

# Futures What If Climate **Adaptation Were Local?**

### **Exploring the Future of Just Green Transitions in Africa**

On the heels of COP27, New Silk Roads convened a Futures Lab to imagine: "What If Climate Adaptation Were Local? Exploring the Future of Just Green Transitions in Africa." Over the course of three days, Futures Lab participants constructed hopeful future scenarios for localized climate adaptation beyond just carbon emissions to support the health of the planet, people, and societies.

As they collectively imagined a range of preferred futures, Lab participants explored possibility over prediction and not just what could be, but, from their perspectives, what should be.

The scenarios which you will find in this book are the beginnings, the first steps, towards bringing about better futures. As you read, we invite you to step into these imagined futures and to continue questioning, imagining, and dreaming...

Welcome to Reclaimed Futures.

# **Table of Contents**

Artist Statement	4
Green Sense Is Business Sense	6
Balancing Power – Every Voice Counts	10
Mimicking Nature by Human Design	17
Think Local and Impact the Globe	23
Partners	27

# **Artist Statement**

'Reclaimed Future Lands' is an invitation to imagined futures speculations presented as a game where participants 'reclaim lands' based on the four future scenarios developed during a Futures Lab titled "What If Climate Adaptation Were Local: Exploring the Future of Just Green Transitions in Africa."

The concept of a game began during my study of the four future scenario texts. While reading them, I realized that each essay had specific keyword repetitions based on what each group found a necessity to integrate into the scenarios. For example, in one scenario, the word "business" was repeated 27 times. However, the meaning and context of the word each time on the x-axis and y-axis was subjectively different.

What if, for example, we analyzed the most repetitive keywords and placed them on a graph, where the x-axis is (nature, technology) and the y-axis is (society, government).

'By placing these keywords on the graph, the viewer needs to speculate what that future will look like by examining the meaning of that keyword and questioning how its meaning changes depending on the sentence and its placement in the text. As they imagine, I hope that viewers are motivated to come up with their own solutions as well as questions to add to these future scenarios; to begin imagining, maybe even writing their own 'Reclaimed Future Lands' narratives for futures that are more 'environmentally' focused.

Lastly, this game invitation is not about claiming a 'territory' but rather 'reclaiming' the land that already exists and we are living in it. Our land, a more preferred reconstructed imagined future.

Sabah Elhadid is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and graphic designer based in Cairo, Egypt. Her body of work revolves around questioning and hypothesizing the essence of a scientific study while bridging the gap between science and society into a visual that could be perceptibly touched and better understood through different forms of visual mediums.

### **Green Sense Is Business Sense**

Dear Diary,

Today is officially my first day as the director of our family business, the Impact Hustlers. My father started this circular farming business thirty years ago with a futuristic vision about green businesses.

Today, this vision has turned into a reality. We were able to different income create streams that ensure a resilient basis and enabled the farm to survive several crises. We were also among the first farming businesses in Kenya to sell directly to local communities, which resulted in improved for farmers incomes helped us to retain and expand the engagement of our local community members over the years.

Our team made this day a hundred times more special with a memorable celebration during our annual partners'

meeting. I was reminded of how business models have evolved over the past thirty to increased due years engagement of local members community and gender equality in all levels of business management.

Today, I am filled with gratitude and thankfulness for all the work we have done in the business world and the example we have set for localized business management coupled with environmental awareness.

The values that people ascribe changed have to now compared to the past. For example, two of my colleagues today mentioned how they now see nature and people as equal and regard nature as a partner, rather than just a resource. As such, we have witnessed a shift in business models to be more circular, such that all resources are reused and reintegrated back into the system.

I was also very proud to see that partners who believed in us since the beginning of our business have come together established multiple and networks of local community members to disseminate the knowledge and learning from our business model to several other neighbors and other farther countries. For example, our Algerian partner gave a speech on how he was inspired by how we use an application to integrate real-time collection across our business. which informs us about our operations' resource usage; just one example of how we mainstreamed have principle that green sense is business sense.

Thirty years ago, I never would have imagined that I would witness the moment where local community members have the financial resources to integrate green business innovations in so many sectors. I mean, who would have ever thought that one

entrepreneur's invention would help people to make huge sums of money AND drive us towards equitable access to financial resources? Honestly, his idea is brilliant. Launched just five years ago, his invention extracts people's thoughts and memories, but he monetizes the thoughts about green and environmental ideas that enable climate adaptation in business models. monetizes the thoughts about green and environmental ideas that enable climate adaptation in business models.

Community is now more aware of the environmental consequences of their activities; people now understand that businesses should be built around the golden three Ps: people, planet, and profit.

For the past thirty years, I have watched how my father adapted our business model to incorporate climate adaptation. The business environment has also changed a lot over the past years, which enabled all businesses incorporate to climate adaptation into their work and to maintain the global temperature increase below 1.5°C.

It is very clear now that there has been a significant change in the accessibility and acceptability of green products and the preferences of customers towards green products and business activities.

I, also, have witnessed how the government amended regulations related to environmental footprint reporting for all business products. For us, the shift was very easy because we have been environmentally conscious since the beginning of our operations, but this

regulation triggered a transformative shift in other business models by being more aware of environmental aspects and enabling climate adaptation.

I am very excited for our upcoming activities to share knowledge, best practices, and our business model on an international level!

Sincerely,

Jua Safi

- \* EE

- di esperation Filmes
- d premium

- + 12
- de regulation
   Etimos

- di dission

- de dy

- de tem
- + 100

### SCHOOLS SETTINGS

- 4 PM

- de bodom

### Green Sense Is Business Sense

and people as agent

"Gender equality in all levels of business measurement."

"Businesses should be built around the golden three Po people, planer, and profit."

The government
has amended regulations related to
reporting on the renironmental
footgeton of all frontness products."

### Balancing Power - Every Voice Counts

Milled the majority of my live stock.

The world, and our place? endured great suffering, particularly the photol courts."

nat surfitedly endorse pullshes and regulation

We expect our forest cover to much 500% in the court I years."

Corporations cannot legally operate without submitting annual reports about their carbon forgets

These rements prioritize the financial facilitation of climate adoptation

Indicates of women, delibror, your People with Disabilities (PWD), and

baselife deliter to reliterate representation date.

other manginulised groups, and her their energiation only harmor us all, not not their energiation only harmor us all, not only by our building them from main atream society, but site by increasin costs of social core, that can be replaced by the community-core."

### Mimicking Hature by Human Design

result of the catestrophes on by the world's passivity in the

ment blowners

from the city to their green cases:

unerted to the behavior of indivi-



that people-art healthier By following their behavior and tracking their health;

for this purpose."

### Think Local and Impact the Globe

members to share a specific knowle about local beritage or history

"Look for a plant in this area and

Yestopiloted green-car-which works on autogenerated resemble energy

communities and to give useful tools to the community to develop in a custoinable way."

and its food imports/by 90%."

# **Balancing Power - Every Voice Counts**

Good afternoon, comrades. I am Joanna Simaloi, cultural leader of one of the Masai tribes of Southern Kenya. I come from a nomadic family, based its activities which around herding cows sheep and other agricultural practices. But that was thirty years ago, before the severe drought of 2022 killed the majority of my livestock and left my family on the brink of starvation.

Now, I live in a world where people like myself and my family—those most affected by climate change—have a voice and decision-making powers to influence those who have been the biggest polluters and responsible for this mass destruction, and to hold them accountable.

Currently, I represent my tribe in the Kenyan Climate Alliance, an active member of the Pan-

African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). But do not worry, PACJA is nothing like it used to be before the drought, when it was a platform for endless discussions, zero action, and only represented civil society.

Nowadays, I can say with confidence that PACJA the voices needs and expectations of everyone in Africa, including the local communities who evidently have been disproportionately affected by climate change. Today, PACJA not only listens to-but also enforces the voice of-every faction of society, tribes, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups through district, subnational, national representation. Now, problems of African peoples are being addressed and prioritized. Now, we the people can feel our own power for change.

PACJA's evolution was a direct of the result catastrophes caused by the world's passivity in the past thirty years. The world and our planet endured great suffering, particularly the South, before Global collectively grew aware that the problem lay in how we had been incentivizing economic growth, efficiency, private eventually, ownership, and corporate greed, over the collective welfare of our fellow citizens of this planet. Today, that is a thing of the past that we have learned greatly from.

Today, the world has slowed down its pace of production geared itself towards and sustainability. It also has learned how to install incentive actively frameworks that policies enforce regulations that protect us from falling into another downward spiral of self-sabotage.

In Africa, we can credit this to PACJA, which has developed

regional incentive and penalty frameworks that keep governments of nations and corporations (both national and multinational) accountable and aligned with the resolutions of the Climate Convention of 2042.

The convention now dictates the environmental regulations for a just and green transition to be upheld by all member nations and corporations who operate within the continent. For example, a multinational company is now disallowed from operating in any African nation if they still use plastic in their packaging and do not adopt a zero-plastic policy (or in some cases, have a clear plan to reach zero-plastic in the next three years). Corporations must also keep their carbon emissions below convention limit. This is no longer an option for them to choose whether or not to abide by those regulations.

They cannot legally operate without submitting annual reports about their carbon footprints that prove that they are below the limit.

hand. On the other governments must now use renewables their as energy source. Otherwise, they are penalized for each kWh produce from thev renewables, which has brought down the regional usage of non-renewables to 25% (as opposed to 90% back in 2022). PACJA has also successfully governments lobbied prioritize funding for water retention and harvesting systems, as well as circular desalination techniques where natural water reservoirs are accessible.

You may wonder, where does PACJA get its funding? How has it become such a powerful influence on the governments and corporations of Africa and even the world? My children will soon enroll in high school and eventually, university, with a positive mindset towards nature and its true, undeniable value to humanity.

We can proudly say that the penalties we have imposed on the greatest polluters, as well as the ones that are still transitioning to comply with regulations, has helped become a force not to reckoned with. Governments have no choice but to prioritize the financing and facilitation of adaptation climate and mitigation projects, and climate-related ministries now hold much greater power than they used to.

The future and impact of PACJA and its regulatory powers are optimistic, because I see that my five children who attend primary school are being educated about and growing more aware regarding climate adaptation and responsible sustainable environmental practices. Their educational curriculum allows them to see the negative impact exploiting nature, while circular economy practices, such as waste segregation, are part of their daily activities.

My children will soon enroll in high school and eventually, university, with positive а mindset towards nature and its true, undeniable value humanity. Schools now also go positive further to create traditional changes to our social and cultural norms that had long impeded our process of change and evolution.

For example, my children now learn about sexual and reproductive health rights to mitigate overpopulation risks; they also learn about the value of including women, children, youth, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. They learn how exclusion harms us all, not just through excluding some groups from mainstream society, but also by increasing costs of social care be replaced can community-based care.

This has resulted in a shift in many of the social norms that once held us back, including the dominant role of men in decision-making processes, and has helped introduce people from a very young age into development and decisionmaking processes. Now, while our tribal preserve we traditions, we also empower provide and women for their alternatives professional and personal growth.

For example, the practices of arranged or forced marriage are no longer accepted. Similarly, women can choose if they want to continue their education after high school or take care of their households.

I can now happily say that my tribe has access to clean water: once a luxury we never even dreamed of! We can find this clean water nearby, which has reduced the carrying burden on women who historically would spend a long time traveling to fetch water, at the expense of productive engaging in activities or participating in decision-making platforms for the wellbeing of their families and communities.

We can also proudly say that we, the people of Africa, have contributed immensely to halting the global rise in temperature through our practices and through programs such as the 10x Tree

Mandate, which dictates that the cutting down of a tree can only take place when replaced with ten trees. This new successfully mandate has regenerated our forests back to 85% cover from its status prior to the industrial revolution. help With the of technologies patented by our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, using natural, are we methods sustainable accelerate tree growth by five times their natural growth rate and expect our forest cover to reach 100% in the next five years.

Finally, I must congratulate us all on the new production criteria and policies that have been put in place, which have managed to push corporations to a completely new ethos of "needs-based production," resulting in products of higher quality, longer life spans, and that comply with health standards.

The production of goods and services has transitioned to be almost fully local, and is truly built around and commissioned based on the needs and rights of the population. We must also not forget that PACJA was the main driving force for the Pan-African Rail Network (PARN), which now covers most of the continent with environmentallyfriendly, truly green public transportation that has drastically minimized the need for fossil fuel transportation.

We remain hopeful and positive the model we have that implemented in Africa will nations across the inspire world. and that similar coalitions and alliances will be to empower created enforce the equitable, inclusive decision-making processes to maintain a green and just planet for us all.





- + ----

- \* 755

- \* 100
- SCHOOL STREET

### Green Sense Is Business Sense

Thurseines plumpt for built necessal like guiden three the people, places, and profit

### Balancing Power - Every Voice Counts

### Himicking Nature by Human Design

### Think Local and Impact the Globe

erro la disersa aperilla bassi

## **Mimicking Nature by Human Design**

In 2055, food and agriculture within inclusive. operated circular economies across the Middle East and North Africa. Both the government and the private sector prioritize circular economies and value circular businesses, as expressed through policies and as societal value. Recognizing that all life comes from soil, primary schools take the shape of farms, while urban centers are of greenery and entertainment. People aspire to live further away from the city and for family lives to be governed by a love for food and the natural world.

Deep learning data on people's behavior and consumption is linked to clean data on accurate supply and demand supply chains. By following people's behavior and tracking their health, this data collection aims to ensure that people eat thealthier in conjunction with what is realistically available in their location. For example, a "connected fridge" will tell you what you can eat and should eat. It will also visually display the soil quality of products which people consume, providing a direct correlation between soil health and nutrition.

### The Connected Self

Firstly, behavioral patterns and consumption trends in 2055 are connected to an extremely high-tech supply and demand value chain and people are told what is best to eat for their health and for the planet.

In response to prior levels of grossly unsustainable food waste, waste is now called food residue. Within the home, people discuss the value of residue rather than waste.

People also no longer waste food at a large scale because supply and demand match one another accurately and connect to the behavior of individuals.

Previously, large corporations had become larger and larger. Too big to fail, they overexerted their power. But by requiring data to be connected to the blockchain, there is now data transparency at all levels, from the consumer to the supply and demand chains of companies (including large corporations). Increased transparency for corporations had also been pushed for through policies, regulation, and the democratic will of the people.

For example, many large companies control and own the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture. These GMOs do not respect nature, as they allow us to forcefully alter nature without listening to its wants and needs.

However, the cost of GMOs and eating these types of foods are shown as health costs in the "connected self," where a "connected data twin" tells us why and how GMOs are unhealthy and advises us on how to create healthy, safe versions of GMOs.

### **Biodiversity Markets**

The CO2eq financial market is widely utilized. from governments to the private sector to individuals. Ecoin CO2eq currencies, known as EcoCoin, act as "biodiversity credits" by assigning value to land, gardens, forests, and farms, thus entrenching true accounting principles. cost These E-coins are displayed in supermarkets when buying a product or on a phone, where people trade E-coins easily, like on the stock market.

Using E-coins, people, farmers, and even cities are financially rewarded for contributing to a positive economy. more Farmers, for example, are rewarded when they save water, create more clean water, or do not pollute water. Coming back to soil, farmers who produce food on healthy soils are similarly rewarded with Ecoins. This system helped to reverse severe water scarcity and "water wars" due to groundwater being used up. Previously, soils with low organic matter were not absorbing water, thus contributing to flash floods and water waste when water was not reabsorbed by the land.

By "carbonizing" land, land is now more valuable unused than used and is valued through activities like agro-tourism. While some people are further from nature and removed biodiversity, the monetisation of positive contributions to the economy

rewards people for contributing to biodiversity and ensures that people can still touch and interact with nature in their lives.

In parallel, the biodiversity of one's home or mini farm is now a point of pride. The valueaddition of agricultural aided produce, technological advances, also occurs at closer proximity to farms, thereby increasing farmer profits and making farming more profitable.



66 Today, everyone can farm, even at the micro level. In the cities, primary schools are farms which integrate children into farm management, soil management, and environmental education, starting at the most basic levels.

Even household gardens are highly valuable; the more care that people put into them, the more value they reap.

People also appreciate nature like they once appreciated and valued pets during the previous generations.

### Everyone Is a Farmer: Adaptive Farming & Ruralification

Organic agriculture was long ago abolished by lobbies, after which it was replaced by regenerative agriculture and later, resilient agriculture. Today, a natural, adaptive form of farming and respect for nature has largely replaced resilient agriculture and it is expected that each new wave society will become more and more integrated into adaptive farming.

Today, everyone can farm, even at the micro level. In the cities, primary schools are farms which integrate children into farm management, soil

management, and environmental education, starting at the most basic levels. As part of the government's support for the circular economy, primary school farms form cornerstone of education and learning.

However, contributions farming vary depending on the social class of an individual and only the privileged upper classes are able to live outside of the city and own small plots of land. Enabled by remote work, this class is drawn by a more luxurious and "simple" life outside of the city, rather than being pushed or forced to migrate; however, busy city centers still suffer from high pollution and lower quality of life due to traffic, air quality, and safety concerns. Outside of cities, exercise and gyms, for example, are replaced outside farming work while quality family time revolves around cooking and an understanding of nature.

The middle class will strive to live a more simple life like their upper class counterparts and be very educated about nature. The lower classes will still be living in apartments, but with green walls and green roofs and will aspire to follow the upper classes to the countryside.

Finally, green centers and entertainment hubs now occupy the spaces created by the upper classes leaving the city center: once unimaginable given urbanization trends in the region. Not to mention the fact that much of the upper class once lived on very fertile lands (a massively wasted opportunity!), such as in Cairo, itself a delta in a desert. Today, however, some of these spaces are now urban farms. For example, Ghardaia in Algeria is now a commune-type city where people live together in harmony.





- \$ man

- \* ===

- 7 100
- \* 127

### Green Sense Is Business Sense

They are become and people to opinio

Per personal property and profits:

Account Survey by Just Andrew S. Short Strong Strand and commission

committed regulations compare parting on the communication opened of all framework problems

### Balancing Power - Every Voice Counts

per the required beyond of nature explicited.

### Himicking Hature by Human Design



### Think Local and Impact the Globe

pumbers to claim a specific based done head before a billion

# Think Local and Impact the Globe

One morning in 2050, in a city along the Mediterranean, the clucking of hens and chicken announced the beginning of the day for a family: a father, a mother, and a 14-year-old daughter. The daughter refuses to wake up, but her smart glasses confirm that the day indeed started has recommends what she should wear based on the day's weather. Today is Wednesday, one of the two days per week that she meets her peers and teacher in person; convene virtually the other days of the week.

Unfortunately, she can't have a shower today, as her parents have set a rule that she can't shower more than three times a week to save water. So, without a shower, she eats her homemade breakfast, washes last night's dishes with treated water (just for washing) and rides her hybrid bicycle to class in a nearby park.

At the park, she finds her teacher teaching fellow students about how to preserve the environment:

### Teacher:

Hello everyone. Today, we are going to play a game where every group will look for a plant in this area and then talk to us about it.

We also have Mr. Ammar, who is visiting us today. Surely you recognize him as the chef from the restaurant around the corner, Edible Plants. Once you have collected your plants, we will work together to invent a new dish composed of the edible plants that you have foraged.

### Student:

Excuse me, teacher, but can I make a suggestion? What if we also present this project in a village in the South?

We could learn more about the plants which they have there and learn from our different culinary cultures. It's an example of biodiversity, no?

Teacher:

Students, what do you think? Do you agree?

Class (in unison!):

Yes!!

Teacher:

That's decided then. Great, let's get started...

In the afternoon, it is the mother's turn to host a permaculture workshop for community members. She has been offering this workshop regularly as part of a local initiative which started two years ago where each family invites community members to learn about a local practice or piece of heritage from the town.

In the evening, the mother, her child, and the father jump in their auto-piloted green car—which uses auto-generated, renewable energy— and ride to the town hall, where they will attend a public meeting about a new project for the town.



I want you to know that the city hall is here to support you, the community, and provide useful tools for the community to continue developing in a sustainable way. As you all know, it is important to value our local knowledge and our ancestral methods.

### Mayor:

Hello everyone, I am Emna Ayari, the new mayor. I am glad to be participating in this meeting, which is a great opportunity to share our work and to meet the families of this town.

I want you to know that the city hall is here to support you, the community, and provide useful tools for the community to continue developing in a sustainable way. As you all know, it is important to value our local knowledge and our ancestral methods. For this reason, we have opened a new learning lab, an informal education space where the community can meet and learn from our diverse community members. For example, you can come to the learning lab for guidance on how to measure or scale your projects, which many of you are already sharing through community-led workshops hosted by our local families.

You might wonder, how have we designed this building? As mandated by legislation, which mandates that every city takes responsibility for its carbon emissions, we have constructed this building to be self-sufficient and carbon-free.

This building has been funded by a grant to support our goal of making the city 100% selfsufficient when it comes to producing our own food and water: a goal which we are well on our way to achieving!

As you know, over the last thirty years, our country has decreased its food imports by 50% and significantly diversified our economy.

Today, local production is not a dream. It is our reality.

# -

- 0 700

- O Design

- \* ===
- + 1

- + ==

- 9 (100)

### PERSONAL PROPERTY.

- \* EE

- 9 700

### Green Sense Is Business Sense

### Balancing Power - Every Voice Counts

Continues of the contin

### Mimicking Nature by Human Design

We require the literature of the B. 1979.

more bladhorin, quitto le rivesados le- tam program.

### Think Local and Impact the Globe

"Makings has into he for front and motive





This Futures Lab was convened with ElRehla as part of the <u>Hivos</u> GreenWorks Alliance, with support from the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment (CFYE) and with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ElRehla ("the journey" in Arabic) hosts unconventional retreat experiences across Egypt. Since 2013, ElRehla has provided retreat participants with the opportunity to connect, reflect, and build trust.

<u>GreenWorks</u> contributes to climate change mitigation by creating sustainable business and job opportunities in North Africa's green economies.

<u>The CFYE</u> aims to create a prosperous future for 200,000 young women and men by supporting youth employment initiatives, in partnership with the private sector, in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, West Africa, and the Horn of Africa. The CFYE is managed by Palladium, VSO Nederland, and Randstad.

The Futures Lab scenarios were developed by: Ahmed Slim Bouakez, Ahmed Rady, Aziza Shaat, Beatrice Gichohi, Camee van Knippenberg, Carolijn Gommans, Dan Kayemba, Elemam Musa, Hana Ayadi, Harriet Mbabazi, Jihed Bitri, Kacem Ballouh, Khaled Sherif, Lama Amr, Livia Sossou, Mariam Abdelkarim, Martijn Blom, Naomi Korir, Raouia Bouchriha, Serag Moussa, and Tommie Hooft van Huijsduijnen

### In partnership with:







