



Call for Applications:

Inviting Conservation NGOs/NPOs, Community-Based Organisations/Associations and Private Companies/Businesses to Participate in a SADC Wildlife-Based Economy (WBE) Champions Training.

The Southern African Wildlife College in collaboration with African Leadership University - School of Wildlife Conservation (ALU-SOWC) and Stellenbosch University – African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI) has a fully-funded opportunity for **One (1) individual from each SADC member state** involved in implementing Wildlife Based Economy and livelihoods related projects/programmes within the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s **at National Level** to participate in a **5-day WBE training programme** aimed at fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and best practices in **wildlife-based economies and livelihoods**.

The German Government and the European Union through the Joint Action NaturAfrica/Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management (C-NRM) project, implemented by the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** supports this initiative. The programme seeks to unlock the potential of wildlife economies for improved livelihoods and regional prosperity.

Purpose of the Training

This fully funded training programme is designed to strengthen national capacity, cross-sectoral collaboration, and leadership in advancing wildlife-based economic development, value chains, and sustainable livelihoods within SADC Member States.

The Wildlife-Based Economy Champions Training aims to:

- Build a cadre of national champions who can drive implementation of wildlife-based economy strategies in collaboration with governments;
- Strengthen coordination between environment, wildlife, trade, tourism, and economic development sectors;
- Support Member States in translating wildlife resources into inclusive economic opportunities while promoting sustainability and conservation.

IMPORTANT DATES and INFO:

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| Application closing date: | 28 April 2026 |
| Announcement of selected candidates: | 07 May 2026 |
| Programme date: | 27 July – 31 July 2026 |
| Venue: | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Language: | English (with translation – SADC official Languages) |

We invite qualified stakeholders who meet the following requirements to express their interest in participation:



To be eligible, applicants should:

1. **Be working with/for either non-governmental organisation (NGO), Community-based Organisation/Association OR private sector, actively engaged in wildlife-based economy initiatives at National Level.**
2. Be actively involved in the design, implementation, or oversight of wildlife-based economy or biodiversity economy initiatives in their respective countries.
3. Demonstrate alignment with national development priorities, biodiversity economy strategies, or sectoral plans;
4. Be available to participate in pre-training and post-training virtual meetings (minimum of four (4) 2hours sessions between May and October 2026)
5. Clearly articulate how participation will strengthen national or regional wildlife-based economic outcomes.
6. Have no criminal record.
7. Be in possession of a valid passport to travel to South Africa which is valid for at least six months from the programme start date

NB: Visa costs to be covered by the organization of the participants

1. Required Documents

- 1.1 Filled in [online application form](#)
- 1.2 **Summarized Organizational strategy** – demonstrating alignment with the SADC Wildlife Based Economy Strategy or National Biodiversity Economy priorities.
- 1.3 A contactable reference(s) (email & Telephone) from a credible organization or government official in the country of operation.
- 1.4 Copy of the applicant's valid passport (must be valid for at least six months from the programme start date).

2. Selection Criteria:

The selection criteria will feature a broad selection in the following composition and preference:

- 2.1 **Relevance and alignment** (40%): Ability and proven record to amplify WBE concept in country and alignment to national plans and strategic frameworks.
- 2.2 **Diversity and inclusion:** Representation of women, youth.
- 2.3 **Self-motivated to undertake training/learning experience outside their home country**, and show prior knowledge of the SADC Wildlife-based economy strategy.

3. General Rules

- 3.1 Only application forms completed correctly, in full and accompanied by the required supporting documents will be considered.

4. Support Provided

Successful candidates will benefit from the following (Ts&Cs apply):



4.1 Return Flights to South Africa (O.R. Tambo International Airport).

4.2 Accommodation and Meals for the duration of the training

For Enquiries **ONLY** contact **Dr. Thabang Teffo** email: tteffo@sawc.org.za and **Ms. Mara Gellner** email: mara.gellner@giz.de

5. How to Apply

If you meet the above criteria and are interested in participating in this programme, kindly click [Online Application form](#) to apply by **28 April 2026** at **16:00 SAST**.