

THANDILE ZONKE

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SUMMARY

I am a climate and energy researcher, activist, and campaigner with over four years of advocacy experience across Africa and eight months globally. My expertise lies in climate communication, addressing the interconnected challenges of public health, energy access, and climate change through an interdisciplinary approach. As a policy analyst and spokesperson, I have advocated for progressive climate and energy policies, focusing on South Africa's just energy transition and promoting sustainable solutions. My goal is to play a pivotal role in South Africa's just energy transition while promoting sustainable solutions at urban and regional levels.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Environmental Health (Honours)

2015-2018

Nelson Mandela University

- Research "Assessing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Walmer and Joe Slovo Township "

Masters in Urban Studies: Sustainable and Energy Efficient Cities

2023- Present

University of Witwatersrand

- Course work: Understanding Cities of the South, Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development, Energy for Sustainable Cities, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Buildings
 - Research: "An Exploratory Case Study of the Alexandra, mini-grid Project: Evaluating the Scope of Energy Justice in Its Implementation"
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Greenpeace International

Feb 2024- Dec 2024

- Authored and distributed high-impact media releases, political briefs, blogs, articles, and social media content, driving global campaigns and amplifying public awareness on climate issues.
- Managed community engagement initiatives, ensuring effective communication of climate policy priorities and strengthening grassroots advocacy efforts in key policy areas.

Greenpeace Africa

Sep 2020-Jan 2024

- Led climate and energy campaigns in South Africa, advancing climate justice, energy access, and policy advocacy.
 - Acted as primary spokesperson, drafting press materials and securing interviews aligned with organizational goals
 - Monitored and analysed climate and energy policy developments, ensuring timely and strategic responses.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Languages:** English, IsiXhosa
- **Certifications:** Carbon Footprint Assessor
- **Awards/Activities:** EW Seta Bursary (2018), M&G 200 Young South Africans (2022), Quote This Woman + Voice of the Year (2023), Canon Collins Bursary (2024)

REFERENCES

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