

Earth Speaks

Volume 3: January 8, 2025

www.ionaconner.com

1. Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Chaos: Superior to technological solutions.
2. Consumer Liberation: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

WeLoveU and Manasquan Bank Partner for Tree-Planting in NJ



On Sunday, October 27, 2024, 65 volunteers from the International WeLoveU Foundation partnered with Manasquan Bank to plant 37 trees in Brick Township, New Jersey. Volunteers planted various types of trees at Haven's Farm. A few species included sweet bay magnolia, red maple, red cedar, black oak, and more. This tree-planting event was part of WeLoveU's environmental campaign called the Mom's Garden Project, which aims to plant one million trees by 2026 to achieve carbon neutrality and a greener Earth. WeLoveU volunteers carried out tree-planting activities in other parts of New Jersey as well. This marked the first time that WeLoveU partnered with Brick Township and Manasquan Bank.

By Vincent Palmieri, Land Use Planner, Brick, New Jersey

What an amazing event! With over 60 volunteers in attendance, it's incredible to see the "buy-in" from a community like the Township of Brick. Something as simple as planting trees not only benefits the physical health of a community but has proven

to be closely associated with mental health. Through this project, we've made strides toward several sustainable development goals (SDGs) while improving the quality of life for future generations. A special thanks to Tara Bogajevski Paxton, MPA, PP, AICP & Tony Kono for their endless support toward green projects.

As the old saying goes: "The best

time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." Check out the link on page 2 for the full story!

Vin was featured in the WeLoveU Foundation website: "Vincent Palmieri, the planning analyst of Brick Township, stated, 'The intention here is to plant native species but also to

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have a fence on each tree to prevent weathering and deer (from harming the trees).’

“He also shared the history of Haven’s Farm with the volunteers. Brimming with joy, one group of volunteers dug, planted, and pulled out

many weeds. Meanwhile, other groups worked on assembling and wrapping fences around trees to protect them from deer. Brick Township Board Secretary, Pamela O’Neill, remarked, “You can’t be green until you plant green.” She emphasized the notion

that accomplishing a greener Earth requires time, effort, and sacrifice. . . .

You can read a longer story at <https://weloveuusa.org/weloveu-and-manasquan-bank-partner-for-tree-planting/>

How to Subscribe

Dear Friends,

If you’d like to receive future issues of my newspaper, please email me at grassroots-coalition@pa.net. Also, email me if you have stories and photos you’d like me to consider publishing in future issues. I publish a Messages page similar to Letters to the Editor, so if you want to share your thoughts, please do so.

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

the past, but we need time to develop this project and figure out ways to work together.

This is a labor of love but I always appreciate donations, which you can send to: Iona Conner, 157 Chambersbridge Road 4A, Brick, NJ 08723. If you use Zelle or PayPal, money goes directly to my bank account via dosomething@pa.net. Cash is OK, too. Thank you!

For the Earth,

Iona



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When Jeannette Bartelt Entered Eternity, the Earth Lost an Awesome Advocate, a Voice of Love

Excerpt from Obituary

Jeannette Bartelt, 77, of Frederick, Maryland, passed away on November 14, 2024, after a period of declining health. . .

Her passion for social and environmental justice led her to become a leader in local initiatives. As an organizer and advocate, Jeannette inspired people to come together in solidarity for equity and inclusion. She also played an active role in climate action rallies and healthcare advocacy, firmly believing in the power of grassroots efforts to create meaningful change. . .

Tribute by Iona

Jeannette was a wonderful friend for many years. Many of you met her at our Grassroots Coalition Zoom meetings. If she happened to be talking about how African orphanage managers could improve the children's nutrition and earn money by growing Moringa trees, then you know her. If you attended Zoom meetings in which she described her Green Earth Goods company and was sharing money-making ideas to help you finance care of orphans by turning scraps from sewing companies into marketable products, then you know her. If you were on Zoom meetings discussing the state of the world, then you know that her answer was always LOVE.

I loved Jeannette. She stood by me through rough times. When I was raising money to help African orphans, she sent whatever she could afford. She even made donations to the Coalition to help me keep going.

John and I had started a new adventure when we were running the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. After a few years of environmental outreach, he realized that, despite our efforts to reach



Frederick News Post, July 10, 2015: Jeannette Bartelt, who has been a Frederick City resident for 17 years, is a community activist who plans to run for a city alderman's seat in the next election in 2017. Staff photo by Bill Green (E)

hundreds of churches in Maryland and beyond, environmentalists were losing because we weren't considering the economic realities of how the world functioned.

We saw a video created by an anti-sweatshop group in New York City after they snuck into an actual sweatshop overseas. The way the young women were treated was appalling.

We started the Grassroots Cooperative selling ethically-made clothing, created primarily in the U.S. and made of organic cotton. At the start of this escapade, I stood outside of the Common Market in Frederick, Maryland with a couple of tables piled high with beautiful organic cotton clothing. I'm pretty sure that's how Jeannette and I met about 25 years ago.

Jeannette was a woman who knew how to put together a team of stitchers since she had worked for a U.S. clothing factory. She helped us choose patterns and fabric and a handful of women sewed independently in their homes,


which we added to our collection.

We ordered beautiful clothing, and John was able to secure talks at churches and universities. We packed our Ford Escort and traveled from Boston to Chicago giving programs and selling clothes. We could never have done this without Jeannette's joyful, knowledgeable help.

After several years of this, we went bankrupt; John and I then switched to climate change. He died five years ago and Jeannette became a steadfast member of the Board of Directors when I was running the Coalition alone and building an international organization. She attended nearly every Zoom meeting and encouraged our African activist friends in whatever project they were involved with. She never stopped trying to help them figure out ways to earn their own money to enable them to better care for their children.

Jeannette was an angel here on Earth. I miss her.

Hope is Created Through Action: Climate & Environmental Victories of 2024

By Caroline Wagner, Francesca Cresta and Tan Lee Kuen
Greenpeace: December 19, 2024 

Dear changemakers, thank you for all you've done this year.
Reflecting on 2024, we endured yet another year filled with climate catastrophes, political unrest, and international inequality. But even through these challenging times we can find hope in our collective actions and victories, no matter how big or small. Together, we can pave the way forward towards a better future.

Dear Earth, thank you for continuing to show up every day for us.

Across the globe, people took bold steps to care for the planet. 2024 showed us the strength of coming together with purpose and passion. These efforts may not solve every challenge overnight, but they are the building blocks of creating lasting change.

Dear Earth citizens, we invite you to take moments to appreciate living on this planet.

The journey that we are on is a long one, so friends, take care of yourself as we heal the world together. What lies ahead may not be easy, but as we continue to show up, make our voices heard, and hold polluters accountable we must not forget to take care of ourselves, our peers, and our communities.

Dear all, we hope that you'll join us on this journey towards a better future, taking care of our planet, ourselves, and each other.

With courage as our compass and optimism as our fuel, here are some of the top victories of 2024 for people and the planet to inspire us to keep taking action.

United Kingdom. Shell backs down in lawsuit against Greenpeace



Activists protest against Shell outside the English Admiralty Court in London. © David Mirzoeff/Greenpeace

In February 2023, Shell launched a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against Greenpeace UK and Greenpeace International over a peaceful protest. But with our supporters behind us, we showed Shell their bullying tactics won't intimidate us – and now they've backed down and agreed to settle out of court. People power works – this campaign was fought with the support of thousands of ordinary people against one of the richest companies in the world.

This legal battle might be over, but Big Oil's dirty tricks aren't going away. With Greenpeace facing further lawsuits around the world, we won't stop campaigning until the fossil fuel industry stops drilling and starts paying for the damage it is causing to people and the planet.

Norway. Arctic deep sea mining plans stopped



Activists from Greenpeace International, Nordic, and Germany, project messages from people opposing deep-sea mining onto the Svea Glacier in Spitsbergen. © Bianca Vitale/Greenpeace

Huge win for the ocean as Arctic deep sea mining plans are stopped in Norway! After more than a year of decisive campaign work and massive pressure from activists, scientists, and the international community, the Norwegian government has agreed to stop the first licensing round for deep sea mining in Arctic waters for at least the rest of their term in office, until the next election.

This is a major and important environmental victory which shows that mobilization and people power work.

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Indonesia. Measures to regulate labor standards for fishing vessels adopted



Slavery at sea protest in Jakarta. © Jurnasyanto Sukarno/Greenpeace

After years of discussions, rejections, objections, and negotiations involving governments, civil society organizations, including Greenpeace Indonesia, and unions representing migrant fishers, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) finally adopted the Conservation and Management Measures for Crew Labor Standards on December 3, 2024.

The WCPFC oversees fish population management, promotes sustainable fishing practices, and implements conservation measures. This decision underscores their commitment to ensure the well-being of crew in an industry that suffers from serious labor abuses.

Oceans. Deep sea miners' efforts to limit the right to protest at sea rejected



Protest against a deep-sea mining ship in the Pacific region. © Martin Katz/Greenpeace

Over the last year, The Metals Company and its enablers have repeatedly tried to silence the global wave of resistance. After failing to get an injunction that stopped the action at sea, and unsuccessfully lobbying governments to limit protests around deep sea mining vessels at the International Seabed Authority in March, the company pursued an appeal at the Amsterdam Court of Appeal to try and secure immunity against future Greenpeace protests at sea. But thanks to the incredible work of Greenpeace International's legal unit, on November 21, 2024, the court ruled once more in our favor, reaffirming our right to peaceful protest at sea.

Brazil. Sawré Muybu territory officially demarcated



Munduruku Indigenous People demonstrate in front of the Brazilian Supreme Court to demand the demarcation of the Sawré Muybu Indigenous Land on the Tapajós River in the Amazon, in November 2016 © Otávio Almeida/Greenpeace

On September 25, 2024, the Sawré Muybu territory in the Tapajós River Basin in the heart of the Amazon rainforest was officially demarcated. The Munduruku People have been fighting for the rights to a land that has always belonged to them but is threatened by mining, illegal logging, and infrastructure projects. This is a historic and profoundly symbolic victory not only for the Munduruku, but for all Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon and Brazil.

South Korea. Top court ruled the country's carbon neutrality law as unconstitutional

On August 29, 2024, South Korea's Constitutional Court ruled the country's carbon neutrality law as unconstitutional for violating citizen's rights – making it the first ruling of its kind in Asia! The petition was filed in 2020 by over 200

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Press conference on South Korea's Constitutional Court's final ruling on the Korean climate litigation case. © Photo credit written in Korean

plaintiffs, including young activists and even infants, and is Asia's first climate court case targeting a country's carbon neutrality commitments. This is a major climate win for future generations, and could potentially set a precedent in the region for other climate cases.

Australia. Woolworths and McDonald's commit to going deforestation-free



Piles of trees rotting and on fire, following a deforestation event in Queensland. Queensland has the highest rate of deforestation in Australia. Most deforestation occurs for the purpose of growing pasture for beef cattle. © Paul Hilton/Greenpeace

Woolworths and McDonald's in Australia announced their commitments to source deforestation-free beef. Woolworths will do so by the end of 2025 but McDonald's will implement theirs by 2030 (Greenpeace Australia Pacific will continue to engage with McDonald's to ensure they commit to taking deforestation off the menu – by 2025!). These two giant corporations are some of Australia's biggest retailers and major buyers of Australian beef.

This is a major example of people power as Greenpeace Australia Pacific supporters had sent the big corporations thousands of emails, demanding they go deforestation-free.

Global. Breakthrough for global tax justice



Climate March during COP25 in Madrid © Pedro Armestre/Greenpeace

In a big win for global tax justice, a favorable blueprint for a UN Tax Convention that will pave the way for a fair and efficient global tax system was laid out in August. An inclusive tax cooperation system will shift power from a few rich OECD countries to the UN where every country has a vote and help governments around the world recover the billions lost to tax dodging by multinational corporations and the ultra-rich. There is still much to do to keep up the pressure as negotiations will continue until 2027.

South Africa. Shell loses appeal in case halting plans for oil and gas exploration



Wild-coast community members and partner organizations from South Africa protested against Shell at the Supreme Court of Appeal. © Natanya Harrington/Greenpeace

Big win against Shell in South Africa! After protests by the community and fishers, Shell loses its appeal against the landmark decision in 2022 which ruled against their plans

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to conduct oil and gas exploration off the Wild Coast of South Africa. The court says Shell failed to properly inform and consult affected communities, taking into account community rights and environmental harm. Unfortunately, the fight is not yet over as the court has left the door open for Shell's application to renew its exploration right. Together with allies and the community, Greenpeace Africa is resolute in continuing to fight to stop Big Oil from exploiting the planet for its own profit.

Papua. Major land rights win for Indigenous Peoples



The Knasaimos Indigenous Peoples, residing in Indonesia's Southwest Papua province have fought for decades to protect their lands from exploitation. © Jurnasyanto Sukarno/Greenpeace

On June 6, 4000 Indigenous Papuans finally received legal recognition of customary rights over 97,411 hectares (239,692,000 acres) of tropical rainforests in South Sorong Regency. The newly recognized Indigenous lands of the Knasaimos Peoples spans an area almost the size of Hong Kong.

As with many Indigenous communities across Tanah Papua (the western half of New Guinea, also known internationally as West Papua), the Knasaimos Peoples have been fighting for decades to protect their customary lands from exploitation by external interests such as logging and plantation companies. Today's ruling finally provides legal recognition of their rights to the land, forests, water, and other natural resources that are their ancestral heritage.

Oceans. World's highest oceans court ruling to protect our oceans

In a historic Advisory Opinion, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the world's highest oceans court, found that greenhouse gas emissions are a form of marine

pollution and countries are obligated to reduce emissions for the sake of our oceans. The ruling is a huge victory in the protection and preservation of the marine environment.



Banner reading "Protect Our Oceans" is displayed near a turtle during Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior's documentation trip off Exmouth, Western Australia. © Harriet Spark / Grumpy Turtle Film/Greenpeace

Europe. European Nature Restoration Law passed



Autumn atmosphere in the Hainich National Park in Thuringia. The primeval beech forest is a protected area for plants and animals. © Roman Pawlowski/Greenpeace

The European Nature Restoration Law was passed and has come into effect! This law is the most important piece of environmental legislation in Europe in decades, aiming to restore and protect European biodiversity hotspots. It imposes unprecedented legally binding obligations onto EU Member States to restore protected nature reserves, peatlands, dwindling bird and pollinator populations, and protect urban nature amongst others.

This is a huge win for the nature movement in Europe!

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Switzerland. Historic court win confirms that climate protection is a human right



The Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland (KlimaSeniorinnen) took the Swiss government to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg because their health is threatened by heat waves made worse by the climate crisis. © Greenpeace/Emanuel Büchler

The Association of Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland, also known as the *KlimaSeniorinnen*, took action against their country, Switzerland, for violating the seniors' human rights by failing to set sufficient climate targets.

On April 9, they received the landmark decision of the European Court of Human Rights, achieving a historic victory for all generations. The ruling is an iconic moment for climate justice globally, confirming that climate protection is a human right.

Caroline Wagner is Programme Support Manager for the European Collaboration at Greenpeace Germany. Francesca Cresta is Executive and Governance Assistant at Greenpeace Italy. Tan Lee Kuen is a content editor with Greenpeace International.

Source: <https://www.greenpeace.org/international/story/71853/hope-is-created-through-action-climate-environmental-victories-of-2024/>

Save LBI Notifies Federal Agencies of Intent to Sue Over Atlantic Shores South Wind Project's Breach of Endangered Species Act and Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

Excerpt from September 30, 2024 Press Release

In the latest chapter of its ongoing fight against the destructive impact of the Atlantic Shores South wind-turbine project, Save Long Beach Island, as required, has notified two federal agencies of its intent to sue under the Endangered Species Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA).

The notices give the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 60 days to resolve issues raised in the filings before pursuing litigation. BOEM oversees offshore wind development in the United States and NOAA manages the use of our marine resources.

Save LBI contends that constructing and operating hundreds of wind turbines directly in a prime migration path of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale could push these mammals into extinction. The popu-

lation of the right whale is down to approximately 338, with fewer than 70 reproductively active females, according to NOAA estimates.

"Underwater noise from the massive, diesel-powered hammers that will be used to 'pile drive' 50-foot-wide turbine foundations into the seabed as well as from vessel surveys and the operation of those turbines will obstruct the essential migration of the right whale as it attempts to pass through those waters, jeopardizing the whale's existence and violating the Endangered Species Act," said Bob Stern, president and co-founder of Save LBI, a non-partisan coalition of citizens and businesses dedicated to protecting our oceans and New Jersey Shore communities.

Save LBI further maintains that BOEM and NOAA have, without sound justification, dismissed the significant problem of operational noise from the larger and noisier turbines Atlantic Shores plans to build off the

coast of New Jersey. "The agencies routinely cite lower noise levels from smaller turbines to avoid addressing the problem of higher noise levels from larger turbines," Stern said.

Finally, with respect to the Endangered Species Act, the agencies have also failed to consider, let alone study, the impact all wind-turbine projects along the East Coast would have on the right whale's migration.

"And this is just one of many problems that will be created by the Atlantic Shores South wind project, which, shockingly, has already received federal approval," Stern added. . . .

Safeguarding the Natural Environment, Fishing, and National Security under OCSLA

This project area, selected many years ago with no public consideration of wind turbine impact, placing the largest turbines now available closer than any other in the world 9 miles off

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a beautiful 18-mile-long barrier island beach, and in a primary migration path of a critically endangered whale, would:

- Jeopardize that whale's existence from the project's high levels of underwater noise;
- Destroy the shore experience with those highly visible turbines and disturbing blade rotation, airborne noise, reduced breeze, and higher local air temperature and humidity;
- Degrade the nearby Brigantine National Wilderness Area from construction air pollutants;
- Have a severe economic impact on tourism, jobs, rentals, property value, and tax revenues;
- Dramatically increase electric bills to every user in the State, placing an additional financial burden on households and businesses;
- Require new infrastructure and substantial long-term funding for turbine removal;
- Remove key fishing grounds; and

- Impair our defense air radars in Gibbsboro, New Jersey, while having only a "negligible" effect on climate change according to the official project impact statement. Because climate change is caused by global heat transfer that is already underway, this project would only delay future sea level rise for a matter of days, not stop or even reduce it.

"It should be obvious to any objective decision-maker that siting a huge offshore wind project that brings this extraordinary degree of short and long-term environmental and social damage, with no clear project purpose to justify that, is a big mistake," Stern concluded.

"Decision-makers should acknowledge the significant new information that has come forward since this area was selected, recognize the strength of the legal challenges ahead, change course, and save everyone on both sides of this issue a lot of time, work, and money. . . ."

About Save LBI

Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) is an organization of citizens and businesses on and off the Island working together to protect the ocean and Long Beach Island and neighboring communities from the destructive impact of this wind project, and perhaps others in the future.

As a not-for-profit, non-partisan entity, we do not endorse any political candidates but vigorously pursue policies and actions that protect the Island and surrounding communities. The coalition is led by Beach Haven resident Bob Stern, a Ph.D. engineer with experience in environmental law who previously managed the U.S. Department of Energy's office overseeing environment protection related to energy programs and projects

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Phone: 917-952-5016

Website: <https://www.savelbi.org>

World's Largest Coral Found in Pacific, Unharmful by Planetary Heating



Scientists measure the world's largest coral off the coast of the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Photo: Inigo San Felix/
National Geographic Society 

“While the nearby shallow reefs were degraded due to warmer seas, witnessing this large healthy coral oasis in slightly deeper waters is a beacon of hope.”

By Julia Conley
Common Dreams
November 14, 2024

Scientists announced on Thursday their discovery of the largest coral ever documented off the coast of the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean and celebrated the fact that the massive underwater ecosystem appears to be unharmed by planetary heating – but said the discovery underscores the need to urgently protect marine environments.

Scientists and filmmakers from *National Geographic*'s Pristine Seas research program, which aims to push governments to protect the oceans, visited a remote site near the Solomon Islands in mid-October, and initially thought the large object just below the ocean's surface was part of a shipwreck.

Cinematographer Manu San Félix

dove into the water to examine the object and found that it was actually a huge network of coral polyps.

The coral was found to be 34 meters (111 feet) wide and more than five meters (16 feet) high – larger than a blue whale and big enough to be viewed from space.

The mega coral, or *pavona clavus*, is thought to be about 300 years old, and scientists said it could provide insight into historical conditions in the world's oceans.

Enric Sala of the Pristine Seas project compared the discovery to “a big patch of old growth forest,” telling *New Scientist* that the coral, which is not showing signs of the bleaching observed in a growing number of reefs around the world, is providing shelter and sustenance to fish, shrimp, worms, and crabs.

“Large adult coral colonies like this contribute significantly to the recovery of coral reef ecosystems due to their high reproductive potential,” Eric Brown, a coral scientist told *Euronews*. “While the nearby shallow reefs were degraded due to warmer seas, witnessing this large healthy coral oasis in slightly deeper waters is

a beacon of hope.”

But Sala told *Euronews* that the coral is not necessarily “safe from global warming and other human threats.”

Record-breaking ocean temperatures

have caused coral bleaching events across the planet over the past two years, impacting biodiversity in the world's oceans as well as increasing the risk of sea-level rise and impacting tourism industries in coastal areas.

Sala said the discovery should push governments to protect more of the world's oceans. About 8.4% of the Earth's ocean is under a marine protected area (MPA) designation, and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty was finalized in 2023, pledging to protect the biodiversity of the oceans.

Establishing more MPAs alongside climate action, Sala said, will help shield coral like the one found near the Solomon Islands from pollution and the effects of planetary heating.

“Protecting the reef cannot make the water cooler, cannot prevent the warming of the ocean,” Sala told *New Scientist*. “We need to fix that; we need to reduce carbon emissions. But MPAs can help us buy time by making the reefs more resilient.”

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/largest-coral-in-the-world>



Building Environmental Activism In the Next Generation

By Keith Kozloff/Resilience.org

Via DGR News Service

August 26, 2024

Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture

*I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science, we could address these problems, but I was wrong. The top environmental problems are **selfishness, greed, and apathy**, and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that. – Gus Speth, Founder, World Resources Institute.*

At the federal level, even recent Democratic administrations have proven unable to enact policy measures ambitious enough to bend the curve of carbon emissions (at least without “help” from Covid). Nor has technology been our salvation. Although they held promise to reduce the carbon intensity of our economic output, technological advances have

been offset by Americans’ consumption habits, population growth, and the energy intensity of information-processing technologies.

With each passing year, the disconnect grows ever more stark between 1) the mounting scientific evidence that global climate disruption is happening now, and 2) the inadequacy of collective action to control rising carbon emissions. We do not lack for effective solutions. Rather, society and its leaders lack sufficient will and caring about future generations to implement solutions that meet the challenge. Like it or not, we find ourselves in a long game with adverse climate and biodiversity impacts baked in for decades to come.

One resource that has not yet been adequately mobilized, however, is the innate human capacity for caring, compassion, and love. Compared to technology and policy innovations, little research attention has been devoted to what makes people care enough to adopt pro-nature attitudes and behaviors and to support envi-

ronmental policy initiatives that affect their lifestyles.

At the same time, people are increasingly disconnected from the environment they are being asked to help protect. The physical and psychic disconnection is due in part to urbanization and sedentary lifestyles, exacerbated by the explosive increase in time spent interacting with the physical world through a small two-dimensional screen.

To combat what some call “nature deficit disorder,” parents, schools, nonprofits, and governments have long offered a wide range of nature-based experiences for young people. Some are structured, such as outdoor education programs, forest schools, green schoolyards, community clean-up and tree-planting projects, and scouting. Others are unstructured: climbing trees, foraging, hunting, and having pets. The Children and Nature Network (C&NN), a national nonprofit that tracks and supports childhood nature activities, has documented that

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such activities yield significant immediate psychological, physiological, and emotional benefits to participants.

But do nature-based experiences also result in their young participants developing pro-environmental attitudes, behaviors, and activism in adulthood? Given currently adverse environmental trajectories, this is clearly a question with high stakes. To explore linkages between childhood nature activities and adult environmental activism, I reviewed recent research in this field on behalf of C&NN.

Findings suggest that instilling a love for the natural world in young people does offer hope for future generations becoming better ancestors than the present one. Early experiences in nature can lead to feelings of connectedness, which can then lead to pro-environmental attitudes, and ultimately pro-environmental behavior. Many studies suggest that nature experiences and connection to nature in childhood are vital to pro-environmental behaviors in adulthood.

The link between time in nature and connectedness to nature is often explored retrospectively by asking adults to recall their childhood nature experiences. Studies taking this approach have documented significant relationships between childhood nature experience and ecologically conscious behavior later in life. These findings underscore the importance of ample time in nature during childhood. However, there are nuances that suggest various factors may result in individual variation.

For example, early experiences that stimulate emotional responses to nature create a deeper bond than purely information-based experiences. Emotional bonds with nature offer a pathway for inspiring future environmental action in adulthood. While cognitive understanding and environmental knowledge may influence behaviors, investigations have established stronger connections between emotional feelings for nature and increased care for nature through

pro-environmental behaviors.

A program that brings inner-city teens from New York into the Adirondacks for both learning and hiking inspires some participants to pursue subsequent environmental education and careers.

Childhood nature experiences are not the only path to pro-environmental behavior in adulthood. For example, an urban environmental justice or climate justice advocate might have grown up in a household that placed a high value on social justice more generally.

Overall, despite a growing body of research, this field of study is not as robust as the above question demands. Significant research gaps and methodological deficiencies persist. Empirical evidence is stronger for correlative than for causal relationships.

The challenge facing both outdoor educators and environmental advocates may be less about designing initiatives to instill a newfound love for nature than about how to retain humans' innate tendencies to do so.

At an early age, children demonstrate compassion towards each other, other animal species, and even to non-living entities. Children come into the world with the capacity to experience curiosity, wonder, and (especially at an early age) a less sharp distinction between themselves and their surrounding world. At an early age, children demonstrate the capacity to develop moral relationships with both sentient and non-sentient nature. (My then three-year-old son befriended a chicken pinata at the start of a birthday party, a friendship that did not end well.)

Creating opportunities for exposure to nature may help nurture such instincts and prevent them from withering as kids develop to adulthood. Implications for adults may thus be to focus less on fostering connections with nature than on getting out of the way of children's "natural" tendencies. Relatedly, connection to nature tends to drop off during the teen years, suggesting that nature

experiences need to be designed and targeted to teens' developmental stage.

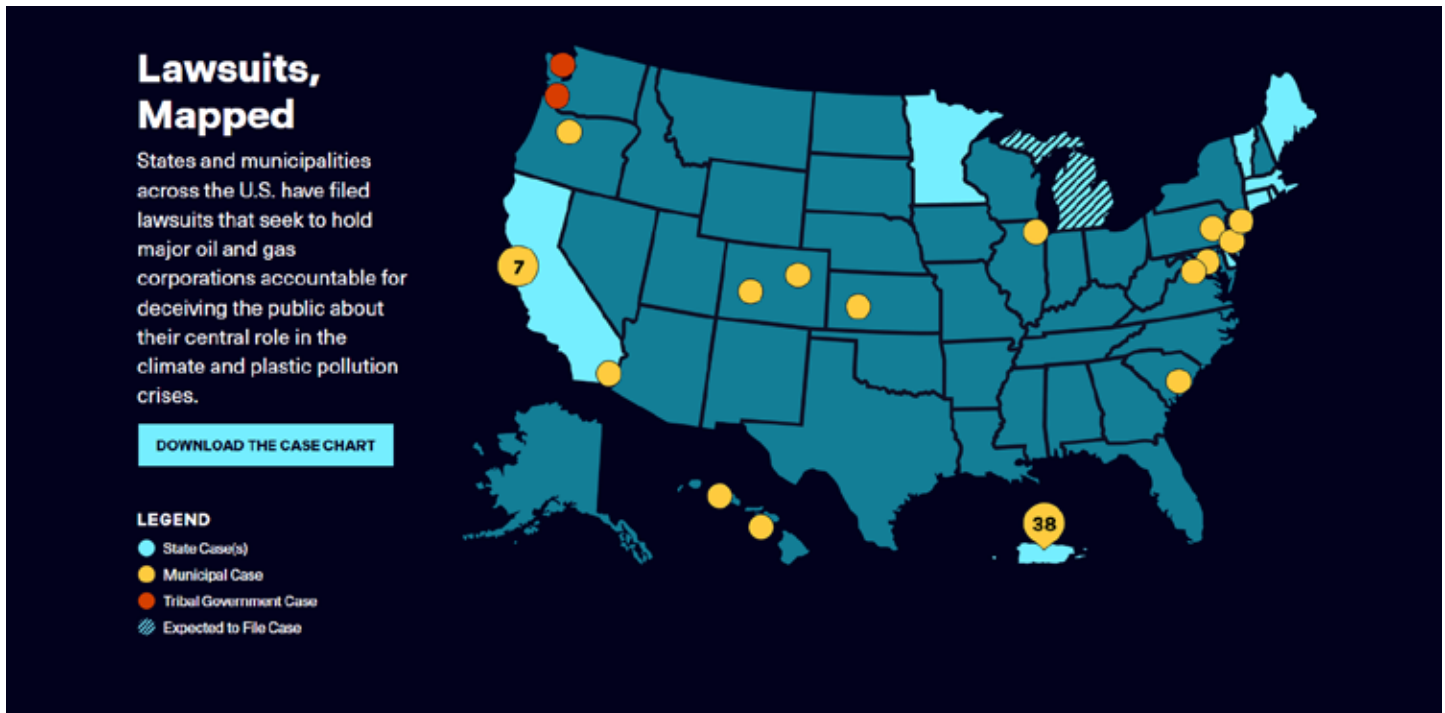
The pathways by which children in Western societies feel connected with nature are often different than in indigenous societies. In place-based societies that depend on natural resources for their sustenance, survival depends on practices that evolve from long-term experience in responding to the natural world. Stewardship norms and behaviors become established in children through demonstrating traditional livelihoods in which older children and adults play strong teaching roles.

One largely untapped opportunity for Western society is to elevate wisdom about relationships with the natural world that are contained in indigenous traditions.

One challenge in designing nature-based initiatives is that opportunities for young people to connect with nature are becoming more constrained. Disrupted climate patterns may make it less pleasant to be outdoors, especially in ever-hotter summers. Young people today are precluded from forming connections with aspects of the natural world that have already been lost or altered from shifting baselines (insect and bird populations, white Christmas, etc.). Risk aversion and legal liability result in rules limiting the range of acceptable childhood activities – like tree-climbing or unsupervised outdoor play.

If we expect the next generation to do better than the present one at protecting our precious blue marble, however, we have an obligation to help them as much as possible. That means equipping them with a suite of nature-friendly technologies and policies. It also means providing them with experiences that form the basis for an emotional and moral commitment to protect what they love.

Source: <https://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/building-environmental-activism-in-the-next-generation/>



Maine Becomes Latest State to Sue Oil Giants Over Climate Deception

“With Maine’s lawsuit, the demands that Big Oil faces accountability for decades of climate lies are growing louder and more powerful,” said Richard Wiles, president of the Center for Climate Integrity.

By Eloise Goldsmith, excerpt Common Dreams November 26, 2024

Photo: <https://climateintegrity.org/lawsuits>

Maine on Tuesday joined a group of eight other U.S. states that have sued major oil and gas companies for deceiving the public about their products’ role in the climate crisis.

Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey’s office announced that he has filed a suit in state court against **Exxon, Shell, Chevron, BP, Sunoco, and the American Petroleum Institute.**

Frey’s suit accuses the companies of knowing about the potentially catastrophic consequences of continued dependence on fossil fuels for decades, thanks to companies’ internal research, but that the defendants undertook a disinformation campaign

to discredit the scientific consensus on climate change, delay a transition to a green energy economy, and sow doubt in the public’s mind about the impact of burning fossil fuels.

“The state seeks to hold the defendants accountable for failing to warn Mainers and concealing their knowledge about the devastating consequences of the increasing use of fossil fuels on Maine’s people, economy, and environment. This conduct has resulted in enormous financial burdens, public health impacts, property damage, and other harms across Maine as a result of extreme weather, sea-level rise, and warmer temperatures,” according to the release from Frey’s office.

“For over half a century, these companies chose to fuel profits instead of following their science to prevent what are now likely irreversible, catastrophic climate effects,” Frey said in a statement. *“In so doing, they burdened the state and our citizens with the consequences of their greed and deception.”*

Frey’s lawsuit asks the court to require the companies pay for both “past and future climate harms caused by the defendants” and ensure that the companies end their “ongoing deception”

in the state. The state is demanding a jury trial and numerous forms of relief, including penalties and disgorgement of profits, according to the release.

Frey is the 11th attorney general (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), to take such a legal move. More than 20 states, tribes, cities, and counties have so far pursued similar climate deception lawsuits to date, according to the Maine attorney general’s office.

Earlier this fall, California’s attorney general filed a lawsuit against ExxonMobil, alleging that the company falsely touted chemical recycling as a solution to the plastics crisis.

A September report from Oil Change International and Zero Carbon Analytics found that the number of climate cases brought against fossil fuel corporations – many of which center on climate damages, misleading advertising about fossil fuels, or failure to reduce emissions in line with legal agreements – has been ticking upward since the 2015 Paris climate accords...

Source: <https://www.common-dreams.org/news/the-pine-tree-state-sues-polluters-for-climate-deception>

Victory: Climate Superfund Signed in New York

Email received December 26, 2024

Dear Iona,

We did it! Governor Hochul just signed the New York Climate Superfund bill into law! This is a huge victory for all New Yorkers in our ongoing fight against climate change.

This historic legislation will require fossil fuel companies to pay \$75 billion over 25 years (\$3 billion annually) to fund climate resilience projects across New York. The money will help communities protect against flooding, extreme heat, and storms – and because the law is based on past sales, oil companies can't pass these costs on to consumers.

This victory would not have been possible without the tireless work of advocates in Albany and activists on the ground across the state of New York and the whole country. Thank you for taking action with us to make this possible. This is just the beginning of holding polluters accountable for the damages they've caused to our communities.

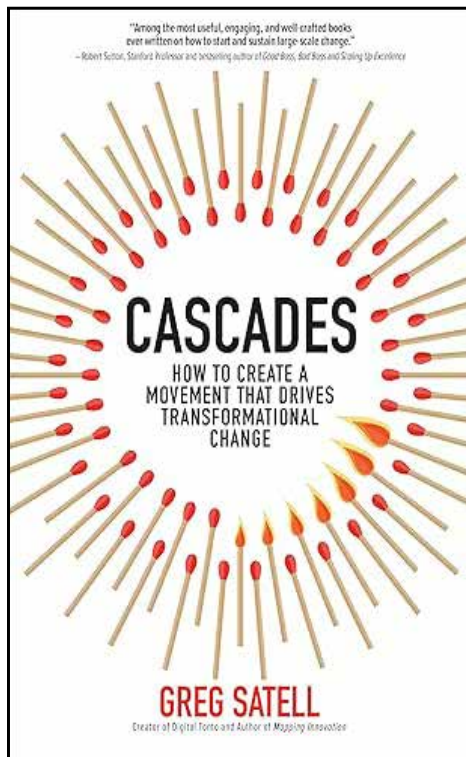
Share this exciting news online right now! Let's take a moment to thank our legislators for doing the right thing and make sure other states follow suit. We have the opportunity to set a precedent as the largest state to date to pass a superfund bill. When New York takes action the world follows.

As a long-time New Yorker, thank you. Together, we are making a difference and making New York a more resilient place to call home for generations to come.

In Community,

Cass, Fossil Free Media

Fossil Free Media is a nonprofit media lab that supports the movement to end fossil fuels and address the climate emergency.



PERSUASION IS OVERRATED!

Most change efforts focus on persuasion, as if transformation is a sales process scaled up. That's a big mistake.

We know from decades of research that ideas about change are propagated socially, through peer networks. Mass communication campaigns are of limited value.

The simple truth is that the best indicator of things we think and do is what the people around us think and do. We adopt things we see around us every day, that we know work for our colleagues, friends, and family.

So rather than focus on wordsmithing the right slogan, find people who are enthusiastic about change and empower them. Help them to suc-

ceed so they can bring in others, who can bring in others still. That's how you can build traction that eventually leads to a tipping point that unlocks a cascade.

Instead of trying to start with a bang, launching with a big kickoff event, try to identify a keystone change. Start with one team, one product, one whatever... Make change work somewhere and then scale it up. That's how you get out of the business of selling an idea and into the business of selling a success.

You don't have to convince everybody at once. Transformational change is driven by small groups, loosely connected, but united by a shared purpose.

As a change leader, it is your job to help those groups connect and to inspire them with purpose.



Signs of time: yellow birch tree growing from a nurse log. Photo: Joan Maloof

Love Forests? Here's What You Can Do: One of the Very Best Ways to Fight Climate Catastrophe

Dear Friend of the Forests,

Have you ever wondered how a forest becomes part of the *Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN)*? As we approach 300 forests in the *Old-Growth Forest Network*, I'd love to share with you the details of how each of these beautifully complex and unique places is woven into the old-growth canopy of our future.

The process begins with identifying forests that meet three key criteria:

- Be as old as possible, ideally old-growth.
- Be publicly accessible, preferably with a trail.

- Be protected from commercial logging, allowing natural processes to prevail.

Step 1: Find the forest.

Walking into an older forest is like stepping into a living chronicle of time. In some regions, towering trees with wide trunks rise like natural monuments, their bark furrowed and ridged like mountains. Elevated root structures and dramatic buttress roots anchor these giants to the undulating forest floor, where moss and fungi thrive on fallen "nurse logs" that nurture the next generation of seedlings.

In other regions, dwarfed, sinuous pines may grasp at the surrounding rock ledges for centuries, demonstrating grit and resilience. A nearby dead tree teeming with birds, insects, and fungi reflects the forest's continuous cycle of life and decay.

The vision of the *Old-Growth Forest Network* is that every county in the U.S. (where forests naturally grow) will have at least one place like this. Our dedicated staff and volunteers work to identify the oldest forest in a county that the public can experience, learn from, and enjoy.

Continued on next page



Dedication of Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area -Huron-Manistee National Forests (Mason County, MI) into the Old-Growth Forest Network.

OGFN and the U.S. Forest Service worked together to bring Burnwood Forest at New River Gorge (Fayette County, West Virginia) into the Old-Growth Forest Network

Step 2: Protect the forest.

When a forest joins the *Old-Growth Forest Network*, the public can trust that its protection has been verified or strengthened. We collaborate with landowners – government agencies, nonprofits, or other entities – to ensure long-term safeguards. Where gaps exist, we work with communities and forest managers to advocate for stronger protections, such as revising management plans, advising on conservation easements, or creating policies for natural forest preserves. While some forests are already well-protected and can be quickly added to

the Old-Growth Forest Network, others require months – or even years – of partnership and persistence. Because our mission spans generations, the time invested in each forest’s protection is worth it.

Step 3. Celebrate the forest.

The final step is a celebration where we invite the local community, forest managers, Tribal representatives, and environmental groups to come together, walk the forest, and honor its induction into the *Old-Growth Forest Network*. An official *Old-Growth Forest Network* plaque is installed at the trailhead, informing visitors of the forest’s national significance. The unique qualities of each forest that joins the *Old-Growth Forest Network* are then showcased with a dedicated page on our website.

Since 2012, we’ve inducted 276 remarkable forests to the *Old-Growth Forest Network*. However, that work is far from over and more old forests await discovery, protection, and celebration.

Today, I ask you to consider making a gift to the *Old-Growth Forest Network*. Help us reach 50 more forests in 2025 and make progress toward a future for old-growth across all 50 states.

For those who have already donated – especially to our recent 2024 Giving Tuesday campaign (thank you!) – or who may not be in a position to contribute financially, there are still meaningful ways to support our work:

- Share our map of Network Forests with your friends;
- Read our Blog to learn more about our work;

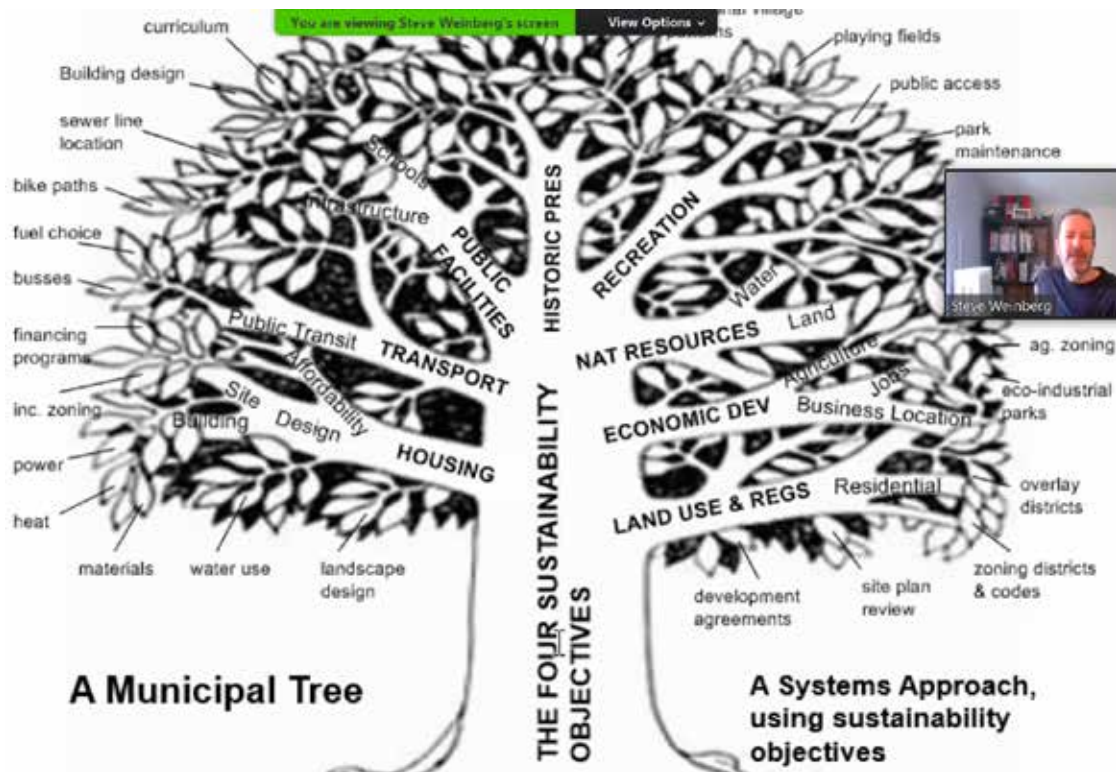
Continued on next page



- Attend an OGFN event in the coming year;
- Join our incredible community of local volunteers; and
- Sign-up for our mailing list to receive our Summer Annual Report

Your gift – at whatever amount is meaningful to you – helps protect more of our oldest forests nationwide and shares their importance with those who have long loved these places, as well as others who are just beginning

to discover them.
 For the forests,
 Sarah Adloo, Ph.D.
 Executive Director
 Old-Growth Forest Network
<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/>





About the Film “Breaking the Cycle”: From Competition to Cooperation

Breaking the Cycle illustrates our capacity for breaking our current *Cycle of Competitive Detachment* and returning to the pattern of 95% of our human history: a healthy, peaceful *Cycle of Cooperative Companionship*. *Breaking the Cycle* is based on the multi-award-winning book, *Neurobiology and the Development of Human Morality: Evolution, Culture, and Wisdom* by Darcia Narvaez, PhD.

Breaking the Cycle contrasts the two basic ways societies can function: the optimal approach, which most human societies through time have followed, is the *Cycle of Cooperative Companionship* where children’s basic needs are met; they grow into well-functioning, cooperative community members (from neurobiology and on up); and as healthy adults, they maintain the cooperative system. Currently in the USA, the opposite pattern is in place: children’s basic needs are not met, ill-being and dysregulation ensue, creating adults who are detached and distracted and keep this *Cycle of Competitive Detachment* going. The United Nations ranks the USA as 41st out of

41 developed countries for child and adult wellness.

Note: There are two versions of the film, one in English, one in Spanish.

See the Spanish film and materials at <https://breakingthecyclefilm.org/spanish-version-of-film>. The English version can also be watched with

subtitles at YouTube in the following languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Mandarin), Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Turkish.

Source: <https://breakingthecyclefilm.org/>

A promotional graphic for the film "Breaking the Cycle". On the left, there is a vertical strip of five small images: a woman and child, a woman and child, a baby, a woman, and a person in a mask. In the center, there is a large black box with white text that reads: "95% of our human history we valued cooperative companionship... what happened?". Below this, in smaller white text, it says: "We can reclaim our ancestral heritage by breaking the cycle. Discover the award-winning science in the new short film." At the bottom of the black box, there is a website URL: "www.BreakingTheCycleFilm.org" and a small logo. On the right side of the graphic, there is a large image of a woman holding a baby.



Photo | Br... N



Forests & Plants are facing destruction by EACOP



EACOP is displacing wildlife from natural habitats



Human rights violation in the pipeline area on a rise



EACOP has facilitated gross land degradation

Uganda Students Against Oil Pipeline

Students Against EACOP

We are a group of Ugandan student climate activists who are fighting to stop the East African Crude Oil Pipeline of from devastating the environment and violating the human rights of locals where it trails.. Join us in our fight to protect the future of our nation.

We are still engaging all responsible parties in our bid to stop the dangerous future advances of the EACOP project.

EACOP Pipeline:

A Disaster for You and Me

On top of evicting over 12,000 people, The EACOP pipeline is projected to emit 34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, 30 times the annual emissions of Uganda and Tanzania combined. Additionally, it will

require heating to transport the oil, which will further contribute to global heating and climate change.

The project will cause significant environmental degradation, with Uganda already losing 70,000 hectares (172,974 acres) of tree cover annually and 4,000 hectares (9,884 acres) of primary forest. The pipeline will exacerbate this problem. Moreover, the EACOP on the Tanzanian coast will be built in a high tsunami-risk zone, endangering protected marine areas. The project's impacts on the environment and people's livelihoods cannot be ignored and urgent action is needed to stop it. We are:

1. Organizing peaceful protests and demonstrations to express our opposition to the project and demand action

to protect the environment and the human rights of affected communities;

2. Collaborating with civil society organizations, NGOs, and community-based organizations that are fighting against the EACOP to amplify our collective voice and increase our impact; and

3. Raising awareness and educating our peers and the wider public about the impact of the EACOP through social forums, media and all online opportunities available.

Heads up..we are not backing down.

Sign up at <https://studentsagainsteacop.org/>
<https://x.com/Studenteacop>

OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Sustainable Farming Project: Vision to Eradicate and Empower Rural Communities to Escape Extreme Poverty

By Ray Juma, Homa Bay, Kenya
hashtag#permaculture hashtag#community



“Farming is not just a way of life, it’s the root of life itself.” And women always play a big role in modern farming in our community. This is the only way to eradicate poverty in rural communities. Let’s join hands together in this journey of regeneration for a better future.

Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ray-juma-b4442920b/>

Facebook: Permaculturist @ Kadamba Community Project.



OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION



Linzzzer Nigeria Works to Improve Farming and Food Availability in Nigeria

By Kenneth Duke Ajuma, founder of Linzzzer Nigeria Limited, an Agribusiness innovative company registered with Nigeria corporate affairs commission: number RC7086037



Photos above: Linzzzer LinkedIn page

Linzzzer Nigeria Limited is a company that was born out of passion and the desire to increase food availability and flow in Nigeria, Africa and the world at large.

I would like to write few things about the difficulties in starting up a

farm in Nigeria. The Government advises people to go into farming without realizing that it actually requires a lot of capital to set up. There are ongoing schemes with protracted assistance for farmers, but that is only on the surface. Deep down, the farming and agriculture sector in Nigeria still has a long way to go. I think it will be in the government's interest to reverse and show real support to the agriculture sector, otherwise Nigeria will basically rely on food importation.

We are so far from mechanized farming or proper equipment. Meanwhile in every government budget, it shows that millions of dollars are being invested into the agriculture sector but 90% of farmers are still farming with hoes, cutlasses*, and barefoot; how can this deprived system be able to eliminate food shortages in Nigeria?

Just two days ago, Nigeria was rated the 6th most populated country in the world, with over 236 million people. How can we produce for the population with the way we are handling agriculture in Nigeria?

I would like to provide useful information. I think it might help wake up the government.

Getting a loan for farmers is another difficult thing entirely. The government can provide tractors in every district to help farmers there. How many

hectares can any farmers cultivate with hoes and cutlasses?

Now, the major thing in my area is that farmers are being paid by wood merchants to allow them to cut their big trees. There are almost 60% big trees gone because farmers don't have any other alternative to support their farm, so they oblige with the only opportunity they found.

Many companies are into lumber exportation or local timber. Merchants would offer few amount to land owners, farmers, villagers, communities, and even poor traditional rulers to let them cut down trees. These individuals wouldn't comprehend the effects on them of cutting these trees, because they just want to survive with the little money offered to them.

What I am saying is this: poverty, ignorance, and unawareness are playing pivotal roles in this issue. Much awareness is to be created in our rural areas and that can be achieved through government support programs.

There should also be consequences for all those merchants who are exploiting the poor statuses and ignorance of the rural farmers, leaders, and inhabitants

We currently possess 17.2 hectares (42.5 acres) of farmland (cassava) and find it so hard to cultivate manually. I bought the first land in 2009 6.8 hectares

Continued on next page

OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

Continuation from previous page

(16.8 acres) and continue to buy. I have now 17.2 hectares.

I actually didn't have pictures of when they cut my trees illegally, but the story is well known in Elughu Nkporo in Ohafia LGA Abia state Nigeria, where my farm is located. It is also happening in every area of the country.

To purchase a tractor in Nigeria is actually expensive because there are no visible helps from the government to the Agriculture sector in Nigeria.

It is quite disheartening to witness many farmers who still have huge trees on their lands, partnering with timber cutters to cut down their timbers or huge trees for a profit. It is affecting our farmlands and the climate is changing rapidly, contributed to by these practices.

I think you should do research about how backward our agriculture sector is. Just read this : https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deforestation_in_Nigeria#:~:text=The%20growing%20population%20in%20Nigeria,or%20logging%20to%20create%20farmland.

I think you might reconsider launching your awareness project in Nigeria rural areas. We are still ignorant about the importance of saving our trees and climate change. Many blame it on poverty, but I don't think poverty should justify the reason for removing trees that are supposed to support our ecosystem.

Our project will create awareness from the rural areas, local government areas, state government, and federal government. We will implement our own little way to create this awareness; it's so disheartening to witness what's happening. In my community the weather has completely changed. So hot and not enough wind due to the loss of those magnificent trees.

Current Status of the Agribusiness Sector

It's obvious that the Nigeria Agribusiness sector is still not at its proposed

level. Therefore, we are Linzzer Nigeria Limited, open to knowledge and ideas that will help to advance the Agribusiness sector.

In my own community, there are basically no trees left; people receive as little as \$10 to let timber cutters cut down huge trees. I actually want to make a complaint to the high authorities...with your publication...it will help me a lot.

This incident is happening all over the country, but I just noticed that no one is actually standing up to caution and stop it. I want to take it up with me, creating awareness and the importance of not cutting down trees in Nigeria again.

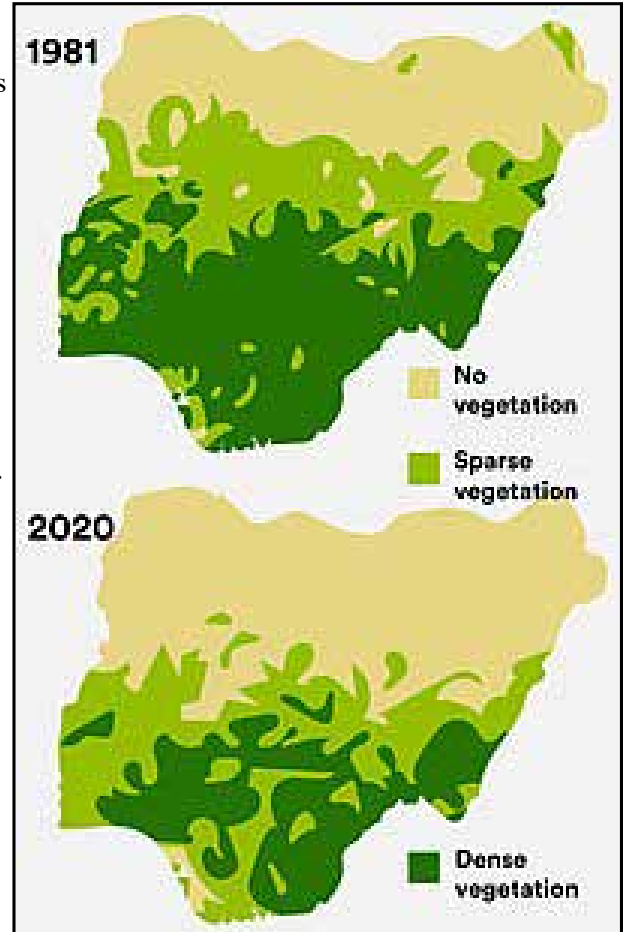
Our office is located at Duke Ajuma Avenue, Elughu Nkporo in Ohafia LGA, Abia State Nigeria. We will be so pleased if you will publish this information to create awareness and share it on social media platforms.

*A cutlass is a tool that is used for cutting through vegetation, such as crops or weeds. It is a handheld tool that is typically



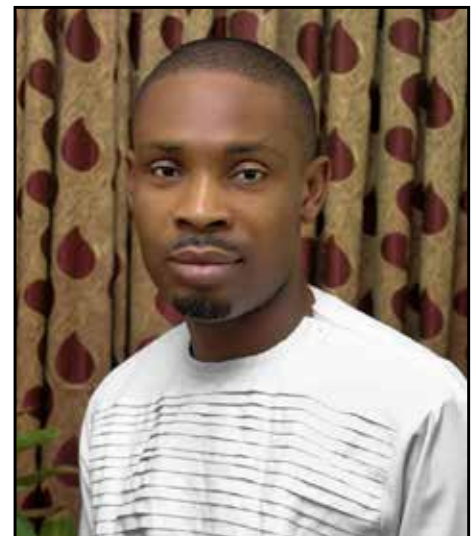
about two feet long and has a curved blade. It is used for:

- Cutting tree branches, weeds, and other plant materials in farmland.
- Digging superficial holes for planting seeds.
- Planting crops like melon.
- Clearing brush.



Graphic: Deforestation 1981 – 2020, Fashae, Olutoyin; Olusola, Adeyemi; Adedeji, Oluwatola (December 2017). "Geospatial Analysis of Changes in Vegetation Cover over Nigeria". *Bulletin of Geography. Physical Geography Series*. Courtesy Wikipedia

Contact Duke (photo at right) via LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/>



OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

The Legacy of Okashi Emii: A Celebration of Tradition and Unity

By Ekwe Chiwundu Charles
Nigeria


In the heart of a small village nestled among lush greenery located in Owerri North LGA, there lies a tradition that has withstood the test of time – Okashi Emii, a cultural heritage ceremony that takes place at the end of every year. This vibrant festival is a celebration of the rich and colorful Emii tradition, where the community comes together to honor their roots and showcase the essence of their culture.

The air is filled with a sense of anticipation and excitement as the villagers prepare for Okashi Emii. Brightly dressed men, women, and children bustle about, setting up stalls and adorning the village square with colorful decorations. The aroma of sizzling meats and simmering stews wafts through the air, mingling with the sweet scent of freshly baked bread and pastries.

As the sun begins to set, the village elders gather at the sacred grounds where the ceremony is held. They light ceremonial torches and offer prayers of gratitude to the ancestors, seeking their blessings for a bountiful year ahead. The flickering flames cast a warm glow over the gathering, creating a sense of unity and reverence among the participants.

The highlight of Okashi Emii is the showcasing of different varieties



Okashi Emii Festival has ancient origins, dating back to the time of Adam. It is revered as one of the most significant festivals in Igbo land, symbolizing honor for the Igbo people worldwide. (<https://medium.com>) The carnival includes masquerades, cultural troupes, and entertaining of in-laws and visitors. On Okashi day, the major ingredient in all that would be cooked and served is Okashi. Emii people reverence Okashi so much that no home is a home in Emii, without having a small farm populated by Okashi. Okashi, is known in English as Wild Spinach. (<https://oluonumurukwa.com>) Photo by Ekwe Chiwundu Charles 

of local food that have nourished the people for generations. From steaming bowls of aromatic soups to handmade pastries filled with spices and herbs,

the culinary delights on display are a testament to the community's deep connection to the land and its bounty.

Children dressed in traditional attire perform lively dances, their movements fluid and graceful, reflecting the spirit of the Emii tradition. Musicians play traditional instruments, their melodies weaving a tapestry of sound that fills the air with joy and celebration.

Okashi Emii is not just a festival of food and dance; it is a ritual that symbolizes the renewal and cleansing of the land, preparing it for another year of growth and prosperity. The tradition dates back to 1814, long before the arrival of the church, and has been passed down from generation to generation as a cherished legacy of the Emii people.

As the night grows darker and the stars twinkle overhead, the villagers come together to feast, laugh, and share stories by the light of the bonfire. The glow of the flames illuminates the faces of old and young alike, creating a sense of belonging and connection that transcends generations.

Okashi Emii is more than just a festival; it is a testament to the enduring spirit of a community bound by tradition, love, and a deep respect for their heritage. As the last embers of the bonfire fade into the night, the villagers hold hands and look towards the future with hope and gratitude for the blessings of the past.

And so, the legacy of Okashi Emii lives on, a shining beacon of unity and tradition that continues to inspire and uplift all who are fortunate enough to witness its magic.

OUR FRIENDS IN ACTION

O Say Can You See: Same Design, Different Wars

*Submitted by Alanna Hartzok
November 24, 2024*

Just found this on the internet, had not known that it had been published at <https://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/Peace/hartzok.html> The current wars are basic pattern replications of past wars. Let's recognize the pattern so we can design a new one and build a world that works for everyone.

"O say can you see, our common humanity, sprung from the Earth our mother and seeded from the sun, we are in truth, children of the universe, and no less than the trees and the stars, you and I have the equal right to be here now and to claim this planet and its land and resources as our full, fair, and natural birthright." *Presented at the Books Not Bombs/Stop Iraq War Forum organized by students at Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania on March 5, 2003. From the Desiderata and from The Star-Spangled Banner, a poem by Francis Scott Key dating to the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Great Britain. Sung with the melody of a popular 1700-era English tune which celebrated wine, women, and song, it was declared the U.S. National Anthem by Congress in 1931.*

The unjust and inequitable ownership and control of vast amounts of the land and natural resource wealth of our planet is a root cause of the great majority of local-to-global conflicts and wars. Our current form of democratic governance is severely limited in its capacity to negotiate peaceful means of resolving resource inequities and disputes, whether over oil and other minerals or over land for housing and livelihoods.

Neither the market system as currently structured nor the force of military might have provided a democratic means to equitably share the gifts of



This classic photograph of the Earth was taken on Dec. 7, 1972, by the crew of Apollo 17. NASA ● It wasn't until 1946 that humans first saw what the Earth looked like from space. ● These iconic images of our planet now include "Blue Marble," "Pale Blue Dot," and "Earthrise." ● The farthest is from the Voyager 1 spacecraft, which captured Earth from 3.7 billion miles away. Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com/most-iconic-photos-of-earth-from-space-blue-marble-earthrise> (E)

nature. This fatal flaw of democracy can be most clearly seen upon review of some of the 3,000 major and 10,000 minor CIA covert operations during the past several decades.

This Third World War – the war on the people of the third world – has slaughtered at least six million people in the third world since World War II, as determined by former CIA chief John Stockwell and others. (John

Stockwell, former CIA Station Chief in Angola in 1976 working for then Director of the CIA, George Bush, spent 13 years in the Agency. This information is from his speech available on video by email to fdorrel@hotmail.com).

The current crisis is now the time to pledge allegiance to the Earth, and all the life which it supports, **One Planet, in our care, irreplaceable, with sustenance and respect for all.**

Messages from Our Friends



(sent to his email list)

Hi my friends,

We are very happy to read our climate change solutions in this American newspaper. Solar cooking solutions without borders!

This is my pic about the solar cooking training in Kapwepwe area.

I'm happy to share with you my achievements during this 2024.

- Provisional and full patents of my innovations.
- Support from the Government under the ministry of technology and science.
- Showcasing my innovation at trade fair and agriculture commercial show.
- Market assessment of my commercial product.
- New partnership with some funders.

Hope this coming 2025 God will help us to achieve many goals!

Clement Musonda, Zambia

Another great read, reflective of your ongoing commitment.

Love,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

Thanks Iona, lovely, great to see your local action! I just came back from participating in a few sessions at the United Nations, enthusiastic about it. For Trees and Bees,

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania USA

Iona,

This is amazing!! I haven't read it yet, and I will, but this is really chock full of great articles. I'm sure it's very well written and comprehensive too. I saw my comments at the end.

Great job!!

All the best,

Barb B., New Jersey USA

Awesome! Thanks so much! And a very impressive publication overall!!

Congrats,

Larry Berger, New Jersey USA

Incredible. Looks great!

David Pinto, Jersey (not New Jersey, the country Jersey in the UK)

Hi Iona

Being a turkey vulture for a while sounds good!

Letting the air currents hold you afloat while you 'regather' yourself sounds like what you have needed and will no doubt use for a while yet.

Lots of love to you too, Iona,

Robert Burrowes & Anita McKone, Australia

Iona,

Vol II Earth Speaks' 24 pages focused on global climate change issues were enlightening, but – since “*all politics is local*” – I particularly appreciated the two lead articles devoted to Brick, New Jersey, adventures. I look forward to learning more about your “new” hometown in future editions.

Keep up the good work!

Allen Hengst, Washington DC, USA

The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future on JSTOR

Authors: Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway Source: Daedalus, Winter 2013, Vol. 142, No. 1, *The Alternative Energy Future* (Winter 2013), pp.

40-58 Published by The MIT Press on behalf of American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43297300>

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Kim Stenley, Maryland USA

Hi Vin and Iona!

Just thought I'd share this with you. Vin, can you share with the rest of the Green Team as well? I received this information from the New Jersey Composting Council that I'm a member of. Could be worth discussing at the next Green Team meeting. Thanks and hope you both are doing well!

Assemblyman Kennedy's Community Garden Bill A2102 <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A2102>. The hearing is Thursday and unlike the Senate Bill, this one actually allows offsite food waste to be brought into the garden and the compost is then allowed to be sold.

All the best,

Lauren Lastimos | UN-WASTE | CEO & Founding Partner, New Jersey USA

www.unwastemovement.world

Instagram, Facebook: @unwastemovement

I forgot to say how awful that a firefighter was killed in the fires there!!! And people lost their homes!!! How is your air quality? Is it close to you? I didn't look it up.

We didn't have any firefighters die

Continued on next page

Continuation from previous page

or even get injured in our fires. We had firefighters from five states come and work.

Linda L., Idaho, USA

(letter to a woman who attended our first and last Brick Climate Café)

Hello, Barbara.

Are you on this email list? I filled out the survey about a week ago and will not be going to the December 11th meeting, but perhaps you and your friends would like to go.

I probably won't plan another Climate Cafe. I'll be 80 next year and am considering other possibilities with a wider range and networking with other groups. I made a decision to stop going to meetings in December and will be back in action of some sort in January once I figure out what "some sort" actually is going to be. I'll still publish my newspaper because I love doing that, but my future work is not yet clear.

One thing I want to do is talk with people and share with them lessons and stories I've accumulated during my life as an environmental activist, so if you know of any groups needing a speaker, please keep me in mind.

It was great meeting you at our first Climate Cafe and I wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Iona

[Barbara's reply]

Got three Leyland Cypress. The town recommended them and even where to plant them.

Barbara Kochie, Brick, New Jersey USA

Thanks so much for the cute Portuguese Salt gift. What a little treasure that once it's empty of salt, it becomes another good keepsake.

You may be a little nuts at times, but that doesn't stop me from loving you... and wondering what's next? I love the card and what you wrote too! And do

you know what I noticed? You didn't write nor seal the card's envelope so that I could reuse it. Believe me, friend, I actually have a pretty good pile of orphaned envelopes myself.

You know what else I save? Anything that comes with a sticky backing but not all of the writable space is used. The post office, pharmacies, shipping invoices, etc. use them. I use them for anything that I want to stick a label on, like reused glass jars for spices; stuff like that.

Keep me guessing.

Gloria DeSousa, Burlington, Vermont USA

I love your *Earth Speaks...* have you ever thought of putting it also up on Substack? That is an interesting and influential community and supporters with planetary reach.

Thank you Iona, for all your work and new-found freedom.

Warmly,

Eimear O'Neill, Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

Below and attached, you will find a CfP for a session at the next conference of the European Geosciences Union (EGU). We hope that you will be interested and/or forward it to colleagues. Please note that the deadline for abstracts is January 14 and so speed is of the essence for sharing.

Please present your work on #climate #ocean #water #biodiversity #overshoot #collapse #communication #education #outreach at the next EGU conference, April 2025, Vienna or online.

Climate and ocean communication and education: Experience, ethics, prospects

Send your abstract, by 14 Jan 2025, for the next EGU:

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU25/session/52049>

Please #share this widely. Thank you.

Our best wishes to you for a peace-

ful New Year.

Pimnutcha Promduangsri & David Crookall – session convenors.

Ocean-Climate Literacy

<https://oceansclimate.wixsite.com/oceansclimate>

Inter- Ocean-Climate School (IOCS)

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtyV1e6Us-1enV-5b6xFZ5A>

<https://linktr.ee/Ocean.Climate.Literacy>

Literacy

Subject line: Who owns Antarctica?

I do not know if this is a big deal or not. I do know that if one country claims a part of Antarctica and starts exploiting its resources (probably minerals) there might be a scramble for other countries to do so.

Who is going to prevent ecological damage?

(excerpt from The Guardian, January 3, 2024) Chile's president Gabriel Boric has made a historic trip to the south pole to reaffirm his country's "claim to sovereignty" over its part of Antarctica, his office said.

Boric is the first Latin American leader to reach the Earth's southernmost point, according to his office.

"This is a milestone for us," Boric said, in footage broadcast by Chilean television. It is the first time a Chilean president has come to the south pole and talked about Chile's Antarctic mission."

Boric, accompanied by his defense and environment ministers, as well as three military commanders, arrived at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, a U.S. research base, at 8pm GMT, his office said. . . .

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/03/chilean-president-makes-historic-trip-to-south-pole-amid-antarctica-sovereignty-claim>

Bill Boteler, Maryland USA