

THE CLIMATE
STORY LAB
SOUTH AFRICA



2023 PARTICIPANTS

CALLING STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES!

We believe in the power of storytelling to reach the hearts and minds of people to inspire change.

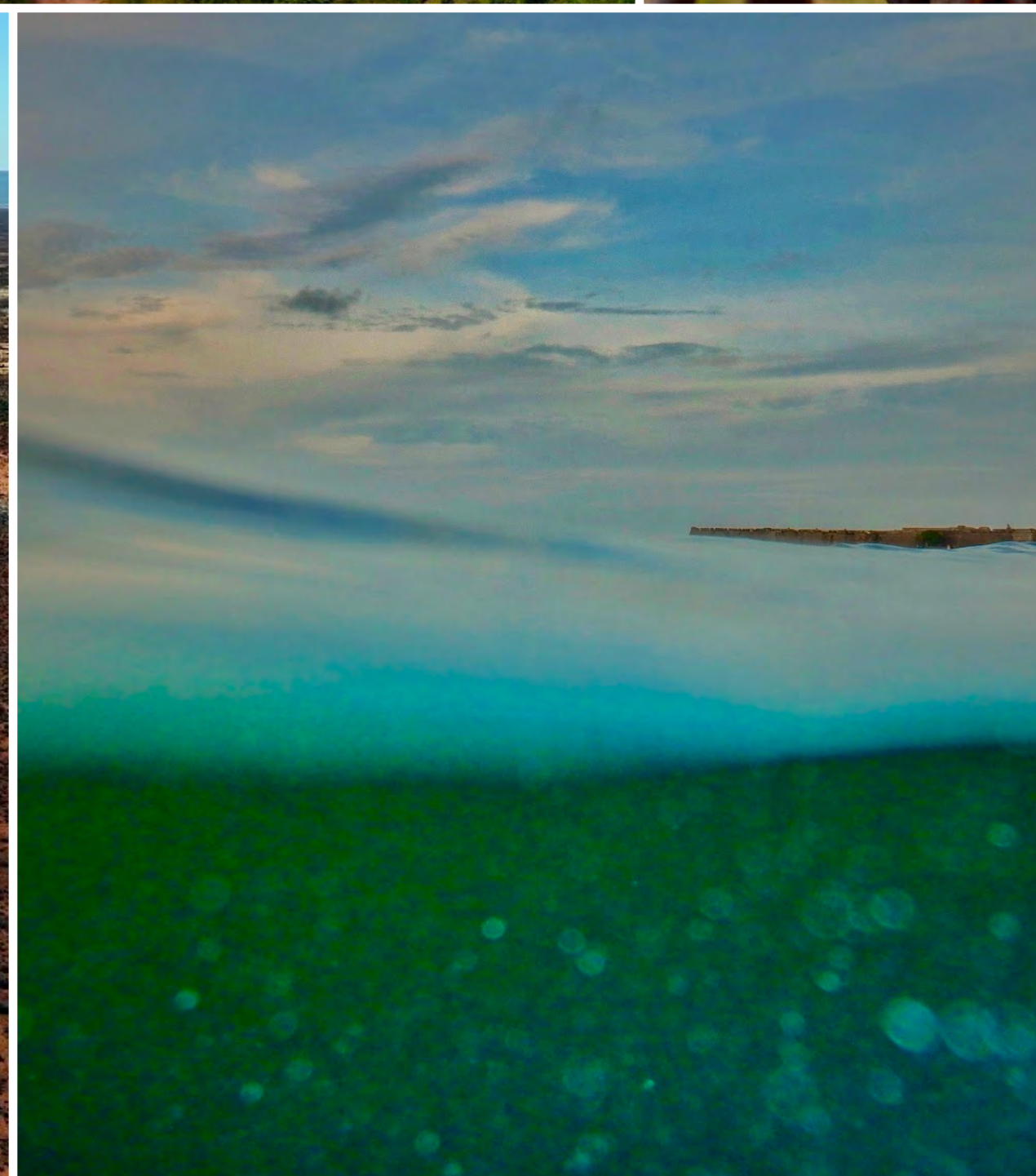
We're calling for collective action to address the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced - The Climate Emergency.

WHAT IS CLIMATE STORY LAB ZA?

Climate Story Lab ZA brings together creatives, climate experts, activists, organisational partners and funders. The 4-day residential lab will incubate powerful stories and develop engagement strategies to inspire meaningful action for climate impact.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Climate Story Lab ZA invited creators of climate projects to attend the first ever Climate Story Lab Southern Africa (CSLZA23). Nine creative projects were selected from five Southern African countries and include documentary films, VR, theatre and podcast.



Ulwandle Lushile

Meeting the Tides



Tembisa Jordaan

Director & Producer

Country: South Africa 

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

‘Ulwandle Lushile’ is an evocative short documentary about a group of traditional marine fisher-women in rural KwaZulu-Natal. On the doorstep of the world-renowned Isimangaliso Wetland Park are the homes of the poorest and most marginalised coastal communities, who depend on harvesting from the sea for survival. The film follows a group of brave village women as they face treacherous sea conditions and legal persecution to provide for their families. The film invites us to take a walk in their shoes, along the winding forest path to the ocean. Here they share their struggles and talk about the dwindling access to marine resources, their indigenous knowledge passed on through generations of mussel harvesting, and what they hope for in future.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM | STAGE: DISTRIBUTION | [TEASER](#)

Congo en Panne

Stories about energy and human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



Bob Yala

Reporter/Producer

Country: DRC



Amélie Guyot-Staal

Dissemination strategy, impact measurements & project oversight

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

'Congo en Panne' is a thrilling podcast series set at the intersection of energy access, climate issues and human rights. These issues are unpacked through the stories of four young activists in a compelling narrative series. Only 10% of the population in the DRC has access to electricity. The situation is stunting the development of the country, while current developments are also threatening its natural environment. Young people's lives and their plans for the future are particularly affected, but they are mobilising and innovating to spark change. Produced by the Radio Workshop, the series is an integral part of a Congolese civil society campaign demanding more transparency and consultation in the negotiations concerning mega projects such as the Inga 3 dam, as well as a commitment to fairer and more sustainable energy development for all in the DRC.

PODCAST SERIES | STAGE: PRODUCTION | [PILOT EPISODE](#)

Forest Spirits of AZIBO



Menzi Mkhwane

Theatre Practitioner

Country: South Africa 



Sbusiso Mnqobi Mhlongo

Theatre Performer

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

‘Forest Spirits of AZIBO’ is an original African folk tale created and directed by Naledi award winning artist, Menzi Mkhwane. It tells the story of the village AZIBO and its people who live near a sacred forest protected by ancient African spirits. The forest is under threat as a ruthless factory owner, Mr Shima, plans to extend his business. Little Amara who is born and raised in the village of AZIBO is worried about the forest and prays to the forest spirits to protect the trees which will be cut down to make more paper for the engulfing factory. To her surprise the spirits respond by selecting her to save the forest. By giving her the powers of Mother Nature she must fight to protect the forest and the animals of Azibo from extinction. The production is a physical theatre storytelling experience especially designed to teach a young audience (aged 7-13) about the climate crisis and its causes. The work raises awareness of the importance of protecting natural resources.

LIVE PERFORMANCE/ THEATRE | STAGE: DISTRIBUTION | PERFORMANCE

Burning Rebellion



Kyla Davis

Producer & Co-Divisor

Country: South Africa 



Sanelisiwe Yekani

Co-writer & Performer

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

‘Burning Rebellion’ is an ecological protest poem that gives voice to a profound sense of injustice, a rightful rage, and a fear of what is to come. The message from the next generation is clear: Governments! Politicians! Big Business! So-called Grown Ups! We need to fix this mess, before it is too late. Through Hip Hop, Spoken Word, movement and song, ‘Burning Rebellion’ is the third and final production in Well Worn Theatre’s 3-year, eco-theatre programme, and is supported by the National Lotteries Commission. The poem went on a National Tour in 2019, appearing on the Main Programme at the National Arts Festival. It is directed by Joni Barnard a.k.a Missy Phaya Fly and features Sanelisiwe Yekani, Lerato Sefoloshe, Mlindeli Zondi and Jaques De Silva.

LIVE PERFORMANCE/ THEATRE | STAGE: DISTRIBUTION | PERFORMANCE

SNIPPET

The Conservationist



Rumbi Katedza

Director/Producer

Country: Zimbabwe 



Siza Mukwedini

Producer

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe encounters with wildlife are on the increase and the danger of poaching and unlicensed hunting threatens this wildlife-rich area. In a growing climate crisis, access to scarce natural resources heightens this tension. One local woman is working to restore the balance between rural communities and nature through community based conservation. Moreangels Mbizah trains women as community guardians and teaches them to collar and track lions in the mystical Nyami Nyami region of the Matusadona National Park, near Lake Kariba. These women are a representation of the future of conservation and of Moreangel's legacy. Dealing with the often challenging bureaucracy of local government and National Parks, she and her team find innovative and sometimes unexpected ways to effectively build the resilience of communities by improving livelihoods and protecting the wildlife.

DOCUMENTARY FILM | STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

Ada's Harvest

Africa will feed the world



Joanna Higgs

Director

Country: South Africa & Uganda



Liezel Vermeulen

Producer

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In a remote village in Uganda, Ada Adongo, aged 104, throws her frail frame at the weeds in her cassava field. 'The rains come late, the trees are cut down and the fish are gone.'

Climate instability is devastating livelihoods in Africa. It is predicted that the continent will be home to half the world's malnourished people by 2080. Yet, Africa has enough natural resources to feed the world. As a rural girl born over a 100 years ago, Ada was forbidden education, yet she laboured to send her grandson, Adipala, to school. Despite brutal conflict and the collapse of schools, the village boy became a leading international agricultural scientist. Under the repressive government of Idi Amin, he went into exile, to return years later to build Africa's most powerful network of universities, training thousands of young agricultural scientists. Their mission: working with farmers to co-create climate solutions and fight food insecurity. As Professor Adipala's beloved Ada nears her end, young African women changemakers visit to learn from her wisdom and show their gratitude. Ada's Harvest is a story of stubborn optimism. It answers an urgent call to marry science and traditional knowledge in order to build resilience against the climate crisis and find pathways to feeding the world.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM | STAGE: PRODUCTION | [TRAILER](#)

Nakhodha and the Mermaid



Yara Costa

Creative Director

Country: Mozambique 

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This VR mixed media is a climate change story told through a lovechanting affair between a dhow sailor, the Nakhodha and a mermaid. Audio spatial recorded chants of men and women of the fishing community and underwater sounds in the 360 sound headsets, along with 360 video mapping projected live-action images, are the backdrop scenario of the encounter of a sailor fisherman with an invisible sea creature under the “Al Suhail” star constellation. The magic realism embedded in this century-old maritime culture is brought to life through the immersive documentary storytelling of sea chants and songs, the past, the present, the future and the ecological local knowledge within the traditional maritime Swahili culture of the Island of Mozambique, as it draws attention to the imminent threat of rising sea levels that can destroy the coastal fishing communities around the isle.

VIRTUAL REALITY (VR), MIXED MEDIA | STAGE: DEVELOPMENT

Chikukwa Custodians



**Jacqueline van
Meygaarden**

Producer & Director

Country: South Africa & Zimbabwe



Rumbi Katedza

Co-Producer

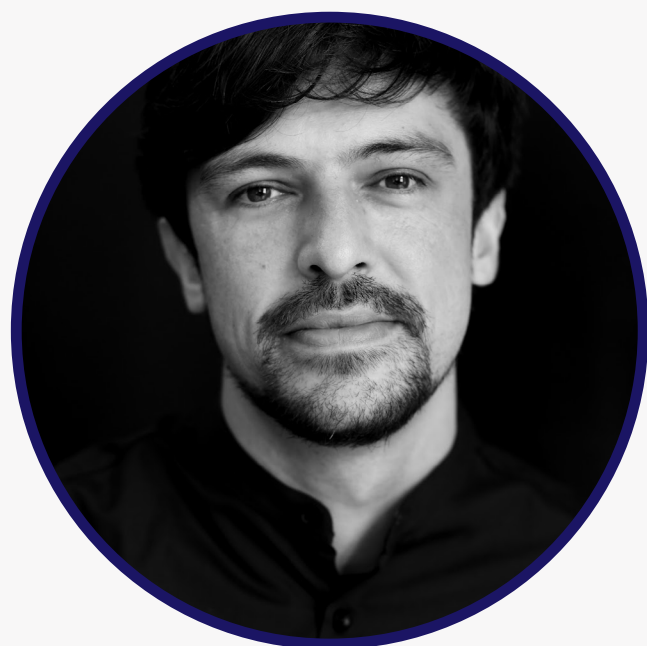
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Zeddy Chikukwa’s quest to regenerate indigenous cultural practices of traditional food growing lies at the heart of the short documentary, ‘Chikukwa Custodians’. The people of Chikukwa live in the remote Chimanimani mountainous region of Eastern Zimbabwe, bordering Mozambique. Their story reveals the interconnectedness of growing food, generating livelihoods, spirituality, cultural rituals, eating, connection to the land and the protection of nature, and how food security hinges on these elements working well together. ‘Chikukwa Custodians’ explores solutions through building resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM | STAGE: PRODUCTION | [EXTRACT FROM FILM](#)

Namakwa

the green frontier



Haroon Gunn-Salie

Director & Executive

Country: South Africa 



Alexandria Hotz

Producer & Executive Producer

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The film tracks the impact of green extractivism in the Northern Cape. Told through the life stories of women community leaders who are struggling against transnational corporations and the state, and are resisting the impact of mining on their communities in the Namaqualand.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM | STAGE: PRODUCTION | [TRAILER](#)

MEET THE CSLZA23 TEAM

"This programme promises to offer storytellers from Southern Africa an opportunity to develop their projects to better support collective action against activities that contribute to climate change and tell stories about solutions that protect ecosystems and biodiversity." – CSLZA23 Co-directors



CSLZA23 TEAM



Anita Khanna

Writer | Producer | Impact
Producer/ co-director:
Climate Story Lab ZA



Miki Redelinghuys

Documentary Filmmaker
| Impact Producer/ co-
director: Climate Story Lab ZA



Tarha McKenzie

Programme Manager



Liani Maasdorp

Film Lecturer | Impact
Consultant/ co-director:
Climate Story Lab ZA



Emily Wanja

Impact Campaigns &
Strategy Mentor



**Thihangwi
Ramutsindela**

Programme Coordinator

SUPPORTED BY



HOSTED BY

