



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS & GLOBAL HEALTH

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TROPICAL FORESTS 'EMPTY' AS ILLEGAL HUNTING SLASHES LARGE MAMMAL POPULATIONS

Illegal hunting is causing catastrophic declines in mammal populations living in the world's remaining tropical forests, a new study has warned. Jaguars, leopards, elephants and rhinos have seen population declines of 40% in just 40 years and the study warned that hunting – half of which is done illegally – has left many tropical forests "empty" of wildlife. "Without adequate measures wildlife hunting will increase in the future," lead researcher Dr Benítez-López told *The Independent*. Until now there were vast understudied areas in the tropics where hunting impacts on mammal communities were unknown, according to the study which is published in the *Plos Biology* journal. Researchers say this new study should help inform species extinction risk assessments and conservation planning. [Read More at Independent](#)



Credit: Credit: Independent Digital News & Media Limited

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Canadian Cities Are Coming To Terms With A Bleak New Reality For The Recycling Industry	
Hawaii Responds To Global Warming Threat Taking The 'Perfect Flight' - With New Fuel	2
Caribbean Community For Health Policy	
Laotian Government To Take Over School Meals Is Canada Opposing Transparency In Drug Prices?	3
Climate Change Will Be Hopeless Unless Small Families	
How A New Wave Of Shops Could End Excess Packaging	
Uncommon Victory For An Indigenous Tribe	4
Quote Of The Week On Indigenous Women & Events	5
FYI#1: New Book: One Planet, One Health	6
FYI#2: Are SDGs Reaching Indigenous Moroccans?	7
FYI#3: Schools To Have One Meat-Free Day A Week	8
FYI#4: 414 Million Pieces Of Plastic Found In Indian Ocean Island Group	9
FYI#5: Energy Storage Is Getting Interesting	10
FYI#6: University Labs - The Toughest Challenge	11
Backpage: Chief Commissioner Marion Buller	
231 Calls for Justice - The Final MMIWG Report	

BIG TOBACCO, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND THE LIMITS OF SHARED VALUE

On the evening of Sept. 23, 2018, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organization, known to most as "Dr. Tedros," tweeted. "I have cancelled my participation in the @ConcordiaSummit after the tobacco industry, which profits from destroying health, announced it is sponsoring the event. #NoTobacco #BeatNCDs #UNGA," Tedros wrote. According to PMI's leaders, if the world's largest tobacco company can convince 1 billion smokers to switch from combustible cigarettes to smoke-free alternatives, they can usher in a new era for tobacco and save millions of lives in the process. At the Concordia Summit, in a "flash talk," Calantzopoulos described his vision of a world in which tobacco giant Philip Morris International (PMI) and global health organizations might work together, with PMI bringing new and safer products to market, while public institutions help create a more conducive regulatory environment for e-cigarettes to allow that to happen. "They're not pivoting away from cigarettes. They're still selling them. That's the scam," said Stanton Glantz, at the University of California, San Francisco. [Read More at Devex](#)



Credit: Public Domain Pictures/ Pixabay





CANADIAN CITIES ARE COMING TO TERMS WITH A BLEAK NEW REALITY FOR THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY

Canada's recycling industry is having its moment of reckoning – with more going to landfill, less being accepted in the blue bin and the cost of going green soaring. Carolyn Jarvis reports. What once could be sold for profit now costs money to haul away, and the notion that Canadians are saving the planet by putting things in a blue bin is proving to be a delusion. "It's a watershed moment. We have to come clean, we have to be honest, we have to get back to truth, to reality with these programs," said Lorenzo Donini, director of government affairs and municipal relationships for GFL Environmental in Western Canada. It's purely a matter of capacity that we can't do it for them," said Eadaoin Quinn, director of business development and procurement for the company, near Stratford, Ontario. The EFS-plastics plant is taking all that it can, but it simply can't absorb the world's excess supply. [Read More at Global News](#)

Credit : Global News

HAWAII RESPONDS TO GLOBAL WARMING THREAT AGAINST WAIKIKI BEACH

Climate scientists have issued frequent warning about the effects of rising sea levels from global warming on cities such as Miami and New York. But also among the first places in the U.S. that may suffer the effects of climate change could be Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, according to a report by the Hawaii Climate Commission report, which showed that the island's famous beaches are likely to be under water in the next 15 to 20 years. Democratic State Rep. Chris Lee, chairman of the state's Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, noted to CNN that the state has set targets to reach 100% renewable energy, passed in 2015, and move to a carbon-neutral economy by 2045, and to eliminate fossil fuels from ground transportation in the state. In Washington, the Green New Deal provision to move to 100% renewable energy has proved to be one of the measure's most controversial proposals. In Hawaii, Lee says, utilities expected it to cost billions of dollars. But when they put pen to paper, they found it will save state residents \$5.5 billion. Getting to 100% renewable electric power would allow electric cars to be completely carbon free. [Read More at Green Car Reports](#)



Credit: Wikimedia Commons



TAKING THE 'PERFECT FLIGHT' - WITH SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL

A one-hour flight in Sweden, between Halmstad City airport and Stockholm Bromma airport, has been labelled the 'Perfect Flight'. The 72 passengers aboard the Braathens Regional Airlines (BRA) ATR 72-600 turboprop plane were on an aircraft 'optimised to keep carbon emissions to a minimum'. Braathens Regional Airlines collaborated with Air BP, ATR and Neste to deliver this week's flight. ATR said the ATR 72-600 'produces 40% fewer carbon emissions per trip compared with regional jets, saving 4,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per aircraft per year'. Anna Soltorp, Head of Sustainability, BRA, added: "We want to continue to fly 'perfectly' in the future. To achieve this, it is important that we can access sustainable aviation fuel in sufficient quantities and at the right price. As a society we need to take action to combat climate change and drastically reduce emissions, aviation must play its part in this. Today, we have demonstrated what can be achieved through more efficient flying without compromising connectivity. It is another positive step forwards." [Read More at Innovators Magazine](#)

Credit: Saleem Shaikh/IPS



Credit: HPSR

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR HEALTH POLICY AND SYSTEMS RESEARCH (COP4HPSR)

Since the Health System Global (HSG) pre-symposium meetings in 2018, it was observed that there is need for greater production and use of Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) to inform Caribbean health decision-making. CoP4HPSR is a network of researchers, health professionals, policymakers and stakeholders in CARICOM, who are committed to building HPSR capacity in the Caribbean, through information sharing, joint research, peer-to-peer support and training activities. The COP4HPSR has four core functions: i) execution of HPSR; ii) knowledge translation activities; iii) citizen engagement; and iv) health human resource training and development. COP4HPSR is a vehicle to support HPSR production and use. [Read More at University of The West Indies](#)

LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME FROM WFP

The World Food Programme (WFP) handed over its school feeding programme in more than 500 schools to the Lao government this week. The handover ceremony took place at Bor village school in Xay district, Oudomxay province, where WFP provides 40,000 plates of food per year to the school's 200 students. Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Assoc. Prof. Dr Khamphay Sisavanh, and WFP Executive Director David Beasley were the honoured guests at the ceremony. Assoc. Prof. Dr Khamphay said school meals have given a generation of children better nutrition and health, helped them grow, develop and achieve success at school. Executive Director Beasley said "This handover is a perfect example of what can happen when we all work together with one common goal, helping a new generation of children to grow up healthy and educated. It's a testament to all the work put in by the government, WFP and its partners and donors." Following the adoption of the government's National Policy on Promoting School Lunch in May 2014, WFP started to shift its focus from implementing the School Meals Programme to building the capacity of the government and communities. [Read More at Asia News Network](#)



Credit: KPL/Laos News Agency



Credit: Cipriani/WHO

'YOU DISAPPOINTED US': WHY IS CANADA OPPOSING MORE TRANSPARENCY IN DRUG PRICES?

Behind closed doors at the World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting in Geneva last week, health officials from around the world began hammering at the black box of secrecy surrounding the pharmaceutical industry. As the debate in the room heated up, observers were surprised that Canada was among the countries that seemed to be trying to weaken that effort. James Love, of Knowledge Ecology International, a non-profit group that advocates for access to affordable drugs described several examples where Canada requested changes that softened the resolution. In one case, the original wording called on countries to "undertake measures to publicly share information on prices and reimbursement cost of medicines." But Canada joined Germany, the U.K. and Australia to eliminate the word "public." What is Canada's objective? At this point, it's not clear. Health Canada confirmed in an email to CBC News that Canada "is participating in ongoing negotiations to achieve a productive resolution that recognizes the significance of price transparency as an important element of improving access to medicines." [Read More at CBC](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON OPINION

OUR FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE WILL BE HOPELESS UNLESS WE CHOOSE TO HAVE SMALLER FAMILIES

Environmental activist Bella Lack was speaking ahead of the Population Matters Conference 2019 to be held in April in London: Come 2030 I will be 27-years-old. If population growth continues at its current rate I will be one of 8.5 billion people on Earth. That's almost one billion more than today, and more than double the number of people alive in 1970. By 2050 some 10 billion people could call earth home. We gaze in wonder at our precious wildernesses but then think nothing of tearing them down. More than 80% of the original forest that covered the Earth 8,000 years ago has been cleared, damaged or altered. The rapid loss of species we are seeing today is estimated by experts to be between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate. We simply can't go on like this. In 2030 no doubt my generation will be well on the way to starting families of their own. With global nature in crisis, I'd love it if we could all take a moment to consider the game-changing benefits of having small families. Future generations may never forgive us if we don't. [Read More at Telegraph](#)

Credit: Panjalu Images

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

THE ZERO-WASTE REVOLUTION: HOW A NEW WAVE OF SHOPS COULD END EXCESS PACKAGING

Shops that minimise the environmental impact of our consumer habits are springing up across Britain. Could they help us avert catastrophe? The smell in Natural Weigh, a zero-waste shop that opened a year ago in Crickhowell in mid-Wales, is lovely. The shop – filled with pasta, grains, seeds and dried fruit served from hoppers to avoid plastic packaging; washing-up liquid and laundry products that customers pump into their battered old squeeze bottles; fair-trade coffee and chocolate, plus an array of environmentally friendly products, such as bamboo toothbrush holders, plastic-free dental floss and vegan leather snack pouches – looks lovely. Natural Weigh is part of a quiet revolution. “The implications of climate change call for consumer change,” declares the sign outside the shop, while a poster inside asks: “Who made my clothes?” [Read More at Guardian](#)



Credit: Dimitris Legakis/Athena Pictures



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

AN UNCOMMON VICTORY FOR AN INDIGENOUS TRIBE IN THE AMAZON

On April 26th, a parade of hundreds of Waorani men and women, members of an indigenous nation in a remote part of the Ecuadorian Amazon, marched triumphantly through the streets of Puyo, the regional capital of the eastern province of Pastaza. In February, the Waorani, together with Ecuador's Ombudsman, a parliament-appointed official who serves as a public advocate, had filed a lawsuit against the Ecuadorian government for not properly consulting with them before opening up their territory to potential oil exploration. Just days before the Waorani victory, a coalition of Latin-American journalists unveiled a new reporting project, “Tierra de Resistentes” (“Land of Resistant”), focussed on the dangers that face environmental activists. Michel Forst, the special rapporteur on the situation of human-rights defenders said that, in the year 2015, worldwide, more than three environmental advocates were killed every week, often in conflicts related to expanding mining, logging, damming, or agriculture. Forst found that the people who oppose these activities are often portrayed as “anti-development” or “unpatriotic” and are subject to violent attacks. [Read More at The New Yorker](#)

See Also: [The Waorani Resistance in Photos](#)

Credit: Dolores Ochoa / AP

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"To the people who don't think this is a genocide, we have 1200 pages to prove it."

**Michele Audette, Commissioner for the
National Inquiry into Missing and
Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
June 3, 2019**

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
June 6th-9th	CNIS Bethune Round Table in Global Surgery: Ethics in Global Surgery	Edmonton Canada	https://bethuneroundtable.com/
June 6th-9th	Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa	Toronto Canada	https://sasascience.org/conference/
June 10th-21st	5th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca
June 10th-22nd	Health Systems Summer Institute	Baltimore Maryland	https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/international-health/continuing-education/institutes/health-systems-summer-institute/index.html
June 12th-13th	Community Health Connections	Ottawa Canada	https://www.cachc.ca/2019conference/
June 14th-16th	North American Refugee Health Conference	Toronto Canada	https://facmed.registration.med.utoronto.ca/portal/events/reg/participantTypeSelection.do?method=load&entityId=1469515
June 24th-28th	Global Ecological Integrity Group	Trieste Italy	www.globalecointegrity.org
June 24th-29th	Trieste Conference of the Global Ecological Integrity Group	Trieste Italy	https://www.globalecointegrity.org/
September 14th-18th	Latin American Summit of Sustainable Communities	Intikamari, Azulay, Ecuador	https://redcasalatina.org/se-viene-el-ecco-2019/
Oct 7th-11th	Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power	Vienna Austria	https://www.iaea.org/atoms4climate
Oct 15th-18th	Global Symposium of Citizenship, Governance and Accountability in Health	New Delhi India	http://copasahglobalsymposium2019.net/overview.html
Nov 22nd -24th	2nd International Symposium on Community Health Workers	Dhaka Bangladesh	http://chwsymposium2019.icddrb.org/abstract_submit Deadline for submissions: 30 June



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SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA— NEW BOOK

MERRILYN WALTON, ED., ONE PLANET, ONE HEALTH (SYDNEY UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2019)



Credit: Sydney University Press

One Planet, One Health provides a multidisciplinary reflection on the state of our planet, human and animal health, as well as the critical effects of climate change on the environment and livelihoods of people. Climate change is already affecting many poor communities and traditional aid programs have achieved relatively small gains. Going beyond the narrow disciplinary lens and an exclusive focus on human health, a planetary health approach puts the ecosystem at the centre. With experience in eco-health methods, the contributors to One Planet, One Health postulate that the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem resilience should be a core priority, carried out in partnership with local communities. One Planet, One Health offers an integrated approach to improving the health of the planet and its inhabitants. With chapters on ethics, research and governance, as well as case studies of government and international aid-agency responses to illustrate successes and failures, the book aims to help scholars, governments and non-governmental organisations understand the benefits of focusing on the interdependence of human and animal health, food, water security and land care. [Read More at University of Sydney](#)



ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REACHING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN MOROCCO?



Credit: Reuters

Life and death for whole communities hang in the balance of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that include eliminating poverty, conserving forests, and addressing climate change in a resolution adopted unanimously by the United Nations in 2015. The Indigenous Amazigh people live in the mountains around Marrakech. They are representative of people who need to be served first by sustainable development. Education is a major concern, but is hard to attain for a number of reasons. Sometimes families cannot afford the subsequent costs of backpacks and books, even when the school is open and free. Consequently, civil society has an important role in achieving the SDGs. The High Atlas Foundation has been working to help people in this region to organize themselves into collectives that decide both what the collective wants, and pathways to achieve those goals. Not only do these collectives lend people some influence over their current and their children's lives, they love each other and they are not struggling alone. We witnessed profound solidarity. Repeatedly, the collectives told us "We love each other, we are one family," "We are like one," "We help each other," and the conviction that "I will be with you."

[Read More at IPS News](#)



UK SOIL ASSOCIATION: SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE ONE MEAT-FREE DAY A WEEK



Credit: Vaaseenaa/Getty Images/iStockphoto

Soil Association calls for pupils in England to get 'healthier and more climate-friendly' meals. Given wide acceptance that diets need to change to address the climate crisis – including by eating less meat and more beans and pulses – the Soil Association in U.K. is urging the Department for Education to replace a non-mandatory recommendation for a weekly meat-free day with a statutory menu once a week offering only plant-based proteins and foods. The current standards were introduced in 2015, replacing the original nutritional regulations launched in 2008 following TV chef Jamie Oliver's personal crusade to improve the standard of school meals – and remove junk food such as the notorious "turkey twizzlers". A DfE spokesperson said: "Our school food standards ensure that school meals are healthy and nutritious. They do not require meat to be served every day, and schools have the freedom to introduce a meat-free day each week."

[Read More at Go Green Soccsksargen](#)



414 MILLION PIECES OF PLASTIC FOUND ON REMOTE ISLAND GROUP IN INDIAN OCEAN



Credit: HT File Photo/Representative Image

On the beaches of the tiny Cocos (Keeling) Islands, population 600, marine scientists found 977,000 shoes and 373,000 toothbrushes. A comprehensive survey of debris on the islands – among the most remote places on Earth, in the Indian Ocean – has found a staggering amount of rubbish washed ashore. This included 414m pieces of plastic, weighing 238 tonnes. Excessive and unrelenting demand for plastics, coupled with ineffective policy and waste management, has resulted in myriad negative effects on marine, freshwater and terrestrial environments, including entanglement and ingestion of debris, and subsequent exposure to plastic-associated chemicals,” the report said. An estimated 12.7m tonnes of plastic entered our oceans in 2010 alone, with around 40% of plastics entering the waste stream in the same year they’re produced. As a result of the growth in single-use consumer plastics, it’s estimated there are now 5.25 trillion pieces of ocean plastic debris.

[Read More at The Guardian](#)

See Also: [Man makes deepest-ever dive in Mariana Trench and discovers...litter](#)





ALLOYS, LIGNIN AND GRAVITY – ENERGY STORAGE IS GETTING INTERESTING



Credit: Energy Vault

Lithium batteries made headlines again recently for all the wrong reasons when the battery on a Sydney woman's e-bike exploded and burned the house down. The company selling the bikes, Glow Worm in Sydney, promptly issued a recall, and the owner of the bike promptly replaced the battery and is now in the process of replacing her house. Another home-grown innovation recently announced is Gelion Endure, an energy storage platform developed by Gelion Technologies, a company spun out of research by University of Sydney Professor of Chemistry Thomas Maschmeyer, winner of the 2018 Eureka Prize for Leadership in Innovation and Science. All of us probably have that one friend, the one that really doesn't think climate change should influence their vote. It might be worth showing them this astonishing [and entertaining, albeit swearsy] rant by the Mr. Rogers of science communication – Bill Nye the Science Guy.

[Read More at The Fifth Estate](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY LABS – PROBABLY THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGE OF ALL



Credit: Dianna Snape/ Monash University

Universities talk about sustainability but few are doing anything to reach the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, a leading sustainability expert has told The Fifth Estate. “Universities could be doing a whole lot more [to meet the UN SDGs],” Denby says. “If you asked the vice-chancellors if they are aware of the SDGs and what they are doing, you would get some pretty blank stares. The same across the broader executive. And it is not for the want of sustainability development officers in universities trying to get them to do something about it.” In the United Kingdom, a “green league table” challenged universities to prove and compete on their environmental credentials. The rankings are created by a charity, People & Planet, based on its own methodology. Those who are closest to the frontline, the universities sustainability officers, are ignored and under-resourced. Australia is yet to see leadership from its vice-chancellors when it comes to taking the action that their scientific research demands.

[Read More at The Fifth Estate](#)



Chief Commissioner Marion Buller
231 Calls for Justice – The Final Report
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
Canadian Museum of History
Gatineau, Quebec
June 3, 2019



Credit : David Zakus

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