

CONCEPT NOTE

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CLIMATE MEANS BUSINESS

AFRICA FORUM 2026 | CAPE TOWN

convened by AlphaInvestor **ai**

FROM RISK TO RETURN: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S CLIMATE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

THE FORUM AT A GLANCE

The Alpha Investor's inaugural Climate Means Business – Africa Forum 2026 is a two-day, private sector-led gathering of investors, financiers, and business leaders committed to turning Africa's climate challenges into investment opportunities. The Forum will focus on financing climate adaptation, scaling sustainable solutions, and delivering competitive returns that align with long-term environmental and social impact."

5th and 6th February 2026

Workshop17 Watershed, V&A Waterfront

17 DOCK ROAD, VICTORIA & ALFRED, WATERFRONT, CAPETOWN



SPEAKERS



ELIAS MASILELA SOB
Chairperson
**Impact Investing
South Africa**



SHIRLEY ROBINSON
Practice Head: Climate and
Public Economics
DNA Economics



NALENI GOVENDER
Director
**Enko Capital
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MARK VAN WYK
Co-Founder & CEO
**Infra Impact Investment
Managers**



SANISHA PACKIRISAMY
Chief Economist
**Momentum
Investments**



**CATHERINE
WIJNBERG**
Founder & CEO
Fetola



GRANT PRINCE
Head of Investments
Fetola



XOLISA DHLAMINI
Head: Sustainability
Operations and
Impact Investing
Sanlam



SHAFEEQ ABRAHAMS
Chief Executive and
Principal Officer
**Eskom Pension and
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SHAWN DUTHIE
Director
Control Risks



DOUGLAS KATIVU
Director
**The Global Reporting
Initiative (GRI) Africa**



MICAH GENGAN
Founder
Ethos Verify



DR MEGGAN SPIERS
Director: Climate Change:
Energy & Resilience
ICLEI Africa



DR ROSS HARVEY
Director of Research
and Programmes
**Good Governance
Africa (GGA)**



JUSTIN SMITH
Chief Strategy Officer
**Sustainable Finance
Coalition**



MPHO KGOSIETSILE
Managing Director
Wise Leadership



IBRAHIM AKOON
ESG Specialist
Heritage Capital



**MANDLA
NTLANGANISIO**
Chief Operations Officer
Boxing South Africa



JONATHAN LEWIS
Chief Executive Officer
The ESG Institute



SHRIVAR MOHAN
Chief Investment Officer
Edge Growth

SPEAKERS



**TABOKA
MOTLHABANE**

Project Manager &
Regional Advisor,
GIZ Botswana/SADC



**NOELEN
PADAYACHEE**

Practice Head for
Climate Change
**Six Capitals
ESG Advisory**



SIMON CLARKE

Director for Corporate
Sustainability Africa
SLR



MOOKHO MATHABA

Climate Finance Specialist
**Development Bank of
Southern Africa (DBSA)**



JEAN CRAVEN

Founder & CEO
**Sedna Limited
(PlastiQEnergy
platform)**

OVERVIEW

2025 was a significant year for the global bold aspirations of meeting the net-zero targets. Reports attest to the results of the strides that have been made by various stakeholders across the globe, indicating that the net-zero targets are not only feasible, but they are central to economic development efforts. To achieve more coordinated efforts, countries tabled updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which were a key part the agenda at the 2025 Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Brazil. The road to 2030 focuses on the shift from ambition to action, and Africa is poised to play a leading role.

Scheduled to take place in February 2026, the **Inaugural Climate Means Business - Africa Forum 2026** is two-day, private sector-led conference designed to take **a holistic approach to the mission-critical issue of climate change by addressing the urgent need for climate adaptation in Africa while unlocking investment opportunities that deliver superior sustainability-sound financial returns (alpha)**. Africa, as a continent, bears the brunt of climate risks, despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (2-3%). These disproportionate risks

threaten lives, biodiversity, livelihoods and economic stability. Alongside its climate challenges, Africa offers high-growth sectors ready for investment – from the blue economy and eco-tourism to sustainable agriculture and resilient infrastructure. Most notably, the continent's renewable energy sector is on the cusp of exponential growth, with capacity expected to increase more than fivefold by 2030. This momentum is being reinforced by the rapid emergence of sustainable finance instruments – such as green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and blended finance facilities – which are unlocking new channels of capital for climate-aligned projects across the continent.

The conference will convene regulators, policymakers, institutional and impact investors, leaders from strategic growth sectors, entrepreneurs, investment professionals, climate risk specialists, and community representatives. The programme will facilitate high-level dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector collaboration aimed at advancing innovative climate solutions and catalysing investment flows that strengthen climate resilience while fostering sustainable economic development across Africa.

WHY AFRICA?

Africa faces an urgent imperative to act decisively on climate risks. By accelerating adaptation and low-carbon growth, the continent can unlock competitive investment returns while positioning itself as a global leader in building a resilient and sustainable economy.

'Climate Means Business' is both a rallying call and a reminder of the urgent action required in the face of Africa's escalating climate impacts — from extreme weather events to food insecurity and water scarcity. Climate adaptation has therefore become mission-critical. Yet, progress is constrained by under-resourced strategies, with the African Development Bank estimating a climate finance gap of USD 213.4 billion annually through 2030 (November 2024). This gap underscores the need for innovative financing solutions that can bridge resources and ambition. Addressing these challenges is central to safeguarding the continent's future — and is why

climate change represents Africa's most pressing risk, as well as its greatest opportunity for transformation.

On the other hand, **'climate means business'** can be construed literally—climate is an opportunity for business to thrive, owing to the market potential of climate adaptation, with experts placing its value at USD 25.45 billion in 2023.

This Conference seeks to become the premium platform for driving climate resilience and the pursuit of sustainable long-term returns. As Africa's climate challenges require collaborative efforts of governments, private sector, multilateral institutions as well as local communities, this Conference will bring together these stakeholders to foster partnerships and provide opportunities for networking and deal-making.



KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Quantify the cost of inaction.** This Conference will take a deep-dive into the climate-related damages in the last decade, or two, and go on to present data-based projections on the impact of climate, if no urgent action is taken to mitigate these risks
- Highlight **the urgency of climate adaptation** in Africa, with focus on priority areas such as resilient infrastructure, sustainable agriculture as well as community-led solutions
- Showcase **climate-related investment opportunities** across key growth sectors such as carbon economy, renewable energy, agribusiness, eco-tourism and the oceans (blue) economy
- Facilitate public-private partnerships (PPPs) to **bridge the climate adaptation finance gap** by 2030
- Provide actionable insights for **investors to achieve sustainable long-term returns** through climate-resilient projects
- Amplify local voices and **integrate community-led strategies** into investment frameworks

DISSECTING THE THEME

The theme for the Inaugural Climate Means Business (Africa Forum) 2026 is, **“From Risk to Return: Unlocking Africa's Climate Investment Potential”**, carries five (5) key elements that collectively cover the continent's strategic approach to climate financing — leveraging climate challenges for environmental, social and exponential economic gains;

- **Risks:** Africa is exposed to some of the most critical risks, including climate-change-related risks, financial risks and geo-political risks. Pre-existing challenges like inadequate infrastructure, poverty and governance issues makes the continent most vulnerable
- **Alpha:** Climate-related or focused investments have a huge potential to yield above-market financial returns. Key growth sectors include, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure. The continent can leverage its youthful population as well as growing markets for scaling innovative solutions.
- **Unlocking Potential:** This Forum will focus on three (3) key factors for the continent to fully tap into its climate investment potential. These factors are; (i) De-risking investments: Dissect tools that can be employed to mitigate perceived risks, reduce barriers and attract private capital, (ii) Enabling environment: The continent must actively create investment-friendly environments through improved regulatory frameworks, policies as well as capacity building, (iii) Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Part of the role of government in PPPs would be to provide supportive policies as well as investment incentives, while the private sector identify and/or develop bankable projects.
- **Mission-Critical Financing:** The theme underscores the urgency of scaling climate to meet Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDC) targets. The majority of climate-related opportunities are largely dependent on adaptation finance, which is currently under-funded, making it particularly critical.

- **Holistic Approach:** The theme envisions and advocates for a strategy that aligns climate action with impact and sustainable long-term returns.



DELEGATE PROFILES

At its core, the Climate Means Business – Africa Forum will bring together a diverse group of leaders driving climate adaptation and sustainable investment across the continent. Delegates will include those shaping policy, mobilising capital, advancing innovation, and delivering projects that turn climate challenges into economic opportunities. This carefully curated group will consist of stakeholders from private sector organisations, public sector institutions, civil society, academia, and international organisations.

The delegate profiles span financial institutions, corporate leaders, renewable energy innovators, community representatives, policymakers, researchers, as well as global development partners, ensuring a rich exchange of expertise, indigenous knowledge, and actionable insights.

While we cannot comprehensively cover everyone that this Forum will attract, the following sector-based list highlights some of the key stakeholders whose participation is critical to meet the objectives of this Forum, and what each one of these individuals stands to benefit or contribute;

Private Sector: **Financial Institutions**

Seeking long-term sustainable returns through climate-resilient investments, exploring blended finance options;

- Institutional Investors
- Private Equity Fund Managers
- Venture Capitalists
- Impact Investors
- ESG Investors
- Portfolio Managers
- Risks Professionals
- Investment Bankers

Private Sector: **Corporate Leaders**

Gaining insights on integrating climate resilience into business models, mitigating supply chain disruptions, and identifying partnership opportunities;

- Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)
- Chief Sustainability Officers (CSOs)
- Chief Operating Officers (COOs)
- Supply Chain Managers
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Directors
- Risk Management Officers

Private Sector: **Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)**

Pitching bankable projects, networking with investors, and gaining insights into SMME-specific adaptation strategies;

- SMME Owners/Entrepreneurs – agribusiness, renewable energy, waste management
- Startup Founders – climate tech, sustainable agriculture
- Cooperative Leaders – farming, fisheries

Private Sector: **Renewable Energy and Climate Tech**

Showcasing scalable technologies, securing funding, and collaborating on transition strategies;

- Chief Executive Officers of Renewable Energy Companies (solar, wind, hydro)
- Chief Technology Officers
- Project Developers (renewable energy, green infrastructure)
- Innovation Managers

Private Sector: **Agribusiness and Food Systems**

Exploring opportunities in sustainable agriculture, learning about climate-resilient farming, and networking with financiers;

- Agribusiness CEOs
- Supply Chain Managers (food processing, distribution)
- Regenerative Agriculture Experts
- Farm Cooperative Leaders
- Food Safety Specialists

Private Sector: **Infrastructure and Real Estate**

Identifying opportunities in climate-resilient housing and infrastructure, engaging with policymakers on urban resilience;

- Real Estate Developers
- Construction Company Executives
- Urban Infrastructure Project Managers

- Architects (specialising in green buildings)
- Property Investment Managers

Private Sector: **Insurance and Risk Management**

Discussing insurance models and their role in climate resilience

- Insurance Company CEOs
- Parametric Insurance Product Managers
- Actuaries
- Risk Assessment Specialists
- Reinsurance Executives

Private Sector: **Transport and Mobility**

Exploring green transport solutions and investment opportunities in sustainable mobility

- Transport and Logistics Company CEOs
- Electric Vehicles (EV) Startup Founders
- Shared Mobility Entrepreneurs
- Infrastructure Investment Managers

Public Sector: **National, Provincial and Local Governments**

Sharing policy frameworks, advocating for enabling environments, and seeking public-private partnerships;

- Ministers of Environment, Finance, Infrastructure
- Climate Policy Advisors
- Urban Planning Directors
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Coordinators
- Transport Department/Ministry Officials
- Health Department/Ministry Officials

Public Sector: **Multilateral and Regional Institutions**

Providing expertise on adaptation finance, facilitating partnerships, and presenting funding opportunities

Civil Society: **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)**

Championing community-led adaptation, advocating for inclusive solutions, and connecting with funders;

- NGO Directors (climate-focused, conservation, community development)
- Advocacy and Policy Managers
- Community Engagement Specialists
- Environmental Campaigners

Civil Society: **Community Leaders**

Sharing locally-led adaptation strategies, ensuring community voices shape investment frameworks;

- Local Community Leaders
- Women's Group Representatives
- Youth Climate Activists
- Indigenous Knowledge Holders

Civil Society: **Youth Advocates**

Advocating for youth inclusion, pitching innovative solutions, and networking with investors

- Youth Climate Network Leaders
- Student Activists
- Young Entrepreneurs (climate-focused startups)

Academia and Research Institutions

Sharing evidence-based insights, informing investment decisions, and collaborating on innovation;

- Climate Scientists
- Environmental Economists
- Urban Planning Researchers
- Agricultural Innovation Researchers
- Policy Analysts

Technology and Innovation

Showcasing scalable technologies, attracting venture capital, and discussing digital tools for

adaptation;

- AI and Data Analytics Specialists (weather forecasting, early-warning systems)
- Green Technology Developers
- Incubator/Accelerator Programme Managers
- Digital Platform Founders (climate finance platforms)

International Stakeholders: **Global Investors**

Identifying high-return climate investments, engaging in deal rooms, and forming partnerships;

- Global Fund Managers (impact funds, green funds)
- Sovereign Wealth Fund Representatives
- Development Finance Institution (DFI) Officers
- Private Wealth Managers

International Stakeholders: **Development Partners Representatives**

Supporting adaptation finance, sharing global best practices, and aligning with Africa's NDCs.

Media and Communications

Spearheading key messages, reporting on outcomes, and raising awareness of climate opportunities;

- Environmental Journalists
- Sustainability Content Creators
- Climate-Focused Public Relations Managers
- Climate Advocacy - Social Media Influencers

Health Sector

Discussing climate-resilient healthcare systems, advocating for health-focused adaptation investments

- Public Health Officials
- Healthcare Facility Managers
- Climate and Health Researchers
- Medical NGO Representatives

Blue Economy and Coastal Communities

Highlighting investment opportunities in the blue economy, sharing coastal adaptation strategies;

- Fisheries Cooperative Leaders
- Marine Tourism Operators
- Coastal Infrastructure Developers
- Ocean Renewable Energy Specialists

- Mining Company Executives
- ESG Compliance Officers
- Supply Chain Managers
- Mineral Policy Advisors

Mining and Critical Minerals Sector

Exploring responsible mining for the green transition, addressing ESG challenges;

Waste Management and Circular Economy

Showcasing circular economy opportunities, pitching projects, and discussing policy needs;

- Waste Management Company Executives
- Recycling Entrepreneurs
- Circular Economy Consultants
- E-Waste Management Specialists





Alpha Investor (ai) is a strategic communications firm that seeks to promote and champion outcome-focused conversations, primarily around delivering alpha in Africa against the backdrop of the acute risks facing the broader aspects of capital — economic, environmental and social.

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