

# BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY AND INVESTMENT INDABA RECAP OF DAY 1 AND DAY 2

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# OBJECTIVES

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.

# THE NUMBERS

Head of State	President Ramaphosa
Ministers	Minister Creecy – host Minister Didiza – DARLDD Minister Mnchunu – DWS Minister Nzimande – DHE & SI
MECs	MEC Hlophe - Gauteng MEC Monama Limpopo MEC Manopole- Northern Cape MEC Tlhapi -North West
Plenary sessions	5 including Presidential Session
Business to business networking	1 session
Number of Plenary Speakers	23
Number of Commissions	4
Number of accredited registered delegates	1214
Amakhosi / Traditional Leaders	27
Exhibitors	31
Number of project for bankability	90 private 21 from government
Investees/ Intermediaries	

# MEDIA COVERAGE

## MEDIA COVERAGE

**RADIO INTERVIEWS MINISTER CREECY**

**Impact FM- EK FM, , SABC News, Bloomberg News, 702**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Daily Maverick, Engineering News,Bloomberg**

**TV**

**SABC Morning Live and Outside broadcast  
CCTV**

**SAFETY AND SECURITY – NATJOINTS**

**STATE SECURITY**

**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES**

**EKURHULENI METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**EKURHULENI EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTION SERVICES**

**STATE PROTOCOL**

# SESSION 2 PLENARY 2: BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY – A CATALYST FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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# SESSION 2 PLENARY 2: BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY – A CATALYST FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION	HIGHLIGHTS
<p><b>Advancing biodiversity economy as a contributor to rural economy, economic development and livelihood, the panel members will be requested to share their views on all or any of the following topics:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local beneficiation of biodiversity economy products.</li> <li>2. The role of their department/ provinces in advancing biodiversity economy.</li> <li>3. Marketing and promotion of biodiversity economy products.</li> <li>4. Market access for Biodiversity Economy products.</li> <li>5. Biodiversity economy opportunities presented by marine and freshwater resources.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes that biodiversity is a cornerstone of the economy</li> <li>• Working with communities is recognized in the revised NBES as a cross cutting imperatives, however mechanisms are required to achieve them.</li> <li>• The 4 goals of NBES have strong relevance to community empowerment.</li> <li>• Importance of management and protection of biodiversity in rural communities, as part of recognizing their deep connection with nature.</li> <li>• Importance of ensuring active participation of community, because Biodiversity Economy can advance rural development.</li> <li>• Importance of managing land-use competition and land-use change through enhancing land administration.</li> <li>• Creation of sustainable market for wildlife products through building local value chains.</li> <li>• Importance of involving communities in the promotion and protection of biodiversity to address poaching and unsustainable hunting as they are some of the risks impacting the biodiversity economy.</li> <li>• Investment in the rural-based enterprise is not a waste of resources, since Wildlife is found in rural communities.</li> <li>• Communities requires simplified permit application process in order for them operate legally</li> <li>• Marine and freshwater resources , especially through small-scale fisheries requires concerted efforts in order to achieve rural economic development.</li> </ul>

**SESSION 3 PLENARY 3: FINANCING  
BIODIVERSITY TO CLOSE THE FINANCIAL  
GAP**

# SESSION 3 PLENARY 3: FINANCING BIODIVERSITY TO CLOSE THE FINANCIAL GAP

Name of Speaker	Highlights
<p><b>Mr Risenga Maluleke: SG Statistics SA</b></p> <p>Natural Capital Accounting in South Africa and its vision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not always in monetary terms. Measurement is most often in biophysical terms. No requirement for natural capital accounts to place monetary values on natural resources or ecosystems.</li> <li>• NCA provides consistent, comparable information from one time period to another – suitable for deriving indicators, trend analysis, and integrated planning and assessment.</li> <li>• Just as we have national (economic) accounts to measure GDP and track the performance of the economy, and the population census to track progress in social outcomes, we also need a system to track the natural environment, including how it is improving or declining and what that means for people and the economy.</li> <li>• SEEA, central framework that support the reporting to the UN on the SDG</li> <li>• The underlying premise of NCA is that the environment is essential to society and the economy.</li> <li>• So, the environment should be recognised as something that must be maintained and managed, and its contributions better integrated into decision-making.</li> <li>• If you want to know how important the environment is, try holding your breath while you count your money.</li> <li>• SA is at the fore front of NCA and Stats SA has published a number of accounts, including the accounts for SWSA , protected areas accounts, water accounts, mineral and energy accounts.</li> <li>• South Africa has a National NCA Strategy, one of a few countries in the world to have developed this this was developed working together with DWS, DPME, SANBI , DFFE and state entities.</li> <li>• Conclusion: nature is kind and can also be cruel when we do not listen to it.</li> <li>• There is a need to build technical skills.</li> </ul>



# SESSION 3 PLENARY 3: FINANCING BIODIVERSITY TO CLOSE THE FINANCIAL GAP

Discussion Points	Highlights
<p><b>Dr Theresa Frantz: SANBI</b></p> <p>Making nature count through natural capital accounting</p> <p>How NCA can support evidence-based decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of NCA in how nature counts in making economic prosperity</li> <li>• We've been looking into an accounting framework – a national accounting system is an appropriate system</li> <li>• In 2021 the world adopted the Systems of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA EA ).</li> <li>• NCA is recognized as a practical tool for how nature benefits people.</li> <li>• This has been through donor-funded projects – multi-institutional partnerships most recently EI4WS</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluating the state of the environment – one of SANBI's mandate,</li> <li>• SANBIs coordinate the foundation dataset of ecosystem extent, protected level, we also coordinate the red list in mainstreaming biodiversity,</li> <li>• This is reported in the National Biodiversity Assessment as a national tool.</li> </ul>

# SESSION 3 PLENARY 3: FINANCING BIODIVERSITY TO CLOSE THE FINANCIAL GAP

Discussion Points	Notes/Questions/Comments
<p><b>Dr Sue Snyman</b></p> <p>Outlines the value of ecosystem services to South Africa's economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem provide services and benefits to people- direct and indirect</li> <li>• Critical to account and value ecosystem services</li> <li>• Types of ecosystem services( regulatory, supporting, cultural and provisioning )</li> <li>• Cannot manage what we don't value</li> <li>• Conservation is about protecting nature for the people</li> <li>• The value of ecosystem services provided by South Africa's terrestrial, freshwater and estuarine habitats: +-R275 billion per annum.</li> <li>• Total ecosystem service values for South Africa change over time because of land-use change. The 2019 calculated value was USD 437 billion ~125% of GDP and this is not included or taken into consideration</li> <li>• Create economies around protected areas.</li> </ul>
<p>conclusion</p>	<p>Conservation and development are not mutually exclusive. Still a role for traditional conservation narrative but there is a need to align conservation and sustainable development.</p>

# SESSION 3 PLENARY 3: FINANCING BIODIVERSITY TO CLOSE THE FINANCIAL GAP

Discussion Points	Notes/Questions/Comments
<p>Remarks by Minister Mchunu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Water Source Areas resources under threats from different environmental challenges</li> <li>• Conducting a study refine 36 SWSA at ground scale</li> <li>• NCA is very critical –valuating of ecosystem services is critical and Protection of SWSA is a key step to securing water resources</li> <li>• It is a time for a paradigm shift where the true value of water is recognized and prioritised.</li> <li>• Emphasised on the importance of SWSA</li> <li>• New bill on water reform( act and water services act) both geared towards resolving the water crisis issues in terms of service delivery and infrastructure.</li> <li>• NCA for SWAS- powerful tool for integrating water resources into economic development.</li> <li>• There is a need to trike e a balance between water resources and natural systems, which equals to good value and better.</li> </ul>

# PANEL DISCUSSION: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION AND GROW THE BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY

Name of Speaker	Notes/Questions/Comments
<p>Maxwell Gomera</p> <p>UNDP</p>	<p>We have complex issue when looking after biodiversity conservation. It's a financing issue as much as it's a moral and political issue</p> <p>Value of water not included in what we pay.</p> <p>We need to find ways for other funders to pay for wildlife in Africa.</p> <p>Capital markets are not working for many people, rural and urban. The risk profile for big businesses shouldn't be used in the rural context.</p>
<p>Candice Stevens</p> <p>SFC</p>	<p>Useful to view finance as the fuel to get us where we need to go.</p> <p>In order to achieve goals, we require different sources of sustainable finance, and every tool we can garner needs to be mobilised.</p> <p>Moving from ideas, to incubators, to implementation and replication is the model for the coalition</p> <p>SA is wealthy in ideas and innovation, in capacity and biodiversity</p> <p>Looking forward, mechanisms such as bonds and biodiversity credit, along with a range of funds that have been created, should all be drawn on</p> <p>Meaningful collaborations are key, as is an array of solutions</p> <p>1. We are stronger together.2. We need a strategic approach.3. We need to focus on finance solutions targeted at point of impact</p>
<p>Colin Porteous</p> <p>PPF</p>	<p>Regarding closing the finance gaps. Required \$800b, currently have \$160b. What is required is less than one percent of total global equity markets. So why do we have this funding gap? We need to look at customers and develop an understanding what they would want to invest in.</p> <p>Define need, put value to it, stratify customers. Tax incentives matter, and getting the business proposition right</p>

# PANEL DISCUSSION: FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SUSTAIN CONSERVATION AND GROW THE BIODIVERSITY ECONOMY

Name of Speaker	Notes/Questions/Comments
Adri Kitshoff-Botha (WI)	<p>Looking at available sources and resources available for wildlife industry – sustainability is absolutely key. We need to use this model for new entrants. The private sector currently has the client base. Communities have land and animals. Collaborative ventures are the way forward. Wildlife is seen as high risk. We need to open up access to capital for investment. Funding mechanisms currently available are inadequate. We need to incentivise businesses adequately and make access to permits possible. Partnerships are essential, especially for an effective regulatory environment</p>
Mark Gerrard (WCS)	<p>Need to develop strong rural development strategy and focus on pulling people out of poverty            Re need to have a paradigm shift – reframe perspectives. We hear about investment a lot – into education, infrastructure, etc. we don't often hear about investment in nature. We somehow see it as a cost. By investing in nature, we lead to long term returns. As a sector we need to reframe the language that we use so we can benefit from these ecosystem services.            We also need strong policy alignment and coherence. This is especially important when we speak to the scale required. In addition, speaking the same language with financiers is essential. On market access for communities, we need to have a strong transformation agenda, and for communities to understand the value of the assets that they steward.            Being able to bring need on the ground in to conversation with funder in the right way. Capacity development for writing and pitching is essential. Finance often needs scale, a number of businesses together, so pathways to that kind of collaboration is essential. We need to be packaging projects together.</p>
Lebohang Phasha (NEF)	<p>Market failures to deal with – limited own capital, limited management skills and technical expertise            How do you get affordable and friendly capital? Funder specificity is important and understand their profile. We also need partnership beyond a funder – to advise on certification, provide support and technical advise.</p>
Zolana Mkiva CONTRALESA)	<p>People from rural communities want to see a meaningful contribution of their people in the biodiversity economy through the entire value chain.            Grant funding needs to be associated with an initiative of this nature. Developmental partners must come on board and partner with their people in their communities. An instrument that compels growth to happen, such as a charter on biodiversity, should come in to effect. There are many places that hold huge potential, but require investment. Need to come up with focused funding to support those at entry level as outcome of this summit</p>

**RECAP OF DAY 1**  
**PLENARY 4: LEVERAGING BIODIVERSITY-BASED FEATURES TO  
SCALE INCLUSIVE ECOTOURISM INDUSTRY GROWTH IN  
SEASCAPES AND IN SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION LAND-USE**

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# DAY 1 HIGHLIGHTS

ITEMS	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>PARALLEL SESSION 4: Leveraging biodiversity-based features to scale inclusive ecotourism industry growth in seascapes and in sustainable conservation land-use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a perception that biodiversity is separate from the people, whilst people are also part of biodiversity. Biodiversity needs to be protected <i>for</i> the people and not <i>from</i> the people thus allowing access to natural resources.</li><li>• We already have a biodiversity economy - everything that drives the economy is embedded in biodiversity. Biodiversity can provide an opportunity to build a regenerative economy.</li><li>• Biodiversity must be seen as contributing to food security (including nutritional security).</li><li>• Design programmes that has an impact at a local scale taking a bottom-up approach.</li><li>• Don't impose but consult communities especially those in the rural areas to avoid hostility and resistance when new laws are passed.</li><li>• More collaborative efforts with Traditional Healers to build in citizen science to preserve and protect cultural and traditional practices.</li><li>• Capacity building that empowers communities to be their own employers and participate in the economy effectively.</li></ul>

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# PLENARY 4 HIGHLIGHTS

ITEMS	HIGHLIGHTS
<p><b>PARALLEL SESSION 4: Leveraging biodiversity-based features to scale inclusive ecotourism industry growth in seascapes and in sustainable conservation land-use</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support is required to connect communities to the market and to gain access to funding.</li> <li>• High-level bilateral agreements between departments to address barriers in the expansion of the conservation estate and other environmental challenges.</li> <li>• There is a need for the country to be producers of products and information on biodiversity to inform and influence the global initiatives.</li> <li>• The private sector needs to be a partner for implementing and resourcing conservation initiatives.</li> <li>• Seek social licences (programme that are embraced, accepted and supported by communities) when planning on the expansion and conservation of biodiversity.</li> <li>• Support and training is required to enable traditional healers to participate in conservation.</li> <li>• Sacred and spiritual places are potential OECM's.</li> <li>• Grow medicinal plants which are currently in the red list in every municipality with the intention to rewild as well.</li> <li>• Establishment of community resource/information hub/portal areas.</li> </ul>

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# **SESSION 4– Biodiversity Investment Business-to- Business (B2B) session**

**Date: 25 March 2024**

**Time: 14h00-16h00**

# Summary of the session

- The purpose of this session was to provide a platform for business entities, Conservation Management Authorities, PDIs, communities, who have bankable projects within the Biodiversity sector value chains to pitch their business concepts to potential investors.
- The objective of the B2B session was to pitch the biodiversity economy sector as a lucrative investment portfolio for investors, profile bankable opportunities within the biodiversity sector and to provide a platform for entrepreneurs, communities and other stakeholders to interact with investors.
- Total of 90 projects responded and 21 projects from the Management Authorities and SMMEs within Wildlife, Eco-tourism, Bio-prospecting, Fisheries and Forestry pitched to the investors.
- Investors in attendance committed to follow-up sessions with project owners with the view to support and link them up with other funding opportunities.

# Solutions and way-forward

- All 90 projects will be loaded on the biodiversity sector investment portal.
- Investment session to be annual event, that solely focuses on matchmaking.
- Capacity development to get investees ready to engage with investors.
- Increase the range of investors.
- Continuous engagements with investors and investees post indaba.
- Market the Biodiversity sector investment portal to investors and create awareness of the portal to investees.
- Link up investees with intermediaries.
- Categorise investees per funding opportunities (small grants, loans, investment).

# RECAP OF DAY 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRESIDENTIAL SESSION

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# PRESIDENTIAL SESSION

Speaker	Highlights
Minister Creecy Premier Lesufi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shared summary of Day 1 activities of the Indaba, covering the plenary sessions and that Day 2 sessions aims to take forward the decision of the Indaba which will be finalized in Day 3.</li><li>• The Premier congratulated Minister Creecy for gazetting revised NBES. Gauteng believe that this strategy will assist in its growth path .</li><li>• Stressed the importance of implementation of this strategy, because government cannot t spend time and resource planning .we should implement our ideas, thought.</li><li>• Our people are tired of listening to government. Officials were encouraged to Roll-out sleeves and implement strategies.</li></ul>

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# DAY 2 26 MARCH PRESIDENTIAL SESSION

Speaker	Highlights
<p>Presidential address</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked Minister Creecy for inviting him to the Indaba.</li> <li>• Sustainable use is seen as a pillar for community economy. Also contribute to urban economy- traditional medicine market is visible in urban areas.</li> <li>• Indigenous knowledge support livelihoods. Community must benefit for the use on their traditional knowledge. E.g Rooibos- Industry-Wide Benefit Sharing Agreement. Benefits for Khoi and San communities, Pelargonium and Honeybush.</li> <li>• Support establishment of factories. Mass cultivation can assist community with carbon sequestration, controlling degradation, climate change.</li> <li>• Beneficiation must result in community-based businesses such as lodges, game meat- scaling economic enterprises for communities and PDIs, land compatible with conservation objectives.</li> <li>• Marine biodiversity- fishing . Mineral resources- we cannot be mere exporters – stone, dust etc., we must beneficiate our minerals here in south Africa.</li> <li>• Localization- northern hemisphere economy where import a lot of our products- argue that it will be more expensive for us to localize. Localizing is taking off and we continue to manufacture products here and stop exporting jobs.</li> <li>• Climate change issues- colonialism damaged most of our continent- just transition towards low carbon- creation of decent works for all. No one must be left behind- our slogan. Just transition at the centre of decision making- upscaling, rescaling ect.</li> <li>• New sectors of economy to arise. Rural communities should be put at the centre of every decision for biodiversity economy. We should deepen partnerships on matters of climate change and its effects. Carbon sequestration- require funding- call upon all stakeholder to embrace our vision for a transformed biodiversity economy.</li> <li>• We have a Game Meat Strategy that is focused on scaling economic enterprises for communities and previously disadvantaged individuals and providing land use patterns that are compatible with conservation.</li> <li>• Rural communities, disadvantaged individuals and traditional leaders must be part of devising new approaches to investment in community-owned land for biodiversity-based enterprises.</li> <li>• Areas where our people live should change from debt capital to revenue capital. CSIR- doing important work around developing new products that are well researched.</li> </ul>

