

safcei SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

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annual report 2013

caring for the sacred community of life



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“May I be a guard for those who are protectorless,
A guide for those who journey on the road.
For those who wish to cross the water,
May I be a boat, a raft, a bridge.

May I be an isle for those who yearn for land,
A lamp for those who long for light.
For all who need a resting place, a bed;
For those who need a servant, may I be their slave.

May I be the wishing jewel, the vase of wealth,
A word of power and the supreme healing.
May I be the tree of miracles,
For every being the abundant cow.

Just like the earth and space itself
And all the other mighty elements,
For boundless multitudes of beings
May I always be the ground of life, the source of varied sustenance.”

“For as long as space endures
For as long as there are beings to be found,
May I continue likewise to remain
To drive away the sorrows of the world.”

Shantideva's Bodhicharyavatara, 3rd chapter, Taking Hold of Bodhicitta

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introduction

SAFCEI turned nine in 2013! Although this has been a period of dramatic increase in environmental awareness amongst faith communities, we have also sadly witnessed a considerable acceleration in environmental destruction.

In Genesis 1 everything God had brought into being was seen as “very good”. Great swathes of God’s creation have been lost forever. The Earth has suffered massive biodiversity loss. This human-induced extinction of thousands of species is sinful! With climate change as a leading cause of this destruction, latest scientific reports warn that over 50% of species will become extinct if we don’t reduce carbon emissions.

Our economic system, which is based on constant growth, is a key destruction driver. We cut more trees, catch more fish, pump more oil, mine more coal and manufacture more cars, all to increase GDP. Land grabbing by multinational companies for the extractive industries, agri-business and mono-crop plantations displace communities, exacerbating poverty and environmental destruction.

But there is hope! Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu calls for disinvestment from the fossil fuel industry: “We have allowed the interests of capital to outweigh the interests of human beings and our Earth.” Such vision gives direction and power to faith communities and civil society.

Our responsibility to our Creator is to care for one another and creation. Our purpose in encouraging all local faith groups to become “Eco-Congregations” is to build a groundswell of people of faith caring for creation and building communities of transformation that behave ethically and responsibly.

I am excited and deeply grateful that Dr Stiaan van der Merwe, SAFCEI’s new Executive Director, will take SAFCEI into the future. I support him and all involved with SAFCEI in our shared pursuit of greater justice and responsibility for God’s creation.

With blessings, prayers and love,

Bishop Geoff Davies | Executive Director 2013



introduction

It is nearly a decade ago since our most esteemed Bishop Geoff Davies founded SAFCEI. In all this time as Executive Director his voice has been heard in numerous assemblies across the planet, challenging decision makers and leaders to focus their policies and strategies on sustainable living, to reduce our carbon footprint and to act in the interest of the planet and the world human family.

It is with heartfelt admiration and respect that the SAFCEI board and staff take leave of Bishop Geoff in this capacity and we wish him well in other fields of green service. We also express deep gratitude to Kate for working tirelessly alongside Geoff over all these years. Be assured of our prayers, Geoff, as you embark upon a new role and function.

Mrs Tahirih Mathee | Chairperson



vision, mission and objectives

Our Vision

Faith communities cherishing living Earth

Our Mission

As an institute of many faiths, we 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



who we are and what we do

Who We Are

After a multi-faith environment conference which called for the establishment of a faith-based environment initiative, SAFCEI was launched in 2005 at a colourful tree-planting ceremony conducted by the late Nobel Peace Laureate, Wangari Maathai.

SAFCEI now has a dedicated team of staff and 12 board members representing different faiths. We enjoy a broad spectrum of membership, including African Traditional Healers, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Quaker and a wide range of Christian denominations.

What We Do

SAFCEI is a multi-faith organisation committed to supporting faith leaders and their communities in Southern Africa to increase awareness, understanding and action-taking on eco-justice, sustainable living and climate change issues.

We emphasise the spiritual, moral and ethical imperative to care for the Earth and the community of all life. We encourage ethical leadership in a world wounded by rampant exploitation and pursue and speak out on issues of eco-justice, promoting and encouraging action.



programmes and activities

ADVOCACY - ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SMART Electricity Plan

In May 2013, the Electricity Governance Initiative - South Africa (EGI-SA), a civil society platform that includes SAFCEI, launched the Smart Electricity Planning Report.

The aim of the report is to strengthen and to build on the South African government's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to fast-track our nation's transition to a smarter and more equitable electricity future. The report is a contribution by civil society to the critical discussion about energy choices in South Africa. In comparison to the IRP2010, this 'smart' approach would enhance environmental quality, provide more jobs, address energy poverty and reduce capital expenditure. This report is a useful tool for faith communities to demonstrate that we can meet all our energy needs without resorting to further coal or nuclear power stations.

Engaging Politicians

SAFCEI continues to interact with government, whether engaging in Pretoria with Department of Energy and Treasury officials on issues relating to the carbon tax and decentralised energy systems, or speaking out at parliamentary hearings on a range of topics from energy poverty to nuclear energy.

2013 continued to be a year of combining high-level strategic engagement with local energy advocacy, both inside the country and throughout the region.



programmes and activities

Building Ethical Leadership

In solidarity with World Interfaith Harmony Week in February 2013, SAFCEI, the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum, and the We Have Faith campaign together hosted an Energy Crisis and our Future Briefing Session for Religious Leaders of the Western Cape, South Africa.

The aim of the briefing session was to enable religious leaders to become better informed in order to guide environmental decision-making for South Africa in a way that will benefit the poor and ensure life for future generations on our planet Earth.

SAFCEI has actively participated in regional activities, with Liz McDaid, Energy & Climate Change Coordinator, travelling to Maputo in September to share renewable energy expertise and Lydia Mogano, our Regional Coordinator, travelling extensively in the region to network with faith leadership.

SADC & Beyond

In 2013, the We Have Faith (WHF) campaign had three major training sessions in Mozambique and Zambia, in March, May and September.

These brought together over thirty faith leaders and vibrant participation of youth from various faith backgrounds, from Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. A key goal has been to strengthen local and national initiatives to grow the southern African climate justice movement. This has involved increasing our understanding of vulnerability risk assessment and risk reduction, UNFCCC and COP climate change negotiation processes, climate finance, carbon budgets and tax, while simultaneously developing a strategic plan to strengthen our collaborative efforts. SAFCEI and other WHF members were able to attend COP 19 in Warsaw. SAFCEI's role in the process involved facilitating regional, multi-faith participation at the workshops as well as individually meeting, mobilising and inspiring faith leaders and youth to take urgent action. We look forward to participating in 2014 at COP20 in Lima.

programmes and activities

PARTNERSHIPS WITH RELIGIOUS NGOS

SAFCEI deeply values our close working partnerships with a number of religious organisations, amongst which are the Western Cape Religious Leaders' Forum, Diakonia Council of Churches, The KZN Interreligious Council, the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and Claremont Main Road Mosque.

With a particular focus on energy-related issues, we have co-organised workshops and written and endorsed letters to the President and senior politicians calling for an honest review of our energy future. We envision a future that embraces innovative and job-creating renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency interventions, rejecting a nuclear and fossil-fuelled future.



programmes and activities

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Princess Vlei

Faith communities have been involved in habitat protection through the preservation of particular places as sacred sites and through religious-based control systems.

SAFCEI, as a member of the Princess Vlei Forum, has supported the call to protect the Princess Vlei wetland area in Cape Town, campaigning against the proposed development of a shopping mall on the site. Faith leaders of different faiths gathered in September 2013 to pray for the Vlei, a space for baptism, contemplation, spiritual replenishment and community engagement. SAFCEI supported the Red Flag campaign launched in November. Huge red banners were tied around trees to assert that the Save the Princess Vlei Campaign had stepped up to Red Alert. We are delighted in now being able to celebrate the good news that the City has shelved the proposal for a shopping mall, car park and taxi rank. As a result of this campaign, a united community has emerged, given the opportunity to dream together about how they will creatively "Dress the Princess" in a way that promotes environmental and social wellbeing.



programmes and activities

Sustaining the Wild Coast

Communities from the Pondoland Wild Coast are searching for cooperative community wellbeing and resilience in a region which is home to countless unnamed endemic species.

For too long, people have lived with uncertainty over the proposed N2 toll road and the threat of titanium mining in coastal dunes. The lack of consultation and accountability from outside decision-makers fuels outrage. Promised jobs, money and kick-backs have divided loyalties, leaving people troubled about their future.

SAFCEI partners with Sustaining the Wild Coast, a small, big hearted NGO which embodies the people's vision of developing viable livelihoods that safeguard community land and cultural heritage from the ravages of inappropriate 'development'. Our call is for a way of life that views and values the world differently, one that will not destroy God's bio-diverse landscape that has sustained many generations.

Water

Water, the sustainer of all life, has sacred symbolism for most religions. However, we have come to take this gift for granted.

The climate crisis coupled with human development demands has led to local water conflicts which alert us to a future of water scarcity. In 2013, the SAFCEI community in Cape Town mourned the untimely passing of Father John Oliver, a 'water pilgrim' and activist in God's garden. He engaged with civil society, government and religious leadership in calling for a more just and compassionate world for communities torn apart and demoralised by historic divisions and economic and social inequity. SAFCEI recollects with appreciation a 'water walk' with John on the slopes of Table Mountain and the role he played in the struggle to preserve and restore Princess Vlei and the Cape Flats wetlands.



programmes and activities

ECO-CONGREGATIONS

Energy and Water Auditing

How much potable water is washed down the drain every time a loo is flushed? Nine litres per flush adds up to thousands of litres a month in a public toilet.

How much energy is lost in conversion, resistance and waste heat from burning a lump of coal in Mpumalanga to flicking a switch to turn on a light bulb? Over 90%! How can we do things differently to save money and energy, and reduce climate changing carbon emissions? As part of the Eco-congregation programme, SAFCEI's Energy 100 project has helped congregations investigate their eco-footprint, discover the shortcomings and find relevant and contextual solutions. Exciting changes are in the air as a growing number of congregations become centres of eco-spiritual and environmental transformation.

Eco-congregations Partnership Workshop

How do we grow and consolidate this crucial grassroots Eco-congregations programme from a scattered collection of pilot projects into a flourishing movement?

In May, SAFCEI hosted a watershed workshop for nearly 40 Eco-congregation partners to share their stories and discuss this challenge. At that time, with forty registered eco-congregations and more than double that number doing eco-congregation work, we were deeply moved and encouraged by the inspirational ways that eco-congregation activities are being undertaken by all faith traditions. The SAFCEI Eco-congregation team is committed to drawing together and supporting the streams, and sharing the learnings in order to feed the wellspring.

programmes and activities

Gauteng projects

In March 2013, action was stepped up in Gauteng and other South African provinces in the north with regard to Eco-Congregations and the Energy100 Project, following the appointment of a part-time Eco-Congregations Coordinator based in Tshwane. During the remainder of the year, contact was made with several local faith communities in Johannesburg, Tshwane and the East Rand with water and energy audits conducted and the concept of earth-keeping congregations discussed.

There was an increase in focus on water in 2013, arising from needs identified by particular faith communities within local contexts. Constructed wetlands are well underway at a newly registered Eco-Congregation in Northriding, North Rand Methodist Church, using detention/retention storm-water ponds as part of an Eco-Sanctuary. This facility also includes the creation of several indigenous biomes with the planting of more than 70 trees.

The importance of preserving and protecting our water resources as a crucial part of our natural heritage was also emphasised at a Heritage Day event at Ga-Rankuwa Sports Stadium. This was significant in view of the subsequent violent response to protests concerning lack of water in the neighbouring area of Mothutlung. Furthermore, the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa's Presbytery of eGoli identified acid mine drainage as its prime focus for the work of its Church and Society Committee.



programmes and activities

Afrikaans-Speaking Communities

SAFCEI has been privileged to increasingly collaborate with the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) and United Reformed Church (URC). In March 2013, SAFCEI partnered with the Ministry for Poverty and Compassion of the DRC and URC in the Western Cape, and the Anglican Church, in hosting a conference on Earthkeeping. This served as a significant event in conscientising the Afrikaans churches and linking earth keeping initiatives, sharing resources and strategising on growing the eco-congregation movement.

SAFCEI's continued involvement and support of the activities of the Ecology Task Team in the Commission for Poverty and Care in the Western Cape Synod has seen the surfacing of multiple opportunities of co-hosting workshops and establishing earth keeping as an integral part of ministry.

The DRC/URCSA churches have also confirmed their stance against fracking operations in the Karoo.

Eco-Drama

How do you light a spark and inspire young Christians to become Earth Keepers? Drama, in its many forms, allows for experimentation, social critique and self-expression.

There is no better way of learning about issues affecting our communities than through sharing our lived experiences and no more appropriate place for this to happen than amongst the youth of our faith communities. At a vibrant, 300-strong, action packed evening of fun and laughter, members of the Anglican Youth Fellowship from the southern Dioceses introduced their friends and colleagues to some critical environmental issues through a series of thought-provoking eco-dramas. In a process of learning from and teaching each other, the teams from the participating Dioceses were honoured with SAFCEI Earth Keeper awards.

join the earth keeper movement

You can bring about change as an individual, but tackling big issues like climate change and influencing government decisions needs a collective voice.

Read inspiring Earth Keeper stories, find useful tools, tips and ideas, and share your own experiences and ideas. Find out about eco-events in your area, advertise your own initiatives, and connect with other Earth Keepers on our website www.earthkeeper.org.za

INTRODUCING STAFF

The full-time staff complement for 2013 was composed of: Bishop Geoff Davies, Executive Director; Sean Brown, Operations Director; Abigail Matema, Finance Manager; Ingrid Heuwel, Office Administrator; Revd Glynis Goyns, Eco-congregations North; Kate Davies, Eco-congregations South; Juanita Greyvenstein, PA to the Executive Director & Afrikaans Community Liaison; Zainab Adams, Programme Assistant; Lydia Mogano, Regional Coordinator SADC; Sarah Dekker, Communications Coordinator; and Liz McDaid, Energy & Climate Change Coordinator.

In 2014, we welcomed Stiaan van der Merwe, our new Executive Director, Stefan Cramer, as Science Advisor with a specific brief on fracking, and Tsepo Hlasoa, a former COP Youth Ambassador, as our Eco-congregations Liaison Officer. Our Green Bishop and Founding Director, Geoff Davies, will continue to contribute to the work of SAFCEI.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

SAFCEI board members in 2013 were as follows: Tahirih Mathee (Baha'i): Chairperson, Moulana Riaz Simjee (Muslim): Vice-Chairperson, Archbishop Seraphim Kykkotis (Greek Orthodox), Baphiwe Nxumalo (Diakonia Council of Churches), Fiona Maskell (Anglican), Ani Tsondru Sonam (Buddhist), Jayaseelan Naidoo (Methodist), Liz Palmer (Quaker), Usha Jevan (Brahma Kumaris), Sheikh Ridwaan Gallant (Muslim) Luxmi Desai (Hindu), and Phibion Makuwere (Anglican) as a youth representative.



financial report

income and expenditure	2013 (ZAR)	2012 (ZAR)
total income	4 168 416	2 940 987
total expenditure	4 109 200	2 797 889
excess of income over expenditure	59 216	143 098

income	2013 (ZAR)	2012 (ZAR)
grants	4 093 351	2 880 065
donations	2 686	16 694
sale of resources	3 010	4 132
rental income	-	6 948
membership fees	8 467	5 800
interest	60 902	27 348
total income	4 168 416	2 940 987

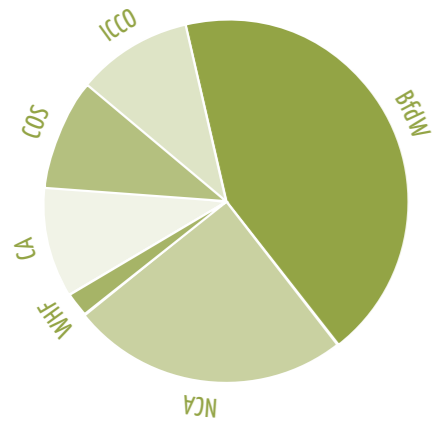
expenditure	2013 (ZAR)	2012 (ZAR)
governance	99 496	128 172
general operating costs	1 382 737	1 148 962
premise and equipment costs	172 622	149 610
professional services	175 300	87 549
programme costs	2 279 045	1 283 596
total expenditure	4 109 200	2 797 889

financial report

balance sheet	2013 (ZAR)	2012 (ZAR)
assets		
non-current assets	99 184	92 520
current assets	3 136 212	1 542 361
total assets	3 235 396	1 634 881
reserves and liabilities		
capital and reserves	640 186	633 141
current liabilities	2 595 210	1 001 740
total reserves and liabilities	3 235 396	1 634 881

WWF Nedbank Green Trust - Funds held in trust	
income received	405 237
amount distributed	95 516
balance at year end	309 721

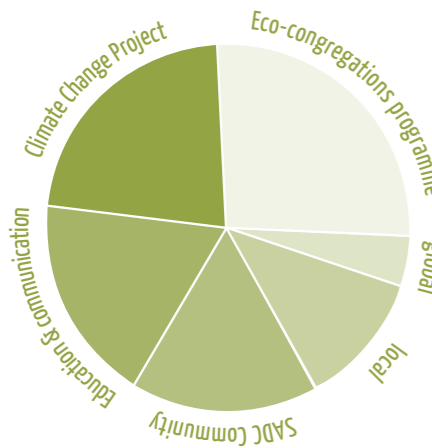
statement of changes in reserves for 2013	accumulated funds (ZAR)	equipment fund	total
balance at 31 December 2012	540 621	92 520	633 141
net surplus for the year	59 216	-	59 216
transfer to equipment fund	-58 835	58 835	-
assets acquired during the year	-58 835	58 835	-
depreciation during the year	-	-52 171	-52 171
balance at 31 December 2013	541 002	99 184	640 186



grants received in 2013

- Bread for the World (BfdW) – R 1 686 299 (41%)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) – R 1 264 282 (31%)
- Church of Sweden (CoS) – R 356 710 (9%)
- Christian Aid (CA) – R 371 060 (9%)
- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) – R 340 000 (8%)
- NCA - We Have Faith – R 75 000 (2%)

*The above excludes a contribution received from the WWF Nedbank Green Trust for onward transmission to the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and a Muslim community represented by the leadership of the Claremont Main Road Mosque. These partners of SAFCEI are implementing a pilot project that builds faith community leadership capacity and develops training resources that focus on environmental eco-justice.



how we spent our money

- Eco-congregations Programme – R 681 072 (30%)
- Advocacy (Global) – R 91 250 (4%)
- Advocacy (Local) – R 174 324 (8%)
- SADC Community – R 282 174 (12%)
- Education & Communications – R 414 653 (18%)
- Climate Change Project – R 635 572 (28%)

SAFCEI expresses warm thanks to our major funding partners:

- Bread for the World
- Christian Aid
- Church of Sweden
- ICCO / Kerk in Actie
- Norwegian Church Aid
- WWF Nedbank Green Trust

We acknowledge with appreciation our collaborative partnerships

- Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)
- Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environment Network (ACSA-EN)
- A Rocha South Africa
- Diakonia Council of Churches
- Earthlife Africa
- Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI-SA)
- Green Deen (Muslim Students Association – South Africa)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Johannesburg Anglican Environment Initiative (JAEI)
- KwaZulu-Natal Inter-Religious Council (KZNIRC)
- Ministry for Poverty and Compassion of the DRC & URC Church in the Western Cape
- 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)
- 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



Much has been accomplished in 2013. Our future focus is to encourage and build a groundswell of eco-justice action and activism amongst grassroots communities in Southern Africa.

We will strive to mobilise a united public voice, lobbying government, business and civil society leadership to be part of the change we need to see with regard to environmental policies and legislation, in order to ensure the future wellbeing of the community of all life. We believe SAFCEI is an example to the world of faith communities and environmental organisations working together to cherish living Earth.

We are grateful to our partners, who provide funding and capacity building support, and our diverse community network throughout SADC. We look forward to ongoing and fruitful collaboration.

