

Presenting a new story of decolonisation from the African Earth Jurisprudence Collective,
told by Mashudu Takalani of [EarthLore Foundation](#), supported by [The Gaia Foundation](#)

Rhythm of Reconnection

Venda, South Africa



"If we are strong, we can show everyone that our Indigenous culture is something to be cherished, not ashamed of."

Meet Mashudu, who is reconnecting knowledgeable elders with young people to animate their ancestral wisdom, culture and confidence.

She is accompanying her community on a journey of decolonisation, following the principles of Earth Jurisprudence and using methodologies from the Colombian Amazon. Together they are restoring food sovereignty, regenerating ecosystems, and remembering traditional governance that enables humans to live in respectful relationship with our living world, guided by customary laws derived from Nature.

This holistic approach to reviving biocultural diversity is rooted in Indigenous wisdom, held by elders. It reminds South Africa's VhaVenda people that they lived in harmony with each other and their ecosystem for generations, and restores confidence in their ancestral knowledge, practices and identity: holding them steady against the onslaught of colonialism, Christianity and the west's industrial growth model.

Mashudu's journey demonstrates the immense value of Indigenous cultures in navigating the multiple ecological and social crises of our times. It is a testament to the fact that, by drawing on the power of our ancestry, we can weave a resilient future.

How to share this story:

- Link: <https://gaiafoundation.org/rhythm-of-reconnection>
- On Twitter, tag The Gaia Foundation @GaiaFoundation & EarthLore @Earthlore_org
- On Instagram, tag The Gaia Foundation @TheGaiaFoundation
- Download images from [here](#)
- Download the animation to share via WhatsApp, from [here](#)
- Suggested text to put into your own words:

Meet Mashudu from @Earthlore_org (if using Twitter), who is reconnecting knowledgeable elders with young people to animate their ancestral wisdom, culture and confidence.

Watch the latest story of decolonisation from the African Earth Jurisprudence Collective, supported by @GaiaFoundation (if using Twitter)/@TheGaiaFoundation (if using Instagram).

<https://gaiafoundation.org/rhythm-of-reconnection>

More stories of decolonisation:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9046498>

This series of animations explores the revival of land, water, and Earth-centred cultures by communities in Africa. They are accompanied by Mashudu, Simon, Dennis, Method and Appolinaire – all members of the African Earth Jurisprudence Collective, supported by The Gaia Foundation, who are seeding grassroots change across a continent.



"We have been walking a long road towards restoring both our forests and the communities that should be looking after them. We have to heal both at the same time."

- Appolinaire OUSSOU LIO in ROOTS OF REVIVAL



"A law has been passed to protect Bagungu sacred natural sites that recognises the role of custodians. This is a first in Africa. The Bagungu are working towards decolonisation and others will be able to follow."

- Dennis Tabaro in CUSTODIANS OF LIFE



"Our hope is that our young people will become guardians of Tharakan territory as our ancestors were before us. We believe that by taking care of the bees, we can help the The Land of Bees thrive again."

- Simon Mitambo in LAND OF BEES



"There is still much to do, but bringing back millet has reminded us of our place on this planet and our responsibility to protect and restore Mother Earth."

- Method Gundidza in GRAINS OF HOPE