

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 27 August 2024  
in person at the Homecoming Centre, District Six, Cape Town, and online via Zoom**

**Agenda**

1. Opening devotions and lighting candles
2. Welcome and introduction to the AGM
3. Apologies
4. Agreement on the agenda
5. Identifying participants eligible to vote
6. Adoption of the 2023 AGM minutes
7. Annual Report 2023
8. Financial Report 2023
9. Vote on acceptance of accounts
10. Appointment of auditors for 2024
11. Election of Board Directors
12. Motions to be put to the AGM
13. Closure of business of meeting
14. Keynote speaker introduction
15. Keynote Address: Nonhle Mbuthuma
16. Any other business (AOB)
17. Vote of thanks
18. Closing devotions

## SAFCEI AGM Minutes, 27 August 2024

Item	Details
	<p><b>Register of Attendance</b></p> <p><b>In person:</b></p> <p>Abrahams, Marian Abrahams, Veronica Afford, Catherine Asia, Joan Biggar, Portia (SAFCEI Staff) Brown, Sandra Brown, Sean Choabi, Gosiame Court, Elizabeth Cupido, Carol Cyster, Judy-Rose (SAFCEI Staff) Daniels, Ayesha Daniels, Elizabeth Davidson, Michelle Davies, Bishop Geoff (SAFCEI Patron) De Gasparis, Francesca (SAFCEI Staff) De Jong, Isaac Dearling, Joey Reginald Deplooy, Yvonne Devine, Andrea Dlodlongwana, Siyambonga Esau, Cele (SAFCEI Board) Fakazi, Matilda Tsitsi Felix, Nur (Musician) Gopie, Dorothea Goyns, Glynis Hagile, Mzwandile Hanekom, Braam (SAFCEI Board) Harding, Joanne Hendricks, Iqram Sadan Herzog-Hawelka, Janina Hintsa, Zelda Ann Inal, Aydin Issacs, Jenny Isaacs, Mogamat Salieg (SAFCEI Board) Jack, Myrtle Jacobs, Shabier Jagers, Hendrik Jevan, Usha (SAFCEI Board)</p>



	<p> Johoar, Rasheeda  Jones, Charmaine  Jones, Pippa  Juries, Sadie  Kamya, Annie  Khanye, Nomsa Nandi  Kholungoane, Thatho  Killander, Malte (SAFCEI Staff)  Langley, Roland  Louw, Delia  Luckhoff, Lucille  Mabuya, Zukisa  Makeleni, Kwanele  Makhala, Ma-anga  Malingo, Leticia  Mancotywa, Sindiswa  Manqele, Sizwe  Manyangadze, Gabriel (SAFCEI Staff)  Marshall, Delia  Matanda, Khayakazi (SAFCEI Staff)  Mbizana, Sindisiwe Sheila  Mbulawa, Lindelani  Mbuthuma, Nonhle  Mbuthuma, Olwethu (SAFCEI Staff)  McDillon, Deon (SAFCEI Board)  Meyer, Judith  Mgqibi, Vuta  Mhlalisi, Mpumelelo  Minnie, Alana  Mngenela, Mbuyiselo  Moerat, Mishkah (SAFCEI Staff)  Mosekedi, Mmathapelo (SAFCEI Staff)  Mudau, Kagiso Mary  Mufamadi, Takalani  Munene, David (SAFCEI Board)  Munyai, Queen (SAFCEI Board)  Mvula, Lungiswa  Naidoo, Andre  Nair van Ryneveld, Tara (SAFCEI Staff)  Nangle, Maia (SAFCEI Staff)  Ncamane, Mthuli  Ndude, Afikile (SAFCEI Staff)  Nogaya, Nokuthula  Nomonde Scoble, Bridget  Ntsikeni, Lizeka </p>
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Nzama, Andisiwe  
October, Ann  
Pamplin, Tamzyn (SAFCEI Staff)  
Parries, Valerie  
Petersen, Maria  
Petersen, Marian  
Philander, Colby  
Pole, Adrian  
Pretorius, Margie  
Ramavhale, Patience Mpho  
Roberts, Beaty  
Schultz, Lance  
Sidiyo, Nobhulelo  
Seitisho, Stora Cynthia  
September, Mary  
Shobede, Zwelisha (SAFCEI Staff)  
Sibanda, Wellington Mthobisi  
Sithupha, Nkosivumile  
Steenkamp, Charmaine  
Thomas, Paul  
Tifloen, Rifqah  
Tshutsha, Ziyanda  
Whiteman, Rodney  
Youlou-Youlou, Nadia (SAFCEI Staff)  
Van Sittart, Monique  
Van Sittart, Kim  
Vitu, Rimichu (Photographer)  
Wallace, Gasieba  
Zukulu, Sinegugu

**Online:**

Adonis, Natasha  
Butshabelo, S  
Centre (CESOCODE)  
Chano, Juda  
Chifura, Fortunate  
Claasen, Caleb  
Cochrane, Renate  
Dekker, Marianne  
Delsett, Andreas  
Fudu, Hailey  
Ganhane, Mercio Antonio  
Gurupira, Rebecca  
Gwazela, Philiswa  
Haji, Ishmael

Hargey, Majid  
Hawkes, Gillian  
Hendriks, Jeremy  
Hussain, Syed  
Jonas, Anghenick  
Kaseke, Samantha Lillian  
Kemp, Kabelo  
Kinyonga, Nyendo  
Knox, Peter  
Lee-Wright, Angela  
Mahlangu, Thobile  
Makhalanyane, Bino  
Mash, Rachel  
Mashiane, Patrick  
Mbewe, Happy  
Meyer, Carola  
Mfene, Madoda  
Mgangxela, Busisiwe  
Moda, Juda Chano  
Mqolweni, Bulelani  
Mwenda, Karen Miyanda  
Namukwaya, Marium Naava  
Ndondole, Anania  
Newa, Specklah  
Nilsson, Sara  
Nkhoma, Davie  
Nkole, Josphat  
Nxumalo, Baphiwe  
Pothier, Mike  
Pule, Manibijara  
Rudin, Jeff  
Saidah, Nakaliisa  
Satiele, Symon  
Sebyala, Hajjat  
Sekoere, Khosi  
Suande, Elinor  
Subklew-Sehume, Friederike  
Van der Merwe, Denise  
Welcome, Maria  
Worthington, Richard

**Apologies:**

Davies, Kate  
Haider, Moulana  
Mohlala, Lechipisha Parkson

1.	<p><b>Opening devotions and lighting candles</b></p> <p>The AGM was formally opened by Gabriel Manyangadze, SAFCEI's Food and Climate Justice Manager.</p> <p>Opening devotions were given by Happy Boy Sonyati and Myrtle Jack.</p> <p>SAFCEI's Directors of the Board (Braam Hanekom, Queen Munyai, Deon McDillon, Sister Usha Jevan, David Munene, and Mogamat Salieg Issacs) lit multicoloured candles that represented different faiths.</p>
2.	<p><b>Welcome and introduction to the AGM</b></p> <p>Gabriel Manyangadze welcomed participants. He acknowledged the Board Directors and members (present and online), SAFCEI staff playing various roles to ensure a smooth AGM, and persons from different provinces attending a SAFCEI workshop.</p> <p>Afikile Ndude, SAFCEI's Training Coordinator and MC, welcomed guests and introduced the agenda, which is detailed above.</p>
3.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom, SAFCEI's Board Chairperson, welcomed guests on behalf of the Board. He described a Board Meeting which preceded the AGM, with two days of planning and reports on the table. He described feelings of happiness and sadness: deep grief when we look at the condition of our beloved planet, whose biodiversity we are destroying – and joy, as we celebrate the work being done by SAFCEI.</p> <p>Braam thanked Francesca de Gasparis, SAFCEI's Executive Director, staff, and all supporting the organisation. He described a celebration of diversity of creation, of people from South Africa and across Africa. He also thanked Nur Felix, a musician providing entertainment before and after the AGM.</p> <p>Apologies were given from Kate Davies and Moulana Haider.</p>
4.	<p><b>Agreement on the agenda</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom asked whether there was agreement on the agenda. There was agreement.</p>

5.	<p><b>Identifying participants eligible to vote</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom identified participants who are eligible to vote. He indicated that green voting papers had been distributed before the meeting.</p>
6.	<p><b>Adoption of the 2023 AGM minutes</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom asked whether the 24 August 2023 AGM minutes could be formally adopted. The minutes were adopted as recorded, pages one to seven, with no objections or recommendations.</p>
7.	<p><b>Annual Report 2023</b></p> <p>Francesca de Gasparis presented the Annual Report 2023. She acknowledged SAFCEI's founder and Patron, Bishop Geoff Davies, and the organisation's members. She spoke of SAFCEI as a collaborative process – the 'we' – and indicated that all in room and online are important parts of the organisation.</p> <p>Francesca shared her observation that the Board were welcomed in Cape Town by a category six storm and record rains, whilst others faced drought in other parts of Southern Africa. She attributed this to the climate crisis. Thanks were given for the strong commitment of the faith community to environmental issues.</p> <p>Francesca introduced the Annual Report of the year 2023, and paid tribute to the SAFCEI team. Reflecting on achievements, she indicated that the organisation works in 12 countries throughout Southern (and East) Africa; R12,011,941 was secured in funding; over 450 million people were reached through media and other platforms; and 430 faith leaders were trained.</p> <p>2023 highlights included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 training sessions;</li> <li>• Participation of 62% women in faith leader environmental advocacy training (FLEAT), 56% of the board are women, and 84% of the staff complement are women;</li> <li>• 6 campaigns;</li> <li>• &gt;90 collaborative partners;</li> <li>• 112 policy briefs, letters, and local campaign actions;</li> <li>• 6 FLEATs in person and online;</li> <li>• 10 hosted Webinars;</li> <li>• 11 presentations at regional and international events;</li> <li>• 23 submissions on energy justice;</li> </ul>



- 5 submissions on animal justice;
- 9 submissions on food and climate justice;
- 18 research reports commissioned;
- 7 research reports published.

Three main programme areas were described: Animal Justice, Energy and Climate Justice, and Food and Climate Justice – with each emphasising our responsibility to care for Mother Earth.

The Animal Justice programme centres on the cage free campaign – run by Zwelisha Shobede, which includes a Pick n Pay campaign. The Fast Action Network was described, of 7,611 people by the close of 2023.

The Energy and Climate Justice programme celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nuke deal court case outcome, and also the government's withdrawal of the gazette for new nuclear energy. Energy workshops were held around the country in 2023, with many faith leaders trained and active in the energy advocacy space.

The Food and Climate Justice programme undertook a Regional Women's FLEAT in 2023. It grew the DisAg movement, which is trying to stop the industrialisation of agriculture in Africa. Team members attended COP, promoting sustainable farming.

SAFCEI worked through FLEAT and with the Earthkeeper's network – with faith leaders and people of faith in communities, and also civil society citizens (in the ecological space).

SAFCEI's partnerships were described, and the support given to communities; seven different communities received small grants, and there were Green Action Week initiatives, part of a global campaign promoting environmental activities important to communities, including workshops and clean-up campaigns.

The Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) project was described, a partnership with the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT), which included submissions on policy issues, learning festivals, and a climate change poster.

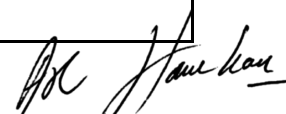
Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC) – Margie Pretorius – work Wild Coast Warriors, youth work, persons at workshop are a part of SWC.

Francesca indicated that in celebration of SAFCEI's work to promote sustainable consumption, the goody bags distributed to AGM participants



	<p>included indigenous seeds, cultivated for resilience and flavour, and with cultural significance.</p> <p>Finally, thanks were given to the staff team and the Board, and faith members, partners, funders, donors, volunteers, faith communities, and citizens for walking the journey alongside SAFCEI.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Braam Hanekom identified a unique aspect of SAFCEI: Engaging in NGO work from a faith perspective. The Board recently met and discussed the issues of water, land, and waste, and the link between ecology and poverty, as an Institute that stands in solidarity with poor people all over Africa.</p>
8.	<p><b>Financial Report 2023</b></p> <p>Nadia Youlou-Youlou, SAFCEI's Finance and Operations Manager, presented SAFCEI's financial report for the year ended 2023; the annual audit, financial position, and performance.</p> <p>Solace Consulting was confirmed as SAFCEI's auditor. SAFCEI received an unqualified audit, signed in June 2024; financial statements and the audit report are fairly presented and compliant with all standards.</p> <p>SAFCEI's financial position was introduced, including funds in reserve.</p> <p>SAFCEI has a good liquidity ratio; it is able to pay current bills. Financial stability is possible in the long term, due to a high solvency ratio.</p> <p>The financial position is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current assets increased by 29% from 2022.</li> <li>• SAFCEI funds and reserves increased by 23% (good news, as these are SAFCEI's own reserves).</li> <li>• Current liabilities increased by 30,36%, in line with the increase in current assets. 84,73% of current liabilities are deferred/advance income from funders for the next financial year.</li> </ul> <p>An overview was provided of grants received in 2023, indicating that there was an increase of 18,38% from the previous year; gratitude was voiced to funders and individuals for their donations. Funders include: Bread for the World; Church of Sweden; Swedish Society for Nature Conservation; Animal Justice Funders; Ford Foundation; and Open Society Foundation.</p>

	<p>There was an increase in funds used of 19,52% from the previous year, aligning with the increase in funding received. Funds used are spent within the budgets provided to funders. The surplus for the year is mostly due to interest received from the bank and forex gains.</p> <p>The SAFFCEI team was thanked for the hard work to ensure delivery as promised to funders.</p> <p>Looking forward, the 2024 annual budget is R18.2 million, an increase of 36,20%. The main funders for 2024 are: Bread for the World; ACT Church of Sweden; The Humane League; Swedish Society of Nature Conservation; Ford Foundation; Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust; DG Murray Trust; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); and the Irish Embassy (in partnership with SCAT).</p>
9.	<p><b>Vote on acceptance of accounts</b></p> <p>Afikile Ndude requested Braam Hanekom to introduce the vote on the acceptance of accounts. He tabled the document for acceptance and invited members eligible to indicate whether they received and are able to accept the document. He indicated that there were proxy voters. The accounts were accepted.</p>
10.	<p><b>Appointment of auditors for 2024</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom presented the appointment of auditors 2024. Solace (Henry Cronje and Greg Cronje) is the registered auditor. Henry Cronje has audited SAFCEI's accounts, and this role will now transition to Greg Cronje.</p>
11.	<p><b>Election of Board Directors</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom introduced the election of Board Directors.</p> <p>He thanked Lucinda Rudolph, who stepped down.</p> <p>The nomination process was explained: the Board screens nominees, looks at vacancies, and selects persons from those nominated.</p> <p>Francesca de Gasparis introduced the Board Directors up for re-election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sister Usha Jevan</li> <li>• Kirtanya Maharaj</li> <li>• Imam Salieg Isaacs</li> <li>• David Munene (Deputy Chair)</li> <li>• Braan Hanekom (Chair)</li> </ul>



	<p>Voting took place and all five Board Directors were re-elected.</p> <p>Further nominations were as follows:</p> <p>Kholeka Ngubeni-Henderson (Christian, with HR expertise), who was successfully nominated.</p> <p>Barnard Steyn (of the DRC) was proposed for nomination, as Braam Hanekom is retiring. He worked for the Rural Foundation, peace secretariat, and on ecology programmes, and is involved in green issues. He was successfully nominated.</p> <p>A question was asked about how voting works: Green voting cards are held by persons representing faith communities. Persons in sync with the Institute's values may be elected.</p> <p>Membership was explained by Francesca de Gasparis, who indicated that membership forms are available and that entities may apply for membership.</p> <p>Francesca de Gasparis also answered questions raised online. She indicated that no formal spiritual practice needs to be followed by members or Board Directors, and that the Board cannot represent all faiths, as only nine Directors are permitted at a time. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that the Board is constituted of persons with relevant skill sets.</p>
12.	<p><b>Motions to be put to the AGM</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom indicated that no motions would be put to the AGM.</p>
13.	<p><b>Closure of business of meeting</b></p> <p>Braam Hanekom closed the business of the meeting.</p>
14.	<p><b>Keynote speaker introduction</b></p> <p>Francesca de Gasparis introduced the keynote speaker, Nonhle Mbuthuma Forslund, founder of the Amadiba Crisis Committee and 2024 co-recipient of the Goldman Prize for the African region. An activist and farmer, Nonhle united five villages in the Amadiba region in the fight against a toll road, mining in the sea, and dune mining.</p>

15.	<p>Sinegugu, present in the room, was also introduced – as the co-recipient of the Goldman Prize – and Francesca shared that he had guided SAFCEI staff on a Wild Coast hiking experience.</p> <p><b>Keynote Address: Nonhle Mbuthuma</b></p> <p>Nonhle Mbuthuma started by thanking those who have contributed to saving the Wild Coast. She described the 2018 fight against dune mining of titanium and indicated that the struggle continues against other projects. The threat continues of a toll road through a critical biodiversity area, when an alternative route away from the coast (15km inland) would allow the coastal environment to be preserved. She asserted that the Amadiba are not against development – defending rights is not anti-developmental – but that it must not trump biodiversity, and the priority should not be profit-making.</p> <p>Nonhle also spoke of the fight against oil and gas exploration in our sacred ocean; it destroys the ocean and disconnects communities. She described the right to culture as a constitutional right, in which human beings are connected to nature. Defending rights is not being against development. Once culture is taken away, disappearing forever, human beings cannot respect nature anymore. Once nature is disrespected, results are bad. We are part of the climate catastrophe. Trees bear food we eat and we need butterflies and bees for pollination. We need nature, but nature does not need us and can live without us. We need to take care of nature so that it may take care of us.</p>
16.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Gabriel Manyangadze introduced a new 'sign-on' Bill and Melinda Gates letter. He read the letter. Reparations are demanded from Gates by a collective of faith leaders. Gates is urged to support the agroecology movement, which campaigns for equitable food systems in Africa, favouring the rights of small-scale farmers.</p> <p>Zwelisha Shobede, Cage-Free Eggs Campaign Coordinator, introduced the cage-free advocacy work (to get hens out of cages), which is growing in Africa, with SAFCEI at the fore. SAFCEI participated in the Open Wing Alliance Africa Summit, in advocating for better systems. More campaigns will be launched soon, with input of different faith groups and cultural backgrounds. Zweli invited AGM participants to join the Fast Action Network to support SAFCEI's campaigns.</p> <p>Maia Nangle, Campaigns Coordinator, provided the context of SAFCEI taking a nuclear watchdog role, with the successful court case against the</p>

	<p>nuke deal (2017) and now opposing the Koeberg nuclear plant life extension. Despite SAFCEI's campaign work with faith leaders, a 20-year Koeberg extension was granted, so the organization will submit an appeal, arguing that the decision is not in the interest of public safety.</p> <p>Adrian Pole, of Adrian Pole Environmental Law (SAFCEI's legal representative) talked about the significance of the most recent nuclear case, involving Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) Minister Mantashe and nuclear vendors. In 2021, Minister Mantashe issued a ministerial determination on the procurement of 2,500MW of new generation capacity from nuclear power. The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) concurred with his determination, subject to certain conditions. Two years lapsed. SAFCEI asked for access to information to be submitted by the DMRE, but was rebuffed, and a secretive process continued behind closed doors. Then a new Minister of Electricity and Energy Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa was appointed, who took on the portfolio. The determination and NERSA's concurrence were gazetted. SAFCEI and Earthlife Africa JHB responded by filing an application with the High Court, to stop the nuclear energy procurement plans, to ensure procedurally fair processes. In response, Minister Ramokgopa in August announced that he would be withdrawing the gazette to procure new nuclear power capacity, in response to the legal challenge.</p> <p>Maia Nangle announced that the victory would be celebrated with two yellow cakes [concentrated uranium is called 'yellowcake'], to be cut and shared at the AGM.</p>
17.	<p><b>Vote of thanks</b></p> <p>Gabriel Manyangadze gave the vote of thanks, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board Directors, for scrutinising all documents that enable SAFCEI to continue.</li> <li>• Faith representatives online and in the room.</li> <li>• Adrian Pole, for representing those with concern for the environment.</li> <li>• Nonhle Mbuthuma, the keynote speaker.</li> <li>• Francesca de Gasparis, Executive Director, and all staff members.</li> <li>• Audiovisual service providers.</li> </ul>

18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultants with whom SAFCEI works: Michelle Davidson (Gallant Accounting), Ninnette Eliasov, Sean Brown, and all others who support the organisation.</li> <li>• Bishop Geoff Davies and Kate Davies – for all the work and for the Advisory Board role of Bishop Geoff.</li> <li>• SAFCEI’s intern, Malte Killander, who brings new insights.</li> <li>• Glynis Goyns, a link between the past and the present – and a connection to the future.</li> <li>• Those who have been missed ... a big round of applause!</li> </ul> <p>--</p> <p><b>Closing devotions</b></p> <p>Iqram Sadan (Hendricks) gave the closing devotions.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Photographs were taken.</p>
	The evening concluded with refreshments.

*Bob Hankin*