



safcei

**Annual Report 2023**

**Faith-Led Advocacy for Eco-Justice  
and the Climate Crisis**

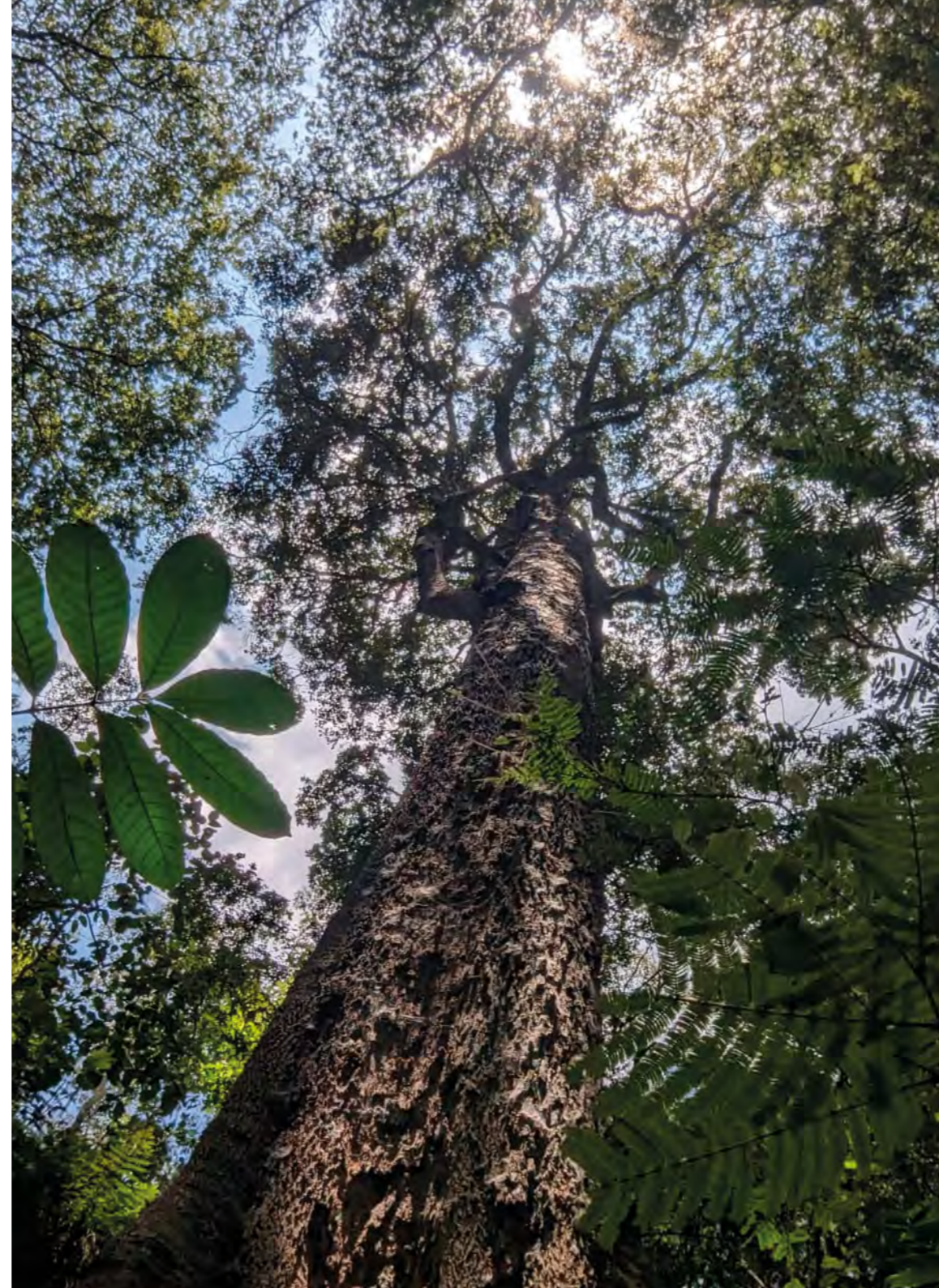




## A Prayer for Holding and Being Held By the Earth

If you are feeling far away from God,  
go outside and sink your fingers into the dirt.  
Whether it's red clay or glacial till,  
It was all brought forth by the great mystery of love,  
Which set millions of unseen processes into motion—  
Wind sweeping volcanic ash across the land,  
Time and water compressing tiny bits of rock  
Into the symphony of soil you hold in your hands.  
Nudge it gently with your finger  
Until you can see each individual grain,  
Varying ever so slightly in colour and size,  
For the song of sacred creativity rings out in  
every place.  
Remember: it was just such dust into which  
God breathed.  
Remember: it is the very same God who breathes  
into you.  
Amen.

***Cameron Bellm***



For SAFCEI, 2023 was an exciting year of change and growth, and a lot of very hard work done by very good people. With the claws of the pandemic loosening their grip, we travelled far and wide; we strengthened community connections and built new networks; we trained people in facts and skills – supporting their efforts to empower others; we made new friends and allies in our ongoing quest to protect our planet and to find fair sustainable pathways towards meeting our energy and food needs in the face of the climate emergency. We found ways to weave our faiths into responsible and caring ways to safeguard living earth, our only home.

So read on for more about a year in which we launched Africa's first cage-free billboard on a high-rise in the heart of Cape Town, celebrated the sixth anniversary of the court case that saved South Africa from the spectre of nuclear power (along with debt that would last almost as long as radioactive waste), ran a dynamic rural learning festival, saw our partners at Sustaining the Wild Coast screen a movie (*Wild Coast Warriors*) about the heroic efforts of the Amadiba community to protect their land and the ocean from oil giants – and much more. It's been a journey. Join us!



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## List of Acronyms

AFSF	African Food System Forum
CGCSA	Consumer Goods Council of South Africa
FAN	Fast Action Network
FLEAT	Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training
GAW	Green Action Week
IEP	Integrated Energy Plan
JETP	Just Energy Transition Partnership
JETP-IP	Just Energy Transition Partnership – Implementation Plan
OWA	Open Wing Alliance
RACR	Rural Action for Climate Resilience
SCAT	Social Change Assistance Trust
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SWC	Sustaining the Wild Coast

# Letter from our Chair

It gives me great pleasure to write the following on behalf of the Board of SAFCEI.

May I start by thanking the Executive Director, the Board and all staff members for their dedication, commitment and incredible work during the past term. Thank you to all our volunteers and FLEAT members for their passion and contributions. A special word of thanks to our donors and supporters, without whom we would not be able to do the work.

We firmly believe in the work that SAFCEI is doing in the world of eco-justice. We confirm that we are doing this from a unique faith perspective. We believe that the unique theological contributions from all the different faiths involved make this a very special space to work in, and adds value to the environmental debate. SAFCEI has proven that different faiths can work together on a common cause.

The planet is facing enormous challenges, but we will continue to live out our stewardship because



we believe in the sanctity of life and the sanctity of nature.

May the next year be a special journey: one where we grow in influence, enable faith leaders to grow in awareness and sensitivity of the critical challenges facing our planet, but above all, continue to make important contributions towards a sustainable future for this wonderful planet we received as a gift from God.

***Braam Hanekom***

# Letter from our Executive Director



I am delighted and honoured to share this annual report and the achievements of the energetic faith communities across our region who are working for climate and eco-justice.

The concepts upon which SAFCEI was founded – of seeking environmental justice for those more vulnerable, and care for living earth by people of faith – have truly come of age.

With incredible perseverance and commitment, our small and growing team continues to learn together and find fresh and creative ways to deliver our vision. You will read in the following pages how we are doing this, and find out about our highlights for 2023.

As the faith leader network and actions continue to multiply, we now need to monitor and measure more effectively the impact we are seeing. We also need to remember how to pause and reflect in order to create space for faith communities to determine localised ways to become more climate-resilient.

***Francesca de Gasparis***





# In numbers: Highlights 2023

**R12 011 941**

raised in funding

**>450 million people**

reached through our platforms and media engagement

**18**

**Training sessions held:** FLEAT, local actions, eco-footprinting, nuclear advocacy and climate change workshops

**6** FLEATs held (in-person and online)

**430**

**Faith leaders trained**

**10** Webinars hosted

**6**

**Campaigns:** #NuclearFreeSA, #CageFreeSA, #Faiths4SustainableFarming, #GreenActionWeek, #SeasonofCreation, #MyFoodIsAfrican

**11** Presentations at regional and international events

**90+**

Collaborative **partners**

**23** Submissions on energy justice

**5** Submissions on animal justice

**112**

Total number of **policy briefs/letters** and local **campaign actions** on key eco- and climate justice issues

**9** Submissions on food and climate justice

**18** Research reports commissioned

**7** Research reports published

**♀**

**84%** of our staff, **56%** of our Board members, and **62%** of our FLEAT participants were women

Key lessons from the past year include:

- ✿ People of faith being asked to respond to the climate crisis – and help deal with the lack of preparedness by government authorities.
- ✿ There is a need for better support for faith-led local eco-justice action.
- ✿ Civil society has a watch-dog role to play: researching and monitoring policy, challenging poor decision-making, and taking legal action when necessary.

working on similar issues, who generously share their time and ideas, and consultants who are experts in their fields, as well as the many people of faith who make up the SAFCEI Earthkeeper network, and their amazing skills, talent and generosity.

Thank you to each of you. Thank you to the SAFCEI Board for your wisdom and support. And thank you to the SAFCEI team who go above and beyond every day.

Our work is only possible through collaboration with others. This includes civil society actors

# About us

SAFCEI, established in 2005, is a multi-faith environmental justice organisation committed to supporting Southern African faith leaders and their communities in growing awareness about, understanding of, and action on eco-justice, sustainable living and climate change.

We work with people and communities of all faiths and none. Our network includes African traditional healers, members of Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Rastafarian and Quaker faiths, various Christian denominations and indigenous faiths, along with many other faith-affiliated communities.

We emphasise the spiritual and ethical imperative to care for living earth and all the life it sustains, through all of our work. We speak out on issues of eco-justice, encourage ethical action in this regard, and call on those in positions of authority to govern ethically on matters concerning our common home.

## Vision, Mission and Objectives

**Our Vision:** People of faith caring for living earth.

**Our Mission:** To support faith leaders and their communities in Southern Africa to increase awareness, understanding and action on eco-justice, sustainable living and climate change.

**Our Objectives:** Through collaboration, networking, training and learning, research and action, SAFCEI seeks with people of faith to:

- ✿ Raise environmental awareness.
- ✿ Promote environmental responsibility and action.
- ✿ Facilitate and support environmental advocacy.
- ✿ Confront injustices and advance eco- and socio-economic justice.
- ✿ Influence and formulate environmental and ethical guidelines.

Our collective goal is to act to replenish living earth ...



## Our Approach

SAFCEI offers a faith-based approach to “Earthkeeping”, recognising that all life is sacred. All faith scriptures refer to our sacred connection to the earth, and the need for reverence for the earth, as well as the “golden rule”: the principle of treating others as we would wish to be treated.

SAFCEI supports faith communities’ eco-justice efforts through solidarity, building and growing networks, and providing training and science-based information. Our collective goal is to act

to replenish living earth in ways that draw from prayer, contemplation and meditation, and which bring the earth community together.

We do this through facilitated peer learning platforms – Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) and an Earthkeepers’ Fast Action Network (FAN) – and we collaborate with civil society networks with shared objectives, as well as the public, through campaigns and in online spaces. Our programme work draws on lived experience, traditional knowledge, and scientific evidence to support local action and advocacy for policy change.



# Our Programmes

SAFCEI runs three programmes: Animal Justice; Energy and Climate Justice; and Food and Climate Justice. Our programmes aim to bring about a better understanding of our relationship with – and responsibility to care for – the earth and all life. SAFCEI works collaboratively where possible, and interacts through a range of varied forums and platforms to advance faith-based perspectives and actions.

## Animal Justice

SAFCEI recognises the inherent value of all living beings, and continues to advocate for a just system that prioritises the rights and welfare of farmed and wild animals.

This includes the welfare of egg-laying hens, whose existence is among the most cruel and confined of all farmed animals. Our #CageFreeSA campaign calls for ending the use of battery cages for egg-laying hens by 2030.

SAFCEI is a part of a global campaign, the Open Wing Alliance (OWA), aiming to end the use of cages for egg-laying hens.

Cage-free systems improve the lives of hens significantly and cause less harm to them, the environment, and those who eat eggs.

Through corporate outreach, we ask companies to pledge to go cage-free by 2030 for all products containing eggs. We believe that leadership from companies who care about sustainability, animal welfare, and healthy food for all, will turn the tide in South Africa and ultimately end battery cages in the region.

## What we achieved in 2023:

We're nothing if not persistent, and we were proud to build on our ongoing campaigns, and to continue our dialogues with retailers and restaurants – see the list of achievements below.

### Ruffling feathers: Cage-Free Social Media Advocacy Workshop

In September 2023, we hosted a #CageFreeSA Social Media Advocacy workshop, bringing together 16 engaged Earthkeepers and people new to the issue, all keen on learning more about the campaign.

Our main objective was to give advocacy training to campaign advocates, to provide them with the necessary skills to use a social media toolkit, and so become part of our Fast Action Network – FAN. The participants were eager to learn, and excited to be a part of a group of activists determined to end cages for layer hens. They got stuck right in by taking robust online action the very next week against our campaign target, Pick n Pay.

We've been engaging Pick n Pay and other major retailers in South Africa since 2019, as they are able to provide much-needed leadership and momentum in phasing out cages for layer hens. They can also play a huge role in helping to educate consumers on the negative impact of industrialised farming on animals and the environment – and ultimately those who consume unhealthy produce.



#CageFreeSA Social Media Advocacy workshop at Mowbray Presbyterian Church.

We believe that social media actions by our campaigners played a very significant role in the retailer's willingness to meet us in November of 2023. Thanks to all who prodded, pushed and networked to make this happen.

In further news, this ongoing campaign has provoked a response from the Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA). Watch this space.



✿ And there's more: we're proud to share that Cafe Frank has pledged to use only pasture-raised hens' eggs, and the Vineyard Hotel has declared that it has gone 100% cage-free. Spirit Cafe is also working on putting the declaration on their new website.

✿ In October, concerned consumers called for Pick n Pay to commit to cage-free sources for all the eggs it sells in its stores. In November, we met with Pick n Pay to discuss consumers' concerns about animal welfare, health and the environment in general.

✿ We're committed to ongoing engagement with the retail sector. Our position is that pledging to go cage-free within an agreed number of years makes sense on all fronts. In these times, we are only too aware of the hidden costs of rising zoonotic diseases (those that transfer from animals to humans), along with pollution from industrial farming.

✿ As the OWA Africa lead for outreach to multinational companies, we engaged with 8 companies on their cage-free commitments; we also joined global

## #CageFreeSA Flies High!



Cele Esau, Unitarian lay pastor and FAN member, under our #CageFreeSA billboard in Cape Town.

We launched the first ever cage-free billboard in Africa, at a vibrant location in central Cape Town. Passing traffic has been clocked at 735 952 vehicles per month, taking the traffic total to close to three million vehicles in four months. That's a lot of eyes! This was also a significant step forward in terms of our Communications Campaigns, and the Fast Action Networks (FAN) that power these.

campaigns against companies such as PepsiCo, Kellogg's, Viking Cruises, Hilton and others.

✿ We also flew off to take part in the OWA Global Summit hosted in Prague in the

Czech Republic. This saw 124 passionate activists from 44 countries and 52 organisations come together for the first time in four years, with the theme "Reconnect as a Global Force for Chickens".





# Energy and Climate Justice

Regional energy governance and action remains heavily focused on extractive and fossil fuel industries, while false solutions to the climate crisis (such as gas and oil, nuclear power) are gaining traction as so-called “just transition” energy sources. These will not reduce our energy crises, and are exacerbating environmental vulnerabilities and human conflicts. This is happening even as renewable energy in Southern Africa is a safe and affordable alternative, with the potential to offer more easily installed and less risky energy sources, while curbing emissions and mitigating climate change.

We and our faith leader network are advocating for a truly just energy transition that fosters transparency and accountability in energy supply, generation and access. People of faith continue to play a vital role in raising their voices about our democratic right to hold governments accountable; and in encouraging and empowering their

communities to understand climate change and take ethical action to foster a healthier relationship with nature.

## What we achieved in 2023:

We kept on showing up – at consultations with governing bodies, decision makers, state leaders and government departments, nationally and locally, as well as teaching and training members of faith communities. It was one of our busiest years ever in terms of determined campaigning on energy and climate. For example, read the story on p. 14 about one of our account of one of our workshops that shows how the climate justice message is taking hold in rural communities – which in turn shows us new paths to follow.

✿ This was also a year in which we launched and won a legal challenge, with the Green Connection, to compel President Cyril Ramaphosa to instruct Mineral and Energy Resources Minister Gwede Mantashe to develop an Integrated Energy Plan (IEP) in

terms of Section 6 of the National Energy Act. We need legislation that enables and allows for more effective holistic energy planning: which takes into account the country’s developmental pathway and the affordability of different energy systems, rather than continuing with piecemeal

planning that is ineffective at best, and dangerous and unaffordable at worst. The government created this legislation fifteen years ago, and we went to court to insist that it be used for better energy decisions.

✿ Hosted a regional Faith Leaders breakfast panel discussion on “Nuclear Energy in

## Community nuclear-free advocacy

Faith leaders who attended the #NuclearFreeSA Advocacy and Skills Building Workshop series between 2022 and 2023 mobilised in their communities in 2023, resulting in a series of workshops across South Africa, bringing information and skills training back to local and grassroots communities. These workshops took place in Kharkams (Northern Cape), Cape Town (Western Cape), Graaff-Reinet (Eastern Cape), and Kokstad (KwaZulu-Natal). The workshops focused on empowering faith leaders on issues such as energy justice and advocacy, false solutions – and the true impacts and costs of nuclear power, green hydrogen, uranium mining and fracking, as well as campaigning and advocacy strategy skills. Trained faith leaders have raised awareness locally and attended public hearings and protests, raising their voices in decision-making processes that affect them and their communities. The ripple effects of these



Energy Justice workshop in Kokstad, KwaZulu-Natal.

workshops – taking activism and empowerment into deeper rural communities – keep spreading.



Africa” at the Alternative Mining Indaba with partners and faith leaders, resulting in a policy statement opposing nuclear energy.

- ✿ Attended the Faith Sector’s Just Transition Implementation Consultative Workshop, where we made oral submissions to the Presidential Climate Commission on the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) and the Just Energy Transition Partnership Implementation Plan (JETP-IP).
- ✿ Attended and presented at the Africa Climate Week summit in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✿ Co-hosted a Just Peace dialogue with the Ukrainian Association of South Africa on “Ukraine–South Africa: Nuclear Safety and Environmental Consequences of the Russian invasion”.
- ✿ Organised and co-hosted an official United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change side event at COP28 on “Faiths For a Just Transition” with the World Council of Churches, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. SAFCEI spoke

on the panel on the Just Energy Transition and community climate resilience actions in rural South Africa.

- ✿ Hosted an online webinar on the safety case for Koeberg nuclear power station’s long-term operation licence with JETP. We also visited Koeberg with #NuclearFreeSA Advocacy workshop participants, and made written submissions on the proposed life extension of the power plant by an extra 20 years.
- ✿ Commemorated the sixth anniversary of the corrupt nuclear deal court case ruling with an online and in-person event at the Tutu Foundation, and marched to Parliament to host a vigil there with 84 people of faith.
- ✿ Continued our anti-nuclear vigils outside Parliament.
- ✿ Supported faith leader oral submissions on the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill and faith leader attendance at the Koeberg and Vaalputs Public Safety Information Forum meetings.





# Food and Climate Justice

Globally, industrialised food production generates up to a third of greenhouse gas emissions. Industrial farming also dumps toxic chemicals into our water systems – rivers, lakes, dams, underground water, seas and oceans. These chemicals also decimate pollinator insects and wreak havoc on biodiversity.

The decades-long push by corporations and some international funders to “feed” Africa through this kind of farming has been proven to be ineffective and false by independent research. As has been found in India, there is no Green Revolution to be had in Africa using GMOs, pesticides and fertilisers.

## What we achieved in 2023:

Once again, our achievements involved the Earthkeeper network in a lot of teaching, training and sharing. Some of this is listed on the next two pages, alongside some inspiring and encouraging stories.

Our focus in 2023 was on sustainable consumption, indigenous foods, and agroecology as a climate adaptation methodology – and for these to be promoted and supported against climate impacts, especially where these practices already exist in faith communities living in harmony with nature. Our aim was to highlight the indigenous wisdom held on seeds and proper care of the land, and to promote appropriate technology that takes care of the needs of smallholder farmers in a comprehensive way to build community resilience.





## Just another everyday miracle: what ten bean seeds can do



Primitiva Imboyerwa is a Christian from Tanzania who first joined SAFCEI at a workshop in 2022. Here she participated in a seed swap where she received ten bean seeds and some pumpkin seeds. Primitiva took these seeds home and planted them; from the resulting bean plants she was able to harvest enough to share seeds with her community. Thanks to the pumpkin seeds she also got at the seed swap, she has also been growing, eating and sharing delicious pumpkins and pumpkin leaves. She has used the opportunity to swap seeds locally, sharing new and old varieties, and also to start conversations on the benefits of organic foods, and the importance of adopting agroecology as a way to adapt to climate crises.

- ✿ We also piloted (as part of the Green Action Week described below) a sustainable consumption workshop with and for the Sweden Society for Nature Conservation, which was then replicated globally; and supported additional sustainable consumption workshops with faith communities in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe during Green Action Week.
- ✿ Attended the African Regional Symposium in Malawi, organised by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance on Loss and Damage, with the theme “Consolidating evidence and African voices for advancing a pan-African loss and damage agenda”.
- ✿ Presented a learning module on Indigenous Foods, Agroecology and Food Systems at six in-country and regional FLEAT workshops.
- ✿ Participated in the African Food Systems Transformation Collective Inception meeting held in Johannesburg.
- ✿ Presented at a global press conference by Africa’s leading farmer groups ahead of the African Food System Forum (AFSF), to challenge AGRA over corporate interference: “No decision about us without us”.

Presented and facilitated a session at the National Policy Dialogue on a Just Transition and Adaptation in the South African Food System, in September in Johannesburg. The dialogue was also attended by government officials, farmers and researchers.

- ✿ Attended the AFSF Land and Agroecology Working Group planning meeting in Senegal and a Pan-African Seed Summit in Tanzania.
- ✿ Hosted a book launch for the People’s and Workers’ Climate Justice Charter Futures for South Africa in Cape Town. SAFCEI colleagues Gabriel and Francesca wrote a chapter: “A faith perspective on taking the sanctity of nature seriously”.
- ✿ Four staff and faith leaders attended COP28 in Dubai, where SAFCEI’s focus was on food, energy and climate.
- ✿ Ran a #Faiths4SustainableFarming campaign during the Season of Creation.
- ✿ SAFCEI co-chaired the internal strengthening committee of the Adaptation network and sat on the Steering Committee of the Global Rights for Nature (Africa hub).

These give some idea of the reach of our Food and Climate Justice programme for 2023.

## Compost is good for pigs and the planet!



One of our partners, Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC), collaborates with the Siyazisiza Trust to enable agroecology training for farmers in Amadiba. MaNtuli attended a Farmers Forum meeting and

listened to fellow forum members speak about the training they had received in making compost. She was reminded that her parents used to make compost, and revived this practice to fertilise her own vegetable beds. This had a huge, positive impact on the productivity of her garden. Best of all, it meant she didn’t have to slaughter a pig last year in order to buy fertiliser. Revival of old practices can mean better gardens and more happy pigs!



The abundant harvest of MaNtuli’s garden.  
Top left: MaNtuli.



# Our Platforms

Our platforms, including FLEAT and the Earthkeepers' FAN, build the relationships and solidarity networks needed to support our mission to encourage care for the earth.

We work primarily with faith leaders and people of faith who are leaders in their communities, but also with civil society organisations and citizens to support them in actively bringing about an equitable, sustainable world.

## Earthkeepers' Fast Action Network



You've already read about how our #CageFreeSA campaign has taken flight. This has been in no small part thanks to our Earthkeepers' FAN networks, which mobilised digital activists to encourage retailers to go cage-free. This FAN grew from 508 members in 2022 to 761 members by the end of 2023.

FAN members act online by sharing cage-free content on social media, signing petitions, leaving comments and reviews on social media sites, taking part in webinars, and more.

Get involved by signing up at <https://rb.gy/z7oa22>, and follow the hashtag #CageFreeSA on all of SAFCEI's social media accounts (@safcei).





# FLEAT

Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) is a peer-learning platform that works with people of faith across Southern and East Africa to support local faith-led advocacy and the ability of faith leaders to activate a sense of environmental responsibility in their communities.

This includes enabling them to hold governments accountable to creating a sustainable future for all.

In 2023, we held six in-person FLEAT workshops with faith leaders: from Zimbabwe (second cohort) in March and October, Tanzania in April, Malawi in June, Zambia

in September, and a first in-person Regional Women's FLEAT (second cohort) in September.

Of the 138 faith leaders who participated, 70% were women. There was a special focus in 2023 on agroecology and climate, indigenous food, the cage-free eggs campaign, energy and climate justice, and the just energy transition.

Faith leaders who have completed FLEAT training have initiated local training on sustainable consumption and food and climate justice within their own contexts, as well as local eco-justice action. Some are actively involved in campaigns and engage government on policy issues.

## Among the FLEAT achievements in 2023:

- 69 faith leaders shared new learnings with their congregations or trained members of their congregations on eco-justice.
- 138 faith leaders led and supported advocacy efforts for eco-justice to their governments.
- 88 faith leaders implemented eco-justice and eco-living projects.
- 54 faith leaders confirmed partnering with other organisations to implement environmental campaigns.
- Cyprian Chimbiya from Malawi FLEAT II, organised training for 45 people on biomass energy-efficient stoves, influenced by the FLEAT eco-footprint exercise.
- Reverend Henrietta Mgovo, the president of the African-Baptist Church in Zimbabwe,

## Nurturing Trees, Nurturing Faith



William Mchombo is the Green Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of East Zambia, and was a part of the first FLEAT Zambia cohort. He continues to promote and carry out community-led projects across the region, including tree planting and environmental and climate change awareness campaigns.

Bishop Mchombo visits projects in person, and always plants a tree before leaving. In all his parishes, if there is a special occasion of any kind, a tree is always planted, nurturing a symbolic connection between faith and conservation: "I give a fruit tree to each candidate baptised and confirmed, and say: 'I want to come and see those trees because you need to nurture them as much as you nurture your faith.'"

Bishop Mchombo teaching Sunday School children about the importance of trees

set up a herbal garden demonstration site at the Great Zimbabwe University, with her religious studies class of 18 students.

- Nyendo Kinyonga-Grace from the Baptist Church in Tanzania initiated four beach clean-ups and a tree planting campaign. These actions reached approximately 1 600 people.
- Esther Kakole, a member of the FLEAT Zambia group, engaged learners at Mukunkiki Primary School in Luampa, Zambia, in food gardening for food security.

The content shared by Esther was posted as a blog on our website and social media platforms.




- Happy Mbewe from FLEAT in Malawi initiated a community-led afforestation and reforestation project, "Protect Our Planet Malawi". The goal is to enable communities to engage in tree planting activities, with home replication. The project has planted 15 000 trees since August 2023, and maintains a nursery with approximately 5000 seedlings.





## Communications

Social media has become a powerful tool for advancing our causes – we had a really big online presence in 2023. SAFCEI used our communication platforms – website, e-newsletter, Instagram, Facebook, X (Twitter) and WhatsApp – to empower active citizens with knowledge and to encourage them to engage with our campaigns and advocacy work.

	<b>Facebook</b> 2022 3346 likes 2023 3900 likes		<b>Instagram</b> 2022 887 followers 2023 1210 followers		<b>X (Twitter)</b> 2022 3303 followers 2023 3423 followers
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In addition, in 2023 SAFCEI was featured 161 times on the radio, 28 times on TV, 248 times in online media, and 78 times in the print media for our work on Animal Justice, Energy and Climate Justice, and Food and Climate Justice. In total, we were featured in the media 515 times and

reached more than 450 million people!

Our strongest impact was through online media. We shared 1377 social media posts on our platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), reaching 340368 people in 2023. This is a significant increase from our media coverage in 2022.

## Partnerships and Support

SAFCEI receives funding and support from a number of organisations that share our values, mission and programmatic focus. We collaborate with an extensive network of local, regional and international partner organisations both within the faith sector and civil society to fulfil our purpose and offer direct support to our members and affiliated groups.

## Providing Grants

Recognising that some of our members often need additional support in the form of direct funding, we began to provide small grants in 2018 for faith leaders to initiate and implement environmental justice work. Applications are evaluated by agreed criteria to determine whether they align with our mission – especially eco-justice and climate justice actions, and building community resilience.

Faith and Eco-Justice Small Grants were awarded to support projects by seven faith leaders and communities in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia in 2023. Projects included locally led Food and Climate, and Energy and Climate Justice initiatives. Green Action Week grants were awarded to projects in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2023.







## Green Action Week

Green Action Week (GAW) is a global campaign that focuses on raising awareness about the need for sustainable consumption in a week in October every year. In 2023, the theme was “Sharing Community”.

We supported Green Action Week activities in five communities across Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The campaigns reached a total of 149 participants.

Workshops and activities included sustainable consumption workshop at a school in Malawi and grass planting on the degraded school grounds, a seed swap in South Africa, a workshop with youth in Zambia to highlight the benefits of traditional foods and medicines for healthier living, planting traditional herbs in Zimbabwe, and a beach clean-up with the Sustainable Shores campaign in Tanzania.

## Rural Action for Climate Resilience project

We're proud to share more details of our RACR project, the fruit of a partnership between the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT), SAFCEI and Heinrich Böll Stiftung. The project works with rural community-based organisations and faith leaders in the Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape, building local capacity to respond to and enhance climate resilience in rural South Africa.

There are 36 active organisations in the project, of which 60% are women-led, while 41% actively involve youth.



Climate change poster developed with collaborative inputs from the RACR participants.





### RACR's achievements in 2023:

- ☛ Held two regional workshops, one in the Western Cape and one in the Eastern Cape, focused on understanding and mapping local vulnerability and responses to climate change. These explored how climate disruption affects women disproportionately, as well as how to engage local government on climate advocacy issues.
- ☛ Another highlight of 2023 was the RACR Learning Festival, in late August. Fifty-six participants attended from Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Western Cape. Sessions covered topics such as: rights-based approaches in the climate change space through use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge; the parallels between gendered care labour and how

ecosystems care for us; the power of faith to build climate justice; addressing energy justice and gender justice while building climate justice movements; and local adaptation interventions in rural areas to climate change challenges. There was also a vigil outside Parliament for climate and energy justice, and a high-level evening panel discussion to highlight the role of women in a just transition.

- ☛ Ran four online seminars with experts on a range of topics, including: drought, food sovereignty, traditional seed saving methods, and the Climate Change Bill and developments towards its passing in Parliament.

## Sustaining the Wild Coast

Sustaining the Wild Coast (SWC) is a project partner of SAFCEI that is focused on supporting communities along the Wild Coast

SWC promotes agroecology, supports community-owned ecotourism ventures and mentorship of young people as land custodians. It advocates on behalf of the Amadiba community in its struggle to protect its land, ocean and biodiversity from destruction, as well as the right of this community to self-determination. SAFCEI supports SWC through the administration of grant funding for its staff and programmes.



### What SWC achieved in 2023:

- ☛ A community workshop was held with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) in Amadiba to review the work of SWC. Twenty community representatives attended the workshop and asked SWC to continue their support for Amadiba to grow

agroecology, ecotourism and land custodianship capacity in the area.

- ☛ In line with the project of mentoring many young people over the years, in mid-2023 six of them were employed to lead the work of SWC in Amadiba.



- SWC youth leaders initiated and organised outdoor education trips for learners at Baleni High School, beach clean-ups, and protests against offshore exploration for oil and gas.
- Young people from Amadiba joined youth from across Mpondoland to participate in the Great Southern Bioblitz. Together they made 8 496 observations in Mpondoland, and were ranked fourth in the southern hemisphere for the number of observations uploaded to iNaturalist. In promoting youth participation in such events, SWC is helping young people to become aware of

their responsibility to protect their land and its rich biodiversity. [bit.ly/BioBlitzAllStars](https://bit.ly/BioBlitzAllStars)

- The building of Kwanyana Lodge began in 2019 when participants in the Yes4Youth programme from Mpindweni and Mtolane villages started making mud bricks in order to establish tourist accommodation in their area. Since 2021, a group of determined villagers have been building three rondavels, which are nearing completion. Solar power was installed in 2023. The next steps are to build ablution facilities and furnish the rooms.



### Wild Coast Warriors on the Silver Screen

Amadiba SWC collaborated with Contemporary Film Productions and Natural Justice in the making of a movie about the long struggle of the Amadiba community to protect their land and the ocean from colonial dispossession, coastal dune mining, and offshore exploration for oil and gas. *Wild Coast Warriors: Turning the tide on oil giants* was dubbed into isiMpondo and first screened at the komkhulu (traditional court) in Amadiba in November 2023. Several other “sneak preview” screenings happened in communities along the coast, where people had supported the court case against Shell during 2021 and 2022. Watch the trailer: <https://www.wildcoastwarriorsfilm.com/>

# Our Financials

## Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute NPC

Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

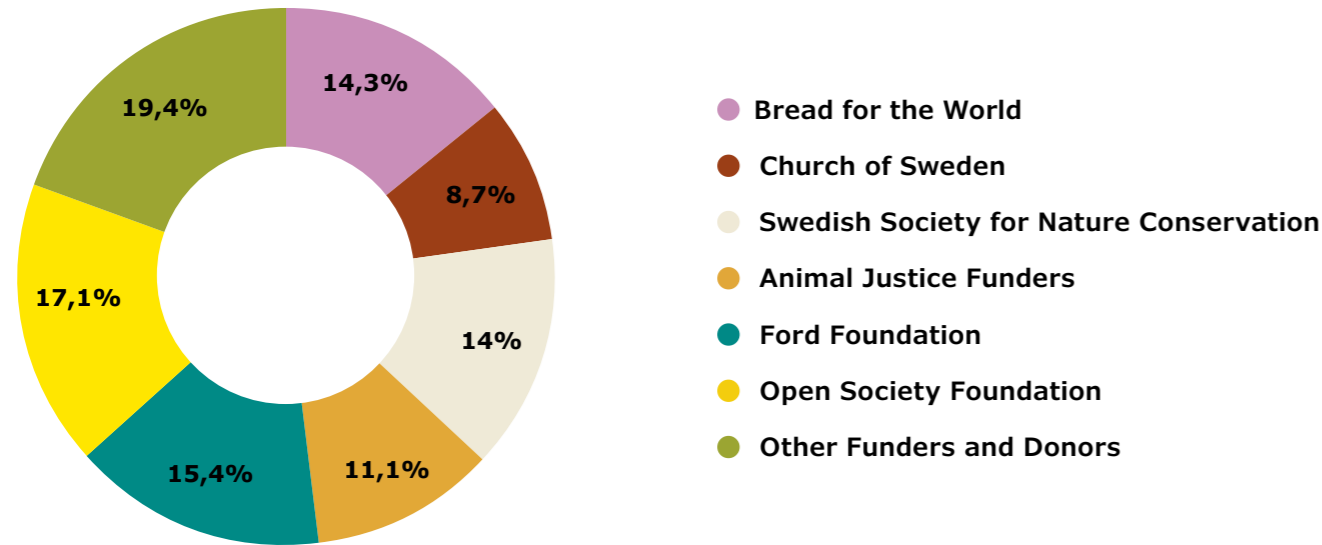
Registration no. 2006/014388/08

### Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2023

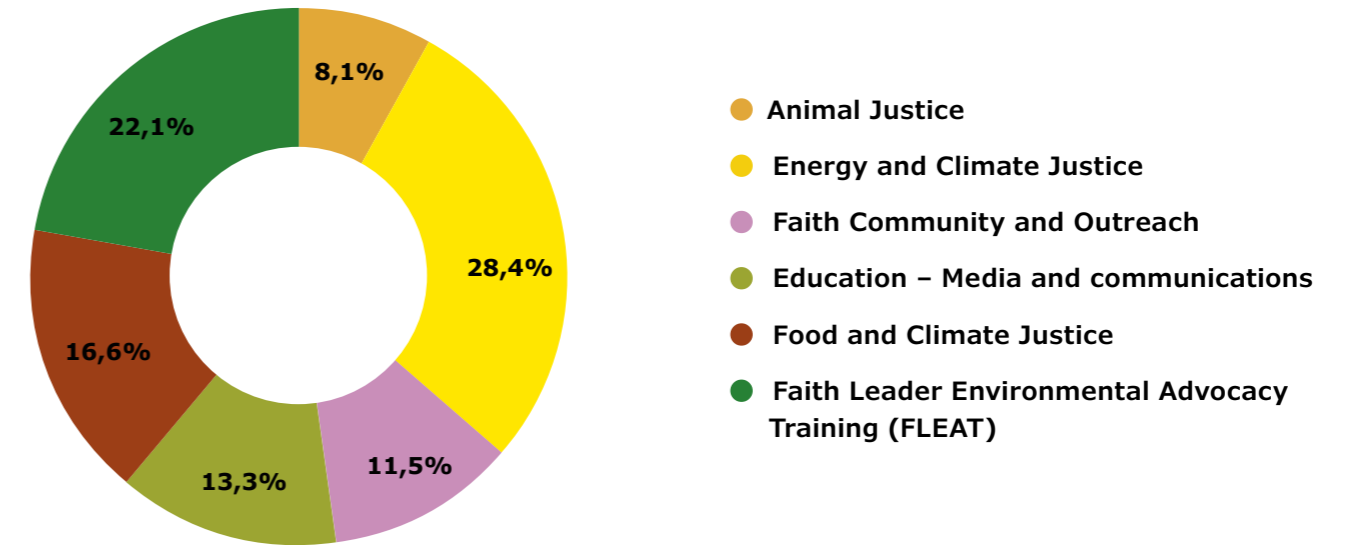
	2023 (ZAR)	2022 (ZAR)
<b>Income</b>		
Grants	11,669,703	9,525,789
Other income	-	1,172
Donations	8,495	4,806
Interest income	312,762	97,547
Unrealised income	20,981	11,243
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,011,941</b>	<b>9,640,557</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Programme costs	7,900,645	5,926,335
General operating costs	2,892,254	2,648,106
Premise and equipment costs	373,256	406,764
Professional services	337,494	225,091
Governance	144,681	168,684
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11,648,330</b>	<b>9,374,980</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>363,611</b>	<b>265,577</b>



## Grants Received in 2023



## How we used 2023 programme funds



## Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023

	2023 (ZAR)	2022 (ZAR)
<b>Assets</b>		
Non-Current Assets	110,718	180,853
Current Assets	8,474,540	5,973,720
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>8,585,258</b>	<b>6,154,573</b>
<b>Reserves and Liabilities</b>		
Funds and Reserves	1,548,622	1,184,881
Current Liabilities	7,136,636	4,969,692
<b>Total Reserves and Liabilities</b>	<b>8,685,258</b>	<b>6,154,573</b>

## Statement of Changes in Funds

	Accumulated Funds (ZAR)	Equipment Fund (ZAR)	Total (ZAR)
Balance 1 January 2023 (after adjustment)	1,004,158	180,853	1,185,011
Surplus for the year	363,611	--	363,611
Transfer to equipment fund for assets acquired during the year	-29,507	29,507	--
Depreciation during the year	99,642	-99,642	--
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>1,437,904</b>	<b>110,718</b>	<b>1,548,622</b>





Stop press: as we were going to print for this year's annual report, Sinegugu Zukulu, SWC board member (left), and Nonhle Mbuthuma, co-founder of the Amadiba Crisis Committee (right), were awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in Africa for 2024, for their work in halting testing for oil and gas off the pristine Wild Coast. We're wildly excited!

## Staff

- ✿ Portia Biggar: Office Administrator and Bookkeeper
- ✿ Judy-Rose Cyster: Junior Admin Assistant
- ✿ Fiona de Bruin: Finance and Human Resources Manager
- ✿ Francesca de Gasparis: Executive Director
- ✿ Tamzyn Pamplin: Communications Manager
- ✿ Gabriel Manyangadze: Food and Climate Justice Manager
- ✿ Olwethu Mbuthuma: Programmes Admin Assistant
- ✿ Mmathapelo Mosakedi: Junior Social Media Co-ordinator
- ✿ Maia Nangle: Campaigns Co-ordinator
- ✿ Zwelisha Shobede: Cage-Free Campaign Co-ordinator
- ✿ Tara Nair van Ryneveld: Climate Policy Co-ordinator

## Board

- ✿ Dr Braam Hanekom (Dutch Reformed Church) (Chair), appointed 2021
- ✿ Imam Salieg Isaacs (Muslim), appointed 2021
- ✿ Sister Usha Jevan (Brahma Kumaris), appointed 2011
- ✿ Ms Kirtanya Maharaj (Hindu), appointed 2018
- ✿ Reverend Deon McDillon (Anglican), appointed 2023
- ✿ Mr David Munene (Catholic), appointed 2020
- ✿ Ms Queen Munyai (Christian), appointed 2022
- ✿ Ms Lucinda Rudolph (Christian), appointed 2022
- ✿ Ms Francesca de Gasparis, Executive Director (Ex-officio Director)

## Members, volunteers and partners

Our members, Advisory Council and volunteers provide us with vital support by offering their time, skills and resources to deepen the scale and impact of our work. We are hugely grateful for their ongoing dedication to our mission.

We are particularly thankful for the support we get from our relationships with our advisors, collaborative partners, funders and donors.

## We warmly thank our 2023 donors:

- ✿ ACT Church of Sweden
- ✿ Animal Charity Evaluators
- ✿ Bread for the World
- ✿ DG Murray Trust
- ✿ European Commission Climate Change Champions
- ✿ Ford Foundation
- ✿ Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
- ✿ International Climate Initiative
- ✿ Open Society Foundation
- ✿ Open Wing Alliance/The Humane League
- ✿ Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors: Energy Transition Fund
- ✿ Swedish Society for Nature Conservation





**SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE**

**[safcei.org](http://safcei.org)**

