

Nature & Circularity Week



Nature & Circularity Week

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

*Reimagine. Redesign.
Redefine. Reconnect.*

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

Register Here



Introduction | Why This Matters



The Urgency of Change

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

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

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

What is Nature & Circularity Week

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

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





HUMAN (IN) NATURE CONFERENCE

22 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa

Human (In) Nature Conference

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

HRH Princess Irene of The Netherlands

Founder of the Bergplaas and Spirit of the Wild Initiatives



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

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

08:00 – 08:45 | Arrival & Registration

Welcome tea, land acknowledgement, informal networking.

08:50 – 09:40 | Opening Circle

✔ Overall Event Sponsor Opportunity

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

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

✔ Co-host Opportunity

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

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

*speaker to be confirmed



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

11:00 – 11:30 | Tea Break (Outdoors)

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

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

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

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

2. Ecofluency: Listening to Nature's Voice

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

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

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

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

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

5. Netwalking in nature & expo talks

*speaker to be confirmed



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Co-host Opportunity

1. Regenerative Conservation – Bergplaas

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

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

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

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

*speaker to be confirmed



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

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

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

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

4. Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action

(Lecturer style by **Matthew Zylstra**)

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

5. Masterclass: Conventional Business & Nature

(**Elfrieke van Galen**)

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

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

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

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

Facilitators: Guided contemplative walk or solo reflection.

**speaker to be confirmed*





SOUTH AFRICA CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.

23 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

Circularity in Action – From Vision to Practice

Rethinking Materials, Rewiring Systems, Empowering Communities

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

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

08:50–10:00 | Opening Circle

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

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

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

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

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

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

Competition launched, finalists pitch their business ideas.

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

11:50–12:20 | Circular Refreshment Break

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

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*speaker to be confirmed



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Tentative Preview of Day 2

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

Jury presents the winner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Nature and Circularity Week | Fieldtrips

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

20 October 2025



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



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

21 October 2025



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



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

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

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



Register for the event here



Sponsors and Collaborators | Co-create Nature & Circularity Week

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

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

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



Brand Visibility

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



Networking Opportunities

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



Thought Leadership

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



Exclusive Access

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

Sponsors and Collaborators | Partnership Opportunities

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



Get in touch

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



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