



NATURE & CIRCULARITY WEEK 2025



In very proud collaboration with





Nature & Circularity Week

Transforming our
**relationship with
nature** through law,
innovation, and
circular economy.

*Reimagine. Redesign.
Redefine. Reconnect.*

**20-23 Oct 2025 | Cape
Town, South Africa**

Register Here



Introduction | Why This Matters



The Urgency of Change

The world is at a critical juncture where we must **rethink** our relationship with **nature** and **redesign** our systems to be more **regenerative** and sustainable.

Nature & Circularity Week brings together thought leaders, innovators, and changemakers to explore transformative solutions that humans progress with ecological well-being.

“When we realise that we are part of Nature, and part of the cycle of life, everything is connected.”

What is Nature & Circularity Week

This **week-long initiative** begins with fieldtrips showcasing innovative case studies and best practices, followed by two interconnected events.

Both events are designed to inspire, challenge, and equip participants with the **knowledge and tools** (how) to drive meaningful change. Whether through legal frameworks or innovative business models, the goal is the same: to create a world where **nature and humanity thrive together**.



Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

22 Oct 2025

The Human (In) Nature Conference initiated by BERGPLAAS NATURE RESERVE

Rethinking Our Place in Nature

Exploring and redefining our relation to nature along the following themes.

- Rights of Nature
 - Society & Nature
 - Business & Nature
-

23 Oct 2025

South Africa Circular Economy Summit

Reimagining New Systems

Showcasing circular economy solutions that eliminate waste, regenerate natural systems, and create sustainable business models.

26 - 30 Oct 2025

Spirit of the Wild experience at BERGPLAAS NATURE RESERVE

Reconnecting with Nature



Who Should Attend?

Corporate sustainability **leaders** and **decision-makers**.

Entrepreneurs, investors, and impact-driven **businesses**.

Policymakers and **regulators** driving systemic change.

Academics, researchers, and **students** exploring sustainability.

Creatives and **designers** pushing the boundaries of innovation.



The conference organisers



TheRockGroup is a leading sustainability consultancy offering bespoke circular business strategies and accredited educational programs globally with offices in South Africa, Brussels and the Netherlands.

ACEN has championed the circular economy since 2016 across 42 African countries, uniting over 500 members to create a sustainable future.

SIB spearheads the adoption of sustainable and circular business practices in Kenya through impactful knowledge-sharing and strategic collaborations.

Bergplaas Nature Reserve, a 5,000-hectare sanctuary in South Africa's Great Karoo, offers transformative programs connecting participants with nature's profound stillness.

Nature and Circularity Week | Fieldtrips

Optional pre-conference field trips **showcasing** real-world circularity practices across Cape Town sites. **Spaces are limited**, so secure your spot early to join these immersive experiences.

20 October 2025



10h00 AM | Repair Centre at Taking Care of Business | Discover how unemployed South Africans become appliance repair entrepreneurs through hands-on training, mentorship, and circular economy principles.



14h00 PM | Milnerton Racecourse Conservation Area (MRCA) with Nature Connect | Explore critically endangered Cape Flats Sand Fynbos, rare plant species, and vibrant insect life in an urban nature reserve.

21 October 2025



10h00 AM | SOLVE initiatives at V&A Waterfront | Explore adaptive reuse architecture, local food systems, nature-based water treatment, and inclusive urban farming in a circular design showcase.



HUMAN (IN) NATURE CONFERENCE

22 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Why This Matters

This conference is an invitation **to rethink, redesign and reconnect** with nature. Mirroring the cycle of life is reminding us that we are **part of nature**, and it is essential to redefine and restore our relationship with Nature.

What does it mean to be **part of nature**?

How do we ensure that nature is recognised as our home, deserving the same **legal rights** and **protections** as humans?

Join us for South Africa's Human (In) Nature Conference, where **law, society, business, and biodiversity** intersect.

Reflection & Understanding

A space to rethink and redefine our relationship with nature and the implications of recognising its legal rights.

Masterclasses on Nature & business

Inclusive Business – Exploring how businesses can integrate biodiversity and sustainability.

Society & Nature

Bringing back to the 'naturally' intertwined co-dependent relationship

Venue



SUSTAINABILITY
INSTITUTE

Located just outside Cape Town, in Lynedoch, the Sustainability Institute is a leading African centre for **transformative learning** and **sustainability education**.

Since 1999, it has combined rigorous research, immersive teaching, and deep community engagement—anchored by its children’s programmes and youth initiatives.

The Institute offers a dynamic space for designing educational experiences that activate social innovation and support just, generative futures across the continent.

Human (In) Nature Conference

"Bergplaas is a powerful and wild place where our connection with nature and the oneness of all life is alive and can be experienced and felt. It is here that we can allow the land and all its life forms to be our prime teacher."

HRH Princess Irene van Lippe-Biesterfeld of Netherlands – special guest of the Human (In) Nature Conference. She is a Dutch royal, environmentalist, and author, known for her deep commitment to ecological and spiritual causes. She authored several books, including *Dialogue with Nature* and *Science, Soul, and the Spirit of Nature*, where she interviews visionary thinkers about humanity's relationship with the Earth. Princess Irene is deeply involved in environmental conservation. She founded the Bergplaas Nature Reserve in South Africa, known as the Spirit of the Wild Programme, which focuses on reconnecting people with nature through immersive experiences. Additionally, she chairs the Lippe-Biesterfeld Nature College Foundation, promoting sustainability and ecological education.



Human (In) Nature Conference | What to Expect



Expert **Speakers**



Panel Discussions



Picnic **Interactive**
Sessions & Outdoor
Connection



Good Practices & **Case**
Studies (Examples)



Traditional Knowledge
and Food & Beverages



Futuristic Projects

Human (In) Nature Conference | Rethinking our relationship with Nature



Key Themes

Rights of Nature

Understanding the rights of nature, the impact of our current relationship with nature, and rethinking our place in nature.

Society & Nature

How to ensure harmony for nature, communities, societies, economies and culture.

Business & Nature

Assess the impact of businesses on nature, understand to protect, respect and restore/rehabilitate nature. Share and assess case studies on ecosystem restoration following industrial activities such as mining.

Regenerative & Low-Impact Tourism
Circular Food & Soil Regeneration



Featured Case Studies & Masterclasses

Bergplaas Nature Reserve

A pioneering example of ecosystems owned by themselves in South Africa.

Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration

Finance models, community approaches, economic/ecological/social value

Table Mountain

The launch & conversation with and about the Rights of Table Mountain movement will show the interconnection.

Biomimicry

Nature based solutions

Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of the Day



Cultural Connection

Exploring how different traditions and communities understand and honour nature through storytelling, ancestral practices, and modern expressions.



A Global Sketch of the Rights of Nature

An overview of the growing movement to recognise nature's rights, from legal frameworks to grassroots activism.



Past – Present – Future

A journey through time, reflecting on how our relationship with nature has evolved and what lessons guide our future.



Conversation with a friend of Bergplaas

Personal insights from someone deeply connected to the land, sharing stories of restoration, rewilding, and human-nature balance.



Open Space: Your Questions, Your Topics

An opportunity for participants to bring forward discussions and themes that feel most relevant and urgent.



Nature Immersion / Silent Reflection

A chance to step outside, observe, and connect with nature, whether through guided exercises or quiet contemplation.



Business & Nature – Can They Coexist?

Case studies and conversations on how businesses are rethinking their impact and role in ecosystem restoration.



Closing Circle: What Have We Discovered?

A collective reflection on the day's insights, emerging themes, and key takeaways.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of Day 1

08:00 – 08:45 | Arrival & Registration

Welcome tea, land acknowledgement, informal networking.

08:50 – 09:45 | Opening Circle

✔ Overall Event Sponsor Opportunity

- **Opening ceremony** with **Mphatheleni Makaulule** setting the tone with her wisdom and grounding presence. Discussions on nature impact, acknowledgement of ancestors and land.
- **Stories of Nature and Call to Action** with **Driven By Nature**
- **Welcome** by **Vanessa von der Heyde**, Director of The Sustainability Institute
- Explore the **Human Relationship with Nature** with insights from **Wayne Maspero, Ian Read, Elstair Sylvester** (Spirit of the Wild – Bergplaas)

09:45 – 11:00 | Plenary 1: The Rights of Nature – Rethinking Our Place in the World

✔ Co-host Opportunity

Big-picture exploration of the Rights of Nature movement, legal innovations, planetary boundaries.

- **Jessica den Outer** – Global and foreign movement, legal recognition and Dutch examples of implementation.
- **Professor Melanie Murcott** – The value of a decolonial lens for law reform.
- **Cormac Cullinan** – Earth jurisprudence and governance, Table Mountain as a living being, and the Antarctic Rights Initiative.
- **Pooven Moodley** – Weaving worlds: international law, ancient wisdom and the awakening of consciousness.



Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of Day 1

11:00 – 11:45 | Intro about plants & food by Rico Wessels (15 min) & **Tea Break** (Outdoors 30 min)

11:50 – 13:20 | Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (Choose One)

1. Deepening Rights of Nature: Law, Practice, and Policy – Moderated by **Elfrieke van Galen**

Explorative dialogue with **Jessica den Outer**, **Cormac Cullinan**, **Pooven Moodley**, and **Elfrieke van Galen** – Q&A

Legal case for Table Mountain's rights

- Antarctic Rights Initiative
- Rights of Nature Tribunal – alternative legal system

2. Listening to Nature's Voice: Ecofluency and AnimalTalk Africa Trust

Interactive, outdoors with **Saskia von Diest** (Ecofluency), and wildlife communicator **Wynter Worsthorne** (Animal Talk Africa Trust)

- Practices to attune to the more-than-human world
- Case studies on animals/nature conversations
- Nature-inspired design and systems change for leadership and education

3. Society & Nature: Good for Community, Culture, Heritage & Ecology – Moderated by **Rutendo Ngara**

- Key speaker: **Sinegugu Zukulu** – Indigenous Peoples and Communities' Coexistence with Nature
- **Ruth Crichton** (The Long Run) – 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture, Commerce
- **Valerie Charlton** – Cape Floristic Regional Partnership

4. Society & Nature Masterclass: Beekeeping that is good for Community & Ecology – hosted by **Bee African** (ad. fee)

5. Installation Slow Disaster Project – workshop with **Andrew Merritt & Loubie Rusch**

- Maps of changing landscapes over the centuries



Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of Day 1

13:20 – 14:00 | Lunch: The Harvest Table

Seasonal, locally sourced vegetarian and plant-based lunch by The Sustainability Institute – fresh from the land and garden, indigenous and nutritious. **Rico Wessels** will be available to provide Food & Plant Insights.

14:10 – 15:25 | Plenary 2: Business & Nature – Regenerating Economies and Landscapes

New business models in ecosystem restoration, food systems, biodiversity enterprises:

- Ecocentricity: Predation vs. Consumerism – **Linda Tucker**, Global White Lion protection Trust
- How humans are a keystone species in regenerating food landscapes – **Saskia von Diest**, Ecofluency
- Landscape rehabilitation – **Lynette Munro**, Nature Connect
- **Mphatheleni Makaulule**, Dzomo La Mupo Food
- Conventional Business & Nature Relation – **Elfrieke van Galen**, TheRockGroup

15:30 – 17:00 | Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) *continued on p.11*

1. Regenerative Conservation, Bergplaas – Moderated by **Karin Boomsma**

- **Kish Chetty**, Endangered Wildlife Trust
- **Ruth Crichton**, The Long Run
- **Wayne Maspero**, Bergplaas
- Deep dive into Ecocentricity: Predation vs. Consumerism – **Linda Tucker**, Global White Lion Protection Trust

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2. Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration – Moderated by **Rutendo Ngara**

- **Rutendo Ngara**
- **Lynette Munro**, Nature Connect
- **Brandt Coetzee**, Mannabrew



Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of Day 1

15:30 – 17:00 | Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) *continued from p.10*

3. Regenerative Food Systems – From Soil to Soul (Outdoor garden session) – Moderated by **Loubie Rusch**

- Nutrition, resilience, ecosystem health, shifting value chains **Loubie Rusch** (The Sustainability Institute)
- **Mphatheleni Makaulule**, Dzomo La Mupo Food
- **Mems Ramaila**, Bee African
- **Alex Glenday**, Brew Kombucha

4. Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action

Lecturer style by **Matthew Zylstra**, Noetic Ecology

- Nature-inspired design and systems change for leadership and education

5. Masterclass: Conventional Business & Nature

By **Elfrieke van Galen**, TheRockGroup

- The what, the why, the developments, and the business actions & cases.

17:05 – 17:35 | Closing Story & Collective Reflections

- Tales of rewilding and restoration and Nature & Tree stories with **Driven By Nature**
- Participant reflections and surprise guest
- Acoustic music or natural soundscape performance

17:40 – 18:00 | Nature Immersion / Silent Reflection

Guided contemplative walk or solo reflection.



Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Mphatheleni Makaulule

An activist, academic, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Keeper from Venda, South Africa. Founder of Dzomo la Mupo, she defends sacred natural sites and promotes intergenerational learning rooted in indigenous knowledge, food systems, and ecological protection.



Driven By Nature Foundation

is a conservation non-profit that serves nature and community to create a positive, continuous societal shift in our connection to the environment. Through logistical and volunteer support, education, awareness, we aim to craft a narrative of impactful change in conservation.



Vanessa Von Der Heyde

is Director of the Sustainability Institute, with degrees in business and sustainable development. She brings over a decade of experience in non-profits and entrepreneurship, with expertise in governance, regenerative leadership, sustainable finance, and systems optimisation.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Wayne Maspero

Nature Reserve General Manager and Facilitator at Bergplaas with a passion for the wilderness “offering a unique environmental learning experience for people from all walks of life”. Wayne voices the notion of the impact of Bergplaas and its nature on communities and education.



Ian Read is a South African wilderness guide and facilitator known for nature-based programs that help individuals reconnect with the natural world through survival and self-discovery. With over 20 years of experience leading trails in Southern Africa, his work focuses on personal growth, leadership, and a deeper connection to life.



Elstair Sylvester

started his career in conservation in 2012 at the Table Mountain National Park as a law enforcement official within the conservation space, protecting our natural resources. In 2018, he moved to the Camdeboo National Park in Graaff-Reinet Allister understands the importance of conserving nature, educating people about the benefits nature can provide.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Jessica den Outer

International environmental law expert and advocate for the Rights of Nature, with a focus on legal frameworks impacting policy and business. Leading voice in sustainability, environmental law and future generations' rights. She will be sharing global examples of Rights of Nature.



Cormac Cullinan

Expert in the depth and breadth of environmental lawyer and governance. Renowned author, speaker, and advocate discussing legal frameworks and ecological sustainability for the Rights of Nature and their impact on policy and business. His focus is on the African and South African situation.



Pooven Moodley is an international Human rights and environmental lawyer and co-founder of the Earthrise Collective on ancient wisdom, activism and alternatives. He supports indigenous and local community struggles and protection of territories of life.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Professor Melanie Murcott is an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town, specialising in environmental law and social justice. Her research explores how law can address climate-related injustices. She chairs the Environmental Law Association of South Africa and holds a doctorate in Constitutional Law.



Elfrieke van Galen is a seasoned sustainability leader and co-founder of TheRockGroup. She has a background as an executive and currently holds several non-executive positions, often with the focus on sustainability. She is also the chair of the Foundation Bergplaas van Lippe-Biesterfeld in the Netherlands.



Saskia von Diest is the founder of Ecofluency, offering consulting, education and activism in Nature communication since 2021. After her PhD, she held two postdoctoral fellowships (2014-2020). Ecofluency offers direct experiences in communicating with more-than-human Nature, for evolution.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Wynter Worsthorne is South Africa's leading animal communicator and founder of the H.E.A.R.T (Heart Energy Achieving Real Transformation) method. With over two decades of experience, she teaches internationally and supports wildlife conservation through intuitive interspecies communication.



Sinegugu Zukulu Dr. Zukulu is a lecturer in Science Education at Wits University, specialising in Environmental Analytical Chemistry and Chemistry Education. His research spans digital learning, teacher education, and lab-based instruction. He holds a PhD in Chemistry and has published extensively in both his fields.



Rutendo Ngara is an independent transdisciplinary scholar and Indigenous Knowledge Systems practitioner from Southern Africa whose work bridges science, healing, Indigenous cosmology, and ancestral wisdom. Her transdisciplinary focus centres on bridging Western and Indigenous paradigms

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Ruth Crichton

With over 25 years in the commercial and non-profit sectors, this International Relations graduate champions Progressive Tourism™—travel that drives positive impact. She recently led the Grootbos Florilegium, Africa's first contemporary botanical art project highlighting conservation through art.



Valerie Charlton

specializes in Community-based Fire Management, Disaster Resilience, Integrated Forest Fire Management, climate adaptation and facilitating nature-based solutions. She sits on the CFRP, the International Liaison Committee for the International Wildland Fire Conferences.



Mems Ramaila

is a former lawyer turned honeybee farmer, founded Bee African (BA) in 2020 to address South Africa's honey undersupply by empowering rural women & youth through sustainable beekeeping. BA Supports training, inputs, and market access, promoting natural honey production and economic upliftment.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Andrew Merritt works as an individual artist and as one half of the duo Something & Son. A pioneer in food related art, works crisscross the boundaries between arts, architecture and ecology through permanent installations and functional sculptures that provide a framework or foundation for communities and ecologies to use and build long term change.



Loubie Rusch has been exploring, growing and cooking with indigenous foods from the winter-rainfall Cape Floristic Region since 2010. She aims to see the Region's diversity of food plants that have been extensively erased from use in recent colonial centuries, normalised in use to benefit local people and nature both equitably and reciprocally.



Rico Wessels is passionate about creating spaces where people can gather around food, relax, connect, and enjoy themselves. Guided by his love for people, places, and meaningful connections, his journey took an inspiring turn when he discovered the SI, where he immediately felt a strong calling to be part of the community.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Linda Tucker

Founder of the Global White Lion Protection Trust. After a life-changing encounter in 1991, she dedicated her life to protecting the sacred White Lions of Timbavati. Her pioneering work spans conservation, Indigenous wisdom, leadership development, and global advocacy for sacred natural sites.



Lynette Munro

With training in botany and environmental management, my engagement with Nature Connect involves searching for stable long-term finance to increase employment opportunities through stewardship of high value biodiversity while growing the urban conservation estate.



Kishaylin Chetty is the

Executive: Head of Sustainability at the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), bringing over 16 years of expertise in environmental and social governance (ESG), biodiversity conservation, climate change, and sustainable finance.

Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Alex Glenday is the founder of Brew Kombucha, a beverage company specializing in high-quality, natural kombucha. With a passion for wellness and conservation, Alex's leadership, emphasizes the company's organic ingredients, sustainable practices, innovative flavours and a journey to creating positive change.



Brandt Coetzee is a passionate entrepreneur dedicated to sustainable food innovation. With a background in building management, health, agriculture, and business, he founded Dune Foods to champion locally sourced, environmentally conscious products.



Matthew Zylstra Conservation ecologist and educator with 20 years' international experience. His research on nature connectedness informs global initiatives & curricula. As Programme Director at Kwendalo Institute, he facilitates outdoor learning to promote regenerative human, community, and planetary health.



SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.

23 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



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South Africa Circular Summit

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26 – 30 Oct 2025

Spirit of the Wild experience

Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Why This Matters



The Urgency of Change

What have we '**forgotten**,' and what can we **reimagine** through circular thinking and design? Imagine a world without waste. Imagine resources that **regenerate**, where technologies can be **well maintained, repaired, upgraded**, and a system where everything comes **full circle**.

There are enough innovative ways to use resources for thriving communities globally – **resources are finite**. By making different choices and redefining what a successful society looks like, we can solve problems that never existed in the past and prevent those we don't want in the future. A **circular approach** benefits all life and the planet.

South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot 2024 (SACEH24)

In **2024**, we hosted the first Circular Economy Hotspot Event in Cape Town. The conference featured a diverse array of speakers and exhibitors, highlighting key topics and sectors that **urgently need transformation**.

From resource scarcity and environmental degradation to pollution and social inequality, we explored **solutions** to shift from negative to positive impacts. Like many countries worldwide, South Africa faces a critical need to transition towards **sustainable business** and **industry practices**. The conference served as a platform to introduce, share, and exchange knowledge on the Circular Economy.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 (SACES25)

To further explore the opportunities of Circularity in Africa, we are **co-creating the 2nd South Africa Circular Summit**—not because we have reached the peak, but because that is where we aim to go, together.

In 2025, we will build upon circular design, business cases, pilots, and initiatives that inspire action and provide insights into how to make circularity work. How can **we build a circular system** that meets societal needs sustainably?

“What will it take to transform our throwaway economy into one where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated, and nature is regenerated?” – Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Why This Matters

Circularity mirrors the cycle of life—reminding us that we **are part of nature**. To truly Rethink and Reimagine, we must Reconnect with nature and restore our relationship with it.

What does it mean to be part of nature?

How do we ensure that nature is recognised as our home, deserving the same **legal rights and protections** as humans?



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Reimagining New Systems



The Status Quo

The hardest part is the commitment to systemic change.

-
Incremental improvements to current production models often act as stopgaps, delaying true innovation and policy redefinition.



Challenging existing paradigms

Why do we consume certain products/services?

-
What do we consume, and how is it produced?

-
What resources are used, and why?

-
How is design influencing product lifespan and costs?



The Circular Economy Vision

Circular organisations must demonstrate scalability and viability in a world still dominated by linear systems.

Rethink, Redesign, Reimagine, and co-create a circular society.

What to Expect at the Circular Summit



Insights into circular **innovations**



Networking with sustainability advocates



Collaborative vision-building **sessions**



Hands-on **workshops** for practical skills



Investment and funding **guidance**

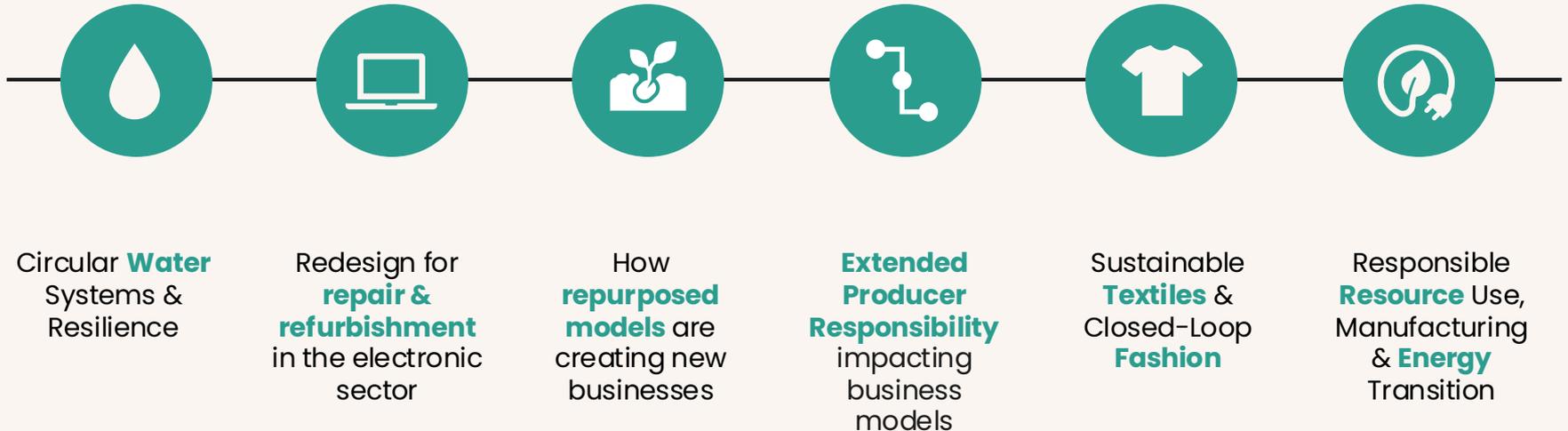


Keynotes from circular economy leaders

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Sessions

In these sessions, we will explore compelling case studies, pilot projects, and best practices that showcase how we, as businesses, **are rethinking and redesigning** our business models, products and services.

We invite **you** to think along, add, and suggest these potential topics.



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Preview of Day 2

Circularity in Action – From Vision to Practice

Rethinking Materials, Rewiring Systems, Empowering Communities

08:00–08:45 | Arrival & Regenerative Welcome

- Herbal tea, *regenerative coffee* and foraged fruit breakfast
- Movement session in nature
- **Innovations & Start-up showcase expo:** Innovations in circular textiles, packaging, design, organic waste, food systems
 - Progressive stories evolving from SOLVE V&A Challenge
 - New trailblazers on the way – exhibitors

08:50–10:00 | Opening Circle

- **Welcome** by **Vanessa von der Heyde**, Director of The Sustainability Institute
- Brief reflection from Day 1
- Introduction to Day 2's focus: circularity, material flows, and systems change **Katharina Gihring**
- **Keneilwe Munyai:** Human Centered Designer on Transforming Systems & Design thinking – 'the bigger picture'



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Preview of Day 2

10:00–11:00 | Plenary I: Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future

“Designing for Life, Design for the world: Materials, Economy, and Meaning” A multi-perspective conversation exploring:

- **Nature as the Circular Business Case**
Shren Moodley – Kelpak
- **Self Employment Opportunities in a Circular Economy**
Mbali Motsoeneng – Harambee
- **Socio-economic Development through waste**
Economic models that regenerate value Chad Robertson, Regenize / REACT
- **Threads of Sustainability**
Deon Saayman – Cape Wools
- **Social opportunities for Circularity**
Tracey Gilmore – Taking Care of Business
- **Building a Green Industrial Future**
Michael Ndiwalana – Atlantis SEZ
- **The Future of Thrifting Platforms**
Nick Rout – Thrif.Store

11:00–11:40 | Circular Innovation Challenge 2025 by SOLVE and the V&A Waterfront (part 1)

Competition launched, finalists pitch their business ideas.

- **Speakers** from impact funds, policy institutions, grassroots changemakers and the established corporates.

11:45–12:15 | Circular Refreshment Break

- Local snacks, refill stations, and zero-waste refreshments
- **Innovations & Start-up showcase expo**

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Preview of Day 2

12:15–13:30 | Morning Immersive Sessions: **Circularity in Practice** (Choose One) *continued on p.38*

1. Closing the Loop: Regenerative Agri-Food Systems: the journey of food and agricultural resources through the entire value chain — from farm to table, and back to the soil. By bringing together farmers, food scientists, retailers, waste innovators, and community enablers, we explore how regenerative and circular solutions can transform food systems into engines of resilience and sustainability.

Moderated by **Berenice Westmore**, this session features *The Farmer* – **Johan Reyneke** (Reyneke Wines) shares how regenerative practices restore soil health and biodiversity; *The Retailer* – **Ridhwana Shaik** (Food Lovers Market) connects consumers to sustainable choices that honour the source; *The Redirector* – **Jakob Holbak** (Refresh) tackles restaurant food waste through smart redirection; *The Biorecycler* – **Emile Fourie** (Y Waste) transforms organic waste into social and environmental value; and *The Systems Connector* – **Linda Drummond** (Food Loss & Waste Initiative) links policy, data, and action to close the loop

2. Nature as the Circular Business Case: Circularity, Biodiversity and the Regenerative Economy

This session explores how nature-based solutions and conservation create sustainable jobs, strengthen resilience, and regenerate ecosystems. Moderated by **Morgan Boast** with speakers from **Mems Remaila** (BeeAfrica), **Suzanne Powell** (Endangered Wildlife Trust), **Jokudu Guya** (ICLEI Africa), **Lynette Munro** (Nature Connect) and **Justine Rudman** (Living Lands) will share how nature itself is the business case — a re-energising space that restores biodiversity, sustains livelihoods, and supports a regenerative economy.

3. Circular Manufacturing: Building Resilient and Self-Sufficient Economies with Social Impact

This session explores how circular manufacturing and industrial symbiosis can strengthen local economies, reduce waste, and create meaningful social impact. By linking industries and reusing resources across sectors, new opportunities for innovation and resilience emerge. Moderator, **Katharina Gihring**, will be joined by speakers from **Michael Ndiwalana** (Atlantis SEZ), **Abraham Avenant** (CRDC), **Naadiya Moosajee** (WomHub), **Mahlastse Mamaila** (INO-Biodiesel) and **Shren Moodley** (Kelpak) will showcase practical examples of how circularity and collaboration drive sustainable growth.

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Preview of Day 2

12:15–13:30 | Morning Immersive Sessions: Circularity in Practice (Choose One) *continued from p.37*

4. Takeaways & Single-Use Plastics: Solution pathways to circularity

This event will align with the recent launch of the global Plastic Reboot project, focusing on design and retail in plastics in the food and beverage sector. The South African project in Plastic Reboot launched on the 18th of September and includes a focus on food services (across different settings) as a result of the high leakage of single use plastics from this sector. Moderator Dr **Kirsten Barnes**, together with speakers **Lonwabo Manqana** (SPAR), **Petro Myburgh** (V&A Waterfront), **Francois Cloete** (Reusefy), **Luke White** (COPCO) and **Ralph Jewson** (Woolworths), will showcase practical solutions and strategies shaping South Africa's approach to circularity and waste reduction.

5. Threads of Sustainability: Natural Fibres and Innovative Dyeing for the Future of Fashion

Exploring the journey of textiles from sustainable fibre production to natural dyeing, this session highlights how fashion can embrace circularity and environmental responsibility. By bringing together farmers, fibre innovators, dye specialists, and sustainable fashion enablers, we examine how regenerative practices in textile production can transform the fashion industry in a fair way. Moderated by **Karin Boomsma**.

- **Deon Saayman**, Cape Wools
- **Heidi Dinan**, FabricsUnravelled
- **Nick Rout** - Thrif.Store

13:30–14:25 | Local Lunch & Networking Tables

- Lunch curated with zero waste principles, organic and nutritious (and ancient) food
- Harvest lunch tables: join conversations on with exchange on what you need to grow circularity
- Innovations & Start-up showcase expo

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Preview of Day 2

14:30–14:45 | Circular Innovation Challenge 2025 by SOLVE and the V&A Waterfront (part 2)

Jury presents the winner

- *Speakers from impact funds, policy institutions, grassroots changemakers and the established corporates*

15:00–16:15 | Afternoon Immersive Sessions: Circularity in Practice Round 2 (choose 1)

1. **Matching Our Collective Circular Action** – Matchmaking Masterclass with **TheRockGroup**, moderated by **Esther Mangiza & Karin Boomsma**.
2. **How circularity creates new business models** – Masterclass with **Circular South Africa** and **Impact Amplifier**
3. **Sustainable Sourcing and Enabling Ecosystems** – Masterclass with **Berenice Westmore** (ACEN), **Emile Fourie** (Ywaste), **Anja Blignaut** (Faithful-to-Nature) and **Siglinda Losch** (Vinimark)
4. **Redesign for repair & refurbishment** in the electronic sector – practical workshop **DigiCircle4All**, **Debbie Thys** (Close The Gap), **Susanne Karcher** (Sustainable Recycling Industries) and **Tracey Gilmore** (Taking Care of Business- repair & resell program). A refurbishment experience in digital space– the story of electronic devices and their second life and many jobs opportunities, devices and digital impact on the community stories, moderated by **Clare Nichols**.

16:20–17:05 | Closing Ceremony: What Now? Courage to Transform

17:10 – 18:00 | Networking, Sustainable Wine, Tea, Drinks & Forest Reflection

- Introduction to Innovative Precision Wine Farming with wine tasting | **Johan Reyneke** of Reyneke Wines
- Optional mindful walk



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Katharina Gihring is a circular economy consultant working across sectors to accelerate the circular transition in South Africa. A specialist in multisector collaboration, stakeholder convening, and project management, she is a vocal advocate for the role of a *just* circular economy transition in South Africa.



Keneilwe Munyai is a designer, educator, researcher and facilitator specializing in innovation, training the trainer, building human centered design innovation capacity youth empowerment through the design your life programme aimed at helping young people to design meaningful versions of their lives and vocation.



Nick Rout

Nick Rout is the CEO & Co-founder at Thrif. He studied Computer Science at the University of Cape Town and has worked at a variety of tech companies (Luno, Google, GoDaddy), contributed to the local developer community by running meetup groups and trained youth in digital skills via WeThinkCode.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Shren Moodley is a biochemist with an MBA and over 20 years' global leadership in R&D, marketing, and innovation. He is completing his second Master's in Data Science, bridging science and strategy to drive sustainable, seaweed-based solutions and regenerative business growth.



Mbali Motsoeneng is the Head of Microenterprise Partnerships at Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, driving self-employment for youth in South Africa. She champions sustainable entrepreneurial growth and inclusive market access models, reducing youth unemployment.



Chad Robertson is a South African social entrepreneur and the co-founder and CEO of Regenize, offering an inclusive and incentivized recycling solution by partnering with informal waste collectors and rewarding residents for their participation with a virtual currency called Remali.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Deon Saayman

is the Chief Executive Officer of Cape Wools SA, a role he has held since 2022 after being the General Manager from 2019. As a key figure in the South African wool industry, he advocates for better marketing of the country's sustainable wool. Saayman has helped drive the industry's sustainable guidelines.



Berenice Westmore is a sustainability consultant and ACEN member with over 15 years' experience spanning entrepreneurship, project management and cross-sector collaboration. A Global MBA graduate (with distinction) and former actuarial analyst, she has also founded and scaled a B2B recycling company.



Johan Reyneke has been farming the Reyneke family farm in the Polkadraai hills of Stellenbosch for more than a quarter of a century. He is passionate about farming and nature and has played a leading role in sustainable regenerative viticulture in South Africa and beyond.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Ridhwana Shaik works with Food Lovers Market, leading sustainability efforts across sourcing, waste, and community impact. She drives initiatives advancing circular practices, supporting smallholder farmers, and reducing organic waste. Her approach bridges real-world retail challenges with nature-positive solutions.



Jakob Holbak is the founder and CEO of Refreshi, a South African app that combats food waste and hunger by selling surplus food from retailers to consumers at a discount. Before Refreshi, Holbak was a logistics leader with over 20 years experience, most recently serving as Regional Head of Ocean Management for Africa.



Emile Fourie is a visionary leader in South Africa's waste sector, co-founder of Ywaste Solutions, and Chairman of ORASA. With 17+ years' experience, he champions circular economy models, policy advocacy, and community empowerment. His innovations have diverted 21,000+ tonnes of organic waste.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Morgan Boast

With a background in Environmental and Geographical Science, she works as a Sustainability Consultant at TheRockGroup. Supporting projects with careful analysis, organization, and adaptability, she is motivated by a genuine passion for sustainability.



Suzanne Powell is

Manager of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity & Business Unit. An environmental attorney and scientist, she brings over 15 years' expertise in governance, policy, and conservation. Suzanne leads efforts to integrate biodiversity into corporate strategy and operations across Africa.



Jokudu Guya is an Urban

Systems Professional Officer at ICLEI Africa with a strong interest in urban development across African cities. At ICLEI Africa, she works closely with local governments to implement circular economy initiatives and identify opportunities to embed circular approaches into urban systems.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Justine Rudman

Justine is a Co-Director and Finance Manager for Living Lands, a South African non-profit organization dedicated to landscape restoration and community resilience in the Eastern Cape. With a master's degree in Conservation Ecology from Stellenbosch University, her expertise combines ecological science with practical, on-the-ground project management.



Abraham Avenant's

extensive background in Civil Engineering positions him strongly to assess and advance the industry's capacity to adopt alternative green building materials and technologies, with the goal of diverting significant volumes of waste from landfills and the environment



Naadiya Moosajee is a serial entrepreneur, engineer, and global speaker. She co-founded WomHub, supporting female founders in climate tech, and WomEng, empowering women in engineering. She's also building Cybherfence, a cybersecurity startup.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Mahlatse Mamaila

is a social entrepreneur, climate negotiator, mentor and speaker. Founder of INO-Biodiesel, Water from air Africa and Trash-converter Climate-Tech, she is committed to sustainability and inclusive development. Recognized as a United Nations Africa Young Entrepreneur (2023) and VISA She's next winner 2024, she has been featured by Forbes.



Michael Ndiwalana is a Project Officer at the Atlantis Special Economic Zone for Green Technologies (ASEZ), where he drives investment facilitation and industry development aligned to South Africa's green economy transition. A believer in the intersectional role policy plays, he works at the nexus to advance sustainable industrialisation.



Lonwabo Manqana

With his background in circular packaging and sustainable sourcing, Lonwabo is passionate about sustainability, stakeholder engagement, cocreation and a data mole.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Petro Myburgh is the Sustainability Manager for the V&A Waterfront. With over 15 years' experience in the daily operations at the V&A, she is passionate about sustainably managing resources and optimising efficiencies in the built environment. Petro has an in-depth understanding of facilities and commercial waste management.



Kirsten Barnes is a Circular Economy Specialist, PhD in Environmental Science, with over a decade of experience driving growth and fostering investment in sustainable, green, and circular economy initiatives. Kirsten is passionate about co-creating scalable African solutions that foster economic growth and job creation.



Francois Cloete is a circular economy entrepreneur building reusable packaging business models to create local growth, jobs, and environmental protection. Francois is also the founder of Reusefy, a returnable cup service for events.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Ralph Jewson started his career in engineering and then process control, he spent a number of years in the cosmetic before joining Woolworths. Ralph has worked in various roles across Woolworths and has over a decade of experience leading strategic sourcing for the Home division before joining the sustainability team.



Karin Boomsma views businesses as a catalyst for positive change, with the Circular Economy as a key model for future systems. With a background in Social and Cultural studies, she focuses on transforming business strategies to tackle climate change, fostering innovation, and creating impactful partnerships.



Luke White is a polymer scientist and Product Developer at Catchgreen, a South African company pioneering biodegradable fishing gear. Luke represents COPCO to promote the Compostable Verification Scheme, Bag-to-Earth, and policy advocacy for compostable plastics and circular economy solutions in South Africa.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Linda Drummond

Linda is passionate about working with diverse stakeholders to achieve goals relating to sustainable food systems. She is the South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative Manager at the CGCSA, which aims to reduce food loss and waste in South Africa by half by 2030.



Esther Mangiza is a Sustainability Consultant at TheRockGroup, advising businesses, NGOs, and governments on embedding circularity and ESG. With a background in Environmental Management, she combines systems thinking with practical solutions to make sustainability inclusive and impactful.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Anja Blignaut

Anja graduated in 2023 with a BSc in Food Science from Stellenbosch University. She works at Faithful to Nature, ensuring products meet their strict ingredient standards. Through industry training, she gained experience in quality control, IPC, and production, which laid the foundation for her professional growth.



Siglinda Losch is a passionate sustainability professional with experience in developing innovative programmes and solutions that enhance core business functions. With a strong drive for change, she leverages networking and collaboration as daily tools to deliver meaningful sustainability impact.



Clare Nichols is a Sustainability Consultant at TheRockGroup Africa, driven by a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. Clare has worked across charities, NPOs, and large corporates, focusing on sustainable operations and community development. She works with companies to embed socially just business practices.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Featured Speakers



Debbie Thys

Debbie is a Belgian entrepreneur and Co-CEO of Close the Gap Kenya, with over 15 years' experience in international business and social impact. I'm passionate about connecting people, technology, and purpose to drive meaningful change across communities.



Tracey Gilmore is an internationally recognised social entrepreneur with years of experience in poverty eradication through circular economy practices. As co-founder of Taking Care of Business, she empowers unemployed South Africans with sustainable small business opportunities, reducing supply chain waste.



Susanne Karcher

Founder of EnviroSense CC, is a chemical engineer specialising in Integrated Resource and Waste Management. She is a founding member of the African Circular Economy Network and serves as the National Coordinator for the SRI South Africa project.

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Masterclasses

Our masterclasses offer **focused, hands-on learning experiences** led by practitioners and innovators at the forefront of circular and regenerative business. These sessions are designed to share **practical tools, tested approaches, and real-world insights** to help businesses move from intention to action.

Do you have a **topic you'd like to facilitate** or teach? We'd love to include you.
Please reach out and let us know how you'd like to contribute.



How to apply
circular principles to
your business



Define stakeholders
in your business:
partnerships for
impact

Call to Action | How can you get involved?



Collaborate & Innovate

Co-create solutions

Work together on new ideas and initiatives.

–

Align policies & practices

Work together to integrate sustainable principles into business strategies and operations.

–

Form strategic partnerships

Foster connections across industries and sectors to drive collective impact.



Showcase & Share

Host an exhibit or demo

Present innovations or solutions.

–

Present a case study

Highlight successful projects and lessons learned.

–

Demonstrate thought leadership

Contribute insights and share expertise through interactive sessions.



Inspire Action

Launch an initiative

Introduce a circular project, challenge, or competition.

–

Present a relevant good practice

Highlight successful approaches.

–

Pledge commitments

Make measurable sustainability goals public.



Sponsors and Collaborators | Co-create Nature & Circularity Week

Any partnership opportunity can be **tailored to the need and budget of the organisation**.

Sponsorships **in kind** which will cover event costs are very welcome.

We would like to keep the ticket price as low as possible to keep the **event inclusive and accessible to all**, as this is not a commercial event. As such we are looking for amazing sponsors to assist us with **making this event a success**.



Brand Visibility

Gain **exposure** to a diverse and influential audience across sectors, both in South Africa and globally.



Networking Opportunities

Build **relationships** with industry leaders, policymakers, innovators, and potential clients.



Thought Leadership

Showcase your **expertise** through speaking engagements, panel participation, and event activities.



Exclusive Access

Enjoy access to **pre-summit events**, taskforce meetings, and sector-specific gatherings.

Sponsors and Collaborators | Partnership Opportunities

Overall Event Sponsor	Co-Host	Communication, Technical / Venue Partner	Breakout / side event	Expo & Networking Space Partner
R700,000+	R350,000+	R100,000+	R100,000– R150,000+	R20,000– R100,000+
Panellist slot in discussions	Panellist slot in discussions	Panellist slot in discussions	Panellist slot in discussions	Panellist slot in discussions
Brand mention in materials	Brand mention in materials	Brand mention in materials	Brand mention in materials	Brand mention in materials
Logo on materials and website	Logo on materials and website	Logo on materials and website	Logo on materials and website	Logo on materials and website
Banner placement at event	Banner placement at event	Banner placement at event	Banner placement at event	Banner placement at event
10 Registration tickets	8 Registration tickets	7 Registration tickets	6 Registration tickets	5 Registration tickets

+ Media visibility & quote

+ Media visibility & quote

+ Plenary Speaker Spot

**The future belongs
to those who dare
to rethink,
reconnect, and
redesign our world.**

*Together, let's
create a future
where nature and
humanity thrive
side by side.*





SPIRIT OF THE WILD

Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

22 Oct 2025

The Human (In) Nature Conference initiated by



Rethinking Our Place in Nature

Exploring and redefining our relation to nature along the following themes.

- Rights of Nature
 - Society & Nature
 - Business & Nature
-

23 Oct 2025

South Africa Circular Summit

Reimagining New Systems

Showcasing circular economy solutions that eliminate waste, regenerate natural systems, and create sustainable business models.

26 – 30 Oct 2025

Spirit of the Wild experience at



Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Spirit of the Wild

The Spirit of The Wild is a transformative one-week journey of **self-discovery, leadership, and deep connection** with nature. Endorsed by the Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) as a Specialist Training Provider, this immersive experience at **Bergplaas Nature Reserve** fosters **confidence, purpose**, and a profound sense of **belonging**.

Participants gain invaluable **wildlife knowledge** and **personal development** skills, enhancing their leadership and communication abilities.

Through immersive **exploration**, thoughtful **reflection**, and moments of **stillness**, individuals cultivate self-awareness, confidence, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

Nature strips away distractions, allowing participants to uncover their **true essence**. As they embrace stillness and self-reflection, they find healing, clarity, and a deeper understanding of their role within the natural world. The Spirit of The Wild is more than a course—it is a **journey back to authenticity, purpose**, and our **shared humanity**.

Reconnect with Nature | A Journey: Spirit of the Wild



Why Attend?

Before we rethink systems, we must reconnect with the essence of nature.

-

This 3-day 'Primitive Trail' at Bergplaas in the Karoo provides a unique opportunity for deep reflection and transformation.

-

Move from **headspace to heart space, in and with nature.**



What to Expect

Immersive nature walks in a 5,000-hectare pristine wilderness.

-

Cook over an open fire, bathe outdoors, sleep in tents, and hike with a backpack.

-

Free from distractions, this experience shifts you from thinking to feeling, fully embracing the land.



Practical information

Cost: ZAR 16,000.00 (excl. travel), includes accommodation, meals, and guided experiences.

-

Dates: 26 - 30 Oct 2025

-

Reconnect with nature on a 3-day, 2-night journey.

-

Spaces are limited – early registration encouraged!



Register for the event here





Get in touch

If you'd like to learn more about the events and how to become a partner or sponsor, please reach out and we will send more information and arrange a call.



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