



Rural visions of a climate just future

What does a climate just future look like in rural South Africa?



Rural Action for Climate Resilience



SOCIAL CHANGE



Saffee



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG



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WE IMAGINE...



We imagine rural areas have municipal offices, with offices for ward councilors.

We have a police station and key national government offices, such as the Dept of Social development, Dept of Health, and Home affairs.

We imagine properly functioning hospitals and clinics, some built especially for mine workers or mining affected communities.

We imagine a sewage and waste processing works, toilets and sanitation in homes, public schools and libraries.

We imagine indigenous vegetation protecting roads and public infrastructure from wind or damage during floods and storms.

We imagine our roads are tarred, with drainage and bridges over rivers for the rainy season, and clear road signs and markings.

Public transport is properly supported, with bus stations and transport networks.



We imagine our community embodying the values of Ubuntu, taking care and responsibility for each other and the environment.

Crime, poverty and gender based violence have been eradicated.

Our local economy can sustain our basic needs. Training and skills transfer from the municipality has created green jobs, such as in ecosystem rehabilitation.



We imagine home and community food gardens, using permaculture and agroecology, in backyards of homes and public buildings.

We imagine public parks with land for growing food and a regular food market to share local produce. Everyone has access to food.

We imagine alternative economic opportunities are opened up, like a sustainable dairy farm.



We imagine solar powered streetlights and solar panels on all rooftops.

We imagine an end to unsustainable mining and industries. We have wind, solar and other alternative industries that share profits with the community.

Our energy is generated locally, creating employment opportunities within the renewable energy sector and supporting affordable energy access.



We imagine an end to illegal dumping and littering. Past dumping sites are closed and replaced with greenery.

Waste is regularly removed by trucks from clear collection points.

We imagine landfill sites properly fenced and managed safely, away from people.

Our community uses waste reduction and management techniques, like composting, reusing and upcycling.



We imagine water management to be integrated into all public infrastructure. Rooftops have rainwater harvesting, in homes, and public buildings.

Our taps, pipes and water infrastructure are properly maintained to prevent leaks.

Our public parks are used to maximise groundwater replenishment. We have multiple water reservoirs and ferrocement tanks built across the community.

We protect the soil from erosion through contouring, swales, and planting indigenous vegetation and food crops.

We manage streams and rivers carefully to ensure thriving aquatic ecosystems, that buffer against flooding, and support local fishing communities and food systems.

WE STILL IMAGINE...

What does a climate just future look like in rural South Africa?

What is missing in this vision of a good life for all?

This document emerges from imagining what a climate just future looks like in rural South Africa, through in-person workshops and online engagement in the Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) project.

The RACR project is a partnership project with the Social Change Assistance Trust (SCAT) and Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI) and Heinrich Boell Stiftung. It is currently funded by the Irish Embassy. It focuses on building an understanding of and greater resilience to climate change in rural South Africa, through working with community based organisations and Faith leaders in rural Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Free State.

Illustrations used in this document are from the Barefoot Guide and previous RACR materials.