



# SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

## The Climate Crisis is Upon us: What are the alternatives?

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## I. EDITORIAL

### Open Letter: Call for a UN treaty to end fossil fuels

*Vishwas Satgar*

*This is an open letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, General Antonio Guterres.*

General Antonio Guterres,

The recent UN Climate Action Summit which you convened in New York has been a disappointment. Major carbon-emitting countries are not rising to the challenge. These governments do not have excuses given that for more than 20 years they have been informed by the UN International Panel on Climate Change about climate science and growing urgency. On the streets, climate justice movements have been doing the same.

The problems with UN Climate multilateralism have to be engaged with openly and honestly. In this regard, it is important to share with you a demand made to the UN by the children, youth and climate justice forces that took to the streets for #GlobalClimateStrike on 20 September in South Africa.

However, before I get there it is important for you to understand my orientation to the climate crisis. I am writing to you from a society in which youth unemployment (aged between 15-24) stands at 55%. Hope for many young people has been stolen by Nelson Mandela's party, the African National Congress (ANC). Widespread looting of state resources by many in the ANC has deprived large parts of the post-apartheid generation a place in democratic South Africa. When I was 11 years old in 1980, my family home was surrounded by apartheid police who detained my elder brother for his anti-apartheid activism. As a child, I was terrified for what would happen to my elder brother given that many were being killed in detention. I was moved by this injustice and attempted a school boycott the next day. The boycott did not last long but it sparked an uncompromising commitment to social justice and emancipation which has stayed with me for almost four decades as an activist. I continue to feel a deep sense of inter-generational solidarity, given my politicisation at a young age. Hence, I am deeply concerned about the bleak economic future faced by our youth and these concerns are exacerbated when I think about the intersection with a worsening climate crisis. In this regard, Greta Thunberg's powerful call for urgent action at your recent summit cannot be ignored.

Let me also be open about my ideological approach to the climate crisis. I have a climate justice perspective which has largely been excluded from the mainstream discourse in the UN system. It has had its strongest expression among movements struggling against extractivism, for climate jobs, food sovereignty, transition towns, solidarity economies, rights of nature, zero waste, socially owned renewable energy and generally, system change. My climate justice orientation goes back 20 years when I worked on an eco-village in a township community and contributed to the Green-House project in the inner city of Johannesburg. I

brought my ecological consciousness into my academic work and designed a postgraduate course on Empire and the Crisis of Civilisation, almost a decade ago. This has enabled me to expose my students to the various socio-ecological crises plaguing our world, including the climate crisis. In 2011, I took 120 of my students to the Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 Summit in Durban. We marched for a climate justice future and handed out pamphlets to delegates going into the conference, appealing to them to ensure they take the fate of human and non-human life seriously. I also participated in the Peoples Space at the COP20 Summit in 2014 in Lima, Peru. I spent time with some of the leading climate justice activists from the Global South grappling with systemic alternatives which were not being considered inside the UN negotiations. We knew that after the Copenhagen COP (2009) we were defeated by the fossil fuel lobbies and pro-business agendas of most governments. The high point of the first cycle of climate justice activism was the Cochabamba Peoples Summit (2010) in Peru, which the UN also disregarded.

One cannot help but wonder: if the UN listened to climate justice movements over the past two decades, where would the world be today in terms of the climate crisis?

So, ecological politics and more specifically climate crisis and justice are not new to me. On Friday, 20 September, one of our main #SAClimateStrike targets was a protest outside the corporate offices of Sasol, the 45th highest carbon emitter in the world. I was proud of the children and youth gathered at this event and about 18 other such events across South Africa. This was historic for South Africa. Besides affirming the scientific urgency of the climate crisis, these mobilisations affirmed the democracy deficit in climate policy-making, both in South Africa and at a UN level. One of the demands made to Sasol was for a just transition plan to be developed so that the country knows how Sasol is going to ensure we achieve a net-zero emissions target while ensuring workers and affected communities benefit in this process. The South African government has failed in this regard and neither has the UN Paris Agreement compelled the likes of Sasol to put forward such a plan.

Despite South Africa being committed to the Paris Climate Agreement since 2015, according to Afro-Barometer, 54% of South Africans have not heard of climate change. This includes rural residents (63%), women (58%) and citizens without formal education (65%). The failure of the Paris Climate Agreement to engender urgency in South Africa is patently clear. Climate negotiations are elite negotiations, despite the climate crisis affecting all life forms on planet Earth. This disconnect between the UN system and local civil societies is an expression of the democracy deficit in climate negotiations and is certainly going to engender further conflict with increased planetary heating.

In South Africa, climate crisis governance is performative and made routine. South Africa has a few policies on climate change, including work being done on an adaptation strategy. These policies are not mainstreamed into governance. Moreover, the failure of the South African government's climate policy commitments is also expressed through a failed response to our current drought (2014 to the present). The El Niño (intensified through climate change) induced drought in South Africa has been the worst in the history of the country. The ANC government only declared the drought a national emergency in early 2018, after our food system nearly collapsed.

According to climate scientists in South Africa, the entire water system that the country relies on, including the Katse Dam in the Lesotho highlands, can handle a five-year drought. We are now in the fifth year of drought, and the Katse Dam, one of the main feeders into the industrial heartland of South Africa, has levels sitting at 16.9%. This is a serious crisis with “day zero” a looming possibility for the densely populated province of Gauteng (over 12 million). Yet the ANC government is maintaining a carbon-based development path, including building one of the largest coal-fired power stations in the world, promoting fracking, offshore gas extraction and the importation of gas from Mozambique. South Africa continues to also have oil interests in Saudi Arabia, Angola and even in conflict-ridden South Sudan. The Paris Climate Agreement is not stopping any of this.

Actually, despite the excellent science from the International Panel on Climate Change, particularly the 1.5C report of 2018 and more recent work done on the risks, costs, benefits and consequences of addressing 1.5C, the ruling elites in South Africa are afflicted with cognitive dissonance. This is more than climate denialism but actually plain insanity. From the standpoint of the urgency raised by children across South Africa, we have an irrational and irresponsible ruling elite that has not comprehended the implications of IPCC science. Despite the diplomatic narratives, self-congratulatory discourses and sensational headlines, after the Paris Agreement was put in place, the UN process to tackle the climate crisis is not efficacious and is facing a legitimacy crisis. Least of all in relation to climate justice forces on the planet.

In my view, there are three reasons for this.

First, the Paris Climate Agreement is not legally compelling for signatory countries. The principle of voluntary co-operation has completely undermined the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. There is no regulated push for nationally determined targets to be achieved, which would have tackled immediately the major carbon-based industrial powerhouses on the planet. This is the triumph of neoliberal international relations, in which states are even understood as competitive market actors and therefore have the freedom to choose whether to act on the problem or not. Ironically, this is happening at a time when the eco-fascist Donald Trump is deepening the crisis of the liberal intellectual project, including in its neoliberal incarnation.

Second, the entire UN system is founded on the primacy of nation-states. The nation-state is a product of the emergence of capitalist modernity, secular nationalism and the imposition of Western colonialism. Sovereignty has a chequered and dubious history which I do not want to get into, but just to say, the consensus among many critical international relations scholars is that the marketised neoliberal state has a functionality shaped by the sovereignty capital and is extremely weak to deal with democratic pressures arising from deep inequality.

The third wave of democratisation in the 20th century has also stalled in this context. African states that are fossil fuel (oil and gas) producers, are some of the most illiberal on the African continent and they will certainly not empower their citizens to understand, let alone shape, the climate policies and just transitions required in their countries. These countries are trapped; “resource curse” on one side, and worsening climate crisis on the other.

Mozambique, Nigeria, Angola are all examples. The Paris Climate agreement with its present approach is not providing a way out for these countries.

Third, the carbon budget approach central to the COP process, while useful, merely expects countries to manage emissions through setting targets and implementing mitigation and adaptation measures. There is a huge gap in this logic. This has to do with holding nefarious fossil fuel corporations (gas, oil and coal) accountable. While divestment campaigns have attempted to put pressure on shareholder-based fossil fuel corporations, this has not gone far enough, and as long as there are profits to be made, as expressed in the global energy mix, in which coal still dominates, with gas also beginning to be included, fossil fuels will not disappear any time soon. In the Global South where about 77% of fossil fuel reserves are controlled by state corporations from Petrobras, China's state-owned companies, as well as the fleet of India's state corporations, divestment of shareholders will not work.

The COP negotiations have not locked in fossil fuel corporations (state and non-state) in terms of their just transition plans. Pinning down fossil fuel corporations is crucial to give momentum to decarbonisation of all other sectors in the national and global economy. This is a civilisational and intergenerational necessity. There is an urgent need for an "End Fossil Fuel Treaty" that can be added to the Paris Climate Agreement, under Article 6 of the agreement, dealing with mitigation, and particularly Article 6.9 which seeks to elaborate a framework for non-market approaches. Such a treaty has to be based on the principle of climate debt owed by fossil fuel corporations to all of us. This will go a long way to addressing the weaknesses I have identified above, the failure of the UN process to hold fossil fuel corporations accountable, for more than 20 years, and it will ensure we move with greater haste to a peaceful resolution of the climate crisis.

Of course, this might be ignored by the UN, but this is how we framed the challenge in our memorandum handed over to Sasol:

A National and Global Call to #GridlockCarbon on May 1st, 2020 – 1.5C is Not Negotiable

We will be back next year to assess progress on Sasol's just transition plan but also to confront all other carbon corporations, investors and government institutions. Today is the start of ongoing and rolling action to #GridlockCarbon.

Hence we call on South Africa and the World to stand with us on 1 May 2020, to #GridlockCarbon corporations everywhere.

On 1 May 2020, we will stand together with workers in South Africa and the world to demand:

Ambitious just transition plans from all carbon corporations and polluters so we accelerate the realisation of net-zero emissions and prevent a 1.5C overshoot;

No new investments in oil, gas and coal;

All governments to withdraw subsidies from fossil fuel industries and redirect this money to socially owned renewable energy transitions;

The UN establish an “End Fossil Fuel Treaty” which ensures fossil fuel corporations pay the world a carbon debt for the harm they have caused, poor countries are compensated for a problem they did not create, including poor countries with fossil fuel reserves, and the oil, coal and gas industries are shut down in the next 10 years or sooner.

1.5°C is not negotiable. Our common future is in jeopardy and we are ready to fight for it. People and planet before profits.

Together with the children, youth, workers and citizens in the climate justice struggle in South Africa, we look forward to your response.

## II. NATIONAL NEWS

### 2.1 Climate Justice Charter activist school report and Covid-19 statement

On 16-17 March, Copac hosted a climate justice charter activist school. This was a small activist school, with key climate justice activists, particularly from drought affected areas. Participants discussed the climate justice charter and proposed actions in the context of COVID-19.

Recordings of the workshop sessions are all available online:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6SSXn2sdweSW53sUWoHIPQ>

Coming out of the workshop COPAC and SAFSC put out a the following public statement on Covid-19 and a people's response.

#### **Covid-19: The Second Big Shock for South Africa Towards a People's Response 18 March 2020**

Climate Justice activists, championing a Climate Justice Charter for South Africa supported by children, students, faith based communities, the media, labour unions and community organisations, met in Johannesburg from the 16-17 March to deliberate on a people's response to the Covid-19 threat and the worsening climate crisis. We believe Covid-19 will certainly impact the working class, poor and vulnerable disproportionately. This is the same as climate injustice in which those least responsible bear the brunt. We are firm in the belief that addressing Covid-19 means also advancing climate justice. Those without water, food, housing, jobs and land, in precarious low income employment and, who are generally vulnerable, will be the victims of Covid-19 and worsening climate shocks (floods, heatwaves, droughts, tornadoes and sea level rise). We stand with them.

From 2014 South Africa had one of its worst droughts in history. In parts of the Eastern Cape this drought has not ended. This was a climate shock in which the ANC government failed to respond adequately to the needs of the working class, poor and vulnerable communities. The

drought was only declared a national disaster in early 2018 after our food system collapsed, food prices increased and many vulnerable communities were impacted. Central to this experience was the lack of effective use of the Disaster Management Act and a blatant failure by the government to meet the water needs of numerous communities. This was a missed opportunity to ensure all South Africans had their water needs met sustainably, water regimes democratised, just water sharing established and the basis laid for grassroots food sovereignty pathways to feed communities, villages, towns and cities. In a heating world South Africa is going to experience more climate shocks and pandemics.

Covid-19 comes on the heels of the drought and is our second big shock. While we welcome the declaration of a national disaster by President Ramaphosa we remain concerned about his and relevant Ministerial pronouncements. South Africa had at least two months of lead time to prepare and plan for Covid-19 infections but instead we have talk of 'planning', 'preparing' and 'working together', despite the onset of transmission to local communities. The ANC government is reacting to the current trajectory of the virus rather than preparing the country for its anticipated spread. The following is not clear about the state response:

- A vulnerability assessment of the South African population and priority support strategies for the most vulnerable – the elderly, the young and those with compromised immune systems;
- The procedure for testing and free access for persons showing symptoms;
- The reorganising of the health care system such that public and private institutions are repurposed (such as schools, military bases, faith spaces and universities) to provide separate, safe, quarantine spaces for treating infected patients and the vulnerable;
- Training and protection of health care workers;
- An inventory of respirators, ventilators and other crucial medical equipment, including possible sources of international support to meet gaps;
- How water stressed communities will be supported so they do not become Covid-19 hot spots;
- Ongoing learning and sharing with other countries.

**We will all play our part but we call on:**

- Business to ensure workers are supported and protected. Workers must not be retrenched, must be paid if infected, must be given protective tools, guaranteed medical support and high corporate salaries must be cut to enable this. Big business to make a contribution to relief efforts, particularly to assist with funding of test kits and strengthening the capacity of public hospitals. We also support the call being made for cell phone providers to extend 3GB of free data a month immediately to all prepaid clients and basic contract users who currently have minimal or no data;
- Affluent society to stop panic hoarding and to actively display a 'duty of care' to ensure safety, wellbeing and sense of community. This also includes providing work security for their domestic workers. If they have boreholes, dams and other water sources, this is to be rationed and shared. Moreover, their individualised self-interest and competitive spirits must be informed by solidarity for those less fortunate;
- All in society to reject any form of xenophobia, racism and prejudice;

- Our faith based, cultural and sporting communities to play their part in stopping big gatherings. This must be done in the spirit of prioritising people's health over profits;
- Universities to be more sensitive to the plight of poor students receiving NSFAS funding, which has already covered accommodation costs. It is also necessary that students are not expected to vacate residences, potentially spreading or contracting the virus in their hometowns. Such students to be allowed to use university residences, under public health guidelines, rather than sent home when universities shut down.
- Government to recognise that grassroots power and democratic citizens' rights are necessary to confront this challenge. Elite decision making processes in non-representative institutions such as NEDLAC, top down government leadership and authoritarian creep will not be acceptable. We must use this moment to ensure accountability and strengthen our democracy.
- Government and the private sector to crack down on corruption that takes away from meeting the needs of the people.
- Taxi owners and public transport operators to inform the public about Covid-19, issue government supplied masks and sanitisers to passengers and where possible encourage social distancing while in transit.

**We stand for an ethics of care and solidarity as the basis to organise the following:**

- To co-host a day of solidarity action with drought affected and water stressed communities (54% of South African households do not have access to clean drinking water through a household tap) on 19 April, mainly in the Eastern Cape, with groups (under 100) at dams with low water levels. Such actions will be based on demands to meet the local water needs of such communities including washing their hands and ensuring personal hygiene given the threat of Covid-19 #SOS #WaterForAll;
- to rally and encourage climate justice organisations, in alliance with others, to build and support community responses to ensure communities are informed about Covid-19, protect the most vulnerable and democratise the role of local government;
- encourage partnerships with local government that meet the needs of communities.

**South Africa Must 'Lock In' Important Systemic Transformations Now and After Covid19 Peak Through a Macro-economic Stimulus Package.**

Covid-19 has arrived in the context of worsening climate and economic crises. While it takes up our attention as an immediate emergency it must be understood as an opportunity to build the socio-ecological systems that can sustain life and address all the crises we face. This means the Covid-19 effort must ensure South Africa can recover, protect its citizens and regenerate systems for the deep just transition. It must include some of the following:

- A substantive basic income grant for all;
- Fixing, cleaning, expanding and integrating our water systems to minimise water loss, ensure long term sustainability and affirm citizens' rights to share in the water commons;
- The expansion, integration and improvement of the national health care system, community health care workers program and mobile clinics;



- Support community led food sovereignty pathways in villages, towns and cities, including supplying food parcels to Covid-19 patient homes, if needed;
- Climate jobs through eco-centric industrialisation and within our carbon budget to produce public transport vehicles such as clean energy high speed trains, buses, bicycles and renewable energy technology. Denel can be repurposed to lead such a process.
- Establish a democratic planning system;
- Reallocate finance to such a stimulus package from selling SAA and redirecting its staff to the expanding sectors through training and active labour market policies, recovered finance from looting, stopping all looting, a progressive carbon tax and a wealth tax.

## **Forward to the Climate Justice Charter**

In May we will finalise the climate justice charter for South Africa and take it to all parts of South African society for endorsements by individuals and organisations. We will seek to achieve a million or more endorsements. This process will be driven by actions involving students, youth, children and climate justice charter partner organisations.

We hope to take the charter to parliament on October 16<sup>th</sup>, a day of national climate justice action, to demand its adoption as per section 234 of the South African constitution. Partnering with local organisations, we will gridlock Cape Town from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October with a climate justice camp outside parliament and various non-violent mass tactics.

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## **2.2 Climate Conference: A Convergence of grassroots activism**

*Vishwas Satgar and Jane Cherry, cross-posted from Daily Maverick*

The climate crisis is one of the major issues facing humanity in the 21st century. As greenhouse gas emissions cause planetary changes and rising temperatures, extreme weather events and climate shocks proliferate, including heatwaves, drought and flooding.

While many of these indiscriminately affect entire communities or regions, the consequences are not distributed uniformly in communities. Individual and social factors such as gender, age, education, ethnicity, geography and language lead to differential vulnerability and capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change.

The [most vulnerable](#) are typically poor people who live in the least developed countries that are prone to more than one type of weather disaster, i.e. floods, drought and storms as well as gradual environmental degradation such as sea-level rise or desertification.

Inequality is further evident when looking at responsibility for climate change. The climate crisis is one of neoliberal capitalism, a system which allows climate criminals to run rampant in a globalised world, pursuing profit at any cost, degrading the environment and spewing out increasing pollution and fossil fuels with no consequence. Large corporations which have been profiting from historical carbon extraction are not held responsible for their role in the climate crisis. The consequence is instead borne by those least responsible for climate change.

The global picture of climate inequality is also reflected at a national level.

In South Africa, vulnerability to climate change and variability is intrinsically linked with social and economic development. When looking at the farming sectors, farmers in the Western Cape will be confronted with high exposure to extreme events and climate change/variability; however, their adaptive capacity (particularly of commercial farmers) is high due to its greater wealth, infrastructure development and good access to resources.

According to [researchers](#), in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape it will only take moderate climate changes to disrupt the livelihoods and well-being of the rural inhabitants, who are largely subsistence farmers. Thus climate change will increase the burden of those who are already poor and vulnerable.

### **The link between climate and food inequality**

Alongside but linked to the climate crisis is a growing global food crisis. This is a systemic crisis built on a profit-driven, globalised and carbon-based food regime which contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, undermines the food needs of a billion hungry people, has contributed to widespread food inequality and has caught at least two billion people in a transition to diets that are based on cheap and fast food, resulting in obesity and a host of attendant diseases such as sugar diabetes and heart disease. These crises are set to get worse.

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [special report](#) is explicit in the trajectories that it maps out. A planet heating at 1.5°C and increasing to 2°C will experience major stresses, risks and even the collapse of most food sources. Climate shocks will exacerbate inequalities, particularly food inequality.

This has been evident in South Africa's recent El Niño-induced drought which affected the national economy, led to increased unemployment and rising food prices. In particular, it was the low-income houses which were [hardest hit](#) by this climate/food shock as staple food prices increased by 25% between September 2015 and September 2016, while maize alone increased by 32% year on year.

## The food sovereignty alternative

In response to the multiple crises facing societies, including climate and food inequality, there has been a surge in alternatives.

One notable movement of resistance originating from Latin America, and now an international peasant organisation, is [La Via Campesina](#) (The way of the peasants). Via Campesina promotes food sovereignty and defends small-scale farmers and agroecology. The organisation is made up of more than 200 million family farmers, peasants, landless people, rural workers, indigenous people, rural youth and rural women. In 1996 they declared the need for an alternative to food security approaches to end hunger.

Food sovereignty is this alternative. It affirms the importance of a political economy critique of current approaches to food systems; it highlights the importance of transformative alternatives that are controlled by small-scale producers and consumers to ensure healthy and culturally appropriate food, such as agroecology (a farming practice that works with nature to feed people and cool the planet); and it is about aggregating power from below to build movements.

The food sovereignty response in South Africa has found variegated roots since La Via Campesina's championing of this idea. An agrarian sector, food justice, climate justice, and solidarity economy actors have all championed a food sovereignty thrust. This is evident in the [South African Food Sovereignty Campaign \(SAFSC\)](#), a coalition of over 50 organisations who came together in 2015 out of the need for a national platform to unify grassroots struggles for food sovereignty. An important element of its struggle is also climate justice.

The SAFSC epitomises a new mode of politics that is beyond reform (managing the system) or revolution (violently destroying the system). It represents an attempt to build a new popular imagination, activist capacity and actual pathways for an alternative: a food sovereignty system. This is fundamentally about systemic change led from below by small-scale food producers, consumers and citizens.

In the South African context, food sovereignty has been about:

- Viewing the food crisis as a systemic crisis rather than merely a technocratic food problem that reinforces the existing food system or a narrow agrarian challenge;
- Developing political economy critiques of the corporate-controlled food system as a whole and at the level of production, consumption, finance and ecology while also being alive to the need to imagine and work with systemic alternatives that could build the logic of food sovereignty;
- Capacity building for transformative activism and developing actual food sovereignty practices and pathways that meet people's needs.

These pathways are about laying the basis for a food sovereignty system that tackles food inequality at its roots and deepen the just transition (beyond just an energy transition, also a

transition to more just food, water, transport and social systems) to sustain life in a climate-driven world.

There are many challenges to overcome on this journey, such as a lack of political will, partly as a result of the capture of the South African post-apartheid state by corporate interests including agrarian capital. Another challenge is to widen, deepen and strengthen local food sovereignty pathways in communities, villages, towns and cities. But the food sovereignty alternative is without a doubt necessary for a climate-driven world and South Africa.

A Climate Justice Charter process which is currently being led by the Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre ([COPAC](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-11-13-climate-and-food-inequality-the-south-african-food-sovereignty-campaign-response/)) and SAFSC is going to be crucial to shift relations of force and power towards food sovereignty. It will place food sovereignty centrally into narratives and discourses to advance the deep just transition.

Article source: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-11-13-climate-and-food-inequality-the-south-african-food-sovereignty-campaign-response/>

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

#### 3.1. Wits Students, staff and activists 'visit' Wits management with climate justice demands

Students, staff and climate justice activists who attended the CJ workshop of 16-17 March, were due to march on Wits Campus on 17 March to deliver climate justice demands to Wits. However, due to coronavirus pandemic, activists decided not to go on to campus, but to deliver the demands over email instead, yet, still photographed their gathering at the workshop venue and sent it to Wits management along with the statement of demands.



Here is the statement of demands:

### ***Together for Climate Justice – Climate Justice Demands to Wits***

In 2016, a petition of 8000 signatures was handed over to Wits University calling for a zero waste, zero hunger and zero carbon institution. Momentum has been built, a few projects have been launched, such as the Wits Food Sovereignty Centre, but we must build on and strengthen this. We must institutionalise a climate justice orientation.

We as climate justice activists, students, academics, service staff and community members are standing in solidarity to call on the university to:

- divest from fossil fuels;
- ensure that Wits becomes a zero carbon institution through transitioning to renewable energy and integrating clean energy, affordable and mass transport systems in partnership with local government for the use of the university community. This must also include supporting the use of bicycles;
- reject support from fossil fuel corporations;
- ensure zero waste systems;
- ensure zero hunger through food sovereignty pathways in and beyond the university;
- adopt the final Climate Justice Charter
- All universities must become climate justice leaders to advance the deep just transition now.

Demands endorsed by:

Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre (COPAC), South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC), Naledi, 360 Degrees Environmental Organisation, Abanebhongo Persons with Disabilities, One Voice of All Hawkers Association, African Food Alliance (AFSA), Durban Inter Faith Conservancy, XR Youth, Fahamu Africa, XR Gauteng, Childrens Resource Center, Palestinian Solidarity Committee Wits, Support Centre for Land Change, XR NMB, Eastern Cape Water Caucus, West Coast Food Sovereignty & Solidarity Forum, Engineers Without Borders-Wits, Wits Physical School Council, Inala Forum, Fossil Free SA, XR JHB East, XR Wits, Muslim Student Association (MSA) Wits, UFS Food Sovereignty Campaign, Greenhouse Project

## **IV. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES**

### **4.1 Impact of the drought in the Karoo**

*Thahn-dee Matthews*

The increase in climate variability and climatic extremes are impacting both water quality and availability through changes in rainfall patterns, with more intense storms, floods and

droughts, changes in soil moisture and runoff. The Karoo is experiencing the worst drought in a thousand years. Several towns in the Karoo area in the Eastern Cape have run out of water. Boreholes and dams have dried up.

A climate change induced drought has wrought devastating economic, social and political consequences. Agriculture is collapsing, and both emerging and commercial farmers are abandoning their farms. Climate zones across the country are already shifting, ecosystems and landscapes are being degraded and field fires are becoming more frequent.

The youth had a lot to say about the water shortages here in the Karoo. Last year we mainly focused on farmers to tell us their stories and share their experiences with the Karoo water crisis. As much as we need a solution now, we need a viable plan for the next few years and the future. I have asked a few of my friends and youth in different areas in the Karoo how they are coping with the drought and here are some responses:

Cherman said: "the drought here in the Karoo is very bad for our farmers as their lands are now extremely dry. It was horrible to see animals having nothing to eat and drink. Animals are suffering and dying as a result of the drought".

The youth are concerned that it will be worse for us in the future if we don't make some changes immediately. Robyn Fisher said: "the drought affects the atmosphere that we live in, the taps have been dry for a long time and there has been no water to flush the toilets. Women can develop infections; this is one of the most common illnesses women can get. Plants are dying and that leads to death of animals and livestock."

"In small towns like this, having a smaller population than in the cities, struggling with water caused a lot of frustration to workers, school kids and farmers, leaving businesses seeking alternatives. Without water, how can we stay clean? Women have it worse. Toilets and drainage become dry and produce a bad smell. Humans are now experiencing this, what about the diseases they are most likely to get." - DJ Shoes

People are fed up with the municipality as they do not deliver services on time to the people that need it. We have seen some improvement. Water would now only be switched off for three days and then switched on again for three to four days before being switched off again. Sometime last year they would switch the water off for weeks without switching it back on again, and sometimes the water trucks failed to make their rounds. While we wait for rain to fill the dam, the pleas from the community to the municipality are for improved communication, a timetable for water trucks, control of the distribution from water trucks to protect the dignity of the community and regulate the quality of the drinking water, and enforcement of water restrictions to conserve the limited resources available.



## 4.2 Cape High court rules in favour of the PHA Campaign

Cross-posted from Green Times

In a precedent-setting ruling, Judge Kate Savage on Monday declared that South African municipalities must take climate change and water scarcity into account when making planning decisions.

The Western Cape High Court ruling states that the rezone permission and environmental authorisations for the development known as Oaklands City are suspended, and must be returned to their respective appeal bodies for reconsideration.



The high court was emphatic about the importance of the Cape Flats Aquifer as a natural water resource in the context of climate change and water scarcity in the city. The judge ruled that there was insufficient information in these two crucial arenas for the decision-makers to claim that the decisions made were rational and reasonable.

“This is a victory for the Cape Flats Aquifer and against future developments and continuing land speculation in the PHA,” said PHA Campaign chairperson Nazeer Sunday. “It’s a great day for the PHA farmlands, a great day farmers and farmworkers and for a great day for Cape Town”, he added. “We put our faith in the Almighty and our justice system and won”.

A giant 500-hectare development has now been halted after a ten-year struggle on the part of the PHA Campaign. The PHA has been the city’s food hub for the last 130 years, and its southern portion – where the development is proposed – constitutes the primary recharge zone for the Cape Flats Aquifer.

“The Campaign is also happy that given the provincial cabinet decision of 22 August 2018, where the cabinet resolved that the Western Cape Government would abide by the decision, we will not have to defend a Supreme Court appeal on this ruling from the province or the city” said Sunday. “We did not get full protection for the PHA as hoped, and are taking advice on how to proceed in that regard.”

It is now expected that the MSDF will be amended to re-include the Oaklands land back into these unique and irreplaceable PHA farmlands. The 2018 Municipal Spatial Development Framework states that the urban edge shifts proposed for the PHA depend on the outcome of the court case. This day has now arrived.

Wentzel Oaker has squandered R47million of worker’s pension fund money to pave over the city’s climate and water resilience with more shopping malls and houses not for those who need them. The Campaign trusts that this ruling will give him and the pension fund managers

pause and rather give workers a dignified retirement with food and water security and a climate on the Cape Flats worth living in.

The Campaign is bitterly disappointed that the National Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform Ms Thoko Didiza has done nothing to help us protect the PHA farmlands or defend over 30,000 farming jobs and livelihoods. In 2016, then Minister Zokwana refused development permission to SALA – Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70/1970 – for the land that Wentzel Oaker wants to develop. The minister then also opposed the EIA, but then did nothing further to protect the PHA in court.

The PHA Campaign calls on President Ramaphosa to protect agricultural land that feeds the city, protect thousands of jobs, protect farmers livelihoods and the city's climate resilience, as the high court declared.

Article source: <http://thegreentimes.co.za/cape-high-court-rules-in-favour-of-the-pha-campaign/>

## V. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 5.1 Three big battles for global food policy looming

#### Three Big Battles for Global Food Policy Looming

*World Food Systems Summit is part of a three-pronged corporate food policy power grab*

By ETC group, cross posted from: <https://www.etcgroup.org/content/three-big-battles-global-food-policy-looming>

February 12, 2020

A corporate alliance (consisting of Big Ag, the World Economic Forum, philanthro-capitalists and others) have spearheaded three separate initiatives (the Food Systems Summit, restructuring research institutions, acceleration of data collection) which threaten to converge and utterly transform the multilateral food and agriculture system.



If successful, these initiatives would further force-feed the failed industrial food system to the public sector and world agriculture, binding governments to a corporate agenda that marginalizes farmers, civil society, social movements and agroecology.



In [a new Communiqué, The Next Agribusiness Takeover](#), ETC Group describes in detail the history and implications of the three initiatives – for which the World Food Systems Summit is setting the framework.

System change across the multilateral food and agricultural community is much needed, but to adopt the vision of the World Economic Forum and big agribusiness would be a disaster for the Global South, biodiversity and food sovereignty. The resulting shifts will be damaging for the poor, malnourished and peasants farmers, and could derail the advancement of agroecology.

## **1. The World Food Systems Summit (WFSS)**

In October 2019, the UN Secretary-General's official announced a World Food Systems Summit to be held in New York in 2021, with a pre-conference in Rome. Although the WFSS concept paper calls for “multi-stakeholder” participation, there is no reference to civil society, farmers, fisherfolk or livestock keepers, and no acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples.

So bold is the agribusiness imprint on the WFSS, that its special champion is a noted industrial agriculture cheerleader. On February 10, 176 organizations from 83 countries, [wrote to condemn the appointment of Agnes Kalibata, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa \(AGRA\)](#), a Gates-funded group “centered on capturing and diverting public resources to benefit large corporate interests,” as Special Envoy from the UN Secretary-General to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

In this same context, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) [launched a petition](#) raising concerns about the Food Systems Summit and calling for the UN to drop its partnership with the World Economic Forum. The petition states that “the UN-WEF strategic partnership agreement ... casts a cloud on the integrity of the UN as a multilateral system.”

## **2. CGIAR “unification”**

A high-powered group led by the Gates and Syngenta Foundations has tabled a plan to restructure public research focused on the Global South via the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). If adopted, the CGIAR's 15 centres would come under the governance of a single board, with power concentrated in a three-person management structure, deliberation and debate would be cut short.

The result: a single corporate entity with stronger-than-ever connections to agribusiness. The CGIAR umbrella currently includes an annual budget of roughly \$850 million; approximately 1500 scientists and other professionals; eleven of the world's most important international gene banks that collect, store and exchange much of the South's plant breeding material (773,000 seed accessions and counting); training facilities for South scientists; advanced laboratories; and enormous socio-political influence – particularly among the most marginalized G-77 states.

The main element of the unification proposition include:

- One international board responsible for all 15 Centers
- Management structure as a troika, with one DG responsible for general coordination; another for the mainline commodity breeding Centers; and a third DG for natural resource Centers.
- Irrevocable System-wide decisions are to be in place at least before they can be debated by the Food Systems Summit.

### 3. International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture

At the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture in Berlin in 2019, Germany presented an initiative for the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture, reflecting enthusiasm from agribusiness and the World Economic Forum to deploy big data to transform food systems. The proposal highlights the use of data-gathering on a global scale, facilitated by blockchain and cryptocurrencies. These practices would extend to genetic digital sequence information (DSI or digital DNA) and could pre-empt already-contentious access and benefit sharing (ABS) negotiations in the Biodiversity Convention and the FAO Seed Treaty.

#### The threat to global food systems

The power (and the risks) of the three proposals lies in how they interact: the Summit sets the framework; CGIAR is the delivery system; and Big Data is the product.

Each of the three initiatives described in ETC's *The Next Agribusiness Takeover*, carry a pretense of public engagement, and each will assure audiences that their early failures to reach out to real stakeholders have been due to time pressure or accident.

This is manifestly not true. On the contrary, these initiatives will negatively impact on the most important actors in food production, peasants and other small food providers who are responsible for the food of the majority of the worlds' population.

Once again, the call for real system change, with an agroecological vision at its heart, should be heard – just not the system espoused by agribusiness and philanthro-capitalists, concludes Communiqué 117 by ETC Group.

## 5.2 Dismantling food colonialism in the Hopi Nation

*By Linghua (Lily) Qi, Cross-posted from Civil Eats*

For Rosalie Talahongva, a former business analyst and a member of the Hopi tribe, weekends on the reservation are sometimes like battles. Unlike urbanites, who might get to enjoy a relaxed morning, her Saturdays start at dawn. She often leaves her home at 6 a.m. and drives more than 100 miles southwest from Second Mesa in the northeast corner of Arizona to a nearby town to do a week's worth of laundry, buy gas for her car, and shop for groceries.

“You need to get everything set up,” Talahongva says. “Because if you forget something, you might have to wait another week.”

This routine has become normal for most of the Hopi people living on the reservation. According to a [food access map](#) from the Arizona Department of Health Services, only two grocery stores are on the roughly 2,500-square-mile reservation, where [more than 9,000](#) Hopi live. The Navajo reservation, which completely surrounds Hopi lands, has only a few stores in a 100-mile radius, and the high prices drive many residents to travel long distances for their groceries.



“If you forget to get milk this time, you won’t buy it at the nearby store because it’s usually \$4 a gallon,” Talahongva says. On top of high price for dairy products, fresh fruit and vegetables can barely be found in reservation stores. “Only when you need things like water, you will go and buy them there.” Because of [arsenic contamination](#), much of the water on the Hopi reservation is undrinkable, and [a new report](#) has found that Native Americans are most likely to live in homes without tap water or flushing toilets.

A food and farming assessment conducted by the Natwani Coalition in 2004 and 2005 found that the Hopi spent [nearly \\$7 million per year](#) to transport food into their communities. Each shopper spent 100 hours a year driving to stores and back—and an extra \$2,000 per year on food—compared to those who lived off the reservation.

Many Indigenous people and researchers refer to the ways their food culture was altered as “[food colonization](#)” or “culinary colonialism.” Ingredients central to Western diets, such as milk, wheat, and refined sugar, are thought to pose a larger health threat to Native Americans than to the general population, and have led to [widespread health issues](#) such as high rates of gallstones, obesity, and diabetes. In fact, Patty Talahongva, Rosalie’s sister, suffered from gallstones when she was 26 and [says it was common for Hopi to develop the problem](#) that young.

To reclaim their culture and their health, the Hopi, like many Native people across North America, are now working to decolonize their diets, and food sovereignty is vital to that process. In particular, the [Natwani Coalition](#), an organization that promotes traditional agriculture among Hopi people, has developed a number of programs with the goal of restoring the local food system.

## The Natwani Coalition's Efforts for Change

"If you don't know Hopi, you wouldn't know that we're a food culture," says Samantha Honani, the former program manager at the Natwani Coalition. "Our existence is based around our corn, and if we don't have our corn in our homes, within our villages, within our ceremonies, we cease to exist as people. We are all intertwined with each other and make up the Hopi life way—it goes as far back as our creation story."

Founded in January 2004, the Natwani Coalition works to help people grow, distribute, and eat foods that are "healthy for Hopi individuals and their communities." The coalition now runs five projects, including the biannual [Hopi agricultural and food symposium](#), which encourages conversations and discussions among farmers about traditional farming practices on the reservation.



Traditional Hopi corn.

The coalition also hosts a talk show on [Hopi Radio](#), holds an annual [Heirloom Seed Run](#) as a community bonding event, and organizes the annual [Hopi farmers market](#) with the University of Arizona, the village of Tewa, and other local organizations. Unlike most city markets, vendors and shoppers at the farmers market barter their seeds and crops just like the tribe did for thousands of years.

The Natwani Coalition also runs two [community grants programs](#)—one for individual local food producers, and another for villages as a whole. The [individual grantees](#) this year include a number of efforts to build and expand family farm fields, develop rainwater catchment systems, and improve fencing for ranching operations.

It's the first year the coalition has provided funds for both individuals and communities that promote Hopi traditional agriculture.

The program recently began including ranchers because, "they deal with soil erosion, wind erosion, [and] water erosion," says Terri Honani, the current program manager at the Natwani Coalition and Samantha's sister. The coalition also offers technical training and assistance for grantees.

The coalition is also dedicated to getting the next generation involved. The [Hopi Natwani for Youth Project](#) creates a curriculum to ignite conversations in families and get youth interested in traditional farming. The lessons focus on philosophical value-based blessings that are at the center of Hopi culture. Through three trainings, 24 new facilitators received training and joined the project this year.

Natwani for Youth teaching Hopi children about preparing corn.



“Traditional and historical agricultural practices have the ability to teach us a lot. They [will] play an imperative role into the future,” says Staci Emm, a professor and extension educator for the University of Nevada in Reno and a member of the Yerington Paiute Tribe. Emm led a research project in 2014 funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture focused on implementing sustaining agriculture programs on the Hopi reservation. “Traditional knowledge needs to be instilled in future generations to empower them to deal with food access,” Emm adds.

The coalition is eager to do more. Because the original assessment is 15 years old, Honani and her colleagues are planning to launch a new one to see what has changed and to shape their future project planning. They travel to each village and attend community meetings to encourage farmers and residents to participate in the coalition’s projects and programs.

### **Finding a Balance**

For many Native Americans, the choice of what food to eat is a choice between a modern or traditional lifestyle—and many Hopi are working to strike a balance between the two.

“All of us are living in dual worlds out here,” says Honani, who is a working mother of two. She admits sometimes that eating healthy can feel like a burden. “Going next door to the store and getting a warm-up sandwich or something from the deli is more convenient and less time-consuming than going to the produce section,” she adds.

The choices between growing food and shopping at grocery stores is similarly difficult. People say they want more shops on the reservation, but many wonder how it will affect traditional ways of living. If agriculture fades away, some worry that Hopi culture may not survive.

“Before we used to live on land and now we are scattered all over. We kind of get spoiled,” says Rosalie Talahongva, admitting that when you live in a city, you get used to the shops and other modern conveniences. “I think that [more access to] fresh vegetables would be great; but again, what does that do to our people?”

Like Rosalie Talahongva, Terri Honani decided to return to the reservation after living away for years, and she has found her own balance. She has a nine-to-five job but still raises cattle at home. Her family owns a farm that provides them with fresh meat and vegetables, and growing and consuming her own food, as Honani sees it, has connected her to her culture.

Honani sends her children off the reservation for better education, like many Hopi, but she always reminds them of their identity. Her two sons spend the weekends with family on their ancestral land learning the Hopi ways; it’s yet another way she balances traditional and Western life.

“I learned the Western part of health and wellness and came back to provide it to my people,” Honani says. “Because Hopi don’t do things for themselves, they do it for the universe.”

Article Source: <https://civileats.com/2019/11/20/fighting-food-colonialism-in-the-hopi-nation/>

## VI. CLIMATE JUSTICE NEWS/ STRUGGLES

### 6.1 South African student embarks on #FridaysForFuture climate strike

*By Mark Heywood, originally posted on Daily Maverick:*

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-01-22-south-african-student-embarks-on-fridaysforfuture-climate-strike/>

Raeesah Noor-Mahomed is an ordinary 17-year-old schoolgirl. She's worked hard throughout her school life, done well in her exams, and has dreams and ambitions for her life. But last week, she deliberately steered her life into uncharted territory. For six long hours, hours that she described as "lonely and hard", she sat outside her school, Parktown High School for Girls in Johannesburg, and began an indefinite Friday boycott of her classes.

That's five classes of 55 mins every Friday, potentially a lot of learning.

From the pavement, she read out her manifesto (see below), which she [put on Instagram](#), as young activists are wont to do.

"It was a long day," she says, admitting, "I almost gave up and went back to class."

I asked Raeesah what is motivating her stand? She says, while schools "touch on climate change, they don't discuss it seriously". "I first heard about it in geography in grade 8 or 9. Then I started to learn more through social media. As I did, I wondered why, if people know so much, we are doing so little."

"Then I discovered Greta. She's super super cool."

Raeesah's stand is at this point very much a one girl stand.

"Half my teachers think I'm stupid and the other half are supportive. But I'm lucky because the supportive ones are willing to help me catch up one-on-one."

"I met my headmistress last week, but she doesn't think I'm going to make an impact."

Some of her friends admire her stand, but she's not putting them under pressure to join her because she knows "school's too demanding", especially in her matric year.

So far, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs, to whom she has written, has ignored her. She says she would like to meet Barbara Creecy, the minister.

I ask about her family. Her answer is that while they have followed and been influenced by her changing what she eats, they are ambivalent and "not completely supportive" about boycotting classes. "They are very worried, considering it's matric year".

So, it really is a brave stand and I wonder aloud whether she'll be able to sustain it? She responds thoughtfully. She knows there are many obstacles ahead "mainly in the form of people". She's also worried that missing lessons could be classified as bunking and she could face disciplinary action. But she has mentors and close friends. Her former history teacher told her that "it's hard when you are presented with a choice between two rights (going to school or boycotting), but then you must do what's right for you". She also mentions the support of [Candice Chirwa](#), a young menstrual health activist, who will join her protest on Friday.

"I don't know how I'm going to manage. But I do know I'm stubborn and persistent." Perhaps that's why the message on her WhatsApp number says "The truth is a blood that, once unleashed, cannot be put back in the bottle."

After 10 minutes, our quick call is up. The school bell is ringing and I can hear the sound of learners in the background.

I wish her well, because on the issue of climate change, you're either with the activists or against them. As the call ends, I think to myself that it is often by such individual stands that movements are born and society reforms.

This is her statement:

"My name is Raeesah Noor-Mahomed and I am 17 years old. I have a message for the Department of Environmental Affairs and the rest of the South African government.

The climate emergency is getting worse and worse. People and animals are dying. Infrastructure is being destroyed. The fires in Australia are just one of many results of climate change that we are seeing and are continuing to see. It will get worse.

We need to act fast. And we need to act now.

South Africa is already feeling the effects of climate change. The heat and droughts we are experiencing is a result of global warming and the situation will get more intense. Over the next few years, the weather conditions will get more extreme. We need to do everything we can to combat and lessen the effects of climate change.

We need to.

But we aren't.

This is a call for you to listen to the youth. I have a list of demands for you that need to be listened to and discussed.

The list consists of:

- The total banning of single-use plastics with a month's grace period for organisations to organise a way to recycle it and become more sustainable.

- Start to transition away from using brand new paper and only use recycled paper, or digital platforms.
- Start using solar power in government-owned buildings and public places.
- Place recycling bins in public spaces.
- Make climate change a compulsory part of the curriculum.
- Make recycling mandatory in government schools.
- Start using eco bricks in the development of structures.

These are the small things you need to do. It's something. But not enough. What we really need from you is to admit that there is a climate emergency and discuss and debate it in Parliament. Treat it like it is. An emergency. Not a minor threat.

We need to start transitioning away from mining, especially coal mining. You cannot say that this can't be done because people will lose their jobs if your excuse for not implementing sustainable methods is a lack of funding and human capital. There is always a way. It can be done.

We need to reduce our carbon footprint drastically and fast. We need to completely transition to renewable energy.

We need to implement much more sustainability in the agricultural sector.

My demand is that you declare a climate emergency and listen to what the scientists and activists, and youth have been saying for years about the changes that need to be made.

I am in matric this year. It's a crucial year. But what's the point of investing all my effort into a future that I will never have because of climate change?

So I have decided that if you refuse to listen to my message and deny that there is a climate emergency, I will boycott school every Friday until a climate emergency is declared and you are open to discussions about becoming more sustainable. I will sit outside my school building every Friday protesting against your denial of the climate crisis.

I am putting my education on hold to fight for the future you are stealing from us.

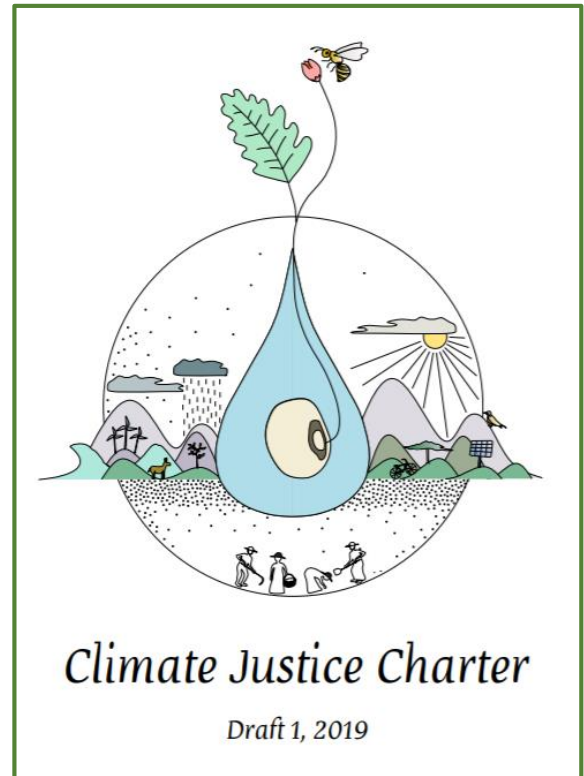
I demand that you listen."

## 6.2 Climate Justice Charter – Call for comment

Our people's climate justice charter has been launched. This is a first for South Africa and the world. The charter (draft 1, 2019), which has been developed through a process of grassroots engagements including roundtable discussions with a host of constituencies was launched on 19 November at a climate conference in Johannesburg.



“We care about the climate crisis and its implications for all in South Africa as well as for all life on planet Earth. With a 1-degree Celsius increase in planetary temperature since before the industrial revolution, extreme weather shocks (droughts, floods, wild fires, tornadoes, heat waves), ecosystem collapse, sea level rise, together with major stresses on the Earth’s systems, everything is changing fast. Irreversible changes to the Earth’s systems are not locked in yet and climate science confirms that action is critical to prevent further planetary heating, catastrophic climate breakdown and ensure climate justice, for those least responsible but who will be most affected. We need to address the root causes of the problem through unifying, all-encompassing and deeply transformative action. It is time for a common vision, clear goals, guiding principles and alternatives from below to lead the climate justice movement to secure a different future, where all human and non-human life is sustained. A Climate Justice Charter (CJC), developed in a participatory manner, is one way to do this. The Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre, together with the South African and Food Sovereignty Campaign, and other civil society organisations have engaged in a process to develop a Climate Justice Charter for South Africa. The process has been the culmination of campaigning for food sovereignty and climate justice, during our drought”



**The charter is available for download at:**

<https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Climate-Justice-Charter-Draft1-2019.pdf>

**Add your comments to the online document at:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uh3s7B8minK9a1oQ4hT8YO8GOzALlovH92BwGPwVRQw/edit?usp=sharing>

**We encourage your input into the charter;**

As this is an ongoing process, comments and endorsements can be made on the google document, emailed to [copac2@icon.co.za](mailto:copac2@icon.co.za). All comments must be in by 1 May 2020. In addition to submitting comments, we encourage all those who have been involved in the process to take the charter back to their communities, organisations and constituencies to hold discussions and workshops around the charter and report back to the working committee.

## VII. SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

### List of SAFSC's Latest Media Engagements

**18 March**, New Frame, 'Coronavirus a huge threat to water scarce Makhanda.' This article interviews Ayanda Kota and Vishwas Satgar about the threat of the coronavirus on water stressed communities. Available at: <https://www.newframe.com/coronavirus-a-huge-threat-to-water-scarce-makhanda/>

**25 March**, Vishwas Satgar writes an opinion piece, published in Daily Maverick, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-25-covid-19-the-climate-crisis-and-lockdown-an-opportunity-to-end-the-war-with-nature/>

## VIII. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

### 8.1 Online resources for Agroecology techniques

Last year, John Nzira and Nazeer Sondag provided training on agroecology at Wits. We filmed a few of the sessions and are making them available to you online:



How to kill the grass (naturally) and prepare the soil for planting: [https://youtu.be/zBXz8ITK\\_mA](https://youtu.be/zBXz8ITK_mA)

How to build swales and ridges (water tips): <https://youtu.be/KljbSUwOhp8>

Tips on planting a tree: <https://youtu.be/Tjf5UU55CjI>

Tips for pruning: <https://youtu.be/69OhJevCFqQ>



How to start and use a compost pile: <https://youtu.be/bxR4BjITdE0>

### 8.1 Quincy Saul seminar on Eco-socialism available for viewing on YouTube

On 17 March, Quincy Saul presented on his book: The Emergence of EcoSocialism: Collected essays by Joel Kovel.



View the seminar at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTRHcMVaWdY>

#### **More information:**

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