



Global Congress on Ecosystems
Rehabilitation and Restoration

GLOBAL CONGRESS ON ECOSYSTEMS REHABILITATION & RESTORATION (GCERR) 2026

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACTION



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

GLOBAL CONGRESS ON ECOSYSTEMS REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION (GCERR) 2026

MAIN THEME: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACTION

DATES
3 – 6 AUGUST 2026

VENUE
MANGOSUTHU UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY

REGISTRATION
EARLY BIRD R4 500
STUDENT R2 800
LATE R5 200
MASTER CLASS (Incl.)

INVITATION

The Faculty of Applied and Health Sciences and the GCERR 2026 invite researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, communities, innovators, and industry leaders to submit abstracts that advance ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration as a credible pathway to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under the main theme **Sustainable Development Goals in Action**, GCERR 2026 will spotlight solutions that move beyond ambition into implementation. The Congress will showcase evidence, tools, governance models, and community-led approaches that restore degraded ecosystems while strengthening livelihoods, food security, resilient settlements, and aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.

We welcome contributions across terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine environments, with a strong emphasis on work that demonstrates measurable impact, scalability, and real-world application.



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CONGRESS SUB-THEMES FOR 2026

THEME 1: NO POVERTY TO ZERO HUNGER

Inclusive livelihoods, food security, and sustainable agriculture through restoration

Poverty and hunger intensify when ecosystems fail. Degraded soils, invaded landscapes, polluted water sources, and declining biodiversity weaken local economies and undermine food systems. This theme positions ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration as a development solution that restores productive capacity, strengthens household resilience, and creates dignified livelihood opportunities. GCERR 2026 welcomes abstracts that demonstrate how restoration improves nutrition, incomes, and climate resilience, while ensuring equity and benefit-sharing for vulnerable communities.

Social inclusion, gender, youth pathways, and equitable benefit-sharing

THEME 2: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION FOR LIFE BELOW WATER

Circular economies, clean waters, and sustainable blue resources through restoration

Aquatic and marine restoration cannot succeed where pollution and extractive pressures continue unchecked. This theme calls for abstracts that connect responsible production and consumption to the rehabilitation and restoration of rivers, estuaries, coastlines, and ocean ecosystems. GCERR 2026 invites work that addresses upstream drivers such as waste systems, plastics, industrial discharge, and agricultural runoff, alongside restoration interventions that rebuild water quality, habitat integrity, biodiversity, fisheries productivity, and coastal protection.

THEME 3: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES FOR LIFE ON LAND

Nature-positive settlements, urban biodiversity, and landscape recovery through restoration

Cities and communities depend on functioning ecosystems for water security, climate regulation, health, and biodiversity. Rapid development, infrastructure expansion, and poor land-use planning often fragment habitats and increase risks such as flooding and heat stress. This theme invites abstracts that demonstrate how ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration can shape sustainable settlements, including the restoration of urban rivers and wetlands, the rehabilitation of degraded public open spaces, strengthened ecological corridors, and the protection of the terrestrial ecosystems that sustain cities through catchments and surrounding landscapes.



CROSS-CUTTING ABSTRACT TRACKS

Submissions aligned to any theme are encouraged to integrate one or more of the following:

- Restoration governance, policy, and law
- Indigenous knowledge systems and community leadership
- Restoration economics, financing, and sustainable business models
- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and verification of restoration outcomes
- Climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits of restoration
- Innovation and tools, including remote sensing, AI, eDNA, drones, and open data
- Education, training, and workforce development for restoration
- Ethics, equity, safeguards, and benefit-sharing in restoration initiatives

WHO SHOULD SUBMIT?

GCERR 2026 welcomes submissions from:

- Universities and research institutions
- Government departments, conservation agencies, and protected area authorities
- Municipalities, catchment forums, and planning bodies
- NGOs, CBOs, and community cooperatives
- Environmental consultants and restoration practitioners
- Private sector partners and green economy innovators
- Students and early-career professionals

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract types: Research, case study, policy analysis, methods and tools, community-based practice, innovation, and enterprise.

Recommended structure: Title; authors and affiliations; background and problem statement; methods or approach; key results or expected outcomes; restoration relevance and impact; practical implications for implementation and scale; and 3-5 keywords.

- Length: 250-350 words recommended
- Language: English
- Presentation preference: Oral, Poster, or Video (final allocation subject to programme design)
- Submit abstracts: <https://forms.gle/DAL2ScMotEEpxPZB7>

REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Fee (ZAR)	Approx. USD*
Early Bird	R4,500.00	\$278
Student	R2,800.00	\$173
Late	R5,200.00	\$321

(*) The rates are subject to change.

For registration, please follow the link: <https://forms.gle/Jb2wCC6vX67ZQKsPA>



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. S.A. Materechera – North-West University, South Africa
Prof. D. Naidoo – Mangosuthu University of Technology, South Africa
Prof. R.N. Akoto – University of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ghana
Prof. S. Chiotha – LEAD Southern and Eastern Africa, Malawi
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Prof. M. Syakalima – University of Zambia, Zambia
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Dr M. Ndlovu – University of Mpumalanga, South Africa

