



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

Climate Justice Charter Process update

CONTENTS

1. **Editorial:** Climate eco-cide and democratic eco-socialism in South Africa
2. **National News**
 - 2.1 South Africa will not survive the climate crisis!
 - 2.2 South Africa's new seed and PVP Acts undermine farmer's rights and entrench corporate capture, control and domination
 - 2.3 A climate justice critique of South African political parties: what are the commitments of the ANC, DA and EFF to a deep just transition to sustain life?
3. **Local Campaigning News: Building Food Sovereignty in Cities, Towns and Villages**
 - 3.1 The formation of the University of Free State Food Sovereignty Campaign
 - 3.2 Growing a food commons: The roll-out of agroecology gardens at Wits
 - 3.3 The rise of urban farming in Johannesburg
 - 3.4 Small-scale farmers' market takes root at Wits
4. **Solidarity with Struggles**
 - 4.1. Waste Pickers march to be recognised
 - 4.2. La Via Campesina supports the National Strike for Peace with Social Justice in Columbia
5. **International News**
 - 5.1. Grassroots organisation, Schools for Climate Action, calls for elected officials to act on climate change
 - 5.2 Cyclone Idai: Why is the media not linking it to climate change?
6. **Climate Justice Struggles**
 - 6.1 Climate justice charter process update
 - 6.2 Drought and domestic violence: fallout from a changing climate
 - 6.3 End climate denialism in the media: march to SANEF, Press Council and Times Media
7. **SAFSC in the Media**
 - 7.1 List of SAFSC media engagements
8. **Activist Resources**
 - 8.1 ACB briefing papers: South Africa's new Seed Law and Plant Breeders' Rights Act
 - 8.2 Book: Peer to Peer: A Commons Manifesto

I. EDITORIAL

Climate Eco-cide and Democratic Eco-Socialism in South Africa

Vishwas Satgar

The end of the human race is a very real prospect in the context of climate change and ultimately a heating world. Global warming at increases of 3, 4 or 5-degree Celsius means planet earth will no longer be habitable for human and most non-human life. There is scientific evidence that this has happened to other planets like Venus but was caused through natural processes. Our end is not inevitable and neither can it be prevented by false solutions. As a scientific process, climate change is the result of the sun's rays (energy flows) being trapped in the Earth's atmosphere by greenhouse gases (such as carbon and methane). This is creating a heating planet. This article engages with this challenge from a climate justice perspective.

The making of climate eco-cide

There is a history to why Earth is heating. For the past 150 years, capitalist societies have been at the forefront of extracting, burning and emitting carbon through coal, oil and gas. Over the past fifty years there has been a "golden spike" and what climate scientists call the "hockey curve feature of carbon emissions". This means that there has been a consistent and intensive increase in carbon emissions. The scientific consensus is simple: human beings are a geological force shaping the planetary conditions that sustain life. We are causing climate change. This is now known as the age of the Anthropocene.

While we can accept at a general level such a scientific conclusion, it is misleading in terms of the actual political economy of carbon emissions and carbon capitalism. For the past 150 years of emissions the industrialised countries of the global north carry a climate debt as the main contributors to carbon emissions. In addition, about seven oil companies (Shell, BP, Exxon, Saudi Aramco etc.) have also profited from extracting and supplying fossil fuels. Various countries are also part of extracting and burning oil, gas and coal. These carbon corporations and states constitute carbon capital which is a key contributor to climate change.

The US has the largest per capita carbon footprint on the earth. Today, through fracking and support from Obama and Trump, the US is the leading fossil fuel producer in the world. The US imperial state is preventing the world from addressing the climate crisis in any meaningful way. This has been happening for more than two decades, under every US President, and this has meant the UN-led process to secure a climate deal has never been successful. The Paris Climate Agreement (2015) is a failed solution, with a weak pledge and review mechanism, married to green capitalist solutions that have not worked and will not work.

The capitalist Anthropocene reveals that rich industrialised countries, carbon capital (including in the global south like South Africa), the US imperial state and the lack of a climate justice agenda within the UN multi-lateral system are the vanguard destroying the conditions

that sustain life of human and non-human nature. Climate eco-cide, the destruction of all of us through climate change, is being led by these forces.

South Africa's carbon capitalism

South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world according to any measure. Ironically, this is a conclusion of the World Bank in its recent 2018 report. The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) have made these observations since 2014. Their research has shown that the top 10% gets two thirds of South Africa's income. Half of all South Africans are chronically poor, living in households with a per capita income of R1,149 or less per month.

With South Africa's drought, our first major climate shock, these inequalities have been made worse through high food prices, for instance. In addition, new climate inequalities have been created through the privatisation of water. The working class, unemployed and poor have borne the brunt of the drought. Alongside racialised and gendered super exploitation, high unemployment and increasing poverty, South Africa is a carbon intensive economy, based largely on coal. It is the 14th highest emitter of carbon emissions in the world, and despite energy inequality has a per capita carbon footprint higher than China, India or Brazil.

Carbon capitalism was the bedrock of apartheid and has been part of ANC hegemony, and then dominance, in the post-apartheid period. With the climate crisis, South Africa is a carbon criminal state, contributing to the greenhouse effect and the extinction of the human species and other life forms. It is an 'eco-cidal' capitalism, destroying the conditions that sustain life.

Limits of historical socialist alternatives: a Marxist ecology critique

South Africa has had a diverse socialist imagination which has included Sovietised socialism (even Trotsky's minimum program), revolutionary nationalism and social democracy. The ANC Alliance is shaped by all three versions of 20th century socialism. These socialisms have not come to the fore in South Africa in the post-apartheid period. But they lurk in the national liberation imagination. They have been theorised in a manner that grounds them in particular assumptions about nature and historical experience of these socialisms.

From a Marxist Ecology perspective these socialisms have the following problems:

1. A blindness to the fact that Marx was an original systems thinker, who connected human social relations with nature. Marx understood that the labour process mediated the relationship with nature. Further, the human-nature relationship underpinned a "metabolic relationship" with nature as a whole. This means that the more capitalism undermined natural cycles and eco-systems, the more the antagonism with nature deepened.
2. An absence of thinking about value creation as grounded in both nature and labour. While labour was "priced in", all these socialisms externalised the costs of nature in the production process. So pollution, climate change, species extinction, eco-system destruction, for

example, are not taken into account in how production is organised. Nature must be conquered.

3. These socialisms are all productivist. They copied capitalism's obsession with growth. This meant that accumulation and wealth creation were based on the assumption of endless resources. There were no ecological constraints.

4. All these socialisms are obsessed with technology as progress. But technology is not neutral. It is embedded in class relations. For corporations, science and research are about profit making. So unleashing the "forces of production" will not necessarily meet the needs of society and, worse, will have destructive consequences for nature. Genetic engineering of seeds is a good example of this.



Beyond Fatalism – the struggle for a democratic eco-socialist South Africa

South Africa's historical socialist alternatives are limited and inappropriate for the struggle to address ecological crises and, particularly, the dangerous contradiction of climate crisis. Moreover, the dominant carbon capitalism is the real challenge. Many believe that carbon capitalism is too big a problem to solve and hence either accept the end of the human race or a catastrophic future. We are at the "end of times". This is a fatalism that legitimises that madness and irrationality of carbon capitalism. It undermines any kind of mass working class-led response and is also blind to the science. Such resignation is deeply reactionary.

We have a rapidly heating world, with 12 years left to prevent catastrophic climate change and an overshoot of 1.5°C. According to the UN's IPCC Global warming of 1.5°C report, massive reductions need to be implemented, much before 2030. At least 40% of reductions must happen at 2010 levels before 2030. By 2050, net zero emissions must be reached. In this context we have to be clear about the dynamics, logic and character of contemporary carbon capitalism.

Carbon capitalism produces class, racialised and gendered inequality. But it also produces climate inequality and "eco-cidal" destruction of human and non-human life forms. Carbon capitalism is anti-life. In this context, democratic eco-socialism is central to the demand: "System Change, Not Climate Change". It recognises that "democracy" (rights, freedoms, procedures and institutional forms) is about a people's history of struggle against capitalism

and oppression; “ecology”, or the human relationship with nature, is essential for our survival and “socialism” is necessary to achieve the end of exploitation, racism and gender oppression and ensure the rational organisation of society to meet human needs.

Democratic eco-socialism – challenges and tasks for deep just transitions

There are no stages in this struggle to secure human and non-human life. We need to break with the anti-life and climate eco-cide logic of carbon capitalism now. The first challenge in this regard is to overcome old modes of politics and thinking. This means “reformist pragmatism” or “revolutionary maximalism” is not what the historical moment demands.

We are in an uncharted moment in human history which requires a response that brings to the fore what is necessary to sustain life as part of the deep just transition (an idea articulated by trade unions). We need a transformative politics that constitutes power from below, transforms the state into a climate emergency state, builds new systems to sustain life and advances just transitions in every living space so workers and the poor don’t bear the brunt of climate change. The second challenge is to recognise there are two fronts of the climate justice struggle: (i) decarbonisation across society: from extraction, production, consumption, finance, living spaces and the state; and (ii) the pro-active emergency responses to climate shocks: when communities are devastated by fires, flooding, droughts, heat waves and sea level rise.

These challenges affirm the organic and immediate tasks facing democratic eco-socialists today. Democratic eco-socialists have three crucial tasks as part of the deep just transition.

- First, building a transformative climate justice movement – a red-green alliance that can lead society. This means environmentalists have to become socialists and socialists have to become environmentalists to ensure fundamental transformation of capitalism. A new post-carbon bloc of counter-hegemonic red-green alliances led by the working class has to crystallise. This is already happening.
- Second, a programmatic approach to democratic systemic reform including decarbonisation; democratic planning; food, seed and water sovereignty; socially owned renewable energy; climate jobs; zero waste; mass clean energy public transport; solidarity economies; a substantive basic income grant that has to be scaled up now as part of deep just transitions. The Climate Justice Charter process underway is crucial in this regard.
- Third, democratic eco-socialists have to advance a vision and conception of the climate emergency state that is deeply democratic and which builds the relevant capacities to decarbonise and have functional and responsive emergency services and constructs through democratic planning of new systems to sustain life.

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II. NATIONAL NEWS

2.1 South Africa will not survive the climate crisis

Vishwas Satgar, Ferrial Adam and Itumeleng Mogatusi

South Africa's state is a climate crisis failed state. This might seem like a harsh indictment but when placed in the context of contemporary climate science, increasing climate shocks and concerns about links between climate change and eco-system collapse on a planetary scale this characterisation is accurate. The South African state is not bringing the public into its confidence about the current climate crisis and displaying climate emergency leadership. A few weeks ago the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the scientific body, advising the UN and world governments on the current climate science issued their latest scientific study on a 1.5°C increase in planetary temperature. The report confirmed that the parameters of the earth's climate system have changed with a 1°C increase in temperature since pre the industrial revolution. Extreme weather events or climate shocks are registering with more frequency which includes droughts, hurricanes, flooding and heat waves. The report also confirmed, in its comparison with a 2°C increase, that social systems and eco-systems (such as oceans, fisheries, forests) stand a better chance of surviving at 1.5°C than at 2°C. Translated into everyday language if we allow the earth's temperature to increase to 2°C this is a dangerous threshold with major risks and tipping points which could make human life on planet earth extremely uncertain. The simple truth is that we are safer at a 1.5°C threshold but have to act fast and now to ensure we do not overshoot this threshold. We have 12 years to radically alter the world's greenhouse gas emissions trajectory to prevent catastrophic climate change and remain within a 1.5°C limit.

The human species and other life forms are at a dangerous cross-roads. Generational justice also demands we act now to give the human species a chance of surviving. To prevent a 1.5°C overshoot in planetary temperature South Africa has to play its part. As a coal addicted society, with the 14th highest carbon emissions in the world, a per capita carbon footprint higher than China, India or Brazil, South Africa shoulders a major responsibility to lead by example. This means, and consistent with the IPCC report, South Africa needs to treat the climate crisis as a national emergency that can enable us to address inequalities through building new adaptation systems (water, socially owned renewable energy, food, clean energy public transport, health, production, consumption and financial systems) to sustain life. Climate crisis proofing South Africa amounts to ensuring every human being is enabled through rights, policies and democratic planning to adapt to the most dangerous challenge. The National Development Plan has to be scrapped and replaced by a Climate Emergency Plan, developed in a bottom up manner, to advance the deep just transition now.

As climate justice activists and concerned citizens, coordinated by the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Center (COPAC) and the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC), we sent an open letter to President Ramaphosa, the Speaker of Parliament and the Secretary of Parliament on the 23rd of October. This open letter is supported by over 60 civil society

organisations including trade union federations, FEDUSA and SAFTU. Besides highlighting the challenge of adaptation we also demanded immediate action on mitigation to bring down South Africa's carbon emissions to contribute to the global effort of preventing a 1.5°C overshoot. Failing to do this renders the South African state criminal, unjust and confirms its status as climate crisis failed state.

We believe the following action has to be taken to bring down our carbon emissions:

- Adjusting South Africa's peak, plateau and decline scenarios, which are out of step with the current science on a 1.5°C increase;
- Adjusting the Integrated Resource Plan by removing the ceiling on renewable energy to enable an accelerated shift to socially owned renewable energy;
- Amending the Climate Bill to ensure people driven sustainable development planning is enabled;
- Going beyond government's 'death spiral' of ESKOM approach to restructuring ESKOM to protect the interests of workers while prioritising an end to the climate driven 'death spiral of society' through advancing the deep just transition;
- Immediately ending all new investment in coal mining and fracking;

South Africa's drought is one of the worst in the history of the country and it is treated like a 'natural disaster' rather than a climate shock from which we can learn to prepare for the next drought. In economic terms South Africa's GDP reflected the impact of the drought. South Africa's maize crop production and livestock production collapsed during the drought. But this does not tell us about the suffering of workers and the poor. Low income households have been squeezed by increases in food prices, privatisation of water and even the Day Zero approach of the City of Cape Town. South Africa's drought has created new climate inequalities. With South Africa already declared a poster-child of inequality, ironically, by the World Bank in its recent 2018 report, imagine what more droughts, floods, sea-level rise and heatwaves will do. A state with a ballooning debt to GDP ratio, failing parastatals many of which are on the brink of bankruptcy, will not be able to manage a mega drought that wipes out its food crops or destroys major infrastructure through flooding. Waiting to address climate change makes it more costly and more complex to deal with.

South Africa has the opportunity to rebuild state institutions and strengthen its democracy post the Zuma disaster. In this context the imperatives of the climate crisis need to inform what we do so we construct a climate emergency state with the competencies, functions and practices to sustain life. Hence our open letter to President Ramaphosa calls for an emergency sitting of parliament to discuss the UN-IPCC report and its implications for South Africa's climate change policy. Up till now we have not received an acknowledgement or response from his office, the office of the Speaker of Parliament or the Secretary of Parliament. While we acknowledge the State President is busy mobilising foreign investors, we do not believe foreign investment and deep globalisation have addressed our developmental challenges for more than 20 years. Foreign investment is not a development strategy, particularly in the context of the climate crisis, when it is about Chinese investors wanting coal fired power stations or corporations wanting to invest in off-shore gas and oil

extraction. This is contrary the challenge of preventing the extinction of the human race and other life forms. South Africa needs to break now with fossil fuels. Globally, governments are taking action on climate change. The Spanish Government has just taken decisive action to stop coal mining and has agreed to invest in mining communities as part of the transition. The German government has also set up a commission with unions and mining affected communities to reach consensus on ending the use of coal and devising transition strategies for coal mining communities. The New Zealand government has banned off-shore drilling for oil and gas. Uruguay has a public sector led process to ensure most of its needs are met through renewables. South Africa needs to learn from these experiences to build a climate emergency state. In this context our parliament is the most important democratic platform to deliberate on the issues raised by the IPCC 1.5C report and its implications. It serves a pedagogical function for the nation, engenders a national discourse to find solutions and serves to lay the basis for rallying the country in a united manner, in the spirit of radical non-racialism, to address the climate crisis and inaugurate a deep just transition.

However, it would seem South Africa's President, Speaker and Secretary to Parliament do not believe convening an emergency sitting of parliament is in the national interest or in the interest of future generations. We, however, beg to differ and reiterate our call to the President to convene an emergency sitting of parliament to deliberate on the science of the climate crisis and our collective response. Moreover, in coming months we are calling for mass and non-violent civil resistance through convening peoples parliaments; targeting banks and financing houses that invest in fossil fuels; challenging the media to raise awareness about the climate crisis and climate justice solutions and mobilising pressure for the Human Rights Commission, the Public Protector and other democratic institutions to recognise the seriousness of the climate crisis and its implications for our rights regime; mobilising a counter narrative during the elections for political parties to understand they don't stand for climate justice in South Africa, but yet want our votes; we will also mob relevant politicians with social media; go to jail if necessary to stop fossil fuel extraction and finally we are mobilising public input into a climate justice charter process for South Africa. This charter will be adopted at a People's Assembly in 2019. The time to act is now to prevent catastrophic climate change.

2.2 South Africa's new seed and PVP Acts undermine farmer's rights and entrench corporate capture, control and domination

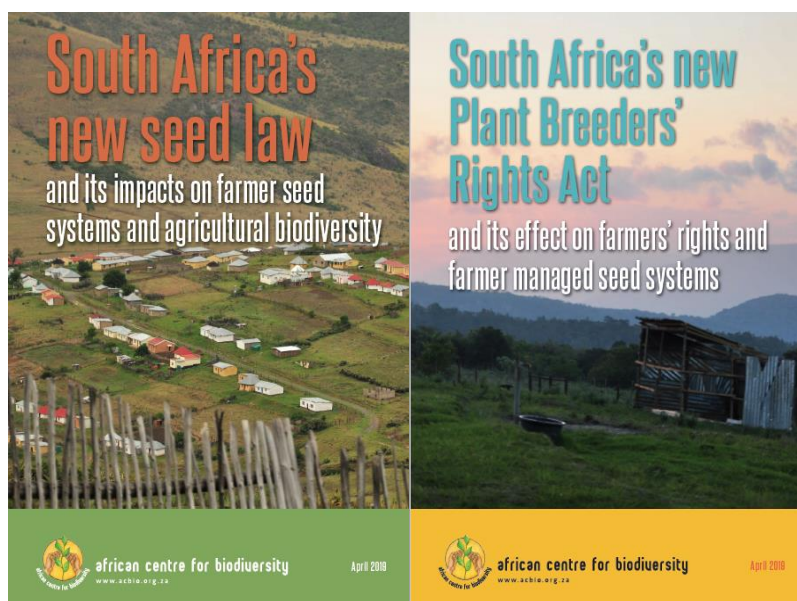
Press Release from the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), 23 April 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear friends and colleagues,

The highly problematic new Plant Improvement Act 2018 (PIA) and Plant Breeder's Rights Act 2018 (PBR), approved by Parliament last year, have been signed into law this March by the President, replacing the 1976 versions. Regulations are currently being drafted to bring these Acts fully into effect. The framing and scope of these Acts form part of the architecture that reinforces historically unequal seed, agricultural and food systems, and strengthens the

power of large-scale commercial breeders. Thus, we have called for specific exemptions to protect and support the rights of smallholder farmers and their farming systems.

During the stakeholder consultation phases, the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and networks of farmer associations and other civil society organisations (CSOs) raised concerns with government, at national and provincial levels. Some provincial governments did reject the PBR Bill but these rejections were overridden at parliamentary level by a problematic and skewed voting system and these Bills were passed in October 2018.



We have produced two updated briefings, on the [Plant Improvement Act](#) and [Plant Breeder's Rights Act](#) respectively, to provide an overview of what they mean for smallholder farmers' seed systems and for the recognition and implementation of farmers' rights in South Africa.

In a nutshell, the role of smallholder farmers in the new PIA (the seed law) in maintaining and adapting seed is left in limbo, potentially unregulated but also unrecognised. Yet diversity of seed and crops as part of broader, open-pollinated populations is maintained through farmers' use, knowledge, management, exchange and local sale of their seed. This is for sustaining agricultural biodiversity, adapted to local agroecological conditions, which ensures food availability and nutritional security.

We are uncertain whether the provisions set out in the PIA dealing with commercial varieties, pertaining to 96 crops regulated by the Act, indeed apply to farmers' varieties. This is an important issue to clarify in order to enable farmers to freely exchange and sell all seed, including their varieties, in their farmer managed seed systems. This issue has to be clarified in the Regulations, including appropriate definitions for farmer seed, which comprise of a mixture of populations of wild species/relatives, germplasm/breeding materials, landraces, and traditional/farmer/folk varieties (cultivars).

However, as ACB Director Mariam Mayet explains: "There is still a default impact on farmers' seed in the sense that it is excluded from entering the markets in South Africa, however one defines such a market. Exemptions from the PIA for smallholder farmers who are producing and selling seed is a necessary but insufficient condition for protecting and promoting farmers' access to diverse adapted seed in enough quantities at the right time. We are seeking to work towards the recognition, support and strengthening of farmer seed and seed systems that go beyond narrowly defined varieties, according to the PIA."

The PIA provides for a number of exemptions that need further elaboration in the Regulations. The exemptions in Section 23 say that varieties regulated by the Act are exempted from the PIA as long as they are available for cultivation and sale on a “non commercial scale”. Regulations need to define “non-commercial scale” so as to enable farmers, farmer collectives and other small and medium seed enterprises to produce any seed, including varieties regulated by the Act, in their systems and exchange/sell such seed without undue restrictions and compliance with legal requirements emanating from a commercial seed law.

The new PBR Act 2018 is based on the 1991 revision of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which sets binding international standards for plant variety protection (PVP). Currently, South Africa is only a member of UPOV 1978, which is a far more flexible regime, but the government intends to accede to UPOV 1991, which hugely strengthens breeders’ rights while undermining farmers’ rights.

On a contradictory note, the South African government has also indicated its intention to join the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). This Treaty not only recognises and promotes the role of smallholder farmers in reproduction, maintenance, use and exchange of agricultural biodiversity it also recognises farmers’ rights.

Under the provisions of the PBR Act 2018, breeders can seek exclusive ownership claims over a new plant variety if it passes the New, Distinct, Uniform and Stable (NDUS) testing. The grant of PBRs confers exclusive IP rights for a period of time, and restricts use by others, including farmers, unless royalties are paid.

In the PBR, the exclusive breeders’ rights are also dramatically expanded to include:

- Rights over harvested material and products derived from harvested material derived from the unauthorised use of a protected variety (e.g. to the maize grain and milled maize);
- Extending breeders’ rights over all crops, which prevents the South African government from excluding certain crops from PVP from private ownership, in the national interest, even though UPOV allows South Africa a discretionary limit, in order to keep some seed varieties in an open source or public interest space and in this regard, goes beyond UPOV 1991; and
- Extends a breeder’s right from 20 and 25 years to up to 30 years (depending on the plant variety).

Central concerns are around exceptions to breeders’ rights as set out in Chapter 2, Section 10. These exemptions are about what farmers may or may not do in relation to farm saved seed of protected varieties. Section 10(1)(a) provides for exemptions for reusing farm saved seed of protected varieties for “private and non-commercial” purposes. This concept has to be clearly defined in the Regulations in terms of which farmers this will apply to, and whether it will enable the use, exchange and sale of farm saved seed by smallholder farmers beyond

their own holding, including, harvested products and products of the harvest as part of their farming systems.

Further exemptions are provided in Section 10(2), which provides that farmers may be exempted from the law based on what the Minister indicates in Regulations pertaining to the categories of farmers, the category of plants and the use to which the protected variety will be put. We believe that a proper consultation process must be conducted with smallholder farmers and small and medium seed enterprises to assist in defining these categories. The Regulations must also define in this context what the “legitimate interest of the breeder” entails and how it relates to these exemptions in terms of royalty claims.

Highly concerning is that if South Africa ratifies UPOV 1991, government authorities will be unable to permit exemptions beyond these narrow interpretations of farmers’ privilege. And yet these exemptions are necessary for the state to fulfil its constitutional obligations towards the realisation of social and economic justice.

Penalties have also become more severe, where any contravention of the Act could lead to a fine or imprisonment of up to 10 years, and public resources will be used to police farmers in order to enforce the private rights of breeders. The Constitutionality of these provisions are questionable.

According to Linzi Lewis, researcher and advocacy officer at the ACB: “Clearly, social and economic justice needs to include a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities through stabilising and supporting the expansion of smallholder farmers in diversified agricultural and seed production. And this needs to be recognised in our policies and laws. At present, in addition to the lack of protection of the rights of smallholder farmers, they receive almost no financial, institutional or political support. Instead, agricultural support policy is oriented towards integrating a relatively thin layer of black small-scale farmers into the commercial sector, mostly through integration into large-scale commercial value chains.”

Promoting the use of farmers’ varieties, and farmers’ seed more generally, requires the space for such heterogenous seed to be sold and exchanged, on any market, and for the right of farmers to continue these routine practices to be supported. Farmers’ rights to save, use, exchange and sell all farm-saved seed is a *sina qua non* for their contributions to the ongoing evolution of crop diversity and their use.

For more information, please contact ACB Executive Director Mariam Mayet on mariam@acbio.org.za.

Please see the links to both the seed briefing papers, as well as the press release below:

[Press release South Africa’s new seed and PVP Acts undermine farmers’ rights and entrench corporate capture, control and domination](#)

For further information, please see these previous ACB publications on this issue:
[Parliamentary consultation & decision making on SA's Corporate Seed Bills a Sham!!](#)
[Reflections on ITPGRFA, UPOV 1991 and South Africa](#)
[ACB's comments on the Plant Breeders Rights Bill](#)
[Concerns with the Revised Plant Breeders' Rights Act](#)

2.3 A climate justice critique of South African political parties: what are the commitments of the ANC, DA and EFF to a deep just transition to sustain life?

Issued by COPAC and SAFSC

1. Introduction

South Africa goes to its 6th national elections on May 8th, 2019, with 48 contesting parties. This is in a context in which inequality is worsening, costs of living are going up and unemployment is a major challenge. This election is also happening while South Africa's worst drought in recorded history is still ravaging various villages and towns. All our political parties have failed to recognize the drought as a climate shock. All seemed surprised by cyclone Idai, another climate shock, and its devastation. The science on climate change from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is clear that as planet earth is heated through more greenhouse gas emissions (from burning coal, oil and gas) we will have more extreme weather shocks such as droughts, heatwaves, floods, cyclones and more. We are currently at 1.2 degree Celsius hotter since before the industrial revolution and are fast heading to a 1.5C overshoot unless over the next 12 years we cut emissions by 45% to 2010 levels and to net zero by 2050. We have 12 years to prevent catastrophic climate change. This climate justice critique is based on a reading of party manifestos. It applies to all political parties while making specific critiques of the ANC, DA and EFF, the larger parties in South Africa's current political system.

2. General Climate Justice Critique of Political Parties

2.1 The climate crisis is a systemic crisis of carbon driven global capitalism. It has its origins in 150 years of fossil fuel extraction and use by rich industrialised countries. Industrialising countries like China, Brazil, India and Russia control substantial amounts of fossil fuel reserves today. South Africa's coal addiction also makes it a carbon criminal state. Its use of coal intensifies climate change and its impacts through extreme weather events, including on the continent. More climate change brings climate inequalities and injustices through escalating food and water costs as well as job losses. Many farm workers have been retrenched in the context of South Africa's drought. None of the parties understand climate change as a dangerous contradiction driven by carbon capitalism and the need for South Africa to be a climate justice state in relation with its people, on the continent and the world stage.

2.2 The climate crisis is a complex and interconnected crisis. Given that carbon is not just extracted but is also used as a major energy source across economies. Moreover, carbon energy use differs from sectors. In South Africa at least 9% of emissions come from globalised agriculture. Carbon is also used in various industrial processes such as construction. An energy transition to socially owned renewables is just one part of the challenge. Decarbonising the economy is a broader challenge. Moreover, as climate shocks continue we need new adaptive systems that sustain life. We have to recognize the interconnections of cause and multiple effects. Cyclone Idai and its effects could have been mitigated if there were proper disaster management systems, media reporting, dam management, food sovereignty systems, health systems, functioning across the country for example. Instead, river flooding started before Idai hit landfall in central Mozambique, dam walls failed, there was inadequate communication to warn people and disaster management systems have been overwhelmed. Cholera, hunger, lack of access to health care and water stress are claiming lives besides the direct impact of the cyclone. South Africa's drought, another example of a climate shock, has also had several effects on society, economy and ecological relations. None of the political parties understand or would like to voice the complexity of the climate crisis.

2.3 We have a crisis of climate leadership amongst all South Africa's political parties and none are committed to ensuring South Africa, the region and the continent is on a climate emergency footing. Being on a climate emergency footing means advancing a deep just transition/s to ensure regulated, purposive, ambitions and planned reductions in carbon emissions to prevent a 1.5C overshoot and the necessary adaptive systems are in place that transform energy, production, consumption, finance and public systems through democratic systemic reforms to ensure workers, the poor and the vulnerable do not pay the price of the transition and climate shocks. Such a deep just transition is led by the working class and mass social forces, rooted in a red-green alliance seeking climate justice.

2.4 None of South Africa's parties understand the climate crisis as part of larger ecological crisis. More extraction, pollution, chemical based agriculture, waste, deforestation and over consumption are undermining natural cycles of the earth system and accelerating species extinction. Several planetary bio-physical limits (fresh water, land use, ocean acidification, bio-geochemical flows, for example) are being breached and capitalism's eco-cidal logic is creating a toxic and unlivable world. We need to reconnect with the web of life, recognise we share the planet with other life forms that have rights and have to rethink everything from the standpoint of eco-centric ethics and the deep just transition. None of the political parties are making these arguments to confront the ecocidal logic of capitalism.

3. Climate Justice Critique of the African National Congress (ANC)

3.1 The ANC as the ruling party in South Africa has locked South Africa into the pledge and review mechanism of the United Nations. The ANC government turned its back on a climate justice approach to the historical debt owed by rich industrialised countries, to ambitious regulated reductions in carbon emissions and is certainly not positioning South Africa as a climate justice state on the continent. Moreover, its response to the drought, as a major

climate shock, has been dismal. A national disaster was declared in early 2018 after the food system collapsed, many communities were ravaged by the drought and after the national department of water affairs was looted, with various water delivery projects compromised. The drought continues in South Africa and there is no leadership from the ANC state to learn lessons and prepare for the next round of climate shocks. The drought and the climate crisis are not mentioned in the manifesto. There is no explicit theme in the manifesto dealing with the climate crisis.

3.2 The ANC manifesto vaunts its successes and is very self congratulatory. It reads as though South Africa owes the ANC a debt for the great job it has done based on a set of quantitative indicators showing grand successes and improvements. These magnitudes of success hide more than they reveal. South Africa has an economy in deep crisis; inequalities, unemployment and hunger have increased. The ANC takes no responsibility for this disaster and crisis of social reproduction it has led South Africa into for 25 years. Climate shocks will only deepen the suffering of the majority. Yet, the ANC manifesto makes no effort to bring to the fore the existential threat of the climate crisis.

3.3 The ANC proclaims a commitment to industrialisation (including for localised renewable energy technology production), the '4th industrial revolution', township economies, land reform, public transport, National Health Insurance etc. in a context in which state capture has fundamentally compromised the ability of the state to lead even modest reforms. The Arms deal, Nkandla, 'Ace-Gate' and BOSASA are only the tip of the rotten rubbish heap. According to the auditor general reports, 2017-2018, irregular expenditure in government was R72 billion. The majority of state entities audited had adverse findings. The country knows, through the Zondo Commission, how ANC factions have been engaged in state capture regarding Eskom (South Africa's monopoly energy parastatal). The ANC cannot be trusted with leading industrialisation of renewables, laying the basis for a transition to a renewable energy system, for resolving the challenges of Eskom and fixing our water systems. More state failure rather than the makings of a climate emergency state should be expected.

3.4 The ANC manifesto calls for gas and oil extraction in our oceans. It also understands renewables as a compliment to coal. All of this is linked to the investment game plan of raising investment levels to R1.3 trillion over the next 4 years. The ANC manifesto still envisages a deeply globalised economy, driven by the interests of transnational capital. Within that it is creating space for black industrial capital, agrarian capital, cooperatives and worker ownership in the economy through employee stock option schemes. De-racialising capitalism is at the heart of its multi-class project; a little bit more trickle down with a slightly broader base. Ironically globalisation has never and will never be a development strategy let alone a basis to transform South Africa to deal with accelerating climate change. The ANC has an impoverished imagination with no new thinking; its manifesto merely reveals more of the same.

4. Climate Justice Critique of the Democratic Alliance (DA)

4.1 The DA failed to prepare Cape Town for its drought, despite science based warnings, academic warnings and more. Its day-zero approach placed a squeeze on poor households

and passed on the pressure of managing the drought to working class, middle class and poor households. It did not challenge water ownership and control by white agricultural interests. It forced the use of desalination plants as an emergency measure and at great cost to tax payers. Moreover, high water levies raised billions for the DA led Metro while working class and poor households are faced with punitive tariffs that undermine their water needs. Day zero was about climate injustice and creating new climate inequalities. As a neoliberal party, the DA has expressed a 'green neoliberal' response to the drought which always privileges the wealthy. Hence it has encouraged thousands of boreholes in Cape Town and smaller towns, which is only affordable by the wealthy and which threatens the long run viability of aquifers in these areas.

4.2. The DA has a manifesto that deals explicitly with climate change and the need for a resilience plan. Several problems stand out. First, the DA views the Paris Climate Agreement as a viable instrument for dealing with emission reductions. It's voluntary approach to reducing emissions and building a registry is really just about green wash. South Africa needs more than this to meet its reduction targets given the current science and urgency. Second, it supports fracking, nuclear and off shore gas extraction. Like the ANC it still has a shallow conception of how to get to a zero carbon economy. Third, it has a private sector led approach to renewable energy. Essentially Eskom must make way for independent power producers that supply the national grid and local governments. There is no real concern for workers in Eskom or for the working conditions of workers in the renewables industry. Renewable energy capital, not workers, communities, households or public institutions, is the key driver of the energy transition in their manifesto. Fourth, the DA advocates carbon capture and storage as a solution for South Africa's emission problems. This is an untried technology and a technofix that distracts from the need for a deep just transition to a zero carbon energy system.

4.3 The DA approach to water reflects the interest of white, agro-industrial capital, in the main. It recognises the impacts of the drought on farmers and hence champions more dams, infrastructure and policy support for these farmers. The DA does not question the fact that 62% of South Africa's water resources are controlled by these farmers. Moreover, this kind of mono-industrial agriculture failed South Africa in the drought; it collapsed. South Africa needs a new food system based on localisation (not exports) small scale farmers, agro-ecology and seed, water and food sovereignty.

5. Climate Justice Critique of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)

5.1 The EFF is a racist political party, Afro-chauvinist, with a strong authoritarian populist streak. Some would prefer to describe it as 'Black Neo-fascist'. It is generally not clear what it stands for; it has contradictory policies and practices. One day it is for the constitution and another day against; one day against corruption and another day it's leaders are implicated in corruption (VBS 'bank heist', tender hijacking in Metros, for example); one day for state ownership and another for stakeholder capitalism. Its manifesto has a section on 'Environment and Climate', while the document still supports a carbon, mainly coal based and mining driven economy. It's commitment to addressing the climate crisis, let alone the larger planetary ecological crisis, is incoherent to say the least and its explicit target to reduce

emissions by 10% in 2024 is certainly not ambitious enough. It betrays a lack of understanding of the urgency of the climate crisis and scientific necessity to cut emissions even more drastically. This is a party without any progressive values. In general, it represents a nativist resource nationalism, which is exclusionary, opportunistic and its general orientation is against a climate justice politics that stands for all the workers, poor and vulnerable in our society – black and white.

5.2 The energy section is one that is probably the least progressive section of the manifesto. It has no original thinking on the energy transition challenge as part of the larger deep just transition. The EFF is state centric in its energy approach and supports the use of mixed energy sources, including so-called safe coal, nuclear energy, as well as, renewables. The plan outlined in the manifesto is that an EFF government will have a state owned company take over all Eskom owned coal mines and assist Eskom in establishing a renewable energy division, with the energy base still anchored on coal and nuclear. It will also end preferential pricing to big energy uses. The EFF's energy approach completely avoids and neglects the dangers of coal and nuclear, and shows a lack of understanding of the urgency to completely break from fossil fuels and false energy solutions to ensure a rapid transition to a zero carbon energy system based on socially owned renewables.

5.3 The EFF is committed to a resource nationalism based on reproducing South Africa's toxic minerals-energy complex through a statist capitalism which has immense potential to be even more corrupt than what we are experiencing. Understanding the climate crisis in its interconnections requiring systemic alternatives to drive the deep just transition is absent. The EFF endorses the One Million Climate Jobs Campaign, while still committed to an energy program centered on coal and nuclear energy, merely, discrediting and making a mockery of the campaign. The EFF commits to the 'Green Revolution', as part of its understanding of agricultural transformation. The 'Green Revolution' is about productivist, corporate led agriculture. Such agriculture collapsed during South Africa's drought and on a global scale contributes about 40% to global emissions. This is not a systemic alternative to address the challenges of building a new food system in South Africa. On water issues, the EFF merely has a narrow 'service delivery approach'. Yes, safe, clean water must be delivered to the people. But from the standpoint of the deep just transition our water resources are being compromised by more mining, including coal mining, which the EFF supports. An example of contradictory EFF practice is their support for the Xolobeni community's rejection of mining. This is rather hypocritical given the EFF's support for more mining. Corruption has affected water infrastructure delivery and the EFF is no shining example of fighting corruption. South Africa needs more than a shopping list approach to its water crisis. It needs a people driven water sovereignty approach to planning, managing and sharing our water commons.

6. Towards a Climate Justice Charter for South Africa

South Africa has a crisis of political leadership regarding the climate crisis. It is in this context we invite all living in South Africa to contribute to the Climate Justice Charter for South Africa to ensure we hasten the deep just transition to ensure the workers, the poor and vulnerable do not pay the price of climate change. We also have an inter-generational obligation to act,

now, to ensure present and future generations have a future. It is not too late to act to prevent the extinction of human and non-human life forms.

Key themes for the charter to be elaborated in grassroots dialogues relate to systemic alternatives that would bring down carbon emissions and ensure we sustain life as climate shocks hit. These themes include:

- Principles for the Charter
- Our conception of the just transition for South Africa taking into account class, race, gender and ecological relations
- Systemic alternatives related to land use, water, rights of nature, energy, food, production, consumption, waste, transport, housing, finance;
- The role of the climate emergency state and our international relations as a climate justice society;
- Communication, education and awareness raising to mobilise society
- The role and form of people's power from below

Send your input to:

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

3.1. The formation of the University of Free State Food Sovereignty Campaign

By Tshiamo Malatji, UFS Food Sovereignty Campaign Member

In 2017, as many as eight out of ten students at the University of the Free State indicated that, at least sometimes, they ran out of food and were not able to buy. This is shockingly revealed in a Food Insecurity Report commissioned by the university's Student Affairs. Although the cause was not thoroughly investigated by the university, its food systems narrate exclusion and unsustainability.

Food cafeterias and fast-food outlets are beyond the affordability range of most students and the university's feeding scheme is capicated to only help a few students. Launched in 2011, the No Student Hungry programme operates as a food bank for students. It estimates that it would cost R68 450 000 to feed 10 000 students for 185 days per year, according to the

programme's 2017 report. Between 2011 and 2017, the programme has been able to assist 864 students -- about 123 students a year.

The solution to an exclusive market-based food system should not be an ostensibly exclusive food scheme, especially when the university can pursue an alternative -- food sovereignty. At present, multiple student associations have joined together to form the UFS Food Sovereignty Campaign.

This is a grassroots student movement that aims to eradicate hunger at the university through sustainable, culturally-relevant and student-centred agriculture projects. These projects include food gardens, which maintain biodiversity, agroecology and the sustainable, safe and just use of resources (land, water and seed). Ultimately, the campaign aims to create a food sovereign system at the university where students can independently produce and distribute food.

A workshop was held on the 12th of April 2019 to explain the concept of food sovereignty to students and staff of the University of the Free State, in line with the university's Integrated Transformation Plan objective to create a sustainable food system. The workshop explained how to merge ecological principles and agriculture to serve the needs of students and the environment.



On the 24th of May 2019, the campaign will participate in a Zero Hunger Festival, releasing a written declaration for food sovereignty. From there, the campaign intends to lobby a dedicated planting area at the university for a pilot food garden, followed by an extensive agroecology plan for an alternative food system.

3.2. Growing a food commons: The roll-out of agroecology gardens at Wits University

By Courtney Morgan

Food and water are crucial to sustain life. In a world where both food and water are privatised and are provided by industries which put profit over people, it is imperative that at the grass roots level we are organising and teaching each other how to survive. The climate crisis, in conjunction with the crisis of capitalism is making access to water and food more and more scarce but there are alternatives. Agroecology, as an alternative is being practiced at Wits University through the roll-out of food gardens on campus, with the purpose of creating a pathway for food sovereignty at the university. If we are to succeed in entrenching food sovereignty, there is much to learn.

On the 26th to the 28th of February, COPAC hosted agroecologist John Nzira at Wits University at International House to establish a food garden. John ran a practical workshop, which included theory sessions where he taught us fruitful lessons on agroecology and water harvesting. The workshop also had practical sessions where participants got their hands dirty and worked the ground to prepare the soil, dig compost pits and plant various vegetables. Over the 3 days, participants were able to establish two vegetable gardens with basil, spinach, cabbage, onions etc planted, one herb garden and managed to plant a number of fruit and nut trees and dig two compost pits. The workshop was not only successful because the seedlings were planted, but participants went away with a wealth of knowledge.



On the 11th March, till the 13th March, COPAC hosted Nazeer Sondag and Susanna Coleman from the Philippi Horticulture Area in Cape Town for another workshop. This workshop established a food garden at Sunnyside residence, and also included theory sessions. With Nazeer's guidance, the participants took climatic conditions and the topography into account



and designed the garden in accordance with the lessons that Nazeer gave. At that workshop, we learnt about various natural pesticides, how certain pests are repelled by insects, as well as an extensive composting tutorial. In addition to various well known vegetables being planted in the garden, there was also a number of indigenous plants planted as well as trees and a large pile compost was started, which will hopefully be used for the future gardens.

On the 10th of April, we had an exciting visit from the leadership of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Germany, and other German delegates who came to Wits to inaugurate the gardens. After a short introduction by vice chancellor Adam Habib and presentation by COPAC director, Vishwas Satgar, the delegates made their way to the gardens where we held a tree planting ceremony and planted two fig trees at the International House gardens.

In total, there will be a roll out of 21 gardens across Wits University called Rosa's gardens, in memory of Rosa Luxemburg, a Polish/German Marxist who was murdered 100 years ago for her ideologies. The training will be used in establishing future gardens on campus to advance a food commons, and can also be used by participants to build their own pavement or backyard gardens.



3.3. The Rise of Urban Farming in Johannesburg

By Fatima Moosa

Originally published in The Daily Vox

Small farms and gardens have begun popping up all around the Johannesburg inner-city. The contrasts between the bustling urban environment and the greenery of these farms could not be more different. From Bertrams to Braamfontein, these farms might seem like the newest trend but they serve very important purposes.

At Wits University, the Co-operative and Policy Centre (COPAC) and the Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach Centre (WCCO) have started a farmer's market. This brings together urban and small-scale farmers to sell their products and inform more people about urban farming.

Urban Farming Movement

Urban farming movement is at its essence about “the growing of food in the city or on its periphery, on a relatively small scale; and sometimes extends to rearing goats, rabbits, chickens and ducks, and keeping bees.”

Growing fresh produce or rearing animals in the city brings with it a lot of questions about space management. Urban farming projects stretches the imagination about where and how the farming takes place. From small plots in parks to universities and even people's backyards, these farms are everywhere.

Projects in Johannesburg

One such project is the Wits Food Sovereignty Centre. Started at the University of Witwatersrand, the project forms part of a bigger push at the university to fight food insecurity and introduce food sovereignty. Part of the project is a food garden, food bank, and student communal kitchen. The whole purpose of the project is to create a sustainable pathway to the city of developing urban and small-scale farming and indigenous methods of growing.

Wits Project Aims to Create Sustainable and Healthy Eating On Campus

In 2018 The Daily Vox spoke to Courtney Morgan, an intern at COPAC. She said: “We want to create a market where different urban food gardeners can come together. One of the issues with small scale farming is that people don't trust it – they see a woman selling her vegetables – they think that's dirty as compared to the supermarket ones but the one on the side of the street is healthier. We want to show that small scale farming is viable in the city.”

Wits Farmers Market

The market kicked off in 2019. The Daily Vox attended the second edition of the market which took place on April 26.

On a grassy embankment across from the Centre, the farmers had their five stalls set up. The farmers at the market come from many different areas around Johannesburg. Another farmer was supposed to be at the market but reportedly couldn't because of car troubles. Slowly students began trickling into the area to buy produce from the farmers. There was a varying range of produce from lettuce, herbs, spring onion, and chillies.

As the time for lunch approached, a long snaking line of students gathered at the centre. These students are part of the reason why this project was started at Wits. Many students at the university and universities around the country do not have the resources for food. This means that many students are forced to study on empty stomachs. If they do have access to food, it is often unhealthy, fast food outlets they turn to.

Learning on an empty stomach: food insecurity hits students hard

Belinda Ratyana and Robert Mutero work together at Belz Greenz and Herbz at the National School of Arts in Braamfontein. Their produce is grown through hydroponic methods and it only takes one month to grow.

Ratyana says coming to the market is important. "Students staying in the residences can't go [to shop] because their schedules are busy. So at least when we bring things to them it helps them. A lot of street kids and those far from home need to eat healthy so we are helping communities that can't afford," Ratyana said.

Food Sovereignty and Food Security

One of the other farmers at the market was Sandy Perry based in Observatory. She started the farm to grow food for her own family. However, more than that Perry says urban farming is about having security and sovereignty in producing foods.

"Being food secure means that you are able to feed yourself. That could mean going to a store to feed yourself because you have an income and you actually have some feeding your family. Food sovereignty is having some kind of ownership about the source of your food because even if you buy the food you don't know where your food is coming from," said Perry.

Antonette Mpolokeng Madibe: "I am working with the community who make the chilli. I make the chilli and do agro-processing. We are trying to collaborate so that when they get the chill, they give it to me and I process it and sell it for the market. The farmers are important because we can help with the poverty. The government must come in and ask Wits and ask what we need. We need the barcode for our products then it can go to retail. Then we can go import and export."

However, the issue of food sovereignty extends far beyond university students. In 2017, The Daily Vox spoke to Professor Sheryl Hendriks, director of the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Well-being at the University of Pretoria. According to Hendriks, one-fifth of South Africa's population are food insecure, generally low-income and many rely on social grants with rural

provinces such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal among the most affected. This is what the urban farmers hope to tackle.

Support for Farmers

Most of the farmers at the market were unequivocal about the need for more support for urban and small-scale farmers. Perry said if there is no support for farmers, they won't be able to maintain consistent crops. "With the climate changes they will be unable to sustain themselves," said Perry.

Mam Vi says she uses the City of Johannesburg's land for her farm but can't wait until she owns her own land. "Growing your food to feed the nation is important. There are people who want to eat natural food and we accommodate them," said Mam Vi. She believes that President Cyril Ramaphosa will be able to give her the land she needs for farming.

"I believe in Ramaphosa. He assisted this country to unbundle the corruption we were under. I believe that very soon after the election the land will be released. I applied with the Land Reform and they contacted me two weeks ago to tell me I am 429." said Mam Vi.

Urban Farming Around the World

Urban farming is not just happening in Johannesburg, and South Africa. There are many projects such as these in Kampala, Uganda, and Tokyo, Japan. These projects are all about turning urban spaces into farms. The benefits of the project is boosting local economies and providing greater food security.

With the effects of climate change, food insecurity and more radical weather changes will become more pronounced. Changes will need to be made. Urban farming is one of the ways communities are using to combat this.

3.3. Small-scale farmers' market takes root at Wits

Imaan Moosa

Healthier and low-cost food alternatives for Wits students and staff.

The Wits Food Sovereignty centre hosted their second farmers' market of the year on Friday, April 26 outside the Sanctuary Building on East Campus.

The market has been set up to provide staff and students with healthier food alternatives at a lower cost through the sale of fresh produce and products



Second-year Bachelor of Arts student Joy Tlakula, left front, buys vegetables from a small-scale farmer at the Wits Farmers' Market outside the Sanctuary Building on Friday, April 26. Photo: Imaan Moosa

from small-scale farmers operating in the Joburg inner city.

“Some people cannot afford [fruit and vegetables] so at least at the end of the day, we can have our own Woolworths and our own Fruit & Veg [City],” said Antoinette Ponki Madibe, one of the farmers at the market.

Madibe is involved in the agro-processing sector which involves the transformation of raw materials from agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Madibe began agro-processing to “give back to my community”.

CORPORATE CONTROLLED FOOD SYSTEM

VERSUS

SMALL-SCALE FOOD SYSTEM

COMPARING THE PRICES OF FOOD PRODUCTS FROM A
BIG BUSINESS AND A SMALL-SCALE URBAN FARMER

 Pick n Pay	 Anthea Agricultural Holdings Owner Thembi Nxualo, small- scale farmer
Green beans 1.5 kg R114.85	Green beans 1.5 kg R15.00
Sweet potato 1 kg R23.99	Sweet potato 1 kg R10.00
Peppers 3s R38.99	Peppers 3s R10.00
Pumpkin 500 g R22.47	Pumpkin 500 g R10.00
Kale 500 g R12.99	Kale 500 g R10.00

“The government says we can’t feed the nation because we’re too small. We have customers,” said Violet Phala, otherwise known as Mama Vi, who is a herb and vegetable farmer. Phala supplies her produce to Jackson’s Real Food Market, Fruits and Roots, Thrupps Illovo Centre, Urban Foods and Organic Emporium.

Jane Cherry, executive manager of COPAC, said the purpose of the market was “to build a pathway for food sovereignty, an alternative to the current corporate food system where profits go to the supermarkets instead of the farmers”.

“We try to be as cheap as possible to make it as affordable as possible. It is very clean and healthy,” said Robert Mutero, a farmer based at the National School of the Arts in Braamfontein.

The food sovereignty centre is a collaborative project launched by student organisation Inala, the Wits Community Citizenship and Outreach (WCCO) programme and the Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre (COPAC), a non-governmental organisation which seeks to offer sustainable solutions to hunger on campus. The farmers’ market is expected to take place every month.

Article appeared originally at
<https://witsvuvuzela.com/2019/04/27/small-scale-farmers-market-takes-root-at-wits/>

IV. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES

4.1 Waste Pickers march to be recognised

By Zoë Postman, 2 May 2019, cross posted from Ground Up



About 200 waste pickers marched from Mary Fitzgerald Square in Newtown to the Pikitup and the City of Johannesburg offices in Braamfontein on Thursday morning. Photo: Zoë Postman

About 200 waste pickers marched from Mary Fitzgerald Square in Newtown to Pikitup and the City of Johannesburg offices in Braamfontein on Thursday morning. The march was organised by African Reclaimers Organisation (ARO), a group formed in 2017 to represent Johannesburg's street and landfill waste pickers.

The waste pickers demanded that the City stop any plans to hire private companies to

recycle, stop closure of landfills, open recycling hubs, provide protective equipment and compensate waste pickers who help the City with the registration of waste pickers.

They also demanded that the City implement the Department of Environmental Affairs [guidelines](#) and the City's framework policy for integration of waste pickers.

The protesters handed a memorandum of demands to the acting Managing Director of Pikitup, Segala Malahlela. He promised to take time to understand their demands and respond with solutions.

But one of the waste pickers, Steven Leeu, told GroundUp that they had already created policies and documents that would assist with integration of waste pickers. "But the problem is that [Pikitup] keeps bringing new management who don't know anything and then we have to start from scratch and teach them about our demands," he said.

When the protesters arrived at the City's offices, the group expected Mayco Member for Environment and Infrastructure Services, Nico de Jager, to receive the memorandum but he had other commitments. One of his representatives, Stephen Moore, received and signed the memorandum on his behalf.

Addressing the crowd outside the City's offices, Leeu, said: "We are disappointed to hear that De Jager is not here to meet with us today because every time we try to meet with him, he has an excuse yet he goes on public platforms and says he is trying to engage with waste pickers."

Chairperson of ARO, Eva Mokoena, said the march followed two years of fruitless engagement with Pikitup and the City.

She reiterated that waste pickers, the City and Pikitup had drafted a framework policy that would assist with integration of waste pickers into the City's waste management system in 2017. She said the document was supposed to be signed in 2018 but that never happened.

"We marched here today to remind the City and Pikitup that they promised to implement those demands in the framework document but they have failed to do so until now," Mokoena told GroundUp.

Both Moore and Malahlela promised to respond to the demands within two weeks.

Article Source: <https://www.groundup.org.za/article/waste-pickers-march-be-recognised/>

4.2 La Via Campesina supports the National Strike for Peace with Social Justice in Colombia

Press release issued by La Via Campesina

(Harare, 25 April 2019) La Vía Campesina stands in support of the organized sectors of Colombian society mobilizing this 25th of April, in a National Peasant, Indigenous, Afro-descendent, Worker and Popular Strike. The strike is being organized to demand the full implementation of the Peace Agreement, an end to all violence in the countryside, and the outright rejection of the government's National Development Plan which places the interests of transnational corporations above life, the defense of territories, and Food Sovereignty.

The National Strike is an articulation between trade unions, youth movements, and both agrarian and urban organizations joined together in defense of their territories and a lasting peace in Colombia.

For this reason, La Vía Campesina adds ours to the voices in defense of life, land, an integral and democratic agrarian reform that guarantees Food Sovereignty, territory and peasants' rights, as well as workers' rights for the urban populations. At the same time, we call on the Colombian government to respect the Peace Agreement signed with the FARC and to maintain spaces of dialogue with the ELN. The Colombian people deserve peace with social justice.

We believe that the National Development Plan must recognize peasants as political subjects and therefore guarantee their rights, recognize cultural diversity, guarantee livelihoods in harmony with the environment and the social, political and cultural well-being of the

Colombian people. Only in this way will a true implementation of the Peace Agreement be realized.

Solidarity is the tenderness of the peoples!

Peasants Rights NOW! With Agrarian Reform and Social Justice!

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Article source: <https://www.eurovia.org/la-via-campesina-supports-the-national-strike-for-peace-with-social-justice-in-colombia/>

V. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

5.1 Grassroots organisation, Schools for Climate Action, calls for elected officials to act on climate change

By Tanya Turneure teacher and climate activist, Sonoma County, California

Even before the Sonoma County California fires tore through our hills and communities in the fall of 2017, a colleague at the school where I teach invited a group of concerned parents, teachers, and students to his home to discuss what we could do to combat climate change. In the spring of 2017, we gathered to watch films and to discuss data and strategy. By mid-summer 2017, we reached out to board members of our local Sebastopol Union School District (SUSD). We handed them a template climate resolution, and that fall--no doubt spurred on by the fires--SUSD became one of the first public school districts in the United States to pass a resolution addressing climate change. And over the next months, we got a climate resolution passed at the Sonoma County Office of Education, and we and other activists replicated our work in several additional local school districts.

Fundamentally, our organization names climate change as a generational justice issue, as the youngest of us stand to face the most severe consequences of a changing climate. We ask public school districts--as some of the only public institutions solely devoted to the welfare of children--to pass resolutions that recognize climate change as a generational justice issue and ask the U.S. Congress to act on climate change. At the same time, we coach young people on how to approach elected officials and advocate for their interests. Many of the Schools for Climate Action (SCA) climate resolutions have passed as a direct result of emails, letters, phone calls, meetings, and public statements by our youth members.

As our network has grown, students, teachers, parents, and concerned citizens have worked to pass further climate resolutions across the United States. To date, twenty-eight school district resolutions have passed, and additional districts, as well as some umbrella organizations, are currently considering resolutions. Many districts have embedded green initiatives into their resolutions, including projects such as school gardens and solar panels that both reduce the schools' carbon footprints and educate the students on sustainable practices. Furthermore, in the spring of 2018, a few SCA members traveled to Washington D.C. to deliver copies of climate resolutions to Congress, and we plan to send a larger contingent in 2019 to hand deliver resolutions to every member of Congress. It is our hope that Congresspeople will follow the lead of the multitudes of local elected officials who have the support of their constituencies.

Since the time of SCA's inception, we have experienced devastating fires elsewhere in California, and climate change has continued to affect humans and habitats all over the globe in myriad and unprecedented ways. We hope that other activist-citizens around the world replicate or adapt the SCA model in their own locales, strengthening our collective political will to act on climate change. Please visit our Schools for Climate Action website for more information: <https://schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com/>

5.2 Cyclone Idai: Why is the media not linking it to climate change?

Press Statement issued by COPAC and SAFSC, 22 March 2019

Trump, Rich Industrialised Countries and Carbon Corporations Must Pay a Climate Debt for Damage Caused

On the 14th of March, a cyclone with winds of up to 177km/h hit Southern Africa, devastating large parts of Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique. Even in the early stages of the aftermath, it has been hailed as a humanitarian disaster. According to the UN's weather agency, it is possible that cyclone Idai has the potential to be the worst weather related disaster to ever hit the Southern Hemisphere. This is a climate disaster engendering climate injustice. In Zimbabwe, close to 100 people have been confirmed dead, and over 200 are missing. Over 600 houses were destroyed, and around 20 000 were damaged. Zimbabwe is experiencing landslides and roads are completely destroyed leaving people stranded. In Malawi, approximately 56 people have been killed, and close to 600 missing. Due to flooding and other damage, around 11 000 households are displaced, with around 920 000 people being affected in total. Reports coming out of Mozambique are saying that over 500 000 people have been impacted. The death toll in Mozambique is around 200, but is continuing to rise as more than 350 000 people are at risk, with estimations saying that the death toll could triple.

With this level of devastation, it is important to ask why this climate shock has occurred. The reality is cyclone Idai is an example of extreme weather brought on by climate change.

According to the UN IPCC 1.5C degree report, human activities have been responsible for approximately 1C degree increase in temperature globally since before the industrial revolution. If we continue to increase greenhouse gas emissions at the same levels, we are likely to reach a 1.5C degree increase within the next 20 years or sooner. Research has shown that extreme climate and weather conditions were observed around the 0.5C degree increase mark. The report states that “trends in intensity and frequency of some climate and weather extremes have been detected...” (IPCC 2018), and this increase in frequency and intensity will only continue to worsen as temperatures continue to rise. Moreover, scientific research has confirmed a link between cyclone Idai and heating oceans linked to climate change. Climate change is extremely serious in the African context, with high levels of inequality, poverty, limited resources, environmental destruction led by transnational corporations and indebtedness to rich countries. Africa did not cause the climate crisis and most Africans have very low per capita emissions compared to Americans or South Africans, for instance. Yet Africa is going to experience some of the worst extremes of climate change and increasing temperatures. The IPCC 1.5 degree Report tells us that Sub-Saharan Africa, has already been experiencing more frequent and intense climate extremes, and an overshoot of 1.5C degree increase will mean devastating consequences for the region. The temperature increases that the region will face are projected to be at least twice higher than the global average. We stand with the people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi that have been devastated by cyclone Idai. Many measures could have been taken such as early warning systems, media mainstreaming climate news so extreme weather is monitored and anticipated, disaster management systems put in place, for instance, to prevent a loss of life. This has not happened because of climate denialism amongst political leaders, the media and states in the region. On Monday 18 March 2019 we engaged key institutions in the media family such as the Sunday Times, Press Council and the South African National Editors Forum (SANEF) to #EndClimateDenialism in the media. We await a formal response from SANEF regarding our demands to ensure the media #EndClimateDenialism. We have initiated and welcome a debate on the role of the media in mainstreaming and reporting the worsening climate crisis so we can educate the public and advance climate justice alternatives, now, as part of the deep just transition to sustain life. Failure by the media to take climate science seriously imperils our society even more. Climate change is being driven by petro states, such as Trump’s USA leading the fracking boom, and carbon corporations. Rich industrial countries also owe the world a climate debt for 150 years of using coal, oil and gas for industrialisation. From the standpoint of climate justice, we demand petro states, carbon corporations and rich industrial countries contribute reparations to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi for the climate debt owed, so these countries can rebuild as part of the deep just transition. Finally, South Africa is the 14th highest carbon emitter in the world. Our coal addiction is a big part of the problem. Energy imports from Mozambique were also disrupted due to the carnage of cyclone.

Idai and this contributed to Eskom’s recent rolling black outs. We demand a deep just transition now beyond fossil fuels like coal, to socially owned renewable energy, a food, seed and water sovereignty system, a universal basic income grant and climate jobs, as a minimum, to ensure we mitigate climate shocks, meet the needs of workers and poor communities. Through our Climate Justice Charter process we will advance these

alternatives for South Africa. More information is available at www.safsc.org.za and www.copac.org.za

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VI. CLIMATE JUSTICE STRUGGLES

6.1 Climate Justice Charter process update

As part of a process to develop a Climate Justice Charter for South Africa, COPAC is hosting a number of constituency roundtables throughout 2019 to gather input for the charter. Constituencies include students, trade unions, climate justice and environmental justice groups, drought affected communities, faith-based organisations, to name a few.

COPAC hosted the first roundtable with drought affected communities on 17 March. We also had Daily Maverick journalist, Kevin Bloom in the room with us. In the following section, we profile his article that was published by Daily Maverick. Following the roundtable, we held three demonstrations at the media. The next article tells the story of what happened there.

Since the Climate Justice charter process is people- and community-driven, we encourage your feedback on the themes listed below:

The purpose for the climate justice charter and process is to:

- Unite important players in the fragmented civil society, environmental justice and climate justice and water sectors of South Africa, to encourage a re-alignment of climate justice forces.
- Ensure those most affected by climate change and shocks, particularly the working class, the poor, the unemployed and the landless have voice and lead this process of eco-centric transformation
- Develop a progressive; grassroots inspired Climate and Water Charter to:
 - Sustain life
 - Recognise the class, racial, gender and ecological impacts of carbon and climate capitalism

- Advance generational justice
- Critique the failed role of political parties in the climate crisis
- Construct a narrative around climate justice and a transformative just transition
- Serve as a tool to engage government stakeholders to ensure that climate change is placed on the national agenda.
- Provide a compass to build pathways from below to achieve systemic change and advance systemic alternatives from below

Key themes for the Charter to be deliberated in grassroots dialogues relate to systemic alternatives that would bring down carbon emissions and ensure we sustain life as climate shocks hit. These themes include:

- Principles for the charter
- Our conception of the just transition for South Africa taking into account class, race, gender and ecological relations
- Systemic alternatives related to land use, water, energy, food, production, consumption, waste, transport, housing, finance;
- The role of the climate emergency state and our international relations as a climate justice society;
- Communication, education and awareness raising to mobilise society
- The role and form of people's power from below

6.2 Drought and Domestic Violence: Fallout from a Changing Climate

Kevin Bloom

On Sunday 17 March, against the background of the cyclone that was claiming lives and wreaking havoc in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, drought-affected communities from across South Africa gathered in a small room in Johannesburg. The stories were not a missive from our climate change future. They were a window into the country now.

“Boreholes are drying up. Birds are eating mammals. Wild animals are coming to our farms to eat.”

This, then, was the face of climate change in South Africa, an upending of nature that was redolent of January's [massive fish die-off](#) in Australia, or the Antarctic temperatures that had [killed students](#) in February in the US Midwest. For Adam Mubanda of Giyani in Limpopo, a leading member of the Inyanda National Land Movement, the word for it was “pathetic”: by which his expression suggested that he meant tragic and pitiful, as opposed to absurd or ridiculous, although he didn't deny the latter.

“As a movement, we do try to sensitise our people to climate change,” Mubanda went on. “It’s very unfortunate that people are so colonised in their minds that they believe that issues of climate are only known to God.”

The occasion was a roundtable of drought-affected communities from across South Africa, convened in Johannesburg on Sunday 17 March by the [Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre](#) (Copac). In the background, as mentioned by Copac’s Vishwas Satgar, was the cyclone that had just two days before made landfall in Mozambique, claiming at the [latest count](#) 48 lives in Mozambique’s Sofala province and 39 lives in Zimbabwe, with the death toll rising through the afternoon and [850,000 people in danger](#) as the storm began to move west.

As it turned out, while we were sitting in the room, Zimbabwe’s state-owned *Herald* newspaper was putting together an [editorial](#) calling on its own government sponsors to “wake up” to Cyclone Idai’s message: Climate change was real; the country had better prepare.

Given that everyone present was already on the frontline, it was not news at this event that the governments of southern Africa had been asleep to the extreme weather events that were now pummeling the continent with increasing frequency and more devastating effect. As Satgar pointed out, when it came to the drought, the South African government had only [declared a crisis](#) in 2018, *after* rural food systems had collapsed.

And here was what that meant to Nosintu Kwepile of the Nqamakwe Farmers Alliance, Amatole district, Eastern Cape:

“The taps have been closed for eight months. The rivers are dry. We wanted to see through research how drought and climate change are affecting people. We found out that it is actually the cause of domestic violence.

“To give one example, and I’ve witnessed this, there was a woman who was a farmer; she had her garden, and the husband wasn’t working, he’s an alcoholic. They were dependent on this garden. And now, because of drought, she stopped. This family of five had income grants from two children, only R800 a month. Now because there is not enough food at home, this guy is beating up this woman.”

There was another incident that Kwepile wanted to share; something else, she said, that was making her emotional.

“The children now have been given the duty, before they go to school, to go fetch water for the livestock. Not for them to wash, not for them to eat pap. But for the sheep to drink. Because the people have given up on cattle, the cattle have run away from us, they have been looking for grass and all that, some of them are dead.

“It’s now only sheep that are able to pick up on the small grass. So the children have this duty of fetching water for those sheep. And this guy actually beat up his two boys, because they

didn't bring water. He also took away their food. It happened there, I know the household, it's in our communities."

Like the government's indifference, it would have come as no surprise to these delegates that the link between violence and a heating world was an established scientific fact. In 2014, a [report](#) in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* had shown that "temperature has a strong positive effect on criminal behaviour," with climate change projected to cause an additional 22,000 murders, 180,000 cases of rape and 1.2 million aggravated assaults in the United States between 2010 and 2099. What was less well known was that hurricanes Harvey and Michael, monster storms that hit the US in 2017 and 2018, were accompanied by a [surge](#) in "intimate partner violence".

At the round table in Johannesburg on Sunday, it was a theme that came up time and again. For Aaron Ranayeke, the burden carried by rural women of "ensuring that people eat at a household level, but also at a community level" was, outrageously, placing these same women in harm's way. Ranayeke was talking specifically about the thirst-lands around Keiskammahoek in the Eastern Cape, where, he said, women's rights were screaming to be included in the climate justice debate.

But as Ranayeke knew, when it came to the role of women and the hard edges of climate change, there was nothing exceptional about South Africa's rural areas. As we were about to hear, in the informal settlements of Cape Town, where "day zero" had been a lived reality for years, just keeping a household running had become an exercise in impossible choice.

"Women telling me stories of, 'I must wash my washing today, but I must rinse it tomorrow,' " said Faeza Meyer of the Cape Flats-based African Worker Commons Collective. "I must make choices of whether I'm going to bath my children tonight, or I'm going to cook. That's how difficult. Truthfully so, it's the women that struggle."

Meyer also wanted us to know that when the country's educated and well-intentioned came to these areas with their theories and their plans, they were often coming with their preconceptions — and worse, she suggested, sometimes they were coming to do nothing more than look.

"The communities in informal settlements may not know the meaning of 'climate change,'" she said, "but they know that something in the city is wrong. There's too much heat, there's too much rain. Because we are the ones that suffer. When there's floods, we can't get out of the community. When there's fires, hundreds of our people are without shelter.

"The stories, you know? A woman telling me a story of, 'I heard my son's head burst inside a shack.' What comes out is, 'If only we had water, we would have been able to save him.' Recently there was a fire in one of the informal settlements, and the fire-trucks came but they ran out of water. The community had to stand and watch their things burn. They tried to connect to the hydrants, but there was nothing."

And nothing, *Daily Maverick* learnt, is what many people in the room would have had if they didn't have their activism. The pull of despair was bubbling just below the surface. But later that afternoon they were going to work on a Climate Justice Charter. They were going to continue taking the fight to the government, and to what they were calling the "carbon capital bloc".

Then, on Monday 18 March, they were going to march on the South African National Editors Forum and the Press Council. The media weren't listening, they said, because we didn't yet have the ears to hear.

Originally published in Daily Maverick: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-03-19-drought-and-domestic-violence-fallout-from-a-changing-climate/>

6.3 End climate denialism in the media: March to SANEF, Press Council and Times Media

Angela Kgoadi, Grade 10 student who attended the March

On 18 March 2019, a peaceful protest about climate change denialism was held outside Sunday Times Media Group, in the South African National Editors Forum, and outside Press Council, respectively. This movement was organized by COPAC, along with representatives from drought stricken communities to hand over a set of demands to media institutions in order to make sure that South Africans know about the links between extreme weather conditions and the worsening of climate change. This should potentially end climate change denialism.



Protestors were chased away by the police at the first place in which the protest was held but they managed to voice their demands just outside the building. These demands, however, were successfully presented to the other two institutions. During this, different stories from these representatives were told. The stories that stood out the most were the ones from the people of the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape. These people live in places where dams and rivers are completely dry and tap water is not available. Pensioners in the Western Cape are forced to travel long distances to buy privatized water (which costs a lot of money) from cities in order to take their daily medication. Children in the Eastern Cape receive beatings

from their parents because they could not manage to fetch water from nearby rivers and dams since they dried out. The situations are very bad.

I personally think that doing something to end media climate change denialism is great, since the media is not letting the public know about the effects of climate change in different communities, and a protest is a good way to make sure that this is heard by as many people as possible. The protest was an interesting experience as I learnt about the lifestyles of people in different parts of the country. I also learnt about how the government and the media is handling their situations. I think that more young people should take part in such protests since they are the biggest group that uses social media. This will raise more awareness across the country and it will put more pressure on the media to cover climate justice struggles.

Droughts and climate change mostly affects the poor people of our country. The amount of rainfall in South Africa is way below the world average. However, even if it rains, it rains very heavily or it rains for a long period of time nonstop and floods occur. These floods destroy houses, farms and animal habitats. The lack of water leads to water bills being too high and to the rising of food costs. Our capitalist society prioritizes profit and business expenditure more than the wellbeing of the people of our country.

Climate change and droughts are ruining our country severely and climate change denialism will never solve the problem. It is about time we take a stand and find a way to sustain our country through this time, so that we can survive this and lead happy lives. This should begin with the end of climate change denialism, the media should assist in informing citizens on the climate crisis and finding a way to confront this problem.



VII. SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

List of SAFSC's Latest Media Engagements

December 2018 *Appetite for Dignity* – Vishwas Satgar and Jane Cherry write an article for Wits Curiosity magazine about the food sovereignty vision for Wits. <http://www.wits.ac.za/curiosity/#page=3>

5 March 2019 COPAC and SAFSC issue a call to the media: End the Media Silence about the ongoing drought: Report on worsening climate crisis and extreme weather <https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Final-Media-Silence-05032019-5.pdf>

17 March 2019 *Sunnyside res banks on new food garden*. This article published by Wits Vuvuzela profiles the new food gardens set up by COPAC at Wits as part of the food sovereignty vision for Wits. <https://witsvuvuzela.com/2019/03/17/sunnyside-res-banks-on-new-food-garden/>

19 March 2019 Kevin Bloom attended our Drought affected communities round table and reports on the event in his article for Daily Maverick, entitled 'Drought and Domestic Violence: fallout from a changing climate'. This article has also been published in this SAFSC newsletter. Read the article here: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-03-19-drought-and-domestic-violence-fallout-from-a-changing-climate/>

19 March 2019 *Climate change denialism? COPAC, affiliates, challenge the media* – In Daily Maverick article, journalist Lelethu Tonisi reports on the media action held at SANEF, Times Media and the Pres Council. SAFSC activists' inputs about the conditions in drought stricken areas are captured in this article. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-03-19-climate-change-denialism-copac-affiliates-challenge-the-media/>

22 March 2019 COPAC and SAFSC issue a press release: Cyclone Idai: Why is the media not linking it to Climate Change <https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Cyclone-Idai-Statement-22.03.2019.pdf>

28 March 2019 Ferrial Adam is interviewed on Voice of the Cape about the SAFSC/COPAC press release on Cyclone Idai.

3 April 2019 *Counting the cost of Cyclone Idai* – Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on the Bongani Bingwa breakfast show on 702. Listen to the podcast here <http://www.702.co.za/podcasts/176/the-best-of-breakfast-with-bongani-bingwa/199038/counting-the-cost-of-cyclone-idai>

9 April 2019 COPAC and SASC issue a press release entitled 'A climate justice critique of South African political parties: What are commitments of ANC, DA and EFF to a deep Just Transition to sustain life?' https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Climate-Justice-Critique-of-Parties_9-April-2019-1.pdf

17 April 2019 Ferrial Adam is interviewed on SAFM about climate change and political parties.

26 April 2019 Vishwas Satgar is interviewed by Tim Modise on ENCA on climate change and Cyclone Idai.

27 April 2019 *Small-scale farmers' market takes root at Wits.* In this article, Wits Vuvuzela writes about the wits farmers market, hosted by the Wits food sovereignty centre.

30 April 2019 COPAC and SAFSC issue a Press release: Time for the South African government to declare a climate emergency https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Press-release_Call-for-climate-emergency_30.04.2019.pdf

30 April 2019 Ferrial Adam is interviewed on Radio 786 to talk about the SAFSC/COPAC press release calling on South Africa declare a climate emergency.

30 April 2019 Ferrial Adam is interviewed on Voice of the Cape to talk about the SAFSC/COPAC press release calling on South Africa to declare a climate emergency.

1 May 2019 Ferrial Adam is interviewed on SAFM to talk about the SAFSC/COPAC press release calling on South Africa to declare a climate emergency.

2 May 2019 COPAC and SAFSC's climate justice critique of political parties is published in Canadian socialist project news, 'the bullet' <https://socialistproject.ca/2019/05/climate-justice-critique-of-south-african-political-parties/>

2 May 2019. Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on radio 786 about COPAC/SAFSC press release on political parties and climate justice and a climate emergency footing.

3 May 2019 *South Africa Bracing for an Electoral Storm Over the Climate Crisis* Vishwas Satgar provides a climate justice critique of South African Political parties on the Real News. Watch the interview these links: Part 1: <https://therealnews.com/stories/south-africa-is-bracing-for-an-electoral-storm-over-the-climate-crisis-1-2>

Part 2: <https://therealnews.com/stories/south-africa-is-bracing-for-an-electoral-storm-over-the-climate-crisis-2-2>

3 May 2019 *The rise of urban farming in Johannesburg* - The Daily Vox writes about the Wits farmers market and urban farming in Johannesburg. <https://www.thedailyvox.co.za/the-rise-of-urban-farming-in-johannesburg/>

8 May 2019 – *Is SA government active in climate change awareness and initiative?* Ferrial Adam is interviewed on CNBC about political parties, policy and climate change. Watch the interview here: <https://www.cnbc africa.com/videos/2019/05/08/is-the-sa-govt-doing-enough-to-combat-climate-change/>

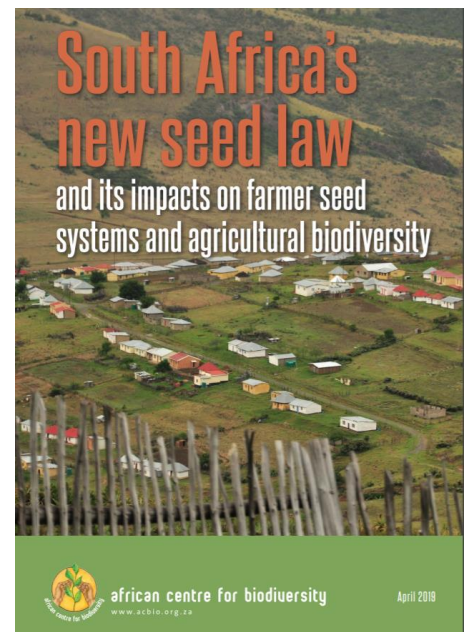
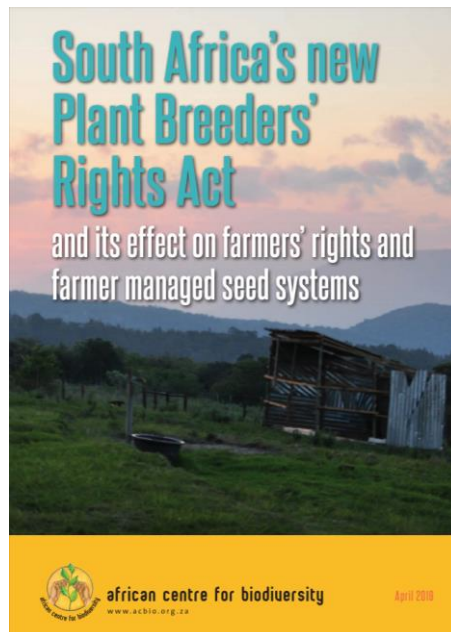
VIII. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

8.1 ACB briefing papers: South Africa's new Seed Law and Plant Breeders' Rights Act

1. South Africa's new seed law and its impacts on farmer seed systems and agricultural biodiversity.

In this updated briefing, the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) reflects on how the new Plant Improvement Act (PIA) 2018 will further undermine the rights of small-scale farmers while expanding the rights of the corporate agricultural sector, further entrenching its domination.

Download the briefing paper here:



https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/South%20Africa%E2%80%99s%20new%20seed%20law%20and%20its%20impacts%20on%20farmer%20seed%20systems%20and%20agricultural%20biodiversity_0.pdf

2. South Africa's new Plant Breeders' Rights Act and its effect on farmers' rights and farmer managed seed systems.

In this updated briefing, the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) warns that the Plant Breeder's Rights Act (PBR) 2018 will impact negatively on small-scale farmers and calls for exemptions in the Regulations to protect farmers' rights.

Download the briefing paper here:

<https://acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/documents/South%20Africa%E2%80%99s%20new%20Plant%20Breeders%E2%80%99%20Rights%20Act%20and%20its%20effect%20on%20farmers%E2%80%99%20rights%20and%20farmer%20managed%20seed%20systems.pdf>

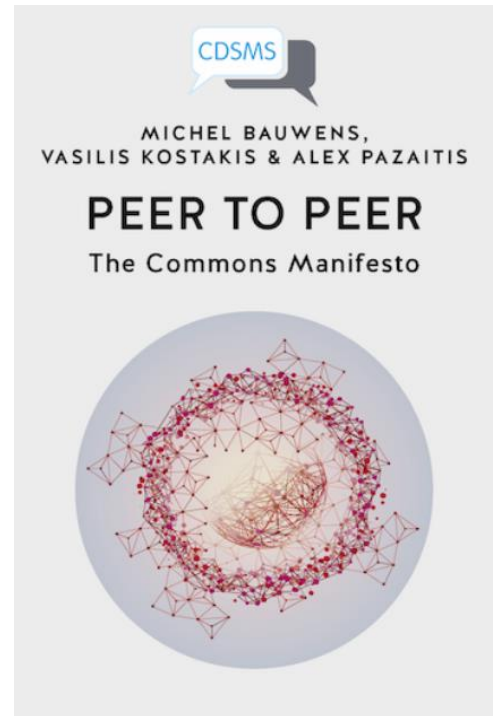
8.2 Book: Peer to Peer: A Commons Manifesto

Not since Marx identified the manufacturing plants of Manchester as the blueprint for the new capitalist society has there been a more profound transformation of the fundamentals of our social life. As capitalism faces a series of structural crises, a new social, political and economic dynamic is emerging: peer to peer.

What is peer to peer? Why is it essential for building a commons-centric future? How could this happen? These are the questions this book tries to answer. Peer to peer is a type of social relations in human networks, as well as a technological infrastructure that makes the generalization and scaling up of such relations possible. Thus, peer to peer enables a new mode of production and creates the potential for a transition to a commons-oriented economy.

This book is freely available at:

<https://www.uwestminsterpress.co.uk/site/books/10.16997/book33/>



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