



ANNUAL REPORT

March 2023 – February 2024

**ACTING AND ADVOCATING FOR
AFROCENTRIC CLIMATE JUSTICE**







WHAT'S INSIDE

An overview of our organisation

How we started

What we stand for

Some highlights from the financial year

A look at our work

Education

Advocacy

Action

Ambassadors

Communications and media

How we work

Financial overview

Our board and team

Acknowledgements



YOU ARE NOT
JUST A DROP
IN THE OCEAN
WE ARE THE
WAVE OF
CHANGE

90BY2030

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR ORGANISATION

How we started

African Climate Alliance was founded in 2019 after a collective of school-going youth and adult supporters organised a protest in line with the first ever Global Climate Strike. It was quickly recognised that the European way of climate organising would not adequately address climate injustice and the intersecting struggles of people on the African continent. As such we dedicated ourselves to working in an Afrocentric and socially inclusive manner.

Our name was chosen by a multi-school climate council with the long-term hope of building a youth-led climate movement across Africa. We formalised in 2020 to honour and work toward that goal whilst allowing space for youth to continue with their schooling and work while having a structured backing to support the movement.



What we stand for

Our vision

A grassroots climate justice movement in Africa where youth are equipped with Afrocentric socio-environmental education to act, advocate and achieve climate justice in their communities.

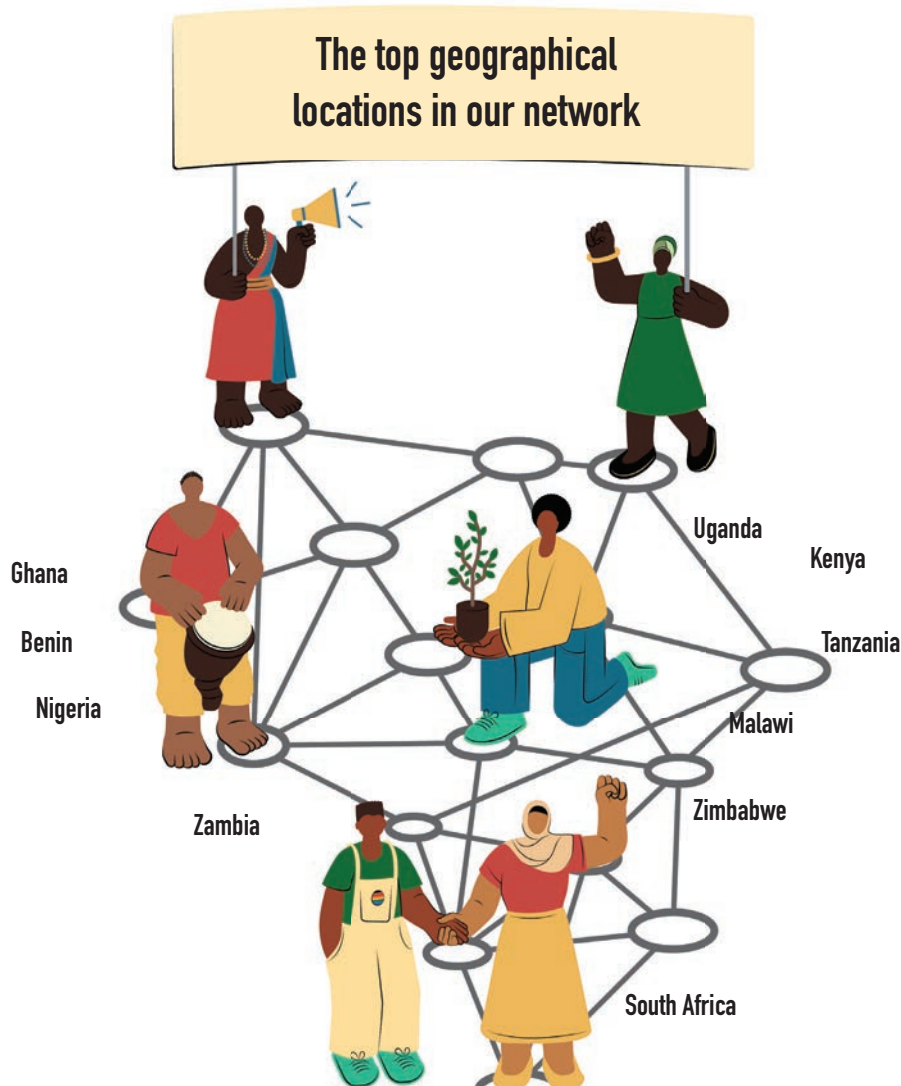
Our mission

We act and advocate for Afrocentric climate justice by building solidarity, collaborating, and taking action; achieving this by creating safe and inclusive spaces that educate and center youth in Africa.



Some of our **highlights** from this financial year

- An ongoing litigation and campaign to end new coal in South Africa
- The graduation of our 2022/23 ambassador cohort and the start of new ambassador cohort with young activists from 12 African countries
- A selection of graduated ambassadors officially joined our organising team
- Online and in-person educational workshops
- Policy consultations, written and oral submissions on South African policies related to energy and climate
- The second Africa's Youth Voices - an Africa-wide online conference series
- Youth activist gatherings
- Protest actions calling for system change
- Cape Town Climate Week: A week dedicated to climate solutions in Cape Town
- Engaging in speaking opportunities
- Global media reach





14 online workshops

4 in-person workshops

11 climate justice topics

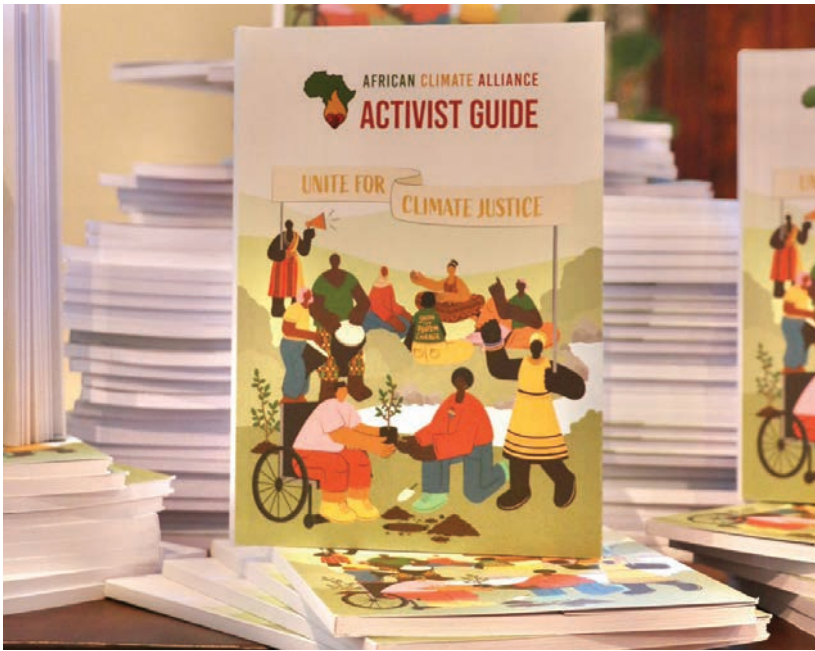
Our education programme was born out of the urgent need for accessible, Afrocentric climate change literacy for youth in Africa, especially for those living in underserved areas. We host workshops and dialogues, and build resources with the aim of creating a safe and inclusive space for socio-environmental learning.

Throughout the year, our online workshops series tackled a wide range of aspects around socio-environmental justice. Discussions included energy justice in Africa, envisioning sustainable futures through community action, centering people's experiences in movements, gendered impacts of climate change, leadership roles in the Global South, and the significance of international conferences on justice issues. Some of the key workshop and dialogue recordings can be found on the resource bank on our website.

We also held in-person workshops that explored storytelling for resilience, hands-on environmental education, decentralized actions for systemic change, and wellness within the climate justice movement.



Resource development



The ACA Activist Guide

500 + Activist Guides distributed

Following a successful launch of our Activist Guide, over 500 copies of our Activist Guide were distributed to partners, schools, environmental clubs and community based organisations seeking accessible ways to learn about climate justice. The guide aims to help aspiring changemakers of all generations to make a more just world a reality. It is a guide for activists – particularly in Africa – that aims to offer support on the journey of contributing to that world.



The guide has been a lifesaver! Children come to our library to use it to learn about climate justice and to do their homework on climate change.
- Promise Mabilo, Vukani Environmental Movement



ADVOCACY



9 Workshops, policy consultations & gatherings

6 Africa's youth voices conference sessions

1 ongoing litigation & campaign

4 spaces of coalition building

4 formal policy submissions

Our advocacy programme focuses on amplifying youth voices in climate justice in Africa and capacitating young people to engage in advocacy in their communities while contributing to the shaping of climate policy. It includes capacitating youth voices for movement building, building capacity to advocate for climate policy, and Campaigning for climate justice.

Our ongoing litigation & campaign: #CancelCoal - our Future Now

The #CancelCoal campaign is a youth-led campaign by the African Climate Alliance, Vukani Environmental Movement, and groundWork. It calls for the end of new coal in South Africa and supports their landmark legal case of the same name, represented by the Centre for Environmental Rights.

The legal case is a constitutional challenge to the South African government's plans to introduce 1500 MW of new coal-fired power electricity - the equivalent of three to four large power plants. We are asking the court to put a stop to the government's call for the development of this new coal capacity.

After the initial legal victory for the #CancelCoal court case, in which the High Court of Pretoria ordered the minister of Mineral Resources and Energy to release documents relating to Minister Mantashe's decision to include new coal power in the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan for Electricity (IRP), and the 2020 Ministerial determination for new coal, the case continued.

The applicants filed our supplementary founding affidavit on September 6, 2023 and In a significant development, the case took a new turn with the inclusion of the Minister of Electricity.

In September, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria and the Tshwane University of Technology held panel discussions to raise awareness about, and rally support for the campaign. This saw 190 signatures showing support for the #CancelCoal Petition which now has over 700 signatures.

Consultations, workshops and an Africa-wide conference series

Throughout the year, the advocacy programme held a number of online events to build capacity in young people to amplify their voices, and be able to comment on climate and energy related policy. One such event focused on the Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant's life extension and South Africa's energy landscape, gathering participants for a youth and community consultation. Another session, in collaboration with Project 90 by 2030 and Center for Environmental Rights, delved into the Climate Change Bill, enhancing youth and community members' capacity to engage with the bill and co-create effective talking points on it. Our workshop sessions explored the ramifications of the oil and gas rush in Africa and ways to mitigate its impact, understanding South Africa's just energy transition, and reimagining the public transport system's role in intersectional justice.

Submitting policy submissions

Following our capacity building workshops and consultations, ACA and a number of young people and partners who collaborated with ACA submitted oral and written submissions on policies open for comment. This included:

- an oral submission on Koeberg's long-term operation extension
- an oral submission on the draft Integrated Resources Plan at the multi stakeholder energy dialogue hosted by the Presidential Climate Change Commission
- a written submission on the draft Human Settlements White Paper.

Coalitions

A key organisational focus of ACA is building solidarity and collaboration across youth, communities and civil society. One of the integral ways in which we do this is to be active in coalition spaces. Including in:

Climate Justice Coalition

We remain an active member and steering committee member of the Climate Justice Coalition, and have been a crucial role in modelling an independent structure for the coalition to consider as it seeks independence from its current fiscal host.

South African National Youth Coalition

We remain an active member of the National Youth Coalition of South Africa, and a member of the steering committee. We have played a vital role in not only supporting the coalitions mobilisations with resources, but also through playing a logistics support and communications lead role.

Energy Governance South Africa Network

Since March 2023 we have joined the Energy Governance South Africa Network - a network of civil society organisations and individuals dedicated to promoting transparent, inclusive and accountable governance in the energy sector.

Cape Town Climate Actions

This informal coalition led by the ACA is a space for organising actions such as the March for System Change in collaboration with partner civil society organisations.





ACTION

5800 people mobilised

3 Mass actions

5 days of climate solutions showcased

17 schools engaged

Our action programme focuses on collaborating with civil society and community-based organisations, as well as schools to partner in actions which call for transformative and restorative climate justice. Our focus for our action programme has been provincially in the Western Cape and nationally in South Africa. However, we have also brought Africa-wide issues to our South African government through collaboration and solidarity.

Throughout 2023, ACA spearheaded and collaborated on several impactful mobilisations and initiatives aimed at advocating for climate justice and youth representation in decision-making processes. Under the banner of #MarchForSystemChange - Don't Gas Africa!, approximately 2700 individuals gathered on March 21st, 2023 in Cape Town, urging South African leaders to divest from fossil fuels and invest in the development of socially-owned renewable energy. This call was reinforced on Youth Day, June 16th, 2023, as around 3000 participants came together in Johannesburg demanding transparency and greater youth involvement in democratic processes. Additionally, a smaller-scale protest outside the Southern African Oil & Gas Conference in September attracted over 100 attendees, emphasizing the need to focus on people rather than profits by moving away from new oil and gas projects. 17 workshops were also conducted in Western Cape schools, fostering socio-environmental literacy among youth and capacitating them to take action in their communities.



Cape Town Climate Week

Cape Town Climate Week 2023 concluded successfully, achieving its mission to raise awareness about the urgent climate crisis and its intersection with socio-political injustices while emphasising system change as the solution. This week-long event, initiated by African Climate Alliance in partnership with a number of civil society organisations was held from September 18th to 22nd, ahead of Heritage Day. It brought together diverse stakeholders and showcased innovative solutions across five thematic areas: Transport, Energy and Water, Food, Finance, and Activism.

The five thematic areas of Cape Town Climate Week 2023 reflected the complex and multifaceted nature of the solutions needed to address the climate crisis in South Africa, considering the unique socio-economic and cultural context of the country.

Pedal for System Change & Reimagining Our Public Transport System



In partnership with Langa Bicycle Hub, Bertha House and Unite Behind

Unleashing Creativity for Climate Action & Activism for Intersectional Justice



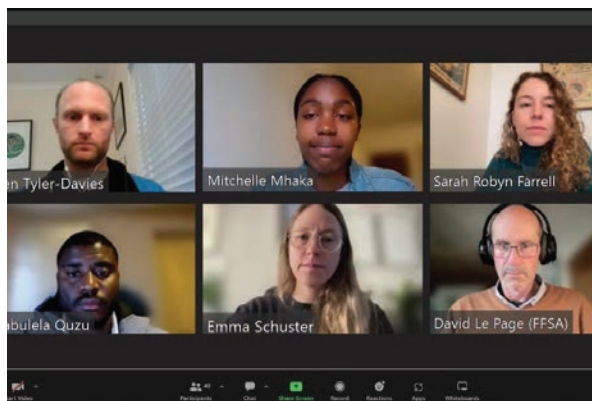
In partnership with Clean Creatives, Climate Lounge, Kaya Cafe and Bertha House

Food Gardening & Forests for System Change



In partnership with Feed the Future and Mzanzi Organics

Terrible Twins: Finance and Fossil Fuels



In partnership with Fossil Free South Africa, Fair Finance Coalition and Just Share

Energy and Water Justice Workshops



In partnership with Project 90 by 2030 and Environmental Monitoring Group

Activist Café



In partnership with Bertha House

AMBASSADORS



The Ambassador programme aims to build the capacity of young climate justice activists, through relevant training, exposure, and practical experiences. It allows for opportunities of peer mentorship to emerge, emphasising a decentralised understanding of knowledge sharing in which young people can become more confident, self-aware and conscious socio-environmental justice activists.

Over this year, we were very proud to see the 2022/23 ambassadors complete their year-long curriculum with 17 young activists graduating the programme. We have also been incredibly happy to see the ongoing progress and development of ACA's graduated ambassadors. This has included job opportunities within ACA including being part of the support facilitator teams for the ambassador programme and cancel coal campaign, as well as two pas ambassadors being hired as part of the ACA organising team in the capacity of Field Organiser and Ambassador Coordinator.

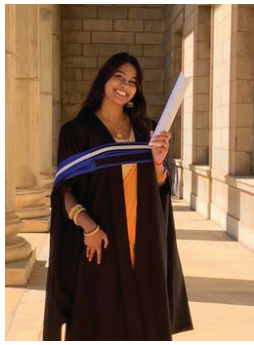
Graduated ambassador and Ambassador Support Facilitator Yotam Cheketa was also one of the first ambassadors to make use of ACA's opportunity fund in which he held a one day workshop that focused on advocating for roles of the youth in the fight against climate change and the benefits of adopting green technologies at Msenjere Community Day Secondary School in Nkhotakota District. This formed part of the broader Go Green Campaign by Yotam which he initiated to re-forest mountains, river banks, and other water catchment areas by planting 30 000 trees by the end of 2030.



Meet the 2022/23 ambassadors



BASETSANA HAPPY PITSO
South Africa



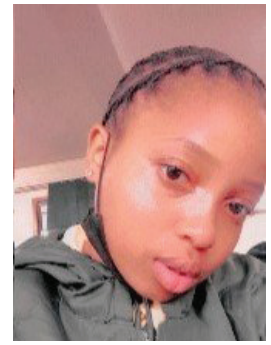
YASHILA GOVENDER
South Africa



CWENGA GONIWE
South Africa



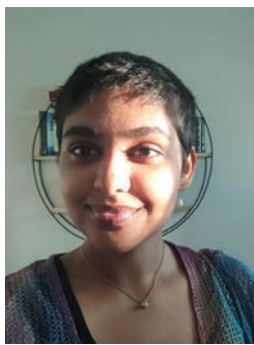
IMAN MSUME
Malawi



LERATO NTSHONG
South Africa



MARI SWANEPOEL
South Africa



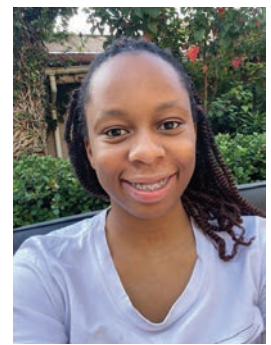
MOHINI GOVENDER
South Africa



NONHLANHLA NCAWENI
South Africa



NTHABISENG MABETLELA
South Africa



PANASHE MUSARURWA
Zimbabwe



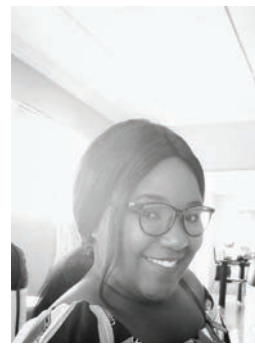
SAMSON DAMIANO
Malawi



SHUPIKAI RITTA NEMA
Malawi



SYMON SATIELE
Malawi



TAPIWA NYANGU
Zambia



TIONGE DIVALA
Malawi



SALIZWA NTLABATHI
South Africa



FLORENCE KASUMBALESA
Zambia

In July, the new 2023/24 ambassador cohort kicked off with ambassadors from South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Namibia, South Sudan.



COMMS & MEDIA

just under
1 billion media impressions over
a three year period

The communications team at ACA acts as a support programme for the various focus areas of ACA's work. This includes positioning ACA as a key actor in the climate justice movement, communicating the work done by the organisation and engaging and building our online community and Youth Activist Network. We do this by amplifying, educating, mobilising and connection, and sharing. Some of our key focuses include:

- Centralised messaging
- Managing the ACA website, newsletter and social media
- Public relations and media
- Resources and reports
- Campaign communications
- Developing capacity in activists to engage in movement communications, such as through media training or writing skills development

During this financial year, the ACA communications team saw a number of outputs, with highlights including:

- An audit of our media reach over the last three years which showed just under 1 billion media impressions, confirming ACA's role in contributing to shaping global Afrocentric climate awareness
- Several published op-eds including one on safeguarding activists together with #STOPEACOP campaign, and an article for #CancelCoal on youth in decision making.
- Several press releases which led to ACA in national and international media
- The re-launch of the ACA website
- The continuation of the ACA newsletter and launch of an Opportunities Bulletin for the Activist Network
- The launch of a the ACA Op-Ed Writing Circle with 115 members from 17 African countries. A supportive, collaborative space to meet, brainstorm ideas and craft impactful op-eds that demand intersectional climate action.

Financial overview

	2022	2023
Total Income	3481534	7172349
Total Expenditure	2580417	3884102
Operating Costs	690039	868596
Personnel Costs	1329996	2275353
Program Costs	560382	740153

OUR CURRENT FUNDING PARTNERS



WANT TO HELP FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR WORK?

Whilst we do have core and project funders who support our work, we greatly appreciate the support of donations from those who are inspired by or appreciate the work we do. As a registered NPC and Public Benefit Organisation, your donations will be used for the sole purpose of advancing our work and programmes in acting and advocating for Afrocentric climate justice.

You can send donation to:

2020/079857/08
Bank: First National Bank
Account Number: 62902670787
Branch Code: 250114

As a registered charity we are able to provide a section 18A certificate, which allows the donation to be tax deductible, should you request one by emailing team@africanclimatealliance.org

How we work

ACA has a young, committed organising team. We are continually informed by our Youth Network, as well as supported by our board, who provide the team with strategic input and oversight. We are a registered NPC with PBO status who has successfully undergone an equivalency determination process. We aim to live out our values not only through our own actions but by redefining what NGO structures look like in order to serve grassroots climate justice work. This means working with and living out concepts like sociocracy, financial transparency and co-leadership in ways that work for us. For now, that means:

We use a co-leadership model called the Management Circle instead of one managing director.

We employ a socialist wage gap model and everyone who works for ACA has access to the full financials and salary models of our organisation.

We draw from elements of sociocracy including decentralisation, self-management and democratic decision-making.

Our board



FROM LEFT: CELIWE SHIVAMBU, BRIDGET PITT, XOLI FUYANI

Our Team



MITCHELLE MHAKA
Programme Manager
(MC)



GABRIEL KLAASEN
Programme Manager
(MC)



SARAH ROBYN FARRELL
Strategic Comms & Fund-
raising Manager (MC)



STELLA HERTANTYO
Communications & Story-
telling Coordinator



SAMANTHA ANNE MÜLLER
Administrator and Research
Assistant



CECILE MATABARO
Finance Coordinator



CHULUMANCO NKASELA
Education Coordinator



SIBUSISO MAZOMBA
Cancel Coal Campaigner



LISAKHANYA MATHISO
Field Officer



PANASHE MUSARURWA
Ambassador Coordinator



SARAH OLIVER
Organisational Support
Volunteer



MASEGO MOKGWETSI
Cancel Coal
Support Facilitator



BASETSANA HAPPY PITSO
Cancel Coal
Support Facilitator



MOHINI GOVENDER
Ambassador
Support Facilitator



IMAN MSUME
Ambassador
Support Facilitator

Acknowledgements

We have deep gratitude for everyone who makes this work possible and who has partnered or collaborated with us. We give sincere thanks to our funders, partners, board and members of our youth network.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



