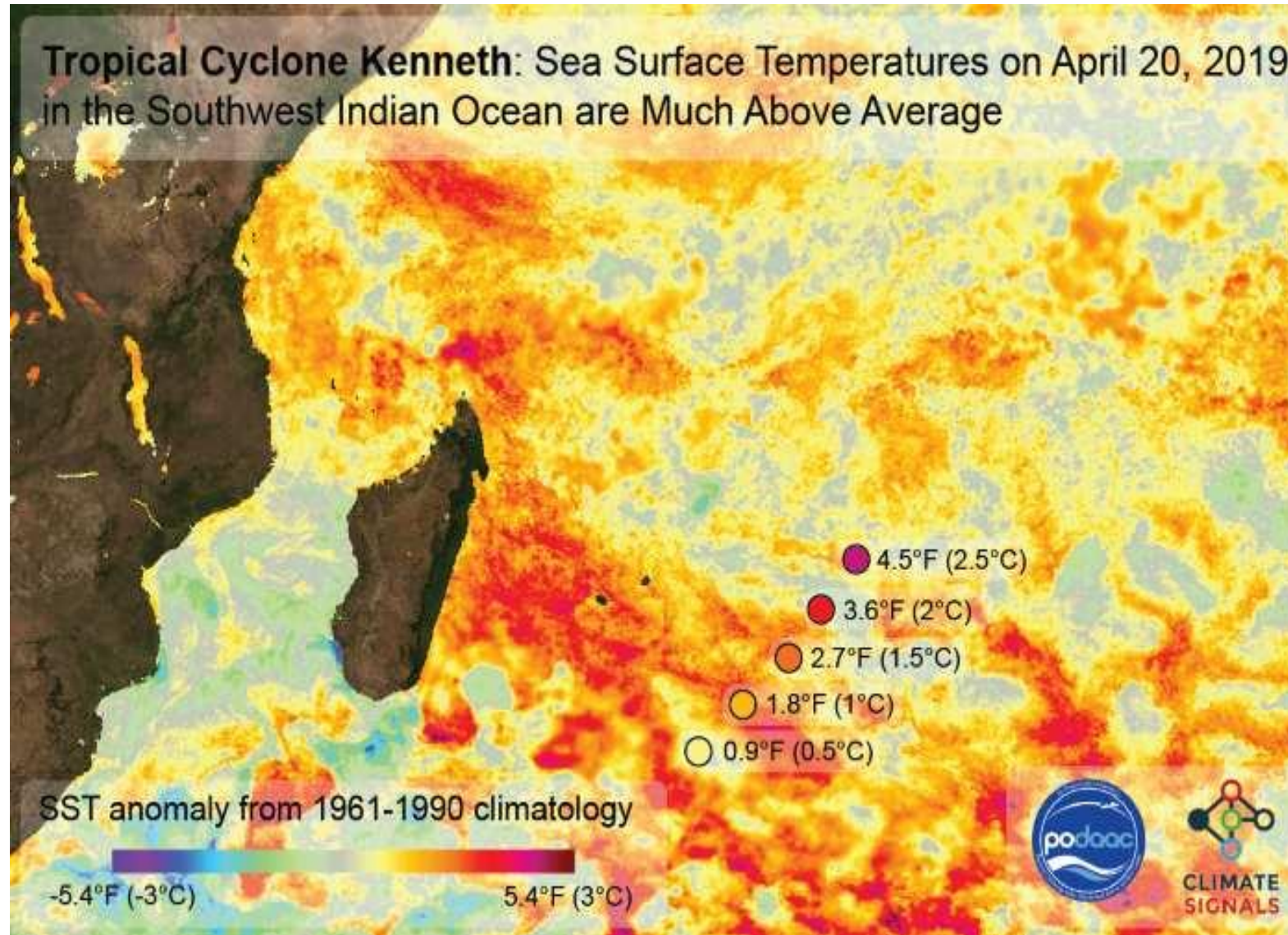


Down to Zero





Tropical Cyclone Kenneth: Sea Surface Temperatures on April 20, 2019 in the Southwest Indian Ocean are Much Above Average



Major international reports

- IPCC SR1.5
- IPCC SRL (Climate change & land use)
- IPCC SROCC (Oceans, cryosphere & climate change)
- IPBES (biodiversity & ecosystem services)
- Lancet (Health & climate change)
- Change the system (not the climate)

- Climate change will make poverty and inequality worse BUT
- “Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C ... would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban, infrastructure ... and industrial systems”
- “Such changes facilitate ... ambitious mitigation and adaptation in conjunction with poverty eradication and ... [reducing] inequalities”
- “... social justice and equity are core aspects of climate-resilient development pathways that aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C ...”

Key Messages

- START NOW;
- Justice is essential (not incidental) to a credible climate response;
- Restoring earth is necessary for mitigation as much as for adaptation;
- GDP growth is not compatible with a real response to the global ecological crisis (IPBES)
- We add: you can't have capitalism without growth

Vulnerable systems

- Broken water system
- Food system
- Ocean fisheries
- Health
- Settlements & local government











INDC

- “... poor countries and communities have the least responsibility for the challenge of global climate change but are the most vulnerable to its impacts ...”
- SA has “overriding priorities to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality.”

Three points and a question

1. Not to transition must result in the terminal injustice of mass death.
2. This year, the corona virus has torpedoed economic growth. This was not factored into the models of Lord Stern et al.
3. We need a just transition for ALL – Deep transformation – but we also need something that's actionable now.
4. What of government?

What's to do

1. Rapidly reduce fossil fuel burning & emissions to zero
2. People's Survival: democratic organisation & common control of resources
3. Restore earth: eco-systems (including agroecology for people's food sovereignty); carbon sink & detox
4. Climate debt: North to South; Rich to Poor

Context of coal affected communities

- Very high unemployment (>40% in Highveld townships)
- Deadly air / health / settlements under siege
- Dirty tricks & conflict
- Coal dependencies (& enclosure of the imagination)

Open agenda for a just transition (1)

(concrete utopian thinking)

1. Build a new energy system – publicly owned at national, municipal and community scales: jobs in manufacture, construction & operation
2. Rehabilitate individual mines and the mining region as a whole to restore and detoxify damaged land and ecosystems
3. Food sovereignty: Make people's food gardens as a first step towards creating a healthy food system under democratic control, based on ecological agriculture and ensuring enough for all
4. Fix & reconstruct settlements, services & housing to deal with climate impacts





Open agenda for a just transition (2)

5. Plan to put work and amenities within people's reach, make walking and cycling easy, safe and reliable transport for longer trips
6. Create a zero waste economy, eliminate built-in redundancy and throw-away products, develop high levels of recycling and composting.
7. Protect people's health with improved health care
8. Just Transition for workers: decent jobs; reskilling; protect income of retrenched workers

Open agenda for a just transition (3)

9. Transform education:

10. Introduce a Basic Income Grant (UBIG)

11. Think about the economy in a new way: well-being vs growth economy.

12. Open democracy: make demands on local government

Conclusion

- A Just Transition means a break with, and within, the present order:
- Build social power – coalitions with workers, formal and informal
- Work for democracy AND for increased community autonomy
- Recognise & confront regressive agendas of rich & powerful
- Work with people against xenophobia