



ECO-EXISTENCE

A CLIMATE JUSTICE MANIFESTO

**PREPARED BY
THE AFRICAN CROSSROADS
COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

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CONTEXT

THE AFRICAN CROSSROADS (AC) IS A COMMUNITY OF FUTURE-ORIENTED THINKERS AND DOERS WHO CRITICALLY REFLECT ON THE MOST CUTTING-EDGE ENTREPRENEURIAL, SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS ANCHORED IN AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRADITIONS. THE NETWORK CONSISTS OF MUSICIANS, ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, TECHNOLOGISTS, ANIMATORS, SCHOLARS AND ENTREPRENEURS FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT – NOTWITHSTANDING THIS POTENTIAL, CLIMATE CHANGE HAS RARELY BEEN INTEGRAL TO OUR COMMUNITY'S NARRATIVES UNTIL THIS MOMENT.

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WHAT DOES CLIMATE JUSTICE MEAN FOR AFRICA?
WITH SEVERAL ENGAGEMENTS AND
INTERVENTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE
AFRICAN CROSSROADS COMMUNITY, IT BECAME
CLEARER THAT THE GLOBAL PROGRESS TO
ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY HAS BEEN
MADE ON ALMOST EVERY FRONT – [BUT] WITHOUT
AN INTEGRATED ARTS-BASED APPROACH THAT
COULD ATTEND TO AND TRANSFORM EMOTIONS,
**CREATING HOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY, CARE AND
SOLIDARITY TO CHANGE SOCIETIES.** THE LACK OF
THIS INTEGRATION HAS LED TO A REDUCTION IN
EXPANSION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IMAGINATION
FOR YOUNG [CREATIVE] PEOPLE WHICH WOULD
EMPOWER THEM TO BE CO-CREATORS OF A NEW
TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE.

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**“SOMETIMES IT FALLS
UPON A GENERATION TO
BE GREAT. YOU CAN BE
THAT GENERATION”**

– NELSON MANDELA.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT THE AFRICAN
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY THOUGHT TO
CHAMPION A COLLECTIVE MANIFESTO ON CLIMATE
JUSTICE – AS **“ECO-EXISTENCE.”**

BEYOND ITS ROLE IN THE PURSUIT FOR CLIMATE
JUSTICE – THE MANIFESTO AIMS TO GIVE
INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN CULTURES AND CREATIVE
ENTREPRENEURS THE KNOWLEDGE AND
UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PERSONAL AND
COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DANGERS OF
THEIR (IN)ACTIONS TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT.

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OUR VISION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

AS A COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY, WE ENVISION A BETTER FUTURE AND TAKE STEPS TOWARDS A SHARED VISION THAT AIMS TO “INTENTIONALLY BUILD SYNERGIES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS, INSTITUTIONS, AUTHORITIES, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES THAT SPREAD AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS, NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY – IN ORDER TO DELIVER CLIMATE JUSTICE BY ORGANIZING SOCIETIES IN AN ECOLOGICALLY BENEFITING MANNER FOR ALL FORMS OF LIFE AND GENERATIONS TO COME”.

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**1 – DEVELOP
[INDIVIDUAL]
ASSESSMENTS OF OUR
CLIMATE ACTIONS [TO
BETTER UNDERSTAND
OUR OWN DAY-TO-DAY
RESPONSIBILITIES]**

- **IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND CALL FOR REGENERATION OF BEHAVIOUR THAT PREVENTS EXTRACTION.**
- **RECOGNISING ALL THE DIMENSIONS OF WELLBEING BY INVOLVING DIFFERENT VOICES, ESPECIALLY THE VOICES OF CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH.**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN KEEPING A SAFER PLANET.**

2 – CREATE THE AFRICAN CROSSROADS CLIMATE JUSTICE TOOLS [AS COMMUNITY GUIDELINES FOR OUR MEMBERS AND BEYOND]

- **CHAMPIONING INITIATIVES THAT RESPECT AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE ENVIRONMENT.**
- **EMPHASISING CLEAR AND HANDS-ON ECOLOGICAL ACTIONS / PRACTICES.**

**3 – INVEST IN
SUSTAINABLE
TECHNOLOGIES FOR OUR
CREATIVE PROCESS
[INCLUDING FESTIVALS
AND EVENTS, FASHION
AND ENGINEERING ETC]**

- **ENCOURAGE DESIGNING AND USING NATURAL, SUSTAINABLE AND RENEWABLE LOCAL MATERIALS.**
- **CAPITALISE ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES.**

4 – LOBBY FOR INTEGRATED FINANCING TOWARDS CLIMATE JUSTICE [FROM THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES]

- **ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POSITIVE ACTIONS.**
- **ENGAGE WITH POLITICIANS AT ALL LEVELS OF AUTHORITY WITH FACTS AND DANGERS.**
- **DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIAL MEDIA TO CREATE MORE AWARENESS AND REPORTING INCIDENTS AFFECTING THE CLIMATE.**

**5 – PROMOTE LEARNING
AND KNOWLEDGE
SHARING ON THE
DANGERS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE [WITHIN OUR
COMMUNITY OF
CREATIVES AND
BEYOND]**

- **ENCOURAGE DOCUMENTATION AND ARCHIVING OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION.**
- **TRANSLATE [SIMPLIFY] ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS TO LOCAL LANGUAGES TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR COMMUNITIES TO APPLY THEM TO THEIR DAILY LIVES.**

**6 – INITIATE AN AFRICAN
CROSSROADS CLIMATE
JUSTICE CERTIFICATE OF
GOOD PRACTICE OR
CONDUCT [AS AN
INCENTIVE TO OUR
COMMUNITY MEMBERS]**

- **BY IDENTIFYING AND CREATING A NETWORK OF CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIVATORS THAT FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE TO THE EFFORT OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT.**

7 – INVEST IN STRENGTHENING DATA COLLECTION ON ENERGY, WATER, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE [AS A BEST PRACTICE]

- **COLLABORATING WITH- RATHER THAN EXTRACTING FROM- HOST COMMUNITIES WHERE DATA IS BEING COLLECTED.**
- **MOVING TOWARDS RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL SYSTEMS AND TRADITIONS INVOLVING FOOD, WASTE, WATER AND ENERGY.**

8 - HOLDING PUBLIC AGENCIES AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACCOUNT, ENSURING PRACTICED ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

- **EDUCATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CALL OUT THE LACK OF ACTION IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEN HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER**

CONCLUSION

IN PREPARING THIS MANIFESTO – AS
A COLLECTIVE IN HYBRID GATHERING OUR
THOUGHTS AND INPUTS FROM ALL MEMBERS OF
THE AFRICAN CROSSROADS COMMUNITY - WE PUT
FORWARD FIRST OUR INDIVIDUAL VALUES,
MORALS AND ETHICS [IN TIME] DURING OUR
CREATIVE PROCESS TO ECOLOGY, COEXISTENCE,
CARBON NEUTRALITY, CLIMATE SOLUTIONS,
INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY, RECYCLING
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS. WE HOPE
IT WILL EXCITE, ENERGISE AND INSPIRE A NEW
MOVEMENT WITHIN THE ARTS AND CREATIVITY TO
SUSTAIN OUR PLANET.

WE ARE THEREFORE CULTURALLY GLOBAL AS LEADERS TO BEHOLD AND EMBRACE OUR TIMELY CONTRIBUTION TO OUR PLANET'S SUSTAINABILITY, **MINDFUL OF OUR INDIVIDUAL CHOICES AND AMBITIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A BOTTOM-UP** PROCESS OF SECURING THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. WE ARE CONVINCED AND FULLY EXCITED OF OUR **COLLECTIVE PURPOSE TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO, QUESTION SOLUTIONS AND WORK HARD TO BALANCE OUR LIVES FOR THE WELLBEING OF OUR PLANET. THIS IS OUR WILL TO CLIMATE JUSTICE AS THE AGE FOR ECO-EXISTENCE.**

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