

BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY & INVESTMENT *Indaba*

CONCEPT NOTE



BIODIVERSITY
ECONOMY & INVESTMENT
Indaba



Collective action for
thriving nature and people



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CONCEPT NOTE: BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY AND INVESTMENT INDABA

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. South Africa is a special country with exceptional biodiversity, much of which is unique and makes us one of the World's like-minded megadiverse countries. This biodiversity wealth gives people tangible benefits like food, clean water, medicine and materials. It supports agricultural and fisheries production and helps protect us from natural hazards such as droughts and floods; and provides a vibrant tourism industry while offering natural spaces for recreational, spiritual and cultural activities.
- 1.2. South Africa's economy is dependent on this biodiversity. For example, biodiversity-based tourism generates R31 billion in the economy annually, and our almost 2000 medicinal plant species contribute to the African medicinal sector approximately R18 billion per year. Our biodiversity supports many jobs across a range of sectors and business activities. As of 2017, our biodiversity was creating approximately 418 000 jobs, comparing favourably with the mining sector which had approximately 430 000 jobs. Many of jobs are created in far-flung rural areas, providing an opportunity for contributing to rural economy.
- 1.3. Whilst our protected areas are providing good protection for species and ecosystems, our biodiversity is declining at rates that are unprecedented, with the country having the second highest number of documented plant extinctions of any country in the world. There is thus more work to be done to ensure that this rich endowment is conserved for the benefit of all South Africans and future generations.
- 1.4. As the world is recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and experiencing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity and financial constraints through budget cuts for the biodiversity sector, we are presented with a clarion call and an opportunity to halt biodiversity loss and change the way we live, eat, grow, build and power our lives to achieve a carbon-neutral, "nature-positive" economy by 2030. Business as usual is no longer an option, and we need a fundamental transformation across three socio-economic systems such as nature, food, land and ocean use; infrastructure and the built environment, as well as extractive industries and energy. These systems have an opportunity and a responsibility to reverse biodiversity loss whilst at the same time they also have tremendous upside benefits to gain by embracing a transformative approach now.

1.5. The White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use, approved by Cabinet in 2023 for implementation, not only provides policy certainty and a coherent policy approach but also serves as a rallying point for coordinated action for “thriving nature and people”. Furthermore, it ushers in not just a whole-of-government, but also a transformative, whole-of-society approach. The White Paper envisages a multi-stakeholder engagement process towards the development of a programme of work complemented by a roadmap. Such a programme of work should promote inclusivity, collaboration and partnerships in order to realise effective and efficient partnerships supported by a robust monitoring and evaluation system. In line with the protection of biodiversity, the white paper has the following four goals that will be used as a basis for implementation of Biodiversity Economy imperatives to address poverty, unemployment and inequality:

- **Goal 1: Enhance Biodiversity Conservation:** Conserve all biological diversity and its components;
- **Goal 2: Sustainable Use:** Ensure that sustainable use enhances thriving living land- and seascapes and ecosystems, livelihoods, and human well-being, while avoiding, minimising, or remedying adverse impacts on biodiversity;
- **Goal 3: Equitable Access and Benefit Sharing:** Ensure that benefits are derived and shared from the use and development of South Africa's genetic and biological resources, without compromising the nation's interests;
- **Goal 4: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use is Transformative:** Gives effect to the environmental right as contained in Section 24 of the Constitution, facilitates redress, and promotes transformation;

As well as two cross-cutting Enablers:

- **Enabler 1: Integrated, Mainstreamed and Effective Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use:** Integrate policy and practice across government and effectively implement multilateral environmental agreements; and
- **Enabler 2: Enhanced Means of Implementation:** Expand and develop ability to effectively conserve biodiversity, to manage its use and benefits, whilst addressing factors threatening biodiversity.

1.6 The indaba will broadly discuss the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy which is out for public comments. Consistent with the policy context of the White Paper, the NBES is founded on the key pillars of conservation, sustainable use and beneficiation of biodiversity business value chains, and transformation. This requires growth and ensuring the sustainability of the conservation of biodiversity components that can be leveraged for biodiversity-based businesses, as well as driving the transformation of the biodiversity sector. The NBES is, therefore, underpinned by two cross-cutting imperatives:

1: Leveraging the biodiversity economy to promote conservation and ecosystem management.

2: Transforming the conservation sector and the biodiversity economy.

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In order to achieve these goals, the NBES requires implementing the following four key enablers:

- **Enabler 1:** Enabling legislative, regulatory and management instruments
- **Enabler 2:** Increased capacity, innovation and technological support
- **Enabler 3:** Financial support sustains conservation and grows the biodiversity economy
- **Enabler 4:** Market access for communities and previously disadvantaged individuals.

1.7 The Indaba will therefore emerge with a programme of action which will provide an approach to implement the goals of NBES which are :

- **Goal 1: Leveraging of biodiversity-based features to scale inclusive ecotourism growth and sustainable conservation land use** – This will grow sustainable and inclusive non-consumptive ecotourism-based businesses by 10% per annum through the expansion of the conservation estate from 20 million ha to 34 million ha by 2040 (4,2 million ha from declared protected areas and 10 million ha from Other Effective Conservation Mechanisms [OECMs]).
- **Goal 2: Consumptive use of wildlife from extensive wildlife systems at a scale that drives transformation and expanded sustainable conservation land use** – This will increase the GDP contribution for the consumptive use of wildlife from R4,6 billion (2020) to R27,6 billion by 2036 from extensive wildlife systems.
- **Goal 3: Consumptive use of marine and freshwater resources that drive inclusive coastal socio-economic development** – Grow the sustainable consumptive use of marine, estuarine and freshwater resources by 10% per annum by 2036.
- **Goal 4: A well-structured, inclusive, integrated and formalised bioprospecting, biotrade, and biodiversity-based harvesting and production sector that beneficiates communities** – This will increase the GDP contribution of bioprospecting/biotrade from R1,85 billion (2020) to R11,6 billion by 2036 through local beneficiation (finished pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food supplement products), as well as the development of SMME-based production systems for restoration and sequestration.

2. PROPOSED THEME

“Collective action for thriving nature and people.”

3. AIM OF THE INDABA

The Biodiversity Economy and Investment Indaba (BEII) aims to mobilize the South African society towards an integrated Biodiversity Economy for sustainability, policy certainty, market and business readiness to facilitate resource provision for the sector.

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4. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Indaba are to:

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1. Enhance the conversation on the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy and its contribution to addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality;
2. Mobilise investment for the biodiversity sector and associated value-chains;
3. Profile South Africa's competitiveness, success and opportunities for sustainable development in the Biodiversity sector;
4. Promote multi-stakeholder commitment to strengthen the biodiversity economy sector
5. Promote co-operative governance for effective policy implementation; and
6. Showcase market ready biodiversity products and services from across the biodiversity economy value chains through exhibitions for business-to-business trading, networking and sustainable partnerships.

5. KEY TENANTS OF THE EVENT

The Biodiversity Economy and Investment Indaba will be centered on the key following tenets:

- The dialogue or discussions on key topical issues for the biodiversity sector
 - High level segment on key topical issues including the role of government in the Biodiversity Economy, 30x30 Global Biodiversity Framework Target, Natural capital Accounting and Financing Biodiversity.
 - Parallel sessions to discuss key thematic areas of the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy which include wildlife sector, bioprospecting and biotrade, ecotourism and inland waters and marine resources.
 - Discussions between government sector on cross-cutting issues, including legislative matters and public sector alignment for service delivery;
 - Sector dialogue amongst role players including NGO's, Traditional Leaders, Traditional Health Practitioners and People and Parks on implementing the White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa' biodiversity and the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy.

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- Presidential address on the biodiversity sector and investment;
- Exhibitions of products and services within the biodiversity economy value chains including products from bioprospecting, wildlife, ecotourism, marine, fisheries.
- An investment pitching and bidding session to showcase projects from across various value-chains of the biodiversity sector including those from CPAs, PDIs, Communities and Public Entities.
- Potential Investors will be drawn from DFIs, Commercial banks, Businesses, Philanthropists, NGOs and Embassies. A business-to-Business Session will be conducted where aspirant investors will engage potential projects more extensively and possibly commit investment.
- Potential bankable projects will be profiled in the Investment Portal.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Commitments from various stakeholder groups for the implementation of the 30x30 Global Biodiversity Framework Target;
- Co-developed programme of action for the implementation of biodiversity economy anchored on the White Paper;
- Collaborations between government and private sector for the protection and advancement of biodiversity and people depending on biodiversity for livelihoods.
- Sustainable funding mechanisms for biodiversity-based businesses and initiatives.

7. EVENT DETAILS

Date: 25 – 27 March 2024

Venue: Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng Province.

Event type/style: The event will be a blend of a conference format with plenary sessions, parallel commissions to discuss the goals of the NBES, investment networking session and exhibitions.

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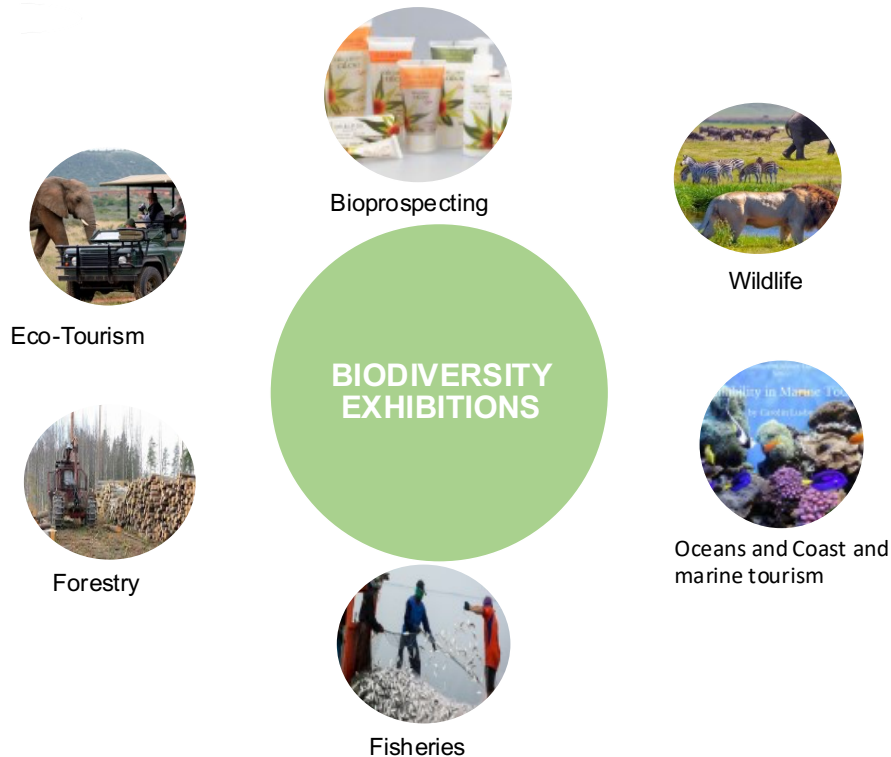


8. TARGETED AUDIENCES

The Indaba is targeting 1000 participants, inclusive of:

- Presidency
- National, provincial and local spheres of government
- Public Entities
- Non-Government Organisations
- Academia
- Traditional Leaders
- Traditional Health Practitioners
- People and Parks representatives
- Financial institutions
- Communal Property Associations, Previously Disadvantaged Individuals and Communities
- Private Sector
- Entrepreneurs
- Exhibitors

6. EXHIBITIONS



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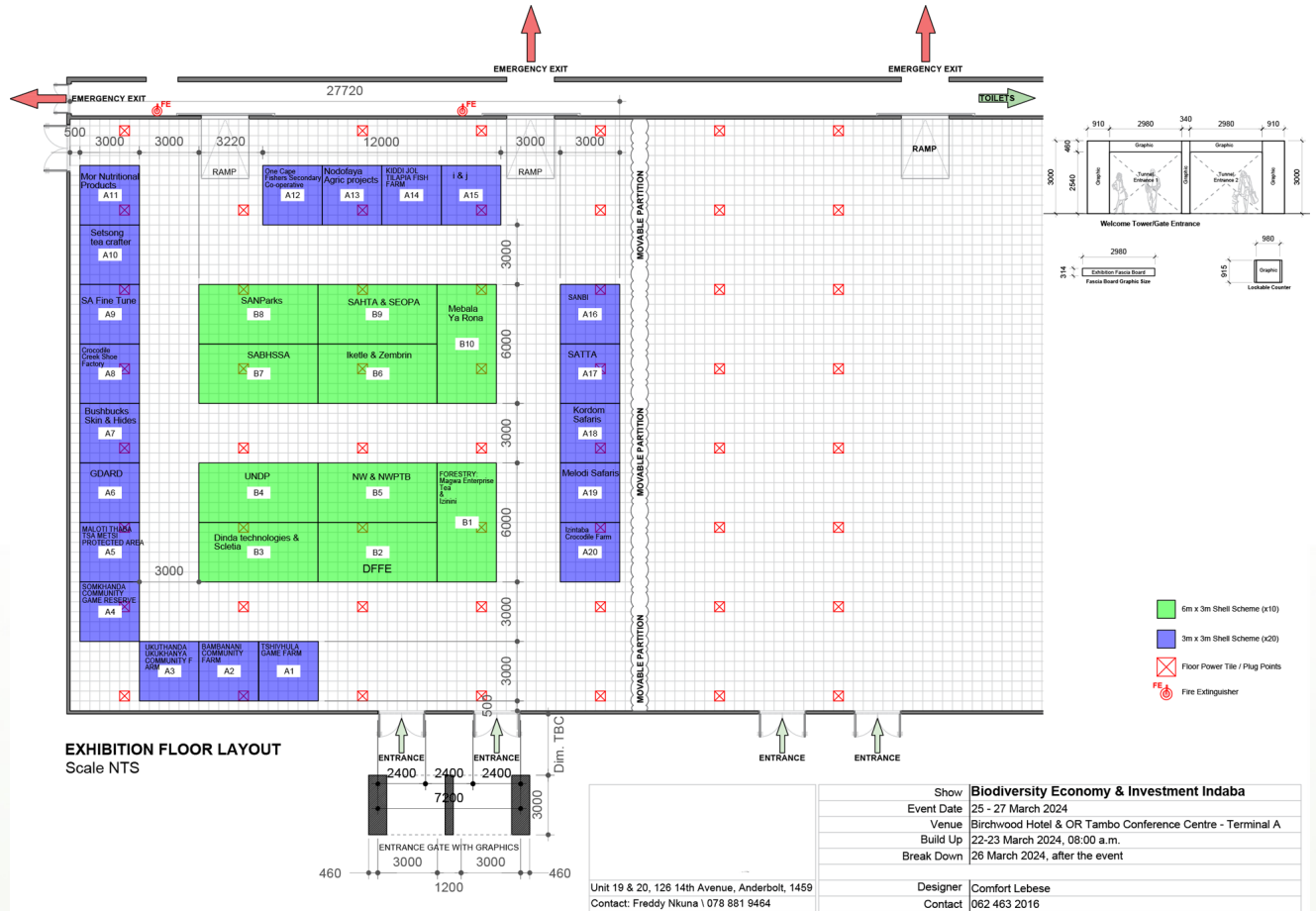


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