

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EDITION

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future

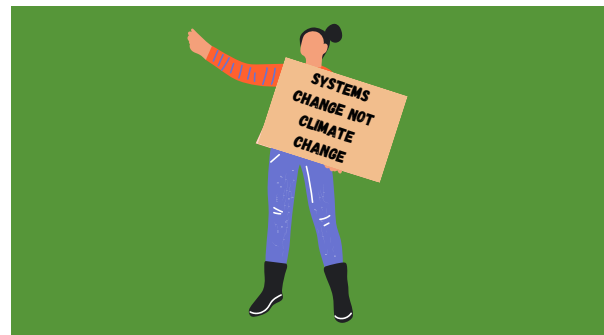


WELCOME

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 SPOTLIGHT



NEWSFLASH

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN THE MOST POLLUTED PLACE ON EARTH, THE VAAL TRIANGLE

In South Africa's Vaal Triangle, home to 1.7 million people, residents are facing severe health risks due to hazardous pollution, earning it the title of one of the most polluted places on Earth. Industrial facilities, including steel mills and coal power plants, emit harmful emissions, causing hundreds of premature deaths annually. The region struggles with PM2.5 concentrations, invisible particles that deeply penetrate the lungs and contribute to various health issues. Despite government efforts to address air pollution, companies like Eskom and Sasol resist installing required equipment, citing cost concerns. Efforts to reduce emissions face resistance from companies like Eskom and Sasol, raising questions about balancing economic needs with environmental and public health concerns in the transition to cleaner energy. [MORE HERE](#)

SOUTH AFRICA REGISTERS R7.8 BILLION NEW SOLAR IN JUST THREE MONTHS – BUT THERE'S A BIG PROBLEM

In the last quarter of 2023, South Africa saw a surge in solar investment, registering 124 solar generation facilities with a capacity of 605MW and an investment of R7.8 billion, as reported by the national energy regulator Nersa. However, Nersa expressed concern over the limited integration of battery energy storage systems (BESS) in these projects, citing only two with a total capacity of 1MW and an investment of R4 million. The absence of BESS exacerbates the 'California Duck Curve,' causing imbalances between peak demand and solar power generation, stressing the grid and disrupting demand and economic models. Nersa emphasized the critical need for coupling variable energy sources with battery storage in registration applications to address this issue. The Western Cape and Gauteng led in registered solar projects, while North-West attracted the most investment, covering over half of the total megawatts generated. [MORE HERE](#)

WE WANT OUR OWN NUCLEAR ENERGY NOW, SAYS MANTASHE

South Africa's Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, has urged the United States to allow South Africa to develop its uranium deposits for nuclear power. Speaking at the Africa Energy Indaba, Mantashe emphasized the need to use the country's uranium resources for domestic nuclear power generation, reducing reliance on imports. South Africa is in discussions with the US to renew the license for the Koeberg nuclear power station, the only one in Africa, responsible for 5% of the country's total electricity production. Mantashe reiterated South Africa's commitment to developing new nuclear power plants to add 2,500 megawatts of generation capacity alongside Koeberg, emphasizing a measured and affordable approach. [MORE HERE](#)

TAKING AN INTERSECTIONAL AND INTERCONNECTED VIEW OF PEACE ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On International Women's Day, amidst global threats to civil liberties and over 100 armed conflicts, attention turns to the 600 million women and girls in conflict zones. In Sudan, ongoing military conflict has left 25 million, including 14 million children, in dire need. In Palestine, Congo, Kashmir and worldwide, women, particularly Indigenous women, are three times more likely to face sexual violence, contributing to rising rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women. As civil liberties decline globally, cis- and transwomen lead movements for peace, recognizing women's role in tackling environmental and social burdens. An intersectional understanding of peace is crucial, linking issues like gun violence, climate change, and gender justice, emphasizing the interconnected work of building stronger communities for lasting peace. [MORE HERE](#)

CLEAN, CHEAP OR FAIR – WHICH COUNTRIES SHOULD PUMP THE LAST OIL AND GAS?

As the world transitions away from fossil fuels, the debate intensifies over which countries should be allowed to produce and sell the remaining oil and gas. Despite global efforts to reduce fossil fuel usage, some nations are planning to produce more than double the amount needed to limit global warming to 1.5C by 2030, according to a UN report. Factors such as the cleanliness of production, cost efficiency, and economic capacity to transition are considered in this debate. Norway and the Arabian Gulf are highlighted for producing the cleanest oil and gas, while Gulf nations, particularly Saudi Arabia, score well in cost efficiency. African nations advocate for considering the historical responsibility of large emitters in cutting back oil and gas output. The need for a just and equitable transition is crucial, as the debate evolves beyond mere reduction and towards a fair and orderly shift. [MORE HERE](#)

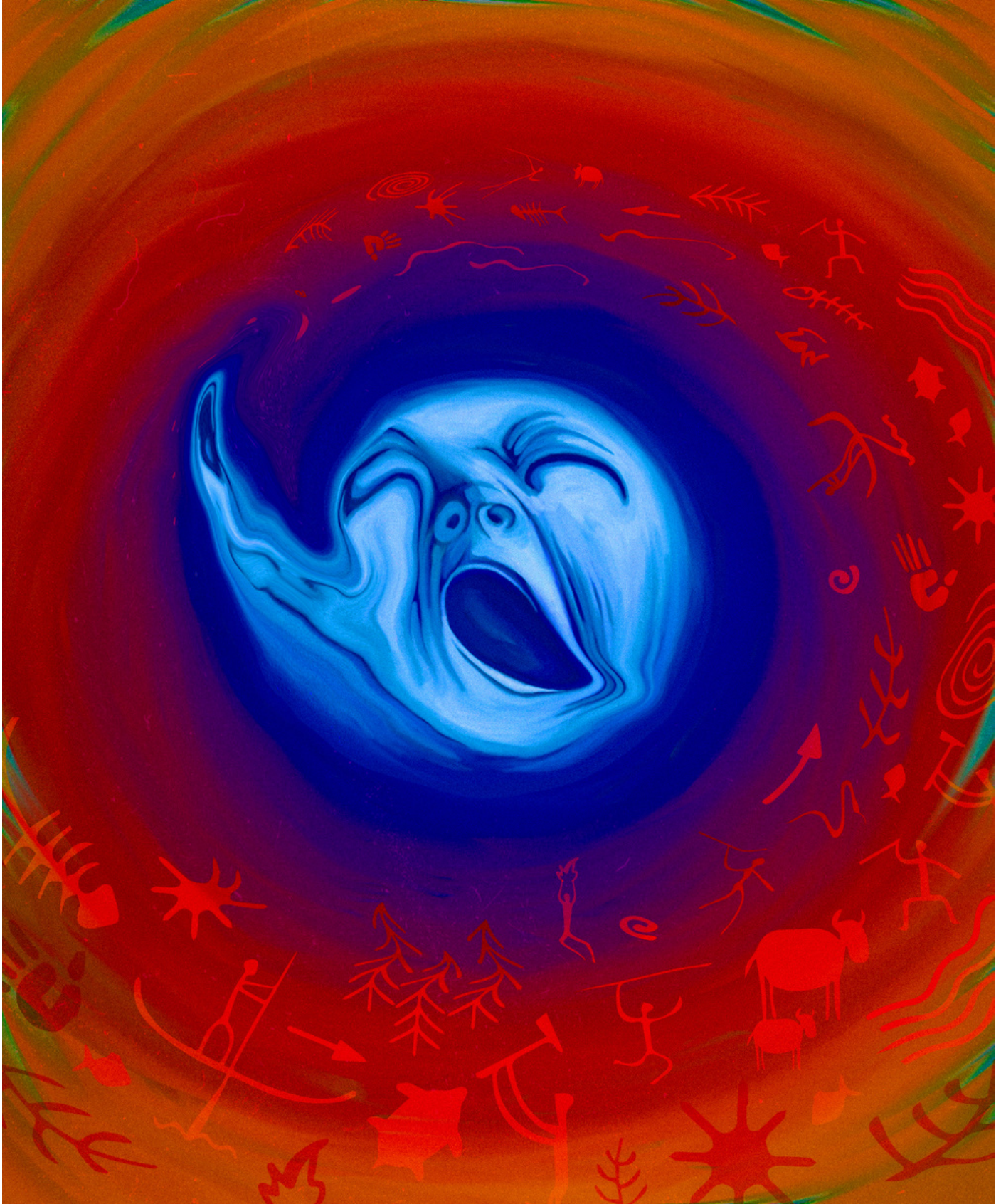
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: GREENPEACE AFRICA CALLS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

On International Women's Day, Greenpeace Africa advocates for sustainable and long-term investments in the well-being of women, particularly those on the frontlines of environmental challenges. The organization emphasizes the pivotal role women play as pillars of families and communities and as guardians of the environment. Greenpeace Africa urges leaders to prioritize policies safeguarding women's rights and livelihoods, citing the impact of decisions on women's economic security and resource access. Women across Africa, facing challenges in sectors like artisanal fishing and environmental protection, call for inclusion in decision-making processes. Greenpeace Africa calls for tangible actions, such as strong global legal frameworks, to address pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss, ensuring a healthier and more equitable future. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Chesney Bruce

Yawning at a disaster



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: CHESNEY BRUCE

Chesney Bruce is the founder of Zygo Studios, an online graphic design hub for climate related content creation and musician brand development. They are passionate about conserving planet Earth, while giving artists and creators a digital voice. They received their Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Media, with extensions in Trend Analysis, Business Management and Marketing, in 2016 from LISOF. They received their certificate in Graphic Design from Red & Yellow in 2018. Chesney is inquisitive by nature, and loves exploring new possibilities and links between design, environmental issues, music and yoga, also receiving their 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training certificate from India in 2019. They enjoy learning and growing their skills and are currently doing an online course in musician merchandise and poster design, as well as a masters course in Adobe Illustrator.

Q&A

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

Art is a vital part of positive social change because it allows us to transcend from using spoken words to felt emotions, emotions that are real and present in the body. If the viewer of the art can deeply connect with an emotion that the art is conveying, that means that this emotion or social issue has become real to them because they can feel it. People are then more likely to ponder, reflect and hopefully act on that emotion. This is so powerful because it is giving the viewer, the general public, the key to unlocking the door to change.

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

I am extremely passionate about conserving pachamama, planet earth, our home! This is the vital thread that pieces all of my artworks together and is all encompassing of social and environmental issues such as the protection, appreciation and connection that we share with nature; animal welfare; and the practice of self-love. I am also intrigued by spirituality and the role this can play in protecting our species and planet as a whole. I take care in trying to convey presence, love and harmony throughout my art, paying special attention to kindness. If we are kind to ourselves, then we are more likely to be kind to others and so the ripple effect outwards will continue.

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

"Humanity is seriously at risk of yawning towards one of the greatest existential risks of our time because abstract and invisible threats aren't terrifying to brains that evolved to solve local, experiential and imminent problems". In a world hurtling toward the precipice of a cataclysmic climate disaster, we really need to look at ourselves, us, the every-day individuals who can deeply and truly make a change in our daily behaviour, and make choices that aren't always easy, but in the long run, better for humanity and the planet as a whole. What we already have is beautiful and it is enough. By becoming complacent we lose touch of reality, of what truly matters. Change can be uncomfortable and ugly but it's this movement towards change that brings forth growth and undeniable positive benefits.

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

Instagram: @zygostudio

Portfolio: <https://zygostudio.myportfolio.com/>

