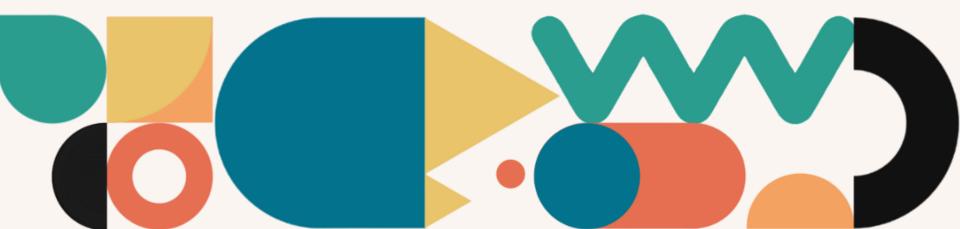
Nature & Circularity Week

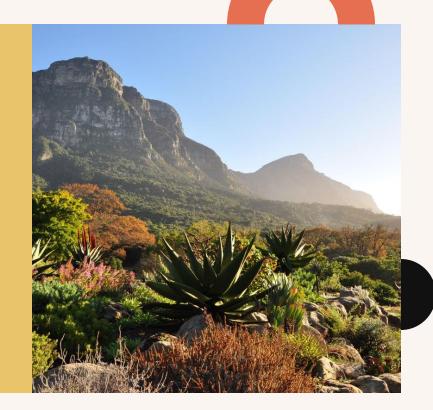


Nature & Circularity Week

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

Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.

20-23 Oct 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



Introduction | Why This Matters



The Urgency of Change

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

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

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

What is Nature & Circularity Week

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

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



Event Details



Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

22 Oct 2025

The Human (In) Nature Conference initiated by BERGPI

Rethinking Our Place in Nature

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

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

23 Oct 2025

South Africa Circular Economy Summit

Reimagining New Systems

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

26 - 30 Oct 2025

Spirt of the Wild experience $\ensuremath{\text{at}}$



Reconnecting with Nature



Who Should Attend?

- Corporate sustainability **leaders** and **decision-makers**.
- **Entrepreneurs, investors**, and impact-driven **businesses**.
- **Policymakers** and **regulators** driving systemic change.
- Academics, researchers, and students exploring sustainability.
- Creatives and designers pushing the boundaries of innovation.



The conference organisers

TheRockGroup







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

ACEN has championed the circular economy since 2016 across 42 African countries, uniting over 500 members to create a sustainable future. sib spearheads the adoption of sustainable and circular business practices in Kenya through impactful knowledge-sharing and strategic collaborations.

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



Event Details



Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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South Africa Circular Summit

Reimagining New Systems

Spirt of the Wild experience at BERGPLAAS



Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Why This Matters

This conference is an invitation **to rethink**, **redesign and reconnect** with nature.

Mirroring the cycle of life is reminding us that we are **part of nature**, and it is essential to redefine and restore our relationship with Nature.

What does it mean to be part of nature?

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

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

Reflection & Understanding

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

Masterclasses on Nature & business

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

Society & Nature

Bringing back to the 'naturally' intertwined codepending relationship

Human (In) Nature Conference

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

HRH Princess Irene of The Netherlands

Founder of the Bergplaas and Spirit of the Wild Initiatives



Human (In) Nature Conference | What to Expect







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



Key Themes

Rights of Nature

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

Society & Nature

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

Business & Nature

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

Regenerative & Low-Impact Tourism Circular Food & Soil Regeneration



Featured Case Studies & Masterclasses

Bergplaas Nature Reserve

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

Grootvlei

The conference will also highlight Grootvlei where after business practice restoration and regeneration will restore the relationship between Nature, Society and Business.

Table Mountain

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

Biomimicry

Nature based solutions



Cultural Connection

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



A Global Sketch of the Rights of Nature

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



Past - Present - Future

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



Conversation with a friend of Bergplaas

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



Open Space: Your Questions, Your Topics

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



Nature Immersion / Silent Reflection

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



Business & Nature - Can They Coexist?

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



Closing Circle: What Have We Discovered?

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

08:30 - 09:00 | Arrival & Registration

Welcome tea, land acknowledgement, informal networking.

09:00 - 09:30 | Opening Circle (Plenary)

Welcome by: Sustainability institute + overall partner and co-hosts?

Facilitators: Wayne, Ian, Allister (Spirit of the Wild – Bergplaas)

Activity: Grounding, setting the tone, nature impact, acknowledgement of ancestors and land

The Human Relationship with Nature – insights

09:30 - 11:00 | Plenary 1: The Rights of Nature - Rethinking Our Place in the World

Big-picture exploration of the Rights of Nature movement, legal innovations, planetary boundaries. ?? Co-host? Speakers:

- Jessica den Outer Global movement and legal recognition
- Cormac Cullinan Earth jurisprudence and governance
- Elfrieke van Galen Business and nature's rights
- Ruth (The Long Run) Sustainability, nature-led hospitality

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



11:00 - 11:30 | Tea Break (Outdoors)

11:30 – 13:00 | Concurrent Sessions (Morning)

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

(Co-hosted?)

- Vision of SANParks on Nature
- Explorative dialogue with Jessica, Cormac, Elfrieke moderated Q&A
- Legal case for Table Mountain's rights
- 2. Ecofluency: Listening to Nature's Voice +?

(Interactive, outdoors with Saskia von Diest)

- o Practices to attune to the more-than-human world
- 3. Society & Nature: Tourism that is good for Community, Culture & Ecology (Co-hosted?)
 - Sinegugu Zekhulu Indigenous regenerative tourism (Wild Coast)
 - o Ruth (The Long Run) 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture, Commerce
 - o Community-led tourism approaches from the Wild Coast with Amelia (Zutari)
 - EWT Circularity and biodiversity: regenerative economy
- 4. Society & Nature Masterclass: Bee keeping that is good for Community & Ecology (additional fee) hosted by Bee African
- 5. Netwalking in nature & expo talks

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch: The Harvest Table Provided by ?

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



14:00 – 14:45 | Plenary 2: Business & Nature – Regenerating Economies and Landscapes Co-hosted by? New business models in ecosystem restoration, food systems, biodiversity enterprises. *Speakers:*

- Endangered Wildlife Trust Circularity and biodiversity
- Commonland / ReNature / Grootvlei Case Landscape rehabilitation
- Woolworths & Food Technologist Regenerative agriculture supply chains
- Youth Agroecology Voice / Local Farmer Circular food systems
 Facilitator: TBD (business, nature, and systems thinking expert)

15:00 – 16:30 | Concurrent Sessions (Afternoon)

1. Circular Conservation Bergplaas?

(Speakers: EWT, The Long Run, Bergplaas TBC)

- •Tools for circular economy principles in conservation and tourism
- 2. Regenerative Food Systems: From Soil to Supply Chains by?

(Outdoor garden session)

- •Woolworths rep, food technologist, regenerative farmer TBC
- •Nutrition, resilience, ecosystem health, shifting value chains
- **3.Ecological Restoration for Business & Community Regeneration** Hosted by? (With video presentations)
 - •ReNature, Commonland, Grootvlei, Kelp project (Aquarium) TBC
 - •Finance models, community approaches, economic/ecological/social value
- 4. Masterclass: Biomimicry in Action co-hosted by?

(Lecturer style by Matthew Zylstra)

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

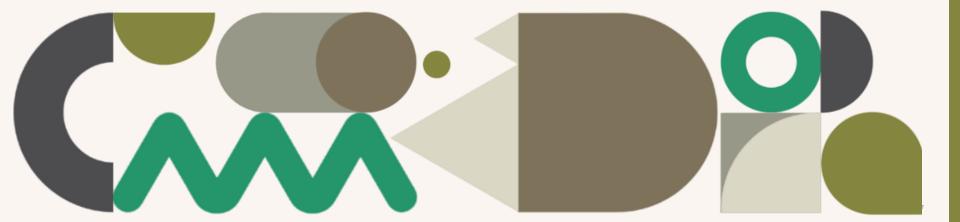


16:30 - 17:00 | Nature Immersion / Silent Reflection

Facilitators: Guided contemplative walk or solo reflection.

17:00 - 17:30 | Closing Story & Collective Reflections

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



Human (In) Nature Conference | Featured Speakers



Cormac Cullinan

Expert in the depth and breadth of environmental lawyer and governance. Renowned author, speaker, and advocate discussing legal frameworks and ecological sustainability for the Rights of Nature and their impact on policy and business. His focus is on the African and South African situation.



Wayne Maspero

Nature Reserve General
Manager and Facilitator at
Bergplaas with a passion for
the wilderness "offering a
unique environmental
learning experience for
people from all walks of life".
Wayne voices the notion of
the impact of Bergplaas
and its nature on
communities and
education.



Jessica den Outer

International environmental law expert and advocate for the Rights of Nature, with a focus on legal frameworks impacting policy and business. Leading voice in sustainability, environmental law and future generations' rights. She will be sharing global examples of Rights of Nature.



SOUTH AFRICA

CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

Reimagine. Redesign. Redefine. Reconnect.

23 October 2025 | Cape Town, South Africa



Event Details



Case Studies and Best Practices Fieldtrips

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Spirt of the Wild experience BERGPLAAS

Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Why This Matters



The Urgency of Change

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

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

South Africa Circular Economy Hotspot 2024 (SACEH24)

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

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

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 (SACES25)

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

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

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

Why This Matters

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

What does it mean to be part of nature?

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



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Reimagining New Systems



The Status Quo

The hardest part is the commitment to systemic change.

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

Challenging existing paradigms

Why do we consume certain products/services?

What do we consume, and how is it produced?

What resources are used, and why?

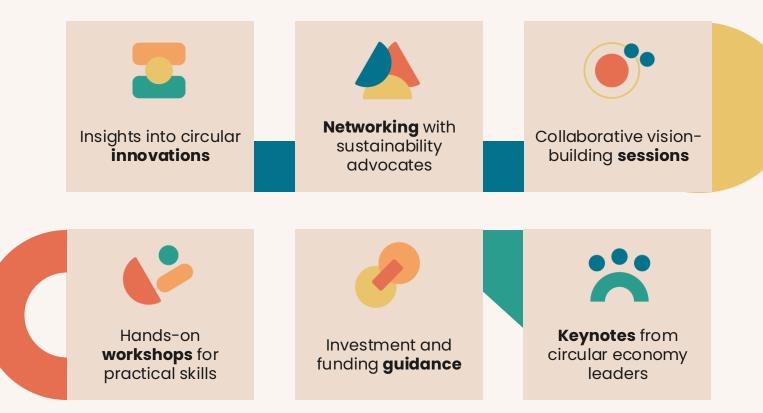
How is design influencing product lifespan and costs?

The Circular Economy Vision

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

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

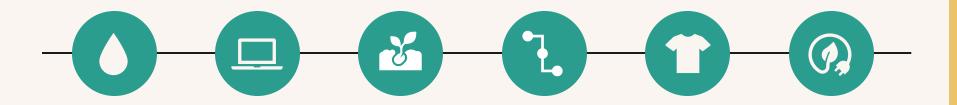
What to Expect at the Circular Summit



South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Potential Sessions

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

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



Circular **Water** Systems & Resilience Redesign for repair & refurbishment in the electronic sector

How repurposed models are creating new businesses

Extended Producer Responsibility impacting business models Sustainable
Textiles &
Closed-Loop
Fashion

Responsible
Resource Use,
Manufacturing
& Energy
Transition

Circularity in Action - From Vision to Practice

Rethinking Materials, Rewiring Systems, Empowering Communities

08:30-09:00 | 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

Innovations & Start-up showcase expo: Innovations in circular textiles, packaging, design, organic waste, food systems

- Progressive stories evolving from 2024 5 exhibitors
- 15 Youth Makers Woolworths
- New trailblazers on the way 15 exhibitors

09:00–09:15 | Opening Circle

- Brief reflection from Day 1 learnings
- Introduction to Day 2's focus: circularity, material flows, and systems change

09:15–10:30 | Keynote Panel – Circular Systems for a Regenerative Future "Designing for Life, Design for the world: Materials, Economy, and Meaning"

A multi-perspective conversation exploring:

- Circular design and biomaterials
- Economic models that regenerate value
- Rights of Nature as a guiding framework
- Speakers:
- [Circular economy innovator or practitioner]
- [Youth entrepreneur]
- [Indigenous knowledge keeper or regenerative agriculture leader]
- [Biodesign or sustainable materials expert nature based solutions prof]
- [Legal or policy expert on circular frameworks]

10:30-11:00 | Circular Coffee Break

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

11:00–12:30 | Immersive Sessions: Circularity in Practice (Choose One)

- 1. Circular Sustainable opportunities for businesses to close the loop from farming to textiles and beyond
 The value chain picture and opportunities: With good practices, storytelling & circular business model mapping
- 2. Nature as the circular business case; nature-based solutions, Nature Conservation for Sustainable job creation and Food Resilience
- 3. Circular Manufacturing creating resilient and self-sufficient economies with social impact
- 4. Rethinking Plastics: Extended producer responsibility & policy insights

12:30–13:30 | 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

13:30–14:30 | A Regenerative future, how do we make it the new norm, and which enablers do we need to succeed? Panel Discussion:

- What funding/commitment mechanisms support long-term circular transformation?
- How can policies, strategies, funds and financial incentives be fundamental for change?
- It is new how do we transform criterial for seed money, loans, investments in circularity?
- Partnerships for change.

Challenge – competition launched / jury present the shortlist of contestants.

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

14:30–16:00 | Immersive Sessions: Circularity in practice round 2 (choose 1)

- 1. Co-Creation Lab: Mapping Our Collective Circular Action Workshop
- 2. How circularity creates new business model which make business sense Masterclass
- 3. The Responsible Resources and Nature as a Solutions Masterclass
- **4. Redesign for repair & refurbishment** in the electronic sector **Practical workshop** RVO, DigiCircle4All program, CloseTheGap, Rhiza, Safe Hub, A refurbishment experience in the Truck the story of electronic devices and their second life and many jobs opportunities, devices and digital impact on the community stories

16:00–16:30 | Plenary – What Now? Courage to Transform

- Reflections from community voices, youth, artists, entrepreneurs
- Collective harvest of ideas, emotions, and actions

16:30–17:00 | Closing Ceremony: Reconnecting with Purpose

- Nature-based ritual, collective intention setting
- Takeaway: Seeds of Circularity Kit / Digital Commitment Card promises made for 2026
 Music from a local artist

| Sustainable Wine, Tea, Drinks & Forest Reflection (optional mindful walk)

South Africa Circular Summit 2025 | Masterclasses

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

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



Call to Action | How can you get involved?



Collaborate & Innovate

Co-create solutions

Work together on new ideas and initiatives.

Align policies & practices

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

Form strategic partnerships

Foster connections across industries and sectors to drive collective impact.



Showcase & Share

Host an exhibit or demo

Present innovations or solutions.

Present a case study

Highlight successful projects and lessons learned.

Demonstrate thought leadership

Contribute insights and share expertise through interactive sessions.



Inspire Action

Launch an initiative

Introduce a circular project, challenge, or competition.

Present a relevant good practice

Highlight successful approaches.

Pledge commitments

Make measurable sustainability goals public.



Sponsors and Collaborators | 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 summit	Banner placement at summit	Banner placement at summit	Banner placement at summit	Banner placement at summit
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				

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. 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.





Event Details



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Spirt of the Wild experience at BERGPLAS



Reconnecting with Nature



Introduction | Spirit of the Wild

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

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

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

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

Reconnect with Nature | A Journey: Spirit of the Wild



Why Attend?

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

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

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



What to Expect

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

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

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



Practical information

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

Dates: 26 - 30 Oct 2025

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

Spaces are limited – early registration encouraged!



Pre-register for the event here





Karin Boomsma karin.boomsma@therockgroup.biz

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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