The South African Youth Climate Action Plan

We, the youth of South Africa, recognise the urgent need for accelerated climate action to build a climate-resilient and prosperous society. The Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group I, states that it is undeniable that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. To limit global warming to the 1.5°C goal, or at most realise the 2°C goal set in the Paris Agreement, we require greater climate ambition from all sectors of society.

In taking climate action, we stress the obligation to uphold human rights with special emphasis on promoting intersectional and inclusive climate action. While the actions detailed in this document call upon national stakeholders, we urge the global community to enhance their support for countries from the Global South and commit to global financing goals on adaptation and mitigation.

Young people from all over South Africa, representing various organisations, schools, university groups and communities, have developed this first South African Youth Climate Action Plan (SA YCAP). Our goal is that the SA YCAP will serve as a framework to inspire youth-led action and further serve as a guide for youth, decision-makers, civil society, business, academia and other stakeholders to reshape our country into a climate just and resilient society. We applaud South Africa's commitment to realising the goals set out in the Paris Agreement, the National Development Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution, the draft Climate Change Bill (2018) and the Integrated Resource Plan, and view these as good foundations for realising our visions that are aligned to a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and climate-resilient futures for all. In this SA YCAP we detail the actions that need to be undertaken to realise this vision.

Our recommendations are guided by the vision of what a reshaped present and future will be, along with the clear actions required to ensure that vision becomes a reality.

The Action Plan is divided into **five core pillars:**

Intersectionality

Advocacy and Activism for Climate Action

Good Governance

Systemic Change

Environmental Sustainability

Each action item is directed to one or more communities of actors, as indicated below.

PILLAR 1: INTERSECTIONALITY

According to the IPCC, climate change will exacerbate social, environmental and economic challenges, which are rife and already plague South Africa. We acknowledge that different factors, such as race, gender, disability, geographical location, access, income levels and other socio-economic conditions, compound the climate context and lived experience, particularly for people in under-resourced communities. This highlights the complexity of the climate crisis and in finding ways to adequately address the crisis, we need to approach it through an intersectional lens.

Recognising the non-neutrality of climate impacts on vulnerable communities is important to ensure that climate justice is an underpinning principle to tailoring climate-oriented solutions. It is important to view the association between social, economic and climate justice embodied in our constitution, within the framework of intersectionality. The reality and lived experiences of many marginalised South Africans is still impelled by racial, class and gender-driven inequalities. As a result, we advocate for gender mainstreaming in all policies to ensure that women, who are the true anchors of communities, are not left out of the transition.

By highlighting these systemic issues, we ensure that no one is left behind and that the most vulnerable in our communities do not become shock absorbers for impacts of climate change.

We recognise the contribution of colonialism to present-day socio-economic inequalities and insist on the decolonisation and decapitalisation of institutional systems, to ensure social cohesion and that no person is left out of the development towards a just transition and green recovery.

‘When Youth Mobilise’
A Youth Climate Advocate’s Journey

By Natalie Kapsosideris

I've always been interested in and fascinated by science and nature. From a young age, I'd spend my days playing with bugs in my garden and in the evening, I would watch environmental documentaries. To me, the world was – and still is – full of great beauty and wonder. But I also began to realise how much of the environment was being destroyed and would continue to be destroyed because of climate change, and I was distraught. I first became interested in climate change because I saw it as an issue of environmental justice. There were always news reports about how the natural environment was being lost to pollution, wildfires, animals starving or overheating, dying in wildfires and ever more extreme floods. I soon began to realise that it was so much more.

I have always known about climate change – the reality that the climate is changing because of humankind’s activities – but I didn’t really understand the full meaning of this. It was only after I started working with different climate change organisations that I became aware of the bigger picture – this was really an issue of climate justice.

At various points, I met people who were in denial about the effects of climate change – many people didn’t believe it was real at all and some of my peers called me melodramatic. This denialism only encouraged me – it made me understand just how necessary climate activism was and how important it was to educate and inform people. People around the world are already struggling to deal with the effects of climate change every day, even within our own country, and the fact that people didn’t know or understand this demonstrated how important it was to build a united movement for climate action.

When the global call for students to take action and demand climate justice came in 2019, led by FridaysForFuture, I was the head of the enviro-club at my school. I felt a huge responsibility to heed that call and decided to organise a march. Only about 50 people participated but it was the beginning of my advocacy journey.

I researched the demands from the FridaysForFuture movement and began to understand more and more what climate justice really meant, that more than just environmental justice, we need to strive to achieve justice in its totality as humanity is so heavily dependent on a stable environment. Across the world people are still divided and marginalised by class, race, gender, and so on. People will thus be differentially affected by the crisis. So in order to

adequately “solve” the issue of the climate crisis these factors need to be taken into account. Climate Justice is a solution to the climate crisis that protects and uplifts everyone.

Since first researching the FridaysForFuture demands, I have broadened my understanding of the crisis even further, recognising the importance of intersectionality and building movements from the ground up. The most important thing I've learned on this journey is that when united, people cannot be defeated.

Inspired by this notion, and recognising the need for a grassroots youth organisation, in 2019 I co-founded The Collective Movement. The organisation focuses on achieving climate justice through social justice, specifically by creating awareness, starting conversations and promoting action among young people. In the past we’ve assisted youth in running climate marches at their schools and hosting conversations about climate justice, writing articles about the climate crisis aimed at youth in publications such as the Daily Maverick, worked with COPAC and the Climate Justice Charter alliance to get different schools and universities to endorse The Climate Justice Charter. The youth of South Africa are becoming increasingly aware of the existential threat of climate change, as well as how our politicians prioritise profits over the lives of people. The Collective Movement aims to help overcome this – we all want a safe and equitable future and the only way to achieve that is to start working towards it for ourselves.

Over the years I have learned that social awareness can be achieved through activism and much of this takes place on social media. Despite the global pandemic caused by COVID-19, I managed to mobilise with youth across South Africa, Africa and the world to stand united in our call for a better future. Many decision-makers tend to ignore youth and not take us seriously, and this is something we need to overcome. We know what we are fighting for, we know that climate justice will create the progress we so desperately need, and we need to remain passionate, using our activism and advocacy until this is achieved.

PILLAR 2: ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Advocacy

Advocacy plays a significant role in shaping South Africa’s socio-economic landscape, and we emphasise the importance of representation of people from all sectors and levels of society. In addition, we highlight the unifying role young people play as change agents, when given the tools and platforms that amplify their advocacy efforts. We advocate for the following:

- Promote advocacy in schools and higher education institutions;
- Educate and support youth on how to engage with policy processes meaningfully and actively;
- Empower and capacitate youth activists with the skills and resources to engage with their communities on climate change and the socio-economic issues that intersect it;
- Support training and workshops that improve digital literacy and reduce the digital divide in vulnerable and low-income communities;
- Include youth at all stages of policy development and within decision-making spaces to foster a relationship with youth that encourages continuous and meaningful participation; and
- Lobby and support citizens to participate in government research and mitigation efforts that have a focus on climate related issues through explaining to them how climate change is interlinked with widespread community issues.

Communication and Awareness Raising

South Africa is already experiencing severe impacts of climate change, however those most impacted often have the least access to the knowledge and resources that would equip them to cope with it. We recognise that awareness and communication are crucial for an inclusive climate change response. Accordingly, national climate plans and strategies need to account for these massive awareness disparities, and recognise that inaccessibility is heightened when using jargon, single-language communication, and unequal distribution of technological and knowledge-sharing resources. In response we call for:

- Mainstream and traditional media throughout South Africa, within cities and rural areas, to distribute the SA YCAP and promote climate change awareness;
- Climate change communication and awareness to be easily accessible, user-friendly and translated into all official South African languages, including sign language, and to make use of different uses of print, broadcast, and social media;
- Develop an accessible national climate change toolkit to support formal and informal education.

Community and Civil Society

In ensuring that climate action reflects the needs of people experiencing the impacts thereof, we advocate for greater community engagement that allows for lived experiences to be reflected in policy and research. Inconsistent and ineffective communication impedes the meaningful engagement and subsequent inclusion of these voices. Youth are a crucial

demographic capable of uniting the different sectors of society but are often left out of the conversation. We therefore call for actions that:

- Capacitate community-based organisations (CBOs) to ensure meaningful community engagement
- Advocate for intergenerational dialogues, such as a youth-led climate change *imbizo* that would bring together civil society, and indigenous communities to discuss what climate change is and the motives behind climate action;
- Promote participation in CBOs to build the capacity of youth to contribute to policy; and
- Facilitate equitable and inclusive climate justice to ensure that the most climate vulnerable and marginalised groups are actively and meaningfully included in climate policy development processes and the implementation thereof.

Education

To develop climate education that transcends cultural, religious and socio-economic divides, we call for innovative and collaborative models of teaching and learning. South Africa currently does not have a sufficient level of climate literacy, thus those most vulnerable to climate change are the least prepared to deal with it. Therefore, we highlight the need for a comprehensive national climate education plan, which is a prerequisite for effective climate action. This can be done by:

- Developing a comprehensive national climate change curriculum guided by inter-ministerial collaboration;
- Establishing informal climate education programmes that utilise various formats, including workshops, storytelling, arts and culture, pamphlets and infographics, and relevant courses;
- Supporting the update of the National Teachers Development Policy currently underway to capacitate and equip educators and community leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to successfully facilitate climate change education and its implementation of the curriculum;
- Including green skills and training into universities and technical and vocational education and training colleges; and
- Strengthening, protect and conserve contributions from indigenous people and practices in South Africa’s climate action and education.

Media

The media plays a critical role in influencing society and shaping national narratives. As such, it is a useful tool for promoting climate change awareness, education and action. However, we affirm the need for factual, impartial and unbiased content sharing by the media. We urge the media to:

- Use storytelling to show the impacts of climate change on a national level;
- Collaborate with the scientific community to ensure accurate and understandable information is shared surrounding climate change; and
- Participate in climate change media training to capacitate individuals to approach affected communities and individuals in ways that do not exploit their experiences, but rather respect them.

‘We Need Several Seats at The Policymaking Table’

By Khahliso Myataza

The first time I heard about climate change was in Grade 3 when I saw a poster in my classroom, but it was a long time before I really understood the severity of what it meant. In Grade 10, I randomly signed up to participate in a research project focused on the intersection between gender and climate change. Even though I wasn’t selected to participate in the project, my interest had been sparked and I became passionate about understanding all things related to climate change, particularly the notion of climate justice. I had been exploring Afro-feminism – understanding the intersection of racism and sexism in the experiences of black women – and I knew there was a connection between this and climate justice. I became an activist, interested in understanding how these prejudices exist together, recognising they do not exist in isolation. Incorporating climate activism into my Afro-feminism meant understanding that even climate change disproportionately affects black women.

By the time I was in Grade 11, I joined the lead drafting team for the Johannesburg Youth Climate Action Plan (JYCAP), which taught me how to be more intentional with my advocacy and my voice. Even though I was still in high school, I was working with university scholars and it was intimidating. It took a lot of effort and conscious self-reassurance to get over my feeling of being an imposter – who was I to make these statements, wasn’t I too young to contribute, what did I really know? Many young people suffer from this kind of ‘imposter syndrome’ and it’s hard to find your place. But being on the drafting team really helped me to

grow – I began to understand the importance of the work we were doing, about how to make contributions and be open to critique and criticism, and it pushed me to think and develop in so many ways. It was through this experience that I came to realise how important it is for young people, regardless of their age, to be involved in policymaking processes.

Going through the Johannesburg YCAP drafting process was tiring yet exhilarating. We started by gathering input from young people across the different regions of Johannesburg. We also held a dialogue on climate change and climate activism to conceptualise the 'Johannesburg' we wanted to live in – what did it look like and how could we get there? Participants spoke about intersectionality, decolonisation, the just transition, decentralisation, and other issues pertinent to climate change. These became the pillars that anchored the document.

The team would spend hours working on and perfecting a single section, and even though it was exhausting, we knew we were doing something important. Everyone was passionate about climate change and climate justice and we were not deterred, even when it was difficult. We knew this cause was bigger than all of us and that we had an important story to tell.

Being in these policymaking spaces gave me a glimpse into the world of representing others and it made me realise how important policies are – they impact our whole city's trajectory. We had to ask ourselves, are we going to be the city that ignores climate change, or are we going to be the city that works earnestly to hold big corporations accountable and decrease our carbon footprint? Policies only work for the population if that population is represented in the negotiating rooms, and I really began to understand the importance of including young people within that space.

As the continent with the largest youth population, it is imperative that young people are engaged in policymaking processes. We are the future that will inherit the continent and we need to take a holistic approach, one that is intersectional, decolonised and evolving, to ensure we bring the greatest benefits to the whole population.

PILLAR 3: GOOD GOVERNANCE

We recognise the role good governance has in generating new environment-related professions integral to effective climate action. We further encourage the amplification of spaces that will ensure consultation and meaningful participation of everyone, especially marginalised and climate-vulnerable communities, to create mechanisms and response measures aimed at steering social systems towards preventing, mitigating or adapting to the

risks posed by climate change. It is also important to realise that good governance should be anchored by green governance that aims at institutionalising rules, practices and policies that advocate for sustainability and a green recovery.

We will not be able to recognise the effective use of climate finance aimed at promoting a just transition and sustainable recovery if leadership structures across all sectors of government remain institutionally corrupt. In addition, it is important to promote bottom-up approaches to climate finance that foster mitigation and adaptation in communities.

Corruption and mismanagement of state funds limits efficient service delivery, which further worsens existing socio-economic disparities between the rich and poor. Within a climate change framework, this means that society is less resilient and has a lower adaptive capacity to the impacts that are already being experienced.

Leadership and Governance

Meaningful and non-tokenistic participation of young people is integral to good governance. We realise the important role young people play in being collaborators in policymaking processes and partners for the implementation of climate policies. Good governance and management within the three spheres of government, and inter-departmental and inter-sectoral collaboration, is important for strengthening and promoting innovation and ensuring efficient decision-making processes. Limiting tenure in government positions to promote inclusion in decision-making through upskilling and training of young people is important. We therefore urge that ways are found to:

- Ensure proper implementation of climate policies and actions through better coordination between stakeholders;
- Foster meaningful dialogues between ward councillors and their communities to ensure greater communication in reporting any illegal activity that is threatening the environment and the maintenance thereof;
- Establish Youth Climate Advisory Councils at national, provincial and local levels that will add value to South African policies through meaningful dialogue;
- Reiterate the zero tolerance statements on corruption made by the government and call for stricter enforcement of these statements through monitoring and managing the environment and the corruption that accompanies it;
- Foster better private and public partnership;
- Commit stakeholders to work together in creating a framework for nationally appropriate mitigation actions and localising this to the different contexts of

communities that will foster greater urgency among public administrations to combat corruption;

- Acknowledge the potential that lack of good governance has in weakening adaptive capacities of communities and stress the importance of integrating good governance principles within a climate change framework;
- Strengthen stakeholder and actor relationships through participatory training or pilot projects that bring together knowledge holders from different sectors, stakeholders and actors to foster accountable, transparent and non-partisan climate governance;
- Advocate for the establishment of a national climate change finance strategy and budget and further manage and monitor public climate funds and resources;
- National government to assist provincial and municipal governments by providing guidelines and capacity-building on how to prepare projects aimed at securing finance for climate mitigation; and
- Urge government to ensure that all service delivery towards people is fair and just.

Accountability and Transparency

Accountable and transparent structures of governance are essential for creating change anchored in climate action that fosters resilience, non-tokenistic representation of marginalised groups and an inclusive and participatory policymaking process for all stakeholders. To reach this aim we call for actions that:

- Ensure accountability and transparency in all decisions and actions taken pertaining to the environment;
- Promote integrated reporting businesses and the environmental, social and governance criteria as means for businesses to upscale their operations;
- Emphasise the need for improved responsiveness on evidenced-based policymaking to achieve policy outcomes within prescribed periods;
- Acknowledge that corporate social responsibility and commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation are integral to consolidating civil society and government's efforts to tackle climate change, and thus call for corporations to further commit themselves to climate action through their corporate social responsibilities; and
- Prioritise the integration and collaboration of institutions to create a collective responsibility that is coordinated and cooperative in dealing with lack of accountability and achieving sustainability.

‘How Green Can My School Be?’
Youth Spearheading Eco-School Development

By Molebatsi Matshana

While we were experiencing the warmest year of the decade in 2019, Greta Thunberg was focusing the world’s attention on the climate crisis. I was inspired to take on whatever action I could. I started small, offering my time as a volunteer at WESSA, and attending site clean-ups, and even though I felt I was making a contribution, I wanted to do more. I decided to approach WESSA’s Head of Membership to find out what more I could do. They offered me some insight and I eventually decided that the best way to make an impact on the largest scale possible was to change my school’s negative environmental impact. I decided to turn my school, Michael Mount Waldorf School located in Bryanston, Johannesburg, into an internationally recognised eco-school.

Eco-schools are a growing phenomenon that encourage young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it, and are an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path towards improving the environment. It starts in the classroom, where passionate teachers are identified and engaged with to discuss ideas of change, and then students are engaged to increase participation. What begins as an idea expands to real action within the school and eventually fosters change in the community at large, having a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of young people, their families, schools and local authorities. With the help of my Physical Sciences teacher, we created an environmental group dedicated to changing my school’s environmental impact and started the process of becoming an eco-school.

The most immediate issue we needed to tackle was waste management – there was a big littering problem and we had a below-par recycling system. I began working with the school’s ground staff to decide on the best way to implement better waste management systems and we eventually created different recycling bins, colour coded and labelled to make recycling easier, and are also looking into partnering with a recycling company to ensure the waste is properly recycled. As well as establish an environmental group within the school that is dedicated towards scaling up the initiative in order for us to have a larger impact on our community in the future, such as future goals to educate students on the environment and dedicate time to restore polluted parks and rivers in the Bryanston area and more.

At the moment, we are focused on improving waste management within our own school, building a strong framework for how more of these activities can happen in the future. Once

this is in place, we intend on connecting with other schools in the area, helping them to take their own environmentally-focused interventions, and create an active network of eco-schools focused on building a sustainable future.

PILLAR 4: SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION

Decarbonised Economy and the Just Transition

South Africa is currently the 12th worst greenhouse gas emitter globally, and the worst in Africa. While this standing does not reflect its cumulative contribution to emissions, we the youth champion the need for a swift and just energy transition. We further insist on a just transition from highly centralised energy production dependent on fossil fuels, towards the decarbonised and decentralised production of clean, renewable energy. A decarbonised, green and circular economy cultivates the need to create green employment opportunities, while reducing carbon emissions that will result in a greener, sustainable, resilient and socially equitable economy. We therefore advocate for efforts to:

- Update and implement the National Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- Capacitate young entrepreneurs to develop green business through mentorship and training programmes;
- Advocate for meaningful and effective youth climate policy engagement processes, as supported by research and best practice;
- Foster and support investment into community-driven renewable energy projects; and
- Develop a national renewable energy expert database to ensure renewable energy projects are locally managed.

Cognisant of the many socio-economic stresses affecting communities, we reaffirm that the transition to a green and circular economy needs to be inclusive of climate vulnerable and marginalised populations. Furthermore, workers across all economic sectors, and specifically the energy industry, need to be re-skilled and up skilled with particular emphasis on creating transferable skills. This will require actions to:

- Develop a training framework and transition plan for energy workers; and
- Enhance funding opportunities for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and training for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers.

In line with international agreements and national policies that set out to raise climate ambition, we stress the need to move beyond the discussion of net-zero towards a climate-positive society that restricts the use of fossil fuels and further makes use of innovative, atmospheric carbon extractive technologies. To this end, it is imperative to:

- Invest in a diversity of technologies and mechanisms that aim to capture carbon at source, as well as processes that limit the development of carbon at source.

While we welcome measures taken to address industrial contributions to greenhouse gas emissions through the carbon tax, we also highlight the importance of a well-implemented and significantly consequential polluter-pays system that includes:

- Responsibly managing the collection and disbursement of finances raised from the carbon tax;
- Pledging carbon taxes towards funding youth and vulnerable community-based projects working on green and climate initiatives;
- Further pledging carbon tax revenues to support developmental programmes and the rollout of free basic services such as electricity, water and refuse removal to disadvantaged communities (and feed into renewable energy infrastructure);
- Ensuring alignment and coherence between the carbon tax and carbon budget; and
- Proposing the establishment and advertisement of a carbon company list that provides a ranking and associated green rating of companies and their products based on their environmental and humanitarian practices and carbon output.

We further support calls for divestment from the fossil fuel industry, to redirect investments to renewable and sustainable alternatives by public institutions. As the impacts of climate change are already being felt, such actions are urgently and desperately required. It is important that:

- Public institutions divest from fossil fuel-driven industries and into the renewable and sustainable sector by 2030; and
- Effective and inclusive frameworks aimed at putting forward conditions for divesting from fossil fuels are developed.

Sustainable and Renewable Energy

While we transition away from fossil fuels and ensure energy security within South Africa, we support community-centred approaches in the development of new renewable energy projects

that consider the positive influence on job creation, economic and skills development in local communities. It is thus important to:

- Prioritise the development and funding of diverse renewable energy infrastructure to increase national energy generation that meets consumer demand;
- Allow small-scale embedded generators to sell excess energy into the grid for an attractive feed-in tariff;
- Assist low-income and marginalised communities and municipalities in sourcing funding and installing renewable energy projects;
- Support installations of energy and water-efficient appliances and technology in low- to middle-income households to support household-level reduction in consumption;
- Propose stricter environmental and socio-economic impact assessment criteria when sourcing renewable plantation sites;
- Amend policies and processes to support greater independent renewable energy power production, particularly from South African owned businesses, in a shorter turnaround time; and
- Endorse the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and encourage the programme to be more ambitious in its energy generation targets and assessment criteria, strengthening community engagement and benefits in the generation and procurement of renewable energy.

Sustainable Industries

To realise climate ambitions, there needs to be greater climate action on the part of industries in shifting their practices to more sustainable alternatives. These industries include, but are not limited to, agriculture, energy, transport, liquid fuels, mining, forestry and land-use, fashion and tourism. Sustainable industry practices should include support mechanisms that help provide economic empowerment to communities. For such an industrial transition to happen, there needs to be an enabling economic environment to do so. We call for actions to:

- Revise and implement legislation to curb unsustainable production and manufacturing patterns; and
- Promote and support investment into sustainable local manufactures, which further fosters job creation and limits freight associated emissions.

Resilient and Sustainable Settlements

As current trends place two-thirds of the world's population in urban areas by 2050, there is a clear need for climate-proofing and supporting the sustainability and adaptive resilience of

urban and rural spaces. In addition, new urban development and growth plans should be people-centred, eco-centric and climate risk-conscious. Furthermore, sustainable spatial planning allows us to redress historical spatial and accessibility inequalities that are present in many South African landscapes. To this end, we call for action to:

- Establish green corridors and spaces within and between urban spaces to improve air quality as well as support biodiversity, with a special emphasis on rehabilitating and preserving indigenous biodiversity;
- Refurbish and maintain existing buildings to ensure the efficiency and conservation of resources and minimise their environmental impact;
- Detail the greening and carbon reduction strategies of construction and renovation plans;
- Innovate and fund the redevelopment of informal and rural settlements to ensure equal access to green housing and communal spaces;
- Identify risks and vulnerabilities facing vulnerable communities and develop strategies, plans and infrastructure to support resilient settlements as appropriate to their identified risks; and
- Strengthen the adaptive capacity of communities in South Africa through infrastructure development, the creation and strengthening of disaster management policies, risk management plans, and awareness-raising and training thereof.

Transport

An integral part of urban infrastructure is a variety of fit-for-purpose modes of transport, that ensure environmentally friendly and socially attractive commuting. Less time and money spent on moving between places has a great potential in increasing economic productivity and it is thus essential to:

- Destigmatise public transportation through public awareness campaigns and improvements in safety and visible security, while further ensuring its affordability and accessibility;
- Engage the informal transport sector in the development of alternative and green transport infrastructure;
- Conduct public engagement processes to determine the best fit for purpose modes of public transport for specific regions;
- Finance the updating and construction of low-carbon and non-motorised public transportation infrastructure within and between cities; and

- Amend regulations to ensure ease of entry of electric vehicles and associated infrastructure into the market.

Circular Economy

In order to build an economy that is restorative, regenerative and sustainable by design, we support principles and practices that foster the circular economy. In a circular economy, products, components and materials are always kept at their highest utility and value, which is supported by well-informed knowledge of technical and biological cyclic processes. Such an economic model further decouples economic growth from environmental degradation and traditionally consumerist and capitalist practices. We call for actions that help to:

- Develop a national circular economy strategy and implementation plan;
- Encourage stakeholders and actors to collaborate in establishing a comprehensive circular economy supplier network;
- Mandate and further align existing policies and regulations across various government departments to simplify, consolidate and accelerate approval processes for industrially applicable circular economy practices, which include clearer regulations on the use of recycled materials in construction and organic materials as an energy source;
- Rethink and reshape traditional manufacturing processes and supply chains so that product lifespans can be extended and allow for ease of entry into the circular economy;
- Equip small, micro and medium enterprises (SMMEs) with access to skills development, training and networking opportunities within the circular economy sector;
- Support local communities in developing vertically integrated systems that empower and transform their local economy; and
- Support the reformulation of administrative and regulatory approval procedures to ensure they are transparent, efficient and allow for ease of entry into the circular economy and waste management value chain.

Waste Management

A clear indicator of a sustainable society is how waste is managed. In the decoupling of environmental degradation from economic growth, there is a further need to decouple waste generation as a marker of that growth. These aspirations can only be realised if we create a value and demand for waste that ensures we can:

- Establish wide-scale recycling and separation-at-source programmes for schools, rural and township communities, and urban spaces;
- Ban single-use plastics, with a phase-out approach by 2030 at the latest;
- Research and support best practices to empower informal traders and individuals contributing to the informal economy in accessing opportunities that expand their ability to sustain their livelihoods and entrepreneurial development;
- Provide protective equipment and establish mechanisms for informal waste pickers to formalise their roles and improve their working conditions;
- Fund the development of more waste reclaiming, recycling and buy-back facilities, especially in rural areas;
- Facilitate large-scale composting and collection of organic waste and ensure they are diverted from mass-landfills for potential agriculture and other industry applications;
- Amend, revise, implement and monitor regulations that target air, water and land pollution, as well as illegal dumping, to curb the levels of environmentally harmful practices; and
- Provide for the responsible and safe disposal of waste to avoid groundwater contamination.

Science and Innovation

Science and innovation is at the forefront of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. To ensure South Africa is a pioneer in the digital age, it is essential that an enabling environment and infrastructure that supports technological innovations is established. It is imperative that the social sciences, humanities, design and creative work is integrated for effective climate action. We need to:

- Foster climate research approaches, including social sciences, humanities, design and creative work, that support that support understanding and the realisation of social and climate justice;
- Establish databases that make climate and energy data more readily available for analysis by external stakeholders so that policy development is advised by concrete and diverse data analysis;
- Support science communication programmes that foster accessibility to science by all stakeholders and actors especially communities;
- Establish national centres of excellence for the development of national experts in renewable and exploratory energy sectors;
- Enhance funding for STEM education and careers for young people, particularly those from marginalised and vulnerable communities;

- Support community-led science and research through training opportunities and access to required equipment and facilities;
- Finance programmes that support access to digital devices and technology to ensure marginalised and low-income communities are not excluded from the digital age; and
- Support the reformulation of administrative and regulatory approval procedures to ensure they are transparent, efficient and allow for ease of entry into the circular economy and waste management value chain.

Autumn Leaves

By Asithandile Ntsondwa

I've always believed that as a human being, you must have a cause – something you are passionate about and that gives you a set of principles to live by.

I was born on 14 April 2000, on a pleasant autumn morning in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, and was raised by my grandmother, Nontuthuzelo Ndzamela. It was just my grandmother and I for most of my life, her garden, and the dry grassland field at the end of the village. I could see the mountains from a distance and when I watched the sun set every evening, I always wished that I would find my cause in the world.

I was very curious about the natural world and I loved being outside. I appreciated the way my grandmother tended to her garden, the care and love she had for growing plants, and I always tried to convince people that the fresh peas from our garden were so much better than the frozen peas bought at the store. Every December, my cousins and I would sneak into her garden to pick the sweet strawberries that she grew and my passion for nature began to increase. I began to realise that my grandmother knew so much – she knew what season was best for planting her maize crops in order to harvest them at the right time, and my curiosity began to grow. How did she always know what birds were responsible for eating her figs and how was she so in tune with the natural world? She started to comment about how the growing seasons were changing, how they were different from when she was a child, and her crops were not producing the same amount. The more she told me, the more I wanted to know what she knew, and I started to become aware of the world around me.

I started my environmental journey in Grade 5, at Norwood Junior Secondary School in Mthatha, when I joined the school's environmental club. Every time I learned something new, I couldn't wait to tell my grandmother about it. We learnt about climate change, how to practice

the ‘3-Rs’ (reduce, reuse, recycle), how to grow a worm farm to make natural fertiliser, and so much more. I started to learn about why the seasons were changing and why different plants grew at different times. It was a great feeling and we even started our own garden at school. I wanted to go home and practice the methods I had learned, but my grandmother would accuse me of confusing weeds with her crops and she didn’t want me to help that much. But I was driven – I wanted to be part of anything and everything that involved the environment and nature, from tree-planting to city clean-ups.

When I started high school, I lost momentum. There was no environmental club and everything was focused on studying, writing exams and making sure we got into university. It was a difficult time and I felt disconnected. After some time, I returned to my primary school to visit my environmental club teacher and it was then that I realised what mattered to me the most – my pure love for nature. I didn’t want to be an ‘eco-saviour’, nor did I want to become an expert in global warming. All I wanted was to be in nature and I realised that my favourite season was autumn. I loved watching the leaves turn orange and fall to the ground, allowing for new life to grow in its place. I had a strong desire to learn more about the earth and how to take care of it, and this was the reason I decided to study Environmental Science at university.

While at university, I started an initiative called Greener Times with a friend, aimed at educating the public about environmental issues and ways to combat them. I also joined the university’s newspaper because I wanted to show students the wonderful world of science and mother nature, hoping they would read articles related to environmental sustainability and be inspired to start appreciating and protecting the Earth.

My main goal was – and still is – to change people’s perception of environmental issues. I want the planet to flourish, and people with it. I continue to write for the newspaper with the hope of reaching as many people as I can. The Greener Times initiative continues to grow, and more people are becoming environmentally conscious. I also joined the Youth Policy Committee, convened by Youth@SAIIA. I volunteer as a committee member for the African Youth Waste Network, a sub-body of the Sustainable Seas Trust, that aims to achieve zero plastic pollution in the seas of Africa by providing a collaborative platform for youth to engage and share knowledge.

I consider myself to be a normal person, but I also believe that everyone has the power to make a positive difference in the world. This is my contribution and I believe I have a role to play in helping people understand why we need to be more cautious about how we treat our home, because there really is no planet B. Everyone needs to find their own cause and I hope

that they too can feel connected to the beauty of the Earth, inspired by witnessing those golden, autumn leaves.

PILLAR 5: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Natural Resources

We note with deep concern that contemporary policies guiding the management of natural resources seem to directly prioritise profit over sustainability. The exploitation, endangerment and destruction of natural resources have disturbed the balance that once existed between people and the environment.

South Africa is a water-scarce country because of its low annual precipitation and the distribution of surface and groundwater due to climate and geography. As such, it is crucial that decisive and comprehensive adjustments must be made in the approaches to the management of this invaluable resource. We must:

- Improve the quality of education on existing natural and engineered water infrastructure, and encourage their integrated management and conservation;
- Strengthen water legislature frameworks with a specific focus on implementation at a local government level, which should include local and grassroots representation in policy negotiations and implementation strategies to allow for active citizenship;
- Improve faulty infrastructure where it leads to water wastage through leakage or contamination; and
- Strengthen municipal communication channels for the reporting and monitoring of water wastage incidences.

Emissions from fossil fuel combustion are not only a major driver of climate change but also pose health risks through the release of air pollutants. We stress the need for adequate measures to counter the synergy between air pollution and climate change, and its contribution to environmental injustice. We call for the implementation of measures to counteract the adverse health impact of air pollution, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels, by:

- Enhancing institutional collaboration between government and research institutes to narrow the science-policy gap in the management of air quality;
- Prioritising the assignment of air quality officers to manage air pollution related to mining and other polluting industries;

- Incentivising businesses to integrate renewable energy sources in place of fossil fuels through tax rebates;
- Measuring air pollution caused by businesses compared to what is necessary for the operation and imposing fines were excessively high; and
- Litigation and reparation for adverse health impacts caused by industries on communities near mines, power stations and other polluting industries.

South Africa's natural mineral wealth is a huge environmental asset and an integral part of the economy, however, to ensure the economic benefit of these mineral resources, we highlight the need for effective conservation and management strategies. Mitigating damage to the environment due to mineral extraction can be done through:

- Neutralising acidic run-off from mining projects to prevent acid mine drainage; and
- Restoring topsoil layers to ensure that land used for mineral extraction can be repurposed.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Biodiversity and climate change are interconnected factors that greatly depend on and influence each other. We acknowledge that South Africa, a biodiversity hotspot high in ecosystem diversity and endemism, relies on its natural environment for job creation, ecotourism, food and water security, and many other socio-economic benefits. Jointly tackling climate change and biodiversity is not only imperative to achieving sustainability goals, but also in ensuring healthy environments for the benefit of all living beings.

Considering the work put forward by national assessments and international conventions, we insist that more effort be put into the restoration, rehabilitation, protection and management of our ecosystems and biodiversity. We call for:

- Commitment to and putting forward viable, actionable targets with accountability measures that align with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be determined at COP15 to the Convention of Biological Diversity;
- Implementing more proactive and innovative conservation initiatives that include but are not limited to:
    - Consulting and supporting wildlife conservation groups for the preservation of terrestrial and marine life; and
    - Collaborating with marginalised groups and communities, which include indigenous people, small fishing and mining towns, women, and youth to create bottom-up approaches and proposals to conservation;

- Improving the monitoring and governance of, and provide support to, Marine Protected Areas;
- Strengthening biodiversity policies and programmes to ensure their proper enforcement, cross-sectoral planning and inclusive management; and
- Prioritising funding for conservation projects and investing resources into effective monitoring, data capturing and processing, and reporting systems for biodiversity conservation.

Nature-based solutions work to protect, restore and enhance the ecosystem services that have human well-being and biodiversity benefits. It offers the opportunity to utilise local, indigenous knowledge systems and nature-based tools to combat climate change. We need:

- Increased commitment in:
    - The restoration of degraded land- and seascapes, abandoned mines and forests through reforestation;
    - Urban rewilding and the removal of alien vegetation; and
    - Prevention methods for ocean encroachment and shore erosion such as the planting of appropriate vegetation;
- Enhanced research and implementation of nature-inspired systems based on biological processes, such as biomimicry; and
- Collaborative work in the understanding, policy drafting and implementation of nature-based solutions, specifically that:
    - Relevant stakeholders should include government (national and local), SMMEs, advocacy, community-based, indigenous and youth groups; and
    - Existing nature-based solution tools should be used and assessed through cost-benefit analyses to ensure adequate financial investment.

We urge for the inclusion of the connection between human well-being and nature in the analysis of ecosystem benefits, as their absence in decision-making affects the relationship between humans and the natural world. We, therefore:

- Emphasise the spiritual, cultural and psychological aspects of the relationship between nature in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation messaging and promotion; and
- Support further exploration into and enhanced systematic assessment of the benefits of nature on human well-being, beyond the biophysical and economic sciences, including that:

- Social sciences and humanities be incorporated into empirical assessments; and
- All assessment reports and documentation should be strongly factored into policy and decision-making processes.

Agriculture

Agriculture is vital to the functioning of any developing country's economy, for the provision of raw materials crucial to manufacturing processes, food security, as well as for economic opportunities. Crop production is one of the largest agricultural sectors in South Africa, yet climate change threatens to cripple this sector through exacerbated natural events such as droughts, heatwaves and flooding. The urgency for immediate action to redress current agricultural practices and embrace more sustainable models has never been more necessary. It is thus imperative to:

- Regulate mass use of synthetic fertilisers to reduce the environmental harm induced by the build-up of toxic chemicals;
- Form a collaborative approach where government works together with farming unions to regulate issues such as soil degradation, overgrazing, deforestation, leaving fields bare in winter, monocropping and intensive tillage;
- Prioritise the allocation, remuneration and capacity of agricultural extension officers;
- Collaborate with non-governmental organisations to provide financial and technical support for subsistence farmers;
- Equip communities with the materials, capacity and skills to establish urban food gardens and rainwater harvesting systems;
- Enhance collaboration between local farmers and businesses to foster community-owned regenerative agriculture, permaculture, hydroponics and aquaponics practices;
- Tighten laws on international fishing companies within South African waters and introduce harsher consequences for transgressions that could include cutting their yearly target to suspending fishing licences or having them permanently revoked, and improve overall monitoring of fishing activities;
- Incentivise the uptake and adoption of sustainable technology to allow for eco-conscious and climate-smart farming;
- Promote cost-effective, sustainable farming methods such as mulching, ground covers and the use of natural pest management, and further encourage the use of field buffers, large-scale composting, biocontrol and polyculture; and
- Build the capacity of CBOs to ensure community engagement

DEFINITIONS

Activism: a method of campaigning for something resulting in social or political change.

Advocacy: doing something to support, recommend or implement actions linked to a cause or issue.

Agricultural extension officers: officers who aim to link the latest research with farmers by researching, communicating and promoting sustainable farming practices.

Aquaculture: the controlled cultivation of aquatic organisms for human consumption.

Aquaponics: the integration of hydroponics and aquaculture practices as a bio-integrated food system whereby two biological systems (fish and plants) are cultivated together and mutually provide each other with nutrients through their waste production.

Biocontrol: also referred to as biological control, is the use of natural enemies to reduce invasive species populations.

Carbon tax: a new tax in response to climate change aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a sustainable, cost effective and affordable manner. Carbon tax gives effect to the polluter-pays-principle and helps to ensure that firms and consumers take the negative, adverse costs of climate change into account for their future production, consumption and investment decisions.

Carbon footprint: the total amount of greenhouse gases released into the air by people and industries.

Climate-resilient economy: an economy that can withstand the impacts of climate change and operate within the planetary boundaries whilst enhancing the standard of living for people.

Climate governance: diplomacy, mechanisms and measures aimed at steering social systems towards preventing, mitigating or adapting to risks associated with climate change.

Corporate social responsibility: the socio-economic duties that businesses undertake to ensure they bring positive change to the environments and surroundings in which they operate.

Decarbonised economy: an economy that runs of limited fossil fuels and therefore has low carbon output of greenhouse gases, specifically carbon dioxide.

Deforestation: the decrease in forest areas due to the development of uses such as agricultural cropland, urbanisation, mining activity, etc.

Digital divide: the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology, and those that don't or have restricted access. This technology can include the smart phones, televisions, personal computers and the Internet.

Engineered water infrastructure: man-made infrastructure such as taps, pipes, water treatment plants, etc.

Field buffers: strips of permanent vegetation such as trees, shrubs and grasses that border fields and help with air, soil and water quality, among other environmental problems.

Green jobs: decent jobs that contribute to the preservation or restoration of the environment in sectors including, but not limited to, manufacturing, construction, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Green recovery: the environmental, legislative and financial reforms that will enable a green economic transition that ensures resilience, sustainability and a low-carbon future as a mechanism of readjusting to life in a post-COVID-19 world.

Green skills: the knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society.

Green rating system: guidelines and metrics that improve collaboration and provide a framework that defines ‘sustainability’ and links project issues and solutions within the context of sustainability.

Green economy: a low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Green governance: interactions between stakeholders that are aimed at coordinating and regulating human access to, use of and impacts on the environment through collectively binding decisions.

Ground covers: low growing plants used to cover areas of a landscape with the purpose of providing practical benefits such as soil erosion control, etc.

Gender mainstreaming: the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women, as well as of men, an

integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated.

Hydroponics: the technology of growing plants in nutrient solutions such as water containing fertilisers, with or without the use of an artificial medium such as sand or gravel to provide mechanical support.

Intensive tillage: tillage is the mechanical modification of soil structure through soil-tool interactions such as cutting, crushing, beating, etc. Intensive tillage is full width tillage that disturbs all the soil surface that is performed prior to and/or during planting.

Just transition: a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes and practices that build economic and political power to shift to a decarbonised economy.

Loss and damage: the inevitable consequences and harm of human-caused climate change.

Meaningful: in a manner or process that is aimed at equitable representation of all groups despite socio-economic background, gender, race, creed or identity.

Monocropping: the agricultural practice of growing a single crop on the same land year after year without rotation.

Mulching: the process or practice of covering the soil or ground with either organic or synthetic materials to make more favourable conditions for plant growth, development and crop production.

Natural water infrastructure: natural water systems such as rivers, lakes, oceans, etc., that provide benefits for ecosystem functionality and human well-being.

Overgrazing: the practice of grazing too many livestock for too long a period on land unable to recover its vegetation.

Permaculture: the development of sustainable human settlements and self-maintained agricultural systems modelled from natural ecosystems, aimed to mimic patterns and relationships found in nature while yielding benefits such as food and energy for human use and consumption.

Polyculture: the growing of multiple crops simultaneously or in crop rotation on the same land.

Regenerative agriculture: agriculture centred around soil health and restoration, which symbiotically improves water quality and supply, vegetation and land productivity.

Soil degradation: the physical, chemical and biological decline in soil quality caused by improper use or poor management.

Youth Climate Advisory Council: youth councils focused on developing policy that contributes effectively to subsequent government policies focused on climate change.

POLICY REFERENCES

Draft 2018 South African Climate Change Bill

Draft updated Nationally Determined Contributions

Integrated Resource Plan

National Strategy for Sustainable Development

Low Emissions Development Strategy

National Waste Management Strategy

National Teacher's Development Policy

UNICEF Youth Advocacy Guide

Indigenous Knowledge Act No. 6 of 2019

Indigenous Knowledge Policy of 2004

National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998

National Development Plan 2030

Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (1st Draft)

Draft National Teacher’s Development Policy

Green Finance Taxonomy

This document was created with inputs from young people between the ages of 13-30, from across South Africa, and representing the following organisations, schools, universities and clubs.

Access Music Project

Activate Academy

Active Citizens Movement

African Climate Alliance

African Leadership Academy

Ahmad Kathrada Foundation

Anglican Students Federation

Ashbury College

Auckland Park Academy of Excellence

Aurora Girls' High School

Bathopele Secondary School

Benoni High School

Bona Comprehensive School

Bonela Secondary School (The Umkhumbane Schools Project)

Brakpan High School

Brescia House School

Buhlebemfundo Secondary School

Camps Bay High School

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

Capricorn High School

Centre of Science and Technology

Christ Church College

Climate First South Africa

Climate Justice Charter Youth Wing

Conference of the Youth (COY South Africa)

Crystal Park High School

Danville Park Girls' High School

De La Salle Holy Cross College, Victory Park, Johannesburg

Dendron Secondary School

Ditlotswane Youth Development

Drakensberg Comprehensive School

Durban University of Technology

EcoMaties

Edenvale High School

Elizabeth Matsemela Secondary School

Emadwaleni High School

Emba Swop Shop

Estcourt Secondary School

Extinction Rebellion Youth

Florida Park High School

Founders Hill College

Future Nation Schools Fluerhof

Gauteng City College

Gekombineerde Skool Ogies

George Khosa Secondary School

Germiston High School

Giyani High School

Global Change Institute

Golden Gate Youth Foundation

Green Anglicans

Green Campus Initiative

Green Revolution (school environmental club)

Greenside High School

Greenwood College

Groutville Youth

Hanyani Thomo High School

Heather Secondary School

Hector Peterson High School

HeronBridge College

Hoerskool Linden

Hoerskool Roodepoort

Ikusasalentsha High School

Inkabenhle Foundation

Jeppe High School for Boys

Jeppe High School for Girls

Jet Nteo Secondary School

Jordan Secondary School

K.I Twala Scondary School

Katlehong Engineering School of Specialisation

Kgoro ya Thuto Secondary School

Khanya Lesedi Secondary School

Khombindlela High School

Khula Sakhile Secondary School

King David Victory Park High School

King Edward VII School

Kiriyatswane Secondary School

Kuyasa Combined School

Kwadinabakubo High School

Lamontville High School

Lebone Foundation

Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng

Lehlasedi High School

Lofentse Girls' High School

Lusibalukhu High School

Makgwahleng Secondary School

Mamodikeleng Secondary School

Mangosuthu University of Technology

Manyano High School

Mapetla Secondary school

Marude Secondary School

Maryvale College

Masibambane African Action Group

Mawele Secondary School

Mayville Secondary School (The Umkhumbane Schools Project)

Meridian Rustenburg Independent School

Michael Mount Waldorf School

Midrand High School

Moletsane High School

Mondeor High School

Moshate Secondary School

Nelson Mandela University

Nelson Ramodike Secondary School

North West University

Open Window Institute

Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls

Parktown High School for Girls

Peeple of the Soil

Phelindaba Secondary School

Phezulu High School

Phumulani Secondary School

Pretoria High School for Girls

Project 90 by 2030

Qrate

Queensburgh Girls' High School

Queenstown Girls' High School

Randfontein High School

Ratanda Secondary School

Reddam House Bedfordview

Reddam House Durbanville

Reddam House Helderfontein

Rephafogile High School

Residensia Secondary School

Rhenish Girls' High School

Rhodes University

Richfield Graduate Institute of Technology

Ridge Park College

Riverdale Intermediate School

Roedean School (SA)

Rotary Club of South Africa (Thabure Club)

Rylands High School

Sandringham High School

Save Our Limpopo Valley Environment (SOLVE)

School of Merit

Sisters in Power Organisation

Sithokozile Secondary School

Sizathina High School

Sizwakele Secondary School

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Spine Road High School

St Benedict's College

St David’s Marist Inanda

St John's College

St Stithians Boys' College

St Stithians Girls' College

St Teresa's School

St. Cyprians School

Stellenbosch University

STEM Advocates

Steyn City School

Summat College

Summerhill College

Supero Combined School

The Collective Movement

The National School of the Arts

The Sustainability Institute

Town View High School

Tshwane University of Technology

Tuscany Glen High School

Umkhumbane Secondary School (The Umkhumbane Schools Project)

Unicef -TUT

United Church School

United Nations Associations of South Africa

Universal Greening Organisation

University of Cape Town

University of Fort Hare

University of Johannesburg

University of KwaZulu-Natal

University of Limpopo

University of Pretoria

University of the Free State

University of the Western Cape

University of the Witwatersrand

University of Venda

University of Witwatersrand

University of Zululand

Unyaka Wakho Youth Foundation, Advocates For change

Varsity College

Veritas College

Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network

Vukuzame Secondary School

Waste For Change

Waterberg Biosphere reserve

Waterstone College

We.Empower Foundation

Welkom Technical High School

Wendywood High School

WESSA

Westbury Secondary School

Western TVET College

Westville Girls' High School

Wiggins Secondary School (The Umkhumbane Schools Project)

Willowmoore High School

WITS Climate Justice Charter Movement

Woman's Leadership and Training Program

Woodhill College

Woodlands International College

Working For Climate

WWF South Africa

Wynberg Girls' High School

YFU South Africa

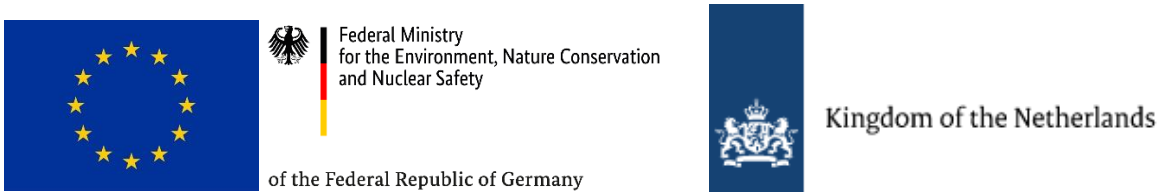
Youth Policy Committee

Youth@SAIIA Schools Programmes

Ziphathele High School

Zolutsha Community Development

The SA YCAP process has been convened through the Youth Programmes at the South African Institute of International Affairs (Youth@SAIIA) in partnership with various organisations, schools, and university groups across South Africa. This document was handed over to officials from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and the Presidential Climate Commission in a special hybrid launch event that took place on 1 October 2021 in person at Freedom Park, Pretoria and virtually on zoom.



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