



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CULTIVATING A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES



"We also have to stop telling ourselves this lie that transitioning from one form of oppression to another is going to save us.

It is time, my friends, to join us with your hearts and souls and your gut."

— *Colette Pichon Battle, in WIRED.*

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A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND GROWTH

What a year. The climate crisis has taken its toll across the Gulf South, Appalachia, and the globe. This crisis, coupled with threats to our democracy, has put the safety, voices, and leadership of frontlines communities at risk.

It has also been a year of transition and growth. We witnessed abundant mango in the desert country of Egypt, reminding us that there is bounty around us. We lean into this abundance.

As you know, the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy sunset as an organization in June of 2022. From Katrina to Ida, GCCLP spent seventeen years building power and advancing frontline solutions across the Gulf South. Like a sunflower entering the winter season, GCCLP leaves a rich foundation and legacy. Enter Taproot Earth, a new international organization emerging to be an anchor for climate justice. Like the wild dandelion and the okra plant, Taproot Earth is firmly rooted in the ground: frontline communities rising from the Gulf South and branching out to Appalachia and across the globe.

We are excited to share highlights from 2022. We root in ancestral wisdom, knowing that when we go together, we will go far.



Krewe + Kin Fête, Philadelphia, PA



MOVING WITH CARE AND A COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP

We have set on a seven-year journey to rally a movement that gets us closer to the **Liberation Horizon**: the point where everyone can live, rest and thrive in the places they love.

This horizon rejects the culture of disposability, extraction, individualism, and privatization that fuels the climate crisis. Instead, we invite inclusion, an economy of care, governance by the community, and stewardship by the frontlines. We are organizing to be in balance, harmony, and the right relationship with each other and the Earth.

The looming 2030 climate clock has fostered false scarcity, urgency, and technical solutions that divide us from each other and the planet. We recognize this clock and we are working to shift the trajectory of the next seven years by moving with abundance, love, and healing, and solutions rooted in community, accountability, and justice.

We need all of our creativity, courage, imagination, and hustle to join us on this journey. When Black people are free, all of us are free. This is where we start.



#WeChooseNow People's Movement Assembly, New Orleans, LA

We have set out on a seven-year journey to advance toward the Liberation Horizon: the point where everyone can live, rest and thrive in the places they love.



Taproot Earth is on the path that demands the following:

- **Acknowledging the harm of our extractive economies.** This means divesting from fossil fuels, addressing U.S. and Global North systemic policy and financial damages, and beginning the process of repair through healing, resourcing, and investing in frontline communities.
- **Building a deep practice of democracy.** This means investing in robust processes of collective governance to foster community leadership, embracing the right of self-determination, prioritizing resources and climate actions, and challenging the rising efforts of authoritarian practices that put our communities at risk.
- **Fostering stewardship of land, energy, and water.** This means building authentic relationships, practicing community governance processes, and identifying policy and financial interventions that stop the privatization of the commons and move toward collective care.

[Click here](#) to learn more and meet our krewe.

You can also **[listen to Climate on Tap](#)**, our inaugural podcast featuring our most sacred partners sharing the journey we've taken to get here and our vision for where we're going next.



Taproot Noire Black Climate Leaders Summit, Climate Week NYC (CFreedom Photography)

We envision a world where we all can live, rest, and thrive in the places we love.



FROM THE GRASSROOTS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE: BUILDING POWER AND MOVEMENT

Building regional power in the Gulf South: In June, we supported the **Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice & Joy**, a vibrant convening that brought together over 1,000 Gulf South residents to discuss how land, energy, and water are being privatized across the region, and how communities are fighting back: discussing opportunities around offshore wind, growing food, and stewarding the land.

We also anchored the **Climate Equity Working Group of the Louisiana Governor's Climate Initiatives Taskforce**, designing climate metrics and solutions for state policy, and strengthening the resolve of frontline communities against fossil fuel interests.



Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice & Joy, Baton Rouge, LA (CFreedom Photography)

Making connections from the Gulf to Appalachia: What happens in the mountains of Appalachia has everything to do with what flows downstream. Emerging from seven years of relationship-building and connection, we launched the **#WeChooseNow Climate Action Strategy**, a space for frontline communities to connect the dots between regional economies, climate policies, and bottom-up solutions to advance a just transition. The crux of this work took place in **People's Movement Assemblies**, gathering frontline participants from Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Texas, and Louisiana to build a shared analysis and strategy.



#WeChooseNow People's Movement Assembly (New Orleans, LA)

We are not in the business of institution building. We are here because of our love for the planet and her people.



National Advocacy: Across the US, we completed the **Just Transition Lawyering Institute** with more than 60 movement lawyers and organizers committed to climate justice in partnership with UC Irvine Law School. We convened a four-part **“Taking Back our Gulf”** series to discuss how offshore oil and gas drilling has given the fossil fuel industry a free pass to pollute the Gulf waters. With national allies, we mobilized nearly one million petition signers as part of the **#NoNewLeases campaign** to send the Biden Administration a clear message that the Gulf South does not approve of new oil or gas lease sales.



Gulf Gathering for Climate Justice & Joy, Baton Rouge, LA (CFreedom Photography)

We also developed **offshore wind principles** as part of a Just Transition briefing with our allies at Climate Justice Alliance, UPROSE, and Rogue Climate, which we presented before policymakers in Washington D.C. We also co-convened and **cultivated a frontline definition of ocean justice** with the Ocean Justice Forum.



Vision & Initiatives Partner Colette Pichon Battle with Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Washington, DC

The seas are rising, the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk are being upended, with Black and Indigenous peoples experiencing the deepest impact of the climate crisis.



Global Movement Building: We held a Leadership Summit and **Black Climate Leaders Social** at **Climate Week NYC**. We also sent a frontline delegation to the annual **UN Conference of Parties (COP27)** in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, eager to share perspectives from the Gulf South on the global stage. We advanced the **call for global climate reparations** throughout, notably at the People's Plenary and directly to U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry and the State Department — part of a successful collective effort that won the landmark Loss and Damage Fund.



Taproot Noire Black Climate Leaders Global Social, Sharm El Shiekh, Egypt (CFreedom Photography)

We also launched **Taproot Noire** and made space for climate innovators across the diaspora at the **Black Climate Leaders Global Social**, where we hosted over 150 guests from 17 countries who worked collectively to deepen a Global Climate Reparations analysis.



Taproot Noire Black Climate Leaders Global Social, Sharm El Shiekh, Egypt (CFreedom Photography)



"If Black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression." — Combahee River Collective



TAPROOT EARTH IN THE NEWS

Our ideas are gaining momentum. Check out some of this year's media highlights:

Audio & Video

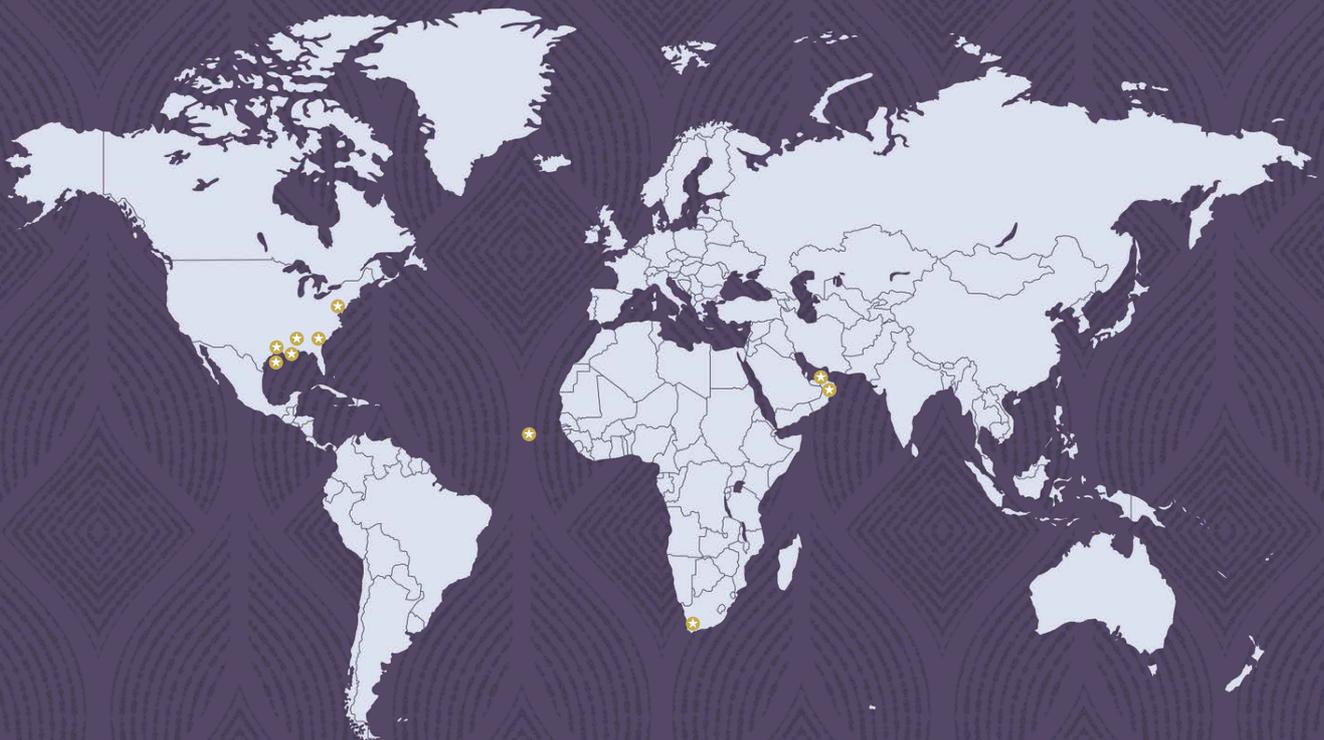
- [Placed Here, In This Calling](#), On Being with Krista Tippett
- [On the Run: Voluntary and Forced Climate Migration](#), Climate One
- [Putting Equity Back into our Economy](#), Climate Week NYC
- [Advancing Equity through Ethical Climate Adaptations](#), Westminster Forum
- [USCAN Press Conference at the Council on Parties](#)

Articles & Analysis

- [Here's why the Inflation Reduction Act is not a win for frontline communities](#), notes Strategy Partner Anthony Giacatarino.
- [Here's more about how the Inflation Reduction Act will impact groups differently](#) depending on what state you live in, notes National Policy Director Kendall Dix.
- Will new gas lease sales reduce gas prices? [Read our analysis.](#)
- Nearly 150 progressive groups helped push for a #LossAndDamage facility to account for the disproportionate impact of climate disaster on communities in the Global South. [Read more.](#)
- [Let's debunk the myth that new leases in the Gulf will lower gas prices.](#)
- Not everyone in the U.S. has access to safe, clean drinking water from the tap. [Read about the fight in West Dallas.](#)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

We are preparing for the launch of our Global Climate Reparations Initiative, the Just Transition Lawyering Network, and the Climate Action Strategy Playbook.



THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN OUR MOVEMENT

2030 Fund

Borealis Philanthropy Black-Led Movement Fund

Chorus Foundation

David and Lucille Packard Foundation

Democracy Fund

Donors of Color Power Fund

Energy Foundation

Fund to Build Grassroots Power

Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

JPB Foundation

Kataly Foundation Environmental Justice Resourcing Collective

Kresge Foundation

Laughing Gull Foundation

Libra Foundation

Movement for Black Lives

Oxfam-America Inc.

Resourcing Justice Fund

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Silicon Valley Foundation

Skoll Foundation

Solidaire

Solutions Project

Surdna Foundation

Unbound Philanthropy

Urban Ocean Lab

V-Day -The Rising Fund

Wallace Global Fund

Wm. Collins Kohler Foundation

Women Donors Network



Join us as we move toward the
Liberation Horizon. Are you ready?



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<https://taproot.earth>