



11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA

FROM YOUTH INNOVATION TO GREEN ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Supported by:



Coca-Cola

Beverages
South Africa



18-19 JUNE 2026 | SUPERBOWL - SUN CITY | 07:00 - 16:30
NORTH WEST

IMPACT REPORT 2026

Presented by:



GREEN YOUTH
network



Science, Technology and Innovation
Trade, Industry and Competition
Water and Sanitation



North West
Provincial Government



PRESIDENTIAL
CLIMATE COMMISSION
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

FoodBev
Manufacturing SETA
FOOD BEVERAGE • CONSUMER • BUSINESS



EW SETA
ENERGY AND WATER SECTOR
EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY



Cathsseta



competition commission
south africa

STANLIB



EWASA
EGOLI WATER ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA



technology innovation
AGENCY
Innovating. Joining. Together.



TCTA
A new word for water.



MIDVAAL
Water Company
PURIFIED EXCELLENCE



Magabos Water



NERSA
NATIONAL ENERGY REGULATOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

Polyco



Fibre Circle
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION



petco
Leading Producer Responsibility.



MetPac+SA
Metropolitan Water and Sanitation



the
Glass
Recycling
Co.



RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone



MSI



PRIMESTARS
FROM SCHOOLROOM
TO BOARDROOM



YOUTH
START
FOUNDATION
Investment in Youth
Empowering Generations



South Africa
Inspiring new ways



TOSACA
Media Group
The Touch of Excellence

Powered by:

About This Report

This report documents the implementation, outcomes and impact of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba Week, held from 15 to 19 June 2026 in the North West Province, South Africa.

The publication presents an overview of programme delivery, stakeholder participation, youth engagement, innovation outcomes, strategic partnerships, brand and communications performance, and the broader contribution of the Green Youth Indaba towards advancing South Africa's green economy.

It has been developed using information gathered through programme implementation reports, participant observations, partner feedback, media monitoring, digital analytics, and post-event evaluations. Where earlier interim reports referenced provisional figures, this consolidated report reflects the verified numbers as compiled by the Green Youth Network programme office.

The report also introduces the Iziko Enterprise Development Programme, the Green Youth Network's national innovation-to-enterprise platform anchored by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), as the strategic way forward and formal call to partners to invest in the next phase of youth-led green economy development.

Suggested citation

Green Youth Network (2026). 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba Impact Report 2026. Pretoria, South Africa: Green Youth Network.

Copyright

© Green Youth Network 2026. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or distributed without prior written permission from the Green Youth Network, except for educational and non-commercial purposes where appropriate acknowledgement is provided.

Contact

012 440 1325 \ 064 557 0841
info@greenyouthindaba.co.za
www.greenyouthindaba.co.za



Contents

04	Message from the CEO	31	Young Researchers' Pitch
06	Executive Summary	34	The National Conference — Day 1 & Day 2
07	Indaba at a Glance	37	Speakers that Shaped the Indaba
09	Impact Snapshot	43	Exhibition Showcase
10	About the Green Youth Network	49	Green Youth Champions Awards & Gala Dinner
12	The Green Youth Indaba: Eleven Years of Growing Impact	52	Branding, Look & Feel
13	GYI Milestone Timeline of Growth	53	Media & Public Relations Report
15	What Distinguishes the Indaba	56	Digital Communications & Social Media Report
16	2026 Theme & Strategic Objectives	58	Voices from the Green Youth Indaba
17	Strategic Partners	59	Overall Programme Impact
19	The Delegate Journey	60	The Way Forward — Iziko Enterprise Development Programme
20	Community Clean-Up Campaign	63	Call to Partners
23	Green Youth Careers Expo & Teachers' Capacitation Workshop	64	Partnership Opportunities
26	Technical Masterclasses	66	Conclusion
28	Green Innovators' Pitch	67	Acknowledgements



Message from the CEO

Dear Partners, Delegates and Friends of the Green Youth Network,

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba marks another significant milestone in our journey of empowering young people to become active participants in South Africa's transition towards a sustainable and inclusive green economy.

Over the past eleven years, the Green Youth Indaba has evolved from a platform for dialogue into a national movement that inspires innovation, develops future-ready skills, strengthens partnerships and creates real opportunities for young people to participate meaningfully in environmental sustainability and economic development.

The 2026 programme, delivered under the theme "From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact", challenged us to move beyond conversation and focus on implementation. Throughout the week, we witnessed young innovators presenting practical solutions, researchers sharing groundbreaking work, learners discovering future careers, communities taking ownership of environmental stewardship, and leaders from government, academia and industry working together to shape a more sustainable future.

Hosting this year's Indaba in the North West Province, in partnership with the Office of the Premier, the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality and the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, allowed us to bring the programme closer to communities that are too often left at the margins of the green economy conversation. The response, from learners in Mogwase, entrepreneurs from across the province, and traditional leaders who blessed our opening reminded us that innovation belongs everywhere.



Message from the CEO

...continued

This year's programme reaffirmed our belief that young people are not simply the beneficiaries of the green economy; they are its innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and leaders. We congratulate our Green Innovators' Pitch winner Ms. Onndindaho Rasilwela of *Bio Mulchies*, our Young Researchers' Pitch winner Ms. Gantshe Molaba (Tshwane University of Technology), and every finalist whose ideas have already begun to reshape what a South African green enterprise can look like.

The success of the Green Youth Indaba would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of our strategic partners, never our sponsors, always our partners. To Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa as our Overall Title Partner, the Office of the Premier of the North West Provincial Government and every partner listed later in this report: thank you.

As you read this report, I encourage you to view it not merely as a record of activities delivered, but as evidence of the partnerships built, the opportunities created and the lasting impact generated through collective action.

Looking ahead, the Green Youth Network is formally launching the Iziko Enterprise Development Programme, a national, multi-phase innovation-to-enterprise platform that will operate across all nine provinces to convert youth-led ideas into viable green enterprises. Iziko is our answer to the question we have been asked most often over the past decade: what happens to these young innovators after the Indaba? The programme, and our invitation for partners to invest alongside us, is set out in the Way Forward chapter of this report.

Together, we are cultivating a generation equipped to transform innovation into enterprise, knowledge into action, and ambition into measurable economic and environmental impact.

I extend my sincere appreciation to every organisation and individual who contributed to the success of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba. We look forward to continuing this journey together as we build a greener, more inclusive and more prosperous future for South Africa.

Sanele Zulu

Chief Executive Officer & Founder
Green Youth Network

Executive Summary

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba Week, hosted by the Green Youth Network from 15 to 19 June 2026 at the Sun City Resort in the North West Province, marked another significant milestone in advancing youth participation within South Africa's green economy. Guided by the theme "From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact", the programme brought together government, industry, academia, development partners, entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, educators and young people to explore practical solutions that support environmental sustainability while creating economic opportunities.

Now in its eleventh year, the Green Youth Indaba has evolved into one of South Africa's leading youth platforms for green economy dialogue, skills development, innovation and enterprise support. Rather than focusing solely on awareness, the 2026 programme emphasised implementation by connecting participants with opportunities for learning, collaboration, research, entrepreneurship and investment.

Over five days, more than 1 500 participants engaged with an integrated programme that included a Community Clean-Up Campaign, a Green Youth Careers Expo, a Teachers' Capacitation Workshop, three parallel Technical Masterclasses (Water-Energy Nexus, Wastepreneur, and Agri-Innovation & Food Security), the Green Innovators' Pitch, the Young Researchers' Pitch, a two-day National Conference and the Green Youth Champions Awards & Gala Dinner.

The Green Youth Indaba successfully strengthened collaboration between government, academia, industry and civil society. Strategic partners collectively played a pivotal role in supporting programme delivery, with Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa (CCBSA) serving as the overall title partner.

The innovation ecosystem remained a defining feature of the 2026 programme. Through the Green Innovators' Pitch and Young Researchers' Pitch, young entrepreneurs and researchers competed for a combined prize pool of over R300 000 in infrastructure, equipment and cash, supported by CCBSA, Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA) and Maths & Science Infinity (MSI).

Beyond the conference venue, the Green Youth Indaba generated significant environmental and social impact through community participation, practical environmental action and extensive media engagement. The integrated communications strategy generated over 80,000 organic Facebook views, a 112% increase in overall engagement, 144K reach and confirmed coverage across 18 national, regional and community media houses including SABC News, eNCA, SAfm, Newzroom Afrika, News24 and Jacaranda FM.

"The Green Youth Indaba is more than an annual event, it is a national platform where young people are empowered to transform innovation into enterprise, and environmental leadership into measurable economic impact."

_ Sanele Zulu, CEO, Green Youth Network

Indaba at a Glance

Five days of learning, innovation and impact — captured in the verified indicators below.



5

Programme Days



8

Major Programme Streams



2 687

Total participants across the week



210

Clean-up Youth Delegates



137

Waste Bags Collected



352

High school learners reached (Careers Expo)



23

Teachers capacitated



24

Career Expo exhibiting organisations



182

Technical Masterclass delegates



121

Green Innovators' Pitch applications



5

Green Innovators' Pitch finalists



25

Young Researchers' Pitch shortlisted



10

Young Researchers' Pitch finalists





4

Young Researchers' Pitch finalists



1746

Conference delegates (Days 1 & 2)



37

Conference Exhibitors



20+

Strategic partners engaged



R305 000+

Prize value unlocked for innovators & researchers



R7.22 million

Overall partnership value



18

Confirmed media houses



144 000

Facebook reach



2 600

Facebook interactions



+112%

Overall social media engagement growth



+314.3%

LinkedIn follower growth (30 days)



72 100

Instagram views (30 days)

Impact Snapshot

Four strategic pillars



Environmental

Community-level action, waste separation and circular-economy education across Mogwase and Moses Kotane Local Municipality.



Social

Direct engagement between 352 learners, 23 educators and industry — plus intergenerational dialogue with traditional leadership and government.



Economic

R305,000+ in prize value for youth innovators and researchers, plus commitments to post-Indaba mentorship, incubation and market access.



Partnership

Programme partners drawn from national government, the host province, SETAs, industry, PROs and academia.

About the Green Youth Network

The Green Youth Network (GYN) is a national youth development platform committed to empowering young South Africans to become active participants in building an inclusive, resilient and sustainable green economy. Through strategic partnerships with government, industry, academia and civil society, the organisation creates opportunities that equip young people with the knowledge, skills, networks and practical experience required to contribute meaningfully to environmental sustainability and economic development.

Since its establishment, the Green Youth Network has evolved into a recognised platform that bridges the gap between education, innovation and enterprise. Its programmes encourage young people to move beyond environmental awareness by developing practical solutions, pursuing green careers, undertaking research, establishing sustainable businesses and participating in policy dialogue.

The organisation's work is underpinned by the belief that environmental sustainability and economic growth are not mutually exclusive — they are interconnected drivers of development that create new opportunities for innovation, employment and entrepreneurship.





Vision

To empower young people to become leaders in advancing environmental sustainability, innovation and inclusive economic development.



Mission

To create platforms that develop green skills, promote innovation, strengthen enterprise development and connect young people with opportunities that contribute to sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship.



Triple Impact Model

- Economic impact: enterprise growth, job creation and revenue generation.
- Environmental impact: climate action, circular economy practices and sustainable technologies.
- Social impact: youth inclusion, skills development and community-level resilience.

"Young people are not only the beneficiaries of sustainable development, they are its innovators, entrepreneurs and custodians."

The Green Youth Indaba - Eleven Years of Growing Impact

Since its launch in 2016, the Green Youth Indaba has evolved from a provincial environmental awareness platform into a nationally recognised programme that convenes government, industry, academia, development partners and young people to advance South Africa's green economy.

Over eleven years the programme has expanded in geographic reach and offering, responding to national priorities around climate action, innovation, enterprise development and youth employment. Each edition has built on the success of the previous one, strengthening partnerships and creating greater opportunities for youth participation.



GYI Milestone | Timeline of Growth

2014

The inaugural Green Youth Indaba & Green Innovators Pitch 1.0 was launched, establishing a platform focused on environmental awareness, youth leadership and sustainable development.
Gauteng (Pretoria)

2015 – 2016

The programme expanded its partnerships with government, industry and educational institutions, increasing national participation.

Gauteng (Pretoria & Johannesburg)

2017 – 2018

The Green Youth Indaba strengthened its focus on the green economy and youth employment while continuing to grow its stakeholder base.

Gauteng (Johannesburg & Pretoria)

2019

The Young Researchers' Pitch was introduced, providing a platform for Master's, PhD and Postdoctoral researchers to present research with environmental, social and economic relevance.

Gauteng (Pretoria)

2020 – 2021

Programme Pause – The Green Youth Indaba was not hosted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and national restrictions on public gatherings.

2022

The Green Youth Indaba returned, reconnecting stakeholders and rebuilding programme momentum following the pandemic.

Gauteng (Pretoria)

Continued: Timeline of growth

2023

A major milestone was achieved as the Green Youth Indaba was hosted in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal for the first time, expanding the programme beyond Gauteng and strengthening provincial partnerships.

KwaZulu-Natal (Durban)

2024

The programme returned to Durban with an expanded innovation ecosystem, including the reintroduction of the Young Researchers' Pitch and stronger emphasis on research, innovation and enterprise development.

KwaZulu-Natal (Durban)

2025

The Green Youth Indaba celebrated its 10th Anniversary, marking a decade of impact and continued growth in stakeholder participation and programme offerings.

KwaZulu-Natal (Durban)

2026

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba was hosted at Sun City Resort in the North West Province, marking the programme's expansion into a third province while strengthening its national footprint. The programme also expanded its innovation ecosystem through Green Innovators' Pitch and Young Researchers' Pitch 3.0, with a stronger emphasis on commercialisation and enterprise development.

North West (Sun City)



What Distinguishes the Indaba

Rather than a single conference, the Indaba is an integrated development platform.

Each programme component, community clean-up, careers expo, teacher capacitation, technical masterclasses, innovation and research pitches, conference days and awards - builds on the previous one, creating a participant journey that moves from awareness through learning and innovation to enterprise development, collaboration and recognition.



2026 Theme & Strategic Objectives

"From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact: Building Skills, Creating Jobs and Mobilising Youth Solutions to Drive Climate Action and Economic Opportunity."

The 2026 theme reflects a deliberate shift from environmental awareness to environmental enterprise. It recognises that innovation alone is not enough, young people require access to education, skills, mentorship, research support, enterprise incubation, investment and strategic partnerships if their ideas are to grow into sustainable businesses.

Six Strategic Objectives



Promote green skills development

Equip young people with the knowledge and competencies required to participate in emerging sectors of the green economy through practical learning, technical training and career guidance.



Strengthen innovation and research

Create platforms that enable innovators and researchers to showcase solutions, receive mentorship and contribute to addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges.



Advance green enterprise development

Support entrepreneurship by connecting young innovators with business development opportunities, strategic partners, investors and enterprise support programmes.



Foster strategic partnerships

Strengthen collaboration between government, industry, academia, civil society and development partners to create sustainable opportunities for youth.



Encourage environmental stewardship

Promote responsible environmental practices through practical action, education and community participation while advancing circular economy principles and climate resilience.



Influence policy and national dialogue

Provide a platform where young people engage directly with policymakers, researchers and industry leaders on issues shaping South Africa's green economy.

Strategic Partners

At the Green Youth Network, we do not have sponsors, we have partners. This deliberate choice of language reflects the nature of the relationships that make the Indaba possible: shared vision, shared risk and shared credit for the impact created.

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba was made possible by an extensive network of strategic partners who invested financially, through technical expertise, thought leadership, mentorship, exhibitions and knowledge sharing.

PARTNERSHIP BY SECTOR

Overall Title Partner

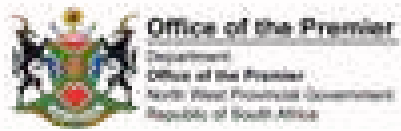


National Government



Science, Technology and Innovation
Trade, Industry and Competition
Water and Sanitation

Host Province & Municipal Partners



Waste Management, Recycling & Circular Economy



Education & Skills Development



Water Utilities & Infrastructure



Youth Development & Training



Financial Services Ecosystem



Energy Utilities & Regulation



Special Economic Zones

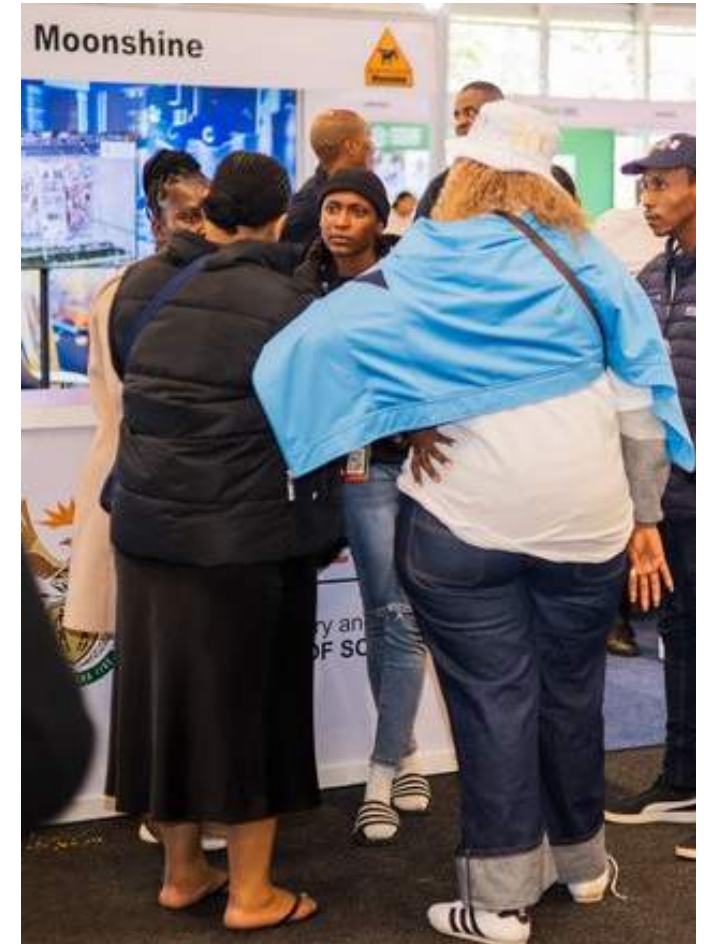


National Branding



Partnership value delivered across all forms of contribution, cash, in-kind, mentorship, hosting and media is estimated at R7.22 million.

17



The Delegate Journey

The Green Youth Indaba is intentionally designed as an immersive learning journey rather than a standalone conference. Over five days participants progress through a curated programme that combines environmental action, career exploration, technical learning, innovation, research, policy dialogue and celebration.

Day	Date	Location	Activity
1	15 June 2026	Mogwase Sports Park, Moses Kotane Local Municipality	Community Clean-Up Campaign
2	16 June 2026 (Youth Day)	Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus	Green Youth Careers Expo & Teachers' Capacitation Workshop
3	17 June 2026	Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus	Parallel Technical Masterclasses (Agri-Innovation & Food Security, Wastepreneur, and Water-Energy Nexus)
3	17 June 2026	Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus	Green Innovators' Pre-Pitch Competition
4	18 June 2026	Superbowl, Sun City	GYI Conference Day 1
5	19 June 2026	Superbowl, Sun City	• GYI Conference Day 2 • Green Innovators' Pitch Final Competition • Young Researchers' Pitch Final Competition
5	19 June 2026	Kings Ballroom, Sun City	Green Youth Champions Awards & Gala Dinner



Community Clean-Up Campaign

The Indaba Week commenced with a Community Clean-Up Campaign held in Mogwase, reaffirming the Green Youth Indaba's belief that environmental leadership begins with practical action. Rather than opening with presentations, delegates, government representatives, strategic partners and community members came together to improve the local environment while demonstrating shared responsibility for protecting natural resources.

Quick Stats



210

Actual Participants / Volunteers



DATE:
15 June 2026

VENUE:
Mogwase Sports Park,
Unit 8, Mogwase, North West



137

Bags of Waste Collected



94 Bags

Recyclable (69%)



43 Bags

Non-Recyclable (31%)

Programme Highlights



Official launch of Green Youth Indaba Week by the Mayor, Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe



Waste separation across four streams: clear plastics, coloured plastics, paper & cardboard, and general waste.



Brand South Africa "Play Your Part" activation and distribution of South African flags.



Stakeholder site visit to the Mogwase Landfill Site.



Multi-sector collaboration between government, industry, producer responsibility organizations (PROs) and community stakeholders.



"The environment is where we all meet; where all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."

- Lady Bird Johnson

Green Youth Careers Expo & Teachers' Capacitation Workshop



On Youth Day, 16 June 2026, the Green Youth Indaba brought together 253 high school learners, 26 educators, 18 speakers and representatives from 24 exhibiting organisations at Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus.

Recognising that successful participation in the green economy begins long before employment, the programme created two complementary platforms: the Green Youth Careers Expo, designed to inspire and inform learners, and the Teachers' Capacitation Workshop, aimed at strengthening educators' understanding of emerging industries and future labour market demands.



Featured VIP Contributions

Keynote Address: Hon. Ntsetsao Viola Motsumi, MEC, North West Department of Education.



Learner Engagement Outcomes

- Direct engagement with universities, TVET Colleges, SETAs, government departments, state-owned entities and private-sector employers.
- Information shared on bursaries, learnerships, internships and apprenticeships across renewable energy, water, manufacturing, environmental management, science, engineering and infrastructure.
- Career pathways positioned as pathways into meaningful, well-paid green jobs — not just environmental responsibility.



Teachers' Capacitation Workshop

The workshop equipped 23 educators with future-focused labour market intelligence, direct access to SETAs and industry, and practical materials to integrate into classroom career guidance. Certificates of attendance were handed over by Thato Motlhabani, Chief Commercial Officer, Green Youth Network.



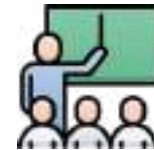
Quick Stats

Date	16 June 2026
Venue	Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus, North West
Target Audience	Grade 9 - 11 Learners, Educators and Career Guidance Practitioners



352

Participating
Learners



23

Participating
Teachers



18

Participating
Speakers



24

Participating
Exhibitors

Parallel Technical Masterclasses

"Equipping young people with practical knowledge and industry insights is essential to transforming innovation into sustainable enterprise and meaningful economic participation."

Following the Green Youth Careers Expo and Teachers' Capacitation Workshop, the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba shifted its focus from career awareness to technical skills development through a series of specialised Green Economy Technical Masterclasses hosted on 17 June 2026 at Orbit TVET College, Mankwe Campus. These sessions were designed to deepen participants' understanding of key green economy sectors while providing practical knowledge, industry perspectives and pathways into employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Aligned to the conference theme, *"From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact"*, the Technical Masterclasses translated policy discussions into practical learning experiences. Delegates engaged directly with subject matter experts, government representatives, researchers and industry practitioners who shared current trends, emerging technologies, best practices and opportunities within South Africa's green economy.

Unlike traditional conference presentations, the Masterclasses were highly interactive, encouraging participants to engage in dialogue, ask questions and explore practical solutions to environmental and socio-economic challenges. The sessions provided an opportunity for delegates to connect theory with practice while strengthening their understanding of how technical expertise contributes to sustainable development and economic growth.

Technical Masterclass Streams



**Wastepreneurs
Masterclass**



**Agri-Innovation and
Food Security Masterclass**



**Water and Energy
Nexus Masterclass**

Quick Stats




182
Delegates


78
Industry Experts,
Speakers & Facilitators



DATE:
17 June 2026

VENUE:
Orbit College, Mankwe Campus

NUMBER OF TECHNICAL SESSIONS
3 Parralel Sessions




260
Total Participants

Green Innovators' Pitch

The Green Innovators' Pitch 11.0 is the flagship youth-innovation platform of the Green Youth Indaba. The 11th edition brought together South Africa's most promising young green entrepreneurs to showcase innovative solutions addressing environmental and socio-economic challenges. The competition followed the Green Innovators' Pre-Pitch Competition held on 17 June 2026, where 30 participants presented their business ideas before a judging panel and 5 highest-performing innovators were selected to advance to the National Final.

Pre-Pitch Judging Panel



Sammy Tshiula

Transformation and Governance
Manager, CCBSA



Mokgadi Masenya

Relationship Consultant, Brand
South Africa (Brand SA)



Mosibudi Mokoale

Assistant Director for Innovation and
Technology, Department of Trade,
Industry and Competition (DTIC)

Ahead of the Green Innovators' Pre-Pitch 11.0 competition, the Top 50 participants completed a rigorous capacity-building programme. Through virtual workshops, expert sessions and personalised coaching, they sharpened their business planning, financial literacy, marketing and presentation skills. This training fully prepared them to compete for a spot in the Top 5 to present their investment-ready green business solutions at the main Indaba Conference .

Green Innovators' Pitch

Finals Judging panel



Nathalie Hendricks

Regional Public Affairs,
Communications & Sustainability
Manager, CCBSA



Alinah Mthembu

Acting Director: Environmental
Services and Technologies, DSTI



Candice Moodley

Corporate Services Executive,
EWSETA



Refilwe Sekutu

Senior Account Manager, Industrial
Development Corporation

Pitch preparation was led by Dr Roche Mamabolo, Managing Director of the LORA Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, whose session "Pitch with Purpose: How to Build an Investable Idea" at the main Indaba Conference prepared the finalists for judging.

Top 5 Green Innovators

1



**Onndindaho
Rasilwela**
Bio Mulchies

R150 000

Infrastructure & Equipment
(CCBSA) & Laptop from MSI

2



Lulwazi Jali
Taxi Fynder

R75 000

Infrastructure & Equipment
(CCBSA) & Laptop from MSI

3



Mahlatse Mamaila
INO Bio-Diesel

R50 000

Infrastructure & Equipment
(CCBSA) & Laptop from MSI

4



Gift Baloyi
BLEG GreenEnergy

R15 000

Infrastructure & Equipment
(CCBSA) & Laptop from MSI

5



Puleng Motupa
Motupa Enterprise

R10 000

Infrastructure & Equipment
(CCBSA) & Laptop from MSI

Total Investment: R300 000+

Young Researchers' Pitch

The Young Researchers' Pitch (YRP) - in its 3rd segment - successfully transitioned into a structured research translation and commercialisation programme, bridging academic theory with real-world green enterprise. The national initiative attracted 25 applications from Master's, PhD, and Postdoctoral researchers, shortlisting 10 candidates for rigorous capacity-building, expert mentorship, and pitch development targeting South Africa's socio-economic and climate priorities. This training culminated in a competitive Pre-Pitch event where four candidates competed, resulting in three outstanding finalists advancing to pitch live on the main Indaba conference stage.

Judging Panel



Dr Tebogo Mabotha

Programme Officer, Academy
of Science of South Africa
(ASSAf)



Vusi Skosana

Head of Technology Stations
Programmes and Enterprise
Development, Technology Innovation
Agency (TIA)



Dr Ravi Nadar

EPR / Sustainability Manager,
MetPac-SA

Top 3 Researchers



1st

Gantshe Molaba

R5 000

Cash (TCTA)
Laptop (MSI) & Tablet (EWSETA)



2nd (tie)

Sandile Mtolo

R2 500

Cash (TCTA)
Laptop (MSI) & Tablet (EWSETA)



2nd (tie)

Dr Thobile Mhlabeni

R2 500

Cash (TCTA)
Laptop (MSI) & Tablet (EWSETA)

A dedicated Research Commercialisation Workshop preceded the pitch, covering Intellectual Property protection, technology transfer, research-to-market pathways and innovation funding. This directly links the Indaba into South Africa's National System of Innovation.



The National Conference — Day 1 & Day 2

"From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact"

The Main Conference represented the pinnacle of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba, bringing together government leaders, policymakers, academia, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, development agencies, industry leaders and young people from across South Africa to collectively shape the future of the country's green economy.

Held under the theme *"From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact,"* the conference provided an inclusive platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration. It challenged stakeholders to move beyond discussion by identifying practical interventions that empower young people to become innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and active contributors to sustainable economic development.

Building on the momentum generated through the Community Clean-Up Campaign, Green Youth Careers Expo, Technical Masterclasses, Green Innovators' Pre-Pitch and Young Researchers' Pre-Pitch, the conference served as the point where ideas, partnerships and innovation converged into meaningful conversations capable of influencing policy, investment and enterprise development.

The conference was professionally guided by renowned broadcaster and motivational speaker, Hector Motivator, who served as the Programme Director.

His dynamic facilitation, engaging presentation style and ability to connect with both speakers and delegates ensured a seamless flow throughout the two-day programme. Beyond managing the conference proceedings, Hector created an interactive and energetic environment that encouraged meaningful dialogue, active audience participation and thoughtful engagement with the programme's key themes.

A defining feature of the conference was the calibre of its speakers and panellists.

Government leaders, business executives, academics, innovators and environmental practitioners shared insights into emerging opportunities, policy developments and investment priorities while challenging delegates to position themselves as active participants within South Africa's green economy.

Panel discussions encouraged open dialogue between speakers and delegates, creating opportunities for questions, knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving. The interactive nature of these engagements ensured that participants were not passive observers but active contributors to the national conversation.

Key Conference Themes

Conference discussions explored some of the most pressing issues shaping South Africa's green economy, including:



Water Conservation and Water Efficiency



Waste Beneficiation and Circular Economy



Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Protection



Sustainable Mobility and Responsible Tourism



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency



Green Buildings and Sustainable Infrastructure



Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation



Green Enterprise Development and Youth Entrepreneurship

These discussions encouraged participants to identify practical solutions while strengthening collaboration between institutions responsible for driving South Africa's sustainable development agenda.



Quick Stats



Dates

18 - 19 June 2026



Venue

**Superbowl, Sun City,
North West**



Delegates Across Both Days

1746



Partners

20+



Speakers & Panellists

42



Exhibitors

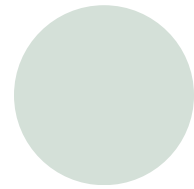
37



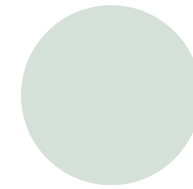
Speakers that Shaped the Indaba

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba was privileged to host an exceptional line-up of VIP speakers whose participation elevated the programme and reaffirmed its national significance.

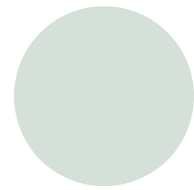
Government Leadership



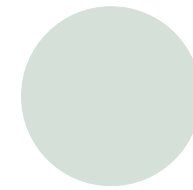
Deputy Minister Kenny Morolong
The Presidency



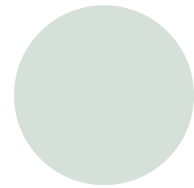
Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala
Department of Public Works & Infrastructure



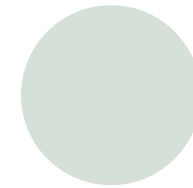
Premier Lazarus Mokgosi
North West Provincial Government



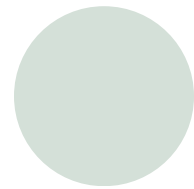
MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi
North West Department of Treasury



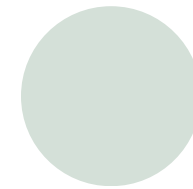
MEC Madoda Sambatha
North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



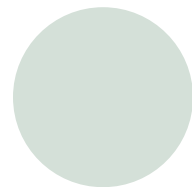
Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe
Mayor, Bojanala Platinum District Municipality



Cllr. Nketu Nkotswe
Mayor, Moses Kotane Local Municipality



Kgosi Matlapeng
North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders



Tshiamo Tsotetsi
Member of Parliament



Speakers that Shaped the Indaba

National Senior Officials & Title Partner



Dr Mmboneni Moufhe

Deputy Director General for Socio-economic Innovation Partnerships, DSTI



Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize

Deputy Director-General of Environmental Programmes, Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment



Commissioner Andile Mlambo

Presidential Climate Commission



Phindile Mangwana

Presidential Climate Commission



Basetsana-Bame Modimogale

Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability Director, CCBSA



Masibonge Mzwakali

Head of Regulatory Affairs & Stakeholder Relations, CCBSA



Industry Partners & Youth Voices

Wanda Mkutshulwa

Senior Manager: Communication and Stakeholders,
TCTA

Thato Motlhabani

Chief Commercial Officer, Green Youth Network

Nkosinathi Moshwana

CEO, Primestars

Candice Moodley

Corporate Services Executive, EWSETA

Telly Chauke

CEO, Petco

Dr Kishan Singh

CEO, MetPac-SA

Shabeer Jhetam

CEO, The Glass Recycling Company

Austen Nenguke

CFO, Polyco

Dumisani Khumalo

Marketing & Communications Manager, Fibre Circle

Makgabo van Niekerk

Executive Director, PRO Alliance

Lucille Charles

Chief Innovation Officer, eWASA

Sibongiseni Mbadamana

COO, Magalies Water

Zenith Tsengwa

CEO, Maths & Science Infinity

Thabile Ndaba

Business Development and Programme Manager,
Nelson Mandela University Business School

Bongani Putsoane

Youth Leader & Award-Winning Author, PEG Foundation

Ncedo Ntsabo

Youth Enterprise Founder, QombeGrow Organic

Orefile Mmope

Youth Enterprise Founder, IC Agri-Plastic

Sibusiso Shabangu

Pyrolysis Innovator, SMS Small Enterprise







Exhibition Showcase

The exhibition floor was one of the highest-traffic zones of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba, activated across the two-day National Conference on 18–19 June 2026. A total of 37 exhibitors showcased their services, career opportunities, enterprise-support products and development programmes to delegates, drawn from government departments, SETAs, state-owned entities, PROs, private sector, financial institutions, and educational and training providers.

Exhibitors conducted career talks, distributed information materials and ran live product and technology demonstrations. Delegates used the daily Exhibition Viewing windows built into the programme to engage directly with institutions offering bursaries, learnerships, internships, compliance guidance, funding and green-economy market access.



EXHIBITION SHOWCASE

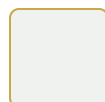
11th Annual Green Youth Indaba | 18–19 June 2026

STANLIB

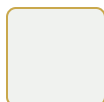


EXHIBITION SHOWCASE (CONTINUED)

11th Annual Green Youth Indaba | 18–19 June 2026



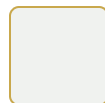
**Rebaone Prince
Dintwe Development**



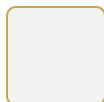
Aquapure



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission
a member of the **dtic** group



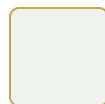
North West Provincial Treasury



Kwa Mphara (Pty) Ltd



Moonshine



Galalela

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

1

37 exhibitors activated across the two-day National Conference — exceeding the initial planned floor allocation.

2

Interactive technology demonstrations and product showcases from SETAs, PROs and green enterprises drew sustained delegate traffic.

3

Dedicated Exhibition Viewing windows built into the programme on both Day 1 and Day 2, plus tea, lunch and refresher breaks used as networking touchpoints.

4

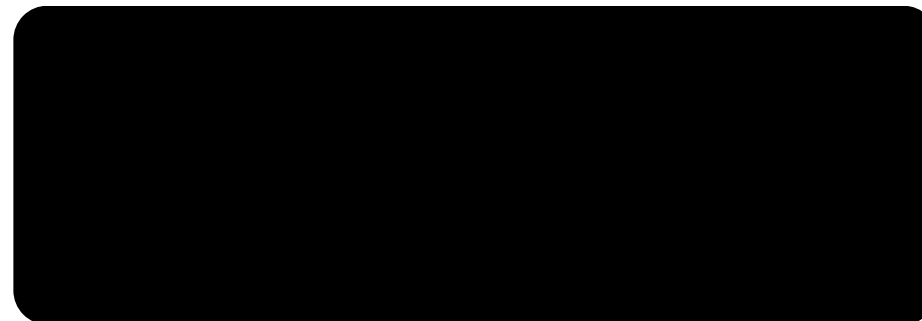
Direct engagement between youth delegates and recruiters, regulators, funders and sector leaders across the full green-economy value chain.

5

Cross-referrals between exhibitors and the Green Innovators' Pitch 11.0 and Young Researchers' Pitch 3.0 finalists.







Green Youth Champions Awards & Gala Dinner

The Green Youth Champions Awards & Gala Dinner, funded by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority, marked the official conclusion of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba. The evening celebrated individuals and organisations whose leadership, innovation and commitment continue to advance environmental sustainability and South Africa's green economy.

2026 Green Youth Champions

Category	Recipient	Awarding Partner
Green Champion of the Year	Thabiso Hlongwani, Greener Pastures	Petco (R20 000 in equipment)
Youth in Climate Justice	Thabang Makgakwe	TCTA
Green SMME Trailblazer	Kitso Kgokong, Letlotlo Waste	Polyco (R30 000 in equipment)
Agricultural Eco-Champion	Justice Lebotsa, Warm Nest Enterprise	Green Youth Network
Green Inclusion & Accessibility Champion	Sindisiwe Moorosi, The Fire and Flood Resilience Kit	eWASA (R20 000 in equipment)
Active Citizenship	Gogontle Kgothego, Coded 014 Holdings	Brand South Africa (R10 000 in equipment)
Legacy Impact (Recognition for Long Service)	Dr Roche Mamabolo	Green Youth Network

The evening also formally announced the Green Innovators' Pitch and Young Researchers' Pitch winners which were covered on pages 30 & 32, respectively





Branding, Look & Feel

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba was delivered under a cohesive visual identity that carried across the printed programme, exhibition, on-site signage, awards backdrop, gala dinner set design and every digital asset.



Media & Public Relations

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba public relations extended the influence of the Indaba far beyond Sun City and Mogwase, reaching audiences across every province through broadcast, radio, online and community media.

National media relations

A targeted media engagement campaign secured confirmations from 18 national, regional and community media houses, supporting comprehensive media coverage before, during and after the Indaba through interviews, event coverage and post-event engagement.

Category	Media Houses							
Television								
National radio								
Regional & community radio								
Online news								



"If I was down to my last dollar, I would spend it on PR."
- Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft

Featured Interviews



Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala

DPWI (Gagasi FM, Simulcast for Jacaranda FM, YFM & Power FM)



Dr Mmboneni Moufhe

Deputy Director General, DSTI (You Fm & Gagasi FM)



Tsholofelo Mqhayi

Head of Sustainability,
CCBSA (Motsweding FM & North West
Community Radio Stations Simulcast)



Sanele Zulu

CEO, Green Youth Network (SABC News)



Malibongwe Xaba

General Manager, Green Youth Network
(Motsweding FM & North West Community
Radio Stations Simulcast)



Green Youth Indaba Delegates

SABC News & SAfm

Digital Communications & Social Media Report

Throughout Green Youth Indaba Week, the Communications Team maintained live coverage across the organisation's digital platforms, providing audiences with real-time updates, photography, speaker highlights and stakeholder engagements. GYI 2026 shifted from promotion to active event storytelling, delivering the strongest overall digital performance in the programme's history.

Key performance indicators

Facebook		
Metric	Value	Change
Views	144,000	↑ 823%
Interactions	2,600	↑ 1,000%
New followers	+373	↑ 833%
28-day views (post-event)	80,656	↑ 80%
28-day interactions	1,589	↑ 110%

LinkedIn		
Metric	Value	Change
Page searches	1,639	↑ 277.6%
Total followers	367	—
New followers (30 days)	29 (↑ 314.3%)	—
Engagement rate (best post)	67.1%	—

Instagram		
Metric	Value	Change
Views (30 days)	72,100	—
Followers	2,162	—
Posts	732	—

Metric	Value	Change
Engagement growth	+112%	—
Total views (14-day window)	59,562+	—

Audience distribution

Channel	Audience share
 Instagram	38.5%
 Facebook	34.6%
 X (formerly Twitter)	15.4%
 LinkedIn	11.5%

Target vs Actual (%)

Category	Target	Actual	Comparison
Brand Awareness	45	20	
Brand Engagement	35	40	
Brand Reach	30	60	
Professional Network	20	70	

Goal Delivery

Goal	Status	Notes
Brand Awareness	Largely achieved	Consistent event coverage strengthened GYI's digital footprint.
Social Media Growth	Partially achieved	Strong reach; sustained follower growth requires post-event retention plan.
Brand Engagement	Partially achieved	Improved during keynotes; future campaigns to add polls, Q&As and live recaps.
Professional Network	Achieved	Deputy ministers, executives and partner leadership visibly documented.

Voices from the Green Youth Indaba

““

The Indaba is one of the few platforms in the province that moves young people from awareness of the water challenge straight into commissioned, community-scale delivery.”

— **Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)**

““

This was brilliantly put together. A huge well done to the whole team behind the Expo.”

— **Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE)**

““

The Careers Expo gave our learners direct sight of the green economy; in one day they met the industries, universities and SETAs that will shape their next decade.”

— **Department of Basic Education (Provincial Representative)**

““

The North West is positioning itself as a launchpad for youth-led green enterprise. GYI is central to that ambition.”

— **North West Office of the Premier**

““

Thank you GYN for giving ASSAf the opportunity to support these brilliant young researchers through such valuable initiatives. It means a great deal to their professional growth and career trajectories.”

— **Academy of Science of South Africa**

““

“The calibre of speakers, the quality of engagement, and the dedication behind every aspect of the Indaba reflected the passion and commitment of your entire team.”

— **The Gordon Group**

Overall Programme Impact

The impact of the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba cannot be measured solely by attendance. Its true impact lies in the knowledge shared, partnerships strengthened, opportunities created and the lasting contribution made towards building South Africa's green economy.

1. Environmental Impact

The Indaba strengthened environmental awareness by combining education with practical action. The Community Clean-Up Campaign demonstrated environmental stewardship through active participation. Technical sessions and conference discussions deepened understanding of climate resilience, waste management, circular economy principles and sustainable resource use.

3. Economic Impact

Through the Careers Expo, Technical Masterclasses, Green Innovators' Pitch and Young Researchers' Pitch, participants gained practical knowledge of emerging industries, entrepreneurship, commercialisation, funding opportunities and enterprise development. Partner-backed prize investment of **R305,000+** moved winners directly into the enterprise-building phase.

2. Social Impact

The programme created opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to engage directly with government leaders, industry experts, researchers and entrepreneurs. Learners explored future career pathways; educators strengthened their career-guidance capacity; innovators and researchers received professional feedback; and delegates developed valuable professional networks.

4. Partnership Impact

One of the Indaba's greatest strengths is its ability to convene stakeholders from across government, industry, academia, research institutions and civil society. The programme strengthened continued support of long-standing partners and welcomed new strategic collaborators, reflecting growing national confidence in the Indaba as a delivery platform.

A Legacy Beyond the Event

The Green Youth Indaba continues to demonstrate that sustainable impact is created through long-term investment in people, partnerships and ideas. The relationships established, knowledge exchanged and opportunities created during the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba will continue to influence participants long after the event has concluded, through more informed career choices by learners, better guidance provided by educators, continued refinement of innovations by entrepreneurs, and evidence-based solutions advanced by researchers.

The Way Forward — Iziko Enterprise Development Programme

The single most important question our partners ask us is: what happens to these young innovators after the Indaba? Our answer is **Iziko**.

Iziko is the Green Youth Network's national, multi-phase innovation-to-enterprise platform, anchored by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI). It is designed to convert scientific knowledge, research outputs and youth innovation into viable, youth-led green enterprises. Iziko is intentionally structured as a delivery mechanism within South Africa's National System of Innovation (NSI), not a standalone project and functions as a feeder, connector and multiplier between researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, industry, communities and markets.

Why Iziko, Why Now

46.1%

of young South Africans aged 15 - 34 are unemployed (Stats SA, 2025), approximately 4.8 million young people without work.

South African innovations, particularly those developed by young innovators outside major urban centres, continue to stall at the transition from prototype to commercialisation.

The STI Decadal Plan (2022–2032) and the National Climate Change Act (2024) require scalable, youth-focused delivery vehicles, currently missing at national scale.

Ten years of Green Youth Indaba data show that the innovators we surface each year need continuous, staged support to progress from pitch to enterprise.

Iziko within the NSI



Feeder

Bringing youth innovators and enterprises into the National System of Innovation.



Translator

Converting research and innovation into commercially viable enterprises.



Connector

Linking participants to markets, funding and institutions.



Multiplier

Amplifying the impact of DSTI, SETA and industry investments through coordinated, measurable outcomes.

The Way Forward — Iziko Enterprise Development Programme

Programme Phases

1

Inception & Outreach

Inception, outreach, mobilisation and recruitment across all nine provinces.



2

Capacity Building

Leadership, business model, financial literacy, market intelligence, sustainability integration.



3

Research-to-Market

Research-to-market translation: IP, technology transfer, industry alignment, innovation clinics.



4

Prototype Development

Prototype and product development — access to labs, mentors and prototyping agencies.



5

Investment Readiness

Investment readiness, matchmaking with investors, corporates and public-sector procurement.



6

Market Access & Growth

Post-Indaba acceleration and market access — growth, contracts and sustainability.



Targets over the three-year implementation period

2026/27 – 2028/29

Implementation period

~1 575

Young people directly reached

280

High-potential youth
innovators & entrepreneurs
supported

70

Enterprises receiving intensive
acceleration

Policy alignment

- STI Decadal Plan (2022–2032): research-to-market translation, youth innovation capacity, inclusive innovation-led growth.
- National Climate Change Act (2024): climate-resilient and low-carbon enterprises supporting mitigation and adaptation.
- DSTI Circular Economy Strategy (2024): waste beneficiation, resource efficiency and new green value chains.
- National Youth Policy: enterprise development and job creation for young South Africans.



Call to Partners

The Green Youth Network invites new and existing partners to invest in the Iziko Enterprise Development Programme and, alongside it, the 12th Annual Green Youth Indaba in 2027.

At the Green Youth Network we do not have sponsors, we have partners. This distinction matters. A sponsor writes a cheque; a partner co-owns the outcome. The Iziko Programme is deliberately designed to give every partner a defined role, measurable outputs and a share of the visibility that comes with building South Africa's next generation of green entrepreneurs.

Partnership Opportunities

Investment tier	Focus of partnership	Illustrative deliverables
National Anchor Partner	Multi-year co-investment across all nine provinces of the Iziko Programme.	Naming rights on Iziko materials, dedicated cohort branding, board-level participation on the Iziko Steering Committee.
Provincial Delivery Partner	Underwrite Iziko delivery in one province (workshops, mentorship, prototyping, market access).	Provincial cohort naming rights, 12-month enterprise reporting, hosting rights for provincial showcase.
Sector Partner (Water, Energy, Waste, Agriculture, Digital, Mobility)	Fund sector-specific cohorts aligned to your industry priorities.	Direct access to a pipeline of youth-led ventures ready for procurement, ESD and CSI deployment.
Research & Commercialisation Partner	Co-fund the Research-to-Market translation phase with universities and science councils.	IP-sharing frameworks, co-branded innovation clinics, ASSAf-linked publications.
Infrastructure & Equipment Partner	Provide equipment, workspace, tools or connectivity.	Recognition on the physical assets deployed with each enterprise; annual impact case study.
Media & Storytelling Partner	Amplify Iziko and Indaba outcomes across your channels.	Content collaboration, editorial features, joint media rounds with GYN leadership.

What Partners Receive in Return

- ◆ A defined, measurable role inside a Cabinet-aligned national programme.
- ◆ First access to a curated pipeline of investment-ready youth-led green enterprises.
- ◆ Consistent visibility across the Green Youth Indaba, Iziko cohorts, national media, and DSTI-linked platforms.
- ◆ Independent monitoring, evaluation and learning reporting against agreed KPIs.
- ◆ Partnership longevity, Iziko is a three-year, multi-cohort commitment rather than a single event.

**To open a partnership conversation, contact
Malibongwe Xaba (General Manager) on malibongwe@tosaca.co.za**

Conclusion

A Legacy of Innovation, Partnership and Sustainable Impact

The 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba reaffirmed its position as one of South Africa's leading platforms for youth empowerment, environmental stewardship and green economy development. Under the theme "From Youth Innovation to Green Enterprise and Economic Impact", the programme successfully brought together government, industry, academia, civil society and young people to explore practical solutions that respond to the country's environmental and socio-economic priorities.

Over five days, the Green Youth Indaba delivered an integrated programme that combined community action, career guidance, technical skills development, innovation, research, enterprise development, policy dialogue and recognition of excellence. Each programme component was intentionally designed to build upon the next, creating a holistic participant journey.

The programme demonstrated that environmental sustainability cannot be achieved through isolated interventions. It requires sustained collaboration between public and private sector institutions, educational organisations, research institutions, communities and young people themselves.

As the Green Youth Network looks ahead, the lessons, partnerships and momentum generated through the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba provide a strong foundation for continued growth and innovation. The Iziko Enterprise Development Programme is our commitment that no young innovator surfaced by the Indaba is left behind after the last day of programming.

"The future of South Africa's green economy will not be defined by the challenges we face, but by the young people we empower, the partnerships we build and the innovations we choose to support today."

Acknowledgements



The Green Youth Network extends sincere gratitude to every partner, speaker, judge, mentor, delegate, volunteer and community member who contributed to the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba.



STANLIB



To every young innovator, researcher, learner and educator who joined us in the North West, thank you. This report is dedicated to you.



12TH GYI

GREEN
YOUTH
INDABA
WEEK

14 - 18 June 2027

CONTACT

 012 440 1325 \ 064 557 0841

 info@greenyouthindaba.co.za

 www.greenyouthindaba.co.za



Green Youth Indaba



@gyi_sa



@gyi_sa



Green Youth Indaba