



# 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: GYN 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 EMPOWER • INNOVATE • ELEVATE

EW SETA ENERGY AND WATER SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY

CATHSSETA

competition commission south africa

STANLIB

EWASA EPR Waste Association of South Africa

technology innovation AGENCY Innovating Tomorrow Together

TCTA A new word for water

MIDVAAL Water Company NPC PURIFIED EXCELLENCE

Magalies Water

NERSA NATIONAL ENERGY REGULATOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

Polyco

Fibre Circle PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION

petco Leading Producer Responsibility.

MetPac-SA Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

The Glass Recycling Co.

RBIDZ Special Economic Zone

MSI

PRIMESTARS FROM SCHOOLROOM TO BOARDROOM

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# 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.

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# 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



**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

Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa

### National Government

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

### Host Province & Municipal Partners

Office of the Premier
Department: Office of the Premier
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa

BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

MOSES KOTANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

NHTKL
National House of Traditional & Khoi-San Leaders

### Waste Management, Recycling & Circular Economy

Polyco

eWASA
EPR Waste Association of South Africa

Fibre Circle
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION

petco
Leading Producer Responsibility.

MetPac-SA
Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

the Glass Recycling co.

### Education & Skills Development

EW SETA
ENERGY AND WATER SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY

FoodBev Manufacturing SETA
EMPOWER • INNOVATE • ELEVATE

cathsseta

### Water Utilities & Infrastructure

Magalies Water

TCTA
A new word for water

MIDVAAL
Water Company NPC
PURIFIED EXCELLENCE

### Youth Development & Training

MSI

PRIMESTARS
FROM SCHOOLROOM TO BOARDROOM

YOUTH START FOUNDATION
Investing in Young Entrepreneurial Generations

### Regulation

competition commission south africa

### Financial Services Ecosystem

STANLIB

### Energy Utilities & Regulation

nersa
NATIONAL ENERGY REGULATOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Special Economic Zones

RBIDZ
Special Economic Zone

### National Branding

South Africa
Inspiring new ways

*Partnership value delivered across all forms of contribution, cash, in-kind, mentorship, hosting and media .*


11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO
THE 11TH


CathSSeta












Moonshine



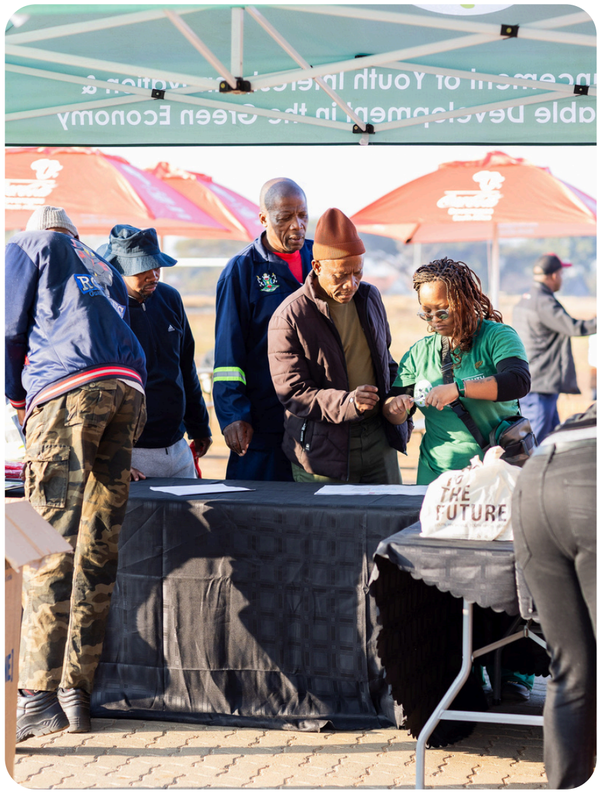

11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA

# 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<br>• Green Innovators' Pitch Final Competition<br>• 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.





## 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.

## 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.

# 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 Mokoele**

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**

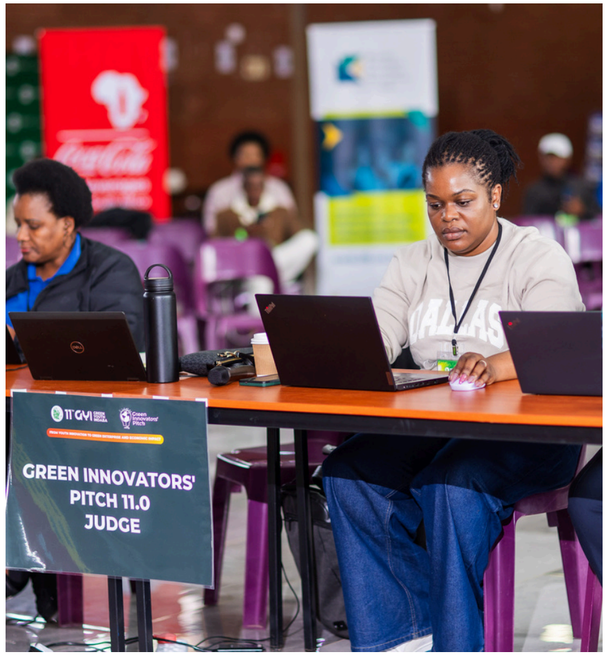
**R2 500**

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.



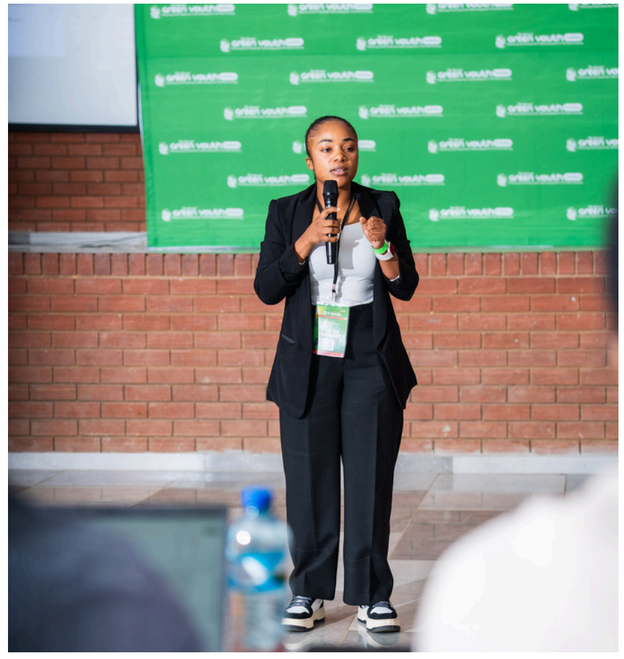

GREEN INNOVATORS'
PITCH 11.0
JUDGE

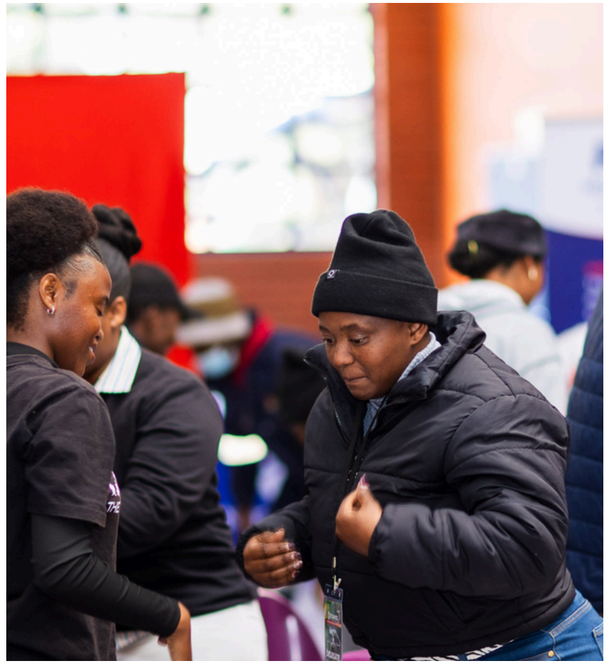



FoodBev
Manufacturing SETA
Core Values









# 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**
- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**
- **Waste Beneficiation and Circular Economy**
- **Green Buildings and Sustainable Infrastructure**
- **Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity Protection**
- **Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation**
- **Sustainable Mobility and Responsible Tourism**
- **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


11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA








11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO
THE 11TH
YOUTH
ABA
petco


BOWL - SUN CITY | 07:00 - 16:30
11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA


11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO THE 11TH GREEN YOUTH INDABA

# 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 Moshoana**
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








SUPERBOWL - SUN CITY
NORTH WEST
11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA




11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO THE 11TH GREEN YOUTH INDABA







11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO

11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO THE 11TH GREEN YOUTH INDABA

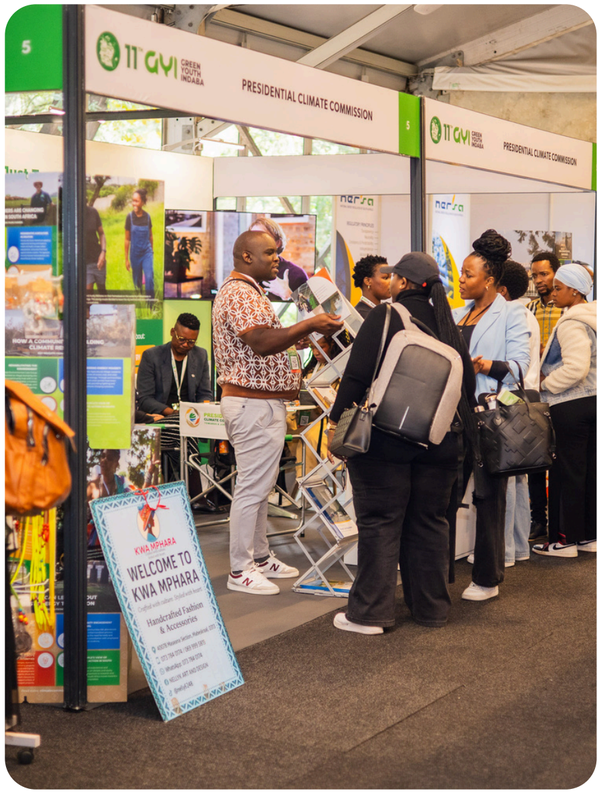


11TH GYI


11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO THE 11TH GREEN YOUTH INDABA


Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa
SUPERBOWL - SUN CITY | 07:00 - 16:30
NORTH WEST
11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
WELCOME TO THE 11TH




# 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

TCTA
A new word for water

PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION
TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

EW SETA
ENERGY AND WATER SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY

cathsseta

FoodBev Manufacturing SETA
EMPOWER • INNOVATE • ELEVATE

eWASA
EPR Waste Association of South Africa

petco
Leading Producer Responsibility.

Polyco

MetPac·SA
Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging

Fibre Circle
PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION

the Glass Recycling Co.

the dtic
Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

science, technology & innovation
Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Magalies Water

MSI

nersa
NATIONAL ENERGY REGULATOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

technology innovation AGENCY
Innovating Tomorrow Together

IC Agri Plastic

# EXHIBITION SHOWCASE (CONTINUED)

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

- Rebaone Prince Dintwe Development
- Aquapure
- sanas South African National Accreditation System
- Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, a member of the dtic group
- competitioncommission south africa
- B-BBEE COMMISSION, a member of the dti group
- Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa
- SANRAL BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH BETTER ROADS
- Office of the Premier, Department: Office of the Premier, North West Provincial Government, Republic of South Africa
- MIDVAAL Water Company NPC, PURIFIED EXCELLENCE
- RBIDZ Special Economic Zone
- basic education, Department: Basic Education, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- North West Provincial Treasury
- Kwa Mphara (Pty) Ltd
- arts, culture, sports & recreation, Department: Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, North West Provincial Government, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- 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.


TRANS-CALEDON TUNNEL AUTHORITY (TCTA)
4
TCTA
A new word for water


CLIMATE COMMISSION
5
PRESIDENTIAL CLIMATE COMMISSION


THE GLASS RECYCLING COMPANY
15
GLASS HAS VALUE
INCOME
ENTERPRISE
the Glass Recycling


PRIMESTARS / YOUTH START
26
iWashCars
CAR WASH
AT YOUR DOOR
STEP
BOOK NOW


Coca-Cola
Fibre Circle


11
POLYCO
Polyco
SA's Best Plastics PRO
Investing in South Africa's Plastics Recycling and Collection industry, on behalf of our 700+ members
SA's Best Plastics PRO
Polyco


ENERGY AND WATER SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY (EWSETA)
6
EW SETA
Creating a Sustainable Tomorrow – Today


PRIMESTARS / YOUTH START
26
iWashCars
CAR WASH
AT YOUR DOOR
STEP
BOOK NOW


Companies and Intellectual Property Commission


eWASA
18
WHY JOIN eWASA?
PORTABLE BATTERIES
PAPER AND PACKAGING PRODUCTS
eWASA
EPR Waste Association of South Africa


Fibre Circle


SANRAL
SANRAL
SANRAL
SANRAL
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ROADS AGEN


Investing here.
row's possibilities.
STANLIB
Asset Management
STANLIB
Asset Management
STANLIB
Asset Management


MIDVAAL
Water Company
NPC
PURIFIED EXCELLENCE
OUR KEY SERVICES
Bulk Potable Water Supplier
MIDVAAL
PURIFIED EXCELLENCE
WATER SERVICES PROVIDER AND PURIFICATION COMPANY
MIDVAAL
Water Company
NPC
PURIFIED EXCELLENCE

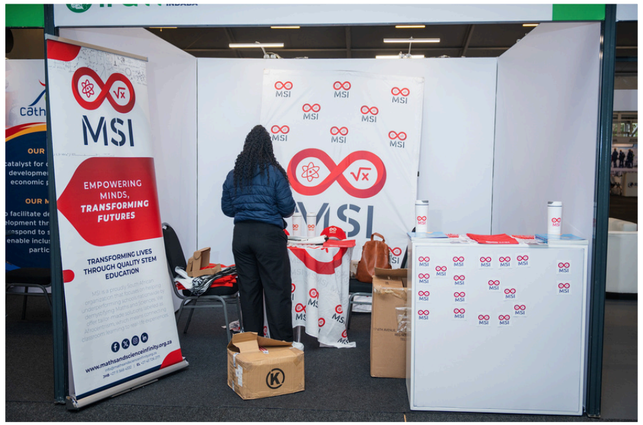

petco
Leading Producer Responsibility
We work with the packaging industry, other PROs, government, consumers and the collection and recycling value chain.
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Leading Producer Responsibility.
petco
Leading Producer Responsibility


MetPac-SA
Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging
MetPac-SA
Driving Sustainable Metal Packaging


MAGALIES WATER
Magalies Water
Magalies Water


North West Provincial Treasury
North West Provincial Treasury
North West Provincial Treasury
North West Provincial Treasury
North West Provincial Treasury
North West Provincial Treasury


Sanas
sanas
South African National Accreditation System
Sanas


MSI
EMPOWERING MINDS, TRANSFORMING FUTURES
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH QUALITY STEM EDUCATION
MSI


THE GORDON GROUP
Transforming Ideas into Impact
Strategic Excellence Consulting
Wellbeing Services
Research and Innovation
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info@gordongroup.co.za
MIGRAINE WELLNESS CLINIC
Life Begins When Pain Ends
GORDON CARBON SOLUTIONS


POLYCO
Polyco
Our valued Members
SA's Best Plastics PRO
People. Purpose. Plastic
Polyco


FoodBev
Manufacturing SETA
EMPOWER • INNOVATE • ELEVATE







# 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


Category


Citizenship Award


Category




Category
SECOND PLACE


11TH GYI GREEN YOUTH INDABA
FROM YOUTH INNOVATION TO GREEN ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT
Supported by:
Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa
TCTA
A new word for water
Green Youth Indaba 2nd Prize Winner
Seventy Fifty Thousand Rands
R 75,000.00
Green Youth Indaba 1st Prize Winner
One Hundred and Fifty Thousa
R 150,000.00
Green Youth Indaba 3rd Prize Winner
Fifty Thousand Rands
R 50,000.00
Green Youth Indaba 4th Prize Winner
Fifteen Thousand Rands
R 15,000.00
Green Youth Indaba 5th Prize Winner
Ten Thousand Rands
R 10,000.00
Funds will be in the form of infrastructure support and equipment



# 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 | SABC NEWS, eNCA, NEWZROOM AFRIKA, MDN tv – YOUR #1 ALT. NEWS SOURCE |
| National radio | Motsweding FM 87.9 - 107.9, SAfm 104-107, jacarandafm 94.2, YFM 99.2 YONG'A YONG, KAYA 959, POWER 98.7 NOW WE'RE TALKING, YOU FM |
| Regional & community radio | MOTHEO FM 88.5MHz MO O TSEWANG TSIYA GONE, mmabatho fm "HOME OF GOSPEL" 107.7 fm, Nfm NGOMA 88.3 we play \| you listen, GAGASI FM, U Network |
| Online news | news24 Trusted News. First, IOL, EWN EYEWITNESS NEWS, The Citizen, Devdiscourse Discourse on Development, TECH REVIEW AFRICA, GAGASI FM, DUT 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% |

### Instagram

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

### 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%** | — |

| 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# The Way Forward — Iziko Enterprise Development Programme

## Targets over the three-year implementation period

**2026/27 – 2028/29**

Implementation period

**~1 575**

Young people directly reached

**280**

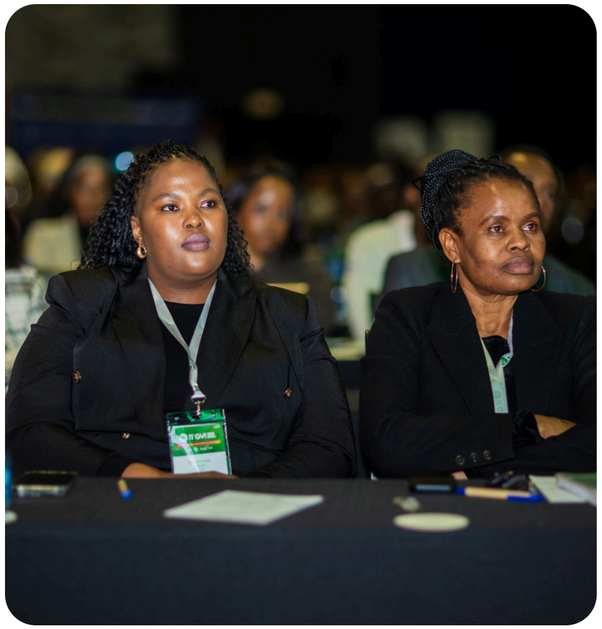
High-potential youth innovators & entrepreneurs supported

**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



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



North West
Provincial Government



































































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.

**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

SAVE THE DATE

## CONTACT

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