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Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

9th Biennial National Landcare Conference (2026)

28 – 30 September 2026

ICC - KuGompo

Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

1. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The National Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture, invites submissions for papers, presentations, and case studies for the **9th Biennial National Landcare Conference (2026)**.

The Landcare Programme is a flagship initiative promoting sustainable land management, climate resilience, and community-based natural resource management across South Africa. The 2026 Conference will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collaboration among stakeholders from South Africa, the African continent, and the global community.

2. CONFERENCE THEME

“Strengthening Community Stewardship for Sustainable Land Restoration and Climate Resilience”

3. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

This call aims to solicit high-quality contributions that:

- Share research findings, innovations, and best practices
- Showcase successful Landcare and Natural Resource Management initiatives
- Contribute to policy dialogue and programme improvement
- Support the development of the National Landcare Roadmap (2027–2032)



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4. THEMATIC AREAS

Submissions are invited under (but not limited to) the following thematic areas:

4.1 Sustainable Land Management and Restoration

- Soil conservation and soil health
- Rangeland and pasture management
- Land rehabilitation and restoration techniques
- Agroforestry and conservation agriculture

4.2 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

- Climate-smart agriculture
- Drought and flood mitigation strategies
- Carbon sequestration and ecosystem services
- Community-based climate adaptation

4.3 Water Resource Management (Water Care)

- Catchment management
- Water conservation and harvesting
- Wetland restoration
- Integrated water resource management

4.4 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

- Invasive alien species management
- Ecological infrastructure
- Biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes

4.5 Community-Based Approaches and Indigenous Knowledge

- Indigenous knowledge systems in land management
- Role of traditional leadership
- Participatory approaches to Landcare

4.6 Policy, Governance and Institutional Coordination

- Landcare governance models
- Intergovernmental coordination
- Policy alignment and implementation challenges



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4.7 Socio-Economic Development and Livelihoods

- Job creation and the Expanded Public Works Programme
- Rural development and poverty reduction
- SMMEs, cooperatives, and agribusiness development

4.8 Youth and Women in Landcare

- Youth empowerment and skills development
- Women in agriculture and natural resource management
- Junior Landcare initiatives

4.9 Innovation, Technology and Data Systems

- GIS, remote sensing, and digital tools
- Monitoring and evaluation systems
- Data-driven decision-making

4.10 Financing and Partnerships

- Public-private partnerships
- Blended finance models
- Climate finance and donor funding

5. TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS

Contributors are invited to submit:

- **Oral Presentations (Full Papers)**
- **Poster Presentations**
- **Case Studies / Best Practice Reports**
- **Policy Briefs**
- **Technical Demonstrations / Innovations**

6. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstract Submission

- **Maximum 300–500 words**
- **Clearly indicate:**
 - Title of the paper/presentation
 - Author(s) and affiliation(s)
 - Thematic area



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- Key findings or contributions

Language

- Submissions must be in **English**

Email your submissions to: ECLandcare.Conference@ecagriculture.gov.za

Closing date **30 June 2026**