



# SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

## The Climate Justice Charter

### CONTENTS

1. **Editorial:** Party politicians fiddle about with climate change while SA burns
2. **National News**
  - 2.1 Climate Justice, the Decolonial Project and Our Generational Mission: a report on the Climate Justice Charter National Day of action and Engagement with Parliament
3. **Local Campaigning News: Building Food Sovereignty in Communities, Villages, Towns and Cities**
  - 3.1 Online agroecology training series
  - 3.2 Food Commons Map
4. **Solidarity with Struggles**
  - 4.1. The killing of Somkhele Environmental activist, Fikile Ntshangase
5. **International News**
  - 5.1. ACB's Multiple shocks in Africa Series: Ecological Crisis, Capitalist Nature and Decolonisation for Human and Ecological Liberation
6. **Climate Justice News**
  - 6.1 Reflections on Climate Justice Charter Movement achievements in 2020
  - 6.2 The Ark of South African Life
7. **SAFSC in the Media**
  - 7.1 List of SAFSC media engagements
8. **Activist Resources**
  - 8.1 Online webinar recordings

## I. EDITORIAL

### Party politicians fiddle about with climate change while SA burns

*Vishwas Satgar*

Anybody standing on the rim of the Theewaterskloof dam, the largest in the Western Cape, with its spillways overflowing can certainly be excused for scoffing at an assertion that South Africa is on fire. At 99% full such an observer can also be excused for forgetting about the day zero challenge that engulfed the City of Cape Town in 2018. With this commonsense view of our reality, dear reader, welcome to the complexity of the climate crisis. According to climate science South Africa is burning from planetary heating; we are one of ten hot spots in the world and are heating at twice the global average. Johannesburg is already at 2°C heating and its recent heat wave, at the early days of summer, brought temperatures perilously close to a 35°C point when the human body can easily be overcome and perish. Those with access to water, air conditioning, and shady living spaces do better, but with our high levels of inequality many do not have such luxuries and endure climate injustice. They suffer because they do not have the economic means and basic needs infrastructure to protect them. This 'normalised inequality' has been exacerbated during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Climate science has already warned about the risks further heating will bring to South Africa. In simple terms, it is telling us loud and clear that more use of oil, gas and coal means tomorrow is borne in fire. In this decade a 1.5°C planetary overshoot is very likely, which means South Africa will heat at 3°C. At such temperatures globalized commercial agriculture will breakdown, multi-year droughts will be a regular occurrence, warmer temperatures and other extreme weather shocks are also likely. Our eco-systems will be further stressed and our socio-ecological order will be pushed decisively in the direction of collapse. This is not dystopian science fiction or alarmist fear mongering.

These challenges are in a document prepared by some of South Africa's leading climate scientists and shared with South Africa's parliament on October 16, World Food Day. This online assembly with parliament also shared the world's first Climate Justice Charter with parliament with the demand it be adopted as per section 234 of the South African constitution, which provides for charters to be adopted. The Climate Justice Charter comes out of six years of campaigning, during the worst drought in the history of South Africa, led by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign, and was shaped by constituency dialogues and public input over a two year period.

Why did South African civil society rally before the handover of these documents to parliament, under the banner of end hunger, thirst, pollution and climate harm, across 70 localised actions including poetry readings, community marches, online theater, children reading the Climate Justice Charter at school assemblies, murals being painted and more? Why did 220 organisations endorse the Climate Justice Charter, including trade unions,

informal traders, several schools, social justice organisations, environmental organisations, leading political foundations like the Mandela, Gandhi and Kathrada Foundations? The answer is that we are dealing with a serious challenge, which everybody needs to own, but our political leaders are just not taking it seriously. With the prospect of our extinction as a species on the planetary agenda it is rational to assume that every person who considers themselves a leader in society, particularly, every political party will be seized with this issue. You would expect climate crisis news to be mainstreamed in the media. You would expect every policy agenda to mainstream the climate crisis as a systemic problem to be solved. Unfortunately this is not the case.

Trying to understand the crisis of planetary leadership throws up important but scary explanations. The US national elections gives us a glimpse of the drag on decisive leadership to address the worsening climate crisis. The most powerful and wealthy country in the world is holding a national election that looks like a circus. On the one side, racist hoodlums, armed to the teeth are dog whistled by the sitting President Donald Trump and a toxic narrative of electoral fraud is constantly spewed out from his twitter feed, all laying the basis for a political crisis, if he loses. Most leaders in the Republican Party are also beating this drum making the US elections look like the performance of a failed state and a democratic project in crisis. On the other side, a Democratic Party candidate representing a party that brought financialized capitalism on steroids and austerity to the US people. Both parties and their leaders have ensured the US continues its carbon-addicted way of life even to the point of undermining multi-lateral negotiations at every turn. This version of captured politics by powerful fossil fuel corporations has also been about misdirecting the US public for over two decades about climate science. In the midst of this cauldron is a social media centered way of life that has become a major source of disinformation and opinion driven behavior. Ethical public science and truth no longer matter. As a consequence over 30 years of climate science and warnings have been ignored. Trump has done the same with Covid 19 science.

South Africa is the 11<sup>th</sup> highest emitter of carbon emissions in the world. Our coal addiction is criminal. Yet despite climate science warnings, successive ANC governments have continued reproducing the carbon-based minerals energy complex. Under the Ramaphosa government, including his Economic Recovery Plan, more mining is promoted, globalized agriculture is supported and he has fast tracked the extraction of oil and gas. This is an anti-climate justice and anti-climate science government. Days after President Ramaphosa announced his fast track mining plans, Somkhele environmental justice activist Fikile Ntshangase was assassinated at her home. She was consistent in building solidarity against the expansion of coal mining, by Tendele Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd, in her community. Fikile Ntshangase is a martyr in the struggle for climate justice in South Africa. At the same time, none of our political parties sitting in parliament have a serious agenda to tackle the climate crisis. This was evident when the top four parties (ANC, DA, EFF and FF+) in parliament declined an invitation to debate the urgency of the climate crisis at the recent online assembly. The three parties that did participate in the debate displayed extremely lackluster conceptions of climate issues. The rest of the parties did not reply to invites or just did not have contact information available for the public, so could not be reached. This prompts serious questions for the South African taxpayer who pays well over a million rand a year in salaries to each of

these public representatives. In particular, are these professional politicians really serious about the concerns of citizens?

When the world overshot 1°C in 2015 a second cycle of global climate justice activism exploded on to the world stage led by indigenous peoples struggles at Standing Rock in the US, later Extinction Rebellion and then Greta Thunberg's #FridaysForFuture movement. While these 1°C movements have raised awareness about the worsening climate crisis, national governments have continued to lack commitment to decarbonize and build adaptive systems. At the same time, in South Africa the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign started its long march through South African society to connect hunger, food price increases, drought and climate crisis. In the hurly-burly of this activism the Climate Justice Charter was germinated. Just like the Freedom Charter, it is premised on the need to give voice to the desires, visions and systemic alternatives that ordinary people want for a deep just transition to survive worsening climate crisis. Moreover, this Charter calls for South Africa to lead a climate justice agenda on the continent. Like the nuclear arms race in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which brought the world to the edge of extinction, the new democratic government boosted its moral authority by destroying all nuclear weapons. This gave Mandela's government a stature unrivalled in the global north and south. South Africa abandoned the power game of destructive geopolitics which locked countries into a path of mutual destruction. Similarly, the Climate Justice Charter calls on South Africa to lead decarbonization, to provide an inspiring example to the world and to lead a climate justice deal for Africa, including an 'end fossil fuel treaty' in the UN system. The world needs such an example before irreversible climate change is locked in. The Climate Justice Charter movement born in this process will not settle for anything less. In a year's time, on October 16 2021, it will return to parliament to confirm the Climate Justice Charter has been adopted. If South Africa's parliamentary parties do not rise to this challenge all legal and democratic options will be pursued to advance a climate justice future for South Africa.

A shorter version of this article was published in Sunday Times: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/opinion-and-analysis/2020-11-01-party-politicians-fiddle-about-with-climate-change-while-sa-burns/>

## II. NATIONAL NEWS

### 2.1 Climate Justice, the Decolonial Project and Our Generational Mission: a report on the Climate Justice Charter National Day of action and Engagement with Parliament

By Raees Noorbhai



On the morning of Friday the 16th of October, World Food Day, 68 local actions took place across the country as part of the National Day of Action against hunger, thirst, pollution and climate harm. Following the actions, an Assembly was held with Parliament, with a formal handover of the People's Climate Justice Charter, along with a memorandum of demands and a Climate Science document, prepared by leading Climate Scientists.

I was invited to speak at this Assembly in my capacity as a student and youth activist who had participated in the constituency consultations that helped shape the content of the Charter. I stressed that as students, we must acknowledge that our struggle for free, quality, decolonized education is linked to the struggle for Climate Justice. Both seek to bring commoditized goods into the commons, where they belong. Both address an injustice that is structural and normalised. And both seek to liberate our country from the shackles of economic disenfranchisement and the inequities of our colonial past. The Fallist movements and discourses are inherently decolonial, as is the People's Climate Justice Charter. Among the principles for deep just transitions championed by the Charter is decoloniality - the Charter recognizes that "colonial, neo-colonial and imperial domination are driving us towards extinction."



In an essay titled University Transformation Re-Imagined: Discourses Resulting after the Fallist Movements, Mabone Lerato Kgosiemang conducts an interview in March 2017 with Sifiso (pseudonym), a non-partisan and Pan-African student activist. Sifiso tells Kgosiemang, “Fees Must Fall, if you are a Fallist, if you believe in Fallism, Fees Must Fall basically means a fall of all those oppressive systems that are perpetuated on the black populace.” This reflects the attitude of many a Fallist concerning the interconnection of struggle. It is important for us to recognise that Carbon Capitalism involves a system of interlocking oppressions that everyday wages a war against this country’s black poor working class.

As highlighted by the memorandum handed over to parliament, fourteen million people went to bed hungry before Covid-19, while 54% of households did not have access to clean, tapped water. We are also experiencing one of the worst droughts in our country’s history. Moreover, “South Africa is transitioning towards mass starvation with at least thirty million people who are in food stress.” The roll out of food parcels has failed to stem the flow of hunger and the grant top ups, along with the introduction of the special Covid Social Relief Distress grant of R350, have had their gains eroded by food price increases.

South Africa is the 11th largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. The South African state and the polluting, exploitative corporations it serves are Carbon Criminals. Southern Africa is heating at twice the global average, while Sasol’s Secunda plant is the largest single point source of CO<sub>2</sub> in the world. The ideology of extractivism continually rears its ugly head in the mining sector. As recognised by the Memorandum, the focus on mining is stealing land that can be used for farming. If mining continues at this pace, approximately 12% of our country’s total high potential arable land will be ruined. The addiction to extractivism is also poisoning our water, releasing toxic acid mine drainage, along with radio-active pollutants. When community activists stand up and say no to this degradation and destruction, they are targeted, as was the case with Fikile Ntshangase, who was murdered in her home for her opposition to Tendele Coal’s extension of the Somkhele coal mine in northern Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The alarm bells are ringing, and they have been for a long while. They are nonetheless continuing to fall upon the deaf ears of the ruling class.

At a time when we need to be rolling back extractivism and the fossil fuel industry, the President’s Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP) proposes a reduction of 50% in the timeframes for mining, prospecting, water and environmental licenses. Ramaphosa’s ERRP goes on to state, “The Petroleum Resources Development Bill will be finalised to unlock our country’s enormous untapped potential in upstream oil and gas reserves.” This is myopia and the placement of profit above people and the planet. We will be unlocking a Pandora’s Box of neo-colonial plunder, exploitation, pollution and environmental degradation. This is not the future we want – and that was made clear in the debate with our political parties at the Assembly with Parliament.

All parties represented in Parliament were invited, but only three – the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Al Jama-ah Party and the African Transformation Movement - sent representatives to engage with us and receive the Charter. The ‘Big Three’ parties - the ruling ANC, the DA and

the EFF - were conspicuously absent. Youth activists posed questions to the members of Parliament, demonstrating a keener understanding of the Climate Crisis than our elected representatives. Young activists had an opportunity to directly express our anger and dismay at the current poverty of leadership in South African politics. However, it is a fool's game for us to continue seeking leadership outside of ourselves.

In the Wretched of the Earth, Frantz Fanon writes, "Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it or betray it." The decolonial mission of our generation is framed against the backdrop of the Climate Crisis. It is time for us to embrace this truth.

As #FeesMustFall demonstrated, the youth of South Africa is awakening. We are shedding the image of a generation that was born outside of Apartheid and inside of apathy. We are tired of waiting. For we now realise that we are the ones we've been waiting for. We will not bow to myopia and greed and we will not rest until our generational mission has been fulfilled. The era of Carbon Capitalism is ending. Together, we can build a more just world in its place.

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

#### 3.1. Online agroecology workshop series

Earlier this year, we hosted an online agroecology workshop series on how to set up an agroecological household or community food garden. The series was facilitated by permaculture expert, John Nzira and it was very well received because John's insights were informative and accessible. Later, we hosted a second series on closing the loop, which looked at land management, water management, waste management and composting and seed saving. Below is the complete list and links to the recordings. The objectives of this seminar series was to provide free online training to participants so that they can start setting up their own food gardens and closing the loop, so as



to encourage food sovereignty pathways. All participants were also encouraged to list their food gardens on the food commons map: <https://www.safsc.org.za/food-commons-map/>

## Phase 1: Setting up your household food garden

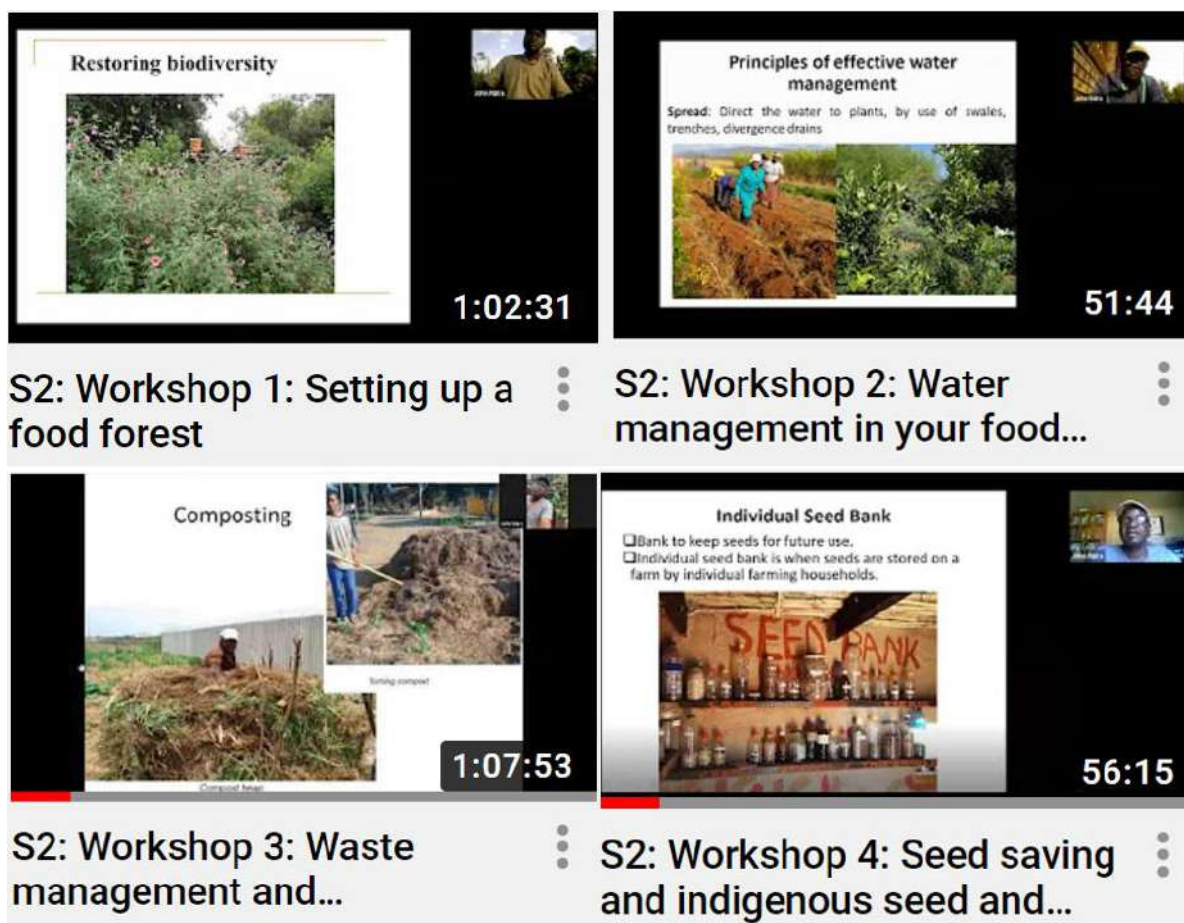
Workshop 1- setting up your home garden: <https://youtu.be/8mx8XBiVKEY>

Workshop 2- what to plant: <https://youtu.be/-Wu3DnZjZ9E>

Workshop 3- indigenous knowledge, commons and seed: <https://youtu.be/iuFZm-xkrri>

Workshop 4: maintaining your food garden: [https://youtu.be/TXyV4IYU\\_zl](https://youtu.be/TXyV4IYU_zl)

## Phase 2: Closing the loop



**Restoring biodiversity**  
1:02:31

**Principles of effective water management**  
Spread: Direct the water to plants, by use of swales, trenches, divergence drains  
51:44

**Composting**  
1:07:53

**Individual Seed Bank**  
 Bank to keep seeds for future use.  
 Individual seed bank is when seeds are stored on a farm by individual farming households.  
56:15

S2: Workshop 1: Setting up a food forest

S2: Workshop 2: Water management in your food...

S2: Workshop 3: Waste management and...

S2: Workshop 4: Seed saving and indigenous seed and...

Workshop 1 - Food forest and land management: <https://youtu.be/SMyHMTv2Yjk>

Workshop 2 - Water management: <https://youtu.be/1oOGAeADUe4>

Workshop 3 - Waste management and composting: <https://youtu.be/ZIA9depl1sg>

Workshop 4 - Seed saving and indigenous seed and food: <https://youtu.be/fHnuQfK0Gko>



## 3.2 Food Commons Map

Earlier this year, we put out a call for people to list their food commons initiatives. These include initiatives such as household gardens, community gardens, communal kitchens, food relief initiatives and so forth. We have had a number of people/communities list their initiatives, and the map is growing. These initiatives show that there is indeed an alternative food system. The map can be viewed at this link. Have a look, and be inspired by what is happening in South Africa: <https://www.safsc.org.za/food-commons-map/>

If you have a food commons initiative, please consider listing it on our map at this link: <https://www.safsc.org.za/add-your-food-commons-project>

The screenshot displays the SAFSC Food Commons Map website. At the top, the SAFSC logo is visible, along with navigation links for Home, About, Covid-19 Solidarity, Media Releases, Climate Justice Charter, Campaign Resources, and News & Events. The main heading is "Food Commons Map" with a red button "Add Your Food Commons Project". Below the heading, there are filters for categories like "Community Garden", "House Garden", and "School Garden". A search bar is present. The main content area shows a map of South Africa with numerous red location pins indicating food commons projects. Two project cards are visible: "Wits Food Sovereignty Centre" and "Soul on Indigenous life".

## IV. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES

### 4.1 The killing of Somkhele Environmental activist, Fikile Ntshangase

#### Joint Media Statement

Friday, 23 October 2020

“I refused to sign. I cannot sell out my people. And if need be, I will die for my people.” Tragically, grandmother Fikile Ntshangase’s words became a reality when she was gunned down in her home at Ophondweni, near Mtubatuba, on the evening of 22 October 2020.

Mama Ntshangase was the Vice-Chairperson of a sub-committee of the Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organisation (“MCEJO”). MCEJO has been challenging the further expansion of a large coal mine at Somkele in KwaZulu-Natal by Tendele Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd. One of the court cases brought by MCEJO is scheduled for hearing in the Supreme Court of Appeal on 3 November 2020.

On Thursday, 22 October 2020 at about 18:30, four gunmen arrived at Mam Nsthangase’s house, where she lives with her 11-year old grandson. Current reports say that they forced themselves into the home and shot her 5 times, and that she died on the scene.

Tendele’s coal mining operations have caused untold destruction of the environment and the homes and livelihoods of the residents of Somkhele. (Photographs and video footage available.)

Over the past few months, tension has been rising in the community over the proposed expansion of Tendele’s operations, and MCEJO’s opposition to that expansion.

Recently, Tendele was pushing for an agreement to be signed between MCEJO and Tendele to the effect that MCEJO would withdraw its Court challenges of Tendele’s expansion of its coal mine at Somkhele. Mama Nsthangase refused to sign the “agreement”, which certain of her fellow sub-committee members signed, purportedly doing so on behalf of MJECO.

She warned sub-committee members that they had no power to make decisions on behalf of MJECO and that the “agreement” only benefited Tendele. She also refused to attend any of the secret meetings that other sub-committee members held with Tendele. Days before her brutal killing, Mama Ntshangase stated her intention to write an affidavit, revealing that sub-committee members had spoken to her of a payment of R350,000 in return for her signature.

The court challenge that placed a price on Mama Ntshangase’s life is MJECO’s pending review application of Tendele’s new mining right in respect of a 222km<sup>2</sup> area in Mpukunyoni, KZN. This review is due to be heard by the North Gauteng High Court in March 2021.

Tendele has publicly characterised MCEJO’s legal challenge as a threat to the mine’s continued existence, stating that, with the current mining area depleted, it needed to expand its mining area, or face closure.

The expansion requires relocation of 21 families (19 of them MJECO members) from their ancestral land. Many of these families have lived on their land for generations.

Tendele cannot commence any operations in the new mining right area until these families agree to Tendele's "compensation" offer and sign relocation agreements. These families were subjected to months of violence and intimidation. Despite the clear volatility of the situation, Tendele has accused these families of "holding the Mine, its ... employees and many families who have signed [relocation] agreements and indeed the entire community to ransom". Tendele carried out its pressure campaign even while these families were receiving anonymous death-threats and gunmen opened fire on one of the families' homes.

In May 2020, Tendele tried to bring an urgent court application to force the families to accept their compensation offer, but abruptly removed the matter from the Court roll when the families opposed the application.

Tendele has now embarked upon a campaign to pit the State, the Ingonyama Trust Board, traditional leaders and fellow community members against these families to pressure them into signing relocation agreements. Tendele requested the MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison KZN, Minister Ntuli and department officials to set up a "task team", with the aim of "the two court cases opened by MJECO against the mine remain a threat and needs [sic] to be withdrawn". This Task Team has since described their role to include "deliberat[ing] on the court cases which pose a threat".

It is against this backdrop that the pro-mining campaign was stepped up during the past week. On 15 October, two sub-committee members, accompanied by two known hitmen, tried to disrupt a MCEJO executive committee meeting with community leaders, which included Mama Ntshangase. One sub-committee member tried to lock the doors, and a prominent leader was assaulted. A criminal case is being opened. This leader, who works in another area, has been warned that his life will be in danger if he is seen in the vicinity.

Billy Mnqondo, a founding member of MCEJO, reports that one of the hitman kept saying "kuzochitheka igazi" (there will be bloodshed). His appeal to the police is: "Make sure that the criminals who murdered our comrade are caught and go to jail. Mam Ntshangase was killed for standing up for what is right. This is wrong and cannot go unpunished."

It appears that the mine is being supported by the KwaZulu-Natal government. In July, the Department of Community Safety and Liaison sent a staff member, apparently from its Civilian Secretariat arm (which is conspicuous in its absence whenever the threat of violence looms), to persuade community members to negotiate with the mine.

Since then, after MCEJO members thought it only proper to approach the office of the Ingonyama King Goodwill Zwelithini about their struggle, they have come under even further government pressure via the office of the Premier and COGTA. This is the self-same government that claims to be a custodian for land reform to redress the land imbalance – while wilfully pushing to displace rural farmers from their family land from which they subsist.

For the State and Traditional Authorities actively to assist Tendele in its efforts to orchestrate a withdrawal of MJECO's review application is abhorrent to our Constitutional order. Without access to Court, local communities' right to dignity and section 24 environmental rights are illusory.

The strategies used by Tendele are sadly typical of many companies operating in impoverished rural communities. Mines dangle incentives to impoverished community members with the inevitable consequences of stirring deep community divisions, which almost always lead to violence and deaths. In rural areas that are difficult to police, it takes someone with the determination and the courage of Mama Ntshangase to promote community solidarity and resistance in the face of these strategies. There are other leaders of this caliber in MCEJO and, if anything, the assassination of Mama Ntshangase has renewed their determination to step up the fight against exploitation by the mine.

We mourn the senseless tragedy of Mama Ntshangase's murder, and condemn her killing.

We call on the South African Police Service to act swiftly to arrest and prosecute her murderers.

We call on Tendele to stop its campaign of dividing and fomenting violence in the affected community of Somkhele, and to provide funds for Mam Ntshangase's funeral and for maintenance for her orphaned grandson.

We stand by all defenders of land and environmental rights, and will act to defend their Constitutional rights to life, dignity, free speech, access to justice, access to food and water, and an environment not harmful to health or wellbeing.

Contacts:

Tsepang Molefe; +27 74 405 1257; [media@groundwork.org.za](mailto:media@groundwork.org.za)

Lerato Balendran; +27 79 071 744 ; [lbalendran@cer.org.za](mailto:lbalendran@cer.org.za)

Sifiso Dladla; +27 78 849 8621; [sifiso.dladla@actionaid.org.za](mailto:sifiso.dladla@actionaid.org.za)

Robby Mokgalaka; +27 73 774 3362; [robby@groundwork.org.za](mailto:robby@groundwork.org.za)

On behalf of:

MCEJO (Mfolozi Community Environmental Justice Organisation)

GET (Global Environmental Trust) <https://globalenvironmentaltrust.org/>

MACUA (Mining Affected Communities United in Action) <https://macua.org.za/>

WAMUA (Women Against Mining United in Action) <https://macua.org.za/>

CER (Centre for Environmental Rights) <https://cer.org.za/>

Earthlife Africa <https://earthlife.org.za/>

groundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa <https://www.groundwork.org.za/>

SAHRDN (Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network) <https://africandefenders.org/members/southern-africa/>



## V. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 5.1 ACB's Multiple shocks in Africa Series: Ecological Crisis, Capitalist Nature and Decolonisation for Human and Ecological Liberation

*African Centre for Biodiversity*



The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent crises, as a result of lockdowns, have exposed the fractures of human societies' relationship with nature. In a world dominated by capitalist globalisation, these crises are not blips or anomalies that require a few tweaks to make the system a little more sustainable. No, it is a forceful reflection of processes that engender the economic, ecological and social crises that already existed. Key international forums and publications are focusing during this critical juncture on identifying drivers of biodiversity loss and climate change, and powerful forces are rallying to advance false solutions that ensure powerful economic actors maintain their profit-making while pretending to preserve nature.

The ACB therefore undertook research aimed at more sharply exposing the deeper systemic forces shaping and continuously entrenching the planet's civilisational crises. Through this process we examined, from an African perspective, the multiple shocks striking the continent, and smallholder farmers and rural dwellers in particular. We believe it is important to clarify the political imperatives facing us as movements, civil society organisations and policy makers working on the continent, in pursuit of our project of human and ecological liberation.

We will be presenting this research in a series of six discussion papers that hone in on specific shocks hitting areas of the continent. The ACB has historically worked to resist the advance of industrial food systems in Africa. By exploring the deeper systemic forces driving ecological and economic exploitation of our continent and the experiences of shocks in the context of the climate and biodiversity crises, these papers deepen our understanding of the terrain in which we struggle for transformed food systems. The series is our contribution to addressing the most serious existential crisis that Africa, and humanity, is facing. While the papers focus on Africa, we present them in solidarity with all those at the brunt of oppression and the ecological crisis, and to those who forge ahead, against the forces of destruction, and whose struggles are embedded in the politics of life.

The following papers have already been released in this series:

1. Multiple shocks and the Ebola and Covid pandemics in West and Central Africa: Extraction, Profiteering and Shattered Food Systems and Livelihoods

Through the lens of the Ebola shocks that have battered West and Central Africa since 2013, and with a specific focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the tragic story of the Ebola outbreaks cannot be told apart from interconnections with wanton resource extraction and exploitation, ecological collapse, precarious livelihoods, financialisation and crippling indebtedness.

We show how the relationship between ecological disturbance and human health has been shaped by distorted logics of austerity, profiteering and financialisation of human life and death, shaped largely by the pressures of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Collaboration between big Northern based conservation groups, industry and governments in this context are pushing a battery of dangerous and false solutions, embedded in destructive and exclusionary logics of commodification, dispossession and financialisation. Download the paper here: <https://www.acbio.org.za/en/multiple-shocks-and-ebola-and-covid-pandemics-west-and-central-africa-extraction-profiteering-and>

2. Neo-colonial economies and ecologies, smallholder farmers and multiple shocks: The case of cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique and Zimbabwe

The second discussion paper in the series critically examines the backdrop to cyclones Idai and Kenneth, namely the political and economic drivers of ecological degradation under the guise of development loans and aid, through rapacious natural resource extraction and social and cultural displacement.

We focus on Mozambique, and to a lesser degree Zimbabwe, and examine the intersections between climate change, deforestation, agriculture and extractivism, and their roles in driving social and political instability and food insecurity in these countries. On the one hand, so-called development interventions reinforce indebtedness, inequalities and social exclusion. And on the other, they deepen dependency on destructive, short-sighted and short-lived carbon and capital-intensive projects, and on global agricultural and forest value chains, which all contribute to creating conditions for extreme vulnerability especially due to ecological imbalances, and to shocks such as the fall armyworm (FAW) infestation and the

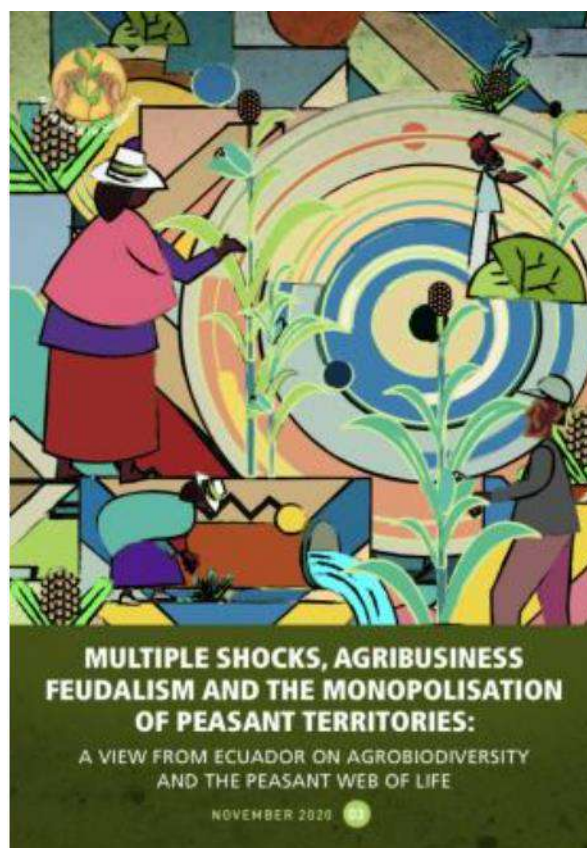
COVID-19 pandemic. Download the paper here: <https://www.acbio.org.za/en/neo-colonial-economies-and-ecologies-smallholder-farmers-and-multiple-shocks-case-cyclones-idai-and>

3. Shock after shock in Africa: A tale of ecological imbalance, the Fall Armyworm infestation and false solutions

The FAW infestation on the continent took root principally because of ecological imbalances as discussed in our Shock after shock in Africa: a tale of ecological imbalance, the fall armyworm infestation and false solutions. FAW, which impacted millions of smallholder farmers across the continent, is a symptom of distorted farming and food systems – pointing to underlying ecological imbalance, gross inequities and a myriad of false solutions that are misdirecting the fate of both the planet and its peoples. The FAW infestations compel us to transition to agroecology, which have dealt far better with pressures like FAW, and would certainly have prevented its emergence as a pest in the first place. However, agroecological transition is inseparable from broader transitions that must confront resource extractivism, undemocratic governments, economic injustice, and strengthen the foundations for social equality. Download the paper here: <https://www.acbio.org.za/sites/default/files/shock-after-shock-in-africa-a-tale-of-ecological-imbalance-the-fall-armyworm-infestation-and-false-solutions-flnal-briefing.pdf>

4. Forthcoming papers: (2021)

In ***Locust plagues, smallholders and multiple shocks in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda: time to confront the imperial agenda in Africa***, the fourth discussion paper of this series, we turn to another pest infestation that has been pounding East Africa since early 2020. The locusts hit a region and its smallholder farmers already battered by climate change – increasing extreme weather events, including cyclones, droughts and floods, rising temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall. The region is also a hotbed of efforts to intensify the corporatisation and industrialisation of agriculture, and in response to each shock, East African governments together with powerful northern governments, foundations and financial institutions insist that greater commercialisation and integration into global value chains through use of chemical inputs and technology are the solution to the challenges faced by smallholder food producers. The paper dives into the deeper connections between debt, aid, digitalisation and financialisation, which are increasingly determining the terrain on which smallholder farmers must cope; rather than strengthening rights (to land, water, democracy, justice, and the rights of nature) as the foundation for ecologically



viable societies. Given our internationalist commitment, ***Multiple shocks, agribusiness feudalism and the monopolisation of peasant territories: a view from Ecuador on agrobiodiversity and the peasant web of life*** looks at how shocks are used to further industrialise maize production in Ecuador, through the provision of “farming kits”, which is undermining the ecological basis of peasant seed and farming systems.

The paper is particularly resonant for the ACB, given our pioneering work of many years on the role of Farm Input Subsidy Programmes (FISPs) in various African countries, as a means to hook small farmers onto the industrial agricultural input treadmill and undermine their economic integrity and food sovereignty. The Ecuadorian government uses farming kits to shift peasants to monoculture maize production, while also using shock after shock, such as pest infestations, floods and earthquakes as grounds for their apparent necessity. The paper deepens our perspective on FISPs by showing how it is also about delivering and locking peasants and their produce into corporate marketing chains; whereas the ecological and social crisis calls for strengthening peasant seed systems as well as peasant- and community-controlled marketing systems.

The final paper of the series will bring together the key lessons from all the papers into an overarching political and conceptual framing that suggests our political imperatives moving forward. The systemic crises call for strengthening our systemic perspectives as guides to our political action as food sovereignty and progressive movements and organisations on the continent. This paper intends to contribute to such strengthening.

The papers show that the shocks hitting especially smallholders and rural dwellers in Africa, and the false solutions proposed, cannot be understood outside the operations of global imperialism and the continuation of economic and ecological colonialism and capitalist globalisation. The Empire’s recovery plan for the planet amounts to nothing less than genocide and ecocide. We are heading towards an ecological and economic wasteland of a continent unless we stop them. The situations explored in the discussion papers are therefore bleak, but they must be known in order to politically situate an agenda driven by solidarity and, indeed, love – for justice, and for all life on earth. They point to the urgent necessity of decolonisation agendas drawing on myriad organising and practices already in flow, to the construction of a progressive, movement-driven pan-African agenda appropriate to the task of genuine human and ecological liberation.

This research series is our contribution to this political project of solidarity with nature and all peoples of the world who are caught in forces of destruction but who continually work for ecologically just and egalitarian futures. We invite you to continue this journey with us and the movement of organisations, networks and communities devoted to nurturing life: of all humanity, all non-human life, the earth, and all these forces of life that bind us.

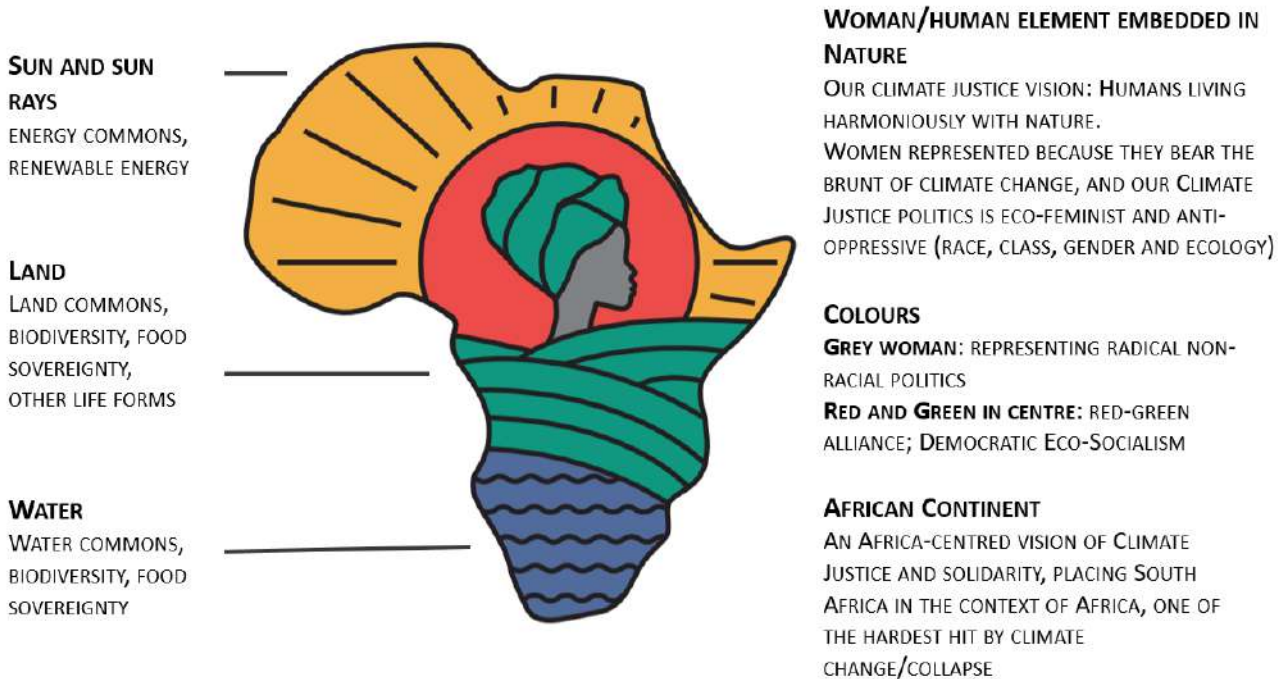
Read more or access the latest publications in 2021 at ACB’s website: [www.acbio.org.za](http://www.acbio.org.za)



## VI. CLIMATE JUSTICE NEWS

### 6.1 Reflections on Climate Justice Charter Movement achievements in 2020

Jane Cherry



This article provides six brief reflections on achievements of SAFSC and the Climate Justice Charter Movement in 2020.

**First, in terms of SAFSC,** as we know, the Climate Justice Charter and movement has emerged out of six years of campaigning by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign. SAFSC and its partners have been integral players in the Climate Justice Charter process, and this year SAFSC coordinated a response to Covid-19 and hunger, through the establishment of the National Food Crisis Forum. The SAFSC response has involved mapping food relief efforts, engaging with the Solidarity Fund and government departments on the hunger crisis and food sovereignty alternatives. We have mapped the food commons and encouraged people to set up household and community food gardens by offering online agroecology training. We have engaged with water stressed communities and are working on a legal process to ensure that water is delivered to communities who lack it. This has led to engagements with the provincial department of water in Eastern Cape and we will continue to engage them next year. In addition, the National Food Crisis Forum has initiated a Universal Basic Income Grant (#UBIG) campaign to develop a consensus on the #UBIG and create public awareness about it. All of these initiatives speak to promoting and raising

awareness about some of the alternatives in the Charter, namely food sovereignty, water sovereignty and a UBIG Through these activities we have managed to shift some of the debate around alternatives. At the same time, we are encouraging the building of these alternatives now, and many other organisations in the CJCM have done the same.

**Second, we successfully finalised the charter this year**, based on a number of inputs. We also translated it into all official South African languages which are available for download on the SAFSC website <https://www.safsc.org.za/climate-justice-charter/>. We printed some physical copies and posted them across the country. We intend to print and disseminate many more physical copies next year.

**Third, we hosted three key assemblies where we also presented the Charter:**

*16 June Youth Day Assembly* where we heard youth voices and received final inputs. Here are the recordings of the event:

- Objectives and Youth Panel: <https://youtu.be/sV1eoi-3tpk>
- Climate science panel: <https://youtu.be/fBusyJo2dUQ>
- International panel- lessons from Covid for climate science: <https://youtu.be/zFXJrAlcePM>
- Finalising the charter: <https://youtu.be/IAQGvtGZeeQ>



*28 August, Launch of Climate Justice Charter: Eco-feminists speak.* Where leading feminists in SA, including Jacklyn Cock, Dorah Marema, Ferrial Adam, Makoma Lekalakala and Ela Gandhi presented. Here is a recording of the whole event, <https://youtu.be/dg246Zu94yg>

16 October Engagement with parliament, where the Charter and climate science document, as well as a memorandum was handed over to the deputy speaker of parliament, Lechesa Tsenoli. A recording of the Charter being read out by youth in different languages was also screened. The full event was also recorded and can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/OfgDiYNEEbw>. The charter reading can be viewed at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4uWqlc2Xk&t=1s&ab\\_channel=COPACSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA4uWqlc2Xk&t=1s&ab_channel=COPACSA)



**Fourth, was the National day of action against hunger, thirst pollution and climate harm** where we had 68 local events listed which took place on the morning of 16 October. Together these local events showed us that we are not alone, that there a number of communities on the ground who are working together and in solidarity to end hunger, thirst, pollution and climate harm and that there is strength in unity. A video of some of these actions was compiled and screened before the parliament engagement. View the recording here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CStN159a7h0&ab\\_channel=COPACSA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CStN159a7h0&ab_channel=COPACSA)

**Fifth, we recognise that the Charter and process has brought us to an exciting place in the history of Climate Justice in South Africa.** We have 5820 endorsements by individuals and 237 organisational endorsements and We have taken steps towards mass climate justice campaigning in South Africa. (Please endorse as an individual [<https://awethu.amandla.mobi/petitions/together-we-can-help-ensure-parliament-brings-an-end-to-water-problems-hunger-and-pollution>] or organisation [<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHTqGKwzVInVh6mrp83dZCnKZRG-VKFT5NKcogujYn05zcqg/viewform>] if you haven't already)

Through all of these engagements listed above we have gathered broader support for the Charter, engaged constituencies further and brought more people and activists into the Climate Justice Charter movement and discussions. We will continue to engage with different



constituencies, and we will go all out next year to grow the number of supporting organisations.

**And finally, we are working on strengthening our communication and organising platforms.** First, through the media, with whom we have forged key alliances with. We have had a number of media engagements this year, and have a partnership agreement with Daily Maverick's Our Burning Plane and Maverick Citizen to cover stories about the issues mentioned in the charter, the alternatives and youth perspectives, for the next 50 weeks. Our social media has been effective and is drawing some attention. We have launched our CJCM social media pages (Twitter <https://twitter.com/CJCharterSA> and Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/254378585974038/> )

We have also finalised the concept for a CJCM website, which will have a platform to share campaigns and mobilise around them. We will launch this in 2021.

A big thanks to everyone who has been a part of this process. Forward to a united Climate Justice Charter Movement in 2021!





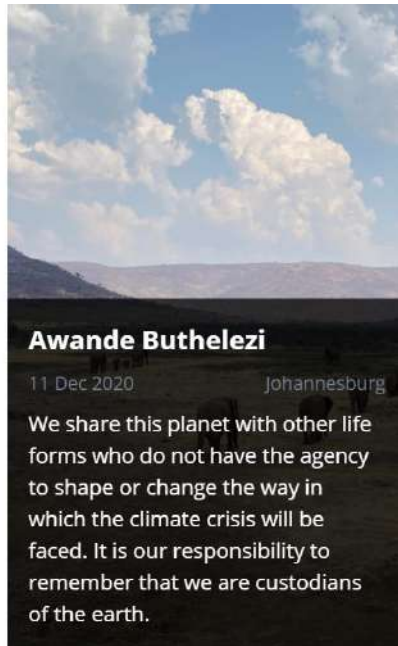
## 6.2 The Ark of South African Life

The Emancipatory Futures Studies project at Wits University houses a photo project called the Ark of South African Life. Here, individuals are encouraged to post images of what we will lose if we don't solve the climate crisis. See below for a description of the what the Ark is about:

*Worsening climate change threatens everything. According to the UN - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the current decade is crucial to prevent a 1.5 °C overshoot and ensure we decarbonise, build adaptative systems and strengthen climate disaster capacities as part of a deep just transition to limit catastrophic 2°C heating. Leadership at all levels of society has to act now. We are running out of time. This tool is for everyone to let the powerful know what we will lose, what is in jeopardy, if they do not work with us now to solve the climate crisis. Together in this space we will curate everything in our life worlds we believe is precious and should be documented through your photographs; it is an Ark of South African Life.*



CLIMATE SCIENCE FUTURE FOR SA  
CLIMATE SHOCK MONITOR  
EMANCIPATORY FUTURES MAP  
**ARK OF SOUTH AFRICAN LIFE**  
EFS BLOG  
EFS PROGRAMME  
SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES  
CONTACT



Next year a selection of these photos will be sent to our leaders to show them what the people think is at stake if we don't act now. Add your voice (and your picture) by uploading an image from your phone or laptop. Follow the simple instructions at this link: <https://emancipatoryfutures.co.za/ark/image-upload/upload>

## VII. SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

### List of SAFSC's Latest Media Engagements

- 30 August 2020:** Vishwas Satgar interviewed on ENCA about the Climate Justice Charter
- 2 September 2020:** 'South African movement adopts the Climate Justice Charter' – The charter is profiled on Climate and Capitalism's website, <https://climateandcapitalism.com/2020/09/02/south-african-climate-justice-charter/>.
- 8 September 2020:** Vishwas Satgar interviewed on Salaam Radio about the Climate Justice Charter.
- 8 September 2020:** Vishwas Satgar interviewed on Newzroom Afrika about climate justice charter
- 16 September 2020:** Courtney Morgan interviewed on Cape Talk about the food relief map and report.
- 15 October 2020:** Vishwas Satgar engagement with Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu during a panel discussion on eNCA about the hunger crisis: <https://youtu.be/FZpR8GKjGak>
- 16 October 2020:** Assembly of the Amazon in Latin America promotes the Climate Justice Charter letter of demands: <https://asambleamundialamazonia.org/2020/10/16/la-sociedad-civil-de-sudafrica-presenta-una-carta-de-justicia-climatica-al-parlamento/>
- 18 October 2020:** Vishwas Satgar interviewed on Newzroom Afrika about the Climate Justice Charter and parliament engagement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra6aH3W2jzw>
- 19 October 2020:** William Shoki is interviewed on CTtv about the climate justice charter parliament engagement and national day of action.
- 19 October 2020:** 'Climate activists demand better green policies in SA' Cape Argus reports on the Climate Justice Charter assembly with Parliament" <https://www.iol.co.za/capeargus/news/climate-activists-demand-better-green-policies-in-sa-01364b8c-f643-4995-9995-2e41bb4cbc7e>
- 19 October 2020:** Shanaaz Viljoen of Children's Resource Centre is interviewed for CTV about the Climate Justice charter national day of action, in particular, about the actions taken by the Children.
- 19 October 2020:** 'Activists protest against growing hunger in a land of plenty', Daily Maverick mentions the climate justice charter engagements:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-10-19-activists-protest-against-growing-hunger-in-a-land-of-plenty/>

**20 October 2020:** Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on ENCA about the climate justice charter engagement with parliament: 'Calls to end hunger and pollution'  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF1Lbj41R\\_k&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF1Lbj41R_k&feature=youtu.be)

**20 October 2020:** Courtney Morgan is interviewed on Salaam Media about the climate justice charter and engagement with parliament:  
<https://www.facebook.com/salaamedia/videos/1045888355839736/?vh=e&extid=0&d=n>

**1 November 2020** Party politicians fiddle about with climate change while SA burns, by Vishwas Satgar, published in Sunday Times, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/opinion-and-analysis/2020-11-01-party-politicians-fiddle-about-with-climate-change-while-sa-burns/>

**8 November 2020:** *Daily Maverick Climate Justice Charter series*, The world needs a climate justice charter and a deep, just transition to sustain life on our burning planet, by Jane Cherry and Vishwas Satgar, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-11-08-the-world-needs-a-climate-justice-charter-and-a-deep-just-transition-to-sustain-life-on-our-burning-planet/>

**15 November 2020:** *Climate Justice Charter series*, Shack or rondavel? Traditional building methods hold the key to accessible housing, by Tshiamo Malatji, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-11-15-shack-or-rondavel-traditional-building-methods-hold-the-key-to-accessible-housing-that-fights-the-climate-crisis/>

**11 November 2020:** *Daily Maverick Climate Justice Charter series*, South Africa has a viable, sustainable alternative in its plan for a 'Just Transition', by Kaamil Alli, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-11-22-south-africa-has-a-viable-sustainable-alternative-in-its-plan-for-a-just-transition/>

**12 November 2020:** Davine Cloete is interviewed on CTV.

**25 November 2020:** Vishwas Satgar is interviewed on Newzroom Afrika on the climate crisis

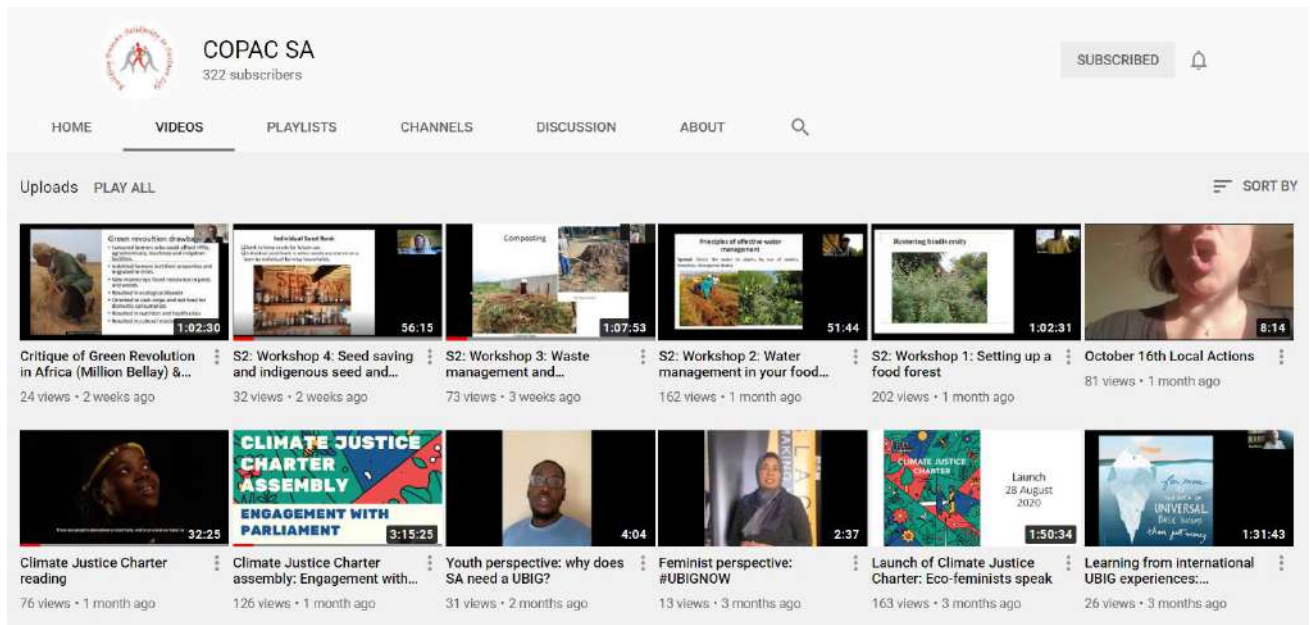
**1 December 2020:** *Daily Maverick Climate Justice Charter series*, A faith perspective on taking the sanctity of nature seriously, by Gabriel Manyangadze and Francesca de Gasparis <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-12-01-a-faith-perspective-on-taking-the-sanctity-of-nature-seriously/>

**8 December 2020:** *Daily Maverick Climate Justice Charter series*, Rural poor suffer most under SAs water crisis, labour must speak out by Hamed Deedat, <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-12-08-rural-poor-suffer-most-under-sas-water-crisis-labour-must-speak-out/>

## VIII. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

### 8.1 Online webinar recordings

In addition to the webinars, training and assemblies listed above, we have had a number of other exciting webinars and public talks. All of these have been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/COPACSA/videos>



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for COPAC SA, which has 322 subscribers. The channel is subscribed to. The page displays a grid of video uploads, including:

- Green revolution drawing** (1:02:30): Critique of Green Revolution in Africa (Million Belly) &... (24 views, 2 weeks ago)
- Individual food bank** (56:15): S2: Workshop 4: Seed saving and indigenous seed and... (32 views, 2 weeks ago)
- Composting** (1:07:53): S2: Workshop 3: Waste management and... (73 views, 3 weeks ago)
- Principles of effective water management** (51:44): S2: Workshop 2: Water management in your food... (162 views, 1 month ago)
- Monitoring health equity** (1:02:31): S2: Workshop 1: Setting up a food forest (202 views, 1 month ago)
- October 16th Local Actions** (8:14): October 16th Local Actions (81 views, 1 month ago)
- Climate Justice Charter reading** (3:25): Climate Justice Charter reading (76 views, 1 month ago)
- CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER ASSEMBLY ENGAGEMENT WITH PARLIAMENT** (3:15:25): Climate Justice Charter assembly: Engagement with... (126 views, 1 month ago)
- Youth perspective: why does SA need a UBIG?** (4:04): Youth perspective: why does SA need a UBIG? (31 views, 2 months ago)
- Feminist perspective: #UBIGNOW** (2:37): Feminist perspective: #UBIGNOW (13 views, 3 months ago)
- Launch of Climate Justice Charter: Eco-feminists speak** (1:50:34): Launch of Climate Justice Charter: Eco-feminists speak (163 views, 3 months ago)
- Learning from international UBIG experiences:...** (1:31:43): Learning from international UBIG experiences:... (26 views, 3 months ago)