



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



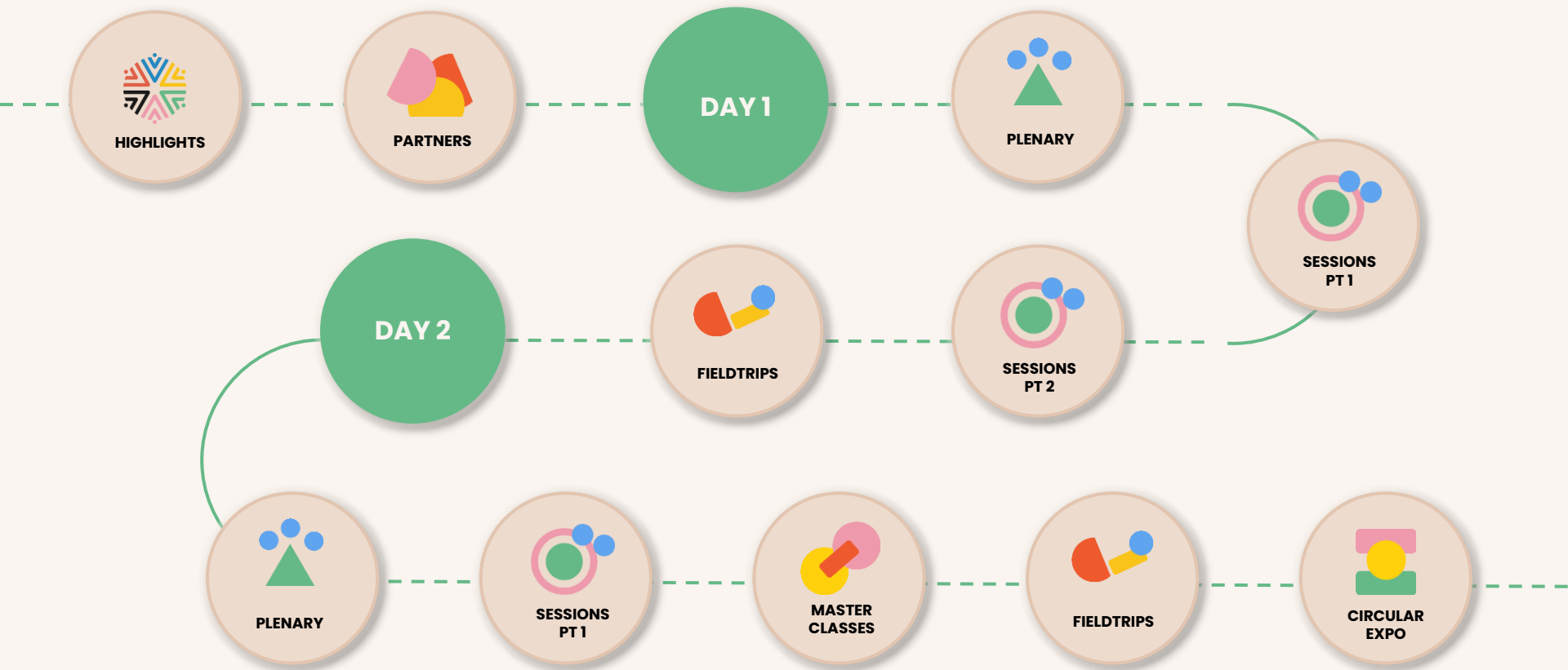
SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR ECONOMY HOTSPOT 2024

19&20
September

Hasso Plattner D-School Afrika
Cape Town, South Africa



Contents





SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

HIGHLIGHTS



Conference Highlights

250

Registrations

109

Matchmaking
participants

45

Meetings
scheduled

2

Pitch and
awarding
ceremonies

7

Plenary
Sessions

3

Field Trips

3

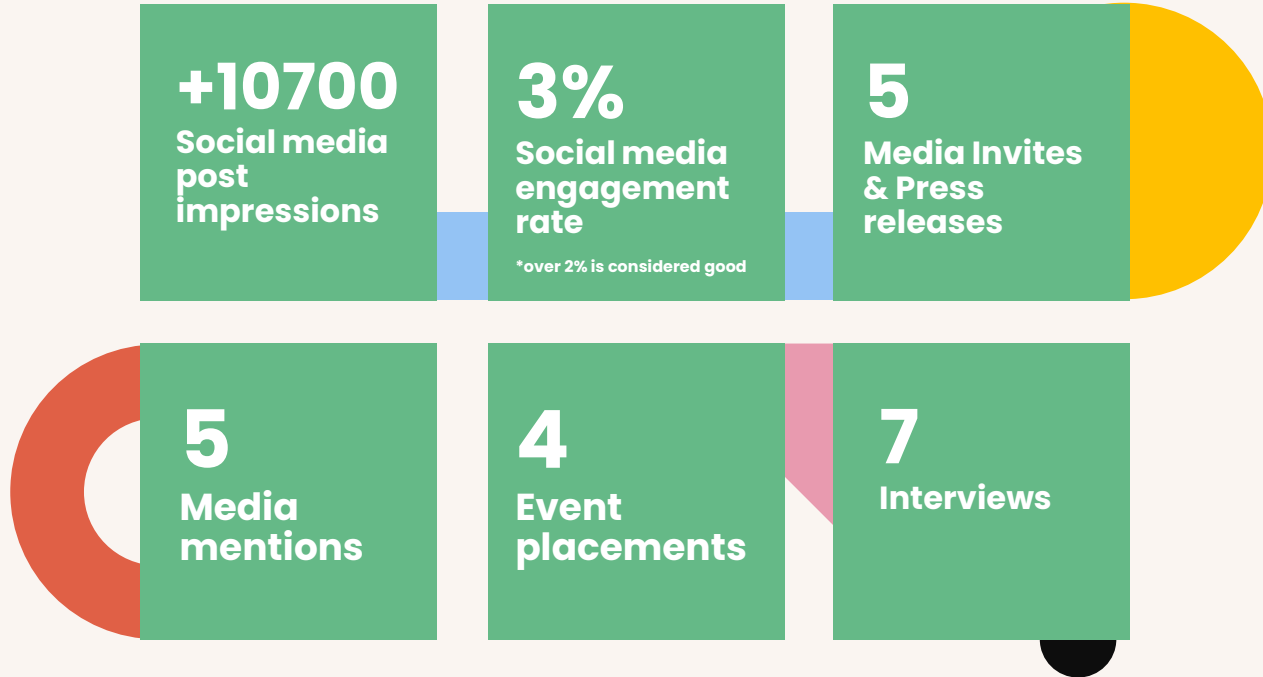
Master-
classes

26

Expo
Stands



Media Highlights





Delegate Feedback



"The in-depth workshops and opportunities to engage with suppliers/entrepreneurs /market."

"The affordability of attending the event was definitely a plus the lively introductory activities for Day 1 and Day 2"

"Good opportunities of networking! Nice mix of conference-style sessions, panel discussions and pitch to showcase circular economy approaches on the ground at small scale."

"I really enjoyed the different dynamics in terms of entertainment and education and different sessions like pitches, info, etc. I really think the parallel sessions are very effective."



"I think the whole event was a highlight for me. Meeting people and the atmosphere was key for me. The venue was great and the fashion shows, performances excellent."


"The insights shared by the panelists, the plenary speakers as well as the companies who showcased their work. Also, really enjoyed networking with like-minded individuals."

"Practical work being showcased. It was not just another academic interaction. The variety of people was excellent for networking. We tend to run into the same people at CE and sustainability events."

"The engagement forums and seeing all the work that other organisations are doing toward promoting circularity"

"Being part of the lead up to the event and the learning that came with it. Speeches and of course the venue."

"The reminder of why we are doing what we do and how even more change is needed."







SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

PARTNERS



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Kingdom of the Netherlands



In very proud collaboration with





SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

DAY 1

View the complete
Day 1 video stream here



Master of Ceremonies



Meet our master of ceremonies –
Melany Fuma.

Melany is a tech founder and film industry expert with 12+ years of experience in grant management, digital governance, and content production.

She has served as a non-executive director at Panavision, nurtured talent globally, and is currently pursuing a master's in Theories of Justice and Inequality at UCT.

The venue was generously sponsored by the **Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika***, a visionary space purposefully designed to harness the power of its architecture for collaboration and creativity.

Designed by KMH Architects using **design thinking principles**, the process involved students, faculty, and architects working together to shape an inclusive and innovative environment.

The building features adaptable learning spaces, allowing for **experimentation and co-creation**, and serves as a model for future learning environments.

HASSO PLATTNER
d-school

AFRIKA*

07h30 08h30	Registration	Conference experience begins.
08h45	Plenary Stage	The first annual circular economy conference in South Africa!
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	Richard Perez - Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*
		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
09h50	#CoCreateDesign Challenge	8 pitches for a Circular Solution
11h00	Parallel Session 1: Choose your topic and panel & audience discussion	Circular 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	Lunch is served—take a break and recharge before we continue with the afternoon sessions
		Expo, networking, talking, post morning session discussions
14h30	#CoCreateDesign Challenge	Award Ceremony
15h30	Business 2 business matchmaking	Meet, partner-up, discuss, exchange and repeat
15h30	Fieldtrips	Waste Recovery & Recycling Centre and the Wastewater Treatment plant, V&A Waterfront
		ReMake Warehouse tour, Taking Care of Business
17h00	Wine tasting	Beat the traffic and join for drinks

Circular Entertainment

Joe Slovo High School Choir

The inaugural South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot 2024 kicked off with a vibrant performance by the Joe Slovo Secondary School Choir from Khayelitsha.

Renowned for their participation in prestigious events like the South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod, the choir opened the conference with a moving rendition of the South African national anthem, followed by an inspiring original song celebrating the environment.

Joe Slovo Secondary is based in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, and is known for its commitment to education and student enrichment.



Watch their performance here:

National Anthem

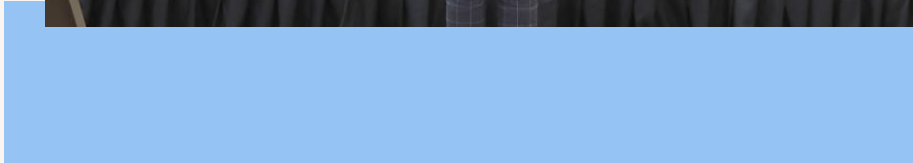
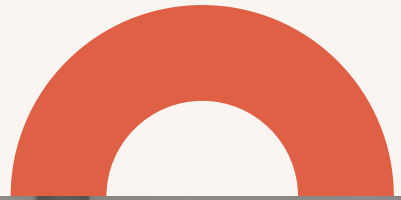


Sustainability
Song



Save the Water





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.

Plenary Speakers **Opening remarks**

[View Karin's interview here](#)



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. Passionate about diversity, youth, and behavioural change, Karin has collaborated with global partners and worked across Asia, Europe, and Africa.



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, her work with the African Circular Economy Network and Circular South Africa is aimed at activating collective intelligence in the circular space. Working with national government, diplomatic missions, NGOs, and private sector, she is a vocal advocate for the role of a *just* circular economy transition in South Africa.

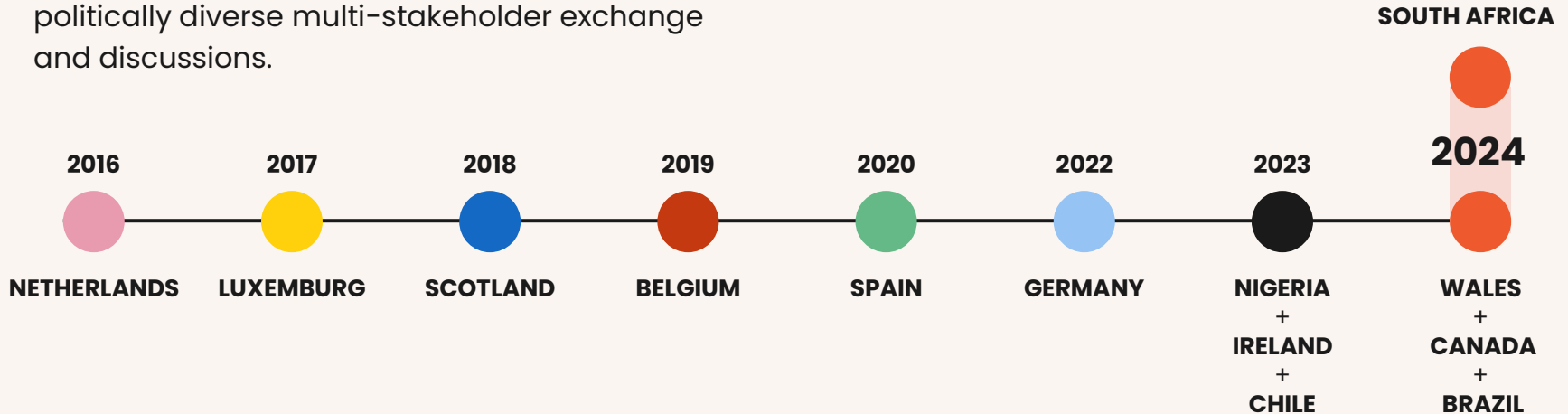
[View Katharina's story here](#)





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.

Circular Expression Remake Catwalk by Taking Care of Business



Taking Care of Business (TCB) is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to empowering unemployed South Africans and their families to break the cycle of poverty through small business opportunities in the circular economy.

Their flagship programs focus on responsibly diverting unwanted fashion and other products from the main market to secondary ones, reducing waste while safeguarding contributing brands.

Highlighting their innovative approach, TCB's remake entrepreneurs showcased their creations in a vibrant catwalk display, illustrating the potential for creativity and self-employment in sustainable practices.

[View the Remake Catwalk here](#)





Plenary Speakers **Setting the Scene**

View Linda's
presentation here



Prof Linda Godfrey

is a Principal Scientist at the CSIR and Extraordinary Professor at North-West University, South Africa, and holds a PhD in Engineering. With over 25-years of sector experience, she manages Circular Innovation South Africa on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation. She has provided strategic input to a number of local, regional and international waste and circular economy initiatives for the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, South African Government, business and academia. She has published extensively in the field.

Linda gave an introduction about the circular economy in the South African context, reminding everyone that the circular economy is not about waste, and it's not a synonym for recycling. It is about sustainable resource management, for the current and future generations in support of socio-economic development.

View Linda's
speech here



Richard Perez

is the founding director of the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika* (d-school), a unique institution in Africa affiliated with Stanford and Potsdam. Previously, he spent 10 years leading a product design agency in Cape Town, working across diverse markets. Richard holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering, a Master's in Innovation Design Engineering, and an Executive MBA. His expertise bridges design thinking, product development, and education.

Richard reflected on how circularity can be made reality in the built environment – speaking about the event's venue six green star rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa. The building itself does not only speak to sustainable practices of a building but also to the design thinking principles which are taught at the Hasso Plattner d-school AFRIKA* and are much needed for a circular economy transition.

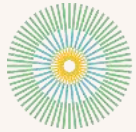
View Richard's
speech here





Watch this video **Circular Economy in South Africa**

Watch the video



CIRCULAR
SOUTH AFRICA

Become a member of Circular South Africa for free to view and contribute to the knowledge hub and to connect with other members and partners.

Register here



Plenary Speakers **Visionary statements**

View H el ene and
Theuns' speeches here



H el ene Rekkers

is the Consul General of the Netherlands in Cape Town, serving since 2022. With a distinguished career in diplomacy, she has held key roles in Turkey, Tunisia, China, and at the World Bank. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996, H el ene has worked across Senegal, Germany, and UN Affairs. Her international expertise spans economic development and cooperation, reflecting her commitment to global diplomacy.

H el ene welcomed attendees to the inaugural South African Circular Economy Hotspot, congratulating the organisers and celebrating the finalists of the #CoCreate Design Challenge. She emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship in addressing social and economic issues and recognised the collaborative efforts of various teams and partners in supporting young innovators. H el ene expressed excitement for the solutions presented by the finalists and acknowledged the City of Cape Town's ongoing partnership.



Dr Theuns Vivian

is the Destination Development Manager for the City of Cape Town, with a focus on tourism and entrepreneurship. With a doctorate in Tourism Business Growth and BEE from CPUT, he has held senior roles in academia, tourism boards, and industry committees. A recipient of the Good Samaritan Award for his contributions to South African tourism, he combines his expertise with a passion for sports and community development.

Theuns emphasised the concept "from dust to dust," urging attendees to consider the inherent cycle of life in their designs. He highlighted Cape Town's accolades in responsible tourism, advocating for a shift from mere sustainability to prioritising community well-being. He announced the relaunch of the Responsible Tourism Charter, focusing on uplifting local communities and environmental stewardship.

#CoCreate Design Challenge

The #cocreate Circular Design Challenge 2024 awarded four innovators R15,000 each for their outstanding contributions to circular economy solutions.

Launched by the Mission Network of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (#cocreateSANL) and the Craft and Design Institute (CDI), the Challenge encouraged participants to explore innovative approaches across four sectors. The #CoCreateDesign Challenge was leading up to #SACEH24 and had over 80 participants, who received design thinking masterclasses and mentoring. Out of 80 entries, eight finalists presented their ideas, with the audience also being involved in the voting process.

View the #CoCreate
Design Challenge
highlights here





SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

#COCREATE DESIGN CHALLENGE

Judges



Sean Weldon
Founder: Circular Squared



Chris Whyte
Executive Director: African
Circular Economy Network



Yolanda Jones
Programmes Director:
Ladles of Love



Heidi Smith
ReMake Program Manager:
Taking Care of Business



#COCREATE Circular Design Challenge Award Ceremony Presenters



Hélène Rekkers

is the Consul General of the Netherlands in Cape Town, serving since 2022. With a distinguished career in diplomacy, she has held key roles in Turkey, Tunisia, China, and at the World Bank. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996, Hélène has worked across Senegal, Germany, and UN Affairs. Her international expertise spans economic development and cooperation, reflecting her commitment to global diplomacy.



Erica Elk

is the founding executive director of the Craft and Design Institute (CDI). She's a combination of practitioner, implementer and strategist and carves out time to develop her own artistic practice while playing an active role in the development of the CDI. Erica has twice been recognised as one of Africa's most Influential Women in Business and Government by CEO Global for her work in the sector. She is currently a co-chair of the Visual Arts, Craft and Design Reference Group inputting in a national Masterplan for the Cultural and Creative Industries.

#COCREATE Circular Design Challenge **Category 1: Repair & Re-use**



Baxolile Singata

CLEAN CARE: WINNER

We offer eco-friendly, refillable detergent solutions designed to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable living. Our modular containers allow users to refill multiple cleaning products, eliminating the need for single-use plastics. By aligning with circular economy principles, we minimise environmental impact while providing safe, effective cleaning solutions. Our goal is to revolutionise the cleaning industry by offering innovative, eco-conscious alternatives that benefit both consumers and the planet.



Wanga Ngwane

Nguni Sunglasses: RUNNER UP

Our start-up proposes the use of recovered Carbon Black (rCB) pellets, derived from tyre waste through pyrolysis processing. This process transforms tyre waste into rCB powder, which is pelletised to manufacture our eyewear and future accessories. By reducing reliance on new raw materials, we ensure sustainable designs that considers a product's end-of-life. Our circular economy approach fosters responsible design ethics and educates communities on the importance of recycling.

#COCREATE Circular Design Challenge **Category 2: Fashion & Textiles**



Sivise Magqazolo

EcoBlend Wear. WINNER

The EcoBlend Wear by Fishtank Clothing offers stylish, high-quality garments made from upcycled fabric offcuts, reducing textile waste and promoting sustainability. By transforming leftover materials into unique, multi-coloured designs, the collection aligns with circular economy principles, providing an eco-friendly alternative to fast fashion. With a focus on both individuality and environmental responsibility, the EcoThreads Collection delivers fashion-forward products that cater to the growing demand for ethical and sustainable clothing.



Sharon Phaleng

Za Connect. RUNNER UP

Za Connect is an online platform designed for designers and crafters to efficiently source eco-friendly materials. It connects users with local suppliers of organic cotton, bamboo, and recycled fibres through a searchable database with certification details and price comparisons. By reducing middlemen and transportation, Za Connect lowers costs, supports the circular economy, and helps designers achieve sustainability goals while creating beautiful, environmentally-conscious fashion.

#COCREATE Circular Design Challenge Category 3: Organic Waste



Marnus Smith

GreenPop: WINNER

Our core offering is a scalable, zero-waste event management solution that transforms human waste into valuable compost through innovative humanure systems, nature-based urinals, a blueprint and SOP for sustainable event practices, and a comprehensive communications strategy. Contribute to the circular economy by transforming human waste into nutrient-rich compost, diverting organic waste streams from landfill, and creating a closed-loop system that maximises resource efficiency and minimises environmental impact.



Nomahlubi Nompunga

Foi Science: RUNNER UP

Foi Science is a sustainability-focused company that transforms food waste into healing biopolymers and cosmetic ingredients, featured in products like Rapha Skincare. Our circular economy model reduces environmental impact while creating high-value skincare ingredients. Through our Cosmetics Training Program, we empower rural communities to develop and sell eco-conscious beauty products, promoting local entrepreneurship.

#COCREATE Circular Design Challenge Category 4: Consumer Education



Marlene Mostert

Metanoia: WINNER

Our project addresses the plastic waste problem in underserved communities by creating meaningful resources such as desks, using a community-based collection model in under-resourced schools. This enables students to participate in sustainable practices by collecting household plastic waste, get access to reimagined sustainable education through events and applied learning opportunities. Participating schools will be beneficiaries of these desks, reducing the resource gap circularly.



Keelan Moore

made by pigeons – RUNNER UP

People engage with a story more so than vague made with recycled plastics' labels. Using product design inspired directly by the waste and recycling processes that we have access to can, be a powerful means to educate consumers about recycling and inspire them to make more considerate purchases. In doing so, we can create a more informed consumer base and a tighter knit circular economy.

PARALLEL SESSIONS: ROUND 1



Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis



Digitalisation & Innovation



Regenerative Agriculture & food systems

Session Description

Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis

Water is a critical resource for South Africa, where scarcity, unequal distribution, and pollution present significant challenges to sustainable development.

Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

The concept of industrial symbiosis, which promotes collaboration between different industries to maximise resource efficiency and minimise waste, offers a strategic pathway to achieving these goals.

In a circular economy, water is not only a standalone resource but also intricately linked with other sectors, such as energy, agriculture, and manufacturing. Industrial symbiosis provides the necessary scale to implement circular water strategies effectively.

By fostering partnerships across industries, industrial symbiosis can help create a more resilient and interconnected water management system. For instance, a manufacturing plant could use treated wastewater from a neighbouring agricultural operation, reducing the demand for fresh water and promoting a closed-loop system that benefits both entities. Such collaborations can lead to economies of scale, making the implementation of circular water systems more financially viable and attractive to businesses.

Key examples that presented circular water in action was Atlantis SEZ and their net-zero water strategy, while UJ-PEETS presented on how to rehabilitate waterways that are deteriorating due to industry activities through community engagement and innovative technologies such as floating wetlands. International collaboration on innovation and technologies was stressed by Mika from the Finnish Water Forum.

[View the Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis Presentation here](#)



Session Speakers **Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis**



Brent Goliath

Brent Goliath is a Project Manager at NCPC-SA with 12 years of experience in resource efficiency and cleaner production. He has managed projects in Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) and Industrial Water Efficiency (IWE), and led the NCPC-SA Internship Programme in 2019. Brent also oversaw GTIP projects across 25 companies in three provinces.



Dr Henry Roman

is the Regional Representative for Southern Africa at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), with over 25 years of experience in government, private, and NGO sectors. He specialises in water management, circular economy, and youth mobilisation. Key achievements include developing South Africa's Circular Economy Strategy and the Waste and Water RDI Roadmaps. He serves as a Trustee for the Sustainable Seas Trust and holds advisory roles at Rhodes University and UNISA.



Dr John Ngoni Zvimba

is a Research Manager at the South African Water Research Commission, specialising in mining and industrial water management. He holds a doctorate in Bio-Physical Chemistry and has postdoctoral experience in Bioprocess Engineering. With over 20 years of research, John has authored 50+ publications and supervised postgraduate students. He is a former Adjunct Professor and a member of the Water Institute of Southern Africa and International Water Association.

Session Speakers **Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis**



Kiera Crowe Pettersson

is a circular economy consultant and current strategic advisor for the African Circular Economy Network. Through her work, she aims to leverage public-private partnerships, policy, and strategy to make change happen in agile and impactful ways. In addition to her work at ACEN, she currently serves as a senior professional officer at ICLEI, and director of projects at Big Circle Studios.



Dr Kousar Hoorzook

is water and health specialist with over 15 years of experience in microbiology and molecular biology in the water sector, holding a master's in biotechnology and a doctorate in biomedical technology. Currently, Kousar is a Program Manager at UJ-PEETS, focusing on water quality and sanitation, managing projects that drive industry and SME competitiveness through innovation and technology transfer, contributing to the green economy.



Matthew Cullinan

is an expert in green infrastructure and sustainable urban development. He has a Masters in City and Regional Planning, with undergraduate degrees in Economics and Environmental Science. Prior to joining the ASEZ, Matt worked internationally and locally on a wide variety of projects ranging from financing green Infrastructure projects in Tanzania to planning mixed used waterfront developments in Nigeria. He is passionate about the potential of green infrastructure to lay the basis for a sustainable future.

Session Speakers **Circular Water & Industrial Symbiosis**



Mbali Zwane

is the acting programme manager for the resource efficiency and circular economy at the University of Johannesburg's Process Energy and Environmental Technology Station. She holds a master's degree in environmental management from the University of Johannesburg, focusing on applying circular economy principles in the management of e-waste. Her expertise lies in waste management and sustainability.



Mika Jantunen

is an official representative of Finnish Water Forum (FWF) for Southern Africa. FWF is a non-profit organisation that focuses on finding solutions to global water challenges and sustainable development. Mika has extensive experience in framing water related challenges and turning them into concrete solutions by using new innovations and technology.



Ntobeko Boyana

is the CEO of Ben Peta, ACEN Non-Executive Director and a Council Member of the Cape Chamber. He has worked in manufacturing, process engineering and R&D in the tyre, paper, and waste industries. He co-authored a working paper on transition to Circular Economy, presented Circular Economy Masterclasses for various programmes, and worked on the STI Led Circular Economy Strategy in SA. He has a BSc from the UPE.

Session Description

Digitalisation & Innovation

The session on the digital revolution and its transformative potential in Africa highlighted the critical role of digitalisation in driving economic growth and sustainable development. The keynote address underscored how digital technologies can propel Africa forward, but emphasised that for this potential to be fully realised, governments must prioritise affordable, reliable electricity and internet access. The panel discussion explored emerging trends and opportunities, with speakers highlighting Africa's entrepreneurial spirit and adaptability.

Panellists, passionately discussed how digitalisation could unlock new pathways for prosperity by enabling businesses to integrate circular economy principles into traditional linear models, ultimately creating a future of sustainable and local jobs.

Challenges to digital transformation were central to the conversation, with panellists noting that high data costs and limited access to the internet remain significant barriers, particularly in underserved communities. Another key issue was digital literacy—many young Africans are not equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in a digital economy. There are promising signs, with funded programs providing digital skills training, but security concerns, especially theft of digital equipment, continue to pose challenges. The panellists stressed that overcoming these barriers is essential if Africa is to leverage the full potential of the digital revolution.

The session also explored the role of digital technologies in addressing social and environmental challenges. Case studies of successful digital initiatives demonstrated how innovation can help reduce waste, improve resource efficiency, and create more inclusive economic models. Governments and businesses were identified as key drivers in this transformation, with collaborations between the two seen as crucial to fostering a digital environment that promotes sustainable innovation and inclusive growth. The session succeeded in sparking critical conversations about Africa's digital future and its potential to support circular economy principles.

Session Speakers **Digitalisation & Innovation**



Jasmina Devinck

With a background in corporate finance and microfinance, Jasmina has extensive experience in both the private and NGO sector. She is firm believer that partnerships between for-profit and non-profit can change the game for inclusive economic development and she joined Close The Gap to build out that vision in South Africa.

[View Jasmina's interview here](#)



Nthutuzelo Qeqe

with over 13 years of leadership and business development experience, now heads up Rhiza Babuyile's fundraising department, where he spearheads efforts to secure partnerships and funding for the organisation's sustainability. Originally from Eastern Cape, Johannesburg has become his second home. Outside of work, Ntuthu values family time, enjoys traveling, working out, and playing golf. He is deeply and passionately committed to undertaking innovative approaches to addressing poverty alleviation.



Zachariah George

is the Managing Partner at Launch Africa Ventures, overseeing 140+ tech ventures across 20+ countries. He is also Co-Founder and Chief Investment Officer at Startupbootcamp AfriTech. A prominent angel investor in over 50 African tech startups, Zach has been featured in Fast Company, Forbes, and CNBC Africa. He previously led Africa investments at U-Start and worked in investment banking on Wall Street. Zach holds degrees from Stanford and IIT, and enjoys music, theatre, and writing.

Session Description

Agriculture & food systems

The session on "Circularity in Agriculture and Transforming Our Food System" explored how sustainable farming practices, agroforestry, and waste reduction can reshape both the food system and the environment. It delved into organic waste flows, the production of alternative proteins, and the crucial role of community in driving local, sustainable food production. Through innovative solutions and case studies, participants learned how circular practices in agriculture could enhance food quality, increase yields, and support healthy ecosystems, while simultaneously fostering local economies and reducing waste. Smart agriculture techniques were also highlighted for their ability to create a more resilient and regenerative food system.

A key theme discussed was the idea that circularity in food systems should foster independence and self-sufficiency. This approach involves collecting organic waste, converting it into compost, growing organic vegetables, and then reinvesting part of the produce back into the community. Community gardens, kitchens, and centres are central to this process, as they not only support regenerative farming but also create jobs, build skills, and strengthen social cohesion. This model of circularity provides more than just environmental benefits; it offers a sense of purpose, belonging, and empowerment for communities while keeping resources in circulation for as long as possible.

Another significant point was the importance of clear labelling and categorisation of food waste. Food that is still fit for human consumption should be prioritised, followed by what can be used for animal feed, and finally, waste that can nourish the soil. Regulations should support keeping food in the human consumption loop as long as possible. Furthermore, participants emphasised that produce intended for human consumption should be grown using the best practices to minimise losses. Additionally, organic waste has potential beyond composting, as many by-products can be used in other circular applications such as medical gels and cosmetic products, thus solving waste problems and creating new business opportunities in the process.

Session Speakers **Agriculture & food systems**

[View Namhla's interview here](#)



Andy Du Plessis

is the Managing Director of FoodForward SA, which he joined in 2013. With nearly 30 years of experience in the development sector, he pioneered innovations in food banking, scaling operations across South Africa's nine provinces. Andy holds an Honours in Public Administration and an MPhil in Theology. He previously led the Peninsula School Feeding Association for 15 years and writes thought leadership articles on social development for major publications.



Daniele Diliberto

Born in Zimbabwe, Danny Diliberto believes his love for food started in his childhood, where food was central to his Mediterranean family life. His upbringing taught him that good food nourishes both body and soul. This passion led him to the restaurant industry and ultimately to founding Ladles of Love. Today, through his organisation, he impacts millions of lives through food.

[View Dani's interview here](#)



Namhla Skweyiya

is a Food Safety and Security Specialist passionate about sustainability and human development. She is a qualified Food Technologist and is pursuing a Master's in Environmental Health Sciences, focusing on Food Safety Culture in agroprocessing. As Program Manager at Living Soils Community Learning Farm, Namhla promotes sustainable farming, food security, and regenerative agriculture, empowering communities through social impact and food sovereignty initiatives.

Session Speakers **Agriculture & food systems**



Nomahlubi Nompunga

is the founder of Foi Science, merging science and sustainability to create eco-friendly skincare and cosmetic products. With expertise in cosmetic science and biopolymer technology, she uses food waste and medicinal plants to develop high-performance solutions. Passionate about empowering disadvantaged communities, particularly in South Africa, she leads educational initiatives and training programs, aiming to build a sustainable ecosystem that benefits both the beauty industry and local communities.



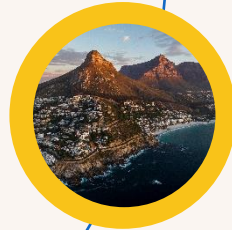
Thembeke Shongwe

Founder and Managing Director of Dominion Solutions, is a marine biologist with an MSc in Applied Ocean Science from the University of Cape Town. She advocates for sustainable aquaculture to enhance food security and meet global seafood demand. A member of AASA and the EMC's Aquaculture and Fisheries Committee, Thembeke's company, Aqua Founders Co t/a Dominion Solutions, won the 2024 Green Youth Entrepreneur award for sustainable practices.

PARALLEL SESSIONS: ROUND 2



Circular Mining & Energy



Sustainable Tourism

Session Description

Circular Mining & Energy

The aim of the session was to provide a fresh perspective on how the mining and energy sectors in South Africa can transition towards a more circular model of resource management. South Africa's mining and energy sectors are cornerstone industries of the nation's economy deeply intertwined with its history and development. The mining sector, dominated by coal, platinum, and gold, has been a major contributor to the country's GDP, employment, and export earnings for over a century. However, it faces challenges including declining ore grades requiring deeper mines, and generally increasing operational costs.

The energy sector, historically reliant on coal-fired power plants, is undergoing a significant transition. This context sets the stage for exploring circular economy principles as a means to address these challenges and opportunities. This context sat the stage for exploring circular economy principles as a means to address these challenges and opportunities.

The speakers and panellists shared their diverse perspectives, ranging from legal insights to innovative approaches like Materials as a Service concept and bioremediation strategies for rehabilitating closed mines. Throughout the discussions, there was a strong emphasis on the importance of applying a just lens, not only in South Africa but also on a global scale, which spoke to the plenary of Day 1 that a circular economy is about national resource security.

[View the Circular Mining & Energy presentation here](#)



Session Speakers **Circular Mining & Energy**



Aysha Lotter

is an environmental and mineral law consultant and researcher. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Cape Town focusing on the governance of e-waste circularity in South Africa. She is part of the team that drafted the South African e-waste National Policy and Norms and Standards. She is the project manager for the Community of Practice: Waste to Value, and a liaison for the African Environmental Health and Pollution Management Program of the World Bank



Busisiwe Maphalala

is a researcher at CSIR's Future Production: Mining cluster with over 7 years of experience in the mining industry. She holds a BSc in Geology and a BSc Hons in Energy Studies and is completing a Master of Management in Energy Leadership at Wits Business School. Her expertise includes hard-rock mining, critical minerals, and sustainable mining practices, with a focus on circular economy. She co-authored a section in "The Circular Economy as Development Opportunity."



Cathrine Barth

is co-founder of Nordic Circular Hotspot and Head of Circular Economy at Natural State. A leading expert in circular economy and sustainability, she specialises in system design and business model innovation. In 2024, she became an Assistant Professor at NMBU Business School, teaching circular economy. Barth also serves as an International Expert for the ISO-standardisation process, contributing to the first horizontal standard for Circular Economy TC323.

Session Speakers **Circular Mining & Energy**



Prof Cristina Trois

Is an internationally recognised leader in engineering, researcher and Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia/Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy. She is the current Director of the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) at Stellenbosch University. She previously held the SARChI Chair in Waste and Climate Change at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She has over 20 years of experience in civil and environmental engineering, waste management, and climate change.



Prof Hanri Mostert

Hanri completed her BA and Master's degrees in Law at Stellenbosch University before earning a DAAD Scholarship for doctoral studies at the Max Planck Institute for Public and International Law in Germany. Her LLD focused on property and land regulation. Since 2008, she has been a senior member of the University of Cape Town's Law Faculty. Awarded a prestigious SARChI Research Chair in 2016, she specialises in mineral and energy law, particularly in Africa's extractive sectors.

Session Speakers **Circular Mining & Energy**



Dr Notiswa Libala

is the Manager of the Komati Just Transition at the Presidential Climate Commission. She has over a decade of experience in water resource management and previously led the Water Resilience Programme at the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership. Notiswa is dedicated to climate change solutions and advancing the just transition. She holds a PhD in Water Resource Science from Rhodes University.



Susanne Karcher

Founder of EnviroSense CC, is 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, supporting the development of sustainable WEEE policies. She also represents ACEN on the SABS-led Mirror Committee for ISO TC 323 on Circular Economy.

Session Description

Sustainable Tourism

The session on "Sustainable, Inclusive, and Circular Tourism in South Africa" highlighted the delicate balance between promoting tourism and preserving the country's unique landscapes, cultural heritage, and wildlife. As South Africa remains a top travel destination, growing tourism brings sustainability challenges that need urgent attention. The session explored how sustainable tourism practices can address issues like waste management, carbon emissions, food choices, transport, and the impact on local communities. Participants engaged in discussions on whether current sustainability standards make a real difference, how smart procurement can enhance value, and how transparent carbon offsetting can be implemented to align tourism with environmental stewardship.

A key discussion point centred on how to market sustainability to global clients while ensuring local communities benefit and contribute to the tourism sector. Not only to enhance the quality of service but also ensure that the country's natural and cultural assets are preserved. Sustainable infrastructure and development in remote areas should leverage the unique features of the local community and environment, ensuring that nature and heritage remain intact while promoting a sense of value for tourists. Holistic planning was advocated to avoid damaging the very assets that make these destinations attractive.

Another major theme was the role of transparency and communication in promoting sustainability. It was noted that some of Cape Town's main tourist hotspots already include sustainable practices in their marketing, which raises awareness and appreciation among visitors. This transparency helps tourists feel good about their choices and encourages businesses to adopt more sustainable practices. Global standards were identified as critical enablers for driving sustainability across the tourism industry, as compliance forces businesses to review their impact and make long-term changes that contribute to both environmental preservation and business resilience.

Session Speakers Sustainable Tourism



Corne Koch

is the Head of the Cape Town and Western Cape Convention Bureau at Wesgro. She leads efforts to position the Western Cape as Africa's top destination for business events, contributing to economic growth through strategic tourism promotion. With experience at Gauteng Tourism Authority and Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa, she is also a board member of the International Congress and Convention Association and past Chair of the BestCities Global Alliance.



Amelia Visagie

an Associate at Zutari's Communication and Stakeholder Unit, has over 32 years of experience in government and the private sector. She specializes in stakeholder management, sustainable community development, skills training, and change management. Known for her innovative thinking and transformative processes, Amelia is a thought leader who fosters private-public partnerships and values stakeholder engagement as key to project success. She is also an accredited facilitator and coach with a passion for legacy-building and inspiring others.



Melissa Foley

Founder of All About Africa Consulting, leverages over 20 years of corporate marketing and NGO consulting experience to promote ethical travel. With a focus on protecting communities, natural resources, and cultural traditions, she advises a diverse portfolio of tourism stakeholders, including travel agents, governments, and global organisations. Melissa's passion lies in fostering collaborations that enable transformational tourism to flourish across Africa.

Session Speakers Sustainable Tourism



Petro Myburgh

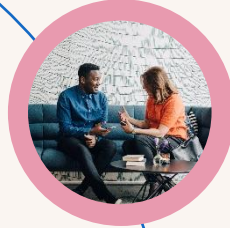
is the Sustainability Manager for the V&A Waterfront. With over 15 years' experience in the daily operations at the V&A, she is passionate about sustainably managing resources and optimising efficiencies in the built environment. Petro has an in-depth understanding of facilities management and commercial waste management, with deep involvement in circularity, social impact, and emerging technologies.



Dr Theuns Vivian

is the Destination Development Manager for the City of Cape Town, with a focus on tourism and entrepreneurship. With a doctorate in Tourism Business Growth and BEE from CPUT, he has held senior roles in academia, tourism boards, and industry committees. A recipient of the Good Samaritan Award for his contributions to South African tourism, he combines his expertise with a passion for sports and community development.

FIELDTRIPS



Business 2 Business Matchmaking



**V&A Waterfront Waste Recycling
& Wastewater Treatment centres**



**Taking Care of Business Remake
Warehouse Tour**

Fieldtrips **Waste Recovery & Recycling Centre and Wastewater Treatment plant, V&A Waterfront**



Delegates visited the V&A Waterfront, a beacon of sustainable urban development, to see how they integrate advanced technology and sustainability practices to set a global standard.

The first site was the innovative blackwater treatment plant which processes 200,000 liters daily, producing effluent for flushing toilets. The cutting-edge Organica Blue House combines traditional wastewater treatment with a botanic ecosystem, enhancing efficiency and sustainability.

The second site visited was to the Waste Recovery & Recycling Centre, which efficiently manages waste with over 550 bins across 386 collection points, recycling 2,700 tons annually.

Fieldtrips Warehouse tour, Taking Care of Business

Delegates toured the Taking Care of Business (TCB) Warehouse, a hub for sustainable innovation and circular economy. Here, retail partners and manufacturers donate unsold products, which are meticulously sorted, debranded, and repaired if needed.

Entrepreneurs purchase these items at reduced prices, empowering them to start and grow their own businesses. Through comprehensive training, mentoring, and development, TCB fosters financial and social independence among entrepreneurs.

Partnering with various retail brands, TCB provides a cost-effective solution for managing excess stock and e-waste. Join us to support the circular economy, extend product lifecycles, and make a meaningful environmental impact.



tcb taking care
of business

Wine Tasting

Wine tasting was very generously sponsored by Emma Borg and Painted Wolf Wines, which produces distinctive, high-quality wines with a unique South African character, with a strong focus on sustainability and conservation. Specialising in Chenin Blanc and Pinotage, they source premium grapes from selected vineyards and have earned numerous international accolades.

Their vision is to become the world's leading conservation wine company, creating remarkable wines that help generate impactful funding for the conservation of the endangered African wild dog, a vital indicator species.





SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

DAY 2

View the complete
Day 2 video stream here



Day 2

Programme 20 September 2024

08h00	Registration	Day 2 of the conference experience begins
09h00	Welcome	Welcome by Melany Fuma, reflecting on Day 1, themes, people and engaging with audience
09h10	Opening remarks	ACEN & TRG
09h20	Creative Circular Expression	Circular Performance by aerialist, Jenny le Roux
09h30		Catwalk by Sari for Change
09h40	Finnish Embassy	Circular Ambassador Pekka Metso
09h45	Welcoming remarks	Mickaeel Collier CEO: AWQAF SA
09h50	Visionary statements	Remake Entrepreneur Neliswa Poni, Taking care of Business
09h55		Fernel Abrahams – Dept of Economic Development & Tourism, Western Cape Government
10h00		Fetola representative Isabel du Toit
10h05	SA2Slush competition	Pitches of Circular Start-ups and Awarding
10h50	The plenary interactive session	Design thinking in action! Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*
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
12h15	Lunch and expo	Lunch, Expo, networking, talking, post morning session discussions
13h00	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
14h15	Circling Back	Closing the loop on a successful conference – wrap up by Melany Fuma
14h30	Fieldtrips	Spier Wine Farm/Living Soils Farm Tour
		Discover the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*
15h15	B2B matchmaking	Meet, partner-up, discuss, exchange and repeat
16h00	Wine Tasting	Network and unwind

Plenary Speakers **Opening remarks**



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. Passionate about diversity, youth, and behavioural change, Karin has collaborated with global partners and worked across Asia, Europe, and Africa.



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, her work with the African Circular Economy Network and Circular South Africa is aimed at activating collective intelligence in the circular space. Working with national government, diplomatic missions, NGOs, and private sector, she is a vocal advocate for the role of a *just* circular economy transition in South Africa.

Creative Circular Expression **Circular Performance**

Day 2 of the conference was opened by a stunning circular performance by aerialist, Jenny le Roux, from Art of Synergy.

Founded in Johannesburg in 2014, the company aims to promote contemporary circus arts across Africa.

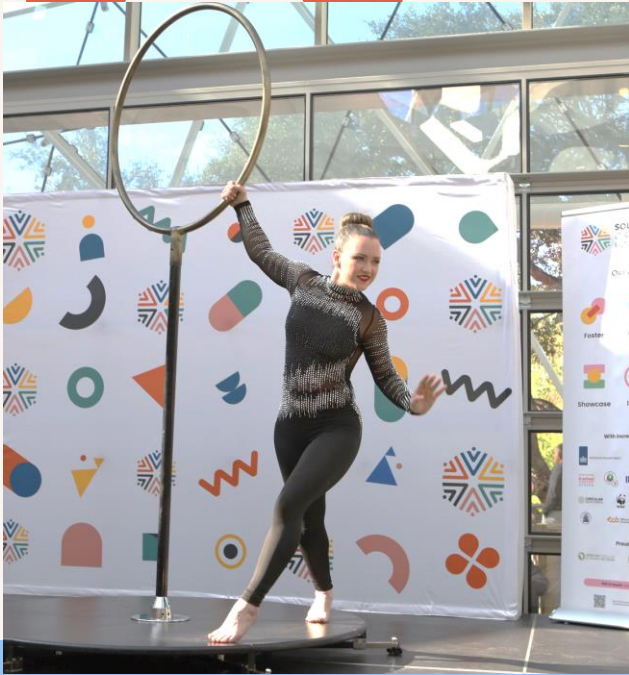
The breathtaking display of grace and beauty captivated the audience, showcasing the talent and creativity that Art of Synergy has brought to global stages.

This vibrant performance set an inspiring tone for the day's discussions on circular economy practices, highlighting the intersection of art and sustainability.



[View Jenny's performance here](#)





Creative Circular Expression **Catwalk by Sari for Change**



Sari for Change is a conscious fashion brand dedicated to transforming traditional Indian saris and heritage textiles into unique garments, effectively preventing landfill waste. Emphasising women's empowerment, the brand provides education and skills training to foster economic inclusion.

By saving 150,000 saris from landfills and empowering 120 women, Sari for Change champions a circular economy, prioritising sustainability and resource efficiency.

Co-director and designer Iman Ganjee engaged the audience by selecting volunteers to showcase the beautiful saris in a catwalk, celebrating evolving identities through upcycling and demonstrating the brand's commitment to both people and the planet.

[View the Catwalk by Sari for Change here](#)





Plenary Speakers **Visionary statements**



View Fernel's
speech here



Fernel Abrahams

With over 14 years at the Department of Economic Development & Tourism, including roles as Deputy Director of Catalytic Infrastructure and Energy, Fernel has contributed to critical projects in the Western Cape. With an MBA from Stellenbosch Business School and a PhD in Afrikaans Literature from UCT, his background combines strategic leadership with a deep understanding of local dynamics. Prior experience includes six years as a researcher for the Parliament of South Africa.

Fernel spoke about the need for collaborative efforts to achieve a circular economy, addressing climate risks and emphasising sustainability. The Western Cape government aims to integrate circular economy principles through enabling policies and private sector collaboration, focusing on sustainable infrastructure, energy resilience, and water security. They aim for a 1 trillion Rand economy by 2035, inviting partnerships to foster a diverse, sustainable, and prosperous region.



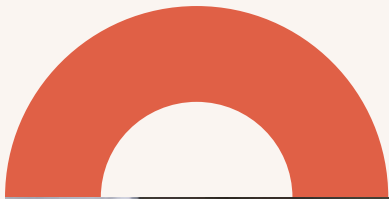
View Pekka's
speech here



Pekka Metso

serves as the new Head of Mission at Finland's Embassy in Pretoria. Prior to this role, Metso served as Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Seoul and has also held diplomatic posts in Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. With an extensive career in Finland's Diplomatic Service since 1987, he has promoted political and economic relations, human rights policy, and mediation. Metso holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration.

Pekka highlighted Finland's 2035 climate targets and its status as the happiest country. He introduced Finnish representatives discussing circular water solutions and low-cost housing from plastic waste. He emphasised Finland's global circular economy initiatives, partnerships in Africa, and support for local startups, concluding with a pitching competition to celebrate entrepreneurial achievements.



Plenary Speakers **Visionary statements**



[View Mickaeel and Neliswa's speeches here](#)



Mickaeel Collier

AWQAF SA CEO, Mickaeel Collier, expressed gratitude for participating in the circular economy hotspot and highlighted the importance of reimagining our relationship with the environment for sustainable futures. He described Oka South Africa, a community fund that supports various development programs. Referencing a principle of stewardship from Prophet Muhammad, he urged collective action to implement shared solutions. He shared examples of supported projects, including upcycled products and pomegranate farming, and announced a gift of a pomegranate tree for each participant, emphasising their contribution to the circular economy.



[View Neliswa's inspiring story here](#)



Neliswa Poni

Neliswa, a recent graduate of the TCP Remake program, shared her inspiring journey from job loss during COVID-19 to establishing her own successful sewing business. She initially took a short sewing course and learned pattern making and garment construction. Through the program, she gained valuable skills, including repurposing old clothes instead of discarding them. Neliswa expressed gratitude for the support and life skills training she received, emphasising her newfound financial independence and personal growth. She hopes her business continues to thrive.

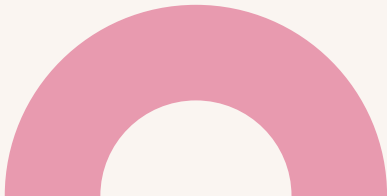




SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

SA2SLUSH COMPETITION

**Pitches of Circular
Start-ups**



SA2Slush competition

The Embassy of Finland partnered with #SACEH24 to bring a thrilling opportunity for South African circular economy startups. As part of this collaboration, a high-stakes pitching competition gave local entrepreneurs the chance to showcase their innovative solutions to some of today's biggest environmental challenges.

Pre-selected by the Embassy's trusted partners—Fetola, WomHub, and Future Females—these bold startups competed for a once-in-a-lifetime prize: two startup passes to SLUSH, the world-renowned startup and tech event in Helsinki, Finland including travel arrangements.

Meet the judges



Cerin Maduray
WWF



Chris Whyte
African Circular Economy Network



Daryn Munnik
Launch Africa



Marko Saarinen
Embassy of Finland

The winning entrepreneur received full access to SLUSH, including exclusive entry to the event's matchmaking tools, mentoring sessions, investor office hours, and a series of dynamic side events—all aimed at accelerating their growth and attracting investment. The Embassy of Finland covers all travel expenses, giving these forward-thinking entrepreneurs a powerful platform to connect, learn, and expand their impact on a global stage.

This exciting competition is part of the Embassy's ongoing commitment to supporting circular economy initiatives in South Africa. From 2021-2022, the Embassy worked with ICLEI Africa and Stellenbosch Launch Lab to promote innovative entrepreneurship. Since then, they have continued their efforts through partnerships with Fetola, WomHub's female founder program, and most recently, Future Females. This competition reflects the Embassy's vision to support startups that embrace circularity at their core, offering sustainable solutions with real investment potential.

Meet the runner up contestants



Natasha Pearce
Vivacious Eco Vixen
Incubated by Fetola



Francois Burger
Agriman
Incubated by Fetola



Jasantha Singh
Aurora Natural Skincare
Incubated by WomHub



Adam Okunlola-Browning
Continuous



Meet the winner

Ginette Blackbeard

ENOUGH

Incubated by Future Females

ENOUGH. is committed to repurposing materials and empowering individuals to make confident beauty choices. Our mission extends beyond traditional norms, as we strive to harness overlooked resources for a positive impact on both personal care and the planet.

Upcycled beauty focuses on utilising by-products to create cutting-edge and sustainable beauty products in order to reduce waste, minimise the consumption of new resources, and promote a circular economy.

View the complete
SA2SLUSH
completion here



PARALLEL SESSIONS: ROUND 1



**South Africa National Plastics
Action Plan (SA NPAP)**



**Circular Entrepreneurship
Masterclass**



Business2Business Matchmaking

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

presented by



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

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.

This session was designed to better understand challenges based on the latest knowledge and allowed participants to give their input to Okunola 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.



Session Speakers South Africa National Plastics Action Plan (SA NPAP)



Andrew Motha

is an experienced environmental practitioner with over 18 years in environmental management, specialising in Waste Management, Climate Change, and Marine and Coastal Management. He has led initiatives in Alternative Waste Treatment, Waste Diversion, and Separation at Source at the local level. With strong project management and stakeholder engagement skills, he is dedicated to delivering service, quality, and results while staying focused on the latest environmental trends and technologies.



Didintle Mathibe

is tackling the plastic pollution crisis. Her job as a Circular Economy Analyst with WWF South Africa is to find out how we can keep materials like plastics out of nature. With her expertise in sustainable development and a passion for conservation, Didi promotes circularity through more efficient use of materials, sustainable consumption and waste reduction.



Lorren de Kock

manages the Circular Economy portfolio at WWF South Africa, focusing on transitioning from a linear economy to a just and equitable circular system with environmental and socio-economic benefits. She played a key role in establishing the SA Plastics Pact and works with various national and regional partners. With over 20 years' experience and a Master's in Environmental Engineering, Lorren brings expertise in industrial systems and life cycle assessment.

Session Speakers South Africa National Plastics Action Plan (SA NPAP)



Samuel Nyakudya

Is an experienced Circular Economist with nearly two decades of experience developing and managing waste programs, driving innovation in economic development at provincial government, local government, state owned entities, and consultancy in South Africa. Currently managing and implementing the GEF8 project to transform and reduce plastic pollution in South Africa into an inclusive circular economy for plastic packaging and short-lived plastic products in the food and beverage sector.



Taahira Goga

is a researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). She has recently completed Her doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Cape Town (UCT), which focussed on assessing current and future impacts of the South African plastics sector. Although her research interests revolve around the themes of circular economy and sustainability, her passion lies in the development of students and early-career researchers.



Valentina Russo

is a system engineer with 14 years of experience, specialising in Life Cycle Assessment, Systems Thinking, and Sustainability. Her expertise spans System Analysis, Industrial Ecology, Capacity Building, and Project Management. Passionate about environmental advocacy, she has contributed to multidisciplinary research and projects, from Biotech to Sustainable Development. Currently working with CSIR's Sustainable, Economics and Waste Research Group, she thrives in multicultural teams and are committed to driving impactful environmental change.

Masterclass Description

Circular Entrepreneurship

presented by



Find out more about
Hloolo by Fetola here



This masterclass explored the entrepreneurial opportunities within the circular economy, providing entrepreneurs and SMEs with actionable insights on how to adopt circular business models. Benefits for entrepreneurs to implement circularity are: cost savings by reducing waste, water and other resource uses, being more competitive also on an international market, increasing brand reputation, creating a more resilient supply chain and increasing profits. Business models of sharing concepts, product as a service, product life extension were discussed, while also emphasising on the importance of systems thinking for an entrepreneur (see the entire system but start small!).

The session also covered the importance of being investment-ready to attract funding and capital by Fetola, which has several Investment readiness programmes for SMEs, while also working on a platform to connect green businesses and financing called Hloolo. Gender based budgeting was emphasised by women's Budget Group, as budgeting is the main lever of a government to enact its aims and priorities.

Masterclass facilitators **Circular Entrepreneurship**



Chris Whyte

Chris Whyte drives a Just transition to a Circular Economy in Africa, focusing on energy, water, agriculture, and more, for environmental and social benefits. He founded USE-IT (2009-2020), creating thousands of jobs and winning 18 awards. Chris is a Director at ACEN, co-founder of the ACEN Foundation, and leads several commercial Circular Economy projects across Africa. He excels in project research, collaboration, and implementation for commercial and sustainable impact.



Grant Prince

Grant Prince is the Head of SME Portfolios at Fetola, South Africa's leading business growth agency. With a BCom Law from the University of the Western Cape and CFA II, he has over 5 years of experience in SME finance, investment analysis, and risk management. Grant has designed innovative financing mechanisms for SMEs and plays a key role in Fetola's national business accelerators, supporting resilient SMEs that drive economic growth and job creation.

Masterclass facilitators **Circular Entrepreneurship**



Maré de Witt

Maré's career began in supply chain consulting, focusing on project management within the retail sector. Since 2021, Maré has specialised in circular economy practices with ACEN, contributing to projects such as circular value chain training and EPR implementation. Maré played a key role in bringing WCEF2022 to Africa and led the implementation of Circular South Africa, a circular economy platform in South Africa. She is also involved in corporate training on sustainability and climate literacy.



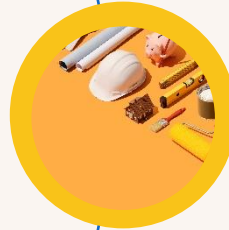
Samah Krichah

is Head of Training and Learning at the Women's Budget Group (UK) with over a decade of experience in civil society, international organisations, and the private sector. She specialises in feminist economics, security sector reform, and transitional justice, particularly in the MENA region. Trilingual in English, Arabic, and French, Samah holds an MSc in Women, Peace, and Security from LSE and an engineering degree from Tunisia's National Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

PARALLEL SESSIONS: ROUND 2



Circular Textile & Fashion



**Masterclass: Circular Economy
Tools**



**Masterclass: Embedding Circularity
and Compliance**

Session Description

Circular Textile & Fashion

The session on "Circular and Inclusive Textiles in South Africa" focused on making the textile sector more sustainable by embracing redesign, repair, and recycling. With fast fashion and overproduction creating vast amounts of waste, and unemployment disproportionately affecting marginalised groups like women and youth, the circular economy's "Repair, Remake & Resell" approach offers a pathway to both economic empowerment and environmental responsibility. Participants explored innovative solutions, such as using organic waste like banana leaves for sustainable textiles, while case studies highlighted how circular fashion can create sustainable jobs and revitalise local communities by keeping resources in the loop.

One of the key discussions revolved around the tension between digitalisation and traditional craftsmanship. While digital tools open up opportunities for design, teaching, and market access, they can sometimes overshadow the importance of mastering manual skills like hand looming, which are integral to maintaining the cultural and artisanal value of African textiles. Incorporating circularity and sustainability into the educational curriculum was seen as a way to bridge this gap, encouraging students to rethink material choices and reconnect with local resources. However, the global pull of fast, cheap fashion remains a significant challenge, as consumers are constantly drawn to affordable, disposable clothing, which stands in contrast to long-lasting, sustainable styles.

The conversation also touched on the challenges corporate players in the textile and fashion industries face in closing the loop and becoming more sustainable. Transitioning to a circular fashion model will take time, and smaller, close-the-loop players will play a key role in making this shift possible. Enthusiasm was high among participants involved in pre- and post-consumer clothing sectors, who recognised the enormous potential for creating jobs, avoiding waste, and repurposing garments that don't make it to market or are discarded after their first life cycle. However, the mountain of cheap, poorly designed clothing will pose a significant challenge in the coming decade. Extended producer responsibility and traceability were discussed as potential tools to push the industry towards a more sustainable future.

Session Speakers **Circular Textile & Fashion**



Helen Twemlow

With over 20 years of experience, this fashion retail executive is skilled in driving strategic growth and positive change through empowered, collaborative teams. As the Head of Sustainability at The Foschini Group, she leads the company's commitment to a sustainable fashion future. Twemlow emphasises the focus on local manufacturing, community strengthening, and reducing environmental impact.



Inez Shaw

Inez would like to think that the fashion and garment industry holds special potential for vulnerable parts of the population to be economically and socially empowered. Besides this, it is also a super fun and low risk product to enjoy. Inez is of the opinion that "fast fashion is rude" and real sustainable living is not sexy nor marketable.

Session Speakers **Circular Textile & Fashion**



Safiyya Karim

Co-Country Coordinator of Fashion Revolution South Africa, is an intersectional justice activist focused on transforming the fashion industry to be circular and ethical. With degrees in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, and Commerce Honours from UCT, she is pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development. Safiyya leverages her experience to drive societal change through sustainable fashion.



Tracey Gilmore

is an internationally recognised social entrepreneur with over a decade 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. Passionate about creating an inclusive society, Tracey builds collaborative partnerships to provide resources and support for financial freedom and green job creation.

[View Tracy's interview here](#)



Masterclass Description

Circular Economy Tools

presented by



**CIRCULAR
SOUTH AFRICA**

This Masterclass was is facilitated by Circular South Africa with circular economy analysts.

Find out more about
the Supply Chain
Explorer here



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 participants received an overview of the importance of tools and its system boundaries to drive a circular economy. The free Supply Chain Explorer of the JUST2CE project was also explored which adds a social layer to help users understand the complexity of global supply chains better. The future possibilities of digital product passports were also discussed to allow for more transparency in supply chains. Tools are not just a nice to have but are becoming a must for companies which export to the EU to meet their requirements by 2026. Circularity is now a competitive advantage.

Masterclass facilitators **Circular Economy Tools**



Katharina Gihring

Is an executive member of the African Circular Economy Network, who specialises in systems thinking, life cycle sustainability, and environmental management. Her focus is on implementing the circular economy justly within South Africa and Africa. With expertise in multidisciplinary research, project management, stakeholder engagement, and educational facilitation, Katharina excels in coordinating research and events to advance sustainable practices.



Sam Smout

Sam Smout is a waste analyst and circular economy lead at GreenCape, with 12 years of experience. He specialises in fostering collaboration between policymakers and bureaucrats, and the private sector to better understand the opportunities for and barriers to economically viable investments in green technologies, systems, and processes that contribute to the minimisation and beneficiation of waste. His ultimate focus is fostering the integration of circularity into our economy.



Taahira Goga

is a researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). She has recently completed her doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Cape Town (UCT), which focussed on assessing current and future impacts of the South African plastics sector. Although her research interests revolve around the themes of circular economy and sustainability, her passion lies in the development of students and early-career researchers.

Masterclass Description

Embedding Circularity & Compliance

presented by

TheRockGroup

Find out more about
CSRD Compliance here



During the masterclass compliance was a key area of interest, with many discussions centered around entering and existing legislations and regulations. Participants discussed several topics, including Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for sustainable practices and the necessity of clear regulations under the Second-Hand Goods Act to address criminality in that sector. There was consensus on the need to amend the Criminal Procedure Act to tackle illegal activities related to second-hand goods and waste management. Participants highlighted the National Prosecuting Authority's crucial role in enforcing compliance, and the Waste Management Bureau's potential to assist businesses. The conversation also focused on the need for transparent funding, effective legislative incentives, and adapting circular economy models to the South African context, while promoting corporate responsibility and inclusion for the Global South.

Masterclass facilitators Embedding Circularity & Compliance



Clare Nichols

is a Sustainability Consultant at TheRockGroup Africa, driven by a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. With a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Cape Town, Clare has worked across charities, NPOs, and large corporates, focusing on sustainable operations and community development. At TheRockGroup, Clare collaborates with clients to transform their companies, implementing socially just and environmentally sound business practices for a sustainable future.

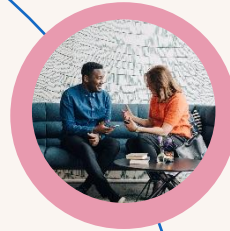


Esther Mangiza

is a Sustainability Consultant at TheRockGroup with extensive experience in ESG advisory. She helps businesses, NGOs, and governments redesign economic models to be sustainable and future-proof. With a background in Environmental Management, she is passionate about regenerative agriculture, diversity, and behavioural change. Esther is committed to fostering a circular economy and driving sustainable business development, while also educating various groups about emerging environmental issues.



SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024



Business 2 Business Matchmaking

FIELDTRIPS

HASSO PLATTNER
d-school
AFRIKA*

Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*



Spier & Living Soils Farm Tour

Fieldtrips Discover the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika*

Delegates toured the Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking Afrika* (d-school Afrika), an innovative hub for creativity, collaboration, and sustainability.

This state-of-the-art building, which received a prestigious 6-Star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council South Africa, is the first academic building on the continent to earn this honour.

Its sustainable design aligns with UCT's Vision 2030 and includes cutting-edge features such as real-time environmental monitoring via QR codes.

With radically flexible spaces fostering collaboration, the d-school Afrika empowers students from diverse disciplines to solve complex global challenges through design thinking.



Fieldtrips Living Soils and Spier farm tour



Delegates visited the Living Soils Community Learning Farm at Spier, a pioneering project launched in March 2019 in collaboration with Woolworths and the Sustainability Institute.

This demonstration farm utilises eco-friendly regenerative farming methods to produce nutritious food while training young farmers. To date, the farm has empowered 58 new farmers and donated 27 tonnes of food to local food security initiatives, benefiting children, youth, and households.

The delegates explored how the farm's innovative approach not only addresses food insecurity but also fosters leadership and sustainable agricultural practices. They witnessed firsthand the impact of this model and its potential for replication across South Africa to enhance community health and well-being.

LIVING SOILS
COMMUNITY LEARNING FARM



1692
Spier



SOUTH AFRICA
CIRCULAR ECONOMY
HOTSPOT 2024

CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS EXPO



Circular Solutions Expo

We invited participants to engage directly with our leading **circular solution providers**. The Expo featured 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>EARTH AGAIN Composting Made Easy</p>	 <p>LADLES OF LOVE</p>	 <p>ECAFRIKA</p>	 <p>SUOMI FINLAND</p>	 <p>SARI FOR CHANGE SUSTAINABLE FASHION</p>	 <p>CIRCULAR SOUTH AFRICA</p>	 <p><i>naturally Good</i></p>
 <p>FOOD FORWARD SA Securing quality food. Nourishing lives.</p>	 <p>atlantis special economic zone CAPE TOWN</p>	 <p>extrupet making pet nutrition easy</p>	 <p>SAPRO South African Plastics Recycling Organisation</p>	 <p>hloolo by Fetola</p>	 <p>BLOCK SOLUTIONS</p>	 <p>tcb taking care of business</p>
 <p>PAINTED WOLF WINES</p>	 <p>LISAS BOX VINTAGE IS LIFE SINCE 2019</p>	 <p>CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS</p>	 <p>CARTRIDGE DEPOT The Colourful Solution</p>	 <p>plant the seed</p>	 <p>H</p>	 <p>Foi Science Virtual Hub Biopolymer • Phytochemistry • Entrepreneurship</p>
 <p>Madam Waste URBAN AND ENERGY PLANNERS</p>		 <p>gooi</p>	 <p>Reusefy Vytal The reuse system.</p>	 <p>GBC SA</p>		



Ladles of Love



www.ladlesoflove.org.za



info@ladlesoflove.org.za



<https://www.facebook.com/ladlesofloveZA/>

Ladles of Love is a non-profit organisation dedicated to alleviating hunger and promoting food security in communities. Founded by Danny Diliberto, it began as a humble soup kitchen and has grown to serve millions of nutritious meals annually. The organisation supports local farmers, facilitates educational programs, and creates numerous volunteer opportunities, all while fostering a sense of community by spreading love, dignity, and respect to those in need.



Mission Statement

- To help people thrive physically, emotionally, spiritually and sustainably with love, dignity and respect.
- To provide nutritious and wholesome food available to all.
- To support our farmers grow natural wholesome food in an economical and sustainable way.
- To empower food entrepreneurs to grow businesses that create jobs and adds to the economy of our country.



FoodForward SA

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	https://www.facebook.com/FoodForwardSA/

Established in 2009 to address widespread hunger in South Africa, FoodForward SA connects a world of excess to a world of need by recovering quality edible surplus food from the consumer goods supply chain and distributing it to community organisations that serve the poor. More than 80% of the food recovered is nutritious food. During the 2022/2023 financial year, we distributed 88 million meals and reached 985,000 people daily through a network of 2,750 beneficiary organisations, across South Africa. We achieved this at a cost per meal of only R0,56, due to the tremendous support from our donors, partners and volunteers.

One third of all food produced in South Africa is wasted while millions of vulnerable people are food insecure. FoodForward SA is the largest food distribution organisation in South Africa, alleviating hunger while reducing the environmental impact of food loss & waste by recovering quality surplus food from farmers, manufacturers & retailers to feed vulnerable communities. We call this cost-effective model Foodbanking. FoodForward SA is part of a global movement focused on alleviating hunger and reducing the environmental impact by diverting good quality edible surplus food. Through our network of 2,750 community organisations, we provide over 950,000 people with access to nutritious meals daily.



Securing quality food. Nourishing lives.



#ECAfrica Resource Bank

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Entrepreneur Connect Africa (ECAfrica) is a digital platform empowering African entrepreneurs by connecting them to opportunities, markets, and resources. Driven by a shared mission to create value exchanges, ECAfrica fosters collaboration, accelerates business growth, and opens access to global markets. As an organic movement, it unites entrepreneurs across the continent, providing a secure and accessible platform to build stronger ecosystems. Through collective efforts, ECAfrica helps entrepreneurs create jobs, scale their ventures, and drive Africa's economic growth, with a vision to become the leading pan-African network of entrepreneurs transforming their economies.

The Enterprise Resource Bank connects businesses in need of essential resources with organisations that have surplus equipment. Many companies struggle to grow due to a lack of proper resources, while others have excess items collecting dust. By linking entrepreneurs to vital resources like computers or office furniture, we help them boost their confidence and improve service delivery. Through our platform, businesses can donate surplus equipment, and those in need can register their requests. Donors benefit from brand visibility and earn 135% B-BBEE points, creating a win-win solution that supports business growth across the community.



Block Solutions



www.block-solutions.com



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/block-solutions-oy/>

Block Solutions is a Finland-based company that has developed a sustainable and affordable way of building houses with a new disruptive technology using block-modules made of ecological bio composite materials. Block Solutions has won a UN Habitat award for what they did in Haiti after the last earthquake there. The company has set-up plants with local partners in Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, and Rwanda. The company now has representatives in South Africa and are looking into setting-up manufacturing of the blocks in South Africa. They have already obtained approval from Agrément. On 23 July 2024, the first model house of Block Solutions was built in Gauteng at the National Home Builders Registration Council's Eric Molobi Innovation Hub in Soshanguve.



Circular South Africa



www.circularsouthafrica.co.za



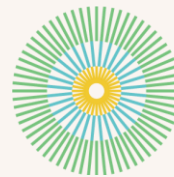
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Circular South Africa (CSA) is the fastest growing circular economy platform in the country. The vision is to amplify the potential and value of the just circular economy across South Africa.

CSA provides key resources, knowledge-sharing and capacity opportunities, and fosters collaboration across sectors. CSA connects diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable change, by amplifying circular initiatives and elevating their impact, while also making the concept of circularity accessible, in an engaging, practical and authentic way.



**CIRCULAR
SOUTH AFRICA**
Accelerating the Transition



Hloolo by Fetola



www.hloolo.com



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/hloolo-by-fetola/posts/?feedView=all>

Hloolo, Fetola's new digital platform, is dedicated to bridging the gap between green businesses and the growth finance, knowledge, and market opportunities that entrepreneurs need to succeed. Serving as a catalyst for green growth and innovation, Hloolo empowers small and medium enterprises (SMEs) promoting sustainable development across multiple sectors. By connecting green entrepreneurs with essential resources and personalised support, Hloolo enhances investment readiness and fosters an ecosystem to drive the transition to a more sustainable economy.



hloolo
by Fetola



Extrupet



www.extrupet.com



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/extrupet-pty-ltd/?viewAsMember=true>

Extrupet is one of the largest and most advanced recyclers of PET bottle materials on the African continent. Since our establishment in 2000, Extrupet has become one of the largest and most advanced recyclers of PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottle materials on the African continent. We specialise in reclaiming and converting waste PET bottles into various grades of PET flakes and chips. This is then converted into fibre, thermoforming, food-grade and strapping grade material to produce high quality and reliable end-products for use in packaging and other applications.



The Chemistry Solutions Company

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1. Collect Sample

We ship you everything you need to test your drinking water, including a guide on how to collect your sample.



2. Ship to Lab

Send your sample back to us for rigorous, certified, independent testing. The shipping's on us!



3. Get Report

After our labs analyze your sample, we'll send you a full report on what's in your water and what to do next.

The Chemistry Solutions Company was founded in 2020. We offer water testing and treatment solutions. We believe in the work we do. We believe every human being has a right to clean water. Water testing solutions should be accessible to everyone.

Our mission is to make water testing solutions accessible and available to vulnerable and marginalised communities. Water testing should not be a myth but a standard practice in everyday life.



Naturally Good



www.naturallygood.co.za



info@naturallygood.co.za



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/naturally-good-29b13014/%20>

Naturally Good, founded in 2012 by Glenda Pieters and Charlene Liedeman in Cape Town, is 100% black women owned. Specialising in affordable, earth-friendly, plant-based cleaning and personal care products for industrial, commercial, and domestic use, Naturally Good is committed to promoting sustainable practices. By reducing water pollution and landfill waste, their products make a positive impact on both the health of our customers and the environment.



naturally Good




Taking Care of Business




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The unemployment and poverty crisis in South Africa is massive. We know that quality education and entrepreneurship (self-employment) are practical pathways to financial and social independence. **We believe that with the right support structure and opportunity anyone can become self-employed.** That's why we provide a holistic solution that works with the whole person (head, heart and hands). We equip and support people on their journey with viable business opportunities, access to the economy, resources and capital, training, practical work experience, mentorship and coaching, and deep personal growth. The result? Active, contributing citizens that become role models for others.

Taking Care of Business (TCB) is a nonprofit social enterprise. **We are empowering unemployed South Africans** and their families to escape the cycle of poverty through small business opportunities, mostly within the circular economy. Our flagship programmes ensure that **unwanted fashion and other products are responsibly eliminated from the main market** and distributed to secondary ones while protecting the contributing brands, reducing waste and creating self-employment opportunities.



Plant the Seed

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Plant the Seed officially began in 2015 and is driven by an action-oriented leadership team committed to embedding sustainability education and action in schools. Since our inception, we have failed, learnt, adapted and grown into recycling and education experts. With a multidisciplinary team of social entrepreneurs, educationalists, and sustainability professionals, Plant the Seed is more than just a waste management and education company.

Waste is a gateway to sustainability, together we can get there.

We exist to positively contribute to sustainable development, building the circular economy and an ecologically minded and resilient society.




We believe that by collaborating with industry and businesses, we can create a movement of organisations and citizens transforming their relationship to the world we live in and actively participating in turning the tide on our waste crisis and restoring our degraded ecosystems.



plant the seed



Cartridge Depot

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Cartridge Depot is your trusted source for high-quality printer cartridges. Whether you're a home user, a small business, or a large organisation, we have the perfect printing solutions to meet your needs. With our wide range of compatible Remanufactured Cartridges under our Trademarked Brand, Eclipse or OEM cartridges, we pride ourselves on delivering exceptional performance, reliability, and value.

At Cartridge Depot, we understand the importance of crisp prints, vibrant colours, and consistent output. That's why we offer an extensive selection of cartridges for all major printer brands, ensuring compatibility and optimal printing results. Our team of experts is dedicated to helping you find the right cartridges for your printers, providing personalised recommendations and attentive customer support.

Convenience is key, which is why we offer both online and in-store shopping options. Our user-friendly website allows you to browse our catalogue, compare products, and make secure purchases with ease. For those who prefer a hands-on experience, visit us in-store, where our knowledgeable staff will assist you in finding the perfect cartridges for your printing requirements.




We take pride in our commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly practices. Our Eclipse cartridges are made from recycled cartridges, reducing waste and minimising our environmental footprint. With Cartridge Depot, you can achieve exceptional printing results while contributing to a greener future.



**CARTRIDGE
DEPOT**
The Colourful Solution



Reusefy

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Reusefy[®]

Vytal The reuse system.

We provide reusable cup services for venues and events to reduce waste, save money, and enhance customer satisfaction. Our mission is simple: eliminate single-use cups for good. Through cost-effective, convenient solutions, we help clients transition to a circular, zero-waste alternative. Reusefy is proud to franchise Vytal, a leading digital reuse system, expanding our impact on food and beverage packaging in the to-go, takeout, and ready-meal delivery space.

VYITAL is a leading digital, deposit-free system for reusable food and drink packaging. Each container has a unique ID and is tracked via our app, which works like a library system. VYITAL coffee cups will be available at the Hotspot Event. Visit the barista stand to enjoy your coffee without single-use waste. Scan the QR code and download the app to learn how it works and participate.



Gooi

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gooi

Gooi makes composting your food waste as easy as throwing it in the bin. Our goal is to reduce landfill waste, support local farmers, enhance soil quality, and feed communities. Gooi provides a weekly collection of food scraps from your doorstep. By simply gooing your food scraps in your gooi bucket, you're contributing to a greener, more sustainable future.

Have you ever considered that once upon a time, there was no such thing as food waste? All food was returned to earth as compost. There was a time before landfills and municipal rubbish trucks. Food was grown close by, every scrap was used, and the remains went into the garden or to the pigs. But, as cities grew, society became more industrialised, and whatever couldn't be accommodated in this new structure became "waste", and its disposal needed to be outsourced. At some point it seemed necessary to get a truck, take it out of urban centres, and throw it all into a pile never to be thought of again.



made by pigeons



www.madebypigeons.co.za



hello@madebypigeons.co.za



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



made by pigeons makes lamps out of discarded PET bottles without any new 'filler' plastics mixed in the recycling process. A more closely connected circular economy means having a more direct connection between waste and final product. Taking control of the entire process makes it possible to limit the harm done in producing things. So every lamp is made directly from waste PET bottles to finished product, currently by one person, in Muizenberg.

It all starts with **collecting discarded plastic bottles**—whether from friends, family, or even found on the street. These bottles must be clean, consistent in thickness, and free of branding or adhesive. After prepping, they're heated and pressurised to smooth out any ridges. Each bottle is then carefully cut into a long helical strip, like peeling an orange.

The strips are fed into a custom-made pultrusion machine built from everyday items like a PC power supply and windshield wiper motor, transforming them into filament. Since PET is hygroscopic, the filament is dried and joined into one continuous strand. Finally, it's spooled and stored in a dry-box to keep moisture out, **ready for 3D printing**. With the filament prepared, the lamp is printed and ready to illuminate your space, **turning waste into something beautiful and functional**.



Earth Again



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



tom@earthagain.co.za



EARTH AGAIN
Composting Made Easy

Earth Again is a company focused on **making composting easy**. We believe that food scraps have been misvalued as waste, ending up in landfills, which has numerous negative impacts socially and environmentally. The Aerobin Composter is designed using biomimicry principles to ensure that your food waste has the right environment to decompose. This home composter allows for composting in urban areas without the previous hassles of space, odour and rodents.

No More Turning

The central aeration lung does the work for you, drawing air in as the temperature rises. This means no more turning your compost pile, just dropping in and harvesting.

No More Mess

The contained design holds all your compostable materials in one place. While preventing unwanted rodents and potential foul smells. Aerobin provides a clean, easy to use compost solution.

No More Issues

The sleek, robust design allows for you to compost anywhere, all year round. With the insulated walls rapidly decomposing the materials.



LISAS BOX

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LISAS BOX

VINTAGE IS LIFE

Since 2019

LISAS BOX is a proudly South African ecommerce **vintage store** established in 2019, showcasing the style and short stories of the previous era.

Pelisa Mpumlwana is a passionate entrepreneur dedicated to empowering communities through innovative solutions. With a background in business management and a keen eye for opportunity, she strives to create impactful projects that inspire growth and development. Outside of her professional pursuits, Pelisa enjoys exploring nature, practicing mindfulness, and engaging with her local community. Her mission is to foster collaboration and drive positive change in every endeavour she undertakes.



Finnish Embassy

	www.finlandabroad.fi/web/zaf/frontpage
	sanomat.pre@formin.fi
	https://www.linkedin.com/company/79517027/admin/feed/posts/

Our mission is to strengthen trade between Finland and South Africa by supporting Finnish companies entering the South African market and fostering win-win partnerships. We identify trade and investment opportunities, promote innovation, and offer advisory services to guide businesses through market access challenges. With expertise in digitalisation, green economy, and sectors like mining, energy, and water, we build sustainable solutions to drive inclusive growth and industrialisation in South Africa.

SUOMI
FINLAND



Team
FINLAND



Hernieuw



www.peek.org.za/store/hernieuw



Info@hernieuw.com



<https://www.facebook.com/hernieuw>

Hernieuw is an innovative company focused on repurposing unwanted textiles through cutting-edge technology. By embracing sustainable practices, Hernieuw turns discarded fabrics into valuable products, playing a key role in promoting the circular economy. The company supports eco-friendly solutions, such as reusing materials to create new markets and reducing waste, particularly in industries like hospitality and fashion. Hernieuw also helps businesses lower costs and enhance brand reputation by attracting eco-conscious consumers and contributing to local green economies



Foi Science



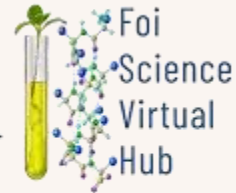
www.foiscience.co.za



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Foi Science is a pioneering company at the intersection of sustainability, science, and community empowerment, driven by a mission to revolutionise the beauty and skincare industry through innovative use of biopolymer technology. Founded in 2015, Foi Science develops high-performance, eco-friendly skincare and cosmetic products, transforming food waste and medicinal plants into biodegradable, highly effective biopolymers. These ingredients not only enhance the efficacy of the products but also reduce environmental impact, offering a sustainable solution for modern skincare. At its core, Foi Science integrates innovation and social responsibility. The company focuses on producing beauty products that cater to the diverse needs of African skin tones, with formulations enriched by South African medicinal plants. This ensures that the products are natural, gentle on sensitive skin, and effective, meeting the specific requirements of a global market often overlooked by mainstream beauty brands.




FoiScience is committed to empowering rural and disadvantaged communities through its educational and training initiatives. The company offers e-learning platforms and hands-on training programs, providing participants with the skills and resources needed to create and market their own beauty products. This approach not only fosters local entrepreneurship but also uplifts communities economically, creating a sustainable business ecosystem where communities and the environment can thrive. Foi Science is also at the forefront of sustainability and waste beneficiation, with platforms dedicated to transforming food waste into valuable beauty ingredients. Their waste collection and beneficiation programs align with global sustainability goals, reducing waste and contributing to a circular economy. As the company continues to grow, Foi Science remains focused on its mission to innovate responsibly, combining science, sustainability, and social impact to create a better future for the beauty industry.



Biopolymer - Phytochemistry - Entrepreneurship



Atlantis SEZ




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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.



Sari for Change

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SARI FOR CHANGE




Sari for Change is a conscious fashion brand transforming traditional Indian saris and heritage textiles into unique garments, preventing landfill waste. Celebrating evolving identity through upcycling, the brand is committed to women's empowerment, offering education and skills training to foster economic inclusion. By saving 150,000 saris from landfills and empowering 120 women, Sari for Change champions a circular economy, promoting sustainability and resource efficiency while prioritising people and the planet.

A Sari for Change product tells a pay it forward story of generosity and gifts from a grandmother, aunt or mother who has donated her traditional bridal garments to this South African cause for the value and worth of the Sari to be transformed into a modern garment that bears semblance to the original sari...a sari that carries weight and years of tradition and energy.

A call to individuals to donate their gently worn saris for remaking and upcycling has seen this movement in fashion link unemployed women to the circular economy, fondly making garments in South Africa.



Painted Wolf Wines

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	https://www.instagram.com/paintedwolfwines/

From day one we've donated about 4% of the price of every bottle we've sold to organisations driving the conservation of endangered African wild dogs. Over R4 million so far, and we want that to grow that bigger and faster. We see it as an investment in the future of an icon species, and so we offer you the opportunity to make your own investment in both an icon range of wines and in becoming a Painted Wolf conservation hero.

We produce unique high-quality wines with distinctive South African character, crafted with a dedication to sustainability and conservation. Our focus is on Chenin Blanc and Pinotage, the two benchmark South African grape varieties. We source some of the best grapes from carefully selected vineyards and have achieved multiple international accolades and awards for our wines.

Our vision is to be the leading conservation wine company in the world, producing remarkable and highly desired wines to generate impactful funding for securing a sustainable future for the endangered African wild dog, a key indicator species.



Madam Waste

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Madam Waste is an urban energy planning firm based in Johannesburg, South Africa and Kigali, Rwanda. Our passion spans across urban energy planning, organic waste management and decentralised clean energy using anaerobic digestion – underpinned by principles of a circular economy. Our offerings include: strategic consulting, green design thinking workshops, podcasts, valorisation operations and urban biogas systems.

Africa's population is expected to double in the coming decade. Growing industrialisation and a young population will see urbanisation rate increasing, as well as waste generation and energy demand. The proliferations present exciting opportunities to change the narrative of energy access in urban areas.

OUR VISION




Advocate for decentralised clean energy systems in rapidly urbanising African cities through circular approaches.

WHAT WE DO

We promote Circular Economy through tailored system design and harness opportunities across the organic waste value chain.



SAPRO

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Why recycle?

Tackle the Landfill Crisis

In South Africa, the landfill capacity is fast becoming an impending crisis. With only 7.5% of South African's recycling, we currently have over 90% of waste produced ending up in landfills.

Support Waste Pickers

Waste pickers saved government R748.8 million in 2014 through their informal recycling services. However, their value is not recognised.

Reduce Carbon Footprint

Recycling helps to reduce the production of waste, and thereby reduce the chemicals and gasses produced in landfills.

The South African Plastics Recycling Organisation (SAPRO) represents the plastics re-processors in South Africa. Its members procure sorted, baled end-of-life plastics and re-process it into raw material. The recycled material can be used to manufacture new plastics products. South Africa is amongst the top recycling countries in the world. The Organisation is funded by its members and assists recyclers in Building a recycling industry that is respected and acknowledged by government, industry and the public.



Green Building Council of South Africa



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At GBCSA we believe spaces are the tools of change, shaping sustainable futures. That's because, from affordable housing to platinum-grade offices, spaces are created, occupied, and improved by people. Sustainable spaces are the point of departure for all of us to create, occupy and improve a future where people and planet thrive.

At GBCSA we believe spaces are the tools of change, shaping sustainable futures. That's because, from affordable housing to platinum-grade offices, spaces are created, occupied, and improved by people. Sustainable spaces are the point of departure for all of us to create, occupy and improve a future where people and planet thrive.





Get in touch

If you'd like to learn more about the event or report, please feel free to reach out.



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