



Annual Report 2025

Celebrating 20 Years of Faith in Action, Caring for People and Planet



Shona prayer from Zimbabwe

Great Spirit, piling up rocks into towering mountains,
when you stamp on the stone,
the dust rises and fills the land.

Father, you sew the heavens like cloth:
knit together what is below.

Caller-forth of the branching trees,
you bring forth the shoots that stand erect.

Wonderful one, you live in the midst of the sheltering rocks.

You give rain to humankind.

Hear us, O Lord!

Show mercy when we beg you.

Gracious One, you are on high with the spirits of the great.
You raise the grass-covered hills above the earth and create the rivers.

– *The Prayers of African Religion, John Mbiti,
World Council of Churches (source)*



Table of contents

Letter from our Chair	4
Vision and Mission	4
Letter from our Executive Director	5
About us	6
Our Objectives	6
2025 In Numbers	7
Theory of Change 2025-2028	8-9
2025 Top Highlights	10
Highlights by Geographical Region	10-11
Our Programmes	12
Animal Justice	13
Energy and Climate Justice	14
Food and Climate Justice	15
FLEAT	16
FLEAT Geographical Footprint	17
Rural Action for Climate Resilience	18-19
Communications	20
Financial Overview	21-23
SAFCEI	24
Staff and Board	24
Thank you	25
Celebrating 20 years of SAFCEI	26-27

List of acronyms

EU	European Union
FLEAT	Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training
GAW	Green Action Week
JET	Just Energy Transition
NPC	Non-Profit Company
OWA	Open Wing Alliance
RACR	Rural Action for Climate Resilience
SAFCEI	Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute
SCAT	Social Change Assistance Trust
UNEA-7	Seventh United Nations Environment Assembly
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
ZAR	South African Rand

Letter from our Chair

Our purpose, “People of faith caring for living Earth,” has never been more needed than it is now. Amidst devastating conflict, geopolitical volatility and questionable, inhumane leadership, we, at SAFCEI, have chosen to keep faith alive.

In 2025, we enlarged our footprint in international policymaking at UNFCCC intersessionals (UN Climate Meetings) and the Seventh United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7). The faith that our funders, donors (particularly anonymous ones), and partners have demonstrated in SAFCEI is way beyond the ZAR 14m+ quantification and we can hardly express our gratitude in words.

Thanks to our indefatigable, gender-progressive Board and self-driven management and staff, we continue to say a resounding NO to false solutions and

to build real, sustainable, faith-anchored solutions, as envisaged in our 2025-2028 Theory of Change. Africa and the world now know SAFCEI – and we just got started!

David Munene,
Board Chair



Vision and Mission

People of faith caring for living Earth.



Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Earthkeepers,

As we celebrate 20 years of action, our vision remains steadfast: people of faith caring for living Earth. I am immensely proud of the Earthkeepers network's collective achievements in advancing climate and eco-justice across the region. In 2025, we launched SAFCEI's strategic vision for 2025-2028. Thousands of faith leaders took eco-action and our media reach was over one billion people.

Central to our ethos is challenging governance and policy decisions that threaten well being and our common home. Under our umbrella campaign, #NoFaithInFalseSolutions, we stood firm against vested interests that seek to exploit the vulnerable. This included mobilising against the threat of unnecessary and costly oil, gas and nuclear energy expansion. African Faith Leaders also advocated for reparations to address the devastating impacts of industrial

agriculture on African food systems and the communities that depend on them.

Truly just transitions require holistic alternatives. Our #CageFreeSA campaign fights the cruelty of factory farming by successfully securing corporate commitments for ethical egg production. Together, we reject false fixes and continue to champion authentic, community-centered solutions for a sustainable future.

Francesca de Gasparis,
Executive Director



To support and mobilise people of all faiths and none – to increase awareness, understanding, and action on energy, food, climate and eco-justice, and sustainable consumption.

About us

The Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI), founded in 2005, is a multi-faith environmental justice organisation supporting Southern African faith communities to advance eco-justice, sustainable living, and climate action.

We work with people and communities of all faiths and none. Our network includes African traditional healers, members of Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Rastafarian and Quaker faiths, various Christian denominations and indigenous faiths, along with many other faith-affiliated communities.



Our Objectives

Empower and mobilise faith communities for climate and eco-justice advocacy.

Influence policy and promote ethical governance in climate justice matters.

Build and strengthen partnerships to drive collective action on climate justice.

2025

In Numbers



R14 013 495

in funding



1+ Billion

People reached across our platforms
and media channels



Training & Capacity Building

1 440

Faith leaders & green
champions trained

35

training sessions

6 FLEATs

15 webinars

13 community workshops

1 RACR workshop

FLEAT: **191** participants

Webinars: **846** participants

Community workshops: **403**
participants



Events & participation

6

Events held

218

faith leaders and green champions
attended SAFCEI events

8

regional & international
presentations



Advocacy & Policy Influence

114

Policy briefs & letters

26

Formal submissions

Energy Justice: **18**

Climate Justice: **3**

Food & Climate Justice: **4**

Animal Justice: **1**



Campaigns

#CageFreeSA

#NoFaithInFalseSolutions

#NuclearFreeSA

#EnergyPlan4All

#Faiths4SustainableFarming

#GreenActionWeek

#SeasonOfCreation

100

Collaborative partners



Research & Knowledge

5

Research projects commissioned

3 publications 1 factsheet 15 country study



Inclusion & Representation

84%

of our staff and
55% of our board
members were
women.

62%

of our FLEAT
participants were
women, and 49%
were youth.

Theory of Change 2025-2028



People of Faith caring for living Earth



2025 Top Highlights

- Launched the **#NoFaithInFalseSolutions** umbrella campaign, which ranged from Energy and Climate Justice to Factory Farming.
- In-depth research on the **threat of nuclear energy** in South Africa and the region.
- Public campaign and legal submission against the Koeberg **Nuclear Power Plant** Unit 2 nuclear licence extension.
- Africa-wide campaign of Faith Leaders calling for **reparations from the Gates Foundation** for the devastating impacts of industrial agriculture.
- Launched three **African Indigenous Foods Publications** at our regional Women's FLEAT workshop.
- Ran a webinar on the **True Cost of Egg Production** across five Sub-Saharan African countries.
- Launched the **#CageFreeSA** [website](#) and [Instagram](#) page.
- Celebrated **20 Years of SAFCEI**.

Highlights by Geographical Region

South Africa



The **#NoFaithInFalse Solutions** campaign mobilised faith leaders and communities from the West Coast, including Doringbaai and Saldanha, to challenge the harmful climate and energy “solutions” of oil, gas and nuclear. Pursuing fossil fuels and unproven techno-fixes entrenches injustice. Through advocacy, public engagement and training, the campaign amplified ethical, people-centred alternatives.

Zambia



During Green Action Week, Rev Josphat Nkole in Chipata from the United Church of Zambia led community environmental actions attended by 470 people. The programme began with a community march to the DK Stadium on 22 August, calling on the church to take meaningful action in response to the climate crisis through environmental stewardship, sustainable living and community resilience initiatives. This was followed by community leaders' workshops on 29 August and 12 September, which focused on agroecology and sustainable farming. Traditional and faith leaders were trained in

eco-friendly farming methods that reduce costs, improve food security and strengthen communities' ability to adapt to climate change. The campaign aimed to build organic farming capacity as a practical response to the growing impacts of climate change.

Zimbabwe



Civil society in Zimbabwe united against the UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) declaration process, highlighting concerns about farmers' rights, seed sovereignty, and the protection of indigenous seed systems. Faith-based and community voices called for seed laws that prioritise food sovereignty, biodiversity, and the rights of smallholder farmers to save, exchange, and cultivate traditional seeds.

Malawi



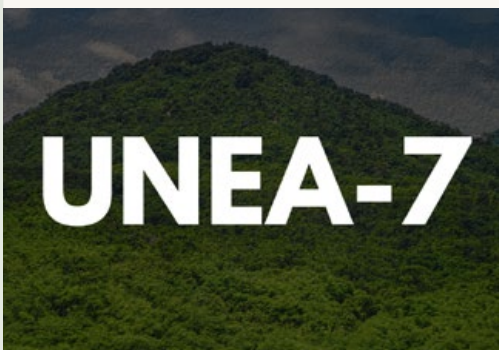
The Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) Malawi III cohort adopted a hybrid workshop format, combining in-person workshops with virtual learning sessions to expand accessibility and deepen participation. Groups gathered in communities in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Liwonde, and Mzuzu, enabling broader engagement of faith leaders across Malawi. The programme's focus is on building advocacy skills, strengthening eco-faith leadership, and responding to climate and environmental challenges.

Kenya



SAFCEI participated in the inaugural Animal and Vegan Advocacy Africa Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, where we spoke on a panel addressing farmed animal welfare and cage-free advocacy. The discussion highlighted the importance of understanding diverse African contexts within egg industries when advancing cage-free campaigns across the continent.

UNEA-7



SAFCEI participated in the closing civil society processes of the Seventh United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in December, supporting the Farmers Major Group's call for environmental governance that centres the needs of farmers and rural communities. The statement highlighted the urgent need to resist the impacts of extractive economic models on land, water and livelihoods, while advocating for agroecological solutions and stronger accountability for corporate polluters.

Our Programmes

SAFCEI's programmes respond to the growing climate, environmental, social and economic challenges facing communities across Southern and Eastern Africa. Increasing climate impacts – including floods, droughts and heat waves that result in food insecurity and biodiversity loss – and harmful development pathways such as fossil fuel and nuclear expansion and industrial agriculture deepen inequality and continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Through advocacy, training and movement-building, SAFCEI supports faith leaders, green champions, grassroots organisations and communities to advance climate justice, sustainable living and environmental custodianship rooted in care for people and living Earth.

SAFCEI's core programmes are:

Animal Justice: Advancing the humane treatment of farmed animals and the rights of wildlife/nature through advocacy and public awareness.

Energy and Climate Justice: Promoting climate and energy justice for all, including a just energy transition to renewable, people-centred energy systems while challenging false climate solutions.

Food and Climate Justice: Supporting agroecology, food sovereignty, seed justice and climate resilience, and campaigning against industrial agriculture and harmful practices.

SAFCEI's flagship training platform and projects in partnership, include:

Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT): Equipping faith leaders and Green Champions across the region with the knowledge and skills to advocate for eco-justice and climate action.

Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR): Strengthening locally-led adaptation and resilience in vulnerable rural communities.



Animal Justice

#CageFreeSA



10

Commitments from medium-scale retailers Bootlegger, Butter all Day, Kenton Asian, and others.

In 2025, SAFCEI's Animal Justice programme advanced more humane and sustainable food systems. Grounded in the belief that compassion for animals is integral to ecological justice, the programme equipped faith leaders with theological resources and practical tools to address the impacts of industrial animal agriculture on climate, biodiversity and public health.

Through dialogues and media engagement, SAFCEI amplified values-driven messaging that connects animal welfare with food security and environmental integrity.

By strengthening regional collaboration and contributing a moral voice to policy conversations, the programme helped reframe animal welfare as a justice issue affecting people, the planet and future generations.

“

The science is clear – cage-free is better for animals, people, and the planet. The question isn't whether businesses should transition; it's how fast they can do it.

– Chad Cupido, Executive Officer, Beauty Without Cruelty

”



Watch: [Cage-Free campaign launches to support ethical businesses](#)



Watch: [True Cost of Egg Production across five Sub-Saharan African countries](#)



Read: [Eggsplosure: NGOs Unite to Expose Foul Play in South Africa's Egg Industry](#)

Energy and Climate Justice

#NuclearFreeSA #NoFaithInFalseSolutions #EnergyPlan4All



18

Advocacy Submissions
made

6

Media Spokespersons
Trained

1,3 Billion

Media Reach

In 2025, SAFCEI's Energy and Climate Justice Programme aimed to advance energy and climate justice across the region. The programme equipped faith leaders and green champions across the region with the tools and insights to engage in national climate and energy policy and decision-making processes, and promote a just energy transition.

Through public consultations, media engagement, community workshops, and the **#NoFaithInFalseSolutions** campaign, SAFCEI amplified ethical concerns about fossil fuel expansion, false solutions and energy inequality. The programme also highlighted the social, environmental, and economic risks of continued coal, oil, and gas dependence, while promoting renewable, community-centred energy alternatives.

By elevating a moral voice in energy governance spaces, SAFCEI supported more accountable decision-making and advanced a people-centred

vision for a just, equitable, and sustainable energy future.

“Offshore oil and gas exploration projects are another threat to people and the environment. Our fisher folk and coastal communities are not meaningfully consulted about these projects, and yet we stand to lose the most.”

– Wiedaad Davids, Saldanha



Watch: [Mobilising Faith Communities for a Just Transition: SAFCEI's Vision for Climate Justice](#)



Read: [Faith communities condemn “reckless and irresponsible” nuclear licence extension for Koeberg Unit 2](#)



Read: [Fact Sheet - EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#)

Food and Climate Justice

#Faiths4SustainableFarming #GreenActionWeek



Reached
2595

people in **7** countries through
Green Action Week

600+

African Faith Leader sign-ons
to the Gates Letter Reparations
Campaign from **23** countries

3

Regional Seed Swaps:
Zambia, Zimbabwe,
Regional Women's FLEAT

In 2025, SAFCEI's Food and Climate Justice Programme advanced advocacy for resilient, just and sustainable food systems in the face of escalating climate impacts. Working with faith leaders and community partners across Southern and Eastern Africa, the programme strengthened local capacity for climate adaptation, agroecology, and food sovereignty.

Through training, advocacy, storytelling, and the Gates Letter Reparations for Africa Campaign, SAFCEI supported communities to implement practical solutions such as organic farming, seed sharing, water stewardship, and tree planting, while also engaging policymakers on climate and food governance. The programme amplified the voices of women and youth, recognising their leadership in building climate resilience at grassroots level. By linking faith values with climate science, food justice, and community action, SAFCEI continued to foster ethical leadership and collective action for a more equitable and climate-resilient future.

“Chemical farming has harmed our soils and communities. Returning to agroecological ways restores the earth, honours the Creator, and reconnects us to our ancestral wisdom. Reparations are not just about money – they are about healing our relationship with the land and each other.”

– Doreen Badze, traditional healer and agroecologist, Zimbabwe.



Read: [Over 600 African faith leaders demand reparations from the Gates Foundation](#)



Read: [Faith, food and the future](#)

FLEAT

#FLEAT #Earthkeepers



8

Countries

6

Workshops

191

Trained

2 755

People reached through
eco-justice actions

SAFCEI's flagship Faith Leaders Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) platform continued to grow as a catalyst for values-based climate and eco-justice actions across Southern and Eastern Africa.

FLEAT creates a peer learning space for people of faith that builds on their scientific knowledge and advocacy skills in order to engage climate and environmental challenges in their communities and national contexts. Through intensive training workshops and follow-up mentoring, participants were empowered to speak more confidently on climate change, biodiversity loss, food systems and energy justice, as well as animal justice.

Beyond knowledge-building, FLEAT prioritised action. Faith leaders and Green champions led tree-planting initiatives, promoted sustainable agriculture, mobilised congregations around renewable energy awareness and engaged local authorities on environmental governance. The programme fostered strong peer networks, enabling faith leaders to share experiences and collaborate across borders.

In 2025, through FLEAT SAFCEI continued to deepen its approach for women and youth leadership, recognising their critical roles in social change. FLEAT has continued to transform faith in action for climate justice — inspiring hope, accountability and a vibrant environmental movement.

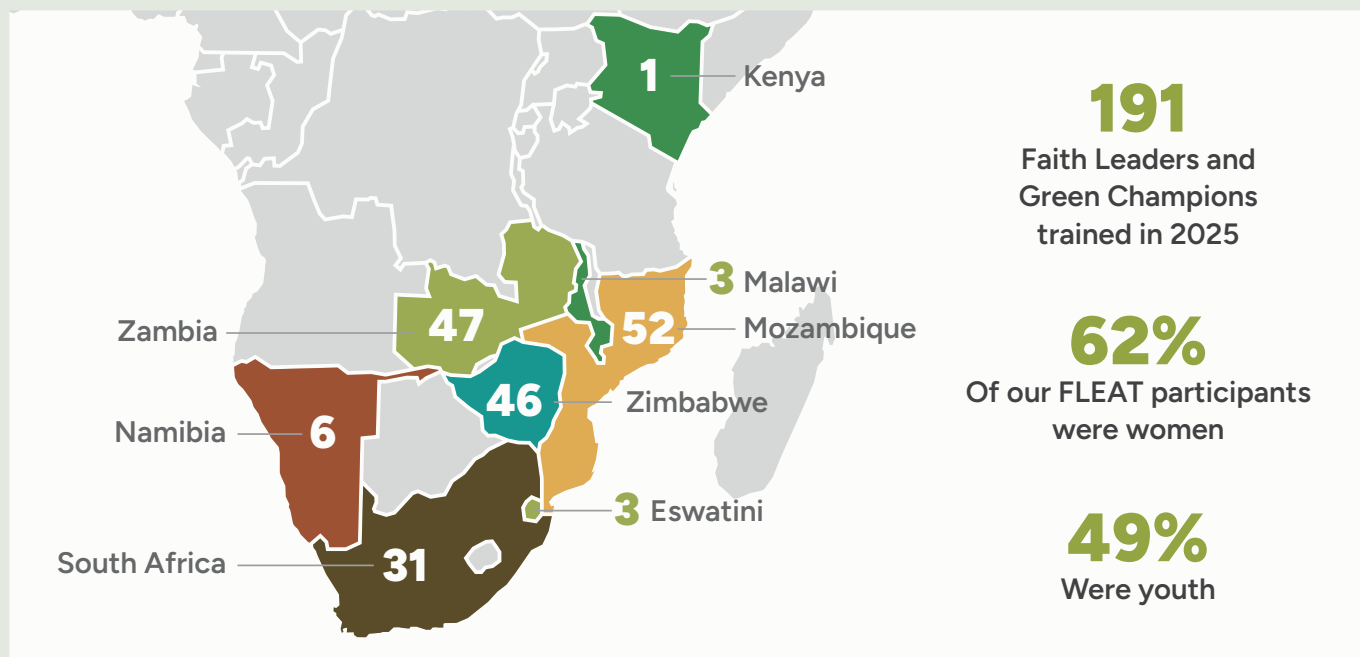
“ I value both SAFCEI's in-person and virtual training. The online engagement offers flexibility and ensures continuity, while the online trainings are enriching and help me stay connected with networks that support environmental sustainability. I really appreciate the learning spaces and the interaction FLEAT creates and the sharing of what I know with other faith leaders. ”

– Lontia Chinkubala, Catholic faith leader from Zambia FLEAT III.

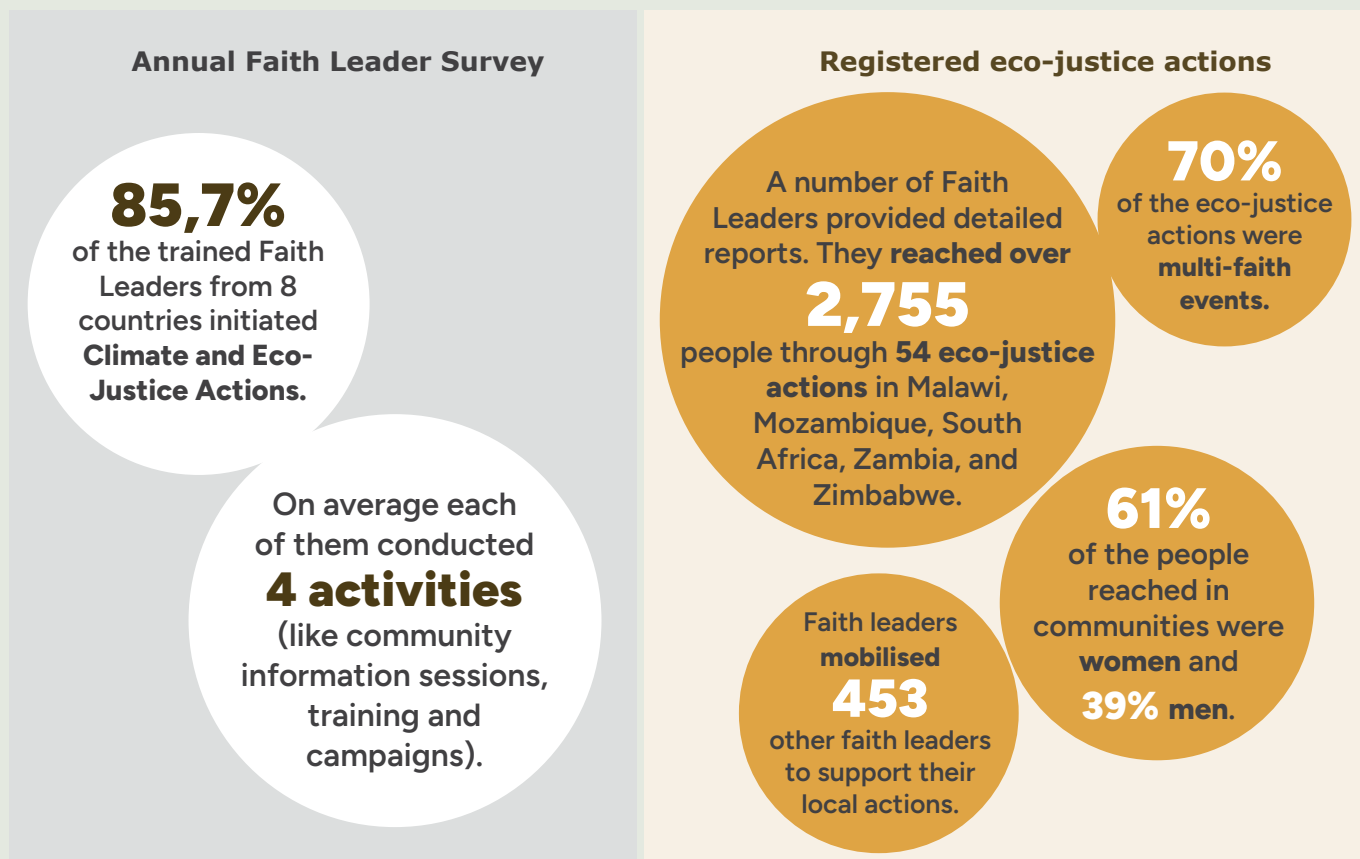


Read: [FLEAT Zimbabwe Statement](#)

Geographical Footprint and reach of FLEAT



Action rate of FLEAT



Disclaimer: This data is based on faith leaders reporting their local eco-justice actions.

RACR Project

#RACRproject #ClimateResilience



2
Policy Submissions

2
Popular Education
Materials

Available in
5
languages

The Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) project works with community-based organisations and faith leaders to strengthen rural communities' resilience to climate change in South Africa. The project has supported practical, locally-led adaptation strategies to address drought, food insecurity and environmental degradation.

RACR focused on building skills in climate-smart agriculture, water harvesting, seed saving and ecosystem restoration. Training workshops and peer learning exchanges enabled communities to share knowledge, strengthen local networks and scale effective practices.

The project also ensured that lived experience informed advocacy around climate and development at regional level.

RACR has contributed to more adaptive, self-reliant and climate-resilient rural communities.

“Climate change has impacted my family's financial stability, as farming operations are disrupted by extreme weather, leading to the 'no work, no pay' situation.”
– Ga-Masenya, Sandsloot



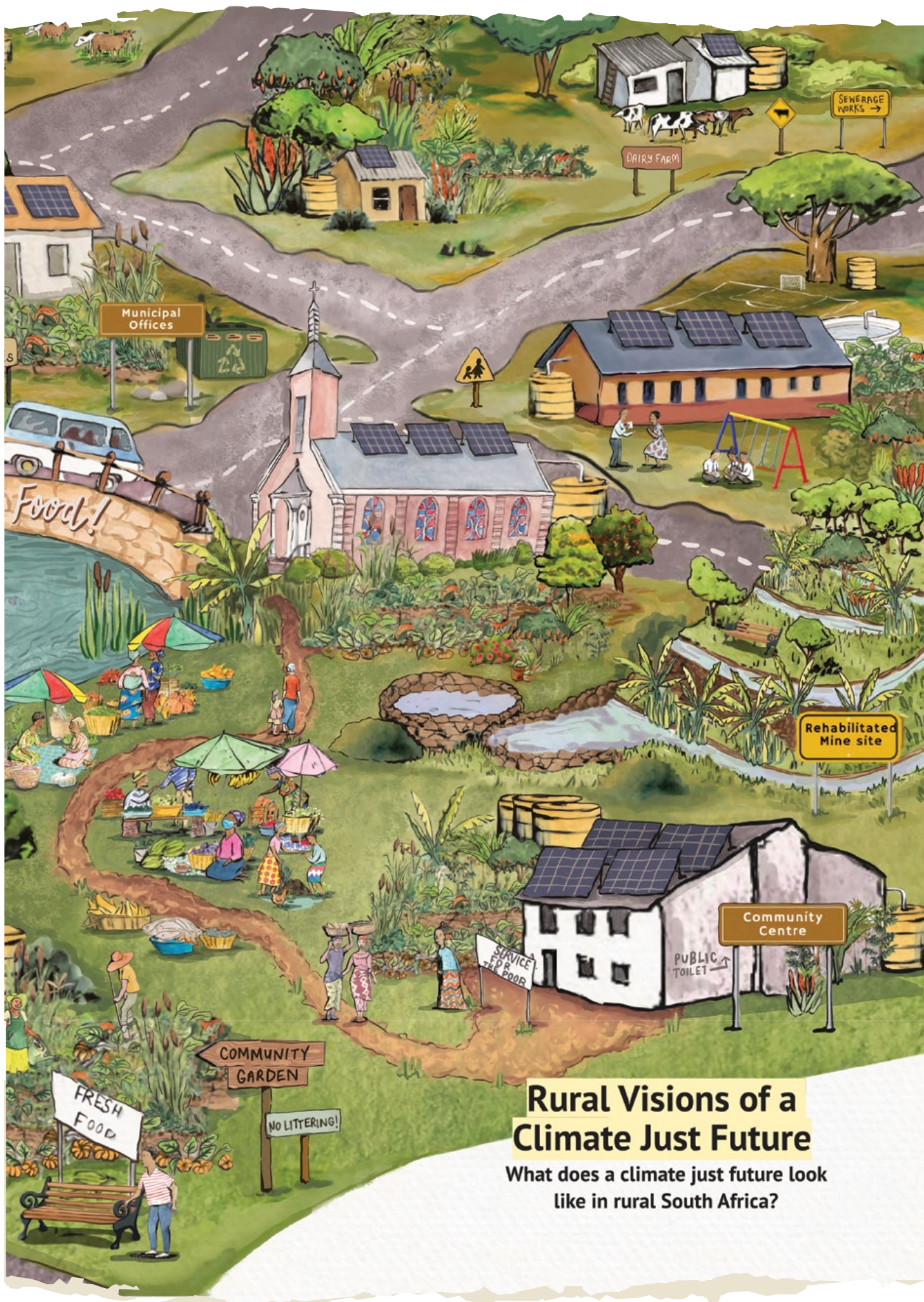
Read: [A beginners guide to food gardening: Adapting to climate change in South Africa with permaculture techniques](#)



Read: [Rural visions of a climate just future: What does a climate just future look like in rural South Africa](#)



Read: [Youth Experiences of Climate Change](#)



Rural Visions of a Climate Just Future

What does a climate just future look like in rural South Africa?

Communications

Social Media Growth

Overall +9.7% follower growth



Instagram

2024: 1525

2025: 1747

+14.6% growth ↗



Facebook

2024: 4194

2025: 4342

+3.5% growth ↗



LinkedIn

2024: 983

2025: 1261

+28.3% growth ↗

In 2025, SAFCEI refined its social media strategy to better align with its values, discontinuing its presence on X (formerly known as Twitter) for ethical reasons, while strengthening engagement on LinkedIn. This shift supported deeper, more professional engagement with partners, policymakers, and supporters, and has improved the quality and impact of SAFCEI's online communications.

The organisation also expanded its digital footprint through the launch of a dedicated Cage-Free campaign [Instagram account](#), creating a focused space to amplify animal justice advocacy, build targeted audiences, and drive momentum for more ethical and transparent food systems.

Media Growth

Growth +1,840%

Media Outputs +10.34% ↗

2024: 29

2025: 32

Reach +1,840% ↗

2024: 67 Million

2025: 1,3 Billion

SAFCEI significantly expanded its media impact in 2025, growing its reach from 67 million in 2024 to over 1.35 billion through strategic, high-impact communications.

With 32 media outputs including press releases, media comments, and opinion pieces, SAFCEI secured 228 media hits across television, radio, print, and online platforms, benefiting from increased mainstream coverage. Strengthened and coordinated messaging across campaigns and key events,

including the #NoFaithInFalseSolutions campaign and the Gates Reparations Letter launch, ensuring strong visibility, broad participation, and SAFCEI's positioning as a leading voice for ecojustice.

SAFCEI trained media spokespersons under the #NoFaithInFalseSolutionsCampaign, who spoke out on key issues including oil and gas expansion, and Koeberg Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 license extension.



Financial Overview

Small Grants Highlights



10

Green Action Week

8

Faith and Eco-Justice

6

Energy and Solar

Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute NPC

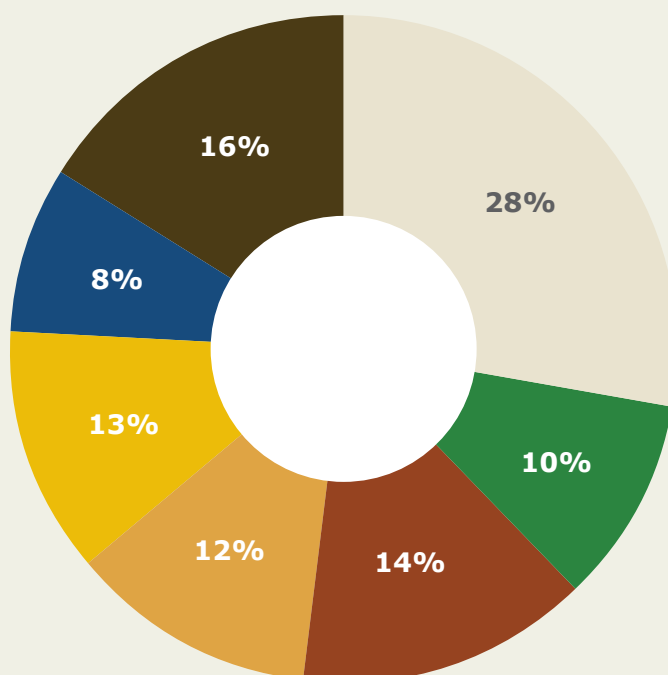
Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

Registration no. 2006/014388/08

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 (ZAR)	2024 (ZAR)
Income		
Grants	13,773,519	17,568,568
Other income	-	500.00
Donations	7,778	9,755
Interest income	247,659	405,085
Other gains and (losses)	- 15,461	-
Total Income	14,013,495	17,983,908
Expenditure		
Programme costs	9,394,870	12,567,054
General operating costs	3,426,388	3,131,245
Premise and equipment costs	506,650	442,556
Professional services	418,416	812,936
Governance	216,061	495,629
Total Expenditure	13,962,385	17,449,420
Surplus for the year	51,110	534,488

Grants Received in 2025

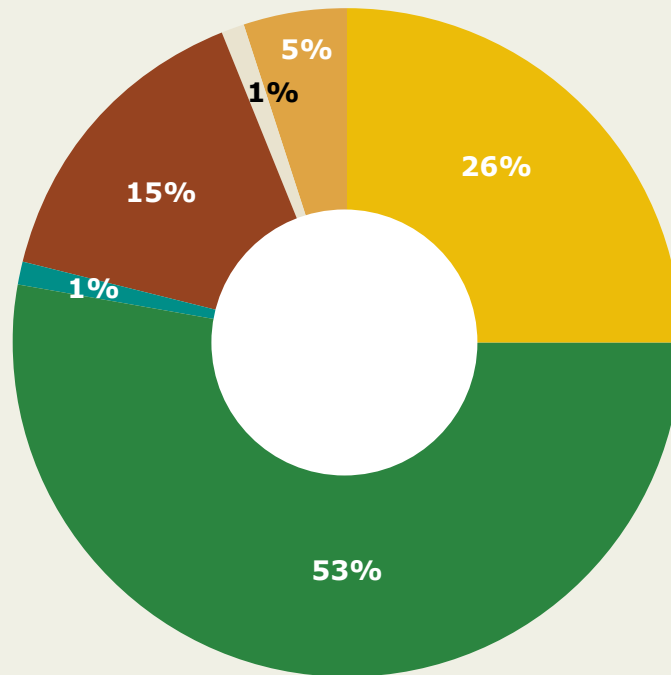


- Bread for the World
- Church of Sweden
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- Animal Justice Funders
- Ford Foundation
- Irish Embassy
- Other Funders and Donors

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2025

	2025 (ZAR)	2024 (ZAR)
Assets		
Non Current Assets	166,836	174,303
Current Assets	6,410,631	4,426,334
Total Assets	6,577,467	4,600,637
Reserves and Liabilities		
Funds and Reserves	2,870,973	2,819,867
Current Liabilities	3,706,494	1,780,770
Total Reserves and Liabilities	6,577,467	4,600,637

How we used programme funds



- Energy and Climate Justice
- Programme Personnel
- Advocacy, Campaigns and Litigation
- Food and Climate Justice
- Networking, Conference and Events
- Animal Justice – Cage-free Campaign

Statement of Changes in Funds

	Sustainability Reserve (ZAR)	Accumulated funds (ZAR)	Equipment fund (ZAR)	Total (ZAR)
Balance (after adjustment) 1 January 2025				
Surplus for the year	-	51,110	-	-
Transfer to equipment fund for additions	-	-98,909	98,909	-
Depreciation during the year	-	106,376	-106,376	-
Transfer to Sustainability Reserve	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2025	736,753	1,967,385	166,835	2,870,973

SAFCEI

Staff

Portia Biggar: Office Administrator and Bookkeeper
Nadia Youlou-Youlou: Finance and Operations Manager
Francesca de Gasparis: Executive Director
Tamzyn Pamplin: Communications Manager
Gabriel Manyangadze: Food and Climate Justice Manager
Afikile Ndude: Training Coordinator
Olwethu Mbuthuma: Programmes Administrator
Mmathapelo Mosakedi: Social Media and Corporate Engagement Coordinator
Khayakazi Matanda: Communications Coordinator
Ntombizodidi Mapupu: Senior Energy and Climate Justice Coordinator
Mishkah Moerat: Campaigns Officer
Zwelisha Shobede: Cage-Free Campaign Coordinator
Tara Nair van Ryneveld: Climate Policy Coordinator
Phindile Mangwana: Programmes Manager
Friederike Subklew-Sehume: Seconded from Bread for the World

Board

Mr David Munene (Catholic) (Chair), appointed 2024
Imam Salieg Isaacs (Muslim), appointed 2021
Sister Sonja Ohlsson, Brahma Kumaris appointed 2025
Ms Kirtanya Maharaj (Hindu), appointed 2018
Reverend Deon McDillon (Anglican), appointed 2023
Ms Queen Munyai (Christian), appointed 2022
Ms Kholeka Ngubeni-Henderson (Christian), appointed 2024
Mr Barnard Steyn (Dutch Reformed Church), appointed 2024
Ms Francesca de Gasparis, Executive Director (Ex-officio Director)





Members and Partners

We are particularly thankful for the support we get from our members, advisors, collaborative partners, and our funders. We are hugely grateful for their ongoing commitment, efforts and support for our shared aims and mission.

We warmly thank our 2025 donors:

- ACT Church of Sweden
- Bread for the World
- Irish Embassy
- Ford Foundation
- Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
- International Climate Initiative
- Open Philanthropy
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
- And others

Celebrating 20 years of SAFCEI

In August, SAFCEI celebrated 20 years of Faith in Action. We hosted a small and intimate celebration, honouring the journey and work of SAFCEI for the last 20 years, with vision and purpose for the next twenty years.

We were joined by SAFCEI's founders, Bishop Geoff and Kate Davies, whose visionary path for people of faith to care for living Earth we continued to honour and follow. We also invited past and present board members, partners,

faith leaders, and friends who have joined us along this journey.

Together, we reflected on how far we've come since 2005, when SAFCEI first brought together people of faith to stand for justice, sustainability, and the care of our common home. We celebrated the movement of Earthkeepers we've built together across Southern Africa.



SAFCEI past and present board directors (Left to Right): Dr Muhammad Ridwaan Gallant, David Munene, Sean Brown, Imam Salieg Isaacs, Queen Munyai, Tahirih Matthee, Barnard Steyn, Francesca de Gasparis, Bishop Geoff Davies, Kate Davies, Rev Deon McDillon, Kholeka Ngubeni-Henderson, Rev Glynis Goyns, Rev Shaun Cozett.





SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

+27 21 701 8145
info@safcei.org.za
safcei.org

