

2/11/2021

ZENADTH KES

This region is the home of Meriam, Kulkalgal, Maluylgal, Guda Maluylgal, & Kaiwalagalgal peoples

Image: Mer Island, Zendah Kes / Source: <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/essay/black-bamboo-contemporary-furniture-design-from-mer-torres-strait/>

ZENADTH KES

ZE – Zey (South)

NA – Naygay (North)

D – Dagam (Place/Side)

TH – Thawathaw (Coastline)

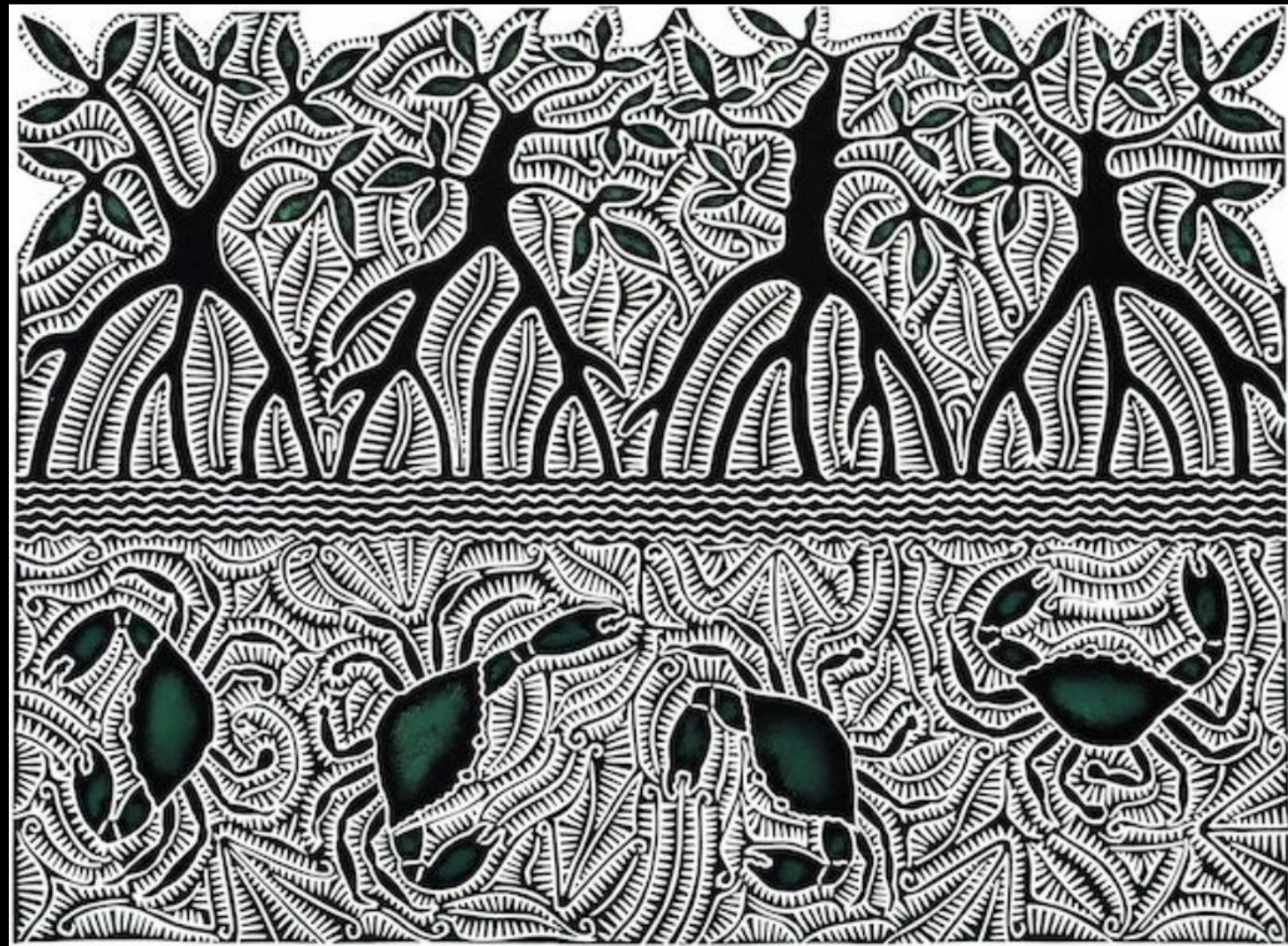
KES – Passage/Channel/ Waterway

“This is Zenadth, our Torres Strait, our home, our islands, our seas, our treasure from the past into the distant future, & into the cosmos.” ~Adhi Ephraim Bani



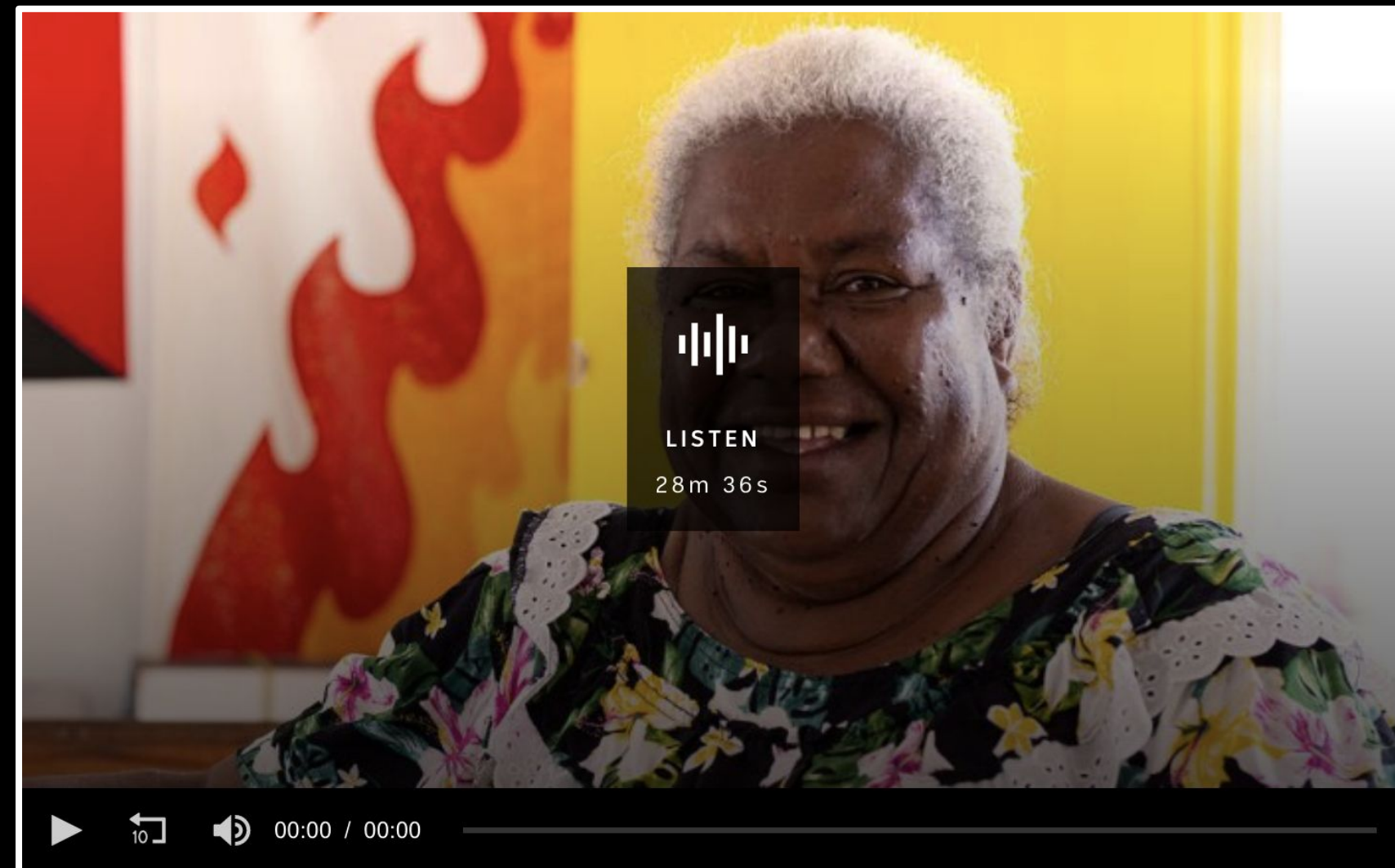
Image Source: <https://tbeartravels.com/2013/08/31/part-1-torres-strait/>

Quote Source: <http://tsirc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/Zenadth%20Kes%20Acronym.pdf>



Artwork: Billy Missi, Githalai ur (crabbing tide)

“The tide is important as it tells us and identifies to us the different types of foods that are available for gathering along our beautiful Island coastline. We have a very complex tide pattern in our eco-system, which works around the phases of the moon.” ~ Billy Missi



Survival in the Torres Strait

[Listen to the podcast](#) (28 MINS)

Go crab hunting on Poruma Island & hear about the effects of climate change they are experiencing

Source: <https://www.blakbusiness.com.au/climate-change-in-zenadth-kes>



Fearful of losing their homelands, islanders are taking Australia to court over climate

“Torres Strait communities have filed a class action, arguing Australia must cut emissions by 74% by 2030 to save the islands from sea level incursion and inhabitability.”

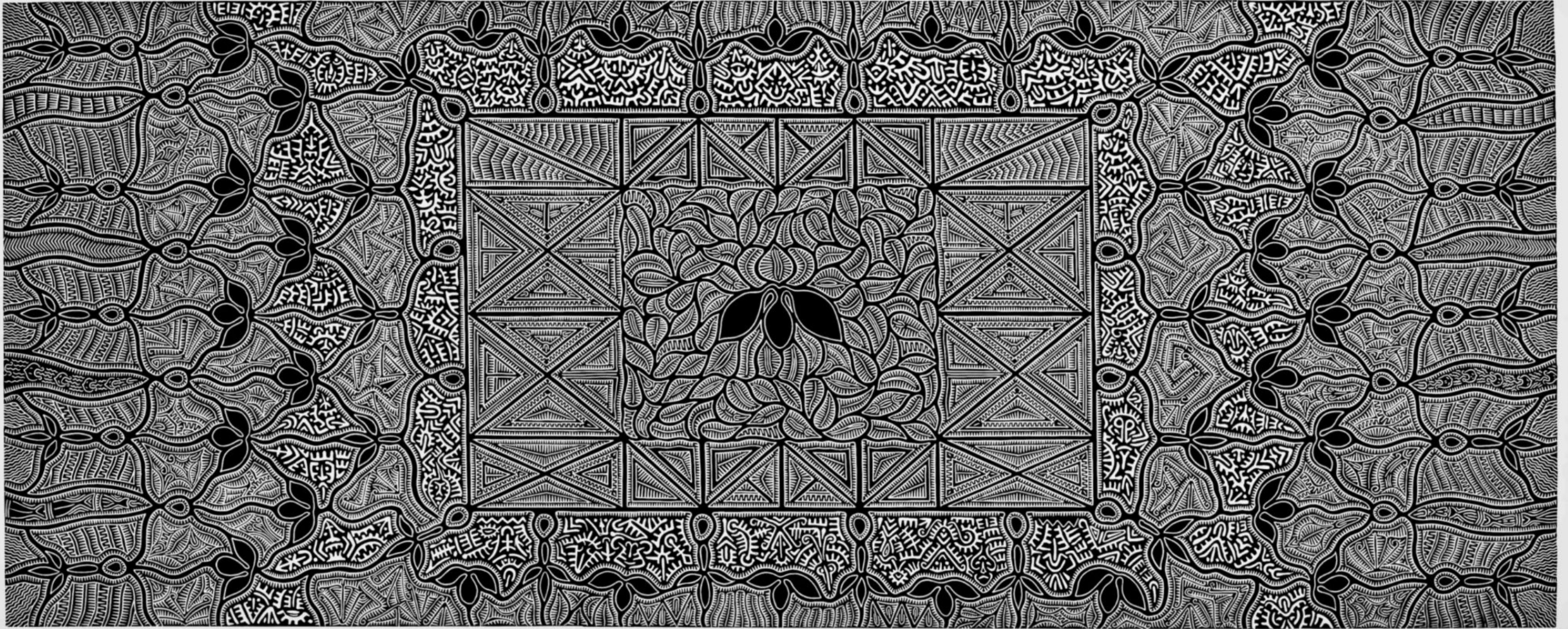
“The Australian government, on Tuesday, committed to net zero emissions by 2050, but has not increased its pledged commitment of 26-28% cuts by 2030.”

Image source & article: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/oct/26/fearful-of-losing-their-homelands-islands-are-taking-australia-to-court-over-climate>



Billy Missi

Through his artwork Billy Missi articulated cultural stories passed to him through generations of storytelling & expressed a deep love for his culture and connection to his home, Mabuiag Island, along with concern for the environment and his people



“Billy Missi comes from Maluilgal country in Zenadh Kes (Mabuiag Island in Western Torres Strait, Australia). He is a part of the Wagedagam Tribe with the primary totem of Kodal (crocodile) and an associate member to the Dhanghal (dugong) clan of Panai to the East and the Kaigas (shovelnose ray) clan of Geomu to the South on the Island of Mabuiag. He comes from a generation of art practitioners & geographers of Mabuiag who have passed down the protocols, practices and heritage of the Torres Strait culture through storytelling, songs & dance”

Artwork: Billy Missi, Urapan Kai Buai (One Big Kin) 2001 / Source: <https://northsite.org.au/exhibitions/billy-missi-wakain-thamai/>

Quote: <https://shop.northsite.org.au/collections/billy-missi-1>

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“Life without culture is a
Life without Life.
Past must exist for Present
to create the Future”
~Adhi Ephraim Bani

The text above is extracted from the official plaque outside the Ephraim Bani Gallery at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre
Source: <https://www.tsra.gov.au/gabtitui/gab-titui/galleries/ephraim-bani-gallery>

Artwork on right : Links, Billy Missi, Linocut
The artwork depicts Papua New Guinea at the top, Australia at the bottom and the 5 channels (clans) of the Torres Strait in the centre.
All are inextricably linked through generations of trade and movement between each culture.
Source: <https://shop.northsite.org.au/collections/billy-missi-1/products/djumbimi002>

