



Policy Conference

A New Vision for Sacred Life and Living Earth

5-7 November 2019

eMseni Christian Centre, Benoni



Welcome

Welcome to the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute's Policy Conference 2019 - *A New Vision for Sacred Life and Living Earth*, a decade since our last conference.

Greetings to you all... Alláh-u-Abhá... As-salamu alaykum... Amani Iwe Nawe... Jai Jinendra... Om shanti...Shalom... Namaste... Peace be with you...

Your presence and contributions are greatly valued, as is your commitment to eco-justice. We are thankful that you could join us, and look forward to our time together over the next few days.

Our political and economic systems continue to respond woefully - often with willful neglect - to the environmental crises we have created. The Earth's ecosystems and weather patterns are showing signs of overload and tipping points are being reached. Yet, our dependence on nature means we are, with increasing intensity, feeling the impacts of our ill-considered decisions.

The role of faith communities in navigating and leading through this maelstrom is vital. We believe that faith leaders and people of faith hold the key to changing our response to and relationship with the natural world. SAFCEI was established to support people of faith in the endeavour of caring for living Earth.

Ten years on, united in our diversity through shared commitment, we are gathered to envision, map and plan the role that faith communities can and must play in seeking a just future across southern African, the continent and beyond.

Our key purpose is to deliberate, share practice and jointly formulate policy positions on key issues. Whilst we acknowledge the challenges are numerous, for the purpose of this conference, and as our time together is short, we have divided the most pressing environmental issues into six thematic areas: Planetary Boundaries and Biodiversity; Energy and Climate Justice; Food and Climate Justice; Consumerism and Waste; Land and Water Justice; and Animal Justice. Discussion papers are available in the conference pack.

Once again, we thank you for your contribution. Let's get to work!



Francesca de Gasparis
Executive Director



Day 1 – Tuesday, 5 November 2019

- 2:00 – 5:00 pm** Registration and refreshments
Outdoors
- 5:30 – 6:15 pm** Start of the Conference: Opening
TBA worship
- 6:15 – 7:00 pm** Welcome by Ms Francesca de Gasparis,
Fellowship Hall SAFCEI Executive Director
- Opening address by Rev Shaun Cozett,
SAFCEI Board Director
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm** **Welcome and Celebratory dinner**
Fellowship Hall
- Where possible please wear your faith attire on the first evening.*

Day 2 – Wednesday, 6 November 2019

- 6:00 – 7:00 am** Prayer & worship (optional)
- 6:30 – 8:00 am** **Breakfast**
Dining Hall
- 8:15 – 8:35 am** Opening prayers
Peace Hall
- 8:35 – 9:00 am** Welcome and Rationale for the
Peace Hall conference: Francesca de Gasparis
- 9:00 – 9:40 am** Keynote Address: *Navigating our way*
Peace Hall *into the 21st Century – Exploring a new*
narrative:

Prof Tinyiko Maluleke, University of Pretoria

10:00 – 10:30 am Summary of the six conference themes
Peace Hall

10:30 – 11:00 am **Tea**

11:00 am – 12:45 pm Breakaway Sessions (choose one):

Harmony Hall

Peace Hall Annexe

Peace Hall

- Energy and Climate Justice
- Animal Justice
- Land and Water Justice

12:45 – 13:45 pm **Lunch**

Dining Hall

13:45 – 3:30 pm Breakaway Sessions (choose one):

Harmony Hall

Peace Hall Annexe

Peace Hall

- Planetary Boundaries and Biodiversity Loss
- Food and Climate Justice
- Consumerism and Waste

3:30 – 4:00 pm **Tea**

4:00 – 5:00 pm Plenary: report back from groups

5:00 – 6:00 pm **Break**

6:00 – 7:00 pm **Dinner**

Dining Hall

7:00 – 8:00 pm Informal network spaces, market place
Peace Hall

Group work by drafting committees

Day 3 – Thursday, 7 November 2019

6:00 – 7:00 am	Prayer & worship (optional)
6:30 – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 – 8:15 am	Opening prayers
8:30 – 09:00 am	Plenary – Short reflection on progress so far
09:00 – 10:30 am	Final group session report backs Declaration
10:30 – 10:45 am	Group photograph
10:45 – 11:15 am	Tea
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Closing Plenary - Reflection on emerging <i>Sacred Life and Living Earth</i> narrative by Sister Usha Jevan and Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Conference evaluation
12:15 -12:30 pm	Vote of Thanks
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Closing ceremony and commitments by Rev Glynis Goyns
01:00 – 02:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	End

Follow the hashtag **#EarthKeepers** on our social media platforms during the conference.

Speakers



Prof Tinyiko Maluleke



Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya



Rev Shaun Cozett

Prof Tinyiko Maluleke is a leading and internationally-recognised researcher in his field, specialising in religion and politics as well as black and African theologies. He is a professor of theology at the University of Pretoria, and from April 2018, he became a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Scholarship of the University.

Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya has served as the Diocesan Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Swaziland since 2012. She is the first woman to be elected as a bishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and of the whole African continent. She is the liaison bishop for the environment in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and a chair of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. When elected, Rev Wamukoya was chaplain at the University of Swaziland.

Rev Shaun Cozett has worked for 12 years in government's Natural Resource Management programmes and is a founder member of SAFCEI and currently serves as a priest in the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town.



Rev Glynis Goyns



Graham Philpott



Makoma Lekalakala

Rev Glynis Goyns is a Minister of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA). Glynis represented the UPCSA at SAFCEI's founding multi-faith conference in Hartbeespoort in 2005. She joined SAFCEI as member of the Steering Committee, then the Management Committee, Board of Directors, and finally as staff, initially as Operations Manager, then Eco-congregations' Coordinator (North) and Chairperson of the Board.

Graham Philpott is the Director of the Church Land Programme (CLP) based in Pietermaritzburg. CLP is committed to acting in solidarity with and learning from those who are systematically excluded and impoverished in their struggles related to land and justice.

Makoma Lekalakala is the Director of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg, a civil society environmental justice and anti-nuclear organisation. She has been active in social movements tackling issues of gender and women's rights and economic and environmental justice. In recent years, Lekalakala has focused on targeting environmental corruption. Her commitment to climate justice led to victory in the first civil society climate change case against the South African government. She also co-led on the court challenge to stop the nuclear deal between SA and Russia. She was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for Africa in 2018 and the Nick Steele Memorial Environmentalist of the year in recognition of her struggle.



Marshall Rinquest



Frances Davies



Tozie Zokufa

Marshall Rinquest is the Director of Greyton Transition Town where he oversees all projects including, Food Security, Waste Management, Humane education and Environmental education. He is leading Greyton's bid to become the first town in South Africa to reject single-use shopping bags. Marshall's work was recognised when he received the Eco-Logic Young Environmental Leader award in 2016.

Frances Davies is the co-founder and co-ordinator of ZAAB, The Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity, an advocacy network of faith, farmer and civil society organisations that promotes and supports a just and sustainable food and agro-ecological system in Zambia. Frances is a researcher, activist and sustainability leader with a broad interest in global food systems. She is passionate about the pioneering work she is doing in Zambia with a range of stakeholders from small scale rural farmers to policy decision makers and politicians.

Tozie Zokufa is the Executive Director of A Greener World. He is a recognised animal welfare consultant, working nationally, regionally, and internationally, mainly in the field of farm animals. A few of Tozie's organisational involvements have included Compassion in World Farming, Humane Society International, Humane Education Trust, Animal Voice and Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance.



Sister Usha Jevan



Francesca de Gasparis

Sister Usha Jevan is a humanitarian, who is well respected as an inspirational and motivational speaker in the city of Durban, South Africa. Amongst her various responsibilities, she serves as a Board executive member on the Religions for Peace – WCRP council as well as an Executive member on the KZN Inter-Religious Council. Since 1992, Sister Usha has been the Regional Co-Ordinator of the Brahma Kumaris activities in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Sister Usha is also an Executive Director of the South African Board of the Brahma Kumaris in South Africa.

Francesca de Gasparis is the Executive Director of SAFCEI. Previously she was Director of the of the Green Belt Movement International – Europe since its inception in 2005, after Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. She has a master’s degree in Environment and Community from Antioch University and has worked on environmental issues for eighteen years. Her focus has been on advocacy, policy and climate change strategies within a gender and justice frame. She has worked with numerous NGOs in Africa on sustainable development and a holistic environmental approach. She serves on the Board of Mdzananda Animal Clinic and on the Advisory Board of Climate Wise Women and ACT Ubumbano Hub.

Staff contact details



Logistical support

Portia portia@safcei.org.za

+27 83 966 9226



Event information

Wendy Pekeur info@safcei.org.za

+27 60 624 3215



Media

Tamzyn Pamplin tamzyn@safcei.org.za

+27 79 599 7694



Resources and Liaison

Kate Davies kate@safcei.org.za

+27 83 468 1798



Operations and Programmes

Wayne du Plessis wayne@safcei.org.za

+27 82 663 3420



SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

www.safcei.org