

*The Foundation of Sustainable Living (FOSL) is a non-profit educational foundation working to create new institutional forms that provide access to land based on social and ecological objectives rather than market forces. Articles in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of FOSL.*

*To be educated, one must consider all sides of an issue. FOSL will publish diverse points of view. However, FOSL will not publish opinions we judge as hateful or advocating consumerism, overpopulation, religion, environmental destruction, violence, injustice, prejudice or patriarchy. Please send article submissions (850 words or less) to [elained@mcn.org](mailto:elained@mcn.org) by the 20th of each month.*



The southwestern tip of the Noyo Headlands that Georgia Pacific wants to overdevelop. Photo by Ed Oberweiser

## Georgia-Pacific plan for the Noyo Headlands is way out of scale

By George Reinhardt, Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group

Many of us in Fort Bragg are working to create a sustainable community. We're working to grow the local food system, develop renewable energy and create a walkable and bikeable environment. We also want to create meaningful good paying jobs and plan for the future in light of climate change, peak oil and economic reality.

We see that the gospel of growth has failed our community and the nation. Development isn't a bad word. It's the wrong word. Restoration is where our community needs to be heading.

Every decision in the planning for the restoration of the Noyo Headlands (former Georgia-Pacific mill site) must consider climate change and its impacts. Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change are central to any planning process of this scale.

Restoration of the soil sequesters carbon. Planting of trees sequesters

carbon. Sprawl is environmentally destructive. Countless choices in this process can reduce our community's carbon footprint.

Humans have lived lightly on the Noyo Headlands for thousands of years. Fishing, seaweed harvesting, recreation and residence by humans are all part of the sustainable past of these bluffs. In choosing a sustainable future for our community we can also do our small part to mitigate the human impact on the planet.

Georgia-Pacific's Specific Plan is way too big. It would be very unwise for our community to approve anything on this scale. Phasing, development triggers and agreements are all left in the perilous Chapter Eight and labeled with the deceptively vague TBD (To Be Decided).

Finally, after 10 years, Georgia-Pacific has presented us with a plan. It's about time. However, this plan is so out of scale for our community it could have been presented to us the day the mill closed. It's a developer's fantasy.

The chapters in this Draft Specific Plan on green building and sustainability are excellent. That's only because of the efforts of City Development Director Marie Jones, the City Council and our Planning Commission.

But, let's not get warm and fuzzy about these important things while we approve a sprawling, fossil fuel dependent, unwise and unworkable development, rather than a restoration of these beautiful headlands.

*Editor's note: The proposed plan includes 520 housing units, 295,00 square feet of industrial space and 290,000 square feet of retail and commercial development. It also includes office and educational facilities and 450 hotel rooms.*

*The Georgia Pacific property is located right on the coast. This part of the Northern California Coast is an especially sensitive area because it's an upwelling area. Its waters are very important for the life cycle of the ocean. We doubt that Fort Bragg's*

**See Mill Site page 2**

# Atheists in Colorado buy billboards

From the Huffington Post

*The Colorado Coalition of Reason purchased a series of billboards in Denver and Colorado Springs. They hope to spark debate and encourage community gathering and thought. The following text came directly from the Colorado Coalition of Reason's home page <http://unitedcor.org/colorado/page/home>.*

Hello. There you were, driving or walking along and you saw this billboard and wondered what it was all about.

Welcome to our website. We are atheists and believe in separation of church and state. We don't believe in gods or devils or heaven or hell. However, we also believe that people have the right to practice their faith.

One of the reasons we put the billboard up is that we are concerned when religious people feel they have not only the right, but the obligation, to force their religious views on others.

Examples are proselytizing in the military, educational systems and government. Another example is the attacks by religious people on gays, lesbians and abortion providers.

The sign was created by the Boulder

Atheists. We've been around since 2001 and do what we can to support separation of church and state. The Colorado Coalition Of Reason (COCORE) is an umbrella group consisting of 17 secular groups. Boulder Atheists is one of those



groups.

If you agree with the sentiments of the sign and live in Colorado, there is probably a secular organization near you. You can find them by going to <http://unitedcor.org/colorado/page/groups>. You will be surprised how much we do, both as activists and in the social arena. Most of the COCORE groups have monthly meetings, book discussions, lunches and social activities. The Atheist Alliance of America will be having their national convention in Denver in 2012.

If you disagree with the sentiments of the sign, please don't be offended. We are more interested in opening a dialogue than upsetting you.

We don't ask you to stop believing

in your version of a supernatural being. We do ask that you consider not forcing your religious views on others.

## About the Colorado Coalition of Reason

The Colorado Coalition of Reason (COCORE) is an umbrella organization of Colorado-based community (<http://www.unitedcor.org/colorado/page/groups>) groups supporting reason, free thought and the separation of church and state.

The groups in turn support Colorado atheists,

agnostics, rationalists, skeptics, secular humanists, freethinkers, brights and other individuals looking to associate with like-minded people in supporting Reason and secular society.

We encourage other free-thinking, atheist, or secular humanist groups to join the Colorado Coalition.

Member groups of the Coalition organize activities and events for their communities. They may also use COCORE to plan and coordinate events with other groups.

No matter what your feelings are, we'd love to hear from you. Send an e-mail to [info@boulderatheists.org](mailto:info@boulderatheists.org) and we'll respond.

We hope you have a great 2012!

## Quote of the Month

"The Balcony. The play is set in a brothel and is a theory of revolution and counterrevolution. After studying the world of pimp and "faggot," Genet began to understand that sexual caste supersedes all other forms of inequality: racial, political or economic.

"What he demonstrates in The Balcony is that any revolution is point-

less if it ignores the women. In other words if it is not a women's revolution, then it is no revolution at all. Any political change can be described as nothing more than a shift of power, because women's oppression is the basic unit of exploitation and oppression. Not only is it the basic unit, but it is the basic model for all other oppressions. Similarly, history shows that the

success of any political revolt all depends on the ready involvement of the female population."

"Genet knew that by dividing human beings into two groups, and designating one group power over the other, all human relationships become corrupt, as do every area of thought and experience."

- From *Sexual Politics* by Kate Millet

## Mill Site from page 1

*sewage system could prevent sewage and toxic material from entering the ocean. The fragile Mendocino coastline is no place to allow industry of this scale.*

### Announcement

Preliminary Draft Mill Site Specific Plan meeting, Wednesday, February 29, 6:00 p.m. at the Fort Bragg Town Hall on Main Street.

From Nancy Philips, Administrative Assistant-Community Development, City of Fort Bragg, [nphilips@fortbragg.com](mailto:nphilips@fortbragg.com) (707) 961-2827, ext. 110.

Fort Bragg community members will have another chance at commenting on the site plan at this second meeting.

The first four chapters of the Plan

were reviewed at the first special joint meeting January 18.

At the February 29 workshop, the City Council, Planning Commission and public will review and provide comments on the remaining portion of the Mill Site Specific Plan.

Link to Specific Plan documents at: <http://city.fortbragg.com/cdd/Specific%20Plan.html>

# Humanity is living beyond Earth's means

By Peter Montague

*This article was published by the Environmental Research Foundation [www.rachel.org](http://www.rachel.org). Their site includes more than 1000 scholarly and well documented articles. Some reports are found under Environmental Health News or Rachel's Democracy & Health News. Others may be accessed under Rachel's Precaution Reporter which is where this article can be found.*

Our legal and economic systems are based on the assumption that economic growth always provides more benefits than harms. But now that we have exceeded many of Earth's ecological limits, that basic assumption no longer holds true. The implications are profound.

I know it's not fashionable to talk about limits. Nobody likes limits. But anyone who's paying attention knows that the Earth has definite limits. It's a tiny place, really. If the Earth were a peach, then the part of it we inhabit, the biosphere, would be the fuzz on the peach.

The United Nations Environment Program's fourth Global Environmental Outlook Report concluded that we humans presently require 22 acres per person to support our global average lifestyle. However, according to the report, Earth has only 15 acres available per person.

In other words, we've already exceeded the Earth's carrying capacity. This is the Earth's ability to support 6 billion humans. Unfortunately, the human enterprise is poised for a massive spurt of economic and population growth. This is expected to raise our population to nine billion by roughly mid-century and to double the size of the human economy every 23 years.

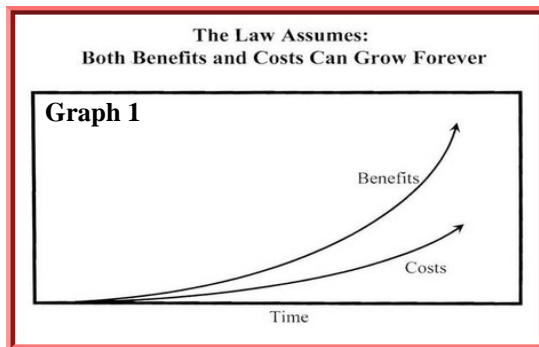
This is why the surface of the Earth is getting warmer. Chemical contamination is rife, fresh water is in short supply and there are food riots occurring or threatening to occur in about 40 countries. Given the way we live now, there's neither enough space on earth to provide land for the food and minerals we require nor places to absorb our wastes.

The situation is serious. In 2005, when the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was published, the directors of that authoritative study said, "At the heart of this assessment is a stark warning. Human activity is putting such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer

be taken for granted."

Unfortunately, the U.S. legal and economic systems are premised on the idea that everything can grow without limit. Everyone else's legal and economic systems seem to rest on similar assumptions. Attorney and scientist Joseph H. Guth shows this in two simple graphs.

In Graph 1 below, which concerns costs and benefits, Guth shows the two basic assumptions that underpin our



present legal and economic systems. First, the system is premised on the assumption that economic growth is always good. Supposedly, the benefits will always outweigh the costs even though the system acknowledges that people are being harmed and the earth is being stressed by development.

This is why it's almost impossible to beat polluters in court. The legal system

assumes that the polluter is creating more good than harm and it's up to you, the plaintiff, to prove otherwise. If you can prove to a near certainty that the costs of an activity outweigh the benefits, you've got a fighting chance that the judge will make the polluter pay a fine or perhaps even cut back the pollution a bit. However, the burden of proof rests on you to prove that the harms outweigh the benefits. If there's any doubt or uncertainty, the polluter wins automatically and gets the benefit of the doubt.

Secondly, both the legal and economic systems assume that costs can grow forever without limit. That's what Graph 1 shows.

Neither the economic nor the legal system recognizes that the Earth is finite

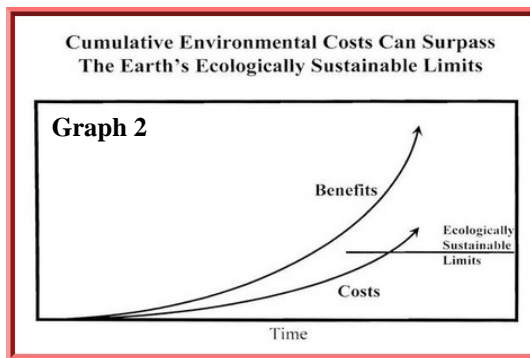
and we've already run out of space to support ourselves in the style to which we have become accustomed.

Legally, there are no ways to recognize limits or the need for them. Anyone who wants to impose limits bears the burden of proving limits are necessary and reasonable. Without compelling proof, growth proceeds unchecked. Growth gets the benefit of the doubt.

In Graph 2 concerning cumulative environmental costs, we see a horizontal line that represents the ecological limits of the Earth. According to the UN's Global Environment Outlook 4 report ([www.unep.org/go/go4.asp](http://www.unep.org/go/go4.asp)) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, we're already living above this line. Roughly two billion people have already run out of life's necessities, water and food, not to mention housing, education, health care and other basics for a decent life.

You could say that the horizontal line represents the Precautionary Principle. In many cases, we don't know exactly where the limits of the biosphere lie. However, when we exceed them, we usually learn it the hard way.

For example ocean fisheries stop producing fish and the temperature of the planet begins to rise. Storms grow



more frequent and destructive and industrial poisons begin to be measured in human babies' first feces.

These are all unmistakable signs that we've exceeded earth's carrying capacity and that our cumulative costs

have risen above the horizontal line which is clearly shown in Guth's second graph.

## Some Growth is Good

Economic growth is needed in poor countries, so they can begin to live a better life. They need roads, power plants and ports.

They need to achieve a middle-class lifestyle so they can afford real social security programs instead of having to rely on large numbers of

[See Humanity page 4](#)

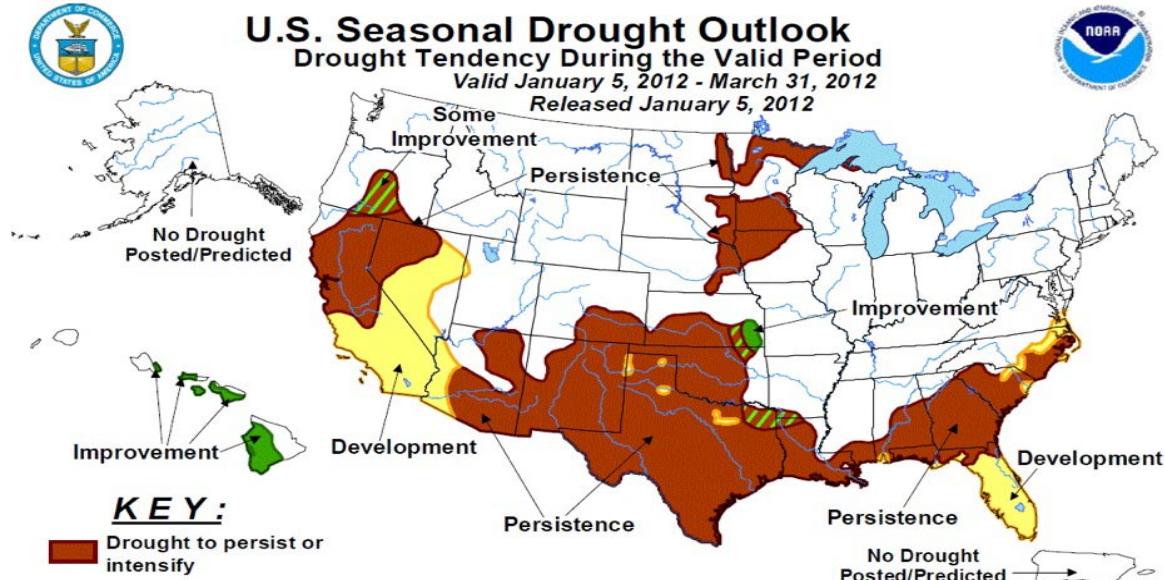
# NOAA drought outlook through Dec. 2012

NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) and Forecaster B. Pugh

Monsoon rainfall provided some drought relief to eastern Arizona and western New Mexico in recent weeks. However, the monsoon is ending. The expectation is that the newly developed La Nina event will persist for the next six months. This will likely deliver below-average rainfall to the Southwest and favors the persistence or development of drought across Arizona, southeast Utah, southwest Colorado and much of New Mexico (see map). Some improvement in drought conditions is forecast for southeast Colorado and northeast New Mexico. The Climate Prediction Center has moderate confidence in this forecast.

Elsewhere, a persistent ridge of high pressure sustained hot and dry conditions across the south-central U.S. for most of the summer. This has maintained a large area of extreme to exceptional drought that developed during last winter. Texas had its driest summer on record. Both Texas and Oklahoma had the hottest summer on record.

Little relief is expected for drought conditions in the two states due to the La Nina event. Forecasts indicate odds for below-average precipitation. Therefore, drought is forecast to persist. However, tropical cyclone activity usually extends through the end of November and these storms can bring large amounts of rain.



## Humanity from page 3

children as their only old age insurance. This is the answer to the population problem. Middle class people naturally want small families, so we need to raise everyone's standard of living so they need and want fewer children.

However, growth in the global South will require us to cut back in the overdeveloped global North. Wealthy countries need to operate their economies substantially below that horizontal line in Guth's second graph to make space for needed growth in the global South.

To do that, our legal system needs to develop some new assumptions. Traditional economic growth can no longer be assumed to provide net benefits. Arguably, growth in the global North is already creating more harm than good and the law needs to reflect that.

The burden should now be placed on those who aim to enlarge the human ecological footprint. They should have

to show that the benefits will outweigh the costs. The burden should be on them to offer persuasive evidence if there's substantial doubt or uncertainty. Then the law should assume that expanding the human ecological footprint is a net detriment to be prevented. This is what it means to "reverse the burden of proof."

When the cumulative costs of many small projects add up to a threatened planet, it's time to consider the cumulative impacts of traditional growth and development. Since this is hard to do, the Precautionary Principle becomes our standard decision rule. This means proving lack of harm before any new substance or technology is introduced. When essential data are missing or the science is uncertain, give the benefit of the doubt to nature and to human health.

When you're living above the line which we are now doing, our task is to re-examine everything we're doing and to choose the least harmful ways. Eat

lower on the food chain, travel less, build fewer McMansions, revive mass transit, revitalize our cities, shift to less destructive ways of farming, and so on.

This doesn't have to feel painful or restrictive. We can see it as an exciting opportunity to find our right livelihoods. We can discover and create sustainable ways of living on the Earth. Endless growth is not essential for creating plenty of good jobs.

One thing is certain. The earth is our only home and we'd had better take care of it or we're goners. Continuing to live above the line is a recipe not only for increasing pain and misery, but eventually for extinction.

*Joseph H. Guth, J.D., Ph.D, is Legal Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network He is a member of the New York State Bar, has a law degree from New York University, a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and an undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley.*

# Occupy the Neighborhood

## How counties can use land banks and eminent domain

By Ellen Brown,  
Truthout News Analysis

*Editor's note: This article is an excerpt reprinted from Truthout. Readers can find the entire article at: <http://www.truth-out.org/occupy-neighborhood/1326472096>*

An electronic database called MERS (Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems) has created defects in the chain of title to more than half the homes in America. Counties have been cheated out of millions of dollars in recording fees and their title records are in hopeless disarray.

Meanwhile, foreclosed and abandoned homes are blighting neighborhoods. Straightening out the records and restoring the homes to occupancy is clearly in the public interest. The burden is on local government to do it. But how? New legal developments are presenting some innovative alternatives.

John O'Brien is register of deeds for Southern Essex County, Massachusetts. He's mad as hell and he's not going to take it anymore. He calls his land registry a "crime scene." A formal forensic audit of the properties for which he is responsible found that:

- Only 16 percent of the mortgage assignments were valid.
- Twenty-seven percent of the invalid assignments were fraudulent. 35 percent were "robo-signed" and 10 percent violated the Massachusetts Mortgage Fraud Statute.
- The identity of financial institutions that are current owners of the mortgages could be determined for only 287 out of 473 (60 percent).

- There were 683 missing assignments for the 287 traced mortgages. This represents approximately \$180,000 in lost recording fees per 1,000 mortgages whose current ownership could be traced.

At the root of the problem is that

title has been recorded in the name of a private entity called MERS as a mere placeholder for the true owners. The owners are a faceless, changing pool of investors owning indeterminate portions of sliced and diced securitized properties. **Their identities have been so well hidden that their claims to title**

America."

Courts are taking notice. The title issues are so complicated that judges themselves have been slow to catch on, but they are increasingly waking up and taking notice. In some cases, the judge is not even waiting for the borrowers to raise lack of standing as a defense. In two cases decided in New York in December, the banks lost, although their motions were either unopposed or the homeowner did not show up. In one, there was actually a default. It didn't matter. The court said the bank simply didn't have standing to foreclose.

### Relief for Counties: Land Banks and Eminent Domain

The legal tide is turning against MERS and the banks, giving rise to some interesting possibilities for relief at the county level. Local governments have the power of eminent domain. They can seize real or personal property if (a) they can show that doing so is in the public interest, and (b) the owner is compensated at fair market value.

The volume of foreclosures has become a significant problem, not only to local economies, but also to the aesthetics of neighborhoods and property values. At the same time, middle to low-income families continue to be priced out of the housing market while suitable housing units remain vacant.

To ameliorate the negative effect of foreclosures, some communities are creating public entities known as land banks to return these properties to productive reuse while simultaneously addressing the need for affordable housing.

States named as adopting land bank legislation include Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Georgia, Indiana, Texas, Kentucky and Maryland. HUD notes that the federal government encourages and supports these efforts. But states can still face obstacles to acquiring and restoring the properties, including a lack of funds and difficulties clearing title.

Both of these obstacles might be

**See Occupy page 6**



**are now in doubt.**

According to the auditor, what this means is that the institutions, including many pension funds that purchased these mortgages don't actually own them!

### The March of the Attorneys General

John O'Brien was thrilled when Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley went to court in December against MERS and five major banks. These included Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup and GMAC. Coakley says banks have "undermined our public land record system through the use of MERS."

Other attorneys general are also bringing lawsuits. Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden is going after MERS in a suit seeking \$10,000 per violation. "Since at least the 1600s," he said, "real property rights have been a cornerstone of our society. MERS has raised serious questions about who owns what in

# Humans must transmit sustainable knowledge to future generations

By Parker Watwood

Why have people gathered together in groups larger than the family? The reasons include safety, shared efforts, comfort, common values and physical proximity. There is also the universal need for relationships beyond the family circle.

Historically, until 300 years ago, most human communities have shared the intention to nurture and protect the environment they depended on for survival. Unfortunately, modern life has severed its connection to the reality of its place in, and its dependence on, the environment.

Passing information and survival skills to the coming generations is the most basic requirement for human survival except for sex. The peace, stability and protection communities give have been the factors that made seeking community basic. Without transferring knowledge and technology that furthers sustainability, humans could go extinct.

This knowledge included a broad and vast store of appropriate technical data. This included genealogical, meteorological, plant and animal lore. It also included cultural practices, calendar cycles and cooperation within the community and with surrounding communities.

When societies broke connection with nature and developed unsustainable means required for cities and sought wealth beyond their basic needs, they doomed themselves and their children. They lost the connection to the Earth and the knowledge needed to live sustainably as part of nature.

Instead of teaching our children sustainable skills for agriculture (plants, animals, and the benefits of working

together) we teach useless things. Without the system to support them with food, fiber and medicine, their lives will be subject to diminishing resources and economic and physical slavery.

For thousands of years, there was balance in the communities. Young toddlers helped with daily chores,



advancing to more complex work as they grew older. Young adults did the heavy work. Raising children was accomplished with help from younger siblings and elders. The greatest investment any community made was in its children.

Most communities respected elders because they had overcome the problems and dangers of life. In some cases elders were considered holy. Many communities practiced some form of animistic religion while surviving in the natural world. They believed they were favored by the gods of nature. Elders had established ties throughout the community and with neighboring communities over the years.

Generally historic communities greatly respected and took care of their elders for three main reasons. First, elders knew more than other members of the community. They were the embodiment of technical and social skills. Second, elders had provided sustenance, medicine and comfort to others during their

lifetimes. Third, elders were family members who were loved and respected for teaching and providing for others.

There were squabbles, feuds and even local wars. However, most communities were moderate, generous and hospitable. People lived and worked together cooperatively. They made decisions by consensus guided by a larger social purpose and survival within nature's limits.

Except for a very few rural cultures, humanity has lost or ignored the knowledge of how to live sustainably in their local environment. There seems to be an awakening to dangers of ignoring the fact that we are animals and are part of the environment that we're rapidly degrading and dependent on. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of folks care or realize we're running toward an environmental cliff. They're not part of the power culture.

FOSL decided to develop a sustainable permacultural model on its property. Our mutual agreement is accepting the moral imperative of passing useful and necessary knowledge to our children. We're motivated by our assumption that the future will be very different. Our technology dependent societies are divorced from the reality of too many people and diminishing resources. After the major changes we see rapidly approaching take place, future possible lifestyles will be much more basic. They will require much more self-reliance.

We hope to be able to teach many appropriate low tech and some high tech solutions to feeding, clothing and medicating ourselves. We must soon learn how to live together by helping each other. The social aspects of this are more important than any technology we want to pass on to those coming after. Harmonious social interactions are the glue that will hold societies together.

## Occupy from page 5

overcome. This can be done by focusing on abandoned and foreclosed properties for which the chain of title has been broken,

The title chain was broken by either by MERS or failure to transfer the promissory note according to the terms of the trust indenture.

These homes could be acquired by eminent domain, free of cost and adverse claims to title. The county

would simply need to give notice in the local newspaper of an intent to exercise its right of eminent domain. The burden of proof would then transfer to the bank or trust claiming title.

If the claimant could not prove title, the county would take the property, clear title and either work out a fair settlement with the occupants or restore the home for rent or sale.

Michael Sauvante of the National Commonwealth Group suggests that properties obtained by eminent domain

can be used as part of the capital base for a chartered, publicly owned bank. The county could deposit its revenues into this bank and use its capital and deposits to generate credit, as all chartered banks are empowered to do.

This credit could then be used not just to finance property redevelopment, but for other county needs, on the model of the Bank of North Dakota. For a fuller discussion of publicly owned banks, see: [http://www.webofdebt.com/articles/north\\_dakota.php](http://www.webofdebt.com/articles/north_dakota.php) \t "\_blank.

# Pygmies learn permaculture in the Congo

From the Zerofootprint Foundation

The Zerofootprint Foundation's Pygmy Farming Project is aimed at a Pygmy community located in Tshivanga on the outskirts of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park.

The Project is teaching permaculture skills to the Buyungule Pygmy community in the Congo. The Pygmies were expelled from their ancestral land in 1975 when the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo created the park. The Pygmies were not given any land or compensation in return.

We're now helping them to become self-sustainable and consequently preventing them from hunting gorillas and cutting down trees to exchange for food. Through fund raisers, we have collected more than \$40,000 dollars and are acquiring land for them to settle permanently!

## Project Description

Pygmies are an indigenous community in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. When the park was created in the 70s, the Pygmies and other local communities were driven from the forest without accommodation or being compensated for their lost ancestral land.

Pygmies narrowly gained a chance to live at the edges of the park in other local communities without any right of the land's ownership. This situation created a huge life obstacle for these communities since land is the basic means of subsistence in the area. They rarely have access to the forest that constituted a vital area for their culture and where they could collect food, health means and shelter.

Farming is not a cultural activity for pygmies. They used to hunt and collect other natural resources in the forest for subsistence. After they were driven from the forest when it gained the status of a national park, they could still hunt secretly in the protected area. They could exchange their forest booty for banana, beans, potatoes and other crops in the surrounding villages. This is affecting the extremely endangered Eastern Lowland Gorilla species that lives in the forest.

With the proceeds from a fundraising event in May 2010, the Foundation was able to lease land for this Pygmy community. This project has benefited 92 families by creating work and a consistent food source for the families which suffer from acute hunger. These two elements are vital to creating a sustainable way of life for this community.

We prepared and planted a second field and delivered a water tank. We spent the morning buying the necessary

materials for the second rainwater capture system we're going to install at the village. We bought a 1000 liter plastic tank and hired a plumber to add a faucet at the bottom and drill a hole at the top. We bought iron sheets to fold and use as gutters for the roof. We also bought 10 extra iron sheets that Chizungu had requested to build himself a new office. We also bought some soccer balls.



We arrived at the village and were greeted by Jacques, Ishara and all the other little children running up surrounding us. We gave them a soccer ball and the teenagers another one. The children ran off at full speed to play, screaming and cheering. It was a joyous occasion and everyone was smiling, watching the kids frantically run around kicking the ball back and forth. Soccer is indeed a Universal sport and language!

When we finished planting the raised beds we had used one flat of cabbage seedlings, two flats of onion, one flat of tomato and two flats of carrots. There were a total of five seedling flats of each crop, so it was important to find another place to plant them. Dom helped us arrange this and Jeph took us to see the land. It was a great spot, right next to the village, so we asked Chizungu if the

women could start removing the weeds and tall grass.

Before we arrived, the women had cleared a large portion of the second plot of land. Chizungu and Jeph assembled the team of men to join us and we went to the field. The ground was covered with the greenery the women had cut. It was perfect to use for mulch. We left all the mulch on the ground and simply opened clearings in it where we would plant the new seedlings. The men worked with us until the whole field was planted, chatting with us and laughing. The atmosphere has changed completely. We've reached an understanding and are working for a common cause. It's easier and more fun every day!

Once we finished, we waited for the truck to deliver the materials we bought. Meanwhile, we played with the kids. First baseball with a bamboo stick and small stones. Then they took turns photographing each other with our camera. We organized races and then someone put music on and they all started dancing. Finally, the truck arrived and we unloaded the tank and iron sheets. The men were very happy! We explained that we'll install it and they thanked us and carried everything down to the village.

*This article was published by the Worldwide Permaculture Network. Their site is <http://www.permacultureglobal.com/>*

# FOSL's goals and philosophy

FOSL's goals are to preserve and repair the Living World, provide humanity's needs while living within the Earth's annual bounty and doing so without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. FOSL believes in treating others as one would like to be treated. FOSL's philosophy and goals are rooted in Permaculture, the only viable method that insures the survival of both humanity and the Natural World.

Permaculture is intentional design based on service to a sustainable environment and a just social system. Permaculture is living within Earth's biological limits using life long observation to emulate and increase the diversity, stability and resilience of ecosystems. Permaculture utilizes practical designs and systems for providing food, energy, shelter and medicine in a sustainable way. Permaculture emphasizes water conservation, local production and regional self-reliance. All that we are and do must be as stewards for the future.

We need to learn, teach, preserve and spread the knowledge necessary for living sustainably and healing the Earth. We have a fundamental duty to the Earth and all its life which cannot be superseded by human-made laws. Environmental destruction and war can destroy culture and all life on Earth.

We must create a sustainable social lifestyle that includes designing cultures, education and systems that express a community's greatest creativity and potential peacefully, while evolving future social consciousness. A sustainable lifestyle adapts to local conditions. Close-knit social networks support and help individuals and communities. Expanding knowledge extends from the Natural World we live in to our own inner nature. Governments, corporations or a single leader cannot save us. We must be the leaders. Our shared leadership will make us both leaders and supporters in any given situation, aiming for the common good of the whole community.

FOSL's goals on the social side of sustainability are to refine the art of working and living together in collabora-

tive ways. Our personal evolution is to become more self-aware, self-responsible, service-oriented people. We must tend the gardens, educate ourselves and our children while building community. Being more responsible locally for ourselves and our neighbors is the only way our lives can be sustainable. FOSL is council-governed and run as a true democracy. Democracy is a forum, a container whose success depends upon the participation of informed, aware

citizens. True democracy requires dedicated work and deep dialog. All ideas and knowledge must be shared, heard, taught and learned for the best decisions to emerge. Building community and a socially sustainable lifestyle is a developmental process.

The long-term FOSL goal is to help form networks of like-minded communities from Mendocino to Alaska in diverse bioregions. Such communities can support each other by

trading goods, local crops, diverse seed, knowledge, research and life enhancing technologies.



## FOSL Mission Statement

- To educate individuals and organizations about sustainable living.
- To build model communities using skills and technologies for sustainable living.
- To inspire individuals and existing communities to be responsible for practicing and supporting sustainable living.
- To network with individuals and communities to become more self-reliant by producing what they use.
- To establish and expand a network for the exchange of knowledge and resources to facilitate and promote sustainable living.
- To hold land in trust and restore biodiversity to assist Nature in providing a sustainable life for all creatures including humanity.

## Join FOSL in building a future we choose

Dear Friends of FOSL, The Foundation of Sustainable Living has a vision for the future. We have a lot to learn and old ways to unlearn. We're facing a grand transition from social and economic hierarchy and dominance, to a new social order of partnership with nature and each other.

In partnership with FOSL members, we accomplished a great deal. We purchased a five-acre property in Fort Bragg. Our goal is to create a sustainable community where we can practice life skills. Many have been nearly lost, including growing food and orchards, bee keeping and building our own homes. Please join us.

As we build our community, we're also creating a legacy for future generations. Your participation is fundamental to FOSL's growth. We urge

you to join FOSL and make a monthly or annual donation of as much money (or time) as you can afford. You can donate by mail (891 Prospect Heights, Santa Cruz, CA 95065).

Thank you for deepening your participation and commitment to FOSL's work to sustain ecosystems, social systems and planetary health for now and the future. Visit us at [www.thefosl.org](http://www.thefosl.org)

For more information on joining FOSL or about our organization contact Parker at 831-214-8207 (Monterey Bay area). In Mendocino County, contact Ed and Elaine at 707-964-7965.

### **SUBSCRIBE!**

To subscribe to an electronic version of the FOSL News, email us at [elained@mcn.org](mailto:elained@mcn.org)