



**STOP THE CLIMATE LAND
GRABS:**

**THE SCAM OF CARBON OFFSETS IN
'NET ZERO' CLIMATE TARGETS**

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Dear reader,

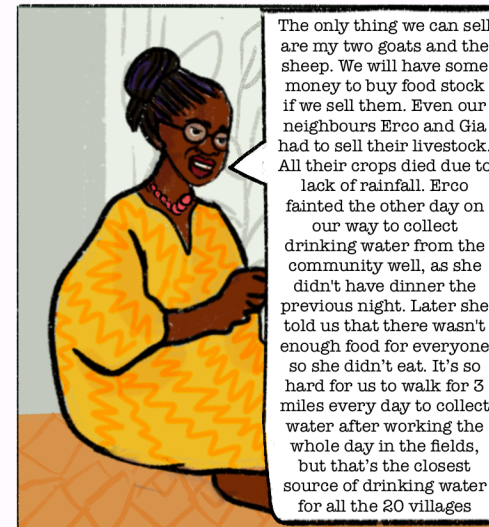
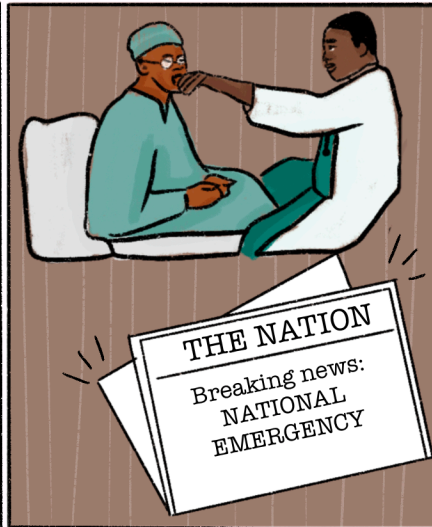
Net Zero targets are all the rage. But there are problems. Business as usual, land grabs, lack of real action, delay for decades. To address the climate crisis and avoid going over 1.5°C of global warming, we need polluting governments and industries to transform to cut emissions to real zero, not net zero.

This comic explores the implications of net zero targets on communities in the Global South, and raises important questions on what can be done to protect rights, create real system change, avoid the planet from heating up, and ensure climate justice.

We hope you enjoy and share it.



Jionah and her family at home



Jionah went to bed anxious that night after dinner. Next day at school she went to a class on the environment and climate change.



1. Climate change means changes in the earth's climate primarily because of human activity including burning of fossil fuels, industrial agriculture systems, and cutting down of trees, which result in rapid increase of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane etc.

2. Due to this, Earth's temperatures have been rising at an alarming level. This is also commonly known as global warming. The 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 2005, and 7 of the 10 have occurred just since 2014.

3. Studies suggest that until 2019, about 81% of the world's primary energy supply comes from fossil fuels, especially coal, oil and natural gas which contributes majorly to the average increase of global temperatures.

4. Impacts of climate change will however not be evenly felt around the world. Even though, they have done relatively little to the cause, people living in low income countries and in geographically vulnerable regions will be most significantly impacted. This is because communities living in poverty will be exposed to environmental hazards that they are not responsible for. They are also more dependent on resource based livelihoods like agriculture and have fewer alternatives to cope with the impacts.

5. Most richer economies, countries based in the Global North (including US, Japan, Canada, Europe, Australia) are responsible for having produced and used 92% of the carbon dioxide emissions that are causing the atmosphere to warm up, whereas countries in the Global South, who are bearing the brunt of climate induced droughts, floods, famines, storms, rise in sea level, food insecurity and poverty are only responsible for 8%.



Jionah going back home.



Jionah shared all the things she learnt at school today with Thozama.

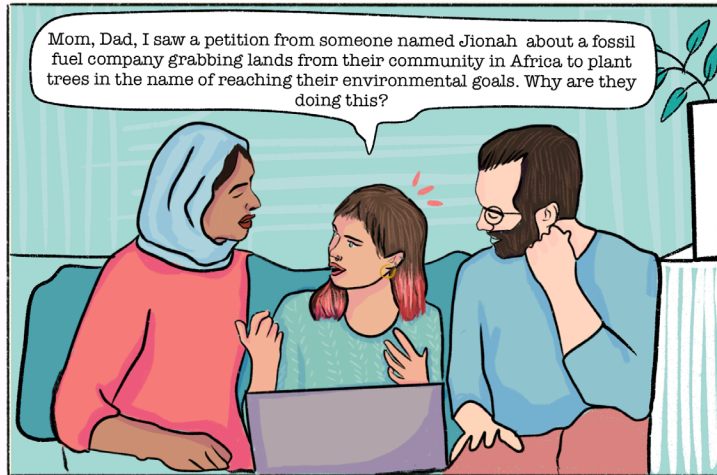




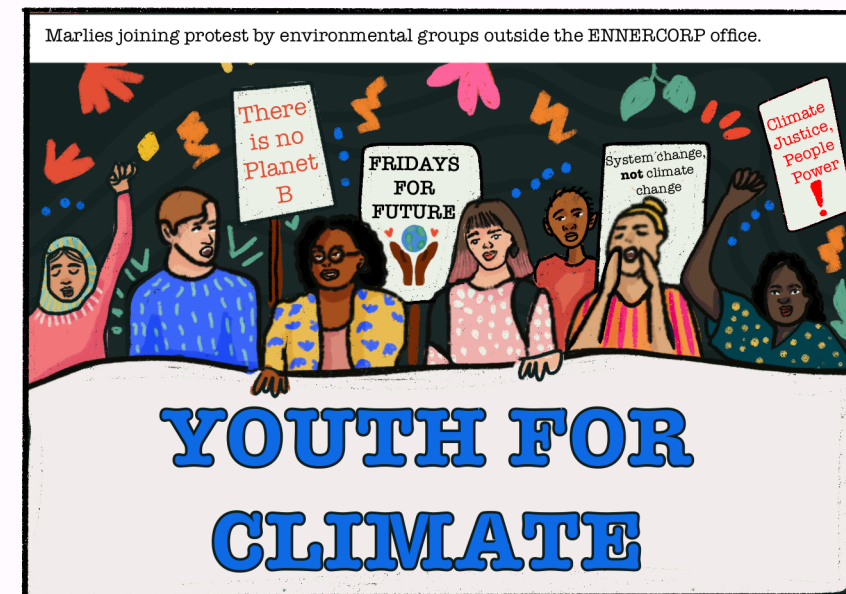


I live with my mom Mariam and dad Lars. Both of them are school teachers. In fact they teach in the same school I go to.





Climate Colonialism






Climate change is being increasingly triggered by high levels of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. These GHGs especially carbon dioxide and methane, trap heat from the sun, thereby increasing earth's surface temperature and triggering harmful global warming. This is what is causing the increased droughts, floods, cyclones, rising sea levels and wildfires that many communities are suffering from today.

Large amounts of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere through industrial processes such as burning of fossil fuels for industry and transport, as well as industrialised agriculture and destruction of ecosystems. To stop global warming from becoming much, much worse, the world needs to shift away from polluting energy, agriculture, transport and economic systems, and protect the earth's precious ecosystems.



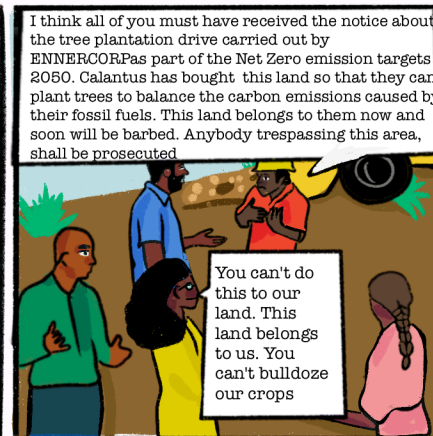
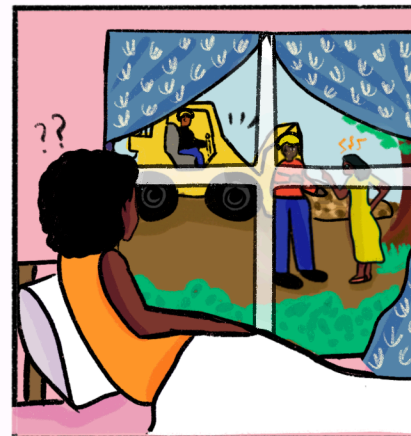
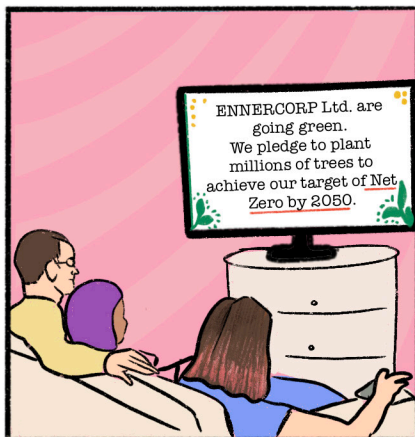


Net Zero Emission Targets:

“Net Zero” targets aim to achieve a balance between greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere and those taken out. In **theory**, it should work like this: Imagine a bucket under a tap, with a plugged hole in the bottom of the bucket. When you turn on the tap, the bucket starts to fill up, and if you pull out the plug, the water starts to drain out the hole.

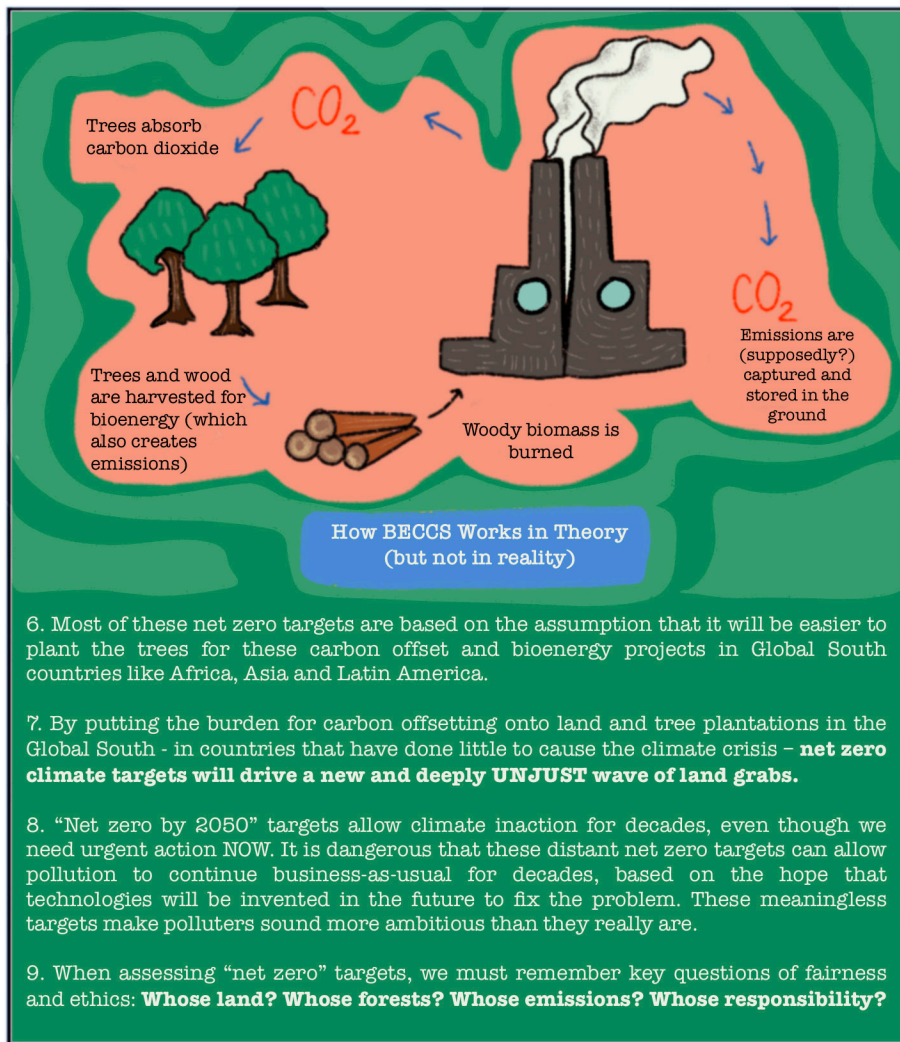
To prevent the bucket from overflowing, you either need to switch off the tap, or you need to make sure that the plughole lets out the same amount as the water flowing into the bucket.

Net zero climate targets are based on the assumption that we will remove GHGs from the atmosphere at the same rate that we produce them.

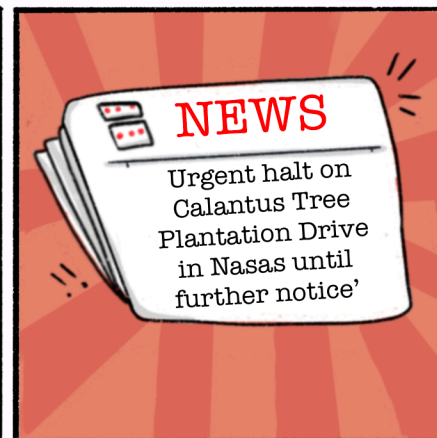
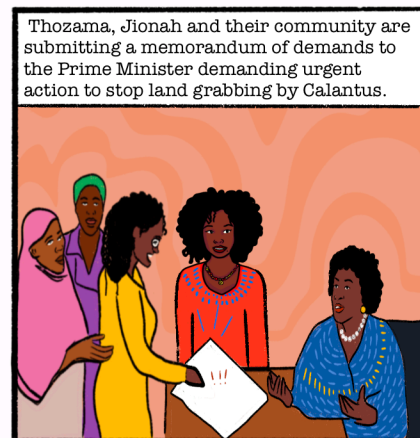


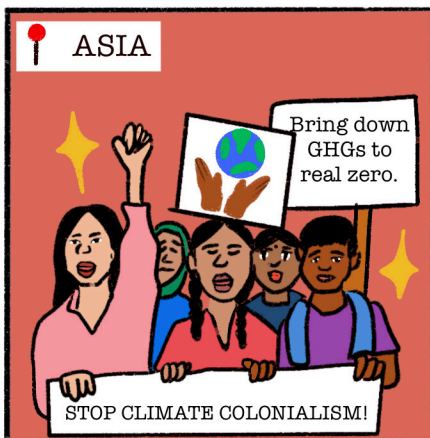
Net Zero is not Real Zero

1. In recognition of the urgent need for climate action, many governments and corporations are announcing "net zero" climate targets. This might seem to be good news. Unfortunately, the term "net zero" is being used by the world's biggest polluters as a façade to evade responsibility and disguise their inaction or harmful action on climate change.
2. "Net zero emissions" does not mean "zero emissions", and net zero targets should not be accepted at face value. There are a lot of problems with net zero targets.
3. Instead of driving real transformation to cut emissions, many net zero targets are based on the dangerous assumption that pollution can continue business-as-usual, as long as carbon dioxide (CO₂) is sucked out of the air afterwards.
4. When CO₂ is sucked out of the atmosphere and stored through trees, plants, soils or technologies, scientists call the "carbon sequestration" or carbon offsetting.
5. Many corporate and government net zero targets rely on the expectation that CO₂ can be offset by planting millions of trees. Many climate plans also assume that trees and crops will be burned for bioenergy, and that one day technologies will be developed that can capture and store the resulting CO₂ underground. This approach is called Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS).



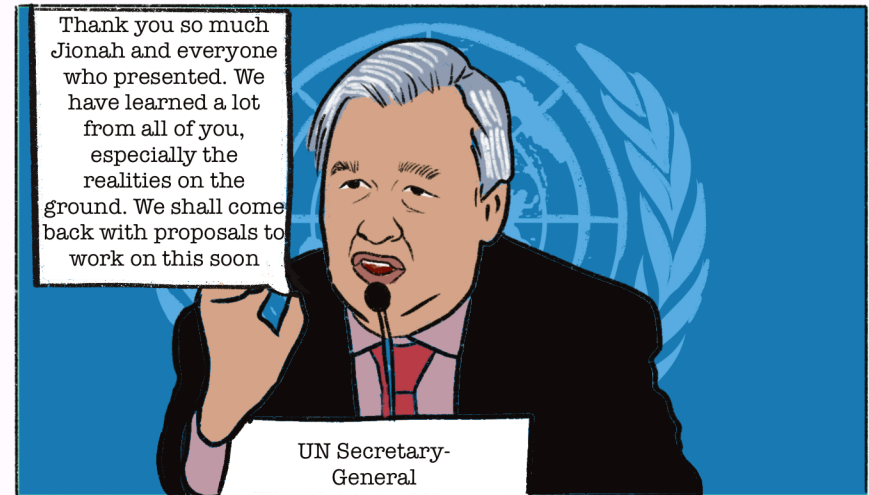
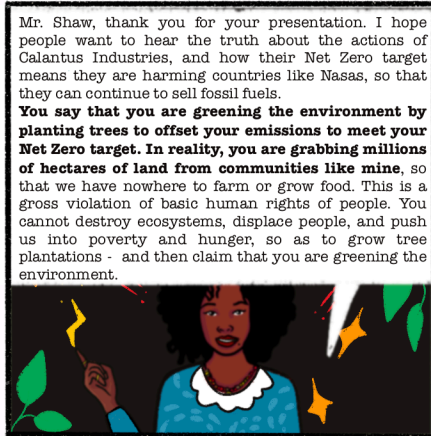






His Excellency, the UN Secretary General of the United Nations, following the massive protests all over the world on climate action, has called for an emergency meeting with heads of states and large corporations to review the Net Zero Goal Strategy.





OUTCOMES

Call to action

"Citizens call on governments to drive action for Real Zero emissions"

CLIMATE JUSTICE

"How polluters use net zero targets to greenwash their business"

NET ZERO SCAM

"How net zero targets drive land grabs"

Carbon offsetting exposed!"

"Net zero targets allow loopholes"

"Not Zero: How 'net zero' targets disguise climate inaction"

"When climate greenwash causes hunger: Net zero scam exposed"



The prime minister of Nasas is addressing the nation saying that they are withdrawing all agreements with Fossil Fuel companies.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Esdava activists successfully pressure Calantus to stop their offsetting plans and cut GHGs at source.

Stop the Scam!

REAL ZERO AND NOT NET ZERO

Governments agree a set of recommendations incorporating climate justice.

- Climate targets must be based on real transformation, not carbon offsets,
- Polluting industrialised countries must take the most urgent action, to bring GHGs down to real zero by 2030
- Climate plans must show separate targets for GHG reductions, and for removing or sequestering CO₂, instead of "net" targets that combine these.
- Use of land for tree planting must be done with the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of communities, and must not harm human rights, land rights, livelihoods or the right to food.
- Climate action will drive major investment for momentum and feminist just transitions in key areas to bring emissions down to real zero, including through:
 1. Fossil fuels to renewable energy
 2. Industrialised agribusiness to agroecology
 3. Improved public transport

The following week.



Jionah's actions have inspired other young people in the country, and new local actions groups are starting as they discuss things they can do to strengthen resilience to climate impacts, hold their governments to account and raise their voices to the world.



