

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future



WELCOME

Welcome to the #CancelCoal Newsflash where you can keep in the loop with the latest developments in our fight against new coal power in South Africa. With each issue, we'll bring you updates on our landmark legal case, the latest news updates related to the just energy transition from around the world as well as sharing events and a platform for activists to share their hopes and imaginations for a fairer future. We hope you enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NEWSFLASH
- ART OF THE WEEK
- ARTIST Q&A



NEWSFLASH

MINISTER GWEDE MANTASHE CALLS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN 2023

Minister Gwede Mantashe urges public input on the draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2023) for electricity generation. Published in the government Gazette, the plan addresses electricity capacity constraints and outlines a Net Zero sector by 2050. Public comments on assumptions, scenarios, and observations will shape the final policy. The draft, accessible on the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's website, covers two horizons between 2030 and 2050, respectively aimed at closing the supply gap and achieving Net Zero by 2050. Comments are being accepted until February 23, 2024 via an online form or email. Mantashe emphasizes a scientific approach, seeking public engagement for a comprehensive energy future. [MORE HERE](#)

'A CITY OF HOPE AND POTENTIAL' – NELSON MANDELA BAY LAUNCHES CLIMATE-RESILIENT STRATEGY

Nelson Mandela Bay launched a one-year initiative to develop a climate-resilient strategy, aiming for the city to become South Africa's renewable energy capital. Dr. Crispian Olver of the Presidential Climate Commission emphasised the need for collaboration with business and society for a successful strategy, foreseeing a shift away from fossil fuels. Concerns were raised about the impact on the auto industry, a significant employer in the region. The strategy aims to address climate change impacts, economic resilience, and inequality. The World Bank supports the initiative, highlighting the city's potential transformation into a global hub for innovation and climate resilience. The strategy's key principles include sustainable development, a just transition, and collective accountability. [MORE HERE](#)

FORMER SASOL EMPLOYEES CHALLENGE PETROCHEMICAL GIANT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AT AGM

Former Sasol employees challenged the petrochemical giant on environmental compliance at its Annual General Meeting (AGM). Outgoing CEO Fleetwood Grobler defended Sasol's decarbonization plan, aiming for a 30% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and net-zero fossil fuel operations by 2050. Shareholders, including Old Mutual and Ninety One, expressed concerns and voted against Sasol's climate change management approach. Former employees raised questions about Sasol's switch to renewables, alleging outdated technology and insufficient progress in improving air quality. Sasol faced legal challenges related to hazardous waste disposal and delays in meeting Minimum Emission Standards. The AGM highlighted tensions over emissions, compliance, and shareholder engagement. [MORE HERE](#)

SA JEWS FOR A FREE PALESTINE USES JEWISH ENVIRONMENTAL HOLIDAY TO RAISE ALARM OVER ISRAEL'S 'ECOCIDE' IN GAZA

South African Jews for a Free Palestine marked the Jewish New Year of the Trees, Tu B'Shvat at Constitution Hill, raising concerns over alleged Israeli ecocide in Gaza. The group, usually celebrating ecological awareness, focused on environmental destruction during the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Political economist David Fig accused Israel of using greenwashing to legitimize its war on Gaza, emphasizing the impact on the natural habitat essential for Palestinians' survival. The group called for an end to illegal settlements and restoration of occupied Palestinian land. Israel lags in achieving its goals for reducing emissions contributing to global warming, has raised subsidies for fossil fuels in the last ten years, lacks effective financial incentives for promoting recycling over disposal, and subjects its citizens to pollution levels of particulate matter that rank among the highest in 'developed nations'. [MORE HERE](#)

BANGLADESH CAPITAL MOST POLLUTED AS TOXIC SMOG ENGULFS SOUTH ASIAN CITIES

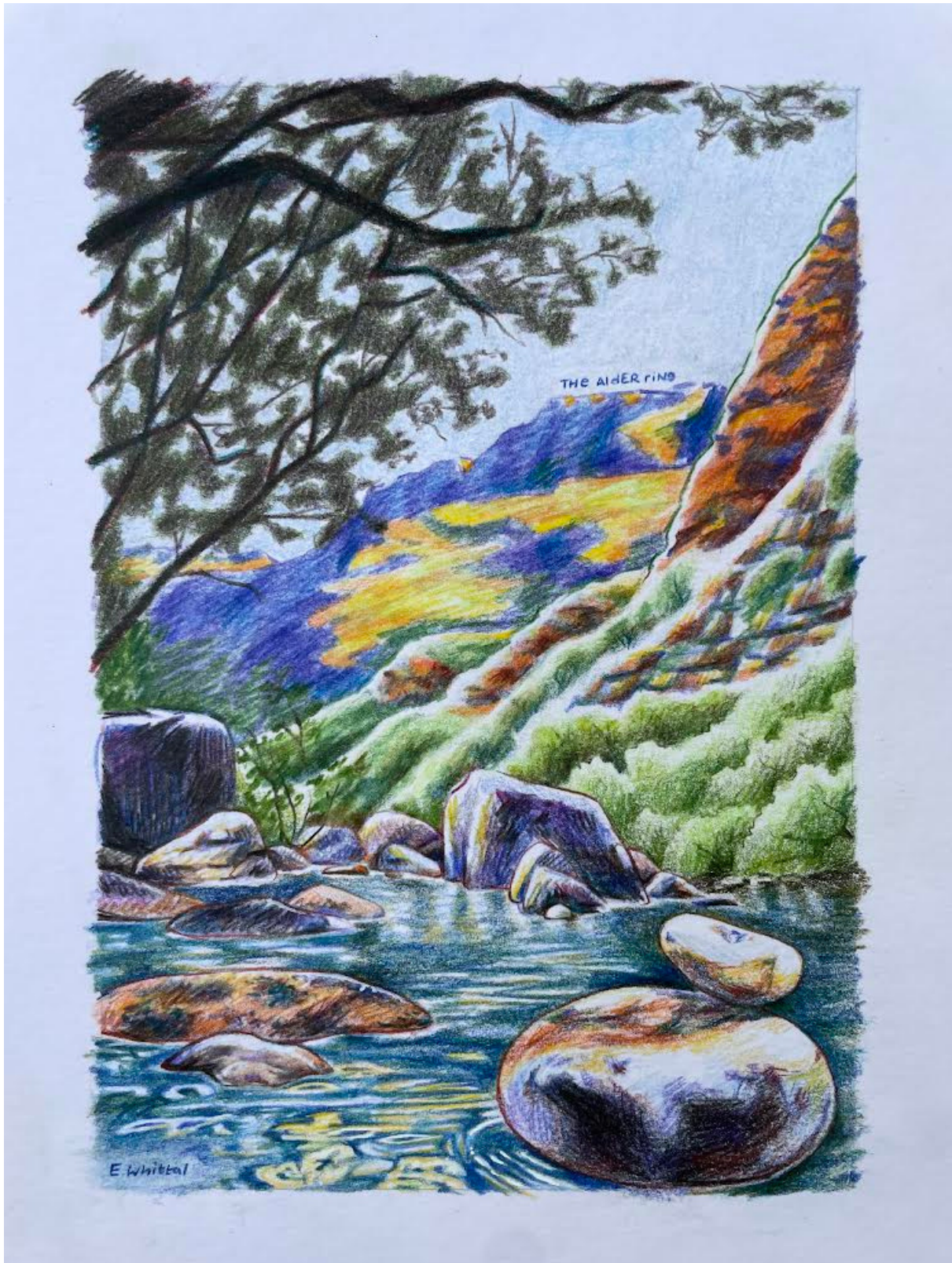
Toxic smog enveloped the capitals of India and Bangladesh, with Dhaka briefly topping the world's most polluted city list. Air quality in Dhaka reached a hazardous level of 325, later improving to an unhealthy 177. The city, plagued by overused fossil fuels, faces worsening health concerns, prompting calls for stronger measures. The World Bank urges Bangladesh to collaborate with neighboring countries to address air pollution, which accounts for one-fifth of annual deaths. Meanwhile, New Delhi records a "very poor" air quality index of 378, causing flight delays and disrupting rail services amid dense fog, raising health alarms for millions. [MORE HERE](#)

TENSIONS OVER FOSSIL FUEL PHASE-OUTS INCREASE RISK OF CLIMATE OVERSHOOT

The Global Carbon Project warns of a 50% chance of exceeding the 1.5°C temperature target in the next seven years, emphasizing the urgency of transitioning away from fossil fuels. While COP28 concluded with the UAE Consensus, calling for a fossil fuel transition, concerns arise as it falls short of a complete phase-out. Tensions between developed and developing economies grow, with debates over moral responsibility. The Climate Overshoot Commission proposes a CARE Agenda, addressing emissions reduction, adaptation, carbon removal, and solar radiation modification. Differentiated responses based on countries' needs and development levels, with richer nations leading, are crucial to avert climate overshoot. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Erica Whittal



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: ERICA WHITTAL

Q&A

How do you believe art can contribute to positive social change?

I view art as a very accessible way for people from all walks of life to be exposed to new ideas and concepts, especially with regard to resistance movements. South Africa has a high rate of illiteracy, and the more we use visual means to communicate positive messages of change, the more South Africans will be able to identify with the cause and act on it themselves.

Are there any specific social or environmental issues that you are particularly passionate about addressing through your art?

To be honest, most of my art is completely devoid of meaning. I make art mainly to turn my brain off, and art that has meaning requires my brain to be active. But I have made art for some causes and motivations before - sometimes to do with personal insecurities, sometimes for environmental activism. I am very inspired by nature and living things - I find there is so much subtle beauty in the life that exudes from people, animals, landscapes and plants, and this is the subject of most of my artwork. So one could interpret that as a drive to get viewers of my art to be more in tune with their living surroundings, losing themselves in the intricacies of nature and subsequently becoming invested in its conservation.

What message are you trying to share with the piece of art you've shared with us?

This artwork was made for my friend, and it depicts a place that we hiked together along the river for a week. It is a special artwork to me because of its personal experience. But I think it's one I want to share because it's vibrant and colourful, and I feel it captures the essence of the place more than its exact likeness. To me, this encapsulates what I said earlier about the life that I hope my art makes its viewers appreciate. Art is not about realism - yes, that can be good, but I have grown more in my artistic appreciation of feeling and emotion. This artwork makes me feel a strong sense of the beauty and intricacies of the fynbos and mountains and tiniest details of our local ecosystem.

Where can people follow you and/or see more of your work online?

I have an instagram account (@art.with.ERICA) where I share regular updates of my art, hiking, and whatever else inspires me. It's mainly fine art with some journaling thrown in on the side.

