

Treehuggers United = Invincible

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

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

Volume 5: May 20, 2023



Photo Courtesy CBF

A ruling from Maryland's Supreme Court found forest conservation plans for development projects can be legally challenged after being approved.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Wins Abingdon Woods Forest Protection Lawsuit in Maryland

**Submitted by Bill Boteler, USA
(volunteering in Costa Rica)**

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)
May 12, 2023

Great news! On Wednesday, a Harford County judge ruled in favor of CBF in a lawsuit against a developer that was threatening to cut down hundreds of acres of ecologically valuable woods. Specifically, the developer was proposing to clear about 220 acres of forest in Abingdon Woods, including 49 large and ecologically important trees, to build warehouses. This is a major victory that has been years in the making.

Trees are the backbone of our communities and critical to a healthy environment. They help filter our local waters, increase property values, reduce energy costs, provide clean air and wildlife habitat, and improve public health. That's why in 2019 the Chesapeake Bay Foundation took action and filed suit to contest the forest conservation plan approved for this massive warehouse project. In the intervening years, we have pursued this case through the different levels of Maryland's judicial system with setbacks and victories. Just last year, we secured a landmark ruling from Mary-

land's Supreme Court that found forest conservation plans for development projects can be legally challenged after being approved. This was a victory not only for Abingdon Woods, but for all the forests of Maryland. (<https://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2022/maryland/landmark-maryland-court-of-appeals-ruling-in-favor-of-cbf-ensures-forest-conservation-plans-can-be-legally-challenged.html>)

Last fall we also secured a halt and then an injunction to stop tree clearing at the site after the developer began clearing trees in July. We

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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.

Let's talk about work vs retirement and life in general these days.

I've never actually been retired but when I quit my part-time job and decided I never want to work again, I had to make some major adjustments at 77.

I realize that some of you may be in your 20s or 30s or well below retirement age but I'm hoping these "Go Back" thoughts will help you.

Life was more simple long ago; maybe not easier, just more simple.

I have lived full throttle, gung-ho, full speed ahead in much of my work life, especially when I get a new idea. I run full out with it until I realize that I've gone overboard.

Does this happen to you?

Once I decided to focus on the environment in New Jersey instead of the entire continent of Africa in terms of global warming, I launched myself into a thorough investigation of several environmental groups here. Then along came the opportunity to work as a volunteer with the Old-Growth Forest Network but I was still working my part-time, minimum-wage job and pub-

lishing this newspaper while recovering from surgery, then an impinged shoulder from swimming too vigorously once I could swim again, followed by a month of physical therapy, and then the *coup d'état* = shingles.

Gee, something was really wrong with how I had organized my disorganized life for myself when I should have been figuring out how to act "retired."

So...after not being able to find any old-growth forests here in Ocean County, I gave up, knowing that my devotion to trees and forests could be expressed in *Treehuggers*. Then I started getting off a whole lot of email lists that no longer interested me. My entire life has encompassed almost every single environmental problem you can imagine but if I truly want to be effective, I can no longer get carried away with them all.

I was going to too many local meetings and the people in them were not very interested in trees or forests; they are much more politically-minded than I am so I stopped going to those.

This has been a radical departure

from my normal way of doing things. I'm still "downsizing" my activities so that I'm enjoying LIFE more! I'm swimming again, biking, learning how to get more exercise and eat better. These are all things I've dabbled with periodically so I'm not a novice; I've been a drifter following the pattern of push ahead hard, wear myself out, give up temporarily, and then try again.

What holds my heart and soul is publishing this newspaper in different forms for the past 16 years. It's my Love Letter to Earth. When I heal myself, in a way I'm helping to heal the planet.

This is a very interesting time of my life. I hope I haven't bored you (smile).

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

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.

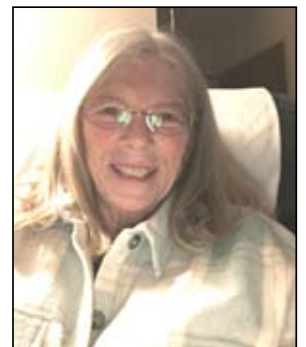
I'd like to see this become a team effort as it has

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



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Fair Use Logo





Photo Courtesy of Milo Putnam

Female Eastern Lowland Gorilla with infant captured with remote field camera in Tayna Nature Reserve.

Camera Trap Images of Rare Gorillas With Infants Bring Hope in DRC

Submitted by **Bill Boteler**
Maryland USA



By Liz Kimbrough, *excerpt*
Mongabay: April 21, 2023

• Camera traps in the Tayna Nature Reserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo have recorded two mother-infant pairs of eastern lowland goril-

las, confirming the presence of healthy family groups in one of their last strongholds.

- This subspecies is critically endangered, with only 6,800 individuals left in the world, and is threatened by hunting, deforestation, and mining activities
- Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conser-

vation Education (GRACE) operates the world's only sanctuary for rescued eastern lowland gorillas, and employs local communities in a key role in monitoring efforts in Tayna. . . .

Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/04/camera-trap-photos-of-rare-gorillas-with-infants-bring-hope-in-the-drc/>

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remain concerned that the developer cleared many of the specimen trees that the state's Forest Conservation Act would have protected had the law been followed. We're now evaluating what options we may have to correct this wrong. Stay tuned. (<https://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2022/maryland/judge-extends-halt-to-abingdon-woods-tree-clearing.html>)

CBF's Director of Litigation Paul Smail issued the following statement in response to the ruling:

"This is a major victory for citizens to ensure that the Forest Conservation Act in Maryland can be used to protect forested land from unceasing encroachment by developers. The judge's ruling sends a message to counties and developers that there must be a

clear factual basis for granting waivers from the state's requirements to protect forested land.

"Most developers won't suffer hardship by preserving forests and large trees that benefit residents' physical and mental health, the enjoyment of their property, and improve water quality. That's why we're urging government agencies to follow the law, do the research and analysis, and if they must grant a waiver to a developer, make sure they provide a factual basis and required findings as to why this benefit was provided to the developer and not to other property owners.

"In this specific case, we remain concerned that the developer cleared many of the specimen trees that the Forest Conservation Act would have protected

had the law been followed. Those trees were cleared while this case was being adjudicated, despite attempts by CBF to halt the destruction. We're now evaluating what options we may have to correct this wrong."

This victory shows what's possible when concerned citizens take a stand to ensure that the Forest Conservation Act in Maryland can be used to protect forested land from unceasing encroachment by developers. Thank you for standing with us.

Source: <https://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2022/maryland/landmark-maryland-court-of-appeals-ruling-in-favor-of-cbf-ensures-forest-conservation-plans-can-be-legally-challenged.html>

Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests

By Derrick Jensen and George Draffan, *excerpt from pages 12-14*

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

One of humanity's oldest written stories – one of the formative myths of our culture – is that of Gilgamesh, who destroyed southern Mesopotamia's cedar forests to build a city. According to this story, Enlil, the chief Sumerian deity, who must forever watch out for the well-being of the Earth, entrusted the demigod Humbaba to defend the forest from invaders, from the first civilized humans – as opposed to people of the land – to enter the region. But the warrior-king Gilgamesh killed Humbaba and leveled the forest. Enlil sent down curses on the deforesters, "May the food you eat be eaten by fire; may the water you drink be drunk by fire." These curses have followed us now for several thousand years.

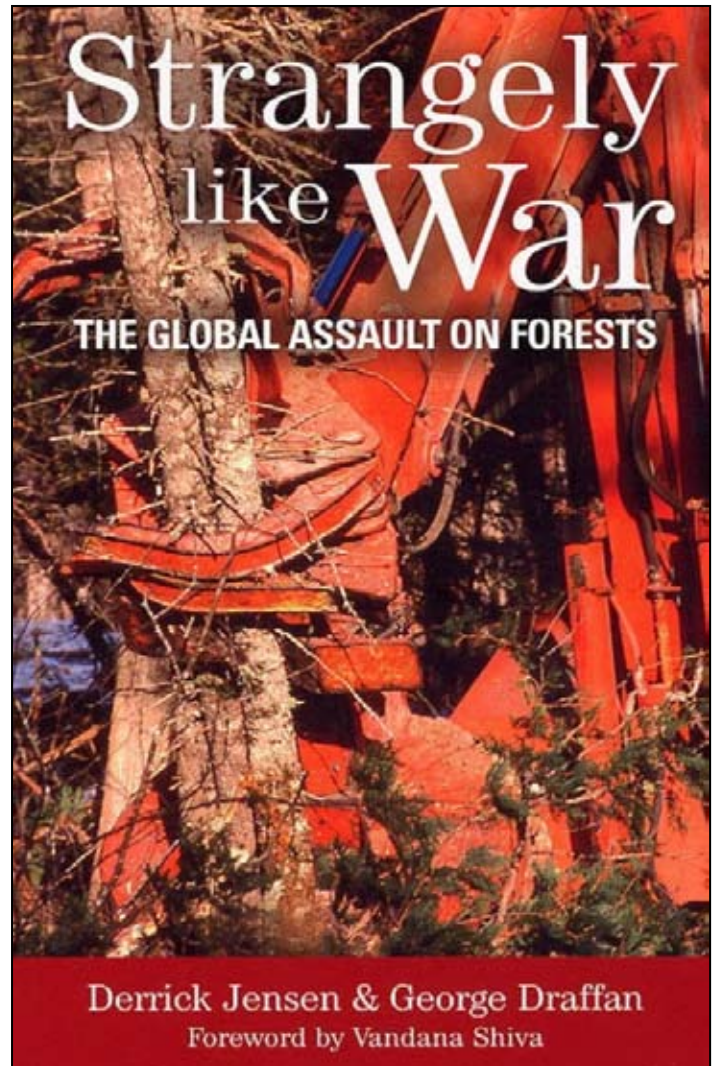
Let's move a little west. Picture this time the hills of Israel and Lebanon. I recently asked a man from Israel if his country has trees, and he said, "Oh yes, we have lots of little trees which we water by hand." This fits with the images that come to mind: every picture I've ever seen of the Crucifixion, for example, shows a hilltop mainly or entirely devoid of trees. The same is true for most of the pictures I've seen of Palestinian refugee camps, and for Israeli settlements. What happened to the "land of milk and honey" we read about in the Bible? And what about those famous "cedars of Lebanon" we've read so much about? They're long gone, cut to build temples, cities, and ships, cut for fuel, cooking, metalworking, pottery kilns, and all the trinkets of commerce.

Move west again, to Crete, and then up to Greece, and we see the same stories of trees making way for civilization. Knossos was heavily forested, and now is not. Pylos, the capital of Mycenaean Greece, was surrounded by giant pine forests. Once-forested Melos became barren. The same is true for all of Greece.

When you think of Italy, do you think of dense forests? Italy was once forested. These fell with the rise of the Roman Empire.

Or how about North Africa? Surely not. This land is as barren as the Middle East. But here, once again quoting Perlin in *A Forest Journey: The Role of Wood in the Development of Civilization*, "Berbers fulfilled their duty by felling the dense forest growth for their Arab masters. Such large quantities of wood were shipped from these mountains that the local port was named 'Port of the Tree'" – deforested to make Egyptian warships.

We could continue with this journey, through France, Britain, along the eastern seaboard of the United States, across North and South America, into Asia, Africa, but we're sure



that by now you see the pattern.

#

The pattern continues today, accelerating as our culture metastasizes across the globe. Worldwide, forests fall.

As of 1997, Nigeria had lost 99 percent of its native forests. The same was true of Finland and India. China, Vietnam, Laos, Guatemala, Cote d'Ivoire, Taiwan, Sweden, Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Burma, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Cameroon, and Cambodia had all lost at least 90 percent. Australia, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Zaire, Malaysia, and Honduras had lost at least 80 percent. Russia, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Bhutan, and the Congo had lost at least 70 percent. Gabon, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Belize, Colombia, and Ecuador had lost at least 60 percent. Brazil and Bolivia had lost over half. Chile, Peru, Canada, and Venezuela had lost almost half.

Since 1997, of course, more forests have fallen, as deforestation continues despite worldwide economic recession.

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



Photo Courtesy Scotty Creek Research Station

Indigenous Ludlu Kue people at a ceremony marking their taking charge of the Scotty Creek Research Station.

Canada's First Nations Protect Millions of Acres of Their Lands

Indigenous-led efforts are conserving land on an unprecedented scale while enabling scientists to study threats to northern ecosystems.

By Ed Struzik, *excerpt*

YES! Magazine: December 27, 2022

Originally published by *Yale Environment 360*.

On yet another unusually warm subarctic day last August, members of the Łíídlı́ Kúę First Nation in the Northwest Territories of Canada held a fire-feeding ceremony, drummed, raised their eagle-emblazoned flag, and prepared a celebratory feast for themselves and a group of scientists 30 miles south of where they live in Fort Simpson.

By the close of festivities, Laurier University's 23-year-old Scotty Creek Research Station, which is monitoring the varied impacts of climate change and permafrost thaw, had become the

first Indigenous-led research station in Canada.

The event marked another milestone in a remarkable effort by Indigenous people across Northern Canada to address the impacts of climate change, which is contributing to the burning of carbon-rich peatlands, precipitous declines in caribou populations, increased levels of mercury in fish, and the spread of novel pathogens and invasive species.

"Climate change is not going to wait for us to find a way of adapting and mitigating," said Gladys Norwegian before I visited Scotty Creek last summer. Norwegian was once grand chief of the Dehcho Dene, which includes the Łíídlı́ Kúę First Nation of Fort Simpson, as well as several other Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories' Mackenzie Valley.

"It's happening now," Norwegian

said. "We need to work as leaders and partners with scientists to see what is coming. We also need to get our own act together."

Not only are First Nations and the Inuit working closely with Western scientists to inventory and study their lands, but they have also made striking progress setting aside vast tracts of land and ocean, a decades-long push that has recently gained momentum and now amounts to tens of millions of acres. Conservationists say the scale of these efforts is unprecedented.

"The scale of these land withdrawals is certainly far exceeding even the imaginations of conservationists in the U.S., or really from most of the world," said Jeff Wells, vice president of boreal conservation for the National Audubon Society.

Gerald Antoine, regional chief for Northwest Territories in the Assembly
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Photo: Daniel Case via Wikipedia

The Yukon's Ivvavik National Park, the first large tract of Indigenous land set aside for protection.

of First Nations of Canada, said he believes the goal in setting aside so much territory is to preserve a traditional way of life by working with scientists – as well as hunters and trappers – to better understand what threatens northern ecosystems and to preserve major portions of their lands from resource development.

“That’s really the best way of dealing with climate change,” he said.

The most recent acreage slated to be withdrawn for conservation in the Northwest Territories is a vast area of wetlands from the Sahtu region. Known locally as Ts’udé Niljné, the Ramparts River and Wetlands is rich in oil and gas. But it is also culturally important and internationally recognized for its high volume of carbon-dense wetlands and its importance for migratory bird populations.

If all goes according to plan, the protected area will be more than twice

the size of Yellowstone National Park and will be closely studied by Sahtu hunters working with scientists from Ducks Unlimited, the University of Saskatchewan, and a multidisciplinary group of academic researchers, government, and private industry partners.

Eight years earlier, the Sahtu Dene signed an agreement with the Canadian government to create Nááts’ihch’oh, a 1.2-million-acre (.49-million-hectare) national park that protects the headwaters of Nahanni National Park, a United Nations World Heritage site and a traditional hunting ground for the Dehcho Dene. Last June, the Dehcho finalized a deal with the Canadian government to include 3.5 million acres (1.4 million hectares) of their land in the Horn Plateau, the Hay River Lowlands, and the Great Slave Plain on the list of national wildlife areas. Edézhíe is now the first Indigenous National Wildlife Area in Canada.

Apart from Edézhíe, nearly 12

million acres (4.9 million hectares) of land has recently been set aside in the Northwest Territories under various acts. Another 6.5 million acres (2.6 million hectares) are under consideration for conservation withdrawals.

In the Yukon, 13.8 million acres (5.9 million hectares) were recently set aside for the Peel River watershed, with another 9.8 million acres (4 million hectares) slated for the Dawson region, and nearly 5 million acres (2 million hectares) along the Yukon North Slope.

In the eastern Arctic, the Canadian government and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed a landmark agreement in 2019 to establish the Tallurutiup Imanga Lancaster Sound National Marine Conservation Area, Canada’s newest and – at 27 million acres (11 million hectares) – by far its largest marine protected area.

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Tomorrow Is Ours

By Austin Pearsons

DGR News Service: May 8, 2023

Editor's Note: *It is not enough to consider short-term productivity when we talk about restoration of the natural world. It is imperative that we talk about how the landscape will be in the future – hundreds, maybe thousands, of years from today. Only then will we be talking about true sustainability, or about true restoration.*

Our actions today determine our options tomorrow. This is as good a time as any to ask ourselves hard questions. To look around, to look inward.

How are our choices impacting future generations? What will be our legacy? Will the children of tomorrow benefit from our actions today? Will our grandchildren thank us for our dedication and foresight? Our grandchildren's grandchildren? Will there be abundance or will there be scarcity? The answer hinges on us in the present.

Many of our cultural predecessors practiced the seven-generation principle or something like it. They recognized that the conditions we inherit in this lifetime have been determined by the actions of those who came before us; from seven generations ago until now. They acknowledged that the decisions made today reach far into the future; affecting those yet unborn for seven generations (there are many interpretations). Today we are imper-



Photo Courtesy DGR

Will the children of tomorrow benefit from our actions today? Will our grandchildren thank us for our dedication and foresight? Our grandchildren's grandchildren?

iled by widespread pollution, water contamination, chronic inflammatory diseases, global pandemics, escalating rates of deforestation, extinction and biodiversity loss, ocean acidification and collapsing fish stocks, massive uncontrollable wildfires, insect and diseases outbreaks decimating forests, loss of soil fertility paralyzing our global agricultural systems, food insecurity, sea level rise, climate chaos, flooding, drought, inflation, debt, war, and on and on and on. This is the legacy of our ancestors which we have inherited. I often wonder if we will last seven generations more.

If we are to secure a livable future

for the generations to come, we must adjust our way of thinking, acting, and being. The solutions to the crises we face are less complex than we are often led to believe. Let's break it down. Pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change are our big problems to solve. In solving them, we can address every related problem of our time (governmental corruption, corporate greed, and media collusion are beyond the scope of this analysis).

I cannot claim to be a global expert so I will stick to what we can do right here in Appalachia which can, in fact, go a long way towards re-

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In the Hudson Bay Lowlands of northern Manitoba, three Indigenous communities in the Seal River watershed are working, along with several conservation groups, to protect 12 million acres (4.9 million hectares) of boreal peatlands. The mineral-rich forest and tundra watershed hold 1.7 billion tons of carbon, equivalent to eight years' worth of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada.

“Down here in the U.S, or even in southern Canada,” said Wells, “it is considered a triumph to conserve a parcel in the thousands of acres, while these Indigenous-led initiatives in Canada are conserving landscapes in the millions of acres. That higher-level vision and ambition is what is needed to confront the biodiversity and climate change crises. . . .”

Ed Struzik is a Canadian author and photographer. He has been writing on environmental issues for three decades. He is the author of *Swamplands: Tundra Beavers, Quaking Bogs and the Improbable World of Peat* and a fellow at the Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy at Queen's University.

Source: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2022/12/27/first-nations-land-canada>

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Photo: Abigail Ducote

Author Austin Pearsons writes, *“The picture I am painting is of a landscape unfragmented by cities, suburbia, fences, and roads – where water was clean enough to drink, where ancient trees freely gave hundreds, often thousands, of pounds of food to any and all year after year for centuries on end with no need to fertilize, till, spray, or tax – all while improving soil fertility, sequestering carbon, and protecting water quality.”*

solving global challenges. It is worth noting that Appalachia is the largest temperate deciduous forest on Earth, among the most biodiverse regions on the continent of North America (and the world). A resilient forest that once stretched, nearly unbroken, from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean, from the Gulf of Mexico to Quebec. The chestnuts, chinquapins, oaks, hickories, walnuts, hazels, maples, countless species of berries and tree fruits, roots, herbs, fish, and game provided abundant proteins, carbohydrates, fats, sugars, nutrients, and medicines to the indigenous peoples who were inseparable co-creators of the forests. Some peoples supplemented their diets with diverse varieties of corn, beans, and squash (and other cultivated crops) as well.

They did this all without factories,

steel, internal combustion engines, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, plastics, fossil fuels, electricity, or the Internet. The picture I am painting is of a landscape unfragmented by cities, suburbia, fences, and roads – where water was clean enough to drink, where ancient trees freely gave hundreds, often thousands, of pounds of food to any and all year after year for centuries on end with no need to fertilize, till, spray, or tax – all while improving soil fertility, sequestering carbon, and protecting water quality. Food was always close at hand: no need to ship it from California, Mexico, Indonesia, or Brazil. Medicine was freely available to those who were sick. Clothing, canoes, string, sealant, and shoes grew on trees, in wetlands and fields – even walked about on four legs. The forests were chemists and cooks, providers of

heat, they built homes, insulated, and illuminated them too. When I consider these things, I question the wisdom of our current paradigm.

The way we practice agriculture today is the leading cause of biodiversity loss, deforestation, topsoil erosion, and the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses globally. The methods are efficient by some standards and the food produced is calorically rich, perhaps, but nutritionally poor and loaded with poison. It causes us innumerable health problems such as food allergies, irritable bowel syndrome, tooth decay, obesity, and diabetes. Agriculture, as practiced today separates us from the land, from our food, and causes hopeless dependence on the very systems that are exploiting and polluting our bodies, watersheds, ecosystems, and

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the planet. Conventional agriculture decreases the genetic diversity of our crop species and decreases the diversity of food that we have access to. If we wanted to stop eating Roundup-ready, genetically modified corn, soy, and rice, most of us would starve. We argue incessantly over jobs, and obsess over our fitness regimes, but if we took a shovel and a hoe and planted our lawns with food, we would be healthy, wealthy, and wise in no time. If we planted them with chestnuts and cherries, pecans and persimmons, our grandchildren might not face the problems we do.

Locally we farm hay, grains like corn and wheat, and cows on our most productive lands – lands that once supported thousands of plants and animals per acre. The productivity of our local agriculture declines over time as soil fertility washes downslope. Why not apply the principles of regenerative/restoration agriculture, agroecology, or closely related permaculture? The benefits of replacing conventional agriculture with diverse perennial polycultures have been demonstrated all over the world, often in more challenging conditions than those encountered here in Appalachia.

Millions now replicate successful strategies worked out by indigenous peoples everywhere and described by: Yeoman, Fukuoka, Mollison, Holmgren, Shepard, Smith, Holzer, Gotsch, and so many more. There are countless documented approaches to growing food that are vastly more productive and resilient than industrial agriculture. If we applied these principles instead, we could grow more (and more nutritionally dense) food per acre, with less inputs, and labor that decreases over time while yields simultaneously increase. Intact forests would sequester carbon while feeding people, improving soil fertility, cleaning our waters and decreasing the forest fragmentation which endangers the irreplaceable biodiversity that defines Appalachia. Most importantly, by reconciling our relation

to the land, we take responsibility for the future that our grandchildren will inherit; giving them a chance to prosper in what seems an uncertain and perilous future.

Our forestry paradigm is an extension of industrial agriculture. While it has (arguably) been changing for the better it still looks at forests in terms of dollars and board-feet. More troublesome yet, the benefits from cutting the trees of Appalachia's forests don't remain in the area, but line the pockets of far away lumber barons who ship it to distant markets where they have already exhausted their forests. Each timber harvest releases carbon into the atmosphere and disrupts the complex web of life in the soil, exposing it to erosive forces, reducing forest biodiversity above and below ground, and introducing invasive species. Mature forests are more species rich and resilient than those that grow back after logging.

Ancient trees are critical genetic banks who carry the wisdom to survive changing climate, insect and disease pressures, and who transfer those abilities to future generations. They also support more species of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, fungi, and other plants, produce more food and sequester more carbon than younger trees. It is now known that old trees nurture the young and the weak through the mycorrhizal network that connects the entire forest.

When we harvest the biggest and healthiest trees in the forest, we destroy the communication and support network that is hidden below ground. Should we not revere the old giants of the forest who have been here longer than us? Should we not offer the wonderment and spiritual presence of old-growth forests to future generations? Should we not learn from their teachings of generosity, reciprocity, persistence, intra- and inter-species cooperation for the good of the whole – for intergenerational prosperity?

There is great wisdom in the soil, in

the forest community, and if we are wise we will pay close attention.

If you believe that there is a better way, I assure you that you're right. If you feel powerless to do anything about it, you are not alone, but you are incorrect. We can all make small adjustments to our lifestyles, paying attention to the choices we make each day. Collectively, such actions can make a difference, but it will not be enough if we do not affect larger systems change. There is much we can do to protect what little remains and to restore what has been lost, but we must come together. We must take responsibility for the future, we must shift our perspective, we must collaborate. This human-centered, narcissistic, capitalistic, punitive, infinite-growth paradigm that we have inherited is unsustainable, unethical, and unintelligent.

I believe that we have the capacity to do good work for the benefit of the whole. But first, we need to shift our consciousness to an ecocentric worldview that removes humans from the hierarchy and places us in a circle with the rest of life on Earth. If you agree, let's get to work. Together we can achieve what is impossible alone.

We are a diverse group of people in every season of life with different skills and assets that are significantly greater than the sum of parts. Linked by a common past and future – like an old-growth forest – ancient mother-trees carry wisdom, access deep water and scarce resources that the young, weak, and sick need to survive. They share through an unseen network so that when the storm brings down the tallest tree, others are prepared to take their place. The individual lives on through others so long as the forest remains intact.

So it shall be with us, the visionaries and change-makers. We who give freely of ourselves to ensure that tomorrow is more abundant than today.

Source: <https://dgmnewsservice.org/resistance-culture/biophilia/tomorrow-is-ours>

Tree-Planting Project in Capital City of Zimbabwe Led by Treehugger Member



Photos Courtesy REP

(left) Old flame lily trees along one of the roads in Harare. (right) Repair Earth Project in action ready to plant trees.

The Repair Earth Projects (REP) is a registered Trust that caters and champions environmental conservation in Zimbabwe. This involves organizing tree planting events and environmental protection activities in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Environmental Management Agency, and Councils. Our efforts also include the removal of invasive weeds and plants in our environmental landscapes, pruning of trees that block ways of vehicles, replacement of old trees.

REP is very happy to have been granted an opportunity to beautify our capital city, Harare. We expect to work with the City of Harare employees in

our efforts to restore the once Sunshine City status of our capital city. We will also engage volunteers from all corners of Harare. Our aim will be to spread the establishment of tree nurseries so as to grow more trees for afforestation.

The high density areas of Harare are marred by alarming desertification due to urbanization that disregards environmental conservation. For us to fulfill our goals, we kindly request for a hand of help from like-minded individuals and environmental management organizations willing to collaborate with us in greening and beautifying our motherland.

We require tools, trees, and food for

the volunteers.

Donations can be sent via PayPal to Adam Waterhouse: zimprojects100@gmail.com

For further information about Repair Earth Projects, feel free to contact us:

Attention: Mr B. Musemwa (Project Ambassador - REP)

Email: bm4agreenplanet@gmail.com



Messages from Our Friends

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



Photo Courtesy SCOPE Kenya

John Macharia wrote, "Moringa is one of the miracle trees, that can address many nutritional requirements, and for regenerating degraded land in semi-arid regions. It's also a good fodder tree for the animals."

Dear Iona and everyone,

Greetings from SCOPE Kenya.

Thank you for the discussion about Moringa. It is one of the miracle trees, that can address many nutritional requirements, and for regenerating degraded land in semi-arid regions. It's also a good fodder tree for the animals.

Attached please find a picture (above), which I took last week at Thika Children's Rescue Centre. We planted it in early July 2022.

Children in this institution love the tree and have been harvesting leaves, which are added in their vegetables. For those who have the space, let us consider growing Moringa trees.

John Macharia, National Coordinator, SCOPE KENYA

[In response to Amos saying he has

trouble getting Moringa seeds.]

India seems to have the best supply of Moringa seeds. That's where my son purchased seeds for me. Mail seems to be unreliable in Uganda. I sent seeds over a year ago and they still have not arrived.

I would send seeds but the post office says there's no guarantee that you will get them. I think you may have better luck ordering them directly from India.

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA

Good for New York!!!!!! New York state is set to ban fossil fuels in new construction starting in 2026.

Governor Kathy Hochul said the move would help the state lower carbon emissions and transition to clean energy sources.

Read in NPR: https://apple.news/A_RwxAtAzQx-6H2uDBDL8nQ

Our governor is an environmentalist!

Doug Davis, New York USA

I am reading this article about protecting sea birds and their environment. And halfway through it mentions the amount of carbon sequestered in the seabed and the value of keeping it there.

Can any seabed miners guarantee they won't disturb this carbon??? I think not.

Anyway, the whole point was to get rare metals for "green" energy electric power.

But it all begins to unravel as did the idea of cutting down rainforests for biofuels.

<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2023/04/24/protecting-a-seabird-haven-from-seafloor-to-sea-surface/>

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA (volunteering in a rainforest in Costa Rica)

[After sending Treehuggers #4.]

Wow! It's very interesting!

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

Another classic! Thank you and keep up the good work.

Allen Hengst, Washington DC, USA

I am now back to the movement as I was very occupied with farming activities mom. Now I am able to take part in every movement organized under the umbrella of the Coalition.

I have come up with a Borehole Drilling campaign at Mawa Primary school that needs \$5,000 to be fully identified and accomplished.

Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page

The situation at this school is very bad and dangerous to the kids.

I need your support and others wherever they are. As I am writing to you now, one child 6 years old died searching for water for the school usage. It is a terrifying story that reinforced me to accomplish Borehole Drilling which is the safe way of obtaining water at school.

Up to now, I have raised \$1,300 that will enable 630 children have access to clean water. Remember the age of the school children ranges from 5 to 12 years old. They are very young to walk 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles) searching for water.

After compliment of this, I will come up with a memorial garden honoring John Conner (founder with Iona of the Grassroots Coalition) as I promised before. I have not underlined a budget, but I have vowed to do this and I will do.

At the moment the target is to save lives of these innocent children, please help me to share this, help me to raise this amount.

Add me to your email list please. I will be so glad to receive the newspaper. Let us unite our hands to rescue the land this will work.

Kesheni Alinamuswe Sengo,
Ubuntu Pan-Africanism and Welfare for Africans, Tanzania
keshenisengo@yahoo.com

It was great talking to you last night and getting caught up on some of your amazing life. Glad to know that you are swimming and bike riding, doing healthy things for yourself. Your *Treehugger* newsletters are wonderful and so very informative. I noticed a photo in the 4th issue of a controlled burn in King William County, Virginia, a county I have spent much time with over the years, not too far from Richmond.

I will enjoy reading these issues and future ones.

Tyla Matteson, Virginia USA

Old-Growth Forest Network greatly appreciates your sleuthing throughout Ocean County and for checking into the forests there. There may be a forest out there somewhere, but it looks like you covered all the most likely candidates.

Best wishes to your continued environmental advocacy throughout your region of New Jersey.

Brian Kane, Mid-Atlantic Manager and Community Outreach Manager, OGFN

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

As the bona fide father, I kindly let you know about my daughter Theresa Musemwa (below), who is brilliant at school. She did well on her grade 7 exams getting 7 units. She is now doing form 1 at Roosevelt Girls High School as a day scholar and was number 1 on first term exams. For the reason I am unemployed and diabetic, I seek a sponsor for her to be able to pursue her studies. Her ambition is to be a doctor.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours truly,

Biggie Musemwa, Repair Earth Project, Zimbabwe (See page 10.)
Email: bm4agreenplanet@gmail.com



SOS

Note from Iona: Some of you may remember a wonderful orphanage manager Mukama Awali in Uganda. He is a professional plumber and used his earnings to care for 35 orphans and street children. He had a fall about a year ago and later slipped into a coma for two months. Miraculously, he woke up! He had a friend caring for him then but that friend moved to Kenya.

He was unable to work when he was recovering and he fell behind in rent. His landlady evicted him, making him homeless. Then she had him arrested. He has a wonderful new friend who alerted me to the crisis via email. I sent enough money to pay part of the past rent, at which point he was released from prison. When this friend told me how much the treatments would be (in Africa, no money = no treatment), an angel in our Global Family sent enough money to pay for his doctor and hospitalization. He's in the hospital now, still critically ill.

(May 19) Hello madam Iona am writing this message to you with a shock and sadness from my heart. Today I went and pick Mukama's staffs (sic) from the evil lady but I found few of them. This stupid woman burned all the clothes, shoes, beddings, and other staffs of Mukama's. I promise you am going to open up a file for this evil lady though it might affect my Job.

If we can raise something like \$1000 for him so that when he is discharged I can get him new clothes, beddings, sheets, shoes, rent for another house as well a phone to help him get his plumbing clients back. Please let's do this for him because after the hospital he doesn't have anywhere else apart from being on streets which may create more dangerous for this innocent Mukama. But I still appreciate you three for standing with Mukama. Am putting my life on risk just to help this innocent man because this may cause me loss my Job. **Contact Iona to help.**