



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

Local and National Campaign Updates

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I. EDITORIAL

1.1 Light a fire under South Africa's Climate Policy

By Vishwas Satgar

Originally published in the Mail & Guardian on 13 April 2018



Image Source: <https://mg.co.za/article/2018-04-13-00-light-a-fire-under-sas-climate-policy>

Most South African's don't appreciate that we are living in a new world, shaped — and increasingly determined — by a heating planet.

In 2015, when the World Meteorological Organisation declared a 1°C increase in planetary temperature since the industrial revolution, it acknowledged that the planetary conditions that sustain life had been fundamentally changed.

For geologists meeting in South Africa on August 29 last year, and responsible for documenting the Earth's history, a sober scientific conclusion was reached. We are now living in a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene. This means humans as a geological force are shaping the Earth's systems and planetary conditions that determine life.

The Anthropocene is a geological, historical and climatic marker that confirms we have broken with a relatively stable climatic condition known as the Holocene, which lasted about 11 700 years. How we produce, consume and organise social life affects the Earth's systems. Carbon emissions from burning oil, coal and gas are contributing to global warming.

A planet that heats by three, four or five degrees will make human life almost impossible. If we do not act now, we are likely to breach two degrees in this century. As our planet heats

complex feedback loops such as methane release from melting in the polar zones, carbon saturation in oceans and even destruction of rain forests will feed into global warming.

There is no time to spare if we want to create the conditions, institutions and practices that will sustain South Africa into the future. We also cannot hide behind false dichotomies of jobs and development versus the environment.

The longer we postpone the urgency of climate change the more costly and catastrophic it becomes. There are currently 20 vulnerable countries, mainly island states, with 700-million people who do not have the capabilities to deal with the climate shocks induced by a 1°C increase, including the rise in the sea level. Many of these countries will have to be abandoned and climate refugees will increase.

Some estimates say Hurricane Harvey, which crashed into the United States mainland last year, cost the country \$180-billion. Together with hurricanes Irma and Sandy, these are now in the top five most costly hurricanes in US history. The US also experienced severe wild fires also linked to drier climatic conditions.

The Syrian conflict is also considered a “climate war” — one of the worst droughts in Syria’s history (which fell between 2006 and 2011) caused the failure of most of Syria’s agriculture and the migration of 1.5-million Syrians to urban areas. Although the conflict is complex, climate change as a contributing factor cannot be ignored.

The cost of South Africa’s drought has not been calculated and we are not coming to terms with what we are dealing with. Most politicians and policy-makers use the language of a “natural disaster”, which suggests this is a freak event of nature — a transient problem and the concomitant response is “disaster relief”. This mode of thinking betrays a serious crisis of leadership and the makings of climate crisis in South Africa.

The drought that has ravaged rural South Africa since 2014, and which is now threatening big metropolitan conglomerations such as Cape Town, Nelson Mandela Bay and Durban, has to be a defining moment. The Cape Town water crisis portends the problems we face if we want to construct a climate emergency state that can support a citizen-led transition that affirms climate justice.

The poor and working-class citizens of Cape Town have endured three levels of climate injustice and, if this repeats itself, climate conflict will tear South Africa apart.

First, inequality and geographies are racialised in Cape Town.

A Day Zero approach, with its emphasis on disciplinary demand management and fear, squeezed households and neighbourhoods already dealing with water insecurity. Water management devices and punitive tariffs shifted the burden and cost to poor communities, whereas agriculture and business were let off the hook.

More generally, farming in South Africa controls 62% of our water resources. Because of irrigation-fed agriculture, including in the Western Cape, we are exporting our water as we

export food. This approach to water and food systems contributes to climate injustice and is not viable in a climate-driven world.

Second, the state at all three levels has failed, thus passing the burden on to the most vulnerable.

The City of Cape Town and the Western Cape did not have a sustainable water management strategy in place, despite numerous warnings and the science of climate change already forewarning drier conditions in the Cape.

The national government has been incompetent and in disarray, confirmed by the revelations of mismanagement coming to the fore regarding the failed leadership of the former water and sanitation minister, Nomvula Mokonyane. Moreover, Parliament has been slow to respond, declaring a “national disaster” only recently.

At the same time, activists and civic organisations have developed compelling critiques of the state’s responses and have also developed systemic solutions. Many of the water crisis organisations in Cape Town justifiably reject desalination as an expensive techno fix, with serious negative environmental effects.

Instead, they are calling for water leaks to be plugged, water to be harvested from water channels leading to the ocean, the protection of agro-ecological farming communities such as the Philippi horticultural area, the integration of ground water into the water system in a sustainable manner, incorporation of farmer-controlled dams into the water system and reuse of water, among other just solutions.

A discourse on water and food sovereignty is emerging from below but is not finding policy traction in the state.

The third injustice experienced relates to an ANC government committed to a fossil fuel energy path (as entrenched in the Integrated Resource Plan). This can be seen in President Cyril Ramaphosa’s ambition to see mining as a “sunrise industry” — which includes more coal, fracking and off-shore extraction — and a National Development Plan that affirms the importance of resource nationalism.

The carbon criminality of the ANC government is not exceptional and includes President Donald Trump’s United States, Russia, China, India and other petro-states.

Essentially, ruling elites have chosen more carbon emissions and hence a climate-driven world with devastating consequences for the poor, working class and marginal. This exists alongside imperial designs to police zones of climate chaos and to keep the world enthralled by symbolic gestures such as the Paris Climate Agreement, which provides too little, too late. Cape Town registers the disproportionate effects and climate injustices of carbon criminality.

We are in a “no-analogue” situation and as uncharted territory for the human race we have to develop a new paradigm to sustain life in response to the climate crisis. This has to reflect

in how we think about decarbonising our society and building new ecocentric systems (water, energy, food, living, governance) to manage climate shocks.

South Africa is one of the most un-equal countries in the world. Climate change and shocks will deepen racial, gender and class inequalities, yet at the same time it affords us the opportunity to address these challenges and build for the future.

The climate crisis does not have to be about catastrophism or end-of-times millenarianism. The ecocidal destruction of the conditions that sustain life can be confronted with radical nonracialism and a new direction for the nation-building project that unites us all.

South Africa can be a beacon to the world again. As a climate-justice state it can embrace a deep and just transition, an idea championed by trade unions and consider democratic systemic reforms already emerging such as food, seed and water sovereignty, climate jobs, zero waste, the rights of nature, socially owned renewable energy, solidarity economies, a substantive basic income grant and democratic planning, among others.

As in the struggle against HIV, the world could not stop us from producing the generic drugs we required to sustain lives. Trump's US cannot stand in the way of us confronting the existential threats of climate change.

In this context, climate crisis international relations require us to build support for a climate-justice agenda in our continent, the inter-state system and isolating those countries that are carbon criminals. This might even include climate justice sanctions against some states.

Global leadership has failed over the past 20 years to tackle the climate crisis. South Africa, post-Zuma, can show a different way for humanity and other life forms we share this beautiful planet with.

It is not too late to advance a deep and just transition for South Africa, as the central thrust of a new eco-centric National Development Plan.

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Article source: <https://mg.co.za/article/2018-04-13-00-light-a-fire-under-sas-climate-policy>.

II. NATIONAL CAMPAIGNING NEWS

2.1 Going Against the Grain: Launch of Communal Kitchen at Wits Food Sovereignty Center

By Courtney Morgan



On the 20th June 2018, COPAC, along with the Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach (WCCO) and Inala (a student organisation) held a small lunch to launch the communal kitchen at The Sanctuary at Wits University. This kitchen is the first of 3 communal kitchens that the partners wish to establish, in the hopes of creating a Wits Food Sovereignty Center. This center will not only serve as a space for students affected by the hunger and accommodation crises to cook and consume their food in a dignified manner, but also as an eco-space from which lessons can be learnt. This space will house alternative energy sources, water harvesting as well as a number of food gardens.

The launch was attended by Wits management, WCCO staff, COPAC staff, as well as students who are involved in the running of the gardens and the center some of which are Inala members. The then Dutch Ambassador; Marisa Gerards who has made a significant donation to the building of the first kitchen was also in attendance. The money that her and her embassy donated allowed for the purchasing of kitchen appliances, which are now installed and being used. The first meal prepared in the newly equipped kitchen was a three course lunch which was served to the 25 guests at the launch. The meal was prepared by professional, award winning Chef Nompumelelo Mqwebu with the help of some volunteers who were keen to learn, which is very much in the spirit of what the communal kitchen is there for. Between meals there were presentations by various guests on what the aim of the center is, and thanks to those who have contributed thus far. There was also a spoken word performance by Mbali who not only entertained the guests but also provoked reflection on the relationship people have with the land, culturally and spiritually.

The meals prepared by Chef Nompumelelo were not only delicious, they were also unique and used indigenous vegetables in a creative way. The starter was Umleqwa soup with ujeqe, which is a free range chicken soup with traditional steamed bread, with a vegetarian option

of vegetable soup. This dish was an amazing introduction to traditional methods of preparing food and the free range, hand raised chicken was a welcomed alternative to the chicken one gets in a supermarket. The main meal was amadumbe (indigenous potato) gnocchi with a trio of kudu, chakalaka and spinach with a



Chef Nompumelelo Mqwebu explains the menu

vegetarian option of amadumbe stack with chakalaka, spinach and kale in peanut sauce. The main meal introduced guests to new flavours that perhaps they had never encountered, done in a way that incorporated both African and international methods. The amadumbe gnocchi was an especially interesting fusion, which shows the versatility of indigenous ingredients. The final course was a common African dish made into a dessert of Isijingi with berries in a red wine reduction. This butternut dessert was an amazing end to a truly interesting menu. These dishes proved that indigenous ingredients can be just as tasty as imported, mainstream options in the supermarket.

This center aims to continue with this spirit with the growing of indigenous and organic vegetables in the vegetable gardens. At the center, the students are also encouraged to cook dishes which they grew up eating and to experiment with indigenous vegetables to make truly African meals which will also allow for cultural exchange and a space of knowledge sharing. This ties in perfectly with the overall narrative of Food Sovereignty which calls for control of and access to culturally appropriate and nutritious food.

2.2 From Day Zero to Day One: Co-creating water literacy through sound

By Sarah van Borek and Anna James

PURPOSE

How might we use place-based sound recordings crafted in the form of a podcast series to help us move towards deep and just sustainability in the face of 'crisis' differently textured across time, space, language, culture and gender in the City of Cape Town?

In January 2018, Capetonians were warned they were heading towards what the City's outsourced communications team branded as "Day Zero"; the day when the local municipality would turn off the water running to most of the taps around the city due to dangerously low

dam levels. It was supposedly a strategy to encourage water saving behaviour change and while it did do so in some ways, it also contributed to a lot of panic that resulted in the opposite. A few months later, Day Zero was 'called off' for this year... and the next. Nevertheless the water crisis remains in a number of ways and the contributing factors are far more complex than those reflected in a call for individual water savings.



The layers of the water crisis sit deeply within the historic inequalities of the city of Cape Town. Many residents have been living on 'DayZero water restrictions' for decades while other parts of the city enjoy golf courses and swimming pools. The impact of the drought is exacerbated by our National Department of Water and Sanitation's need for support to realise 'water democracy' in South Africa. An additional layer of this crisis is the impacts of global climate change which are predicted to see more dry years. With these elements of the crisis in mind, rethinking our relationships to water is a necessary part of fostering deep and just sustainability in the city. Unpacking this holistic understanding of the water situation would require a collaborative, inclusive and iterative form of communication that attempts to address language and literacy barriers.

Also in January 2018, two Cape Town-based PhD scholars in Environmental Education at the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC), Rhodes University, South Africa, Sarah Van Borek and Anna James, started creating a podcast series about the Cape Town water crisis. The series title 'DayOne' suggests an alternative to 'Day Zero' that is forward-thinking and solutions-oriented and that strives to radically reimagine our city's relationship to water. In order to do this we have gathered a [dream team of](#) creatives who have donated their time, translation, and hosting skills towards compiling the podcast. Partly, this project was a response to a concern voiced around the challenges of how to communicate this crisis. Thabo Lusithi from the Environmental Monitoring Group (interviewed on [Episode 2](#) about water management devices) argued aptly that "telling people to save water is not education. Explain to people where water comes from and then the saving will come from that." As is evident by the social movements organising around the crisis, opening up the question about where water comes from leads to more questions about how we have structured and organised our cities, how we relate to our resources and how we relate to each other.

This podcast is an attempt to facilitate a circular process of engaged research-communication- education-action that:

- a) applies an intersectional lens to explore the political, economic, cultural, historical and ideological factors contributing to the situation which are not addressed in the predominant individual water saving focus,
- b) surfaces the unequal experience of the drought and raises important questions around differentiated responsibility,
- c) advocates for the role of creativity in supporting climate change solutions,
- d) builds capacity and resiliency through fostering community connections across cultures, and
- e) convenes, as far as possible, an inclusive, non-polarized conversation within a deeply polarized situation across a city with vast inequalities.

James and Van Borek aim for this to be in the spirit of participatory democracy as described by Environmental Monitoring Group researcher Taryn Pereira in episode 3. The podcast is also part of an ongoing process of contextual profiling for these environmental education PhD students who are grappling with the water-climate change nexus through critical arts-based participatory research. Listen and read more about the podcast at this link: <https://dayonewater.wordpress.com/>.

PROCESS

Van Borek and James have partly achieved a), b) and c) through the compiling of 4 episodes featuring voices of people from various walks of life in Cape Town engaging with water. These episodes cover 4 themes/questions James and Van Borek found were prominent amongst the people and organisations they engaged with: DayZero, Privatisation, Augmentation, and Health in Drought. The episodes are not exhaustive of the themes, nor do they engage solely with 'traditional' experts in these areas. This was not their aim. What they do is attempt to present an entry point into these generative themes through a range of perspectives and on the ground experiences of what this crisis actually looks like.

POTENTIAL

The podcast series is currently hosted online and has received some listenership. A dedicated website invites listeners to submit comments and questions that can help fuel future episodes. Making this podcast live more widely as a public resource for dialogue and engagement is the next challenge. Van Borek and James feel encouraged to explore what are called 'radio listening clubs'. This is a creative use of radio as a catalyst for gathering people to collectively listen and dialogue within communities and in some cases between communities and policy makers. This will go toward achieving part d) and e) of our goals listed previously.

In the following months, Van Borek and James will focus more on organizing spaces in which the podcast can be listened to and discussed. This will generate materials for the next episodes of the podcasts continuing the recurring dialogue.

2.3 Workshop for Land Use activist guide

By Aaisha Domingo

In December 2017, the ANC held its 54th elective conference where the ruling party committed to supporting an amendment of the constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation which is also supported by many other parties in the country. The land debate centers on the historical injustices enacted upon black South Africans, which dates back to beginning of colonialism, where Africans were dispossessed of their land and consequently, their means of independent livelihoods and economic power.

In light of the ANC's decision as well as the incumbency of President Cyril Ramaphosa, the land debate has come under scrutiny with a range of critiques and solutions put forward by academics, activists, media and civil society. For the South African Food

Sovereignty Campaign and solidarity economy initiatives, the debate has allowed us to reflect on the issue of land in South Africa and what it means for advancing food sovereignty throughout the country.

The Co-operative and Policy Alternative Center (COPAC) is in the process of developing an activist tool, similar to the Water Activist Guide and Seed Saving Activist Guide. On Friday, 22 June a workshop was held to begin the process of developing land-use guide to inform how we think about land use in the land debate and the challenges regarding land for building a food sovereignty pathway. The members of the workshop were to address questions which were largely absent from the land debate i.e. what is land used for and how can we use it in a sustainable way? Also, what tools can we come up with to create mass agency and power? Grassroots activists, community leaders, academics and representatives from key



Community activists engaging on what the land use guide should include

organisations and movements attended and were given time to voice their contributions on the land struggle.

Members of the workshop:

- Ayanda Kota, Unemployed Peoples' Movement in Grahamstown
- South African Food Sovereignty Campaign
- Children's Resource Centre, Cape Town
- Beacon Community Garden, Mitchell's Plain
- Nazeer Soday, Phillipi Horticultural Area
- Greenhouse Project, Johannesburg
- Wits Inala Forum
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)
- Stephen Greenberg, African Centre for Biodiversity
- Florian Kroll, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)
- Femke Brandt, Centre for African Studies, UJ Postdoctoral Fellow
- Gino Govender, Rustler's Valley Farm/Earthrise Trust
- Healthy Living Alliance

The land-use guide will be used to build people's power and allow activists and communities to start imagining a different pathway for land in South Africa and for the food system. The guide will facilitate dialogue and inform community activists about the history of land in South Africa, current land reform practices and obstacles as well as possible alternatives to current land use, offering transformative solutions that communities, small-scale farmers and households can implement.

The land-use guide will be launched by the end of 2018. For similar tools developed on water, seed and food see www.safsc.org.za

The literature review on land that was presented by COPAC is also available on the SAFSC website at this link: http://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Literature-review_Advancing-food-sovereignty-through-sustainable-land-use-1.pdf.

III. LOCAL CAMPAIGNING NEWS: BUILDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

3.1 Building food sovereignty in the inner-city Johannesburg: Victoria Yards

By Aaisha Domingo

Victoria Yards in Lorentzville/Bertrams is a 30 000m² industrial space which is being redeveloped by Brian Green to create a thriving community and integrated urban complex that is all about social development. The space is being turned into a business, art and agricultural community where artisans, musicians, artists and small-scale farmers from the surrounding areas can come together to share skills and trade.

One of the key features of the space is the urban agriculture project currently being run. As soon as you walk in, you are greeted by food and herbs growing along every pathway with



signposts describing the plants, their uses and some information on how to grow them. The purpose of growing the food, according to Brian, is to feed the surrounding community which is characterised by precarious livelihoods and to provide work and skills development for residents who need it. Victoria Yards has employed about 50 people from the surrounding area to work in the gardens and learn how to grow food and has a minimum wage salary of R5000. They also help their workers with finance such as opening bank accounts and managing their accounts.

“We want to combine all artisanal kinds of skills like growing food, metalwork, carpentry etc. and provide people with a space to work and a market to sell their stuff. We also want to encourage people in the surrounding area to come and sell at our market, so we are willing to give people a space to sell free of charge. It’s about giving people who didn’t have the opportunity to get formal education a place where they can develop skills and become entrepreneurs” – Brian Green.

The Victoria Yards complex has just initiated pavement gardens for the community to encourage people from the surrounding community to get involved in growing food and in the space in general. Many of the herbs and medicinal plants they grow are indigenous and they use organic, permaculture



methods of growing food including vertical gardening and hydroponics. They are also looking to include beekeeping and vermiculture into their methods. Their academic hub is attempting to get the municipality involved in the community development projects happening in the space and they are also trying to create a forum for inner-city farmers who are interested in skills training and selling their produce at the market.



Victoria Yards and its urban agriculture project are taking the right steps towards building food sovereignty in the inner-city. For more information on this space, see their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/VicYards/>

3.2 Pirates Club Food Garden: Challenges for Urban Small-scale farming

By Aaisha Domingo

Situated at the top of a sports field, with a view of Gauteng's oldest sports club, rests the Art of Craft food garden grown and maintained by Netanya Naudé - a small-scale urban farmer. She started the garden in 2015 after being let go from her job working for a company that does organic small-scale farming and food gardens. The space she worked from was a food garden previously established by this company and had been largely abandoned and turned into a dump-site. Netanya made a deal with Pirates Sports Club to clean up the space and provide training in exchange for the use of the land.

Her motivation was to have a subsistence farm for her own food needs and to build a tea business from the herbal and medicinal plants grown in the garden. “I had already not been able to afford rent, transport and food. I was motivated by my anger and depression to grow a garden and take back my power”, says Netanya.

Netanya uses a method of gardening she calls “intuition gardening”. Not to be confused with permaculture, Netanya states that she listens to the earth and meditates in the space where she grows her food and herbs. The types of plants grown in the garden include indigenous foods such as spekboom and Kalahari white pearl corn as well as a range of other plants including Thai shallot onions, Peruvian pink amaranth, butternut, bananas, mint and New Zealand spinach. She has gained a following on Facebook and on her blog, inspiring others to build their own gardens in their backyards and creating a network for seed swapping. Netanya has faced multiple challenges concerning her project at Pirates Club. Since its establishment in 2015, she has attempted selling produce at a number of markets in Johannesburg but this proved unviable due to high costs. She has spent time in Mpumalanga and at the Swaziland border attempting to create a viable tea business and has not been able to tend to the garden and keep it healthy due to a lack of financial support and not being able to maintain volunteers.

Netanya has also spent some time with interested companies and special needs groups but none were willing to work and grow food that was not on demand. Other challenges she faces include physical and cultural challenges, transport, other skills (such as building a tunnel for the garden).



Kalahari white pearl corn with New Zealand spinach at its ground cover; red pineapple sage; marigolds



Bananas beginning to grow in Johannesburg, under a eucalyptus tree where, apparently, nothing ever grows.

“The garden taught me about permaculture gardening and about a movement of people who fight for human rights like food security and land rehabilitation through creating community based homesteads, growing local produce and medicines. It awakened my inner child and restored faith in a community whose club had busted fencing and homeless campers under their decks. On the positive side, people did invest and the river does get cleaned up every now and then. This garden led me on a journey toward my dreams.” – Netanya Naudé.

Unfortunately, Netanya has had to leave the garden at Pirates Club due to the challenges she faced and has moved to Mpumalanga to continue her business venture as a small-scale herbal and medicinal tea farmer. Her story is an important one to consider for the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign, as it highlights the importance of building networks and creating solidarity so as to build resilience and support for the many challenges facing small-scale urban farmers.

For more information on the work Netanya does, see her website: <http://artofcraft.co.za/> or contact her on 072 146 9017 and email: nnntreasure@gmail.com

IV. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES

4.1 Solidarity with #TotalShutdown protest against Femicide and Gender-based violence

SAFSC stands in solidarity with the #TotalShutdown Intersectional Women’s March Against Gender-Based Violence. We recognise the indispensable role that women play in the food system, as providers, farmers, workers, mothers, etc. and the vast injustices and abuses they face on a daily basis as women in these various roles. We support this protest, along with women from all sectors of South African society, who, on 1 August 2018 plan to shut down the country in a protest.

The following is a summary of two articles written about the protest.

The organisers have been mobilising women on social media for months in preparation for the marches which they have planned to take place simultaneously in every major city across South Africa. Women from Botswana and Lesotho are also expected to participate in the shutdown. A memorandum of demands will be handed to government after the march.

"We have nothing to celebrate. Every week we receive multiple reports of women who have been brutally murdered, kidnapped, or abused and there is no sense of urgency from our leaders to find ways in which society can tackle this violence. Women, children, gender non-

conforming people (GNC) and the LGBTQIA+ keep dying at the hands of men in South Africa and something needs to be done. This is a national crisis. We call on all women to stay away from work and join the protest on the 1st of August 2018 in their respective provinces, universities, and colleges," the organisers said.

South Africa is a leading perpetrator of gender-based violence of all kinds – domestic, emotional, economic, sexual, murder. Despite an arsenal of progressive laws and policies in South Africa to deal with gender-based violence, there has been little implementation, hence impact and gender-

based violence continue to be pervasive and at the level of systematic women's human rights violation. I have heard on many occasions that violence against women is normalised in South Africa. The violence inherited from apartheid still resonates profoundly in today's South African society dominated by deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes towards the role of women in society which makes violence against women and children an almost accepted social phenomenon.

Locating the primary cause of women's oppression within the class structure is important because women's struggle for emancipation is part of the anti-capitalist struggle – the struggle to build a society that will eliminate all forms of discrimination.

For most of the 20th century, the apartheid-based economy forced generations of men into the mining and other sectors through the migratory labour system. This meant that while the men went off to work for (usually ultra-low, exploitative) wages on the mines and in the factories, the women stayed at home to rear the children and take care of the "domestic economy". (It was partly this domestic economy that enabled the capitalist mine and factory owners to pay starvation wages).

Over the past 20-odd years, the ANC-led government has introduced many reforms, including those governing women's rights. However, because of our country's ongoing domination by "market principles", only women who can afford to "buy their rights or freedoms" in the capitalist marketplace can be regarded as emancipated. The mass of working-class women continue to suffer under the yoke of class oppression, and continue to be vulnerable to the evils of gender-based violence and subjugation by cultural and traditional norms. They will never be able to "afford" to "buy" their freedoms in the marketplace.

It is clear that unless we make fundamental changes in the nature and structure of society - unless we move away from the market-based capitalist system - women's oppression will always be with us. But this does not mean we must postpone the struggle for women's



emancipation. Structural changes must be made to the economy to free women from household drudgery and dependence.

It has been said that 1994 ushered in an era of “personal freedoms but not social freedoms”. What we need are social freedoms of the kind that liberate all, not just those who can afford to buy them.

Article sources: <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/totalshutdown-mobilises-women-against-gender-based-violence-16072251>;
<https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/time-to-free-women-from-shackles-of-capitalism-10712622>

V. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

5.1 Banned chemicals: What's all the buzz?

By Courtney Morgan



Image Source: <https://mg.co.za/article/2018-04-27-eu-to-ban-bee-killing-pesticides>

During April 2018, the 28 member states of the European Union voted in favour of a proposal to ban the outdoor use of 3 chemical insecticides; clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. This particular make up of insecticide does not stay on the surface of the plant, but is incorporated into the tissue of the plant as it grows. This means that the chemical is present in the seed, as well as the leaves, pollen and nectar, affecting any insect that tries

to eat the plant. These chemicals are also known to enter the water sources. Clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam are used as insecticides on cereal crops such as corn and barley, as well as sorghum, on potato crops and are also found in some treatments for animals to deal with fleas.

These insecticides have a similar chemical structure to that of nicotine and affect the nervous system of insects, and are particularly dangerous honey bees as they cause disorientation, decreases their resilience to diseases and in some cases can cause sterilization in male bees. Honey bees are integral to the pollination of the environment, being responsible for around three quarters of food crops in the world, and therefore are also integral to biodiversity which makes the use of these chemicals so concerning, and the banning of them key to not only the survival of bees as a species but also an important win for the entire environment, including humans. Current research is also being done on the role of these chemicals in the decline of some small insect eating birds and bats.

Despite its effects on biodiversity, clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam are all yet to be banned to be in South Africa. Thiamex, which contains Thiamethoxam, is used on mangoes, grapes, apples and citrus to control mealy bugs, aphids and weevils. Imidacloprid is used in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe on apples, citrus, potatoes and sugarcane. These pesticides are produced by big businesses such as Syngenta and Bayer, who deny its effects on bees and maintain that these chemicals are useful to farmers and are necessary for agricultural success. South Africa's large scale industrial wastage of water through commercial agriculture coupled with the use of contaminating chemicals as pesticides paints a bleak future for the country. We need to begin to pay more attention to the intricacies of the environment and the indirect biodiversity damage seemingly small acts can cause, especially in the face of decreased water availability and increased climate concerns. Finally, like many things, the decline in bee populations cannot be entirely blamed on these 3 chemicals, but the banning of these insecticides must be banned in conjunction with various environmental efforts such as the protection of bee habitats.

5.2 The Aloha Aina Tour: Hawaii's Food Sovereignty Movement

By AltruVistas – Cross-posted from Food First

Aloha Āina literally translates into “love of the land” and is a core idea of Hawaiian thought, cosmology and culture felt by many people as a focus of ecological and cultural understanding. Marilyn Borchardt from Food First (the Institute for Food and Development Policy) has attended the Aloha Āina farming excursion/tour in Oahu to explore Hawaii's food sovereignty movement.

She reports: “I was really impressed by how much intergenerational education and knowledge preservation was going on in the movement in Hawaii. One place we visited, was run by adults, but all of the work was done by youth; they grew all of the vegetables and also sold them on the market in an entrepreneurial venture. Albie Miles was instrumental in setting up a demonstration garden of all indigenous edible and medicinal plants at the [University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu’s Sustainable Agriculture program](#). While we gardened at Ho‘oula Aina Farm, nurses were also visiting, in order to learn more about native culture and the indigenous diet. And one of the educators at the poi-making demonstration we attended was also going around to schools and teaching young people how to make poi; he was preserving the cultural and root connection. It was inspiring to be meeting constantly with Native Hawaiians who were working to recover their connections to the taro ponds, the poi, and the other foods they traditionally grew and ate.



As for the challenges Hawaiians face: a lot of post-colonial Hawaii is leasehold land, so many people don’t know year-to-year whether they’ll have continued access to their land. This means it may not be wise to build any particularly intensive infrastructure. We also learned from Ashley Lukens, Program Director at [Hawai‘i Center for Food Safety](#), that a lot of the pesticide trials in the US are done in either Hawaii or Puerto Rico, and frequently near where people live or go to school. And of course, there is “big ag” like Dole, running conventional plantations. And one third of the land in Hawaii is occupied by the U.S. military.



One of the most interesting parts of our journey was the visit to the non-profit [Paepae o He‘eia](#), which is dedicated to rebuilding and caring for a traditional fish pond. Pre-colonial family groups had strips of land down from the mountaintops to the ocean—so they had access to a diversity of biozones. Back then, the entire island was ringed by ponds that were constructed with lock and gate systems. The Hawaiians would net out the big fish for food, and let the little ones back out to the ocean. Only pieces of a few of these fisheries remain.

The Native peoples we met with are determined to have greater sovereignty and control over their lives and resources. Going on this trip was inspiring, and built alliances and bridges.”

Article source: <https://foodfirst.org/aloha-aina-food-firsts-marilyn-borchardt-and-the-hawaiian-food-sovereignty-movement/>

AltruVistas (2018). Aloha Aina! Food First's Marilyn Borchardt and the Hawaiian Food Sovereignty Movement. Institute for Food and Development Policy (Food First).

5.3 Paris is Building the Eco-Community of the Future Right Now. Here's How

By Susannah Shmurak

Cross posted from Resilience News & Views

Every so often an environmentally friendly building gives us a glimpse of the low-carbon future so many climate plans envision. With the development of Clichy-Batignolles, the city of Paris has created a groundbreaking eco-village filled with such buildings. Beginning in 2002, the massive redevelopment project is about 30 percent complete and is slated to be finished in 2020.



In 2007, Paris became one of the first municipalities in the world to adopt a climate action plan, setting goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions above and beyond those outlined by the European Union. Employing virtually all the tools in the green builders' toolkit, Clichy-Batignolles aims to be tangible evidence of the city's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint as well as an experimental laboratory for testing what's possible in climate-sensitive

redevelopment. What used to be a train yard is being turned into an urban park surrounded by energy-efficient buildings that will house 7,500 residents and provide places of employment for more than 12,000 people.

Clichy-Batignolles' naturally landscaped park and eclectic modern architecture contrasts sharply with historic Paris. But what makes Clichy-Batignolles most significant cannot be seen with the naked eye. The complex planning process it pioneered involving disparate stakeholders working in concert to maximize building efficiency and minimize resource use offers other cities a road map to achieve a low-carbon future. The development's contribution to sustainable urban design was recognized in 2016, when it won the Sustainable City Grand Prize in the international Green City Solutions Awards competition.

The building footprint is kept as small as possible by maximising usable space while minimising emissions. Developers have been given permission to exceed Paris's height limit of 37 meters and when the project is complete, 10 buildings will stand 50 meters tall. Energy use for building cannot exceed 15kWh/m² so many of the buildings maximise natural sunlight and use high-density materials that capture and release heat to in heating and cooling. Some energy-efficient measures offer other benefits, too. A number of buildings have green roofs that offer not only insulation, but also garden space for residents and habitat for wildlife. One building housing an elementary school has walls covered with plants that both insulate the building and add biodiversity.

The buildings will encircle Martin Luther King Park which has permeable surfaces allow water to soak into the ground, and an underground tank collects rainwater for irrigation to minimize water use. A pond provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, and cools the surrounding area as water evaporates. 500 plant species have been planted in the park. An additional 6,500 square meters (70,000 square feet) of private green space and 16,000 square meters (170,000 square feet) of green roofs offer further opportunities for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, cooling and rainwater infiltration, while two community gardens give residents places to grow their own food and compost food waste.

The community-based model aims to enlist end users to help monitor and manage energy at Clichy-Batignolles to ensure that buildings achieve the carbon dioxide reductions they were designed to. With Clichy-Batignolles, Paris has demonstrated the capabilities of many existing tools to build carbon-neutral cities. By putting so many green building technologies to work in one place, the city has provided a working model of a low-carbon community for other cities around the world.

Shmurak, S. (2018). Paris is Building the Eco-Community of the Future Right Now. Here's How. *Resilience News*

VI. SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

6.1 News Articles and Radio Interviews

May Vishwas Satgar writes about the People's water Charter process in the Wits Curiosity May 2018 magazine <https://www.wits.ac.za/curiosity/>.

8 April Inala Forum for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice at Wits is profiled on Wits Vuvuzela, in the article titled: 'Wits student-run food garden grows for good'. Find the article at this link: <http://witsvuvuzela.com/2018/04/08/wits-student-run-food-garden-grows-for-good/>

25 March In this article in the Conversation, entitled 'A Marxist Approach appropriate for the climate crisis and the 21st century', Vishwas Satgar writes about climate change and the book he recently edited *The Climate Crisis – South African and Global Democratic Eco-Socialist Alternatives*.

22 March Vishwas Satgar comments on The Stream, by Al Jazeera on the impact that Cape Town's Water Crisis is having on the poor. View the discussion at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1224&v=yhuJwLu4vSg

22 March Maricia Smith and Keelan Krinsky are interviewed on VOW FM about their food garden at Wits and plans for a Food Sovereignty Centre and communal kitchen.

15 March This article in the Mail & Guardian, (also the editorial to this newsletter), Vishwas Satgar discusses the food sovereignty alternative to ANC and EFF land solutions. Access the article at this link: <https://mg.co.za/article/2018-03-15-food-sovereignty-the-viable-alternative-to-anc-eff-land-solutions>

9 February In this article in the Wits Vuvuzela, the Wits Communal Kitchen project at Wits is profiled. The Kitchen is being championed by COPAC, the Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach (WCCO) and Inala Forum for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice. View the article here: <https://witsvuvuzela.com/2018/02/09/wcco-to-launch-a-student-food-kitchen-this-year/>

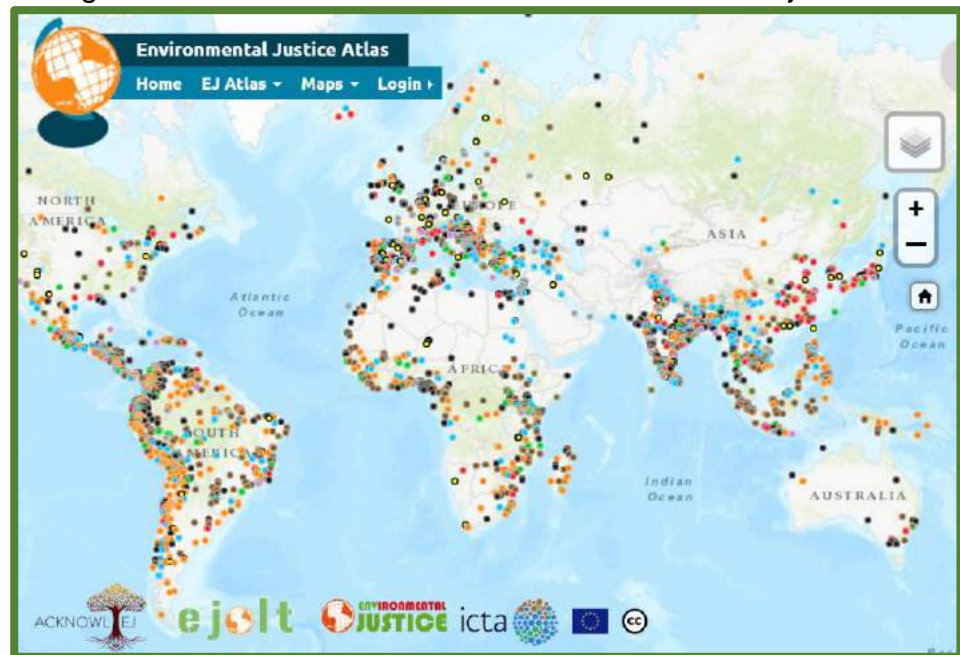
VII. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

7.1 Environmental Justice Atlas

We live in a highly extractivist world with a lot of our resources being used to fuel economies around the world, with unsustainable cycles of extraction, processing and disposal; environmental and social impacts are abundant. These impacts are often most devastatingly felt by marginalised groups, who are suffering away from the consumer eye. All around the world, there are indigenous, marginalised groups who are defending their land, water, air,

forests as well as their livelihoods by opposing projects with adverse environmental impacts such as mining, fracking and dams. Although these struggles are happening every day, they are often silenced and not in the mainstream media. The Environmental Justice Atlas which can be accessed at <https://ejatlas.org/> is an online resource which catalogues these struggles by documenting and following communities who are involved in environmental justice.

It is a great tool for those working for environmental justice to join other groups and can be used to find case studies in order to hold states and big business accountable. It is also a tool for mobilisation, and allows for coverage of struggles which are not necessarily in the public eye.



7.2 Democratic Marxism Seminars available for viewing on YouTube

Reading Capital in the 21st Century

For this seminar, Alfredo Saad Filho delivered a 3-day series of seminars and one public lecture on reading Capital in the 21st century.



The Youtube videos can be accessed at:

Day 1- <https://youtu.be/gaRzk9kFvnA>

Day 2- <https://youtu.be/1y8cVODDDQc>

Day 3- <https://youtu.be/IKZMiwkiQJo>

Public lecture- https://youtu.be/qe_as3mSk08

Democratic Marxism Vol. 3: The Climate Crisis- South African and the Global Democratic Eco- Socialist Alternatives

This seminar was a presentation on some of the chapters in the 3rd volume of the Democratic Marxism book series, by the authors; Jacklyn Cock, Patrick bond, Vishwas Satgar, Devan Pillay, Michelle Williams and Andrew Bennie. The Youtube video can be accessed at: https://youtu.be/0pN_iqudbkE



Climate Change, Transnational Class Analysis and Fossil Fuel Capitalism

This seminar was presented by William Carroll and JP Sapinski in the form of a 3 day series and 1 public lecture.



The Youtube videos can be accessed at:

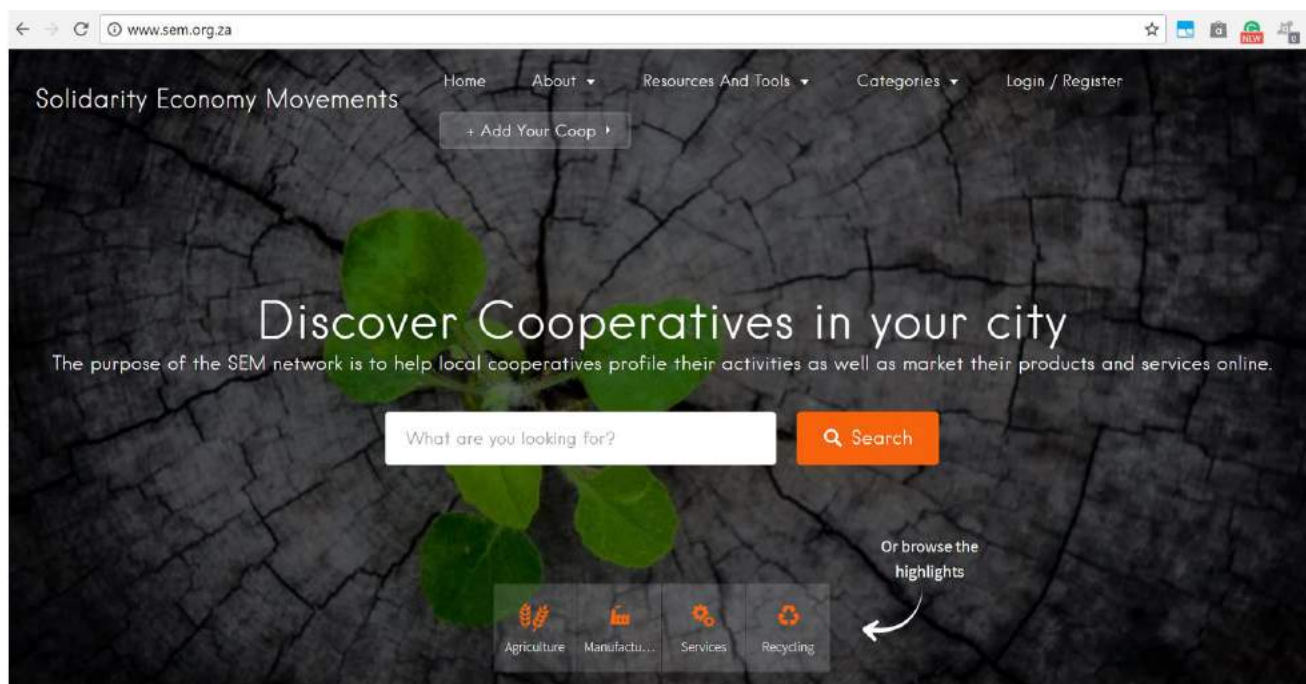
Day 1- <https://youtu.be/pmce0iPmLjY>

Day 2- <https://youtu.be/YEGsXw43rel>

Day 3- <https://youtu.be/RjP7DYt7jEA>

Public Lecture: https://youtu.be/h8ou_csoRpU

6.3 Call to Co-operatives: Solidarity Economy Movements Website



The Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre has launched a Solidarity Economy Movements website to serve as a marketing platform for co-operatives in South Africa. The website is a useful tool for all cooperatives as they can register and create a profile of their cooperative, describe their activities and market their products and services online at no charge.

The aim of this website is to promote the Solidarity Economy by providing citizens who want to support cooperatives with a portal that allows them to search for cooperatives near them.

Based on the idea of the Solidarity Economy the aim is to transform production, consumption, savings and ways of living to sustain life and advance transformative values in their practices.

We invite all cooperatives to register on the website by following these simple steps:

1. Type the following address into your internet browser: www.sem.org.za
2. Click on the block in the top right corner '+ add your coop'
3. You will then be asked to register so type in your email address and choose a password
4. Fill out all your coop details and press 'submit'

Share this link with co-operatives you know so that we can strengthen this platform for building the solidarity economy in South Africa.

More information:

www.safsc.org.za

info@safsc.org.za

