

# PROGRESS REPORT

20  
23



THE CLIMATE  
STORY LAB  
SOUTH AFRICA



<https://climatestorylabza.org>

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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Climate Story Lab ZA invited creatives from the Southern African region to submit projects for an opportunity to participate in a four-day residential lab near Cape Town in January 2023. The first Climate Story Lab ZA was an incubator aimed at shifting the narrative and amplifying communication around the global climate crisis.

Sixty-seven projects from nine countries applied, and nine projects from five African countries were selected to participate in the Lab. Five projects are from South Africa, one each is from Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Mozambique; one is a collaboration between SA and Zimbabwe; and one South African production is set in Uganda.

The cohort includes 3 short documentary films, 2 feature-length documentary films, 1 VR experience, 1 podcast series, and 2 theatre performances. They are in various stages of completion, some in development, some in production or post, and some completed and ready for distribution.

We firmly believe that storytelling can reach into people's hearts and minds, shift behaviour and inspire action. Now is the time to harness our creative energy to support urgent and innovative action on the climate crisis.



CSLZA 2023 participants, speakers and hosts



# ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL LAB

The residential Lab was hosted by CSLZA co-directors Anita Khanna, Liani Maasdorp and Miki Redelinghuys, with support from Emily Wanja (Doc Society Climate Story Unit) and Kudzayi Ngwerume (UMI Fund). Programme manager Tarha McKenzie and programme co-ordinator Thihangwi Ramutsindela took care of logistics and kept the sessions running smoothly. Our behind-the-scenes video and photo team documented the Lab and also shared the sessions virtually for engagement with guests who could not attend in person.

The Lab program included sessions with the CSLZA team, inputs from 10 guest speakers, and 9 project presentations. The presentations were set up in a way that encourages inclusive participation from the room, with tables set-up in a circular, non-hierarchical way. "Creative vibes" sessions provided energising breaks between panel inputs to loosen things up and keep everyone engaged.

The lab was hosted at the Diemersfontein Country Estate and Thokozani Conference venue. It was chosen both for its proximity to and distance from Cape Town (approximately 50 kms). This allowed for participants to be completely engaged with the day's events without the distraction of the city, while making it easily accessible from Cape Town CBD and the airport. The venue provided a warm meeting space, comfortable accommodation, reliable power and Wifi, and natural surroundings that encouraged a calm yet committed engagement with the content of the Lab.



Clémence Petit-Perrot (*Congo en Panne*)



# RESIDENTIAL LAB DAILY PROGRAMME

## DAY 1: 23 JANUARY 2023

### 1. Welcome dinner

The Lab team travelled to Diemersfontein Estate near Paarl on the morning of 23 January to set up. Participants and speakers scheduled for 24 January arrived during the course of the day. The Lab team hosted a dinner to welcome participants and introduce them to each other.

### 2. Bonfire engagement

Participants met around an outdoor bonfire and shared something about themselves. This was an ice-breaker event in preparation for the programme ahead.

## DAY 2: 24 JANUARY 2023

### 1. Day Opener: Why Climate Story Lab?

*Anita Khanna (CSLZA co-director) & Emily Wanja (Doc Society Climate Story Unit).*  
Anita provided a grounding for the Lab, speaking both about the harsh reality of the climate crisis and why creative communication is important. Wanja shared the context of the Labs around the world and some of the incredible work that is being done. This session set the tone for the Lab as a space of horizontal learning, participation and sharing.

### 2. Why we need creative action when fighting the climate crisis

*Kumi Naidoo, climate activist and former director of Greenpeace*  
Kumi opened the discussion on climate communication, reviewed the way we make assumptions about what people's understanding of the climate crisis is, and how we can change our approach to be more inclusive. He unpacked "Why aren't things working & how can creatives help turn the dial?". Kumi's session was a call to action, and the key takeaways were: this is a crisis, but we cannot sit back and say it's too late. We need to be activists, artists and creative communicators to move the dial when it comes to decision-makers, governments and big corporations.

### 3. Impact Framework introduction

*Dr Liani Maasdorp, University of Cape Town Centre for Film and Media Studies*  
Liani introduced the role of the impact producer and the importance of a targeted, well-thought-through strategy to amplify stories' impact potential. She introduced creatives to a framework for designing, planning and implementing an Impact campaign.

#### 4. Resistance is Fertile

*Food security activist Nazeer Sondag in discussion with CSLZA co-director Miki Redelinghuys*

Nazeer believes that land reform presents the biggest opportunity we have to build resilience and support livelihoods. He led a successful campaign against The City of Cape Town for the preservation of farmland on the urban periphery. In this session, he shared their strategies in this David and Goliath battle between small-scale farmers on the one side and developers supported by the City on the other.

#### 5. Project shares

- a. *Nakhota and the Mermaid* - VR, Mozambique
- b. *Chikukwa Custodians* - documentary, South Africa/Zimbabwe
- c. *Congo en Panne* - podcast series, DRC

The project teams each had 15-minutes to introduce their projects, followed by a “Hive Brain” discussion during which other participants, guest speakers and the CSLZA team offered inputs, made suggestions and asked questions. In addition to the discussion, each project had a project board in the venue, where anyone could post suggestions and comments throughout the lab.

#### 6. Day closer

Time to reflect on the day’s discussions, share key take-aways and share the programme for the following day.

### DAY 3: 25 JANUARY 2023

#### 1. Day opener

Lab team welcome and warm up

#### 2. Case study: *Thank You for the Rain*

*Wanja Emily, Thank You for the Rain Impact Producer, Kenya*

Wanja shared the inspiring work done on the *Thank You for the Rain* impact campaign, unpacking the planning, implementation, and community engagement & research completed while the film was being produced.

#### 3. Peace engagement - Kudzayi Ngwerume

Kudzayi shared an approach for positive engagement during which participants were encouraged to listen to each other and create space for all voices to be heard.

#### 4. Climate Crisis Communication

*Leonie Joubert and Pascalinah Kabi, journalists*

Miki hosted a discussion with two investigative journalists from South Africa and Lesotho respectively, who shared their approaches to investigating and reporting on the climate crisis. Leonie allowed us to sit with the urgency of our work by painting a picture of collapse before talking through the possible points of leverage. Pascalinah gave participants some great investigative journalist ‘trade craft’ for how to cultivate good sources, a skill that’s fundamental to gathering meaningful and reliable information.

## **Building a Movement**

*Zackie Achmat, Founder of Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)*

Zackie shared stories and strategies from the trenches of movement building, with specific reference to the work of the Treatment Action Campaign, which influenced perception and policy change around ARVs in the late 1990s and early 2000s in South Africa.

## **5. Project Shares**

- a. *The Conservationist* - feature documentary, Zimbabwe
- b. *Ulwandle Lushile* - short documentary, South Africa
- c. *Namakwa* - documentary, South Africa

## **6. Climate Crisis Communication: Hit or Miss**

*Thihangwi Ramutsindela in conversation with African Climate Alliance activists Xoli Fuyeni and Lisakhanya Mathiso*

The panel shared and rated a selection of online climate communication videos in game show style with the room raising HIT or MISS cards and the activists breaking down why certain strategies work for particular audiences and platforms. This session illustrated why different forms of communication work for different people and that there should not be a 'one size fits all' approach to climate storytelling.

## **8. Sunshine Cinema - building partnerships with mobile screening partners**

*Nontokozi Sibanyoni, impact facilitator & Rene Weston, director of programme operations*

Rene and Nonto introduced the work of Sunshine Cinema solar-powered mobile cinemas and hosted an outdoor screening after dinner of CSLZA participant Thembisa Jordaan's film *Ulwandle Lushile*, about indigenous practices related to sea mussel harvesting.



Miki Redelinghuys (CSLZA), Kudzayi Ngwerume (UMI Fund), Nadine Cloete (NFVF), Emily Wanja (Doc Society)



## 1. Day opener

Lab team welcome and warm up

## 2. TikTok and climate communication

*Vivian Chuene, content partnerships manager at TikTok Southern Africa*

Vivian hosted a session on how to use TikTok to grow your audience and build engagement. Participants were given break-away time to make TikToks that relate to their projects.

## 3. Case Study: *Lalela Ulwandle* - Empatheatre

*Neil Coppen, creative director. Empatheatre*

Neil shared the process of building an impact campaign around a theatre project. The case study, their award-winning production *Lalela Ulwandle*, travelled from community halls across South Africa to Cop 23 in Egypt. Neil's presentation was inspiring to all the projects, but particularly relevant to the two theatre productions that took part in the Lab.

## 4. Project Shares

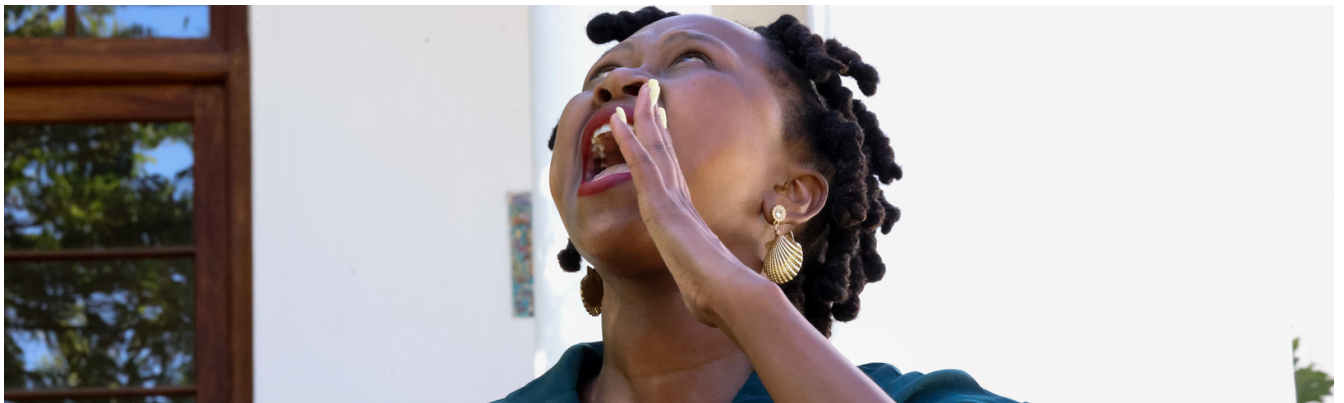
- a. *Ada's Harvest* - feature documentary, South Africa
- b. *Forest Spirits of Azibo* - live performance, South Africa
- c. *Burning Rebellion* - live performance, South Africa

## 5. Funder Blitz

In a "Funder Blitz", hosted by Emily Wanja, the Lab welcomed potential project funders into the room to talk about their respective organisations, what kinds of work they fund, and how projects can apply to them. Panelists present in-person included Nadine Cloete from the National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa and Kudzayi Ngerume from the UMI Fund. The Zoom Panellists were Adrian Kawaley-Lathan from the Bertha Foundation and Julian Etienne from the Climate Story Fund. Other organisations represented include Storyboard Collective, Global Strategic Communications Council, DocA and the Climate Justice Resilience Fund.

## 6. Reflections and Wrap

At the end of a packed and intense program we gathered our thoughts, shared take-aways and took time to reflect on next steps. These discussions started in the conference room, and continued around the pool and during the closing dinner.



Sanelisiwe Yekani (*Burning Rebellion*)



Kudzayi Ngwerume, Nadine Cloete, Emily Wanja, Yara Costa, Kumi Naidoo, Vivian Chuene, Neil Coppen, Nazeer Sonday



# PUBLIC EVENTS

## **DURBAN FILMMART (DFM) 2022: CLIMATE STORY JAM PANEL DISCUSSION**

**24 July 2022**

UCT TV Learning hosted a panel discussion at Durban Filmmart in July 2022 with support from the Percy Fox Foundation. The panel was hosted by Liani Maasdorp and Miki Redelinghuys, and included impact producer and activist Anita Khanna, documentary filmmaker Omelga Mthiyane, Empatheatre director Neil Coppin, and youth climate activist Luke Lerotholi.

Climate Story Lab ZA was announced at the event by Wanja Emily in a pre-recorded video that was screened at the end of the panel discussion.

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## **BERTHA HOUSE BROWN BAG FRIDAY**

**16 September 2022**

The team hosted an introduction to Climate Story Lab ZA at the Bertha House Activist Café in Mowbray, Cape Town. The Brown Bag session is a regular slot at Bertha House where organisations and activists are invited to share their work and build community. Liani, Miki and Thihangwi hosted the session, showing clips of powerful content about the climate crisis and sharing examples of impact campaigns. They mapped the purpose of the Lab and offered a chance for Q&A and comments. The purpose of the session was to build interest in and engagement with CSL ZA, and for those present to share information about their networks, communities and needs. This session took place 3 weeks before the project submission deadline.

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## **CLIMATE STORY LAB ONLINE Q&A**

**28 September 2022**

The CSLZA team hosted an online Q&A on Zoom to engage potential participants and clear up any uncertainty about the Lab and submission requirements. This session took place 2 weeks before the project submission deadline.

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# THE TERRITORY SCREENING

26 October 2022

CSLZA partnered with the Documentary Filmmakers' Association of South Africa (DFA) to host a screening of *The Territory* at Bertha House. The DFA hosts a monthly programme of screenings at Bertha House called docLOVE aimed at public engagement through film. The screening provided a platform to discuss the power of film for change, specifically looking at indigenous land rights and the importance of land defenders in the climate fight.

ThiHangwi Ramutsindela hosted a post screening discussion with guest speaker Tauriq Jenkins, a research scholar at the San and Khoi Centre at the University of Cape Town and chair of the AIXARRA Restorative Justice Forum, where he convenes commissions on Sacred Human Remains and Land. We were joined by elders and chiefs from the indigenous Khoi and San communities of Southern Africa, who pointed out parallels between their story of that of the Uru-eu-wau-wau people. They are currently embroiled in a legal case against development giants wishing to build the new Amazon headquarters in Cape Town on an environmentally and heritage sensitive wetland.

The cinema was full to capacity and the discussion was powerful. It bore testimony to the power of sharing creative narratives to inspire change.

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## THANK YOU FOR THE RAIN SCREENING & IMPACT CASE STUDY

26 January 2023

On the evening of the day we concluded the Climate Story Lab at Diemersfontein we returned to Bertha House in Cape Town to host a public screening of *Thank you for the Rain*, and an Impact Case Study discussion by Wanja Emily and a call to action on the Climate Crisis by Anita Khanna.

We chose to host this event in a venue frequented by activists, such as the African Climate Alliance and food justice groups, film students and filmmakers to allow broader access to some of the information shared in the Climate Story Lab. We believe in making the circle wider, and as such, made an effort to invite creatives who we knew were interested in film impact and climate communication. An immediate outcome of this session was that a few people volunteered to support a dance company who were developing a performance around coastal management. Others were inspired to apply the model to their own work.

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"I was utterly inspired by yesterday's screening and discussion ... We're working on proposals for a new season of Politically Awesh content and this has totally made me think about the importance of impact campaign work to be built into the budget and strategy."

**Stephen Horn**  
Politically Awesh show runner and Clean Creatives South Africa lead

# ONGOING CSLZA PROJECTS SUPPORT

## 1. WEBINARS

CSLZA hosted a series of five monthly webinars on Zoom after the in person lab to expand on the content covered at the lab. They were open to other stakeholders who could benefit from the content, including UCT postgraduate film production students, Documentary Filmmakers' Association members and Encounters Film Festival attendees.

### 1. IMPACT OVERVIEW

**Liani Maasdorp**

15 March 2023

We kicked off the webinar series with a deeper engagement with the tools, strategies and frameworks participants can use to design their impact strategies. Key discussion points included setting relevant impact goals, forging mutually beneficial partnerships, identifying the types of change required, targeting specific audiences, and differentiating between the work of the story and that of the impact campaign.

### 2. NO LAUGHING MATTER - HUMOUR AND SATIRE IN CLIMATE COMMUNICATION

**Dan Ilic**

19 April 2023

Dan Ilic is a prolific Australian comedian and radio personality. Calling himself an “investigative humorist”, Dan has used comedy as an activist tool throughout his professional career in Australia and the U.S. He has performed in front of thousands of people across Australia, including sell out shows at the Sydney Opera House and on ABC Radio National. Dan is the host of the award-winning podcast and live comedy show *A Rational Fear*, a show that brings together journalists, comedians, experts and politicians and uses comedy to talk about climate issues that get overlooked in mainstream media.

In this session Dan shared some of his work and strategies, and answered participant questions.

### 3. THE TERRITORY CASE STUDY

**Alex Pritz**

31 May 2023

Director Alex Pritz was invited to speak about The Territory impact campaign. Alex Pritz is a documentary film director and cinematographer focused on humans' relationship with the natural world. Pritz's directorial debut, THE TERRITORY, premiered in the World Cinema competition at Sundance 2022, winning both an Audience Award and Special Jury Award for Documentary Craft. Pritz co-directed, shot and edited the documentary short "My Dear Kyrgyzstan" (Big Sky 2019). He is a co-founder of Documist and has received grants from the Sundance Institute, IDA Enterprise Fund, Catapult Fund and Doc Society. Pritz holds a Bachelor of Science from McGill University, where he studied Environmental Science and Philosophy. In 2012, he received an inaugural Dalai Lama Fellowship for his work developing film curricula alongside low-income communities in the Philippines and taught participatory film workshops for lawyers and human rights advocates around the world.

### 4. FASHION FOR FUTURES: EXPLORING THE PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

**Becky Hutner, Sibabalwe Ndlwana, Jacky May**

27 June 2023

CSLZA presented two virtual events in partnership with Encounters South African International Documentary Festival during June 2023 that were open to the public and live streamed.

Miki hosted a panel discussion about the climate impact of the fashion industry around the film *Fashion Reimagined*. The film's director, Becky Hutner, talked about its impact campaign. Local sustainable fashionistas textile designer Sibabalwe Ndlwana and Twyg editor Jacky May related the film's content and themes to the African context. The film follows trailblazing designer Amy Powney and her team on a quest to create a more ethical and sustainable fashion line. The conversation considered the stories, ideas and possibilities that lie within the realm of fashion's future.

### 5. POLLUTION, POLITICS, A PORTRAIT OF PURPOSE THROUGH TURBULENT TIMES

**Shaunak Sen**

28 June 2023

CSLZA presented two virtual events in partnership with Encounters South African International Documentary Festival during June 2023 that were open to the public and live streamed.

Anita and Liani hosted a conversation with the director of *All That Breathes*, Shaunak Sen. Set in the highly polluted city of Delhi and filmed during a period of political violence, this Oscar-nominated documentary is also the only film to have been awarded both the Grand Jury Prize in World Documentary Competition (Sundance) and the Golden Eye: Best Documentary (Cannes). Beautifully filmed and rendered with great empathy, the film is a testament to the power of human care to repair the damage we have inflicted on nature, the environment, and the countless species with whom we share the planet. Join this session as we discuss how *All That Breathes* subtly raises awareness and ignites compassion. It's climate storytelling at its best!



## 2. BRINGING CLIMATE STORIES TO FESTIVALS & MARKETS

### ENCOUNTERS

**22 June – 2 July 2023**

In addition to hosting the two webinars at Encounters South African International Documentary Festival, Climate Story Lab supported the festival's climate film programme financially. This enabled the festival to programme quality climate storytelling and conversations with filmmakers and other stakeholders

### FAME WEEK / MIP Africa

**4 – 6 September 2023**

FAME Week is an annual event hosted at the CTICC in Cape Town. It offers content sessions, music showcases, film screenings, exhibitions and a variety of networking opportunities. MIP Africa – the African edition of the global market aimed at producers and distributors of film, television and digital content – is one of four shows that form part of this larger event.

CSLZA will host two panel discussions at FAME week this year, namely:

#### **Clean Up Your Act! How We Learned To Love The Planet And Minimise Our Contribution To The Climate Crisis**

**5 September 2023**

It seems like an insurmountable challenge: How do you make production sustainable? How do you ensure that your talents and skills are not being used to further the agendas of contributors to the climate crisis? How can you help reduce film production's carbon footprint? This panel will come at the issue from three different perspectives and offer feasible solutions for everyone from individual creatives to the biggest production companies.

The panellists are Stephen Horn (SA country director: Clean Creatives & Politically Aweh! Producer); Reinie Swart (Founder: Eco Ninjas) and Andy du Plessis (Managing director: FoodForward SA)

#### **CSLZA 2023 projectspotlight: The Power Of Story To Drive Change**

**6 September 2023**

The co-directors of CSLZA invite the creatives behind three of the documentary film projects selected for Climate Story Lab Southern Africa 2023 to share their experiences of using powerful stories to address the climate crisis, and how cleverly crafted impact strategies can help shift the dial on this entrenched issue. The projects are in various stages of production and their creators will shed light on the impact challenges and opportunities inherent in development, production and distribution.

The panelists are Siza Mukwedini (The Conservationist producer, Zimbabwe), Rumbi Katedza (The Conservationist director, Zimbabwe), Tembisa Jordaan (Ulwandle Lushile director & marine scientist, South Africa), Alexandria Hotz (Namakwa producer & South African Lead Coordinator: Womin, South Africa)

### 3. ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS

Lab co-directors Miki, Liani and Anita offer regular check-ins and individual consultations with the project teams. When required we will bring in additional consultants to support project specific needs.

### 4. CONNECTIONS TO OPPORTUNITIES & NETWORKS

The Lab team has supported projects with funding applications and alerted them to opportunities. Some of these have led to direct outcomes, such as funding support or participation in additional programmes, including:

- 3 projects received funding from UMI to the value of 10 000 USD each, namely *Congo en Panne*, *Lushile Ulwandle* and *Burning Rebellion*.
- 2 projects received Storytelling Microfunding, totalling 5 000 USD, namely *The Conservationist*, *Chikukwa Custodians & Forest Spirits of Azibo*
- *Namakwa* has been selected to participate in the Durban Filmmart Access program. CSLZA proposed the project to DFM.
- *Chikukwa Custodians* and *Namakwa* have been selected for the Generation Africa Climate series, developed by STEPS. CSLZA proposed both projects to STEPS.
- Project outlines were shared with the African Climate Foundation and a few were selected for further engagement, starting with one-on-one meetings between ACF and three project leads. Support TBC.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The CSLZA team is positive about the Lab outcomes and the incredibly valuable space for engagement that was created. The selection process – consisting of 3 rounds, namely initial filtering, longlisting and shortlisting – was rigorous and a lot of attention was paid to the details of each project. We believe this paid off in the quality of the nine projects selected. They range widely in form, genre, target audiences, issues, impact goals, representation and stages of production.

In future we would like to expand our reach into more Southern African countries. The majority of eligible submissions were from South Africa, where the CSLZA team is based, and we would like to see more projects from countries with less access to production and distribution support, like Lesotho, Botswana, eSwatini, Namibia, Zambia and Angola. We were pleased, however, to have been able to select projects telling stories from five different countries, namely South Africa, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Uganda; and host guest speakers from four African countries (South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Lesotho), as well as Zoom engagements with stakeholders in the US and Europe.

A key learning that we'll apply in planning future CSLZA labs is to programme fewer speakers and allow more time for free flowing conversation with each. Our programme was packed, including 9 project presentations and 13 guest speakers, as well as inputs from the 3 Lab co-directors and pop-up mobile film and VR screenings in the evening. We several saw sessions running over, but eliciting such vibrant engagement from the participants that we didn't want to cut them short. This created unnecessary stress and forces us to cut a few planned inputs from the programme on the day. In future Labs, we would consider adding 1 more day to the schedule and/or reducing the number of guest speakers, guarding in particular against programming similar or overlapping content. We will also reduce the amount of time each project has to pitch to the room, but allow pre-Lab support for teams to streamline their presentations.

The location was well-suited to the Lab's needs. It's very well-appointed and the distance from Cape Town (50 kms) is ideal. We would like to consider other venues in future, like the newly completed Bertha Retreat in Stellenbosch (also approximately 50 kms from Cape Town), where the vision of the venue aligns with CSLZA objectives. The relationship with Bertha Spaces already exists through the events hosted at Bertha House in Mowbray and so taking the lab to the Bertha Retreat is a natural extension of this relationship. The ethos of Bertha Spaces supports our vision for social and climate justice. As such, the accommodation and conference spaces can offer on-going engagement and relationship building.



Our programme manager, Tarha McKenzie, and coordinator, Thihangwi Ramutsindela, were often stretched. In future we would like to bring more hands on deck to support logistics, tech and participant movement order. Despite the workload, they kept all systems on track and managed to problem solve with distinction.

Our publicist, Sharlene Versfeld, did a wonderful job of getting the word about CSLZA23 out to the media and we received a lot of interest, including print coverages, radio- and television interviews. A summary of media coverage can be found [here](#). We further set up a website, commissioned a designer to create the visual identity for CSLZA, and engaged a social media coordinator who made sure posts about the projects and lab went out regularly.

We engaged a student team to do the "Behind the Scenes" video and photography. We chose this option, not just for budget reasons, but to allow them exposure to the content and a learning opportunity. The results were variable, and we will team a student with a professional videographer/photographer in future, providing a good mentoring experience while taking the directing load off the CSLZA directors.

Climate Story Lab ZA 2023 was supported by the UMI Fund and hosted by the UCT Centre for Film and Media Studies in partnership with Doc Society and the Climate Story Unit. We hope to build on this experience and are - with your support - committed to offering CSLZA again in future.

Visit the Climate Story Lab ZA website [HERE](#)



# THE TEAM

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## **ANITA KHANNA | CSLZA CO-DIRECTOR**

South African-based writer and producer, Anita Khanna, has writing and producing credits that include the award-winning documentaries *Miners Shot Down*, *Everything Must Fall* and *How to Steal a Country*, plus a drama series for the South African Broadcasting Corporation, *The Mating Game*. In 2011 Anita drove the first live event of Good Pitch on African soil (Johannesburg 2011). Since then she has directed the Tri-Continental Social Impact Film Festival, (2011 – 2018), and produced three documentary series. She is currently collaborating with creatives and activists in Southern Africa to make *Hotspot Climate Series*, a six-part documentary that profiles climate justice activists in five Southern African countries. Anita is also a proud award-winning Impact Producer (BritDoc Impact Award 2015) for her film campaign work on *Miners Shot Down*.



## **LIANI MAASDORP | CSLZA CO-DIRECTOR**

Liani is a senior lecturer in the Centre for Film & Media Studies at the University of Cape Town. She convenes the Master of Documentary Arts degree programme, undergraduate Screen Production courses and the UCT Sunshine Cinema Film Impact Screening Facilitator short course.

She was one of the producers of *Strike a Rock*, which opened the Encounters International Documentary Film Festival in 2017, screened at Sheffield DocFest, IDFA and won the Best South African Documentary award at DIFF. She consults on and teaches impact strategy design. She has organised several impact events, including the UCT Encounters Impact Bootcamp and Impact Springboard. She is passionate about using stories to influence perceptions, behaviour and policy.



## **MIKI REDELINGHUYS | CSLZA CO-DIRECTOR**

Miki is a documentary filmmaker who believes in the power of film and creative narratives to inspire change. She is co-founder of Plexus Films, producing creative factual content since 2000. She collaborates with film teams to devise impact strategies for their campaigns and is the programme director for the UCT Sunshine Cinema Impact course. Her documentary, *This Land* (2018) has been part of a nationwide series of screenings and dialogues in mining-affected communities, supporting activist networks in far-flung places. She serves on the DFA board, supporting initiatives such as docLOVE film screenings and docSHARE knowledge sharing. She has an interest in creating stories for social and climate justice across various creative platforms.



### **TARHA MCKENZIE | PROGRAMME MANAGER**

Tarha has been an independent contractor in the film industry since 2011, focusing on Programme and Distribution Management. Her career highlights include managing Africa's premiere documentary festival – [Encounters](#). She helped create a pipeline for African content at [Big World Cinema](#), coordinated the [Black Women Disrupt](#) web series competition, and managed the catalogue for [TechRow](#) – a New York-based immersive educational start-up. Tarha assisted in connecting audiences and developing new business models for digital non-fiction stories at [Electric South](#) and was the Programme Manager for their annual AR/VR lab and research projects. She is currently Project Managing the Climate Story Lab Southern Africa.



### **THIHANGWI RAMUTSINDELA | PROGRAMME COORDINATOR**

Born in Limpopo, and raised in Cape Town, Thihangwi is a second-year MA student specialising in wildlife documentary and nature conservation in Southern Africa, at the University of Cape Town. She is a passionate tutor and facilitator who enjoys sparking conversations around film and environmental issues both inside the classroom and to the community around her.



### **MARGO CRESSWELL | SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR**

Margo is an aspiring documentary filmmaker, currently working on her BA Hons in Film Theory and Practice at the University of Cape Town. Margo's graduation film, *Pas de Deux*, is an experimental dance film which had a successful distribution across the African continent. Currently, Margo is working as a social media coordinator for UCT TV Studio while completing her documentary thesis.



### **MOLLY MAUNGANIDZE | ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Molly is driven, and passionate about people. She has a wealth of administrative experience gained from working in the Gender, Media and Development non-governmental sector and at the University of Cape Town's Television Studio (UCT TV). At UCT TV she handles administration portfolios, studio and post-production facilities bookings, and manages the Centre for Film and Media Studies (CFMS) production equipment pool. Molly is excited to be part of the CSLZA project where she serves as the administrative officer. She enjoys running for fun and will be doing her 2nd half-marathon in November.

# SELECTED PROJECTS

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Nine projects from five African countries were selected to participate in CSLZA23. Full project details and participant biographies can be found in the PDF pack [here](#). Below is a summary of the projects.

## 1. BURNING REBELLION

*'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.

**Organisation name: Well Worn Theatre Company**

**Principles (people) involved: Kyla Davis (Producer and Co-Devisor) and Sanelisiwe Yekani (Co-writer and Performer)**

**Form: Live Performance/Theatre**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

## 2. CHIKUKWA CUSTODIANS

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.

**Organisation name: Mycelium Media Colab**

**Principles (people) involved: Jacqueline van Meygaarden (Producer & Director) and Rumbi Katedza (Co-producer)**

**Form: Documentary Short Film**

**Country of Origin: South Africa and Zimbabwe**



### **3. CONGO EN PANNE: STORIES ABOUT ENERGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)**

'Congo en Panne' is a thrilling podcast series, produced by Radio Workshop, 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. 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.

**Organisation name: Radio Workshop**

**Principles (people) involved: Bob Yala, Jo Jackson, Clémence Petit-Perrot, Mike Rahfaldt and Amélie Guyot-Staal (Dissemination strategy, impact measurements and project oversight)**

**Form: Podcast Series**

**Country of Origin: Democratic Republic of Congo**

### **4. THE CONSERVATIONIST**

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.

**Organisation name: Mai Jai Films**

**Principles (people) involved: Rumbi Katedza (Director/Producer) and Siza Mukwedini (Producer)**

**Form: Documentary Film**

**Country of Origin: Zimbabwe**

## 5. FOREST SPIRITS OF AZIBO

'*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 specially 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.

Organisation name: Menzi Mkhwane Creations

Principles (people) involved: Menzi Mkhwane (Theatre Practitioner) and Sbusiso Mngqobi Mhlongo (Theatre Performer)

Form: Theatre

Country of Origin: South Africa, Durban

## 6. NAMAKWA: THE GREEN FRONTIER

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.

**Organisation name: WoMin African Alliance and Haroon Gunn-Salie Studio**

**Principles (people) involved: Haroon Gunn-Salie (Director and Executive Producer) and Alexandria Hotz (Producer and Executive Producer)**

**Form: Documentary Short Film**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

## 7. NAKHODHA AND THE MERMAID

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.

**Organisation name: YC Productions**

**Principles (people) involved: Yara Costa (Creative Director)**

**Form: Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Media**

**Country of Origin: Mozambique**

## 8. ADA'S HARVEST – AFRICA WILL FEED THE WORLD

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.

**Organisation name: GoTrolley Films**

**Principles (people) involved: Joanna Higgs (Director) and Liezel Vermeulen (Producer)**

**Form: Documentary Feature Film**

**Country of Origin: South Africa, filmed in Uganda**

## 9. ULWANDLE LUSHILE – MEETING THE TIDES

'*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.

**Organisation name: n/a**

**Principles (people) involved: Tembisa Jordaan (Director and Producer)**

**Form: Documentary Short Film**

**Country of Origin: South Africa, Durban**

# GUEST SPEAKER

## BIOGRAPHIES

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### **EMILY WANJA**

**Country of Origin: Kenya**

**Impact Producer | Global Community Manager - Climate Story Unit**

Emily Wanja uses storytelling to drive social change. She is an award-winning Impact producer for the campaign 'We Can Fight Climate Change' for the international feature documentary, 'Thank You for the Rain'. In conjunction with Docubox, she has worked with policymakers across national and county governments, private stakeholders, funders, civil society, and communities, using film as a tool for advocacy. She's on the Climate Justice Resilience Fund Advisory Council and on the Global Impact Producers Alliance Advisory Council. She is on the Kenya Oscars selection committee. Emily Wanja works at Doc Society as the global community manager at the Climate Story Unit.

### **ELAINE MAANE**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

**Organisation: STEPS**

**Regional Training Coordinator**

Elaine is part of the STEPS Impact department. She is Regional Training Coordinator responsible for programme development, regional network partner training and mentorship in using film as a tool to impact change. She coordinates the regional facilitated film screenings with trained facilitators within the network in seven countries within the partner organisations. Elaine has been using film as a tool through facilitated film screenings/training to impact change for over 18 years, working with various communities involving key stakeholders to promote ownership of the change processes. At home, I unwind by watching *Tom & Jerry* or with a good book.

### **KUDZAYI NGWERUME**

**Country of Origin: Zimbabwe**

**Organisation: Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund)**

**Communications & Engagement Manager**

Kudzayi is most excited about the ability to harness the power of storytelling and co-creation anchored in equity and justice to achieve breakthroughs. She joins UMI Fund from Greenpeace where she focused on building strategies for communications and creative partnerships as well as advocating for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in campaign design and delivery.

**KUMI NAIDOO****Country of Origin: South Africa****Human Rights and Environmental Activist**

Kumaran "Kumi" Naidoo is a human rights and environmental activist from South Africa. He served as Executive Director of Greenpeace International from 2009 to 2016 and Secretary General of Amnesty International from 2018 to 2020. Currently, Kumi Naidoo is an Honorary Professor of Practice at the Thunderbird School of Management at Arizona State University, Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford, and an Honorary Fellow at Magdalen College. He serves on the International Council of Transparency International and is a Global Ambassador of Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity. From 1998 to 2008, Kumi Naidoo was Secretary General and CEO of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, and from 1996 to 1998, he served as Executive Director of the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO), the umbrella body for the NGO community. During the time of apartheid, he was deeply involved in the mass mobilizations against the apartheid regime. He currently serves as a Special Advisor to the Green Economy Coalition and a Senior Advisor for the Community Arts Network (CAN) and is setting up the Riky Rick Foundation for the Promotion of Artivism.

**LEONIE JOUBERT****Country of Origin: South Africa****Science Writer and Author**

Leonie Joubert is a Cape Town-based science writer and author, focusing on environmental and social justice issues: climate and environmental collapse; why the modern food systems leaves us hungry, heavy, and sick; the political-economy forces driving both. Her most recent work has been published in National Geographic magazine, although she has written extensively in the South African media for 20 years, and has more than 10 books behind her.

**LISAKHANYA MATHISO****Country of Origin: South Africa****Organisation: 90by2030****Communications Intern and Climate Activist**

Lisakhanya is a youth climate activist from Cape Town, South Africa. Since 2019, she has built her knowledge and experience on climate justice issues in her participation on the YouLead Initiative with Project 90 by 2030, 'Youth Against the System' with the Alternative Information Development Centre, the 'Ambassadors programme' and spokes team for the African Climate Alliance. She believes in using art as a way of communicating her activism.



## **NADINE CLOETE**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

**Organisation: National Film and Video Foundation**

**Production & Development manager for Non-Fiction**

Nadine Angel Cloete is an independent filmmaker from Cape Town, South Africa. Her work focuses on themes of identity and history. Nadine's work has screened on national and international broadcasting platforms, online platforms, and global film festivals. Her documentary *Miseducation* premiered on the New York Times Op-Doc site and IDFA. *Action Kommandant* is Nadine's first feature documentary. *Action Kommandant* tells the story of liberation hero, Ashley Kriel. In 2019 Nadine branched out into fiction directing and *Address Unknown* is her first professional endeavour in this genre. *Address Unknown* premiered at the BlackStar Film Festival, USA and won the Audience Choice Award at the Durban International Film Festival. *Address Unknown* won the 2021 SAFTA for Best Short Film. Nadine is currently the Production and Development Non-Fiction Manager at the National Film and Video Foundation.

## **NAZEER SONDAY**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

**Organisation: PHA Food & Farming Campaign**

**Farmer, food security activist**

Nazeer Sunday is a regenerative farmer, entrepreneur, social and environmental justice activist and chairman of the PHA Food & Farming Campaign. The PHA Campaign is a community-based organisation that works to protect the 3000-ha Philippi Horticultural Area and the Cape Flats Aquifer- the city's food and water supply. Nazeer farms at Vegkop Polyculture Farm. The farm is a learning, training and knowledge production hub and co-managed by farmworkers upskilling to become farmers. Nazeer Sunday is an Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity The PHA Food & Farming Campaign is the 2022 Gold Award Winner in the Eco-Champions Ecological Awards

## **NEIL COPPEN**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

**Organisation: Empatheatre**

**Activist Storyteller**

Neil Coppen is one of South Africa's most prolific activist storytellers working across a variety of mediums and disciplines. Coppen has won several major awards for his writing, design and direction work including the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Drama and the Olive Schreiner Prize for Drama. In 2014 Coppen co-founded a social-justice, research-based theatre-making methodology and company titled Empatheatre ([www.empatheatre.com](http://www.empatheatre.com)) which has launched several ground-breaking theatre projects including *Soil & Ash* (focusing on rural communities facing pressure from coal-mining companies), *Ulwembu* (street-level Drug addiction), *The Last Country* (female migration stories), *Boxes* (Urban land justice inequalities in the city of Cape Town) and *Lalela ulwandle* (an international project supporting sustainable transformative governance of our oceans) and *Umkhosi Wenala* (focusing on coastal communities conflicts with iSimangaliso Wetland Park). Empatheatre was one of the recent recipients of the Bertha 2022 Artivism Award.

**NONTOKOZO SIBANYONI****Country of Origin: South Africa****Organisation: Sunshine Cinema****Media Coordinator**

Nontokozi Sibanyoni is a Spark Impact Sunshine Cinema Alumni, a podcast editor, media coordinator, and contributes to the overall running of the ambassador program at Sunshine Cinema. Nontokozi is a Marketing graduate, with a passion for digital marketing and finds it essential for youth to equip themselves with digital marketing skills as it is constantly evolving and creates room for income opportunities.

**PASCALINAH KABI****Country of Origin: Lesotho****Investigative Journalist**

Pascalinah Kabi is the author of *Pollution, Profits and the People* – an incendiary book that exposes the ugly reality of water mismanagement in Lesotho. The book was written and published as part of Pascalinah's Bertha Challenge fellowship, investigating the devastating impacts of mining on water sources. She has done ground-breaking work on effects of climate change on medicinal plants in Lesotho with support from Earth Journalism Network; impacts of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project on host communities under the Centre for Collaborative Investigative Journalism story grant and an expose on how the Lesotho government spent 30 percent of its health budget on one hospital.

**RENE WESTON****Country of Origin: South Africa****Organisation: Sunshine Cinema****Programmes Director**

Rene stepped into the Sunshine Cinema distribution space in 2021 and currently leads the implementation of impact screenings, partnering with diverse filmmakers and organisations while working with youth in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and all across South Africa. After qualifying as an Adult Educator, Rene gained more than 10 years' experience at Giant Films, working with director Ian Gabriel on both the Four Corners and Forgiveness feature films, while Line Producing international and local tv commercial and documentary projects. It was during her time as Head of Film at the SAE Institute that Rene discovered the growing network of Sunshine Cinema impact facilitators and the potential for providing youth with skills training and an access point into the film industry. She thrives on supporting authentic storytelling and human development.

**SUSAN LEVINE****Country of Origin: South Africa****UCT Professor and Head of Department of Anthropology**

Susan Levine is Professor and Head of Anthropology at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Her research spans the domains of visual and medical anthropology, with a specific interest in the role of the arts in health care settings. Anthropology is a form of storytelling and Susan's interest in a multi-modal approach to the genre is underpinned by a desire for sparking dialogue and building platforms for academic research that reach into public discourse. Susan has been lecturing in anthropology at UCT since 1999 and in that time has published books on child labour, the plurality of medical knowledge, and innovative pedagogy. Susan is a proud board member of Sunshine Cinema.

**VIVIAN CHUENE****Country of Origin: South Africa****Organisation: TikTok****Content Partnerships Manager**

Vivian Chuene is a Content Partnerships Manager at TikTok Africa supporting all partners and creators in Entertainment in the Southern African region. With over 13 years experience in the entertainment industry, Vivian has worked in the Comms & Branding space guiding notable brands on Strategies and brand positioning throughout the tenure of her career. Her daily motto is 'Do what you love and you will never have to work a day in your life' and this has seen her touch brands such as MTN, Multichoice Group, Volvo Cars, Coca Cola, Castle Lite, TRACE, Netflix, Liberty Group amongst many others. She is also a Podcaster (Coffee Conversations with Vivian) a culture curator and DJ in her spare time.

**XOLI FUYANI****Country of Origin: South Africa****Organisation: Black Girls Rising**

Xoli Fuyani is an Environmentalist who works on socio-environmental issues, guiding Young People to a Safe, Sustainable GreenFuture. She spent more than 15 years successfully educating intergenerational groups about nature and environmental issues, teaching in school to raise environmental awareness, training young climate activists, and inspiring them to live sustainability. Today, she is a founder of Black Girls Rising, working to grow a future defined by environmental and social justice, designing and delivering a dynamic, Afrocentric ecological education and action. When she's not training young black girl climate activists, you can find her leading groups of young people up the mountain, working with parents on food sovereignty, and optimistically encouraging young people to care for, protect and take personal action toward themselves, the earth, and others.

**ZACKIE ACHMAT**

**Country of Origin: South Africa**

**Organisation: #UniteBehind**

**Social Justice Activist**

Zackie has been a social justice activist for more than four decades, before and after the advent of democratic rule in South Africa. He's been most active in health, education, queer rights, spatial justice, commuter rail and recently energy / electricity. He has been involved in Movement building since the 90's as founding member of the Treatment Action Campaign where he fought a deeply political and personal battle for equal access to affordable HIV/AIDS medication. He has supported other social justice movements in South Africa such as Unite Behind, Equal Education, Ndifuna Ukwazi and the Social Justice Coalition.



Emily Wanja (Doc Society), Kumi Naidoo, Kudzayi Ngwerume (UMI Fund), Rishabh Lalani







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