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Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa Development and Intensifying the Fight against Covid-19 Pandemic

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international relations & cooperation

Department: International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





South Africa boasts some of the finest, unspoiled and exotic beaches in the world – from the warm East Coast (stretching north of Durban down to East London in the Eastern Cape) to the cold Benguela stream around Cape Town and the West Coast.

credits

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UBUNTU

a Nguni word meaning humanity

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation's quarterly magazine



ON THE COVER

"Africa Day, celebrated annually on 25 May, was this year marked in the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has swept across the world and left no part of our continent untouched. The pandemic will have a lasting impact on our ability to meet the aspiration of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of a peaceful, united and prosperous continent. The virus has exposed the deep inequalities that continue to exist on our continent and across the world. It has shown how far we are from realising our developmental goals and our responsibilities to the citizens of our continent.

"But at the same time, this global crisis should enable a new Africa to come to the fore. It should be an Africa of heroic acts of solidarity, an Africa of cross-border collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources, an Africa that is united by a common goal. The challenge of this pandemic has shown how Africa is able to work together to solve its own problems.

"Let us fix our eyes firmly to the future that burns bright on the horizon. If we remain united, we will overcome this pandemic. We will recover and restore our economies. We will uplift the conditions of our people and we will be worthy inheritors of the legacy of the great Africans who met in Addis Ababa in 1963 to form the OAU. If we draw from the deepest depths of African unity and solidarity, we shall prevail.

"May God Bless Africa and protect her people."

- Mr Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the Republic of South Africa and
Chairperson of the African Union

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Agenda 2063



THE AFRICA WE WANT

Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
- An integrated continent, politically united, and based on the ideals of Pan Africanism
- An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
 - A peaceful and secure Africa
- An Africa with a strong cultural identity, Common Heritage, values and ethics
- An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, particularly its women and youth, and with well cared for children
 - Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner

Agenda 2063 is gaining momentum. It is time for action.
Be part of the transformation!



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"Silencing the Guns" in Africa: Challenges and opportunities

The African Union (AU) has taken very deliberate steps to respond to the scourge. We have developed a comprehensive AU COVID-19 Strategy, established an AU COVID-19 Response Fund, embarked upon a fundraising drive to enhance the capacity of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and appointed special envoys to mobilise support for the AU Strategy against COVID-19.

The African Union's (AU) theme for the year 2020: "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development" is not only a rallying call, it is a fundamental precondition for achieving Agenda 2063. As we were intensifying efforts at "Silencing the Guns", we have had to shift our focus to developing a comprehensive response to the outbreak and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. This deadly virus has caused a

public health crisis, created uncertainty in communities and put a stop to productive economic activity. For many African countries, the virus poses a new unconventional and existential threat.

The socio-economic and humanitarian impact of COVID-19 threatens the gains we have achieved on the continent. Moreover, the impact is likely to be felt months, if not years, after the pandemic, even as we implement social and economic measures to mitigate the epidemiological risks.

By 20 May 2020, with over four million cases confirmed worldwide, reported infections in Africa remained comparatively low. Yet, with the number of confirmed cases rising every day, it was clear that the continent would face a serious health crisis. Figures started rapidly rising in late April 2020, when Africa experienced a jump of more than 40% in just over a week. In May 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) further warned of mass casualties and overwhelmed health systems over a longer period of time, if countries fail to take a proactive approach to the crisis.

The AU has taken very deliberate steps to respond to the scourge. We have developed a comprehensive AU COVID-19 Strategy, established an AU COVID-19 Response Fund, embarked upon a fundraising drive to enhance the capacity of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and appointed special envoys to mobilise support for the AU Strategy against COVID-19. By 20 May 2020, we had raised US\$61 million for both the fund and the Africa CDC. These pan-African initiatives, taken by the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU, have been endorsed by all the regions of the AU, and also enjoy the support of African business leaders.

During the Jubilee Summit, the 2013 Solemn Declaration marking the 50th anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity/AU was adopted. This was a renewed resolve and commitment by African leaders to tackle peace and security challenges confronting the continent, through the AU's Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020, one of the flagship projects and programmes of Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063 remains Africa's blueprint for its long-term socio-economic and integrative transformation.

Since the adoption of the AU Master Roadmap, the AU has made significant strides in reducing violent and armed conflicts throughout the continent. The concluded peace agreements in South Sudan and the Central African Republic, the successful democratic elections in Madagascar and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the historic positive developments in the Horn of Africa, are all generating optimism about a continent emerging from the shadows and moving steadily to restore peace and stability and make a decisive move towards integration.

The AU and its regional mechanisms have also enhanced their capacity for dealing with conflict and crisis situations on the continent. In so doing, the AU continues to strengthen its Architectures on Peace and Security as well as on Governance, which include a powerful set of instruments and practices. This has indeed helped the AU and the international community to enhance their collaboration and partnership to the extent that, today, consultation and coordination between the AU, the regional economic communities/regional mechanisms, the United Nations and other partners to harmonise strategies and interventions, have become the rule, rather than the exception.

Despite the laudable progress evident on the continent, the pandemic has starkly

revealed several critical challenges. Firstly, the preoccupation with conflict in some of our countries has detracted from a deliberate focus on our development goals.

Secondly, public services and public institutions are in need of significant support in order to develop the capacity to respond to unexpected challenges such as this global emergency. When we reach our peak of the Coronavirus, our public health systems will be overwhelmed and when vaccines and treatments are developed, we will remain last in line. We must do more to invest in quality public services, research and innovation.

Thirdly, our populations, particularly women and the poor, are far too dependent on survivalist economic activities and thus severely vulnerable to global threats of pandemics, food insecurity and climate-change effects. All of these must be tackled as timely reminders in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

Africa has begun to reorient its economic development toward increased industrialisation, manufacturing and intra-African trade through implementation of the Free Trade Area Agreement. This ambition has been paused by the pandemic but it must not be lost.

The challenges to achieve peace on the African continent are complex and immense, involving multiple cross-cutting issues. These include, among others, socio-economic development and resilience; promoting access to resources and economic opportunity; and promoting and entrenching democracy and good governance. The scale and magnitude of the challenges involved and their intersectionality, require not only the availability and allocation of significant resources, but also, the establishment of strong, sustainable and vibrant partnerships at national, regional, continental and international levels.

The AU Master Roadmap identifies a number of obstacles such as the persistence of illicit flows, illegal arms transactions, financing of terrorism and external political interference, climate change, environmental degradation and others, as constituting serious threats to the African peace and security agenda. We therefore call upon the international community, in particular members of the Security Council, to support the AU and its members to address these concerns.

The AU supports the call by Secretary-General António Guterres for a global ceasefire in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is against this background that we call on all parties to conflict in Africa, notably in Libya, to lay down their arms and to commence negotiations aimed at lasting

peace. Attacks on medical facilities, including hospitals and clinics, are condemned under all circumstances. At this time, it is of paramount importance that healthcare facilities in conflict areas are allowed to operate without hindrance.

The importance of gender equality and women empowerment in achieving "Silencing the Guns" is central. This year coincides with a number of milestones on the continent and globally, including the end of the Decade of African Women, the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The COVID-19 pandemic again poses additional threats to the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment. In all our efforts to address this global crisis, we must ensure that the rights of women and girls in Africa are protected and that women's empowerment and gender equality are advanced.

In this context, the AU calls for increased international humanitarian relief efforts to assist affected communities in conflict areas, in particular vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees and displaced persons.

Reliable and sustainable funding for the AU has been a persistent challenge over the past two decades, with an over-reliance on funding from international donors, which has historically resulted in a very strong interdependence and subordinate role for Africa in decision-making, particularly in the domain of peace and security. The newly established Peace Fund is pivotal to efforts aimed at ensuring that the AU achieves greater autonomy, ownership and self-reliance in addressing its peace, security and developmental challenges.

Timely and vigorous actions by all our leaders will not only lead to addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, but will also contribute to strengthening the foundation for lasting cooperation and solidarity among African countries, in order to achieve durable peace, security and development in Africa.

Only through united, global action, can we overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and achieve success in our efforts towards "Silencing the Guns" on the African continent. ☺

**By Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation**



South Africa was supposed to host a mid-year summit of the AU, at which the matter of silencing the guns on the continent was to take centre stage. As the readers of this magazine would recall, in its vision document, Agenda 2063, the AU had designated 2020 as the year in which Africa was to make a paradigm shift from decades of political and security conflicts in some parts of the continent to a future characterised by the prevalence of peace, stability and prosperity.

South Africa's current term as Chair of the AU came at a time when the organisation was moving with speed to launch and implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. Readying the continent for action, the AU Summit, held in February 2020, appointed South African citizen, Wamkele Mene, as the first Secretary-General responsible for the AfCFTA.

Among other things, the AfCFTA aims to create a single African market, deepening the economic integration of the continent; establish a liberalised market through multiple rounds of negotiations; aid the movement of capital and people; facilitate investment; and move towards the establishment of a continental customs union.

For the AfCFTA to be hit in its infancy by such disruption as that caused by COVID-19 is unfortunate. One hopes, however, that the pandemic may only have delayed Africa's impending new era, and that the continent – with its vast resources and a young and eager population – will soon take its rightful place in the world.

Much as it has caused death and disruption, the COVID-19 pandemic has also been a catalyst for the more effective utilisation of existing technologies. We have seen international organisations such as the World Health Organisation making use of technology to coordinate a global response to the disease. We have also seen how the UNSC is able to remain seized with some of the world's persisting violent conflicts. Closer to home, we have seen President Cyril Ramaphosa continuing in his role as Chair of the AU to convene online meetings with his counterparts as a way not only of responding to COVID-19, but also implementing those decisions of the AU Summit that are ripe for operation.

Thanks to technological advancements, South Africa is able to continue fulfilling its international obligations in the AU, UNSC, World Trade Organisation and other international bodies.

Significantly, South Africa is an active participant in global efforts to find a vaccine for COVID-19. Our country is working with its African and global partners in the search for solutions to the pandemic.

As President Ramaphosa has said, South Africa is "integrally involved in forging a common approach across the continent, ensuring that we mobilise resources and develop strategies to ensure that no country is left behind".

There is no denying that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immeasurable negative impact on public health and global trade. Not spared from the worst effects of the pandemic, has been one of the world's oldest professions: diplomacy.

From the point of view of South Africa's international relations endeavours, the spread of the pandemic could not have come at a worse time as the country chairs the African Union (AU) for the year and, at the end of December 2020, completes its two-year term as an elected member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

African Union

“ONE EFFECT OF SUSTAINED CONFLICT IS TO NARROW OUR VISION OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE”

Nelson Mandela

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SOUTH AFRICA'S PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

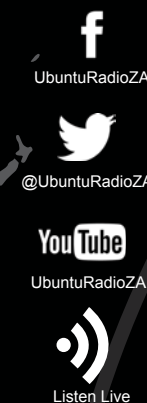
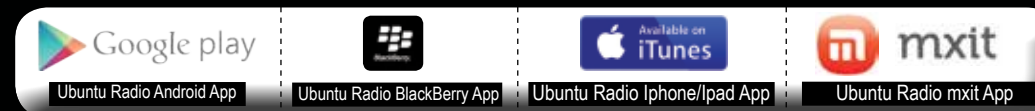
Since its launch in 2013, South Africa's first, 24-hour online radio station has been setting in motion dialogue on South Africa's foreign policy.

In celebration of its first anniversary in 2014, UbuntuRadio launched on DSTV's audio bouquet, increasing its reach to over 45 African countries and over 10 million potential listeners. In addition to the mobile application accessible globally, the UbuntuRadio Mxit Application is also available to a potential 80 million users.

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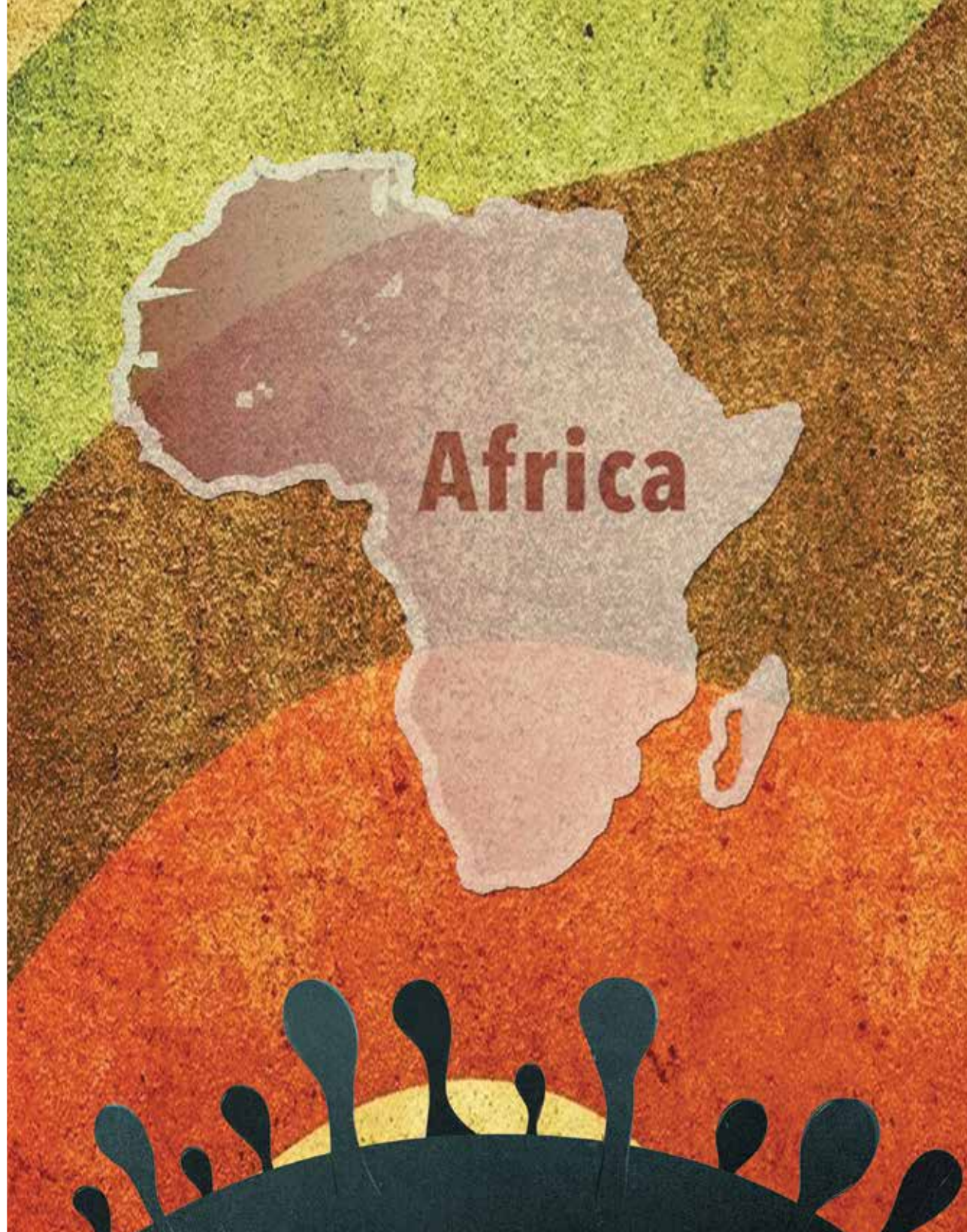
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COVID-19 must enable a new Africa

This global crisis should enable a new Africa to come to the fore. It should be an Africa of heroic acts of solidarity, an Africa of cross-border collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources, an Africa that is united by a common goal.

By President Cyril Ramaphosa

On 25 May 2020, 57 years ago, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was born. From the beginning, it was dedicated to the idea that only through unity could Africa safeguard its independence and unlock its potential.

On that day, we paid tribute to our forebears, the founders of the OAU, whose dream of greater African integration and unity has endured.

We also honoured the legions of revolutionary leaders of Africa who took up the mantle of pan-Africanism and who fought for the economic and political integration of Africa.

They have left a formidable legacy for our continent and all its peoples. They continue to inspire us and the generations who will come after us.

It was the mission of the founders of the OAU to liberate the continent from the clutches of colonial oppression, and to restore Africa's fortunes and the dignity of every African man, woman and child.

We are reminded of the difficulties they had to overcome and the resistance they encountered from foreign powers that had much to gain from exploiting divisions on the continent.

Yet, they taught us the power of perseverance and sacrifice, of dedication to an ideal, and that an Africa united can overcome even the greatest of challenges.

We marked this Africa Day in the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic, which had swept across the world and left no part of our continent untouched.

This COVID-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact on our ability to meet the aspiration of the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 of a peaceful, united and prosperous continent.

The virus has exposed the deep inequalities that continue to exist on our continent and across the world.

It has shown how far we are from realising our developmental goals and our responsibilities to the citizens of our continent.

But at the same time, this global crisis should enable a new Africa to come to the fore. It should be an Africa of heroic acts of solidarity, an Africa of cross-border collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources, an Africa that is united by a common goal.

The challenge of this pandemic has shown how Africa is able to work together to solve its own problems.

Day by day, across our continent, we are seeing the unity that is our strength being put to the service of saving lives and supporting the vulnerable.

We salute the latter-day standard-bearers of pan-African unity: the healthcare workers and medical personnel, the scientists and epidemiologists. We salute the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention for leading our continent's response to the pandemic. We also pay tribute to the community workers and NGOs, and the leaders of government and business who have lent their full support to Africa's Coronavirus response.

The AU and its various organs have shown leadership and acted with speed to address this crisis.

We thank our brother, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, for demonstrating strong and foresightful leadership to the world during this crisis.

We thank all the patriots on our continent and our friends in the international community for showing solidarity in this difficult time.

We know that no country can overcome this challenge alone.

We call on developed countries, multilateral institutions and the donor community to provide vulnerable countries across the world, especially on our continent, with the necessary support in the form of diagnostic and therapeutic medical supplies as well as necessary financial support to sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable people.

We repeat our call for a comprehensive, robust economic stimulus package for Africa that includes debt relief and other support measures for the continent's immediate humanitarian needs and necessary economic recovery. As we deal with the impact of this pandemic, we repeat our call for the unconditional lifting of sanctions that have been imposed on Zimbabwe and Sudan.

As Africans, we have taken firm charge of managing this pandemic.

We have a comprehensive strategy formulated by the AU, and have appointed special envoys to mobilise the financial and other resources necessary for its implementation.

COVID-19 knows no borders, nationality or skin colour.

To address the escalating humanitarian crisis, we need to deepen our solidarity.

We must ensure the pandemic does not reverse our developmental gains. We must forge ahead with meeting the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

We must move ahead with the most ambitious step towards pan-African integration to date, the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and ensure that it is operational soon.

We must not let up on our efforts to drive the African Agenda of security, peace and stability, of democracy and human rights, of women's emancipation and the protection of the environment.

We must not under any circumstances allow this global health emergency to derail our efforts to "Silence the Guns" on the continent.

The tragic conflicts that are breeding instability in a number of countries on our continent are exacting a heavy toll on human life and must end.

We must continue to affirm the supremacy of dialogue over military intervention.

As Africans, we will continue to stand on the side of justice and support the people of Western Sahara in their enduring struggle for freedom and self-determination.

We also call for the end of the oppression of the Palestinian people and the occupation of their homeland.

Africa has known much turmoil and hardship throughout history.

We have endured the worst excesses of humankind, from slavery to colonialism, to apartheid, and to prolonged military conflict.

But just as our ancestors were able to overcome the horrors of their time, so too will our faith, courage and resilience as Africans see us through this time of difficulty.

And so, in the words of Africa's first Nobel Peace Laureate, Chief Albert Luthuli, let us cast our eyes beyond the past.

Let us fix our eyes firmly to the future that burns bright on the horizon. If we remain united, we will overcome this pandemic.

We will recover and restore our economies.

We will uplift the conditions of our people and we will be worthy inheritors of the legacy of the great Africans who met in Addis Ababa in 1963 to form the OAU.

If we draw from the deepest depths of African unity and solidarity, we shall prevail. May God Bless Africa and protect her people. 🇵🇹

We salute the latter-day standard-bearers of pan-African unity: the healthcare workers and medical personnel, the scientists and epidemiologists. We salute the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention for leading our continent's response to the pandemic. We also pay tribute to the community workers and NGOs, and the leaders of government and business who have lent their full support to Africa's Coronavirus response.

COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE CHANGE

Every conversation held at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting represents an opportunity for stakeholders to recommit to working together to solve pressing global challenges.

As we start a new decade, the imperative to align on common issues like poverty, inequality, inclusion and the environment is more urgent than ever. With just a decade

to go to the deadline for achieving both the Sustainable Development Goals and South Africa's National Development Plan, greater collaboration between stakeholders to achieve actual outcomes that result in real change is critical.

"At Old Mutual, we're figuring out how to scale-up the work we are already doing with a wide range of stakeholders, so that it creates

growth for our business, while at the same time helping to solve the socio-economic challenges we face as a continent," says Iain Williamson, Interim CEO.

Old Mutual strengthened its focus on Africa during mid-2018, a move that signalled a renewed confidence in the growth opportunities the continent holds. To unlock its full potential, the business is committed to working more closely with key stakeholders to better deliver shared value and growth.

The Group has already committed US \$ 8,3 billion towards creating inclusive and sustainable economies on behalf of its clients and is working with its stakeholders across the continent to achieve SMART objectives. Partnerships that are enhancing the lives of not only its customers, but also the communities across the 14 countries in which it operates, include:

US \$ 92,3 million committed to providing access to quality education in conjunction with National, Provincial and Local Departments of Education. The Group's Education Flagship Project in South Africa, for example, forged strong partnerships with local education authorities across four provinces over seven years to improve maths and science skills among matric learners. It also ran an extensive school leadership programme for teachers and principals which has further helped to improve performance in these pilot schools.

US \$ 845 million committed to affordable housing projects across Africa, in conjunction with a range of partners, including government. A core aspect of this approach is gap housing, which seeks to address the

challenge of those considered "too rich" to receive free-government subsidised houses, yet "too poor" to fall within the normal mortgage lending stream with financial institutions.

US \$ 2,4 billion has been committed to clean energy projects across Africa, enough to sustainably power more than 800 000 homes.

US \$ 35 million committed to enterprise and supplier development projects that support small, medium, youth, women and black-owned business. Working in conjunction with key stakeholders in both government and business, the core focus is to create access to funding, markets, as well as the technical support necessary for these businesses to succeed.

Despite persistent challenges, alignment between stakeholders around common goals makes it significantly easier to achieve progress.

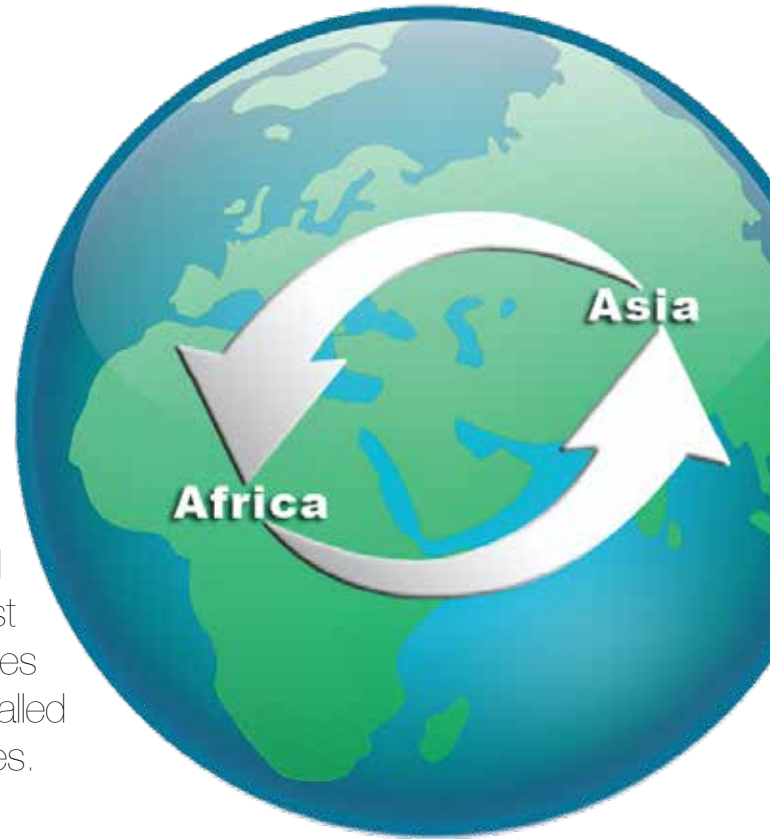
"We are as invested in driving change as all our partners are. We're thinking about tomorrow by acting today and our stakeholders play an integral part in this journey. We are inspired by the African proverb that says: If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together," concludes Iain.

Over the next decade, the Old Mutual Group will be demonstrating its strengthened resolve to activate actual outcomes to ensure our commitments bear fruit. Working with stakeholders to achieve this remains a priority!

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Africa and Asia solidarity in the era of COVID-19



The historical Africa-Asia solidarity must guide us at a time of this global crisis. The ideals of solidarity, peace, prosperity and development are widely touted. We must ensure that the post-COVID-19 era drives and deepens our cooperation as we are called upon to rebuild our economies and societies.

By Ambassador Anil Sooklal
 Deputy Director-General: Asia and the Middle East
 Department of International Relations and Cooperation

We are passing through a stage in human history that will be remembered as among the most challenging periods that humanity has endured. COVID-19 has globalised the oldest and most significant threat to human existence. The threat has been so severe that we have taken to commit ourselves to isolation. Living without social contact goes against the grain of the basic human need for social interaction and human contact, and as the virus becomes globalised, human interaction is becoming insular, it is at this point that we are experiencing an increasing need for cooperation and solidarity. The painful short-term scenarios will be marked by illness and loss of life. Along with these age-old enemies to humankind, we are seeing a renewed upsurge in our dearest friend, human solidarity. There is no disputing that we are at a historic crossroad and the decisions we take now will have lasting implications. Notably, having learned difficult and tragic lessons from countries in Asia, Africa and other parts of the world, most nations have prioritised human life and health. World economies have been decimated, security threats in vulnerable regions are present and continue to creep while public health systems worldwide are

facing incredible strain with many on the verge of collapse. Despite these realities, our leaders chose to ensure that the health, well-being and survival of their populations are prioritised. These are humane decisions that come at a huge cost and we have accepted them. We are confident that we will survive this, and that humanity will emerge transformed, stronger and even more resilient than ever. Our patience, trust and faith and proactive and shared actions will lead us in that direction.

Africa and the future of cooperation

On 9 February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa accepted South Africa's Chair of the African Union (AU). In his opening statement, he drew on the collective strength of Africa's leadership when he stated: "Our collective work to ensure political and economic unity, good governance, and peace should be strengthened by supporting integration, industrialisation, economic development, trade and investment."

The notion of a new reality and the fractured world that the World Economic Forum has used to describe 21st century events are now moving from projections to becoming part of our history. South Africa as Chair of the AU has prioritised the strengthening of intra-African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This will unleash a market of almost US\$3 trillion. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on *Economic Development in Africa* in June 2019, intra-African trade was at about 2% of total continental trade during the period 2015 to 2017, while comparative figures for the Americas were at approximately 40%, Asia at 61%, Europe at 67% and Oceania at 7%. Despite the weak numbers, since 2008, Africa along with Asia, have been the only regions with a growing trend in intra-regional trade. This is a massive investment opportunity and Africa looks forward to working with global partners, as we collectively strive to rejuvenate and diversify our key economic sectors.

The AU, under South Africa's Chair, has reprioritised "Silencing the Guns". One of the main obstructions to economic development and intra-regional trade is the absence of a peaceful, secure and stable environment. Investment in infrastructure is critical, but if conflict persists, the investments will yield little or no results. The AU's prioritisation of "Silencing the Guns" by 2020 is necessary to ensure that investors feel secure, and South Africa remains fully committed to ensuring that Africa is successful in securing peace mechanisms and agreements that lead to sustainable growth and development. Libya, South Sudan and Somalia on the African

continent endure some of the most violent, bloody and vicious conflicts, as well as Yemen and Syria in Western Asia and the continued surges in violence and conflict in different parts of the world are fuelled by the easy availability of illicit weapons together with poverty, underdevelopment and inequality. These historic fault lines must be addressed comprehensively in order to ensure a secure and stable environment conducive to growth and prosperity.

Apart from our regular public health issues, the COVID-19 pandemic presents the worst case scenarios on the impact of climate change in Africa's development. Africa only contributes 2% to 3% of the world's carbon emissions yet Africa, in all likelihood, will bear the brunt of climate-change trends on agriculture, water, agrarian development, food insecurity, peace and security and social stability, to name a few. However, Africa has the largest percentage of the world's arable land and burgeoning natural resources that some have described as being both a "blessing and a curse". A further advantage of both Africa and Asia is the demographic dividend of the most youthful populations; this most important asset must be maximised for the benefit and development of Africa and Asia.

Cooperation and solidarity for development

The historical Africa-Asia solidarity must guide us at a time of this global crises. The ideals of solidarity, peace, prosperity and development are widely touted. We must ensure that the post-COVID-19 era drives and deepens our cooperation as we are called upon to rebuild our economies and societies.

In 2015, Indonesia hosted the 60th anniversary of the Africa-Asia Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, and co-hosted with South Africa. President Joko Widodo and his co-host, then deputy President Ramaphosa, hosted 33 heads of state and representatives from 77 countries. The summit produced three documents: the Bandung Messages, the Declaration on Strengthening the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and the Declaration on Palestine. The summit reaffirmed the Bandung Spirit and the need to energise Africa-Asia solidarity and cooperation.

Our significant, albeit ongoing achievements, are conceptualised through our multilateralism and our collective commitment to formations such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); G77 plus China; the India-Brazil-South Africa; the BASIC climate-change coalition, consisting of Brazil, South Africa, India and China; and the G20 group of the world's most influential economies. Our ocean space binds us as humanity. South Africa has been working assiduously to build the apex Indian Ocean grouping, namely

the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which links Africa, Asia and Oceania. IORA, through its membership, is actively seeking to create linkages through the Indo Pacific and Atlantic oceans in forging the concept of "one ocean" for the benefit of all humanity.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, the current models of South-South cooperation offer a multitude of benefits when we consider the advantages accrued from national and regional science, technology and innovation plans; economic and social planning; linkage of research and development with economic growth; modern management and administration; technical, scientific and administrative human resources; and accelerated professional training at different levels. The global landscape and our vision of socio-economic cooperation and inclusive development must be realised without compromise in the post-COVID-19 era.

Among the most significant outcomes of this shift in the balance of global economic power has been the formation of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). The New Development Bank and the Africa Regional Centre have already had a positive impact on the global financial architecture. We believe that when history is written, it will describe this moment as one that contributed significantly to the reform and creation of an inclusive global financial architecture working in the interests of all the peoples of the world.

One could argue that the 21st century context stifled the space for anything short of discourse outside of real politik and survivalist approaches to international relations. We as nations of the South forged centuries-old bonds, both before, during and after the yolk of colonialism and the associated slave trade. In the last two decades, Africa has forged notable partnerships with China, Japan, India, Russia, the Arab world and the European Union, to name a few. The challenges of a post-COVID-19 era re-examine, redefine and re-energise these formations as mutual conduits of our collective development agenda. We are required to re-energise these formations as further conduits of our collective developmental agenda.

The COVID-inspired landscape

The COVID era is marked by online, virtual interaction. This demands secure and more efficient (cost and speed) cyber and ICT services. Virtual platforms are proliferated with "intelligent and disruptive technologies" and these have now converged to significantly reconfigure global economics, geopolitics and security. It is not insignificant that these ongoing processes are gaining ground while global trade and investment trends are

threatened by what seems to be a reversal of globalisation.

Leading global powers have a meaningful level of economic interdependence which remains central to their relations. This interdependence has traditionally played a significant role in containing possible military skirmishes through balance of power that is dynamic. However, the trade wars and 5G tensions have created both political, technological and commercial complexities, exposing the weaknesses and contradictions inherent within the current global architecture. Travel and tourism is an example of a strategic and emerging sector in Africa and Asia that we expect to change substantially. We need to ensure the free flow of people but not the flow of the virus will continue albeit under a new paradigm. This challenge will keep us busy for years to come and will also impact on the nature of travel in the future.

COVID-19 has provided us with an opportunity to bring to the fore cooperation in the global health sector in order to create a global health architecture that leaves no one behind. As the President of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, noted at the virtual Summit of the NAM held on 4 May 2020: "We must organise another chain, the chain of solidarity to help, with equipment and pharmaceutical products, (to) the poorest." As Africa, we need to utilise this opportunity for joint ventures, for capacity-building, for a renewed focus on developing pharmaceutical and medical supply industries, while deepening collaboration with global partners.

Several leaders have categorised the 21st century as the Asian Century and in recent times several leaders from Africa and Asia and scholars have categorised the 21st century as the African-Asian Century. We have seen momentous growth and development both in Africa and Asia in the first two decades of the century and this solid partnership forged in the history of common struggle must serve as the beacon of navigating a new win-win partnership for the benefit of all countries and its people as well as humanity at large.

We need to remind ourselves that the African and Asian centuries have enjoyed increased momentum in the last decade of the century. This momentum arguably started with the end of the Cold War and has been phenomenal. As we navigate this terrain, we will learn with, and from each other, as each country and region will continue to deal with its own issues. The current global security situation is worrying, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. The fact that we are worried suggests that we are taking steps toward solutions. 🌱

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International relations after COVID-19

Once the world reverts to a semblance of normalcy, there will no doubt be some irreversible changes like diplomacy, as well as trends in trade and security thinking that will also gather momentum. In short, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is going to change international relations.

By Bhaso Ndzendze

Research Director, Centre for Africa-China Studies Lecturer, Tech Dynamics in International Relations (Department of Politics and International Relations), University of Johannesburg (UJ); and Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, UJ Vice-Chancellor and Principal



A post-pandemic world will necessarily be different from the one that preceded it, with implications for South Africa's economic diplomacy and engagement. The "new normal" will be all-encompassing, requiring substantial alterations to the staffing of embassies, the nature of global supply chains, greater use of technology in travel regulations, and rethinking of indicators in the development discourse.

There is a subset of international political economists known as hyperglobalists,

Diplomatic recruitment processes will also need to increasingly draw from medical programmes, as well as accrue graduates from the burgeoning field of biomedical sciences. Likewise, diplomatic schools will need to introduce or bolster their medical and scientific curricula.

for whom the distinctive trend of the 21st century is the disintegration of borders and the erosion of the concept of sovereignty. Spurred by increases in trade, the mobility of capital and definitive steps towards deeper integration in the European Union such as a common currency, the grouping seems to bend decisively towards the elimination of borders over time. And yet, in recent months, the world over, in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic, the State has reasserted itself, and most countries have cordoned themselves behind their borders. Indeed, so effective has the outbreak been in reasserting the State that one of the emblematic developments early 2020 has been declarations of ceasefires by several rebel groups in Cameroon, Colombia and the Philippines.

The new normal on a global scale

Once the world reverts to a semblance of normalcy, there will no doubt be some irreversible changes like diplomacy, as well as trends in trade and security thinking that will also gather momentum. In short, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is going to change international relations. What then, are the repercussions of the measures put in place now for a post-Coronavirus world, and how will this change globalisation?

There were some reports emerging in early April 2020 that African residents in China had been ill-treated and discriminated against. Whether these will ultimately be substantiated

or not, that they could be made and hold some degree of believability shows the perceived lack of responsive capacity of many African embassies and consulates in China on health-related developments. Thus, there is a need to transform these institutions to include medical attachés. These medical attachés are not uniformly present in all embassies and are in some cases temporarily present only for specific scientific negotiations. These will remodel embassies from being diplomatic outposts to active role players that can contribute to the protection of citizens abroad from deteriorating health situations.

More importantly, embassies will be able to expand their mandates to include useful health-related information. Applied effectively, this should manifest into a global network of health-conscious embassies that play a role in early detection and warning systems as they will anticipate potential outbreaks before they materialise. In instances of epidemics, we could ensure swifter actions; more than we saw with COVID-19. With more focus on health expertise in embassies, this could be a standard reaction to epidemics.

Article Seven of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations partially makes provision for this, as it allows for each embassy to have various attachés as is deemed necessary. This has allowed technology ambassadors such as Denmark's Casper Klyngé and the United Kingdom's Nigel Sheinwald in response to the growing centrality of tech companies, especially in Silicon Valley.

Diplomatic recruitment processes will also need to increasingly draw from medical programmes, as well as accrue graduates from the burgeoning field of biomedical sciences. Likewise, diplomatic schools will need to introduce or bolster their medical and scientific curricula.

Global value chains

Global value chains will be transformed because of the Coronavirus. This will encourage self-sufficiency or in the least a strategic reconsideration of the nature of economic interdependence by various countries. More directly, many states will re-evaluate their exposure to China. They will question whether the benefits the country offers, such as its special economic zones and its historically low-wage labour, which has recently become increasingly expensive, outweigh the level of risk encountered by being linked to China. This node of the value chain is blamed by many for being the catalyst for the outbreak of the pandemic.

We have already seen accelerations in automation, and virtual modes of work, while some countries such as Japan have recalled their companies. Fundamentally, lockdowns in China have meant that Japanese manufacturers have been unable to access critical equipment. Thus, according to a Bloomberg report: "imports from China slumped by almost half in February as the disease shuttered factories, in turn starving Japanese manufacturers of necessary components," resulting in "renewed talk of Japanese firms reducing their reliance on China as a manufacturing base". States are already beginning to fundamentally relook at what needs to be imported, especially if there is scope to produce these goods domestically. This could drastically alter the balance of trade for many states. Of course, much of this is speculative as economic activity has mostly come to a halt. Yet, should restrictions continue, and companies consolidate their procurement from local suppliers, this could become a permanent shift despite possibly higher overheads.

For many in the developing world, this fracture in these hitherto resilient supply chains could be an opportunity to close the gap by shoring up their comparative advantages, while also signalling their health statuses. They are also theoretically advantaged by their younger populations, but that may only be true of this particular virus, and there is no telling what groups, if at all, will be relatively safer from different outbreaks in the future.

This also highlights another significant change in the global arena; international investors, and those who advise them, are

likely to be more mindful of health. So far, this has been the preserve of the United Nations' (UN) *Human Development Index* (HDI) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) *Global Competitiveness Index*. The HDI focusses on health expenditure per citizen, whereas the WEF *Global Competitiveness Index* focusses on particular diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. It will be a worthwhile exercise to evaluate whether there is any correlation in rankings on the HDI and proven resilience towards COVID-19. If this is not the case, the global development discourse as it has so far been manifest may yet be another casualty of COVID-19.

Is it possible that we will see a continuation of restrictions on movement after the pandemic? Many countries have shut their borders to curb the spread of the virus. This may entail stricter border controls once they re-open. For one, we could potentially see the incorporation of digital identification into visas. This, of course, would have been a likely outcome of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Yet, the vital need to shut down borders at this time may speed up this process. A digital identifier, which to some extent has already been enforced, includes biometric data as well as biographic and travel history data. We foresee newer regulations delving into more in-depth details as tracking and tracing are implemented. The use of this information will allow countries to have more control over risk-rating, verification and access of travellers. Of course, the caveat is that there are myriad risks and potential for misuse lingers. There will need to be built-in safeguards to ensure privacy and security. Travellers, through their governments, will need to ensure that there is transparency regarding who has access to this data.

On the other hand, while some may anticipate a more divisive post-Coronavirus world, there may be more opportunity for multilateralism. For instance, the African Union (AU), which has long been criticised for its inability to mobilise collectively, has proven that in a crisis, it can act. The special envoys appointed to mobilise international support to address the economic challenges resulting from the Coronavirus are indicative of the kind of collaboration possible. This may be a step in forging closer ties on the continent and could potentially enhance the scope of the African Continental Free Trade Area, while also showcasing which dangers to be on the lookout for.

Implications for South African diplomacy

For South Africa, the COVID-19 outbreak, and thus the lockdown which it necessitated, also

coincided with a recession (in Q4 in 2019) and a downgrading by Moody's to junk status. Thus, some problematic choices lie ahead. The country will have to take advantage of the new changes or be taken over by them. Its economic recovery plan will need to be cognisant of these shifts. Moreover, its support for domestic industries will need to be pursued in concert with the practitioners of its economic diplomacy in foreign affairs desks in various departments and in its hundreds of diplomatic posts around the globe. These should all play leading roles in identifying opportunities that are not engineered towards zero-sum gains, but towards mutual recovery as far as possible. Economic history is an indicator that any plan devised to improve one's economic standing at the expense of other members of the international community only leads to a race to the bottom when practises en masse. South Africa is uniquely represented in numerous institutions – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), the UN Security Council and the AU – to advocate for mechanisms which can prevent precisely these potential beggar-thy-neighbour policies. 🇺🇦

Contents of this article first appeared in the *Daily Maverick* in April 2020.

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Has the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a return of human solidarity and progressive internationalism?



The COVID pandemic is pushing nations to recognise and acknowledge the need for solidarity in tackling global pandemics, but simultaneously, it is driving many to become more inward-looking, insular, fearful and intolerant.

By Nicholas Wolpe, CEO of Liliesleaf Foundation and Jaimal Anand, Branch: Asia and Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation

As Ahmed Kathrada remarked, “it would be a wrong interpretation of history if we ignored the role of the international community in our struggle”. This quote by the late struggle icon vividly captures the important role played by the international community in the struggle against apartheid and the pursuit to attain democracy and human rights in South Africa.

The momentum produced by the struggle against apartheid stimulated and harnessed international support that transcended geopolitical fault lines, which at the time were pronounced and rigid. As the world rose in unison against apartheid, we witnessed what could be achieved when the world came together as one voice, bound together by a common bond and purpose.

The essence of international solidarity lay in the singularity of purpose of countries. The fight against the injustices of apartheid was a clear articulation of this singularity of purpose. It was much more than just unified political beliefs, ideals, purpose and opposition to a repugnant ideology. It transcended politics and went into the realm of friendship, which was most vividly exemplified by the relationship between African National Congress President OR Tambo and Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The latter remarked, “there exists no *they* and *we*, only *us*. Solidarity is and has to be indivisible”. This notion has unfortunately faded with a resurgence of realpolitik in our discourse. The political discourse now is increasingly about a return to preserving borders and keeping the “other” out.

The geopolitical order is characterised not by the bonds that define and shape solidarity,

but by an inward looking, protectionist view, defined by “I”, not “us”. Today, the world is an increasingly unsafe place, starkly illustrated by major flashpoints such as those in Libya, Syria and Palestine, to name a few. Anxieties around the ongoing tensions between the United States, Iran and China remain high.

The reality is that in recent years, our responses to global conflicts, challenges, threats and opportunities have not been shaped and defined by a common focus and purpose, but by self-interest and self-preservation.

The shift in sentiment away from “us” has seen a rise in global strife, which has manifested in various forms, exacerbated by an inherent unwillingness to collectively address and solve the growing conflicts that have come to shape global relations. Now, in 2020, we seem to be on the verge of a new

story as we are battling to manage the effects of the COVID-19 virus ravaging the planet.

Africa Day on 25 May 2020, represented a history that is bound to the values of progressive internationalism and human solidarity. The global discourse on the history of the post-colonial era is a mixed bag of praise, cynical commentary and criticism. On an individual basis, many of us share views that straddle optimism and pessimism, depending on the issue at hand. Internationalism demands that we express our views and formulate our analysis in order to strengthen and build Africa, the world’s wealthiest continent, to enjoy its endowments through development, peace, stability and importantly, an environment in which her sons and daughters will flourish and make maximum use of our inherent talent and strength.

South Africa has assumed Chairship of the African Union (AU) during this COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when the world has to confront this devastating public health threat. We have seen how COVID-19 has led to the development of a duopoly; a contradictory and controversial global approach.

The COVID pandemic is pushing nations to recognise and acknowledge the need for solidarity in tackling global pandemics, but simultaneously, it is driving many to become more inward-looking, insular, fearful and intolerant. The rise of traditional nationalist politics, anti-immigrant sentiments and the rising tide of self-preservation has seen unprecedented attacks on our multilateral institutions. The attack on the World Health Organisation in the midst of a global pandemic was disturbing, yet conversely, Africa’s austere defence of the institution has demonstrated the resilience of our internationalism when we act as a collective.

Encouragingly, this crisis has brought to the fore our traditional approach to dealing

with crises, international solidarity and cooperation. We understand very well that our sense of Ubuntu will always come to the fore in times of crisis and once again it has. Solidarity is reflected in our level of concern of the plight of our fellow man. Under normal circumstances, millions in the world are hungry, poor, victims of conflict and violence, homeless, displaced and without hope. COVID-19 has brought this shameful situation into stark relief – might the world pay attention?

At this moment of significant change, surely it is time to rekindle old notions of solidarity between people and, importantly, between countries in southern Africa? How can we control the “virus that knows no boundaries” to break down barriers and establish a new, progressive order based on social justice and equal opportunity?

We are undoubtedly in a time of severe crisis. Climate change is threatening the most vulnerable and the future of youth, social inequality is on the rise, and right-wing movements are framing a political agenda predicated on “I” and intolerance. The crises confronting us also offer us an opportunity to address and change the way we do things. In this regard, we cannot escape the reality that a post-COVID-19 world will be different not only in how we interact with each other but how we go about doing business.

As Rudi Muhammad, in a 2010 report to the United Nations Human Rights Council stated: “International solidarity is a precondition to human dignity, the basis of all human rights, and a human-centred approach to development, and has a bridge-building function across all divides and distinctions. It encompasses the values of social justice and equity; goodwill among peoples and nations, and integrity of the international community; sovereignty and sovereign equality of all States, and friendly relations among them.”

The 20th century was marked by two devastating world wars and the long and protracted Cold War, which threatened a superpower fall-out that would have left the planet in pieces. Creating a better life for all humanity was set to be a complex and daunting task for the new millennium, and indeed, the 21st century started on a somewhat surreal note with the attack on the Twin Towers in New York. The events of 11 September 2001 were to launch a new, more sinister global trajectory. Suddenly, extremism, terrorism, fundamentalism – concepts which had existed for decades – were now set to occupy and dominate the global discourse of the 2000s.

The 20th century was also marked by a period of decolonisation, but it did not take long for liberated states, especially in

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resource-rich Africa, to experience elements of recolonisation. Neo-colonialism did not necessarily take the traditional form of invading armies; this time, it was a process of seizing control through proxy mechanisms that included global corporations with vested interests in Africa’s resource base. The global power elites were compelled to ensure that governments and governance systems reflected and also served such interests.

With the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955, and the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Belgrade in 1961, it was clear that the newly liberated states understood the need to organise themselves and prevent the emerging threat of neo-imperialist forces, especially given the dynamics of the Cold War.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were to represent the core values of the NAM: mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in domestic affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.

On 25 May 1963, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was formed, and the 32 liberated African states took a clear position on colonialism and apartheid in South Africa. These developments reflected the need to understand the implications of the 1884-85 Berlin Conference that created an Africa that was to serve the interests and needs of the colonial powers, not the continent or her people.

African leaders (increasingly world leaders) understood very well that the Berlin Conference was the product of demigods who took it upon themselves to displace Africa’s centuries’ old indigenous histories, territories and most of all dignity. With that, the OAU was determined to ensure that sovereignty, territorial integrity and the dignity of Africa and her people would be restored.

Will the post-COVID era reaffirm our noble virtues? As our former President Nelson Mandela would remind us, it is in your hands – on this affirmation we dare not falter. 🇿🇦

Diplomatic Society of South Africa

The crises confronting us also offer us an opportunity to address and change the way we do things. In this regard, we cannot escape the reality that a post-COVID-19 world will be different not only in how we interact with each other but how we go about doing business.

India, Africa should accelerate UNSC reforms: South Africa's BRICS Sherpa



"The fault lines exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the global supply chain offer an opportunity for India and Africa to build a robust system based on shared values that would withstand any future difficult situations."

India and Africa should renew their joint efforts to accelerate reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), said Ambassador Anil Sooklal, South Africa's Sherpa for BRICS and G20, at a virtual conference held to mark the 2020 Africa Day.

"The attempts at the UNSC to put a halt to global conflicts during the pandemic have been unsuccessful. It shows how paralysed the UN system is. What is it that we are celebrating on its 75th anniversary of the UN?," Ambassador Sooklal said while responding to a question on what India and Africa could do to intensify reform of global governance institutions.

"You still have an Africa that is marginalised in the Security Council. How much did we progress in the UN reform process since it began some 20 years ago? So, Africa and India must push the reform agenda of the multilateral institutions, especially the UNSC, through their BRICS and IBSA platforms," said Ambassador Sooklal. "We need to collaborate and see how we create a more inclusive global society that does not marginalise Africa and other parts of the world," said Ambassador Sooklal, Deputy Director-General responsible for Asia and the Middle East in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

To mark the 2020 Africa Day, an international webinar, entitled: *Mapping Next Steps in India-Africa Partnership: Pandemic & Beyond*, was organised by the Delhi headquartered India Writes Network, a leading publishing and research organisation focussed on global affairs and India and the *World* magazine. The webinar brought together eminent diplomats, experts and thought leaders from India, African and several European countries.

In his welcome remarks, Manish Chand, Founder-CEO of India Writes Network and India and the World, set out key themes of the conference. "Taking a long-range view, the virtual seminar will help map the future trajectory of the India-Africa partnership in accordance with 10 principles of the India-Africa partnership outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his defining speech to the Ugandan Parliament in July 2018."

Global supply chains

Ambassador Sooklal, also South Africa's BRICS Sherpa, G20 Sherpa and IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Sherpa and the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation), also called for enhanced collaboration in shaping post-COVID global supply chains. "The fault lines exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the global supply chain offer an opportunity for India and Africa to build a robust system based on shared values that would withstand any future difficult situations," he said.

"The current global slowdown offers an opportunity for us to overcome the challenges, and it is fortuitous that we have put forward this template of the Continental Free Trade Agreement," Ambassador Sooklal said. He was referring to the historic continent-wide deal that was scheduled to come into force on 1 July but was postponed due to the pandemic.

Both India and Africa account for almost one-third of the global population, but in contrast, the combined share of global trade is less than 10%. "In this day and age, it is inconceivable, and so, we need to look at it again to ensure that Africa and India become part of the mainstream," he said.

At the 2015 India-Africa Forum Summit, Prime Minister Modi outlined the guiding principles of this partnership, which he reaffirmed during his State Visit to Uganda in an address to Parliament. "What is needed now is to unpack these guiding principles and synergise it for Agenda 2063," he said.

"The primary focus should be on how both can jointly produce for mutual benefit. There are tremendous opportunities but both sides have to look at the niche areas where they can add value to this relationship. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, Information and Communications Technology, capacity and skill development, and agriculture could be significant areas for collaboration," Ambassador Sooklal said. "We need to relook the millennia model of value chain supply, of producing, using and discarding. We need to collaborate and see how we can create a more inclusive global society that does not marginalise Africa and other parts of the world," he added.

Moderated by Manish Chand, the webinar was addressed by eminent diplomats and experts. These included: Dr Anil Sooklal, Deputy Director-General, DIRCO, South Africa; Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Ambassador of Eritrea in India and Dean of African Group Heads of Mission in India; David Rasquinha, MD, EXIM Bank; Ambassador of Uganda to India, Grace Akello; Morocco's Ambassador to India, Mohammed Maliki; Ambassador of Ethiopia to India, Tizita Mulugeta; Sékou KASSÉ, Ambassador of Mali; Ambassador Virendra Gupta, India's former High Commissioner to South Africa; Prof. Rajan Harshe, academic and author; and Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade.

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Liberation Heritage: Denis Goldberg

The only white person convicted in the Rivonia Trial in the Pretoria Supreme Court along with Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu and others, Goldberg spent more than a quarter of his life in jail before he was released in 1985.

By Alet Law, News24

Denis Goldberg, one of the last surviving Rivonia trialists, died after a protracted battle with lung cancer at the end of April 2020. He was 87.

The only white person convicted in the Rivonia Trial in the Pretoria Supreme Court along with Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu and others, Goldberg spent more than a quarter of his life in jail before he was released in 1985.

He was charged under the Sabotage and Suppression of Communism acts for "campaigning to overthrow the Government by violent revolution and for assisting an armed invasion of the country by foreign troops" and was sentenced to four life terms on 12 June 1964.

Goldberg recalled the moment he was sentenced in an interview with the SABC's *Morning Live* on the 50-year anniversary of the Rivonia Trial: "After the judge said in a case that is tantamount to high treason, he said 'the death penalty would be the ultimate sentence, but...' That but meant he wasn't going to impose the death penalty. We started smiling, just a little twitch, but then he said that the only leniency was life imprisonment on each of the counts on which we were found guilty ... And we laughed, and I called to my

mother who was in court and couldn't hear ... and said it was life and life is wonderful."

The reality of prison, however, soon struck him and the realisation that apartheid was still a long way from over eventually took his toll. His time in Pretoria Central Prison, separated from the other Rivonia trialists because of the colour of his skin, was a depressing and lonely time, filled with longing for his family and wife, Esme.

He was often ill and miserable and found little meaning in the menial tasks the prisoners were given to do.

But it was also a time of self-discovery and perhaps the source of his well-known sense of humour.

He writes in his autobiography, *The Mission: A Life for Freedom in South Africa*, "people often ask me how I remained as I am through all the long years in prison. I can only say that I did not remain unchanged. I became far more introspective, far more aware of my own strengths and weaknesses."

"In prison you cannot ask for counselling because you cannot put your mind in the hands of the enemy. You have to be your own therapist. My definition of sanity is that you are able to bring your emotions into line with what you know, by clear thinking, is objectively right."

Denis Theodore Goldberg was born on 11 April 1933 in Cape Town. His grandparents had fled Lithuania to England in the late 1800s to avoid the anti-Semitic threat in eastern Europe at the time. His parents, Sam and Annie, left London for the modest Cape Town suburb of Observatory, where Annie worked in a factory and Sam worked at a small transport company. Sam also worked for the Communist Party, stirring his son's political consciousness from an early age.

When Goldberg was just 16, he wrote his final school exam and went to study Civil Engineering at the University of Cape Town. He joined the non-racial Modern Youth Society, where he met Esme Bodenstein, who he would marry in 1954. Goldberg eventually joined the Congress of Democrats (COD), an organisation of white people who worked with the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC), who organised protest actions which eventually led India to break ties with South Africa.

On 26 June 1955, an alliance of the ANC, SAIC, COD and others organised the People's Congress in Kliptown, near Johannesburg. Roughly 3 000 people attended and the widely heralded Freedom Charter was signed, demanding democracy and equal rights for all South Africans. Goldberg was one of the

organisers of the event, putting his excellent networking skills to work.

Two years later, he joined the banned Communist Party and after he was let go from his job at the state-owned railway, he started working for the party almost full time.

Then, after the Sharpeville massacre occurred in 1960, the ANC, Pan-Africanist Congress and the South African Communist Party were banned and went underground from where the ANC launched the armed struggle. Goldberg joined its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe. One of his jobs as a member was to find railways, power lines and telephone lines to damage. Officially, he was a logistics and technical officer for the organisation.

When the police raided Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, the ANC's underground headquarters, on 11 July 1963, Goldberg was among those arrested.

When he was finally released from prison after 22 years of incarceration, it was not without controversy. With pressure from the international community increasing, South Africa became more and more isolated. In an attempt to soften the world's stance against it, the apartheid regime in 1985 offered political prisoners serving life sentences their freedom, in exchange for giving up the armed struggle.

Nelson Mandela and the other prisoners rejected the offer. Goldberg decided to accept it, believing that he could serve the struggle better from outside prison. It was a difficult decision, and he feared that he would be rejected by his comrades for betraying the

struggle as a white person.

He writes in his autobiography: "I believed the time was ripe for negotiations ... I would continue the political struggle in a non-violent way and not allow myself to be imprisoned again."

After his release, he went into exile in London where Esme was already staying after being subjected to solitary confinement for her political activism. Goldberg continued working for the ANC from its London office until 1994 where he was spokesperson for the organisation and represented it at the United Nations' Anti-Apartheid Committee.

In some ways, Goldberg's role, along with that of his fellow political inmate, lawyer Bram Fischer, in the fight against apartheid allowed the ANC to see the value of being a non-racial, inclusive organisation.

While the ANC was originally an exclusively black organisation, many non-white people worked for the organisation in risky ways and the Freedom Charter clearly stated that South Africa should be free of social and legal inequalities based on the colour of people's skins. Shortly after Goldberg's release from prison, the ANC opened up to all races.

In his essay, *A Marvelous Life! Denis Goldberg, South Africa and the World*, Eberhard Neugebohrn writes: "Hardly anyone else can represent the ethos of living together in a non-racist way, based on the pure principle of the equality of all human beings and the political wisdom of the Charter, better than Denis Goldberg, the only white

person among the former Rivonia prisoners, who sat in prison for 22 years of his life for the common struggle against apartheid. His life is the radical contradiction to the system of apartheid which despised human beings."

On the first anniversary of the first democratic election on 26 April 1995, Goldberg founded Community HEART (Health Education And Reconstruction Training), a London-based charity that has raised millions of rand for the Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust and to date, it has donated more than three million books for children, among other things.

He spent the last few years of his life setting up the Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust and building the House of Hope as an art and culture education and training centre in Hout Bay, Cape Town, where he lived till he died.

In 2016, Goldberg received the Freedom of the City of London along with Ahmed Kathrada, Lord Joel Joffe, George Bizos and Andrew Mlangeni in recognition of their fight for freedom and racial equality.

Esme died of a stroke in London in 2000. Goldberg remarried Edelgard Nkobi, a German journalist, in 2002. She died in 2006 after a long battle with cancer.

Goldberg's daughter, Hilary, also died at 47 from a sudden blood clot.

He is survived by his son, David, who is a fundraiser for the DGLF Trust in London, two granddaughters and a grandson. 🇷🇵



President Cyril Ramaphosa conveyed his condolences following the passing of Rivonia trialist and Esteemed Member of the Order of Luthuli, Denis Theodore Goldberg.

"My thoughts are with Denis Goldberg's family and his comrades around the country and around the world. This is a sad moment for our nation and a moment for all of us to appreciate Denis Goldberg's brave dedication to our struggle and his lifelong activism in the interest of – and in the physical presence of – poor and vulnerable communities around our country," said the President.

Goldberg, who lived in Hout Bay, Cape Town, passed away on 29 April 2020 at the age of 87.

In his tribute, President Ramaphosa said Goldberg's first experience of prison was alongside his mother, who had been detained for four months.

"Such experiences failed to intimidate him. Instead, it fuelled his determination that the liberation movement should use all strategies at its disposal, including armed resistance, to end apartheid.

"His commitment to ethical leadership was unflinching and even during his advanced age, he formed part of the movement of veterans of the struggle calling for the reassertion of the moral centre of society. He dedicated his life to achieving the better life we enjoy today and his revolutionary contribution reinforced the non-racial character of our struggle and of our democratic dispensation."

Goldberg received a National Order for his commitment to the struggle against apartheid and service to the people of South Africa.

Upon receiving news of Mr Goldberg's passing, the National Coronavirus Command Council observed a moment's silence in honour of this special patriot. "We will hold him in our thoughts and prayers as we say farewell at a time when we are not allowed to gather in to say our goodbyes. May his soul rest in peace," said President Ramaphosa.

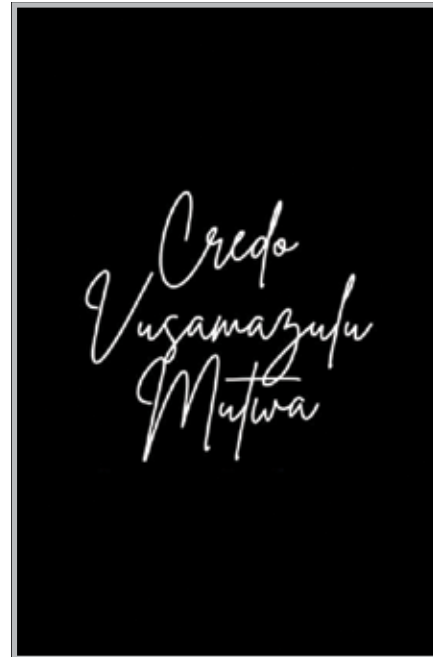
The Nelson Mandela Foundation also expressed sadness at Goldberg's passing.

"We have been deeply saddened to hear that Denis Goldberg has passed away and send condolences to his family, friends and comrades. South Africa has lost another true patriot, someone who was a friend of Nelson Mandela and a stalwart of struggle," it said.

The foundation said most of Goldberg's life was dedicated to the struggle against apartheid and the building of democracy.

"He was our friend. Always supportive, right to the end. We were delighted he was able to attend our events marking the 30th anniversary of Madiba's release from prison. And always a constructive critic of our work, with insight and that characteristic naughty sense of humour," said the foundation's Chief Executive, Sello Hatang. SAnews.gov.za

Liberation Heritage:



Taken together, his life's work proposed that knowledge was not finite and that the soul was able to traverse different times and dimensions to bring knowledge of the past and of the future into the present.

By Sinethemba Makanya
 Doctoral Fellow, University of the Witwatersrand

Mkhulu VusamaZulu Credo Mutwa's name foretold the role that this towering South African healer, prophet and artist was to play. VusamaZulu can be translated as either "awaken the Zulu nation" or "awaken the heavens", aptly describing his life's work: asserting the humanity of aBantu – people of African descent – globally.

"Mkhulu" means "grandfather" and in this I acknowledge Mkhulu VusamaZulu as well as the ancestors that walk with him as my elders. uMkhulu passed away at the age of 98. He was born on 21 July 1921 in KwaZulu-Natal. After falling ill in his teenage years, he was initiated to become a sangoma or traditional healer.

The sangoma is a diviner and seer, using gifts of spiritual sight, mediation with the ancestors and knowledge of herbal medicine and ritual to diagnose and heal disease. Traditional healers are often "called" to this path by their ancestors "through dreams and other significant experiences", including illnesses and misfortune.

Following this intensive initiation process, uMkhulu embarked on many journeys through African countries, including Swaziland, Lesotho and Kenya. He wrote:

"I was not travelling for enjoyment, however, I was travelling for knowledge ... I came into contact with men and women of countries that I had not known before ... I found myself amongst men and women possessing knowledge that was already ancient when the man Jesus Christ was born."

The pan-African nature of his training provided him with a vast knowledge of African folklore, mythology and culture which, he lamented, was dying. He became adamant that he needed not only to preserve it, but to educate South Africans about this heritage, which is not taught in schools.

Prolific artist

uMkhulu was astonishingly prolific despite his many years, working across mediums and forms as a teacher and healer. He was a storyteller of mythologies, the author of five books, the best-known being *Indaba, My Children* (1964). He wrote a play called *uNosilimela*, worked on a graphic novel, and created a website and two living museums – KwaKhaya LeNdaba in Soweto and Lotlamoeng in Mahikeng. Here, visitors can see some of his countless sculptures and artworks.

In many, there is a recurring figure of a woman, whom he called *Ma* in *Indaba, My Children*. This is the depiction of the goddess of creation, known to the Zulu people as "Nomkhulwane". He frequently exalted the spirit of women as life givers and spoke against the abuse of women.

With no formal training, his art became an expression of his wish to share the oral tales and symbols of traditional African spirituality.

Through these various works, he allowed us to trace our roots, philosophy and ubuntu bethu; the humanity of aBantu. Ubuntu here refers to a specific humanity accessible only to aBantu; an assertion that foregrounds the African worldview.

At the time of his passing, uMkhulu had received little financial gain from his writings as his royalties were owned by others, according to the Credo Mutwa Trust.

This was not his only challenge. uMkhulu acknowledged that in his writing about African spirituality, he was risking being called a traitor by his people for sharing its secrets.

In 1976, students burnt down parts of his Soweto cultural village after he was misquoted on an Afrikaans radio station. It was burnt down again in 1980, his son murdered and wife raped, after being unjustly accused of working with white men under apartheid.

With his work easily exploited by conspiracy theorists, he was at times ridiculed as a false prophet. He was largely neglected as a cultural figure by the South African State. To maintain his safety, he retired to the small town of Kuruman in the North West province.

Revered sanusi

uMkhulu was a revered sanusi, loosely translated as "one who lifts us up". Isanusi, according to uMkhulu VVO Mkhize of Umsamo Institute, is a healer who reveals that which is hidden, such as mysteries erased by history, and who tells us about the future.

As he filled in some of the blanks in Bantu history, his predictions of significant global events garnered international interest.

Many were expressed through his art. His 1979 sculpture of King Khandakhulu discussing his sexually transmitted diseases with the gods is seen to pre-empt HIV and AIDS. A 1979 painting is said to predict the 11 September attacks in the United States of America.

Some of his many predictive utterances – among them those related to the 1976 Soweto youth uprisings and the Marikana massacre – were told to visitors or made in video recordings posted on the Credo Mutwa Foundation Facebook page. His prophecy was embedded in South Africa's popular culture, especially through the mass print media and YouTube.

Taken together, his life's work proposed that knowledge was not finite and that the soul was able to traverse different times and dimensions to bring knowledge of the past and of the future into the present.

New ways of knowing

uMkhulu broadened the view of Africans. In his work, we were exposed to a type of knowledge that had been oppressed. He taught us that South Africans' history did not begin in 1652, when Jan Van Riebeeck hit our shores and the colonisation project began, but that we have a long legacy of philosophy and medicine, interrupted by this colonisation.

Through his work, he gave us the voice, the agency and the tools with which to fight against a single story. One that placed the white man as the ideal and any other category of human as 'other' and lesser. We are now able to assert that the story is of multiple interpretations, dimensions and times.

Lala ngoxolo Khehla lethu (rest in peace our old man); your prophecies are well heeded, and teachings continuously awaken uBuntu bethu (our humanity), thina aBantu beThonga laseAfrika (us children of the ancestor of Africa). 🙏

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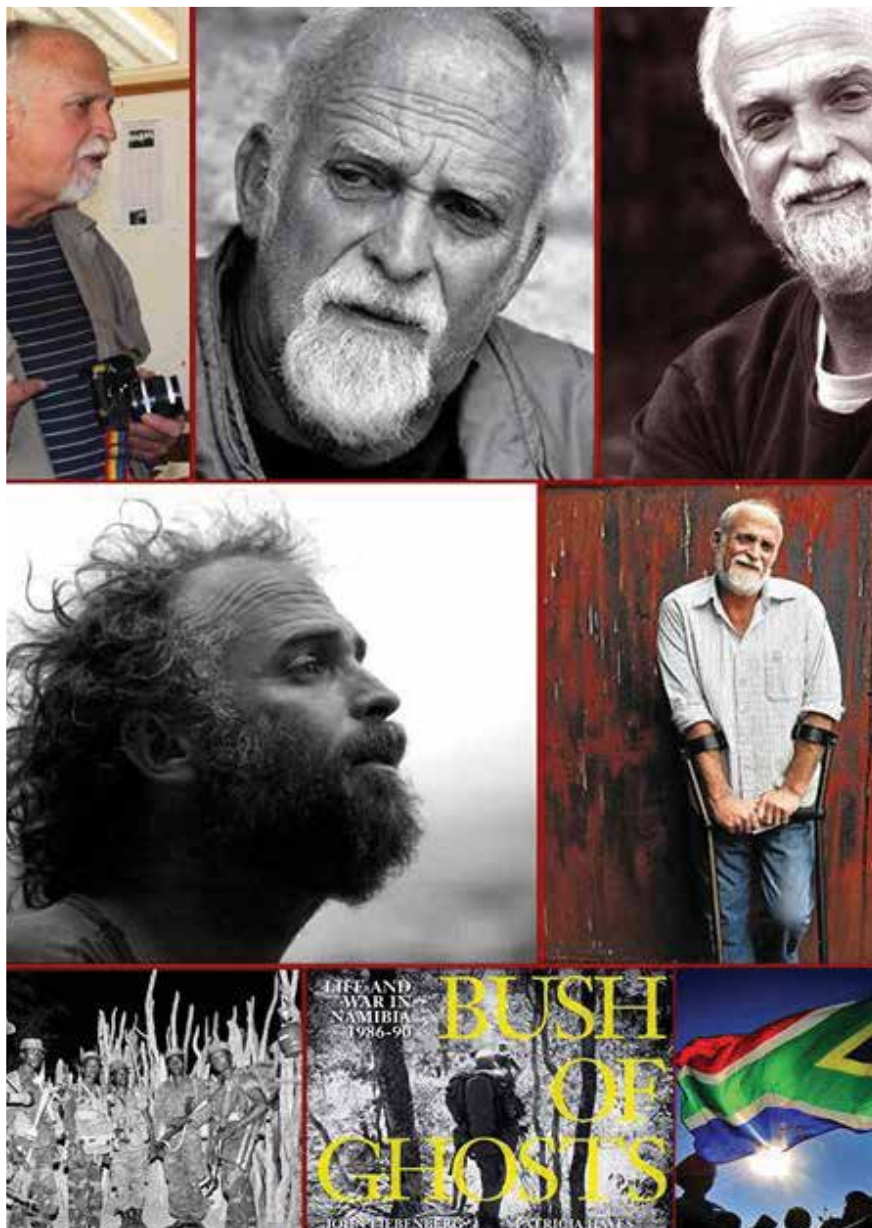
John Liebenberg:

Masterful photographer of life and war in southern Africa

Fellow journalists and friends describe a man with the capacity to jump fences, break down boundaries and disarm people as he moved around like a whirlwind taking photographs, sometimes slyly, but often being touched by people and touching them in turn.

By Patricia Hayes

DSI/NRF SARChI Chair in Visual History and Theory, University of the Western Cape



South African photojournalist John Liebenberg is best known for his remarkable body of work in Namibia, especially the period of the late 1980s when the country headed towards its United Nations-supervised transition to independence.

Born in 1958 in Johannesburg, his childhood was not an easy one, part of it spent in an orphanage. He finished school at a time when white South African men were expected to complete compulsory military service and he was conscripted to Ondangwa in northern Namibia in 1976. It was illegal to take photographs in the army, but Liebenberg hid a small camera in the toilet block.

After national service, Liebenberg returned to Namibia and worked in the Windhoek Post Office. He wanted to be a photographer. He also had a capacity to connect to people. He often spoke of the black migrant workers he came to know at the workplace, most of them from Namibia's northern border area with Angola where the war was intensifying. Known as the "border war" to South Africans and as the "war of liberation" to Namibians, it drew Namibia, Angola and other countries into South Africa's fight against armed liberation movements supported by socialist countries that echoed wider Cold War politics.

"Endearment" was a term Liebenberg liked to use when talking about his relationship with people, getting to know their stories, and their harsh journeys of necessity to work in the south. One had the sense, many years later, that the stories still obsessed him. It was the same once he joined *The Namibian* newspaper and began covering the growing urban mobilisation of trade unions and

students and, increasingly, the war zone on the border with Angola.

Fellow journalists and friends describe a man with the capacity to jump fences, break down boundaries and disarm people as he moved around like a whirlwind taking photographs, sometimes slyly, but often being touched by people and touching them in turn.

Enemy of the State

Namibia's transition to independence started on 1 April 1989 and initially foundered with the collapse of a ceasefire in the north.

Hours before the conflict resumed, Liebenberg's car was riddled with bullets in an assassination attempt. He learned years later from the amnesty hearings of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission how his would-be killers, the shadowy apartheid death squad, the Civil Cooperation Bureau, had been commissioned to get rid of him.

It's remarkable how he sustained the intensity of dense photographic coverage of ongoing protest and war in this period, including breaking the difficult story of the accounts of human rights abuses from detainees who belonged to the South West Africa People's Organisation or SWAPO. Their stories came to light after their release from the dungeons in southern Angola in 1989.

After Namibian independence, Liebenberg moved on to cover the civil war in Angola, which he called the "war of madness". The stakes were very high, the politics muddled, and human life frequently disrespected.

He photographed the conflict in Luanda after the collapse of the agreement between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) following the elections in 1992. He accompanied the MPLA forces moving

through central Angola to reconquer areas claimed by UNITA, including Huambo. Following his personal code of covering both sides of a struggle, he later photographed UNITA bases in southern Angola.

Ghosts

Liebenberg published his photographs of the Namibian war against South African colonial occupation in *Bush of Ghosts* (2010). He invited me, as a historian of northern Namibia, to collaborate in the task. He was always very clear that the narrative must address all different parties in the struggle.

The book has three chapters. The first follows young white conscripts who are pitched into the war zone of the Namibia-Angola border. It unfolds into scenes where white and black security forces confront local populations who face curfews and threats, who have their fields and homesteads destroyed by armoured vehicles and shellfire, but who often stand with unreadable stillness and dignity in the face of such impositions. This chapter acknowledges the vulnerability of young conscripts, but directly addresses them and the military apparatus of the apartheid state. No other photographer in southern Africa has documented war in this way.

The second chapter in *Bush of Ghosts* is his homage to Namibians as they mobilised against South African rule. The third is more meditative, exploring the aftermath of war in portraits and landscapes. As Liebenberg's co-author, I was astounded at the comprehensiveness of the subject matter and the lack of waste in this analogue archive.

Chambers of the heart

As we worked, Liebenberg pulled out another body of work he had never shown, the weekend studio portraits taken at the Ovambo

Hostel for migrant men in Katutura township in Windhoek in 1986. These are astonishing for the way the men presented their sheer individuality to the camera. When some of these photos were exhibited in Windhoek in 2011, as *Weekends at the Okombone*, there were dramatic moments of recognition by some of the descendants of the photographed men.

Liebenberg used to talk about the unpredictable way people could enter the "chambers of the heart". This was not just about love. He was referring to the unexpected emotional consequences of his life work.

There are deep affective implications for a photographer coming close to people's pain, death, mutilation, guilt, betrayal, mourning, rage or cruelty. Perhaps it made him determined and even reckless, throwing things to the wind and keeping the camera rolling as he famously did during the second plane crash he experienced in Huambo province in the 1990s.

And if you cannot reach or help the people who have come into the chambers of your heart, they can at least be brought into the chambers of your camera. That is, the subject enters John's visual world, where unfathomable depths and surfaces cut many ways. That is why there is no single way to read any of his images, and probably why many remain so haunting.

And questions remain about the career and final predicament of a pre-eminent photographer who died in hospital after an operation at age 61 without healthcare benefits. Who often spoke of the exploitation of photographers by newspapers, agencies and networks. He said they were sometimes careless and often demanding about the copyright that would become the only means of survival for an ageing photographer and his family. A photographer whose surviving archive is unique, with the potential to open up the historical memory of nations.

Liebenberg used to talk about the unpredictable way people could enter the "chambers of the heart". This was not just about love. He was referring to the unexpected emotional consequences of his life work.





A "graffiti" wall reveals women's stories from the South African War

Stories like the kind stored in this place, known as the Telperion Shelter, provide history to a landscape and people. Women were important participants in the war through the contributions and support they provided to commandos, units of Boer fighters. This is seldom spoken of; their stories and experiences are neglected. Telperion confronts these hidden stories.

By Tim Forssman
Senior Lecturer, University of Pretoria

About 80 km east of Pretoria in South Africa, near the town of Bronkhorstspuit, there's a rocky outcrop in a secluded ravine in the countryside. There's nothing remarkable about this outcrop – which has, over the

years, made it a good place to shelter or hide. But the rock shelter's back wall contains a remarkable piece of South African history. There you can see images of women in crinoline dresses, as well as names and initials, painted onto the rock. The surname "Engelbrecht" is repeated in several places

with the initials "A.M.H.A.E." as well as "D.S.J." and "A.M.E.". Other names and initials include "J.D. van Schalkwyk" and "E(F?).B.J.V.V.". This "graffiti" was made by Boer women hiding from British soldiers during the South African War, also known as the Boer War. "Boer" is an Afrikaans word, which translates

to "farmers" but also refers to the forebears of South Africa's Afrikaans people. These women left their farm homes and lived outdoors in the countryside to avoid being captured by British forces and sent to a concentration camp.

My colleagues and I wanted to know more about the site's occupants, their lives while in hiding and the "graffiti" they left behind. So, we analysed these painted images, as well as others left there earlier by different groups like indigenous hunter-gatherers, herders and farmers. This helped us to understand the site's painted sequence and the context of its occupation over time. An examination of family stories helped fill in the gaps in the women's stories.

Stories like the kind stored in this place, known as the Telperion Shelter, provide history to a landscape and people. Women were important participants in the war through the contributions and support they provided to commandos, units of Boer fighters. This is seldom spoken of; their stories and experiences are neglected. Telperion confronts these hidden stories.

The South African War

The South African War was declared between the British and Boers in 1899 after a period of economic and political instability.

The scattered Boer troops engaged in guerrilla tactics, crippling British resources, terrorising battalions and cutting off supply lines.

Two of the strategies the British used had devastating effects on the Boers' home life. One involved burning down farmsteads and

destroying crops and livestock. The other was to intern the Boers in concentration camps.

Women left without homes would often be forced to subsist in the veld – the open, uncultivated grasslands. It was a dangerous option: they faced capture, retribution, food insecurity, disease and death. But it meant avoiding the concentration camps, which were overcrowded, undersupplied and poorly maintained, with a constant threat of disease. Nearly 50 000 people died in the camps.

While in the veld, women were also able to give their husbands in the commandos supplies and information about soldier movements. This was often vital to a commando's ability to continue fighting. Going to the veld, in this sense, was about resilience, rebellion and defiance. Unfortunately, because most of these stories, histories or experiences were never written down or recorded, they are poorly known.

Stories on the stone

When we first visited Telperion Shelter, the farm manager told us a story about those who had lived there. Black, Sotho-speaking families and white Boer families hid there from patrolling British troops. They set up a small garden inside a poplar tree thicket nearby and even kept a pig.

One day, the pig escaped and nearby troops happened upon it; this led them to discover the families. All were captured and sent to a concentration camp.

Nothing more is known. But we felt that the paintings inside the shelter might tell us more about the site's occupants and their experiences.

The "graffiti" includes the names I've mentioned as well as images of two groups of people. One group is five women wearing large crinoline dresses, which would have been worn at the time of this war, and holding what look to be stalks, which could be maize or something yet to be identified. The second group is to the right and almost identically resembles Sotho images of people, painted by earlier Sotho communities using the site for boys' initiation. It is drawn in the same paint as the women. These two groups might reflect the two occupant communities using the shelter.

Our most important task was to find out who used the site and what happened to them; if we could do so, we would be able to assess whether the story we were told was accurate and perhaps add to it. Fortunately, all of the concentration camp records have been digitised and are available online.

Poring through these records, we were eventually able to identify Alida Maria Hendrika Aletta Engelbrecht (A.M.H.A.E) and her husband and children, some of whom also have their names painted in the site. According to the records, she and her children were all captured on the farm Sterkfontein, where Telperion Shelter is found. It appears as though we have found the people in the story and who used the site.

These images do more than just verify the story we were told. They add layering to it. And they commemorate the experiences that many women and children underwent and the difficulties of living in the veld. Ultimately, they are a different form of story telling.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.



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CAPE TOWN WELCOMES YOU

VISIT, LIVE, WORK, PLAY & INVEST IN ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES ON EARTH

Cape Town has been voted the world's Best City by readers of the UK's Telegraph for five consecutive years, and there's good reason why. We rank among the world's top destinations to visit and have all the attributes that appeal to people looking for a great city in which to live, work, play and invest.

Cape Town is a proudly inclusive city, welcoming all who can join us in our vision to create a safe, sustainable, vibrant urban environment for generations to come.

We are national leaders in business and have a thriving knowledge economy; our skills market is growing and the city offers numerous opportunities for work and investment.

Cape Town is also a proud recipient of a number of international awards and accolades. In 2018, the city was named one of the Top 10 Surf Cities in the world by Surfer Magazine and crowned the number one city in Africa for business tourism events by the International Congress and Convention Association. Cape Town has also been voted one of the Top 10 Cities in the World for Travellers by Lonely Planet in 2017, Skytrax voted our airport the Best in Africa and international real estate company Savills ranked the Cape Town amongst the world's Top Tech Cities in a 2017 report.

VISIT

Cape Town is a must-visit destination. Cape Point, Groot Constantia, Kirstenbosch, Robben Island, the Table Mountain Cableway and the V&A Waterfront are the iconic destinations that form the core of the true Cape Town experience, and a trip to the city will not be complete without a visit to each Big 6 attractions. Cape Town also has the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in South Africa. Seven of the city's most popular beaches and three Cape Town marinas have been recognised for meeting the globally-acclaimed Blue Flag standards.



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD

Beaches awarded the prestigious status include: Bikini Beach, Mnandi, Strandfontein, Llandudno, Camps Bay, Clifton 4th and Silwerstroom.

Cape Town has a number of world class museums that offer up a treasure trove to the past. A number of these museums are located in the city centre - all within walking distance of each other - and together offer a view as diverse and entertaining as the city itself.

The state-of-the-art Zeitz MOCAA - recently voted the world's top cultural destination - is the latest addition to the Cape Town landscape and the first major museum in Africa dedicated to contemporary art. The museum, housed in the historic Grain Silo at the V&A Waterfront, comprises over 9,500 square meters (102,000 square feet) placing it among leading contemporary art museums worldwide.

Zeitz MOCAA is spread over nine floors, of which 6,000 square meters (65,000 square feet) is dedicated to exhibition space. Through an entire floor dedicated to education, the museum aims to develop a new art-loving, museum-going audience.

LIVE

Cape Town has a terrific mixture of areas to live, from vibrant city-living to quiet, leafy residential suburbs. The city is known for its successful property market. In recent years Cape Town's property values and sales transactions have exceeded Johannesburg's and continue to attract international property investors. The city and surrounds is also home to four public universities, two globally recognised business schools and a number of trustworthy private and public institutions. Educational institutions situated in the city include the University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and the Cape Town University of Technology. Cape Town is also fast becoming the most digitally connected city in Africa. The City's public Wi-Fi service and other digital inclusion projects are part of a broader Digital City Strategy, which aims to make Cape Town the most digitally connected city in Africa. Other elements of the strategy include investment in digital infrastructure, digital business initiatives, and a focus on digital government.

WORK

Cape Town's favourable lifestyle is one of the major reasons why many of the top wealth and asset management firms choose to base themselves here. The city is home to an impressive group of wealth managers, including the likes of Allan Gray, Old Mutual, Foord, Coronation, Sanlam, Prescient and Sygnia. Most of these companies' staff and top executives live in the city. Top employment sectors in Cape Town include community and social services, the financial and trade sectors. The financial services sector employed the largest number of skilled individuals in 2015 (274 087) and the manufacturing sector employed the largest number of semi-skilled and unskilled individuals (111 213).

Cape Town is also home to over 200 companies in the Information Technology (IT) and software industry employing 7 500 people. Our large retailers have extensive distribution channels into Africa opening up the possibility of collaboration in moving products within the continent. Cape Town also has a booming film and media industry. It's a sector that has created more than 35 000 jobs, contributing about US\$ 92 million to the economy in the last 3 years.

Cape Town is home to the only Hollywood style film studio complex in Africa. Coupled with exceptionally skilled film crew and post-production services, our facilities are winning awards and attracting a growing number of productions and stars to our shores. We also act as a gateway to Africa with several companies running their African operations from our city. The City of Cape Town is making sure that our infrastructure investments support key sectors, like the tech industry. An extensive open source fibre optic network has been installed with plans to extend the footprint over the forthcoming years.

PLAY

Cape Town hosts a wide range of local and international events - from concerts and community-based events to business conferences and international sports tournaments. The city is a creative hub with arts, heritage and cultural sites, activities and opportunities for all. We have a lively arts and culture scene where creativity and heritage are explored through theatre, live music, dance, visual arts and more. Both day and night in Cape Town offer you exciting cultural spaces to visit and events to be a part of. Explore galleries and museums, cultural precincts, attend signature events and explore our top cultural venues.

INVEST

Cape Town is South Africa's oldest city, its second-most populous and an important contributor to national employment. It is the legislative capital of South Africa, the administrative and economic centre of the Western Cape, and Africa's third biggest economic hub. The Mother City produces 9.8% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for more than 71% of the Western Cape's economic activity (Global Insight, 2016). The City has a diversified economy, and the three biggest sectors are: finance, insurance, property and business services. Cape Town is attracting thinkers, innovators and design led entrepreneurs who are helping to build an ecosystem that is strong in many aspects of the knowledge economy. The city is the leader on the African continent in the information technology sector, with more tech start-ups than anywhere else on the continent.

Cape Town has been chosen as the African headquarters of innovation by companies such as Barclay Rise and Thomson Reuters. The city is also the home to many of South Africa and Africa's financial institutions and, coupled with the national headquarters of many legal and consultancy firms, offer all the services needed to underpin a global drive into Africa.

One of the fastest growing sectors in Cape Town's economy is the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, with many global call centres and online retailers like Amazon choosing to conduct their operations from our shores.

www.capetown.gov.za/visit
www.investcapetown.com
www.capetown.travel



1917: First landing on a moving warship

by Edwin Harris Dunning – a South African



The Dunning Memorial Cup, named in his honour, is bestowed annually upon the officer considered to have done most to further aviation in connection with the fleet.

Squadron Commander Edwin Harris Dunning was born on 17 July 1892 in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was the eldest son and second child of Sir Edwin Harris Dunning and Hannah Louise Dunning (née Freeman) of Jacques, Bradfield Essex. His father was a dealer in diamonds and gold in South Africa. Dunning spent only nine months in the country of his birth and lived for 17 years in Britain and on the continent. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in March 1916 while flying with the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), an air arm of the Royal Navy.

But Dunning holds a most singular honour in RNAS and aviation history, in that he was the first person to land an aircraft on an aircraft carrier. This feat occurred on 2 August 1917, when Dunning landed his Sopwith Pup on board *HMS Furious* in Scapa Flow, in the Orkneys.

Sadly, he was killed five days later during another landing attempt of the day, when an updraft caught his port wing, forcing the aircraft overboard, and Dunning, who was

knocked unconscious, subsequently drowned in the cockpit. The Dunning Memorial Cup, named in his honour, is bestowed annually upon the officer considered to have done most to further aviation in connection with the fleet.

The central positioning of funnels, bridge and other structures on a warship left insufficient clear deck to permit a plane to land onboard, thus, all aircraft launched from ships and out of range of land had to come down on the sea beside the mother ship and be winched back onboard, a hazardous exercise at the best of times and overly fraught with danger in conflict, when a stationary ship presented an easy target for lurking submarines. The alternative was to ditch the plane and at least rescue the pilot.


Since airpower was even then considered to be a potential threat to the largest ships afloat because of its ability to launch a torpedo attack out of range of an enemy's big guns, as well as providing accurate spotting of enemy formations at long distance, it became clear that a more useful mechanism was required to recover planes at the end of their sorties.

Dunning conceived the plan to fly alongside the ship, *HMS Furious*, then underway in Scapa Flow, heading into wind until he came abreast of the bridge and then side-slip his plane onto the deck cleared for the purpose running from the bridge to the prow. As any pilot will confirm, side-slipping requires a delicate touch on the controls and good distance judgement if the down wing is not to hit the ground before the plane is levelled for landing. Hard enough to do on land without a cross wind, but perilous in the extreme onto a ship heaving on a swell and buffeted by the unpredictable gusts formed by onrushing air hitting the vessel.

Dunning flew his Sopwith Pup with great precision and accomplished the first-ever landing of a ship underway. The Admiralty later said of this feat:

"The Admiralty wish you to know what great service he performed for the Navy.

It was in fact a demonstration of landing an aeroplane on the deck of a Man-of-War whilst the latter was under way. This had never been done before, and the data obtained was of the utmost value. It will make aeroplanes indispensable to a fleet and possibly revolutionise Naval Warfare. The risk taken by Squadron Commander Dunning needed much courage."

Dunning performed the feat twice more and insisted on a further attempt on 7 August, 1917 before other pilots were allowed to try, but as he came in for his landing an engine malfunction caused his plane to fall onto the deck and despite the frantic efforts of deck crew to halt the runaway plane, a gust of wind carried it over the edge, plunging the Pup into the sea. Dunning was knocked unconscious and drowned in his cockpit. 

Sources: www.todayinaviation.com
<http://www.scotlandswar.co.uk/dunning.html>



How to ensure that the **Coronavirus** doesn't stop peace efforts in Africa



sustaining peace processes even when professional peacebuilders are unable to gain access. For any peace process, what is important is that people keep communication open and sustained even during the pandemic.

And international peacebuilders can continue providing support to their local counterparts. This can be through funding to facilitate activities in local communities.

International peacebuilders can also provide remote mentoring and capacity-building. There is technological capacity for peacebuilders to receive coaching in the most remote areas affected by conflict in Africa. International peacebuilders should also remain available to brainstorm with nationals when challenges are encountered.

Local peacebuilders can be enlisted to stop the spread of the pandemic through their existing networks and knowledge of community relations to coordinate preventive responses. These resources can also be used to reinforce the expertise of public health workers in local communities.

Local actors involved in peacebuilding already have experience translating complex messages into local languages. This skill is very relevant in the fight against the pandemic in communities.

Desired outcome

With the right information, local conflict actors can be persuaded to accept the UN's call for a ceasefire. But this won't happen unless local actors are involved in crafting the right messages.

Empowering local actors will not only sustain peace processes, but also contribute to the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

To sustain peace, we would need to find new ways of working, by meaningfully including national and local capacities for peace. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

In the face of national lockdowns, one way the momentum can be maintained is through existing local authorities, community peace actors and peace committees. These are common across Africa.

Research shows that disasters such as COVID-19 can create opportunities for peace in conflict countries. For one, they can undermine the ability of conflict entrepreneurs to access conflict areas.

By **Tarila Marclint Ebiede**
Research Fellow, KU Leuven

CORONAVIRUS is likely to disrupt ongoing peace processes, worsen existing conflicts and generate new conflicts. But it may also offer opportunities for ceasefires and peace agreements.

The measures taken to contain the spread of the virus are, unfortunately, also affecting the mobility of peacemakers, peacekeepers and peacebuilders.

At least 22 African countries are experiencing political violence. Countries like Nigeria, Cameroon, Somalia, Libya, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of

Congo are experiencing high-intensity armed conflicts between armed opposition groups and national governments.

There are peacebuilding efforts in most of the countries that are currently experiencing armed conflict and that have recorded cases of COVID-19. These efforts variously involve the support of international donors, non-governmental organisations and national governments.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) recently called for a unilateral ceasefire in ongoing conflicts. But achieving a multilateral ceasefire might be difficult. Some warring factions will seize the opportunity

to gain an advantage. The challenges are immense. The pandemic could worsen the conflict situation and undermine ongoing peacebuilding efforts.

On the other hand, disasters can transform conflict dynamics. Research shows that disasters such as COVID-19 can create opportunities for peace in conflict countries. For one, they can undermine the ability of conflict entrepreneurs to access conflict areas. This reduces incidents of violence.

They can also create the conditions necessary for advancing peacebuilding processes in local communities. To achieve this outcome, peacebuilders need to engage with local actors.

The impact of the pandemic

Peace processes supported by the international community are designed to involve multiple stakeholders. Even when described as locally led initiatives, they are often guided by internationally recruited professionals.

The global response to COVID-19 in the African countries affected by conflict is hampering the movement of international and national peacebuilders. These professionals have been unable to travel to conflict zones. International organisations have placed movement restrictions on their staff. Many of them have returned to their home countries.

At national level, restrictions have prevented people from congregating and limited their ability to travel.

Peacebuilding requires sustained efforts towards reconciliation and reintegration. Actors must address the impact of conflict and the causes of conflicts. This process often requires physical meetings and events that

are designed to bring conflict actors together towards sustainable peace.

Retreating peacebuilding activities during this period portends a great danger for societies affected by violent conflicts. One likely consequence is that non-state armed groups will use the opportunity to expand their frontiers, thus undermining ongoing peace processes.

It also opens up the possibility of increased mortality in the context of violent conflicts. Hence, it is important that stakeholders adopt mechanisms that will sustain peacebuilding efforts in communities affected by violent conflicts during this pandemic.

Local actors are key

In the face of national lockdowns, one way the momentum can be maintained is through existing local authorities, community peace actors and peace committees. These are common across Africa.

Local actors that are embedded in communities can continue to work on



How a **post-COVID-19** revival could kickstart Africa's free trade area

The free trade area could become a landmark in Africa's journey towards peace, prosperity and integration. The COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding its devastating impact on the health and economies of Africa, could be an opportunity to advance the free trade area in a more developmental, inclusive and mutually beneficial way for African countries.

By Faizel Ismail
 Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

The African Continental Free Trade Area was launched two years ago at an African Union (AU) summit in Kigali. It was scheduled to be implemented from 1 July 2020. But this has been pushed out until 2021 because of the impact of COVID-19 and the need for leaders to focus on saving lives.

Studies by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations (UN) Economic Commission for Africa and others state

that the free trade area has the potential to increase growth, raise welfare and stimulate industrial development on the continent. But there are concerns. Some countries, particularly smaller and more vulnerable states, could be hurt. For example, they could suffer revenue losses and other negative effects from premature liberalisation.

The impact of COVID-19 will only worsen these structural weaknesses. The Economic Commission for Africa has reported that between 300 000 and 3.3 million people could

lose their lives if appropriate measures are not taken. There are several reasons for this level of high risk. These include the fact that 56% of urban dwellings are in overcrowded slums, 71% of Africa's workforce is informally employed and cannot work from home and 40% of children on the continent are undernourished.

Africa is also more vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 because it is highly dependent on imports for its medicinal and pharmaceutical products and on commodity

exports. The latter include oil, which has suffered a severe collapse in price.

Other contributing factors are high public debt due to higher interest rate payments than Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, a weak fiscal tax base, and the negative impact on Africa's currencies due to huge stimulus measures taken by OECD countries.

The COVID-19 crisis has brought these weaknesses into sharp relief. But it also provides an opportunity for African countries to address them. For example, they could accelerate intra-regional trade by focussing on the products of greatest need during the health crisis. Countries could also start building regional value chains to advance industrialisation, improve infrastructure and strengthen good governance and ethical leadership.

These are all vital to guiding African countries through the current crisis.

These goals can be achieved if African states adopt a "developmental regionalism" approach to trade integration. This would include fair trade, building regional value chains, cross-border investment in infrastructure and strengthening democratic governance.

Fair trade

A number of conditions need to be met for a free trade area to succeed.

Firstly, African states vary widely in size and economic development. As a result, some may warrant special attention and specific treatment. In particular, among Africa's 55 states, 34 are classified by the UN as least developed countries. These are low-income countries that have severe structural problems impeding their development.

Building trade agreements in favour of small and less developed economies will contribute to fairer outcomes of the free trade deal.

Secondly, African governments should include their stakeholders – businesses (both big and small), trade unions and civil-society organisations – in the national consultation process. This will require effective institutions that enable the fullest participation.

Additional steps countries should take to cope with the fallout from COVID-19 are to:

- reduce tariffs on vital pharmaceutical products (such as ventilators), personal protective equipment and food products
- stimulate intra-regional trade by prioritising these products for an immediate or early phase down in the free trade area.

Building regional value chains

African countries are increasingly connected to the global economy, but tend to operate at the lowest rung of the ladder. They are mainly supplying raw materials and other low-value manufactured outputs.

Cooperation is needed between Africa's emerging entrepreneurs and industries to improve their competitiveness in global markets. This would have a number of positive outcomes including:

- triggering industrialisation, which will transform economies
- helping African countries obtain a fairer share of the value derived from African commodities and labour
- improving the lives of people on the continent.

The current crisis creates an opportunity for African countries to build value chains on medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment.

The clothing and textile sector could also be restructured to meet the needs of the health sector while taking advantage of the breakdown in supply chains from China and Europe.

As more countries lock down their economies and apply movement controls, agricultural and processed food supply chains are disrupted. This creates opportunities to build regional supply chains and partner with retailers.

There are also opportunities to build infrastructure to support the health response: hospitals, water and sanitation, schools, low-cost housing and alternative energy.

African countries can also benefit from the growing interest in environmental tourism.

Cross-border infrastructure investment

Since most African countries are less developed, and many are small, intra-regional trade will require them to cooperate to improve their infrastructure. This includes physical ports, roads and railways as well as customs procedures, port efficiency and reduction of roadblocks.

Progress is already being made. Examples include the Mombasa-Nairobi Corridor; the Addis to Djibouti road, rail and port connection; and the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, which handles more than two-thirds of West African trade.

Increased investment in these types of cross-border infrastructure projects will benefit regional integration.

Democracy and governance

Most African states have started accepting multi-party systems of governance. Many have also embraced a culture of constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights.

Democratic governance supported by active citizenship will create an environment of transparency and predictability that encourages domestic and foreign investment. Both are vital for growth and industrialisation. The process is also essential for the sustainability of regional economic integration and democracy in Africa.

Countries are becoming better at fulfilling their democratic obligations. For example, 40 African countries, including the Seychelles and Zimbabwe, voluntarily joined the African Peer Review Mechanism. The mechanism is a remarkable achievement that the free trade area agreement must build on.

The way forward

The free trade area could become a landmark in Africa's journey towards peace, prosperity and integration. The COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding its devastating impact on the health and economies of Africa, could be an opportunity to advance the free trade area in a more developmental, inclusive and mutually beneficial way for African countries.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

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The Great Karoo, a natural wonder of endless plains and intriguing rock layers, is one of the world's most unique and arid zones. This ancient semi-desert area covers almost 40% of South Africa's land surface and straddles four of the country's nine provinces – the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State.



Europe and African relations post-COVID-19: Time to add size, scale and speed

A new partnership is important for Africa and Europe alike. The entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the world's largest free-trade area by number of countries, can provide investment opportunities for European business.

By Carlos Lopes
Professor at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town

Since 2000, European and African leaders have been talking about giving the partnership between the two continents a "new strategic" dimension. In 2007, they reiterated their ambition to come together in awareness of the lessons and experiences of the past, but also in the certainty that our common future requires an audacious approach.

Why then, despite such good intentions, have they fallen so far behind?

The financial crisis of 2008, protracted BREXIT negotiations, the European Union's (EU) fragmented approach in its engagement with Africa and the reluctance in certain quarters to recognise the leadership role of the African Union (AU) have all exacted a toll. And now there's the Coronavirus cyclone.

A new partnership is important for Africa and Europe alike. The entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the world's largest free-trade area by number of countries, can provide investment opportunities for European business.

But Europe needs to realise that 2020 is bringing a new reality. It is no longer possible to do business as usual after COVID-19. The time is ripe to put an end to dialogue fatigue and cynicism about new unilateral European initiatives, each one announced with pomp and circumstance.

Instead, EU-Africa relations should be guided by an instrument that frames the continent-to-continent partnership clearly,

with joint governance and agreed goals and targets. Serious negotiations should take place when COVID-19 offers a respite.

Opportunities and dangers

The EU likes to emphasise that it is Africa's largest trading and investment partner and its top aid provider, but that position is declining fast.

Nor is it a one-way street. Africa is Europe's third-largest trading partner, after the United States and China, but ahead of either Japan or India. Africa's youthful population can be a problem but also a unique opportunity given Europe's aging population.

There are dangers too. The spread of conflicts in the Sahel, reinforcement of terrorist networks and human trafficking in Africa signal growing threats that both continents need to address.

Climate action is a priority and an area made for multilateral cooperation. As we know better now, health conditions everywhere protect more anywhere.

Fortunately, there is a renewed sense of urgency from the EU. The administration of Ursula Von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, has prioritised relations with Africa. She recently visited Addis Ababa, seat of the AU, accompanied by 22 European commissioners, the largest such a delegation ever. And an EU African strategy, was announced recently. The AU is formulating its own strategy towards Europe too.

The periphery post-COVID-19

The world faces its worst economic contraction since the Great Depression. Trillions of dollars in stimulus packages will certainly revive the central economies. But the peripheral ones will face a different scale of challenges.

The geostrategic dynamics, particularly the increased international interest in the continent that was demonstrated – not only by China, but from the Gulf States and the likes of India, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Turkey – are bound to be deeply affected by the Coronavirus crisis. In this context, African countries are openly speaking of the need to give substance to the partnership with Europe and for it to show "deliverables", turning the rhetoric heard since 2000 into more tangible action.

To be fair, many voices in Europe say the same.

Giving substance means moving beyond the tendency of listing the areas of cooperation around which the continents can cooperate, the usual shopping list approach. In fact, EU-AU common priorities are straightforward.

Cooperation around issues such as peace and security, trade and investment, climate change, human mobility or education are key and have been given significant European resources in the past. What was often controversial were the approaches to tackle them. We can now add size, scale and speed to the debate.

Stimulus packages in central economies will certainly provoke higher risk for the countries that cannot afford the same. With depressed prices for most of its major commodities and shrinking demand resulting from a production halt, Africa will be facing a perfect storm. Its internal demand will contract, its informal sector collapse, most major players looking for scarce bridge financing and governments struggling with a US\$44 billion debt servicing in 2020, while facing the most adverse fiscal environment of the last 20 years.

This is the time Europe's new approach towards Africa can show its teeth. The solidarity required to combat a pandemic seems obvious to scientists and most pundits.

But it has been challenged even inside the EU. Will the space to look even beyond the European borders be there to comfort the strategic southern neighbour?

Most agreements engaging the EU with various configurations of African countries and the AU expire this year. Another reminder it is time to turn the page. These are all signs of changing winds. The time for talk is over.

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Coronavirus:

Never been a more compelling time for African scientists to work together

Delicate choices must be made between the most advanced technologies and an appropriate technology that can work on the ground and be accomplished with the limitations in the supply chains due to global lockdowns.

By Salome Maswime, Head of Global Surgery, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, University of Cape Town (UCT); Collet Dandara, Professor, Division of Human Genetics, Department of Pathology, UCT; and Sudesh Sivasaru, Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering, Head of Medical Devices Lab, UCT

Amid the rising number of deaths from COVID-19, political leadership, health systems and scientific prowess are being tested locally and internationally.

The pandemic provides an opportunity for innovation and new scientific discoveries. For example, the emergence of cases in Africa inspire African-based studies to tap into the diverse genetic background of Africans for important clues in the identification of biomarkers of Coronavirus infection.

However, for global scientific solutions to come from Africa, a number of prerequisites will need to be met.

The past two decades have been characterised by efforts to reduce the global burden of disease by providing universal access to healthcare for under-served and vulnerable populations. There have been parallel efforts to strengthen science, skills and infrastructure in Africa. The aim has been to support quality research and human capacity development working in research units and centres of excellence dotted across Africa.

But a response to a fast-emerging, highly infectious agent like COVID-19

demands a whole lot more. It requires strong collaboration, the use of new technologies and above all, fast-tracking of research. There has never been a more compelling time for African scientists to work together towards a common goal. An integrated approach is all the more imperative because any country that is left behind could be the next source of infection.

Collaboration

A crisis like COVID-19 demands that professional barriers be broken. This would facilitate a united approach by clinicians, scientists (both life and human sciences), biomedical engineers and public health specialists. Practically, this would entail assembling teams that work together, in the first instance, towards disaster management. In the second, it would involve teams working on solutions that take into account the special circumstances of Africa – and each country.

These would be focussed on quickly learning what has worked and not worked in the parts of the world that were affected first, and providing innovative ways forward for African countries. The size of Africa's economy and the connectedness of its populations demand that Africa's response be unified.

Collaboration is needed on another front too: technology

The spread of the pandemic has resulted in an urgent need for a range of medical supplies. These range from personal protective equipment – face shields, surgical masks, diagnostic swabs, ventilator components and reusable N95 respirators. There is currently an international shortage of N95 respirators as well as ventilators. African countries can't procure these. They need to create their own.

The pandemic presents a good opportunity to use new technologies. For example, with the advancement of 3D printing technologies, these critical supplies could be made on-site as required. These technologies could be used to replicate protective personal equipment. Several universities in South Africa have started using 3D printing to make masks. Delicate choices must be made between the most advanced technologies and an appropriate technology that can work on the ground and be accomplished with the limitations in the supply chains due to global lockdowns.

In addition, technologies such as imaging, proteomics, metabolomics and genomics need to be applied to map the disease's progression and its pathway and to conduct research on Africans in order to identify novel markers for vaccine or drug development.

There is therefore an urgent need for national regulatory bodies to develop and

deploy dedicated fast-tracking mechanisms to support these kind of technologies.

Important questions for innovation and research include:

- understanding factors that facilitate infection with the Coronavirus
- the life-cycle of the virus once in the human body (use of imaging)
- the response of the host when invaded by the Coronavirus in terms of genes expressed (transcriptomics)
- the differences in proteins expressed when comparing infected patients and the uninfected (proteomics)
- the changes in the metabolites in the presence of the Coronavirus (metabolomics).

As a continent, and as governments, teams comprising experts from these different fields should be in a state of readiness so that they can be easily activated. And governments should be setting up laboratories that can spring into action when required.

Fast-tracking research

This crisis also presents an opportunity to access huge amounts of data from patients infected with COVID-19. These patients can participate in trials or their biological samples could be used in studies to advance science and medicine, and even to prepare for future pandemics.

Now more than ever, a strong motivation has been made for the need to increase research funding to strengthen responses by African scientists.

And research should be fast-tracked. Some changes should be made to facilitate this. One such change is that institutional and national ethics review boards should be allowed to waive some of the requirements for informed consent in very particular instances. Here, we are thinking specifically about the use of samples with de-identified data, where there is no link to patient identity and when the research is of public health importance.

On top of this, strategic funds should be made available to support research that's critical to countries and the continent.

Beyond COVID-19, collective efforts can also help the continent address other critical health challenges. New disciplines have emerged that have forced medical professionals to break barriers and to stop working in silos. Examples include global health, global surgery and frugal science. These disciplines are forcing us to improve health outcomes.

In the current time of this COVID-19 crisis, the opportunity to tackle the pandemic through science and innovation should not be missed. 🇺🇸

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Freedom[®] PARK

a heritage destination

an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Freedom Park

THE VOICE OF OUR NATION

Inspiring a love of Culture and Heritage

- A vast wall commemorating those who sacrificed ...
- An eternal flame paying tribute to unknown heroes and heroines ...
- A gallery dedicated to the legends of humanity ...
- A symbolic resting place for our fallen countrymen and women ...
- the story of Southern Africa's 3.6 billion years of history
- this is Freedom Park, hailed the fulcrum of our vision to heal and reconcile our nation ...

The message that Freedom Park sends to every South African is this: look at where we come from, look what we have lived through – if we can do that and survive then our future must hold infinite possibilities. Let Freedom Park open your mind to these possibilities.

Everything at Freedom Park is representative of our history, heritage, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge. Even the 360° view of the capital city from Salvokop Hill symbolises a link between the past, present and future. From here you can see the Voortrekker Monument – a reflection of the past; the Union Buildings – our current governance; and UNISA's Centre of Knowledge – engendering a sense of knowledge and development for the future.

Freedom Park is a one-stop heritage destination because we narrate the history, heritage, culture, spirituality and indigenous knowledge systems of our nation.

Freedom Park honours those who took a stand and sacrificed for a better South Africa. We want our youth to know that there is a place that recognises such heroes and heroines. Our youth's contributions mattered so much in the history of our nation. It is, however, time for today's youth to take their lead from those who have gone before and take a stand to build this nation even further."

EDUCATING OUR NATION'S YOUTH

We have a fully-equipped education unit that arranges activities that bring together youth from diverse backgrounds to talk about culture and heritage. We also have specific programmes for basic and tertiary education and a special Youth out of School programme that teaches young people about where they come from and assists them to develop a sense of pride in their own identity. We teach young people about tolerance and acceptance, and to understand and respect each other. We believe that racism and intolerance often result from ignorance and misconceptions about who you are.'

Freedom Park also focuses on school tours but is aware that accessibility becomes an acute challenge; hence the outreach programmes that aim to take Freedom Park to the people.

Our visiting hours are 08:00 – 16:30, Monday through to Sunday. We offer scheduled guided tours 09:00, 12:00 and 15:00.

For a tour please contact us on 012 336 4020. Our prices: Adults R60, children R40 and international tourists R150.

AWARD-WINNING LOCATION

Besides visiting Freedom Park for a tour, or to spend time learning, reflecting and praying, it is also the perfect location for corporate functions and retreats, picnics, and even concerts. This beautiful and inspiring venue offers state-of-the-art technology and facilities, as well as a peaceful space for walking, hiking and bird watching. 'When you're at Freedom Park you'll forget that you're in the city centre. Last year, Freedom Park was voted among the top 10 architecturally outstanding museums in the world and Pretoria's best heritage destination. We believe these are testaments to the beauty and uniqueness of Freedom Park.

This December sees us celebrating the Day of Reconciliation with an Interfaith and Dialogue (16 December) Mandela Peace Walk (5 December), A three day festival celebrating the Pan African Cultural Experience (11-13 December).

Please visit us on www.freedompark.co.za

Africa's health systems should use AI technology in their fight against COVID-19

It will not be enough for African countries to merely roll out Artificial Intelligence systems. They must also each develop an ethical framework that will guide the use of these systems, both as they relate to COVID-19 and more broadly.

By Professor Justine Olawande Daramola
Cape Peninsula University of Technology



COVID-19 and its grave impact worldwide have emphasised just how critical it is for African countries to develop their healthcare systems. For the most part, these systems are woefully underfunded and understaffed.

It will take many different approaches to repair these systems. Given my area of expertise and my research focus, I am interested in the role that Artificial Intelligence (AI) might play in bolstering the continent's health systems.

AI embodies the field of knowledge that seeks to create machines (computers) that can emulate human cognitive functions such as learning, reasoning, understanding, vision, perception, recognition and problem solving to a reasonable level. Computers that have AI capabilities are currently being used in several real-world domains to solve problems.

We know that AI can be used effectively in healthcare. Since 1972, when the first AI system for medicine, known as MYCIN, was created, more sophisticated systems have evolved. Today, AI technologies are used to help detect and treat diseases, predict the growth of the disease and help doctors to make better decisions. With the rise of mobile technologies like phones and tablets, even in rural areas, AI's potential for use in rural healthcare is growing.

In previous studies I conducted with some of my colleagues, we explored how to apply this potential while considering ethical and practical issues. Two of the studies focussed on disease diagnosis and treatment. Two others considered how AI might be used to monitor and improve people's adherence to medication regimens.

So, how could the lessons from my research and from existing AI healthcare initiatives be applied during the current fight against COVID-19?

Some AI applications

For starters, I must make clear that I'm not suggesting AI is the silver bullet that will solve all of the continent's healthcare issues. Instead, AI initiatives should be developed in conjunction with spending on infrastructure and training. AI can supplement the efforts of available medical personnel – and help keep them safe.

AI has already played a significant role in each stage of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Some areas where we saw immediate applications include the processing of large amounts of data to find patterns that could lead to the discovery of potential treatment drugs; as well as treating infected people.

In China, robots were used to test and treat COVID-19 patients while healthcare workers stood at a safe distance to minimise the risk of infection. The analysis of large volumes of medical records data using AI allowed Taiwan to identify people at a high risk of COVID-19 infection; they were then contacted and advised about how to lower that risk.

In the United States (US), self-driving bus shuttles have been used to transport COVID-19 tests from one point to another to protect healthcare workers from infection and to enable them to use more of their time to attend to patients' direct treatment needs.

Some other types of AI technologies have already been deployed as part of the global response to COVID-19. These range from tracking the movement of people to curb transmission through contact by seeking to know who they have been with, and not just where they have been, to the development of an AI-powered database that will help enable researchers to quickly discover literature resources that are related to the Coronavirus and its cure.

As shown in the Chinese example, computer systems or robots can be used to screen people for COVID-19. This will reduce the risk of medical professionals being infected, which is important given that they are at high risk of infection. In rural contexts, this is especially key: these areas are already battling with staff shortages and having medical staff fall ill leaves the areas more vulnerable.

Other options that could be considered for rural African contexts include simple AI systems that can respond when a sick person sends a text message or a voice note from a mobile phone describing their symptoms. The response might be what kind of drugs to take, or where to find help in their area.

Ethical considerations

There are ethical concerns when using any AI technology. Issues of accountability (who takes the liability/credit), privacy and protection of personal information, informed consent, trust and social implications are important when using AI for healthcare.

It will not be enough for African countries to merely roll out AI systems. They must also each develop an ethical framework that will guide the use of these systems, both as they relate to COVID-19 and more broadly.

The framework must be contextual and should stipulate when, where and how AI systems should be deployed for healthcare to ensure ethical and responsible usage.

Also, there must be new laws and policies to regulate the use of AI in healthcare, similar to those that are already in place or in development in the European Union, US and Singapore. This will provide the legal backing and framework that is needed to cater for lawsuits that may arise from the use of AI systems.

All of this will lay the much-needed foundation for the adoption of AI for healthcare in Africa, and particularly for rural healthcare. It will also help prepare for future exigencies in the mode of COVID-19. [u](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

AI has already played a significant role in each stage of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Some areas where we saw immediate applications include the processing of large amounts of data to find patterns that could lead to the discovery of potential treatment drugs; as well as treating infected people.



What a **BONE ARROWHEAD** from South Africa reveals about ancient human cognition

Until now, evidence for bow-hunting technology using bone and dating back more than 60 000 years has only been reported from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal region. Now, an in-depth examination of a bone arrowhead found in South Africa's Eastern Cape province extends the known distribution of this technology farther south – and slightly earlier than previously thought.

By Justin Bradfield, Senior Lecturer, University of Johannesburg; Jerome Reynard, Lecturer in Osteoarchaeology, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); Marlice Lombard, Professor with Research Focus in Stone Age Archaeology, Palaeo-Research Institute, University of Johannesburg; and Sarah Wurz, Professor, Wits

horizons that are thought to have once formed part of arrowheads, either as tips or barbs.

Bow and arrow technology gives hunters a unique advantage over their prey. It allows them to hunt from a distance, and from a concealed position. This, in turn, increases individual hunters' success, as well as providing an aspect of safety when stalking dangerous prey such as buffalo, bushpig or carnivores.

The bow and arrow consist of multiple parts, each with a particular function and operating together to make hunting possible. This kind of "symbiotic" technology requires a high degree of cognitive flexibility: the mental ability to switch between thinking about different concepts, and to think about multiple concepts simultaneously.

Until now, evidence for bow-hunting technology using bone and dating back more than 60 000 years has only been reported from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal region. Now, an in-depth examination of a bone arrowhead found in South Africa's Eastern Cape province extends the known distribution of this technology farther south – and slightly earlier than previously thought.

The artefact

Our study, published in *Quaternary Science Reviews*, focussed on a long, thin, delicately made, pointed bone artefact. It was found at the Klasies River Main Site, along the Eastern Cape coast of South Africa.

This is an extremely important archaeological site. It has the most prolific assemblage of *H sapiens* remains in sub-Saharan Africa, spanning the last 120 000 years. Its archaeology sparked the first discussions raising the probability that complex human behaviour and cognition were represented in sub-Saharan Africa long before appearing in Eurasia.

The artefact we studied, which comes from deposits dated more than 60 000 years ago, closely resembles thousands of bone arrowheads used by the indigenous San hunter-gatherers from the 18th to the 20th centuries. It was excavated in the 1960s, but its importance was not recognised until recently, owing to confusion surrounding its age.

Our study followed a combined approach, incorporating microscopic analysis of the bone surface, high-resolution computed tomography (CT) and non-destructive chemical analysis. The study found trace amounts of a black, organic residue distributed over the surface of the bone point in a manner suggestive of 20th century poisoned arrows. The chemistry of the black substance indicates it consists of many ingredients. Again, this is suggestive of known San poison and glue recipes.

We still do not know exactly what organic compounds went into the recipe for the black

substance, but future chemistry work will address this question.

Microscopic analysis of the bone artefact indicates that it was hafted (or attached) to another arrow section – probably into a reed shaft. This was done after the black residue was applied. The micro-CT scan allowed us to look inside the bone, to see structural damage at a microscopic scale. These results showed that the bone artefact had experienced the same mechanical stresses as high-velocity projectiles, like arrows.

The study demonstrates that the pointed bone artefact from Klasies River was certainly hafted, maybe dipped in poison, and used in a manner similar to identical bone points from more recent contexts.

The artefact also fits in with what we know of ancient people's cognition and abilities in southern Africa.

From at least 100 000 years ago, people in southern Africa were combining multiple ingredients to form coloured pastes, possibly for decoration or skin protection. By 70 000 years ago, they were making glues and other compound adhesives using a range of ingredients, combined in a series of complex steps. These glues may have then been used, among other things, to haft small stone pieces in varying arrangements, probably as insets for arrows or other weapons.

The presence of these technical elements in the southern African Middle Stone Age (roughly equivalent to the Eurasian Middle Palaeolithic) signals an advanced cognitive ability. That includes notions of abstract thought, analogical reasoning, multitasking and cognitive fluidity or the ability to "think outside the box".

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COVID-19 and the nature trade-off paradigm



The outbreak of epidemics like COVID-19 reveal the fundamental tenets of the trade-off we consistently face: humans have unlimited needs, but the planet has limited capacity to satisfy them.

Within weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak, the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic, which has since spread around the globe. In addition to loss of lives, the virus has disrupted society and demobilised the global economy.

Meanwhile, efforts to contain the virus by restricting the movement have had a remarkable environmental impact. According to China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, data recorded between January and March 2020 reflected an 84.5% increase in days with good air quality in 337 cities, and satellite data from the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration showed a decline in nitrogen dioxide over China.

Pushpam Kumar is the Chief Environmental Economist at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In this interview, he explains the concept of trade-off analysis and the use of a trade-off paradigm in navigating the complex relationship between humans and nature.

What is trade-off analysis?

Trade-off analysis considers both the positive and negative impacts of human interventions on nature and observes the ways a situation changes when there is more of one thing and less of another.

How is trade-off analysis relevant to discussions of COVID-19?

Every crisis provides the opportunity to learn.

The outbreak of epidemics like COVID-19 reveal the fundamental tenets of the trade-off we consistently face: humans have unlimited needs, but the planet has limited capacity to satisfy them.

COVID-19, a virus that has been attributed to human interferences such as deforestation, encroachment on animal habitats and biodiversity loss, led to a reported thousands of deaths in China. The subsequent lockdown of Hubei province contributed to a reduction in pollution that, according to a Stanford University researcher, may prevent 50 000 to 75 000 people from dying prematurely. This demonstrates a trade-off between a consumption-driven society (and its interference with nature) and the resiliency of nature and ecosystems.

Regardless of its cause or origin, the emergence of COVID-19 has underscored the mutually affective relationship between people and nature. Now, we must try to understand and appreciate the limits to which humans can push nature, before the impact is negative. Those limits must be embraced by our consumption and production aspiration.

How can trade-off analysis be used to address COVID-19 and in anticipation of similar crises?

A strong collaboration of science, including economics, natural sciences, zoology and ecology, should identify, assess and quantify the losses and gains across stakeholders over the present and future. Given the variety and intensity with which nature and humans impact each other, this is critical for informing decisions that may produce conflicting

outcomes – when, for example, potential outcomes are both positive and negative. Specifically, a trade-off analysis would:

- identify stakeholders engaged in making specific choices and decisions where nature and economy are going to be impacted
- estimate potential gains and losses for various stakeholder groups
- determine the role of private and public stakeholders
- anticipate how existing national and global governance structures may influence outcomes.

Such robust research enables economists to identify both the benefits of reduced pressure on nature and the economic costs; while natural scientists elaborate the biological and health system factors affecting economic gain or loss.

We already know that the benefits of anthropocentric pressure on planetary boundaries are far fewer than the potential costs to society, in both the short and long term. Ultimately, lost ecological infrastructure and decline of natural capital, including human health, causes a decline in inclusive wealth. The impact of nature trade-offs is even more acute for lower- and middle-income countries, where achieving development goals like reducing poverty and inequality are already a challenge.

Decision-makers must carefully evaluate the potential impacts of trade-offs – considering who will gain or lose, and how – and draw on collective wisdom to determine the next steps in the challenges we face today.

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Archaeology shows how ancient African societies managed pandemics

Social distancing and isolation have become watchwords during the COVID-19 pandemic. From archaeology, we know that the same practices formed a critical part of managing pandemics in historical African societies.

By Shadreck Chirikure
Professor in Archaeology, University of Cape Town

Every so often, a pandemic emerges that dramatically alters human society. The Black Death (1347 – 1351) was one; the Spanish Flu of 1918 was another. Now there's COVID-19. Archaeologists have long studied diseases in past populations. To do so, they consider a wide array of evidence: settlement layout, burials, funerary remains and human skeletons. For example, because of archaeologists, we know that the damaging impact of epidemics prompted the abandonment of

settlements at Akrokrowa in Ghana during the early 14th century AD. About 76 infant burial sites at an abandoned settlement that now forms part of the Mapungubwe World Heritage site in the Limpopo Valley of South Africa suggest a pandemic hit the people living there after 1000 AD. Archaeological and historical insights also expose some of the strategies that societies adopted to deal with pandemics. These included burning settlements as a disinfectant and shifting settlements to new locations. Social distancing was practised by dispersing settlements. Archaeologists'

findings at Mwenezi in southern Zimbabwe also show that it was a taboo to touch or interfere with remains of the dead, lest diseases be transmitted in this way. In the late 1960s, some members of an archaeological dig excavating 13th-century house floors in Phalaborwa, South Africa, refused to keep working after encountering burials they believed were sacred. They also worried that the burials were related to a disease outbreak. Social distancing and isolation have become watchwords during the COVID-19 pandemic. From archaeology, we know that the same practices formed a critical part of

managing pandemics in historical African societies. In what is Zimbabwe today, the Shona people in the 17th and 18th centuries isolated those suffering from infectious diseases – such as leprosy – in temporary residential structures. This meant that very few people could come into contact with the sick. In some cases, corpses were burnt to avoid spreading the contagion. Humans have a propensity to relax and shift priorities once calamities are over. Data collected by archaeologists, that show how indigenous knowledge systems helped ancient societies in Africa deal with the shock of illness and pandemics, can help remind policy-makers of different ways to prepare modern societies for the same issues.

Social distancing and isolation

Research at the early urban settlement of K2, part of the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, has thrown significant light on ancient pandemics. The inhabitants of K2 (which dates back to between AD1000 and AD1200) thrived on crop agriculture, cattle raising, metallurgy, hunting and collecting food from the forest. They had well developed local and regional economies that fed into international networks of exchange with the Indian Ocean Rim. Swahili towns of East Africa acted as conduits. Archaeological work at K2 uncovered an unusually high number of burials (94), 76 of which belonged to infants in the 0-4 age category. This translated into a mortality rate of 5%. The evidence from the site shows that the settlement was abruptly abandoned around the same time as these burials. That means a pandemic prompted the community's decision to shift to another settlement.

Shifting to another region of Africa, archaeological work at early urban settlements in central and southern Ghana identified the impact of pandemics at places such Akrokrowa (AD950 – 1300) and Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa in the central district of Ghana.

These settlements, like others in the Birim Valley of southern Ghana, were bounded by intricate systems of trenches and banks of earth. Evidence shows that after a couple of centuries of continuous and stable occupation, settlements were abruptly abandoned. The period of abandonment appears to coincide with the devastation of the Black Death in Europe.

Post-pandemic houses were not rebuilt; nor did any rubbish accumulate from daily activities. Instead, the disrupted communities went to live elsewhere. Because there are no signs of long-term effects – in the form of long periods of hardship, deaths or drastic socio-economic or political changes – archaeologists believe that these communities were able to

manage and adapt to the pandemic. Analysis of archaeological evidence reveals that these ancient African communities adopted various strategies to manage pandemics. These include burning settlements as a disinfectant before either reoccupying them or shifting homesteads to new locations. African indigenous knowledge systems make it clear that burning settlements or forests was an established way of managing diseases. The layout of settlements was also important. In areas such as Zimbabwe and parts of Mozambique, for instance, settlements were dispersed to house one or two families in a space. This allowed people to stay at a distance from each other – but not too far apart to engage in daily care, support and cooperation. While social coherence was the glue that held society together, social distancing was inbuilt, in a supportive way. Communities knew that outbreaks were unpredictable but possible, so they built their settlements in a dispersed fashion to plan ahead. These behaviours were also augmented by diversified diets that included fruits, roots, and other things that provided nutrients and strengthened the immune system.

Africa's past and the future of pandemics

There were multiple long-term implications of pandemics in these communities. Perhaps the most important was that people organised themselves in ways that made it easier to live with diseases, managing them and at the same time, sticking to the basics such as good hygiene, sanitation and environmental control. Life did not stop because of

pandemics: populations made decisions and choices to live with them. Some of these lessons may be applied to COVID-19, guiding decisions and choices to buffer the vulnerable from the pandemic while allowing economic activity and other aspects of life to continue. As evidence from the past shows, social behaviour is the first line of defence against pandemics: it's essential this be considered when planning for the latest post-pandemic future. [U](#)

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Golden Gate Highlands National Park is located in the Free State, near the Lesotho border. It covers an area of 340 km². The park's most notable features are its golden, ochre and orange-hued, deeply eroded sandstone cliffs and outcrops.





Fossil track sites tell the story of ancient crocodiles in southern Africa

While crocodylian fossil swim traces have been described from other continents, to the best of our knowledge, the examples we describe are the first such reptilian swim traces from Africa.

By Charles Helm
Research Associate, African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience, Nelson Mandela University

The Pleistocene often evokes images of ice ages – with much of the planet covered by great ice sheets. In reality, this geological epoch that started 2.6 million years ago and lasted until about 11 700 years ago was a time of wildly swinging climatic conditions, typically with long, cold “glacial” phases interspersed with warm “interglacials”.

On the Cape south coast of South Africa, the effects of these changes were dramatic. Sea levels dropped during the “glacials”, exposing the vast Palaeo-Agulhas Plain, and around 91 000 years ago, the coastline was as much as 60 km south of its present location. In contrast, during an “interglacial” around 400 000 years ago, sea levels were as much as 13 metres above their present levels. Extensive traditional palaeontological evidence from this region, in the form of

body fossils, indicates the existence of a Pleistocene megafauna, some members of which are now extinct.

However, it is becoming evident that this “body fossil record” is not complete. Ichnology – the study of tracks and traces – can complement this record. Fossil tracksites have proven their capacity to teach us the unexpected.

Today, the Cape south coast of South Africa contains numerous palaeosurfaces.

These rock surfaces are the cemented remains of the dune and beach surfaces that existed when vertebrates, including our *Homo sapiens* ancestors, were making tracks in the region in the Pleistocene Epoch.

Our research team at the African Centre for Coastal Palaeoscience at Nelson Mandela University has been able to identify more than 250 vertebrate tracksites along a 350-km stretch of the Cape south coast. Together, these sites contribute to an ecological census of the diverse fauna that inhabited the coast, and they help in the interpretation of the palaeoenvironment. For example, the presence in the region of giraffe and hatchling turtles is only known through our documentation of their trackways. And the early modern human presence is represented not only by tracks but also by evidence of patterns that our ancestors created on surfaces of sand.

Now we can add crocodiles to the list of ancient animals that populated this area during the Pleistocene Epoch. In a paper published in the *South African Journal of Science*, our team described the tracks and probable swim traces of large reptiles from this coast, from a series of sites within the Garden Route National Park. Swim traces are the traces that a swimming animal makes on the bottom surface of a body of water. Their appearance varies, depending on the water depth and the length of the animal’s limbs; for example, in deep water, only faint scrapes may be present where its claws or digits just touch the bottom.

While crocodylian fossil swim traces have been described from other continents, to the best of our knowledge, the examples we describe are the first such reptilian

swim traces from Africa. One example of hippopotamus swim traces has been reported from Kenya.

Among other benefits, understanding these palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates (which are relatively recent in “geological time”) may help us to better understand our current challenges with climate change.

When large reptiles roamed

Our findings suggest, based on the composition of the rock surfaces, that the tracks and swim traces were made in a lagoon setting. The likelihood is that tracks of both the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) and the Water Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) are present.

There are no reptiles in the region today that are capable of making such tracks and traces, and there is nothing substantial to suggest their presence on the Cape south coast from the archaeological record or historical records. The current southern range limit of the Nile crocodile is from a site many hundreds of kilometres to the north-east, where a population was introduced.

These findings therefore probably indicate that there was once a more extensive range for the Nile crocodile and the Water Monitor. Given the ectothermic biological requirements of large reptiles, we can infer a warmer climate, probably during a warm “interglacial”.

Embedded in one of the palaeosurfaces, which contained multiple large reptile trackways, as well as mammal and avian tracks, we found two Middle Stone Age stone artefacts, pictured below. We cannot be certain what they were used for, as we were not permitted to remove them for detailed analysis. But their presence

suggests something which had not previously been documented: a spatial and temporal association in this environment between humans and large reptiles, or at least mutual use of habitat. Unfortunately, a large landslide has subsequently buried this track-bearing surface.

Rock samples from these surfaces have been taken for dating. Based on previous dating studies, we anticipate that the results are likely to be within the range of 158 000 years to 70 000 years. Obtaining an accurate date would establish the approximate moment in time when these tracks were registered, and would help to corroborate the Middle Stone Age appearance of the stone artefacts.

Deeper understanding

These discoveries illustrate again the potential of ichnology to complement the traditional palaeontology record and to contribute to the understanding of Pleistocene palaeoenvironments, in an area which is of great importance in the study of modern human origins. 📖

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

Among other benefits, understanding these palaeoenvironments and palaeoclimates (which are relatively recent in “geological time”) may help us to better understand our current challenges with climate change.





How an underwater photo led to the discovery of a tiny new seahorse species

The most astonishing part of this discovery is that it didn't start in a laboratory, or with keen scientific minds assessing the likelihood of finding a pygmy seahorse in African waters. Instead, it began with a photograph.

By Maarten De Brauwer

Research Fellow, University of Leeds; David Harasti, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Southern Cross University; Graham Short, Research Associate, Australian Museum; and Louw Claassens, Research Associate of Zoology and Entomology, Director of the Knysna Basin Project, Rhodes University

Before you read this article, pause for a moment and look at the nail on your little finger. That's about the size of a new species of seahorse discovered in the waters of Sodwana Bay, South Africa, which falls within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site, in KwaZulu-Natal province.

Hippocampus nalu grows to a maximum size of just 2 cm. It is the first pygmy seahorse ever discovered in African waters. Our team has conclusively demonstrated that *Hippocampus nalu* is physically and

genetically distinct from the seven known species of pygmy seahorses. Its nearest relatives are found more than 8 000 km away in the Pacific Ocean.

Seahorses are threatened all around the world. Many species are at risk of becoming extinct because of human activities such as bottom trawling, over-fishing and habitat destruction. As a result, several species are listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's *Red List of Threatened Species*. However, to date, no pygmy seahorses are considered threatened – because we simply do not know enough

about them. By discovering more species, and learning more about these tiny creatures, scientists can offer advice on how best to protect them.

Pygmy seahorses can also provide an important boost for tourism: scuba divers love these small species and are willing to travel far and wide for a chance to see them. If coastal communities and scuba divers alike are taught about the best ways to protect these species and others in the oceans, there can be huge economic and social benefits.

The most astonishing part of this discovery is that it didn't start in a laboratory, or with

keen scientific minds assessing the likelihood of finding a pygmy seahorse in African waters. Instead, it began with a photograph.

Tracking the seahorse

Dr Louw Claassens and Dr Dave Harasti arrived in Sodwana in early 2018, looking for an entirely different animal: a seahorse-like species called a "pygmy pipehorse". But then a local dive guide named Savannah Olivier showed them a photograph of a very small seahorse. The scientists recognised it as a pygmy seahorse, which are supposed to live an entire ocean away. South Africa is home to four other seahorse species, but this was the first time a pygmy seahorse had been observed in South Africa, let alone Africa.

Nine months later, Louw returned to Sodwana Bay, this time accompanied by Dr Richard Smith, a pygmy seahorse expert. They, with Olivier, found a pair of the tiny pygmy seahorses along a rock face at about 15-m depth. The little creatures were grasping on to slivers of algae amid raging surging seas. The reefs of Sodwana Bay are exposed to the swells of the Indian Ocean, very unlike the more sheltered coral reef settings in the tropical Pacific where the other known pygmy seahorses are found.

Later, they even found a tiny juvenile measuring just a centimetre in length, which was dwarfed by a diver's finger.

Finding the seahorses was only the first step in describing the new species. The rest of the team got to work. Graham Short, a researcher at the Australian Museum and California Academy of Sciences, compared the mystery seahorses with other pygmy seahorse species by looking at their characteristics under a microscope, as well as a powerful CT scanner. Dr Mike Stat, a geneticist from Australia, used genetic methods to test how distinct it was from other species. Through combined team efforts, we confirmed that the Sodwana pygmy seahorse was a new species and could give it an official scientific name.

The name "nalu" has three layers of meaning. In the local isiXhosa and isiZulu languages, it means "here it is", to show that the species had been there all along until its discovery. "Nalu" is also the diver Savannah Olivier's middle name. Finally, "nalu" means "surging surf, wave" in Hawaiian, which hints at the habitat the species lives in.

More to learn

The discovery of the Sodwana pygmy seahorse is exciting for more than just its scientific value. It provides new insights into the global distribution of these tiny fish and paves the way for further exploration in other locations. Only a handful of research publications focussed on the ecology of pygmy seahorses exist, so anything we can

learn more about these critters will help the future conservation of this unique group.

Finding a species like *Hippocampus nalu* also shows how little we know about Africa's marine biodiversity, and how much more is left to discover. It highlights how important the observations of keen amateurs are to help scientists. If a keen fisherman did not consider a strange looking fish caught off the south coast of South Africa worth sharing with Marjory Courtney-Latimer in 1938, the discovery of the coelacanth, a living fossil, might never have happened.

Similarly, without a diver's sharp eyes and an expert's initial questions, the world would still not know that the Sodwana pygmy seahorse exists. As scientists, being open to questions from the general public not only helps inform non-scientists, but can also help us make new discoveries. 🐠

This article was first used on *The Conversation*.



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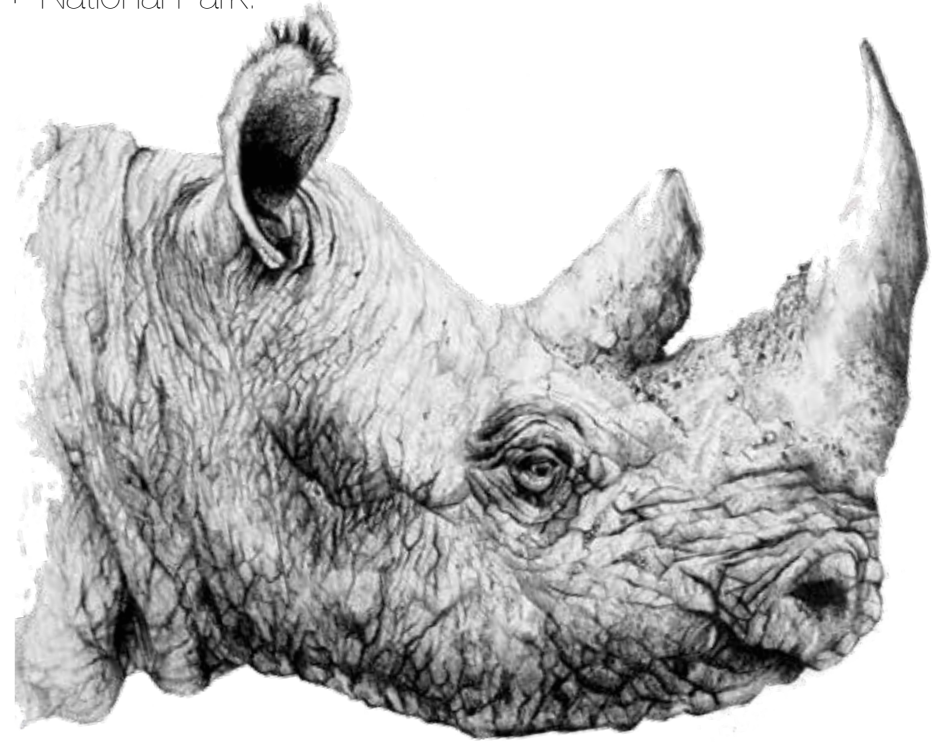
In 1999, Erin Game Ranch in the Northern Cape was one of six farms awarded to the ǀKomani San community in compensation for land lost during colonisation. Today, Erin is a game-fenced farm of approximately 6 000 ha managed for the benefit of the community. The objective is to run Erin as a "Prestige" game ranch, offering the tourist unique experiences with capable San trackers, guides and cultural experts, in a typical and rustic Kalahari landscape.



My cattle, your rhinos:

South Africa's poverty-and-wildlife conundrum

The resulting conservation agreements model has now been formally recognised by the Government of South Africa as a viable stewardship model for communal land management. Among the project's beneficiaries are the livestock-dependent Mnisi community adjacent to Kruger National Park.



The Coronavirus pandemic is forcing us to think deeply about human beings' relationship with the natural world on which we all depend for our survival.

Many commentators, including Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), say humans are putting too many pressures on the natural world. She has warned that failing to take care of the planet means not taking care of ourselves.

Sound and sustainable wildlife management is, therefore, likely to receive greater attention in the post-COVID-19 world. Here's one example of an ongoing project in South Africa.

Kruger National Park, a flagship national park, is almost the same size as Belgium. It's a haven for wildlife and a cornerstone of South Africa's tourism economy but the park and the communities around its borders represent the global front line in the battle against rhino poaching: there are increasingly militarised clashes between park rangers and poachers.

One of the reasons for this is that rhino horn is worth more than its weight in gold, and for many impoverished people in rural South Africa and beyond, that's an irresistible draw.

One Global Environment Facility-backed project, part of the Conservation Agreements Private Partnership Portfolio, sought to reboot the relationship between park administrators and local people. Led by UNEP and Conservation International with partners Meat Naturally, Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Programme, South African National Parks, and the University of Pretoria, the project, The GEF Earth Fund: Conservation Agreement Private Partnership Platform, aimed to move towards a new model for combating poaching – one that works with the local community instead of against them, by valuing cattle as well as rhino.

Before the project, marginalised cattle farming communities living around the park were understandably ambivalent about wildlife protection. They were focussed on their cattle, which are their livelihood, their job, their food source and their bank account. In fact, because wildlife and livestock coexist here, foot-and-mouth disease prevented any real cattle economy from taking hold. Communities could not easily sell livestock in the Kruger landscape, so wildlife itself was perceived as a threat to local livelihoods.

"The idea was that if we can help marginalised cattle farmers improve grazing conditions and earn decent incomes, they would become more active conservation partners and potentially be less likely to turn a blind eye to, facilitate or participate in rhino poaching," says Zachary Wells of Conservation International.

"To help biodiversity, ecosystems and communities thrive, we need to tackle wildlife crime and at the same time open up new opportunities for local communities," he adds.

Michael Grover, Landscape Director at Conservation South Africa, recalls at the beginning of the programme a community elder being asked for assistance in countering the growing poaching threat. The elder said: "You don't value what we have. Why should we value what you have?" His solution: "You look after our cattle and we'll look after your rhinos."

The resulting conservation agreements model has now been formally recognised by the Government of South Africa as a

viable stewardship model for communal land management.

Among the project's beneficiaries are the livestock-dependent Mnisi community adjacent to Kruger National Park.

Under the project, communities practise environmentally friendly ways of grazing their livestock and, in exchange, receive negotiated benefits such as education around market access, fodder, livestock branding and capacity-building.

The project negotiates with livestock owners to restore the ecosystem services of 9 000 hectares of degraded Mnisi rangelands (equivalent to around 13 000 football pitches).

Healthy cattle, healthy grasslands

"Planned grazing helps restore vegetation cover, ensures adequate forage throughout the grazing season, increases infiltration and decreases erosion," says UNEP biodiversity expert, Ersin Esen. "This results in improved quality and quantity of grazing for livestock as well as improved ecosystem health for communal rangelands and the rivers that flow through them into the Kruger National Park."

In areas committed to planned grazing through the conservation agreements, the veld condition scores were substantially higher than areas not committed to planned grazing.

"The formation of grazing associations and regular farmer meetings are helping farmers become empowered stewards who make good decisions about their land," says Rosanne Stanway, Director of Sustainable Agriculture at Conservation South Africa.

Rangeland restoration model to be replicated in other countries

Conservation South Africa has made a long-term commitment to continue working with communities. The Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Programme, in partnership with Conservation South Africa, have received five years of funding from the Flanders Government in Belgium to expand conservation agreements to neighbouring villages, as a direct result of the successes they have seen through investment in Mnisi.

On a broader scale, Meat Naturally, Conservation South Africa and Herding 4 Health – Peace Parks Foundation have entered into a partnership to replicate this rangeland restoration model across four transboundary national parks spanning Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. An anticipated 200 000 additional hectares will come under conservation agreements, with support from multiple donors. "Finding solutions that promote restoration

and conservation of healthy ecosystems while addressing societal inequities here in South Africa can be a model not only for the continent, but for the world," says Sarah Frazee, Climate Project Director for Herding 4 Health.

"As we continue to relentlessly encroach on nature and degrade ecosystems, we endanger human health," says UNEP's Andersen. "In fact, 75% of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, i.e. viruses originating from the transfer from animals, whether domesticated or wild, to humans."

Nature is in crisis, threatened by biodiversity and habitat loss, global heating and toxic pollution. Failure to act is failing humanity. Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and protecting ourselves against future global threats require sound management of hazardous medical and chemical waste; strong and global stewardship of nature and biodiversity; and a clear commitment to "building back better", creating green jobs and facilitating the transition to carbon neutral economies. Humanity depends on action now for a resilient and sustainable future. ♻️

Material for this story was drawn from a four-part story series by Conservation International, which was supported by the Global Environment Facility Earth Fund, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme as implementing agency, as part of the Conservation Agreements Private Partnership Platform.

Conservation South Africa has made a long-term commitment to continue working with communities. The Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Programme, in partnership with Conservation South Africa, have received five years of funding from the Flanders Government in Belgium to expand conservation agreements to neighbouring villages, as a direct result of the successes they have seen through investment in Mnisi.



A theatre project explores collective solutions to *saving the ocean*

How people now choose to behave, make collective decisions and build solidarity around the health of oceans have an impact not just on our own species but on all life on Earth.

By Kira Erwin
Senior Researcher, Durban University of Technology

The Earth's oceans are under grave threat. Scientists in many fields have pointed to the large-scale negative shifts brought about by human-made pollutants, mining and overfishing.

How people now choose to behave, make collective decisions and build solidarity around the health of oceans have an impact not just on our own species but on all life on Earth.

In the drive to rebuild economies after the COVID-19 pandemic, will nation states and big business return to a myopic view of

the oceans as a source of gross domestic product growth and shareholder profit? Or could we expand our imaginations to listen to a multitude of voices that care for the ocean?

A theatre production in South Africa has been trying to find a way. The *Lalela uLwandle* (Listen to the Sea) research and engagement project, implemented along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline in 2019, offers some useful ideas for such an expansion.

A chorus of voices

The idea emerged from a public consultation meeting. It was between community

representatives from small towns along the coastline, and the Petroleum Association of South Africa. Many felt they had not been adequately consulted in an environmental impact assessment for permits to drill for oil and gas along the coastline.

The association, a regulatory body meant to consider public needs when granting or denying such licences, was sympathetic to some of the arguments. But the consultation process failed to make room for the different perspectives and concerns in the room.

In response, a team of researchers working in ocean governance from Rhodes

University and the Durban University of Technology began the *Lalela* project. It set out to explore how different coastal people, in and around the coastal city of Durban, make sense of their relationship with the ocean.

The research participants included a broad spectrum. They were small-scale and subsistence fishers, marine scientists, activists, church followers, marine educators at the aquarium and sangomas (traditional healers).

The opening question was simple: What are your first memories of the sea? It's important because the symbolic, scientific and spiritual meanings of the oceans are key to understanding humans' relationship with the oceans. Memories, belief systems, stories and myths are powerful ways in which we make sense of our world and choose to act on and in it.

The research team partnered with Empatheatre, a collective that uses research-based theatre as a participatory decision-making tool for social justice. They have tackled issues related to street-level drug use (*Ulwembu*), gender and migration (*The Last Country*) and mining (*Soil&Ash*). They wove these incredible everyday stories of the sea, together with archival material, into the production *Lalela uLwandle*.

Lalela uLwandle draws on the stories of three people. Nolwandle is a marine educator whose mother is a Zionist and grandmother a sangoma. Niren is a young environmental activist whose family has a long history of seine-net fishing. Faye is a retired marine biologist reflecting on life as a scientist and activist.

Audience members sit in a circle with the actors and witness these intergenerational stories. They recount how the ocean is linked to, among other things, livelihoods, medicine and healing, and scientific study. Included is the site of the sea for spiritual connections with ancestors.

The play deals with acts of past and present power and exclusion in South Africa. It performs the painful experiences of forced removals under apartheid, which robbed many of a life on the coast. It explores how extractive mining on land and sea, and industrial fishing, continue to create forms of oppression and exclusion.

It also performs the tensions between environmental justice and environmental conservation. These are frequently played out in real life when local people are restricted from accessing sites of heritage and livelihood in marine protected areas.

Last year, the play toured six small towns on the KwaZulu-Natal coast, with a final week's run in Durban. The general public came to watch along with guests invited from government, civil society, small-scale

fisher associations, marine science and conservation.

Each performance was followed by a facilitated discussion. In many, audience members grappled with what it means to think collectively in a time of ocean degradation. They asked of themselves and fellow audience members how the hurt and inequalities in our past, and in the present, should shape thinking on ocean governance.

If we listened carefully

South Africa remains deeply divided by racial injustices and economic inequalities. Rather than skirt over these divides, *Lalela uLwandle* told different stories of power and vulnerability. What arose from the research, performances and discussions was how cultural connections offer valuable contributions towards conservation and environmental efforts.

The play offered an invitation to an alternative conversation. One in which culture, science and conservation may, if people learn to listen to each other carefully, find strategic alignment.

The public discussions showed an encouraging move away from various trade-offs that normally play out. Where big business gains at the expense of poor communities, or conservation wins at the expense of marginal groups, or where marginal groups are awarded socio-economic resources at the expense of environmental conservation.

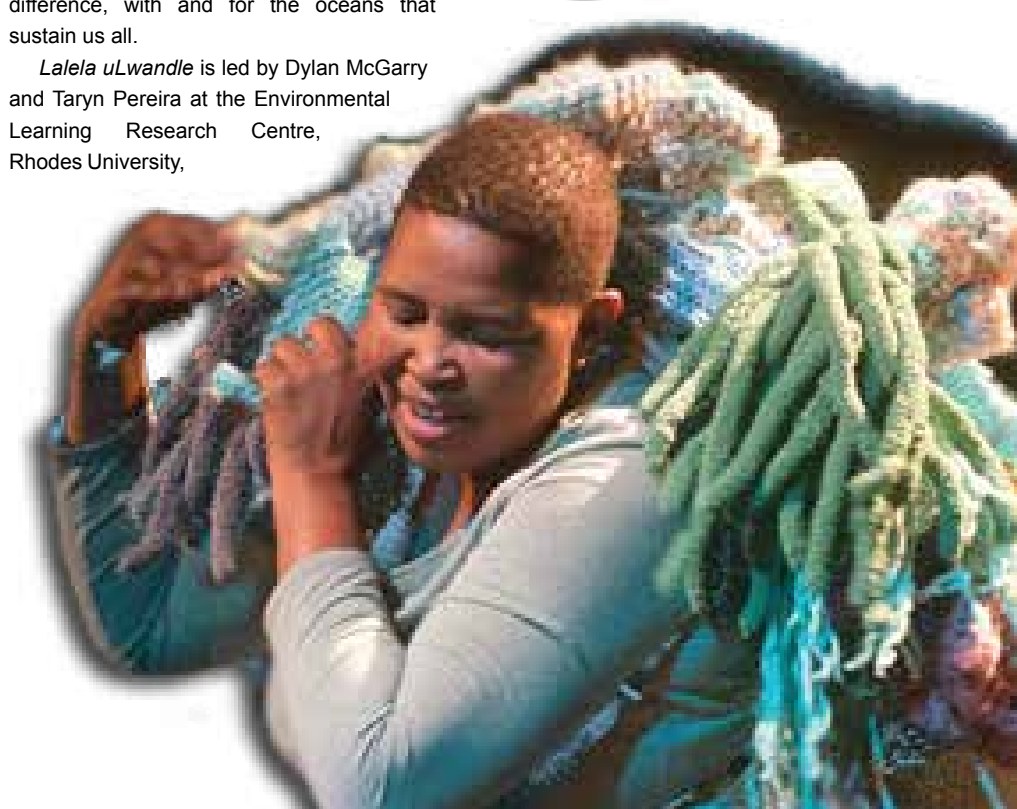
To find solutions, the world desperately needs to become better equipped at more equitable collective decision-making. To do that, we need to find translation devices between scientific, conservation, cultural and spiritual canons. We need them to spark an imagination for working in solidarity across difference, with and for the oceans that sustain us all.

Lalela uLwandle is led by Dylan McGarry and Taryn Pereira at the Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University,

with Neil Coppen and Mpume Mthombeni from Empatheatre, and Kira Erwin at the Urban Futures Centre, Durban University of Technology. *Lalela uLwandle* forms part of the One Ocean Hub, a global action research network led by Strathclyde University and funded by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation Global Challenge Research Fund.

This article was first published on *The Conversation*.

South Africa remains deeply divided by racial injustices and economic inequalities. Rather than skirt over these divides, *Lalela uLwandle* told different stories of power and vulnerability. What arose from the research, performances and discussions was how cultural connections offer valuable contributions towards conservation and environmental efforts.





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Flying the Flag

SA takes top honours in Open Budget Index



South Africa has once again come joint first with New Zealand in the 2019 Open Budget Index (OBI), conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) through an Open Budget Survey.

"The win is in recognition of the country's commitment to a transparent budget process. This is a repeat of the result from the 2017 OBI," said National Treasury.

National Treasury said achieving first place could not be a victory for the Finance Ministry alone but all the institutions that demonstrated commitment to transparency, as entrenched in the Constitution.

"South Africa remains committed to constantly improving the budget process in order to maintain its international reputation as a global leader in budget transparency, even during the global pandemic of COVID-19," National Treasury said.

Over the years, South Africa has consistently entrenched its reputation as

a global leader in budget transparency. "This is evidenced in the expansive budget information that is published for public analysis and scrutiny. Past survey results have been used to identify gaps in budget transparency and informed measures and mechanisms adopted to address those gaps," National Treasury said.

The reforms implemented between 2017 and 2019 include:

- launch of the online budget portal vulekamali.gov.za
- introduction of a Central Supplier Database and other procurement reforms undertaken by the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer to enhance transparency in bidding for government contracts
- annual budget outreach at institutions of higher learning
- enhanced commitment of the South African Government to engage with civil-society organisations to ensure increased participation in the budget process.

South Africa ranked first out of 117 countries. The global results reflect a modest improvement in budget transparency, reversing the decline seen in 2017's results and restoring the upward trend shown since the inception of the survey.

The global average transparency score is 45 out of 100 and South Africa scored 87 out of 100.

"The global average public participation score is 14 out of 100. While South Africa scored 24 out of 100 in this category, it is needless to say that this is a score that requires innovation to improve.

"In an effort to improve on this score, South Africa, in partnership with the IBP and Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, is embarking on a three-year pilot project to work on mechanisms to include public participation in the budget process, with the assistance of civil society," National Treasury said.

The final category is oversight. Out of the 117 countries surveyed, only 34 had adequate oversight from legislature, while 71 had adequate oversight from audit institutions.

South Africa scored 75 out of 100 on legislative oversight and 100 on audit institution.

"The OBI survey provides a comprehensive review of South Africa's budget process. Citizens are encouraged to use information published in budget documents for effective analysis and research," National Treasury said.

SAnews.gov.za

SA flag lights up Matterhorn Mountain in Switzerland



The South African flag was projected onto Switzerland's most famous mountain as part of a beautiful show of support and solidarity.

In April 2020, South Africa's flag illuminated the Matterhorn, a mountain in the Swiss Alps, in a show of solidarity and hope.

Since 24 March 2020, light artist Gerry Hofstetter had illuminated the mountainside in Zermatt daily with flags, in solidarity with various other countries that have been hit by the world's latest global pandemic.

A display in April 2020 induced South Africa's flag to demonstrate support for the country. Other countries included Thailand, Italy, Morocco, South Korea, Singapore, China and more.

Zermatt's social media pages also said that the mountain was ultimately "a sign of solidarity".

When South Africa's flag was projected on 24 April, they said:

"South Africa is also affected by the virus.

As a country of immigration, South Africa is a country of hope. We wish the population much courage and strength to overcome the crisis."

It is said that the world-famous Matterhorn in Zermatt only has around 6 000 inhabitants but the small town on the border with Italy draws millions of tourists each year to this landmark.

"The village shows solidarity with all the people who are currently suffering and is grateful to all those who are helping to overcome the crisis," the Zermatt website stated.

www.thesouthafrican.com

SA flag drapes the Burj Khalifa in Dubai on Freedom Day



In support of Freedom Day on 27 April 2020, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) draped the South African flag over its tallest skyscraper in Dubai.

The UAE showed its support of Freedom Day and what it stands for by draping the South African flag over its tallest skyscraper — the Burj Khalifa — in Dubai on Monday, 27 April 2020.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) posted an image of the UAE's gesture saying:

"The United Arab Emirates is commemorating Freedom Day 2020, 27.04.2020. The South African flag has been draped on the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. This is a great testament to the unity between SA and the UAE. Thank you."

The Burj Khalifa, known as the Burj Dubai prior to its inauguration in 2010,

is a skyscraper in Dubai. With a total height of 829.8 metres and a roof height of 828 metres, the Burj Khalifa has been the tallest structure and building in the world since 2009.

The gesture came on Freedom Day, a day which holds great significance for many South Africans.

The United States also showed support for Freedom Day by placing a wrap in the famous Times Square in New York.

"In celebration of Freedom Day 2020, this amazing wrap is displayed in all its glory in Times Square, New York. Thank you to the Government and people of the USA for this great demonstration of strong bilateral ties between our two countries," said DIRCO in a tweet.

University of Pretoria law academic appointed on International Pandemic Commission



The Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria recently announced that Professor Dire Tladi was appointed to serve on the commission dealing with Pandemics and International Law of the *Institut de Droit International*, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The *Institut de Droit International* is an organisation devoted to the study and development of international law, whose membership comprises some of the world's

leading public international lawyers. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1904. The institut decided to place the topic of pandemics on its agenda in the wake of COVID-19.

Professor Tladi joins other leading international lawyers, such as former President of the International Criminal Tribunal, Theodore Meron, and Judge of the International Court of Justice, Xue Hanqin. Other members of the commission are Shinya Murase (Special Rapporteur),

Gerard Niyungeko, Antony Anghie, Eyal Benvenisti, Claudio Grossman, Bernardo Sepulveda-Amor, Jose Alvarez, Francesco Francioni, Vanda Lamm, Vaclav Mikulka, Fausto Pocar, Antonio Remiro Brotons and Campbell McLachlan.

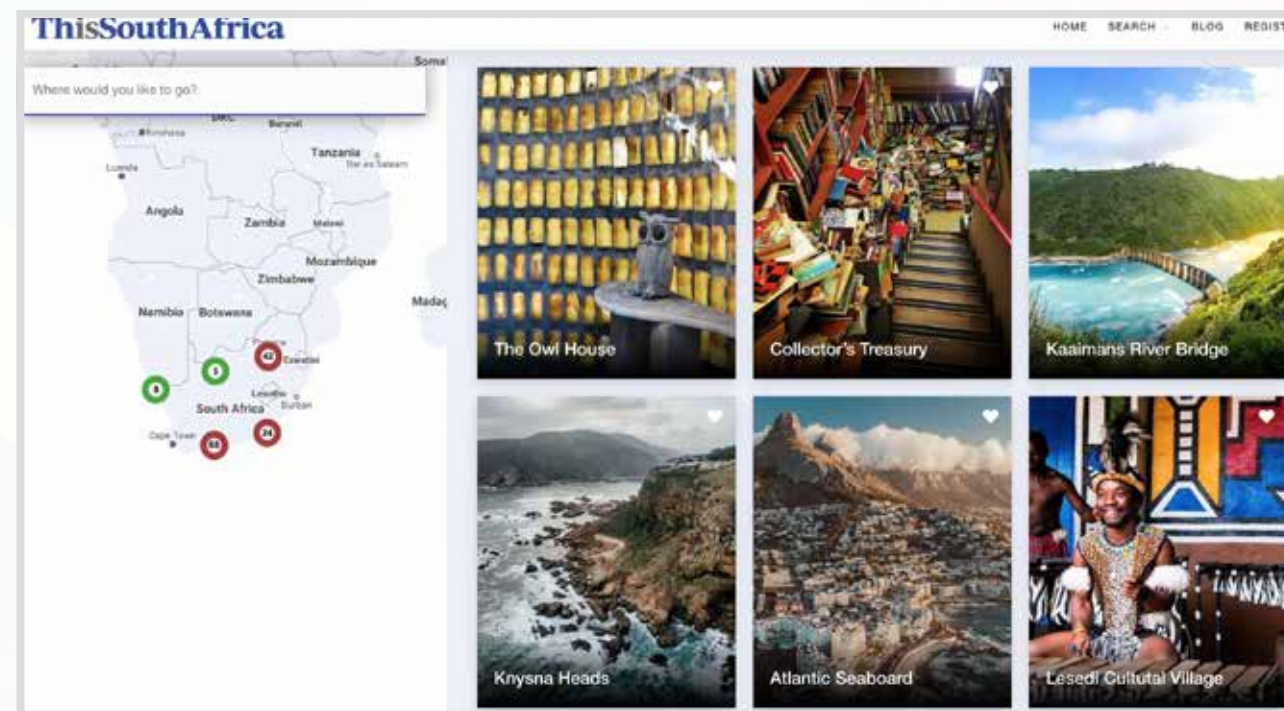
Professor Tladi has been a member of the *Institut de Droit International* since 2017. He is a Professor of International Law in the Department of Public Law and a fellow of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa.

According to Professor Tladi, "The work of the *Institut de Droit* on this topic will hopefully clarify important rules of international law in times of pandemic, such as the duty to cooperation, responsibility for outbreaks, immigration-related questions, as well as the contours of the duty to act in the best interest of the human population."

Prof. Christof Heyns, the Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa, commented as follows: "We are very proud of Professor Tladi's appointment. This is an honour but also a great opportunity to make a contribution to ensuring that international law retains its relevance for and impact in a time of great upheaval worldwide."

[University of Pretoria](http://UniversityofPretoria)

New South African tourism website launches during lockdown



The team behind the @southafrica Instagram account has launched a photo tourism website where everyone can start planning their post-lockdown trips.

ThisIsSouthAfrica.com aims to combine people's collective passion for South Africa and their free time during lockdown to create a powerful local travel planning resource. South Africans under lockdown are dreaming about all the places across the country they're going to visit when it's safe to do so, and that presents an opportunity.

The website combines the practicality of Google Maps and the visual aspect of Instagram to enable everyone to add amazing photographic locations from across South Africa and plan their local road trips. Each photo location includes location data, a list of activities and accessibility information to improve the search and planning functions.

The platform is the brainchild of Craig Rodney, the person who runs the @southafrica account on Instagram. Every single day for the past seven years, Rodney has posted a stunning image of South Africa on the page. That's over 3500 user-generated images of one of the

most photogenic countries on the planet, reaching close to 300 000 followers.

Rodney notes that he's loved managing the @southafrica account and creating the archive on Instagram, but quickly identified one big hindrance. Beyond simply appreciating the images on Instagram, you can't easily filter locations to plan your travel itineraries based on the images that inspire you.

"South Africa is consistently voted one of the world's most beautiful places – and for good reason! With the rise of photo tourism, the way people source destination inspiration and plan their trips has changed. The @southafrica account on Instagram is one of the most powerful online platforms for promoting travel and tourism in our country and has long been used as a source of inspiration for local and international travellers alike. As amazing as the gallery of images is, it's very one-dimensional. We need to provide users with the opportunity to plan trips around South Africa based on inspiring photography. Now, instead of just a beautiful picture in an app, it's a picture that is geotagged, with information about that particular spot in South Africa," says Rodney.

"I want to use the @southafrica account to help the local travel industry as much as possible. When it's safe to travel again, there's going to be a boom in post-lockdown appreciation for local travel. International travel will be slower to open up and will be expensive, driving local travel even more. There are thousands of stunning and diverse locations across every part of our country, and this will help shine a light on all of them."

Anyone can become a contributor on *ThisIsSouthAfrica.com* and load their favourite and most beautiful images of South Africa for consideration. Once a new location is added onto the site, it gets geotagged and linked to the contributor's Instagram account. It will also be categorised according to its accessibility (are they easy or hard to reach), what activities are available at that location, and adds tips and tricks provided by the contributor. What this does, is provide a lot more information that is not specifically available on Instagram. Users can then log onto the platform, create a profile and start building their dream trip around South Africa. The free-to-use platform will see a lot more development to its capabilities and offering in the coming months.

www.goodthingsguy.com

South African chefs features in free ebook among world's best chefs



Chefs from across the globe have been featured in an eBook, and South Africa is being represented by Veronica Canha-Hibbert and Stephanie Ceronio.

Gourmet chefs, running the top kitchens in the world, share their best recipes during this trying time. Some of the chefs are Michelin Star holders and the best in their fields. Working with the *WG Magazine*, one gets a glimpse into some of the best restaurants in the world.

Flavel Monteiro was inspired to publish the free eBook after seeing a long line of coffins on the news. It was 23 March 2020, and he was witnessing his country and his industry being crippled by the Coronavirus. He wanted to create something that would bring the culinary industry together.

He worked tirelessly with global chefs and released the eBook on Easter Weekend as a way to celebrate. Flavel said it was a truly amazing accomplishment to see it all come together. South Africa is represented in the eBook by chef Veronica Canha-Hibbert and chocolatier Stephanie Ceronio.

South African chef Veronica Canha-Hibbert from The Silo in Cape Town, shared her recipe for *Coffee Sous Vide Ostrich Fillet*. South African Chocolatier Stephanie Ceronio from Jack Rabbit Chocolate Studio in Pretoria, shared her decadent recipe for *Beurre Noisette Toffee Cookies*. Stephanie also shares a recipe for her signature *Bonbons* and her *Basic But Perfect Pasta* recipe.

www.goodthingsguy.com

Mi Casa signs international record deal and drops hot new music video

Afroforce1 Records, a division of Universal Music Group Africa, recently announced the exclusive global recording agreement with award-winning South African Afro-House trio, Mi Casa.

Afroforce1 has been established to develop and work with local talent with the view to break them into Central Europe and the rest of the world. Primarily based in Berlin, Germany, Afroforce1 will also now operate out of the Universal Music Group offices in Africa, unlocking huge potential for African and European artists alike.

Joe Chialo, Managing Director of Afroforce1 Records, spoke of the merge positively.

"Africa is a young and vibrant continent – a creative superpower. With our great team from Afroforce1 and UMG Africa, we will find, develop and equally establish artists whom we can offer the possibility of entering a new market in Europe and the rest of the world. This newly built bridge will also enable artists from Europe to dive deep into the unlimited font of creativity that Africa has to offer. The whole team is really excited to be a part of this adventure."

Mi Casa is a band that needs no introduction in South Africa. It has dominated the South African music charts for the past 10 years with a total of eight number one singles and a wall of awards and accolades (recipients of five South

African Music Awards, including Best Duo Group, Best Dance Group and the coveted Record of the Year).

As major players in the South African pop and dance arena, the trio has kept dancefloors alive with hits like *Jika*, *Turn You On* and *Don't Wanna Be Your Friend*, among others, while being on high rotation across all pop and urban stations for the past decade.

The trio consists of Joao Da Fonseca, aka J'Something, as the lead singer/songwriter; Siphon Mphahlaza, aka Dr Duda, as DJ/producer; and Moshe Kgasoane, aka Mo-T, as trumpeter. The band is deeply rooted in making music that carries positive vibes and uplifting energy. They have already amassed an international following with sold-out concerts in Europe, Canada and 23 African countries and their unflappable worth ethic has seen them maintain their status as one of South Africa's most relentless, determined and ambitious touring and recording acts.

This year, Mi Casa turns 10 years old and celebrates this milestone with the brand-new album,

We Made It. J'Something promises "music you may not have expected from Mi Casa", and audiences have already had a taste of a fresh sonic maturing with the stunning first single, *Church Bells*, which was dropped with an Afro-punk-inspired, heavily stylised, hot new music video at the end of March.

J'Something is over the moon about the Afroforce1 deal.

"Finally, the moment we have been working so hard for. To sign a global deal with the biggest label in the world is something we dared to dream and now here it is – the fruits of 10 years of hard work and great memories around some pretty damn cool songs. We believe this is the most crucial moment of our career and we can't wait to now elevate things onto a whole new level", he states.

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GIBS ranks number one again in Africa for executive education by Financial Times



The University of Pretoria's (UP) Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) has again been ranked as the top South African and African business school for executive education by the *Financial Times* (FT) in its *Executive Education 2020 Ranking*.

This marks the 17th year in which the school has consistently ranked among the top 50 best executive education providers globally. It is ranked at number 38.

The ranking looks at 80 business schools offering executive education

in the form of tailor-made non-degree programmes for corporate customers (customised programmes) and 75 schools offering open-enrolment programmes for leaders.

"We are delighted to be ranked once again by the *Financial Times*," GIBS Dean, Professor Nicola Kleyn, said.

"As we seek to continuously evolve to meet our clients' changing needs, the FT plays a useful role in enabling us to be benchmarked against the world's best business schools."

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor, Tawana Kupe, congratulated the school on its achievement.

"The university provides across-the-board high-quality teaching and learning that is relevant to the sectors we serve," he said.

"We provide programmes that matter and enable business to navigate the ever-changing and complex environments of our continent and the global economy. Post-COVID-19, a quality business education is

going to be even more relevant in creating a new landscape."

Nishan Pillay, Executive Director: Open Programmes at GIBS, said, "We are operating in a highly contested space and need to constantly innovate and provide transformative world-class programmes to compete with other global business schools. We do not compromise on quality and delegate experience, regardless of the learning methodology. We aim to equip our clients and delegates with the relevant skills and knowledge to enable them to tackle challenges and lead in turbulent and disruptive times."

GIBS' ethos is to provide high-quality management and business education in South Africa and across the rest of the continent, and this ranking affirms that ethos. Through its programmes, the school aims to develop managers who are resilient, able to lead and can make the right decisions to take organisations and the country forward.

www.goodthingsguy.com / GIBS

Conservation efforts lead to rise in black rhino numbers



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reports that black rhino numbers have risen from about 2 000 in the 1990s to the current level of 5 600.

A conservation project started nearly two decades ago to create new black rhino populations is paying off.

The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP) was started in 2003 by far-sighted conservationists who saw the need to create new black rhino populations on large areas of good habitat.

It is now one of the reasons that the IUCN could recently report that black rhino numbers have risen from about 2 500 in the 1990s to the present 5 600.

The project is run in partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency and various private and community landowners. It creates new populations by moving founders (of up to 25 black rhino at a time) on to properties large enough to maintain a significant population.

Often, this involves neighbouring properties removing internal fences to create larger, unfettered reserves. There are 13 BRREP-created populations to date, on a total of more than 300 000 hectares of land.

"It's great to see nearly two decades of hard work on behalf of black rhino paying off," said project head, Dr Jacques Flamand.

"Our sites now have 256 black rhino on them. And they have been busy. We had seven calves, born on four different sites, over the Christmas period. We've had a year of good rain so far in most of our reserves. We hope this leads to even more calves next year."

Last year, half of BRREP's sites reached the 5% annual growth target set by provincial conservation authorities. Black rhino numbers in the game reserves from which they were removed to create those populations are also increasing consistently.

This is because consistently removing a certain number of animals from a population that is near carrying capacity helps to stimulate growth.

Project coordinator, Ursina Rusch, who compiles data on all the different populations so that the best decisions can be made for the management of the species, explained: "That's the art of ecological management. You have to remove not too many and not too few to get it right."

Dr Flamand said this achievement had been a team effort.

"The creation of partnerships between landowners and conservation bodies was the key to making it happen. That involved many dedicated people. We rely very much on passionate people who have the resources to invest in protecting rhinos. Otherwise, no one would keep them."

"We still need much more land if the impetus is to be maintained. A successful increase in black rhino numbers means that there are more calves produced and those need places to be put into as they grow up."

However, WWF said this did not mean that black rhino were out of the woods.

Although numbers are increasing, growth of most populations is slow in most regions, and poaching further slows that growth rate, even though white rhino take the brunt of poaching.

There are still only 5 600 black rhino on the African continent and WWF states that without concerted conservation efforts, the current growth would not have occurred.

"But, there is still much to do, and much of it involves BRREP finding suitable large blocks of land for black rhino, and owners of that land prepared to devote it to black rhino conservation – a risky and costly endeavour," said Dr Flamand.

"This will be an ongoing challenge, particularly as wildlife tourism has been hard hit by the global Coronavirus pandemic."

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Zog wins International Emmy For Best Kids Animation



Audience Award for ages three to six at the New York International Children's Film Festival. The short was also nominated for a Kidscreen Award for Best One-off, Special or TV Movie; and Best Special

Production and Best Storyboarding at the Annie Awards in 2020.

Zog followed a string of acclaimed BBC Christmas adaptations produced by Magic Light Pictures. Zog is the fourth animated at Triggerfish, following the multi-award-winning Donaldson-Scheffler adaptations *Stick Man* (2015) and *The Highway Rat* (2017) as well as the Oscar-nominated Roald Dahl adaptation *Revolt Rhymes* (2016), which also won the International Emmy in 2018. A fifth, *The Snail and The Whale*, recently won Best Voice Performance for Sally Hawkins at the 2020 British Animation Awards.

Zog follows a string of acclaimed BBC Christmas adaptations produced by Magic Light Pictures. Zog is the fourth animated at Triggerfish, following the multi-award-winning Donaldson-Scheffler adaptations *Stick Man* (2015) and *The Highway Rat* (2017) as well as the Oscar-nominated Roald Dahl adaptation *Revolt Rhymes* (2016), which also won the International Emmy in 2018. A fifth, *The Snail and The Whale*, recently won Best Voice Performance for Sally Hawkins at the 2020 British Animation Awards.

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Zog, co-directed by South African Daniel Snaddon (*Stick Man*) and two-time Oscar nominee Max Lang (*The Gruffalo* and *Room On The Broom*), won the International Emmy for Best Kids Animation recently.

The 27-minute short film was animated in Cape Town by Triggerfish and produced by Magic Light Pictures.

Zog has already won the Children's Programme Award from the Royal Television Society; Best Animation at the Shanghai International TV Festival; and the

Production and Best Storyboarding at the Annie Awards in 2020.

The adorable short film is based on Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved 2010 picture book, which sold over 1.5 million copies and won the Galaxy National Children's Book of the Year Award in the United Kingdom. Zog is the keenest but clumsiest pupil in his class at Dragon School, where he longs to win a gold star as he learns how to fly, roar and breathe fire. He keeps meeting a kindly young girl who patches up his bumps and bruises, but

Aussie great picks AB, Kallis on his list of Seven Greatest Batsmen



legendary former Australian captain Michael Clarke has listed the seven best batsmen he played with or against.

Two South Africans, Jacques Kallis and AB de Villiers, are among the prestigious names mentioned by Clarke.

Speaking on the *Big Sports Breakfast Show* in April 2020, Clarke named Brian Lara (West Indies), Sachin Tendulkar (India), Virat Kohli (India), De Villiers, Kallis, Ricky Ponting (Australia) and Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) as his seven best batsmen.

Speaking of De Villiers, Clarke said: "I'm hoping he comes back and plays for South Africa again. Superstar. Can bat anywhere in the order. Dominates T20 cricket. He can score runs anywhere around the ground."

As quoted on the *Nine.com.au* website, Clarke described Kallis as "the greatest all-rounder that I played against."

"The impact he had against Australia – the way he was able score runs against our attack was extraordinary."

Clarke, 39, played 115 Tests and 245 ODIs for Australia between 2003 and 2015.

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South African "Frog Lady" biologist wins 2020 Prestigious Whitley Award



A conservation biologist from South Africa has won a prestigious Whitley Award worth £40,000 to support her quest to save threatened amphibians ... in a "giant leap for amphibian conservation".

Jeanne Tarrant, known locally as the "Frog Lady", works for the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), where she manages the Threatened Amphibian Programme. The EWT is the only NGO in South Africa to include frogs as a conservation focus.

The Whitley Awards, often referred to as the "Green Oscars", are awarded annually to individuals from the Global South by United Kingdom-based conservation charity, the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).

Tarrant is one of six conservationists to be recognised this year for their achievements in nature conservation.

Amphibians are the most threatened group of animals on the planet with 41% of all species at risk of extinction.

Almost two-thirds of the country's 135 frog species are found nowhere else, making South Africa a priority for amphibian conservation. Despite this, a combination of threats from habitat loss due to mining, agriculture and pollution are putting the country's frogs at risk.

In some South African cultures, frogs can be associated with witchcraft, making them often feared by locals.

Tarrant's educational work aims to dispel such myths and raise awareness and appreciation of the important role frogs play in the health of the environment and ecosystem.

The EWT's national awareness campaign, Leap Day for Frogs, has attracted some 15 000 participants over the past five years.

Tarrant has inspired schoolchildren with her "Frogs in the Classroom" learning programme, gaining young fans and earning her the title of the "Frog Lady".

Growing up in the southern Drakensberg mountains of KwaZulu-Natal, she was surrounded by nature. Following her undergraduate studies, she worked in the United Kingdom for five years before returning to her homeland of South Africa to specialise in the research of threatened South African frogs.

Some of the species that Tarrant and her team conserve include the critically

endangered Amathole toad, which had not been seen for over 13 years until Jeanne and her colleagues re-discovered it in 2011.

She also works with the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog, with the number of known localities of this tiny 2-cm amphibian on the rise thanks to her efforts.

In addition to education and field work, Tarrant works with the Government to ensure enhanced protection for frogs on a policy level.

Supported by WFN, her team will produce a 10-year conservation and research strategy for South African frogs and protect 20 000 ha of amphibian habitat conserving eight species.

Edward Whitley, founder of the WFN, said: "Jeanne is an inspiring leader who tirelessly advocates for amphibians – an often overlooked group.

"We hope that this Whitley Award will allow her to spread her important message far and wide, and bring about real change for amphibians and their habitat through science, policy, and community education."

Six conservationists have won Whitley Awards and will each receive £40 000 in funding to support their work with a range of threatened species. While normally presented to winners by charity Patron HRH The Princess Royal at an annual ceremony in London, the 2020 Whitley Awards Ceremony was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.sapeople.com

Local COVID-19 movie scoops international film award



In May 2020, Durban filmmakers won the Best Short Film Award at the Enfoque International Film Festival. This was a first for South Africa. *Alone* has a powerful message that resonates with everyone experiencing the isolation of lockdown.

Founders of The Edit Room, Tami and Dylan Marriott, heard recently that their film had competed against 475 entries from around the world to win an award that is a first for South Africa.

Hosted in Puerto Rico since 2008, the Enfoque International Film Festival was established to show inspiring films that can change people's lives through the power of cinematography. The organisers select and exhibit films that "inspire, educate, transform and inform or have the ability to shift audiences' perspectives of the world".

Entries for this category had to be made this year (2020) and be under 30 minutes.

According to writer and director of *Alone*, Tami Marriott, the award-winning film was something of a surprise even for the filmmakers.

"It was never intended to be what it became. We filmed the bulk of it over a year ago as a passion project to bulk up our individual portfolios. The original script was written about a girl who was trapped indoors and could not go outside because of a zombie apocalypse that had destroyed humanity. As busy lives go, after filming it – we never got around to editing or recording the voice-over. So, it sat on a hard drive, gathering dust and guilt because it had not been completed. Then, COVID-19 hit us, and we started conceptualising a story to support those who are alone and taking emotional strain. It was only when I started writing this script that it clicked! Everything about our zombie film worked into our current message, and with a few adaptations, we could make it a powerful story."

The logistics of rewriting and recording the new voice-over while adhering to stringent social distancing regulations proved a challenge, Marriott admits.

"It was a group effort through and through. When it was filmed, the lockdown wasn't a problem. When it came to editing, it was. One of our editors is in Pretoria, our voice-over artist is in Cape Town, our sound designer is on the South Coast and our graphics artist is on the North Coast! We used WeTransfer to send each other edits and files and had Skype calls for direction. Through the Internet, we managed to pool our resources to pull it off," she explains.

Feedback was astounding after The Edit Room launched *Alone* across all Social Media platforms on 28 April 2020. As a result, the filmmakers decided to post the film on Film Freeway, which is a tool for film-makers to get their work submitted into festivals.

"I noticed there was a call for COVID-19-related films and saw the opportunity to spread our message further than just Durban. International film festivals allow you to reach a global audience which is so important, especially in times like these where it can feel like countries are so isolated from each other," Marriott adds.

The Edit Room, which Marriott describes as a junior film-maker in South Africa, was set up in 2018 by the passionate husband and wife team. The couple had been working as freelancers in the film industry and decided to pool their clients and create a brand.

The Marriotts believe this award will open the door to a global market, albeit one that will be impacted by COVID-19.

"It is an interesting time for the film industry. It will need to keep down costs and work with small teams. Luckily for The Edit Room, this has always been us, and we are very well practised at making beautiful work with micro crews."

www.goodthingsguy.com

Immelman succeeds Els as International Team Presidents Cup Captain



South Africa's Trevor Immelman, the 2008 Masters champion, has been named captain of the International Team for the 2021 Presidents Cup to be staged at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte.

Immelman served as a captain's assistant under fellow countryman Ernie Els at the 2019 Presidents Cup. Last year's International Team fell to a Tiger Woods-led USA 16-14 at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.

"In 2005, I played in my first Presidents Cup under captain Gary Player, which was an experience as a 25-year-old, I will never forget. Shortly after, I earned my first PGA Tour victory in 2006, so you could say the Presidents Cup was a huge part of launching my PGA Tour career.

"Being a captain now is an amazing honour," Immelman said via a press statement. "The Presidents Cup and the PGA Tour have been a massive part of my career, and so for me to now lead the International Team is something that is going to be one of the highlights of my

career and something that I am extremely excited about."

Immelman is a two-time Presidents Cup competitor (2005, 2007) and owns two PGA Tour titles and 11 worldwide victories, including the 2008 Masters Tournament.

Immelman is the seventh International Team captain (Ernie Els - 2019; Nick Price - 2017, 2015, 2013; Greg Norman - 2011, 2009; Gary Player - 2007, 2005, 2003; Peter Thomson - 2000, 1998, 1996; David Graham - 1994) and third South African to helm the Internationals, joining Els and Player.

Immelman, who will be 41 years old at the time of the competition, will be the youngest International Team captain in Presidents Cup history.

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Siya Kolisi documentary being filmed by Roc Nation Sports



In an interview with the *SportsPro* website, Roc Nation's sports division president, Michael Yormark, confirmed the news.

"It is one thing to have a great story but, in the case of his documentary, we have to make sure that it has the right distributors and we need to make sure that distribution has a global footprint," Yormark said.

"So, while we're shooting the documentary, we are also talking to some of the biggest media companies in the world and we are very optimistic that it will have global distribution and it will continue to amplify his story.

Roc Nation Sports, the agency owned by American rapper Jay-Z, is currently in the process of filming a Siya Kolisi documentary.

National rugby captain Kolisi joined the high-profile agency shortly after the Springboks were crowned 2019 Rugby World Cup champions in Japan in November.

"We're also working on another major project with Siya called "United for Africa", a virtual live-streamed music and

cultural experience, that will profile artists throughout the world to help raise money to feed those in need in Africa.

Yormark added that the work done by Kolisi off the field – he has been conducting large-scale feeding schemes through his Kolisi Foundation during the Coronavirus pandemic – was an example of why they had aligned themselves with him.

"That decision had all to do with who Siya Kolisi is as a man, as a leader, as a father and a husband, and what he stands for," Yormark said.

"The idea of hope and overcoming challenges, and the ability to inspire and motivate, especially now, is so important."

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The province of KwaZulu-Natal boasts a number of tranquil lakes in picturesque settings.





The story of a remarkable Hindu temple in Pretoria's inner city

The Mariamman Temple is a small complex of buildings constructed from 1928 onwards within the fine urban grain of the Asiatic Bazaar. This is a historical part of Marabastad that managed to survive apartheid-era clearances in the area.

By Johan Swart
Lecturer, University of Pretoria

Part from Pretoria's legacy of grand institutional buildings, South Africa's capital city and historical seat of the apartheid government, also contains some unique architectural masterpieces that have been built and cared for by various religious communities. These buildings reflect the stories, traditions and resilience of diverse community groups. Also made visible are the precarious conditions that have threatened the conservation of these special places over time. And the continuous efforts of community groups to preserve their buildings and their cultural identities. A number of these sites have recently been documented by architect Johan Swart and photographer Alain Proust in a publication called *Hidden Pretoria*. This is an edited extract from the book.

Among a variety of remarkable religious buildings in Pretoria's inner city are the likes of the iconic *Gereformeerde Kerk* Pretoria (or Paul Kruger Church), built by the republican founding fathers of the city in the late 1800s, still utilised today by a small Dutch Reformed congregation for Sunday services. The busy Queen Street Mosque, on the other hand, is hidden among the densely packed high-rise buildings of a city block. Abandoned in the inner city is also the Old Synagogue, the early home of Pretoria's Jewish community that was later appropriated by the apartheid state to house the treason trial of Nelson Mandela and his co-accused. Perhaps the most remarkable of the religious sites, though, is the Mariamman Temple, the home of Pretoria's Tamil League and located in the historical and turbulent suburb of Marabastad.

The Mariamman Temple

The Mariamman Temple is a small complex of buildings constructed from 1928 onwards within the fine urban grain of the Asiatic Bazaar. This is a historical part of Marabastad that managed to survive apartheid-era clearances in the area. A visible landmark is the *gopuram* or entrance portal on 6th Street, considered the most impressive of its kind in South Africa. Especially, since its renovation in the early 1990s and the subsequent reintroduction of colour and detail by the Tamil community.

Groups from India arrived in the Natal Colony on South Africa's east coast as indentured labourers as early as the 1860s, and settled in the Pretoria region in central South Africa from the 1880s onwards.

After its establishment in the early 1890s, the Asiatic Bazaar became home to most of Pretoria's Indian communities. The Tamil-speaking Hindu community founded the

Pretoria Tamil League here in the early 20th century. They developed the temple complex as the heart of their community life and still act as custodians.

Marabastad developed in parallel to the "white" inner city as a mixed-race precinct. But, as with other "non-white" suburbs it fell victim to demolitions and forced removals of the apartheid-era government in their enforcement of racial segregation as dictated by legislation such as the Slum Clearance Act of 1934 and the Group Areas Act of 1950.

Over time, the residents of Marabastad were moved to areas designated for various groups, which apartheid defined by race and colour. These included Atteridgeville, Eersterust and Laudium. The Asiatic Bazaar, however, was left intact as a non-residential trading area. Historical landmarks such as the Mariamman Temple, Ismaili Mosque and the Orient Cinema have survived to the present.

Harmony with the cosmos

Replacing an earlier structure of wood and iron, the first phase of the current temple was planned around 1928 and constructed in phases. First, the sacred elements were erected: the *cella* (inner area) and *arda mandapam* (pavilion) which were built according to strict proportional systems. Then the *maha* (large) *mandapam* was added to accommodate spiritual gatherings. Lastly, the *gopuram* was completed in 1938 as the main architectural feature.

The temple was dedicated to the goddess Mariamman. It was built in the south Indian Dravida Style known for its large tiered *gopurams* (entrance portals) and the close integration of temples and their urban surroundings. Research has shown that the designers, P Govender and G Krishnan, followed strict design norms derived from guidelines or precedent. The building can be seen as a textbook example, achieving its intended mathematical harmony with the cosmos.

Restoration

The Tamil community built a new temple when they were relocated to Laudium. But the Mariamman Temple remained in use, even as parts of the building fell into disrepair. In the early 1990s, an academically researched restoration was executed by architects Schalk le Roux and Nico Botes. They worked in close partnership with the Tamil community who actively contributed to the research and design processes.

A new *navakaragam* was added while the *gopuram* structure was repaired and its external tiers returned to their colourful

appearance. This prompted the community to commission new *murtis* (figurative sculptures), which were made by artisans from India and installed over time; a clear sign of continued care and ownership.

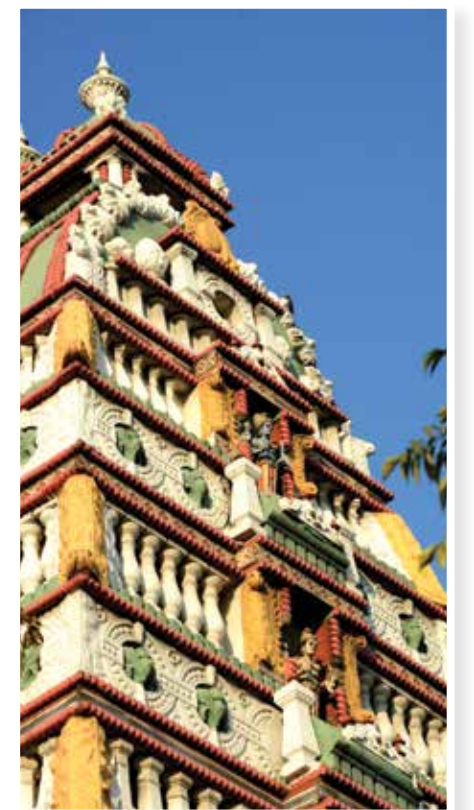
Marabastad has declined over the decades and the area seems to be stuck in a development impasse. But, within this context, the Mariamman Temple can be seen as a remarkable success story.

The complex is evidence of the close interaction between architecture and social practices, and the restoration project has shown that architectural conservation is most sustainably done in partnership with communities.

Marabastad is a significant historical area in desperate need of more projects that will contribute to its renewal as a living neighbourhood. [U](#)

This article was first published on *The Conversation*

The complex is evidence of the close interaction between architecture and social practices, and the restoration project has shown that architectural conservation is most sustainably done in partnership with communities.





"Blood Lions" win award for "Most Compelling Digital Story"

"Blood Lions will continue to tell this heart-breaking South African story of the captive breeding and keeping of lions and other predators for commercial purposes," says Blood Lions Campaign Manager, Dr Louise de Waal.

Blood Lions Campaign in conjunction with Love Africa Marketing won "Most Compelling Digital Story" Award in the inaugural African Travel Week Travel & Tourism Awards in May 2020.

The WTM Awards aimed to shine a spotlight on "exceptional individuals and businesses, which have written the most compelling stories in the book of African travel for 2019/20".

The Blood Lions Campaign was launched following the release of the *Blood Lions* feature film documentary in July 2015. Currently, in South Africa, an estimated 10 000 to 12 000 predators, mostly lions, tigers, caracals and cheetahs, are held in captivity for commercial purposes. Many are used in exploitative tourism activities, such as cub petting, "walking with lions" attractions, as photo props, and in voluntourism. The next

stages in their short and unethical lifecycle are the captive ("canned") hunting for their trophies and/or the legal export of lion bones to southeast Asia for traditional medicine, contributing further to the escalating commoditisation of these wild animals.

The mission of the Blood Lions Campaign is to reach a broad global audience to increase awareness and knowledge around interactive captivity wildlife attractions and "canned" hunting, demonstrating that these can never be sustainable tourism options. It is a "call to action" to not only affect behavioural change around how to treat wildlife ethically, but also to precipitate change in policy through garnering support from the world's most influential individuals and organisations.

"Blood Lions will continue to tell this heart-breaking South African story of the captive breeding and keeping of lions and other predators for commercial purposes," says Blood Lions Campaign Manager, Dr Louise de Waal.

"We will continue to work together with the South African tourism industry, so that tourism becomes part of the solution rather than the problem.

"New features and technologies on websites and social media platforms are enabling marketers to get even more creative and innovative with campaigns. That is why we wanted to recognise the most compelling digital story that showcased a holistic digital strategy that effectively marketed products and services in the African travel industry – WTM Africa

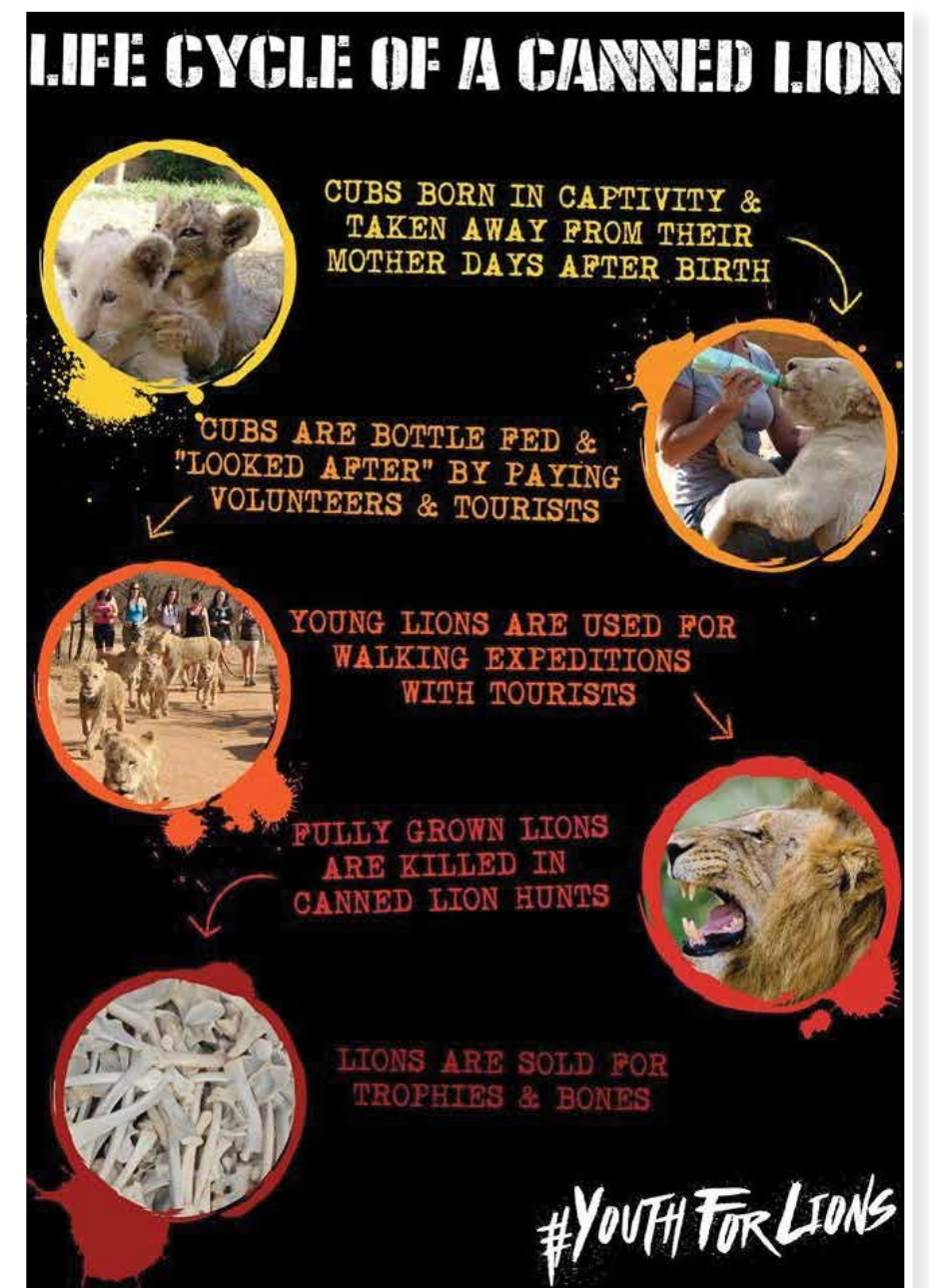
"Our team was ecstatic when we were initially nominated as finalists in the 'Agency and Digital' categories, alongside some big names across Africa. Today, we are even more so, after hearing we have won with Blood Lions – a truly passionate team that works hard every day to create change. A huge thank you to our team, partners and the public who have supported this campaign

every year." – Nicola Gerrard, Love Africa Marketing Managing Director.

Love Africa Marketing is the digital media and strategy agency for a number of travel, tourism and environmental companies, NGOs and campaigns in South Africa. Some of these include Blood Lions, Ranger Protect, Shark Attack, Afriski Mountain Resort and Semonkong Lodge.

Eight categories were established to celebrate the success of national, regional and city tourist boards and to recognise outstanding private-sector companies and individuals, with the winners in each announced as:

- Most Compelling Tourism Story: Spring Marketing Campaign by Northern Cape Tourism Authority
- Most Compelling Innovation & Technology Story: Virtual Reality for Tanzania by Views4D
- Most Compelling Agency Story: CNN International Commercial for Farm to Table (Dangote)
- Most Compelling Luxury Story: Table Mountain Ring by Shimansky
- Most Compelling Sustainability Story: International Dark Sky Certification Campaign by !Xaus Lodge



- Most Compelling Digital Story: Blood Lions Campaign and Love Africa Marketing
- Most Compelling Adventure Story: Pioneer Trail by Gondwana Game Reserve
- Most Compelling Foodie Story: Africa's Original Elephant Dung Gin by Indlovu Gin.

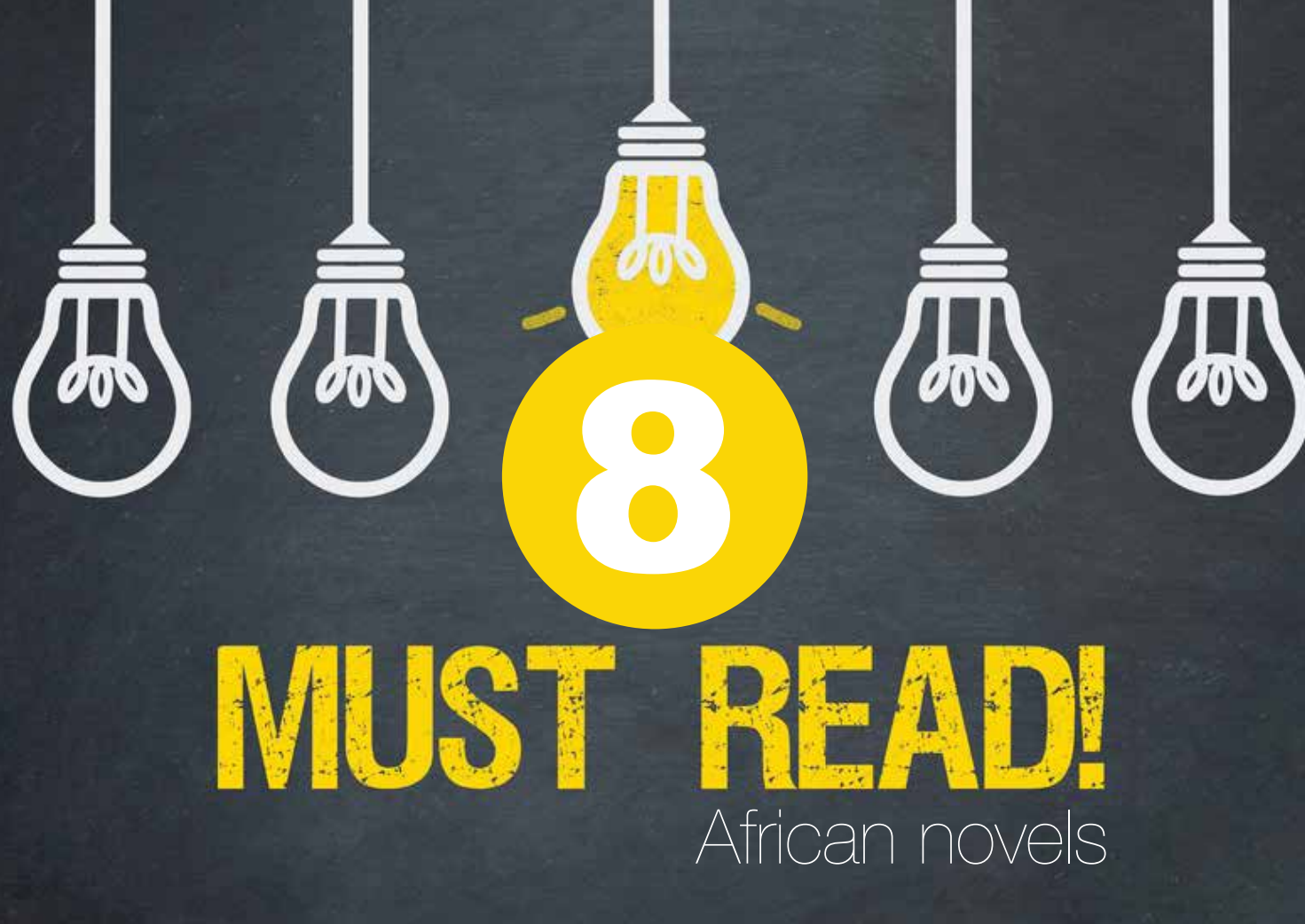
Megan Oberholzer, Portfolio Director for Africa Travel Week said that the judging panel was impressed by the standard of entries.

"There is some sterling work being done out there to showcase the best of our continent to the world on a variety of different platforms. It's a privilege to have been able to see these fantastic campaigns collected in one place, as we judged them – and we can't wait to see how the creators apply their creativity to continuing to share Africa's beauty and diversity with the world in the face of the challenges the global travel

industry faces for the foreseeable future," she said. [U](#)

Sources: Love Africa Marketing / www.goodthings.gy

The WTM Awards aimed to shine a spotlight on "exceptional individuals and businesses which have written the most compelling stories in the book of African travel for 2019/20".



The Wormwood Trilogy by Tade Thompson
Nedine Moonsamy, University of Pretoria

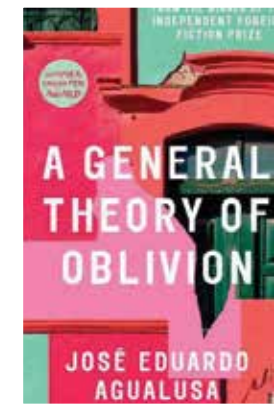
Tade Thompson's *The Wormwood Trilogy* (*Rosewater*, *The Rosewater Insurrection* and *The Rosewater Redemption*) has been widely acclaimed. It was recently nominated for the 2020 Hugo Award for Best Series. For African readers, it is a watershed moment, marking the arrival of an African science fiction trilogy that we so needed and deserve. Set in the near future, these novels capture the interaction between an invading alien population, the Homians, and the citizens of Nigeria.

All three books hit the sweet spot between exploring what science fiction means to us – who, as the characters often point out, have been historically subjected to alien invasions – and the pleasure of simply imbibing well-written and pacy genre fiction.

Teeming with alien life, Wormwood is an extra-terrestrial biodome that embeds itself in Nigerian soil. Its sprawling tentacles provide organic power and, contrary to what one might imagine, people flock to the surrounding community of Rosewood because Wormwood also performs ritualistic acts of healing on sick human bodies.

In contrast to greater Nigeria, where power outages are still frequent and homosexuality illegal, Rosewood has all the makings of an African techno-utopia. Yet, at the heart of the trilogy is the niggling question about whether it is ever possible for humans and aliens to co-exist with symbiotic ease.

The novels make use of sharp-witted, hard-boiled detectives to probe further into alien motives. Thompson's female characters, in particular, are a testament to his talent as they bristle with an unsentimental brand of Nigerian humour.



A General Theory of Oblivion by Jose Eduardo Agualusa
Grace A Musila, Wits

On the eve of Angola's independence in 1975, Portuguese expatriate Ludovica Fernandes Mano goes into isolation in her penthouse apartment in the city of Luanda, out of fear of the post-independence future. She seals off her apartment with bricks, withdrawing into a new life with her dog and her garden on the terrace, which keeps her fed. Her only connection to the outside world – which soon descends to a 27-year civil war – is her radio.

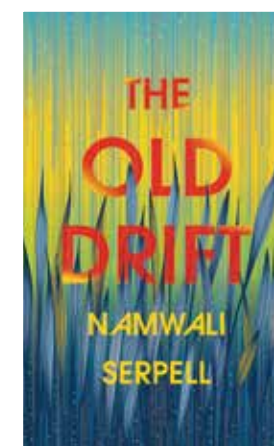
Angolan novelist Jose Eduardo Agualusa's *A General Theory of Oblivion* is a riveting tapestry of history, detective fiction and poetic interludes, interwoven with poignant turns of phrase and absurdities delivered with a straight-faced candour. It is a perfect lockdown read, not because it is about isolation, but because Ludo's self-isolation is filled with hilariously narrated encounters and adventures, including a trained messenger pigeon that keeps two young lovers in contact. Ludo uses small pieces of diamond to trap pigeons for food; but when her trap delivers a messenger pigeon with a note attached to its leg, Ludo decides to set it free, so the lovers might receive their message – and with it, her swallowed diamonds.

Ludo spends her time writing out her reflections initially in notebooks, and later the walls of her apartment, using charcoal. We get to read excerpts of her poetic reflections; from whose philosophical musings the novel draws its title.

Her encounter with the messenger pigeon draws an intricate network of the world she has withdrawn from, into her sanctuary, eventually ending her 30-year isolation when a young burglar accidentally discovers her and forms a bond with the now elderly lady.

The novel is a patchwork of short, interconnected stories. They weave a web of connected lives, which lend it an expansive and colourful range, through short, pacy, thriller-style chapters, interspersed with Ludo's poetic reflections. This is a book you read when you want to be surprised, and to have your imagination stretched by startling turns of phrase, odd logic and lyrical philosophical observations about life.

This 2015 novel is a stunning canvas of the historical devastation of the Angolan civil war and richly imagined textures of ordinary people's everyday worlds told with great warmth and inventiveness.



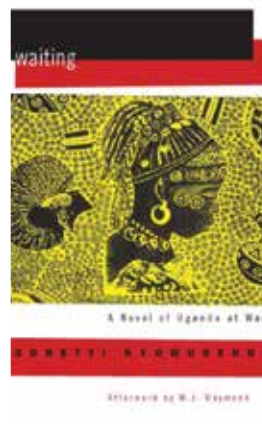
The Old Drift by Namwali Serpell
Sarah Nuttall, Wits

I recommend Namwali Serpell's 2019 Zambian tour de force, *The Old Drift*. This is a long book – all 563 pages of it – by a writer whose prose and outsize imagination will hold you spellbound throughout. It's a postcolonial family saga across three families and three generations. It is also the story of the great Zambezi River, and its capaciousness, capriciousness and capacity for revenge in the face of human-centred attempts to control it.

Serpell unfolds her canvas along two trace-lines of Zambian modernity: the building of the Kariba Dam, the biggest man-made dam in the world at the time of its construction; and Edward Nkoloso's Zambian National Academy of Science, Space Research and Philosophy and his attempts to send the first Afronauts to the moon. The novel is grounded in precisely rendered historical events but also has a partially speculative sweep. Its final scenes take place in 2023, with a smart techno-twist. The story is narrated not just from a human perspective but from that of a mosquito swarm, a "bare ruinous choir, a chorus of gossipy mites".

For those looking from the global North, African literature is often marketed in a narrow way, comprising worthy stories of resistance, written in an uplifting and sober realist mode. Seen from the continent itself, this view has long been brushed aside by the effervescence and animation of ongoing literary experimentation and creativity. I approached literary academic colleagues from South Africa, Kenya and Uganda to choose – and share their thoughts on – one of their favourite books of African fiction. The resulting finger-on-the-pulse list offers a bookshelf that speaks to the vibrancy of both contemporary and older African literature. – Isabel Hofmeyr

By Isabel Hofmeyr, Professor of African Literature, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); Aretha Phiri, Senior Lecturer, Department of Literary Studies in English, Rhodes University; Grace Musila, Associate Professor in the Department of African Literature, Wits; Manosa Nthunya, PhD Candidate in Literature, Wits; Nedine Moonsamy, Senior Lecturer, University of Pretoria; Sam Naidu, Professor, Department of Literary Studies in English, Rhodes University; Sarah Nuttall, Professor of Literature, Wits; Susan Kiguli, Associate Professor of Literature, Makerere University; and Tom Odhiambo, Senior Lecturer in Literature, University of Nairobi

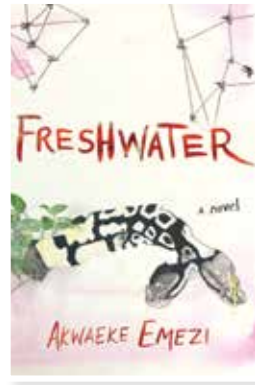


Waiting by Goretta Kyomuhendo
Susan Kiguli, Makerere University

The 2007 novel is set in the time of the war to get rid of the dictator Idi Amin. The main character, the adolescent Alinda, and her family have to hide from fleeing soldiers. It is an atmosphere of great angst and fear tinged with hope for the arrival of the liberators, who are a merged force of Ugandan exiles and Tanzanian soldiers. This short novel ingeniously handles the matter of the Lendu woman, the Indians and the Tanzanian soldiers with a blend of suspicion and optimism for the unknown and mystique suggested by foreigners.

The narrative thinks through the gaps and anxiety created by war, where ordinary citizens do not know what to expect. It describes the violence, victims and loss that come with lying in the path of fleeing soldiers and pursuing liberators. The setting is a village near Lake Albert at the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This is a novel depicting a situation of post-independence internal and cross-border conflict. It is a worthy read, particularly because it resonates with this time when the world is tense under the weight of a marauding pandemic.



Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi
Sam Naidu, Rhodes University

At a time when the world is experiencing unprecedented restrictions to mobility, *Freshwater* offers a searing and illuminating narrative about various kinds of border-crossing and about being multiply-located. In this unusual, at times shocking, bildungsroman, Emezi's protagonist, Ada, is the child of a Nigerian father and a Malaysian mother. From early childhood, and then increasingly as she approaches adulthood, it is clear that Ada exists in a liminal zone: between spirit and human worlds; between cultures and nations; and between sexualities and genders. In retrospect, the novel's dedication, to those of us with one foot on the other side, that is, to those who do not claim one single affiliation, but both or many, is economically apposite. This liminality is portrayed with astonishing vividness and through varying perspectives, often drawing on traditional Igbo mythology and cosmology to create imagery, which is unsettling and challenging.

As an "African" novel, 2018's *Freshwater* is innovative and irreverent in the way it marries African religious and cultural beliefs with "Western" geography, religious iconography and cultural symbols, ultimately defying literary categorisation, just as its protagonist repudiates predetermined categories of identity. (The novel is set in Nigeria and the United States, and it deliberately presents Ada as a hybrid, transnational character.)

This bold, contemporary novel captures the porousness of borders, which may prove disquieting for the reader, but also very liberating. In these times of lockdown, *Freshwater* transports the reader boldly to unexplored, uncanny territory.



Hunger Eats a Man by Nkosinathi Sithole
Manosa Nthunya, University of Pretoria

A book that could be worthy of consideration is Nkosinathi Sithole's *Hunger Eats a Man* (2014), a novel that examines the devastating effects of poverty in the rural areas of South Africa.

Much of the literature that is being produced in contemporary South Africa has a bias towards the city, with often very little reflection on the experiences of people who live in rural communities.

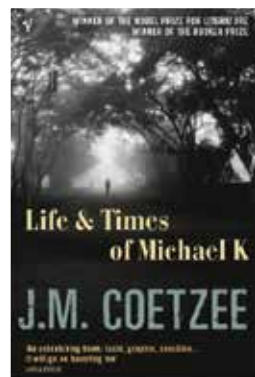
In this award-winning novel, Sithole opens a world that is marked by deep adversities, exploitation and an increasing disillusionment with a nation still learning how to crawl. It is a book worth reading, and reflecting upon, as we start counting down the inevitable costs of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Broken Glass by Alain Mabanckou
Tom Odhiambo, University of Nairobi

Alain Mabanckou's fiction may not be known in much of Anglophone Africa but translation is making it easily available. Mabanckou's 2005 *Broken Glass*, set in a bar, *Credit Gone West*, is a good read – easy enough for someone interested in light reading; deep enough for someone looking for a nuanced depiction of African modernity. For those who can no longer access their beloved pub, it will remind you of the sounds, smells, sights, that only a bar can produce, from the beginning to the end.

The tragic life of *Broken Glass*, the narrator, who appears "self-quarantined" in the bar, mirrors those of the different characters in the society, whose stories we hear in the many anecdotes he tells. The dark humour, satirical tone, endless allusions, and lack of conventional punctuation (sometimes making it tedious to follow the tale), all build up to a dystopic story.



Life and Times of Michael K by JM Coetzee
Aretha Phiri, Rhodes University

The oldie on the list, from 1983. An award-winning novel by JM Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K* evokes a desperately depressing sense of subjective fragility and existential nothingness – concerns for which the author is well known.

Set during a period analogous to civil war, it's a story about a seemingly insipid and largely enigmatic character whose journeys across and encounters with inhospitable landscapes and unwelcoming communities from the Western Cape province to the Karoo see him, at the novel's end, gathering water from a well with "a teaspoon and a long roll of string".

And yet, Michael K's vacuous itinerancy also suggests something pathetically hopeful about the existential journey and signals something ironically prescient about the will to endure. *Michael K* is a sobering read for these testing times.

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TOKYO, BERLIN OR SHANGHAI?

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Inspiring new ways



SA artists join collective and raise R2 million for relief fund by auctioning lockdown art

The idea was to curate and auction a collection of COVID-19-related artworks by renowned South African artists, with the proceeds going into a fund which would, in turn, support artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

by Tyler Leigh
Goodthingsguy

A collective of South African artists made and auctioned lockdown artworks to raise funds for an artists relief fund and the Solidarity Fund. "In terms of artistic response to COVID-19, *The Lockdown Collection* is the most significant initiative in the art world, on planet Earth, right now".

This is what Professor Mark Auslander, from Central Washington University in the United States of America, said about *The Lockdown Collection* – a bold charitable initiative that by mid-May 2020 had already raised over R2 million for artists and for the Solidarity Fund, while also serving as an incubator for the visual arts.

The Lockdown Collection – or TLC – is the brainchild of Carl Bates (Chief Executive of Sirdar Group), Lauren Woolf (Founder and Owner, MRS WOOLF) and Kim Berman (Founding Director, Artist Proof Studio;

and Professor of Visual Arts, University of Johannesburg [UJ]). The idea was to curate and auction a collection of COVID-19-related artworks by renowned South African artists, with the proceeds going into a fund which would, in turn, support artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic and the lockdown have a significant impact on us all. For the artists of the world, the realities of COVID-19 provide powerful subject material and inspiration. Yet at the same time, the lockdown is affecting their ability to earn a living through the creation of their art. We cannot afford to lose our artists or their incredible artworks – especially not now, when we need them to bear witness to this moment in time," said Prof. Berman.

"Imagine what this lockdown would be like, without the entertainment and inspiration we derive from books, music, TV shows or art – all of which are created by artists," said Woolf. "We have to protect our artists and build the

integrity and historical value of their artworks. These are, after all, snapshots of life at an extraordinary time in history".

The Lockdown Collection: A R2-million success story

In just two days, from conception to roll-out, the TLC team launched a 21-day lockdown campaign – called *The Lockdown Collection*, commencing on 27 March 2020.

Each day, the campaign revealed the artwork of a participating artist – among them, Penny Siopsis, Sam Nhlengethwa, Diane Victor, Ardmore Ceramic Art, Gerhard Marx and Thenjiwe Nkosi. The foundation piece, a drawing by William Kentridge, entitled: *Where shall we Place our Hope*, was sold for R500 000, which established the fund prior to the auction.

Buyers placed bids on the artworks, such that each piece was "underwritten" at an average value of R25 000 to R50 000 by the time of the campaign's concluding auction event – the Unlocking Event. Before the Unlocking Event itself, the reserves had already reached over R500 000. Donations were also welcomed throughout the campaign.

Held on 19 April 2020, the Unlocking Event auction, hosted by Aspire Art Auctions, was conducted via a unique live webinar session, with a "live" auctioneer and an estimated 500 virtual attendees. The cherry on the top was Artist Proof Studio's donation of two additional works for auction – one by Lukas Ngweng and another by William Kentridge. The Unlocking Event sold and auctioned every item in the catalogue – something the auction community terms a "white glove sale". Each piece of art was sold at (or very close to) market value. Sometimes well beyond. But most remarkable was the sum collected by the TLC Campaign – a staggering R2 million.

This allowed for an immediate initial donation of R250 000 to the President's Solidarity Fund, as well as instant allocations to the Vulnerable Visual Artists Fund (a fund established by TLC). By mid-May 2020, the fund had paid out grants to over 100 vulnerable artists.

"You brought joy to my family, as artists depend on the sale of their artworks to make a living," said one grant recipient. Many others expressed deep gratitude and felt motivated to continue creating art.

The TLC Extension Collection

The incredible support for the TLC Campaign created a powerful movement within the arts community; artists reached out to the TLC team, wanting to support the project. When President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the extension of the lockdown, the TLC team saw an opportunity to extend the initial campaign and build on its successes.

"We had hoped to start a movement, which would create a sustainable source of support for the arts community. *The Extension Collection*, as we have called it, is the manifestation of this," explains Woolf.

The Extension Collection's curator, artist and UJ Senior Lecturer, Gordon Froud, reached out to artists across South Africa, including those who had expressed an interest to contribute, inviting them to participate and to reflect on life during COVID-19 through their art. The result is a collection of 21 extraordinary works – everything from drawings, to prints, sculptures and photographs – created by some of the country's most respected artists, including Susan Woolf, Michael Meyersfeld, Marco Cianfanelli, Vusi Beauchamp, Robyn Penn, Themba Khumalo and Sifiso Temba – to name a few.

These *Extension Collection* artworks became available for purchase from 25 May 2020, via an online storefront hosted by the TLC's key partner, Artist Proof Studio. The proceeds of the sale (as well as any donations received) will again be directed to the President's Solidarity Fund and the Vulnerable Visual Artist Fund.

Giving emerging artists an opportunity to rise

TLC has also issued an open call to emerging artists, including students, inviting their submissions. This presents up-and-coming artists with an opportunity to showcase their

work and build their profile. The artworks submitted will be allocated to two additional collections, each of 21 artworks: An *Open Call Collection* and a *Student Collection*.

For art collectors, the sale of the *Collections* is the perfect opportunity to purchase a truly special artwork, and contribute to a fund that is sustaining the creative arts in South Africa, at a time when art may be the most poignant contemplation of the global pandemic.

"The first campaign built incredible momentum. It motivated South African artists to get involved – to create something that would capture the essence and the nuances of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. This campaign also elevated art and gave it importance; it's not simply paint on paper – it is a legitimate and powerful reflection on a moment in history, as seen through the eyes of a visual storyteller. That the TLC Campaign managed to generate funding of over R2 million, through a unique auction model, is simply incredible. It has allowed us to create a sustainable safety net for the arts community, as well as to contribute to the Solidarity Fund and uplift our fellow South Africans.

This is a legacy we can be deeply proud of, and it has given us all the purpose we need to launch a second campaign, with passion and enthusiasm," said Bates. 🇿🇦

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The history of an iconic landmark, the Table Mountain Cableway

For over 90 years, the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway has been one of Africa's biggest tourist attractions. It has provided millions of visitors with a unique and undoubtedly unforgettable experience.

By Brent Lindeque
Goodthingsguy



A lot has changed since that first trip in 1929, but the cableway remains one of Cape Town's biggest tourist attractions, transporting approximately a million people annually and counting.

For over 90 years, the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway has been one of Africa's biggest tourist attractions. It has provided millions of visitors with a unique and undoubtedly unforgettable experience.

At the end of the decade of prosperity and dissipation, also known as the "Roaring Twenties", passengers in Cape Town took their first cable car trip to the top of Table Mountain.

Since its official opening on 4 October 1929 to much fanfare, the cableway has undergone three major upgrades and regular maintenance. Today, the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway is a feature of the famous landmark that many are accustomed to seeing, but not many people know how and why the project got off the ground.

According to Wahida Parker, Managing Director of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Company (TMACC), the cableway's history dates back to the 1870s when there were proposals to build a railway along the mountain's slopes to make it easier for the public to reach the summit.

Parker explains that, although the initial plan was to build a funicular railway, the development phase of the project was halted by the advent of the First World War.

"There was little movement until 1926, when Norwegian engineer, Trygve Stromsoe, proposed the construction of a cableway."

The building of the lower and upper stations, along with a tearoom at the summit, was nothing short of a phenomenal engineering feat, taking two years to complete at a then staggering cost of £60 000. A rudimentary track for a "soapbox" to transport workers, equipment and building materials was constructed, as well as temporary housing for the workers.

The result was a wooden cable car with a tin roof that took nearly 10 minutes to carry 19 people and a conductor up the 704 metres to the summit. During this time, interestingly enough, the company also had a small budget for silk stockings, as ladies tended to snag their hosiery on the fynbos.

Since then, the cableway has transported over 29 million visitors, making the trip in half the time, complete with a 360-degree rotational view of the mountain and spectacular views over the City of Cape Town.

"In October 1997, modern cable cars with rotating bases and increased passenger capacity were installed, making them a world-class experience similar to only a handful of other cableways in the world," says Parker.

A host of icons, celebrities and royals are among the millions of people who have used the cableway. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey, musician Sting, actress Famke Janssen, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Harry Potter* star Daniel Radcliffe, and singer Kelly Rowland are some of the famous names who have taken a ride to the top of the mountain.

"One of the lesser-known fun facts about the cableway is that mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to summit Everest, took a cable car up Table Mountain soon after his historic expedition," says Parker.

"Hillary is quoted as saying: 'There is probably no more spectacular place in the world than Cape Town and Table Mountain at the tip of Africa'."

The first set of cable cars, the very set that ferried King George VI, Queen Elizabeth as well as Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret to the top of Table Mountain, are on display at the Transport Museum in Johannesburg and at the Lower Station, with one of the cars having been transformed into a popular ice-cream kiosk.

Apart from the extraordinary mechanics, the TMACC's sustainability initiatives are also among the best in the world.

The cableway has a Platinum Heritage Environmental Rating, which is the highest level of responsible tourism status. Table Mountain was also inaugurated as one of the New7Wonders of Nature in December 2012, is the most accessible of the New7Wonders and the only one to be found in a city.

"Being the most accessible is a strong point as one can browse around in town while gazing at a New7Wonders of Nature site," says Parker.

The company also received the Best Resources Management accolade at the African Responsible Tourism Awards in 2019, along with several other achievements and rewards. [U](#)

#SAWillTravelAgain: The places South Africans want to travel to after lockdown

The #SAWillTravelAgain hashtag was originally launched by South African Tourism as a reminder that citizens should not travel during lockdown. South Africans were encouraged instead to share past travel experiences as a sign of hope that we will travel again once we flatten the curve.

The #SAWillTravelAgain hashtag was trending on Twitter in April 2020 as travel enthusiasts reminded South Africans of the beauty of our country.

The #SAWillTravelAgain hashtag was originally launched by South African Tourism as a reminder that citizens should not travel during lockdown. South Africans were encouraged instead to share past travel experiences as a sign of hope that we will travel again once we flatten the curve.

The following attractions came out tops:



Tsitsikamma

Tsitsikamma, meaning "place of the water" in the Khoekhoe language, is where many South Africans want to spend their time after lockdown. Nestled between two coastal provinces, this national park found along the Garden Route is a small piece of paradise for those who appreciate nature and the outdoors. From hiking, ziplining and cycling to chasing waterfalls, there is a vast array of activities to keep you satisfied.



Kruger National Park

South Africa's largest game reserve made its way onto the post-lockdown list. Spot the big five on a game drive or enjoy a guided bush tour where you will see, smell and recognise footprints of the animals that inhabit the park. Bird watching, golf as well as spa treatments are also activities to experience on your holiday.



Cradle of Humankind

Situated 50 km from Johannesburg, this World Heritage Site houses the ancestors of modern humans. Maropeng, a Setswana word translated as "place of our origins" will take you back in time as you discover the history behind the fossil findings and what impact they had on the theory of evolution.



Valley of Desolation

A hidden treasure of the Eastern Cape and a product of volcanic forces that created balanced columns, this natural wonder is a mere 14 km from Graaff-Reinet and forms part of the wider Camdeboo National Park. The diverse fauna and flora, hikes as well as a scenic picnic above the cliffs and columns, are sure to create many picture-perfect moments.



Blyde River Canyon

Known as the earth's largest green canyon, South Africans have fallen for the impressive view of the canyons among the riverbed. Apart from the subtropical flora, one is also able to discover vervet monkeys and waterfalls, as well as the sight of the Drakensberg mountain range.

With a diverse country like South Africa, you do not have to travel too far for a world-class vacation, and South Africans cannot wait to get out into their beautiful country once again because #SAWillTravelAgain. 🇿🇦

www.thesouthafrican.com

A skyline of the "Mother City" of South Africa, Cape Town. The city is known for its harbour, for its natural setting in the Cape Floristic Region and for landmarks such as Table Mountain and Cape Point. Cape Town is home to 64% of the Western Cape's population. It is the legislative capital of the country.

