

Issue 3

24th August 2021

Project uP's
LAHAR

The Green Wave



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About Lahar

Introducing Lahar, Project uP's official magazine, through which we aim to bring about a wave of change, one page at a time.

Lahar is a one of its kind endeavour that shall attempt to create an inclusive space, which encapsulates people's personal encounters with vast beliefs and systems relating to social development. In a world saturated with corporate definitions of human rights, Lahar shall intertwine an intersectional approach with a humane portrait of what it means to be a human in an ever-evolving world order.

Our aim?

To tell your story, to make aware and engrain empathy, to bind in love, and to set free creativity.

About The Green Wave

The third issue of Lahar aims to help us learn and unlearn a lot about climate; what we have been taught in the past, and the steps we have been taking towards it. The views expressed within this magazine are a response to tumultuous and unprecedented times. It also features an interview of two tremendously passionate Ugandan climate activists, talking about their experiences, and the lessons they've learned throughout this journey.

The issue includes pieces of work on two prompts: a) "asking our parents to take climate change seriously" b) "individual contribution to let the earth breathe."

At the end of the issue, we also share with you how you can be a part of the Project uP family!

What's Been uP...

A glimpse of all that has been happening in the different departments of the organisation!

International Journal of Policy Sciences and Law

- Completed the first Volume of the journal
- Entries open for fifth issue of The Paper Crane. Theme: Learning Through Experience: _An Attempt to Promote Holistic Curricula and Quality Education
- We got indexed at the ISSN National Centre, India!
- Call for Entries: Volume 1, Issue 2.

Research and Analysis

- After receiving over 80 applications, we are all set for the 7th Edition of the Bootcamp, which starts from 6th September and will go on till 20th September 2021.
- Alongside research training, the Changemakers will engage in SDG Dialogues with experienced developmental professionals, Networking events and more.
- The 10 extremely dynamic participants of IMPACT are working on Policy documents with an aim to materialise change which will be shared with stakeholders at the end of the program.

Events and Design

- With the successful release and overwhelming response on the second issue of the magazine that was released on 11th June talking about Toddler Town. The third issue deals with climate change and features interviews with Climate Justice Activists.
- We successfully released two episodes of our new Podcast- Not Just A Kid. The aim of the podcast is to provide a two way process - for children to express their dreams, desires, hopes and aspirations, and for people like us to learn from them.

Social Media and Marketing

- We're now a family of 3.8k on LinkedIN!
- We added a new element to our Instagram- The Policy Perspective- making it a space for people to learn about important policies and their pros and cons
- We gained a viewership of over 25k people through our reels!

interviews.

In Conversation with Joan and Clare



Joan and Clare,
Ugandan Climate Activists,
Rise Up Movement, founded by Vanessa
Nakate- a Ugandan Climate Justice
Activist.

 *If you had to explain the concept of climate change to a middle schooler, how would you do it in your own words?*

According to us, the best way to start would be by asking them what they know about the environment- you might find some child who loves plants, some trees and some maybe waterbodies- and then you ask them if they would want their favourite part of the environment to be eternal, to which they would probably say a yes. We can then tell them that it is actually possible for that to happen, but they can be destroyed too soon too. So you pass to that angle, and tell them that they'll be destroyed by cutting them down, or by emissions, and not taking proper care of them; that would certainly touch their hearts. Also, telling them how it would directly impact us- maybe by telling a child who loves to surf that they won't get to do that anymore if water is used recklessly- would make them understand better. And then, we tell them solutions, and the precautions we can take on a personal level.

 As someone who understands how important it is to address the issue of climate change, it's not possible to be satisfied with how rarely people bring it up. Do you think there's a way to make more young people aware before it's too late?

The most important step we need to take is making climate education a priority. Inculcating climate education in children's roots would help opening their minds while growing up, and they would know how to defend and fight for the climate; growing up to be the leaders of the future. Also, the role of parents becomes important- if they decide to lead a sustainable life themselves, their children will probably follow and become more informed and sensitised. This way, the children will also be able to help their peers learn from them. Sensitising children about climate change would ultimately nourish and train the kid to care of the climate since birth. Also, we know about so many TV shows about climate change for young people which we can choose to stream, for example, there was this one cartoon on Disney Jr. - Fancy Nancy - where the parents of children were cutting down the trees and the kids were fighting back in order to save the trees!

 When people initiate dialogue around Climate Change, something they miss out on is how important the role played by relevant stakeholders (such as- policy makers and governments) is. Do you agree to that? If yes, what all such factors do you think are important to be talked about?

We wouldn't really agree to that, because what we have seen is that a lot of climate activists are sending messages to the leaders, calling out for help.

For example, in the G7 summit, we are signing petitions and pleading for action. In fact, most of the climate activists right now are fighting for system change and not solely climate change, and actively cry out to leaders, because we know they're above us and they make most of the rules, but they've often neglected us.

 *Are there any locally-developed or community-based climate change combat mechanisms in Africa ?*

Well, some mechanisms have been undertaken but unfortunately, they've not helped us reach even halfway to what we are really fighting for. Many families are now indulging in the use of renewable energy in their homes. They're using solar panels and less electricity, which also helps in cutting the costs. There's also campaigns in some different countries about banning plastics, which is good because it also involves different sectors- like in the fashion sector, they're recycling plastics to make dresses now. There are also a lot of campaigns that focus on reducing excessive use of water, which will result in reducing the emissions that are released while pumping and heating the water. There's also many tree planting drives in Uganda, even though it is really good, but it's not enough; we're still seeing extreme weather events, landslides, floods; the government still has a huge role to play, which is why we always go for system change.

 *Have you ever taken/been a part of any such initiative that motivated the civil society to get involved in the mitigation effects of climate change in a developing country? If yes, we'd love to know more about it!*

Yes, we have been a part of many movements and actions, including the STOP EACOP, and campaigns led by organisations like the UN, Rise Up (with Vanessa Nakate), Fridays For Future, and other different projects relating to climate. As a part of these strikes and campaigns, we've strictly sent out messages to the policy makers, leaders and the government, putting a pressure on them to take climate action seriously.



Ever since you've been ardent advocates for climate change with Rise Up, you would've heard stories of people coming from diverse backgrounds, and how big of an impact climate change has had on their lives. What is the most important lesson you've taken back from these stories?

The most important lesson we've learnt is that climate change is disproportionately affecting different people and many communities across the world, and while we may all be in the same storm of the climate crisis, we are all definitely in different positions, because some groups of people have it much worse than the others. And thus, in order to have climate justice, everyone has to be involved, every voice needs to be heard- of every person, every community all around the world.

As Vanessa Nakate says, 'Every activist has a story to tell and every story has a solution to give and every solution has a life to change', so climate justice with any people left out/ communities unheard would remain far fetched.

On the Edge of a Cliff

- Akaisha Singh



Dear Mom and Dad,

I remember the stories you've told me of the times you, along with your families, used to spend the entire day playing Holi with colours; all the memories of Lohri, Dussehra and Diwali; the vibrant sparks blanketing the dark blue of the night sky and the fiery fires burning. The countless tales recalled with grins have me wishing I were there but I'm not sure I can celebrate as happily as you did, not when I have to worry about the air quality every time I step out, or when I am left shocked to see the increasing droughts around the world. I don't blame you though. I'm not criticising the traditions and our culture. I think over the years we've shaped festivals to fit certain expectations.

You see, I'm sure Holi isn't just about emptying buckets of water. I'm sure Diwali isn't just about spending large amounts of money on firecrackers only to hear a baffling explosion, getting over in seconds.

I feel the guilt of leaving the tap of water on, raining down upon me, mercilessly. The joy I found in the colourful fireworks when I was too young to notice the smoke, chokes me. I'm worried about children in a village miles away, seeking dirty water to quench their thirst.

letter

I guess I tell you all this to make you realise the critical situation we're in, and to reflect on just how much work we as individuals of the human race have to do. The damage is almost irreversible. Forests are on fire, leaving charred husks in their wake. The heat suffocates us as the sudden weather changes catch us off guard.

We're on the edge of a cliff, threatening to fall and be the cause of our destruction.

Yours sincerely,

Now.

- Khushi Mishra



"Yes, I get it - that when you were my age, the sky was constantly blue, the air incessantly clean, and the temperatures tolerable, but what about NOW?"

I often come up with this question when my parents start bragging about the environmental delights they left unacknowledged, but I think it's high time all of us stop living in the past and focus on the present, because that's what will eventually shape our future.

Sometimes I find it funny how unnoticeable the expedition of countless polythenes to our house has become. Groceries, deliveries, milk and cheese, all these arrive at our doorsteps with an immortal covering and we choose to do absolutely nothing about it. Then in my nightmares I sometimes witness a landfill constantly growing and eating me up while the vultures flying above it watch me get devoured by the immortal monster.

We must make our parents understand that the attention is being drawn to climate change because it's a global problem, and results in deterioration of marine life, excessive waste, global warming, and- in the long run- even the end of a civilisation. Let's tell them how much their contribution would mean, given that they decide to contribute in the first place.

Let Our Earth Breathe.



- Mihir Bhatt

Earth perceives ways to regulate itself as it has maintained a balance that has sustained life for billions of years. But, by destroying whole ecosystems humans have tipped that balance causing atmospheric CO₂ levels to be higher which has warmed the planet by burning fossil fuels for a century and a half, setting in motion heat waves, wildfires, and mass bleaching of coral reefs. But the future isn't set in stone- there are many futuristic possibilities, ranging from bad to really catastrophic; which one plays depends on each of us. At present, humans are cutting down half the world's trees which breathe in carbon and store it far away from the earth. Old forests are invaluable; their strength and size allow them to withstand wildfires and other climate fuelled disasters. We need to stop the large-scale deforestation because "when a forest is lost, people feel it everywhere." We are now in the midst of the sixth-grade extinction event as billions of animal populations have been killed, this is dire because animals are nature's first defenders and their decline ultimately leads to the decline of vegetation. Thus, from time immemorial, the world's living systems have been undervalued and underfunded. And now, "the genie is out of the bottle" and there is no way it can go back or be controlled but the responsibility lies on our shoulders and we should unfold the path to let our earth breathe.

To lift you up!

We compile a few present-day stories, from all around the world, which give us a rare perspective to Climate Change!

We hope these lift up your spirits!



To Lift You up!

Dutch Man Cleans Rivers in Addition to Ocean Cleanup Efforts

The young engineer Boyan Slat made history when he removed two shipping containers worth of garbage from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. He has now set his sights on going to the source of water pollution, the world's most polluted rivers. With his organization The Ocean Cleanup, Slat decided to include rivers in their mission after research revealed that, "1,000 of the world's rivers are responsible for depositing 80% of all the trash that is currently swirling in the ocean."

Aishwarya Puttur- a student trying to heighten awareness about the role of banks in fossil fuel expansion.

Aishwarya Puttur wants Canadians to know that their money is being used by banks to fund fossil fuel expansion. As part of Banking on a Better Future, this 15-year-old high school student from Oakville, Ont., is calling on Canadians to make different banking decisions. The team asks those who do bank with one of the Big Five to contact their branch managers and tell them you expect them to make meaningful climate commitments if they want to keep your business. The team also organizes in-person and digital actions to demand that CIBC, RBC, BMO, Scotia and TD divest from fossil fuels.

Wales to Plant a Huge National Forest

Wales announced the government-led, \$5.9 million project to create a National Forest in order to preserve nature, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Other goals include their "commitment to tackling climate change." The plan is set to plant on 5,000 acres of land each year to eventually increase to 10,000 acres per year in order to hopefully meet their mark of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050.

Indigenous women's leadership gains greater recognition

Indigenous women have long been leaders in the fight for environmental and social justice. This year, a few of those women were given some much-deserved and well-overdue credit, attention, and recognition for their work and leadership. Time magazine named Nemonte Nenquimo, a leader of Ecuador's Indigenous Waorani nation, one of the 100 most influential people of 2020. Leydy Pech, a Mayan beekeeper, was also awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for spearheading a coalition that prevented agrochemical giant Monsanto from planting genetically modified "Roundup ready" soybean crops in seven states in southern Mexico. In the U.S., New Mexico Representative Deb Haaland has been nominated by president-elect Joe Biden to head the Department of the Interior. She would become the first Indigenous cabinet member in U.S. history.

Forest The Size Of France Regrown Worldwide Over 20 Years, Study Finds

In forest news, nearly 59 million hectares of forest has regrown since 2000, proving that natural generation efforts are paying off! This two year study collected data via satellite imaging and on-ground surveys throughout several countries. These forests have the potential to soak up and store 5.9 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide. While this is great news, it's also a clear reminder of how important it is to halt deforestation and restore our forests so they can help mitigate climate change.

Restoring Soils Could Remove 5.5 Billion Tonnes of CO₂ a Year

Like trees, soil health has been starting to get some much needed attention. And of course the two go hand in hand. A new study concludes that restoring and protecting our soil could remove the equivalent of the United States' annual greenhouse gas emissions. The benefits gained from soil restoration includes water regulation, water quality, stabilizing production, and resilience in ecosystems.

Opportunities at Project uP.

There are multiple ways through which you can contribute to/be a part of the Project uP family!
Scroll to check these out!



Opportunities at Project uP.

IJPSL

The IJPSL is an academic initiative undertaken by Project uP. The IJPSL, as a scholarly journal, fosters discourse in the realm of policy sciences, law and other relevant principles. Every three months one volume containing four issues is published at the IJPSL.

You can contribute to the IJPSL by sending your manuscripts through the website ([IJPSL - Home](#)). You can also share your valuable feedback with us at
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1x7N_jp1yavFEd5azg3h0qy7RhyNPvHjFV8WynXeV6eo/edit

I.M.P.A.C.T.

I.M.P.A.C.T.- Initiating Mobilisation on Policy Action and Consultancy Training- is a month-long certificate crash course which provides in-depth knowledge about nuances of Policy Consulting practices, and aims at making the policy sphere more inclusive of youthful inputs.

We'll be completing the second round of IMPACT by the end of August. Please stay tuned to our social media handles for information about the next round.

Opportunities at Project uP.

Research Bootcamp

Research has been an area of interest for young students around the globe. To help students to be versed in academic research, Project uP aims to equip the young minds of our country with precise tools and working knowledge of research. You can contribute by registering for the next round of Research Bootcamp, stay tuned to our social media platforms for related updates!

Lahar

The aim of the magazine is to tell people's story, to make aware and engrain empathy, to bind in love, and to set free creativity.

If you wish to contribute to Lahar, and get published by sharing your pieces of work, relevant to the next issue, keep an eye out for the call for entries! Stay updated by following our activity on our social media platforms! You can also share your valuable feedback/suggestion with us at laharmagazine.projectup@gmail.com.

Editor's Note.



Editor's Note

- Aanchal Pundir

Dear readers,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for contributing to our magazine- Lahar - by reading, sending entries and making us reach our aim which is to impact just one life at a time and make one heart smile. I am pleased to announce the release of the third issue of our magazine- The Green Wave. This magazine has been curated out of a lot of passion, determination and pure love. As I read through the issue, I see in front of myself our motto- 'waves of change, one page at a time.' And I really hope you do too.

What's special about this issue is that every article, in itself, has a personal touch in terms of a message for working towards climate change. Our team has also curated some news from all around the world, which reflects the determination of people working towards a greener and happy environment that will hopefully lift up your spirit. I hope the magazine creates some value for you. If you like what you read, or wish to share any kind of feedback, please feel free to reach out to us at [laharmagazine.projectup@gmail.com!](mailto:laharmagazine.projectup@gmail.com)

Thank you so much for reading!

LAHAR

*Waves of Change
one page at a time*

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