

# Nature & Circularity Week





# Nature & Circularity Week

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

*Reimagine. Redesign.  
Redefine. Reconnect.*

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

**Register Here**





## Introduction | Why This Matters



### The Urgency of Change

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

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

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

### What is Nature & Circularity Week

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

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





# Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

## Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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22 Oct 2025

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

*Rethinking Our Place in Nature*

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

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

23 Oct 2025

## South Africa Circular Economy Summit

*Reimagining New Systems*

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

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26 – 30 Oct 2025

**Spirit of the Wild experience** at  **BERGPLAAS**  
NATURE RESERVE

*Reconnecting with Nature*





## Who Should Attend?

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

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

**Policymakers** and **regulators** driving systemic change.

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

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





# The conference organisers



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



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



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



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



# Nature and Circularity Week | Fieldtrips

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

20 October 2025



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



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

21 October 2025



**10h00 AM | Tracking The Edible Landscape with Veld & Sea, Cape Point** Join a wild food foraging adventure, exploring nature's offerings, seasonal flavours, and nature-inspired culinary creativity.



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





# HUMAN (IN) NATURE CONFERENCE

**22 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa**



# Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

## Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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22 Oct 2025

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

### *Rethinking Our Place in Nature*

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

- Rights of Nature
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23 Oct 2025

## South Africa Circular Summit

### *Reimagining New Systems*

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

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26 – 30 Oct 2025

## Spirit of the Wild experience at BERGPLAAS NATURE RESERVE

### *Reconnecting with Nature*





# Introduction | **Why This Matters**

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

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

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

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

## **Reflection & Understanding**

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

## **Masterclasses on Nature & business**

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

## **Society & Nature**

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



# Human (In) Nature Conference

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

**HRH Princess Irene of The Netherlands**

Founder of the Bergplaas and Spirit of the Wild Initiatives



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



# Human (In) Nature Conference | What to Expect



Expert **Speakers**



**Panel** Discussions



Picnic **Interactive**  
Sessions & Outdoor  
Connection



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



**Traditional** Knowledge  
and Food & Beverages



**Futuristic** Projects



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



## Key Themes

### Rights of Nature

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

### Society & Nature

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

### Business & Nature

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

**Regenerative & Low-Impact Tourism**  
**Circular Food & Soil Regeneration**



## Featured Case Studies & Masterclasses

### Bergplaas Nature Reserve

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

### Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration

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

### Table Mountain

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

### Biomimicry

Nature based solutions



# Human (In) Nature Conference | Preview of the Day



## **Cultural Connection**

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



## **A Global Sketch of the Rights of Nature**

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



## **Past – Present – Future**

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



## **Conversation with a friend of Bergplaas**

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



## **Open Space: Your Questions, Your Topics**

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



## **Nature Immersion / Silent Reflection**

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



## **Business & Nature – Can They Coexist?**

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



## **Closing Circle: What Have We Discovered?**

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



# Human (In) Nature Conference | Tentative **Preview of Day 1**

## 08:00 – 08:45 | Arrival & Registration

Welcome tea, land acknowledgement, informal networking.

## 08:50 – 09:40 | Opening Circle

✔ Overall Event Sponsor Opportunity

- **Opening ceremony** with **Mphatheleni Makaulule** setting the tone with her wisdom and grounding presence. Grounding, setting the tone, nature impact, acknowledgement of ancestors and land
- **Welcome** by hosts **The Sustainability Institute + Conference partner**
- Explore the Human Relationship with Nature with **Insights from Wayne Maspero, Ian Read, Allister Sylvester** (Spirit of the Wild – Bergplaas)

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

✔ Co-host Opportunity

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

- **Jessica den Outer** – Global movement, legal recognition and Dutch examples of implementation.
- **Cormac Cullinan** – Earth jurisprudence and governance, Table Mountain as a living being, and the Antarctic Rights Initiative.
- **Pooven Moodley** – Table Mountain journey and Earthrise Collective
- **Professor Melanie Murcott** – expand on the theme of interconnection versus othering, bringing a broader philosophical and constitutional dimension.

\*speaker to be confirmed





# Human (In) Nature Conference | Tentative **Preview of Day 1**

**11:00 – 11:30 | Tea Break** (Outdoors)

**11:35 – 13:05 | Morning Concurrent Sessions** (Choose One)

## **1. Deepening Rights of Nature: Law, Practice, and Policy**

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

- Legal case for Table Mountain's rights
- Antarctic Rights Initiative
- Rights of Nature Tribunal – alternative legal system

## **2. Ecofluency: Listening to Nature's Voice**

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

- Practices to attune to the more-than-human world
- Case studies on animals/nature conversations

## **3. Society & Nature: Good for Community, Culture, Heritage & Ecology**

- Key speaker: **Sinegugu Zekhulu** – Indigenous Peoples and Communities' Coexistence with Nature
- Rutendo Ngara
- **Ruth Crichton** (The Long Run) – 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture, Commerce
- Community-led tourism approaches from the Wild Coast with **Amelia Visagie** (Zutari)
- Cape Floristic Regional Partnership (WWF, CapeNature) Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE)

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

## **5. Netwalking in nature & expo talks**

\*speaker to be confirmed





# Human (In) Nature Conference | Tentative **Preview of Day 1**

## 13:05 – 14:00 | Lunch: The Harvest Table

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

## 14:00 – 15:25 | Plenary 2: Business & Nature – Regenerating Economies and Landscapes

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

- Wildlife rehabilitation & business – **Linda Tucker**, Global White Lion protection Trust
- How humans are a keystone species in regenerating food landscapes – **Saskia von Diest**
- Landscape rehabilitation – Commonland / ReNature / Grootvlei Case
- **Mphatheleni Makaulule**, Dzomo La Mupo Food
- Regenerative agriculture supply chains/Youth Agroecology Voice/**Local Farmer**
- Conventional Business & Nature Relation – **Elfrieke van Galen**, TheRockGroup

## 15:30 – 17:00 | Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (Choose One) *continued on p.9*



Co-host Opportunity

### 1. Regenerative Conservation – Bergplaas

(Speakers: *Endangered Wildlife Trust*, **The Long Run, Bergplaas** *TBC*)

- Tools for circular economy principles in conservation and tourist
- Deep dive into wildlife rehabilitation & business – **Linda Tucker**, Global White Lion protection trust

### 2. Regenerative Food Systems – From Soil to Soul (Outdoor garden session)

- *Rushdah Kannemeyer, Food Scientist TBC*
- Nutrition, resilience, ecosystem health, shifting value chains *Loubie Rouch*
- **Mphatheleni Makaulule**, Dzomo La Mupo Food
- **Mems Ramaila**, Bee African

\*speaker to be confirmed





# Human (In) Nature Conference | Tentative **Preview of Day 1**

**15:30 – 17:00 | Afternoon Concurrent Sessions** (Choose One) *continued from p.8*

## **3. Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration** (With video presentations)

- Rutendo Ngara
- **Lynette Munro**, Nature Connect
- **Brandt Coetzee**, Mannabrew
- Nick, Friends of the Liesbeek
- Finance models, community approaches, economic/ecological/social value

## **4. Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action**

(Lecturer style by **Matthew Zylstra**)

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

## **5. Masterclass: Conventional Business & Nature**

(**Elfrieke van Galen**)

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

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

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

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

*Facilitators:* Guided contemplative walk or solo reflection.

\*speaker to be confirmed





## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



### **Mphatheleni Makaulule**

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



### **Pooven Moodley**

South African human rights lawyer and social justice activist. Currently with Natural Justice, he has led global campaigns on land rights, climate justice, and corporate accountability, and played a key role in stopping South Africa's proposed nuclear deal with Russia.



### **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.



## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



### **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.



### **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.



### **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.



## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



### **Saskia von Diest**

founder of Ecofluency and a leading voice in Nature communication. With a PhD in Plant Pathology and two postdoctoral fellowships, she bridges science and intuition to support transformative dialogue between humans and the more-than-human world.



### **Wynter Worsthorne**

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



### **Sinegugu Zekhulu**

Dr. Khulu 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.



## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



### **Ruth Crichton**

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



### **Amelia Visagie**

Associate Design Director at Zutari, leading stakeholder engagement sustainability. With 35+ years' experience across Africa, she specialises in inclusive community development, public participation, and impact assessment. She serves on the IAP2SA board & champions co-creative, sustainable solutions.



### **Elfrieke van Galen**

With 20+ years in aviation, Elfrieke has led KLM Cityhopper and KLM UK, and served as Senior VP of CSR. A legal expert with deep management experience, she excels at embedding sustainability into business strategies and driving impactful change in complex environments.



## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



### **Linda Tucker**

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



**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.



### **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.



## Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



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# **SOUTH AFRICA** CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

*Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.*

**23 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa**





# Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

## Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

22 Oct 2025

**The Human (in) Nature Conference** initiated by  BERGPLAAS  
NATURE RESERVE

*Rethinking Our Place in Nature*

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- Rights of Nature
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- Business & Nature

23 Oct 2025

## South Africa Circular Summit

*Reimagining New Systems*

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

26 – 30 Oct 2025

**Spirit of the Wild experience**  BERGPLAAS  
NATURE RESERVE

*Reconnecting with Nature*





## Introduction | Why This Matters



### The Urgency of Change

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

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

### South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot 2024 (SACEH24)

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

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



## South Africa Circular Summit 2025 (SACES25)

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

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

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

## Why This Matters

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

What does it mean to be part of nature?

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





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Reimagining New Systems



## The Status Quo

The hardest part is the commitment to systemic change.

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



## Challenging existing paradigms

Why do we consume certain products/services?

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

-  
What resources are used, and why?

-  
How is design influencing product lifespan and costs?



## The Circular Economy Vision

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

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



# What to Expect at the Circular Summit



Insights into circular  
**innovations**



**Networking** with  
sustainability  
advocates



Collaborative vision-  
building **sessions**



Hands-on  
**workshops** for  
practical skills



Investment and  
funding **guidance**



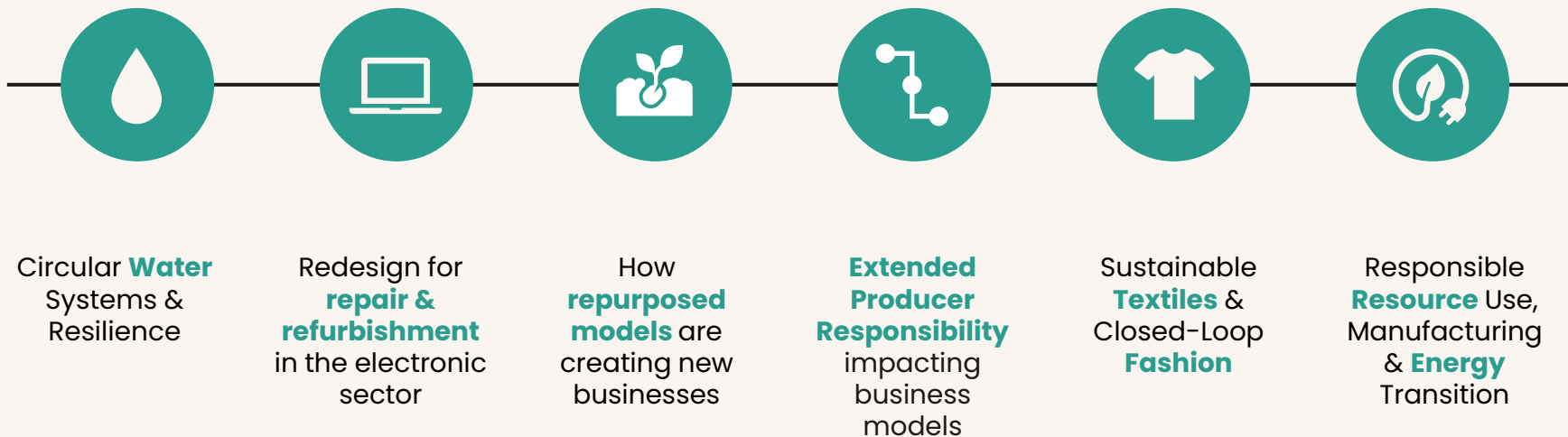
**Keynotes** from  
circular economy  
leaders



# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Potential Sessions

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

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





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

## Circularity in Action – From Vision to Practice

Rethinking Materials, Rewiring Systems, Empowering Communities

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

- Herbal tea, *regenerative coffee* and foraged fruit breakfast
- Movement session in nature
- **Innovations & Start-up showcase expo:** Innovations in circular textiles, packaging, design, organic waste, food systems
  - Progressive stories evolving from 2024 – x exhibitors Foiscience
  - New trailblazers on the way – x exhibitors

### 08:50–10:00 | Opening Circle

- **Welcome** by hosts: **Sustainability Institute + Conference partner**
- **Rutendo Ngara** and Cormac Cullinan – Brief reflection from Day 1
- Introduction to Day 2's focus: circularity, material flows, and systems change **Katharina Gihring**
- Key note speaker on Transforming Systems & Design thinking- Nicola Fourie/Jacque Stoltz Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism(DEDAT)

\*speaker to be confirmed





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

## 10:00–11:15 | Plenary 1: Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future

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

- **Intro to Regenerative Agri-Food Systems**  
City of Cape Town Waste Department rep + food loss and waste initiative
- **Nature as the Circular Business Case**  
**Shren Moodley** – Kelpak
- **Socio-economic Development through waste**  
Economic models that regenerate value **Chad Robertson**, Regenize / REACT
- **Threads of Sustainability**  
TBC

## 11:20–11:50 | Circular Innovation Challenge 2025 by SOLVE and the V&A Waterfront (part 1)

Competition launched, finalists pitch their business ideas.

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

## 11:50–12:20 | Circular Refreshment Break

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

\*speaker to be confirmed





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

12:25–13:40 | Morning Immersive Sessions: **Circularity in Practice** (Choose One) *continued on p.14*

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

**The Farmer** – producing with nature in mind | **The Food Scientist** – innovation for safe, nutritious, and circular food use | **The Retailer** – **Andrew Milson** (Food Lovers Market) and **Kurt Ackermann** (Coffeebeans Routes) – connecting consumers to sustainable food choices | **The Biorecyclers** – **Emile Fourie** (Y Waste) – using waste materials as a resource to address economic growth, environmental stability, social upliftment – and **Philafeed** (Black Soldier Fly) – valorising organic waste into protein and soil | **ICLEI Africa** – water governance as a key component of agriculture | **WRAP UK**

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

This session explores how nature-based solutions and conservation create sustainable jobs, strengthen resilience, and regenerate ecosystems. Speakers from **BeeAfrica**, **SANParks**, **Endangered Wildlife Trust**, **Floristic Regional Partnership**, **WWF**, **CapeNature**, **Willow Art**, **Driven by Nature**, and **Nature Connect** will share how nature itself is the business case — a re-energising space that restores biodiversity, sustains livelihoods, and supports a regenerative economy.

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

This session explores how circular manufacturing and industrial symbiosis can strengthen local economies, reduce waste, and create meaningful social impact. By linking industries and reusing resources across sectors, new opportunities for innovation and resilience emerge. Speakers from **Matthew Cullinan** (Atlantis SEZ), **CRDC**, **WomHub**, **Anglo American Mining**, and **Kelpak**, will showcase practical examples of how circularity and collaboration drive sustainable growth.

\*speaker to be confirmed





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

12:25–13:40 | Morning Immersive Sessions: **Circularity in Practice** (Choose One) *continued from p.13*

## 4. Rethinking Plastics: Extended Producer Responsibility, Policy, and Practical Pathways

This session goes beyond discussion to showcase real examples of what is achievable in moving plastics towards circularity – as well as where are the struggles to achieve the next steps. Speakers from **PolyCo, PRO Alliance, SPAR, SAPRO, WESGRO, and WWF**, facilitated by **Kirsten Barnes**, will highlight how extended producer responsibility, supportive policies, and business innovation are already driving measurable change.

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

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

- BKB – Mohair Farmers – producing one of the world's most sustainable mohair fibres, fully engaged across the value chain.
- Natural Dye Specialist – creating vibrant, eco-friendly colours from plant-based processes. *Alternative Fibre Innovators* – turning unconventional sources, like hemp and oranges, into sustainable textiles.
- **Sustainable Fashion Practitioner** – integrating natural fibres and dyeing into circular design and production practices.
- Cape Union Mart – Michelle Goddard

13:40–14:25 | Local Lunch & Networking Tables

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

\*speaker to be confirmed





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative **Preview of Day 2**

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

Jury presents the winner

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

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

1. **Matching Our Collective Circular Action** – Matchmaking Masterclass with **TheRockGroup**
2. **How circularity creates new business models** – Masterclass with **Circular South Africa** and **Impact Amplifier**
3. **The Responsible Resources and Nature as a Solutions** – Masterclass (TBC)
4. **Redesign for repair & refurbishment** in the electronic sector – practical workshop **DigiCircle4All, Close The Gap, Rhiza Babuyile, Sustainable Recycling Industries**. A refurbishment experience in digital space– the story of electronic devices and their second life and many jobs opportunities, devices and digital impact on the community stories

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

- Reflections from community voices, youth, artists, entrepreneurs | Collective harvest of ideas, emotions, and actions | Nature-based ritual, collective intention setting | Takeaway: Seeds of Circularity Kit / Digital Commitment Card – promises made for 2026 | *Music from a local artist*

## 17:10 – 18:00 | Networking, Sustainable Wine from Siglinda Losch of Vinimark, Tea, Drinks & Forest Reflection

- Introduction to Innovative Precision Wine Farming with wine tasting | Optional mindful walk





# South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Masterclasses

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

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



How to apply  
**circular principles** to  
your business



Define stakeholders  
in your business:  
**partnerships** for  
impact



## Call to Action | How can you get involved?



### Collaborate & Innovate

#### **Co-create solutions**

Work together on new ideas and initiatives.

–

#### **Align policies & practices**

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

–

#### **Form strategic partnerships**

Foster connections across industries and sectors to drive collective impact.



### Showcase & Share

#### **Host an exhibit or demo**

Present innovations or solutions.

–

#### **Present a case study**

Highlight successful projects and lessons learned.

–

#### **Demonstrate thought leadership**

Contribute insights and share expertise through interactive sessions.



### Inspire Action

#### **Launch an initiative**

Introduce a circular project, challenge, or competition.

–

#### **Present a relevant good practice**

Highlight successful approaches.

–

#### **Pledge commitments**

Make measurable sustainability goals public.





# Sponsors and Collaborators | Co-create Nature & Circularity Week

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

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

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



## Brand Visibility

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



## Networking Opportunities

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



## Thought Leadership

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



## Exclusive Access

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



# Sponsors and Collaborators | Partnership Opportunities

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



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

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







# SPIRIT OF THE WILD



# Event Details

20 & 21 Oct 2025

## Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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22 Oct 2025

## The Human (in) Nature Conference initiated by BERGPLAAS NATURE RESERVE

*Rethinking Our Place in Nature*

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

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

23 Oct 2025

## South Africa Circular Summit

*Reimagining New Systems*

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

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26 – 30 Oct 2025

## Spirit of the Wild experience at BERGPLAAS NATURE RESERVE

*Reconnecting with Nature*





## Introduction | Spirit of the Wild

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

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

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

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



# Reconnect with Nature | A Journey: Spirit of the Wild



## Why Attend?

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

–

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

–

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



## What to Expect

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

–

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

–

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



## Practical information

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

–

Dates: 26 – 30 Oct 2025

–

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

–

**Spaces are limited – early registration encouraged!**





**Register for the event here**







## Get in touch

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



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