and people still coming for it."

Lucky for Ramrattam, his farm has had no shortage of the fruit this year. The 20-or-so trees on his property can produce as many as 4,000 breadfruits in a single year.

Breadfruit was brought to the West Indies from Tahiti at the turn of the 18th century as a cheap, filling, and abundant food for enslaved people. This starchy round edible, as a result, has grown prolifically in Trinidad and Tobago for hundreds of years.

Breadfruit is a perennial crop; one tree can produce fruits every year for half a century or more. The trees naturally produce as many as 300 fruits per year, without the application of chemical or synthetic fertilizers, according to Omardath Maharaj, a lecturer in agribusiness and entrepreneurship at the University of the West Indies. Plus, the fruit is a good source of carbohydrates, dietary fiber, and potassium.

Today, breadfruit is a staple in Carib-



Photo Courtesy of Jade Prevost-Manual

Wayne Ramrattam holds a piece of breadfruit from his farm, which he sells at the Chaguanas Farmers Market in Trinidad and Tobago.

bean cuisine. Its association with the sinister history of slavery, for many, is no longer its defining quality. The fruit is now the subject of international research to evaluate its potential as a staple crop in a warming world. In Trinidad and Tobago, climate change, inflation, and dependence on imports are drivers of its national food insecurity, which affected nearly half of the population last year. On average, the country imports as much as 85% of its food.

Locals say breadfruit is a key crop for filling hungry bellies. It's hearty, easy to grow, and locally abundant.

One breadfruit can feed as many as four people for dinner. It can be sliced thin, fried, and seasoned with garlic and salt to produce chips. It can be skinned, chopped, and boiled in a mixture of dasheen bush leaves, coconut milk, and pig tails to make a salty stew called oildown. Or, it can be baked into a belt-busting pie.

"[Breadfruit] does stretch real far," Ramrattam says. "Just two, three pieces, and your belly full."

A Food for Future Climates

Small Island Developing States like Trinidad and Tobago are expected to feel

the brunt of climate change's effects, such as rising sea levels, tropical storms, drought, and changes in rainfall. These could negatively impact crop yields, destabilizing already precarious food systems. Compared to existing commodity crops like rice, corn, and soybeans, experts suggest that breadfruit's resilience and prolificacy could help create more sustainable food systems and ease global food insecurity.

In a paper published in PLOS Climate in August, scientists modeled how different climate futures could impact breadfruit yields around the world. Under the highest emission scenario, they predicted that climate change-driven changes in rainfall and temperature could reduce the overall quality of suitable breadfruit-growing areas on Caribbean islands. The loss of suitable growing areas, however, amounted to less than 2% – arguably good odds under dire circumstances.


It's worth noting that studies examining how climate change could impact breadfruit-growing in Trinidad and Tobago specifically have yet to be carried out. But the tree's life history makes it a strong candidate for sustaining Trinbagonians in the long run compared to

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America's Most Prolific Logger Recasts Itself as Environmental Do-Gooder

Weyerhaeuser uses new climate math to court green investors, while cutting down as many trees as ever.

Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA

By Ryan Dezember, *excerpt* 
Wall Street Journal: April 17, 2023

KIBBY TOWNSHIP, Maine – Weyerhaeuser Co. has cut down more trees than any other American company since its founder started logging before the Civil War. Environmentalists have long treated it as an enemy.

Its 10.6 million acres of U.S. timberland act as a giant sponge for carbon dioxide, which Weyerhaeuser says more than compensates for the greenhouse gases it emits by felling trees, sawing them into lumber, and distributing wood products.

Although Weyerhaeuser is cutting down as many trees as ever and plans to increase lumber production 5% in the next few years, it says its net carbon footprint is negative – so much so that it is offering carbon dioxide storage capacity to other companies. Weyerhaeuser expects a new unit dedicated to helping other firms offset their

emissions to generate \$100 million a year in profit by the end of 2025. . . .

No one debates that trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow. There is less agreement about whether using trees to offset corporate emissions actually benefits the environment.

Corporate executives and scientists who have criticized the carbon-offset market say the offsets sold by timberland owners allow other companies to pay a relatively small price to avoid reducing their own emissions. They also say forest-preservation pacts that produce offsets often don't substantially change logging practices, which means they essentially pay timberland owners for behaving as they would anyway. . . .

"The vast majority who are signing up are doing business as usual," said William Sonnenfeld, a forestry consultant who worked for three decades for timberland owners and investors. "Most people game the system."

Russell Hagen, who oversees the climate unit as Weyerhaeuser's chief development officer, said the company is "very focused on making sure that any project we bring to the market is

the highest quality, meets the highest standards..."

Weyerhaeuser produces about 950,000 miles of lumber a year and more than enough wood panels to cover Manhattan four sheets thick. Even though lumber doesn't continue absorbing carbon dioxide, the company takes credit for an additional 11 million tons of carbon held in those wood products. It reasons that carbon continues to be stored in the lumber after it goes into houses and other structures, which wouldn't be the case if a tree fell and decayed on the forest floor.

Taking credit for carbon in harvested wood, manufactured products, and on timberlands owned by others is inconsistent with guidelines other companies use for their emissions accounting. Ara Erickson, Weyerhaeuser's vice president of corporate sustainability, said the company is pushing its case with the organizations that set carbon standards. . . .

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/weyerhaeuser-logging-carbon-emissions-offset-market-environment-76850c01>

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annual crops like wheat and rice.

Research and history have proven that these trees can take a beating. Breadfruit can withstand drought for up to four months. When Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, breadfruit trees were among the few trees left standing. And while the persistent rains of Trinidad's 2022 rainy season destroyed scores of crop fields across the country, it brought good fortune to breadfruit growers like Ramrattam, who saw his trees thrive in wet conditions.

"[In my opinion], in stress situations, in times of a disaster, in times of rising cost of living, and all these other challenges, there's no other competitor," Maharaj says. "And the fact is, breadfruit has withstood the test of time, whether it be climate change or westernization of

the Caribbean diet."

Long-lived breadfruit trees can feed families for generations. At maturity, these trees also sequester more carbon than young trees, making them carbon sinks. Getting young trees to catch can be tricky, but once they're established, maintaining them is a relatively hands-off process requiring no chemical inputs.

Despite all this, breadfruit production is considered underdeveloped in Trinidad and Tobago. Local breadfruit varieties are blended into species-rich food forests where they provide the necessary shade for crops like cocoa. The breadfruit trees on Ramrattam's property are interspersed with the plums, cherries, mangoes, and other foods he grows.

Rarely is breadfruit produced on a commercial scale or processed to pro-

duce long-lived food items like flour – though doing so could provide Trinidad and Tobago with a greater supply of food for tough times as well as export income. . . .

As Trinidad and Tobago prepare for an uncertain climate future, Maharaj says sustainable food sources like breadfruit should be an integral part of the Caribbean country's food security contingency planning.

"I think that it's time we recognize the versatility and contribution that foods like these could lend to our sustainability," he says. A breadfruit tree can "more than likely feed us for the rest of our lives."

Source: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2023/01/02/climate-change-breadfruit-trinidad-tobago>

Examples of greenwashing

Green-crowding	Hiding behind alliances or amongst peers to avoid scrutiny
Green-lighting	Drawing attention to a small green feature to distract from negative environmental impacts elsewhere
Green-shifting	Shifting the blame onto the consumer
Green-labelling	Misleading marketing tactics
Green-rinsing	Continuously changing ESG targets before they are achieved
Green-hushing	Underreporting or refusing to disclose sustainability credentials to avoid investor scrutiny

Table: Tom Finn • Source: Planet Tracker

Context

Greenwashing's Broad Brush [Beware of the Bright Green Lies]

By Megan Rowling, Context

From green-shifting to green-crowding and green-rinsing, the practice of businesses inflating claims about their actions to protect the climate and environment has become so common that the original epithet – greenwashing – has spawned a bunch of sub-categories. Take your pick from the graphic above.

Whether it's fossil fuel firms hiding their main business behind far smaller renewable energy activities or pension funds marketing "sustainable" investment options that include holdings in carbon-heavy companies, regulators worldwide are starting to clamp down on misleading advertising.

South Korea, for example, is the first East Asian nation to draft a law that would fine companies for false or exaggerated green claims, as businesses in Asia-Pacific face more scrutiny over

their environmental credentials and net-zero emissions pledges, reports Marianne Bray.

"Just as regulating tobacco adverts stopped misleading consumers, the same kind of regulation with the right sanctions will prevent greenwashing," says ex-fossil fuel lawyer turned climate advocate Jihyeon Ha, who pressured South Korean oil giant SK E&S into retracting claims it would produce carbon-free gas.

How to put in place new transparency and accountability mechanisms – ideally using the law – to ensure that corporations and governments meet their promises on climate action was also high on the agenda at this month's Skoll World Forum, as our climate editor Laurie Goering writes.

Electric Nightmares

The Oxford gathering of experts taking on global problems each year

awards the achievements of organizations doing innovative work with impact – often on behalf of nature and the climate.

This year AMAN, an alliance that represents 15 million Indigenous people in Indonesia and tackles threats to their land and human rights, was one of them.

In Indonesia, long-time risks such as expanding palm oil plantations have now been joined by a host of new ones as companies and governments line up the minerals, clean energy installations, and water storage dams needed to combat climate change and deal with its impacts.

"People in the Global North might feel better if they use electric cars. But it's a new hell for us," AMAN's leader Rukka Sombolinggi told Context.

The challenge is not only to make sure that green policies and projects

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Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/David Sherfinski

A member of a Virginia Department of Forestry team ignites part of a controlled burn in King William County, Virginia, USA, March 9, 2023.

don't have negative consequences for local people. It's also about sharing benefits with communities whose land and resources are in demand for a low-carbon transition.

In Brazil's Amazon, that means shifting money from the vast soy and cattle ranching economy – a major driver of deforestation – into an older, more sustainable system of families and cooperatives producing forest products such as açai, rubber, and pharmaceutical ingredients.

In the lead-up to Skoll, we talked to Carina Pimenta, Brazil's new National Secretary for the Bioeconomy and a founder of Conexsus – a Brazilian non-profit that helps traditional

producers grow and was another Skoll award winner this year.

End of Insurance?

Meanwhile, as temperatures climb in the northern hemisphere ahead of summer, we're looking at the ramifications of drought across large parts of Europe and forest fires in the United States.

In Italy, the government is taking new steps to manage water disputes and renovate infrastructure, as farmers worry about irrigating crops for food and livestock, hard on the heels of last year's drought, the worst in 70 years.

And U.S. correspondent David Sherfinski ventured out with the Virginia Department of Forestry crew as they

carefully set fire to about 16 acres of private land in the eastern U.S. state. Such prescribed burns are a widely backed way of clearing the ground of vegetation that can fuel wildfires.

But U.S. conservation groups are struggling to buy the insurance policies they need to conduct these controlled burns as underwriters hike their premiums in line with rising fire risk.

Source: https://www.context.news/newsletter?id=3ec4710f8bc8e65c656bec95afa099ab&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=context-climate



Photos Courtesy RADI

Note from Iona: *Feruzi is an old friend of the Grassroots Coalition who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of refugees where he now lives.*

Families who fled violence and civil wars in their homelands get help from treehugger member, who also fled with nothing. He and they need assistance.

By Feruzi Juma Kikuni, Founder and Chairperson at Refugee Alliance for Development and Innovation, Kenya

We want to show you in which manner we tried several times to improve our impactful work.

But something went wrong for aches and pains in our organization because of inadequate funds. So please your support could improve the situation and innovate UN goals of climate action SDG 13. Welcome and support. Much appreciate your work!

We never give up although the challenges faced at our organization Refugee Alliance for Develop-

ment and Innovation (RADI) here in Kakuma refugee camp and Kalubeyei settlement, Kenya. We're waiting for support to improve our impactful work and show the world how much we continue struggling with the project for changing the world in the areas of education and environment!

Not yet getting money from someone else it's why we continue looking forward like-minded people or NGOs who may participate and support this project as much as possible to realize the dream for so long years. This is because since founding this young organization and starting operating the work of helping humanity and protect

our Earth in 2020, we used our efforts and our own contributions that are not enough to progress; we did not have any chance to be granted some grants which could push ahead the daily activities. If someone would materially and financially support the things were realized for sure. Our appreciation goes to you for being in touch and patience with me. Sorry madam in advance for writing this email and thank you for taking time to read.

All of us to care for each other the planet Earth.

Wish you all the best.

Best together!

feruzijumak3@gmail.com



Photos Courtesy Ramblin Sol' Farm

Work at the organic farm where Iona's fresh produce is grown and which she purchases at the local farmers' market during spring and summer.

Weird Weather Worries! Farm News: April 14, 2023

By Hannah Conner and Joe Soto
Ramblin Sol' Farm, Cream Ridge NJ

Tornados and April heat waves without rain, what will they throw at us next? We've said before that we feel like we are on the front lines of climate change and boy are we feeling it right now. Just as we are hitting our stride getting crops in the ground on time this year, the hot, dry weather is stressing out our cool-season veggies! All those snap peas, kales, kohlrabi, cabbages, radishes, turnips, carrots, potatoes, and greens are now being irrigated like we've never had to before. A few seedlings in the greenhouse are even sunburned!

So, what should we do with the world on fire around us? Despite the abuse, the natural world is full of remarkable examples of rejuvenation and healing. Organisms work together to recover and regenerate. Let us respond by becoming a part of that process through small changes to daily habits. Let's educate our next generation about limiting plastics, water usage, and the use of substances that are known to damage the vital systems that protect us. Let us feed ourselves with simple ingredients and nourish our souls by building community! It is getting harder to grow food, but we aren't ready to give up so get inspired, have hope, and join us at the farm!



Messages from Our Friends

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

Looking forward to the other 2', the climate emergency news is fascinating,

Ajibono Tolulope, Nigeria (Friends of Fireflies)

(*Treehuggers* #3 was sent to her friends)

Hello Friends and Family,

I know all of you really care about Mother Earth. Here's an opportunity to get more knowledge and get involved.

Please read and then subscribe so you can keep up on what's happening.

Stay Safe and Well,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Thank you for your previous two *Treehuggers* magazines. Great to get them!

As always, I can only commend your efforts Iona, in this case to raise awareness of the vital need to defend forests everywhere.

A long-time passion of my own!

Love from Australia,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

Dear Iona,

Thank you for your tireless work!

Love,

Derrick Jensen, California USA

This is such a good edition of your newsletter, Iona. The Old-Growth Forest Network will be recognizing Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton, Virginia on Tuesday April 18th, and I plan to be there! I haven't seen Joan Maloof in ages, and I've only been to one forest dedication before. I love it that you are working with this wonderful organization.

Keep up the good work!

Love and hugs,

Marney Bruce, Maryland USA

Thanks for sharing this Iona,

Marney is a wonderful early-supporter of the Old-Growth Forest Network. I love seeing all the connections in our

"forest tribe." Kind of like mycelia.

Joan Maloof, Founder Old-Growth Forest Network

www.oldgrowthforest.net

IMO, your *Treehuggers* newsletter is improving with each edition. I particularly like the gorgeous, inspirational photos in volume 3.

I must nitpick your otherwise spot-on page 2 editorial, however. If they aren't misused by fallible humans, "TV and the Internet" are technologies that could potentially save our planet. Commercials are lost on me, for example, because I've been muting them for years. And, needless to say, I avert my gaze from Internet ads.

Allen Hengst, Washington DC, USA

Just read your *Treehuggers*, and it was both inspiring and an awesome article. Well done Iona; and spring is now here. Here's to even Happier International tree hugging Days of Forest- ing!

Ray Metcalf, New Jersey USA

[Received the following email after sending out a Rainforest Action Network letter to sign in response to this:

"In the 7 years since the Paris Agreement, the world's top 60 banks have poured \$5.5 TRILLION into fossil fuel financing - setting the world on fire. Just a handful of U.S. banks, including the Big 6 - aka Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs - ac-

count for 35% of the total fossil fuel expansion financing from 60 banks around the world. And Morgan Stanley stands out as the top US banker of dirty liquefied 'natural' gas (LNG) expansion."]

Land and money are the two big issues we need to solve in order to build a world that works for everyone. Re: what you just sent on banks.

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

(After I sent an Action Alert to my lists re: deep seabed mining)

I commented on this. These seabed mining proposals are quickly expanding globally and soon most of the oceans and maritime life will be destroyed. Makes me ill.

<https://www.facebook.com/100083500746620/posts/pfbid02-KD61vCe2VDgRyoPfvF82zQVf-moH9DwkhGDswsrAVzCUEMucCfd r1HbfRAF3rE8i4l/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=6aamW6>

David Hunter Bishop, USA

[After sharing Jeannette's video about Moringa seeds and trees]

I like this friend. I have tried to access Moringa seeds and failed here in Uganda but I feel they must be good for the children like mine here in the Orphanage school.

Let's keep the candle burning as a family.

Amos Mugarura, Uganda (Comforter of the Voiceless Child Friend Space)

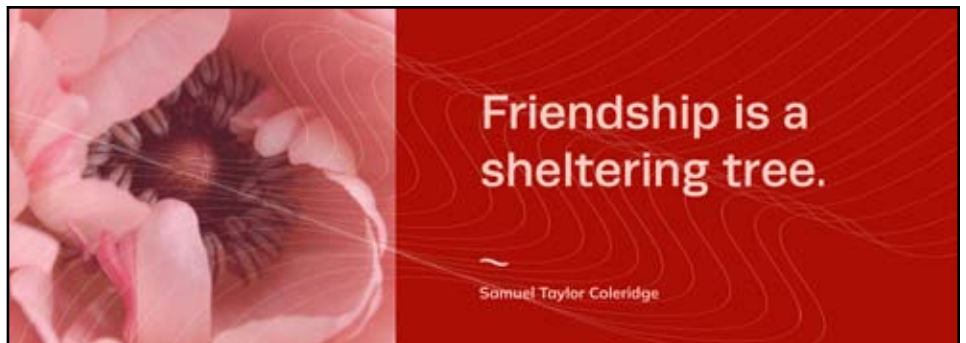


Image submitted by Joan Norris Daurio, New Jersey USA