



**RICS**<sup>®</sup>

# Africa Conference: Diversity, Innovation, Sustainability

Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Sandton International Convention Centre, 161 Maude Street,  
Sandton





### Type of event

Face to face



### CPD Hours

5.5  
Formal

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This year's edition of the Africa Summit sees a collaboration with the Women's Property Network to provide leading insight into some of the continent's pressing issues, focussing on Diversity, Innovation and Sustainability.

Sustainability is the first of three key themes this conference will explore. With global pressure continuing to mount on Africa to adopt more green and sustainable practices, expert speakers will come together to discuss what role the continent should play in tackling climate change.

The second key theme for this year's conference is diversity, with speakers discussing DEI initiatives and what is needed to build a diverse workforce capable of supporting and growing the sector for years to come.

Finally industry leaders will investigate the innovative technologies and practices allowing the sector to grow and flourish. A panel discussion will bring experts together to share knowledge on best practices, with real life examples of how a forward-thinking approach can allow the sector to overcome its challenges.

Join us in shaping the narrative, fostering collaboration, and building a resilient workforce for generations to come.



**Time zone:**

SAST

7:30

## Registration

8:30

## Chair's opening remarks

**Kura Chihota**, Regional Property Consultant, eXp South Africa

8:40

## Africa: Broad economic overview

The opening presentation for the day will set the scene on the economic landscape in Africa, identifying trends throughout the continent and what opportunities may arise in 2024.

Speaker: **Liandra da Silva**, Specialist Economist, Nedbank Group

9:10

## Africa's role in tackling climate change

Following COP28 and pressure from around the world to implement more sustainable practices, we will explore the role of Africa in tackling climate change in this keynote address. This presentation will set out what pressures are being placed on Africa to improve its sustainability but also explore what responsibility Africa really holds.

Speaker: **Lenore Cairncross**, Green Building Lead for Africa, IFC, World Bank Group

9:30

## The race against a changing climate - Panel Discussion

This panel discussion will explore how climate change is impacting new development, sharing thoughts on how new developments can be prepared for within changing climates and more extreme weather conditions.

- Climate resilience for new developments - investment considerations.
- Mitigate the impact of climate change on commercial real estate assets.
- The relationship between energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions.

Speaker(s): **Tanya dos Santos**, Part Time Faculty at GIBS on Climate Leadership and Sustainability & Former Global Head of Sustainability at Investec Group

**Anelisa Keke**, Consultant

**PC Potgieter**, Sustainability Manager, Fortress Real Estate

10:30

## Networking refreshment break



## Time zone:

SAST

11:00

### Promoting DEI initiatives across the continent

As diverse role models in Africa are continuing to make strides in the industry, it is imperative to support and motivate for a more diverse workforce. Discussion will focus on what obstacles are present in the sector for new entrants and what assistance can be provided for a new generation of women to excel in the industry.

Speaker: **Judy Rugasira**, Managing Director, Knight Frank Uganda

12:00

### Recruiting diverse talent & building a workforce for the future

The panellists will share successful strategies for recruiting, hiring and retaining diverse talent, as well as discussing the importance of accessibility for individuals with disabilities in the workplace. Finally panellists will explore how DEI initiatives differ and adapt in various cultural and global contexts.

Speaker(s): **Shevira Bissessor**, Chief Operating Officer, Gateway Real Estate Africa **Judy Rugasira**, Managing Director, Knight Frank Uganda  
**Tandi Jacobs**, General Manager, Internal Developers

13:00

### Lunch

14:00

### Urbanization challenges

This keynote address will delve into the multifaceted challenges posed by rapid urbanization in Africa, focusing on key areas that demand strategic attention. By understanding the key issues Africa can navigate the complexities of urbanization, fostering resilient and thriving cities for generations to come.

- Managing rapid urbanization
- Sustainable Urban Planning and Infrastructure Development
- Upgrading settlements

Speaker: **Professor Phillip Harrison**, SA Research Chair in Spatial Analysis & City Planning, University of Witwatersrand



## Time zone:

SAST

14:40

### Tech and innovation in Africa: what is happening, what will be happening

Our expert speakers will help guide us through the dynamic landscape of technology and innovation in Africa. Starting by offering a comprehensive overview of the current state of tech and innovation on the continent before examining current use cases and their impact on everyday life in 2024. Finally, our discussion will look ahead into what's next and explore the various opportunities that lie ahead.

Speakers:

**Will Harris**, CEO, Gmaven

**Patrick Katabua** FRICS, KATAFRICA Strategic Solutions

15:15

### Networking refreshment break

15:45

### The future of housing in Africa

This session will explore housing through the lense of one of today's key themes. Our speaker will touch on what the global energy transition means for African housing delivery. Covering areas such as finance, policy, project procurement, and end-user affordability. Discussion will involve the challenges and lessons we can learn from the US affordable housing markets as we think about positioning Africa's young housing market.

Speaker: **Jackline Okeyo**, Founder & CEO, Mzansi Clean Energy Capital

16:15

### Chair's closing remarks

16:45

### Networking and cocktail reception

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

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