

GROUNDWORK



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groundWork is a non-profit environmental justice organization working primarily in South Africa, but increasingly in Southern Africa.

groundWork seeks to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in Southern Africa through assisting civil society to have a greater impact on environmental governance. groundWork places particular emphasis on assisting vulnerable and previously disadvantaged people who are most affected by environmental injustices.

groundWork's current campaign areas are: Climate Justice and Energy, Coal, Waste and Environmental Health. groundWork is constituted as a trust. The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees is Joy Kistnasamy, lecturer in environmental health at the Durban University of Technology. The other trustees are: Farid Esack, Patrick Kulati, Richard Lyster, Sandile Ndawonde and Jon White.

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AFFILIATIONS:

groundWork is affiliated to the following international organizations:

Health Care Without Harm

International POPs Elimination Network

Basel Action Network

Oilwatch International

Global Anti-Incineration Alliance

groundWork is the South African member of Friends of the Earth International

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From the Smoke Stack



by groundWork Director, Bobby Peek

I found myself in Mozambique recently, in the very same hotel that I booked into 21 years ago. How I found myself in Mozambique in August 1998 was a combination of events that started unravelling in December 1997. A fax – yes, remember the days of faxes – came through stating that EnviroServ, one of South Africa's notorious toxic waste companies, wanted to import New York's waste to burn in Africa. To cut a long story short, after digging into this, a more sinister plan was uncovered: a proposal to burn toxic waste in a local cement kiln, just outside Maputo, in the laid-back town of Matola. That visit built relationships with locals and the resistance to burning of toxic waste led to the formation of Livaningo and then Justiça Ambiental, who hosted us for the Friends of the Earth Africa meeting in June 2019, the reason I found myself 20 years later in Mozambique.

There are many such stories that highlight where groundWork has roots. We're rooted in struggle and with those living on the fenceline of polluting industry. Here relationships have been built. South Durban is the best example of such a relationship for it is here that people in groundWork have fought ongoing struggles with locals, even before the existence of groundWork. The same can be said about Sasolburg and the Mpumalanga area, where in the days of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, groundWorkers assisted local struggles. The foundation of groundWork has been built up throughout South Africa and Africa.

At the outset of groundWork, we believed that we would help beyond our borders, and our mission is clear about this. Today, groundWork has worked with people on all continents, resisting environmental injustices, and has taken the struggles we share in from the ground to corporate board rooms, parliamentary chambers and the halls of the United Nations. We live local to global in a time when the world is becoming smaller and smaller. I remember in 1995, when I was accused of being an individual with a fax machine, as we

collectively fought toxic waste dumping in Umlazi, the second biggest township in South Africa. This fight gave us the new laws that we can litigate on today.

But groundWork is and always was more than just an individual and a fax machine. We were always a team, always a family. We – Gill Addison, Linda Ambler and I – all had faith in each other that the years of experience in the civil society sector, researching apartheid atrocities and the fenceline environmental justice movement, could be combined to provide society with a tool to fight for environmental justice. What started off as a five-year commitment has grown to 20 years of struggle, victories and the building of everlasting relationships. Today, groundWork is not only a South African organization, but indeed an African and global organization.

But with age comes loss.

Sadly, in our twentieth year, we said farewell to our founding board member Jonathan White, who steered us through setting up the systems to make our environmental justice activism a reality. Sadly, joining Jonathan, was Denny Larson, the Bucket Brigade man who, with groundWork, the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance and the South African Exchange Programme on Environmental Justice, took the first public air pollution sample in South Africa, which exposed industrial pollution and its links to illness in communities. Over the years we also lost Nomcebo Mbili, groundWork's health campaigner in 2009 and 2010. And in the communities we struggle with many have bid us farewell. These folks become our ancestors, a very important part of who we are, especially within Africa.

The past 20 years have given us more than I ever dreamed of. From forcing government to close Waste Tech's medical waste incinerator, our first victory, to the ongoing success of keeping municipal waste from being incinerated and rather



being treated as a resource. This is an important part of livelihood strategies for the members of the South African Waste Pickers Association, which is a movement that we helped birth in our collective struggle for government to recognize waste pickers as legitimate role-players and workers in the management of waste in South Africa. Our efforts in exposing corporate pollution have led to new environmental laws in South Africa. Laws in a post-apartheid South Africa were never going to just land. They were going to be shaped by those who had power, and indeed corporate South Africa held that power and dictated to a weak environmental department a set of laws that would facilitate pollution and impunity. It is against this that we have had to resist. We have had to build power, and the only way we have done this is by becoming community monitors of air pollution ourselves, in order to understand what we are breathing and to demand the change that we want.

But groundWork is a strange beast. We are recognized as a resistance organization, but the strategy of resistance is not only a visible one on the streets. Over the years we have found ourselves having to react creatively to the opportunities, to make the not so sexy interventions that bring results in different ways. Indeed, one of these I often reflect upon is the banning of mercury equipment in hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, the province in which groundWork has its home. Years after *The Isipingo Declaration on eliminating the harmful impacts of Health Care Waste and Incinerators in Southern African communities* – which called for the phase out of mercury in the health care sector – was agreed upon in April 2002, we discovered in a basement office in the Wentworth Hospital a directive that the Department of Health had issued referencing the declaration and putting in place a process for the ban of mercury in local hospitals.

Further along, groundWork worked with African governments and civil society to get us to the Minamata Convention which seeks a “ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining”. Our approach to environmental justice is not one-

dimensional, as I always tell new staff. You must be prepared to protest with people on the one day and the next day convince decision makers about environmental justice approaches.

In the Eskom case, protest, exposing government and challenging government in court has been our approach. It has been both local and global. Our opposition to government's plans to bankrupt the country through the mismanagement of Eskom and seeking World Bank loans has resulted in us being spied upon, government stating that we were placing “environmental concerns, which could not be immediately addressed, above the economic needs of South Africa” and in general seeking to discredit us. Well, nearly ten years later, the World Bank loan is on the road to bankrupting South Africa and pollution is killing people in the Highveld. On our 20th anniversary we thus decided to institute legal action against the Department of Environmental Affairs and the president to ensure that pollution from Eskom and Sasol is halted.

Our other subtler approach to ensuring environmental justice has been working with the health sector to ensure that hospitals, health care facilities, health systems and organizations are dedicated to reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health. This has been successful without protest and taking government to court, and today we have hospitals working with groundWork and the health sector speaking out against pollution and climate change.

There is so much more that can be written about groundWork. We have always been ahead of the curve, and we always endeavour to remain so. We cannot be everywhere, but wherever we are we promise people that we will be back.

I would like to thank all the community people, and all the NGOs, locally and globally, that have been part of building groundWork. Without your support this would not have been possible. The staff, all of those who came through our doors, from the local to global interns, from those in the groundWork US office – yes there were attempts to ‘colonize’ the US – to the Cape Town office. Finally, to the Board of Trustees, thanks for your ongoing support and belief in us.

We will celebrate big in 2019 to 2020! ✕



Air quality, energy and then coal

by Bobby Peek

Twenty years ago, air quality in neighbourhoods adjacent to the petro-chemical industry was groundWork's main gig, starting in neighbourhoods of south Durban and focusing on the Engen, Shell and BP oil refineries. It was not a huge leap when, very soon after 1999, the coal industry and energy was the next step. It was not rocket science that Eskom and coal was the source of some really sick air pollution. Then, along came the World Bank-Eskom Medupi debacle of 2009, and by 2011 the world was talking about coal, groundWork was invited into the room, and *walla*, the funders started dumping money into a global coal campaign and suddenly groundWork has a "coal campaign". Some say it is funder driven. We say, look into our history. We were always resisting the archaic practice of coal and fossil fuel energy. Hell, in 2005 we already spoke about "connecting the promise of renewables with movements struggling for deep transformation of the way the world works", otherwise known as the Just Transition.

So, the Coal Campaign as we know it hit the ground running from its inception in 2013, owing to the history and the volume of work already waiting on its table, particularly in the Highveld and the Vaal area, two areas that are heavily polluted because of the coal industry. From the outset we knew that coal was killing people. Indeed, Sasol, the South African apartheid-created coal to liquid industry, was our first focus, in the company town of Sasolburg, way back in 2000. We took air samples adjacent to their facilities. They thought we were amateurs, did their

own samples to prove us wrong, and had to eat their words when they found the same chemicals at higher levels of concentrations in the air that the community was breathing: deadly air from their coal to liquid plant in Sasolburg and Secunda.

The campaign's focus was and still is "roll back the development of coal in South Africa and transition its energy sector to a cleaner, healthier, climate-friendly and, ultimately, lower-cost future". Today, we partner with Earthlife Africa and the Centre for Environmental Rights under the banner of Life After Coal / *Impilo Ngaphandle kwamalahle*, where we seek to "discourage the development of new coal-fired power stations and mines; reduce emissions from existing coal infrastructure and encourage a coal phase-out, and enable a just transition to sustainable energy systems for the people".

Health has always been a key concern of groundWork. The World Health Organization has recently made some radical statements after years of research that seven million people die annually because of air pollution. We were already speaking about deaths from air pollution in the 1990s. Again we were ahead and were informing society of the dangers to come. We have always fought for people to understand the link between air pollution, corporate power, poor governance and their health so that their mobilization is focused.

But one cannot deal with environmental justice issues without organizing on the ground, and so at the foundation of all this work is strengthening organizations on the ground. Thus, groundWork has found itself working with community organizations in places such as eMalahleni, Middleburg, Ermelo (all these areas in the Highveld, Mpumalanga), Sasolburg, Vanderbijlpark, Sebokeng, Newcastle, Somkhale and Fuleni to name a few places across the country. Some organizations were already organizing on environmental justice issues before groundWork came along; others took up the struggle when we presented the truth about coal.



Bucket brigade circa 2000. Credit groundWork



Air Quality

Working with community organizations throughout the country, we have managed to stop all new coal-fired power stations. Medupi and Kusile, Eskom's giant, over budgeted, delayed and polluting facilities, will be the last to be built.

Coal mines are the next logical target, and we work with coal-affected communities throughout South Africa, challenging new mines and the expansion of existing coal mines. The challenge to resist coal mining is not easy, and is often dangerous, as vested interests in "get rich quickly" schemes push coal mining at all costs.

In many places globally, mining is violent and tramples on people's human rights, and in South Africa it is the same. We continue to play a watchdog role and work with international organizations such as Earthjustice and Human Rights Watch, together with the Centre for Environmental Rights and the South African Human Rights Commission, to keep the spotlight on human rights abuses by the mining industry, and coal in particular.

But the challenging of coal-fired power stations and the expansion of mining and coal infrastructure cannot happen without linking community people to decision makers. We link coal-affected communities directly with national parliament, where key decisions are taken on the future of energy in South Africa. There are regular visits to parliament by coal-affected communities from around the country. As per our founding approach, we have over the years invited political decision makers to get away from the luxury and comforts of Cape Town to face the reality on the ground. They have obliged at times and a key moment was

in 2015, when parliamentarians were made to walk and view the ongoing underground burning of the Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery, which has been burning for more than five decades. Personal experiencing of the abandoned coal mine, the choking smell of the toxic air and the extreme heat from the underground burning which has softened the top ground, which seemed ready to collapse, has possibly knocked some sense into their heads about the real challenges of coal on the ground. The parliamentarians demanded that we produce information that was locally relevant and not only research from other parts of the world. We went away to do this and in 2017 we visited parliament with community people and a health expert to show that more than 2200 people die prematurely each year because of Eskom's pollution and that this costs the country in excess of R30 billion annually.

The campaign has been a success, without a doubt. The public know that Eskom's facilities are exposing people to unacceptable and unlawful air pollution. In June, the month that we celebrate 20 years of existence, we and the Vukani Environmental Movement have taken the President and the Environmental Ministry to court for not protecting the people of the Highveld from Eskom's pollution, even after knowing since 2007 that it harming and killing people and government declared the area a priority area to reverse the high levels of air pollution in the Highveld, where Eskom has 12 of its 15 coal-fired power stations. Together with the Life After Coal campaign, we have stopped all new coal fired power stations. Coal mining has been exposed for what it is – an extractive industry that destroys peoples' lands. This is achieved through legal cases such as the Atha-Africa coal mine in the Mabola Protected Environment, near Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga.

So where is the Coal Campaign going to be in a few years? Who knows? Is it still going to be the "Coal Campaign"? Who knows? But the near horizon has the coal phase out as a challenge and the now often referenced approach of the Just Transition. No matter where it goes to, we will still be there for, no matter what you call it, people are impacted upon by poor energy decisions by self-imposed blind politicians. Coal is dying, but the struggle remains. ✕

Members of parliament visit burning coal fields in 2015.

Credit
groundWork



No time wasted over the last 20 years

by Musa Chamane

It is 12 years on for me ... 20 years for groundWork

I joined groundWork in the chilly winter of 2007 as a waste campaigner. My first task was a trip to Morocco in the following week. This was my very first trip out of the country and I had mixed feelings about it. I was going to Morocco via a convoluted route through west Africa. I was nervous. Besides going to North Africa, I had tons of activities awaiting to be executed. To be brief, I survived Morocco.

The focus issues at this time were challenging toxic waste dump sites, many of which were in black residential areas – a case of environmental racism. Cement plants were also intending to incinerate tyres in the cement kilns. And there was organizing with waste pickers, as well as upcoming negotiations on the first democratic waste legislation in South Africa. It has been an interesting journey which started a decade ago. Over those years there have been some interesting achievements and, of course, some losses.



Protest against Enviroserve site in Shongweni, circa 2006. Credit groundWork

The next stop in my early days was the South African parliament, which was eye opening for me because I knew on paper that parliament has legislative powers but I was not sure how it was done. At this time we were busy fighting to ban incineration from the upcoming Environmental Management Act: Waste Bill. We took community people to talk for themselves in parliament, which we did successfully and as a result of this we have zero waste projects as well as no municipal waste incinerators in South Africa, despite us losing the argument for a complete ban on incineration.

In the last few decades waste management has been a huge challenge, but together with workers on the ground we have been successful. The waste foot soldiers on the ground are known as waste pickers or reclaimers who assist municipalities in managing their waste in terms of the recovery of waste materials. When we were in parliament some parliamentarians – and mainly a particular government official who now has gone to a business lobby group – were dismissive of waste pickers and their work, and only saw them as a governance challenge. There was a feeling that the working conditions for waste pickers were inhumane, but few thought beyond that. groundWork, together with communities of waste pickers, has worked very hard to change the mindset of the law makers.

In 2009, we achieved what is one of groundWork's proudest moments: the birth of the South African Waste Pickers Association, also known as SAWPA. At this very first national meeting of waste pickers in South Africa – it was preceded by many visits to dumpsites throughout the country and many provincial meetings – waste pickers decided to organize themselves under the association and they were very clear that they are waste pickers and



Waste

groundWork played a proud role in the formation of SAWPA. Here waste pickers march in 2011.

Credit groundWork



were not going to adopt sanitised NGO language for their work. They considered themselves waste pickers – not reclaimers, recyclers or salvages. Currently, we have more than 90 000 waste pickers who earn a livelihood by recovering waste in exchange for cash.

With SAWPA we support six successful waste picker recycling projects in five municipalities which are successfully run by cooperatives of waste pickers. As an NGO we are not in opposition

Waste picker on lorry at Mooi River landfill - circa 2010.

Credit groundWork



to government – although they would like to portray us in that way – because we work with municipalities on these projects. We have a hope that one day each municipality in South Africa will have at least one material recovery facility (MRF) – or recycling project – where waste pickers can earn livelihoods. As a result, there will be more than 15 000 secured jobs created from waste recycling. Furthermore, there will be a significant reduction in waste materials going to dumpsites.

Waste incineration has always been an issue. Incineration does not solve our waste crisis and indeed it leads to a health crisis. There has also been major protest by waste pickers against incinerators, as this displaces waste pickers and takes their livelihoods from them. In Chloorkop and Wellington, municipal waste incinerators have been successfully opposed after appeals and people taking to the streets.

Wellington has since started two recycling centres operated by waste pickers as an alternative to a once proposed incinerator. It is a good model to see municipalities transform from the mentality of burning to a mentality of zero waste. Other municipalities that are doing great work are



March in Wellington against incineration - circa 2017.
Credit groundWork





SAWPA Convention circa 2013.

Credit
groundWork

Sasolburg, Mooi River, Butterworth and New Hanover. These projects are a spark leading to the zero waste revolution in this country. The day where waste will become a priority for every municipality is close.

Cement plants may have approval to burn hazardous waste via legislation but very few of them have managed to get approval for their plants and this we challenge at every stage of the way.

In Bloemfontein, the EnviroServ medical waste incinerator was finally shut down after a protracted battle. It took a tenacious local resident to make this happen, with support from groundWork and the South African Human Rights Commission.

Waste is also a major climate change issue. Yes, it is – we are not just jumping on the bandwagon. At the Durban gathering of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the SAWPA hit their stride. Waste is a major emitter of methane as waste rots in unmanaged dumpsites throughout South Africa. Waste picker's work in removing waste from the system and recycling this waste means a direct reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from dumpsites in South Africa. At the Durban gathering they hit their stride and, together with the Global Anti Incineration Alliance (GAIA), the Abahlali baseMjondolo (shackdwellers movement) and Friends of the Earth International, pushed back on dirty energy such as incineration. The convention is mainly remembered for colourful waste pickers who were part of the Global Day of Action. Here SAWPA cemented their commitment to work with other movements.

With the finalization of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 2008, waste pickers were recognized. Since then waste pickers, SAWPA and groundWork have been part of various policy and regulatory processes that have given waste pickers *locus standi*. One of the key processes has been the Waste Picker Integration Guidelines process which has been finalized in this year. Indeed, this is a good 20th birthday present for the work we have done with waste pickers.

I have had good and bad times while doing the work. I have crisscrossed the country more than once and I have heard all the languages being spoken in different communities. I have seen people who are deadly poor and I have seen government officials who never want to do anything, despite getting paid fat salaries every month. I have seen people transforming from supporting polluting industries to fighting for the rights of the citizens. I have seen municipalities spending millions of Rand protecting waste from being recovered for recycling. I have seen waste pickers being shot at, stabbed and killed. I have seen countless numbers of accidents where waste pickers have been run over by trucks and some have died. Some of these issues have created a mental shift in the minds of officials and now officials are talking about waste recycling rather than waste disposal, waste picker integration rather than criminalizing waste pickers. We have come a long way, but have many more years to go. Today I am an environmental justice activist, not just a waste campaigner. ✕



Campaigning for environmental health

by Rico Euripidou

The good, the bad and the ugly – 15 years and going strong

Fifteen years ago, having just recently returned to South Africa, I got a call from Bobby and Gill while I was supervising a large HIV and AIDS research team in rural Limpopo. On a whim, and looking to return home to KZN from rural Limpopo, I responded to a groundWork advert for a community air quality campaigner.

Luckily for me I did not get this job. However, they did instead offer me the dream job of a lifetime – carte blanche to support groundWork's campaigns with an "evidence-based public health" approach and to develop an environmental health campaign in its own right... well not quite carte blanche, but jolly close anyway! This is how things have pretty much remained and it is this that makes groundWork such a unique environment to work in: the idea that each campaigner should carve out a niche of interest in the context of our campaigns and build it, as long as it resonates with our project document and organizational values, and the underlying principle that we are an environmental justice organization.

This is what makes groundWork unique, dynamic and ground-breaking and, as I reflect, something that comes to mind is that I will often tell interns who spend some of their time with us that unfortunately for them they might experience a glimpse of a dream job right at the start of their professional careers! It's often said that a groundWorker can start the day organizing with informal waste pickers eking out a living off a dumpsite, organize a meeting with the mayor or provincial MEC in the afternoon and end the day off negotiating a better deal for recycling. In that same week, the same groundWorker might find themselves working with national government and other stakeholders, writing guidelines to integrate the very same waste pickers into formal municipal integrated waste management plans and end the week in Geneva, negotiating in a global forum for curbing the global

plastic waste crisis by adding plastic to the Basel Convention, a treaty that controls the movement of hazardous waste from one country to another.

So what have I learned from those experiences over the past fifteen years? What has changed for the better or worse, what has been positive, negative, or both?

I have learned two important lessons: one, that there is sometimes a limit to the amount of science you need to act on an issue affecting people's health and their environment and, two, that absolutely anything is possible. With the right set of partnerships, a good strategy and some committed people, a hell of a lot can be achieved to tackle complex and interconnected global problems like environmental justice, poverty and climate change, and we can be impactful to make material differences in the lives of people who are being negatively impacted by an unfair system.

Here is a snap shot of "the good, the bad and the ugly" over the last fifteen years.

The good...

In the middle of the noughties we found ourselves smack bang in an age of global environmental unilateralism. George Dubya Bush was commander



in chief and justified retrograde policies with nonsensical Bushisms like, "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully," when explaining his energy policies. Against this backdrop, groundWork worked with a committed group of NGOs making up the Zero Mercury Working Group, consolidating African community and government positions to justify a standalone, legally binding global treaty on mercury. Nobody gave us a chance, but by 2009 we were negotiating the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which came into force in August 2017. In the interim groundWork was the central catalyst to phasing out mercury in the South African health care sector.

Similarly, the climate crisis is poised to become the greatest existential challenge in our lives, never mind the lives of our children. The most recent scientific evidence puts us on track for global uncharted territory from as soon as 2025. Up until the Durban UN Climate Change meeting in 2011, the health sector was largely absent from the climate negotiations. groundWork, Health Care Without Harm and its partners were of the small number of voices advocating on climate and health. Health now has become increasingly central to our understanding for addressing the drivers of climate change. For one thing, we have been organizing with the health sector from below, and the health sector is now ever more prominent in working on understanding and measuring its own climate change footprint and advocating for climate policies that will deliver co-benefits from a health and also climate perspective. From this work, leading public health scientists are also now organized and advocating for the intersection of climate, energy and health in South Africa, for informed policy development and decision-making.

The bad...

Government has been increasingly retreating into its shell since I joined groundWork. Democratic spaces for fair multi-stakeholder environmental engagement and governance, especially on matters that cover air pollution, have systematically closed down over the past ten years following many years of trying to engage; especially after the National Air Quality Officer cancelled the Highveld Priority Area Multi Stakeholder Reference Group forum. The Highveld is characterized by high levels of pollutants extending over many years and we are

now on the cusp of what has been reported as the "legal battle of the century" coming the way of the South African government "after years of failing to manage some of the worst air pollution in the world emitted by Sasol refineries and Eskom power plants".



And the ugly...

Hazardous and medical waste incinerators are among the most polluting entities on earth. They emit a range of the most persistent and hazardous compounds known to man. They are also notorious mega projects that attract corrupt characters looking to scam the public purse. Similarly, the waste industry in general is where the confluence of shady characters, a quick buck, and the most environmentally unsound management options regularly come together. We have seen off plans to burn hazardous waste in cement kilns (effectively conceived to subsidize their operations and hoodwinking the SA public into paying for dirty industries' disposal of hazardous waste), and the maladministration of the REDISA waste tyre plan.

The world often feels bleak right now. I have been extremely privileged to have experienced many EJ victories and in particular to have been directly involved in a victory that was worthy of a Goldman Award – the environmental world's equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize. I could never have hoped for a better way to spend the last fifteen years. Long may this roller coaster ride last. Long live groundWork – fighting the "good fight"! ✊



capacitating effective local environmental justice action

groundWorks quarterly newsletter

groundWork

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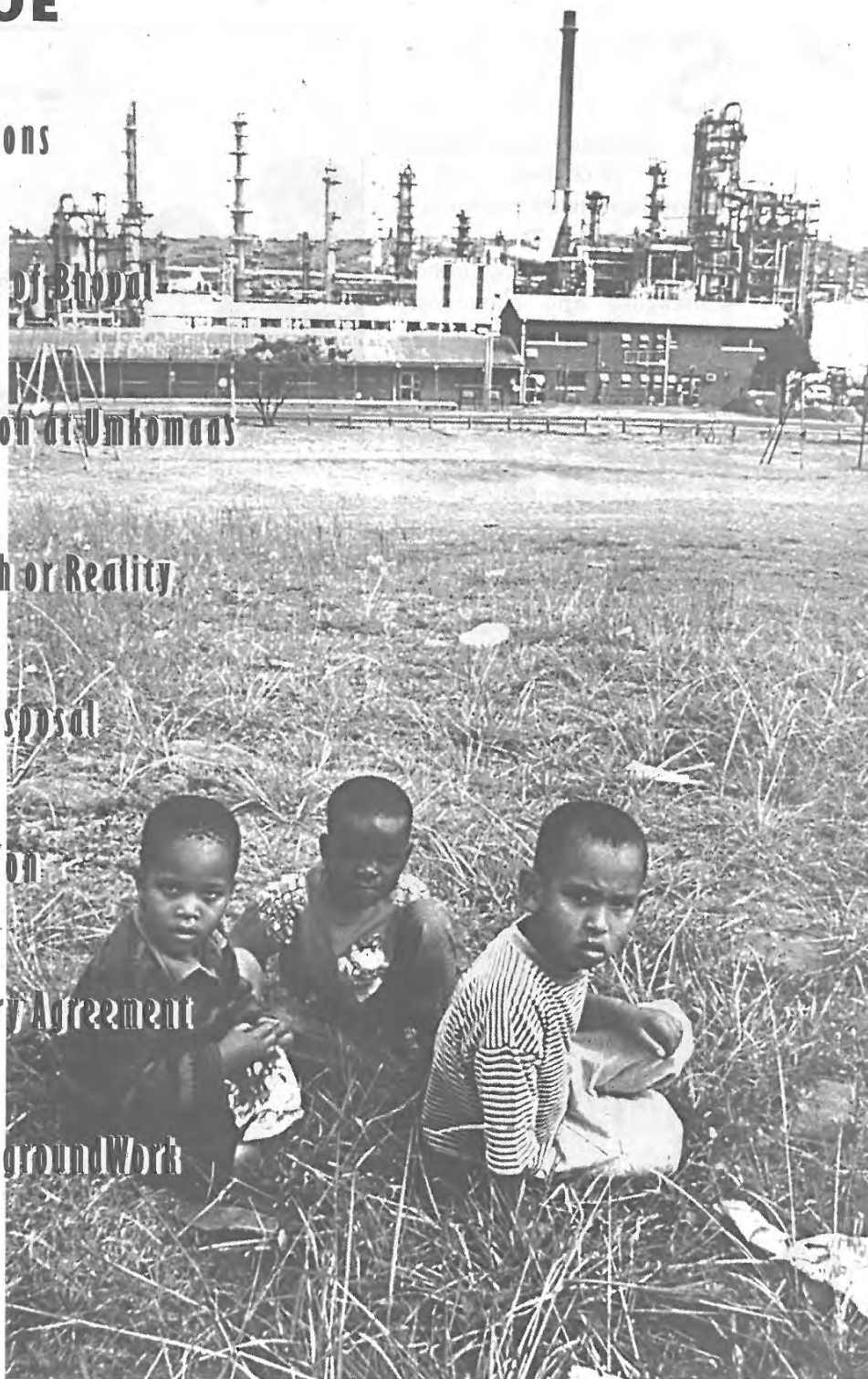


photo: Skip Schiel

LAUNCH CELEBRATIONS

South Africa's new action and advocacy based environmental justice organisation is launched

groundWork trustee, Jon White is pictured right

South Africa's new action and advocacy based environmental justice organisation was launched with a celebratory party on the evening of the 29th November in Pietermaritzburg. The launch was attended by about 50 friends, colleagues and community activists. There was much food, laughter and popping of champagne corks as all joined in wishing groundWork all the best in their venture.

Informal speeches were made by each of the five groundWork trustees, who praised the groundWork staff for all that they had achieved in the few months that they had been operational. groundWork trustee Farid Esack highlighted the need for civil society to continue to play an



Farid Esack - groundWork trustee



activist role within the new South African democracy. He said that this spirit of activism was needed to ensure that our elected leaders and government officials followed through with the promises they made to the people of SA.

groundWork's director, well-known environmental activist Bobby Peek, gave an opening address. In his speech he said:

"In the last few years South Africa has made significant gains by the inclusion of the principle of environmental justice in the text of our primary environmental policy and law. Today we are faced with the challenge of interpreting the principle of environmental justice into a reality for and by civil society. Our hard struggle for democracy will need to be judged by the gains we as South Africans make in ending the discriminatory dumping of pollution on those

dumping of pollution on those people previously marginalised and disadvantaged as a result of the practices and policies of the previous apartheid government."

He used the opportunity to call on the NGO sector to use the space newly created by our government to positively engage in critical but participative governance of our environments.

Well wishes were received from many friends who were unable to attend the launch party night.

There was press coverage of the launch in The Natal Witness, Daily News and The Mercury newspapers.

Gill, Bobby and Linda would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all our friends, families and funders who have encouraged and assisted us in establishing groundWork.

The GGHH journey

by Luqman Yesufu

A call to action for healthcare leaders

In 2014, groundWork, in partnership with Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), launched the Global Green and Healthy Hospital (GGHH) initiative in Africa, with the aim of bringing together hospitals, health systems and health organizations from around the world under the shared goal of reducing their environmental footprint and promoting public and environmental health. What was initially thought of as an insurmountable task by some has seen a meteoric rise in the number of health institutions across the continent that have embraced the GGHH initiative. These numbers have risen from one member in 2014 to ninety members representing the interests of 1856 Hospitals and Health Centres on the continent. This is quite remarkable, considering the fact that many of these health institutions are facing other pressing issues relating to patient care and safety that they have to deal with on a daily basis with very stringent budget lines.



The foundation for this incredible work lies at the very beginnings of groundWork, when from day one we challenged the burning of medical waste in incinerators. Indeed, just a few months after we

launched, groundWork was linked with the “shut down one of KwaZulu-Natal’s biggest medical waste incinerators following concern about serious air pollution and human health risks”. We always believed that health care institutions must be places that make people better, not more ill.

Another foundation stone has been groundWork’s relationship with HCWH, of which we were a member from day one. And, working with HCWH, we had a significant victory when in 2001 we convinced government to start the phase out of mercury in South Africa and in particular KwaZulu-Natal, which became the first province to produce a directive to enforce this. So getting into the swing of things with GGHH was set on a firm foundation.

At a global level, the beginning of 2018 saw GGHH celebrating its biggest milestone in the history of the network: 1 000 new institutional members. This was an important and inspiring moment for GGHH and served as a broader indicator that sustainable health care is moving into the mainstream in all corners of the world. This accomplishment launched a year highlighted by expansion, evolution and exciting ambitions that are redefining what truly sustainable health care can be.

In 2019, the GGHH network had successfully reached eight countries in Africa: South Africa, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, Kenya, Morocco and Zambia. These countries’ health institutions are currently working in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and HCWH to roll out both the Sustainable Health in Procurement Project (SHiPP) – launched in groundWork’s 20th year of existence, 2019 – and the Unintended Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPoPs) projects that aim to assist the health sector in these countries to meet their obligation under the Stockholm and Minamata conventions.



Coupled with this growth, GGHH in Africa experienced engagement at new and unprecedented levels, with two major health systems joining the network. The Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, which runs the largest healthcare services delivery in Cameroon and comprises six hospitals, over 25 integrated Health Centres, 50 primary Health Centres, Pharmaceutical procurement and distribution department, the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel, the Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education and Social Services, Services for People with Disabilities, among others. Netcare Limited, which is the largest provider of private healthcare in both South Africa and the United Kingdom, also joined the GGHH Network, bringing with it all its 116 hospitals. These health systems are making sustainable health care a priority and using GGHH as a vehicle to achieve it in all aspects of its operational activities.

Of equal importance to this growth are the ambitious commitments, case studies and targets that GGHH members in Africa are challenging themselves to achieve. At the beginning of 2018, they raised the bar to new heights, with two Netcare hospitals committing to achieve 100% renewable electricity and produce zero waste. Furthermore, more than 20 hospitals have committed to the waste and energy challenge which is designed to help healthcare organizations commit to sustainability goals and track their own environmental projects and efforts. They are also using their innovation and ingenuity to transform the health sector and protect environmental and public health through implementing sustainable practices and documenting their experience as case studies.

These case studies serve to celebrate GGHH members' work and document what they have achieved. They also serve as the basis for generating publicity that highlights what is possible and to motivate others to join the effort.

The SHiPP is a programme – developed by UNDP, in collaboration with HCWH, and

funded by the Swedish International Development Agency – that aims to reduce the harm to people and the environment caused by the manufacture, use and disposal of medical products and by the implementation of health programs. It is a novel way to challenge for a safer healthcare service.

Lastly, the accreditation of the Global Green and Healthy Hospital programme by the South African Medical Association as well as the Health Professionals Council of South Africa was one of the greatest achievements of the network. This accreditation ensured that whenever there was a presentation on GGHH, medical doctors, nurses and environmental health practitioners were keen to attend and learn because they knew they would get Continuous Professional Development accreditation at the end of the workshop, which is necessary for career development.

Since the launch of GGHH in 2014, there has been a convergence of progress, growth and increased ambition amongst the health leaders and institutions. Long term aspirations to decarbonize the health sector and transform the global supply chain are now coming into focus and link it to other groundWork campaigns, such as Coal and the Climate and Energy Justice Campaign. It is the GGHH community of members that is leading the way. And it is the collaboration amongst this community that will play an integral role in achieving these objectives and beyond into the next 20 years. ✌



GGHH Sustainability Coordinators from across five provinces in South Africa who attended the 5th Annual planning meeting in Ilawu Hotel, Pietermaritzburg. Credit groundWork



Where will today's youth be in 20 years?

by Niven Reddy

As a newbie to the environmental justice world, I first joined groundWork three years ago as an intern, full of energy and eager to work in a new arena of environmental science and management. I recall being quite naive about much of what I thought of our world and environment generally. I entered a world where environmental protection is not only about the dumping of waste in the ocean and killing the fish but is also about how

these environmental impacts are killing people and impacting on the lives of poor, fenceline communities. It was completely eye-opening and I soon came to understand how unfair the world that we live in is. What I learnt quickly was that environmental justice is not about environmental science, management and protection: it is about building people's power to create a just world.

Three years on and I am still quite full of energy and hungry (not a fat joke!) to change this unfair and unjust society that we have. groundWork has been at the forefront of challenging our government and corporate powers to take accountability and act, not on what we hope their humanity tells them, but on what the law says should be acted upon.

Bobby often tells us that when we work with a community, we go back. That has been the foundation of us building a solid and trustworthy relationship with the community partners with whom we work. They know that we will continue to support their struggle and that we will not simply create a noise and then leave them to fend for themselves. Our method is supporting and building grassroots movements to challenge the powers that aim to trample those very grassroots.

Over the years my work has shifted from being the intern who followed proposed environmental developments to a full-time research campaigner supporting all our campaigns with a focus on fracking, air quality, youth development and plastic campaigning. Currently, my role is coordination with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), working with African organizations resisting incineration, fighting plastic production and pollution and advocating for zero waste.

Crushed plastic bottles ready to be recycled, Mooi River Landfill Site
Credit groundWork



groundWork was honoured to host GAIA's founding meeting, in South Africa in December 2000, with the participation of more than 80 people from 23 countries. Founding members identified incineration as an immediate and significant health threat in their communities and a major obstacle to resource conservation, sustainable economic development and environmental justice. Through GAIA, members committed to increased community solidarity and collaboration to achieve their common goal of a just and toxic-free world without incineration.

Subsequently, we have challenged and defeated all municipal waste incineration plans in South Africa, working with the communities whose lives would have been drastically impacted if these incinerators had gone ahead. We continue to be a thorn in the side of cement producers, among many other corporate powers.

Not only challenging incineration but the pushing back on toxic waste is a big issue for groundWork. Another major anniversary this year, but not as welcome as our existence, is the 30th anniversary since the disaster of ThorChemicals. This is illustrative of a legacy of imported toxic waste dumping, an issue that went horribly wrong 30 years ago and is still wrong. Imported spent industrial catalyst laced with toxic mercury was dumped in South Africa from many industrial countries for recycling, but has instead remained undealt with in Cato Ridge. The parent company has moved out of South Africa and the public and the South African government has been left to foot the bill to treat this toxic waste in an environmentally sound manner.

I am extremely honoured to be part of this journey. To 20 years of being a thorn in the side and to many more years of breaking down the barriers to environmental justice. ✕



Niven Reddy
Credit: Babawale
Obayanju (FoE
Nigeria)



The MIP

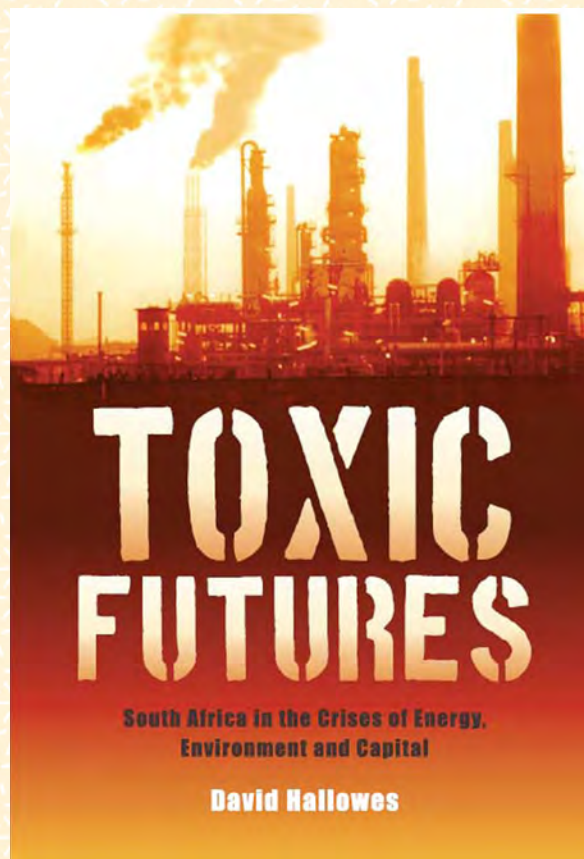
by Bobby Peek

The Media, Information and Publications Campaign is often referred to as the MIP, for it is a mouthful and indeed, also more than one job.

We recognized from day one that we must keep the media close to us, document as much as we can on environmental justice and make sure we define environmental justice for ourselves.

Linda Ambler, groundWork's co-founder, was our first MIP campaigner. A writer of phenomenal skill and a meticulous researcher, she ensured we documented our work thoroughly. So, it was without much of a challenge that this part of our work started smoothly. Easy-peasy, as it is said. But then over the years reality struck, as success means more hard work and more demands.

In our previous lives with the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, every three months we documented the environmental justice work in South Africa, an important tradition that groundWork continues; even more so, as the Forum no longer exists. In the era of the worldwide web, media and fast communications, it is critical that our work is documented to ensure that it lives. I can safely proclaim that if groundWork should no longer exist tomorrow, our work will live on, and it will be a forever remembered reference for future environmental justice strategies. Together with our quarterly newsletter, we also ensured that we document as much as we could of key struggles and issues of the time. I would say – although others might disagree – the most famous is *World Bank and Eskom: Banking on Climate Destruction 2009*, in which we warned of the energy, climate, environmental and financial crisis South Africa faces today. The then Minister of Finance dismissed us as a northern-funded NGO. We are accustomed to dismissal: the Mayor of Durban referred to us as self-appointed consultants when we challenged him.



From the outset we were determined to define for ourselves, and indeed for South Africa, the term environmental justice. It was borrowed from the United States, where movements had begun challenging for an environmentalism that moved beyond conservation and focused rather on people. For groundWork and indeed South Africa it was more. So, we asked David Hallowes and Mark Butler to take time to reflect with us. What came out of this exercise was our definition of environmental justice which takes us into the realm of power relations. For us, environmental justice is "Empowered people in relations of solidarity and



equity with each other and in non-degrading and positive relationships with their environments". Upon this premise we base our resistance.

To kick on from there we decided to reflect upon environmental justice annually, and what emerged is *The groundWork Report*, which reviews the State of Environmental Justice in South Africa through a particular lens. In *The groundWork Report 2005*, we already warned that a just transition is needed. Out of these publications came the book *Toxic Futures*, which is about the world brought into being through the collusion of state and corporate power and which gives us the present crisis. Nnimmo Bassey, environmental justice and human rights activist, says of the reports, "The groundWork Reports are life jackets thrown into shark-infested murky waters from which the dispossessed and the powerless yell for solidarity."

But enough about the reports, for which we have to thank our researchers and the community partners. The big exciting thing for groundWork has been hitting the media big time. And indeed we have. It was our aim early on that the media must come to us, rather than us go to the media, and within a year this was achieved. This strong rapport with the media helped environmental justice remain alive even at times when our MIP campaign had no dedicated staff. Key moments in this has to be the exposure of air pollution in 2000 which made the front page of the Mail and Guardian and the expose of a cancer cluster in south Durban.

Then there was the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which we crashed with two big media opportunities: one, in the form of a Zapiro take on the shenanigans at the Summit in his usual satire, and The Greenwash Academy Awards, aka Green Oscars, which was a spoof award for recognising "the achievements of business and industry on sustainable development". We were spread over the front page of the Business Section of *The Sunday Times*. And, yes there are many more such stories.

What we were proud of from day one was to be able to have a website covering environmental justice in the country. We were one of the first local environmental organizations to put up a website. Over the years, it has made sure to capture as much as it could on environmental justice in South Africa.

With our growing partnerships with Friends of the Earth, Life After Coal, Health Care Without Harm, Global Anti-Incineration Alliance and others, we have reached global audiences we did not imagine in the beginning.

Finally, our MIP campaign is about developing information that we need for struggles on the ground. From pamphlets to community reports – such as the first *National Report on Community-based Air Pollution Monitoring in South Africa* – these pieces of information are strong advocacy and learning pieces.

The MIP is going to have to change and get beefed up as groundWork's campaigns grow. Like most of the other campaigns, we are going to have a team following this work.

To the next 20 years! ✂



McUnicef
at the
Greenwash
Academy
Awards,
WSSD, Sept
2002

Credit:
groundWork



The ongoing struggle

by Thomas Mnguni

Building and supporting strong community activism – an ongoing struggle

In 2008, groundWork was introduced to me as an NGO that seeks to assist, support and build capacity and promote activism at a community level, in order for people to define their own path of development. In my mind, I assumed that this is what all NGOs normally say they want to achieve. But with groundWork there is one thing that distinguishes them: the commitment to work with communities, irrespective of the challenges and difference of opinion. This is what makes groundWork not just another NGO.

At the core of this commitment is to support people to fight to have access to information, be involved in decision-making processes and be able to choose what they want for their own development, without their rights being infringed upon – otherwise known as open democracy.

This process has turned out to be a long process of learning for myself, community people and individuals who seek to make change in their respective areas. Initially, there was sharing of experience of other community environmental justice struggles and organizing. One learned about how the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance and the Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance organised themselves and redefined their own struggle. We were also introduced to the importance of sharing information and networking, as that builds solidarity.

With most of us realizing the importance of knowledge-based networking, we came to realize that around Mpumalanga there are a multitude of community organizations that take to the streets every day in protest over service delivery or jobs. What was missing was how they could link with each other to share their experiences and work as a collective in solidarity. This is what groundWork brought to the table.

In 2009, a plan and process to identify community based organizations started and getting them to work as a collective was the major goal. But also during this time a process to educate the community about how best they should understand and redefine their struggle was intensified. The concept of environmental justice was introduced to us, and that really defined and made us understand why we are in this mess. It also showed people the importance of developing knowledge and evidence through community monitoring and monitoring of government and their 'monitors'.

This process of learning and organizing has led to more and more community groups linking their struggle to the environmental justice movements. This in turn led to a strong call to form a regional network within the Highveld, as more groups were becoming active and vocal in environmental governance and trying to ensure that their rights are not being violated. A process to form the Highveld Environmental Justice Network (HEJN) started and finally it was formed in 2015.

Today, HEJN as a network could be stronger, but what is very important is that we have strong, effective community based organizations in the area that continuously advocate for change and carry the process of learning forward. The same groups are now calling for workers and unions to begin to be part of the collective in order to redefine development in our own areas towards a Just Transition.

Most of these processes have had an unreserved commitment from individuals within groundWork, who passionately want to see the country and its people living in an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being. ✕





On the 20th anniversary of groundWork, it is important for us to take stock of all of this and celebrate by recommitting ourselves towards supporting and educating communities and critically listening to what their issues and struggles are and to respond accordingly. ✎



A century of catastrophe

by Greenfly

For nearly a century, Eskom has been burning our future

Eskom has been a slow moving catastrophe for nearly a century. Or rather, it was the heart of the minerals energy complex (MEC) which devastated the people across half a continent. The men came in on those trains from Namibia and Malawi, from Zambia and Zimbabwe, from Angola and Mozambique, from Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, from the locations, reserves and Bantustans of the Union, the Republiek and (even still) the Republic.

Conscripted to dig deep down in the earth, conscripted into the stinking hostels, taken from their families, from their fields and herds, they cursed the coal train that brought them to the city of gold. And worse for the place of coal. Give it a last blast for Masekela.



The trains and the hostels are gone (mostly). Now they come by rattling taxi and shack down under tin with the heat beating in. A room of their own maybe two metres square, scarcely enough for a bed and a chair. Just half a metre to the next shack and the air full of coal dust and desperation. In a ruined land, they have the hope of risking life for a pittance.

The furnaces burn bright across the coal fields. Sour acid smoke blasts from the stacks and settles over the land. In the neighbourhood, people gag on bad air and more die than the Republic would have you count.

And the wrecking train comes on. Faster now and faster. Eskom piled debt on debt to build Medupi and Kusile, to reproduce the minerals energy economy that ruined the land and wasted the people. Now

it is razing even that economy, a heavy coal train running at express speed at the end of the line. And the end of the line is in the decorous halls of the Republic's Treasury.

It is twenty years since the 1999 White Paper on Energy promised cheap power for ever and the privatisation of power stations. It is fifteen years since the penny dropped: no-one would buy a power station to produce cheap power at a loss. Government then declared itself a developmental state and declared Eskom a source of strategic investment.

It is fourteen years since Eskom contracted Hitachi to build boilers to profit Chancellor House and the ruling party (the once-upon-a-time party of emancipation). It is twelve years since they started digging the foundations for Medupi and eleven years since they realized they got it wrong and had to start again.

It is eleven years since they started hiking electricity tariffs to pay the inflated bills of every shark-nosed national and transnational corporation that smelt spilt money like chum in the water. It's eleven years since national Load shedding Round One. It's eleven years since capital's watch dogs on Wall Street downgraded Eskom because, they said, the tariff hikes were not enough. It's eleven years since Eskom went begging to the World Bank. It's eleven years since Wall Street crashed the world economy.

It's ten years since Treasury guaranteed R176 billion of Eskom's debt. It's ten years since we told them it would all end in tears. It's ten years since the Republic's ministers lined up to say we were unpatriotic. It's nine years since Treasury doubled down on the bet and guaranteed R350 billion. It's nine years since the Zupta team smelt the chum in the water.

It's five years since Load shedding Round Two. Fast forward ... very fast forward with Brian and Trillion and McKinsey and KPMG. And on to Load

shedding Round Three. And Four. Misfit boilers and baghouses. And all the sums are crashing down. Now R350 billion is no longer enough. Eskom's debt runs past R500 billion without pausing. After quintupling the tariff, its income doesn't cover the interest payments. The wrecking train is running full speed through the Treasury buffers at the end of the line.

Outside, beyond the numbers, is the ruined earth.

The groundWork and community struggle continues into the next 20 years! ✕



Tributes to Jon White

On Thursday afternoon, the 14th of March 2019, Jon White, long time resident of Pietermaritzburg, lawyer and activist passed away peacefully after a year-long battle with cancer. As a father of three and a grandfather, Jon invested a great deal of love and care in family.

There was another remarkable side to Jon that I must honour – one that was perhaps not so visible to many, as it was just something that Jon got on with and did. Jon made a truly remarkable contribution to nation-building, to changing the world and making it a better place – and this legacy lives on, and people must know of this.

Jon took his personal commitment to human decency and human rights and translated that into meaningful action. Yes, Jon was always up for a good protest or picket against injustice, whether with the Black Sash and Lawyers for Human Rights in the dark days – or with his friends in the environmental justice community.

More than that, though, Jon was a tireless and constant builder and nurturer of organizations – volunteering his time, insights and wisdom working for the greater public good. In addition to his humorous, punny gift, Jon was able to grasp complex and complicated situations and come up with simple and elegant solutions.

Jon was integral to the establishment of three civil society organisations important to the environmental and social justice fabric of South Africa.

These organisations variously have gone on to realising remarkable achievements: stopping the import of toxic wastes, challenging the spraying of hormone herbicides (which Jon also fought as a lawyer) successfully pushing for an environmental right in the new Constitution; ensuring that the concept of “environmental justice” was enshrined in our law, through the environment white paper.

More recently Earthlife Africa scored a huge court victory in scuppering Jacob Zuma's nuclear deal.

Alongside a small group of us, Jon was a founder member of Earthlife Africa in 1988. He made a huge contribution, sowing the seeds for the emergence of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) in 1992, and then groundWork in 1999.

In 1992, we were trying to convince international donors to contribute funds to launch a network that would amplify the growing environmental justice voice in the opportunity that was the new South Africa. How could these wary donors be sure that their funds would not be misspent? Jon came up with a solution – he took responsibility for the funds through his legal fidelity fund. Jon signed all the cheques and would see to it that proper bookkeeping and an audit would take place each year (pro bono).

When EJNF had run its course and Bobby Peek, Gill Addison and Linda Ambler set up groundWork in 1999, Jon again took to looking after their funds and writing their cheques.

Jon became the founding Chairperson of groundWork's board, and served continuously on that Board until his passing.

I do not exaggerate when I say that Jon's tireless voluntary pro-bono investment in building a better society – for making the world a better place – has made a huge difference and leaves a legacy that sustains and continues to bear fruit.

We will miss you Jon – there is much to treasure and remember.

Chris Albertyn

*Founding member of Earthlife Africa and first
Director of EJNF*



The night subs' desk on the Witness in the early 1970s, was an irreverent place. Jon White was one of those who set the tone. He was part of a cohort of people who went to work there shortly after graduating from the Maritzburg campus of the University of Natal (as it then was). We were not, for the most part, aspirant journalists. The Witness just seemed like the best option while we decided what to do next.

Jon is the second of that group to die. Chris Gilbert got a cancer on the brain and died aged 54 in 2004.

Jon was on the sports desk. This was not a place from which to take life seriously. What was wanted was a good pun to fit the headline. Preferably with a double entendre. But if a good pun was not available, a bad pun would always do. A cricketer's wedding invariably had him bowling a maiden over.

He also did duty on the news pages. Vorster was then prime minister. We thought he was a buffoon, the *primus inter pares* in a cabinet of fools. But they were frightening fools in command of men with guns and the state security apparatus – the spies and endless brutality.

For several of us, what to do next was leave the Witness, leave Pietermaritzburg, leave the country. Jon stayed on. He moved from sport to politics and from subs to reporting from parliament for the Witness. A whole house puffed up with self-importance.

By the time I returned to South Africa, he'd also left the Witness but stayed in Maritzburg, did law and, as a lawyer, did a fair bit of pro bono justice work. He was then one of the first members of the Maritzburg branch of Earthlife Africa. That commitment to environmental justice stayed with him. In 1999, he became the first hard-working chair of the groundWork Board.



David Hallowes
groundWork Researcher



Tribute to Denny Larson



I remember the booming voice in the Texanco oil refinery passage way. "Don't go there, back off." It was in response to an oil industry hack questioning the science behind the air pollution sampling system, the community-developed Bucket Brigade, that the man with the booming voice trail-blazed throughout the world.

Yes, it is a strange name, the Bucket Brigade, for an air pollution sampling system. But its name aside, it was an invention which brought science into grassroots communities and the environmental movement domain, giving people the capacity and the intellectual confidence, through hard evidence, to challenge power.

That man was Denny Larson, founder of the Global Community Monitor. He was a man who

was not easy to work with, nor live with. But then very few activists are – ask my wife. But what he was dedicated to at all cost, even at times to the detriment of himself, was making sure that people had power via science.

I got to know Denny when, in 1995, we were challenging the ex-Mobil oil refinery 143 metres from my where I then lived. We sent a message to the oil refinery activists listserve in the US – yes the early days of listserves – and Denny was the first to respond with advice and the Good Neighbour Handbook. This was to be a start of a long relationship.

Denny visited South Africa in 2000 – and a few occasions after – in the first year after groundWork's formation. Together with the South African Exchange Programme for Environmental Justice, he set in place one of the building blocks of the democratic environmental governance that is promised in our environmental air pollution laws.

His work with South African community people was not all smooth, however. He had walked out of Communities for a Better Environment, an environmental justice organisation in the US, to make the SA visit happen. And in South Africa,



Bucket Brigade at Strelitzia Secondary School, May 2000. Credit groundWork

he often frustrated the very people he came to support because of his “cowboy attitude”. But that was him. He did it his way.

After his South African visit, he travelled to many parts of the world – India, Gibraltar, Ecuador, Scotland, The Netherlands, among others – always trying to find new ways to give people more power against the oil industry. He gave many corporations hell, but I will particularly remember him for taking on Shell and Sasol. In the US, from west coast to the Gulf, he was an institution.

I always remember his story of early activism. How he knocked on people’s doors trying to convince them to give the environmental justice cause their support. Not what you expected from a brash, blonde male who had thrown political-correctness out the window, which resulted in a love-hate relationship with many of his compadres. But

Denny didn’t fit into a mould, and was comfortable not doing so. We will all miss him and remember his colourful personality. May his soul rest in peace.

The science of the Bucket Brigade gave a confidence to people who have to live with corporate lies, and for this Denny will always be remembered for. His legacy will continue.

He leaves behind Josephine, his daughter with partner Ruth Beech. Denny was also partner to Linda Feagles for many years.

Denny passed away on the 6th of March 2019.

Bobby Peek
groundWork Director



*Denny Larson at
Bucket Brigade
workshop in
Cape Town.*

*Credit:
groundWork*



groundWork - 20 years of activism

