

# AFRICA ACTION SHEET

Summer 2019



## AID FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR PROFIT

**Aid can help build a better world. But too often it's only building corporate profits. Now the government is set to entrench and step up its misguided and disproven approach.**

**Each year, the UK's Department for International Development is spending millions promoting education privatisation in developing countries.**

In a world where 262 million children are out of education, we need urgent action. But the private model is not the solution. Instead, it's deepening inequality and creating schools that are run in the interests of profit first, pupils second.

The UK government is supporting the roll-out of 'low fee' private schools in countries including Kenya, Uganda, Ghana and Nigeria – schools which, despite their name, often exclude marginalised students. The Department for International Development should stop using aid money to promote the privatisation of education. Instead of deepening the involvement of commercial interests in education, DFID should focus solely on building sustainable, public education systems for all children.;

**Sign the petition to the International Development Secretary. <https://act.globaljustice.org.uk>**

### **STOP FOSSIL FUELS - BUILD 100% RENEWABLES**

#### **THE UK IS GOING FOSSIL FREE.**

City By city, town by town, we're building a movement to take back power from the fossil fuel industry and build an energy system that works for all.

We are part of a powerful global movement working to build a future free from the injustice of climate change, and free from the profiteering fossil fuel industry that drives it.

By dismantling the power of the fossil fuel industry, we can make space for real climate solutions, and build a future powered by clean, community-led renewable energy. Sign up for email updates: <https://gofossilfree.org/uk/>

### **Mining Resources in Africa: Curse and Opportunity**

Mining operations and global consumption of natural resources continue to increase annually and the economies of developing countries are increasingly becoming dependent on export of natural resources. The developed countries import and transform those natural resources for the benefit of their digital and clean (green) societies while the developing countries see their wealth plundered with the destruction and contamination of their environments.

Countries in Africa rich in minerals suffer the so-called curse of natural resources. Lack of arable land in Senegal, hairless children with respiratory diseases in Zambia, contaminated water wells in South Africa, child exploitation in DRC, human rights violations in Madagascar, environmental pollution in Nigeria, financing of armed groups in Rwanda ... the list is innumerable and in many cases those violations of international treaties are simultaneous in the countries of Africa with the implicit consent of the *new colonizers*, the powerful transnational mining companies, greedy for profits.

Mineral wealth in African countries should be an opportunity to create job opportunities, increase revenues, promote sustainable development and fight against extreme poverty. But this requires firmness on the part of the African governments in the respect to the law, the prevention of corruption as well as the ethical commitment of the companies, preventing illegal financial outflows through the tax evasion of profits by companies and their managers. [www.aefjn.org](http://www.aefjn.org) *Echoes* 29 May 2019

## ***For Kenyan tribes saving trees is a sacred duty.***

**Kenya's government says it is counting on communities to help restore degraded forests and boost tree cover.**

The Gabra tribe, which lives on both sides of the border between northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia believe that the nearby Forole mountain is a holy sanctuary. The community of herders pray to the mountain whenever they need rain, and cutting down its trees is forbidden. If anyone from the village at the foot of the mountain is caught breaking that rule, they are cast out. Children are taught from a young age that the trees within the village are not to be cut.

Across Kenya, nature-worshipping tribes have taken on the responsibility of protecting their local forests. and their grassroots actions are making a small but significant difference as the rest of the country works to combat deforestation and restore its depleted forests.



The Kaya Kinondo forest, home to several rare species of plants and animals, including the colobus monkey, is the largest of 11 sacred forests – once home to fortified villages, or kayas – spread over 200 km along Kenya's coast.

Like the Gabra, the Mijikenda pray to the forests for rain and their tribal elders have also long forbidden the felling of trees in the kayas. Parents teach their children to respect the trees, and that reverence is passed on to anyone who marries into the community, to hand down to future generations. This way, they will grow up with the same values.

The Mijikenda have helped safeguard their areas against the rampant deforestation taking place across the rest of Kenya. The country loses more than 5 million trees a day, according to the Nairobi-based nonprofit Green Africa Foundation.

It is hoped that when tourists visit the kaya forests they will go home with ideas about how they can protect their own environments.

**www.thisisplace.org** 29 May 2019

### **CLIMATE JUSTICE by Mary Robinson**

#### **Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future**

A narrative of unlikely activists, mostly women, whose communities have experienced first hand the devastating effects of global warming and have become proactive. The subtext here is giving voice to the previously voiceless, providing seats at the table not only for the powerful who are proceeding heedlessly, but for those who have been suffering devastating consequences: economic upheaval, starvation, and destruction inflicted by the policies of powerful countries on the other side of the globe.

*Published September 2018*

## **'We live in fear':**

**Facing dry times, rural South Africans re-think water.**

As climate change and population growth bring more water scarcity, drought-hit villages are adapting - but conflict over limited water is growing. Around the world, stronger El Nino weather patterns and climate change are bringing harsher and more frequent droughts - and already-dry southern Africa has been particularly hard hit. Water shortages have killed crops, forced farmers to migrate to look for work, hobbled the hydropower dams on which much of the region depends for electricity, and threatened the region's rich wildlife as water-holes disappear.

Scientists predict that as temperatures continue to rise with global warming and populations keep on growing, the region will see harsher water shortages - and will need to find clever solutions to ensure there is enough water for all.

With supplies scarce, fights over water are on the rise globally, with the water think tank, the Pacific Institute, recording a surge in the number of related conflicts from about 16 in the 1990s to about 73 in just the past five years.

### **Drip by drip**

In KwaMusi, a drip irrigation system - funded by the Siyazisiza Trust, a non-profit food security group - means Mkhize's vegetable cooperative, the Siza Bantu Nazareth Garden, can now grow and sell crops even through dry periods.

Slim hoses woven through the garden allow river water to slowly drip into plants, minimising losses to evaporation

**www.thisisplace.org** 6 June. 2019



Smallholder irrigation schemes are owned, developed and managed by individuals or groups of farmers operating as water users or self-help groups.