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News

Energy solutions needed in rural areas

2min. 14secs

Only about 7 percent of the world's electricity production today meets the basic human needs of rural people in developing countries. And only 33 percent of rural communities have access to electricity according to a joint report of the World Energy Council and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The report, *The Challenge of Rural Energy Poverty in Developing Countries*, noted that the vast majority of people living in rural areas of developing countries are overwhelmingly dependent on inefficient technologies such as burning wood. Dung and crop residue also provide energy for cooking, heating and light. In the poorest rural households, the amount of energy consumed is less than what is needed for a minimum standard of living.

The report went on to state that, "rural energy development must be decentralized to place rural people at the heart of planning and implementation".

Dependence on traditional fuels and biomass will continue in the foreseeable future in many rural areas. But improvements can be made and the place to begin is with existing indigenous technical knowledge. Well tested methods should put into account the role of rural women as "experts" most familiar with the household fuel supply problems.

Technologies like wind, solar, hydro and biomass offer potential to improve energy supply in rural areas but a culture of poor repair and maintenance services may prove to be severe barriers to adopting these technologies.

The report called on governments to better promote renewable and sustainable energy technologies in rural areas by offering affordable rural credits that help farmers increase their income. By switching from inefficient and costly energy to more efficient, less expensive and healthier energy systems, energy needs will be met.

FAO

Africa: dumping ground for firearms

1min. 7secs

No African country has yet enshrined ownership of guns in its constitution, yet the continent is awash with quantities of arms dumped by opportunistic foreign arms salesmen. The proliferation of civil wars, continued political dissent, and plain thuggery give Africans unlawful reasons to use guns. These guns cost very little. In fact according to a high ranking official of the United Nations Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), "an AK-47 costs as little as two tubers of yam in some places". The proliferation of these guns is causing a lot of problems especially in the Great Lakes region where an estimated 150,000 guns are in circulation in Karamoja, Northeastern Uganda.

Muruli Musaka, Uganda's Minister of State for Security told a two day conference of experts in Kampala recently that "given its vulnerability arising from its geographical location with some of its neighbors, which are being confronted with on-going insurgency, Uganda is very much concerned with the of expanding prevalence of illegal firearms".

It was agreed at the conference to establish an African Firearms Center (AFAC) under the auspices of UNAFRI, based in Kampala. AFAC will promote coordination and cooperation of efforts of African governments towards combating trafficking in firearms, their parts, and components and ammunition on the continent.

Newslink Africa

Fear of global trade

1min. 29secs

Leaders of developing nations expressed fears of the downsides of global trade at a weeklong U.N Conference on Trade and Development in Bangkok, Thailand. In a UN meeting held every four years, leaders of developing countries expressed fears that they cannot access wealth created by a global system centred on high technology and increased power by multinational corporations.

Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, said while developing nations welcome the collaboration of such multinationals with local companies, “we fear that if they are allowed into our countries unconditionally, they may swallow up all our businesses”.

U.N Secretary General, Kofi Anan, called for rich nations to help their poor neighbors. Developing nations need debt relief and open markets for their products, and wealthy nations should help countries that encourage investment and guarantee their people a share in the benefits, Anan said.

“The downsides of globalization are indeed painful,” said the Phillipine president Joseph Estrada, “but taking the bitter pills against its ills is superior to living inside a sterile bubble”.

deseretnews.com

African flamingos threatened

1min. 4secs

A mystery disease is rapidly decimating tens of thousands of flamingos on Lake Bogoria in the Kenyan Rift Valley

Conservationists claim that this is as a result of human pollution. So far an estimated 50, 000 birds have been killed on the lake which has the biggest concentration of flamingos in the world.

Tests done on corpses of the birds show the presence of nine or ten heavy metals in their tissues. According to Gideon Motelin, who specializes in flamingo studies at Kenya’s Egerton University “it is not normal to find arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, and copper in the livers and kidneys of these birds”.

Conservationists believe the source of the pollution is the farms near Lake Nakuru, about sixty miles south of Bogoria, which the flamingos abandoned two years ago.

Jackson Rayini of the World Wide Fund for Nature believes that if this continues “we may lose quite a keystone species’.

Although there have been outbreaks of disease in both 1993 and 1995, each lasted for just a month. The latest outbreak of deaths began in July 1999.

Birdsmag

Unravelling the mystery of resistant malaria

1min. 31secs

Australian scientists may have discovered how the malaria parasite becomes resistant to drugs, raising the hope of developing new treatments for the deadly disease. Research carried out at the Melbourne’s Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research shows that a protein called *Pgh 1* is involved in the mutations of the gene which prevents the anti - malarial drugs accumulating in the parasite’s cells.

The malaria parasite – transmitted to humans through mosquito bites – is responsible for the deaths of more than two million children and adults annually, affecting people in Africa, India, South East Asia, some pacific islands and South America.

Dr. Alan Cowman, the head of the research team explained this development offers a new target for drugs.

“If we understand the mechanism the parasite uses to evade the lethal action of anti – malarial drugs we can try to put it in reverse,” he said. “We may be able to inhibit directly the action of the *Pgh 1* protein so that a drug like chloroquine can work again.”

Nature

New Technology in Southern Africa halts Extinction

1mins. 51secs

The death of a wild cheetah recently in Namibia could have been a big loss to the world’s gene pool. This young free ranging male, represented a valuable source of genetic material, vital in the maintenance of genetic diversity and the future survival of his species.

However due to a unique conservation project making use of exciting developments in reproductive technology and conservation biology this cheetah’s genetic legacy lives on. The latest developments in human and domestic animal reproduction are being applied to wildlife species to avoid extinction. The Wildlife Breeding Resource Center (a working group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust) is developing methods of extracting viable genetic material from recently dead animals through its Gamete Recovery International Programme.

Less than 12 hours after the cheetah’s death, the testes arrived in South Africa where the material was processed and 15 straws of sperm were frozen, each straw representing one dose needed to artificially inseminate a female. This material is now safely stored in a gene bank and may one day result in the birth of cubs, fathered by an animal who died many years before but whose contribution to the future survival of his species, still continues.

WildNet Africa

Incinerating medical waste is a serious threat

1min. 52secs

Incinerators for medical and municipal waste have been linked to severe public health threats and pollution in the United States and Europe. The combination of intense public opposition and increasingly strict environmental pollution regulation has led to the cancellation or closure of many incinerators in industrialized countries. The result is that many incinerator companies are targeting developing nations who are not yet aware of the serious health and environmental threats associated with incineration.

This press alert was issued recently by Save Earth Nigeria, to warn the public against the purchase of incinerators for medical waste in Lagos.

The alert stated that the U.S Environmental Protection Agency has found medical and municipal waste incineration to be the top sources of severely toxic dioxin, as well as mercury. These and other toxic substances have been implicated as causes of cancer and as notable endocrine disrupters with adverse effects on reproduction, development and the immune system.

The report went on to urge the Federal and State Ministries of Health and the general public not to allow the importation of a technology that is becoming obsolete in other parts of the world and prevent Africa from being a dumping ground for toxic waste.

Save Earth

Water for the 21st century

63secs

According to the World Commission on Water for the 21st Century, some 20 percent more water than is available will be needed for the additional 3 billion people who will be alive 25 years from now.

The Commission's statement, issued to commemorate the World Water Day 1999, marked the first time that a major effort is being made to link global water scarcity to food security.

The second world water forum and ministerial conference will be held March 17 – 22 in the Netherlands.

NEFEJ

Disaster on the Danube

1min. 45secs

The leakage of 10 000 tones of cyanide – laden sludge into the Danube river has taken a heavy ecological toll. The cyanide, which was used to separate gold from ore at a mine in Baia Mare, Romania, was washed from an open storage basin into the Tisza, a tributary on the Danube on the 30th of January. Now, almost everything on the Tisza's murky waters is lifeless. Fishermen have hung black banners from houses and bridges, mourning their lost livelihoods.

The concentration of cyanide in the waters is estimated to be 130 times more than the safe limit making the waters lethal. However cyanide dilutes and decomposes easily thus its effect should not last very long. But toxic heavy metals have leaked too and while these do not kill animals or fish instantly, they can cause long term ill health and cancers. The effect of this disaster is expected to linger in the waters of the Danube for the next five years.

The World Wide fund for Nature estimates that a quarter of all rivers of Eastern and Southern European are heavily polluted. Some like the Tisza are "ecologically dead".

The economist

Women broadcasters meet in Paris

1min. 25secs

Broadcasters from around the world gathered in Paris to move beyond the rhetoric and collaborate on a series of programmes on the lives of women in the year 2000, five years after Beijing. This meeting of women broadcasters was held from the 17th to the 18th of February 2000. Ugonma Ekeanyanwu, Programme Officer for Communicating for Change, represented the West African subregion at the TVE/UNESCO sponsored forum. The aim of the meeting was to produce gender sensitive programmes to be aired around the world during the fifth anniversary of the Beijing Women's Conference tagged Beijing +5 to be held in New York from the 5th to 9th of June 2000.

According to Ms Ekeanyanwu the conference was highly successful as broadcasters were able to brainstorm on issues that relate to the conditions of women from different regions of the world. Themes such as women in power, health, poverty, employment, violence/reconciliation and education were some of the themes that were discussed at the forum.

c/c

Special focus

AIDS in Africa

1min. 52secs

According to UNAIDS, an umbrella body for five U.N bodies, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, 33.6 million people in the world have AIDS – over 23 million of them are in the sub-Saharan Africa. More than 16 million have died from AIDS; 3.6 million of them are children under the age of 15. Other alarming statistics on this scourge called AIDS include:

- Of the 5.6 million new infections in 1999, 3.8 million of them are in Africa.
- 2.6 million people died from AIDS last year, 85 percent of them in Africa
- Of the 13 million children orphaned by AIDS, 10 million of them are in sub Saharan Africa
- As a result of the disease, there is reduced life expectancy in sub Saharan Africa from 59 years to 45 between 2005 and 2010, and in Zimbabwe from 61 to 33!

When compared to the bubonic plague, which was reckoned to have killed 30 million people in medieval Europe, an estimated number of 71 million people would have died from AIDS by 2010.

According to Rene Bonnel, of the World Bank, “ these numbers have human faces that is what is so hard to grasp”

CNN.com

Beyond statistics

2mins. 36secs

In South Africa Gugu Dlamini admitted on television that she had AIDS. When she returned home, she was beaten to death by fellow villagers.

At just 14, Kevina, a Ugandan girl has lost both parents, aunts and uncles to AIDS. Now she cares for four younger brothers, three younger sisters and an 84year - old blind grandfather.

The epidemic is showing its ugly face more and more in other countries of the world like in India and China. But the focus right now is on Africa where 10 of the 11 infections, which occur every minute, are diagnosed. Where in some countries, doctors and nurses are dying faster than they can be replaced and where treatment ranges from the inadequate to the non-existent.

In South Africa one out of every 10 people have AIDS. Every day 1700 new cases are reported across hospitals in the country. Factors contributing to the spread of the disease include poverty, ignorance, the prohibitive cost of AIDS drugs, an aversion to discussing sex and some say, promiscuity.

“Promiscuity is a loaded word” says Dr. Robert Shell of the Population Research Unit at Rhodes University “ I would say that AIDS is the result of unsafe sexual practices...ignorance about reproductive health is the biggest factor and (this) is related to poverty and illiteracy”

In the meantime President Mbeki of South Africa has shocked the world by opposing the use of AZT, one of the most successful AIDS drug and by appointing an AIDS council that lacks medical researchers or AIDS experts.

CNNinteractive

The spread

1min. 37secs

Mobility of labor and rapid urbanization has contributed to cities in sub-Saharan Africa where 40 to 50 percent of the population have AIDS.

Wars have also contributed to the problem. Like migrant workers , truck drivers and young men , soldiers often visit “commercial sex workers” or prostitutes, 90 percent of who are believed to have AIDS. Nigerian soldiers with the ECOMOG forces in Sierra Leone and Finnish soldiers serving as peacekeepers in Namibia brought AIDS with them when they returned home.

Girls and women are often forced to have sex with men in male dominated African cultures. In fact, in some areas infected men believe they can be cured by having sex with a virgin. As a result many 12 year - old girls

become infected.

The reported AIDS rate among women in Africa is much higher than men but then again most men are not being tested. Meanwhile, they unknowingly pass on the infection. Indeed, a U.N survey found that 30 percent of young African women believe that if a man looks healthy, he cannot have AIDS!

CNN.com

Turning back the clock on development

4mins. 29sec

More than one quarter of working age adults are infected with HIV, a statistic that has profound implication on the economic development of the continent.

Families for instance will have to use depleted resources to care for a member ill with AIDS rather than invest in necessities or children's futures. And when AIDS claims a major source of financial support in a family, communities must take responsibility for the orphans and the elderly. Countries on their part must draw on a diminishing pool of trained and talented workers.

A study of urban populations in Cote d'Ivoire revealed that families with a sick member from AIDS cut spending on their children's education in half and reduced food consumption by 40 percent as they struggled to cover health expenditures that have soared to four times their usual level.

The same observation was made in Uganda and Tanzania.

Despite the figures, one of the paradoxes of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa is that for most of this decade, it has not made a dent on standard microeconomic yardsticks such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The argument, according to a 1997 release by the World Bank, is that declines in population growth caused by AIDS would tend to offset any declines in economic growth caused by the epidemic. This, in part, is due to the cold logic of demand and supply: the labor surplus in most African countries means that workers removed from the workforce by AIDS can be replaced without loss of productivity.

However standard economic statistics such as the GDP do not measure the economic impact of AIDS in Africa. The impact of the disease must be seen in the larger context of human welfare. For instance countries have lost 10 to 20 years of life expectancy thus reversing years of investments in human capital. GDP does not capture this dimension of human loss and welfare.

Already the epidemic's burden on the healthcare system is increasingly obvious, although efforts to quantify the impact have lagged. In South Africa it is estimated that 50 percent of the beds in large provincial hospitals are occupied by people with AIDS. Because it is difficult to measure the macroeconomic impact of an epidemic directly, experts have had to depend on economic models which are based on a set of assumptions. By factoring in labor supply and healthcare finance to existing models, a rough estimate of 0.5 percent reduction in GDP is recorded as an impact of AIDS on the economy of the continent. While this might not seem crippling, one must note that a lower growth rate always leads to a cumulative effect..

For example a country with a growth rate of 2 percent a year in the absence of AIDS will increase its Gross National Product per capita by 81 percent in one generation which is about 30 years. With an AIDS epidemic, growth rate will be reduced by 1.5 percent a year thus leading to a 25 percent reduction of the GNP per capita in the same period.

CNN.com

Creating a continent of orphans

3mins. 18secs

AIDS in Africa touches children in two ways - the disease kills their parents, leaving them orphans and the disease infects children themselves. Africa right now is home to 90 percent of the world's HIV – infected children. In sub Saharan Africa 470 000 children die every year from AIDS. In many cases the virus was transmitted to them by their mother. Of 30 children born to HIV positive mothers, approximately 10 will acquire AIDS by simply being born. Another four will become infected through breast-feeding. Most of these children will not live to see their 5th birthdays

Children are also becoming infected through sexual contact. Among young people, girls have a higher infection rate than do boys of the same age. The cruel myth that an infected man can be cured by having sex with a virgin is also contributing to the rise of the disease among girls. Girls may also agree to exchange sex for favors or typically for payment of school fees.

The existence of orphans in Africa is not new. Usually they are by tradition absorbed in extended family networks. With the advent of AIDS the extended family has become over extended.

AIDS has now orphaned 9 percent of Zambia's children. In Zimbabwe, 7 percent of children are orphans while in Malawi 6 percent. 11 percent of Uganda's children are AIDS orphans, the highest percentage in the world.

AIDS orphans suffer on two levels. They need to drop out of school to care for a dying parent or to care and provide for younger siblings. They are likely to have been exposed to tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections plaguing an HIV – positive adult. They may be sent to live with grandparents who already care for grandchildren from three or four families.

It must be noted that orphans are more likely to live in poverty and be malnourished. They are more likely to engage in hazardous labor including prostitution. Other issues are the high incidence of crime and violence amongst orphans.

As adults continue to die of AIDS, the children are left in a vacuum deprived of parental guidance – a sea of youth, disadvantaged, vulnerable, undereducated, without hope or opportunity.

CNNInteractive

No money, no drugs, no hope

1min. 41secs

Treatment of AIDS has been so successful in the industrialized countries that complacency is feared to be setting in. However this is not the case in Africa.

In the developed world it costs up to 15 000 dollars a year for a person living with AIDS to buy the cocktail of drugs that help them live better and longer. In Africa where there are 4 million new cases every year the term treatment does not apply. With very few exceptions a positive test for HIV in Africa is a death sentence.

In the United States with a population of about 274 million, about 10 billion dollars is spent every year on research, treatment and prevention of AIDS. The nations of Africa, with a total population of 543 million spend only 165 million dollars a year.

Since in many countries only 40 percent of the hospitals have access to basic drugs it is not surprising to have doctors refuse to readmit patients because in the words of a medical researcher in Durban; “we can't afford to spend money on people who are going to die”.

CNN.com

A ray of light

1min. 4secs

A tree in Argentina has yielded a compound that attacks the AIDS virus. Another tree found across Africa makes an anti - fungal compound that might work against the mouth infection that plague HIV patients.

Researchers told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that their findings show that the world's forests are still a rich source of new drugs – and they say that their programs are also good examples of how developing countries can benefit from their natural resources.

CNNInteractive

Children's Section

How the cheetah got his speed

1min. 58secs

Once upon a time the Creator decided to find out which of His animals could run the fastest - and so He entered the cheetah in a race with the tsessebe, which is the swiftest of all the antelopes. The cheetah had soft paws then, and he realized that they were not suited for real speed. So he borrowed a set of paws from an obliging wild dog.

The race started from a high baobab tree. The Creator Himself was in charge, and the two contestants were told to run right across the plains to a hill on the far side. The animals lined up and then – go! They leapt away.

The tsessebe soon took the lead, and by halfway, he was so far ahead he seemed sure to win. But suddenly – disaster! Tsessebe stumbled on a stone and crashed to the ground: he had broken his leg.

The good-natured cheetah, instead of running past and winning the race, stopped to help his opponent.

The Creator, seeing this, was so pleased by the cheetah's unselfish act that he bestowed upon the cheetah a gift; He made him the fastest animal in the land, and what's more, allowed him to keep the paws of the wild dog.

When the hippo was hairy

A Giraffe in the Sky (An ancient Bushman legend)

1min. 12secs

At the very beginning of time, say the Bushmen, the Sun did not know its way around the heavens. Giraffe had a habit of staring curiously at everything, and so the Creator thought that it would be a good idea to give Giraffe the task of watching over the Sun, so that it didn't go astray.

Giraffe took his job very seriously. Indeed, he was so good at it that the Sun never again took a wrong turn. The creator was very proud of Giraffe, and He decided to honour him. He rearranged a few stars so that they made a giraffe shape in the sky, and you can still see it to this day.

The Bushmen call the pattern Totowa (Giraffe), and use it to guide them when they travel at night. English-speaking people call Totowa the Southern Cross, and use it as a guide, too.

When the hippo was hairy

How Nguluve Got His Tail

2mins. 28secs

In the beginning, the animal had no tails. One day the Creator prepared a great collection of tails and summoned all the animals to come and choose one.

Each animal in turn looked over the pile of tails and selected the one which he thought best suited his looks and his needs and went away satisfied and complete.

Now, when Ndhlovu the elephant's turn came, he could not decide between two grey tails which he fancied, the one small and the other large and long. He tried them on this way and that, one after another and both together. When the time came to make a decision, he was unable to put one down, so he stuck the big one on in front and the little one behind, and walked off with two tails.

As the Creator had counted all the animals and made enough tails for only one each, Ndhlovu thus took not only his own, but somebody else's tail as well. So when the turn came for the last animal in the queue, which happened to be Nguluge, the warthog, there was not tail left for him.

Poor Nguluge was too ashamed and unhappy to take his place among his friends who were busily shoeing off their new tails and swishing them this way and that. So he scabbled around, turning stones and digging with his nose into the ground until he unearthed a thin, little piece of tree root. 'What a perfect tail,' he thought to himself. Very proud of his new appendage and of how clever he had been in finding it, Nguluge wanted to show it off at every opportunity.

And that is why he sticks it straight up in the air as he runs along, for everyone to see and admire!

Shangani folk tales

In brief...

Threat to livelihood of woodcarvers in Ghana

1min. 22secs

The indiscriminate felling of trees in Ghana over the years has put the traditional trade of wood carving under threat. As a result the wood carvers have come together to save their trade by adopting a common approach to the issue of tree felling.

The president of the wood carvers association of Ghana, Louis Botchway, recently reiterated the commitment of the association to assist in planting trees to replace the ones they cut down. Other objectives of the association include the introduction of quality controls in the trade, search for international markets for members and the promotion of wood economy through the frugal use of raw materials.

The financial standard

Tragedy in Mozambique

2mins. 17secs

Floods have devastated much of southeastern Africa. Hundreds of lives have been lost, thousands more face hunger, and Mozambique's economy is in mortal danger. The floods have pushed back large numbers of the Mozambicans into poverty who have just recently begun to pull themselves out of it.

The floodings have dislodged thousands of land mines and carried them to places previously considered safe. This year's floods have also turned the low fields where most of the planting is done to mud porridge.

It is estimated that 220 000 Mozambicans will need food aid in the next three months, a figure that will rise if the waters do not recede before the planting season, which should begin in April. The Mozambique government have solicited aids to the tune of 65 million US dollars but to date only 13.5 million were pledged by March 1st.

Efforts to fly food and supplies to the needy are hampered by the scattered nature of the settlements. And the water is not the only peril they face. The floods bring disease with them. Vast stretches of new swampland are breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes and cholera. Hunger and exhaustion among the survivors hanging on trees lower their resistance to disease. And since between an eighth and a quarter of adults in the flooded communities are HIV – infected, the resistance is often not very great to start with.

The economist

Water Conservation in Central America

1min. 49secs

The last two years have undoubtedly been very destructive for the Central American region, and water is among the natural resources most affected. The mismanagement of many watersheds, increased deforestation in areas near water sources, the heavy rains that when the Hurricane March struck (caused serious flooding,) have led to the propagation of many diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. Despite the abundant rains, water still remains in a state of crisis.

While it is necessary to improve the use of water for human consumption and as a source of economic revenue, the many problems relating to water and its conservation should not only be in the hands of environmental technicians biologists, foresters or even government. It is essential that everyone make commitment to take care of these resources.

To have water in the long term, we must begin by not polluting our water resources.

Deforestation must be stopped, areas near watersheds and rivers must be reforested and we must implement policies to compensate those who protect these environmental services. Education programs and information campaigns that explain how best to prevent the pollution of the sources of this precious liquid – water, depends on us.

Quick tips on water conservation

1min. 59secs

Water and life are inseparable. Through mismanagement, waste and pollution of our water resources we are creating an imbalance in the water cycle. What can you do to conserve water?

Place a brick in the water tank of your toilet. This conserves water, as the brick allows you to store the amount of water you really need for flushing the toilet. Make sure you turn off all taps properly. A dripping or leaking tap can waste more than 90 litres of water per week.

Drain your washbasin or toilet with products that do not harm your health or pollute the environment. To clean your toilet, pour some boiling water down it twice a week or pour in ¼ cup of bicarbonate of soda and ¼ cup of vinegar and cover it for the night. Use natural products to clean your kitchen bathrooms and tile floors. Vinegar can be used as a substitute for bleach or Clorox, lemon may be used to clean metal items and bicarbonate of soda can be used to remove stains in the toilet. And to disinfect use ¼ cup of borax (boric acid) with one gallon of boiling water.

Remember there is enough water to satisfy all our needs. Be part of the solution.

WWF

Parting shots

Some memorable quotes on conservation and the environment

“The generations of living things pass in swift succession, and like runners in a race they hand on the torch of life.”

Lucretius,

Founder poet and philosopher, 96-55 B.C.

“Take not too much of a land, wear not out all the fatness, but leave in it some heart.”

Pliny the Elder

Roman writer, 23-79 A.D.

“Do you think you can take over the universe and improve it? I do not believe it can be done. The universe is sacred. If you try to change it, you will ruin it.”

Lao-Tzu

Founder of Taoism, 604-531 B.C.

“Please leave something for us. Our generation needs a home too; we can’t live in this grime and dirt left for us by you. You ancestors left the world OK. Please do the same for us.”

Malanie Boyd

Eleven-year-old from Barbados.

“In the end we conserve only that we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

Baba Dioum,

Senegalese poet.

“Whoever is kind to the creatures of God is kind to himself.”

Mohammed,

Prophet and religious leader, 520-632.

“Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, now the trees...”

The Bible,

Revelations, 7:3.