

Walk a moment with the village heart

Before we were humans
we were the earth's flowering abundance.

We were the infinity of sky
and the variegated wild waters.

We were all creatures, once.

How many of us have gone?
During the time you walk this labyrinth,
how many species will vanish?
How many languages, how many stories?
How many peoples?

We cannot know, because they are numberless.
The species, the stories, the peoples lost –
they are numberless.

So as you walk this labyrinth,
hold them in your heart.

Walk with them a moment.

Because this village,
this global village,
– all of her –
has one heart.

Because it is our heart.

Walk with this a moment.

Niger Delta



Hundreds of oil spills occur annually in the rich mangrove swamps and lowland rainforests of the Niger River Delta, poisoning animal and human communities, destroying vegetation, and causing water and soil to become toxic.

Photo credit: Sosialistisk Ungdom

Dorothy Stang



Dorothy Stang was an American-born Brazilian nun who dedicated her life to fighting logging companies on behalf of the poor and marginalized. She was murdered in Anapu, Brazil in 2005.

Photo credit: Reprodução, original photo, <http://bit.ly/10l0rJN>

João Luiz Telles Penetra



Brazilian fisherman João Luiz Telles Penetra was killed just days after the 2012 United Nations for his outspoken opposition to a Petrobras gas pipeline.

Photo credit: Front Line Defenders

Ken Saro-Wiwa



Nigerian poet and social movement leader Ken Saro Wiwa was condemned to death for leading a non-violent struggle for justice in the oil-ravaged Niger Delta. Saro-Wiwa was hanged in November 1995.

Manuela and Expedito Albarillo



Filipino couple Manuela and Expedito Albarillo were killed in the village of San Teodoro in 2002 for opposing mining operation in Mindoro Oriental.

Chico Mendes



Chico Mendes was a Brazilian rubber tapper who led a struggle against logging and cattle ranching in the Amazon. Mendes was murdered by ranching interests in 1988.

Photo credit: Mirando Smith

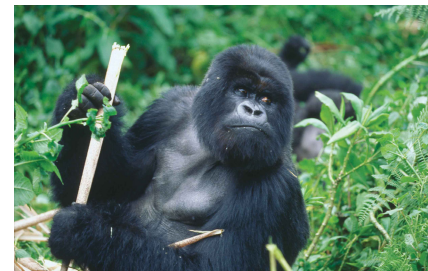
Madeiran Butterfly



The Madeiran butterfly was extinguished by pollution and loss of habitat in 2007.

Photo Credit: S Sepp

Cross-river gorilla



Poaching and loss of habitat due to logging and palm oil development threaten to extinguish the small remaining population of Cross-river gorilla found in the Congo Basin.

Photo credit: Ruggiero Richard

Heath Hen



The heath hen, once found in the US from Maine to Virginia was wiped out by hunting and natural disasters and vanished by 1932.

Photographer unknown

Spectacled Eider



Found in the Yukon, Alaska, and Russia, the Spectacled eider is threatened by fossil fuel extraction and climate change.

Photo credit: Laura L. Whitehouse, USFWS

Bowhead Whale



Bowhead whale travel close to the edge of the Arctic icepack, and is mortally threatened by oil and gas development, collisions with ships, global warming and whaling.

Photo credit: NOAA

Graham's Penstemon



Graham's penstemon, found in the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah and Northwestern Colorado, lives in oil shale soils, where oil shale mining and oil and gas development threaten it with extinction.

Photo credit: "Reprodução, original photo, <http://bit.ly/10l0rjN>

Kauai'i O'o



Native to the Hawaiian Islands, the Kauai'i O'o was wiped out in the late 1980s by the introduction of black rats, pigs, mosquitos, and Europeans.

Image credit: Walter Rothschild

Passenger Pigeon



The passenger pigeon filled the skies over North America east of the Rocky Mountains until hunting and clearing of forests for agriculture caused its decline and ultimate disappearance in 1914.

Photo credit: Enno Meyer

Kentucky Arrow Darter



The Kentucky arrow darter, found in the upper Kentucky River Basin, is threatened by coal mining and fossil fuel extraction as streams are filled with mining waste, poisoning this noble little fish.

Rio+20 Summit, for his outspoken opposition to a Petrobras gas

Photo credit: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Whooping Crane



The Whooping crane, famous for its resonant song as it migrates from the Arctic to Mexico, has been endangered by hunting and egg collection and is now threatened by the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.

Photo credit: Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Polar Bear



The majestic and ferocious Polar bear which roams the Arctic from Russia to Canada, was threatened by hunters into the 1970s, and today is endangered by loss of sea ice due to climate change.

Photo credit: Alan Wilson

Tagaeri People



The Tagaeri — one of just two known indigenous groups that lives in voluntary isolation in Yasuni National Park — is threatened by oil companies drilling ever closer to their lands.

Photo credit: Dallas Krentze

Ayoreo People



The Ayoreo live in the Paraguayan Chaco, the area with the fastest deforestation rate in the world. Their territory is being bought up and bulldozed by private landowners, leaving the Ayoreo nowhere to go.

Photo credit:
Ainara Aparici, original photo, license at <http://bit.ly/1rISjx8>

Korubo People



The Korubo live largely uncontacted in the Brazilian Amazon. A small group of 24 recently migrated unknowingly to a colonized area; the Brazilian government has peacefully contacted them for their protection.

Photo credit:
Christian Caron, original image, license at <http://bit.ly/1nGlzoE>

Great Barrier Reef



The world's largest coral reef, the Great Barrier Reef is threatened by climate change and expansion of shale oil operations in Queensland at the south end of the reef.

Photo credit: Eric Johnson, NOAA Corps.

The Yora People



The Yora are an uncontacted indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon, vulnerable to diseases brought by oil workers and loggers illegally entering their territory.

Photo credit: Corey Spruit

Gran Chaco Forest



The largest dry forest in South America, the Gran Chaco, has been degraded by extraction, livestock operations, infrastructure development, and groundwater tapping for industrial-scale irrigation.

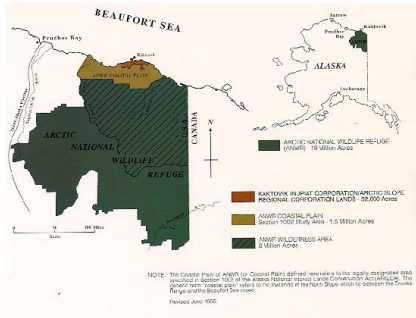
Photo credit: Peer V

Fort McMurray



In the center of Alberta's massive tar sands development, animal and human communities in and around the Athabaskan town of Fort McMurray suffer from toxic exposure, flooding, and wholesale ecosystem destruction.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge



Spanning 19 million acres, the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is threatened by oil companies wanting to open the area to drilling.

Image credit: USFWS

Rio Lerma-Santiago



Industrial pollution in the Lerma-Chapala Basin, including from oil refineries, has severely degraded this watershed, once one of Mexico's most diverse river basins and a key source of water for the city of Guadalajara.

Photo credit: NASA

Elkhorn Coral



Disease, loss of habitat, and climate change have cost the critically endangered Elkhorn coral 80 percent of its population in the last 30 years.

Photo credit: NOAA

Sperm Whales



Sperm whales, a popular victim of whaling in the 18th and 19th century and are now targeted for their oil and ambergris. Before we drilled for oil, we whaled for oil.

Photo credit: Gabriel Barathieu

Brown Pelican



The Brown Pelican which adorns the coastal waters of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and the Gulf of Mexico was vastly endangered by DDT and other pesticides in the 1960s and '70s and now fly over a much reduced territory.

Photo credit: Tom MacKenzie, USFWS

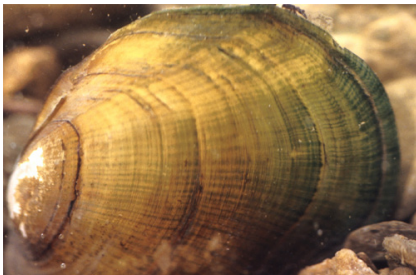
Greater Sage- Grouse



Found across northern North America, the Greater Sage-Grouse has been extirpated from Nebraska, Arizona, and British Columbia, and is further threatened by fossil fuel development which destroys its habitat.

Photo credit: USFWS

Tan Riffleshell



This freshwater mussel, found in the rivers of Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, is threatened by the poisoning of its riverine home by mining, gas, and oil.

Photo credit: USFWS

Dhaka, Bangladesh



Toxic chemicals from tanneries in Dhaka, Bangladesh cause skin disease and respiratory problems in residents and severely pollute the Buriganga River, now a dead zone.

Photo credit: "Rajiv Ashrafi, original photo, <http://bit.ly/1rDNYe>

Pollution in Matanza-Riachuelo, Argentina



About 15,000 industries, including petrochemical and chemical plants, release effluent into the Matanza-Riachuelo River Basin, contaminating waterways and causing respiratory disease and cancer in local residents.

Photo Credit: FJTU/Flickr