

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND CHANGE PROCESS**

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To engage with the future is to engage with uncertainty. To engage with uncertainty is to acknowledge a relentless reality: in Heraclitus' words, "Nothing endures but change". For millennia, Africans have explored our relationship with the future through the process of divination. Recognising archetypal patterns in the futures that came into being, African divination methods have much in common with contemporary scenario-planning and complexity thinking. Critical to these old methods of engaging with the future was a recognition that the future was inextricably linked to the past (in complexity terms, this is known as sensitivity to initial conditions). In addition, exploring future opportunities was something that could only be done in context. This context was provided by the "Natural Law" – and the need for "People's Law" to accord with it. The quest for community resilience emerged in a way of life that sought to practice this need for accordance between nature and human expression. Part of the practice was recognising, contextualising and ritualising the process of change.