

NATURE AND CIRCULARITY WEEK 2025



We are at a critical moment in history – one that calls for a **radical shift** in how we **relate to the natural world**. Nature & Circularity Week 2025 brings together legal thinkers, circular economy innovators, and system changers to explore how we can **design regenerative futures** where both people and planet thrive.

20 – 23 October 2025



The Sustainability Institute
Stellenbosch, South Africa



REGISTER NOW >>

The week kicks off with in situ **field trips** showcasing real-world circular solutions and nature-based practices, followed by **two flagship events**:



**HUMAN (IN) NATURE
CONFERENCE**



**SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
SUMMIT 2025**

Together, these events offer insight, inspiration, practical tools to shift mindsets, reimagine business models, co-create systems that value nature, equity, and resilience.

HUMAN (IN) NATURE | 22 OCT

08:00 AM | REGISTRATION

08:50 AM | OPENING CIRCLE

- **Opening ceremony** with [Mphatheleni Makaulule](#)
- **Welcome by hosts**, the Sustainability institute and Conference partner
- **Explore the Human Relationship with Nature** with [Wayne Maspero](#), [Ian Read](#), [Allister Sylvester](#) (Bergplaas)

09:45 AM | PLENARY 1

- Global movement, legal recognition, Dutch examples of implementation with [Jessica den Outer](#) (Rights of Nature)
- Earth jurisprudence and governance, Table Mountain as a living being, and the Antarctic Rights Initiative with [Cormac Cullinan](#) (Wild Law)
- Table Mountain journey and Earthrise Collective with [Pooven Moodley](#) (Natural Justice)
- Interconnection versus othering with [Professor Melanie Murcott](#) (University of Cape Town)

This event invites you to **rethink** your connection to the natural world. What if nature had the same rights as people? What if business, law, and community all honoured **nature as home**?

Through inspiring discussions and hands-on sessions, we'll explore bold ideas to **restore balance** between people and planet – and spark a shift toward a more **just, nature-connected future**.

11:50 AM | AM SESSIONS

1. **Deepening Rights of Nature: Law, Practice, and Policy** with [Jessica den Outer](#), [Cormac Cullinan](#), [Pooven Moodley](#), and [Elfrieke van Galen](#)
2. **Listening to Nature's Voice** with [Saskia von Diest](#) (*Ecofluency*) and [Wynter Worsthorne](#) (*Animal Talk Africa*)
3. **Society & Nature: Good for Community, Culture, Heritage & Ecology** with [Sinegugu Zekhulu](#) (*Wits University*), [Ruth Crichton](#) (*The Long Run*), and [Amelia Visagie](#) (*Zutari*)
4. **Society & Nature Beekeeping Masterclass** with [Mems Ramaila](#) (*Bee African*)
5. **Netwalking in nature & expo showcase and talks**

HUMAN (IN) NATURE | 22 OCT

13:20 PM | LUNCH

Seasonal, locally sourced vegetarian and plant-based lunch by upcoming chefs

14:30 PM | PLENARY 2

- Wildlife rehabilitation & business with [Linda Tucker](#) (Global White Lion Protection Trust)
- How humans are a keystone species in regenerating food landscapes with [Saskia von Diest](#)
- Landscape rehabilitation with Commonland / ReNature
- [Mphatheleni Makaulule](#) (Dzomo La Mupo Food)
- Regenerative agriculture supply chains/Youth Agroecology Voice/Local Farmer with Woolworths & Food Technologist
- Conventional Business & Nature Relation with [Elfrieke van Galen](#) (TheRockGroup)

Special Guest, Her Royal Highness Princess Irene of The Netherlands, founder of the Bergplaas and Spirit of the Wild Initiatives. Known for her deep commitment to ecological and spiritual causes. She authored several books, including Dialogue with Nature and Science, Soul, and the Spirit of Nature.

15:35 PM | PM SESSIONS

1. **Regenerative Conservation**
Bergplaas with Linda Tucker
2. **Regenerative Food Systems - From Soil to Supply Chains** *with Mphatheleni Makaulule and Mems Ramaila*
3. **Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration**
4. **Biomimicry in Action**
Masterclass with Matthew Zylstra (Kwendalo Institute)
5. **Conventional Business & Nature** *Masterclass with Elfrieke van Galen*

17:10 PM | CLOSING

- Personal tales of rewilding and restoration
- Participant reflections and surprise guest
- Acoustic music or natural soundscape performance

17:45 PM | NATURE REFLECTION

Guided contemplative tour around venue grounds or solo reflection

SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR SUMMIT | 23 OCT

A bold call to rethink what **progress** looks like. What if waste didn't exist? What if products were made to last, regenerate, and uplift communities?

This summit explores how circular thinking can **reshape systems** – from business and design to community resilience – so that people and the planet can thrive together. Join us to unlock **real solutions** for a future that works for all.

Masterclasses will share **practical tools, tested approaches, and real-world insights** to help businesses move from intention to action.



A transformative journey of self-discovery, leadership, and deep connection with nature.

Location: Bergplaas Nature Reserve

Dates: 26 – 30 Oct 2025

Spaces are limited – early registration encouraged!

Reconnect with nature on this 3-day, 2-night experience.

08:00 AM | PLENARY 1

Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future *Legal innovations, governance shifts, the global movement*

12:15 PM | CHOOSE A SESSION

- **Circular Value Chains**
Business opportunities across sectors
- **Nature as the Business Case**
Jobs, food, ecosystems
- **Circular Manufacturing**
Local production with impact
- **Rethinking Plastics**
Extended Producer Responsibility & policy innovation

14:20 PM | PLENARY 2

Enablers for a Regenerative Future
Funding, policies, partnerships & criteria for circular investment

Circular Innovation Challenge 2025
by V&A Waterfront and SOLVE

15:45 PM | CHOOSE A SESSION

- **Co-Creation Lab**
Mapping your circular action
- **Circular Business Models**
Masterclass to strengthen your impact
- **Nature as a Solution**
Systems-thinking session
- **Redesign for repair & refurbishment**
Real stories, real impact (DigiCircle4All, CloseTheGap and more)

SPONSORSHIP AND COLLABORATION

We are looking for amazing sponsors to assist us with making this event a success.

We would like to keep the ticket price as **low as possible** to keep the event as **inclusive** and **accessible** to all, as this is not a commercial event.

Any partnership opportunity can be **tailored** to the need and budget of the organisation. Sponsorships in kind which will cover event costs are very welcome.

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REGISTER NOW



AMPLIFY YOUR BRAND

Showcase your commitment to sustainability and innovation to a high-impact, cross-sector audience from South Africa & around the world.

COLLABORATE FOR IMPACT

Forge meaningful connections with industry leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and future collaborators driving the shift toward circular and nature-positive solutions.

LEAD THE CONVERSATION

Position your organisation as a thought leader by contributing to panels, workshops, and spotlight sessions that shape the future.

UNLOCK EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

Be part of the inner circle with invitations to pre-summit gatherings, strategy meetings, and curated sector roundtables.

PROUDLY ORGANISED BY

