



4th - 10th December 2010

A CONTRIBUTION
TO THE COPART MOVEMENT



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
SOUTHERN AFRICA



THE COPART CLIMATE FLUENCY EXCHANGE 1: A NARRATIVE REPORT

December **2010**

Introduction

COPART is a creative movement that fosters the incubation of a new form of conscious and creative activism for sustainability in a changing climate that is articulate, compassionate, peaceful and intelligent. A recent contribution to the *COPART* movement, has been the collaborative facilitation of a *permanent conference*, or a continuous creative dialogue/exchange in South Africa, which constructively engages the deeper problems that cause many of our environmental problems.

The first component of the *COPART* permanent conference is the Climate Fluency Exchange (CFE) which turns complex climate change information into accessible ways of knowing and doing in our lives. The CFE facilitates a transdisciplinary intersection between scientists and artists; activists and creatives as well as the general public. The CFE's consist of bi-monthly-week-long social learning processes that facilitate creative and innovative participation and learning for artists, activists, scientists and the public. The first Climate Fluency Exchange was held in Cape Town, concurrently with the COP16 negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. The First CFE responded to the conference as decisions are being made, as well as re-imagining new ways in which we can live, work and be. Throughout 2011, *COPART* will be facilitating seven different events with various artists, activists, scientists, and other participants with the objective of creating a new creative, peaceful and constructive form of activism, which will come together at major festival in December 2011 when COP17 is being held in South Africa.

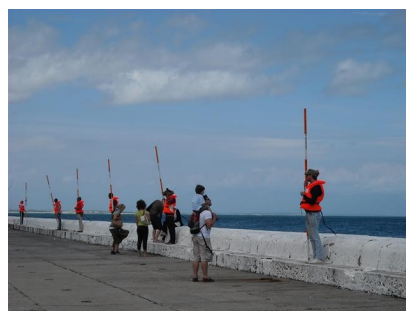
This report documents the day to day progression of the Climate Fluency Exchange, which was primarily funded by the Heinrich Boll Foundation, with support from Artists Projects Earth UK, and managed by the Environmental Monitoring Group, the British Council & the Sustainability Commons.

Day by Day Blogposts¹

Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 1 (4th December 2010)



Some images from our CROCHET CORAL REEF interactive installation (facilitated by the WOODSTOCK ART REEF PROJECT <http://artreefproject.ning.com/>) on the train to Kalk Bay, we had moving interactions with the passengers, and inspiring conversations and creative sharing. People responded to our conversations and exchanges through creating artworks or written messages on 10 small chalk boards that circulated the carriage. The Agents of change Social Sculpture conceptualized by James Reed in association with the SOCIAL SCULPTURE RESEARCH UNIT (<http://www.social-sculpture.org/>) and facilitated by Lara Kruger at the Kalk Bay Harbour, was a thoughtful and wholesome public interaction, that explored a deep connective approach to understanding and finding meaning with difficult problems.



Thanks to everyone who took part, and for everyone's contribution to the day, it was a gift♥

¹ You can watch the short video clips of the entire Climate Fluency Exchange made by Nadine Cloete & Donald Nyahuye at <http://dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/>

Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 2 (5th December 2010)



Today was a full day, with each moment filled with conversation, dialogue and activity. It was a profound interaction where a sincere and thoughtful exchange of words, symbols, imaginings and artmaking was captured within a closed loop of approaching the world on the move. Today was a improvised social sculpture where conversation and creative dialogue where our materials for collaborative artwork. The central theme focused on values and reclaiming values. We gathered at the company gardens, were we had 18 participants join us. The group comprised of people who work in the visual arts, performing arts, literature, energy & sustainability, education, civil society, green engineering & architecture and film, amongst other genres/disciplines. The entire day formed a mobile conversation, from the Company

Gardens, to Kuyasa in Khayelitsha, and back again. We visited Green Architect Nick Ralphs and a remarkable family who have transformed their home into a building site. Tierraprojects have worked with this family and their community to build a recycling centre and swap shop (<http://tierraprojects.co.za/>). Today's Climate Fluency Exchange mobile confer-ence aimed at shaping the methodology of how we could work with the various forms of knowing and doing that shape our interaction and offerings within the COPART movement. We were invited to work with this incredible family and community to develop murals for the centre. What emerged was a clear need to ensure we can open the mural-making process to the family and community participants who helped build the centre, while still keeping room for the artists to offer their reflections and inspiration from the day. The mobile conversations on the train, using small chalk boards and small split away discussion groups led to some valuable ideas for how to develop a mural making process that not only captured the obvious value this community places on this initiative, but also the playful and personal approach they have chosen to build this structure. The building has been constructed entirely out of re-used old car tyres, sod, and clay. At the centre we gathered together, and began exchanging ideas, values, and concepts on a large role of card within the freshly laid floor of the building. This "value" map, will be used to develop the mural, and other potential artworks including: a possible recycled glass wall; an interactive murals where visitors to the swap shop can share their ideas and create new imagery; as well as a concept of allowing the mural the opportunity to create a narrative between what happens on the outside, reflects the inside, and the inside influencing the outside. Finally a strong symbol that emerged from today was the circle: a closed loop. The centre's main premise is allowing space for young people in the community to value their waste, bring it into the centre and swap it for other useful items, such as school stationary etc. This closes the loop, where waste has value and is fed back into the system. This loop was reflected in our methodology, which centred around swapping ideas, thoughts, physical positions, and spaces. We closed our loop by retracing our steps and reflecting on our day and interactions up to this point on our trip home on the train (which had no windows) so our closing conversations had to compete with the sounds of the world wooshing by! Thank you for everyones gracious input, we are all so humbled for joining us in this social learning experiment. Also special credit must go to the youngest member of our mobile conference, a 5 month old Sidarth who traveled with us all day, and kept us all grounded and calm with his brilliant relaxed attitude to life, thank you!



Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 3 (6th December 2010)



Today we gladly stayed in one place for our conversations, which was welcome treat from our nomadic weekend. It was a fantastic day of exchanging concerns, ideas, imaginings, information and so so much more. We started the day with exploring each other's concerns in pairs, in this session we worked with active listening, and then began creating spaces in which we could house these concerns over the day, and into the future. We created silhouettes of ourselves in pairs by tracing our shadows and writing within them our specific concerns and struggles.

Stephen Law & Jessica Wilson from the Environmental Monitoring Group (<http://www.emg.org.za/>) took us through 300

million year time line of the story of climate change, and then dealt with the the recent politics and science of climate change. It was a fascinating talk that sincerely and competently engaged with the complexity of the situation of science and politics being uncomfortably intertwined. This robustly informative contribution, raised thought provoking topics. The most pressing was the urgency needed to tackle this enormous problem, and while from our perspectives it might seem as nothing is happening (because of the politics) Jessica used a wonderful metaphor: if we were to see each UN meeting or conference as a frame in a film, at first glance each frame seems insignificant and pretty boring and useless, yet these frames do move in succession, and in the past 15 years we have seen some real changes in mindset, in business, and in politics around this issue. Some fascinating discussions emerged from this session, and it was encouraging to know that this fluency event is a new form of experimental activism that is attempting to engage with this issues with depth. We are not "just talking"; these conversations, this process of becoming more fluent and creatively acting on this new found fluency; is an innovative form of experimental activism.

After lunch we gathered to to listen to Kyla Davis (via Skype) from the WELL WORN THEATRE COMPANY (www.wellworn.org.za), with help from Anthea Moys. Kyla shared her journey over the past few years, in working towards embodying and communicating the science, politics and consequences of climate change, as well as offering inspiring alternatives. Using theatre and the performing arts, WELL WORN has been experimenting with a new approach to activism, one that invokes comedy, poetry & pathos. It was moving to see the bravery and success of the WELL WORN THEATRE COMPANY enthusiasm in testing out new forms of engaging with the content of climate change, as well as the impact it has on audience's emotive selves. Kyla spoke of how the Climate Hearings and mock trial used satire and comedy to engage, stimulate and mobilize protesters as an alternative to loud protest. And the funeral procession for mother earth, became a somber performance that gave room for participants to grieve.

Anthea Moys, shared her experiences with EN MASSE in Joburg (<http://www.bagfactoryart.org.za/index.php?s=en+masse>) which is a project she has helped develop with artist Bronwyn Lace. EN MASSE is an investigation into the potential for trans or intra disciplinary collaboration, with the attempt to merge the vision of environmental activism and the vitality of experiential art. This "social sculpture" brought together various different people at a time to brainstorm and develop ideas and concepts. The goal was to develop large scale performances that combine aspects of both installation and performance art, where the massed audience (of at least 1 000), will function as both viewer and performer; and all the energy required for the performance will be generated by human movement. This led to seeking our inspiration and solutions from nature, and they EN MASSE participants found through bio-mimicry and the inspiration gained from ants, and ant societies. It was exciting to see the energy and playfulness adopted in this approach. I was very envious of these sessions, and am excited to hear there will be an EN MASSE artwork planned for early next year in Cape Town.

This offering and discussion from Anthea provided a fantastic introduction to Usha seejarim & Hannelie Coetzee from "SUCH INITIATIVE" in Joburg (<http://www.suchinitiative.org/>). They offered a potential contribution for COPART scheduled for sometime early next year. With a working title of "Moon Walk" this collaborative artful experience is inspired by ants, full moon, mountains, illumination and mass participation. It was an exciting imagining space, and we are definitely moving forward with something that contains both

depth and width in this social sphere. An interesting point arose from these discussions, when speaking about the work from "IMPROV EVERYWHERE" specially their large mass participation project "the Invisible dogs" (<http://improveverywhere.com/2009/10/04/invisible-dogs/>). In this session we were confronted with the thought "what was their message?" it became clear that there were many embedded messages that could be deciphered from this work, the most powerful was the fact that this project enabled people to actively connect in a playful way, where both the "agents" and the audience gained so much. It gives us real food for thought about future contributions for COPART and leaving room for the messages to remain open in our work. We ended this session in fits of laughter as we watched the beautifully charming and powerfully connective short film called "bodhisattva in metro" where laughter spreads through a subway train.

Jacqueline van Meygaarden & Stephen Davis then were so kind as to share with us the first screening of their new film "Nosy Mena: Voices from the red island", which is a 45 min documentary about the Malagasy people in Madagascar who are trying to survive first hand with the effects of a drastically changing climate (<http://cosmosproductionssouthafrica.blogspot.com/>). The film was an evocative and intimate documentation of the delicate and intricately linked lives of the Malagasy farmers with their natural ecosystems. Jacqueline and Stephen shared with us their struggles with both being messengers for the voices of the people they encountered in their journey, but also the responsibility they felt to share the knowledge about how activities in other parts of the world are mainly responsible for their difficulties. The meager prices they receive for their high quality vanilla and coffee exports, as well as the hardwood trees that are cut down and removed from their forests, severely jeopardize their well-being. So much is lost in these communities to make exotic coffee tables, and ornaments in first world living rooms. It was also so inspiring to see the film narrated entirely by the people from these communities, including a gentle hearted, sincere and deeply concerned Malagasy Climate scientist. It was a beautiful film and subsequent conversation.

We ended the day outside, with a drawing activity, where we tried to capture the day of sharing & learning in a large image in chalk. So that was the day in a nutshell, there still so much to be said and shared, everything is still settling in my mind. More soon. Thanks to everyone for their transformative contributions. Sleep tight!



Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 4 (7th December 2010)



We had a fantastic 4th day of the Climate Fluency Exchange. We started with a connective activity and recap of the the past three days, where participants who have been involved with the climate fluency exchange shared their experiences with new participants.

Karen Goldberg from the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG) offered us a valuable new space to approach our personal challenges with climate change. Karen shared her personal insights of the emotional difficulties we face when coping with complex social and

environmental problems of today, and how we need to support and nurture our personal agency. We went through a process in which we spent time accessing the specific difficulties we face on a personal level, and then shared these personal insights with a partner, who actively listened to our struggles and then reflected back to us what we heard. After this exchange, we then offered our insights from this session on three huge rolls of pattern card, and then only after we had gone through this intimate journey did we begin to share openly in the forum. The discussions were cathartic, inspirational and very supportive.

Nigel Crawhall then joined us to share his deep and wide understanding of the structures of the UN and how we can participate in global governance. Nigel is the current Director of Secretariat for the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) <http://www.ipacc.org.za/eng/default.asp> It was a very valuable learning space, and we gained much insight, particularly with how to meaningfully engage with UN Agencies and instruments. The discussions afterwards were very informative and inspiring (more detail of the talk soon!)

Astrid Westerlind Wigstrom & Max Edkins shared their film from the Bennede Mutale Group and their pending epic trip from Cape Town to Sweden over land. They have started an organization called CLIMATE CONSCIOUS (<http://www.climateconscious.net/>). En route they are completing three projects aimed at climate change communication with communities, using local theatre, participatory video, photo-stories and school visits for the two-way knowledge transfer. After this trip they will present these experiences to the UNFCCC climate conference COP17, which will for the first time be hosted on African soil in South Africa. It was a great exchange, as it linked beautifully with earlier climate fluency contributions from the WELLWORN THEATRE COMPANY, COSMOS PRODUCTIONS & THE STARS OF TODAY.

Max Edkins is also working at the Energy Research Centre at the University of Cape Town (<http://www.erc.uct.ac.za/>). He shared an informative presentation called the Energy Revolution. He eloquently and clearly explained why it makes for more economic, environmental and social sense for South Africa to adopt and renewable energy plan for the future of our country's energy security. Max was joined by Brenda Martin from 90x2030 <http://www.90x2030.org.za/>. This session was extremely informative about how South Africa is on the brink of deciding what energy resources it is going to commit to fund in the future. At the moment, the focus is primarily on coal-fired power stations with very little focus on renewable resources. We have until Friday to respond to the proposed draft and if there is enough of an outcry, they will be forced to redraft this proposal. We would like your help to aid this outcry. We have been told that the response is measured on a points system. Each individual and each organization's response is worth a point, even if it is the same document with different names and contact details. This is a very simple way of making a large impact on government policy. This is a process that will inform South Africa's energy future for decades to come. To help send an endorsement of Project 90 by 2030's submission to IRP2 (but do include your organisation's full particulars so it is registered properly as a separate submission) on your organisation's letterhead to: IRP2010@mweb.co.za. Please cc: campaigns@90x2030.org.za.

You can go to this link to get the letter to send to ESKOM:

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Copart/122283597835302?v=app_2373072738&ref=ts#!/topic.php?uid=122283597835302&topic=20

We ended the day with Sue Nepgen who is an art and environmental educationalist. She took us through a wonderful creative embodying process, that helped us reconnect with nature and embody the rich day we had experienced. We went into the company gardens, and Sue led us through process of sharing and reconnecting with each other and our surrounds, particularly the diversity of life in the park, their sounds, smells, textures and presence. It was a fantastic way to try digest and reflect on the day, and she took us back to the "Yellow room" where we created artworks inspired by our experiences over the past few days. Many of us wished we had more time to make more art. Tomorrow is the Gender & Climate Change day, and we look forward to working with the Gender CC group!



Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 5 (8th December 2010)



I am beginning to feel the fluency space is widening and opening, and the supportive, safe, creative and dynamic atmosphere is developing a learning and doing space that we could have only dreamed off!!! THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EMERGENCE!!!

Usually we feel that the urgency of the problems of climate change require rapid and hasty responses, but allowing ourselves the space to carefully, and gently approach these problems with both our minds and our hearts has been an enriching and enabling forum. We have been constantly acting on what we hear and struggle with, and as a group we have been really successful in housing all our homeless thoughts and concerns. Yvette Abrahams offered us the metaphor of allowing the space to "yeast" or "simmer", we often prematurely act before our hearts and minds are inline.

We witnessed in this day an expanded concept of Climate Change, and how it effects our daily lived experience. Today was the Gender & Climate Change day, where the Gender CC group joined us for a deeply connected creative dialogue around the

many different social constructs that restrict our ability to respond and adapt to climate change. Gender CC – Women for Climate Justice is a global network of women and gender activists and experts from all world regions working for gender and climate justice. Since 2008, the network has been formally registered as the not-for-profit NGO "GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice". GenderCC relies on the work of its Focal Points in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Latin America, North America. As the current focal point of the Women and Gender Constituency, GenderCC collaborates with existing women and gender networks in related areas. The Focal Points are supported by the International Secretariat which is based in Germany. GenderCC is directed and run collaboratively by the international Steering Committee.

Our fluency group was led through the morning by Wendy Annecke & Yvette Abrahams from Gender CC (<http://www.gendercc.net/>) who shared both the context of gender: *that our sex is what we are born with, but gender is what we socially create*; and reminded us that social justice is fundamentally about equality, and how we are able to act on what we value to do and be. Yet women can often not exercise this freedom of choice, and neither are those who fall between the gender lines that we have constructed, as they are not recognized by our polarized general concept of gender. For example during a flood or other extreme weather events, woman cannot move as quickly as men, as they have children and mothers, and mothers in law to travel with. Women in Africa and around the world are also the majority of the demographic who secure daily meals, collect the water, nurse the family in illness and educate the children, and so women are severely effected by a changing climate, where food security and access to clean drinking water is jeopardized. Also extreme weather can destroy homes and fields; exposure to waterborne diseases and

expanding malaria belts make a woman's role in maintaining healthy and happy households so much harder.

We approached the challenges faced by woman and the particular burden of the impacts of climate change in a creative dialogue using movement and expressions of what it must feel like to be the pieces and parts of the problem. Offering voices for the elements effected or contributing to climate change: earth, atmosphere, carbon, water, food, fauna and flora, future children, consumers etc, and we explored what it feels like to be part of this complex problem. It was a playful exploration of what we all were feeling about the problem; it also allowed us to see at what level our communal understanding of climate change was at. It was a mobilization of our minds with our hearts which in reflection we felt to very comforting and informative.

We then split into group discussions, and explored what kind of practical interventions we could work towards in supporting vulnerable genders. It was clear that what is needed is to first look within our own lives, and connect with our mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, etc and consider how much that have sacrificed to raise us and protect and nurture our family, then imagine your mother having to do this, when there is not enough water, or food, or home, cause it was all lost in a storm or flood. We spent some time talking about the women in our lives and their freedoms. Access to freedom is access to lots of things, but most importantly accessing learning spaces, in which personally relevant solutions can emerge. Access to education, not only the formal education systems we are all aware of, but also those valuable social learning spaces that empower woman to learn, embody and act, for example weaving groups, food gardens, etc. Also in all our advocacy processes we must include woman's equity into these campaigns.

Some intervention ideas:

- > Start at home, remember that it all began with woman, with our mothers, and valuing this in all aspects of our lives helps construct the society we want.
- > We need to actively reshape our concept of gender, not being a binary or polarized system, but one that is fluid and developed personal through choice and expressions of freedom.
- > Access to education: both formal and informal learning spaces is essential
- > Bringing generations together in these social learning spaces, encouraging story telling and other creative and traditional dialogue practices.
- > Interventions must come from within individuals, groups or cultures.
- > COPART could be one such social learning spaces.
- > we need to keep the particular words and language we want in our global law: words like "equity" & "for woman and children"

Yvette Abrahams left us with this closing thought which I transcribed from the voice recording of the session:

"I want to leave you with a thought, its around choices: I want to take your food gardens as an example, and the cows that came to eat your vegetables because you didn't have a fence; and the way you are dis-empowered, because at the moment, the way you go to get the fence is to go to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and or city council and fill in the form and ask for money for the fence, and they say come back in six months time or in two years or and they will come back during the local government election, and say if you vote for me I will give you this fence. Are there other ways in which we can express our power and choice? and are there are other traditional ways to build a fence? We could grow aloes around the garden... there is direct action where I could grow a hedge, or weave a fence, there are a hundred different ways that we can approach this fence issue, dealing with it becomes a way of expressing agency (our ability to act) as opposed to being dependent... let that leave us with the thought of what power there is already in this room"

After lunch, we were facilitated through a alternative and creative process of trying to understand the many conversations and activities of the day with artist Lara Kruger. The session titled "Drawing to understand" was a fascinating exploration into various struggles. With closed eyes and lara's gentle guidance we refined our busy thoughts by in carefully imagining and holding images in our minds that where emerging from our conversations. Then silently with our images in mind, went to the gardens, and rolled out a long pattern-card scroll, and drew with charcoal and chalk with long sticks. We made two drawings, the first drawing we tried to capture or bring into form a problem or concerns that has emerged from the conversations; the second drawing was a way for us to imagine a solution to this problem. We shared a common ground (the paper) and the dynamics of this interactive art making process where very telling of the struggles we face in

our daily lives of sharing a common space, and trying to still go about our lives in this world when we are all trying to interact with it and speak to it, it was a wonderful experience thanks Lara!

After this quiet and introspective space we went to a bubbling and chattering interactive and communicative space which was created by Artist Claire Homewood, called the collage project <http://collagemuralproject.blogspot.com/>.

As Claire shares on the Collage Mural blog "*The Collage Mural Project began in London in 2008. The idea was to create informal gatherings of people in which we would use old magazines to create collages that explored ideas sparked by the topic of climate change. The project grew from weekly weekend collage sessions to ones taking place all around London and finally to a public event/exhibition that took place in Gallery 491 in London. The project was loads of fun and gave everyone the chance to get creative and enter into a dialogue around climate change - how we got to where we are at and how we are going to get to where we want to go. The project allowed participants to witness arts' role as healing facilitator, communication vehicle and envisioning tool. The collage project provides a structure that can be taken into many different contexts. We are experimenting using collage as part of the MuizenMural painting project as a way to come up with the imagery and ideas for each mural.*"

Using magazines and other used media products, we all jumped into a accessible and connective creative process, where we use imagery and the pieces and parts of contemporary media, to deconstruct messages and construct new ones. It was a energetic and symbolic practice that embodied the day. These collages will come together to form a larger collage that we will exhibit at the next CFE, and will let grow in other COPART creative dialogue spaces!



Climate Fluency Exchange DAY 6 (9th December 2010)



What a week its turning out to be!!! Each day is difficult to predict, but always at this time of day when I sit to write and update the blog, I am overwhelmed with how full, informative and inspiring the day has been. The idea for today was to get an understanding of what is happening at the COP, recap the week's activities and start planning our response for tomorrow (Friday) to the world, and the people who will be deciding our fate!

Jessica Wilson joined us again from EMG, to help us

understand what is actually going on in Cancun, what happened in Copenhagen and what we are likely to expect in Durban next year at COP (Conference Of the Parties). Jessica offered her deep understandings of the international negotiations, which often seem so abstract and distant from our day to day lives, it made much more sense when she explains it.

So here's the deal:

We know climate change is already happening cause we have been emitting greenhouse gases for 200 years already, and there is no way that we will stay below a 2 degree rise (which already is very dangerous). The change we need is going to cost money, and so one major agreement that needs to come out of Cancun is we need to agree internationally on finance:

1) ADAPTATION: who is going to pay for climate refugees, rebuilding after floods and storms, etc.

and

2) how are we going to finance for MITIGATION (if a country wants to build its economy it needs more coal, but that cant happen so we need money from those big carbon emitters to finance economies based on renewable energy).

The rich countries need to cut their emissions first, cause they have been the biggest emitters, but politically USA has said "Ja, we emit a quarter of the greenhouse gases, but you know, in 10 years time China will emit more than us, so really they need to sort their act out before we sort our act out" and then Canada says "ja we will only change if USA changes!" so USA has been playing a difficult role.

But its not just North America, there is a group of countries affectionately called the JUSCANZ: Japan, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand... add Russia and we have JUSCANCER! So these are the big guys! Its not an official bloc but these are the countries who tend to act on their own interests most of the time. Cancun started with Japan saying "we wont commit to another commitment period for Kyoto" even though the agreement was created originally in JAPAN! USA has never supported it. Canada although they agreed to reduce their emissions by 6%, have actually increased their emissions by 26%! 32 % off target! Australia didn't sign it until about 2 years ago. New Zealand has also said they wont agree to continue, so in Cancun there is a major push to kill the Kyoto protocol, and these Kyoto assassins are being influenced massively by USA, which has never signed it, and really only just goes to the COPS to disrupt the process, cause they are so flipp'n terrified of changing their economy and the sacred "American lifestyle".

America says "we dont want to commit to anything internationally, we want to put together voluntary targets". Last year USA went off into a room, with China and a handful of other countries and made this weird agreement (aka the Copenhagen Accord), where they said we will cut "this much, that much" but really these cuts are nowhere near enough the amounts that are needed. Basically what they are offering, will still let the planet warm to 2.5 to 4 degrees, which everyone has agreed is way past what we want; remember 1.5 to 2 degrees is our maximum, anything more than that will cause massively devastating climate change. Also keep in mind we are almost a degree hotter than we where at the beginning of the century, and in the past ten years we have used up a 1/3 of our carbon budget for the rest of the century. So this voluntary stuff that USA is calling for is just not good enough!

So basically when it comes to international governance, USA goes into these massive agreements they go to bring the agreements down to the lowest common denominator and then not sign, so if they where out of the room, the agreement would have higher standards, USA wouldn't have signed... BUT THEY DONT SIGN ANYWAY!

The USA says that their congress wont support anything they bring back from COP, cause that's how it works, countries go to the COPS and then whats agreed there, they have to take back home and get it into national law.

On top of all this USA says "before we do anything, the developing countries must make changes" I mean the biggest emitters are telling the counties who will suffer most from their excess, that the vulnerable counties must not only carry the cost but also deprive themselves of development first until they will jump in! So since 1992 when there was this agreement that rich countries will cut emissions first, USA has been

trying to undermine that! Yet while its difficult to get federal changes in the USA to cut emissions, some US cities and some states are setting themselves targets anyway, and not waiting for their governments to make the changes. So our heroes are those Mayors in the USA and around the world, like New York, London & Shanghai they are part of the C40 cities leadership group <http://www.c40cities.org/about/>

So Climate global governance is an intractable problem because of spoiled brats like USA, Canada, Japan, and Australia and New Zealand; but we need an international agreement, otherwise things will just get worse and worse; and by participating at the COPS USA is essentially stopping any international agreement on Climate Change to occur.

Something that might be agreed on is REDD and REDD+ which is the The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. On their website <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutREDD/tabid/582/Default.aspx> they explain that RED stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) which is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. "REDD+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD+ could reach up to US\$30 billion a year. This significant North-South flow of funds could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and could also support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services. But there is a snag Mrinalini Rai of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change argues that this initiative, heavily backed by the World Bank among others, raises questions about how to ensure fair compensation to those developing countries that undertake a commitment to such reductions, specially the indigenous peoples who use these forests every day for their livelihoods, will they be fenced off from their lifeblood and spiritual sanctuaries?

So the big three things that might be agreed on in Cancun that would be a step forward:

- 1) A financial mechanism to deal with climate mitigation and adaption
- 2) A mechanism on technology transfer (i.e. renewable energy options)
- 3) Some kind of adaptation body or committee

These are some of the things on the table that might be agreed on at the heart of COP 16.

Some of you asked for good sites to keep up with these international agreements, here are some:

<http://theclimatedesk.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/TheClimatePool>
<http://cop17insouthafrica.wordpress.com/>
<http://cc2010.mx/en/>

After Jessica's thorough and accessible talk we gathered up the treasures of the week, and watched the short videos shot by Nadine Cloete of the Climate Fluency Exchange, we looked at the COPART facebook page http://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=139122789475637&id=860440157#!/pages/Copart/122283597835302



We discussed future Climate Fluency Exchanges and what we thought might emerge from them. We then got together around a large card-canvas and worked with the PRO NATURE PAINTS (<http://www.pronature.co.za/>) which are 100% natural ingredients and 100% locally manufactured to begin coloring in our ideas for how we can interact with the public tomorrow. While creating a beautiful communal image, which now embodies this dynamic conversation, which I listened to now again from our voice recordings, which was an exciting re-imagining space. So tomorrow we will be taking the fluency exchange outside on the long path from the Adderley street to the top of the gardens. The idea is that this will be a form of activism that aims to connect one on one with the public, where each participant will have a creative space or activity to engage with others and share the knowing that each of us have gained through the week, through the process of actively listening, embodying and reflecting on the complex information of the week. Tomorrow we will have a day of getting ready for the afternoon public climate fluency exchange activities, so lets try meet at 9am sharp and have a great final day together!

Climate Fluency Exchange FINAL DAY! (10th December 2010)



I am overwhelmed! It has been such an incredible week, we all worked so hard, we played, we shared, and we learned. I have so much still to share with everyone, and will be going through the recordings over the next few weeks, and will share more insights from all the contributors.

Today we wrote letters to ourselves, offering our future self our advice, of what has emerged through our experience with the climate fluency exchange, and our contributions to the COPART movement. We sealed the letters, addressed them to ourselves, and in a years time I will post them back. I am sure this time next year, when we are deep into COP17, we

can offer some important insights to ourselves.

Today we engaged with a social sculpture developed communally yesterday. We worked with a large roll of paper that was donated by NAMPAK recycling in a social sculpture that aimed at sharing the creative atmosphere and conscious participation that we have been growing over the week, and gently share it will the public in the gardens. Holding within our minds, a specific concern, that has emerged from our experience in this space, we slowly unrolled the huge roll of paper from the path near the Iziko Museum. Armed with many different colors of *Pronature* paints and paintbrushes, we began creating a communal painting on the move, that traveled for 82 meters. Many people came to share and offer their thoughts and imagery, with diverse contributions for the homeless in the park, women in high heels heading back home

after a long day at work, children, and tourists. The conversations with the public where so inspiring, it is clear that everyone is desperate to share their concerns, and to offer their insights. Liz sat at a bench with a laptop online, and those involved and the public who shared the space with us, went to sit with Liz one by one on the bench, and added their name to the IRP 2010 petition for a renewable energy future on the RE-wire website set up 350.org <http://rewiresouthafrica.org/> Some members of the public who didn't have access to the internet dictated letters to Liz, which she sent to president Zuma and seven ministers.

We also got to see the inspired performance from the "Stars of Today" a young theatre troupe from Phillipi who have been with us all week, and offered some profound thoughts, ideas, concerns and insights. We closed the day and the week on vibrant and energetic high!



Personal learning from participants

Below are a series of transcribed quotes from a voice recording taken in the final reflection session on Friday the 10th of December:

"I have learned the power of openness and collaboration, to be surrounded by people who also trying to find their place in the Climate Change environment and discovering the many options we have to collaborate, share and learn" **Laskarina Yiannakaris**

"If you are working together, we can make a change, in the townships many of us do not know how we are destroying the planet, and we have learned so much of how we can make a change" **Lwandile Godlozu**

"Coming from a world where art is not an everyday feature of my world, this has been an amazing experience, its the first time I have picked up a paintbrush sin over 10 years. I have gained insight into how I art is not just pictures hanging on walls, but artfulness and discovering the creatively that is inside all of us; learning that in fact without using these creative mediums there will be no way to disseminate the message that is inside my heart... effective communication is essential, so many vital points of advice have come out of this process... practicing active listening and careful listening has been been so helpful" **Lauren Taverner-Smith**

"I have learned the role that we as artists can play in this struggle, as before I have never really concerned myself with climate change, as it felt so far away form me and from what I do; but this week and seeing how other artists work with these issues, I have seen ways in which I could contribute as an artist. There was so much information, a lot of it, but we had a way of digesting it" **Mlungisi Zondi**

"Reflecting a lot of what we do on a small scale, in very intimate ways, like drawing or writing or other group activities, this mirrors what happens on the outside world on a global scale, (the Climate Fluency Exchange) has given us an opportunity to hone in an focus altogether, all at the same level, we were able to cometo a general understanding on a small scale, and develop a sense of compassion towards these problems, that we can take out with us to another group of people. This week has proven to me the value of the small steps we take, every small moment that we spend, every bit of energy we put into it each part is received by another being and used constructively. What ever we do in this space can spread so deeply, its been incredible. Its taken away my fear of expressing my feelings on the specifics of the problems that I feel passionately about, its has been a space where we can explore these feelings, and work on them and carry on with them outside this space, I feel enabled" **Victoria Romburgh**

"My learning started on Sunday, where it felt that the learning never stops, and realising that the questioning shouldn't ever stop either. Instead of being a prescriptive "information giving" practice, the CFE has been about opening up dialogue, where there is more learning to be had in that, because its been a give and a take!" **Danieyella Rodin**

"It certainly created an awakening force which has been imprinted, on many levels, by our time together. I felt I was on a real new frontier, learning, embracing, doing and meeting each other. Thank you for the experience! ...I am humbled and inspired to call myself one of the family." Margaret

"I am involved with working with farmers and agriculture, it was great to connect with this group as it extends the farm to other parts of the planet, and just as I feel as though I am a sensing organ, I feel that this group is a living sensing organ, which is sensing urgency of the burning issues we have but is also aware of

the beauty. And to be able to go out now into the streets is so powerful. The group offers a sense of courage to engage with a journey, it is as if this sensing organ has growing, and getting bigger in this space”
Helen van Zyl

“some people were saying I am not good at drawing or painting, but to be given the freedom was wonderful to discover our own way” **Siphelo Mtshetsha**

“Usually a good understanding of the predicted impacts of climate change hits you in the gut. COPART opens up the space to carefully, and gently (without losing urgency) approach the way ahead with both our minds and our hearts. The forum this past week has been an enriching and enabling experience for all who attended. We often act prematurely before our hearts and minds are aligned.” **Brenda Martin**

“I was completely out of my comfort zone, I am a very much a head, rational person. I have been working with these issues for almost over a decade, I remember renewable energy campaign years ago that failed, but what I realised is that it was part of a process, its not always the immediate result we need, that the process is just as valuable, to take the time and to create the space for this learning is so important, to take a break from my controlling rational mind from was so helpful” **Tamara Richards**

“It was good to be part of this programme, I have learned so much, just last year I left school, and learned a bit about climate change at school, but I learned more this week than I did at school about climate change. Communication is so important, especially in the townships” **Sinethemba Nkomonye**

Reflections from the Coordinators

Below are a series of transcribed quotes from a voice recording taken in the final reflection session on Friday the 10th of December:

“I have grown as much as a person as I have as an activist during this week, the approach has been just as effective as all the information and experiences I have had, it has awakened a new creative space in myself, and I have been able to not view it as an indulgence, but a perfectly valid right to open myself up and explore the many dimensions of these issues. I have been able to establish a personal process, that has allowed for something dormant to open up. I have learned not to be overwhelmed with a specific end-point but the “end” its about constantly working, constantly reflecting, constantly allowing for play. Its been the difficult stuff between us and between issues, where the most learning has been happening, which has been deep, very deep.” **Elizabeth Fletcher**

“By finding a voice, we are encouraging and allowing other people to do the same, the more we do it the more space there is to do it. I have been sitting outside the process for the most part as a coordinator. When we designed the programme and the process, it was very intentional and conscious and we knew we wanted to have a 'breathing in' and a 'breathing out' space, so that it wasn't all information, so that people who dipped in for a day could still have a full and complete experience... This week has been as if we have conceived something, for example when you conceive a child, you create the vessel for the being to enter, not the being itself. It felt that there was a wisdom and process that emerged that was not rationally created at all, there is something else that is needing to speak in this space, and I felt the time was right for that to happen. The artful activities I got to participate in, I decided to paint in one colour, blue, I found a way of moving through the picture.... if we can be loyal to our piece of expression, we can interact meaningfully with other contributions, there were conversations with other pictures that emerged through this process. We cannot loose anything from engaging or sharing.” **Karen Goldberg**

“planning this process was extremely difficult as there were so many things to hold, and there was a few of us holding them, and the weight of it pushed me beyond my limits. One of the biggest struggles was holding multiple ways of knowing and doing, we all have different way, I have been reading about social learning and how they equated it to quilting. That each voice, each patch on the quit is very different, each has its own pattern, and when you put them together it can create something beautiful. Yet in quilting you don't destroy that square, it maintains its identity and its space in the world, but it becomes so more profound when it is connected with something else. That was all very well, and I listened to that metaphor

and I thought that was fantastic, that was what we must do in the Climate Fluency Exchange, but then I get to the point, just before started, where I really lost hope in this process. I asked myself, is this really going to make a difference. Yet the minute the CFE started, when people arrived and started sharing, it was the gathering of new faces, or when new faces kept coming back I saw new patches of the quilt emerging, before the CFE I thought of the quilt sitting on the bed, or the patches ready to be quilted, but I never visualized the process of sewing the quilt together, its a difficult job. Quilts don't have an exact deadline, I mean when a woman makes a quilt she doesn't think 'oh I must have this ready by the 10th' I learned that being part of this process, and working within the CFE space, the art of quilting in the social environment, and quilting as learning.... connecting with ourselves gives us the opportunity to actively do, the artful process encouraged this, if anything we have created beautiful artwork over the week, we also have had amazing experiences with people in public. So that was an acting out of our personal agency. The second was we needed to connect with each other, to develop a relational agency or a way of sharing ideas, concerns, etc, that has occurred. We have had communicating through drawing, painting, role play, film even through laughing. And finally connecting with the planet, we have been developing a cultural agency, On the Gender CC day we learned how gender can be constructed, and we create spaces in which things can exist, and we have been able to build new ways of being and doing. I am so surprised, that all of these things have happened. I have learned to trust people's ability to respond in their own way” **Dylan McGarry**

Media Coverage

Radio Media:

Date	Radio Stations	
25th November 2010	Voice of the Cape	15:13-15:26
27th November 2010	SAFM - Lifestyle Program	11:20-11:40
29th November 2010	FMR - Cape Diary	13:00-13:07
2nd December 2010	SAFM - Health Matters	21:00-22:00
6th December 2010	CCFM - Talked about it	10:00-10:30
14th December 2010	Radio 702 - Green Tip	10:00-10:05

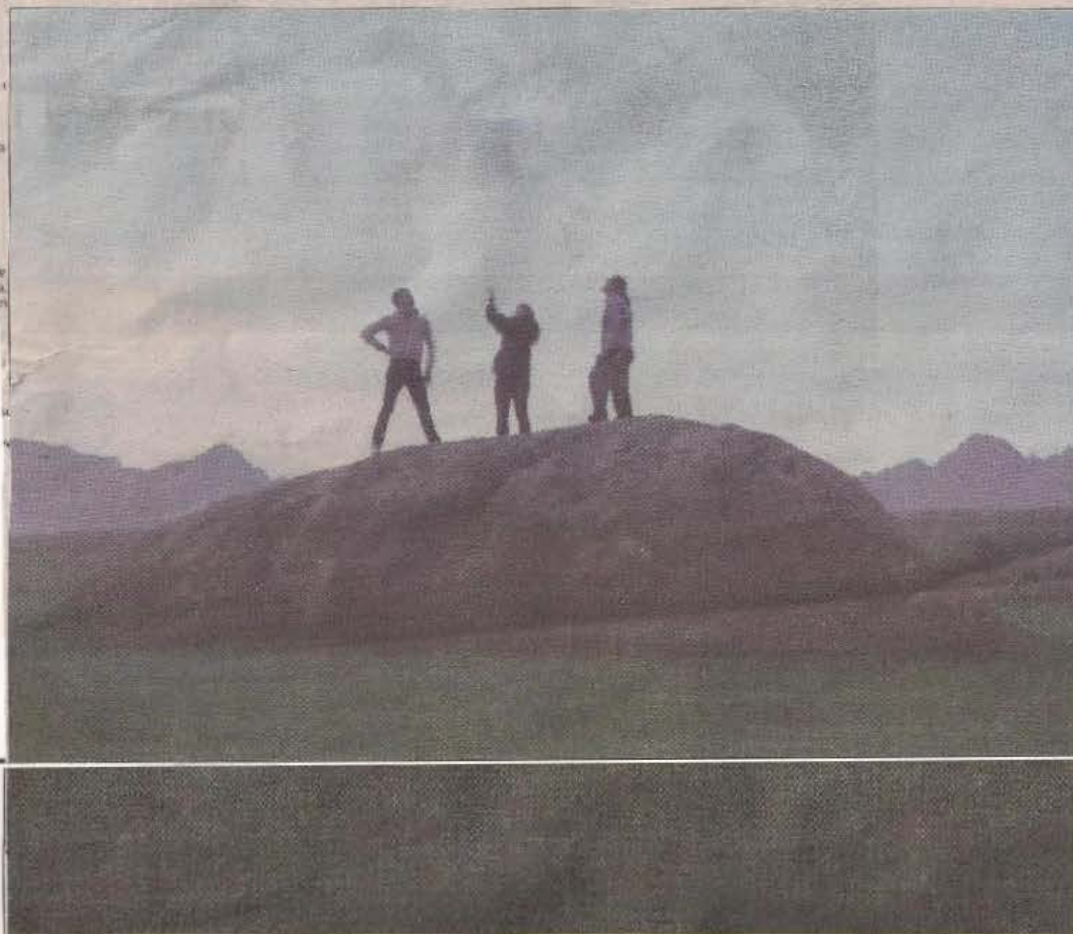
Newspaper Print Media:

Date	Publication	
30th November 2010	Cape Argus	Article
1st December 2010	Tygerburger	Article
5th December 2010	Sunday Times	Lifestyle

Online Media:

African Institute	www.africanartsinstitute.org.za/news/don't-cop-out--copart
Art Times	www.arttimes.co.za/news_read
Blueworld	www.blueworld.co.za/events/copart-connecting-our-planet-and-re-imagining-together
Cape Business News	www.cbn.co.za/calendar/events.php
Cape Town 2014	www.capetown2014.co.za/2010/12/what-do-life-jackets-coral-trains-crochet-beaches
Publicity Update	www.publicityupdate.co.za/default.aspx
SafariNOW	www.safarinow.com/destinations/city-centre/events/copart-train-trip
The Event	www.theevent.co.za/daily_news/view/1714
The Green Times	www.thegreentimes.co.za/index
tonight	www.tonight.co.za/index
Hippo	www.hippocommunications.com
Out the box	http://www2.outtheboxfestival.com/general/copart-at-out-the-box-festival-2011/
Boel	http://www.boell.org.za/web/107-617.html
Cape Town Greenmap	http://www.capetowngreenmap.co.za/blog/cape-town-forms-its-own-climate-think-tank
Stuff to Do	http://www.stufftodo.co.za/calendar/stufftodocalList201012.html
My Cape Town	http://mycapetown.co.za/news/tag/copart/
Urban Sprout	http://www.urbansprout.co.za/green_event/calendar
Totally MAD	http://www.totallymad.co.za/printpage.aspx?id=32377
My ZA	http://www.myza.co.za/capetown/author/admin/

Cool ideas to create change



BREAKING COMMON GROUND: Dylan McGarry and his team from the Tipping Point conference at Spier earlier this year, creating an animated video of as part of their contribution in an open space session during which they discussed climate change as an artistic exercise.



HANDWORK: A crochet imitation of a coral reef.

Learn about climate here

Climate Fluency Exchange activities include:

● **Saturday December 4**
 Metrorail trip from Cape Town station to Simonstown at 10am.
 This interactive public event conceived by Margaret and Christina Wertheim is facilitated by the Woodstock Art Roof Project, one of several international groups of artists who are constructing a coral reef through the handcraft of crochet.

This project is aimed at the group will occupy a train carriage and travel with the coral reef installation to highlight the vulnerability of the train line to rising sea levels.

Agents of change: 2pm to 3pm at Kalk Bay Main Road.
 Conceived by artist James Reed and facilitated by artists/researchers Lara Kruger and Dylan McGarry, this social sculpture is used where people's lives will be affected by the ocean level rising 3 metres in the future.

Volunteers participate through facilitated conversations with the public.

● **Sunday December 5**
 Khayelitsha Recycling Centre from 1pm to 5pm.
 Copart participants will be creating a mosaic at the centre.

● **Friday December 10**
 Company's Garden: 2pm to 5pm. Through the Climate Fluency Exchange week long process, participants will create a public happening to present to COP 16 in Cancun.

Parts of this presentation will be open to the public. More details will be forthcoming later.

For more information, visit www.copart.co.za/copart.blogspot.com

The second Climate Fluency Exchange programme will take place during the Infecting the City public arts festival from February 21 to 26.

THORNSA SMITH

IT'S EASY to get bogged down in academic talk around issues of climate change, which makes it difficult for regular folk to think we can make a difference. Never mind the big words coming from the scientists or the hot air from the politicians; the very idea of changing the environment is daunting.

As part of his PhD research at the Department of Environmental Sciences at Rhodes University, Dylan McGarry worked on Artworks, a project of arts intervention for vulnerable people. This project looks at alternative ways of learning and tries to respond to complex problems through creative processes.

This explains why McGarry was at the first Tipping Point conference held in Africa earlier this year. This is a dialogue between scientists and artists around climate change.

Social movement Copart was formed from this gathering. "It came first from the slogan 'don't cop out, cop art,'" said McGarry. He explained that Cop references the Conference of the Parties, which is

part of the United Nations Climate Change Conference currently taking place in Cancun, Mexico, which runs until December 10. The objective of this international treaty is to stabilise the emission of greenhouse gases and the parties are the countries that have signed the treaty. This conference will be hosted by Durban next year in November.

"We wanted to have a process and alternative to the actual event because it is very detached from society. It's very cornered off, secured and protected and it's not a conference or a party, it's like an elaborate board meeting," he said.

"We wanted to create a space where ordinary citizens can contribute. People have different ways of approaching problems. Artists approach complex ideas very well, and so do scientists and activists. So, what we're trying to create is a new form of activism."

"This movement can be used as a platform by anyone who agrees to its principles, which are based on exploring complex issues around climate change."

Over the past few months the Copart acronym has morphed into Connecting Our Planet And

Reimaging Together; to reflect their commitment to using creativity to find solutions.

"We realise that a lot of the activist programmes that respond to climate change, HIV/Aids and other environmental issues are responding to symptoms, social ills that already exist in society. In the way we interact and connect.

"So, the goal for Copart is for different people to explore ways in which we can reconnect with ourselves, with each other – using other means like dance or art.

"It's very important to use imagination as a political tool, as a communicative tool and a real way of rebuilding. If we can imagine the details of the world we want, we can start looking at the structures and the problems we have now," he said.

For Copart, climate doesn't just mean weather, but also prevailing attitudes and, as a movement, they want to do more than just talk.

"We want to be a space in which people can offer things and they are not lost. You go to so many planning meetings and people raise real legitimate concerns and no one tries to explore them or offer them to creatives as food or

nourishment for other ways of being," said McGarry.

This is where the Climate Fluency Exchange enters. This is a set of social learning events, partly funded by the Heinrich Ball Foundation, the British Council and the artist project Earth UK.

While Copart is a movement to change the way people think, the Climate Fluency Exchange comprises events organised by scientists and creative people to get the public involved and thinking about what climate change is, and what we can do about it.

In the week leading up to next Friday, participants from civil society, the scientific community and various creative genres will be exchanging ideas and interacting with people around Cape Town. They will be based around Iziko Museum and the Company's Garden. Their ideas will be broadcast to the Heinrich Ball exhibition at the conference in Cancun and some of the events will be free to the public.

"There'll be discussions and break away groups in the Gardens and we can't predict what will come across. It'll be like jazz improvisation," said McGarry.

Climate Fluency Exchange day by day COPART blog posts

CFE day 1: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-1.html>

CFE day 2: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-2.html>

CFE day 3: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-3.html>

CFE day 4: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-4.html>

CFE day 5: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-5.html>

CFE day 6: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-day-6.html>

CFE day 7: <http://www.dontcopoutcopart.blogspot.com/2010/12/climate-fluency-exchange-final-day.html>