

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

BLISS OF IGNORANCE WINS AT THE JOZI FILM FESTIVAL



The best short documentary at the 2017 Jozi Film Festival. Through first-hand testimony *The Bliss of Ignorance* investigates South Africa's complex relationship with its fixation on coal.

[You can watch the documentary here.](#)

GROUNDWORK TURNS 18

This year we celebrated 18 years of activism. The fight for environmental justice continues!



SAWPA 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING



The South African Waste Pickers Association elected their leadership during a democratic election at the 4th Biennial Meeting held in Johannesburg this year. Viva SAWPA Viva!

LAUNCH OF OUR BATTLEMAP



Our interactive geographic battle map shows our community support and global footprint of the work that we do in our humble, comfortable, peaceful little Pietermaritzburg office.

[You can view our map here.](#)

INFLUX OF YOUNG BLOOD



This year we had 3 fantastic interns in Ludwig, Zinzile and Ludovica who brought some fresh perspectives to the organisation. Here's to more youth engagement in 2018!

STAGING A POP-UP PROTEST IN THE VAAL

Community partners gathered in the Vaal for our annual Climate Learning Group process with the aim being to strengthen the climate response capacities of our partner organisations through climate dialogues.



GGHH IS GROWING

The first Global Green & Healthy Hospitals (GGHH) National Strategy meeting was organized alongside the Public Health Association of South Africa conference.

Achievements include: establishment of collaborative structures between private and public hospitals, development of three year action plan by 18 hospitals in attendance and finally the development of a climate strategy for water, waste and energy in hospitals. Pictured are the GGHH champions from 19 different hospitals across South Africa.



THE 2017 GROUNDWORK REPORT

The Destruction of the Highveld. Part 2: Burning Coal

Eskom's Coal addiction is causing health problems and killing people in the Highveld.

This year's report focuses on burning coal and the dirty politics that accompanies it - in Eskom's power stations, in Sasol's coal-to-liquid petrochemical plants, and in the big smelters that dominate the industrial landscape of eMalahleni and Middelburg. These are the industries at the heart of the minerals-energy complex that has shaped South Africa's development for the last century.

[Read the report here.](#)

The Destruction of the Highveld

Part 2: Burning Coal



The Destruction of the Highveld

The groundWork Report 2017

COAL AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN PARLIAMENT



In September, coal affected communities from Somkhele, Vaal, Waterberg, Fuleni, Highveld and Wakkerstroom took to parliament with Dr Mike Holland to present his research to the Portfolio Committees on Environment and Health on Eskom's impacts on people's health and livelihoods, and on the economy. View Dr Holland's research summarised [here](#).

IT IS TIME FOR AFRICA TO BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC



In November we hosted participants from 14 African countries to discuss the plastic crisis plaguing our continent. Our main goal is to resist plastic production, consumption, and disposal while paving the way towards a zero-waste future. [View the Break Free from Plastic Tagaytay strategy here.](#)

STILL NO APPROVED IPP's

Together with our partners the Highveld Environmental Justice Network and the Centre for Environmental Rights, we continue to successfully challenge the development of private coal fired power stations such as Khanyisa, KiPower and Colenso. Eskom lurks in the background. . .



SHONGWENI LANDFILL SITE REMAINS CLOSED!



The Shongweni Toxic Dump site, after years of poor management which has resulted in the local community members from Kwandengezi, Dassenhoek and Hillcrest being impacted with air pollution, was finally closed after action by Upper Highway Air with the CEO Dean Thompson and other staff being criminally charged.

DID SOMEONE MENTION COP23?

Another milestone on the road to 4 degrees.



THE UNITED MEDIA CAMPAIGN



The United Media Campaign is a community led campaign which encourages our community partners to tell their own stories by taking control of their media. [Check one of our awesome videos here.](#)



TO 2018... AMANDLA!



groundWork