

TheRockGroup



**SOUTH AFRICA 2026**  
**LOCAL CIRCULARITY SUMMIT**  
*The Power of Local*

2026 | Cape Town, South Africa | October



# 2026 South Africa Local Circularity Summit

## From Material Flows to Thriving Local Economies

*Making Circularity Work for  
People, Business, and  
Places.*

**Cape Town, South Africa |  
October 2026**



## Introduction | Why This Matters

*Africa cannot wait for global solutions.  
The opportunity is local.*

Across Africa, businesses and communities are navigating growing uncertainty - from shifting markets to rising costs and fragile supply chains. Local resilience is essential.



The circular economy offers a practical path forward. It's about creating value locally, using resources wisely, and building systems that last. But too often, the conversation is complex and disconnected from what actually works on the ground.

This conference responds to that gap. It brings together people who are ready to move beyond ideas and into action - sharing real solutions, building partnerships, and learning by doing.

*Less theory. More practice.  
Less fragmentation. More collaboration.*



# The Opportunity

Circular economy is not just sustainability – it is:

- A **practical economic model** for local value creation
- A driver of **jobs, entrepreneurship** and **resilience**
- A way to **reduce dependency on imports and fragile systems**

**Material streams already exist.**  
The **opportunity** is to **connect and activate** them.



# Introduction | **What makes this conference different**



## **This is not a talk shop**

We focus on:


- Action over theory
- Collaboration over competition
- Local solutions over global theories



## **Participants don't just learn**

They:

- Build partnerships
- Identify real opportunities
- Start implementing solutions



# 5 Focus Areas: From **ideas** to **implementation**

1

**Local Economic Resilience**

2

**Material Stream Connections**

3

**Circular Jobs & Entrepreneurship**

4

**Indigenous Knowledge & Low-Tech Innovation**

5

**Practical Tools**



# 2026 South Africa Local Circularity Summit | Pick Your Topics

We want to create the conference **you want to attend**. Which topics do you want to hear about?



## 1. Local Solutions for a Resilient Africa

Strengthening regional economies through local production, short value chains, and circular systems.



## 2. People First: Circularity That Works for Communities

Designing solutions that improve livelihoods, create jobs, and support inclusion.



## 3. From Material Streams to New Value

Connecting businesses so that by-products become input, unlocking new economic opportunities.



## 4. Rethinking Materials and Resource Use

Promoting durable, regenerative, and locally sourced materials.



## 5. Smarter Systems, Not More Production

Redesigning systems to reduce dependency on overproduction and consumption.



## 6. Learning from the Past to Build the Future

Leveraging indigenous knowledge and low-tech practices for modern circular solutions.



## 7. Technology that Supports, Not Replaces

Using AI and digital tools to enable circular systems while keeping people at the centre.



## 8. Circular Jobs and Entrepreneurship

Unlocking pathways for youth, SMMEs, and informal sectors.



## 9. From Talking to Doing: Making Circularity Happen

Moving beyond empty buzzwords and tick-box commitments toward real collaboration and implementation.



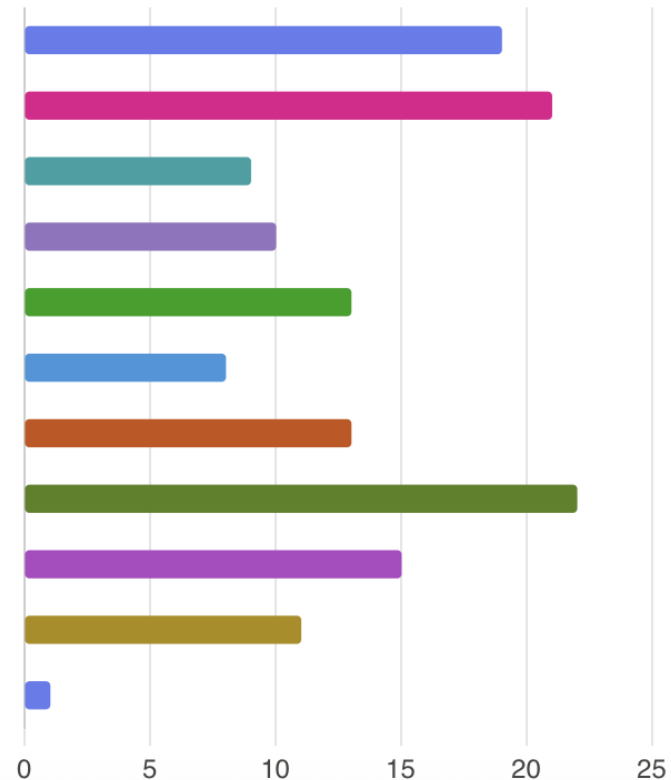
## 10. Cities and Communities as Circular Ecosystems

Designing places where materials, people, and ideas flow locally and sustainably.

# The Demand

Looking at the first poll for 2026, these are **the topics you want to hear about:**

- **1. Local Solutions for a Resilient Africa:** Strengthening regional economies through... 19
- **2. People First - Circularity That Works for Communities:** Designing solutions that... 21
- **3. From Waste to New Value:** Connecting businesses so that by-products... 9
- **4. Rethinking Materials and Resource Use:** Promoting durable, regenerative, and locally... 10
- **5. Smarter Systems, Not More Production:** Redesigning systems to reduc... 13
- **6. Learning from the Past to Build the Future:** Leveraging indigenous knowledge... 8
- **7. Technology that Supports, Not Replaces:** Using AI and digital tools to... 13
- **8. Circular Jobs and Entrepreneurship:** Unlocking pathways for youth, SMMEs, an... 22
- **9. From Talking to Doing - Making Circularity Happen:** Moving beyond empt... 15
- **10. Cities and Communities as Circular Ecosystems:** Designing places where... 11
- Other 1



# Who Will Be In The Room?

A full ecosystem, ready to work **together**.



**Entrepreneurs  
& SMMES**



**Corporates  
Seeking Local  
Supply  
Solutions**



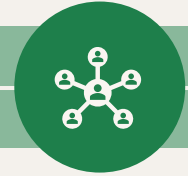
**City & Policy  
Makers**



**Development  
Organizations  
Shifting to  
Local Impact**



**Innovators &  
Youths**



**Community &  
Informal Sector  
Leaders**

# 2026 South Africa Local Circularity Summit | **How it Works**

Designed to create **outcomes**, not just **discussions**.

## **Circularity in Action – From Vision to Practice**

Highly interactive,  
practical formats

## **Material Matchmaking**

Hands-on circular  
skills

## **Campaign Creation Labs**

Build real initiative

## **5-Minute One- Sentence**

Conversations  
Fast, focused  
connections

## **Harvest Tables**

Local food, real  
conversations

## **Find-Your- People Sessions**

Curated  
networking

# Make it happen! | Who Should Partner?

Partners contribute **in-kind, monetary, or expertise** to create **real experiences, labs, and solutions**, rather than just logos on slides. Every partner has a **direct, visible impact** on the conference outcomes.

We're looking for collaborators!



## Forward looking Corporates

Who see circularity  
as **business and  
systems opportunity.**



## Impact Driven Investors

Who want to **move  
beyond pilot projects  
to real  
implementation.**



## Foundations & NGOs shifting to Local Models

Who are committed to  
**local economic  
development.**



## Cities & Regional Agencies

Ready to **collaborate  
openly, across  
sectors.**

# Bring the Vision to Life | Help us turn a great idea into a great event

The people are ready. Now we build the experience. We're creating something special - and we're looking for **partners to help make it happen**, from venues to coffee and everything in between.

Got a beautiful space gathering dust? **Let's fill it with brilliant people.**

Venue

Can you **feed 300 curious, inspired humans**? We're already grateful.

Catering

Do you make **microphones** behave and **slides** appear like magic?

AV

Samples, goodies, branded treats - **we love a memorable takeaway.**

Gifts

Can you **capture moments** people will talk about long after?

Photography

Plants, upcycled decor, lighting... **we're creating a vibe, not just an event.**

Atmosphere

Spoken word artist? MC? Acrobat? **Bring the energy between sessions.**

Talent

Name badges, lanyards, wristbands - **the small things that matter.**

Event Essentials

Got a mobile **coffee bar / juice station / smoothie bike**? Yes please.

Drinks

Do you make **ink meet paper** in magical ways? Let's talk.

Printing

# 2026 South Africa Local Circularity Summit | Partner Value

## The Opportunity

Connect with real local innovators and entrepreneurs

Discover new suppliers, partners, and business opportunities

Show your organisation as a leader in practical, real-world solutions

Build partnerships that last beyond the event

Support visible, measurable impact in local communities

## What You'll Gain

Strong visibility with a focused and relevant network

A direct role in shaping the event experience

Opportunities to connect and collaborate with start-ups and decision-makers

Inclusion in event storytelling, media, and campaigns

Opportunities to host sessions, workshops, or challenges

Alignment with action, innovation, and local impact

Presence across event materials and interactive spaces

## Expected outcomes

New partnerships and ways for businesses to use each other's resources

Presence across event materials and interactive spaces

Practical pilots and new initiatives launched

Pathways for job creation identified

Campaigns and ideas ready to roll out  
Stronger networks across the region

# Call To Action

Let's make circularity happen. **Together.**

If you are serious about building **resilient, local economies** – this is your platform. Let's move:

From **fragmentation**

To **collaboration**

From **waste**

To **material value**

From **ideas**

To **implementation**



The **future of circularity** in Africa is **local, practical, and collaborative**.  
This conference is where it starts to take shape.



**Pre-Register** Today.