



ANNUAL REPORT



2023

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es of the Rural Poor

Vision

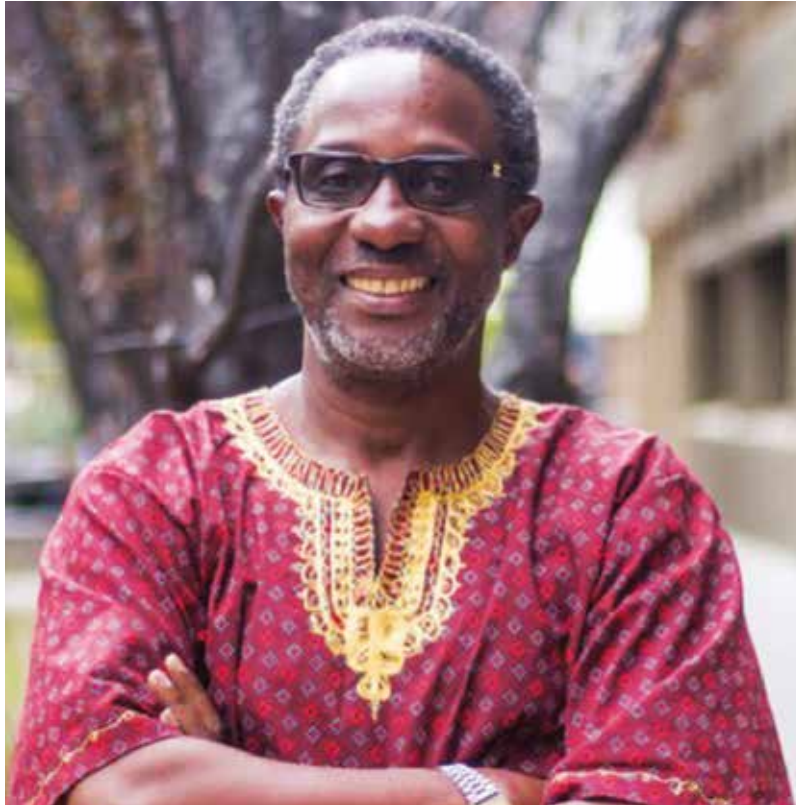
The TCOE collective envisages a society in which the rural poor, both men and women, have access to rights to land, marine and other natural resources for food sovereignty and the creation of sustainable livelihoods - a society that is responsive to the needs of the poor and that recognizes and values the potential of all its citizens.

Mission

The TCOE collective commits itself to building a mass-based national formation of rural poor peoples' organizations with strong, democratic and accountable leadership that is able to organize, mobilize and co-ordinate the struggles of all sectors of the rural and coastal poor, including women, small-scale farmers, commodity groups, fishers, farmworkers, farmland dwellers and youth, for control and ownership of natural resources. Such a formation will actively forge links with urban and rural organizations and institutions at local, national, regional and international levels that advocate for basic services, economic rights, social and environmental justice and an end to poverty and inequality.

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The year 2023 marked an important milestone in the long history of the Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE), namely the 40th anniversary of the existence of the organisation. TCOE has a long history of development work. This ranges from a focus on and commitment to alternative education which prevailed under the apartheid regime, to expanding, specifically post-1994, to the countryside with a focus on the political economy of land and social movements. My statement this year reflects on some of the highlights in the 40 year history of TCOE.

In 2003, during its 20th anniversary year, TCOE hosted the “People’s Land Tribunal”. This solidified the organisation’s shift to land and agrarian issues and what I call the political economy of land. The Land Tribunal was used as an occasion to assess the South African land reform programme which was introduced by the ANC when it came to power in 1994. The tribunal concluded that the government’s land reform programme was an utter failure. Flowing from this, the tribunal recommended that TCOE should involve itself in organising the land hungry in the countryside including workers, tenants and dwellers on commercial farms, on the one hand, as well as residents residing on state land that falls under the control of traditional authorities (chiefs of various types), on the other. From then on, TCOE became an active roleplayer in land and agrarian issues. The prominent role which TCOE played in the buildup to the government-led National Land Summit of 2005 provides a good example of its commitment to a new chosen path.

When the government dragged its feet in implementing resolutions of its Land Summit, it was TCOE who put the mobilisation and organisation of the land-hungry masses on the agenda of social movements and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). From 2006 onwards, TCOE’s mobilisation in the countryside led to the emergence of various local movements such as the Mawubuye Umhlaba Land Forum, Mopani Farmers Association, Siyazakha Land and Development Forum, Ilizwi Lamafama, Rural People’s Movement and the Makukhanye People Organisation, etc that are now spread across six of the nine provinces of South Africa.

On its 30th anniversary, TCOE partnered with the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town and the Faculty of Humanities at Rhodes University to organise a conference on a century of land dispossession resulting from the promulgation of the notorious

Natives Land Act of 1913. The conference created space for social movements and NGOs in the countryside, as well as the land-needy people in the former “coloured” reserves and peri-urban areas, to share their experiences and engage with academics on their own terms. At the end of the conference, a document was developed outlining the people’s demands for land and agrarian transformation which was then presented to Parliament. Importantly, the conference mandated TCOE to facilitate the formation of a rural movement that would represent an organised voice of land-needy people in South Africa. This process culminated in the formation of the Inyanda National Land Movement, which represents a conglomeration of the various locally based social movements whose main objective is to build a strong movement for the social and economic transformation of the countryside.

In 2023, TCOE devoted most of the reporting year to reflect on its proud 40 year history and draw lessons to inform the next three-year strategic plan. This took the form of an internal evaluation. One of the key outcomes of the evaluation was the decision to amplify the demand for climate justice and support vulnerable rural communities’ climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The focus on climate justice and environmental awareness will be integrated across all TCOE’s land and agrarian programme work.

A reading of the 2023 TCOE report suggests that an area which the organisation should pay more attention to is to not only criticize the state’s existing land reform programme, but to be clearer about what it is offering by way of alternatives. Commendable strides have been made towards championing agroecology as an alternative to industrial capitalist agriculture given its devastating impact on nature and the health of human beings. However, there remains searching questions that agroecology as an alternative must respond to. Chief among these is to provide convincing evidence that land use based

on agroecological methods can produce sufficient food not only for the households, but for the whole nation in a context of a growing number of people who prefer to buy rather than produce food.

The above raises questions as to the extent to which TCOE’s personnel is equipped to deal with the challenge. It seems to me that this is one area that TCOE should focus on as it prepares its programme for the next three year cycle. The Research Programme of TCOE strikes me as well positioned to embark on research that will assist the TCOE management and staff to grapple with the issue of equipping staff to deal with the challenge I pose of training a cadre of personnel that will deal with the issue of alternatives to counter current harmful land use practices.

The above is by no means a critique of the organisation’s personnel. This report provides substantial evidence of hard work and commitment on the part of the organisation’s staff, something that is truly appreciated. Without this commitment, TCOE would not have attained all these achievements. All that I am saying is that we can still do more.

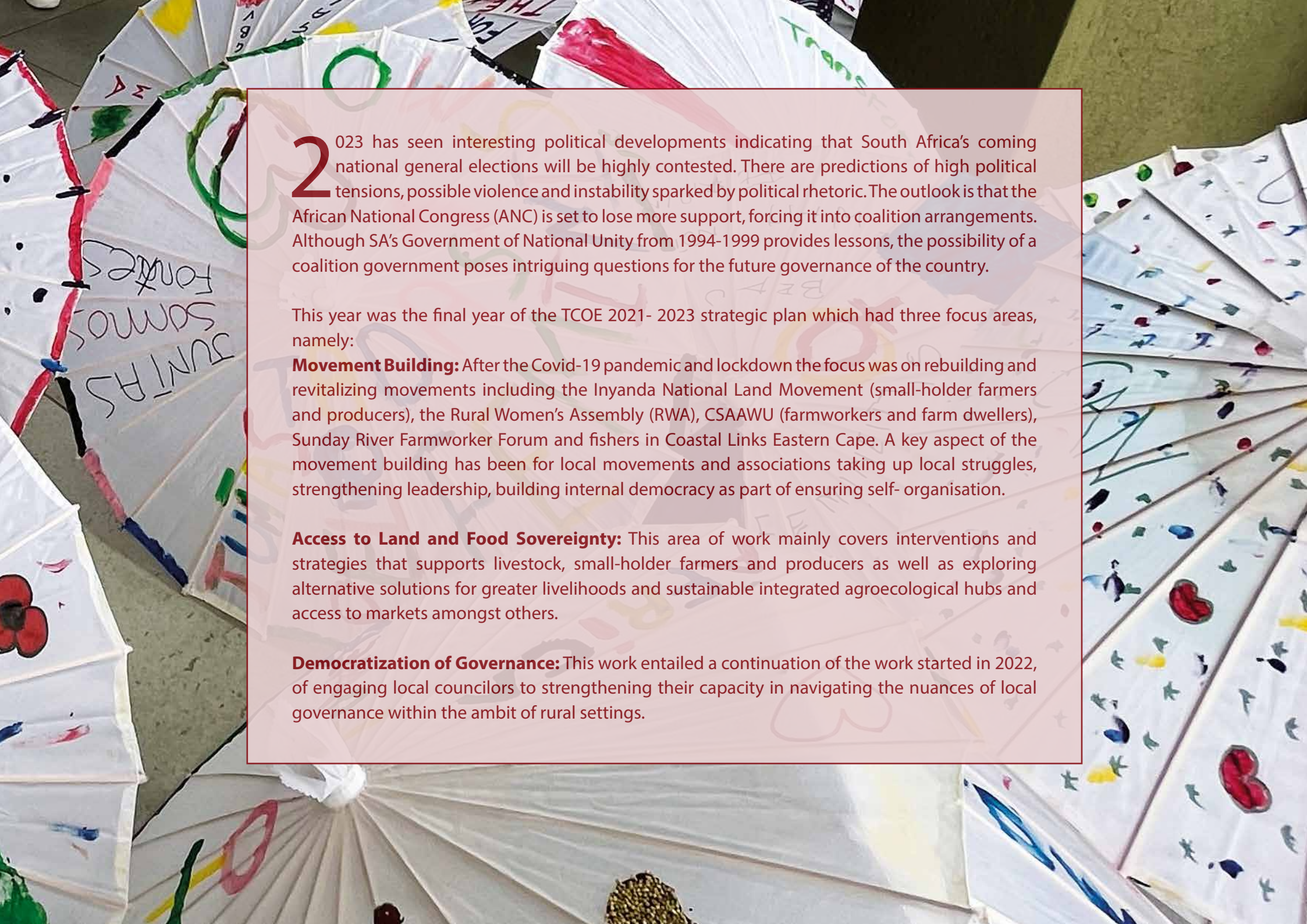
TCOE’s achievements are also the result of the support of an equally committed governing body. We appreciate that the board members offer their precious time for the activities of the organisation. We are very thankful for their enduring committment.

Finally, the organisation has very supportive donor partners who have shown preparedness to journey alongside the organisation. We are very thankful for all their generous support.

Lungisile Ntsebeza (Prof)
TCOE Board of Trustees Chair
19 June 2024

NATIONAL COORDINATION





2023 has seen interesting political developments indicating that South Africa's coming national general elections will be highly contested. There are predictions of high political tensions, possible violence and instability sparked by political rhetoric. The outlook is that the African National Congress (ANC) is set to lose more support, forcing it into coalition arrangements. Although SA's Government of National Unity from 1994-1999 provides lessons, the possibility of a coalition government poses intriguing questions for the future governance of the country.

This year was the final year of the TCOE 2021- 2023 strategic plan which had three focus areas, namely:

Movement Building: After the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown the focus was on rebuilding and revitalizing movements including the Inyanda National Land Movement (small-holder farmers and producers), the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA), CSAAWU (farmworkers and farm dwellers), Sunday River Farmworker Forum and fishers in Coastal Links Eastern Cape. A key aspect of the movement building has been for local movements and associations taking up local struggles, strengthening leadership, building internal democracy as part of ensuring self- organisation.

Access to Land and Food Sovereignty: This area of work mainly covers interventions and strategies that supports livestock, small-holder farmers and producers as well as exploring alternative solutions for greater livelihoods and sustainable integrated agroecological hubs and access to markets amongst others.

Democratization of Governance: This work entailed a continuation of the work started in 2022, of engaging local councilors to strengthening their capacity in navigating the nuances of local governance within the ambit of rural settings.

No major modifications were made, except for the democratisation of governance strategy due to not finding a suitable candidate for the position, which led to delays in implementation of the original plan. However, a study was conducted on local governance in the context of the rural democratisation strategy and work. The full study report was completed in 2022. Furthermore, in 2023 follow up workshops and capacity building of local government councillors and capacity building of independent community councillors were conducted based on the research recommendations.

Climate change is causing havoc globally, characterised by excessively heavy rains, very dry seasons, extremely temperatures and wild fires. Floods hit South Africa in February-March and September-October 2023 due to heavy rainfall that were linked to La Niña – weather phenomenon. Eight out of nine provinces in South Africa were badly affected, namely the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, North West and KwaZulu-Natal. The floods caused casualties and severe damages to homes, businesses, infrastructure, roads, bridges, crops and livestock. Unfortunately, it is the poor communities where the effects of the floods were mostly felt. These events add to the levels of hunger experienced by millions of South Africans, increasing food prices and making food inaccessible to households already struck by unemployment and impoverishment (Stats SA, 2022). Following the climate disasters characterised by storms and drought, TCOE responded by supporting small-holder farmers and producers who lost their livelihoods and production.

During 2023 the Movement Building stream continued its efforts to engage with and support the associations and communities it has worked with over the past three years and to extend its work to other communities and build alliances. This work was done while the country faces many socio-economic and political challenges which impact negatively on already impoverished communities. Austerity budget cuts in social spending, electricity load shedding, severe water crises in some provinces due to collapse of water infrastructure, increasing unemployment and inequalities, high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) and lack or limited support for smallholder producers, all contribute to setting the scene for our work.

Access to land with water continues to be a major challenge to small-scale producers. Those with reasonable sized pieces of land find it very challenging to utilise the land optimally due to poor support from the government.

The Water Crisis Campaigns was intensified in the past year as some parts of the country were faced with crippling water scarcity and severe droughts. In South Africa, access to water in the Eastern Cape has impacted on small scale farmers and producers. The roots of the water crisis are two-fold in that it is both as a result of the drought in the Eastern Cape and the aging collapsing and malfunctioning of infrastructure.

Organisational Achievements

In general, the organisation has done very well in executing its strategy and objectives in the past year. Through the use of different strategies of lobbying and advocacy, locally, provincially and nationally, is a good practice and lessons can inform the national processes. The localised approach helped communities to understand the issues through the capacity building workshops, Speak Outs, and training conducted on specific strategies such as UNDROP, the One Woman One Hectare campaign, IDPs and municipal budgeting processes, provincial dialogues on land tenure and communal land affecting the different provinces.

The development of agroecological hubs has been accelerated with 24 agroecological hubs in four provinces is a step in the right direction.

A number of successful interventions on the eviction cases were brought by CSAAWU and the Rural Legal Centre, to confront the violation of human rights of farm workers by white commercial farmers who continue to transgress the rights of farm workers and farm dwellers. The landgrab and eviction cases in Limpopo are good practices of making use of constitutional rights and justice system in support of small-scale farmers. Documentation of the cases' sequence of events, persistence and determination is part of good practice for successful interventions. Research helped to shape our work and strategies for campaigns and use different forms of media has enhanced our work and made visible the struggles of our constituencies. Letters were sent to municipalities raising concern about the sale of municipal

commonage land to hold municipalities and government officials to account. The releasing of media statements on land struggles, climate related issues, small-holder producers, farm worker issues for CSAAWU, RWA and the Inyanda National Agenda help to keep these issues on the media agenda.

The lessons learnt by constantly reviewing and drawing of lessons from our advocacy and campaigning strategies, assist in using lessons in future campaigns and advocacy work. Policy reviews and submissions has ensured that TCOE keeps government on their toes and advocate for policy transformation and implementation, but most critically it's



about ensuring the voices from below are heard and democracy is upheld in favour of the constituencies we work on matters such as land rights, access to land with water, advocating for more effective implementation of agroecological practises and access to seeds.

Solidarity and linking of rural and urban struggles is a practice that espouses and enhances our way of working. Access to markets and strengthening local food systems is one such example where local rural and urban small scale farmers are jointly working together. Climate is also one such issue which impacts all and accessing resources and inputs for small-holder producers is often overlooked

by the Department of Agriculture, Land and Rural Development, which means small-holder farmers have to stand together in fighting for government subsidy which often goes to commercial agriculture.

Our food sovereignty stream has done exceptionally well in the past year in development of agroecological hubs and implementation of monthly fresh produce markets. In the Western Cape, TCOE launched a monthly farmers market which takes place every first Saturday of the month. The Mowbray Market has attracted a growing number of vendors, market goers and some media coverage. The Mowbray Market celebrated its one year anniversary in the first quarter of 2023.

Ensuring Organisational Relevance



TCOE 's work is relevant as the land and agrarian reform in South Africa is at stale mate and very little progress has been made. The myriad of social issues with increasing poverty, hunger, the alarming unemployment rate, climate crises, economic crisis, inflation, unpredictable political contexts and corruption, strengthens our commitment to building resilient movements. Our land and food sovereignty work is equally important work given the above mentioned challenges that relate to food insecurity and hunger. We are in the process of developing alternatives as well as climate adaptation and mitigation strategies . TCOE's role is to act as a catalyst and facilitator in helping to unleash the potential and build capacities for movements to coexist and continue to challenge the status quo.

TCOE's work with our target groups which include rural people, women, youth, farmworkers, farm dwellers, small-holder producers and fisher communities remain relevant. In South Africa there are few organisations that work in the sector. The target groups, especially those in unserved rural areas, remain marginalised and vulnerable in a country where the "rural country side" has been left to fend for itself. The target groups we work with get lost and struggle to fit in the city/ urban lifestyle. Our farmworkers and migrants struggle to integrate into the greater society but also face many challenges that are related to violation of their labour rights, documentation of migrants and hence the ongoing exploitation experienced by migrants and farm workers. The Rural legal Centre (RLC) office in Robertson is inundated with cases. In future we see the model of RLC being replicated in other provinces.

We are just starting to build the work more consciously around the environmental protection. Although our seed and food sovereignty, as well as water, has integrated climate alternatives the justice and

rights aspect is still unfolding and this is the focus for the coming three years.

Strengthening the Organisation



We have continued to build and strengthen the organisation in all aspects of its work. The rural people's voices and agency is being realised and making impact especially for rural women there is a glimpse of hope and rights are being demanded. We are restoring dignity and building hope of rural people. Farm workers' issues are taken up such as evictions and labour rights. The Rural Land Centre services are supporting vulnerable workers that still feel the remnants of apartheid levelled against them by commercial farmers. Traditional authorities are being challenged by movements raising issues of rural democracy and governance, access to land and water struggles are waged and taken up. The footsteps of movements are slowly gaining momentum although, these processes take time.

Strengthening Staff Capacity - TCOE works to ensure that staff capacities and skills are developed and enhanced for greater effectiveness and efficiency. Our staff are dedicated and show commitment to the cause however we need to sharpen the understanding of the depth of the needs faced by the communities we work in.

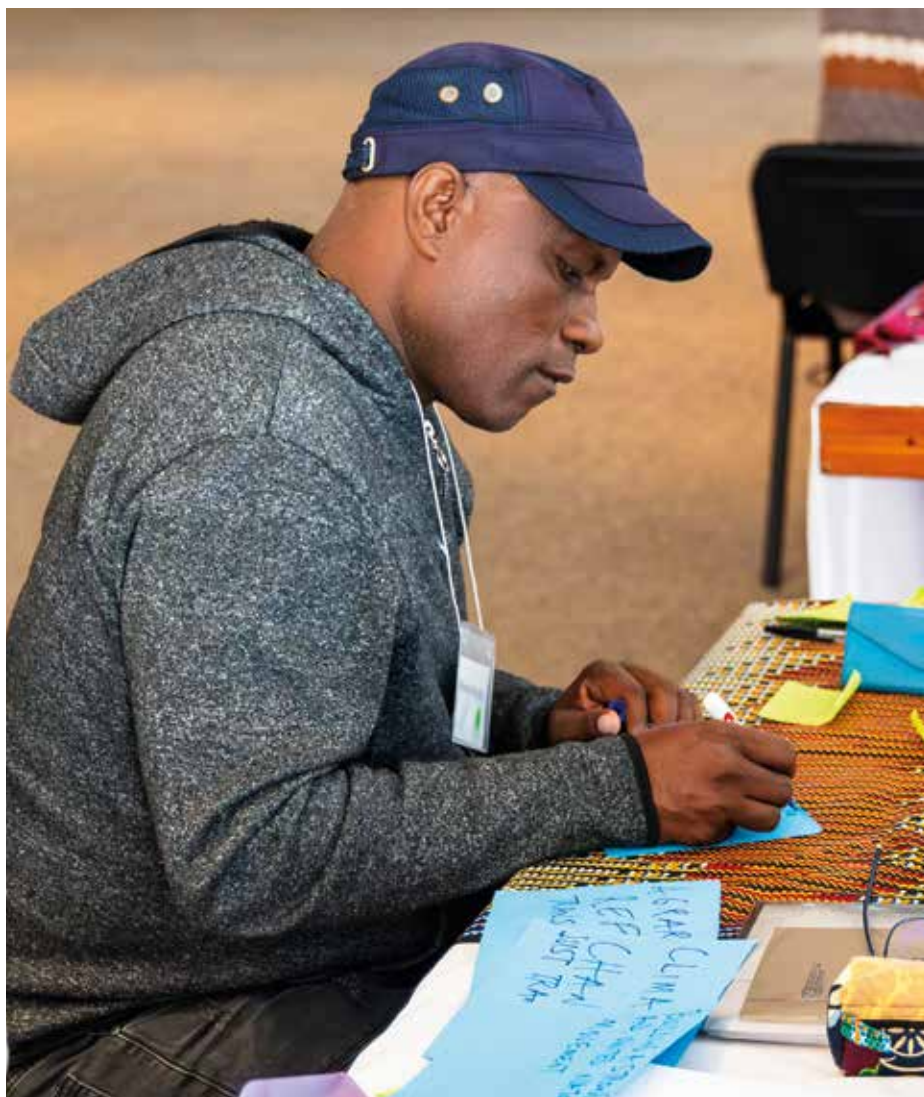
Financial Sustainability - The TCOE's financial status is stable. The National Coordination efforts are in place to ensure diversified

funding approach. We have managed to continuously grow the funding base for both TCOE and RWA. However, the National Coordination is overstretched in deliberating on fundraising. We anticipate struggles for funding in coming years as funding cuts are applied especially by the Global North funding agencies. Our finance unit capacity and the internal financial systems of accountability are maintained and improving.

Building Networks and Alliances - We continue to build strong networks and alliances with strategic partners. Solidarity across the provinces have been practiced together with linking the different struggles faced by women, small-holder farmers and livestock farmers, the landless, fisher communities, migrant workers, farmworkers and issues such as evictions are taken up with support of partners.

Building solidarity, alliances and working collaboratively with other organisations/ networks enhances our work and strengthen the impact including working to scale. Building regional alliances with RWA regional and People's Dialogue also forms part of our work and this is important for longevity, sustainability and resilience of the movements.

Strengthening Media and Communication Strategy



Planning Monitoring and Evaluation - Part of the National Coordination's work is to ensure that organisational reflection, planning and learning rhythms are maintained and adhered to. The organisations have in place spaces and platforms and systems of ensuring the rigour of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation processes. These include strategic planning processes, reviews, monitoring and planning that is done periodically. However, due to capacity related challenges this area of work needs intensifying as management is overly stretched and a cohesive system that strengthens the internal capacity is much needed.

Good Governance - The National Board of Trustees (NBOT) are consistently meeting their fiduciary responsibilities and engaging in giving the organisational strategic direction. They meet quarterly both as the finance sub-committee and the full NBOT. The NBOT's contribution and guidance is of great value and asset to the TCOE. Their contribution to policy related matters ensures fair labour practices are in place and that good governance is adhered to.

2023 was a promising year on the media front for TCOE and its movement partners.

Incrementally and steadily, we increased our media presence and number of media engagement opportunities for our movement partners. More journalists are also making media enquiries outside of when we release media statements. We need to continue to build on

this momentum to ensure our media engagements are not only a result of media statements released, but that the TCOE name become synonymous with land, water and smallholder farmer issues so that more organic media opportunities are generated in this way.

It is important that rural land and water access issues remain firmly on the national and local news agenda. Given the shrinking space

of community media and national print media, it has become all the more important to embark on an aggressive media strategy to allow the voices of rural constituencies to be heard. We also need to grow our own standard of Inyanda Community News content so that we can not only self-publish but submit articles for publishing with mainstream platforms that have a wide reach.



The first quarter saw the last of the Inyanda Community News in its print edition until further funding permits. There is good evidence that the news collectors have increased their news gathering and writing skills. The Southern Africa Rural Women's Assembly appointed Namasiku Muyoba, an experienced media and communications professional, as the media coordinator for the region. The Rural Women's Assembly also produced and distributed several key publications.

The media team supported several movement activities such as pickets and webinars with inhouse generated digital posters to try and reduce the costs of commissioning a graph designer. Better use

is now made of graphic design tools and with time this skill will be refined and expanded. Given the number of movement events in a year, this is an important development.

TCOE also had the benefit of a multi-media intern during the year who assisted with professional photographs of agroecology sites in the Western and Eastern Cape and creating a logo and design template for the Mowbray Market. The intern further assisted with starting a TCOE Archives digitising process. In 2023, we catalogued all the TCOE VHS tapes, posters and other archives and began with digitizing about 20 of the TCOE tapes. This digitizing of the TCOE archives will be finalized in 2024.

Inyanda Community News



The last printed edition was published in March 2023. The paper was distributed in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Limpopo. Distribution points within the provinces include affiliated member organisations of the Inyanda National Land Movement such as local farmers associations, rural based movements, NGOs, schools, clinics, municipal offices and local libraries, and community groups that focus on rural issues with specific reference to human rights. Inyanda Community News has a digital presence in the form of a dedicated webpage which provides a digital platform for stories.

While our goal was to produce and publish 10 issues of an 8-12 page newsletter, we are proud that we published 11 issues all with 12 pages. We further produced four special supplements. The information contained in the supplement are of an educational nature for women, rural food producers and small-scale farmers, which is in line with our goal for disseminating information.

Research and Policy Analysis



TCOE uses a Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology to ensure that communities have a say and are involved in the subject matters linked to the research. This methodology also allows TCOE to train communities especially youth in using PAR. Our research team worked with communities on issues of land access, water scarcity, fisher communities in building deepened understanding of

constraints, developing perspectives for campaign work. Research helped to shape our work and strategies for campaigns. Several cases of commonage land and land grabbing have been documented and in some cases litigation processes are underway and joint campaigns on commonage land were taken up.

Reflections on Challenges



We have integrated and strengthened our next cycle incorporating lessons learnt for the cycle under review. Attention to leadership formation is key for the sustainability of movements, local formations and for the TCOE's future leadership. The TCOE is conscious of the need to build internal democracy both inside the organisation and in movements. We strongly believe in laying a strong foundation of understanding the basics reflecting an inside out approaches and participatory methodologies.

Conflict resolution also has to be brought on board for all organisations and really work with the view that conflict can be healthy if managed well. Strengthening of internal democracy inside the movements is an essential part of the work. The notion of what is transformative and alternative has to developed - often mobilisations and actions are not well thought through.

Movements are very fragile at present and the depth of the crisis in South Africa is creating some levels of despair. The issues we are working with are complex and the target groups we are supporting are vulnerable because they depend on land, nature and with climate and the number of crises that South Africa is facing necessitate a deeper analysis of the issues and how they are interlinked. Climate justice has become a pivotal element of our future strategy. The climate crisis is certainly proving to be the biggest threat to humanity and therefore our relationship to nature and our heritage has never been more important.

Youth involvement in sustaining our movements is crucial and this is one aspect of our work which needs ongoing development and renewal strategies. We have also included the youth through the IDPs capacity building training and in supporting local campaigns.



Conclusion

TCOE's work in 2023 year has seen many successes as well as challenges. Our work is underpinned in a context mired with multiple crises. The upcoming elections in 2023 are highly contested and is likely to further exacerbate the tensions in the communities and constituencies we work with.

The TCOE's role in finding alternative solutions in support and accompaniment of rural areas is enormous and requires innovation, reimagination, capacity and resources to extend their reach and consolidate the strategies. Its mammoth task which requires resilience, vision and drive. Working in alliances and networks is crucial in dealing with these issues. Our staff capacity has to match the requirements that are needed to support movements on the ground; our campaigns for climate justice, access to land with water, the right to food and food sovereignty, democratization of governance are all aimed to transform lives of rural poor. But we still have a long way to go!

Despite challenges TCOE remains resolute, focused and intentional in realising its vision and goal.



MOVEMENT BUILDING



A. Contextual Analysis

During 2023 the Movement Building stream continued its efforts to engage with and support the associations and communities it has worked with over the past few years and to extend its work to other communities and build alliances.

This work was done while South Africa continues to face many socio-economic and political challenges which impact negatively on already impoverished communities. Austerity budget cuts in social spending, electricity load shedding, severe water crises in some provinces due to collapse of water infrastructure, increasing unemployment and inequalities, high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) and lack or limited support for smallholder producers, all contribute to setting the scene for our work.

The rationale behind the establishment of the Inyanda National Land Movement was to fill the vacuum in leading a transformative paradigm regarding agrarian transformation in the country. However, the lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic placed severe limitations on popular activism and social movements. This led to several meetings of the Strategic Management Team (SMT), the TCOE board of Trustees and the Inyanda executive members to analyse the state of Inyanda. Envisaging the reorganization of Inyanda resulted in a decision (7-8 February 2023 in Gqeberha) mandating the Movement Building Stream to visit local movements and associations with the following objectives:

- i) Find out what is the state of the local movements and to what extent activism existed in these;
- ii) Assist local movements to identify local campaigns linked to the water crisis campaign;
- iii) Develop mechanisms and a pathway for rebuilding Inyanda.

The Movement Building Stream, including the Deputy Chairperson of Inyanda, was allocated six weeks to visit local movements.

B. State of the Inyanda National Land Movement

The state of the national executive

The national executive committee was elected in 2021 to assist member local movements and associations not to lose radar in directing the struggles for land access, land tenure rights, and access to water for agrarian transformation. This national executive had to lead during the difficult period of COVID-19 and its severe onslaught on working class communities and a decline in popular activism. Some executive committee members focused instead on their political party's programmes leading to a lack of consistent meetings

to assess the changing context and provide leadership.

In the main, the national executive is still fragile in providing leadership. Although at the November 2022 Inyanda revival meeting in Bloemfontein, the executive committee was reinforced by individual members who were supposed to bring in capacity and strategic thinking, this did not succeed and Inyanda experiences a vacuum of leadership up to the present moment.

The state of local movements/forums/associations

Local movements, associations and forums are now spread over five provinces, with membership dominated by food producers, livestock farmers, fishers, the unemployed and women's organisations in both rural and peri-urban communities. Some local movements are striving in building their organisational financial capacity, positioning themselves to be attractive to youth: in the Eastern Cape province these are the Mxumbu Youth Agricultural Cooperative (member of Ilizwi Lamafama), Makukhanye and to a limited extent is Coastal Links Port St. Johns (PSJ), in Limpopo is the Mopani Farmers Association, and in the Northern Cape are the Kuruman and Upington forums.

The local movements are vulnerable and fragile. The level of political activism varies from one movement to another and during consultations: a) we found that survivalist economic activities

are happening in different ways and forms; b) we reflected on what has been done in past 6 months (related to campaigns, policy interventions and broad engagements with government departments, local government, and parastatals); c) members discussed their internal and external challenges; members also discussed a common campaign around water and land related issues.

Inyanda's interventions and focus campaigns: Inyanda members engaged government institutions on legislative issues such as the Land Expropriation Bill and the Seed Bill amongst others and traditional authorities (on the Traditional Khoi-San Leadership Bill). But the focus was on two campaigns: a municipal commonage campaign and a water campaign, and as outlined below local movements/associations engaged in local actions around these.

The water campaign mobilised communities under the slogan: 'Land with Water for Production and Consumption'. The latter suggests that the survival of Inyanda has been attributed to struggles waged at local level, and with the material support from the Food Sovereignty Stream, seen as a benefit for belonging to Inyanda.

Working with the SA Water Caucus: on 28 September, the TCOE's water campaign coordinator, in conjunction with Inyanda and RWA, organised a webinar as part of the aim to build and work in national alliances. Inputs by members of the National SA Water Caucus and its local affiliates discussed capital's drive to shape water discourses in SA, SA legislation and the need to broaden the platform to shape demands and further the initiative in 2024.

The TCOE's water campaign coordinator working closely with the media coordinator released a media statement criticizing the City of Tshwane for having invited the Israeli government to come and share the Israeli perspective on water management and supply. We brought to the attention of the City and the DWS that advice from the Israeli government is not appropriate while committing atrocities against Palestinians and cutting off Palestinian's access to clean and safe drinking water.



INYANDA NATIONAL LAND MOVEMENT
WATER CRISIS MARCH

FRI, 13 OCT 2023
11H00
BISHO STADIUM
(NEXT TO FORT HARE)

March to COGTA BISHO OFFICES to demand the RIGHT TO ACCESS WATER for DOMESTIC USE and IRRIGATION and that allocated resources is used to improve ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE!

CONTACT
ASANDA MAGADLA: 063 285 7296
MONWABISI JENDE: 078 465 9156

C. Campaigns Waged by Local Movements

1) Mopani Farmers Association (MFA)

Democratization of governance: On the 26-27 April 2023, MFA hosted the TCOE research team, the movement building stream and leadership of Inyanda. The Mahale Cluster Farmers Association (28 members) is resisting forced removals and evictions from their own land. The local Chief is collaborating with government departments in these land grabs. MFA is working in solidarity with these communities and had several meetings with the Chief. The research team assisted by linking them to the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) for litigation.

As part of our networking strategy MFA used its relationship with both Gumela Projects and Engineering Skills Academy. As a result,

15 youths were identified who had experience in electricity work but had never received formal training. They were then involved in a 30-days free training programme and are now qualified as Electrical Artisans. Another group of 10 youths are now involved in an electrical program which will run for three years.

The Small Enterprises Development Agency (SEDA) donated 3 sign boards, 500 brochures, 2 roll-up banners, 500 business cards and 4 magnetic car stickers to the MFA. Discussions to fund infrastructure are underway. We also hosted SEDA for 4 days and they offered a certified training on group farming for 22 participants.

2) Botshabelo Unemployed Workers Movement (BUM)

The challenge of the water crisis in the country reached a peak with the death of community members due to the waterborne diseases (cholera). This is the result of government's austerity measures. The local movement has waged several struggles against the austerity budget and other national campaigns under the banner of the Cry of the Excluded and other alliances, including the labour movement.

An AGM was held in April 2023 and new leadership emerged. This was followed by a recruitment campaign, revival of 13 branches

and a team to coordinate local struggles. The local movement also hosted Workers Day to deepen understanding of the struggles of the working class. Leadership meetings were also held to ensure accountability and transparency. We also engaged in the rolling out of 100 000 signature campaign against austerity measures, fighting for a Basic Income Grant, the Right to Work and worked with the Central University of Technology (CUT). The struggles to access land and water still continue. To consolidate these struggles BUM is planning to host a Provincial Assembly and organise a March to the provincial government.

On the 13th July 2023, a delegation of executives from 55 branches of BUM attended a central strategic meeting to reflect on impact, challenges and chart a way forward. The gathering assisted in shaping and consolidating BUM plans as well as in developing alternative strategies. Tasks of individual executive members were reviewed, and new mandates assigned.

In August 2023 the BUM's women forum organized a workshop on GBV, in response to the escalation of merciless killings and abuse of women and children. The platform was used as a springboard for conscience building and empowerment of women.

The 9th of August (anniversary of the Marikana Massacre) was used as a remembrance of the brutality of the government led by the ANC. BUM went to Marikana on the day to show solidarity and participate in political debates.

3) Ilizwi Lamafama

The Buffalo City Municipality and Amathole Districts Municipality have been facing a water access crisis and contaminated water. Ilizwi engaged in the following Local Campaigns/Engagements:

- Organised a speak-out session on access to water, austerity budget and construction of access roads in Mxumbu and Xhukwana Villages (15 July 2023).
- Engaged with the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality on the crisis of contaminated water.

As part of building alliances with the labour movements joint actions took place involving BUM and CSAAWU. On the 19 August 2023 a provincial leadership meeting was held with CSAAWU to discuss a joint political programme. BUM also participated in the National Shutdown (20 March 2023).

BUM also organized awareness raising on the impact of climate change on livelihoods of the urban and rural poor. This was followed by picketing at Eskom Offices to support the global climate change strike week. Relevant political materials were developed.

A workshop was held with Peoples Health Movement (15 September 2023) to develop strategies for engaging the authorities. The outcome was a periodic cleaning campaign in Botshabelo (section E) together with other CBO's and the PEP workers. BUM continues with educational and political programmes, reading groups and assisting learners with homework.

- Organised Road Shows in 5 villages (Ngwenya, Saki, Lower and Upper Regu and Gqomfo) to profile Inyanda and the water campaign.
- On the 15 August organised a march to Raymond Mhlaba for access to water and access roads.
- The latter culminated in a Provincial Inyanda water campaign spearheaded by the leadership of Ilizwi Lamafama as a result a Provincial March to Bisho (13 October 2023).

After engaging the Amatola Water Services, Jojo tanks were distributed in some areas especially in Xhukwane Village. The DWS promised to source water directly from Sandile Dam to deal with water scarcity in the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality and provided Jojo tanks as an interim measure; c) The Potsdam and Nxarhuni communities had long engagements with the Anglican Church

for access to land for a construction of a local clinic and has since received the title of ownership to construct a clinic; d) Ilizwi has pledged solidarity in many struggles waged by the Amadiba Crisis Committee and Coastal Links EC against Operation Phakisa, the planned N2 road construction in the area of Xholobeni, mining projects and seismic blasts.



4) Coastal Links Eastern Cape (CLEC)

Port St Johns (PSJ) Communities

The CLEC Community has been struggling to access marine resources and against extraction of the commons and working with others (e.g. the Green Coalition) in pursuing this vision. Communities were organised against seismic blasts for oil exploration by Shell, the impact on marine species, their environment, food security and food sovereignty. Campaigns were also launched against Operation Phakisa on the planned National Road and mining, as these would result in community evictions, land grabbing and environmental damage. Legal action was taken and communities demonstrated during court proceedings in Makhanda and Gqeberha (WHEN??). Political education and leadership development amongst the youth is essential for the sustainability of the Coastal Link PSJ and to build a culture of accountability.

Nombanjana Communities

CLEC are involved in a struggle against production of GMO's and land grabbing by big companies through contract farming. This struggle goes back to April 2020 when its leadership was arrested in a struggle for water access during COVID-19. The case is with the legal courts and while the high court ruled in favour of the communities, the implementation of the court ruling is still a challenge. The lawyers seem to have withdrawn (WHY??) to take this case forward. The following are some of the things done after this ruling:

- a) A construction company was contracted to construct a borehole but it was realized that the first borehole did not have enough water;
- b) The second borehole was abandoned and not finished.

A delegation went to the Mayor of the Mquma Local Municipality and the COGTA in Bisho to enquire about project being abandoned without informing the community. No concrete response was received and there is still no water. Mr. Gibson was instructed by the Mthatha court to investigate and give feedback. His research report was tabled, with lots of questions and very unsatisfactory answers to the community. Masifundise requested to meet the Premier, but this never materialized. The water tankers only filled Jojo water tanks a few days before the court appearance. The court judgement decision was that water pipes and taps should be installed. Coastal Links need to meet with the Mayor at Mquma Municipality and engage on the court judgement. The attorneys in Makhanda have not yet given feedback on land grabbing.

In trying to implement one of the resolutions taken in May Provincial Executive Meeting, CLEC has outreached to 2 areas: Tsweleni and Sintsana, as part of a recruitment campaign and profiling the fishers' organisation and discuss possible actions. The bad bridges in this area were a burning issue - when it rains it is difficult to travel from one village to another. The court case of access to water was also highlighted.

A community meeting was held on 23rd of May to mobilise communities against mining. The chiefs in the area are collaborating with government and persuading the communities in the area to sign agreements to allow mining in these areas. Seemingly there are some community members that have been promised bribes and may sign without consulting the broader communities.

5) DELTA Women's Forums

The DELTA Women's Forum stretches across Libode, Ngqeleni, Port St Johns, Cofimvaba, and Cala. It has continuous engagements with Department of Social Development assisting communities to have access to welfare grants and linking those who do not have the necessary documentation with the Department Home Affairs. These local forums have a comprehensive education and awareness

raising programme on GBV and linking the victims with relevant departments and institutions regarding counselling, rights related matters, challenging the failure of the justice system and apprehend the perpetrators. HIV/ AIDS and teenage pregnancy are part of the awareness raising activities. DELTA is also campaigning against substance abuse and crime.

6) Free State RWA (FSRWA)

Mobilization and Organization

FSRWA has launched a coordinating structure in Bergman (Bloemfontein) a "racially mixed" (coloureds and Africans) informal settlement. They established a WhatsApp group with 108 participants. FSRWA is also rolling out a membership drive in Excelsior, Botshabelo, Thaba-Nchu and Bloemfontein.

The land audit amongst FSRWA has started in the backyard gardens we have within the organisation - we have issued 150 land audit forms that still need to be collected. FSRWA leadership is planning to establish more coordinating teams in the following towns where we established a presence during the Women's Event held last year: in Thaba-Nchu, where 200 women farmers showed interest in joining FSRWA, namely Wesselsbroon, Parys, Welkom, Sebokeng,

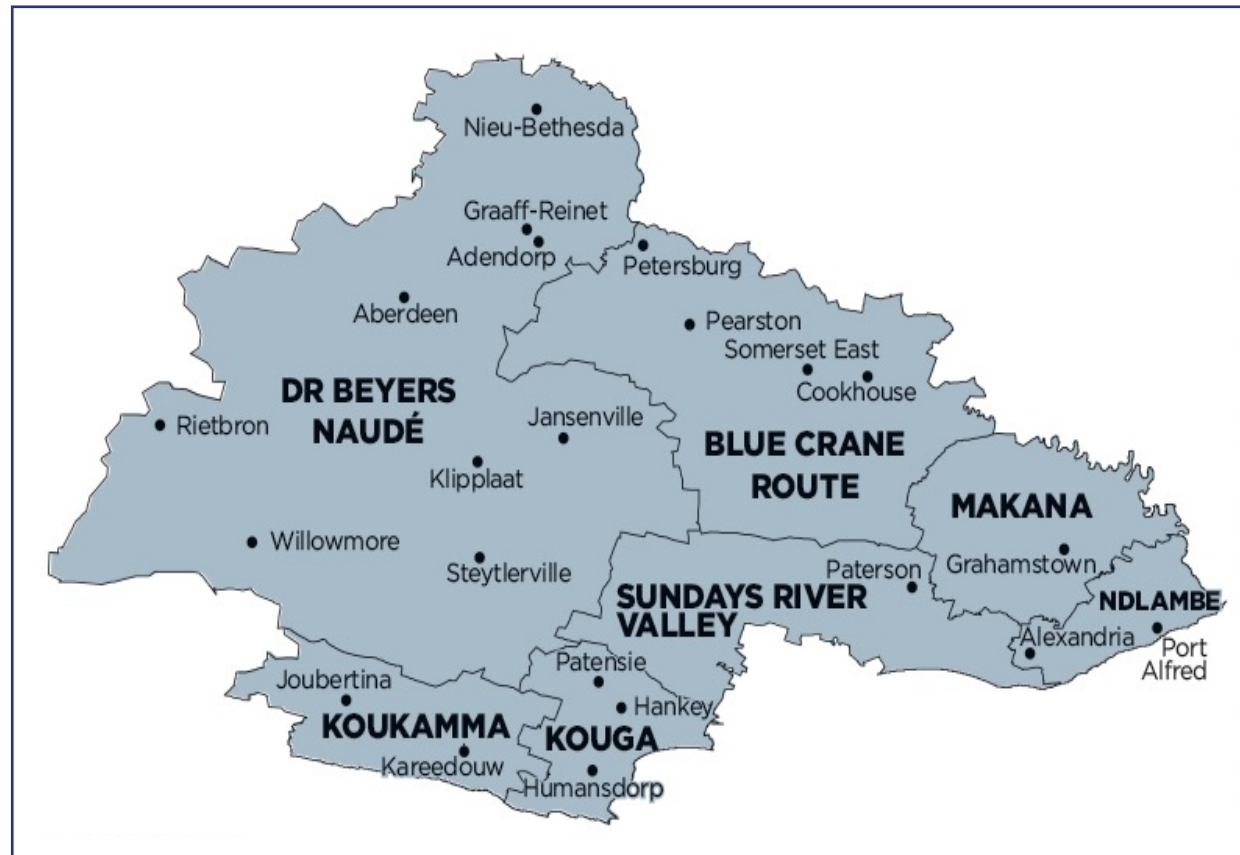
QwaQwa, Bethulie, Theunissen. Together with livestock farmers the movement held a dialogue on challenges and recommendations by farmers using Municipal Commonage land for livestock keeping.

In January 2023, the Parys Water Crisis Committee marched to the municipality for each household to have access to clean tap water. Due to the violent response by the police the community engaged on a total shutdown for a week. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) intervened and send experts to investigate: water valves were not functional and could not release water to households; water jojo tanks installed during COVID-19 were not regularly filled with clean drinking water. The DWS then took responsibility and authorised the municipality to procure the goods.

7) Makukhanye and Khanyisa Education and Development

Khanyisa's work is carried out in peri-urban areas and on commercial farms in Kariega [formerly Uitenhage] and in the Sundays River Valley, Kouga, Koukama and in Ndlambe municipal areas in the Eastern Cape. Khanyisa works closely with Makukhanye. We work as part of coalitions and network on various campaigns, food security and commonage land and farm worker mobilization. The June 16

Commemorations were used to highlight challenges related to the water and energy crises, poverty, inequalities and unemployment, with a special focus on youth. Leadership meetings are held regularly for movement building, strategy development and policy and governance capacity building programmes to build a layer of leadership.



Partners and Coalitions

Coalition on water crisis: The struggle for access to water in the municipalities where Makukhanye operates is a critical challenge. Communities have been without water for months. There is a strong campaign for access to water in Kariega and other areas. The water crisis committees met on 14 July 2023 in Missionvale and discussed the revival of the water campaign. In that meeting it was agreed that the affected be visited and it was also resolved that water harvest training be conducted.

After numerous community mobilizations (e.g. a march WHEN?? against the incorrect Municipal Billing System, and advocating the cancellation of debts), pressure on public officials and use of media to ensure access to water during the drought and to have input on management of water (e.g. preventing leaks; correction of the billing system, cancellation of debt), incorrect billing prevalent in Kwanobuhle was resolved. Communities also had a say on delivery of temporal provision of water and a borehole was donated by business.

Makukhanye: In November 2023, the Gqeberha Water Crisis Committee and Makukhanye (having representation on the water crisis committee) marched to Bisho. The Inyanda also mobilized its members to participate in the march to Bisho to the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) offices, demanding: clean and drinkable tap water and that the municipality availed its plan to deal with the water crisis as the metro was threatened by day zero.

Being out of the Makukhanye's area of reach, it was the Middledrift section of Inyanda (near Kingwilliams Town) who organized a march

in October 2023 to deliver a petition at the COGTA in Bisho to demand access to water as there was no water coming out from the taps.

Coalition against use of hazardous pesticides on farms: Based on past research by TCOE and Khanyisa on hazardous pesticides and as part of a network this has been used in this campaign, the central message being opposition to double standards: banned substance from the European Union being exported and used in SA. In the third quarter of 2023, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform announced it would be phasing out these in 2024.

Coalition on farm share equity schemes: Khanyisa has been pursuing accountability and the benefits due to farm workers on farm share equity schemes. When challenging these cases, the farm owners (who are majority owners) resort to litigation. The public law firm do not have muscle to match the private lawyers and as result, farm owners are not effectively challenged. We continue working with the Legal Resource Center whose approach is to challenge the policy on farm share equity schemes and initial preparatory work is being undertaken. In the last quarter of 2023, Corruption Watch published research done on corruption in farm share equity scheme. Plans going forward in 2024 is to ask the public protector to investigate.

Network on organizing along value chains: Germany has passed the Human Rights Supply Chain Due Diligence Act which undertakes to hold accountable importers of produce, who in turn are due to hold accountable those along their supply chain, for human rights violations. Some German civil society organizations are raising awareness and Khanyisa is participating in these spaces.



Food sovereignty and commonage land: Following the break of the drought, crop producers were engaged in revival of backyard gardens in Kouga, Sunday River and in Kariega, through provision of seeds and seedling and trainings.

Makukhanye's is involved in struggles for accessing Municipal Commonage. The period under-review illustrates how the farming communities accessed land in the first phase of allocation of plots/sites when the recipients were given permits. However, in the second phase in the new year our livestock farmers did not get permits after submission of the necessary documentation. Another challenge was that farmers are allocated unproductive land and land without water. The local movement had to review the task team who was responsible for facilitating these processes.

The commonage land that was provided by the Sundays River Valley is not yet functional as the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has an elaborate process before providing support. It tested and measured the land in 2023 and to undertake a farm plan and is waiting for a lease agreement from the municipality before they can provide infrastructure such as fencing and a borehole.

FARM WORKER MOBILIZATION

Improvement of living and working conditions on farms: Khanyisa regularly represents workers on unfair labour practices at the CCMA and farm owners are referred to the Department of Employment and Labour. Critical to the work done on farms is to respond to numerous "constructive evictions" (i.e. cutting of water and electricity supply) by farm owners. We work in conjunction with the E. Cape Human

Rights Commission, who also took up denied access to education because of lack of birth certificates. Another common problem is the violation of Section 197 of the Labour Relations Act, related to change of working conditions after one company has been bought by another. Another problem is found on game farms in which working conditions developed during COVID -19 have not changed although operations have returned to normality.

In the Sundays River Valley municipal area, Khanyisa has worked with the municipality to provide water to farm dwellers who rely on water from canal systems. We also got Eskom to approve the provision of electricity to two farms with a total of 23 households benefitting.

WATER - Contracted Companies/Desalination Plant/ Water Testing

A proposal was made for the Research and Education Committee to explore who is being employed to install the throttling devices and meters in Uitenhage. It was also proposed for the committee look

into what companies are being contracted to fix the leaks in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Desalination Plant: Makukhanye with Earthlife Africa went on a trip to Port Alfred to visit a small desalination plant to make an analysis of what is happening. The plant produces fresh water from a river next to the ocean through electrolysis. The by-product of the fresh water is green hydrogen that can be used for electricity. Water testing had to be conducted with the support of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation as agreed. 3 training programmes were conducted on Green and Blue Drop Reports in July and August 2023 were facilitated by Ferrial Adam and Nelson Mandela University. Nelson Mandela University, who conducted research on community groundwater testing, may also advise the committee on conducting water testing in communities. A proposal was made for committee members to come back with the numbers of residents in their areas and capacity for testing when Ferrial Adam travels to conduct the in-person training.



8) Mawubuye Land Rights Movement

During the month of April (DATE?), Mawubuye had a strategic planning involving various areas: Zoar, Barrydale, Suurbraak, Nkqubela, McGregor, Zolani, Genadendale and Greytoon. A discussion focused on how we are going to strengthen Mawubuye as well as recruit more members. We also had an in-depth discussion on the political analysis in our different communities and how we need to build a movement that will be visible. A task team was formed to assist in the strengthening of Mawubuye.

Mawubuye conducted local formations meetings and Barrydale Landbou Vereeniging invited us to their meeting. They have elected a committee. They also had a meeting with livestock farmers in Suurbraak. Their key challenge is that no one has a lease contract and the process with the land transfer to the CPA has not started. Mawubuye is looking forward to having a meeting with the CPA to speed up the process.

9) The Northern Cape

Upington Local Forum

We organised small-scale producers, women's groups and livestock farmers in Kameelmond, Rosedale and Paballelo. In Kameelmond we had a group of 28 farmers (2 men and 26 women) capacitated in agroecology (WHEN), the women being members of RWA.

The land struggle in Paballelo Rosedale the Livestock Farmers Forum (membership of 77 - 21 women and 56 men) over the years

A key focus is building and strengthening livestock farmers' forums within Langberg (i.e. Robertson, McGregor, Zolani, Nkqubela, and Montagu) as voices to challenge government for access to commonage land, as they are struggling to access grazing land. Numerous demands and engagements to the local municipalities have been made in Suurbraak, Barrydale, and Genadendale. Access to water continues to be a serious challenge especially for piggery farmers. The following were other issues taken up by Mawubuye in the period under-review:

- Engagements with Local Government in the Swellendam Municipality to talk about land for women.
- Developed case studies with farmers to get information around access to land and leasing contracts.
- Participated in the "One woman, one Ha" campaign led by RWA.
- Engaged in processes around the Land Expropriation without Compensation Act.

has enabled farmers to access 3642 hectares of the Hondejaag Commonage Land. Recently, the committee made preparations to meet the Dawid Kruiper Municipality (DKM) on the 24 January 2024 to discuss the commonage land policy, the contracts and the water challenges. The local municipality was engaged by livestock farmers in October 2023 and a further 100 ha of the commonage were set aside for feed production. There are also robust engagements for policy change with regards to land lease contracts.

We had a visit (WHEN?) from the TCOE Movement Building Stream and the Deputy Chairperson of the Inyanda National Land Movement to explore possibilities of campaigns and strengthening the local livestock farmers in Upington. Farmers mentioned several issues, including the lack of concrete benefits for being part of Inyanda. The famers also mentioned that they have been engaging on water shortages, had several meetings with the municipality and that livestock theft is rife in the area. SAPS and DKMs were engaged in several meetings without any tangible outcomes.

There have been efforts in formalizing the livestock farmers group into a cooperative and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) was invited to build capacity on cooperatives. A committee of six was established to facilitate formalizing the group into one or two separate primary cooperatives. They are now finalizing the basic documents (the constitution and membership application forms). The membership application form will then assist with establishing a database.

About 40 farmers from both Paballelo and Rosedale have applied to the CASP programme for assistance for fencing, Jojo water tanks, water pipes and water for livestock. The youth within the local livestock farmers are systematically taking on leadership positions in driving the process for developing cooperatives. An invitation was also extended by the Noenieput community (100 km away from Upington and De-Aar) (6 July 2023).

Kuruman Local Forum

The Kuruman Farmers Forum is made up of food producers and livestock farmers, from villages in the Morolong Local Municipality (Camden, Cardington, Tsaelengwe, Dikhing, Bendel, Lotlakajaneng, Bellybrits) and in 5 villages in the Gasekgonyana Local municipality (Seoding, Kaguang, Vergenoeg, Dithakong, Manyeding).

A joint committee has been established for Kuruman and Upington to build a strong lobbying and advocacy farmers' voice in the Northern Cape. Local networking and alliance building is limited because of the limited presence of organisations and movements with a shared vision and mission. The livestock forum in Kuruman had some engagements with the local Commonage Land Policy and the Preservation and National Development of Agricultural Land Policy.

Water was identified as an issue throughout the villages visited and livestock farmers have been harshly affected. A follow up visit in May 2023 was conducted by Movement Building leaders with the intention of implementing the decision of the SMT meeting in Gqeberha to form a national platform for livestock farmers. Post the visit three local farmer committees were established (in Camden, Ellendale and Kaguang). The purpose is to facilitate discussions on issues affecting the local farmers and provide leadership in directing what should be done.



D. Building Partnerships and Alliances

District meetings on GBV, patriarchy and women's rights (OR Tambo and Chris Hani)

On the 17 of February 2023 a GBV workshop was held at Libode Town. Participants (31 - 27 women and 4 men) were from communities under the Nyandeni Local Municipality, Port St Johns Local Municipality, Intsika Yethu local Municipality and Dr Xuma (Chris Hani District Municipality. DELTA board members were part of the workshop. This platform used RWA's mission and vision. UNDROP and the SA Constitution were used as a reference to raise consciousness on women's rights.

Solidarity in action with like-minded organisations became central to these discussions, centred around the different types of gender abuse that women experience. Substance and alcohol abuse were seen as major contributory factors as well as culture and tradition.

Strategies that emanated from the discussions and commissions

Each community should establish a committee on GBV to spearhead local struggles.

The committee should:

- a) Assist victims and refer them to relevant structures when necessary;
- b) Organise more meetings and education sessions to enhance understanding about GBV and patriarchy;
- c) Organise more local awareness programmes, seminars and dialogues;



- d) Strengthen women's forums for a united voice;
- e) Build a strong media strategy and use media (community radios, community news bulletins, social media, and print media) as a platform for education.

The meeting made a critical analysis of government's strategy and plan and raised a number of issues for lobbying and advocacy for the Government National GBV Strategic Planning Document.

Provincial Seminar on GBV, patriarchy and women's rights (OR Tambo)

On the 11 of April 2023 a seminar was held at Libode Town Hall participants (48 - 45 women and 3 men) were from Nyandeni Local Municipality, Port St Johns, Intsika Yethu, Xuma Local Municipality and Amathole Local Municipality. The purpose was to share ideas on what should be done to curb GBV in our communities, including looking at the role of our cultural beliefs and customs in GBV. Also discussed were the failure of the government to respond to these challenges as well how the justice system fails and humiliates women.

There was again a call for: a) A strong education programme as well as lobbying / advocacy and solidarity in action; b) the need to outreach to the rural outskirts more frequently and use UNDROP as an important tool as part of the rights approach intervention.

Training on Women' Leadership and Empowerment - Phase 1, week 2 (Qoboqobo) (WHEN?)

This is a group of 18 women at Qoboqobo village, Amahlathi Local Municipality. They are members from Early Childhood Development,

Extended Public Works Programme and a local paralegal office. They are part of the Ilizwi Lamafama Farmers Association, with whom Zingisa worked over the years. The programme seeks to restore dignity, build confidence and trust in their ability to contribute to transformation, emphasising the importance of understanding our roots and past history, which reaped our dignity and confidence. The issue of culture and tradition also emerged as another root cause of the issues that are grossly affecting women and youth.



The Impact of the District Meeting and Provincial Seminar on GBV and patriarchy and of the Women's Empowerment Programme

- These platforms paved a way for communities to enhance and deepen their understanding, engage with issues affecting them and developed appropriate strategies and solutions.
- To engage with government programmes and plans for GBV and development of clear demands for lobbying and advocacy.
- Communities have started implementing GBV programmes at local level forming alliances and partnerships.
- The gender programmes are supported by RWA and the Zingisa Delta Partnership.
- The district women's forums are challenging the local municipalities for active participation in the local governance and access to rights and resources (e.g. 1 Woman, 1 Ha).
- These interventions captured different women's sectors (small-scale fishers and farmers, women's forums, etc.) to help consolidate our movement building.



Provincial food sovereignty dialogue (OR Tambo)

On the 6 July 2023 a dialogue on food security and food sovereignty was held at Libode. The following role players were present: a researcher for Nyandeni from the Department of Agriculture; a local officer from the Department of Agriculture; the Mayor of Nyandeni Local Municipality; a representative from the Local Economic Development office and from the Communication Office; community-based organizations and other NGOs that promote agroecology. The methodology approach used included boardroom discussions but also field visits. UNDROP was highlighted as a mobilising and lobbying tool and the need to have seed banks. RWA participants used the “One woman - one Hectare” campaign to highlight the challenges faced by women to have access to land and the importance of building a vibrant united voice of women.

Provincial food sovereignty dialogue (Buffalo City)- A provincial dialogue on food sovereignty was held (WHEN ??, with 50 participants) in Berlin, Buffalo City Municipality, E.C. This was a joint activity between Zingisa and DELTA. The dialogue aimed at creating a platform for communities in this province to share their experiences on food politics, access to land, water, seeds, climate change and general issues of food security and sovereignty and how women are impacted by these. The dialogue discussed access to commonage and communal land for production of food and the role of traditional authorities as a barrier. The promotion of local markets for household food security and local economic development was discussed.

District Food Festival (Amathole)

On the 9 May 2023, a food festival was conducted in Berlin.

Participants (19 women and 10 men) came from Buffalo City Metro Municipality and Amathole District Municipal areas. Stalls were set up to showcase farmers’ produce and to market and profile themselves. Participants also cooked traditional food to promote our own food and food safety.

Participants took the opportunity to share information on climate change, its causes, impacts and mitigation strategies. Off-season cultivation of crops was discussed to still make and income, using tunnels, grass screens and greenhouses. Other issues discussed included intercropping, pest control, soil fertility, irrigation, rainwater harvesting, tower gardening, grey water harvesting, green water usage, seed recovery, fruit tree production, worm farming, agro-processing and value addition and marketing strategies. The meeting also clarified confusion between hydroponics and aquaponics.

A presentation was also made on food systems and how our food system has been captured by the MNCs, including contaminating our staple foods (such as maize and wheat) through genetic modification. Participants were urged to conserve and bank their traditional seeds. Women also shared their obstacles in accessing land.

Provincial World Food Day conscience building commemoration (Amathole)

On the 17 October 2023, we hosted a World Food Day Commemoration in Berlin, attended by 61 women and 42 men. Participants comprised Zingisa Educational Project staff and interns, Ilizwi Lamafama Farmers Association, DELTA, other Inyanda affiliates from the Eastern Cape, Farmer Support Group (FSG) from KZN, RWA and MICO Consortium, our partners from Tanzania.

Insights into food systems were shared, emphasising that small-scale producers need to take part in the food value chain, not only on primary production. The Tanzania delegates reported that their government is very supportive of agro-processing and value addition, access to micro-loans for buying small machines with loans paid over

10) Field Visits Monitoring and Mentoring

Quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings were held in the E. Cape. Participants were from Nyandeni Local Municipality and Port St Johns and King Sabata Dalindyebo. The participants (DATE?) reviewed the IDPs to understand service delivery in preparation for the Municipal IDP Reviews. Water and sanitation and access roads were noted as part of the backlog. The municipality was also engaged on the need for translation and accessibility of the municipal documents so that they are user-friendly to rural communities.

It was noted that there is progress with regards to saving and exchanging traditional seeds. Platforms have been created to challenge government's model of industrial agriculture and the reluctance to support agroecological and sustainable agriculture. These communities drafted demands around this and sent these to the local municipality.

On the 4th of April 2023 monitoring and evaluation was done at Chris Hani (23 participants) and Dr Xuma (35 participants) local municipalities. These sessions were held to understand the impacts of our previous interventions on changing peoples' lives. These communities also face challenges in assessing IDP documents, Service Plans and Local Economic Reports. There is also poor support

a long period with very small interest.

RWA introduced their organisation, as a feminist organisation fighting for women's access to factors of production, seeds and markets, GBV and introduced the One woman - One Ha campaign.

to small-scale farmers from the Department of Agriculture, Social Development as well as Local Economic Development.

We have seen a shift in terms of the participation of our members in local governance and holding strategic positions: 10 of our beneficiaries belong to ward committees and are involved in decision making at the lower levels.

There is also a drastic shift away from using GM seeds and local education platforms were created raising awareness against GM seeds; increased number of communities are practising agroecology. It was recommended that there should be more engagements with the local municipalities around small-scale farmer support and supporting agroecological practises. We need to build on the struggles we have waged to ensure our active participation in the drafting of the National Agroecology Strategy and put pressure on government to develop a National AE Policy and implement it.

We have learnt that there is a need of more regular periodical monitoring and support of our processes but sometimes we take longer and other challenges could have been avoided if solved at an earlier stage. There is a dire need to sharpen our monitoring, mentoring and evaluation tools for better impact.

E. Leadership and Cadreship Development



The strategy, methodology and approach of building from below has been critical in movement building. This forms part of the revival and strengthening of the Inyanda National Land Movement - building a layer of leadership that can steer their struggles and mobilization of youth is critical. Review was made on the existing local community organizers (LCOs) and we have to put on board agroecology practitioners and news collectors as part of the fold.

The struggles for access to water and commonage have been central and thus the establishment of LCOs to champion these processes. The Movement Building stream developed a political building programme for consciousness building and leadership development. Thus the 2nd module was developed that focussed in the main on IDPs and water policies.

The training was conducted for 36 local organisers on the 2nd module on the 20th – 25th October 2023. 70% of the constituency were women and 30 % represented 2 LCO's per movement. This platform was used to mobilize communities for Public Hearings on Agricultural Bill and analyse the submissions made. Communities discussed strategies to put their issues on the IDPs agenda. By law communities have a right to participate and each municipality should publicise the IDP and communities have a right to challenge it, make submissions and attend reviews. There was an emphasis on putting community mobilisation and organisation for action an integral part of the process - the water campaign strategy and plans were sharpened as a line of departure on

local actions to be implemented by LCO's. It was also discussed what constitutes a municipality by law.

The ongoing failure of local municipalities to deliver essential services, outsourcing of services to the private sector, the employment of consultants in technical and strategic administrative positions leads to the decay of these municipalities. The Audit Report of 2020 showed that several municipalities are under administration (under supervision of the National Government).

This situation needs us to think critically about developing our own alternatives. It was proposed that we should promote and support a process of local communities organising their platforms to develop Community Development Plans as part of organising a formidable voice before the meetings of IDPs, and then present their community plans in those meetings.

We also discussed tools that should be used in developing community plans as espoused by the Asset Based Development Approach and Methodology. This included exploring the use of tools such as Community Mapping, Social Audit, Transect Mapping and Stakeholders Analysis. Lobbying of officials and administrators were also seen as important as communities are totally excluded in budgetary processes. These proposals are appropriate for next year after the elections, as the new 5-year Municipal Integrated Planning Process will start.

The following are the results of this intervention:

- Mopane and Xitlakati have conducted a local training on the IDP, Austerity Budget and alternative media for profiling local struggles.
- Ilizwi Lamafama organised meetings with Raymond Mhlaba and Amathole District Municipality on the water crisis in the area (lack of access to and water being contaminated).
- On the 13 March 2023 a march to COGTA, Bisho was organised by local movements/Inyanda in the Eastern Cape
- Makukhanye LCOs have given feedback to the Leadership of Makukhanye and in the General Meeting and plan to have a local training for LCOs and increase the number of LCOs.

Resource Mobilization Training Course

The training was conducted for 25 participants in the Eastern Cape (29 October and 1 November 2023) to broaden understanding of resource mobilization and organizational sustainability. The platform created space for participants to write their organizational funding proposals and present them during the course. Then the trainees were given mandate to consolidate these in their locals and submit the proposals to the facilitator for further interactions.

Conflict Management Training Course

A training on conflict management and resolution was conducted for 25 participants in the Eastern Cape (19 – 22 November 2023). Local movements have a challenge to deal with internal conflicts but of being unable to manage and resolve them. The training seeks to deepen participants' understanding on what conflict is, its root cause and strategies and methods to manage and resolve the conflicts.

F. Main achievements

- The Inyanda was instrumental in discussing, providing inputs and campaigning against the Traditional Khoi-San Leadership Bill & the Traditional Courts Bill by organizing various platforms in the Eastern Cape.
- The Cala Reserve case has been a historical success whereby village residents successfully challenged the imposition of a headman. The verdict of the court was a blow in the face COGTA and the House of Traditional Leaders. CALUSA and Siyazakha played a pivotal role in mobilizing residents, organizing attorneys, and exposing the case in the media.
- Inyanda working together with the Eastern Cape Water Caucus was clear that the water management forums were toothless platforms and had no powers to take decisions with regards to water allocations, approval of water use licenses, and challenged the inefficiency of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) database. The DWS had no option but to intervene and purchased new water valves and other equipment to provide water to the communities.

- Inyanda, Coastal Links Eastern Cape and partners successfully fought against Shell extraction of commons and seismic blasts that affect marine life.
- There are water crisis coordinating committees established in the Free State in Parys, Theunissen and Botshabelo and a provincial WhatsApp group was set up for communication purposes, sharing of ideas and plans for solidarity. In Gqeberha (E. Cape) has been a water crisis coordinating committee established and members of Makukhanye and TCOE staff serve on the committee.
- The Inyanda Community News regularly publicized news about the water crisis and our campaigns.
- In the Northern Cape, Upington, the small-scale livestock farmers have embarked on a campaign for water on the commonage land.
- The access to commonage land campaign resulted in a draft commonage land policy for the Dawid Kruiper Municipality (DKM). The commonage land was managed by DKM without a policy and therefore individual farmers were treated differently by the municipality.



G. Key Challenges

- The level of support needed by the local movements is not matched by the available human resources (human resources are overstretched).
- The level of political consciousness of local formations and commitment is uneven, still fragile and mostly dependant on external support.
- Unemployment and the present economic crisis contribute immensely to the difficulties and failure to sustain young folk within Inyanda National Land Movement. The weakening of social movements post COVID-19, however, is observed throughout the country (and indeed, across the world).
- The local movements and forums are faced with a challenge of documenting their struggles and successes, creating a database of members, overcoming difficulties to network and forge strategic alliances to influence a broader audience on the politics and campaigns of the Inyanda.

H. Conclusion

There is a lot of thinking and analysis that needs to be done in strengthening in rebuilding from below and ensuring that our interventions culminate in leading to national and global processes. The momentum of our struggles can only be achieved when we have strong layers of leadership and support base that have the necessary capacity.

Understanding the youth of today, their needs, obstacles they face and how to organise them differently is an integral part of movement building. Climate change is resulting in immense and gross impacts on the livelihoods of the poor and continue to be a challenge to economic activities and development.



RWA

A COMPLEX REALITY FOR RURAL WOMEN IN 2023



A woman with glasses and a joyful expression, raising her hand in a crowd. She is wearing a black top and a gold bracelet. The background is a blurred crowd of people, some wearing colorful clothing like a red shirt and a blue and white patterned shirt. A green sign with the word 'WOMEN' is visible in the background.

Context

This report highlights the initiatives undertaken and progress achieved by the SA Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) in 2023. The report also outlines key objectives and ongoing activities aimed at addressing some of the challenges faced by rural women.

South Africa, like many countries, faces serious economic challenges while the government continues to implement austerity measures that have differential impacts on women, especially those living in rural areas. The reduction in public spending, limits access to social welfare programs, increasing unemployment, and the lack of basic services all contribute to the socio-economic and daily family-care challenges faced by rural women, exacerbating economic and social hardship.

Land access and ownership, a cornerstone of economic empowerment, saw a significant development with a landmark ruling by the SA Constitutional Court (28 June 2022) on the Women's Legal Centre Trust (WLCT) case¹, which deemed the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act unconstitutional. The Act was found to be discriminatory, specifically disadvantaging women in matters of communal land ownership. The ruling took effect from July 2023. While this ruling holds promise for empowering millions, its implementation faces resistance from traditional leaders, underscoring the persistent obstacles to achieving equitable land access.

Households can mitigate hunger and food insecurity by engaging in farming activities, but the report of Asanda Mtintzila, "Hunger in SA: 1 in 5 at Risk," indicates that less than 20% of households were involved in food production between 2017 and 2020. Female-headed households had a higher proportion of engagement, although the overall involvement declined over the years. However, there was a notable increase in 2020, possibly driven by the COVID pandemic impact. This study also showed high levels of social vulnerability in the country linked to food insecurity. Over 20.6% of the South Africans in the sample were socially vulnerable, and 20.4% food insecure. And the most vulnerable were females, older than 45, in rural areas.

In this respect RWA continues to make links to the intersection between land access, Gender Based violence (GBV) and climate change, promoting the One Woman- One Hectare (1 W- 1 H) campaign, agroecological, seed and food sovereignty approaches and intensifying advocacy and lobbying actions and the use of UN Human Rights instruments, such as UNDROP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas). The 1 W-1 H campaign is in the process of building an alliance with the Legal Resource Centre (LRC), documenting cases on lack of land reform and lack of government responsiveness to rural women's land rights.

Water and energy crises have also contributed to increasing problems faced by people in rural areas and disrupted socio-economic activities. The cholera outbreak, limited access to clean water and sanitation and rolling electricity black outs, limited health care access, led to educational disruptions increasing women's care giving responsibilities. This, in the context of increasing gender-based violence (GBV) against women and children. Our thinking is that an integrated agroecology can contribute to scaling up climate resilience across food production and start leading to alternative ways of tackling hunger poverty.

One Woman – One Hectare Campaign

Objectives:

- **Empower:** Equip rural women with land ownership and agricultural expertise to build sustainable livelihoods.
- **Provide:** Offer capacity building, resources, and access to markets to promote greater self-sufficiency.
- **Advocate:** Lobby for policy changes promoting women's land rights and economic empowerment.

Strategy for One Woman One Hectare Campaign - Building a Strong Foundation

The 1 W- 1 H campaign has become a cornerstone for empowering the SA RWA through land access and ownership and sustainable farming.

The campaign prioritised equipping women with knowledge and skills, through capacity building in agroecology, a sustainable farming

method that fosters long-term soil and environmental health and maximise input autonomy for food production. Moving beyond basic skills, in-depth practical and political capacity building programmes ensured women can manage their land and increase understanding of the challenges facing food production. Hands-on experience through backyard and community gardens solidified theoretical knowledge and built the confidence of women to engage in and become successful agricultural stewards.

Advocating for Change and Engagements

The fight for gender equality in land access and ownership became a driving force. The campaign actively lobbied for policy changes that secure women's land rights and prioritise women in land reform programmes. Community outreach activities played a crucial role in raising awareness about women's land rights. Workshops, public

events, and roadshows raised awareness about women's land rights and the benefits of sustainable farming, fostering a groundswell of support for the campaign.

Dialogues with government officials, community leaders, and NGOs fostered collaboration and paved the way for advocacy campaigns aimed at addressing systemic barriers and promoting gender equality in land access and ownership. The campaign also prioritised education and training workshops on feminist principles and dismantling patriarchal traditional cultural norms, aimed at empowering women to navigate the complexities of land access, use and ownership and eviction processes.

Key stakeholders, including the Departments of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Agricultural Research Council, and local government officers, participated in these workshops, seeking to get them to reaffirm their commitment to advancing women's rights. RWA also sought dialogues with traditional leaders and communities trying to have women in decision making spaces.

Addressing Regional Needs

A one-size-fits-all approach was not an option. SA's land tenure system is complex, with a mix of formal and informal structures. The 1 W- 1 H campaign developed region-specific strategies to tackle local land tenure challenges. Rural women, particularly those under customary law, often lack secure ownership (or land titles?) due to patriarchal traditions. Traditional leadership structures in provinces like Limpopo restrict women's access to land through inheritance or allocation practices. Persistent engagement with traditional

authorities in Limpopo throughout the year helped overcome some resistance. Inter-provincial exchanges fostered knowledge exchange and regional collaboration, allowing women farmers to learn from each other's successes and best practices in different regions.

In the Western Cape (Langeberg Municipality) RWA continued community mobilisation to address the ongoing struggle for land access, a struggle that has been ongoing for two years. This struggle exemplifies the challenges encountered, including resistance, bureaucratic hurdles, and limited resources. RWA leveraged community support and legal advocacy, highlighting the need for community awareness, legal and financial support, and reformed customary practices. The progression of the RWA in pursuit to lease a portion of municipal land in McGregor (at Erf397) has been characterised by procedural intricacies. Initially met with optimism, the RWA's endeavours faced a setback when, on 14 September 2022, the council communicated the rejection of their application, opting instead for a public tender process. However, the LRC intervened during 2022 - 2023, invoking the provisions of SDF 5, which prioritise Land Reform initiatives/campaigns. Specifically, attention was directed towards formulating plans for municipal commonages, with a budget allocation of R350,000 but this fund remains largely unutilized. These events underscore the intricate dynamics between bureaucratic protocols, legal interventions, and the potential for community-driven land reform initiatives and emphasise the imperative for efficient coordination and optimal utilisation of allocated resources to address challenges faced by rural women in accessing vital resources. Rural women are often reliant on land for sustenance and livelihoods, secure income-generating

opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to their households' welfare and community development. The struggles of these women epitomize the broader challenges faced by rural women in SA land reform efforts. While legal frameworks may offer avenues for justice, entrenched power dynamics and institutional barriers often impede progress.

Ensuring Long-Term Success

RWA's 1 W- 1 H campaign commitment extended beyond initial capacity building. The campaign provided ongoing technical assistance and guidance to women farmers, ensuring support towards long-term success. Data collection tracked land use and acquisition by women, monitored the effectiveness of income generation initiatives, and measured the impact on household food security. Through ongoing monitoring and evaluation, the campaign remained adaptable and delivered its intended benefits.

Regional Variations, membership drive and land audit: In April, a Land Audit and RWA Membership Drive was initiated. The goal was to register community members as members of RWA and to determine how many people have access to land, including backyard gardens. This information is crucial in developing programmes that cater to the needs of the community. It also helps in identifying areas where there may be a lack of access to land, which can be used to advocate for policies that promote land access and use.

Three individuals were selected from three different communities to assist in this effort. These individuals will serve as champions

to complete the audit and registration process. The selection of champions from different communities is a strategic move to ensure that the audit and registration process is carried out in an inclusive and representative manner. This also helps in building trust and credibility with the community members, as they can relate to the champions and feel confident in sharing their information.

With the land audit, we found that RWA is based in most districts in the 5 provinces. The land audit also found that most members of the RWA have a backyard garden, with some engaging in crop and livestock farming, and others practicing in guerrilla gardening. The involvement of youth members in guerrilla gardening and crafts is also an important aspect of the organisation's efforts to promote community engagement. The RWA's focus on backyard gardening and crop farming is not only beneficial for individual members, but it also has a positive impact on the community as a whole.

Activities and Achievements

While some provinces indicate a slight increase in land acquisition by women (Eastern Cape: +/- 22 hectares), in others like the Western Cape there is stagnation. The W. Cape's legacy of land dispossession and continued dominance by large capital driven and export oriented commercial farms, continue to marginalise small-scale farmers, especially women. Gauteng stands out for total land acquired (9 hectares in 2023), and the Eastern Cape (22 hectares) and the Free State boast larger average landholdings per woman (one quarter hectare per garden). However, these gains must be seen in context of the broader challenges women face.

Over 229 women across various provinces took part in capacity building initiatives in agroecology, enhancing their farming skills. Recognising the limitations of reliance of many women on modest backyards, some women started guerrilla gardens in unused land for sustenance. There were also efforts to establish community gardens, providing women with expanded cultivation spaces and access to communal resources like tools and water. Backyard and community gardens emerged as a practical approach, offering hands-on experience, as a strategy to encourage women to start seeing some positive outcomes of food production and encourage them to join the struggles for land reform and women's rights to access land. For instance, the 30 women from the Free State who participated are now successfully maintaining their gardens. RWA also directly contributed to establishing a community garden in Evaton West Ext 4 (Gauteng).

In collaboration with local authorities, municipalities and community leaders, the 1W-1H campaign facilitated the acquisition of 61 hectares of land across the country for women's agriculture. A notable example is the development of a 4-hectare hub in Bloemfontein, Free State. The campaign's advocacy efforts, lead to successful audits of commonage farms and plans for new land permits in the Eastern Cape. The Masincedana women's group (E. Cape) successfully established a half-hectare land for crop production.

The table below summarises land use and/or acquisition by women in five provinces during 2022 and 2023, highlighting both promising trends and limitations in the data. While the data suggests potential progress, limitations and unanswered questions remain. Further investigation into government support programs, land use specifics, and long-term trends is crucial to gain a more complete understanding of this evolving landscape.

- **Potential Increase:** While data is limited for 2023 in some areas, all provinces except Western Cape show a modest upward trend in land use and/or acquisition by women. The Eastern Cape stands out with a significant estimated increase of 22 hectares acquired in 2023 compared to 2022.
- **Varied Land Sizes:** The table reveals a diverse range of land sizes acquired. This suggests women are entering land access and ownership at various scales, from large-scale farming plots to smaller backyard gardens for household needs.
- **Encouraging Numbers:** An estimated 229 women across the five provinces started using or acquired land in 2023. While a positive sign, further investigation is needed to understand the long-term sustainability of this trend.

Cumulative land use / acquisition per Province as per the various strategies of 1 W- 1 H, 2022-2023

Province	Town/District	Number of Hectares -2022	Number of Hectares-2023	How many women acquired or are using land in 2023
Western Cape	Breede Valley Municipal, Barrydale, Langeberg, Buffelsjagsbaai, Zolani	2 Hectares	Less than 1 Hectare Less than 1 hectare2 Gorilla Garden, 13 backyard gardens, half a hectare, school garden (less than 1 Hectar)	Approx. 30 women
Gauteng	Midvaal-8 farms, Lesedi- 3 farms, Ekurhuleni- 2 farms Emfuleni- 22 farms	1 hectare	9 Hectares	Approx. 35 women
Free State	2 Botshabelo, 1 Tweespruit, 1 Thaba-Nchu, Wesselsbroon, Parys, Welkom, Sebokeng, Qwaqwa, Bethulie, Theunissen	36 Hectares	30 Backyard Gardens 350 Household Garden Quarter of an hectare per garden	78 women
Eastern Cape	East London King Williams Town	Approx. 5 hectares Approx. 40 hectares	22 hectares of land	Approx. 66 women
Limpopo	Mopani District, Sekhukhune District	Approx. 100 hectares	55 Backyard gardens- Quarter of hectare per garden	Approx.20 women
Approx. Total	Approximately 22 Towns and districts	186 hectares	61 hectares	Approx.229 Women

Markets and diversification of income streams

Market access and income generation were enhanced through the establishment of linkages with local markets and retailers. The establishment of local markets in the W. Cape and Limpopo, for instance, emerged as a significant stride forward. These markets serve as crucial platforms for rural women to showcase their agricultural produce, crafts, and fish products, fosters local economic development and empowers rural women by granting them access to broader markets, such as participation in the Shoprite market in the W. Cape and the Free State. Moreover, the campaign supported

the diversification of income streams by initiating initiatives such as fish farming, pig livestock farming.

Gender-Based Violence

SA casts a long shadow of GBV, holding one of the highest rates of GBV. Rural women, particularly, find themselves trapped in a web of vulnerability: isolated in remote locations, ineffective law enforcement, distant courts, lacking access to justice, and usually economically dependent on male family members, facing a heightened risk of sexual assault, domestic violence and femicide.

The recent surge in femicide cases in the Eastern Cape paints a stark picture of this urgent crisis.

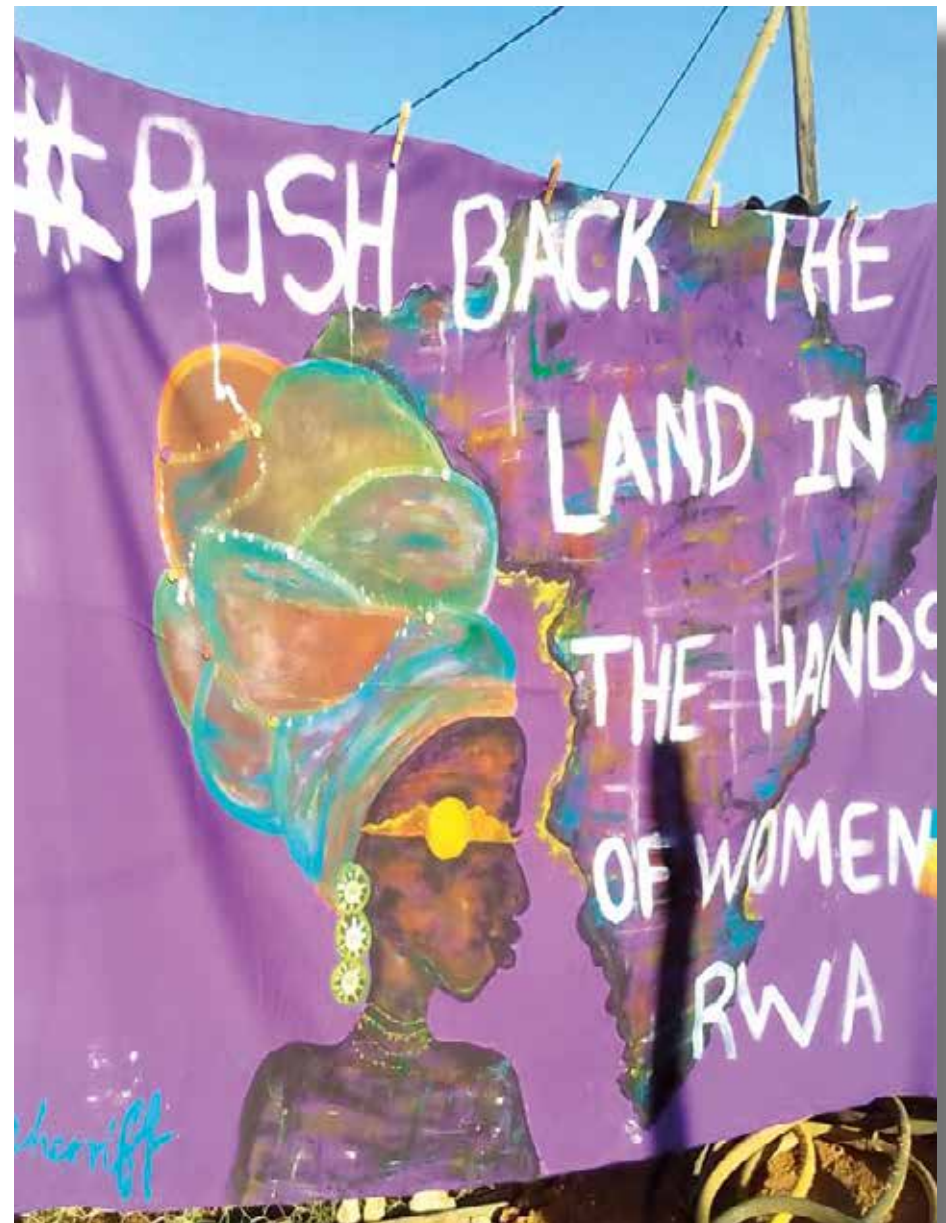
The 1W-1H campaign tackles one of the factors that fuel GBV: landlessness. By advocating for the allocation of one hectare of land to the poorest rural women, the campaign offers a pathway to some level of economic autonomy for these women and decrease their vulnerability to GBV. Accessing / owning land allows them to:

- a) **Grow Food for the household and sell any potential surplus to generate Income:** this to reduce dependence on others, fostering economic independence and decision-making power;
- b) **Build Community:** the campaign fosters solidarity among women, creating networks for knowledge sharing, resource access, and emotional support. With a secure source of income and a strong support system, women gain greater control over their lives and the ability to escape abusive situations.

While the SA government acknowledges GBV as a “second pandemic”, concrete action to address its root causes remains limited.

Meanwhile, RWA believes that the fight against GBV in rural SA requires a multifaceted approach to address root causes. Besides land access the RWA has proposed a comprehensive strategy that tackles GBV from social, economic, and political angles to empower women through:

- a) **Specialized Courts:** Ensuring faster and fairer access to justice for survivors;



- b) **Support Services:** Providing safe spaces for healing, counselling, and practical assistance;
- c) **Skills Development Programs:** Equipping women with tools for economic independence;
- d) **Increased Representation:** Advocating for quotas and affirmative action to amplify women's voices in decision-making bodies.

One crucial element of this strategy is the implementation and support of healing circles. These safe spaces offer women a chance to come together, share experiences, and begin the healing process with the support of other survivors, counsellors, and relevant authorities. RWA has already piloted this initiative in the W. Cape and the E. Cape, demonstrating its potential for empowering rural women.

Furthermore, platforms have been created to empower women to collectively address GBV, social justice issues and advocate for their human rights. SA RWA roadshows were organised across various towns and farms in the Western Cape, in partnership with Women on Farms and Ilitha Labanthu.

Roadshows: Raising Awareness and Sparking Change

The RWA's roadshows serve a multi-pronged purpose. They raise awareness about women's land rights, the 1W-1H campaign, the UNDROP, GBV and other critical issues impacting rural women. These interactive workshops go beyond mere information dissemination; they aim to:

- **Empower individuals:** By equipping women with knowledge about their rights and available resources.

- **Challenge Norms:** Sparking crucial conversations that dismantle harmful societal norms that perpetuate GBV.
- **Advocate for Social Justice:** Providing a platform to address issues ranging from GBV to land and water access, evictions, pesticide use, and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

The road shows address the multifaceted approach to GBV advocated by RWA GBV, as outlined above. In the Eastern Cape roadshow specifically also delved into the devastating link between poverty and GBV, highlighting cases where landlessness and starvation contributed to the much-publicised suicide of a woman after killing her 3 children. RWA used this opportunity to educate women on agroecology, demonstrating how sustainable farming practices can contribute to improving livelihoods as well empower women to break free from the cycle of poverty and vulnerability.



Climate change

Climate change has caused unpredictable storms and floods throughout the SA provinces and neighbouring SADC countries. In SA we have experienced unusually high temperatures, floods, soil erosion, droughts, wild fires, etc. The worst impacts and the brunt are carried by rural communities with limited access to emergency services and lack of or poor infrastructure. These exacerbate the challenges faced by rural women: hunger, local and household food insecurity, damaged shelter and housing, and intensifying their workload in water and firewood collection. Limited access to climate-resilient resources and exclusion from decision-making processes amplify their vulnerabilities. Severe flooding in KwaZulu-Natal during the rainy season in 2023, displaced thousands of people and caused widespread damage to infrastructure and crops. In September 2023 floods in the Western Cape washed away crops and livestock, the basis of livelihoods of small-scale producers in various areas. Meanwhile, COP 28 has failed to come up with viable proposals to address the crisis.

SA RWA goals continued to be to increase awareness on climate justice and arranged community workshops that discussed climate change, the call for reparations, adaptation and mitigation, promoting:

- Agroecological farming as an alternative to conventional farming. This includes establishing five agroecological hubs and incorporating the topic into every RWA event. RWA also created an educational pamphlet illustrating why agroecology is important and how it intersects with climate change.
- Plastic recycling to tackle environmental pollution and promote resource conservation.
- Tree planting and RWA has already planted 896 fruit trees across SA in the five provinces, to contribute to reforestation and carbon sequestration as well as to add to food sources and diversify livelihoods.
- Empowering individuals to advocate for climate action by capacitating activists.
- Collaborating with fisherwomen to address the challenges due to impacts on marine resources and livelihoods, further complicated by gender inequality in the fishing industry.

UNDROP

During 2023, the 1 W- 1 H campaign experienced a resurgence, owed largely to the momentum generated by the UNDROP campaign, which remains a pivotal campaign focusing on 28 essential rights crucial for small-scale farmers/peasants and their livelihoods. While the SA government has endorsed the UNDROP Declaration, the lack of implementation impacts the rights of rural communities, particularly

women. Therefore, the RWA has identified three fundamental rights under UNDROP - the right to land, water, and seed - as primary areas of focus for RWA's advocacy.

UNDROP Capacity Building and Awareness: Levels of awareness and education on UNDROP have increased in each province to

develop strategies on how to influence policy and decision makers. Following SA RWA's submission to the UN Human Rights Council urging for implementation of UNDROP in the region through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of SA in 2022, we also submitted a joint statement with other civil society organisations in 2023 and the recommendation was accepted in 2022-2023. RWA SA will continue to monitor and push for the implementation of the UNDROP.

In the context of the follow up to UPR process for SA, RWA's engagement was marked by an online meeting convened in April 2023, focusing on the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr. Michael Fakhri. During this meeting, there was a notable milestone with the acceptance of the

UNDROP recommendation made by RWA. Despite this achievement, the subsequent implementation of the recommendation has been slow. Moving forward, concerted efforts are required to expedite the implementation process, ensuring that the principles enshrined in the UNDROP recommendation are effectively realized. Another meeting was held in September asking for comments on the recommendations by the civil society organisations that were made in April. One RWA member attended the UNDROP Binding Treaty workshop in Geneva.

The translation of UNDROP materials into local languages: translations into Afrikaans, IsiXhosa, Sesotho, and Tswana have facilitated better understanding among constituents.



The SA RWA

The SA RWA has a membership of 15,000 spread across various provinces including the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, and Limpopo, having recruited 590 new members in 2023. Their membership is diverse, encompassing small-scale producers, landless rural women, and fisherwomen. Most (70.7%) of these are involved in horticulture, while 12.2% engage in backyard gardening, and 7.3% each participate in livestock farming and 7.3% the fishing communities. Given the ongoing challenge of land access, RWA's main campaigns focus on advocating for women's land rights and water access.

Duty Bearers that SA RWA has engaged with: In 2023, RWA SA engaged with duty bearers across various levels of governance (municipal, provincial and national) recognizing the importance of their involvement in addressing grassroots challenges. This engagement facilitated dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders in agriculture, land reform, social development, home affairs, and local municipalities, to enable policymakers to gain first hand insights into the realities experienced by rural communities, hoping to inform more effective and targeted interventions that prioritise the needs of rural women.

SA RWA as part of SADC RWA

SA RWA works in conjunction with other SADC RWA members in developing RWA's strategies, ideas, programmes and campaigns, forming alliances and participating in webinars in commemoration

events (e.g. International Peasants Day advocating for the implementation of UNDROF), addressing the pressing issues related to climate change, GBV, and the rights of peasants. This included climate change/solidarity for those affected by cyclone Freddy - RWA raised funds which will help to contribute to the climate relief fund and help to the buying of seeds, imperishable items etc.



Participation of SA RWA in the SADC Seed Journey: The SADC Seed Journey is an initiative undertaken by RWA across seven SADC countries where they have established memberships: Swaziland, Malawi, Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. RWA recognizes that seeds are more than just a means to good yields and food. They are intricately linked to the lives of farmers, producers, and peasant women in Southern Africa. This understanding fuelled their decision to embark on a seed project in 2020. Due to Covid-19 disruptions, the project was restarted in 2021 with the primary objective of documenting traditional and local seeds possessed by their members.

Members of RWA are deeply concerned about the potential loss of a vast amount of knowledge related to seeds, crops, nutrition, medicines, biodiversity, ecosystems, climate change, cultures and food security. Seed sharing, exchange, and dialogue are integral elements of all RWA meetings, educational events, and gatherings and are traditionally

gifted to brides at weddings and other significant cultural events. Seeds represent life cycles and renewal, and the potential for future harvests. The Seed Audit also demonstrated a form of quiet resistance against corporate control of agriculture.

RWA Seed Journey methodology: The core methodology of the Seed Journey has been a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). This approach prioritises empowerment and avoids exploitative data collection methods. In each country it involved: selection of researchers and enumerators; research design and capacity building; diverse data collection techniques; establishing baseline and priority lists; developing a scorecard to establish a baseline and identify priority areas for further action. SA RWA hosted several workshops that brought together seed guardians, enumerators, and the Central Committee Party (CPI). Given the vastness of South Africa, 60 seed guardians were chosen across five provinces.



THE SADC 2023 RWA General Assembly: Over 400 RWA representatives from across 10 countries in SADC convened between 4 and 6 of December 2023 at the Wits Sports Conference Centre. The General Assembly served as a powerful platform for rural women to raise their voices on critical issues and discuss alternative solutions for the multitude of crises impacting their communities, including: the climate emergency; the increasing corporatisation of nature and traditional seeds and strategies to counteract power imbalances; water privatisation; land grabs by multinational corporations; GBV.

The Seed Exhibition: The photo-documentary project that opened the General Assembly was a collaborative effort between RWA, the University of Johannesburg, and the Transnational Institute (TNI). It aimed at giving visibility and recognise the crucial role of rural women as seed guardians.

SA RWA governance and the SA RWA AGM: The AGM of the SA RWA Reference Group was convened between 7 and 11 August 2023 to finalise the composition of the RWA Regional Reference Group and representation in in key regional substructures (on GBV, UNDROP, agroecology, 1 W - 1H, climate change).

Conclusion

There is an urgent need for legal reforms and community-based interventions to ensure and safeguard women's access to land. The execution of RWA's 1 W-1 H campaign has not reached its full momentum and it will continue in SA as well as in other SADC countries where RWA has a presence.

Increasingly we are seeing the effects and impact of climate change thus we are paying much attention to the need to intensify climate adaptation and mitigation strategies and call for reparations promoting a political agroecological approach, tree planting, joining others on the water campaign etc. so as to integrate all the parts of our work. Our thinking is that an integrated agroecological approach can contribute to scaling up climate resilience across food production and start leading to alternative ways of tackling hunger poverty.

RWA is growing and is demonstrating a heightened level of understanding of the issues that it works on i.e., the work on seeds, agroecology, land use and this is paying off. The work on UNDROP is progressing well. The members of RWA are valuing the learning and sharing platforms created by the movement.



CSAAWU'S REPORT

LOOK BEHIND YOUR FOOD: TOWARDS A FOOD
PRODUCTION SYSTEM THAT RESPECTS THE RIGHTS,
LIVELIHOODS AND DIGNITY OF WORKERS





Introduction

South Africa is going through serious social-economic and political crises, as well as a crisis due to the impacts of climate change. Impoverishment, unemployment, and racial inequality keep on increasing, creating conditions that lead to high levels of crime and substance abuse within our marginalised communities, violence and alarming rates of gender-based violence (GBV) throughout the country, but with specific impacts on rural areas.

The call for unity of the labour movement against the unfolding siege against workers waged by the ANC is long overdue. In the latest State of the Nation Address (SONA) by President Cyril Ramaphosa one heard the repetition of empty promises made over the past 30 years - while promises of job creation are made, TELKOM and the Post Office announce retrenchments of thousands of workers in favour of privatisation. The ongoing loadshedding in SA is one of the bargaining tools that bosses use to keep workers' wages down. Conditions are deteriorating through governments' budgetary austerity measures and cuts in all social services.

According to the Household Affordability Index by the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity group (PMBEJD) food prices continued to shoot up. In January 2023, the average cost of the Household Food Basket was R4,917.42, up R64.25 (1.3%) from R4,853.18 in December 2022, and up R516.40 (11.7%), from R4,401.02 in January 2022. According to the latest inflation data from Stats SA, the annual food inflation rate climbed to 13.4% in January, the highest reading since April 2009, when the rate was 13.6%. The minimum wage (R23.19/hour) is lower than the required for a basic household food basket, and does not provide for electricity, school fees, clothing, or any other costs. This means that workers remain poor while employed. For farm workers this wage is further reduced by electricity and accommodation deductions as government's Sectorial Determination 13 allows employers to deduct up to 25% of workers' wages for accommodation, loans, and electricity. With the high unemployment rate within the country, those with work are also supporting unemployed family / community members. CSSAWU has been trying to show solidarity with unemployed and hungry workers by organising and running soup kitchens in some communities.

Patriarchy, capitalism and GBV: Male domination prevails in rural areas – not only in the minds of workers but also of landowners. In the workplace and in the house the male is regarded as dominant, which is to some extent accepted by women. For farm bosses, access to work and housing is usually reserved to male workers' who have permanent contracts.

CSAAWU participated in roadshow with our partners TCOE/ Mawubuye/RWA in several towns in Langeberg addressing issues

of GBV, land rights (RWA's One Woman-One Hectar Campaign) and the right to seeds (UNDROP). CSAAWU, in partnership with the Mawubuye Land Rights Forum, continues to support the SMS help line, where women can report cases of GBV. Study circles on a variety of topics are also run by CSAAWU and partners to increase the capacity and facilitate the emergence of women leaders. More women in the retail and the hospitality sector are joining CSAAWU.

Unchanging conditions and struggles to build in rural areas:

The growth of the agricultural sector in SA is rooted on slavery (1658-1834), particularly in the Western Cape. Under apartheid 87% of land was allocated to white people (5% of the population). The legacies of colonialism and apartheid in the agricultural sector remain largely intact in contemporary SA. In the W. Cape, the estimated 129 000 farmworkers have historically been mostly employed in the wine sector, increasingly characterised by the seasonal/ temporary workers via labour brokers. Despite the enactment of laws that gave basic labour rights to farm workers for the first time and their incorporation into the 1997 Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) and the Labour Relations Act (LRA) of 1995, only 3-5% of farm workers are unionised nationally, with slightly higher levels (5 to 8%) in the W. Cape.

CSAAWU tries to build its presence in communities through road shows, women study circles and soup kitchens. CSAAWU continues to assist members and workers- signed new recognition agreements, continues to engage in wage negotiations and representing workers at the CCMA in cases of unfair labour practices. CSAAWU has also managed to recruit some migrant workers.



Evictions from farms continue to be one of the biggest issues that CSAAWU and the Rural Legal Centre (RLC) continue to deal with, fighting evictions or now demanding housing for workers that are to be evicted. While the RLC has not seen any farmer being convicted for illegal evictions this year we can report a small but significant victory against evictions: after a 3-year struggle of engagement with the farm owner of Klipdrift Stud and his lawyers, all 8 families that had been retrenched and served eviction orders in 2020-2021, were during 2023 each given R200,000 to buy their own house.

Evictions continue to be a source of the mushrooming of informal settlements. While Nkqubela became one of the “dumping” sites for evicted farm workers post the 2012-2013 farm workers’ uprising, Oppie Koppie has now become a new site in Robertson. It is quite alarming, that few farm workers actually benefit from land reform. More cases are emerging where farm workers that were supposed to benefit by becoming partners through equity schemes are in fact being cheated by the commercial farmers behind these schemes. Through CSAAWU members in Monte Vista Two, it was found out that without workers knowledge they had been made shareholders a few years ago, and that white management is now trying to sell workers shares. Fake emails have now been exposed. SERI was approached for legal assistance but were unable to assist as the case is likely to be complex, long term and costly, requiring policy challenges. A pro-bono lawyer is being sought.

CSAAWU joined TCOE and RWA’s road shows in several towns in the Langeberg region during the month of July 2023, as well as their study circles.

CSSAWU is also in the process of setting up digital hubs to capacitate our youth, engaging local leaders and community groups, churches, etc. CSAAWU also is part of servicing soup kitchens in both Langeberg and Kannaland, as a way to show solidarity with those experiencing hunger and unemployed.

The lack of resources, extreme poverty and alcohol abuse remain major stumbling block to overcome. The law is not on the side of the poor. Despite of all these inhuman and degrading conditions CSAAWU continues organising to inspire workers and fighting against injustice, inequality and this brutal capitalist system.

Update on building branches: Because of the extreme distances between farms and greater difficulty in communicating during loadshedding, building branches remains a difficult mountain to climb. There is no public transport and CSAAWU does not have its own means of transport to cover long distances and enter the farms. To enlist 200 members (per branch) CSAAWU’s challenge is to have to organise in 7 to 8 farms where we already have members or recruit new members in new farms. Branch leaders also need transport, data, airtime to sign up members. Transport is also a problem when there are big events, and visibility as well as provision of more services to members are critical.

There is lots of intimidation from bosses against trade union members and branch leaders; in areas we heard that they have paid workers up to R150 to resign from the union. Some people are not clear about their roles and duties including when participating in the NEC - leaderships roles and duties need to be spelled out.

Workers have put forward some suggestions: a) Have monthly roadshows; b) CSAAWU to go to branches on weekdays and distribute pamphlets; c) Build more capacity on roles and responsibilities; d) Take CSAAWU to the communities - e.g. put up a gazebo/ tents, distribute pamphlets and spread out the good work CSAAWU and its partners are doing, to sign up members; d) Fundraising is also a priority and - in Kannaland, for example, on 02-03 of June 2023 we sold roosterkoek and sausages.

General Overview of CSAAWU – challenges and successes

In the first six months of 2023 CSAAWU went through one of the most difficult periods in the history of its existence. In November 2022 our National Congress faced a crisis on the third day. Nevertheless, we met again on the 1 April 2023 and our determination and commitment to keep the union alive and active led us to adopt new resolutions and elect a new NEC. However, we cannot deny that CSAAWU is still going through a difficult period. It also remains a major challenge to organise seasonal and migrant workers into the union. Migrant workers remain vulnerable and often live under the prevalence of xenophobia and hostile environments. Mobilising and organising agriculture workers in the Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape also remains a challenge – it is critical to have offices and build branches, tasks that CSAAWU continues to hope to take forward in 2024.

CSAAWU tries to build its presence in communities through road shows, women study circles and soup kitchens. CSAAWU continues to assist members and workers - signed new recognition agreements, continues to engage in wage negotiations and representing workers at the CCMA in cases of unfair labour practices. CSAAWU has managed



to recruit some migrant workers and continues to work with the RLC on fighting evictions or demanding housing for workers that are to be evicted.

CSAAWU also continues to work with alliance partners:

- a) We work closely with SAFTU, our Federation. We collaborated closely in the 1 May 2023 commemorations in Ladismith, participated in the SAFTU's stayaway (20 March) and CSAAWU's G.S. and N.O. attended SAFTU NEC meetings.
- We requested support from the IUF (International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, and Allied Workers' Associations) to intervene on the Ashton Goree farm, determined to destroy CSAAWU and persecute our shopstewards.
- We participate on the campaign on pesticides, with TCOE and the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).
- We work with TCOE and the Rural Legal Centre/ SERI on farm evictions.

- We joined TCOE/ RWA on women's study circles, GBV and building women's political consciousness and capacity.
- CSAAWU engaged with the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights (Dr. Orellana) during his visit to SA on 7 August 2023, who stated that SA faces "the crude legacy of pre-1994 environmental racism" and the "legalised poisoning of agricultural workers in the fields and neighbouring communities". CSAAWU continues to prepare to participate on the People's Tribunal in 2024 on toxics and human rights.

There is no doubt that the stabilisation of branches with well capacitated committees would hugely assist in the organising tasks of the Organisers and the CSAAWU. It remains a new challenge to get all members to central points during the week, especially the retail workers. Our objective remains to get our constitutional structures in place to deepen and strengthen the democratic centralism of CSAAWU.





FOOD SOVEREIGNTY STREAM



A photograph of a man wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored jacket, working in a field. He is looking down at something in his hands. The background shows a field of green plants under a clear blue sky.

Introduction

The first quarter of 2023 saw a series of climate change related disasters, including droughts, heat waves, floods in the Western Cape, Limpopo and some parts of the Eastern Cape. These disasters had a bearing on crop and livestock production and on marine life. Eight farm workers lost their life in the Northern Cape due to heat waves in the period under review. Cyclone Freddy (February - March 2023) also caused massive damage to livestock, crops, land, roads and bridges infrastructure, making accessibility to most areas very difficult. This has an impact on access to markets as well. These events add to the levels of hunger experienced by millions of South Africans, increasing food prices and making food inaccessible to households already struck by unemployment and impoverishment (Stats SA, 2022).

Access to land with water continues to be a major challenge to small-scale producers. Those with reasonable sized pieces of land find it very challenging to utilise optimally due to poor support from government.

The continuing electricity load shedding by Eskom is another problem for small-scale producers as they need electricity for pumping water, irrigation and cooling facilities. Chicken, for example, is highly perishable and load shedding is having a serious knock-on poultry producers, who at some point may have to slaughter a whole batch. The outbreak of the Avian Flu during 2023 added to the crisis. Prices of chicken and eggs rose steeply, chicken being a basic protein for rural and peri-urban communities. The level of hunger was revealed publicly when mainstream news disclosed that two women committed suicide, after having killed their children, for not having money to buy food.

This report is going to cover the following:

1. Land access and land use
 2. Workshops/ Field Schools/ 2023
 3. Annual National Planning Workshop
 4. Seed Saving
 5. Access to markets
 6. Partnership Building
 7. Exchange visits
- A) Zimbabwe Exchange Visit
 - B) France Exchange Visit
 8. Bee Keeping Workshop
 9. Field Visits
 10. Farmer Field Day
 11. Food Sovereignty Dialogue
 12. Achievements
 13. Challenges

1. Land Access and Land Use

Access to land with water remains a burning question in addressing food security and food sovereignty in rural and peri-urban communities. National, municipal, commonage and communal lands are proving difficult to access by the general masses on the ground. Corruption continues to take centre stage in as far as the administration of land both at municipal and traditional authorities' level. The recently passed Traditional Khoisan Leadership Act (TKLA) gives headmen and chiefs powers to allocate and/or alienate communal land without consulting the local communities. There are however efforts to try and repeal sections of this Act.

However, there are traditional authorities, who work well with small-scale producers, some of the latter having acquired land through their

assistance. There are pockets of headmen and chiefs who support developments that benefit the marginalised majority, allocating land for livestock and crop production. Currently in communal areas there is competition for land for housing and livestock grazing. Such rift is causing conflict among local communities. Guerrilla gardening is one way aspiring farmers are using to acquire land, whereby vacant land is identified and occupied by those who want to produce their own food.

In Limpopo, there are instances where the MFA has good working relations with the traditional authority. This makes it easier for its members to acquire land when needed. In the period under review, one youth cooperative was given permission to occupy a 6 Ha piece of land for both crop and livestock production.

Below is a table that depicts land accessed in the period under review (2023)

Name of Farmer	Size of land Acquired	Tenure Arrangements	M	F	Land Use
1. Silwanendlala Coop (EC)	1.5 Ha	P.T.O	5	8	Seed bank, nursery, Livestock, Crop production
2. Lehlabile Khwezi Youth Coop (Limpopo)	6 Ha	P.T.O	2	12	Crop production
3. Pelokazi Dlikilili (EC)	1 Ha	P.T.O	2	2	Vegetables, Field crops
4. Koen-Koen (WC) (Mawubuye)	1016 Ha	Land bought for them by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)	2	-	Herbs, Vegetables, Livestock, Fodder, cannabis, Field crops
5. Jacky (WC) (Mawubuye, Barrydale)	3 Ha	9 Years 11 months' lease from the local municipality	-	1	Crop production
6. Irene (WC) (Mawubuye)	2 Ha	9 Years 11 months' lease from the local municipality	-	1	Crop production
7. DELTA Women (EC)	4 Ha (Cfmvab)	P.T.O.	-	5	Crop production, Seed bank, Nursery, Livestock
8. Paballelo & Rosedale Livestock Farmers (NC)	100 Ha Commonage-	P.T.O.	56	21	Fodder Production
9. FSRWA, Bloemfontein	4 Ha	Woman with 10 Ha still processing lease agreement	-	9	Vegetables, Livestock
Total	1137.5 Ha		67	59	

2. Workshops/ Field Schools 2023

Activity	Date	Venue	F	M	Total
1. National Planning Meeting	30/01/23-01 /02/23	Gqeberha, EC	16	10	26
2. Zimbabwe Exchange Visit	25/04/2023-02/05/2023	Zimbabwe	4	6	10
3. Land Expropriation public Hearings	11/07/2023	King William's Town, EC	13	8	21
4. AE Hub Establishment	18-20/07/2023	Cala, EC	22	9	31
5. AE Training W/shop	01-02/08/2023 Commonage	Sandisiwe High School, Mdantsane, EC	18	12	30
6. Market Day	08/08/2023	Wilsonia, EL	18	4	22
7. National AE Workshop	11/08/2023	Virtual	27	13	40
8. Fodder Production, Field Visits	23-25/08/2023	Free State	39	11	50
9. Climate Resilience Learning Festival	28/8/23-01/9/23	Cape Town	29	16	45
10. Market Day	02/9/23	Cape Town	41	9	50
11. AE Hub Establishment and Field Visits	11-15/09/2023	Northern Cape	49	20	60
12. MFA Meeting Greater Giyani Municipal Mayor	22/09/2023	Dzumeri, Limpopo	19	11	30
13. Visit Sterkspruit AE Hub for Planning Purposes	28-29/09/2023	Sterkspruit	12	3	15
14. Food Sovereignty Dialogue	16/10/2023	Cofimvaba, EC	27	3	30
15. World Food Day Commemorations	24/10/2023	Berlin (EC), Lusikisiki (EC), Limpopo, Western Cape	120	80	200
16. France Exchange Visit	30/10/23-12/11/23	France	3	3	6
Total			448	218	666

3. Annual National Planning Workshop

A planning workshop was held in Gqeberha (EC) on the 30 January and 1 February 2023. The main focus were the AE Hubs and their contribution to the food sovereignty work. Agroecology Hubs practitioners, lead farmers and TCOE staff were in attendance. The objectives of the workshop were:

- To review progress done in the AE hubs.
- Compile a base line of hubs.
- Review the Bread for the World contract.
- Capacitate practitioners with project management skills.
- Identify key stakeholders for our work.
- Establish more AE hubs to diversify climate resilience alternatives.
- Develop a plan of action for 2023.

So far there are 17 AE hubs and a total of 48 AE hubs are envisaged for the country.

Report on AE hubs: Each hub practitioner gave report on what is happening in their hubs:

- **FS RWA:** the hub is situated in Botshabelo, they have 30 Ha of land but only 2 Ha are under production, due to insufficient infrastructure (fencing, tillage and irrigation equipment). They intend to use the larger part of the land for dryland fodder production. They planted maize and beans. The hub has received fencing, a Jojo tank and nursery material from TCOE, and installation of the nursery is progress. There is someone at

the hub who watches over, when the (18) women farmers are not there. The hub also works with Shoprite who has promised to donate water pumps.

- **Mopani Farmers Association AE Centre:** They are currently using 4000 m² and 17 farmers are being capacitated. The farm is well fenced. Since the inception of the hub they only received nursery material. They have made compost twice. Currently okra, beetroot and mustard have been planted as well as some herbs (coriander and parsley). They do not have livestock.
- **Silwanendlala Coop (Sterkspruit):** they have access to about 50 Ha but are only using 1 Ha, due to the lack of fencing. They are currently producing potatoes, cabbage and spinach. They received a Jojo water tank and nursery material from TCOE. They have not yet started with livestock but their plan to do so if they can get assistance.
- **Botshabelo Unemployed Movement (BUM):** they are planting herbs and crops on their 1 Ha piece of land. They received a Jojo tank and have already installed it to harvest water from the roof. They also received and installed nursery materials. They are currently planting on the ground as they still need seed trays. Eight people work on this hub on a daily basis.
- **Makhanda:** They have access to 0,5 Ha at Nombulelo High School and have another 0,5 Ha at the clinic. They are planting cabbage, spinach, beetroot, onion, carrot, tomatoes, coriander, basil, mint, parsley, potatoes, chives and cannabis. They have an organic compost pit and are practicing worm farming. They



have a seed bank and keep livestock (chicken, goat and cattle). They supply schools with spinach, cabbage and carrots every Monday. They received a Jojo tank and nursery materials from TCOE and both have been installed after receiving permission from the landlord.

- **Melisizwe, Uitenhage:** They started planting in September 2022 with spinach, cabbage and onion on their 1,5 Ha of land. They also grow paprika and coriander. They sold some vegetables and gave the remainder to impoverished people. They have serious water problems as their pump broke down. They are starting to establish an orchard and currently have 3 trees. They received a Jojo tank and nursery materials but they have not installed these yet as they are waiting for the material to construct the stand for the tank. They are interested in having chickens; at the moment they have one sow and five baconers.
- **SEDA:** They can access 1 Ha (in a 25 Ha piece of land that belongs to a MFA member) and two boreholes. They are using 1 ha for planting okra and mustard. They sell their produce in the nearby town. They have a nursery and 26 Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) members who are assisting them on the farm. They used to have water challenge but since they received a Jojo tank from TCOE, the situation has improved.
- **Vanyenge:** The hub has access to 1 Ha of land in someone's farm. They planted okra, spinach, tomatoes, beans and chillies. They have a compost pit and also use pig manure. They have identified 35 communities that are interested in agroecology, helping by giving out information. They have received a mobile nursery and it is installed. They have 10 000 seedlings of chillies

already. They store their chillies, tomato and okra seeds. They sell to the local community but some of the produce is taken to a market in Johannesburg. They have two boreholes but only one is working. They have goats, cattle and chicken on the land but these do not belong to the hub. There is not much distinction between the farm owner production and the production for the hub. There seems to have been a misunderstanding in terms of the administration of the Hub operations, as the owner seems to have perceived this arrangement as an extension of his operations, arguing that since he is the one supplying most of inputs (water, seedlings and others), the proceeds from sales should belong to him. The team was advised to make sure that records are kept separately so that progress on the hub can be tracked easily.

- **Libode DELTA:** In September 2022 they planted cabbages, spinach, beetroot, onions, maize and beans. They managed to sell some vegetables but due to too much rain, most of their vegetables were ruined and started rotting. They are working with people from other projects. They have a shortage of tools and do not have protective clothing. They received a Jojo tank and nursery equipment from TCOE but they have not installed it yet. They had planted fruit trees but all of them died due to too much rainfall. They have dug a pit for making compost but it was also damaged – it turn into a small dam due to the heavy rainfall. They have nut seeds and radish seeds too.
- **Suurbraak AE Hub:** They have planted potatoes, spinach, cabbage and cannabis. They have aquaponics, installed in 2019 but it is only now that they begin to realise reasonable progress. They plant lettuce and spinach. They have a nursery

and are producing seedlings for the Department of Agriculture, to whom they have just sold 47 000 seedlings. The hub has two bank accounts.

- **Dr Shongile:** They have 1 Ha and have identified 2 backyard gardens at a day-care school. There is a man who has volunteered to help. They have 3 workers at the farm, 1 practitioner and 1 intern. They have an orchard with avocado, paw-paw and granadilla trees. They grow spinach, cabbage, beetroot, watermelon, blackjack and herbs on their garden. They also have cattle on the farm and they use cow dung for making liquid manure. They were provided with seeds and water storage but their water pump broke down. The staff now need to borrow a generator from the neighbouring farm which they are able to get twice a week. They also face the challenge of baboons and monkeys who raid their plot and eat a lot of their vegetables. The Dr Shongile hub has also received a nursery.
- **Merekome Hub:** This hub has 1 Ha and only 0,5 Ha is used, due to limited resources. Once the resources permit, they are going to operate at full capacity. They have butternut, spinach and okra. All the vegetables were sold to the community. They do not have working tools and they borrow these from the farm owner. They are also short of protective clothing. They identified 7 farmers with whom they are going to work closely with.
- **Berlin Hub:** They have 1 Ha land with cabbage, spinach, beetroot, onion, maize, beans and herbs (mint, comfrey). They donated most of their vegetables to Berlin old age home during the festive season. They also have an orchard with berries, peaches, lime, orange, apples, banana, macadamia nuts and

naarjties trees. They have a seed bank and a nursery. They have 3 workers including a practitioner and an intern. They have the challenge of not having working tools. They have not received nursery or a Jojo tank. They are currently shopping around for a chicken tractor.

- **Robertson Hub:** The nursery is functional and producing a lot of seedlings. They have two water tanks. They have a local market and they supply big shops. The hub produces compost and livestock. They are also engaged in recycling and last year this created an income of R9000. They do not have working

equipment and protective gear. One of the lead farmers in Koen-Koen (John Rolfse) a group that has acquire over 100 Ha of land from the DRDLR has agreed to offer part of their farm (4 Ha) to the hub and RWA (1 Ha).

- **Genadendal Hub:** They have a nursery and also make compost. They are planting lucern and beans. They have pigs, they have a successful market for all the Western Cape hubs. Genadendal hub will be producing lucern for sale at a subsidised price to livestock farmers who are members of Mawubuye first and sell the excess.

4. Seed Saving

The Food Sovereignty stream continues to encourage producers to save seeds. This is done through workshops, field visits and farmer-to-farmer learnings. In the period under review, 20 seed guardians were given OPV yellow maize and sugar beans to multiply and return a certain portion to the seed bank. This is to ensure that we build volumes of OPV seeds which are sustainable. In the AE Hub in Berlin, some trials of white maize and climbing beans acquired from Tanzania are in progress and the crop seem to acclimatise very well. The first crop has already been harvested and the intention again is to build greater volumes of a diverse kind of seeds which are to be used by small-scale producers going forward.





5. Access to Markets

Monthly Markets (WC)

The TCOE's Food Sovereignty stream has been supporting the creation of sustainable livelihoods through facilitating access to markets. We tried various approaches but we met with some seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Many of the areas where we work are relatively localised communities with high levels of unemployment and much of the current available work is either short term or seasonal. If these areas do have markets, these are controlled by organizations that do not share our principles regarding agroecology and our ethos regarding food and opportunities. Other the hurdles/obstacles to markets included: certification; vendor fees; logistical/transport issues.

TCOE then decided to pilot an agroecological market using the work with AE hubs to underpin the supply chain. We invited several organizations to partner with or provide localised producers to opportunity to showcase their produce to another market outside of producer's subsistence and localised markets.

The first pilot market took place on 10 December 2022 in Mowbray (Cape Town), which has been held monthly since. We chose this area as it supports many local food clubs who aren't foreign to the idea of agroecology and also invested into the principles of Food Sovereignty. At our initial market we showcased 10 vendors, but the number has grown to now include a total of 25, more than 50% having links to our organization.

Our vendors represent many of the areas where we are working in the W. Cape. Opening the market open to other vendors have resulted in: better and more sustainable packaging; staggered crop planting and harvesting; inclusion of product processing; product evolution in the market space. Some members of Mawubuye are agro-processing. Participation of other vendors is an attempt to build relationships with others who may want to join our movement.

Monthly market in Limpopo

The initial MFA's plan for the building they acquired from the local municipality was to utilise it as a pack house. This plan couldn't be implemented because a pack house has a range of requirements that could not be met by the MFA farmers. They then resolved to use the building as a Distribution Centre where both MFA members and non-member farmers could bring produce to be transported to the national market. They elected a marketing team which is responsible for organising farmers and negotiating with transport companies.

The idea of a market day came up after realizing that local businesses come to buy in bulk for further re-selling. It took them longer to consider selling their produce to the local people because some farmers produce products that are in demand locally. However, this challenge was partially resolved when they started working with the Water Research Commission, which supports them with quality testing for underground water and with infrastructure



for solar energy. The farmers' responsibility is to negotiate with various stakeholders (e.g. transport companies, government sector departments, traditional authorities, municipalities (both local and district) and link them with producers. This market has helped producers cut costs on packaging materials and transportation and

allows them to set their own prices and not having to pay middleman. MFA is now gaining more recognition locally. MFA's marketing team includes youth. They have thus far organised 2 market days which were very successful. They plan is to have these markets on a quarterly basis.

6. Partnership Building

We continue to strengthen our partners and alliances relationships. This enables sharing of skills and resources and build a stronger voice of agroecology movements. From the 27 to 28 February 2023, social movements and NGO's gathered in Suurbraak, Western Cape for an AE workshop hosted by the local AE hub. Twenty five

participants from the following organizations were present: TCOE, AFRA, Nkuzi, SCLC, Inyanda, Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), LandNESS, Surplus People's Project (SPP), Biowatch and Food Sovereignty Campaign (FSC).



7. Farmer Exchange visits

To promote continuous capacity building we also engage in farmer-to-farmer extension services and exchange visits, to enable

producers to share information, skills, practices, challenges and possible solutions.

A) Zimbabwe Farmer Exchange Visit

From the 25 April 2023 to 2d May 2023, the Food Sovereignty Stream member undertook an exchange visit to Zimbabwe. The visit included ten members (4 women and 6 men) from different SA provinces: 3 from the E. Cape; 2 from the W. Cape; 3 from Limpopo and 2 from the Free State.

Lessons Learnt

- There is great mutual accountability in all the economic initiatives visited.
- Division of labour is an easy way to manage human resource for maximum productivity.
- Adherence to study circles as a platform for information dissemination and empowerment is important.
- We saw a marked shift from fossil fuels usage to clean energy (ie. Solar).
- The push-pull method is very effective in controlling maize stalkborer and armyworm.
- Close monitoring of capacitated farmers to assess results is important.
- Women were working with important stakeholders (e.g. councillors, traditional leaders etc.).

- Good production planning.
- Diversity of enterprises.
- Maximum support given to family farms.
- More focus on agro-processing and value addition is important as an aid to marketing.
- Land reform is essential for black people to play a role in the economy of the country.
- Commitment to the struggle to access land.
- Localised food systems.
- More youth involvement in the operations of the collective.

Recommendations

The stream strongly recommends the following:

- i) Identification of farmers to produce sunflower for oil production: 3 farmers could suffice as a pilot.
- ii) Acquisition of sunflower seed and oil pressing machines (3 in total).
- iii) To run trials on small grains, especially in arid regions like Limpopo, N. Cape, Free State and some parts of E. Cape and W. Cape.



- iv) Reinforce the idea of study circles as a way to promote a culture of reading and empowerment.
- v) Replicating lessons learnt on all our AE Hubs.
- vi) Having provincial field days where farmers gather on a progressive farm for the purpose of promoting farmer-to-farmer learning.
- vii) Acquire a hammer mill to be communally owned, for the purpose of mealy meal processing and feed production. This

- can be done in two provinces for a start.
- viii) Train and encourage livestock producers to also produce fodder as a cost cutting measure.
- ix) Advocate and lobby for more land for production of food and fodder.
- x) Establish 3 pilot projects on fish farming.

B) France Exchange Visit

From 30 October to 12 November 2023, a farmer exchange was conducted in France. Six participants (3 males and 3 females) were part of this program.

Lessons learnt

- Those with bigger portions of land find it easier to share with the landless.
- The importance of production planning in order to have consistency in supply and customer satisfaction.
- It is important to establish good relations with stakeholders like government and others. Two organisations have acquired land through such.
- Importance of record keeping as a means to monitor progress of a farming venture.

- Free-range chicken production reduces the rate at which diseases are transmitted. It also cuts very much on feed costs.
- Tunnel farming improves the quality of produce. It also allows one to produce in and out of season.
- With the proper implements, one can cut on labour costs.
- Proper training is very important whenever one wants to engage in any agricultural enterprise. You avoid blunders that might cost a fortune.
- Farming calls for much perseverance and resilience.
- Communal purchases and sales are very important in reducing costs.
- Agroforestry can be very handy in optimal land use.



8. Bee Keeping Workshop

Bee keeping (apiculture) training was initiated to complement an agroecological integrated farming approach. The training was held at Zingisa's offices in Berlin, facilitated by an external facilitator, on Monday 27 March 2023. There were 18 people present (12 women and 6 men) from Berlin, Libode, Makhanda, Uitenhage and Sterkspruit.

Expectations: Understand the bee; the relationship between bees and snakes; how to start bee keeping, how to maintain and feed bees; types of bees and hives; honey harvesting processes; necessary equipment and tools; time for production and to harvest.

Training Content Covered: All expectations were met. Learning partners managed to internalise what they learnt and each promised to commence bee keeping and make a bee hive at their homes.

Facilitator's Recommendations: The facilitator recommended that the farmers be trained for a longer period (3 to 5 days), get the opportunity for top-up trainings and monitoring visits. The farmers should be taken to successful bee farmers for motivation and encouragement and have first-hand experience. Bee keeping should be integrated with the permaculture and agroecology farming as it supports plant production.



9. Field Visits

Field visits are an integral part of monitoring and evaluating the impact of our work. A few field visits were conducted in the period under review.

On the 24 January 2023, a field visit was conducted in Nxarhuni, where 4 projects were visited. Farmers in the area were still struggling with weeding due to a lot of rains during the festive season. In some instances like Hlumani Agric Coop, the farmers lost close to 30% of yield of potatoes as a result of the rains.

On the 25 January 2023, another field visit was conducted in Hamburg, to reorganise small-scale fishers to also establish household food gardens. Currently there are only 5 food gardens in the area and this is set to increase.

Some of the challenges faced by the farmers are access to water and inputs. The government has a bias towards industrial agriculture and hence only support those using conventional inputs such as chemical fertilisers, herbicides, hybrids and GMOs.

10. Farmer Field School

A farmer field school was conducted on 9th March 2023 at a new site in Dimbaza (E.C), acquired by youth at a local preschool. 11 men and 18 women participated. Producers shared information, skills and expertise in agroecology as well as marketing strategies.

The land was too wet after rains and therefore very little could be done in terms of practical activities. A follow-up training was done the following week.



11. Food Sovereignty Dialogue

On 16 October 2023, a food sovereignty dialogue was organised in Cofimvaba. This was as a result of the partnership between Zingisa and DELTA. 30 participants attended this workshop (3 men; 27 women). The objectives of this dialogue were as follow: a) Create a platform for communities to have a speak-out session on the impact of hunger; b) Share information on agroecology, including land and market access; c) Empower women and youth in AE; d) Sharing of information on climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Participants brought fresh produce to display. During discussions, hunger was said to be reaching scary levels in the province. Besides the adverse effects of climate change, land access was cited as the

main challenge, especially for women farmers who work in groups. Most of the women in Chris Hani and other municipalities mainly work in their backyard gardens, which are 70mx70m in size at most. Proceeds from such small pieces of land are not enough to improve livelihoods, and while providing some basic food for the household, there is little excess for the market. If they have excess, they rely on local markets (e.g. schools, clinics and walk-in customers).

One woman mentioned how patriarchy also impacts on them: it is still taboo for women to own livestock, and they can only keep chickens and crops. Women participants felt they needed assistance in trying to reverse the status quo, as they are the ones who often still look after the same livestock.

12. Plant Breeding Act (PBA) & Plant Improvement Act (PIA) Regulations - Consultation Workshops by the Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture held consultation workshops in Pretoria and Cape Town. The first workshop was held in Pretoria on the 11th and 12th October 2023 and second was held in Cape Town the following week, to seek inputs from farmers, seed breeders, other government departments, research institutions, NGO's and other organisations.

In the workshop in Pretoria, there were very few representatives from the civil society sector. This allowed big corporate and private seed breeders to smother our voices. The few of members from the civil society managed to make their voices heard, fighting against the very small quantities of the so-called "protected seed varieties" small-scale farmers are allowed to save, share and sell, basic tenets of AE and

of UNDROP. We also argued that due to climate change, one might be forced to plant more than once due to crop failure, and thus the need to increase the amount of seeds to be saved and kept on farm. We also argued that more time is needed for civil society to be at par with the proposed regulations. We also argued that the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) must adopt a Participatory Research Method in propagating new crop varieties, to transfer skills to small-scale producers.

The workshop in Cape Town had a better representation of small-scale producers and civil society. Our representatives fought a good fight in this workshop. The Department was left with no choice but to extend the period for further consultations.

13. Flood Assessment Visit - PSJ

On the 16th October 2023, serious floods affected the Port St Johns area. Esicambeni and Vukandlule communities were the most affected. We had a meeting with the affected communities on the 18 October 2023 (17 women participated). Livestock, infrastructure such as roads, fences and houses, crops, fruit trees and valuable topsoil were destroyed. Close to 30 houses and 500 banana trees were destroyed, while fruit trees such as oranges, avocado, peaches and others had massive leaf shedding and flower fall. Chickens, sheep and goats were the livestock most affected. Some fields have been eroded to an extent that rehabilitation is required should producers have to continue with their operations.



14. Achievements



The following achievements were realised in the period under review:

- In 2023 we held 9 successful market days in the W. Cape, 2 in Limpopo and 2 in the Free State. Preparations are ongoing for setting up markets in other areas. Suurbraak aquaponics has secured a market for spinach and lettuce on a weekly basis to Dr. Goldie in Bredasdorp. Genadendal have produced more than 200 chickens and they were able to sell it locally and in Riviersonderend and Greyton.
- We have also strengthened our partnerships through working together in challenging government to implement the agroecology policy for SA as well as to have an AE Policy in place. Our site in Suurbraak was used by the AE alliance to showcase agroecology and TCOE staff were leading the practical activities.
- One of our farmers was part of the committee which engaged the Department of Agriculture Portfolio Committee (PC) on the drafting of the AE strategy.
- We have established 14 mobile nurseries which ensure that producers have access to organic seedlings.
- One of our hubs in Limpopo has been identified as one of the progressive learning centres for farmers in the surrounding villages. It is currently hosting 25 youths who receive training on agroecology.

- Two of our hubs have set up worm farms. The worm tea is utilised for both fertiliser and pesticide. The vermi-cast is also being used as a bio-fertiliser.
- Manxeba AE hub started off with production of field crops and vegetables only, but has managed to buy pigs using proceeds from sales. They have also acquired 3.5 Ha of land from their local headman.
- We have made links with different stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, Department of Rural Development & Agrarian Reform, Ward Councillors, Clinic staff and Schools.
- We have managed to train 120 women in agroecology, assisted 30 women to maintain 30 backyard gardens, developed four community gardens, two in Botshabelo, one in Thaba-Nchu, one in Excelsior and managed to access 4 hectares of land for another hub to be developed in Bloemfontein.
- Since the inception of the hub, FSRWA AE hub has managed to participate in two of Shoprite food markets which they held at their various retailers.
- The establishment of AE Hubs has been used as a lobbying tool for access to land.



15. Challenges

- The main challenge remains access to land with water. There is no political will by government to implement land reform. Land inaccessibility forces producers to settle for very unfavourable tenure arrangements.
- Shortage of irrigation water - the water from boreholes in arid regions such as Limpopo is insufficient. Underground water supplies take long to replenish, especially when rainfall is minimal. Those relying on municipal water also face the challenge of unannounced cut-offs.
- High fuel cost for irrigation: most of our producers use either fossil fuel or electricity for water reticulation and this comes at a very high cost.
- In some areas, there are no proper storage facilities and people need to carry generators to and from home every time they want to irrigate.
- Climate change and global warming (droughts, heat waves, floods) continue to affect small-scale producers the most in the form of droughts, heat waves and floods. Drought and floods caused massive damage to productivity in some areas in the W. Cape and E. Cape, for instance. Continuous heavy rains in some areas also led to delayed plantings as the soil tended to be too wet to work on. Harvesting of root crops such as Irish and sweet potatoes has also been a challenge in such conditions.
- Wild animals such as monkeys, baboons and guinea fowls continue to destroy farmer produce. One needs a license to be able to shoot these.
- All the AE hubs are still at their initial stage and still need maximum support in order to realise the intended goals.



16. Conclusion

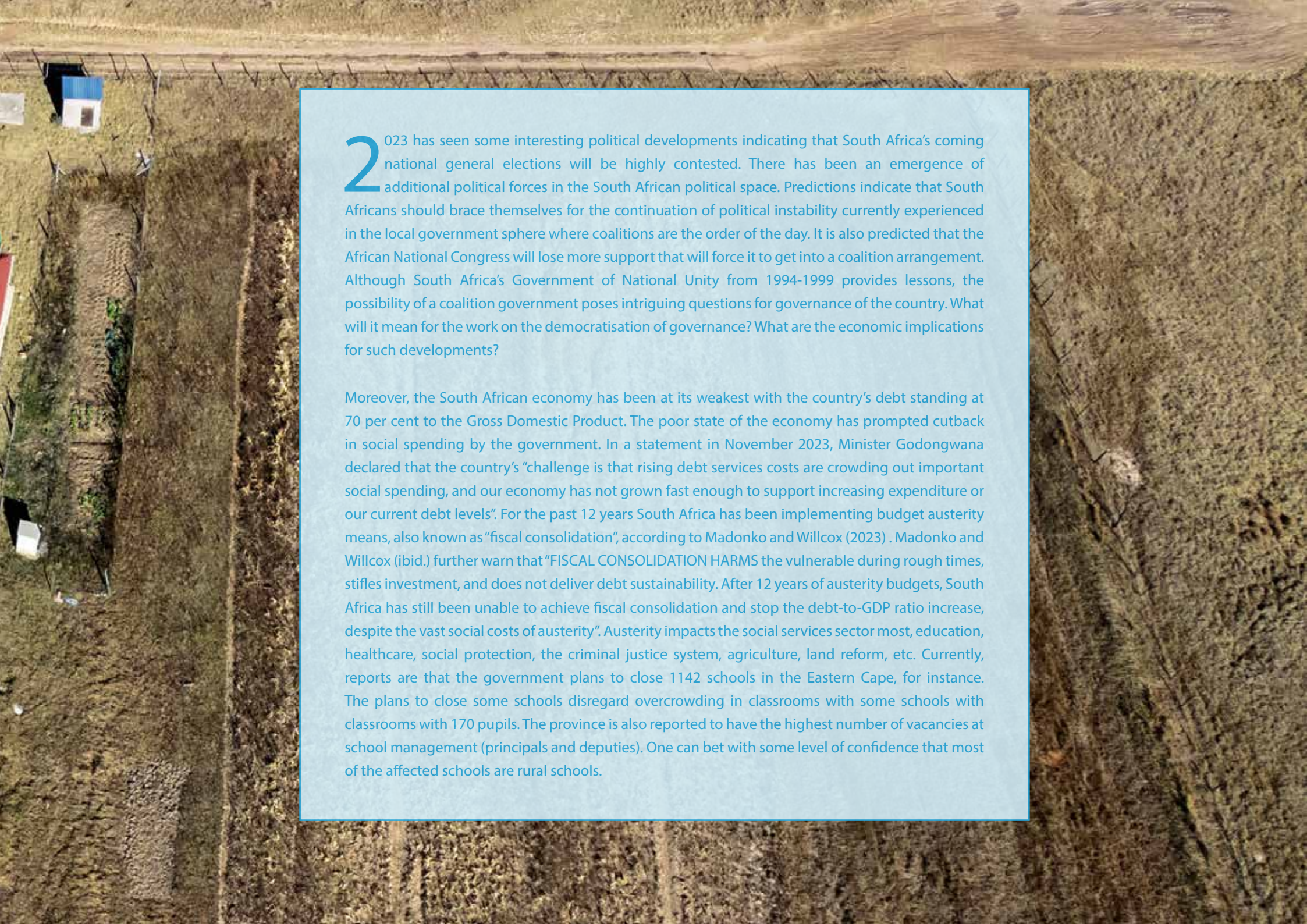
Exchange visits play a very important role in enabling producers to share information and experiences. They also serve as capacity building tools. After such visits it is advisable to identify feasible practices in

line with one's ecological factors and capacity. Some of the lessons learnt during the past period are beginning to be implemented in our hubs and food gardens.



RESEARCH





2023 has seen some interesting political developments indicating that South Africa's coming national general elections will be highly contested. There has been an emergence of additional political forces in the South African political space. Predictions indicate that South Africans should brace themselves for the continuation of political instability currently experienced in the local government sphere where coalitions are the order of the day. It is also predicted that the African National Congress will lose more support that will force it to get into a coalition arrangement. Although South Africa's Government of National Unity from 1994-1999 provides lessons, the possibility of a coalition government poses intriguing questions for governance of the country. What will it mean for the work on the democratisation of governance? What are the economic implications for such developments?

Moreover, the South African economy has been at its weakest with the country's debt standing at 70 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product. The poor state of the economy has prompted cutback in social spending by the government. In a statement in November 2023, Minister Godongwana declared that the country's "challenge is that rising debt services costs are crowding out important social spending, and our economy has not grown fast enough to support increasing expenditure or our current debt levels". For the past 12 years South Africa has been implementing budget austerity means, also known as "fiscal consolidation", according to Madonko and Willcox (2023) . Madonko and Willcox (ibid.) further warn that "FISCAL CONSOLIDATION HARMS the vulnerable during rough times, stifles investment, and does not deliver debt sustainability. After 12 years of austerity budgets, South Africa has still been unable to achieve fiscal consolidation and stop the debt-to-GDP ratio increase, despite the vast social costs of austerity". Austerity impacts the social services sector most, education, healthcare, social protection, the criminal justice system, agriculture, land reform, etc. Currently, reports are that the government plans to close 1142 schools in the Eastern Cape, for instance. The plans to close some schools disregard overcrowding in classrooms with some schools with classrooms with 170 pupils. The province is also reported to have the highest number of vacancies at school management (principals and deputies). One can bet with some level of confidence that most of the affected schools are rural schools.

As for the health system, Lencoasa and Brown (2023) warn that “In the context of weak economic growth, lower-than-expected tax revenues, and the implementation of measures to reduce public spending, there is “rising panic” ahead of this year’s Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS)”. They further highlight that the greatest concern is for the health system. “The concern for health care provision is palpable as anticipated budget cuts threaten the country’s already fragile and understaffed public healthcare system. There is only one nurse for every 224 patients in the public health system, and over 5,000 nursing posts remain unfilled (something primarily attributed to funding”.

Land reform and agriculture feel the effects of the budget austerity. In the 2023 budget vote, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has allocated R5.1 billion for food security; R3 billion for agricultural infrastructure; R3.576 billion for land redistribution; whilst restitution is allocated R12.5 billion.

Given the enormity of landlessness, demand for agricultural support, the budgetary allocations are inadequate. Besides showing how

lowly in priority the ruling party puts land reform and agricultural support, the funds will go towards supporting those with political connections and the elite. Specifically, the livelihoods of poor households will worsen.

These developments and many more contribute to the social and economic hardships for poor people in SA. The developments also threaten social, economic and political developments. The level of crime, especially violent crime, is on the rise and it afflicts every part of the SA society, including rural areas. Stock theft, which affects poor households negatively, is on the rise in rural areas of South Africa. Moreover, women, girls and elderly people are central in the crime statistics of South Africa. Isaac Mashaba’s (2022) comments that “(O)ur country is in dire straits... 52 murders occur daily in South Africa (not all are reported) – and the world closes its eyes and says nothing” are correct. He is equally correct in his assessment of the lack of convincing steps taken by the government. Ultimately, the growing crime, drug abuse, youth unemployment are also a threat to political stability in the country.

Organisational restructuring

During the TCOE Board meeting in July 2023, a discussion occurred about the need to make internal arrangements in preparation for the Director’s impending changing role. Although no formal discussions took place regarding the restructuring of roles, Fani Ncapayi has been roped in to take over some of the tasks the Director has been

involved in. This includes participation in the People’s Dialogue, which is a platform of NGOs and social movements in the African continent and others in the Global South; participation in the Right to Say No campaign that involves the Women in Mining (Womin), Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC), and TCOE.

The campaign involves other civil society organisations in Southern Africa. He was part of the delegation that went to Indonesia in October. Moreover, he, as a member of the Steering Committee, participates in quarterly Steering Committee meetings of the Global South solidarity network.

He is also a member of the co-ordinating team of the school of exractivism, which is a collaborative leadership programme of the three organisations (AIDC, Womin and TCOE). He is not only part of the co-ordinating team, but he also made presentations in the two Schools at the beginning of October, and end of November 2023. The schools were held in Stellenbosch's Boschendal and Springbok's Okiep Hotel respectively.

The above means that Ncapayi's time was split between the research work and the new role he plays in the organisation. Thus, the collaborative work has mostly taken Ncapayi away from research and the support the research team provides to the movements.

Importantly, the above situation highlights a need for an urgent need to resolve the restructuring process in light of the impending withdrawal of the Director from active management duties. Delays will affect other aspects of the organisation's work. As part of the restructuring process, there must be serious efforts to get funding for TCOE's research work. Presently, the work does not have its own funding, but piggybacks on other funded programmes of the organisation. This makes it difficult for the research team to develop a clear research agenda and plan.



Research Annual Report



As pointed out above, Ncapayi's involvement in new tasks linked to restructuring of TCOE, means that his time was split between the research work and the new role he is meant to play in the organisation. Thus, the research team's collaborative work saw Ncapayi partially taken away from research and to more limited support the research

team provided to the movements. In 2023 the research team's main focus has been on municipal commonage and communal land in different provinces. The work on democratisation of governance still continued.

Supporting smallholder producers' struggle for access and control of land

Municipal commonage land

Lack of access to municipal commonage land by smallholder producers is one of the aspects of the SA's failed land reform programme. Although municipalities can apply to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform for additional land to increase their commonage, there is no evidence that municipalities take the opportunity. Consequently, residents in several municipal areas of the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Free State continue to have no access to commonage land. Instead of acquiring additional land, some municipalities have in fact given commercial farmers access to existing commonage land on long-term leases or have even tried to sell commonage through tendering processes, such as in Langeberg and Theewaterskloof. There are reports that potential buyers use the Broad-Based Economic Empowerment (BBEE) card as well as the promise of creating job opportunities to entice the residents. This sounds tempting to some and has the potential to divide the struggles of local people.

This trend has seen diminishing commonage land across the country available to the envisaged beneficiaries, poor black smallholders.

The outcome is the cramming of smallholder producers on small pieces of land with no water and the necessary infrastructure. Poor land governance by the municipality further exposes smallholder producers to environmental hazards and makes them vulnerable to multiple events associated with climate change. For instance, producers in McGregor have been farming for more than twenty years on the flood plain without support or advice from the municipality, not offering alternative land or advising about the dangers of using that land. These producers suffered the severe effects of recent flood events in September 2023 as their livestock was swept away. The same happened to small producers in Genadendal.

Furthermore, poor land governance has also seen residents taking processes into their own hands. There are instances of encroachment

of informal housing development on agricultural land in areas such as Robertson, due to the government's and municipalities' lack of response to the need and demand for housing for growing population, especially in rural areas where there have been ongoing farm evictions over the years. This housing encroachment by people desperate for shelter has a negative impact on the livelihoods of residents. Poor land governance is also reflected in poor record keeping of existing commonages held by municipalities. On several instances, local farmers have been requesting municipal information on existing land without success as there are no records of land audits.

On the positive side, there have been initiatives by the smallholder producers following the damages caused by flooding. They started engaging the municipality on land issues in the entire Langerberg region, demanding an assessment of the flood damages by municipal officials. They also registered their disapproval of the municipal procedures of disposal of the commonage land through tenders. Part of their resolution was to build local alliances between different farmer associations as part of the movement-building strategy. A follow-up meeting, which will include all the representatives of the Langerberg region including the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, was agreed upon between the municipal officials and the producers but the date still pending.

There has also been slow progress in addressing the water and sanitation issues in Kannaland owing to the political instability in the municipal council. In August, the water crisis committee resolved that the Kannaland Local Municipality must assemble a team (technical



department, housing department, town planning department, etc.) to also work on informal settlement matters in areas such as Ladismith and Van Wyksdorp. This is an outcome of a speak-out on water services when TCOE assisted local residents, many of whom are members of Mawubuye and CSSAWU, to stage a speak-out to voice their issues around water services.

In the Free State challenges in accessing commonage land were also identified in several towns. In March 2023, working with the Free State RWA, TCOE visited smallholders in Botshabelo, Parys, Theunissen and Smithfield. The commonage land being used is limited and overcrowded, once again pointing to the failure of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in supporting municipalities to acquire additional land for expansion of commonages. In addition, smallholders who have access to commonage land, still lack agricultural infrastructure such as dipping, stock handling and storage facilities, as well as municipal services such as water, fencing, roads, etc.

The failure of municipalities to support the small producers is common in all four municipal areas. In Theunissen, there were more than 150 small producers, 50 in Parys and about 100 in Smithfield. In Theunissen and Parys the challenge was that the commonage land was not enough for the small producers; there are also instances where municipal officials are said to be abusing their power and manipulating access to the commonage land. There are also reported cases of elite capture of commonage and of monopolising the commonage. This was the case in Smithfield and Theunissen.

In supporting the small producers, the team linked the land reform challenges to the municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and local economic development during workshops in April, July and August, in Botshabelo, Parys and Theunissen. We explained to the small producers what the land reform programme advises the smallholder producers to do to gain access to the commonage land. Small producers were thus encouraged to set themselves up to be part of those processes.

Western Cape workshop on commonage: A workshop was conducted in September in MacGregor to develop a programme of action as a guide on how each municipal area would undertake the commonage campaign. TCOE had developed a fact sheet for Inyanda members and farmers that highlights their rights to commonage land as the basis to launch a national campaign across all provinces where we have membership.

TCOE/ Inyanda National Land Dialogue: TCOE organised (in the Free State, December 2023) a national commonage land dialogue. Following this dialogue the local associations within Inyanda resolved to establish local and regional campaign committees that will lead the struggles for access to land. Indeed, TCOE and the Mawubuye Land Rights Forum assisted producers from the Theewaterskloof (Greyton and Genadendal) in stopping the municipality from selling the commonage land in Greyton for the development of a private school. This piece of land was previously meant to be sold to a fruit juice company called Two a Day and was also stopped through an intervention of Mawubuye. Specifically, Mawubuye assisted the



producers writing a petition challenging the council's decision to sell the land. At the same time, the producers also invited government officials to a meeting to address their concerns as landless people whose livelihoods depend on land use.

The above experiences point to the need for a sustained campaign for democratised governance of commonage land, to allow smallholder producers a say in how the land is governed – how decisions are taken, who benefits and how.

Democratisation of governance

As part of the research team's ongoing work on issues in the Sakhisizwe area, working with CALUSA, we visited the isolated community of Mahlunqulu. Although the community is less than 30km from Cala (under the Sakhisizwe Municipality) it is under the Intsika Yethu Local Municipality with Cofimvaba, the municipality's administrative centre, more than 80 km away. This small community of about 100 households has many challenges - damaged access roads, lack of water, and no access to health services. The community feels neglected by the Intsika Yethu municipality and want to be placed under Sakhisizwe. The residents were encouraged to put pressure on the Intsika Yethu municipality to deliver services. We also advised the community to take up the issue of jurisdiction with the Municipal Demarcation Board.

In this respect, working with CALUSA and the Sakhisizwe Information and Research Centre, we intervened through a submission to the Municipal Demarcation Board in response to a proposal that sought to break the Sakhisizwe municipality down along racial lines, which

Working in alliances Tshinstsha Amakhaya members initiated a joint campaign to deal with common issues related to commonages in the Western Cape. Other organisations in this joint programme include SPP West Coast, and SCLC in the Southern Cape. Following the disastrous floods that swept away livelihoods of the small producers in the Western Cape, Mawubuye and TCOE engaged in the process of documenting the losses and developed strategies to engage government for support of the small-scale farmers. The campaign will be in full swing in 2024.

proposed that the historically white-dominated Wards 1, 2 and a portion of Ward 3 be removed from Sakhisizwe and placed under the Joe Gqabi Local Municipality. Our submission highlighted the political, social and economic implications of the proposed demarcation. Whilst the submission challenged the breakdown of Sakhisizwe, it agreed with the demand for the demarcation of Mthingwevu, which includes Mahlunqulu and the latter into Sakhisizwe. The latter areas have historically been part of what has become Sakhisizwe. Fortunately, the Demarcation Board accepted our proposals 100 per cent.

Working with RWA: Towards the end of November 2023, a workshop on Traditional Authorities and governance of communal land was held in Johannesburg and 15 women from the RWA attended the workshop. They came from Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and Eastern Cape. The workshop aimed at empowering RWA members about land governance in areas under the jurisdiction of traditional authorities. Among others, the workshop culminated in a plan by

RWA South Africa to mount a campaign for women's involvement in decision-making in areas under traditional authorities.

Broadening democratic governance alliances: On 4 and 5 November, we ran a workshop in Gqeberha for 16 participants (7 women and 9 males), which included independent candidates that participated in the previous local government elections and representatives of interested organisations: Independent Komani Residents Association (IKORA) (2: one woman; one man), Trust for Community Outreach

and Education (TCOE) (4 men), Inyanda (3: one woman; two men), Unemployed People's Movement (UPM/MCF) (one woman; one man), Zabalaza Pathways Institute (1), Cala University Students Association (CALUSA - 1), Xixhakati (1), Botshabelo Unemployment Movement (BUM - 1) and Ikhwezi Political Movement (2 women). The aim was to broaden the democratisation campaign by mobilising other forces. Participants expressed appreciation of the initiative and requested TCOE to establish a platform involving the participants and other interested organisations.

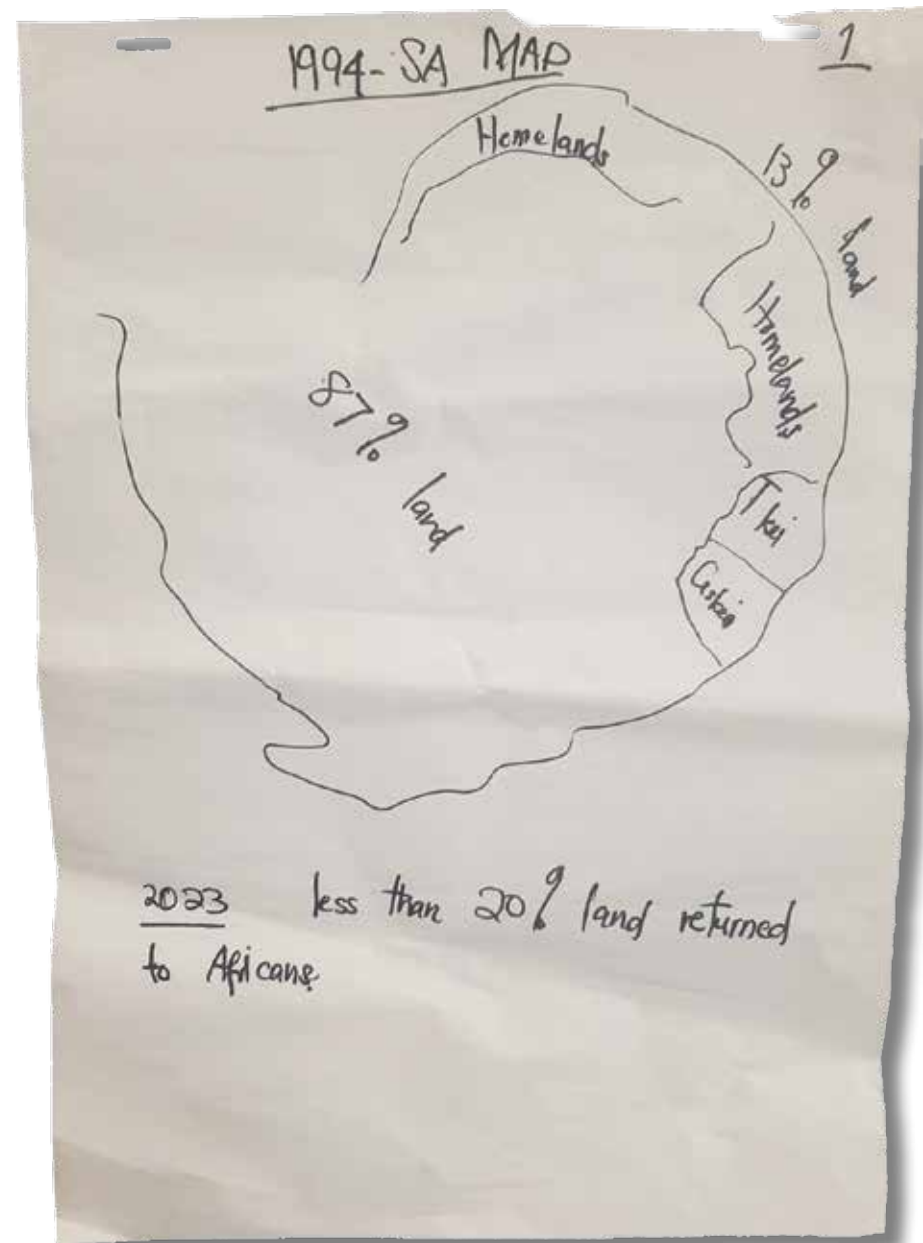


Communal land

There is growing interest from agribusiness and mining companies on communal land – a move that threatens the livelihoods of smallholders and it leads to displacement of communities and landholders. Yet, government departments, including local municipalities and traditional authorities, play a facilitating role instead of protecting the land tenure rights of residents and smallholder producers. These are the experiences of residents in communal areas of the Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

In the Eastern Cape this is exemplified by the struggle of landholders in the Nombanjana village, Centane, who continue with their struggle against Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (WIPHOLD). TCOE has had meetings with Coastal Links members, who are also the landholders in Nombanjana, the meetings highlighting how their grazing and arable land is being used by WIPHOLD. Although landholders have mobilised and drove the cattle of WIPHOLD off their land, they need legal assistance in pushing WIPHOLD out of their land. TCOE has been working with the Legal Resources Centre for legal assistance.

Similarly, in Limpopo, the smallholder producers along the Levubu River in the Mahale village are waging a struggle against their chief for giving their agricultural land to a white commercial farmer in 2021. TCOE, working with Mopani Farmers Association, organised a workshop to explain land ownership in communal areas. We also attended community meetings in the village to advise and support the landholders. As part of support, TCOE liaised with the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) – a public law institution – to provide legal assistance. SERI is currently working on the case.



TRUST FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

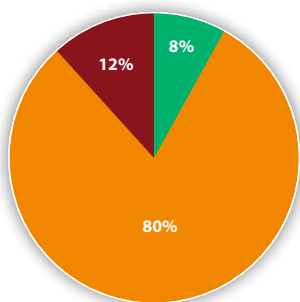
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2023

INCOME 37 184 552.00

Grants	37 219 551.00
Sundry Income	34 999.00

ADMINISTRATION COST 2 258 807.00

Catering and Cleaning	163 549.00
Bank Charges	308 414.00
Telephone and Fax	119 460.00
Insurance	326 686.00
Auditors Renumeration	258 831.00
Fundraising	23 132.00
Office Accommodation	159 513.00
Lease rental on operating lease	353 100.00
Petrol and Motor Vehicle Expenses	118 035.00
Depreciation of Assets	383 537.00
Repairs and Maintenance	44 550.00



- Administration Cost
- Programme Cost
- Personnel Expenses

PROGRAMME COST 29 605 422.00

Annual Report	11 578.00
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	414 065.00
Stationery and Printing	106 075.00
Programme and Project Costs	29 073 704.00

PERSONNEL EXPENSES 4 287 708.00

Salaries and Contributions	4 203 746.00
Staff Development	83 962.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2022 36 151 937.00

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES 1 032 615.00

Donations and Sundry Income	1 363 403.00
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Surplus/ (deficit) for the year 2 396 018.00



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CS Fund	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (RLF)
Driekonings Aktion (DKA)	South Africa Development Fund
Fastenaktion (Swiss Development Co-operation) RAISE	Thousand Currents
Ford Foundation	Why Hunger
Global Aktion	Schmidt Family Foundation- 11TH Hour Foundation

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The Annual Financial Statements and Donor Acknowledgements includes a thank you from the TCOE.***



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