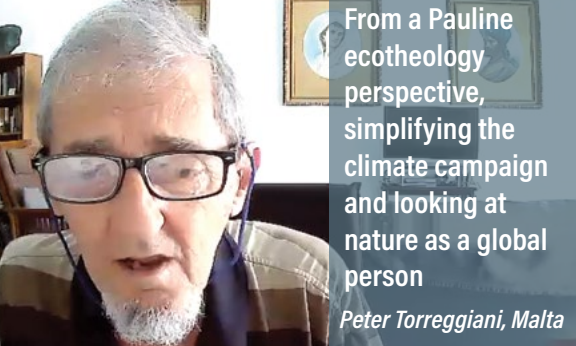


CONVERSATIONS AND TAKEAWAYS



From a Pauline ecotheology perspective, simplifying the climate campaign and looking at nature as a global person
Peter Torreggiani, Malta

The Jesuits were very, very good 10 years ago on the question of debt reduction of poor countries. The sustained program and its effects are still there in international financial community, so I feel that this campaign, well sustained, can also be effective but this is vaster. This is bigger.

My suggestion to the Jesuits, to the Jesuit spirit, is to look very much at the fact that people are beginning to state in nature, an element of sacramentality, but it isn't the sacraments of Christ.

Now St. Paul is very, very famous not only as a Jew but as a Christian because he really went deeply into the ecology of salvation of nature, groaning like a woman waiting to give birth. Nature anticipating, waiting, for the freedom of the sons of men.

Now, these might not appear to be directly related but they will help simplify if the theology of the ecology is looked at properly by the Jesuit Spirit. This will help simplify the campaign around the globe because finally we're looking for the global person.

Related reading: Jesuit response to environmental and ecological challenges: healing a broken world

See also other resources on Reconciling with Creation

All of nature shares in salvation and our faith calls us with hope to care for creation. - Ecojesuit

The Rights of Mother Earth

"Something crossed my mind while Peter was speaking. There is now an increasing movement to recognize the rights of nature. If I understood clearly what Peter was saying, that we need to be recognizing nature as its own being, this relates directly to what Steve was explaining about our relationship with nature and not to look at nature only in terms of the benefit that we can get from it.

For example, we only bring cases against polluters if there's a harm to humans but is harming to nature punishable offense?

There is also a lot of conversations now, and actually in some countries' constitutions, to recognize that nature has rights independent of whether humans have been impacted." - Aya de Leon

"One of the interesting things about rights of nature in a legal context is Ecuador, the leading country on non-market-based approaches to forests and climate change.

Ecuador has rights to nature embedded within their constitution and that means nature cannot be commodified.

This also means the carbon as what's considered to be a service of nature or an ecosystem service cannot be commodified.

Therefore, Ecuador, because of the constitution, cannot engage in carbon markets and can only pursue approaches through nature such as ecosystem restoration or protection, reducing deforestation or whatever it may be as efforts to address climate change.

A man cannot be commodified and for that reason, the rights of nature effort in a legal context is very important, and it is very effective as well." - Stephen Leonard

Just want to share the Rights of Nature Bill here in the Philippines filed in Congress in 2019. - Karen Lanipao

Further readings from National Geographic and Aljazeera - Sylvia Miclat

Related reading: The rights of nature: a new strategy in the struggle for ecological wholeness

The persistent struggle for survival of indigenous peoples and youth in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. An appeal for help.



Sis. Ana Pina, Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus West Kalimantan, Indonesia

My reality is really the local situation and I'm living in Borneo, West Kalimantan accompanying the Dayak indigenous peoples that are in this situation. The struggle is to protect and defend the forest and the community. This is the only way to survive because the companies, mining companies and palm oil companies get all the advantage of the land and the forest. There's no other way for the indigenous peoples to survive. This is one reality where we try to motivate at a small level with other ecological programs. We also support the youth especially those who are motivated to get more involved.

It is difficult now and the challenge for me, for us, is how to involve the youth that they can feel they have a voice in this kind of participation. The invitation is to get everyone involved but those who are with us find it really difficult to have access. How can we help them be more active? Thank you for your attention and thank you for your work.

"There are actually many youth organizations and networks who are active in the climate process. There is a Conference of Youth, for example, that engages directly at the level of the UNFCCC.

There are regional networks, and in Indonesia, many organizations are working with youth involvement in climate issues.

If they have the access, I can link the youth in your community to some of these networks because the youth organizations often have capacity building programmes. They usually highlight local experiences and try to address specific situations of the youth in various communities and they have available resources." - Aya de Leon.

"In terms of youth-led organizations focusing on conservation and forests, there's an organization that's based in Jakarta called AMAN (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara) or Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago.

You may be familiar with them and they're the largest indigenous activist organization in Indonesia. They have millions of members throughout the different indigenous communities all throughout Indonesia." - Stephen Leonard

Love the girls moving into group that you have started, I hope their stories can be heard - Sue Martin

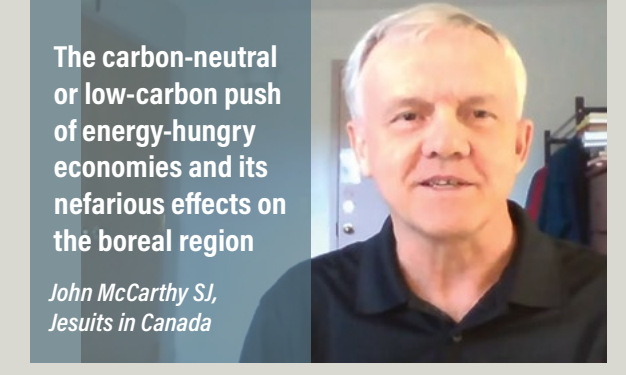


Read Sis. Ana's reflection on God's dream for Sukaria, a story of gratitude and the ongoing work of the Dayaks with bamboo

With the focus on the movement toward a carbon neutral or low carbon economy and energy production, there's a real increase in this kind of nefarious effects of that for the boreal region of the world and in particular for Canada and the indigenous peoples that live in the Canadian boreal.

Where I come from in eastern Canada, there's a major movement toward hydroelectric projects and our major river systems. Canada has significant experience in hydro development around the world and at the same time, we have an energy-hungry northeast that's looking toward Canadian energy, the impact on indigenous peoples and the division even in indigenous communities. I just like to throw that out there because we don't talk about the boreal regions of the world very much. We talk about the tropics, Central Africa, Amazon, Southeast Asia.

But in terms of the major forest region of the world, there is very little discussion on an international basis and the nefarious effects of a low carbon economy on the boreal forests and the indigenous peoples of that region.



The carbon-neutral or low-carbon push of energy-hungry economies and its nefarious effects on the boreal region
John McCarthy SJ, Jesuits in Canada

[We see these] specifically in terms of hydro production, the mega damming of our major river systems in Canada and also mining for precious metals that are essential to the whole electrification of car transportation. I get the sense, there's no silver bullet, if you will, in energy production.

If we are moving towards the electrification of cars, we're going to end up with a time when we'll have millions of batteries that need to be recycled. Right now, we cannot recycle electric batteries in these new systems.

Read John McCarthy's dream for the Canadian boreal biome and how it can be a pathway to community and reconciliation

"There is a challenge around the ongoing extraction as a part of the transition towards renewables. You know lithium extraction throughout South America gets highlighted quite a lot and then there's the waste associated with this. And so really, it is the lesser of evils sort of a scenario. But we do definitely need to be making that transition to renewables and on the boreal." - Stephen Leonard

"Perhaps part of the reason there is so much emphasis on the tropics is, I think, largely associated with a combination between a desire to be financed whether in the form of aid or whether it's sent through charitable conservation efforts in order to protect these forests that are being lost at incredible rates.

There's a very significant effort on the part of the developed countries such as Canada, USA and Australia to essentially shift responsibility in terms of emissions reductions to the global South and to the tropics.

This is where the REDD+ conversation also gets a bit tricky in terms of mitigation in the land sector.

Essentially developing countries or the global South, the least responsible for causing climate change are being asked and paid to mitigate and reduce emissions, and are generating livelihoods." - Stephen L.

See also The river above and the mercy needed for its land, oceans, and peoples: Asia Pacific context - a reflection from Pedro Walpole

Without the ambition, heart and mind, how do we get the changes going in COP26? Are we looking to COP27?
Sylvia Miclat, ESSC Philippines



How do we think beyond the economic model, and tackle that one firewall that's left?
Victor Carmona, University of Detroit Mercy, USA



"It's a question whether or not it's going to push through because I also didn't realize that the UK Presidency had set a date and it says it will happen. They already have a venue in Glasgow, so I don't know if they're just being optimistic.

Among the circles that Steve and I are part of, it's still sort of an open question. Will there be a face-to-face meeting? What are the options for participating in person? Do we want to do that considering the uncertainties brought by the pandemic? The safety of travel and things like that, and if we are going ahead with COP26, is it going to be a hybrid conference?

I guess it's good to be prepared for either scenario. There may also be an option where there's an in-person meeting and then there's a virtual meeting.

We can have inputs into country positions where we can. There will be openings for civil society participation even in a virtual COP. It will look different, but there are still side events where best practices are featured and opportunities to network.

I think it's a matter of just keeping abreast of what it will look like, and our capacity and readiness to participate. We have to be prepared because it can look like a lot of things." - Aya de Leon

"We are caught in a situation where the dominant discourse is a sort of capitalistic or reductionist approach to everything. Industrialization, top-down approach and I see some spaces where that is changing.

I'm seeing some indications have changed around the discourse concerning transformational change. A lot of the UN agencies, the Green Climate Fund and others are doing more on placing an understanding to what is transformational because there's a broader recognition that there is a need for change.

But I fear that it won't happen as quickly as what it's needed especially when you hear people who are very focused on maintaining the sort of capitalistic approach to things.

I mean, if you look at what's happening, the World Economic Forum, for example, they're talking about tweaks to capitalism. So, capitalism remains. It's not the problem. It just needs to be changed maybe through a more stakeholder approach to capitalism and the like.

That systemic change that needs to happen is still way off, but it is there." - Stephen Leonard

See also resources on going beyond the economic model

Related reading: Why engaging in COP26 matters

Rowena Soriaga to Everyone
Can a group that is not a registered UNFCCC observer organize a virtual COP26 side event? This will really enable inclusion in advocacy actions.

Rowena, it's usually possible in partnership with an accredited observer, although things may change with a virtual COP.. - Alaya de Leon

Francine Hardwick to Everyone
G7 only represents 10% of world's population, but control 58% of world's economic wealth - some better sharing might be worth paying for!

Djamester Simarmata to Everyone
A small number of person hold \$ 900 trillion financial wealth, while the global GDP is only -90 trillion. This a picture of the world inequality

Carol & Henry Gonzalez to Everyone
Spot on, Francine & Djamester.

Agnese Fiducia to Everyone
Italy is good in technologies, also in producing renewable energy but we still depend on fossil fuels. And where I live because climate is colder there's a lot of pellets that is polluting and causing diseases

The example in N. America of recent cancelling of the Keystone XL pipeline (after years of protest, particularly led most effectively by First Nations peoples) is an example of the stranded asset principle that should be a key economic motivator for disinvestment in new fossil fuel infrastructure going forward. Perhaps others can speak to their experience in this area. Also, the key role churches must play in terms of their huge land & energy use around the world, so love to hear of successful efforts in reducing carbon footprint by churches.
- Carol and Henry Gonzalez, CLC in the USA (Pittsburgh, PA)

Bhagyashree More
How can we change the climate

Indonesia is the world's fourth-largest coal producer and fifth-largest emitter and no real commitment on reducing emission. The government argues that the Indonesia needs technological support and funding. - Adri Suyadi

So the G7 countries should make financial contributions to Indonesia to make transformational change from coal to sustainable renewable energy. Adri - Francine H.

Greta Thunberg appeared to advocate non-payment of taxes earlier this week - is this something we need to consider? - Dymna Mallon

TU JA to Everyone
Thank you and everyone for your prayers and supports for Myanmar.

Sharer Ecojesuit
Bhagyashree More yes I am sure you are taking some actions in the school and in your communities and these are also important, if you are also able to strengthen the youth understand and discussions this is important in building the actions where you can work together and also add your voices for change in social media.

Fantastic. Thank you Brex and Pedro - Nancy Tuchman

Stephen Leonard to Everyone
Some great ways of raising finance here; <https://www.robinhoodtax.org.uk/>

Thanks a lot for the interesting presentations and sharings - Siji Chacko

New book on sustainability edited by Xavier Savarimuthu SJ, Usha Rao and Mark F. Rountledge available at www.routledge.com

Thank you all - Pilar Brufal FI-JRS Thailand

An interesting piece of work on deep decarbonisation in Indonesia recently released here: <https://iesr.or.id/en/agenda-iesr/deep-decarbonization-toward-net-zero-energy-system-indonesia-2050>

Maria Tongo to Everyone
thanks a lot for this wonderful presentations. very informative.

Adri Suyadi to Everyone
Thank Stephen for the link

More links to resources from Steve