

# Contributors

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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  $1.5\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$  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.

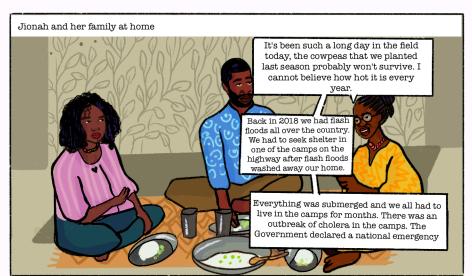
We hope you enjoy and share it.



I live with my mom Thozama and dad Akasua. My mom works with a local farmers co-operative while my dad works as a labourer in a nearby farm

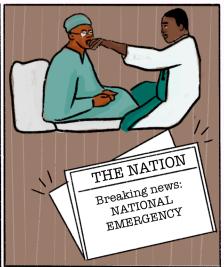


It was formerly ruled by a colonial power dnd it only got its independence in 1970 after three decades of resistance and rebellion. It is now a democracy with an elected Government. GO BACK! WE WANT DEMOCRACT We are declaring a democracy!











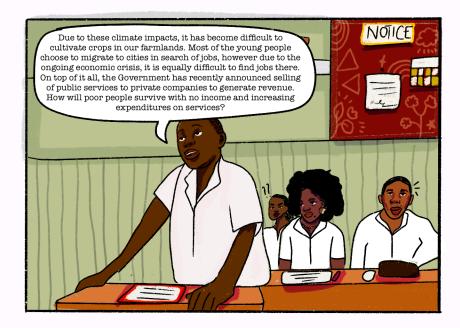
The only thing we can sell are my two goats and the sheep. We will have some money to buy food stock if we sell them. Even our neighbours Erco and Gia had to sell their livestock. All their crops died due to lack of rainfall. Erco



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



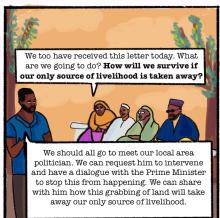
- Climate change means changes in the earth's climate primarily because of human activity including burning of fossil fuels, industrial agriculture systems, and cutting down of trees, which result in rapid increase of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane etc.
- 2. Due to this, Earth's temperatures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















### SIGN THE PETITION

We need your urgent help. Major oil and gas companies are buying lands in Africa as part of their climate pledge to plant trees. Our community lands are our only source of livelihood and most of us live in the same area. If our lands are given to private fossil fuel companies, we all will be displaced. We depend on this land for our food and livelihood. Having private companies destroy our food crops and plant trees will completely destroy our ecosystem. These corporation are the ones harming the climate. Why should we be the ones to suffer?

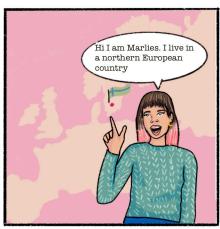
We need you to stand with us and tell our government to stop this immediately. Please sign this petition and share it with your friends and family.

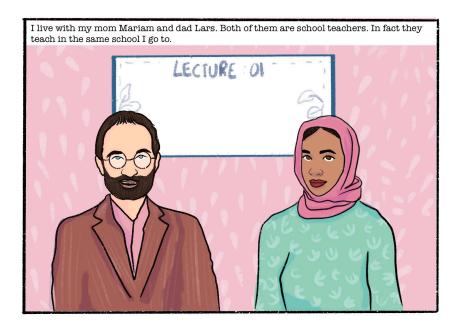
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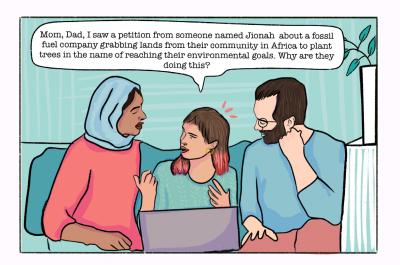


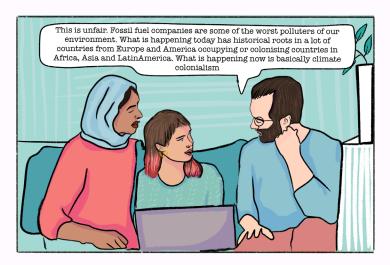












## Colonialism





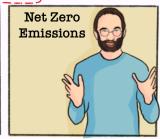












Climate Colonialism





The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 countries at COP 21 in Paris, on 12th of December 2015 and entered into force on 4th of November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

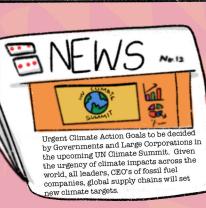
We are proud that you want to join these protest demonstrations Marlies. Unless countries like Esdava from the Global North take radical actions to transform our economies and provide resources and support to Global South countries so that they can cope with climate impacts and transition to greener pathways, we will never be able to achieve climate justice. It's great that you have signed this petition and shared it with your friends.



Marlies joining protest by environmental groups outside the ENNERCORP office.







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.

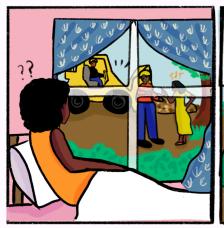
Net zero climate targets are based on the assumption that we will remove GHGs from the atmosphere at the same rate that we produce them.









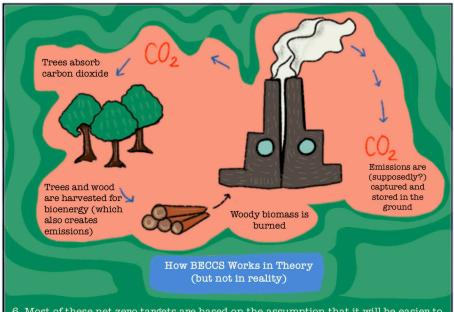


I think all of you must have received the notice about the tree plantation drive carried out by ENNERCORPas part of the Net Zero emission targets 2050. Calantus has bought this land so that they can plant trees to balance the carbon emissions caused by their fossil fuels. This land belongs to them now and soon will be barbed. Anybody trespassing this area, shall be prosecuted



#### 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).



- 6. Most of these net zero targets are based on the assumption that it will be easier to plant the trees for these carbon offset and bioenergy projects in Global South countries like Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- 7. By putting the burden for carbon offsetting onto land and tree plantations in the Global South in countries that have done little to cause the climate crisis **net zero** climate targets will drive a new and deeply **UNJUST** wave of land grabs.
- 8. "Net zero by 2050" targets allow climate inaction for decades, even though we need urgent action NOW. It is dangerous that these distant net zero targets can allow pollution to continue business-as-usual for decades, based on the hope that technologies will be invented in the future to fix the problem. These meaningless targets make polluters sound more ambitious than they really are.
- 9. When assessing "net zero" targets, we must remember key questions of fairness and ethics: Whose land? Whose forests? Whose emissions? Whose responsibility?











Friends, let's amplify Jionah's petition. Those fossil fuel companies are up to their usual tricks. Net Zero targets are actually a scam. Instead of cutting their fossil fuels, Calantus is carrying on business-as-usual while claiming that planting trees will offset and compensate for their pollution. What they don't tell us is that communities like Jionah's in the Global South are having their lands grabbed to make way for those

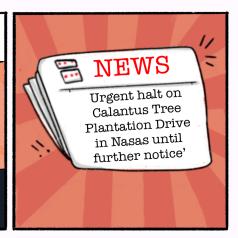


We need to mobilise everyone and make noise here. Let's invite Jionah to address our online event next week.





Thozama, Jionah and their community are submitting a memorandum of demands to the Prime Minister demanding urgent action to stop land grabbing by Calantus.



Both Jionah and Marlies work with their respective communities to develop a toolkit with media resources so that they can expose the Net zero narrative run by fossil fuel companies. They share this across various platforms.







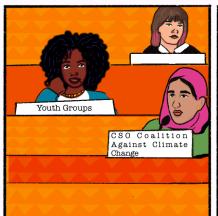






His Excellency, the UN Secretary General of the United Nations, following the massive protests all over the world on climate action, has called for an emergency meeting with heads of states and large corporations to review the Net Zero Goal Strategy.







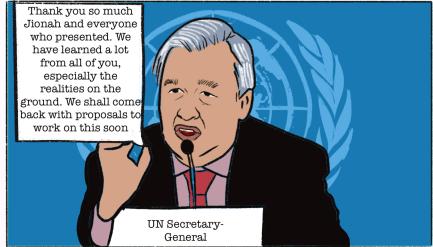


Mr. Shaw, thank you for your presentation. I hope people want to hear the truth about the actions of Calantus Industries, and how their Net Zero target means they are harming countries like Nasas, so that they can continue to sell fossil fuels.

You say that you are greening the environment by planting trees to offset your emissions to meet your Net Zero target. In reality, you are grabbing millions of hectares of land from communities like mine, so that we have nowhere to farm or grow food. This is a gross violation of basic human rights of people. You cannot destroy ecosystems, displace people, and push us into poverty and hunger, so as to grow tree plantations - and then claim that you are greening the environment.





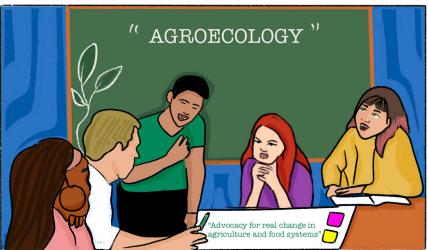




Governments agree a set of recommendations incorporating climate justice.

- 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







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.



