



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR ECONOMY HOTSPOT 2024

Conference Programme

2024 | **Cape Town, South Africa, 19 & 20 September**

REGISTER HERE





Why a Circular Economy Conference?

South Africa stands at the forefront of **sustainable transformation**, with a unique opportunity to embrace the Circular Economy. It can address the nation's environmental, social, and economic challenges by eliminating waste, circulating materials, and regenerating nature.

However, achieving this requires **bridging the current gaps** in action, knowledge, and collaboration.

The South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot 2024 will serve as a **vital platform**, bringing together government, policymakers, businesses, academia, and other key stakeholders.

This two-day interactive conference aims to foster dialogue, share insights, and build partnerships that can **drive the country** towards a more inclusive, resilient, and **sustainable future**.

**We invite you, the change makers, to join us
in driving this vital transition!**

Meet your conference organisers



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



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



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

Objectives



Foster

organizers direct connections with thought leaders in the private sector, government, international community, experts, changemakers, etc



Inspire

Tap into thought-leadership and circular innovation

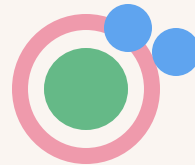


Co-create

You can customise your partnership package to meet your organisation's objectives while helping us create an impactful, circular conference



Showcase your innovative solution(s) at the Circular Innovations Expo to increase exposure and make your business known



Initiate

And drive capacity while advocating the transition



Engage

Engage and connect with a broad audience interested in the sustainable, circular, inclusive, ethical future

Highlights

200 - 300
delegates

2-days,
in-person,
Cape Town

Solutions
& Tools

7
Plenary
Sessions

3
Field Trips

3
Master-
classes

25
Expo
Stands

What's the focus?

Solutions & Tools

Across key themes:

- Circular-Preneurship
- Green & Social Tech
- Fair and Inclusive Growth
- Green & Inclusive Policies: The Rules and Roadmaps to a Circular Future

Who's in the audience?

Collaborators & Innovators

- Business Leaders
- Public Champions
- Local Change Makers
- Policy Pioneers
- Global Allies
- Financial Visionaries
- Small but Mighty Enterprises
- Knowledge Trailblazers

Master of Ceremonies



Let **Africa** be your guide.

Meet our master of ceremonies –
Africa Melane.

Africa has spent a decade in broadcasting and currently hosts the "Early Breakfast" show on Cape Talk and 702. He has extensive experience as an MC, conference facilitator, and acts as a board member for the Cape Town Opera.

He is ready to facilitate thought-provoking discussions at the South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot.

Activities



Expo



Networking



Panel



**Hackathon &
fieldtrips**



Matchmaking



Plenary

Where?

We couldn't think of a better location for the Circular Economy Hotspot than the **Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*** - a **6 Green Star building**, certified by the Green Building Council of South Africa.

This building exemplifies innovative **green best practices**, with environmental stats accessible to everyone via a real-time QR code.

The Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika* empowers individuals from across the African continent to adopt a **design-led thinking mindset**, crafting solutions that address the challenges of our ever-changing planet.

HASSO PLATTNER
d-school

AFRIKA*

07h30 08h30	Registration	Begin your conference experience!
08h45	Plenary Stage	The first annual circular economy conference in South Africa begins!
08h50	South African Music	Joe Slovo High School Choir
09h00	Welcome	By SIB, TRG and ACEN
09h10	Creative Circular Expression	Remake Catwalk by Taking Care of Business
09h20	Opening remarks	Circular Ambassador Professor Linda Godfrey – Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
09h35	Visionary statements	Hélène Rekkers – Netherlands Consul-general in Cape Town
		Dr Theuns Vivian – Head: Destination Development, Place Marketing, City of Cape Town
		Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*
09h50	#CoCreateDesign Challenge	8 pitches for a Circular Solution
11h00	Parallel Session 1: Choose your topic and panel & audience discussion	Water & Industrial Symbiosis
		Digitalisation & Innovation
		Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems
12h15	Parallel Session 2: Choose your topic and panel & audience discussion	Circular Mining & Energy
		Sustainable Tourism
13h30	Lunch	Enjoy diverse local offerings from our partner vendors
		Expo, networking, talking, post session discussions
14h30	#CoCreateDesign Challenge	Award Ceremony
15h30	Business 2 business matchmaking	Meet, partner-up, discuss, exchange and repeat
15h30	Fieldtrips	Wastewater Treatment Plant, V&A Waterfront
		Warehouse tour, Taking Care of Business
17h00	Cocktail event	Beat the traffic and join for drinks

Day 2

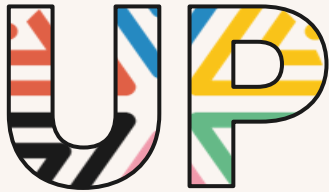
Programme 20 September 2024

08h00	Registration	Begin your conference experience!
09h00	Welcome	Welcome by Africa Melane, reflecting on Day 1, themes, people and engaging with audience
09h10	Opening remarks	ACEN & TRG
09h20	Creative Circular Expression	Circular Performance
		Catwalk by Sari for Change
09h35	Finnish Embassy	Circular Ambassador
09h40	Visionary statements	Remake Entrepreneur, Taking care of Business
		Fernel Abrahams – Dept of Economic Development & Tourism, Western Cape Government
		Catherine Wijnberg – Hloolo by Fetola
09h55	SA2Slush competition	Pitches of Circular Start-ups and Awarding
10h50	The plenary interactive session	Design thinking in action! Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika* and Circular Architect Kevin Kimwelle
11h00	Parallel Session 1: Choose your topic and panel or Masterclass	South Africa National Plastics Action Plan (SA NPAP) [11.00-15.00]
		Masterclass: Circular Entrepreneurship by Circular South Africa and Hloolo by Fetola
		B2B Matchmaking
12h30	Lunch	Enjoy diverse local offerings from our partner vendors
		Expo, networking, talking, post session discussions
13h30	Parallel Session 2: Choose your topic and panel or Masterclass	Circular Textile & Fashion
		Masterclass: Circular Economy Tools by Circular South Africa
		Masterclass: Embedding Circularity and Compliance by TheRockGroup
15h00	Circling Back	Closing the loop on a successful conference – wrap up by Africa Melane
15h10	Fieldtrips	Discover the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*
		Spier Wine Farm/Living Soils Farm Tour
15h10	B2B matchmaking	Meet, partner-up, discuss, exchange and repeat
16h00	Cocktail Event	Network and unwind



SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

Partner



Partnering is more than supporting the Conference. Partnership will ensure co-creation, collaboration as well sharing knowledge, innovation, vision and resources.

In short, partners can only be partners when we have a shared vision. A circular, sustainable, inclusive economy & society.

Support can come in many shapes and forms. In kind taking care of the costs, or offering additional value for free, or making a financial contribution are a few of the options.



Get in touch

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



Karin Boomsma

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Katharina Gihring

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Clare Nichols

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Chris Whyte

chris.whyte@acen.africa

Session Description

Water & Industrial Symbiosis

Circularity for Water. What does that mean? Join us to explore how circularity can transform water management in South Africa. We'll discuss the challenges of water scarcity, pollution, and uneven access, and how innovative solutions like water reuse, recycling, and efficient management can ensure water security. This important topic will be linked back to industrial symbiosis where water efficiency is at the core, showcasing how circular water management is possible.

Kiera Crowe Pettersson
African Circular Economy Network

Mika Jantunen
Finnish Water Forum

Ntobeko Boyana
BenPETA

Dr Henry Roman
International Water Management Institute SA

Dr Kousar Hoorzook & Mbali Zwane
**University of Johannesburg
Process, Energy and Environmental
Technology Station**

Matthew Cullinan
Atlantis Special Economic Zone

Brent Goliath
**National Cleaner Production Centre
South Africa**

Dr John Ngoni Zvimba
Water Research Commission

Session Description

Digitalisation & Innovation

With a young population, great entrepreneurial spirit and adaptability, the digital revolution is one of the biggest opportunities to make Africa thrive. This requires a strong push and need for governments to ensure reliable, affordable electricity (power), and reliable and affordable access to internet to create equality and a level-playing field for all. How can digital technologies and innovations transform traditional linear business models and practices into circular economy principles? Connecting all the dots, designing for the future, and providing local jobs.

Tracey Swart
Harambee

Jasmina Devinck
Close The Gap

Zachariah George
Launch Africa VC

Nthutuzelo Qeqe
Rhiza Babuyile

Ellen Fischat
National Business Initiative

TBC

Session Description

Agriculture & food systems

How can circularity in agriculture transform our food system and environment? This session will delve into sustainable farming practices, agroforestry, carbon credits, and waste reduction. Learn about organic waste flows, alternative proteins, and the role of community in local, sustainable food production. We explore how smart agriculture can enhance food quality and quantity while supporting a healthy ecosystem. Case studies will highlight innovative solutions.

Danny Diliberto
Ladles of Love

Andy Du Plessis
FoodForward SA

Nomahlubi Nompunga
Foiscience

Thembeke Shongwe
Dominion Solutions

Namhla Skweyiya
Spier / Living Soils

Session Description

Circular Mining and Energy

We explore how circular practices can reduce environmental impacts in South Africa's mining sector. We'll discuss materials as a service, extractors as restorers, precision mining, waste recycling, and resource efficiency. Learn about regenerative mining, mine rehabilitation for biodiversity, and benefiting communities. Discover successful case studies and the importance of regulatory frameworks, innovations, and collaboration for a sustainable circular mining economy. The session will also connect to the current energy transition and discuss how resources need to be well managed for the country's future success.

Katharina Gihring
African Circular Economy Network

Prof Cristina Trois
Stellenbosch University

Busisiwe Maphalala
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Susanne Karcher
Materials as a Service

Prof Hanri Mostert
University of Cape Town

Aysha Lotter
Sustainable Recycling Industries

Cathrine Barth
Nordic Circular Hotspot

Dr Notiswa Libala
Presidential Climate Commission

Session Description

Sustainable Tourism

South Africa's stunning landscapes, cultural heritage, and diverse wildlife make it a top travel destination, but growing tourism brings sustainability challenges. This session explores sustainable, inclusive, and circular tourism, addressing key questions: Do current standards make a difference? What smart procurement and product choices enhance value? How can we offset carbon emissions transparently? We will discuss the best practices on topics like waste, food, transport, and community impact.

Melissa Foley
All About Africa

Petro Myburgh
V&A Waterfront

Corne Koch
WESGRO

Dr Theuns Vivian
City of Cape Town

Kevin Kimwelle
Indalo World

South Africa National Plastics Action Plan (SA NPAP) – A National Plan For Plastic Pollution

Phasing out plastic pollution – how? First things first: we can only develop a National Plastic Action Plan to address plastic pollution if we understand the current situation, identify points of intervention across the value chain, determine necessary actions, and put in place the required enablers.

Join us to understand the challenge based on the latest knowledge and provide your input to the project process to ensure an effective Plastic Action Plan for South Africa. The outcome must be co-created by all stakeholders which would guide future policy and industry action.

Interested in this important project in the national plastic landscape? Share your knowledge & experience and be part of co-creating a collective roadmap towards a National Plastics Action Plan. This session is for you. Here, you'll hear insights from the private sector, government officials, researchers, innovators, recyclers, informal waste reclaimers, and NGOs—all with the same objective but different roles to play.

Funded by UNEP and hosted by WWF South Africa, with speakers from WWF, CSIR, DFFE, and the stakeholders from the plastics life cycle.

Lorren de Kock
Samuel Nyakudya
Didintle Mathibe
WWF

Anton Nahman
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Andrew Motha
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Session Description

Circular Textile & Fashion

Making South Africa's textile sector more circular and inclusive through redesign, repair, and recycling. We'll tackle fast fashion, overproduction, and waste while addressing high unemployment rates among marginalised groups like women and youth. Explore how the circular economy's "Repair, Remake & Resell" approach can create sustainable jobs and empower communities. Discover inspiring case studies and innovative solutions, including using organic waste like banana leaves for sustainable textiles.

Tracey Gilmore
Taking Care of Business

Safiyya Karim
Fashion Revolution SA

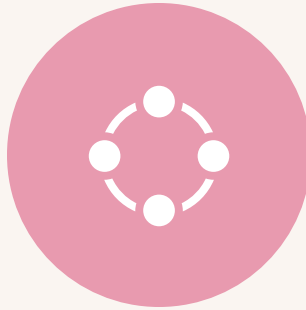
Rayana Edwards
Sari for Change

Helen Twemlow
The Foschini Group

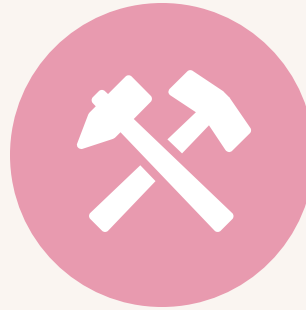
Inez Shaw
Elizabeth Galloway Fashion School

Masterclasses

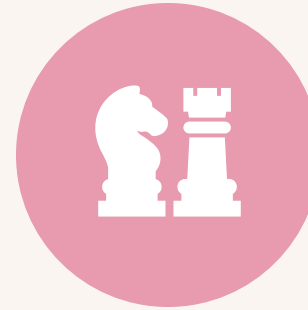
Interactive sessions that provide in-depth knowledge, practical skills, and innovative strategies in specific areas of the circular economy and sustainability.



Circular
Entrepreneurship



Circular Economy
Tools



Embedding circularity
& **Compliance**

Masterclass Description

Circular Entrepreneurship

In this masterclass we are taking the time to determine what kind of entrepreneurial models the Circular Economy provides. Where does your business (idea) belong and in what part of the cycle are you making a dent. We will look at the places in the Loop and the models (circular input, sharing concepts, product to service, product use extension, resource recovery) that can be applied. We will also be looking at financing through a female lens and speaking about funding opportunities in South Africa. This Masterclass is facilitated by Circular South Africa with its partners Hloolo and Women's Budget Group.

presented by



Chris Whyte
**African Circular Economy
Network**

Maré de Witt
Circular South Africa

Samah Krichah
Women's Budget Group

Grant Prince
Hloolo by Fetola

Masterclass Description

Circular Economy Tools

Did you know that there are more than 50 circularity tools available to support and measure circularity from Life Cycle Assessment, Material Flow Analysis, CTI Tool, supply chain Explorer to Circulytics etc? Some tools are overlapping while others focus on an entire organisation or on a product level. In this Masterclass we are going to give the participants an overview of existing circularity economy tools, their purpose and their challenges. We will also be speaking about the preliminary circular economy indicators for South Africa. This Masterclass is facilitated by Circular South Africa with circular economy analyst.

presented by



Katharina Gihring
Circular South Africa

Sam Smout
Circular Analyst

Taahira Goga
Circular Analyst

Masterclass Description

Embedding Circularity & Compliance

How integrated are sustainability strategies in your organization, and how is your impact measured? What can be done in-house versus requiring external partnerships for projects and innovations? Understanding your business's impact across the value chain is key to a successful strategy. While established businesses may adopt circular practices, new startups and circular entrepreneurs often lead in closing the loop. This Masterclass will cover how to embed circularity in both established and new businesses, and provide an overview of relevant global, regional, and local regulations, helping you stay compliant and manage obligations effectively.

presented by

TheRockGroup

Elfrieke van Galen
TheRockGroup

Esther Mangiza
TheRockGroup

Clare Nichols
TheRockGroup

The Hackathon

Dive into innovation with eight dynamic Circular Ideas Pitches.

This two-day event will provide a platform to showcase the most promising circular economy solutions.

This exciting Pitch & Award ceremony is part of the #CoCreate Circular Design Challenge 2024, an initiative of the Mission Network of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, organised by the Craft & Design Institute.



Circular Ideas Pitches will tackle the following topics:



**Fashion and
Textiles
business
models and
waste
streams**



**Educating
consumers
and
encouraging
sustainable
behaviour**



**Organic
waste
business
models and
waste
streams**



**Repair and
Re-use
business
models in the
local
economy**

The audience joins the jury where each vote counts. Winners in each category receive **R15,000** to bring their concepts to life.



MATCH MAKING SPACES

Finding the right partners, advisors, collaborators, suppliers, clients, funders, and diverse thinkers can be challenging. It takes time, effort, and effective communication to set up meetings.

Here, we bring together a variety of players, and a quick **20-minute speed date** could lead to lasting partnerships.

Take advantage of this space by inviting participants who **resonate** with you and meeting as many people as possible. Once the first step is taken, **relationships** can grow.

We offer a designated space for **in-person meetings** and an online B2B matchmaking **platform** to manage onsite encounters.



CRASH COURSE SPACES

Reduce, reuse, repair, refurbish, and repurpose all start with **rethinking and redesigning**. Designing for circularity enables us to focus on all these R's.

Join us to explore the **best examples** of circular design, the latest supportive **policies**, and exciting **initiatives**.

Let's discuss how to make good design the new mainstream.



CREATIVE SPACES

Draw, sketch, write and share your views beyond 2024. **What does circularity look like?** What are the key words, images and innovations? Spend some time with Circular Designers and Creatives.

Circular Solutions Expo

SACEH'24 aims to make sessions and trainings as impactful as possible. To truly experience the impact, we invite you to learn directly from our **circular solutions providers**.

The Expo will showcase initiatives and organisations already demonstrating successful circularity in South Africa and beyond.



Circular solutions always **eliminate** waste, **convert** waste into value, **meet** sustainable needs, and **create** new jobs and business opportunities.

Examples include **snacks** made from organic waste, alternative protein **feed**, wool and mohair from regenerative farms, **textiles** made from waste, upcycled **fashion**, refurbished **computers**, organic **compost**, and circular **ink** made from coffee.

Circular Solutions Expo



SARI FOR CHANGE
SUSTAINABLE FASHION



SAPRO
South African Plastics Recycling Organisation



Reusefy®

gooli



Fieldtrips

Interactive sessions that provide in-depth knowledge, practical skills, and innovative strategies in specific areas of the circular economy and sustainability.



Water & Industrial Symbiosis

V&A Waterfront
Wastewater
Treatment Plant



Circular Textile & Fashion

Taking Care of
Business
Warehouse tour



Digitalisation & Innovation

The Hasso Plattner
d-school Afrika*
Building Tour

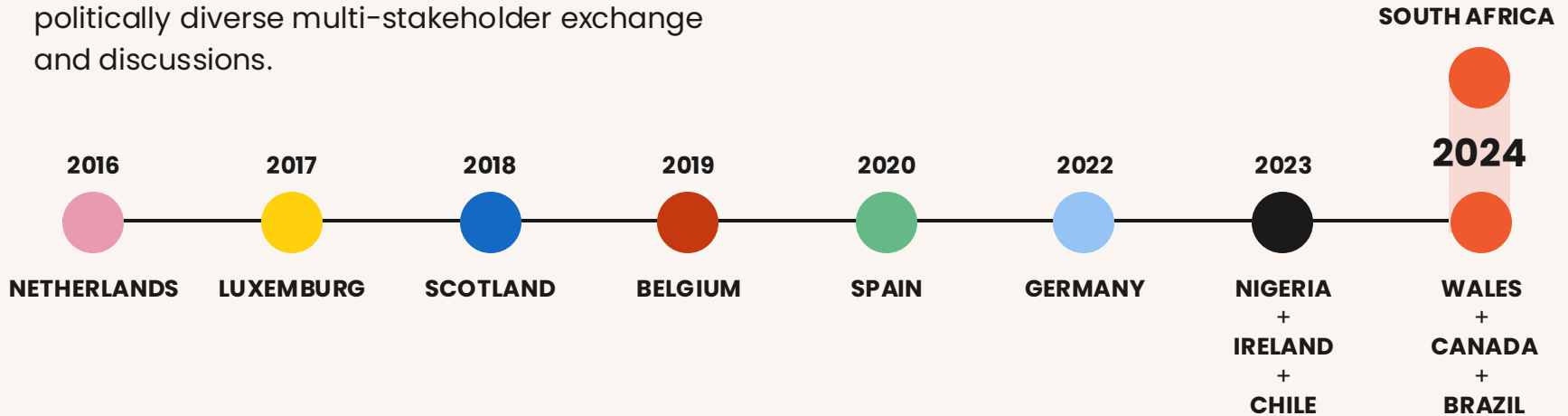


Regenerative Agriculture & Food Systems

Spier Wine Farm /
Living Soils
Farm Tour

Circular Economy Hotspots

Initiated in 2016, the **Circular Economy Hotspot** (CEH) is hosted annually in alternating cities and regions across the globe. These hotspot events aim to spotlight native circular economy solutions, initiatives, and innovation and demonstrate best practices through exhibitions and field trips, while facilitating culturally and politically diverse multi-stakeholder exchange and discussions.



Why South Africa?

South Africa was selected as 1 of the 4 countries to host the Circular Economy Hotspot in 2024 along with Brazil, Canada, and Wales. South Africa is the bustling home to a multitude of circular economy initiatives and programmes lead by government, organisations, businesses and civil society.



With incredible support from



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



Kingdom of the Netherlands



In very proud collaboration with

