

Sustainability Symposium

Theme:

Youth Leadership and Sustainability for a Resilient Future: Biodiversity, Food Security, and Education

Overview:

The Sustainability Symposium will provide a dynamic and interdisciplinary platform for emerging leaders to engage with experts in sustainability science. Delegates will gain insights into key sustainability pillars, such as biodiversity conservation, food security, and education, as well as explore their interconnected roles in building resilient communities.

6th of July 2026

Venue: Nature Conservation Building, University of Mpumalanga

(Address: Corner of R40 and D725 Roads, Mbombela, Mpumalanga, 1200)

Programme		
08:00 – 08:30	Registration and Coffee	
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Address and Opening	Professor Ndiko Ludidi <i>(Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Science, UMP)</i>
		Professor Aldo Stroebel <i>(DVC of Research, Innovation, and Internationalisation, UMP)</i>
09:00 – 09:45	Keynote Address	Mr Kamagano Sethono <i>(Manager, SDSN South Africa)+</i>
09:45 – 10:15	Panel Discussion	Dr Stanley Ntakumba <i>(Programme lead MPhil MDP at ALLI, UP)</i>
		Prof. Kowiyou Yessoufou <i>(Professor of Botany, UJ)</i>
		Prof Oladapo A. Aremu <i>(SARCHI Chair IKS, NWU)</i>
		Prof Samukelisiwe Khumalo <i>(Dean FED, UMP)</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	Selected Delegates <i>Poster presentations</i>
10:30 – 12:15	Oral Presentations (5)	Selected Delegates Theme: Youth leadership in biodiversity and climate action.
12:15 – 13:10	Lunch Break	Selected Delegates <i>Poster presentations</i>
13:15 – 14:35	Oral Presentations (4)	Selected Delegates Theme: Youth leadership and food security: The future of agrifood governance.
14:35 – 14:50	Coffee Break	Selected Delegates <i>Poster presentations</i>
14:55 – 16:15	Oral Presentations (4)	Selected Delegates Theme: Youth action on education sustainability.
16:15 – 16:30	Remarks and Closing	Prof. Mashudu Davhana-Maselesele <i>(DVC for Teaching and Learning, UMP)</i>