



ONE SKY NEWS

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Editor's Message

By Nikki Skuce

At One Sky, we use "fractals" to describe our organizational work and structure - trying to create a "pattern of change" like a stone dropped in the water that creates a ripple moving outwards. We attempt to identify replicable patterns that contribute to promoting sustainable living.

On a recent trip to Ischigualasto Park in Argentina, I reflected on this in the desert terrain and unique natural patterns such as the round stones shown below. With the right mix of energy, elements and time, these rare rocks were formed.

In taking the idea of fractals and learning from the natural world, you could think of these piedras as unique individuals working in their own realms around the world where they've achieved varying amounts of change over time. Each brings their own element of strength and room for growth. Gathered together, they collectively create a new perspective and are better able to weather the challenging elements. At One Sky, we encourage personal development and work together in teams and networks in difficult environments to create change.

This newsletter is a convergence of predominantly reflective pieces. There seems to be a lot of reflection happening around leadership and creating change within our organization, from past interns and from our partner organizations. This reflection helps us make changes internally to become a more effective and innovative organization.



Why Look Down When Things are Looking Up?

By Nikki Skuce

Canada seems to have finally reached a tipping point when it comes to the environment, and in particular global climate change. The triggers? Perhaps, as a recent Globe and Mail poll concluded, because 78% of Canadians say they've actually witnessed climate change themselves. Perhaps due to Al Gore's popular film "An Inconvenient Truth" reaching the masses and providing convincing evidence with visual graphs and photos. Perhaps due to media attention of various political parties action or inaction around the topic. Perhaps in part due to environmentalists and individuals across the country who for years have been jumping up and down about the need to take action on climate change, but who were also walking the talk by creating community programs and reducing their own emissions. Perhaps too due to businesses announcing plans to become carbon neutral and Europe actually generating an employment and economic boom while meeting their Kyoto targets. Perhaps a combination of all the above. Whatever the reasons, it's cause to celebrate.

Now we must implement solutions and take action above and beyond changing our light bulbs (which does make a difference!). About three-quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions come from burning fossil fuels, and power stations and transport are the main culprits. As German parliamentarian Dr. Hermann Scheer points out in his new book Energy Autonomy, we have the capacity to meet our energy needs through low-impact renewable sources. Unfortunately, in looking for ways to curb emissions, there seems to be a trend toward looking down, way down for solutions.

The nuclear energy industry is marketing their source as "clean". Mining uranium, transporting it to the source, and then the hazardous waste produced that takes a million years to break down hardly make it "clean" or greenhouse gas neutral. After months of study in Canada, it was concluded last year that the solution for nuclear hazardous waste was storing it 60 metres below ground somewhere north of Sudbury. Just hide it away and hopefully no one will notice or our children may forgive us if it all seeps into our ground water...

Politicians and the coal industry seem to be latching on to a technical fix called "carbon capture and storage", in particular to produce what is being referred to as "clean coal". Power stations can capture carbon dioxide by removing the gas after combustion by a scrubbing mechanism, or by burning the fuel in enriched oxygen. The idea is that it is then transported and stored in

(cont.)

geological formations, such as depleted oil reservoirs, depleted natural gas fields or deep saline aquifers. Carbon is already sequestered through natural means such as forests, soils and oceans, and CO₂ has been injected into declining oil fields for more than 30 years to increase oil recovery. However, there are risks whether reinjecting into geological formations or the ocean floor with no guarantees against leakage. The US Environmental Protection Agency has recently reported that the commercial deployment of sequestration technology is 15 years away. It is costly unproven technology that once again has us burying our waste.

In the development of unconventional gas, such as coalbed methane, the government of BC just added the 'environmentally safe' standard of mandating deep well injection of waste water. Again, trusting the impermeability of our earth's core layers to hold as we extract and reinject, extract and reinject.

While we need more than technical fixes (such as eliminating subsidies to the oil and gas sector, producing food closer to home, consuming less, planting trees, joining community resources to develop creative solutions, etc), we already have proven technologies to meet our energy needs while mitigating greenhouse gasses. One Sky, as part of the Canadian Renewable Energy Alliance and in working with a provincial coalition in British Columbia, are emphasizing the need to meet our energy needs through energy conservation and efficiency first, and then low-impact renewable energy. Many of these technologies are market-ready (such as solar, wind, micro-hydro, geothermal) and have the potential for enormous short and long term job creation.

One Sky is working toward dispelling some of the myths around renewables. Instead of looking to costly, unproven technologies, we need to act now and demand green, sustainable energy to meet our electrical and heating needs. Let's keep our heads up. Now that awareness and support for action are there, we need to get on the right path toward a sustainable future.



Thanks to our Nigeria Project Coordinator - Kelly Chapman

Kelly Thompson has moved on, after working with One Sky in Nigeria from January - December 2006. After spending a week with us in Smithers in December 2005, Kelly flew to Calabar, Nigeria to manage the Cross River Environment project. After working her way through the field office electronic problems that had been frying all our equipment, Kelly dove in to the project with a whirlwind of meeting One Sky field staff and project partners, travelling to the field to see community projects - and in her time off learning Nigerian pidgin, singing karaoke and getting out to explore the Cross River rainforest. Among Kelly's many accomplishments she initiated a very successful joint review of the Cross River forestry legislation that brought community voices to the table through an extensive community consultation process; built strong relationships with government, other international NGOs working in the State and between our partners; mentored One Sky field staff in a variety of areas; and supported ENGO partners to initiate a multi-stakeholder proposal to the Global Environment Facility. Kelly will be missed very much at One Sky and in the environmental community in Cross River. A huge thank-you, Kelly, to the dedication, heart and integrity that you brought to One Sky and the Cross River Environment project.



Kelly bringing a little Canadian camping culture to CRS, Nigeria

Lines in the Sand

By Michael Simpson

Sometimes in the world of non-profit NGOs we bury our heads in the sand and just keep working and working in an attempt to make our world a more livable place. But after a while it makes a person wonder "are we framing the questions correctly?". One Sky works in some difficult places, often in a post conflict or conflict prone scenario. Our recent foray into doing "world tours" raises a few eyebrows when we talk about going to Sierra Leone or the Niger Delta. These are zones more often associated with conflict and human security than with environment or conservation. The problem we have traditionally tackled is that One Sky does not fit neatly into either a "human rights" or "development" niche and neither are we solely an "environmental group". It is the nexus of environment and human security and development that we hover around, inventing projects and approaches that seem to tackle all three sectors.

On February 22, 2007 in Ottawa we will be hosting a national meeting with the Canadian Environmental Network on exactly this nexus. The meeting is called "Human Security and the Environment" and it will try to merge the ecological governance work we have been doing with an integral approach. As many of you know, several years ago we did an integrally informed analysis or assessment of our organization and this philosophy has influenced our thinking. The interested reader should go to our website and read the background paper found in the meeting link.



One Sky has been working in Sierra Leone since 2000 where diamonds were the driver of the conflict.

One Sky also works in Nigeria where oil has long been a source of conflict, especially in the Niger



In the paper, we diverge from traditional environmental thinking on several accounts including the assumption that human existence is a subset of the biosphere. We explore the theory of holarchy, the concept of developmental stages within holarchies and we explore the four quadrants of the integral approach. We place these theories in the context of four existing schools of thought on human security and the environment and conclude with several policy positions on framing the subject. For those of you who may have followed our previous work on "fractals" you will recognize some of these ideas of repeating patterns in both nature and in human organizational behavior. We also diverge from traditional development approaches, which tend to look toward external indicators of human well being alone.

The point is that we are trying to better understand our work as we go along. We have made some significant progress in our seven years of existence but "raising the bar" is a common theme and test to which we must also measure ourselves. Reframing the questions and underlying assumptions is critical. It has been challenging, as many of the "green" perspectives we hold have been a foundation for our work. It requires an open mind to explore perspective and question personal or institutional frameworks but then, hey, who wants to just keep working and working without looking up every once in a while and asking what else is going on out there. No burying our heads in the sand around here!

If you are interested go to our website at www.onesky.ca to download the paper. We welcome your thoughts.

Mountain Journeys -

By Kristin Patten

In June 2006 I waited at the Prince George airport to meet our new interns. I knew their names and a bit about them from the interview process they'd been through, but I had a feeling of anticipation as I thought about how we were all going to get to know and learn from each other in the upcoming months. Our approach to internships at One Sky is perhaps a bit different than your typical 'young person gets work experience' program. We expect interns to dig deep and to recognize how their personal development is integral to the work that they do in this world. Along the way, we put the interns through a series of experiences and evaluations that push their personal boundaries along the route to becoming more effective social change agents. Personal growth involves taking risks, to stand on that edge, take a deep breath and take a step; and all of our interns this year Allison, Ryan, Matthew and Kathryn rose to the challenge with integrity and grit.

One of the highlights for me was a night hike up into the Babine Mountains that we introduced this year. I picked up Allison, Ryan, Matt and Kathryn at around 11 pm and sensed a certain...resistance...to spending the whole night hiking up a mountain in the dark. We picked up our Executive Director Mike along the way, reached the park and started up the trail. The first few hours went by quickly and we reached the alpine at about 1:30 am. At this point, we 'raised the bar' setting the group the challenge of hiking to the peak of one of the mountains rising up on either side of the pass. The mountains loomed like huge, dark shadows on either side of us. We watched our four flatlanders sit down to discuss their challenge...and were privileged to witness a fascinating insight into group dynamics and decision-making, concepts of leadership, communication, personal and group motivation, and goal setting.

At one point in the discussion, it looked like our group of interns were ready to head back down the trail - the mountain was too high, too steep, the risks too great and the group too tired. But at some point, some magical point in the conversation, things began to turn around...I'm still not sure what combination of factors created the change, but at the end of that moonlit discussion sitting on rocks and bushes high in the alpine, we decided to go just a little bit farther up the pass, and reassess.

So we ventured on, reassessed the terrain and our risks, and decided to go a few hundred metres more. As we got closer to the mountain, our perspective on the terrain began to shift. What looked impossible from far away began to look possible. What looked like sheer cliffs from a distance turned into manageable slopes

once closer up. We were tired, but setting small goals kept us working our way up the mountain. We encouraged each other, gave support where it was needed, reassessed risks and made collective decisions, and, finally, celebrated our success when we made it to the top of the mountain. We still had a long way to go in fact the longest part of the journey was still ahead of us - but the exhilaration of what we had accomplished together kept us moving together as the sun gradually rose to light the alpine meadows, and our aching feet brought us back to the parking lot at 11am almost 12 hours after the start of our journey.

Our lives on this planet are made up of a series of journeys - physical, mental and spiritual. Allison, Matt, Kathryn and Ryan are on a ten-month journey with One Sky. Along the way, mountains have been climbed, valleys descended into, rapids maneuvered - with the exhaustion and exhilaration that comes with negotiating tricky terrain. Allison has been living in Bamako, Mali working with the Mali Folkecenter to improve their communications on renewable energy projects. Ryan is with the Limbe Botanical Gardens in Limbe, Cameroon helping out on GIS related projects with the goal of providing better information on the state of Cameroon's forests for government decision-makers. Kathryn is in Freetown, Sierra Leone working on environmental education projects with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone including writing an ecotourism plan and coordinating popular art projects to bring about awareness. In eastern Kono, Sierra Leone, Matt has been working with Michael Aruna and four farmer's groups on our Growing at the Grassroots project to teach organic agricultural techniques and set-up farmer's cooperatives.

It's been a privilege for me to get to know Allison, Matt, Kathryn and Ryan and to learn from each of them. They challenged me in diverse ways, and I hope! helped to develop my own skills as a social change agent. All of them will be back in Canada in April - I can't wait to sit down in person with each of them over a cup of tea in the cozy One Sky office, to hear their stories, challenges and learnings from their time overseas. I want to thank this year's interns for joining us on our "One Sky journey" and to appreciate the dedication and courage that they bring to their own personal journeys on our shared planet.

Youth interns and One Sky staff and volunteer during orientation session in the Babine Mountains around Smithers, BC.



Leadership in Transformational Change

By Fiona Wright

Since completing my internship with One Sky in May 2006, I find myself still living abroad, now in Sweden, working towards a Masters degree in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability. And the interesting thing is, the more I learn here, the more I find myself drawing on my experiences in Sierra Leone to help me become a better leader. That's why we're all here isn't it? To be leaders, or "social change agents" in the transformational shift to a sustainable world?

In terms of what makes a good leader, first and foremost, I have learned, know yourself. Self-awareness supports confidence, and helps you be strategic in your actions making the most of what you're good at, and not letting the things you're not so good at get in the way. Secondly, the importance of having empathy for the people around you cannot be understated, and increases your effectiveness by helping you build trust, understanding, and the capacity for deep respect of people. With genuine deep respect you can access the invaluable tool of inquiry without judgment. This in turn helps you better understand the system you are working in, and find the leverage points to facilitate change. Good leaders are also able to suspend their judgment (a key component of effective dialoguing), open themselves up and see the world with fresh eyes.

In order to bring about a transformational shift to a new paradigm, say for example from our current unsustainable society to a sustainable one, all the people who are part of the problem, **MUST** be part of the solution. That is to say, everyone who is involved in co-creating the current paradigm, must learn to work together to co-create the new one. Learning to work together is, in my opinion, one of the most important parts of bringing about a transformational shift. As leaders, we have a key role to play in facilitating this. And to help us, we have many tools.

What spurs people to action? As Göran Carstedt, Chair of the Natural Step International and former CEO of IKEA and Volvo can often be heard saying, the energy and inspiration for change comes when people are invited to co-create something that is meaningful and relevant to them. Also, for people

to work effectively together, there needs to be a shared mental model or vision of what they are trying to move towards or accomplish. When there is a difference between the current reality of today and the desired future, a "creative tension" develops which further energizes the movement. Have we all not experienced an overwhelming drive to achieve a goal we have our hearts set on accomplishing, to find that when we get there, we've lost our "oomph" to life?

We need a vision to know where to head. It is well known that "where there is no vision, the people will perish". Understanding this helps us, as leaders, to create the conditions for predictable miracles. And how do we recognize the leverage points, the opportunities to act as they present themselves? Good judgment. And how does one learn good judgment? Experience. And how does one get experience? Bad judgment. Or, an internship with One Sky.

To learn more about a Masters in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability, visit <http://www.bth.se/tmslm>

Excerpt from MFC Newsletter

By Allison Bryan, One Sky intern

Each morning the Mali-Folkecenter office comes to life with the swishing fans, the clicking keyboards and animated discussions. There is a constant flow of people coming or going from meetings, field visits, and conferences. Reports are getting written, networks strengthened, and strategies established. The atmosphere is busy, hot, and friendly.

The work that is being done is moving MFC and its partners forward. In the villages programs are being implemented that are helping improve the livelihoods of residents. In the cities, policies are being developed and concepts shared. At the heart of these activities is a driving principle - **appropriate solutions for an eco-development**.

This concept is embedded into all MFC's projects and activities. It enables community growth and sustainable development. This approach recognizes the capacities and responsibilities of every community for their own welfare. Local realities are tied together in a complex web of interdependence and in this way local solutions breed national and even global impacts.

We would like to impress upon you the value of this concept and invite you look at the world through this lens as you go about your work. Appreciating our shared humanity begins by finding appropriate solutions in each one of our communities.

For more information visit: www.malifolkecenter.org

Update from a past Youth Intern

By Kevan Berg

Dear One Sky,

Well, all told, and if I could, I'd spin snap back into that knitted wool sock of a Smithers winter day. I'm out here though, for now, and a little to the east, in the smallish city of Guelph. I've a sloped street here and an ancient oak tree – an old neighborhood of big red brick, and jump ropes, and all colours and a stuffed tiger on my neighbor's front step. And just over my back fence rattles all that blue sky and some crayon and fray of a real train, just silently, four or five times a day. The old Italian man on the corner watches the train cars pass by, all hunched over, maybe 3 feet from the tracks.

This is year two of an MSc in forest ecology. I'm studying lichen ecosystem ecology in the boreal of northern Ontario – a bit of a stretch from Permaculture and design, yet I guess you can't really beat the study of a natural system as the ideal analog for the designed. It's all going quite good. And the days, authentically Canadian: winters in old Ontario, and summers in the jack pine and black spruce of the boggy boreal...all bogs, lichen, and lumbering black bear, some and so many of mosquito and fly, and moose and the northern lights, dancing, and together sometimes.

Sierra Leone rings heavy in my memories these days, and I dwell often. My many thoughts to

you all One Sky staff, and present and past intern-ish folk, and everyone else out there. So much love. And super huge cheers for the funding successes in the Kono – I wish you all so much of the best as you embark.

In the penmanship of the pine beetle,
Kevan



One Sky Updates and Thanks

Sierra Leone Education Project

In December 2006, Benji Kamara traveled back home to distribute funds raised in partnership with One Sky to support children to go to school in Sierra Leone. Fundraising events were held in Smithers and donations poured in from the Bulkley Valley and beyond. All together an amazing \$7,377 was raised, resulting in 450 children in Sierra Leone benefiting from the project! Special thanks to Armel, Sarah and Craig for their tireless volunteerism!

1% For The Planet (www.onepercentfortheplanet.org)

1% For The Planet is a network of businesses that donate one percent of their revenues to approved environmental organizations each year. Bear Mountaineering requested to have One Sky added and generously donated from their backcountry ski operations.

Evelyne and Tawo!

Congratulations to these two former One Sky employees for the birth of their son Enare in January. We wish them all well.

Special Thanks

- * to Taylor Munro and Energy Alternatives for their generous contributions toward our local renewable energy work
- * to the Bulkley Valley Credit Union and McBike for their donations toward our community bike program
- * to Tomoko Kurihara for her volunteerism
- * to members of the Environmental Grant review committee at MEC for donating headlamps for Sierra Leone
- * to Russell Maier for auctioning a painting toward the mural project in Sierra Leone

Ecological Governance

One Sky has been testing the application of an 'ecological governance' toolkit in Cross River State (CRS), Nigeria as part of a Canadian Environmental Network project funded through CIDA. Two well-attended workshops have been held in CRS so far exploring the concept of ecological governance and how it relates to their context.

New Global Classroom Initiative

By Helene Fleury

One Sky, the Bulkley Valley School District and myself, a teacher, have begun working on "West Africa Alive". With support from CIDA, Kristin and I will be working on this project. Together, we are creating presentations for schools in Northern BC where students will be presented with an actual land-use dilemma. Students will be wearing clothes from West Africa, eating African food and dancing to African music while role-playing a variety of land-use stakeholders. We are currently in the designing phase and will be piloting the interactive presentations in May. The actual Northern BC tour will happen in October with the hope of fostering more eco-literate kids as well as more rhythm!

Having Fun with Environmental Education in Cameroon

By Ryan Cheng

To coincide with National Youth Day in Cameroon, the Limbe Botanic Garden hosts a fun-filled day of games and activities to get young people thinking about the Botanic Garden and the importance of the natural environment.

National Youth Day, February 11th, has its origins in commemorating the period of the plebiscite when the people of Western Cameroon were deciding if English Cameroon should join with French Cameroon. To symbolise the aspirations of the youth at the time of unification, is the officially recognized National Youth Day. To this day it still expresses the hopes Cameroonians youth have for the future, and the expectations for the country as it becomes an economic and political power in the region.

This also makes it an ideal time to recognize the role and importance of the natural environment for the youth of Cameroon. With high aspirations for economic development, we put our trust in the youth of today to soon be developing the human and natural resources in the most sustainable way.

During the week, staff had put up posters to advertise this normally popular event where young people learn about the environment through games and prizes. We set up various stations throughout the Garden and had activities such as table tennis, a dart board, plant games, treasure hunts and a puppet show. The children began arriving in the Garden shortly after the Youth Day March through the streets of Limbe. Children were able to discover and explore the plants of the Garden through bark and leaf rubbings, discovery games and guided tours.

I had the opportunity to volunteer at the worksheet area, where children completed crossword puzzles, word searches and fill-in-the-blank questions. I then took a group out and we enthusiastically filled out ascension labels (used to identify the plants) which we wore around as name tags. To go through the questions and answers I took the children to the various plants in the garden to describe what they were seeing - and many more faces would always join the group, following me to listen about the importance of each one. We stopped by the sweetar berry (a berry which will make anything else you eat taste sweet!) and talked about how we won't be able to grow new ones to have more if we keep eating them all. We also explained how trees need bark to bring up the moisture so we can't strip the bark around an entire Prunus tree to sell for medication (used for prostate cancer).

Overall we discussed using plants and resources in a sustainable manner.

At the end of the day, as the sun was setting over the ocean, the volunteers handed out prizes to those children that excelled at each of the activities. And so the day concluded as we collected plastic bottles to be reused and the children picked of the wrappers from the candy we handed out in exchange for more sweets. Hearing the responses from the questions I handed out, I know that there is great awareness of the impacts that we have on the environment. While youth may have other concerns, in the Garden we were able to have a fun time learning about the environment and the small things we can do to maintain it.

Growing at the Grassroots

One Sky is now working with the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) on a CIDA-sponsored project called "Growing at the Grassroots". The goal of the project is to support organic agriculture as a viable, sustainable livelihood in Kono, Sierra Leone through a cooperative approach, and thereby increase food security for rural people. We are working with four farmers groups, primarily women, providing training and inputs for organic agriculture. The groups are also forming a co-operative which will provide a sustainable business model based on collaboration. To further promote agriculture as a sustainable livelihood and to address the environmental impacts of mining and slash and burn agriculture, abandoned diamond mining sites will be restored for agricultural use through active community participation. As part of this initiative, we have launched a "Green Diamonds" campaign. We are challenging consumers to buy a "green" diamond by supporting environmental restoration of alluvial diamond sites in Sierra Leone. Visit our site: www.onesky.ca/diamonds/index.html. This April we will also be launching an environmental song by popular Sierra Leonean ragga star Pupa Bajah to raise awareness within the country. In April 2008 we're hoping to bring a world tour to Sierra Leone to visit our project and learn more about this West African nation first-hand. Contact us if you're interested at info@onesky.ca.



Agriculture Specialist
Michael Aruna
harvesting sweet potatoes with his daughter Yei-Yei in November 2006.

Who is One Sky?

Our Purpose

One Sky promotes sustainable living globally.

Our Vision

An environmentally sustainable and socially just world.

Our Mission

One Sky seeks to make a significant difference in the next five years by:

- Radicalizing Canadian perspectives and shifting worldviews
- Developing capacity of change agents
- Playing an inspiring role and promoting solutions to the world's overwhelming challenges
- Providing practical solutions where human security and the environment interface
- Effectively networking and creating partnerships within and across sectors
- Working in areas with ecological integrity

Values

At One Sky, it is our belief that we need to be active on the ground to be able to walk into the halls of policy making, and to know existing policy to be able to leverage and implement changes at the grassroots. At One Sky, we also believe that the way we treat each other along the path toward change is integral to our success. Regardless of what environmental issue we are working on, we are always striving to live our values and are committed to:

Courage/Raising the bar:

- acting proactively and with intention
- working in difficult places (such as Nigeria, Sierra Leone and out of northern BC)
- taking risks by trying new ways of working
- being bold and willing to enter new terrain

Inspiring:

- promoting solutions
- creating patterns of change
- being a small but significant difference
- remaining hopeful despite working on tough issues in tough places

Learning/mentorship:

- enabling others in their work through intentional leadership
- life-long learning
- engaging in shared visioning
- providing opportunities for transformational change
- serving as a catalyst for personal growth and change
- raising awareness and enhancing sustainable livelihoods

World centric:

- showing respect for people, nature and all living things
- keeping in mind we all live under 'one sky'
- working as "we"

Collaboration:

- working in global partnerships
- using strategic networking
- developing multiple leadership



ONE SKY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name (please print clearly):

Address:

Phone number (optional):

Email:

YES, I want to join One Sky and help to "promote sustainable living globally". I have enclosed my annual dues of \$10 for this calendar year. Please mail or drop by your membership form with dues to One Sky at:

Box 3352 (or 3768 2nd Ave)
Smithers, B.C.
V0J 2N0 Canada

Visit www.onesky.ca or phone us at 250-877-6030 for more information.