



**SUSTAINING
PROGRESS**

CONFERENCE 2025

From Commitment to Action: Building South Africa's Green Economy Together.



MAY 29TH, 2025

BUSA
BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

THE BANKING
ASSOCIATION
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Sustaining Progress

Why Sustainability Matters- A Five-Year Journey Towards a Green Economy

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) theme, "In Solidarity for a Green Economy," emphasized global cooperation in advancing a sustainable and resilient economy. In response to this, South Africa's agenda has been, "From Commitment to Action: Building South Africa's Green Economy Together," which underscores the critical need to transform global and national climate commitments into tangible, actionable steps at the local level.

This agenda focuses on the transition from high-level pledges to concrete, collaborative actions across business sectors, government, and civil society to drive South Africa's green economy. Subsequently, the 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16)

theme, "Peace with Nature," was built on the existing acknowledgment of the risk that the nature and biodiversity crisis posed to business and the economy.

Both COPs spoke to the urgency of aligning public and private sector strategies, policies, and investments in support of integrated climate, nature, and biodiversity goals, while ensuring inclusivity and empowerment for all businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) and women-owned businesses.

Overview

The South Africa's agenda "From Commitment to Action: Building South Africa's Green Economy Together" will serve as the basis of the first event of the sustainability progress series whereby outcomes from both the climate and biodiversity COPs of 2024 will be reflected and discussions will be centred on the upcoming 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30).

Objectives of the Conference

- Reflection of COPs 2024 outcomes
Discuss the outcomes of COP16 and COP29 and South Africa's commitments following both COPs.
- South Africa's COP30 Agenda
Discuss South Africa's agenda for the upcoming COP30, focusing on national strategies for climate resilience and sustainability.
- Regulatory, Tax, and Financial Actions
Present the key regulatory, tax, financial, and social targets that will enable businesses—particularly SMMEs—to integrate Sustainability principles and contribute to South Africa's green economy.
- Inclusivity and Economic Transformation
Discuss the inclusion of women-owned businesses and SMMEs in the green transition and their role in fostering a more inclusive and sustainable economy.
- Business Opportunities in Sustainability
Highlight the emerging opportunities within sustainable finance, exploring how businesses can innovate, leverage finance, contribute towards economic advancement through a nature and climate lens, and participate in this growing sector.
- Promote Understanding of Sustainable Finance
Enhance participants' knowledge of sustainable finance tools, standards, and practices that align with international benchmarks.
- Emerging Global Policy Response
Discuss how emerging global sustainability related policies are going to impact on South African market access, such as Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and how businesses should respond.



Key Messaging

Thematic Messages:

1. Turning Commitments into Concrete Actions COP16 and COP29 have highlighted the need for urgent action, and this theme stresses the importance of translating those global and national commitments into actionable policies, regulatory frameworks, and business practices that will drive the green economy forward in South Africa as we head to COP30.
2. Collaboration Across Sectors Building a green economy is a collective effort. The theme emphasizes the importance of cross-sector collaboration—between government, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations—to drive sustainable business practices, innovation, and climate resilience.
3. Inclusive Green Growth This theme focuses on making sure that all businesses, especially SMMEs and women-owned businesses, have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the green economy. It's about ensuring that the green transition is equitable and that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainability.
4. Actionable Roadmaps for Business By focusing on turning commitment into action, this theme calls for the development of practical and clear action plans for businesses to incorporate Sustainable Finance principles into their strategies. This includes addressing regulatory frameworks, financial incentives, and market opportunities.
5. The Expanding Role of the Private Sector The transition to a green economy requires the private sector to assume a greater responsibility than ever before. Businesses are not only expected to comply with sustainability regulations but also to lead in innovation, financing, and implementing sustainable practices that align with global climate and biodiversity commitments. This includes integrating sustainability into core operations, leveraging market opportunities, and fostering inclusivity by empowering SMMEs and women-owned enterprises.





Golden Threads

- Inclusivity of SMMEs and Women-Owned Businesses**

South Africa's green transition must be inclusive, ensuring that SMMEs and women entrepreneurs are given the tools, resources, and support to participate and benefit from new green economy opportunities.

- Business Opportunities in Sustainability**

The green economy offers significant opportunities for businesses to innovate, attract investment, and drive sustainable growth while contributing to environmental goals. Quantifiable value.

- Regulatory and Government Commitments**

The Government of South Africa must define clear, actionable policies, timelines, and financial incentives to enable the successful integration of Sustainable Finance principles across sectors.



SPEAKERS & PANELLISTS



Khulekani Mathe

Chief Executive Officer of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA)

Mathe is the Chief Executive Officer of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA). He joined BUSA in February 2023, and prior to that, he held the position of head of financial inclusion at the Banking Association South Africa. In this role, his responsibilities included driving transformation in the banking industry, fostering small business development, and promoting financial education.

Mathe is an experienced professional in policy development and has held various positions in the public service. He has served in the Presidency, the National Planning Commission Secretariat, and the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation. While working in the National Planning Commission Secretariat, he played a key role in the development of the National Development Plan and served as the head of the Secretariat. Early in his career, Mathe dedicated 15 years to the ed

ucation sector, focusing on adult education. During this time, he led the Tembaletu Community Education Centre, which received national and international recognition for its exceptional work, winning two national awards and one international award. In 2007, he was appointed chairman of the Ministerial Committee responsible for reviewing adult education policy in South Africa.

Mathe also played a role in the establishment and governance of the Education Training and Development SETA when it was established.

Mathe is a certified director and a member of the Institute of Directors of South Africa (IODSA). He holds a Master of Science degree in development finance and a Master of Education degree specializing in adult education. Additionally, he is a fellow of the African Leadership Initiative (ALI), part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, an alumnus of the Ford Foundation International Fellowship Programme, and serves on the board of directors of the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) Foundation and was recently appointed onto the boards of the Human Resources Development Council and the National Education Collaboration Trust.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mathe is an avid long-distance athlete and has completed the Comrades Marathon 10 times.



Maxwell Gomera

UNDP South Africa
Resident Representative

Prior to being appointed as Resident Representative for UNDP South Africa and Director for the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub, Mr Maxwell served in a similar role at UNDP Rwanda. He is a resource economist with over 20 years of experience in nature conservation and agricultural development.

He has worked on economic development issues, including being part of a team that developed the 'Global Green New Deal' for reviving the global economy and boosting employment in response to the financial and economic crisis of 2008. Max is a Senior Fellow of Aspen New Voices. He is an accomplished writer and has written for many National and Global mainstream media. Max is married and has two daughters and a son – they all love Arsenal Football Club.



Kgosientsho Ramokgopa

Minister of Electricity and Energy in the Republic of South Africa.

Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, born 25 January 1975, is the current Minister of Electricity and Energy in the Republic of South Africa. In the 6th Administration he served as the Minister of Electricity from March 2023. He was the Mayor of Tshwane from 2010 to 2016 and a Member of the Executive Council in the Gauteng provincial government in 2019.

A civil engineer by training, Ramokgopa entered formal politics as a ward councillor for the African National Congress (ANC) in Tshwane between 2000 and 2005. After several years running public and private entities, he returned to politics in November 2010 when he was elected Mayor of Tshwane. By that time, he was also the Regional Chairperson of the ANC's branch in Tshwane, a position he held until 2018.

Pursuant to the 2019 general election, Ramokgopa served a brief stint in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and as MEC for Economic Development, Agriculture, and Environment under Premier David Makhura. He was MEC for only four-and-a-half months, between May and October 2019.

Shortly after Ramokgopa resigned from the provincial government, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed him to head the investment and infrastructure unit in the Presidency. In addition, Ramokgopa was a member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the Gauteng ANC until July 2022, and in December 2022, he was elected to a five-year term on the party's National Executive Committee.



Jolanda Andrag

Chief Operating Officer

Jolanda Andrag is a highly experienced agricultural industry professional who is passionate about sustainable development. She has worked in various roles across the South African agricultural industry, demonstrating expertise across multiple value chains.

She recently returned from Canada where she worked for MNP, a Canadian Accounting and Advisory service consultancy focusing on large agricultural projects. Previously she served as the COO of SAPPO where she developed and implemented an ESG strategy, reporting system and supporting data infrastructure with PWC and financial institutions. Jolanda's academic background a Master of Business Management and Administration (Cum Laude) from the Gordon Institute for Business Science (GIBS), a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management and Administration from the University of Stellenbosch (Cum Laude), and a Master of Arts in Political Studies from the North West University.

She is currently the COO of Agri SA. She is developing a sustainable framework for agriculture alongside the Banking Association of South Africa.



Michael Lawrence

Executive Director of
National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF)

Mr Michael Lawrence is the Executive Director of National Clothing Retail Federation (NCRF), which represents the interests of major clothing retailers based in Southern Africa. The Federation engages with government, consumer bodies and labour organisations on trade and economic issues affecting the sustainability of both member operations and suppliers.

Michael serves at BUSA as deputy Chair of the Economic Policy Committee and also represents Business at Nedlac – Trade and Industry Chamber ; TESELICO. He serves in various Boards including as Chair of the Consumer Goods and Services Ombud Board, a member of Proudly SA Board and a Trustee of WWF (SA). Michael is a Tralac Associate and has spoken at numerous Trade conferences particularly on AfCFTA, on Sustainability, on Value Chains, on eCommerce, and on Trade in Services.

Internationally he has spoken at events of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), at the parallel events of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial gatherings and as a guest of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) as a speaker and think tank participant on Border Carbon Adjustment (CBAM) policy development.



Thulebona Mhlanga

BUSA Economic policy Special Projects Manager.

Thulebona Mhlanga is an experienced policy analyst in economic policy, governance, and entrepreneurship, dedicated to advancing South Africa's socio-economic landscape. She is currently the Economic Policy Special Projects Manager at Business Unity South Africa (BUSA). In her role she plays a pivotal role in shaping and influencing policies that seek to create a conducive environment for business to thrive and prosper for the greater benefit of South Africa's economy, as well as foster collaboration between the public and private sector to drive sustainable economic growth. Her strategic initiatives at BUSA include monetary policy, SMMEs and anti-corruption.

Outside her fervour for policy, she is passionate about women development and economic transformation initiatives. She also currently services as a board member for creative minds foundation – a Pan African non-profit organisation focused on youth development.



Maanda Milubi

Director of Enterprise and Supplier Development &
Acting Director of External Affairs at Tiger Brands

Maanda Milubi is a development finance and enterprise development professional with over a decade of experience in inclusive value chains, supplier development, and economic empowerment. As Director of Enterprise and Supplier Development and Acting Director of External Affairs at Tiger Brands, he leads strategic programmes that integrate women-owned and small businesses into core value chains, particularly within agriculture.

Maanda is passionate about advancing supplier diversity and unlocking market access for underserved communities. His work includes capacity-building initiatives and public-private partnerships to enable equitable participation in South Africa's evolving economy.



Tomas Sales

UNDP Special Advisor, Private Sector Development
Africa Sustainable Finance Hub

Tomas Sales is the Special Advisor for Private Sector Development and Team Leader at the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub (ASFH), based in Pretoria. With over 28 years of experience across government, finance, and development sectors, he leads UNDP's work on SME and startup financing, green business, and private sector engagement in Africa.

Tomas currently spearheads the Africa Green Business and Financing Initiative (AGBFI), launched in 2024, mobilizing green finance to support private sector leadership in climate action, biodiversity, and green industrialization. He has played a key role in flagship initiatives such as the SDG Investor Map for South Africa, regional value chain platforms, and Africa's first continental Impact Investment network.

Tomas holds a Master's in International Economics from Fordham University and has worked extensively across Africa and the U.S., bringing expertise in inclusive finance, innovation ecosystems, and green and sustainable investments.



Naadiya Moosajee

WomEng & WomHub Co-Founder & CIO

Naadiya is a serial entrepreneur by passion, an engineer by training, a renowned global speaker and is Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer at WomHub, a unique ecosystem builder supporting female led innovation along the STEM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Mining & Manufacturing) value chain. WomHub, runs incubators, accelerators and innovation spaces and more recently has been working to move more capital to female founders in climate looking at various innovative funding models and support to help entrepreneurs get through diligence. Naadiya co-founded WomEng, a global social enterprise developing women and girls for engineering and tech.

Naadiya is building a new cybersecurity start-up called Cybherfence looking at cyber vulnerability for entrepreneurs and creating safer online experiences. In 2023, Naadiya was awarded the Most Disruptive Women in Tech in Africa at the Women in Tech Awards. She is venture partner and LP at Five35 Ventures, a pan African venture capital fund investing in women in tech businesses across Africa. She was a Co-Chair for the Saudi Arabia B20 Task Force on the Future of Work and Education. She is a B20 South Africa Taskforce member on Digitisation. Naadiya is the President of Convocation of the University of Cape Town.

Naadiya serves as an independent board director at the Momentum Metropolitan Foundation, a Trustee of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance and a member of the Investment Committee, A member of the Expert Council for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship and is an emeritus board director for the International Youth Foundation, the former chair of the board at the TQMF trust and board member at Pegasys Strategy and Development. Naadiya served as an advisory board member for the University of Cape Town Faculty of Engineering, and was a Global Future Council Member with the World Economic Forum: Gender, Education and the Future of Work. She was a global shaper with the World Economic Forum and Curator of the Cape Town Hub.

Naadiya co-owns a successful restaurant group in Cape Town. Naadiya is a renowned speaker and was named "Top 20 Young Power Women in Africa" by Forbes Magazine as well as one of the top people in tech in Africa by Los Echos (the French version of the Financial Times). Naadiya has worked across 30 countries to revolutionise the face of engineering through diversity, inclusion, innovation, entrepreneurship and education leaving no one behind in a tech-enabled future. She is passionate about sustainability, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, equitable technology, fostering prosperity in emerging economies and engineering better societies.



Mxolisi Mgojo

BUSA President

Mxolisi Mgojo is a seasoned South African business leader with over four decades of experience spanning technology, investment banking, mining, and energy. Currently, he serves as the President of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and Co-Chair of B20 South Africa, the business engagement group of the G20 during South Africa's 2025 presidency.

Mr. Mgojo served as the Chief Executive Officer of Exxaro Resources Limited from April 2016 until his retirement in 2022. During his tenure, he was instrumental in steering the company through significant growth and transformation, emphasizing sustainability and innovation.



Ruse Moleshe

Founder and Managing Director
Rubk (Pty) Ltd

Ruse Moleshe is a seasoned energy and infrastructure finance expert with over 27 years of experience across Sub-Saharan Africa. Her career includes leadership roles at the Department of Minerals and Energy, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Standard Bank, Basil Read, and the Industrial Development Corporation, where she led energy, transport, water, and telecommunications sector transactions.

As a Lead Consultant for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, she authored a regulatory review of South Africa's electricity market, aiming to enhance private sector participation. Moleshe provides energy expertise to the New Development Bank's thematic evaluation of South Africa's energy sector. She is a Non-Executive Director at Revego Africa Energy and an independent advisor to Cennergi (Exxaro Subsidiary). Moleshe leads an energy and infrastructure advisory firm - RUBK Pty Ltd. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce, an Honours in Energy Studies, and is pursuing a Master's in Energy Leadership at Wits Business School.



Ewald Kellerman

ABSA Group – Head of Sustainability

Facilitator

Ewald has been with Absa for 10 years, with a total of two decades in the bank. He built deep commercial expertise in retail banking before expanding to broad group roles.

With a finance and investments academic background, he earned his stripes leading credit responses during major events such as the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. He made an impact in operations, distressed sales, growing out of crisis, and redefining risk appetite. He led the transformation of retail collections, and alignment of our default definition to the market. In the wider group he went on to promote resilience in the Group through enterprise stress testing, scenario analysis and risk appetite. It is here where he was exposed to the sustainability through the bank's climate risk efforts.

Evolving from risk management to resilience, sustainability offers a natural progression to promote his long-term impact in the new role as Head of Sustainability Strategy



Dipak Patel

Head: Climate Finance and Innovation
South African Presidential Climate Commission (PCC)

Dipak joined the South African Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) in June 2021 as Head: Climate Finance and Innovation. He leads the team in its work in the areas of climate finance mapping, financing a just transition and developing a strategy for financing the pathway to a net-zero emissions target for 2050.

Prior to joining the PCC, Dipak was Special Advisor to the Minister of Public Enterprises. Dipak is a chemical engineer, and a qualified artisanal brewer, with a MSc in Development Economics (University of London) and a MBA (University of the Witwatersrand). He worked in various technical, production management and capital development roles at South African Breweries. He was imprisoned for political offences in South Africa's apartheid period. Upon his release in 1991, he participated in the negotiations process to usher in democracy in South Africa.

Soon after South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy in 1994, Dipak joined the National Department of Transport and was appointed as Director-General. Dipak worked at Standard Bank (2002 – 2012), in various capacities in investment banking, becoming global head of Structured and Project Finance, as well as global head of transactional products. He served on the group executive committee as well as the credit and investment committees. Between 2012 and 2018, Dipak operated his own financial and investment management and trading enterprise, based in New York. He returned permanently to South Africa in 2018.



Abigail Khuluse

Programme Manager at the National Business Initiative (NBI)

Abigail Khuluse is a Programme Manager at the National Business Initiative (NBI) serving in the Economic Inclusion Unit. Her role includes pioneering an initiative that seeks to facilitate job creation within the SMME sector, with a strong focus on the Green Economy, while also focusing on building capacity for skilling and upskilling unemployed youth to take up that employment.

Abigail has over 16 years of experience in SMME development and capacity building. She holds a Masters in Philosophy in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management from the University of Pretoria, a Post-Graduate Diploma in

Business Administration from the Gordon Institute of Business Science, and a B-Com Degree in Law from the University of Pretoria.

She is a seasoned development practitioner passionate about supporting small businesses and young people. Abigail has received a number of recognition awards in her field of work, including being awarded Business Women of the Year by the South African Council of Business Women (SACBW) in 2014 and being a finalist for Conscious Companies awards 2018.



Mikel Mabasa

CEO of Naamsa

Mikel Mabasa is a seasoned South African transport economist and business executive, currently serving as the CEO of naamsa | The Automotive Business Council. In this role, he leads South Africa's automotive industry in policy advocacy, transformation, and global competitiveness.



Loshni Naidoo

Chief Sustainability Officer at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)

Loshni Naidoo serves as the Chief Sustainability Officer at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), bringing over 18 years of experience in climate change, sustainability services, and ESG. Appointed on 28 August 2023, she leads the JSE's sustainability strategy, focusing on embedding ESG principles across operations and enhancing the exchange's role in promoting sustainable finance.



Shamini Harrington

Minerals Council – Senior Executive:

Shamini Harrington joined the Minerals Council in March 2025 as Senior Executive: Environment, Health, Legacies and Employee Relations. She has more than two decades of experience in environmental and sustainability roles. She began her career as a researcher at the CSIR before transitioning to the corporate sector, focusing on environment and climate change management.

She spent nearly 20 years at Sasol, leading sustainability initiatives and shaping the company's greenhouse gas targets and climate strategy and establishing the company's sustainability structure and functions. She is a seasoned expert in her field both nationally and internationally on various advocacy matters. Shamini also represented South Africa at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and chairs key committees on environment and just transition.



Madeleine Ronquest

Head of Environmental, Nature & Climate Risk Management
in the FirstRand financial services group

After 24 years, in September 2025, Madeleine will be leaving her current position as the Head of Environmental, Nature & Climate Risk Management in the FirstRand financial services group (South Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, UK) and using her extensive knowledge of environmental and social risk management, climate-related risk and opportunity management, climate/green finance, nature-related risk management, sustainable development, just transition, climate mitigation and adaptation, shared prosperity, positive impact banking and investment to independently consult as a senior ESG advisor. Her professional background includes environmental science, eco-science, risk management, work on the SDGs, climate risk management and environmental and climate law.

She is positioned as one of the global leaders in climate change, natural capital management, positive impact finance, responsible investment, and sustainable development finance and has vast experience in the finance sector and the public sector. Madeleine has served in many working groups and industry associations, for example as a member of the UNEPFI TCFD group, the IFRS ISSB S2 working group in South Africa, the South African Banking Association, the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosure, the UN Task Force on Nature Restoration Finance, the African Natural Capital Alliance, the PCAF steering group, FSD Africa and global and local Business for Nature advisory groups.



Mpho McNamee

Group Chief of Corporate Affairs at Telkom Limited,

Mpho McNamee is the Group Chief of Corporate Affairs at Telkom Limited, with over 18 years of experience in corporate affairs and strategic communications. Previously, she was the Executive Head of Corporate Affairs at Sappi Southern Africa and held senior roles at Deloitte Africa, Life Healthcare, and Nedbank. A thought leader, McNamee co-authored a white paper with GIBS and published research with the University of Johannesburg on stakeholder relations. She holds an MBA from GIBS and a Certificate of Management from Harvard Business School.

McNamee is a candidate at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Her work has earned recognition, including awards from the IABC and the 2023 Trialogue Social Impact Award. As Vice President of the Durban Chamber Board, she cultivates partnerships for sustainable economic growth. McNamee is dedicated to mentoring young women in communications and technology, advocating for diversity and inclusion. Her career reflects her passion for impactful change and sustainable development.



Bongi Kunene

Managing Director of The Banking Association South Africa.

Bongi Kunene is the Managing Director of The Banking Association South Africa. She assumed this position in March 2020. Prior to that Bongi was the Global Head, Public Sector Banking for the Standard Bank Group. She had responsibilities for strategic direction of the business in 15 African countries including South Africa.

Her career has included a role as the Executive Director at the World Bank Group in Washington DC. In that capacity, she served in the Board representing South Africa, Nigeria and Angola. Bongi has also served in the South African Government in different capacities including amongst others, as Chief of staff in the office of the Deputy President, and the Head of Treasury and Economic Affairs for the for the Gauteng Province.



Benjamin April

Associate Director: ESG, Climate and Financial Risk Management, KPMG

Benjamin April is an Associate Director at KPMG, specialising in ESG, climate, and financial risk management. He provides strategic advisory services on ESG integration, climate risk assessment, and sustainable finance solutions.

Benjamin is recognised for his expertise in innovative finance mechanisms, including carbon markets and nature-based solutions, contributing to the development of resilient and sustainable business practices.



Fifi Peters

Award-Winning Financial Broadcaster

Fifi Peters is a distinguished financial broadcaster in Africa, renowned for her expertise in business and economic journalism. She is a Senior Anchor at CNBC Africa and formerly hosted the SAFM Market Update with Moneyweb. Over the years, she has contributed to some of South Africa's most respected financial news platforms, including Business Day and Financial Mail.

With a strong foundation in economics, Fifi earned her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Journalism from Rhodes University in 2010. She has further honed her expertise by obtaining certifications in Finance (SA Institute of Financial Markets), Law (London School of Economics), and Media (Gordon Institute of Business Science).

Beyond broadcasting, Fifi is a sought-after conference facilitator and moderator, having led discussions for government bodies, multinational corporations, and global institutions such as the United Nations, World Bank, and New Development Bank. Her influence extends to global economic forums, including the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

With a passion for financial journalism and a deep understanding of global markets, Fifi continues to shape economic discourse across Africa and beyond.



Samuel Mabena

Senior Technical Advisor: Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation,
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Mr. Samuel Mabena serves as the Senior Technical Advisor for Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). In this capacity, he plays a pivotal role in developing and implementing frameworks to monitor South Africa's climate change mitigation efforts.

Mr. Mabena's responsibilities include formulating guidelines for emission targets at provincial and local government levels, ensuring alignment with national climate objectives. He has been instrumental in establishing robust M&E systems to track greenhouse gas emissions and assess the effectiveness of mitigation strategies.

His work supports South Africa's commitment to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, contributing to national and international climate change initiatives.



Punki Modise

Group Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer at Absa Group

Punki Modise is the Group Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer at Absa Group, where she leads the integration of business strategy with sustainability initiatives and oversees the implementation of the Group's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) agenda.

She joined Absa in 2008 and has held several senior roles, including Interim Chief Executive of Retail and Business Banking, Interim Group Financial Director, Chief Financial Officer for Retail and Business Banking, and Head of Transactional Banking.



Nomsa Nkomo

Project Director:
Sustainability and Integrated Reporting, SAICA

Nomsa Nkomo is the Project Director for Sustainability and Integrated Reporting at the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

With over two decades of experience in mining, banking, consultancy, and sustainability, she leads initiatives on integrated thinking and reporting. Nomsa is a qualified Chartered Accountant and a member of the Institute of Directors, actively promoting sustainable development goals and ESG practices within the accounting profession.



SUSTAINING PROGRESS CONFERENCE

This conference serves as a pivotal moment for South Africa to assess its commitments from COP16 and COP29 while charting a clear path toward a greener economy ahead of COP30. It provides a platform to define actionable steps that enable businesses—of all sizes and ownership structures—to thrive in this evolving landscape.

By promoting inclusivity, refining regulatory frameworks, and showcasing market opportunities, South Africa can position itself as a global leader in the transition to a more sustainable and equitable future.



www.sustaining-progress.busa.org.za