



Seedbeds of Transformation

9-11 May 2018
Boardwalk International Convention Centre

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

#seedbedsoftransformation

#futureearth

#sustainability



PARTNERS:



THEMES

1. UNDERSTANDING TRAJECTORIES OF CHANGE

Existing knowledge on trends and future trajectories of global change can help enhance the understanding of the socio-economic and socio-ecological contexts and conditions in which people live, interact and govern.

What do we know about trends and future trajectories that may influence our progress toward the SDGs?

What knowledge sources can be further developed and used (scientific, implicit, traditional etc.) and how may these be integrated? How can we achieve this integration?

What knowledge is still lacking to help us achieve transformations toward greater sustainability and equity, and what are the steps to develop it?



2. TRAVERSING CRITICAL CHALLENGES

While the SDGs and their aims are generally agreed to be well-intentioned, there are inherent tradeoffs and barriers to be found in pursuing these as well as broader types of more disruptive transformational change that may be required. Examination of these deep transformations should be vigorous and transparent.

What does 'working towards the SDGs' mean in the diverse contexts of Africa?

What key issues of social change are implicated in the implementation of the SDGs and what tradeoffs may be found in this work?

What critiques of the SDGs and of transformational change are particularly salient for Africa and African institutions? Going forward, what may need to be done differently to seek transformations toward greater sustainability and equity?

3. CREATING MOMENTUM

The UN SDGs report 2017 shows some progress across the 17 SDGs since their launch in 2015, however, this progress is uneven and recognized as being too slow to achieve the goals by the 2030 target.

How can African perspectives and priorities better inform and gain traction for the SDGs, the Paris Climate Accord and other global sustainability frameworks within and beyond Africa?

What advances in research approaches, methods and methodologies (including action research, transdisciplinary research (TD), co-design, participatory scenario and transformative scenario planning) in Africa are supporting transformational change toward greater sustainability and equity?

Where is traction occurring through social-technical innovation in Africa?

What alliances are needed, local and international to ensure that the SDGs can leverage existing, and create new, transformative efforts towards a more sustainable and equitable future?



Wednesday, 9 May

Opening plenary

8:30-10:30

The UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR): knowledge for transformations between global challenges and local realities

How will Africa meet the SDGs – what are key challenges and opportunities?

The SDGs in Africa: important tensions, contradictions and opportunities

Refreshment break

10:30-11:00

Parallel Session: Digital futures in Africa: science, policy and action

11:00-12:30

Harnessing the 4th Industrial revolution to advance the SDGs in Africa (**Wood room**)

Data governance in SDGs in Africa: Principles and stewardship (**Breakout room D1**)

Evidence-informed implementation of the SDGs: Challenges and opportunities (**Breakout room D2**)

Lunch; Featuring a panel discussion on SDGs and the private sector

12:30-14:00 (**Plenary room**)

Parallel Session: Seeding sustainability I: pathways for change

14:00-15:30

Pathways to sustainable land systems: land as the nexus for optimising co-benefits of SDG interactions (**Wood room**)

A call for ethically grounded transdisciplinary approach for aquatic ecosystem health research and management (**Breakout room D1**)

Transforming African food systems to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security (**Breakout room D2**)

Shaping sustainable urban futures in Africa through a proactive science-practice-policy interface (**Plenary room**)

Refreshment break, Featuring Art in the Seedbeds conference

15:30-16:00

Plenary

16:00-17:00

Transformations towards a more sustainable future in Africa: Perspectives from UNECA 'Road map', from Day 1 to Day 2 of Seedbeds

Introducing the SDG labs concept

Panel

17:00-18:00

Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: the role of science in translating global governance into regional policy (**Wood room**)

Conference dinner; Featuring FameLab National Finals

18:30-21:00 (**Plenary room**)

Thursday, 10 May

Plenary

8:30-9:30

Recent IPBES Assessments: a report from the front lines

Parallel Session: Seeding sustainability II: Pathways for change

9:30-11:00

The potential of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in supporting transformational change (**Wood room**)

Supporting regional ocean planning in the Northern Mozambique Channel (**Breakout room D2**)

Methods-lab on knowledge co-production: learning from African cases (**Breakout room D1**)

Regime shifts: how changes in the structure and function of social-ecological systems could undermine the potential for achieving the SDGs (**Plenary room**)

Refreshment break

11:00-11:30

Parallel Session: Power and equity dimensions of the SDGs

11:30-13:00

How power relations affect vulnerable groups, understanding critical intersections in cities (**Wood room**)

Innovations in transgressive social learning for social ecological sustainability in times of climate change (TLearning) (**Breakout room D1**)

Poverty discourse, policy, practice, and development in Africa: Traversing critical challenges (**Breakout room D2**)

Things are not as they seem: Exploring tense links between SDGs (**Plenary room**)

Lunch

13:00-14:15

Plenary

14:15-15:45

An African perspective on 'dancing' with tensions, contradictions and opportunities in the implementation of the SDGs. Part 1 – Exploring and mapping the space (**Plenary, Breakout rooms D1 and D2, and Wood room**)

Refreshment break

15:45-16:15

Plenary

16:15-17:30

An African perspective, Part 1 *continued*.

Evening cocktail mixer – Reflections from early career change makers

17:45-19:00

Friday, 11 May

Plenary

8:30-9:00

Introducing the Transformations Forum 'Road map', from Day 2 to Day 3

Parallel Session: Seeding sustainability III: pathways for change

9:00-10:30

Exploring futures methods for creating transformative spaces: visions of a good Anthropocene in southern Africa (**Wood room**)

Collaborative long-term research at the interface: a catalyst for transformational change towards sustainability in Africa (**Breakout room D1**)

Exploring the potential of renewable energy technologies to avoid conventional (centralized-utility) energy development models in Africa and its implications for the SDGs (**Breakout room D2**)

Refreshment break

10:30-11:00

Parallel Session: Joining the dots – connecting and collaborating

11:00-12:30

How can research networks of the Future Earth framework effectively contribute to implementation of the SDGs in Africa? (**Breakout room D1**)

SDG Labs: Applying innovative approaches to addressing sustainability challenges (**Breakout room D2**)

Art and imagination in transformational processes (**Wood room**)

Lunch

12:30-13:45

Plenary

13:45-15:30

An African perspective on 'dancing' with tensions, contradictions and opportunities in the implementation of the SDGs. Part 2 – From mapping to reflections and action

Sense-making: Hearing and responding to tensions, contradictions and opportunities (**Plenary, Breakout rooms D1 and D2, and Wood room**)

Refreshment break

15:30-16:00

Plenary

16:00-16:30

An African perspective, Part 2 *continued*.

Closing session: Art and transformations

16:30-17:45 (**Plenary room**)

Saturday, 12 May

Global Sustainable Development Report Consultations of Multi-stakeholders in Africa (by invitation only)

DAY 1:

WEDNESDAY,
09 MAY

Opening Plenary
8:30 - 10:30

Opening Plenary

Chair: Andrew Kaniki, Executive Director, Knowledge Fields Development, National Research Foundation of South Africa

Welcome remarks

Mmampei Chaba, Chief Director, Multilateral Cooperation, South African Department of Science and Technology

Dorsamy (Gansen) Pillay, Deputy CEO, National Research Foundation of South Africa

Amy Luers, Executive Director, Future Earth

Cheikh Mbow, Executive Director, START

Presentations

Peter Messerli, Co-chair UN Panel for the Global Sustainable Development Report and Chair of Future Earth's Global Land Programme

The UN Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR): knowledge for transformations between global challenges and local realities

Belay Begashaw, Director General to the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa

How will Africa meet the SDGs--what are key challenges and opportunities?

Heila Lotz Sisitka, Professor, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University

The SDGs in Africa: important tensions, contradictions and opportunities

Refreshment break
10:30 - 11:00

PARALLEL SESSION
Digital futures
in Africa: science,
policy and action
11:00 - 12:30
Wood room

PARALLEL SESSION

Digital futures in Africa: science, policy and action Harnessing the 4th industrial revolution to advance the SDGs in Africa (Wood room)

Bernard Slippers (Session lead)

Director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute, University of Pretoria

Stephanie Burton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, University of Pretoria

Solomon Assefa, Director of IBM Research Africa

Walid Badawi, Country Head, United Nations Development Programme

Brian Armstrong, Head of Digital Business, University of the Witwatersrand

The rapidly advancing wave of digitalisation and cyber-technology known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution presents an enormous and significant opportunity for Africa. This comes at a key moment where rapid progress towards 21st century digitization - and all the associated technological intersections and convergences - is becoming possible on the continent. Africa is thought to be uniquely positioned to leapfrog the developmental trajectory required to take advantage of this opportunity. How can this be achieved in a way that hastens progress to achieving the SDGs on the continent, rather than leave many of Africa's people behind and disempowered?

Data governance in SDGs in Africa: Principles and stewardship (Breakout room D1)

Karoli Njau (Session lead) Vice-Chancellor,

Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science and Technology, Arusha Tanzania

Gabriel Shirima, School of Life Sciences and Bio-engineering, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology

Janeth Marwa, School of Business Studies and Humanities, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology

Joon Kim, 'Rural systems visioning' SDG Lab in Africa

Herb Rhee, Innovative Technology & Energy Center, Arusha Tanzania

Rapid changes to how data are generated, collected and processed at new scales and by new actors are transforming an increasingly complex data environment. Changes in data landscape are no exception in SDGs. Such changes are driven and intermingled by the pervasiveness of various appropriate, innovative, and common technologies that are emerging in Africa (e.g., the solar powered internet and mobile devices for data collection and use; the growing ability to gain more insights and practices from data in unanticipated ways; and the rising difficulty and importance of ensuring the data security and quality). Concepts and new approaches to data management and data monitoring (including data use) would give rise to tensions and divisions that are difficult for African communities to frame meaningful questions on how to address or accommodate them. We aim to provide operational stewardship of the data governance landscape in SDGs and to shape potential forms of data governance with a vision for data-enabled community toward sustainability.

Evidence-informed implementation of the SDGs: Challenges and opportunities (Breakout room D2)

Willem Fourie (Session lead),

Associate Professor and South African SDG Hub Coordinator, University of Pretoria

Laurenz Langer, Evidence Synthesis Specialist,

Africa Centre for Evidence, University of Johannesburg

Mapula Tshangela, Senior Policy Advisor: National Sustainable Development,

Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Fatou Leigh, Senior Economist, United Nations Development Programme, South Africa

This session focuses on challenges and opportunities related to evidence-informed implementation of the SDGs. The session will revolve around two focal initiatives: the [Africa Centre for Evidence](#)'s policy-relevant evidence mapping programme conducted in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and the University of Pretoria's [South African SDG Hub](#). The Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE) works extensively with governments across Africa on issues related to SDG-relevant themes. Their work includes research on the use of research, capacity-sharing and co-production models focused on enabling evidence-informed policy making. The South African SDG Hub is a collection of online and face-to-face initiatives aimed at creating science-policy interfaces for the effective implementation of the SDGs in South Africa.

Lunch; Featuring a panel on SDGs and the private sector

Moderator: Bertha Vallejo, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Ela Romanowska, President, Southern African Research and Innovation Management

Association and Director of Technology Transfer of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Joanne Yawitch, CEO, National Business Initiative, Senior Researcher at Ernst & Young

Gaylor Montmasson-Clair, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies, South Africa

Anne Kyomugisha, Smart Havens Africa, Uganda

Lauren Basson, GreenCape, South Africa

Ndivhuhu Raphulu, National Cleaner Production Centre, South Africa

Lunch; Featuring a panel on
SDGs and the private sector
12:30 - 14:00

Addressing the SDGs requires the joint effort of several agents; from which the private sector would be a key actor. The innovation capacity of the sector is a key characteristic needed in addressing the SDGs and creating new market opportunities and development to the regi-

ons. In the case of Africa, the nature of the private sector differs greatly between countries. Therefore we need to discuss this topic within the characteristics of the region and its very specific modes of operation. In this panel we will discuss how the private sector and the international and national development organizations interact and collaborate to link business initiatives to the SDGs; the role that PPPs and public policies have played towards facilitating the interaction of the private sector, developmental actors and the civil society, and the main barriers faced by the private sector in becoming an agent of change for the region. The panel is formed by business experts, practitioners and academics that will provide us an enriched perspective of the situation in the region.

PARALLEL SESSION
Seeding sustainability I:
pathways for change
14:00 - 15:30
Plenary room

PARALLEL SESSION

Seeding sustainability I: pathways for change Shaping sustainable urban futures in Africa through a proactive science-practice-policy interface (Plenary room)

Jess Kavonic (Session lead), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Africa Secretariat, South Africa

Coleen Vogel (Moderator) University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Patrick Musoke, City of Kampala, Uganda

Kornelia Ndapewa Ipinge, City of Windhoek and University of Windhoek, Namibia

Chipo Mubaya, Chinhoyi University, Zimbabwe

Katsia Paulavets, LIRA programme manager, ICSU

Amollo Ambole, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Alice McClure, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Kevin Eze, University of the Sahel, Nigeria

Justin Paul Visagie, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

Peter Elias, University of Lagos, Nigeria

Karim Buyana, Makerere University, Uganda

Safiétou Sanfo, WASCAL, Burkina Faso

Ngweina Magitta, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Sheillah Simiyu, Great Lakes University of Kisumu, Kenya

Africa is urbanising at a historically rapid rate, creating some of the region's greatest development challenges, but also offering tremendous opportunities for advancing sustainable development in the region. Advances in science, technology and practice have significantly contributed to the evolution of cities and will continue to do so in the future. ICLEI Africa and its partners have been effectively engaging with the interface between science, policy and practice to achieve the SDGs by adopting a variety of methodologies that effectively engage with local barriers, opportunities and challenges experienced in African cities. In addition, the project, implemented by ICSU, Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA 2030 Africa) supports collaborative research projects across Africa that explore the development of new approaches and strategies towards the innovative re-thinking of urban futures – in partnership with local authorities, industry, communities, and government.

This highly interactive and participatory session will facilitate dialogue between young career researchers, practitioners, city officials and key scientists in order to discuss and unpack a) working towards the SDGs in the diverse context of Africa with a focus on the African perspectives and priorities that can better inform and provide traction for the SDGs, the Paris Accord and other global sustainability frameworks; b) the role of science in advancing sustainable urban development in Africa; c) the lessons from practicing integrated research and implementing on the ground projects for sustainable urban development in Africa across diverse contexts and d) the knowledge gaps and key driving forces for knowledge co-design and co-production in the African urban context. These contributions are informed by real world examples from experts and the LIRA 2030 Africa community of young career researchers, all of whom work on a range of climate and resilience related projects and research.

A call for an ethically grounded transdisciplinary approach for aquatic ecosystem health research and management (Breakout room D1)

Nelson Odume (Session lead) Rhodes University

Chris De Wet, Rhodes University, South Africa

Nosiphiwe Ngqwala, Rhodes University, South Africa
Francis Arimoro, Federal University of Technology, Nigeria
Efe Ogidiaka, Delta State School of Marine Technology, Nigeria
Chik Nwaneri, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, South Africa

Goals 6 and 15 of the UN SDGs speak to the imperative for the implementation of integrated water resource management, restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems, and improving water quality. Even though substantial investment has gone to improving aquatic ecosystems, the health and functionality of these systems continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate, threatening their sustainability, as well as that of the society that depends on them. We argue that part of this problem relates to insufficient appreciation of the concept of 'ecosystem health' by ecologists, which situates it within the biophysical realm, without adequate attention to the social-economic and institutional dimensions. Ecosystem health is a value-laden concept, and therefore, we posit that, for the current trajectory of ecosystem degradation to be halted or reversed, a rethink within a multi/transdisciplinary context is necessary for the systemic integration of the ecological and social-economic dimensions of ecosystem health, and for the development of holistic multi-dimensional indicators for assessing and tracking ecosystem health. Such integration would lend itself to transforming the way in which research and practice is undertaken, with an ethically-grounded systemic approach to managing ecosystem health.

Pathways to sustainable land systems: land as the nexus for optimising co-benefits of SDG interactions (Wood room)

Ariane de Bremond, Global Land Programme - Switzerland/USA (Co-lead)
Ward Anseeuw, International Land Coalition (ILC) - (Co-lead)

Presenters:

Gete Zeleke, Director, Water and Land Resource Centre, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

Ibrahima Ka, ILC NES platform Senegal, Director of IPAR-Senegal

Frédéric Djinadja ILC NES platform Togo, Director of ADHD

Ward Anseeuw, ILC Secretariat

Ariane de Bremond, Executive Officer, Global Land Programme – Switzerland

Mahmoud Ibrahim-Mahmoud, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Tropical Environmental Sustainability Science (TESS) James Cook University (JCU) Cairns, Australia

Moderator: Peter Messerli, Professor, University of Bern, Director, Centre for Environment and Development, Co-Chair Scientific Steering Committee, Global Land Programme, Co-Chair, Global Sustainable Development Report

Land systems, embodying the relationship between human activities on land, socio-economic conditions, the natural environment, and the systems of governance that manage these interactions, are central to sustainability transformations, as they constitute the nexus of competing development claims. This session explores how civil society actors and land scientists can collaborate in order to guide and effect trajectories of change in land systems, including land governance, in Africa. Whether through identification of land-related interactions in the SDGs by scientists; efforts by global coalitions such as ILC to 'measure what counts' in monitoring SDGs; or efforts by African research organizations to facilitate evidence-informed negotiation and knowledge-based diplomacy, this session explores how challenges are being dealt with in concrete contexts throughout Africa, and will exchange experiences from session participants on what governance and policy measures can or should be harnessed as leverage points for transformation in African land systems.

Transforming African food systems to achieve sustainable food and nutrition security (Breakout room D2)

Laura Pereira (Session co-lead) Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Felix Kwabena Donkor (Session co-lead) University Witwatersrand, South Africa

Loubie Rusch, Indigenous food innovator, Local Wild, South Africa

Olive Zgambo, Food T-lab expert, Independent, Malawi

Tafadzwa Mabhaudi, Researcher, University Kwa-Zulu Natal, Zimbabwe

Kudzai Kusena, Gene bank, Zimbabwe

Scott Drimie, Southern Africa Food Lab, South Africa

Ska Mirriam Moteane, Chef, Lesotho
Luke Metelerkamp, Researcher, Center for Complex Systems in Transition, South Africa
Sandra Boatemaa (Ghana), Researcher Center for Complex Systems in Transition, South Africa
Robin Bourgeois, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Christopher Mabeza, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Zimbabwe
Philip Mbewe, Climate change specialist, University of Zambia
Samuel Tetteh Partey, CGIAR, Ghana
Tantoh Henry (Cameroon), School of Geography, University of Witwaterstrand, South Africa
Eromose Ebhuoma (Nigeria), School of Geography, University of Witwaterstrand, South Africa
Hadisu Abubakar (Nigeria), School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of the Witwaterstrand, South Africa

In this session, we will convene a mini transformative space to reflect on how a focus on transforming African food systems can help meet an integrated set of SDGs. Business as usual has not achieved a sustainable food system, but going forward there is a lot that can be learnt from ongoing initiatives on the African continent that are trying to achieve change to meet the food needs of citizens in an equitable and sustainable way. Learnings from how to do this in the food system could then be applied to other systems, like the health system to open up innovative ways to achieve sustainability in these fields. Transforming African food systems to meet food and nutrition needs in a culturally acceptable way that nurtures the environment is a critical, but complex challenge that touches on multiple SDGs. Using the lens of food, we will bring a diverse group of interested researchers and innovators to interrogate and brainstorm ways to transform models of production and consumption towards sustainability, specifically focusing on how to increase synergies between SDG goals and minimise trade-offs. Following the interactive exercise, we will then reflect on the outcomes of this exercise through discussion led by a panel of experts in food security on the continent.

Refreshment break
 15:30 - 16:00

Refreshment Break – Art in the Seedbeds conference

Dylan McGarry, Rhodes University and Luke Metelerkamp (Stellenbosch University)

Plenary
 16:00 - 17:00

Plenary

Transformations towards a more sustainable future in Africa: Perspectives from UNECA

Kasirim Nwuke, New Technologies and Innovation Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

‘Road map’, from Day 1 to Day 2 of Seedbeds

Lerato Mpofo, Reos Partners and Monica Kapiriri, Development Consultant

Introducing the SDG labs concept

Wendy Broadgate, Future Earth

Panel
 17:00 - 18:00
 Wood room

Panel

Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: the role of science in translating global governance into regional policy (Wood room)

Panelists: Ernest Foli, Peter Messerli, and Jean Albergel

Facilitators: Akiça Bahri and Cheikh Mbow

Conference dinner
 18:30 - 21:00
 Plenary room

Conference dinner (Plenary room) Featuring FameLab National Finals

The evening’s proceedings will include science talks from 8 South African researchers who represent the “new” voices in science. FameLab is an initiative of Cheltenham Science Festivals and is an international science communication competition that promotes public engagement in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and innovation. It is implemented in over 30 countries, including most recently, Brazil, Thailand, Qatar and Kazakhstan. FameLab provides a platform for the next generation of science communicators to develop their communication skills and to bridge the gap between science and society for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. FameLab South Africa is implemented in partnership between the British Council, the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA), and Jive Media Africa.

DAY 2:

THURSDAY,
10 MAY

Plenary

Recent IPBES Assessments: a report from the front lines

Bob Scholes, Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
Nadia Sitas, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

At the end of March 2018, the summaries of five IPBES Assessments were approved by member countries. They were all innovative, in different ways. The four regional assessments (Africa, America, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia-Pacific) were the implementation of an IPBES strategy to conduct regional assessments before concluding their big global assessment which is due next year, rather than after the global assessment is finalised, as is often the case in other assessment bodies. The global Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment was the first worldwide assessment on this crucial topic and is supported by results coming from the Africa regional assessment. The session will explore the learnings from the process of delivering the assessments, including a discussion on the contentious suggestion to transition from 'ecosystem services' to 'nature's contributions to people'. The format will be short presentations by people close to the various assessments, followed by a discussion including questions and viewpoints from the floor.

Plenary
8:30 - 9:30

PARALLEL SESSION

Seeding sustainability II: Pathways for change

The potential of Ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in supporting transformational change (Wood room)

Lutendo Mugwedi, (Session lead) Institute of Natural Resources NPC, Pietermaritzburg South Africa
Smiso Bhengu, eThekweni Municipality, Durban South Africa
Gilbert Siame, University of Zambia

Momad Amad, Nacala Municipality Mozambique
Armando John, Pemba Municipality Mozambique
Fernando Pequenino, Quelimane Municipality, Mozambique

Community ecosystem-based adaptation (CEBA) approaches are receiving increasing attention at local, national and international levels by governmental and non-governmental agencies seeking to ensure a more sustainable and equitable future. CEBA is an initiative that involves impoverished and vulnerable communities restoring their natural ecosystems, creating cleaner and greener neighbourhoods less dependent on costly utilities and services. However, local, national and international planning practices that support these approaches are scattered, and measures are not systematically implemented. This session aims to advance the operationalization of CEBA by showcasing how CEBA approaches can be systematically mainstreamed into local, national and international planning practices within and beyond Africa. The operationalization of CEBA approaches is critical to advance the SDGs that enhance communities' resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. Topics in this session will showcase recent advances in CEBA approaches and methodologies in Africa, which support transformational change toward greater sustainability and equity. CEBA approaches to be addressed in this session will show strong linkages to SDG 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15. This session relates to the overarching conference theme, because it aims to use science-based CEBA approaches to help the African society to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

PARALLEL SESSION
Seeding sustainability II:
Pathways for change
9:30 - 11:00
Wood room

Supporting regional ocean planning in the Northern Mozambique Channel (Breakout room D2)

*David Obura, (Session co-lead)
CORDIO East Africa/Northern Mozambique Channel Initiative, Kenya
Karen Goldberg, (Session co-lead) Reos Partners, South Africa
Agatha Ogada, East African Wildlife Society, Kenya*

The stakeholders of the TSP to develop scenarios for the Northern Mozambique Channel (NMC) presented on day 1 are part of a long term initiative for delivering on sustainable development in a multi-country, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder partnership process. The approach used for this “lab” will include marine spatial planning in the context of Integrated Ocean Management (IOM) and is about to start with a 4-year workplan that provides the context needed for this lab to contribute tangible results. The scenarios will help inform these processes, with a long term view framed by Agenda 2030.

In this session we will enrich the scenarios and how to use them through inputs from the audience. The session will be run as multiple conversations to identify what an SDG Lab or Ocean KAN Learning Network may look like for this sub-region of Africa, how it may function, and what design aspects might make this most useful at both country and regional levels. Potential elements include an SDG Lab approved for this Seedbeds Conference (Not in my ocean – reducing waste in East African coastal cities and communities), and being part of a proposed Future Earth Ocean KAN project ‘In Support of Regional Ocean Learning Networks’ (Gerhardinger et al. Jan 2018). The SDG Lab will provide a creative space within the NMC partnership to address key issues, blockages or barriers in the development of IOM. Participants to this session will play a key role in initial design for the emerging lab, and if relevant may become participants in the ongoing process.

Methods-lab on knowledge co-production: learning from African cases (Breakout room D1)

*Michael Uwemedimo (Session lead) CMAP, Human City Project, Nigeria
John van Breda, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Gabriela Wuelser and Tobias Buser, Network for Transdisciplinary Research td-net, Switzerland
Flurina Schneider, Centre for Development and Environment CDE, University of Bern, Switzerland*

This session brings together two innovative projects on sustainable urban development - Enkanini from Stellenbosch, South Africa and The Human City Project from Port Harcourt, Nigeria - with td-net’s toolbox for co-producing knowledge. This session contributes to SDG 17, substantiating how collaboration between academic and non-academic actors can be designed to support transformations towards reaching the SDGs. The projects involved in this session are developing and working with co-production methods and tools to understand complex societal and environmental problems, to deliberate on visions of more sustainable futures, and to design, elaborate and implement steps towards these more sustainable futures. The Enkanini and the Human City project both develop and work with a wide range of co-production methods, ranging from participatory visioning processes, co-designing of shelters and public buildings to community radio and video productions. Td-net’s toolbox on the other hand is offering a growing number of knowledge co-production methods suitable for various challenges and steps in transdisciplinary and participatory processes.

Regime shifts: how changes in the structure and function of social-ecological systems, could undermine the potential for achieving the SDGs. (Plenary room)

*Oonsie Biggs (Session lead) Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST), Stellenbosch University
Kristi Maciejewski, Centre for Complex Systems in Transition (CST), Stellenbosch University
Nicola Favretto, School of Earth and Environment, Leeds University
James Gambiza, Department of Environmental Science, Rhodes University
Otto Beukes, Manager for Living Lands, Baviaanskloof
Trevor, Farmworker for Living Lands, Baviaanskloof*

Regime shifts, a change in the structure and function of a social, economic, or social-ecological system may come as a surprise, are often unpredictable, and are difficult or even possible to reverse. These changes have major consequences for society and the environment, and impact on a system's resilience and possible future trajectories of change. In this session, we present a global analysis that highlights the growing risk of regime shifts and the potential implications for achieving the SDGs. Dryland degradation in the Baviaanskloof of the Eastern Cape presents a regime shift at a local scale, impacting on the provision of ecosystem services and human wellbeing. In this session, we draw on different kinds of knowledge (local and scientific) to understand the social and ecological implications of this transformation of land/land conversion over time. Ecological restoration and sustainable land management projects have been undertaken by Living Lands, that forms part of a broader Global Environment Facility 5 (GEF5) to restore this system back to its pristine state. Establishing resilience of this social-ecological system relies on identifying the main drivers responsible for this regime shift and developing tools to measure social-ecological change. This highlights the importance in understanding the causes and drivers of regime shifts such as dryland degradation. How better to anticipate and manage such changes, address the challenges of sustainability and ensure the SDG goals are met by 2030.

PARALLEL SESSION

Power and equity dimensions of the SDGs

How power relations affect vulnerable groups, understanding critical intersections in cities (Wood room)

Rike Sitas (session co-lead), African Centre for Cities and Mistra Urban Futures, South Africa
Nadia Sitas (co-lead), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

The principle of leaving no one behind enshrined in the SDGs necessitates that implementation activities aligned with the SDGs are aimed at improving the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable, irrespective of their gender, race, sexuality, age, ability, religion, location of residence. In decision making contexts many of these variables are either tackled in isolation or are addressed in an additive manner, when in reality these variables interact in complex and often surprising ways. Improving the understanding of these interconnections and how they are mediated by power at both local and broader scales is fundamental to identifying important leverage points in systems where transformative actions that benefit both people and the biosphere that supports them can be implemented. This session seeks to advance conversations on traversing critical challenges, especially those related to how power can exclude people, knowledge types, lived-experiences often in relation to their social and geographic positionality, and how these intersections need to be included into decision-making processes in order to promote more equitable development.

Innovations in transgressive social learning for social ecological sustainability in times of climate change (TLearning) (Breakout room D1)

Gibson Mphepo (Session lead), Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University South Africa

Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa

Dylan McGarry, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa

Sosten Chiotha, Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa, Malawi

Mutizwa Mukute, Education, Environmental Education & Sustainability Unit, Rhodes University, South Africa

Million Belay, MELCA Ethiopia/ Alliance for food sovereignty in Africa/ Stockholm Resilience Centre, Ethiopia

Abebayehu Kassaye, MELCA Ethiopia, Ethiopia

Kuda Mudokwani, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa

Tichaona Pesanayi, Environmental Learning Research Centre, Rhodes University, South Africa

Elida Mateketa, Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa, Malawi

Refreshment break
11:00 - 11:30

PARALLEL SESSION
Power and equity
dimensions of the SDGs
11:30 - 13:00

The main objective of this multi-country, multi-site research programme supported by the ISSC Transformations to Sustainability initiative, is to identify, investigate and expand the emergence and qualities of T-learning processes in response to nexus concerns in times of climate change. In Africa a number of case studies of T-learning are emerging (South Africa, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia) within this wider programme. In this interactive panel exchange session we will explore the qualities and processes of T-learning in transformations to sustainability. This includes inter-alia: (1) creating spaces for building trust, empathy, imagination through changing practices; (2) Working with people's/communities direct matters of concern in participatory and dialogical ways; (3) bringing new knowledge and action to the fore for engaging learning challenges at the climate-water-energy-food security-social justice nexus; (4) encouraging change-oriented learning actions that are critical, expansive and creative and that are generative across multiple levels; (5) to use narrative and aesthetic approaches to accommodate multiple ways of knowing and to be transgressive and challenging, yet morally intuitive and empathetic. The session will explore:

- *What do transformation and transgression mean in practical terms at society level?
- *What are qualities and processes of T-learning?
- *How can they engage and traverse critical challenges?
- *Why are generative disruptions interesting for transformations to sustainability and what role for T-learning?
- *What in policy needs to be shifted for T-learning to be realised across society?
- *How relevant is T-learning research to the global goals, and what kind of T-learning do we need given current urgency for transformations?

Things are not as they seem: Exploring tense links between SDGs (Plenary room)

Odinlwe Selomane, (Session co-lead), Stockholm Resilience Centre

Andrea Downing (Session co-lead), Stockholm Resilience Centre

Samuel Assembe Mvondo, Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Cameroon

Million Belay, MELCA Ethiopia/ Alliance for food sovereignty in Africa/ Stockholm Resilience Centre, Ethiopia

Grace Wong, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Malaysia

Amanda Jiménez Aceituno, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Spain

Avit Bhowmik, Future Earth, Bangladesh

Liezl le Roux, Living Lands, South Africa

Ancia Cornelius, Living Lands, South Africa

Our session examines tensions and surprises between SDG targets using case studies from Ethiopia, Cameroon, Tanzania and Mozambique. These discussions will be complemented by a long-term perspective, looking at future trajectories to 2030, 2050 and beyond and how the envisioned transformation to sustainability can be realized. One example of a tension occurs when national agriculture planning (SDG 2B), "to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets" may promote large-scale agriculture at the expense of the smallholder and poor farmers, thereby creating trade-offs with SDG 2.3, which aims to double the productivity and incomes of small scale producers, and SDGs 1.4 and 5A, which aim to ensure ownership and control over land of the poor and women. Surprising linkages between SDGs may also appear in grassroot development projects, for example, the design of a school that fits local, cultural and ecological contexts, SDG 4A (build educational facilities), grew to affect 11.3, i.e., supporting inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participation in planning. We look for systemic barriers or synergies from efforts to implement sustainable development by isolating systemic trade-offs and synergies. Participants will identify examples of transformations needed to achieve a sustainable future.

Poverty discourse, policy, practice, and development in Africa: Traversing critical challenges (Breakout room D2)

Tunde Oseni (Session lead),

Department of Politics & International Relations, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria

Olufemi Badru, Department of Politics & International Relations,

Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria

Sharon Omotoso, Gender Studies Program, Institute of African Studies,

University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

*Aderonke Adegbite, Department of Private and Business Law,
Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria*
*Ajibola Akanji, Department of Politics & International Relations,
Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria*

The session consists of strands of arguments and propositions on poverty policy discourse within the contexts of structure and agency; exploring as it were, the state capacity, group dynamics, social policy, legal institutions and gender dimensions. Insights offered here point to a common denominator: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a critical and workable model for tackling poverty and social inequalities in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general. Specifically, the session dissects the issue of poverty from multi-disciplinary perspectives including politico-policy, legal-institutional, gendered-feminist, ethico-philosophical, socio-legal and admin-co-operative angles. At the methodological level, the essays make use of largely qualitative data, delving into the multiple dimensions, causes, and consequences of, as well as solutions to, poverty in Africa. Secondary data are subjected to critical-contextual analysis. Empirical cases are drawn from Africa, especially Nigeria.

Lunch
13:00 - 14:15

Plenary session

An African perspective on 'dancing' with tensions, contradictions and opportunities in the implementation of the SDGs

Plenary session
14:15 - 17:30

(With refreshment break
15:45-16:15)

Part 1 – Exploring and mapping the space (Plenary, Breakout rooms D1 and D2, and Wood room)

Much of the experience of working with complex issues and change processes related to the SDGs highlights that there are many challenges in navigating different expectations, knowledges, perspectives, stakeholdings, needs, issues and crises. These often manifest as a need to work with different tensions. For example, tensions are likely to exist between the different SDGs or issues involved (e.g. water versus food versus energy); others relate to process and approaches to implementation, while further tensions are embedded in implicit assumptions underpinning the goals such as the extent to which holism versus focus may be desired or the degree to which direction versus participation may be required. Such tensions represent dilemmas that cannot easily be reconciled and for which there is no single right way to approach them.

Seedbeds provides a unique opportunity for both identifying and exploring tensions from an African perspective, where many researchers and practitioners are trying to make sense of how to work towards delivering the SDGs, or have already developed innovative alternatives to working with the SDGs. By exploring tensions through a process of facilitated dialogue, this plenary session will:

- 1) Identify the different tensions involved in implementing the SDGs;
- 2) Identify different practices and approaches to working with tensions and dilemmas, and towards opportunities, from an African perspective;
- 3) Enhance dialogue and openness about the challenges of working with, and to implement, the SDGs.

Description of the session: This session will provide a shared space for all conference participants to explore different types of SDG-related tensions and ways of working with these (transforming tensions into opportunities). The session will consist of 90 minutes and an additional 80 minutes after, working within several subgroups contained in four large groups.

The session will begin with three rounds of facilitated conversation focusing on:

- 1) Sharing a context-specific experience of tensions and contradictions encountered in working on SDG/transformations related issues or specific SDG implementation. Participants will bring an object with them that represent their work on the SDGs that will serve to trigger the initial round of conversations.

2) Building on these context-specific experiences, the groups will then explore practices and approaches that they have worked with in seeking to address these tensions and contradictions. And how they have navigated these and in doing so begin to turn them into opportunities.

3) However skilful/experienced one becomes, there are always new tensions to encounter. In this step, participants will describe and share what their current 'learning edge' is – sharing an example of tensions, dilemmas, contradictions that they are currently confronting.

Following this three rounds of interaction, the participants will map the material that has come out of the three rounds of conversations, so that everyone can get a sense of the bigger picture emerging, including the diversity of tensions/contradictions, ways of working with these, and 'learning edges'. As part of the sense-making, the session facilitators will ask people to respond to the map/s once these are completed.

Cocktail Mixer
Featuring early career
researchers
17:45 - 19:00

Cocktail Mixer

Reflections from early career change makers

The Seedbeds conference will bring together a highly diverse community of early career change-makers, including academic activists, ecological citizens, environmental educators, transformations practitioners, and many more. The early career change-makers at Seedbeds invite conference participants to an informal reflective session to explore the qualities and processes of our work, and what we need to consider to create a transformations community "worthy of our collective longing". Join us for an immersive evening session with a view on the ocean, where snacks and refreshments will be provided.

DAY 3:

FRIDAY,
11 MAY

Plenary

Introducing the Transformations Forum

Dylan McGarry, Rhodes University and Ioan Fazey, University of Dundee

'Road map', from Day 2 to Day 3

Lerato Mporfu, Reos Partners

Plenary 8:30 - 9:00

PARALLEL SESSION

Seeding sustainability III: pathways for change 9:00 - 10:30

Exploring futures methods for creating transformative spaces: visions of a good Anthropocene in southern Africa (Wood room)

Rika Preiser (Session Lead),

Center for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Oonsie Biggs, Global SoGA project, Center for Complex Systems in Transition, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Tanja Hichert, Hichert and Associates, Cape Town, South Africa

PARALLEL SESSION
Seeding sustainability III:
pathways for change
9:00 - 10:30
Wood room

The scale of human changes to the Earth have shepherded us into a new planetary era – the Anthropocene. In this new geological era, humanity faces profound social and ecological risks. These profound challenges are reflected in an abundance of scientific and popular visions of future collapse and hardship. To date, the global change community has produced very few positive visions of more desirable, just, and sustainable future global outcomes for society and nature, or strategies that identify how to achieve such desirable futures. This session presents the “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes” initiative that is soliciting, exploring, and developing a diverse set of plausible visions of futures that are socially and ecologically desirable, just, and sustainable. By drawing on upon long-standing collaborative project called “Seeds of Good Anthropocenes” which aims to foster novel methods for identifying plausible pathways to sustainable futures, this session will convene a multi-actor interactive dialogue to share some of the methods and initial insights that have been developed to envision alternative sustainability transformations in the southern African context. This session will focus on work within the science-policy-practice interface and seeks to address some of the 3 challenges set out in the conference call.

Collaborative long-term research at the interface: a catalyst for transformational change towards sustainability in Africa (Breakout room D1)

Hervé Fritz, (Session Lead) Director of the CNRS Hwange Zone Atelier in Zimbabwe, and adjunct professor at the Sustainability Research Unit.

Bianca Currie, Director of the Sustainability Research Unit in Nelson Mandela University.

Christo Fabricius, associated with the Sustainability Research Unit

Chloé Guerbois, post-doctoral researcher in the Sustainability Research Unit

Dirk Roux, Specialist Researcher in SANParks, South Africa and adjunct professor at the Sustainability Research Unit

Lyn Snodgrass, Department of Psychology at the Nelson Mandela University and member of the Sustainability Research Unit.

PhD students of the Nelson Mandela University Sustainability Research Unit include Ms Zanele Hartmann, Mr Current Masunungure, and Ms Sam McCulloch will help facilitate and record dialogue outcomes.

We consider collaborative long-term research as a true seedbed for transformation which can provide key insights into slow processes of environmental and social change. The benefits of long term research is especially pertinent in transformations towards sustainability and the pervasive environmental problems embodied in the Sustainable development goals. Long-term

collaborative research exists at the interface of a) different academic disciplines; b) academics, policy actors and resource users; and c) different land uses, could be a game-changer in Africa. Combining citizen's science with participation by resource users and officials, over a long period (decades rather than years) could shed new light on the efficacy of development interventions. This type of collaborative action research, accompanied by constant reflection and learning, could also provide new insights and perspectives on sustainable development and the consequences of development interventions aimed at improving human well-being.

Exploring the potential of renewable energy technologies to avoid conventional (centralized-utility) energy development models in Africa and its implications for the SDGs (Breakout room D2)

Joseph Adelegan (Session lead) Founder, Green Globe SME Funds, Accra, Ghana
Femi Fatola, Managing Director, TLRS Nigeria Enterprises, Lagos, Nigeria
Sunday Falaye, CEO, Econergco, Lagos, Nigeria
Mmaduabuchukwu Mkpado, Department of Agricultural Economics, Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria
Sharon Omotoso, Gender Studies Program, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

Energy supply will need to at least double in Africa by 2030 to meet the expected surge in demand. Africa has significant renewable energy potential (through solar, wind, hydropower, and modern biomass) and African nations are in a special position to largely avoid the conventional centralized-utility model for providing energy. Now is the time for robust planning to ensure the proper energy mix. At present, various African leaders see the potential that renewables present their nations, and this vision is reflected in the announced targets and national energy plans. Policies are important to build capacity in local financial sectors to increase access to loans and other forms of financing attract, to share costs and risks, and utilize private capital include public-private partnerships. Thus, significant new business activities are possible if this opportunity can be realized.

This session will examine the renewable energy-government-business landscape in Africa. This will include providing the contextual framework of renewable energy deployment in Africa, technologies to harness renewable energy resources, what is needed to create an enabling policy and regulatory framework for renewables, critical perspectives around gender mainstreaming in renewable energy development, and innovative financial mechanism and instruments for clean energy development.

Refreshment break
10:30 - 11:00

PARALLEL SESSION
Joining the dots: connecting
and collaborating
11:00 - 12:30
Breakout room D1

PARALLEL SESSION

Joining the dots: connecting and collaborating

How can research networks of the Future Earth framework effectively contribute to implementation of the SDGs in Africa? (Breakout room D1)

Flurina Schneider and Theresa Tribaldos, Centre for Development and Environment, Switzerland
Jackie Olang (NASAC), Katsia Paulavets (ICSU), Vivi Stavrou (ISSC), Coleen Vogel: Lira 2030 in Africa, Wits University
Heila Lotz-Sisitka, T-learning transformative knowledge network, Rhodes University, South Africa
Jackie Olang, Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), Kenya
Bob Scholes, Wits University, South Africa
Oonsie Biggs, SRC, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Ariane de Bremond, Global Land Programme (GLP), Bern University, Switzerland
Peter Messerli, Global Land Programme (GLP), Bern University, Switzerland
Vasna Ramasar, Earth System Governance (ESG), Lund University, Sweden
Shuaib Lwasa, Urban Knowledge Action Network (Urban KAN), Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
Sandrine Paillard, Water-Energy-Food Nexus Knowledge Action Network (Nexus KAN), Future Earth, France
Tobias Buser, Gabriela Wülser, Network for Transdisciplinary Research (td-net), Switzerland

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses the fundamental role science should play for implementation of the 17 SDGs. In this context, the Future Earth platform encourages the scientific community to engage in co-production of knowledge together with societal actors to generate the knowledge needed to support sustainability transformations. To achieve this aim, several international sustainability research networks are currently working on novel approaches, organising conferences, webinars or working groups dedicated to the issue, designing science-policy-interfaces, or studying best practices. However, many networks involved are challenged to implement collaborative approaches within their structures and creating conditions which are truly favourable for co-production. A major reason for this challenge is the global scope of these networks. How can global scale, international research networks effectively foster the production of knowledge relevant for key actors in the implementation of the SDGs in Africa? In particular, how can these networks foster knowledge production that truly considers African perspectives and needs regarding the SDGs? And how can African perspectives be integrated into global frameworks so that global priorities are relevant to actors on the ground in Africa. The session aims to jointly explore how international sustainability research networks, together with regional partners, can work towards creating the knowledge needed for implementation of the SDGs in Africa, and beyond.

SDG Labs: Applying innovative approaches to addressing sustainability challenges (Breakout room D2)

This is an interactive session for the SDG Labs, a concept to address complex sustainability problems in a local, hands-on, and innovative way. They are multi-stakeholder processes where research meets local practitioners and traditional knowledge-holders. The aspiration of the SDG labs is that they plant seeds of change that can grow and spread, inspire and provide knowledge for transformation on a greater scale. A call was opened for SDG Labs Africa up front the Seedbeds conference and a large number of proposals have come in from all Africa. Thirteen labs were selected for funding and will commence before the conference. These are:

[Vegetable Production and Its Contributions to Sustainability in Ghana](#), Crops Research Institute (Ghana): Dr. Stephen Yeboah, Dr. Patricia Oteng-Darko (CSIR), Agyeman Kingsley (Ministry of Food and Agriculture), Dr. Logah Vincent Kwame Nkrumah (University of Science and Technology), Dr. Shirley Lamptey (University for Development Studies)

[Gen Must Go: Limiting the Impacts of Fossil Fuel Generators in Lagos and Dakar](#), Centre for Development Studies, University of the Sahel, (Nigeria/Senegal): Dr. Kevin Eze (University of the Sahel), Dr. Thiam Khady (University Teaching Hospital), Dr. Ben Okike (University of Lagos Country), Dr. Maguette Ndiaye (Polytechnic University Country, Senegal)

[AirQo: Low-cost and Participatory Air Pollution Monitoring](#), Makerere University (Uganda): Dr. Engineer Bainomugisha (Makerere University), Dr. Najib Bateganya Lukooya, John Paul Sajjabi (Kampala Capital City Authority), Michael Smith (University of Sheffield), Ssematimba Joel, Mugagga Pius (Makerere University)

[Reinventing the wheel: cycling as a mode of mobility in Africa](#), Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt): Dr. Mohamed Mehaina, Ahmed Sabry, Mina Nader, Mohamed el Farargy, Essam Barakat, Mohamed Hafez (Bibliotheca Alexandrina), Dr. Zeyad el Sayad, (Alexandria University), Heba Attia Mousa (TU Berlin Campus El Gouna), Ahmed El-Dorghamy (Green Arm - Center for Environment & Development in the Arab Region & Europe, CEDARE), Dr. Mohamed Shaaban (Special Assistant to the Alexandria Governor)

[Establishing a road-map for Africa's first Decision-Theatres](#), CSIR, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa): Greg Schreiner (CSIR/University of Witwatersrand), Luanita Snyman-van der Walt (CSIR), Bob Scholes (University of the Witwatersrand), Phil Hobbs, Cheri Green, Elsona van Huyssteen, Gerbrand Mans, Pierre du Plessis, Zukisa Songoni, Dr. Pravesh Debba (CSIR), Cillié Malan (Strategic Alliances), Crescent Mushwana (Energy Centre), Quentin Williams (Meraka), Tendani Tsedu (CSIR), Roseanne Diab (Academy of Sciences South Africa), Paul Hardcastle, Henri Fortuin (Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning), Charles Parkerson (South African Local Government Agency)

[Collaborative approach to dealing with Groundwater contamination in Lusaka](#), ENVAROS, (Zambia): Evans Tembo, Annie Kalusa (ENVAROS), Dr. Joe Kabika (University of Zambia), Abraham Ncheke (Chainama College of Health Sciences), Bernard Miti (Zambia WASH Advocacy Network)

[Supporting wedged fisheries post-projects activities for Tampolo protected area for sustainable activities](#), MFCC, Madagascar Forest Company Corporation (Madagascar): Patrick Laby (ESSA-Forêts), Andry Ny Aina Rabezanaahary, Ntsiva Andriatsitohaina (MFCC), Malalatiiana Rakotoarivony, Hortense Rina Mandimbiniaina (ESSA-Forêts)

[Harnessing the demographic dividend for enhanced food security and disaster risk reduction](#), University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa/Mozambique): Felix Kwabena Donkor (University of the

Witwatersrand), Faruk Pires Semedo Mamugy (Universidade Eduardo Modlane, Mozambique), Enokwa Ojong (Rhodes University, South Africa), Henry Tantoh (University of Witwaterstrand-South Africa), Eromose Ebhuoma (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)

Baobab Talker, NM-AIST, Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (Tanzania): Adolph Mboya, Yohana Sintoo, Karoli Njau (NM-AIST), Joon Kim (Seoul National University, Republic of Korea)

Citizen implication for clean seaside city towards sustainable tourism, Universite d'Antananarivo (Madagascar): Tahinjanahary Rina Hortense Mandimbiniaina, Malalatianna Rakotoarivony (ESSA-Forêts), Ntsiva Andriatsitohaina, AndryNyAina Rabezanahary (Madagascar Forest Company Corporation MFCC), Patrick Laby (ESSA-Forêts)

Citizen Sciences: Strengthening Ecologies of Knowledges, Rhodes University (South Africa): Sheraine van Wyk, Morakane Madiba, Priya Vallabh, Ferrial Adams (Rhodes University)

Private Sector Engagement in the Management of Water and Coastal Resource in Tanzania, Tanzania Water Partnership (Tanzania): Victor Kongo, Hosea Sanga (Ministry of Water and Irrigation), Dr. Madaka Tumbo (Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam), Onesmo Sigala (2030 Water Resources Group Worldbank/IFC), Dr. Mathias Igulu (WWF, Tanzania), Ruth Sabai (Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania), Ally Kondo (Tanzania Electric Supply Company), Jeremiah Dafa (Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership)

Not in my ocean. Reducing marine debris in a coastal city, CORDIO East Africa (Kenya): David Obura, Lenice Ojwang, Mishal Gudka, Randall Mabwa, James Mbugua, Clay Obota (CORDIO)

The SDG Labs Africa organizers will present what they have done and what they plan to do in the four months that the Labs will run after the conference. Seedbeds participants are invited to listen in to, provide feedback and perhaps support for, the Labs.

Art and imagination in transformational processes (Wood room)

Luke Metelerkamp (Session Lead), Centre For Complex Systems In Transition, University of Stellenbosch

Dr. Rika Preiser, Centre For Complex Systems In Transition, University of Stellenbosch
Invited street artists from Port Elizabeth

Today's global sustainability challenges place significant transformational demands on modern societies. Such transformational change requires a set of capacities across individual and collective scales which are not yet very well understood. Art, and artistic forms of understanding and representation offer powerful approaches for diverse and divided publics to collectively grapple with complexity and uncertainty. At the same time, artists have a role to play in the construction of social narratives and our shared imaginings of the future. Public art in particular, and the claiming of public spaces for social purposes by artist-activists, represents a key opportunity for engaging the public imagination, opening up spaces for divided publics to participate in the collective imagining and actioning. Public art globally has a long and proven track record in creating spaces for new democratic practices of civil participation that challenge the status quo.

In recognition of art's role, and the need to deepen collaboration and dialog between artists and scientists, an open call has been issued to local artists interested in collaborating with this global gathering of scientists, activists and policy makers in order to explore new ways of applying the power of public art to achieve the 17 SDGs. This session will take the form of an interactive gallery discussion, providing an experimental platform for local artists to respond to the proceedings of the conference in their given mediums.

Lunch

12:30 - 13:45

Plenary session

13:45 - 15:30

Plenary session:

An African perspective on 'dancing' with tensions, contradictions and opportunities in the implementation of the SDGs

Part 2 – From 'mapping' to reflections and action

This session follows from the previous afternoon's work. It involves hearing and responding to the array of tensions/contradictions/opportunities work from day 2, and 'Seed-bedding' that involves bringing these initial reflections and learning from the whole conference towards key recommendations and potential areas of action around the SDGs in Africa.

Sense-making: Hearing and responding to tensions, contradictions and opportunities

The session will begin with presentation of overnight synthesis work on the mapping that took place on day 2, and will feature 'super-clusters' of tensions, approaches and learning edges that parallel the sequence done in the previous day. Following that, there will be a facilitated plenary reflection to gain a shared sense of how this whole process has resonated in different ways for different participants. The conversation will be structured around sifting out shared themes, but also outliers, moving from tensions to approaches and ending with learning edges (e.g. what are some of the most challenging contradictions, and are there ways people have found of dancing through these?). Facilitators will map the emerging conversations on large boards and these will provide the basis for key messages.

'Seedbedding': Bringing initial reflections and learning towards action.

The plenary will break into small groups to reflect on the conversations and experiences that have occurred – either in the 'tensions' plenary work or at other sessions or through networking conversations. What are key 'nuggets' arising from this conference that you would like to see progressed in some way? These could be:

Ideas for you to take forward: New insights/approaches you would like to progress within the initiatives that you are working on. Or The seeds of new initiatives – what would such initiatives be addressing, who would they involve?

Ideas for the partners to take forward: Recommendations to Future Earth and the other conference organisers

Ideas for other to take forward: Recommendations for others. What needs to be taken forward by key influencers and various decision makers? What are the messages for them?

Seedbedding ideas will be recorded in the context of "what I would like to see coming out of the conference." Each participant will write down one seedbed idea – these will be collected by the facilitators to allow further elaboration of what came out of the three days – and some examples of these will be presented at the final session after the tea break.

Plenary session

An African perspective, *continued*.

Closing session

Art and transformations (Plenary room)

This final session will explore the role of arts in the transformations space, and the important role that art and artistic forms can play in grappling with complexity and uncertainty. This sessions will feature a 'social sculpture' music performance, interpretive work by Port Elizabeth street artists, and a performance by the Africa Drumbeats group.

Refreshment break
15:30 - 16:00

Plenary session
16:00-16:30

Closing session
Art and transformations
16:30-17:45
Plenary room

Saturday

12 MAY
Side Event

Global Sustainable Development Report Consultations of multi-stakeholders in Africa

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was mandated by the United Nations Member States for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-Level Political Forum, with a first report due at the end of 2019. An independent group of fifteen scientists (IGS) is currently drafting the report, which will provide guidance on the state of global sustainable development and transformative pathways. The report will help address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by highlighting emerging trends and acting as

a science-policy interface. Transformative pathways to achieve the 2030 Agenda will be a central question addressed by the report, along with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) interactions towards policy coherence. Since these pathways are regional and country specific, the GSDR opened a consultation process across regions to reach out to local experts for their contribution and views on the report content.

Within this context, the IGS is convening this multi-stakeholders consultation workshop in Africa on the 12th of May (**by invitation only**), as a side event to the Seedbeds of Transformation conference

taking place in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. With the support of the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) – University of Bern, and Future-Earth, this consultation process aims to gather high-level African scientists, governments across the continent, development experts, African stakeholders from civil society and the private sector for their contributions and views on the GSDR content.

An ice-breaking event will be held on the 11th evening at the Alliance Française of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

seedbeds.futureearth.org

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