



**GREEN  
YOUTH  
INDABA**

*A Decade*

*Sustainable Innovation*

Supported by:



**Beverages  
South Africa**



**19 - 20 June 2025 | Durban International Convention Centre**

# CONFERENCE PROSPECTUS



Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
Science, Technology and Innovation  
Trade, Industry and Competition



**Polyco**

**Standard Bank**

**STANLIB**



**LGSETA**

**W. RSETA**

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# About Green Youth Network

The Green Youth Network is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing youth interests and fostering sustainable skills development within the green economy. Our mission also includes promoting comprehensive education on environmental conservation issues in South Africa. Established as a Non-Profit Company and Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) in 2014, we have been actively engaged in this endeavour ever since.

Our flagship event, the Annual Green Youth Indaba, is South Africa's largest greening summit organised by youth for youth. Through this event, we have successfully built a network of over 10,000 young leaders from all corners of South Africa. Held in June to coincide with Youth Month celebrations, the Indaba brings together over 1,000 young environmental leaders and green innovators.

Aligned with our goals, we recognise the significance of economic recovery, job creation, a sustainable skills revolution, and fostering innovation. As one of the 196 parties that signed the Paris Agreement, the Republic of South Africa is committed to combating climate change and adapting to its effects. Together, we strive towards a greener and more sustainable future.

For two days, participants meet for intensive discussions, and networking, all aimed at generating solutions to global environmental challenges. Importantly, the conference also wishes to combat youth unemployment and address the lack of skills development, particularly in the context of opportunities presented by a just transition.

# Message from the CEO, Sanele Zulu



**Dear Partners, Speakers, Delegates and Members of the Media,**

My name is Sanele Zulu, Chairman and CEO of the Green Youth Network. I cannot wait to welcome each of you to the 10th Annual Green Youth Indaba. Whether this is your first Indaba or you have been in this journey with us for the last 10 years, what you are about to experience is something truly transformative. And you are now part of a decade-long legacy of purpose, passion and impact.

This year marks A Decade of Impact: Driving Sustainable Innovation. Ten years ago, we held our very first Green Youth Indaba, at the Innovation Hub, Pretoria. The event was attended by 150 people and while this may seem like a small number to other people, for us it was a success because all we wanted to do was connect with young people within the green economy, empower innovators and shape the next generation of leaders. Over the years, we have been supported by now Minister, Hon. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa (then Mayor of Tshwane); Former Minister, Hon. Dr Naledi Pandor; Former Minister, Hon. Barbara Creecy; UDM Leader, Mr Bantu Holomisa, just to name a few.

Today, we look back with pride at the impact we have made, our grassroots projects turned national initiatives, young minds turned entrepreneurs and local innovations making global sense.

But what excites me the most is that we are not slowing down. In fact, we are just getting started. We have laid the foundation and now we build forward. We are entering our next chapter with more clarity; more ambition and even deeper collaboration. As we continue to drive sustainable innovation, we are focused on ensuring that this is a platform for change, supported by communities, inspired by youth and guided by policy makers.



As you engage with this year's indaba, I encourage you to keep a few things close to heart. First, never underestimate the power of youth led solutions. Many of the successful businesses towards the green economy we have seen, come from young people unafraid to challenge the status quo. Second, innovation must always be inclusive and rooted in sustainability. And finally, collaborations and partnerships are our most valuable currency because our greatest resource lies in one another.

We are not a perfect organisation, and we don't claim to have all the answers. But we have built something special, a network of changemakers, thinkers and doers who believe that South Africa's green future belongs to all of us and must be built by all of us. My favourite phrase is: There is nothing for us, without us!

As you attend the sessions, the workshops, and the conversations, know that you are now part of this legacy. And part of its future. Thank you for being here. For showing up. For believing in the work. Let's make the next ten years even greener and even more impactful, together.

I look forward to learning with you and from you, to building with you and to meeting you in the days to come.

Yours in sustainability,

**Mr. Sanele Zulu**

Chief Executive Officer  
Green Youth Network



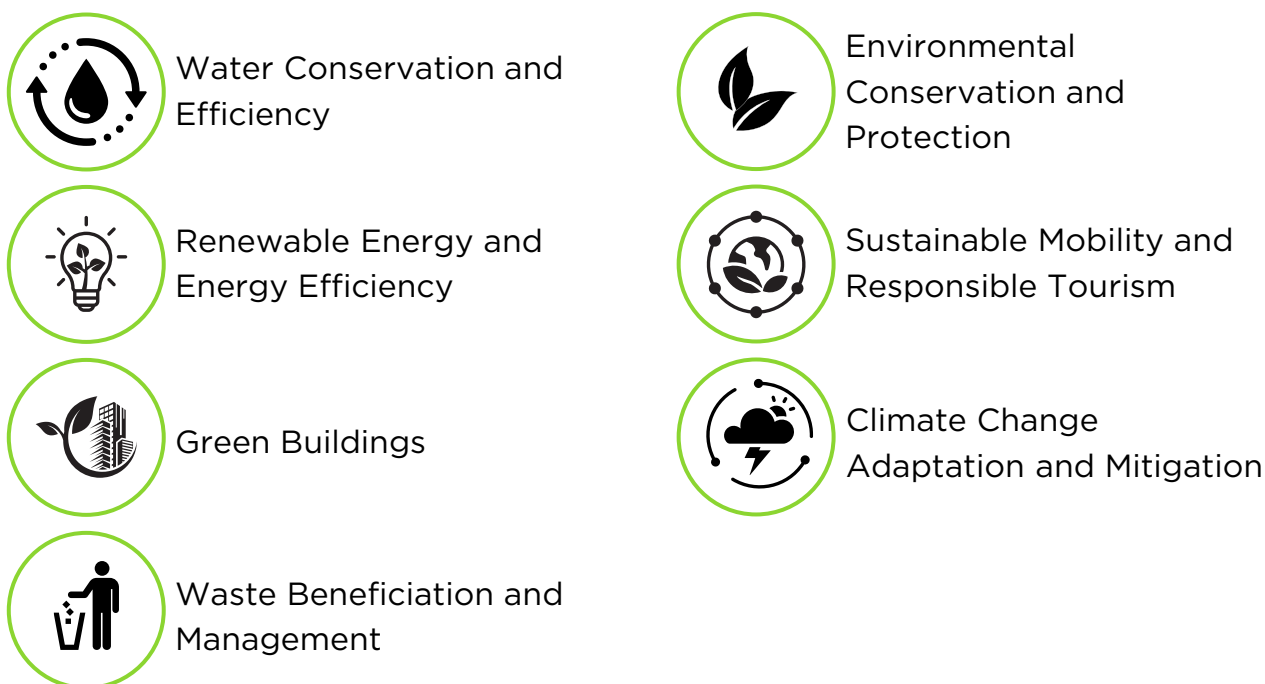
# Theme: *A Decade of Impact: Driving Sustainable Innovation*

We are excited to announce that the Green Youth Indaba 2025 is back in the city of Durban, for the 3rd consecutive year and will take place on the 19th - 20th June 2025 at the Durban ICC. As we mark the 10th edition of the Green Youth Indaba, the 2025 theme, *A Decade of Impact: Driving Sustainable Innovation*, reflects a celebration of progress and a renewed call to action.

Over the past ten years, the Indaba has grown into a national platform that empowers young people to lead, innovate, and advocate for a just and sustainable future. This year's theme honours the strides made in youth-led environmental solutions, green entrepreneurship, and policy engagement, while spotlighting the urgent need to accelerate climate action through inclusive and future-forward innovation.

In the face of deepening climate challenges and rising socio-economic inequalities, young changemakers continue to rise as creators of bold ideas and practical solutions. From circular economy models to clean energy innovations and green tech, the Indaba serves as a motivation for collaboration between youth, government, industry, and civil society.

This year's Indaba has seven critical pillars for discussion, which serve as a framework for driving meaningful engagement and collaborative solutions:



These pillars anchor the Indaba's mission to create space for collaborative action, policy dialogue, skills development, and green entrepreneurship, positioning young people as key players in South Africa's just transition to a sustainable future.

# Delegate Info:

**Dear Delegate,**

We look forward to welcoming you to the **10th Annual Green Youth Indaba 2025**. This two-day affair will be held under the theme: **A Decade of Impact: Driving Sustainable Innovation.**

For your convenience and worthwhile experience, we have compiled some important details for you to note.



**Date:**

Thursday, 19th of June 2025 and Friday, 20th June 2025



**Time:**

Venue can be accessed from 07:00 am

Official registration opens at 07:30 am

Programme commences at 08:30 am



**Venue:**

Durban International Convention Centre (ICC)

(Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC Complex, 45 Bram Fischer Rd, Durban, 4001)

**Coordinates:** 29°51'13"S 31°1'48"E / 29.85361°S 31.03000°E

## Programme Verticals:

The Green Youth Indaba is an educational and networking session presented in the form of a conference which features presentations and panel discussions on opportunities in the green economy. The Indaba is in the format of a conference and exhibition which will showcase products by our partners, exhibitors and key role players in the greening sector.

Programme can be accessed here: [https://bit.ly/GYI2025\\_Programme](https://bit.ly/GYI2025_Programme)



Durban International Convention Centre



19 June 2025



08h30 – 16h00

# GREEN YOUTH INDABA DAY 1

07:30 – 08:30

## **Arrival & Registration**

08:30 – 08:32

## **Setting the Stage**

Melody Miya, Media Personality (Programme Director)

08:32 – 08:40

**Talk:** Empowering youth for meaningful economic participation by turning skills into impact

08:40 – 08:45

## **Opening Remarks**

Sanele Zulu, Chairperson, Green Youth Network

08:45 – 09:00

## **Official Welcome by the City**

Cllr. Zamazulu Sokhabase, EXCO Chair of Community Services Committee, eThekweni Municipality

09:00 – 09:15

**Message of Support:** *Unlocking Youth Potential through Science & Innovation*

Dr. Mmboneni Muofhe, Deputy Director-General: Socio-Economic Innovation Partnerships, Department of Science, Technology & Innovation

09:15 – 09:35

**Address:** *Advancing Youth Participation in the Green Economy*

Hon. Narend Singh, Deputy Minister, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

09:35 – 09:55

**Keynote Address:** *The Climate Generation, Rising to the Challenge*

Hon. (Dr.) Nobuhle Nkabane, Minister, Department of Higher Education & Training

10:00 – 10:30

## **Tea Break and Exhibitions**

10:30 – 10:50

**Presentation:** *Green Manufacturing as a Tool to Address Youth Unemployment and Drive Sustainable Local Economic Development*  
Ineeleng Molete, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority

10:50 – 11:10

**Presentation:** *Water Is Work That Builds A Resilient And Green Future*  
Dr. Mmaphefo Thwala, Water Sector Specialist, Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority

11:10 – 11:50

**Dialogue:** *Circular Economy & the Township Economy: Rethinking South Africa's Circular Economy and How Local Solutions Can Meet Global Challenges*



**Moderator:** Zama Khumalo, Junior Chamber International

- Aubrey Muswema, Contract Researcher, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- Tlou Sebola, Collections and Training Manager, Petco
- Mark Lamani, Community Engagement Manager, Circular South Africa
- Edith Leeuta, Chief Executive Officer, Fibre Circle

11:50 - 12:10

**Presentation:** *Active Citizenship - Youth for Climate*

Lefentse Nokaneng, Research General Manager, Brand South Africa

12:10 - 12:10

**Video Showcase**

12:20 – 12:50

**Panel Discussion:** *Access to Finance and Support for Youth in the Green Economy*

**Moderator:** Dumisile Le Roux, Global Youth Advocate

- Johan Marnewick, Head of Fixed Income Private Markets and Portfolio Manager, STANLIB
- The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
- Dr. Andrea Campher, Senior of Sustainability & AgriBusiness, Standard Bank

12:50 - 13:00

**Presentation:** *The Role of Youth in Improving Climate Resilience*

Lindile Shozi, Board Executive Member and Climate Justice Coordinator, South African Youth Climate Change Coalition

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch Break**

14:00 – 14:10

**Mastering Self:** *Mental Wellness and Leadership in the Green Economy*

Paul Nzimande, Consultant, Life Coach & Mental Health Advocate

14:10 – 14:30

**The Evolution of Waste:** *Innovating the Future of Waste Management*

Jacques Jelliman, Senior Manager, Polyco

14:30 – 14:40

**Success Story**

Thabiso Hlongwane, Founder & Managing Director, Greener Pastures Recycling Company.





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14:40 - 15:10

**Panel Discussion:** *Infrastructure & Climate Collaboration*

**Moderator:** Bongwiwe Beja Ntsiko, Regional Program Manager Africa, beVisioneers - The Mercedes Benz Fellowship

- Pretty Dlamini, Environmental Specialist, Transnet
- Tumelo Ledimo, Project Manager, South African National Accreditation System
- Zama Dlamini, Environmental Management Service, Dube TradePort
- Richards Bay Industrial Zone

15:10 – 15:30

**Presentation:** Building Youth Skills in Food Innovation

Food & Beverages Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority

15:30 – 16:00

**Youth Enterprise Showcase**

**Moderator:** Melody Miya, Media Personality (Programme Director)

16:00 – 16:05

**Closing Reflections**

Malibongwe Xaba, Acting General Manager, Green Youth Network

16:05 – 17:00

**Departure**





Durban International Convention Centre



19 June 2025



08h30 – 17h00

07:30 – 08:30

## Arrival & Registration

08:30 – 08:35

## Opening Remarks

Melody Miya, Media Personality (Programme Director)

08:35 – 08:40

*New Heights of Inspiration and creative problem solving through entrepreneurship and Skills Development*

08:40 – 08:55

## Message of Support

Barbara Mgutshini, Deputy Director General, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs KwaZulu-Natal

08:55 – 09:15

## Keynote Address

Hon. Kenny Morolong, Deputy Minister in the Presidency

09:15 – 10:15

**My Biggest Blunders Talk:** *Before the Wins - Our Worst Fails and What They Taught Us*

**Moderator:** Dr. Roche Mamabolo, Lora Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- Sheldon Pandaram, Chief Executive Officer, The Seed Time
- Senamile Nkosi, Founder, INkanyezi Flushing Systems
- Reshoketswe Molepo, Chief Executive Officer, RRT Green Construction

10:15 – 10:45

## Tea Break & Exhibitions

10:45 – 11:00

## Address

Pule Mothiba, Chief Strategy Officer, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority

11:00 – 11:40

## Panel Discussion: Green Youth Connect

**Moderator:** Zama Khumalo, Junior Chamber International

- Nokuphila Gumede, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Field Tech Environmental Solution
- Gwiba Pasiya, Executive Director, Glons Oil
- Sisi Nxumalo, Founder, SoulShooz

11:40 – 11:50

**Presentation:** Growing Youth Opportunities and Green Communities through the Green Development Foundation  
Mulalo Ntendani Thabela, Chairman, Green Development Foundation

12:30 – 12:40

## The Power of Partnerships in Sustainable Development

Amo Mokoape, Strategist, Sustainability Advocate & Deputy Director for Economic and Social Transformation, South African BRICS Youth Association



12:40 – 13:00

**Young Researchers Presentation:** Showcasing Youth-led Research on Environmental Sustainability

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch**

14:00 – 15:00

**Green Innovators Pitch 10.0:** Sustainable Innovation in Action - Youth-Led Ventures Pitching for Impact  
Top 5 Finalists

15:00 – 15:40

**Panel Discussion:** Innovation & Incubation Support for Youth  
**Moderator:** Bongwiwe Beja Ntsiko, Regional Program Manager Africa, beVisioneers - The Mercedes Benz Fellowship

- Technology Innovation Agency
- SmartXchange
- Moses Kotane
- Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency

15:40 -16:20

**Panel Discussion: Careers & Skills that Power the Green Economy**

**Moderator:** Melody Miya, Media Personality (Programme Director)

- Dade Mbhele, Senior Manager Retail, ESKOM KwaZulu-Natal
- Zenith Tsengwa, Chief Executive Officer, Maths & Science Infinity
- Road Accident Fund
- Wholesale & Retail Sector, Education & Training Authority

16:20 – 16:30

**The Next Decade of GYI**

Dumisile Le Roux, Chief Operations Officer, Green Youth Network

16:30 – 16:40

**Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks**

Sanele Zulu, Chief Executive Officer, Green Youth Network

16:40 – 17:00

**Departure**





## Parking

Parking is available at the venue at no cost. This will be at a first come first, serve basis. Please note that your parking ticket will be validated by our team at the Help Desk.

## Registration and Accreditation

Upon arrival, we encourage guests to produce their electronic ticket at the security point. They will then be ushered to the main registration area at the Durban ICC for accreditation.

## Social Media

Join the conversation and follow us on our social media platforms by using the hashtag #gyi2025 #youthforsustainability #DecadeOfImpact on Facebook (@Green Youth Indaba) and on Instagram and Twitter (@gyi\_sa)

For our social media kit, please download our collaterals from this link: <https://bit.ly/SocialMediaKit2025>

## Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Lungelo Nene at +2768 286 8717 or via email [Lungelo@tosaca.co.za](mailto:Lungelo@tosaca.co.za)

