



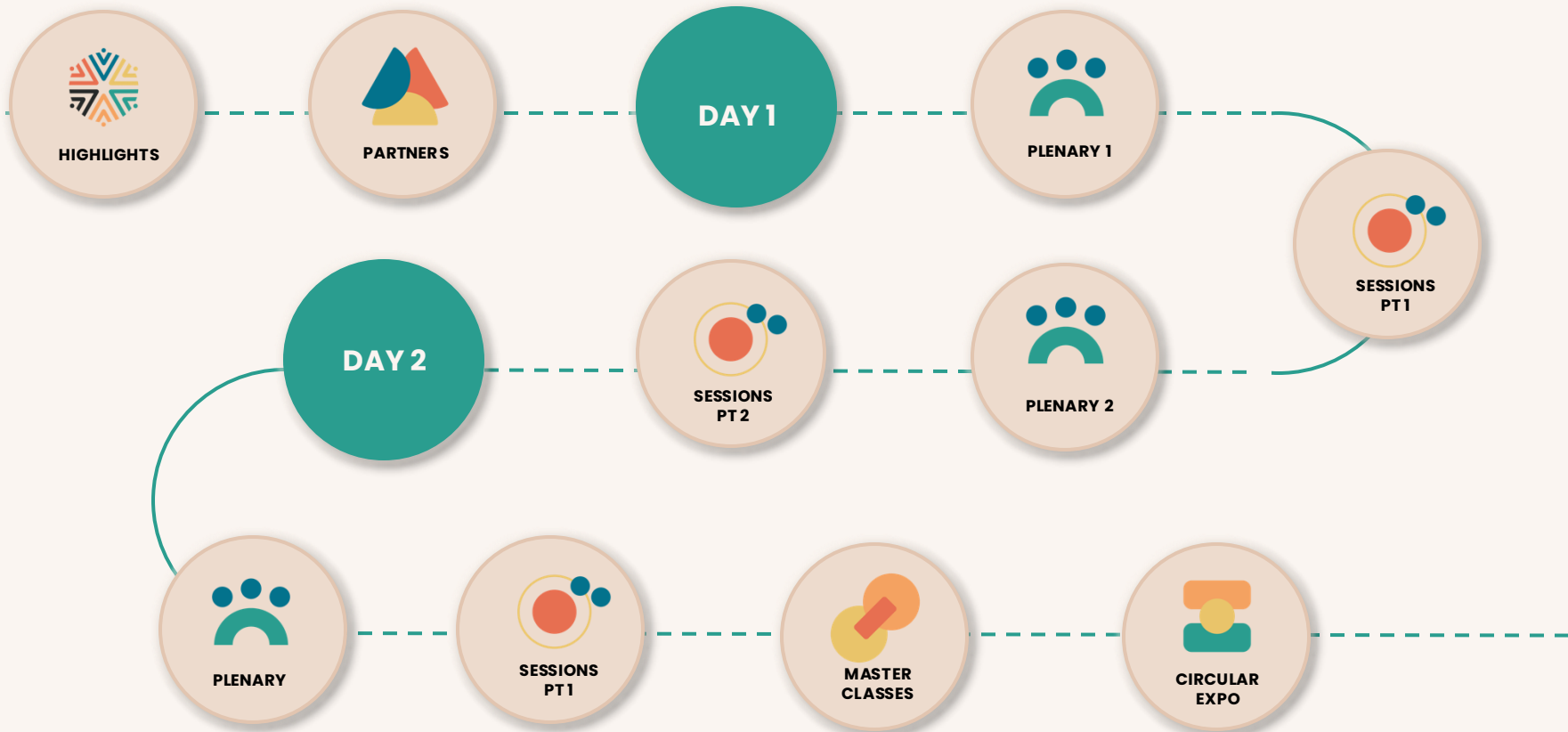
NATURE & CIRCULARITY WEEK 2025

**22 & 23
Oct 2025**

The Sustainability Institute
Stellenbosch, South Africa



Contents





**NATURE &
CIRCULARITY**
WEEK 2025

HIGHLIGHTS



Conference Highlights

250

Registrations

109

Matchmaking
participants

1

Pitch and
awarding
ceremonies

20

Expo
Stands

3

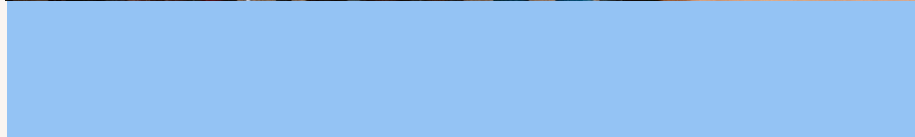
Plenary
Sessions

3

Field Trips

7

Master-
classes





**NATURE &
CIRCULARITY**
WEEK 2025

PARTNERS



In very proud collaboration with



**FOOD
LOVER'S
MARKET**



**THE
LONG
RUN**



VINIMARK



Sustaining the wild Coast
mazibuy'emasisweni



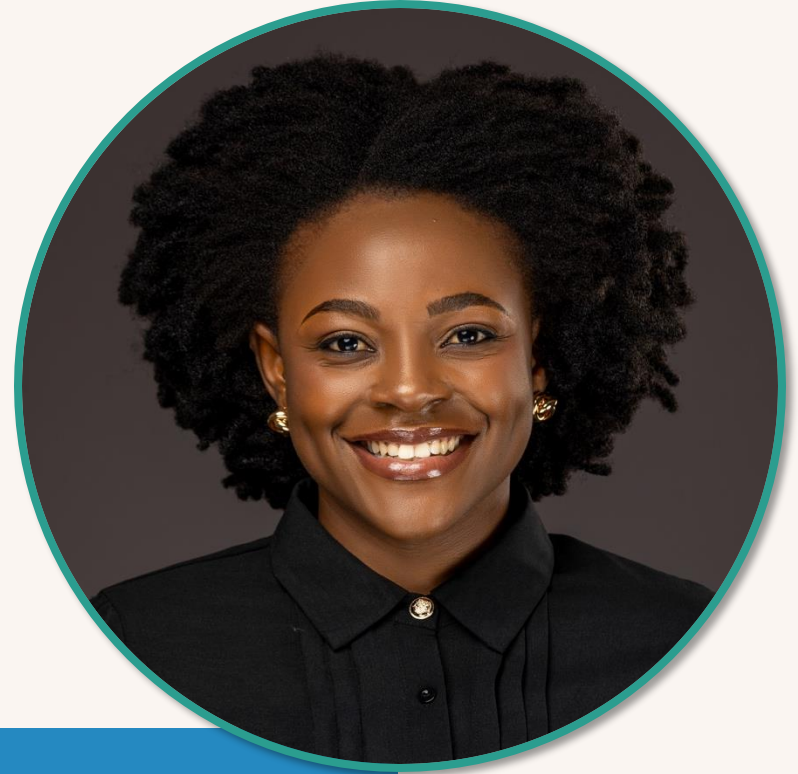
Reusefy



Meet our Master of Ceremonies – Esther Mangiza

Esther 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, future-focused, and impactful across diverse sectors.



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.

The conference organisers



**AFRICAN CIRCULAR
ECONOMY NETWORK**

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

TheRockGroup

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



**SUSTAINABLE
INCLUSIVE BUSINESS**
THE KNOWLEDGE CENTRE KENYA

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



HUMAN (IN) NATURE CONFERENCE

22 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



08h00	Registration	Begin your conference experience!
08h45	Plenary Stage	Human (In) Nature Conference begins!
08h50	Opening Circle	Mphatheleni Makaulule
09h00	Choir + Welcome	By Sustainability Institute School and Esther Mangiza
09h10	Welcome by Venue	Vanessa von der Heyde
09h20	Insights from Bergplaas	Wayne Maspero, Ian Read and Elstair Sylvester
09h35	Plenary 1	The Rights of Nature- Rethinking our Place in the World
11h00	Intro about plants & Tea Break	Rico Wessels
11h50 13h20	Morning Concurrent Sessions	Deepening the Rights of Nature- Law, Practice and Policy
		Listening to Nature's Voice: Ecofluency and AnimalTalk Africa Trust
		Society & Nature: Good for Community, Culture, Heritage and Ecology
		Society & Nature Masterclass
		Installation Slow Disaster Project
13h20	Lunch	Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems
13h20	Lunch	Lunch is served - take a break and recharge before we continue with the afternoon sessions
14h10	Plenary 2	Business and Nature- Regenerating Economies and Landscapes
15h30	Afternoon Concurrent Sessions	Regenerative Conservation and Ecological Restoration
		Regenerative Food Systems: From Soil and Soul
		Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action
15h30	Closing Story	Masterclass: Convention Business & Nature
15h30	Closing Story	Reflections on the day
17h40	Nature Immersion	Contemplative walk and reflection

Lynedoch School Choir

The Lynedoch Valley Children's Choir, nurtured through the Sustainability Institute's bursary-supported school community, brought a deeply moving performance to the conference. Representing children from farm-worker and local families, the choir embodies the Institute's mission to create opportunities for learning, confidence and creative expression. Their voices — grounded in community, hope and the natural beauty of the valley — offered an inspiring reminder of why nurturing young talent is essential to building a more just and sustainable future.



Plenary Speakers | Opening Remarks



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.

Plenary Speakers | Insights from Bergplaas



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.

Watch the plenary [here](#) 

The Rights of Nature— Rethinking Our Place in the World

This thought-provoking plenary explores the emerging global movement to recognize the Rights of Nature—a shift from viewing the environment as property to seeing it as a living entity with its own rights. By rethinking our place in the natural world, this session challenges participants to consider new legal, ethical, and cultural frameworks that honor ecological balance, interdependence, and stewardship. Join us as we unpack how this paradigm shift can reshape policies, communities, and our collective future.



Jessic den Outer

**Global movement & legal
recognition**



Cormac Cullinan

**Earth jurisprudence &
governance**



Pooven Moodley

**Table Mountain Journey &
Earthrise Collective**



Melanie Murcott

**Theme of interconnection
versus othering**

Plenary Speakers | The Rights of Nature – Rethinking our Place in the World



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.



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.

MIDMORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Deepening the Rights of Nature: Law, Practice & Policy



Listening to Nature's Voice: Ecofluency & AnimalTalk Africa Trust



Society & Nature: Tourism that is Good for Community, Culture & Ecology



Society & Nature Masterclass



Installation Slow Disaster Project

Deepening the Rights of Nature: Law, Practice & Policy

The session examined how the Rights of Nature movement reshaped environmental governance and our relationship with the natural world. It highlighted how recognising ecosystems as rights-bearing entities moved beyond human-centred conservation toward valuing nature's intrinsic agency. Key examples included the legal case for Table Mountain's rights, the Antarctic Rights Initiative, and the Rights of Nature Tribunal as an alternative legal system. Discussion and Q&A underscored the growing momentum for legal and cultural frameworks that centre ecological integrity, demonstrating a shift toward governance that upholds the intrinsic value and agency of nature itself.



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Global movement & legal recognition



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Table Mountain Journey & Earthrise Collective



Elfrieke van Galen

TheRockGroup

Session Speakers | Deepening the Rights of Nature: Law, Practice & Policy



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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 Bergplaats van Lippe-Biesterfeld in the Netherlands.

Intuitive Interspecies Communication (IIC): Listening to Nature's Voice

The session examined how deeper communication with the natural world reshaped understandings of connection, care, and coexistence. Participants engaged with practices for attuning to animals and ecosystems, emphasising ethical relationship, listening, and reciprocity. Outdoor exercises and case studies illustrated how intuitive communication informed care, leadership, and nature-inspired systems change. The discussion highlighted ways of cultivating relationships that listen with nature rather than to it, leaving participants with a renewed sense of responsibility and recognition of the more-than-human world as central to transformative ecological practice.



Saskia von Diest
Ecolfuency



Wynter Worsthorne
AnimalTalk Africa Trust

Session Speakers | Intuitive Interspecies Communication (IIC)



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.



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.

Society & Nature: Tourism that is Good for Community, Culture & Ecology

Highlighted how tourism can move beyond extraction toward regeneration, supporting livelihoods, celebrating cultural heritage, and protecting ecosystems. Showcased community-led and ecologically sensitive models grounded in coexistence with nature and the 4Cs framework of Conservation, Community, Culture, and Commerce. Discussion illustrated how travel, when rooted in respect, reciprocity, and place-based stewardship, can evolve into a regenerative force that fosters meaningful connection, strengthens local prosperity, and advances conservation outcomes. Underscored tourism's potential to shift from extractive practices to systems of care that uphold ecological and cultural integrity.



Rutenda Ngara
Indigenous Knowledge Expert



Valerie Charlton
Cape Floristic Regional Partnership



Singegugu Zukulu
Sustainable Wild Coast



Ruth Crichton
The Long Run

Session Speakers | Tourism that is Good for Community, Culture & Ecology



Rutenda 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



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.



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.



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.

Society & Nature Masterclass: Beekeeping

Masterclass exploring the vital role bees play in sustaining ecosystems and communities. Participants engaged with sustainable beekeeping practices, pollinator wellbeing, and the deep interdependence between humans and bees. Hands-on exercises and discussion highlighted how caring for pollinators strengthens biodiversity, supports food security, and contributes to ecological balance. The masterclass left attendees with practical knowledge and a renewed appreciation for these small yet essential species, underscoring how attentive stewardship of pollinators can foster resilience and harmony across ecological and human systems.



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.

Slow Disaster Project Installation

This installation illuminated how slow-moving environmental and social crises shape landscapes and lives across centuries. Through maps, art, and storytelling, the installation revealed hidden urgencies of gradual degradation, from pollution to climate impacts, and traced the ways these processes alter our world over time. Participants were invited to reflect on resilience, renewal, and the human role in shaping future landscapes. The workshop underscored the importance of confronting unseen crises and imagining pathways toward ecological and social systems that endure beyond immediate disaster narratives.



Loubie Rusch
The Sustainability Institute



Andrew Merritt
Something & Son

Session Speakers | Slow Disaster Project Installation



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.

Business & Nature

This dynamic plenary explored how businesses are evolving to become key drivers of ecosystem restoration, resilient food systems, and biodiversity-based enterprises. Highlighting included innovative models that align profit with planet, the session showcased real-world examples of nature-positive strategies that regenerate rather than deplete. A discovery of forward-thinking enterprises who are reshaping the economy to work with nature, not against it.



Saskia von Diest
Ecofluency



Lynette Munro
Nature Connect



Mphatheleni Makaulule
Dzomo La Mupo Food



Elfrieke van Galen
TheRockGroup

Business & Nature | Plenary Speakers



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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.

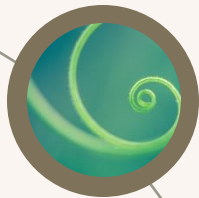


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AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Regenerative Conservation, Bergplaas & Ecological Restoration



Regenerative Food Systems: From Soil to Soul



Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action



Masterclass: Conventional Business & Nature

Restorative Conservation & Ecological Restoration

This installation illuminated how slow-moving environmental and social crises shape landscapes and lives across centuries. Through maps, art, and storytelling, the installation revealed hidden urgencies of gradual degradation, from pollution to climate impacts, and traced the ways these processes alter our world over time. Participants were invited to reflect on resilience, renewal, and the human role in shaping future landscapes. The workshop underscored the importance of confronting unseen crises and imagining pathways toward ecological and social systems that endure beyond immediate disaster narratives.



Kish Chetty
Endangered Wildlife Trust



Ruth Crichton
The Long Run



Brandt Coetzee
Mannabrew



Wayne Maspero
Bergplaas



Karin Boomsma
TheRockGroup



Rutendo Ngara
**Indigenous Knowledge
Expert**



Linda Tucker
**Global White Lion
Protection Trust**



Lynette Munro
Nature Connect

Session Speakers | Restorative Conservation & Ecological Restoration



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.



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.



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.



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.

Session Speakers | Restorative Conservation & Ecological Restoration



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.



Rutenda 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



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.

Regenerative Food Systems: From Soil to Soul

How conservation is evolving from protection alone toward active regeneration, restoring ecosystems while renewing relationships between people and nature. Discussion highlighted ecocentric approaches that honour natural processes, including the dynamics of predation versus consumerism. Examples showed how blending science, indigenous knowledge, and community stewardship can revive degraded landscapes, strengthen biodiversity, and support both community and business regeneration. The session underscored a shift toward reciprocal, life-supporting balances with the natural world, positioning regeneration as central to ecological integrity and sustainable futures.



Loubie Rusch
The Sustainability Institute



Mphatheleni Makaulule
Dzomo La Mupo Food



Mems Ramaila
BeeAfrican



Alex Glenday
Brew Kombucha

Session Speakers | Regenerative Food Systems: From Soil to Soul



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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.

Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action

This masterclass showcased how nature's time-tested strategies can inspire innovative design, leadership, and systems thinking. By observing and emulating natural processes, participants discovered approaches that are efficient, adaptive, and regenerative. Discussion highlighted how applying the wisdom of the living world can reshape how we lead, learn, and create, fostering more harmonious and resilient futures. The masterclass underscored the potential of biomimicry and ecological insight to guide sustainable innovation, demonstrating how attentive observation of natural systems can inform solutions that balance human needs with ecological integrity.



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.

Masterclass: Conventional Business & Nature

This masterclass showcased how nature's time-tested strategies can inspire innovative design, leadership, and systems thinking. By observing and emulating natural processes, participants discovered approaches that are efficient, adaptive, and regenerative. Discussion highlighted how applying the wisdom of the living world can reshape how we lead, learn, and create, fostering more harmonious and resilient futures. The masterclass underscored the potential of biomimicry and ecological insight to guide sustainable innovation, demonstrating how attentive observation of natural systems can inform solutions that balance human needs with ecological integrity.



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Presented by TheRockGroup



SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.

23 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



Day 2

08h00	Arrival & welcome	Begin your conference experience
08h50	Plenary Stage	South Africa Circularity Summit begins!
08h50	Opening Circle	Katharina Gihring
09h00	Welcome by Venue	Rico Wessels
09h10	Reflections	Rutendo Ngara
09h20	Introduction to day 2	Katharina Gihring
09h30	Transforming Systems	Keneilwe Munyai
09h45	Plenary 1	Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future
11h00	SOLVE Challenge	Circular Innovation Challenge 2025 by V & A Waterfront
11h30	Tea Break	Circular refreshments break
12h00	Morning Concurrent Sessions	Closing the Loop: Regenerative Agri-Food Systems
		Nature as the Circular Business Case: Circularity, Biodiversity and the Regenerative Economy
		Circular Manufacturing: Building Resilient and Self-Sufficient Economies with Social Impact
		Takeaways & Single-Use Plastics: Solution pathways to circularity
13h30	Lunch	Lunch is served—take a break and recharge before we continue with the afternoon sessions
14h15	SOLVE Challenge	Circular Innovation Challenge 2025 by V & A Waterfront part 2
14h30	Afternoon Concurrent Sessions	How Circularity Creates New Business Models
		Sustainable Sourcing and Enabling Ecosystems
		Redesign For Repair & Refurbishment In The Electronic Sector
16h00	Closing Story	Closing ceremony
16h40	Networking & Wine Tasting	John Reyneke of Reyneke Wines



Plenary Speakers | Opening Remarks



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.



Rico Wessels
Originally in business communication and graphic design, Rico shifted to hospitality, spending 15 years creating spaces for connection through food. At the Sustainability Institute, he found alignment with his values, learning to foster respect and care while building community and impact.

Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future

“Designing for Life, Design for the world: Materials, Economy, and Meaning.” A multi-perspective conversation exploring: Agri-food systems, nature as the circular business case, self-employment opportunities in circular economy and threads of sustainability.



Shren Moodley
Kelpak



Mbali Motsoeneng
Harambee



Chad Robertson
Regenize/REACT



Tracey Gilmore
Taking Care of Business



Nick Rout
Thrif



Michael Ndiwalana
Atlantis SEZ

Plenary Speakers | Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future



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.

Plenary Speakers | Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future



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.



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.



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.

SOLVE Challenge

As part of Nature & Circularity Week, the V&A Waterfront and SOLVE@Waterfront hosted the Circular Innovation Challenge 2025, a showcase celebrating South Africa's most forward-thinking circular economy solutions. The Challenge highlighted innovators who are reimagining how materials are designed, used and recovered – from waste-reduction technologies and regenerative product design to new business models that keep resources in circulation for longer.

During the conference, finalists presented their concepts live, offering delegates a glimpse into emerging ideas that can support South Africa's transition to a low-waste, regenerative, circular economy. The Challenge formed a key platform for surfacing early-stage innovation, inspiring collaboration, and demonstrating the practical opportunities of circular systems in action.



SOLVE

A V&A Waterfront initiative to solve for better futures.



SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024



Henry Mathys
Two Oceans Aquarium



Karin Boomsma
TheRockGroup



Mark Lamani
Circular South Africa



Petro Myburgh
The V&A Waterfront



Mike Field
The Vikara Institute

SOLVE CHALLENGE

Judges



SOLVE Challenge | Finalists



Gcwalisa is a social-enterprise “weigh-and-pay” food-hub operating in underserved communities, offering nutritious staples and household goods in flexible quantities so families can buy only what they need. By supplying food via refillable or reusable containers, the initiative reduces single-use packaging and discourages plastic waste — embedding circular-economy principles into everyday retail.



The Campus is a one-hectare circular economy farm and learning hub in Cape Town, created to trial and showcase sustainable urban agriculture and waste-management practices under the broader Potsdam Sustainability Campus. This initiative brings together multiple modalities of urban farming and decentralized organic-waste treatment to demonstrate how food production, waste reduction and community learning can be integrated in city contexts.



Local South is rethinking food-system waste by capturing and upcycling surplus soy pulp and offering it as a valuable resource rather than discarding it. The “50% surplus” soy-pulp initiative recovers roughly half of what would otherwise be waste and repurposes it — reducing environmental impact while promoting resource efficiency. By doing so, Local South demonstrates a simple but powerful circular-economy idea: one person’s waste becomes another’s resource.



MUCHAM SOLUTIONS, based in Durban, is a recognized circular-economy trailblazer — recently highlighted as a runner-up by Circular South Africa (CSA) for their impactful approach to waste reduction and resource reuse. Through practical, scalable solutions, MUCHAM SOLUTIONS is helping transform the waste challenge into opportunity — aligning with broader efforts to build inclusive, resource-efficient and socially conscious economies across South Africa.

SOLVE Challenge: Finalists



MIDMORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS



Closing the Loop: Regenerative Agri-Food Systems



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



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



Takeaways & Single-Use Plastics: Solution pathways to circularity

Closing the Loop: Restorative Agri-Food Systems

This session explored how circular and regenerative approaches to food production can restore ecosystems, reduce waste, and strengthen local resilience. From composting and soil regeneration to community-based supply chains, discussion examined practical ways to “close the loop” and create food systems that nourish both people and the planet. By designing out waste and promoting ecosystem health, these approaches demonstrated how food production can evolve into a driver of sustainability and resilience, offering pathways that benefit communities while reinforcing ecological integrity



Jakob Holbak
Refreshi



Ridhwana Shaik
Food Lover's Market



Emile Fourie
YWaste



Johan Reyneke
Reyneke Wines



Berenice Westmore
ACEN

Session Speakers | Restorative Agri-Food Systems



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.



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.



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.

Session Speakers | Restorative Agri-Food Systems



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.



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.

Nature as a Circular Business Case: Circularity, Biodiversity & the Regenerative Economy

How nature-inspired models can drive innovation and resilience within the circular economy. By recognising biodiversity as the foundation of regeneration, discussion examined how businesses can align with ecological principles to create value, reduce waste, and sustain both economic and environmental wellbeing. Key takeaways included the role of biomimicry, closed-loop systems, and regenerative design in advancing sustainable development and reducing environmental impact. The session underscored how ecological insight can guide business transformation, positioning regeneration as central to long-term resilience and prosperity.



Mems Ramaila
BeeAfrican



Suzanne Powell
Endangered Wildlife Trust



Jokudu Guya
ICLEI



Lynette Munro
Nature Connect



Deon Saayman
Cape Wools



Justine Rudman
Living Lands

Session Speakers | Nature as a Circular Business Case



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.



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.



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.

Session Speakers | Nature as a Circular Business Case



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.



Justine Rudman 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.



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.

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

This session showcased how circular manufacturing can transform production systems to be more resource-efficient, inclusive, and regenerative. By rethinking manufacturing, companies demonstrated ways to reduce waste, extend product life cycles, and empower communities, ultimately strengthening local economies while advancing social and environmental wellbeing. Innovative models illustrated the potential of circular approaches to drive positive change, underscoring how production systems aligned with regeneration can foster resilience, equity, and ecological integrity.



Abraham Avenant
CRDC



Naadiya Moosajee
Womhub



Michael Ndiwalana
Atlantis SEZ



Mahlatse Mamaila
INO-Biodiesel



Shren Moodley
Kelpak



Elfrieke Van Galen
TheRockGroup

Session Speakers | Circular Manufacturing



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.



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.

Session Speakers | Circular Manufacturing



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.



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.



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.

Takeaways: Solutions for Circularity

This session highlighted practical examples and scalable solutions driving the circular economy in action. Innovators and practitioners across sectors shared insights on circular design, policy, and collaboration, demonstrating how these approaches can close material loops, create green jobs, and build resilient systems that benefit both people and the planet. Discussion illustrated how circular economy principles can be applied in real-world contexts, driving positive impact and inspiring further action toward sustainability. The session underscored the potential of collaboration and design innovation to embed resilience and regeneration into economic systems.



Lonwabo Manqana
SPAR



Petro Myburgh
V & A Waterfront



Ralph Jewson
Woolworths



Luke White
COPCO

Session Speakers | Takeaways: Solutions for Circularity



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.



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.



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

Session Speakers | Takeaways: Solutions for Circularity



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.



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.

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS



How circularity creates new business models



Sustainable Sourcing and Enabling Ecosystems



Redesign for repair & refurbishment in the electronic sector

How Circularity Creates New Business Models

This masterclass demonstrated how collaboration and systems thinking can amplify circular initiatives by transforming isolated projects into coordinated action. Participants learned tools for mapping stakeholders, aligning goals, and designing partnerships that drive collective progress. Case studies illustrated how trust, dialogue, and shared value can scale impact across sectors. The masterclass underscored collaboration as both strategy and mindset, showing how systemic approaches embed resilience and regeneration into economic and social structures for lasting sustainability.



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 Bergplaats van Lippe-Biesterfeld in the Netherlands.

Presented by TheRockGroup

Sustainable Sourcing and Enabling Ecosystems

This masterclass examined how responsible sourcing and strong supplier ecosystems can drive the transition toward a circular and regenerative economy. Discussion focused on strategies for building transparent, ethical supply chains and fostering collaboration across industries, ensuring sustainability is embedded from raw materials to end products. Case studies illustrated how accountable practices strengthen resilience, reduce risks, and promote an environmentally conscious business landscape, underscoring the role of supply chain innovation in advancing systemic change.



Berenice Westmore
ACEN



Emile Fourie
YWaste



Siglinda Losch
Vinimark



Anja Blignaut
Faithful-to-Nature

Session Speakers | Sustainable Sourcing and Enabling Ecosystems



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.



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.



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.

Redesign for Repair and Refurbishment in the Electronic Sector

This masterclass showcased how redesigning electronics for durability, repair, and reuse can reduce waste and extend product lifecycles. By highlighting innovations in circular design, policy, and business models, the masterclass demonstrated how accessible repair and refurbishment can transform e-waste challenges into opportunities for sustainability, job creation, and resource efficiency. Discussion underscored how rethinking electronics through regenerative principles not only drives positive change in the sector but also strengthens resilience and supports a more sustainable future.



Clare Nichols
TheRockGroup



Debbie Thys
Close The Gap



Tracey Gilmore
Taking Care of Business



Susanne Karcher
Sustainable Recycling Industries

Session Speakers | Redesign for Repair and Refurbishment



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.



Debbie Thys 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 is the Founder of EnviroSense CC, 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.

DigiCircle4All

Working together to **close the digital divide** in South Africa.

We combine circular economy principles with community training to give electronic devices a second life and people **new opportunities.**

WHAT WE DO

Collect **IT devices** and e-waste safely

Provide **secure ISO 27001 certified data wiping** process to protect your information

Refurbish and redistribute devices to schools, NGOs, and community hubs

Deliver complimentary **circular economy training** to your staff

HOW DO YOU BENEFIT?

- Peace of mind with secure data wiping
- Strengthen your ESG/CSR reporting and compliance (incl. B-BBEE)
- Increased staff knowledge and practice in sustainability
- Visibility as a corporate leader in sustainability and digital inclusion
- Direct contribution to job creation and community empowerment

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

- ✓ Donate your unused IT devices
- ✓ Book a circular economy training session for your staff
- ✓ Partner with us to scale device collection and outreach

HOW DOES SOUTH AFRICA BENEFIT?

More access to affordable tech for underserved communities

New jobs in repair, refurbishment, and resale

Less e-waste and stronger environmental responsibility

Skills development that supports long-term resilience and innovation

hello@digicircle4all.org | www.digicircle4all.org



NATURE & CIRCULARITY WEEK 2025

EXPO






Circular Solutions Expo

To fully immerse yourself in the power of circularity, we invite you to engage directly with our leading **circular solution providers**. The Expo will feature pioneering initiatives and organisations that are successfully implementing circular practices in South Africa and beyond, offering firsthand insights into **how circularity is driving sustainable change**.

 <p>thrif www.thrif.store</p>	 <p>SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE</p>	 <p>reyneke</p>	 <p>VELD & SEA</p>	 <p>CIRCULAR SOUTH AFRICA</p>
 <p>WomHub</p>	 <p>atlantis special economic zone cape town</p>	 <p>MannaBrew</p>	 <p>Ywaste RECYCLE</p>	 <p>FOOD LOVER'S MARKET</p>
 <p>BREW KOMBUCHA</p>	 <p>microgarden</p>	 <p>CAPE FLORISTIC REGION PARTNERSHIP</p>	 <p>ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability AFRICA</p>	 <p>refreshi</p>
 <p>CRDC MATERIALS SOUTH AFRICA</p>	 <p>tcb taking care of business</p>	 <p>ENOUGH UPCYCLED BEAUTY-HEALTH</p>	 <p>SOLVE A V&A Waterfront initiative to solve for better futures.</p>	 <p>InfiniFlow</p>

The Sustainability Institute

	https://www.sustainabilityinstitute.net
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	https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-sustainability-institute/

The Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) in the Western Cape, just 40KM from Cape Town, supports green technology manufacturers in becoming globally competitive. As Africa's leading Greentech manufacturing zone, it offers renewable energy, competitive lease rates, skilled labour, and world-class infrastructure. With a focus on innovation and sustainable job creation, ASEZ drives regional economic growth and the regeneration of Atlantis as a green economy leader.




Our mission is to “develop a sustainable Greentech SEZ which creates a conducive business environment for the Green economy and integrated economic growth and employment.” In achieving this mission, the ASEZCo aims to become Africa’s leading, globally competitive and export orientated Greentech manufacturing zone and a Living Lab demonstrating the highest standards of good governance, low carbon and resource efficient economic development and social inclusion. In doing so, the ASEZCo will also contribute to global well-being through commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNIDO Eco-Industrial Park Principles.



**SUSTAINABILITY
INSTITUTE**



Thrif

	https://thrif.store
	+27 72 836 0708
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/thrif/






Thrif is the curated online marketplace for circular fashion, intelligently connecting savvy shoppers with pre-loved, past-season, and sustainable new apparel from the best brands, retailers and thrift stores. For shoppers, Thrif offers a refreshing alternative. It provides the seamless, high-quality online shopping experience you'd expect from a top e-commerce store, but with a curated collection of fashion at prices consumers love. Every item on the platform helps build a more sustainable future, giving beautiful garments a new life and reducing waste. Say goodbye to endless scrolling on peer-to-peer apps and hello to discovering affordable, quality-checked gems with ease. For brand partners, Thrif is a powerful technology and sales solution designed to unlock the value in their unsold stock.

The AI-powered platform makes it incredibly simple to turn inventory—including customer returns, end-of-season collections, and quality pre-loved items—into a new revenue stream. Using Thrif's exclusive partner app, listing hundreds of items is automated and lightning-fast; the technology instantly enhances product photos and auto-populates listings. By handling the e-commerce storefront and digital marketing, Thrif empowers partners to reach a wide audience of conscious consumers while they focus on their core operations. Thrif's mission is to revolutionise fashion consumption by making circularity the new standard. By bridging the gap between brands with valuable stock and consumers seeking affordability and sustainability, Thrif is building a smarter, more conscious retail ecosystem for everyone.



Atlantis SEZ

	www.atlantissez.com
	info@atlantissez.co.za
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/greencape-atlantis-special-economic-zone/?originalSubdomain=za

The Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ) in the Western Cape, just 40KM from Cape Town, supports green technology manufacturers in becoming globally competitive. As Africa's leading Greentech manufacturing zone, it offers renewable energy, competitive lease rates, skilled labour, and world-class infrastructure. With a focus on innovation and sustainable job creation, ASEZ drives regional economic growth and the regeneration of Atlantis as a green economy leader.

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atlantis
special economic zone



Reyneke Wines



<https://www.reynekewines.co.za>



+27 21 881 3451



<https://www.instagram.com/reynekewines/>

Located in the Polkadraai Hills of Stellenbosch, Reyneke Wines is South Africa's first certified biodynamic winery, where every vine grows in harmony with nature. By following organic and biodynamic principles, Reyneke nurtures living soils and vibrant ecosystems, crafting wines that truly express their place of origin. Each bottle reflects a commitment to purity, balance, and sustainability, proof that great wine begins with respect for the earth.




Sustainability is at the heart of everything Reyneke does. From regenerative farming and composting to renewable energy and minimal-intervention winemaking, the estate's practices ensure that every step supports the health of the land, the well-being of its workers, and the longevity of the environment for generations to come.

Guided by a holistic philosophy, Reyneke sees the farm as a living, breathing organism where soil, plants, animals, and people all play an interconnected role. This mindful approach allows nature to thrive and the wines to tell an authentic story, one of harmony, integrity, and care for the world we share.

reyneke



Veld and Sea

	https://veldandsea.com
	info@veldandsea.com
	https://www.instagram.com/veldandsea/




V E L D & S E A

Tucked away on the wild and beautiful coastline of the Cape Peninsula, Veld & Sea invites you to reconnect with nature through immersive, hands-on experiences. Led by passionate forager and educator Roushanna Gray, Veld & Sea offers workshops and gatherings that explore the edible abundance of the natural world, from coastal seaweeds and wild greens to flowers, fungi, and fynbos. Each experience is an invitation to slow down, observe, and rediscover the deep connection between people and the environment.

Rooted in a deep respect for the land and sea, Veld & Sea champions sustainability and mindful living. Participants learn about ethical foraging, seasonal cycles, and regenerative practices that honour nature's balance while nurturing community and curiosity. Whether it's a wild food workshop, a creative team experience, or a seasonal feast, Veld & Sea celebrates the beauty, flavour, and wisdom of the natural world, reminding us that everything we need is already around us, waiting to be rediscovered.

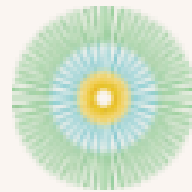


Circular South Africa

	https://www.reynekewines.co.za
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	https://www.linkedin.com/company/circular-south-africa-csa/posts/?feedView=all

Circular South Africa is driving the country's transition toward a circular, regenerative economy, one where resources are kept in use for as long as possible, waste is designed out, and natural systems are restored. By connecting business, government, academia, and civil society, the organisation fosters collaboration and innovation to close material loops and create sustainable value chains.



Through research, advocacy, and capacity building, Circular South Africa works to accelerate systemic change, proving that circularity is not only an environmental imperative but also a powerful driver of economic resilience, job creation, and long-term prosperity for people and planet alike.



CIRCULAR
SOUTH AFRICA



CRDC Materials South Africa

	https://www.crdc-sa.com/
	abraham@crdc.global
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/crdc-materials-south-africa/



Founded by the Centre for Regenerative Design & Collaboration (CRDC) and CRDC MATERIALS, the mission of CRDC MATERIALS South Africa (CRDC MATERIALS SA) is to create appreciating value & impact from un-recyclable, mismanaged plastic waste by converting it into a lightweight Eco-Aggregate called RESIN8™. RESIN8™ facilitates the creation of Innovative Green Building Technology concrete and asphalt construction products.

Our strategic aim is to divert all mis-managed plastic waste from landfill, to collect waste plastic from our environment through CRDC's socially beneficial program called The Bag That Builds (TBTB) & to provide employment & business opportunities in our supply chain through collaboration.

They have created a groundbreaking new innovative green building technology that takes all 7 types of plastic waste & converts it into a lightweight Eco-Aggregate, called RESIN8™. The replacement of a percentage of natural aggregates with RESIN8™ in concrete products adds or maintains the strength, reduces weight, and increases the thermal properties of these concrete products. The potential to Regenerate Natural, Social & Built Environments & the positive impact on job creation, our overflowing landfills, the environment & infrastructure development across the African continent are limitless.



WomHub

	https://www.womhub.com/
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	https://www.linkedin.com/company/womhub/



WomHub is a boutique incubator and advisory firm supporting innovation along the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing) value chain, providing a holistic offering of business services tailored for female founders. The Incubator and Accelerator supports STEM innovation through providing both hackathons, venture building, virtual and in-person incubator and accelerator support.

WomHub's expertise is with female led innovation and working with female founders, however, it has run equally successful gender agnostic programmes as well. WomHub's fit-for-purpose Hub in Johannesburg and Cape Town supports female led innovators and provides business support, eventing and co-working space.



Mannabrew



<https://mannabrew.co.za>



info@mannabrew.co.za



<https://www.instagram.com/mannabrew/>

MannaBrew is not just another coffee brand trying to convince you that our coffee is the best, because it is not coffee. MannaBrew is made from a superfood known as Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). The seedpods of the hardy Mesquite tree are slow roasted to enhance the rich, smooth, caramel, nutty flavors that can be enjoyed like any other coffee, giving you lots of energy but without the side effects of caffeine.

The unique taste of MannaBrew will surely surprise you because it is unlike anything you have tasted before. MannaBrew looks like coffee, can be made the same ways as coffee, enjoyed the same way coffee would be, but it is a superfood that tastes super good!

MannaBrew turns an environmental challenge into a sustainable opportunity by creating a coffee alternative from the seedpods of invasive mesquite trees. Their circular business model removes these water-hungry trees, helping restore ecosystems, while providing seasonal work and income for local communities. With minimal processing, a renewable raw material, and a focus on health-conscious, caffeine-free products, MannaBrew combines environmental stewardship, social impact, and sustainable production in a truly regenerative approach.



YWaste



<https://www.ywaste.co.za>



emile@ywaste.co.za



<https://www.instagram.com/ywaste.sa/>

In 16 years, Ywaste has transformed from a small company manufacturing domestic-scale worm farms into a substantial operation which diverts over 3,500 tons of food waste from landfills every year. Ywaste is a majority black-owned, BBEE Level 1 company that has grown from a family business to an operation which diverts over 800 tons of food waste from landfills every month. Ywaste focuses on effective and responsible management of food waste and conversion to compost reduces the contribution food waste makes to landfill proliferation. This also enables the replenishment of the soil, which in turn, leads to a better world.

YWaste transforms organic waste into valuable compost through a circular process that begins with collection from retail, hospitality, and residential sources. At their Philippi facility, waste is carefully separated, with non-organic materials sent to recycling centers and organic waste directed to composting. The resulting nutrient-rich compost is then used for gardening, landscaping, and sold to farmers and households, closing the loop and turning waste into a resource that supports sustainable agriculture and reduces landfill impact.



Food Lover's Market

	https://foodloversmarket.co.za
	+27 860 007 728
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/food-lovers-market-holdings/



Shopping is as much about the experience as it is about the things you buy. At Food Lover's Market, this principle is taken to heart, recreating the ambience of a fresh marketplace in a modern theatre-of-food setting. Visiting one of these stores truly is an experience like no other. The group has grown to include many partners, such as Food Lover's Eatery, FreshStop, Market Liquors and Diamond Discount Liquors, and Seattle Coffee Company.

Founded by brothers Brian and Mike Coppin, the Food Lover's Market group is a family-owned business that incorporates many sister brands – Food Lover's Eatery, FreshStop, FVC International, Seattle Coffee Company, Diamond's Discount Liquor and Market Liquors. Fruit & Veg City was the origin of the business, but thanks to an amazing team of colleagues, Food Lover's Market has evolved into a modern experiential retail store that includes a gourmet butchery, bakery, seafood, grocery and health and wellness departments.

Their supplier partners include Cape Roaster, leaders in their industry and supplier of dried fruit, fresh and roasted nuts, their famous Christmas cake mix and much more; and FVC International – the largest importer and export of fresh produce in South Africa.



Taking Care of Business

	https://www.tcb.org.za
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	https://www.linkedin.com/company/tcborgza/posts/?feedView=all






Taking Care of Business (TCB) is a South African non-profit organization dedicated to empowering unemployed individuals, particularly women, by providing them with the necessary skills and resources to become self-employed entrepreneurs. Through a holistic approach, TCB offers training in business, finance, and life skills, along with mentorship and access to capital. Participants engage in various programs such as Resell, Repair, Remake, Reskill, and Grow ECD, which focus on transforming waste into viable business opportunities within the circular economy.

By partnering with major retailers, TCB diverts excess stock from landfills, repurposing it into products that are resold or redistributed, thereby fostering environmental sustainability and economic independence. Since its inception, TCB has positively impacted thousands of lives, helping individuals break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.



Enough

	https://www.its-enough.com/
	https://www.instagram.com/enough.beautyhealth
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/enough-upcycled-beauty-health/



UPCYCLED BEAUTY-HEALTH

ENOUGH. is a South African beauty-health brand committed to sustainability, ethics, and circular design. Instead of conventional beauty practices that rely on virgin materials and single-use packaging, ENOUGH. transforms natural byproducts — such as grape-vine shoots and roots, or coffee grounds — into high-performance, plant-based skincare and wellness products.




Every ENOUGH. formulation is vegan and cruelty-free (certified by Beauty Without Cruelty), with ingredients carefully selected for safety and sustainability.

The brand's clean, multipurpose products — from pigmentation correctors to contouring creams — aim to deliver real results while minimizing environmental impact.

ENOUGH. stands for beauty that does more than skin-deep: it's about rethinking waste, valuing resources, and proving that thoughtful design can be luxurious, effective, and gentle on the planet.



Brew Kombucha

	https://brewkombucha.co.za
	hello@brewkombucha.co.za
	https://www.instagram.com/brewkombucha/




BREWTM
KOMBUCHA

Brew Kombucha is South Africa's first certified organic kombucha brand, renowned for blending traditional fermentation with indigenous ingredients. Founded by Alex Glenday in 2016, the company crafts its kombucha using rooibos tea, a powerful antioxidant native to the country. Committed to sustainability, Brew Kombucha operates with 99% single-use plastic-free packaging and reuses 50% of its manufacturing process water.

Their products are certified organic and kosher, reflecting a dedication to both health and environmental responsibility. Brew Kombucha offers nationwide delivery and provides secure online payment options for customers. The brand has garnered recognition for its innovative approach to kombucha brewing and its commitment to ethical business practices.



Microgarden

	https://www.microgarden.co.za
	+27 715 841 857
	https://www.instagram.com/microgarden_sa/?hl=en

Microgarden is a South African company dedicated to providing sustainable products for the home and garden. Their offerings include eco-friendly items such as biodegradable grow pods, hydroponic smart gardens, and water-wise irrigation solutions, all designed to promote responsible consumption and production. Microgarden's products are crafted to be energy and space-efficient, making them ideal for urban living. With a vision of a waste-free future, they encourage waste reduction by offering alternatives that are both practical and environmentally conscious. Based in Hout Bay, Western Cape, Microgarden is committed to inspiring positive change through their innovative product range.

In addition to offering sustainable home and garden solutions, Microgarden emphasizes education and accessibility, helping customers of all ages learn how to grow their own food responsibly. Their workshops, online resources, and starter kits make it easy for individuals and families to engage in small-scale urban farming, promoting food security, self-sufficiency, and a deeper connection to nature. By combining innovation with environmental stewardship, Microgarden empowers communities to adopt greener lifestyles while reducing their ecological footprint.



microgarden



SOLVE

	https://solve.waterfront.co.za/
	solve@waterfront.co.za
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/vandawaterfront/posts/?feedView=all



SOLVE

A V&A Waterfront initiative to solve for better futures.




SOLVE@Waterfront is an innovation hub powered by the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa. Established to test and refine sustainable solutions, SOLVE serves as a "safe lab" for developing prototypes that address urban challenges in sustainability, opportunity, and inclusivity.

One of SOLVE's key initiatives is the Circular Innovation Challenge, which invites innovators to submit solutions that promote circular economy principles, aiming to reduce resource consumption, waste, and pollution. The challenge offers winners R200,000 in cash investment, along with networking and promotional support.

SOLVE's collaborative approach brings together entrepreneurs, researchers, and community stakeholders to co-create impactful solutions. By leveraging the V&A Waterfront's resources and ecosystem, SOLVE fosters a culture of innovation that contributes to building a more sustainable and inclusive future



Elementor

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Liesl Haasbroek is an internationally acclaimed facilitator of elemental transformation — where primal flame meets fluid design. As a master of Primal Friction Fire, she leads evocative ceremonies that rekindle the ancient dialogue between fire, community, and ritual, bridging the wisdom of our ancestors with the pulse of modern life. Her Fireshops and Waterplay sessions are celebrated for their refined balance of technique, depth, and resonance.

Liesl blends ceremony, ecology, and aesthetics with hope — inviting participants to ignite curiosity, embrace elemental harmony, and cultivate meaningful resonance. Whether coaxing embers into flame, shaping forms for water's flow, or nurturing biodynamic wisdom, her work is an alchemy of ancient practice and modern purpose — welcoming us to remember our Human Nature as Beings of Nature.



Refreshi

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Refreshi is an innovative South African platform turning surplus food into opportunity. By partnering with supermarkets, bakeries, cafés, restaurants and hotels, Refreshi collects still-fresh surplus items and redistributes them to consumers through “Surprise Bags” – at a fraction of the original price.

This simple idea tackles two problems at once: it reduces food waste and makes good, wholesome meals more affordable for everyday people and communities.

For businesses, Refreshi offers an efficient, low-effort channel to turn surplus into revenue – boosting visibility, attracting new customers, and reducing waste without disrupting their regular operations.

Join Refreshi today – and help transform surplus into sustainability, affordability and community benefit.



ICLEI

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ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for zero emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. ICLEI brings sustainability to a rapidly developing urban world and makes it an integral part of urban development by creating systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions.

The local and regional governments in their network confront challenges by incorporating sustainability into day-to-day operations and policy. ICLEI invests in the capacity and knowledge needed to design solutions and make decisions informed by data, scientific evidence and local realities and pressures.

ICLEI works in cities, towns and regions of all sizes, with varying capacities and challenges. Many have set and reached ambitious targets and are at the forefront of sustainability, pioneering new solutions and challenging the status quo. Others are taking early steps towards transformation, strengthening their systems and capacities to achieve sustainability goals.

