

A CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS
A CULTURE OF PEACE

**Circle of All Nations Presentation
on Climate Change and Related Considerations
for**

**Global Climate Change and Implications for the Child and Youth Sector in South Africa
NACCW WEBINAR**

June 18, 2026

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Circle of All Nations



**GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CHILD AND YOUTH
SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA
NACCW WEBINAR JUNE 18, 2026**

**CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS PRESENTATION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND RELATED CONSIDERATIONS
ROMOLA V THUMBADOO**

A MINI SELF INTRO FOR THIS PRESENTATION

- Thank you! Its a true **honour** to be with you today, as you focus the attention on this critical global reality of our times – **Climate Change**
- I have been following **NACCW**'s 50 plus years of work for over a quarter of a century myself, and it has been a great learning experience to engage with the team over the years - from the Leadership, the Child and Youth Care Workers and Mentors to the Learners themselves.
- I represent www.circleofallnations.ca here – the Legacy Work of Late North American Elder **William Commanda**. He too was interested in the NACCW work
- **In 2000, he hosted 5 youth at his International Millennium Peace Gathering in Ottawa**
- **He participated in a 2001 training session with the NACCW team in 2001 in KZN**
- **He is an inspiration for our Children's Cognitive Story Mapping work together.**
- I was born in **Durban**, and Zeni Thumbadoo is my younger sister. I did my master's research on Detribalization in the novels of South African writer Peter Abrahams.
- I used to work extensively with adults in the revolving door of the **criminal justice system**, and this makes me value your work even more - the voices of **NACCW learners** have been exposing factors that lead to crime - bullying, substance abuse, gender-based violence, social inequities - and they have also been alerting us to the challenges of climate change They are making strong aspirational statements about their futures as they take their places as the emerging leaders This is important because by 2100, nearly half of the world's young people will live in Africa

I start with the voice of one NACCW LEARNER whom I met in 2011 in Ndondo Square.

Lwandile Makibi wrote this about climate change, pollution, deforestation, health and biodiversity 15 years ago

ISIBINDI SAFE PARK NDONDO SQUARE, CALA



Youth Message for COP 17
Climate Change and Global Warming -
Lwandile Makibi - Ndondo Square

- People burn tires, vegetation and rubbish that pollute our air and also that can increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and produce global warming, a lot of heat and climate change.
- For example, tobacco smoke is one of the major forms of pollution in buildings. It is not only the smoker who is affected, but everyone who inhales polluted air, including plants and animals.
- First we must explain the word pollution. Pollution is the addition to the ecosystem of something which has a detrimental aspect to it.
- Pollution from exhaust gasses of vehicles is increasing alarmingly. It has been calculated that these gasses are responsible for 60% of all air pollution and in cities up to 80%.
- There is a large variety of harmful chemicals present in exhaust gasses.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- People must stop to burn tires, vegetation, and rubbish at daylight because it pollutes the air and also people must stop to use harmful chemicals and household (cleaners).

Deforestation is the removal of trees in large quantities to provide space for housing or farming.

Causes of Deforestation

- Logging (cutting down trees to provide wood)
- Road Construction (new roads are often created through the forests to allow vehicles and heavy equipment to pass through.
- Mining
- Agriculture
- Urbanization (forests can be cleared for the establishment of new schools, hospitals, recreational centres etc.)

Effect of Global Warming

- Global warming – deforestation causes a lot of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere since there will be less plants to use the carbon dioxide and provide oxygen for humans and for photosynthesis.
- Landslides and flooding
- Reduction of Biodiversity and Habitat

SO

- People must plant small trees instead of cutting down trees.
- Working together we can do more!!!!!!



EARTH EVOLUTION

- Geology is the study of the Earth and processes acting upon it
- Earth has been evolving over **13 billion years**
- In relatively recent times, we have these **geological epochs**

The Pleistocene (2.58 million – 11,700 years ago) –The Ice Age with megafauna

The Holocene (11,700 years ago – Present) – Warm stable climate, with recorded history of humans, agriculture and modern civilization

The **Anthropocene** – Unofficially, “Today” is known as the age of the Anthropocene, because human activity is the dominant force shaping Earth’s climate and ecosystems. This is now considered a *Creeping Crisis*

This is the **age of rapidly increasing Climate Change**

CLIMATE CHANGE

What Is Climate Change. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>

- Climate change refers to long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns
- Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity (solar flare emission of electromagnetic radiation), or large volcanic eruptions

What Is Climate Change in the Age of the Anthropocene

- Over the past 200 years, humans have created a greater impact on climate than was experienced over the past 2000 years
- Human activity is now the main driver of climate change, through industrialization and rapid increase in greenhouse gas
- Greenhouse gas is produced through
 - (primarily) the burning of fossil fuels – that is, coal, oil and gas
 - Methane (agriculture, cattle (digestive processes and gas) and
 - Waste/garbage

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- I describe Indigenous Peoples as the ones who always lived in their ancient homelands, and **developed and preserved a deep interconnected relationship with Earth**
- In North America, Indigenous Peoples began to note and express **concerns about Earth changes** over the past hundred years, and officially to the United Nations in writing **in the mid nineteen forties**
- **William Commanda** himself raised concerns about the environment and climate change, at a National Indigenous Constitutional Conference in Canada in 1987, at the Pre-Rio Deliberations in Paris in 1991, and at the 1993 United Nations First Indigenous Conference, called *Cry of the Earth*
<https://crescentera.org/p/cry-of-the-earth/>
- I met him in 1997 when I was working in justice; I found he raised the urgency of the escalating environmental challenges at every meeting we went to, irrespective of whether it was about justice or art or child care
- **I used to talk about the environment:** the beautiful sunset or the grand mountains out there, **but he talked about a relationship with his Mother Earth**, a living Gaia

A GROUNDING SPIRITUAL LEGACY KEEPER OF THE SACRED WAMPUM HERITAGE

WHAT IS PROPHECY?? "EARLY WARNING SIGNALS" ZULU SHAMAN CREDO MUTWA

Gathering & Sharing

Circle of All Nations Gathering



Reflection and Research

Iterative Contemplation and Prayer



Teachings with Africa

Zolani Mkiva: Xhosa Imbongi Folk Poet



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- He hosted annual gatherings during the last 16 years of his life, and I found the Indigenous elders talked about environmental issues and the changing climate
- Eventually, I realized that this was the critical issue of our times – and that is why I did my thesis on his *Circle of All Nations and Ginawaydaganuc: the Environmental Legacy of Elder William Commanda*
- That *Ginawaydaganuc* Algonquin word is like the Zulu *Ubuntu* – *everything is interconnected; and we met and discussed this with Zulu Sansui and writer Credo Mutwa*
- This orientation enabled them to see climate change before me and others for sure
- They had to work hard to be heard as their lands had been colonized by people who no longer had that deep relationship with a Mother Earth, the penultimate provider of all things that support life on earth
- (William Commanda also saw that wars were linked with environmental exploitation and so the other major focus of his work was peace-building. It is intriguing that we are doing this webinar on the heels of June 16 and the Soweto Uprising of 1976)

WILLIAM COMMANDA, CIRCLE OF ALL NATIONS (CAN) AND SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIPS

CORE CAN THEMES

IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

- Canoe/Kayak Journeys
- Sustainable Relations
- Laws of Nature and Human Animals
- Nature/Tectonic Abrasion/Evolution/Peace
- Circle of All Nations Bridge Building
- Kindergarten Dropout PhD and OC
- Spiritual Trajectory to Knowledge
- 2020 Digital Mapping Retrospective and Reflection
- GINAWAYDAGANUC UBUNTU – All is Related
- CAN Sustainable Relations Goals for a Culture of Peace

ANIMATIVE ACTIONS

- 1945 Activism and Politics – as in Civil Rights!
- 1967 Canada 100; Eganville Gathering
- 1969 Gathering: Kitigan Zibi/Bitobi Lake
- National to Global – 1987, 1991, 1993 – ME and CC
- Agenda 21: Sustainable Development *1
- Sunbow Five Walk 1995 /96
- 1996 RCAP Report – Who will Drink the Water?*
- 1996 ... CAN Gatherings and Non-stop Outreach
- 2000 GlobalEcoPeace Posters and Gathering
- 2006 Waterlife Workshop; Sustainable Relations*2
- 2003 - Asinabka Vision for Sacred Chaudiere Site
- 2012 ... GWC and CAN in ACADEMIA – Bridge Building and Global Outreach



GINAWAYDAGANUC, UBUNTU, EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

- Warm temperatures are not the only ramification of Climate Change
- Everything is connected on Earth and Climate Change includes intense drought, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity
- Climate change is directly contributing to humanitarian emergencies from heatwaves, wildfires, floods, tropical storms and hurricanes and they are increasing in scale, frequency and intensity
- Our language has shifted from environmental change, pollution, climate change, extreme weather, climate crisis to, now, disaster management

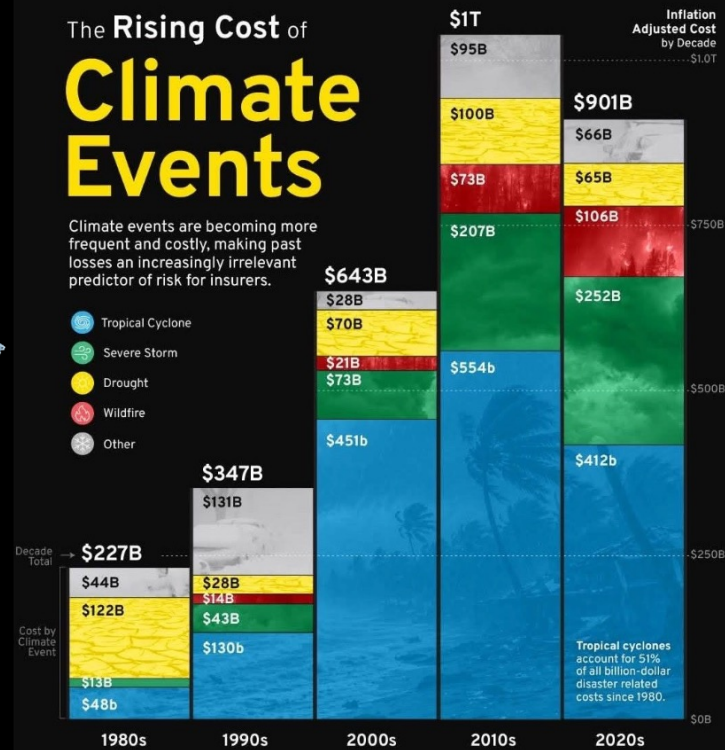
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE DISASTERS IN THE US

U.S. climate disasters are on track to cost nearly \$1 trillion this decade alone

This visualization, created in partnership with Inigo, shows how the financial impact of climate-driven natural disasters has escalated since 1980, with losses in the 2020s already nearing the total seen over the entire 2010s.

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/.../ig02-rising-cost-of-.../#ig02>

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/ig02-rising-cost-of-climate-driven-natural-disasters-since-1980/#ig02>



UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- William Commanda was invited to conduct Indigenous Ceremony at the Pre-Earth Summit deliberations in Paris in 1991; for many his three days of Pipe Ceremony **ignited a relationship with living earth**, and they no longer saw her merely as a resource to be exploited more judiciously
- The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the UN process for negotiating an agreement to limit dangerous climate change, and it introduced this and the concept of Sustainable Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (17 SDGs for 2015 – 2030)
- 154 states signed the Convention to share responsibility for addressing climate change; developed countries were to assume a leading role because of their greater historical greenhouse gas emissions.
- This was followed by the 1993 UN Indigenous Cry of the Earth, and a decade later, in 2002, by the **UN Earth Summit for Sustainable Development hosted here in South Africa!**
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) state that fossil fuels need to be cut by at least 30 per cent by 2030 to prevent catastrophic levels of Climate Change
- The Global Frameworks and Agreements include UN Framework on Climate Change (COP-Conferences of Partners), the Kyoto Protocol, the historic 2015 **Paris Agreement**
- **COP 17 was held in Durban, and NACCW colleagues participated with me**; this is also when we shared the Ndondo Square Learners remarks on Climate Change

COP 17 IN DURBAN

- COP 17 was held in Durban, in 2011, and NACCW colleagues participated with me, in collaboration with colleagues from Argentina (FANCV)
- This is also when we shared the Ndondo Square Learner's remarks on Climate Change
- Also, my young nephew created this song for COP 17 – and it has become a regular *Circle of All Nations* teaching tool:

Trichy Vila - Save Us!

- PS Jayd Soliar is also my sister Zeni's son!

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EL NIÑO

- El Niño is normal climate reality - every two to seven years, ocean temperatures rise, this separate from the Climate Change
- However, on 2 June 2026 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) put out this Press Release in Geneva, Switzerland

Fueled by unusually warm ocean waters in the tropical Pacific, El Niño conditions are developing and are set to influence global temperature and rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of extreme weather over the coming months

- **Key messages**
- Warm ocean waters are fueling the development of El Niño
- El Niño typically increases global temperatures and drives more extreme weather and rainfall patterns
- Above average temperatures forecast nearly everywhere for June to August
- Advanced forecasts help in preparations to protect lives and livelihoods
- Time for informed decision-making, planning and preparedness is now

IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH

Here are some Key facts from the World Health Organization

- Climate change is directly contributing to humanitarian emergencies from heatwaves, wildfires, floods, tropical storms and hurricanes and they are increasing in scale, frequency and intensity.
- **Research shows that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change.** Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone.
- The direct damage costs to health (excluding costs in health-determining sectors such as agriculture and water and sanitation) is estimated to be between US\$ 2–4 billion per year by 2030.
- **Areas with weak health infrastructure – mostly in developing countries – will be the least able to cope without assistance to prepare and respond.**
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy use choices can result in very large gains for health, particularly through reduced air pollution.
- With respect to the **EBOLA crisis**, some are asking: Is there a link to climate change in Africa, and possibly deforestation? Ebola is a zoonotic disease, one that spreads to humans from infected animals; through the consumption of bush meat – wild animals caught in often-declining forests, for example.

CLIMATE REFUGEES

CLIMATE INJUSTICE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A NEW GLOBAL CRISIS – CLIMATE REFUGEES

This is a huge challenge across Africa, and in South Africa, we have just seen its devastating implications.

Food disasters hit Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2023-2024 when El Niño and climate induced droughts created food emergencies

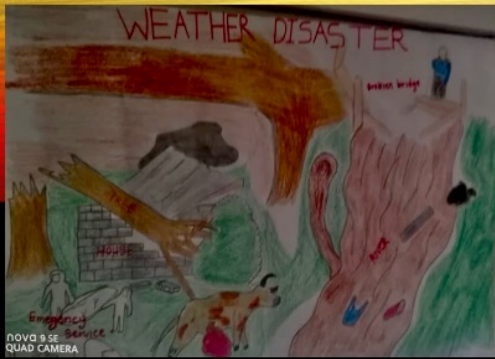
Mozambique has suffered cyclones over the past few years

Food and water systems are being seriously challenged everywhere

These cause people to flee and introduce unplanned patterns of migration

Food sovereignty and climate justice are the other issues of our times that youth will have to face

Indigenous communities in Africa and South America are doing innovative work in these areas with the group Space4Inovation and the GEO Indigenous Alliance <https://www.geoindigenousalliance.org/>



"Flooded rivers. =trees, strong wind vandalizing roofs, floods stopping children to cross"

"15 years old Learner in grade 10 reporting about the current disaster that is taking place in kzn, trees falling and destroying house , people losing their life, and flooded rivers"



Floods, History, Current Plight of Women there and Perspective

The June 2025 Mthatha Floods in Eastern Cape South Africa terrified many of our learners. The current Death Toll is 95. Here are a few posts. It is also in the vicinity of President **Mandela**'s birthplace, Mvezo, on the Mbashe River – Learners just mapped him as hero. The flood area is 32 Km from *The Hole In the Wall*, which apparently only the locals and international tourists interested in spectacular places, versus luxury, really get to see. We are now demanding better roads to get there. Here I am in 2022



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVJuvx-LDT4> Aug 10 2025 News

<https://www.facebook.com/sipho.ngwema/posts/listening-to-many-of-these-mthatha-disaster-survivors-interviews-on-socials-a-qu/10228454220756731/>

<https://www.enca.com/news/ramaphosa-calls-day-mourning-following-eastern-cape-floods>

A COGNITIVE STORY MAPPING POSTSCRIPT



- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- PEACE AND SECURITY
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE

Africa's youth are shaping the continent's climate future

On the sidelines of the UN Youth Forum, four climate leaders from across the continent and diaspora unite to call for stronger protection of Africa's environment and vital resources.

17 April 2026 | By [Alexandra del Castello](#)

United Nations and Africa Renewal

ECOSOC Youth Forum



Mr. Sibusiso Mazomba (far left), member of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change; Ms. Eugenia Boateng (second from left), Founder and Executive Director of the African Diaspora Youth Hub, FABIA Institute; Mr. Jabri Ibrahim, also of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change; and • Mr. Damon Hamman, Graduate Student, New York University, Centre for Global Affairs. © UN Photo

THE VIBRANT LEADERSHIP VOICES OF AFRICAN YOUTH ON CLIMATE ISSUES

NOW Let us return to the voice of African youth and yes, one from Soweto, South Africa!

Sibusiso Mazomba is a climate justice activist, advocate, and researcher. He leads youth advocacy at the African Climate Alliance, driving initiatives to ensure meaningful youth participation in decision-making.

A junior negotiator for South Africa's UNFCCC delegation since COP26, he has contributed to negotiations on adaptation, oceans, and loss and damage, representing youth and national interests on the global stage.

<https://africarenewal.un.org/en/magazine/africas-youth-are-shaping-continents-climate-future>

- Min 2.50 – 4.54

A FEW LINKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange>
- <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/key-findings#collapseOne>
- <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change>
- [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP21\) in Paris; Paris Agreement](#)
- https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-prepare-el-nino?access-token=Y0qE1XztCZT7VZrFwUErPN7veERMVRy3tSP-sw-f_KM&fbclid=IwY2xjawSOIVVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFNUzFLeUtHVvc5cFFJODhic3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHnENY5qFyNlMXnzvEOyUD9AOpjijdQZOZMcgfoel80Ugpr89b7Fr1-9x5Z-T_aem_49GLbrsZRk_aCx7O_VgfOQ
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/el-nino-is-here-9.7231484?shem=rimsouwoe>
- https://www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab_1
- <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/ig02-rising-cost-of-climate-driven-natural-disasters-since-1980/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/visualcapitalist/photos/us-climate-disasters-are-on-track-to-cost-nearly-1-trillion-this-decade-alone-%EF%B8%8Ft/1429975595827525/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/graphics>
- <https://www.geoindigenousalliance.org/>

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www.circleofallnations.ca Work and Legacy of Late Indigenous Elder William
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