

**safcei**

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE**



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**annual report 2012** caring for the sacred community of life



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**SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
FAITH COMMUNITIES'**

**safcei**

**ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE**

**Annual Report 2012**



To the children, to all the children,  
 to the children who swim beneath the waves of the sea,  
 to those who live in the soils of the Earth,  
 to the children of the flowers in the meadows  
 and the trees in the forest, to all those children  
 who roam over the land  
 and the winged ones who fly with the winds,  
 to the human children too,  
 that all the children may go together into the future in the full  
 diversity of their regional communities

Thomas Berry, 1914-2009

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## INTRODUCTION

### Dear Friends,

The past two years have been phenomenal, for SAFCEI and for the world. SAFCEI has grown into a recognised and well-structured organisation, with double the staff and quadruple the work! I am proud of our dedicated team for enthusiastically tackling every challenge we've encountered. In particular, we owe Revd Glynis Goyns an enormous debt of gratitude. As Operations Manager, she established meticulous structures and her tireless and dedicated reporting has consolidated our partnerships.

If SAFCEI's work has expanded, so have the challenges. At the COP17 faith rally organised by SAFCEI and We Have Faith partners in 2011, world leaders were challenged to "do the right thing". Though South Africa hailed the talks a success and the Kyoto Protocol was salvaged, to defer meaningful decision making and action until 2015 is hardly a triumph. The ferocious storms, droughts, floods and excessive heat and cold experienced around the world in 2012 clearly indicate that carbon reduction targets are too little and too late. It is sheer madness to allow average global temperatures to rise by 2°C before mitigation commitments are agreed upon.

Closer to home, SAFCEI has taken a strong stand against centralised electricity generation from coal and nuclear power, and fracking for shale gas. All pose a threat to people and planet. God has given us the energy we need, from sun, wind and water. Through energy efficiency and renewable energy installations, the region could meet all its energy needs and supply electricity to millions in rural communities who are still off the grid, creating employment and a healthier planet.

In a world plagued by economic injustice, risks and uncertainties, SAFCEI offers a vision of hope. We urge faith leaders to be change makers, establishing justice for people and planet as core business. Congregations can set an example to their communities, becoming centres of excellence, caring for creation. All people of faith can be instruments of peace and reconciliation, living in harmony with the community of life.



*Geoffrey F. Davies*

**Bishop Geoff Davies,  
Executive Director**

It is with humble gratitude that I give thanks and praise for this past year in which Divine Providence prevailed in the work of SAFCEI. As a multi-faith organisation, the opportunities for forging unity in diversity were seized and successes and lessons learnt have led to growth. Pleasing the Creator God remains at the core of our vision and at the heart of SAFCEI's commitment to eco-justice.

At a time when vast regions of our earthly home suffer from the ravages of war and there is violent destruction of our planet and its peoples, SAFCEI provides a safe space of unity in diversity. The Institute brings a spiritual dimension to address issues that concern us all. It is encouraging to witness a growing awareness of the importance of tackling climate change and its related challenges from this foundation of unity. We understand the urgency to protect and preserve what our loving Creator has entrusted to us and to act responsibly in honouring future generations. The kindred spirit within the SAFCEI family is a fundamental strength. The trust in God affirms past achievements and inspires us to act in the interest of the common good.

SAFCEI has a distinctive role in speaking truth to those in authority. This demands consultative skills to challenge the power base that drives the climate change decision-making processes which impact the most on the poor. We must be ever alert to the needs of the voiceless, as decisions are made that they cannot influence. As our staff base grows and the Board matures in the work entrusted to us, more fruits can be enjoyed from the dedicated efforts. The Creative Word of God from all the Holy and Sacred Writings sustains us and our hope is affirmed as we turn to and rely upon the love of God.



*Tahirih*

**Mrs Tahirih Mathee,  
Chairperson**



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## VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

### Our Vision

Faith communities cherishing the living earth

### Our Mission

We, as an institute of people of many faiths, are united in our diversity through our common commitment to earth keeping.

### Objectives

Through collaboration, networking, research and action, SAFCEI seeks to:

- raise environmental awareness
- engage in formulating policy and ethical guidelines within faith communities
- facilitate environmental responsibility and action
- confront environmental and socio-economic injustices
- support environmental training and learning.



SAFCEI launch 2005

## WHO WE ARE

A colourful tree-planting ceremony conducted by the late Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate, launched SAFCEI in 2005. This came after a multi-faith environment conference which called for the establishment of a faith-based environment initiative. The inaugural AGM was held in March 2007. SAFCEI was registered as both a Public Benefit and Non-Profit Organisation (a Section 21 Company) in early 2006.

Since its inception, SAFCEI has grown rapidly. Amongst other milestones, SAFCEI now has the following:

- A permanent staff quota of nine and further growth planned for 2013
- Fifteen Board members
- Steady funding over the past few years from six major funding partners
- A broad spectrum of multi-faith membership, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Quaker, and a wide range of Christian denominations
- Several successful programmes/projects running concurrently, including:
  - promotion of eco-congregations to undertake environmental action in local faith communities
  - engagement with government, civil society, and faith leadership about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and issues of eco-justice
  - advocacy for efficient and renewable energy
  - renewable energy, energy efficient and wise water-use pilot projects by faith communities
  - protecting biodiversity and cultural heritage through support for Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC)

## WHAT WE DO

SAFCEI is a multi-faith organisation committed to increasing awareness, understanding, and appropriate action taking on eco-justice and climate change by faith leaders and their communities throughout Southern Africa. We emphasize the spiritual, moral and ethical imperative to care for the Earth and the community of all life. We pursue eco-justice, speaking out on issues like climate change, and promote and encourage action. We support faith communities in fulfilling their environmental and socio-economic responsibilities.

## ADVOCACY IN 2012

### National Advocacy

- Provided feedback and participated in civil society processes regarding government policies and legislation
- Established relationships with politicians, government officials and stakeholders
- Expanded SAFCEI's work throughout SADC
- Prepared and used faith-based declarations, position papers and petitions for advocacy
- Achieved widespread media coverage for advocacy and increased awareness
- Developed position papers informed by science to support the work of advocacy

### Global Advocacy

- Participated actively in the We Have Faith (WHF) campaign
- Used WHF as a platform for collaboration on local and global advocacy
- Ensured representation at Rio+20, COP18, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Raised global awareness and inspired action among conservative faith groups in USA

### Local Advocacy

- Achieved widespread publicity in faith and local media regarding climate justice
- Encouraged the sharing of stories to build capacity for advocacy by local faith communities
- Raised awareness of the centrality of creation care amongst faith leaders and faith communities through liturgical and theological resources, workshops and meetings
- Raised awareness and interest in energy efficiency and renewable energy for pilot projects
- Highlighted our mandate to conserve biodiversity and cultural heritage through representation on the SWC Board



'We Have Faith' leaders preparing for COP18 May 2012

## COMMUNITY IN 2012

### Local Community

- Shared eco-congregation stories and action to encourage involvement and build capacity
- Promoted eco-congregations and eco-active faith communities throughout SADC
- Distributed eco-congregation literature, posters, stories and photos to build awareness, inspire action, transfer information, and build capacity

### Wider Community

- Liaised with existing members to strengthen relationships and broaden SAFCEI's reach
- Networked with leaders of the African Traditional Religions and African Independent Churches
- Broadened SAFCEI's reach and strengthened its impact throughout SADC
- Strengthened networking and collaborative relationships

## EDUCATION / EMPOWERMENT IN 2012

- Identified and implemented ways to support advocacy with specialist information
- Identified and explored alternative forms of communication for those with no reading culture
- Ensured widespread publicity with regard to advocacy, eco-congregations, youth and energy
- Promoted life-long informal learning about eco-justice and action taking through faith communities



## SAFCEI STORIES

### BETTY BALA BOWLS YOU OVER!

by Kate Davies

Betty Bala bowls you over with her passion and enthusiasm for her church and the environment. She comes from Kwazakhele, an overcrowded Port Elizabeth township which experiences the daily trials of poverty, crime, unemployment and lack of facilities. Inspired by a climate change conference co-facilitated by SAFCEI and Hope Africa in 2011, Betty became the environment representative for the Anglican Diocese of Port Elizabeth. In spite of the challenges, nothing dampens her spirit. She sees every new project as a challenge and dreams of a time when environmental action becomes part of the ministry of every church. In September 2012, SAFCEI facilitated an Eco-congregation workshop that was organised by Betty at St John's Church in Walmer. After the event I had a chance to ask her about her faith, her work and her environmental activism.

#### Betty, who are you and where does your love of nature come from?

I was born and bred in PE, to a family of six siblings. Growing up in a rural area, I was fascinated by country life: forests, mountains, rivers, waterfalls and fields. The situation changed dramatically when I moved to the city. Here I found the beauty of nature had been obliterated by overcrowding, littering, illegal dumping, polluted streams, and cars emitting poisonous fumes. I long for a clean environment which creates a feeling of peace and fulfillment.

#### How, when and why did you make the connection between your faith and the environment?

My faith is a very important part of my life. In 2009 I was placed in the environment group during our church Synod. All our sessions were based on scripture readings pertaining to God's Creation. This was the dawn of a new era for me. This was ministry at its best. From that gathering I was asked by our priest to lead an environmental committee at Holy Spirit, my church, and because of my interest I was later appointed as our Diocesan Environment Representative.

#### What led you to become an environmental activist?

I am a professional nurse. Health education is core business. I believe there can be no health without a clean environment; it is a cornerstone for a healthy lifestyle. I have a passion for learning new things and have made use of every opportunity to attend and build networks at environmental workshops and functions. My decision to empower myself about environmental concerns has helped me grow as a person. I have been greatly assisted by SAFCEI.

#### How does your interest in the environment play out in your church community?

My church Environment Team has had teething problems. It takes time to get projects off the ground, but we are getting there, slowly but surely. We work in partnership with a forum of environmental organisations in the wider community, including the municipality, NGOs, and educators from local schools.

Members of our church have got involved in activities based on special environment days like Arbor Day, and International Coastal Cleanup and Marine weeks. Some of our youth attended a workshop and participated in a campaign to clean up the wetlands next to the church. We create awareness in the parish about the importance of keeping the premises clean by not littering, and for 2012 World Environment Day we launched our Holy Spirit Recycling Project. Equipment was bought with prize money from an Anglican Church-sponsored outreach programme competition. The Mother's Union has recently started a vegetable garden and they also sell goods made from recycled material.

#### What advice would you give to congregations that are exploring getting involved in faith-based eco-justice actions?

Eco-justice is so fulfilling, you feel you have done something! Churches of all denominations should become eco-congregations; after all, we are all custodians of God's creation. It could be through singing, praying, preaching, reading the Bible, or volunteering to be a contact person for your congregation on environmental matters.

An eco-congregation audit is available from SAFCEI. This tool is a valuable starting point to help a church decide where to begin. Congregations can focus on any aspect of the environment: recycling, saving water, electricity, observing enviro-days - the choice is wide. The Season of Creation booklet is a very useful resource with liturgy and information.

As environmental activists, we need to be accommodating and patient. We must be eager to learn from each other, and attend and participate in workshops. Environmental issues are interlinked with other related matters like the Millennium Development Goals and the Moral Regeneration Movement. Our priests and church wardens must learn to be open-minded and talk about environmental matters more frequently. We must market this gospel by continuously and fearlessly creating awareness.



Betty Bala at Holy Spirit in Kwazakhele



## HELLO ZIMBABWE!

Adapted from the text by Lydia Mogano

In the past SAFCEI focused mostly on South Africa. We are now actively expanding our community to the SADC region. At the end of July 2012, SAFCEI made a first visit to Zimbabwe, during which we facilitated a climate change workshop.

Participants at the workshop were members of the Greek Orthodox Church, including priests, community workers, and youth from various youth and women's groups. The aims of the workshop were to: introduce SAFCEI and its work; build an understanding of climate change and renewable energy; and provide training for 'climate change ambassadors' on how to convey the climate change message to local faith communities.

On the first day, the participants discussed their personal observations of environmental and weather changes. They discussed how climate change will impact on the world, biodiversity, water, agriculture, food security, energy, and health, and how these are already being experienced in Zimbabwe. They then reflected on how they might engage with their community about climate change, relay their understanding of environmental issues and promote action.

The following day, Liz McDaid, our Energy and Climate Change Coordinator, facilitated an intense information session. She gave examples of climate change adaptation and ways to use solar and other renewable energy. Part of the adaptation session was to look at sustainable methods of growing food, coping with reduced crop yields, as well as responding to disasters. After watching some educational videos, participants set to work in groups in the garden, looking at mulching, and making mini-solar ovens and insulated containers. These could later be used for demonstration purposes in their communities.

Participants also unveiled a signboard on the Archbishop's grounds, which read "Keep the environment clean, respect the creation of God." After lunch, the workshop focused on SAFCEI and its activities.

The two-day workshop closed with a commitment from each participant to share what they'd learned with others.



## MAKING A MARK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FUTURE

By Sarah Dekker & Juanita Greyvenstein

Green, blue, red, purple, one by one, smaller and bigger handprints filled the banner. People were covering their hands in paint to make their mark on SAFCEI's banner, each one of them a voice calling for an alternative energy future, one in which renewable energy replaces fossil fuels - coal, oil, shale gas - and nuclear energy. It was 22nd September, Global Anti-Fracking Day, and more than 500 people had gathered outside Cape Town Parliament to call for a ban on shale gas fracturing in South Africa.

The protest, which was part of a global event, was organised and supported by several civil society organisations, including SAFCEI, Earthlife Africa Cape Town, the Coalition for Environmental Justice, and Treasure the Karoo Action Group. South Africans were called upon to stand together in not allowing polluting oil and gas industries to destroy our land and scarce water resources for their corporate profit. The demand was for a truly renewable, sustainable energy future for all. In the same week, a memorandum was handed to the Minister of Energy, Dipuo Peters, condemning the South African government's decision to lift the moratorium, and calling for a ban on fracking.

Throughout October and November, SAFCEI collected handprints all over the country, at various conferences, events and workshops. They are a visual statement by people of faith, uniting in their diversity to call for an alternative energy future for South Africa. The hand-printed banners were displayed at the launch of an alternative Smart Electricity Plan at the beginning of December. SAFCEI supports the Smart Electricity Plan produced by the Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI). It shows that with energy efficiency and renewable energy South Africa can meet all its energy needs at a lower cost to people and the environment and with a higher employment potential. Renewable energy would allow us to generate decentralised, locally-based electricity, for the millions of poor who are still off the grid in rural communities.



## AFRICAN INDEPENDENT CHURCHES STRIVE TO BECOME 'CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE' By Kate Davies

**"A community of learners, needing partners," is how Pastor Aaron, the leader of The Great Commission, described his cluster of African Independent Churches. SAFCEI has come alongside to help this group of Christian pastors find ways of identifying and responding to the social and environmental risks challenging communities in Khayelitsha, an overcrowded township on the outskirts of Cape Town.**

"People live too close to the wetland, they suffer from flooding in the winter, drains are blocked, there is a lack of waste disposal and other services, young people are unemployed..." In spite of this despairing litany spelt out at a workshop hosted by SAFCEI, Pastor Aaron was upbeat about the need for churches to become 'Centres of Excellence'. The leaders know they must preach and teach, but they are also becoming conscious that they must play a crucial role communicating and negotiating with local authorities about services and that their churches should organise themselves pro-actively.

With this in mind, through the Energy 100 programme, SAFCEI assisted Pastor Aaron's congregation to investigate their energy and water use. Participants climbed on furniture to read light bulb power ratings and emptied toilet cisterns to measure how much potential drinking water is flushed down the loo. The property, buildings and waste were also critically examined, in order to inform a response which reduces costs and social and environmental risks. SAFCEI looks forward to an on-going partnership with the Great Commission as they learn to tread more lightly on their journey to becoming 'Centres of Excellence'. SAFCEI is honoured to be able to share this positive commitment of hope with the Great Commission!



## INTRODUCING STAFF

The full-time permanent staff complement for 2012 included: Bishop Geoff Davies, Executive Director (Anglican); Revd Glynis Goyns, Operations Manager (Presbyterian); Kate Davies, Eco-congregations (Anglican); Nava Derakshani (Bahá'i), then Helga Jansen-Daugbjerg, followed by Juanita Greyvenstein (Dutch Reformed) as PA to the Executive Director; Lydia Mogano (Evangelical Christian) and Ameen Benjamin (Muslim), Regional Coordinators – SADC; Sarah Dekker, Communications Coordinator (Christian); Ingrid Heuwel, Office Administrator (Anglican); and Zainab Adams, Programmes Assistant (Muslim); Liz McDaid, Climate Change and Energy Coordinator, is employed as a specialist consultant.



SAFCEI Staff, May 2012

Recruitment took place in the last quarter of 2012 for a new Operations' Director with the appointment of Sean Brown in this capacity from February 2013. Appointment of a Financial Manager is proposed for early 2013. Glynis Goyns will take on responsibility for eco-congregations in the north from March 2013.

## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



SAFCEI Board at Goedgedacht, February 2012

The last AGM was held in Johannesburg on 12 June 2012 with enthusiastic support expressed by SAFCEI's members for its work. The next AGM is scheduled to take place on 16 April 2013. New Board members were elected in 2012 to replace those retiring, and Audited Financial Statements were presented and accepted.

The Board currently comprises Tahiri Mathee (Bahá'i): Chairperson, Moulana Riaz Simjee (Muslim): Vice-Chairperson, Baphiwe Nxumalo (Diakonia Council of Churches), Fiona Maskell (Anglican), Jayaseelan Naidoo (Methodist), Liz Palmer (Quaker), Luxmi Desai (Hindu), Rabbi Dr Malcolm Matitiani (Jewish), Fr Michael Deeb (Catholic), Sheikh Dr Ridwaan Gallant (Muslim), Archbishop Seraphim Kykkotis (Greek Orthodox), Shaun Cozett (Anglican), Usha Jevan (Brahma Khumaris), and Dr Wanjiku Muiruri-Mwagiru (Bahá'i).

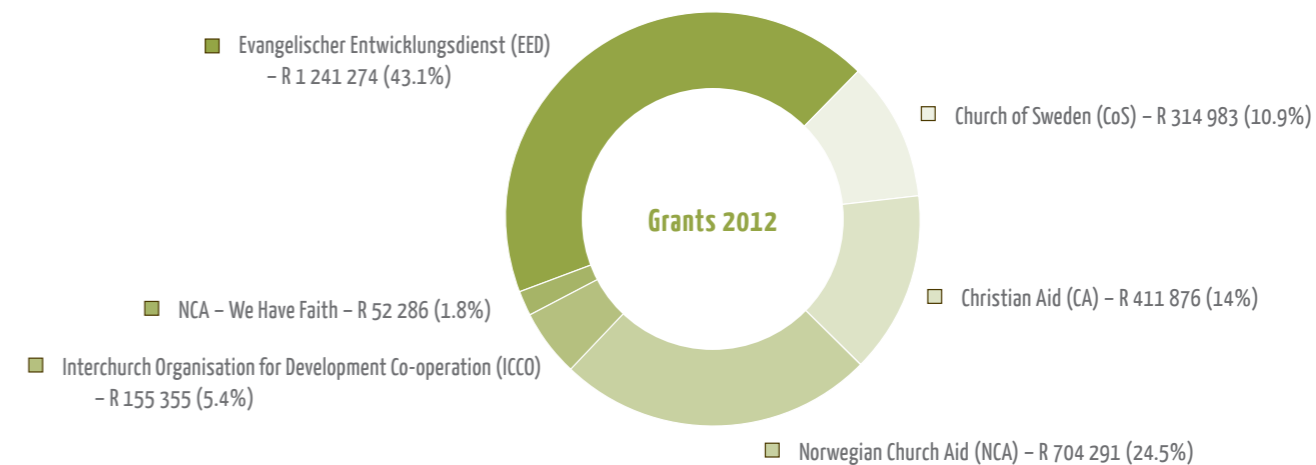
## FINANCIAL REPORT

Income And Expenditure	2012 (ZAR)	2011 (ZAR)
Total income	2 940 987	2 641 533
Total Expenditure	2 797 889	2 351 604
Excess of income over expenditure	143 098	289 929

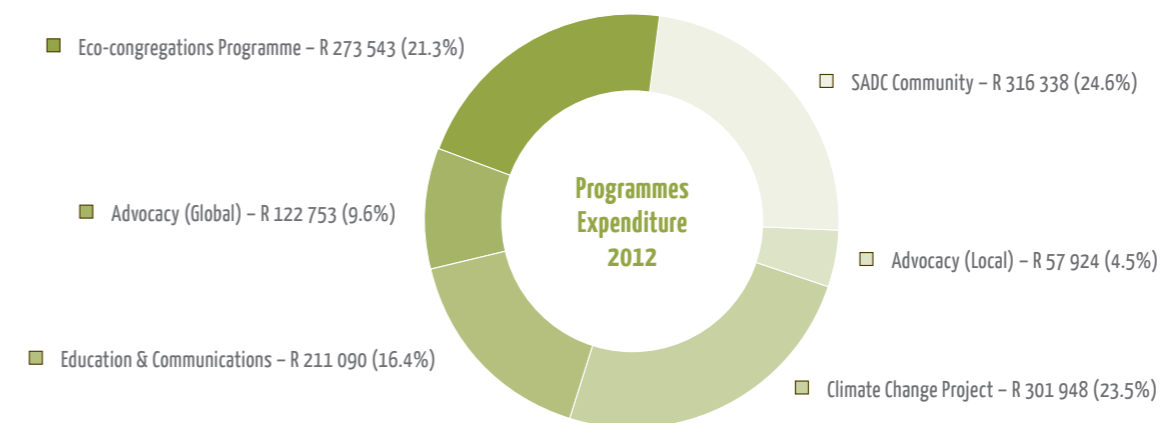
Income	2012 (ZAR)	2011 (ZAR)
Grants	2 880 065	2 554 483
Donations	16 694	20 182
Sale of resources	4 132	8 314
Recovery of general operating costs	—	6 440
Rental income	6 948	27 845
Membership fees	5 800	8 400
Interest	27 348	15 869
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2 940 987</b>	<b>2 641 533</b>

Expenditure	2012 (ZAR)	2011 (ZAR)
Governance	128 172	90 374
General operating costs	1 148 962	811 650
Premise and equipment costs	149 610	123 612
Professional services	87 549	75 507
Promotions	—	103 719
Programme costs	1 283 596	1 146 742
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2 797 889</b>	<b>2 351 604</b>

### Grants received in 2012



### How we spent our money





## FINANCIAL REPORT: CONTINUED

### Financial summary

Balance Sheet		2012 (ZAR)	2011 (ZAR)
Assets	Non-current assets	92 520	55 641
	Current Assets	1 542 361	1 050 695
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1 634 881</b>	<b>1 106 336</b>
Reserves and Liabilities	Capital and reserves	633 141	531 879
	Current Liabilities	1 001 740	574 457
	<b>Total reserves and liabilities</b>	<b>1 634 881</b>	<b>1 106 336</b>

Statement of changes in reserves for 2012	Accumulated funds (ZAR)	Equipment fund	Total
<b>Balance at 31 December 2011</b>	<b>531 879</b>	—	<b>531 879</b>
Restatement of opening balances	(55 641)	55 641	—
<b>Balance at 31 December 2011 – restated</b>	<b>476 238</b>	<b>55 641</b>	<b>531 879</b>
Net surplus for the year	143 098	—	143 098
Transfer to equipment fund	(78 715)	78 715	—
Assets acquired during the year	(78 715)	78 715	—
Depreciation during the year	—	(41 836)	(41 836)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2012</b>	<b>540 621</b>	<b>92 520</b>	<b>633 141</b>

## PARTNERS

SAFCEI expresses warm thanks to our major funding partners, who are members of Act Alliance:



actalliance

Church of Sweden



SAFCEI acknowledges with appreciation the collaborative relationships it has established with other organisations, including:

- Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)
- Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environment Network (ACSA-EN)
- Diakonia Council of Churches
- Earthlife Africa
- Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI-SA)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- KwaZulu-Natal Inter-Religious Council (KZNIRC)
- Muslim Judicial Council (MJC)
- Oikotree Global Faith Forum under the aegis of the World Council of Churches (WCC), World Council for Mission (CWM) and World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)
- Project 90 by 2030
- South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD)
- Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) – Justice and Peace
- Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC)
- Western Cape Religious Leaders' Forum (WCRLF)
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- World Wildlife Fund South Africa (WWF-SA)

And the We Have Faith (WHF) campaign partners

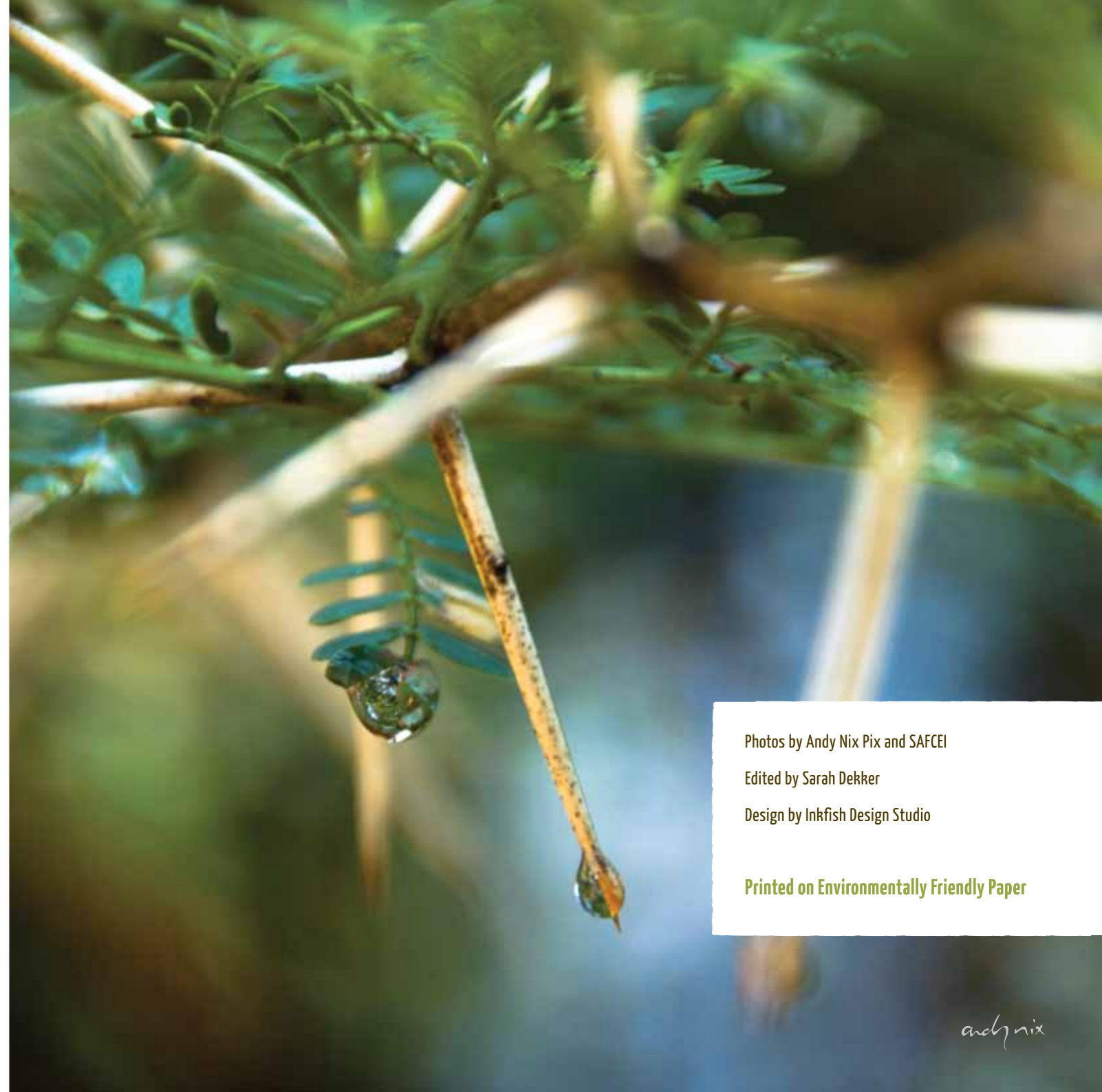
- Economic Justice Network (EJN)
- Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)
- Angola Council of Christian Churches (ACCC)
- Botswana Council of Churches (BCC)
- Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL)
- Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM)
- Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN)
- Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ)
- Council of Swaziland Churches (CSC)
- Malawi Council of Churches (MCC)
- South African Council of Churches (SACC)
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)



## CONCLUSION

A tremendous amount of work was accomplished in 2012, as we maintained the momentum gained through the We Have Faith campaign during COP17 in Durban at the end of 2011. Our focus going forward is to achieve a groundswell of grassroots involvement as we encourage people of faith to bring about significant lifestyle changes. We will also serve as a catalyst for a united public voice in lobbying government to make essential changes to policies and legislation pertaining to eco-justice, climate change and future sustainability.

SAFCEI is grateful to all those with whom it has enjoyed collaborative relationships and partnerships over the past year, especially those who have provided funding and capacity building support, enabling the successful achievement of our 2012 goals and objectives. We look forward to an equally successful and productive year in 2013, with ongoing collaboration with SAFCEI's diverse network throughout SADC.



Photos by Andy Nix Pix and SAFCEI  
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