

Welcome

We look forward to hosting you at the first SARUA Conference. This esteemed gathering brings together scholars, experts and thought leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue and explore the evolving landscape of higher education. Over the course of this conference, we aim to foster deep discussions, share cutting-edge research, and collaborate on innovative solutions to the challenges facing our academic institutions. We trust that the insights gained and the connections made here will contribute to advancing the collective mission of higher education in the region and beyond.



Innovating Higher Education for Sustainable Development across the SADC: Innovation for Impact

The conference theme, 'Innovating Higher Education for Sustainable Development across the SADC: Innovation for Impact', highlights the need for higher education systems to evolve in response to economic, technological and social changes. As the region faces increasing challenges, universities must adapt to support economic growth, regional integration and sustainable development. This conference will provide a platform for collaboration among university leaders, academics, policymakers, industry representatives and civil society organisations to ensure that SADC higher education meets future needs. A central focus will be fostering cross-sector partnerships – between universities, governments, industries and civil society– to address complex societal issues through innovation. By moving beyond siloed approaches, universities can enhance research impact, improve policy relevance and drive regional social and economic empowerment, with private sector partnerships playing a critical role in bridging the gap between academia and society.



The importance of this conference for the future of higher education in the SADC

• Transforming regional challenges into opportunities:

This conference provides a platform for addressing the region's complex challenges and explores how higher education can be leveraged to drive social change, economic growth and regional cohesion. Through dialogue, we aim to turn these challenges into opportunities for growth and collaboration.

Promoting regional integration:

A unified higher education system is essential to regional integration, which is a key priority for SADC. This conference will highlight how cross-border cooperation can strengthen the educational landscape and contribute to a more integrated region.

• Innovation for sustainable development:

By reimagining traditional education models, we aim to ensure that higher education institutions evolve to meet future demands – expanding access, maintaining quality and positioning universities as centres of innovation.

Developing leadership and governance:

In response to increasing complexity, it is essential for higher education leaders to balance academic excellence with financial sustainability and community engagement. The conference will explore strategies to strengthen leadership and governance in these areas.

Aligning with the SDGs and regional priorities:

Through showcasing best practices and encouraging knowledge exchange, the conference will demonstrate how universities can integrate sustainability principles into their operations and curricula, ensuring alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and regional priorities.



Expected outcomes of the conference

The SARUA Conference aims to produce actionable outcomes that will guide the transformation of higher education in the SADC region:

 Best-practice models for curriculum innovation, leadership development and regional collaboration

- Frameworks for quality assurance and digital transformation in education
- Recommendations for aligning higher education strategies with SDGs
- Strengthened regional partnerships to promote teaching, learning, research, engagement and innovation
- Policy suggestions for government officials and education ministries to support higher education reform

The conference will also inform SARUA's future initiatives and contribute to building a sustainable higher education ecosystem in Southern Africa.

These recommendations will be further discussed and formalised during SARUA's Annual General Meeting to be held on the final day of the conference.





PROF. ROMEELA MOHEE Commissioner of the Higher Education Commission in Mauritius



Prof. Mohee, CSK, is the current commissioner of the Higher Education Commission in Mauritius, overseeing the regulation of public and private higher education institutions. She holds an engineering degree in energy and environment from La Grande Ecole d'ingénieurs, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Lyon, France and a PhD from the University of Mauritius.

With 34 years in education, Prof. Mohee has served as professor, head of department in chemical and environmental engineering, dean of the Faculty of Engineering, pro-vice-chancellor, and vice-chancellor of the University of Mauritius from 2013 to 2016. She was also the national research chair in solid waste at the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council.

An expert in higher education development, she worked at the Commonwealth of Learning from 2017 to 2020, advising on e-learning, quality assurance and employability. She has published over 150 research papers and supervised more than 80 students at undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels.

Prof. Mohee's contributions have earned her several awards, including the African Union's Best Woman Scientist Award in 2009. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK and the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology, Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers UK and an associate members of the International Association of Universities.

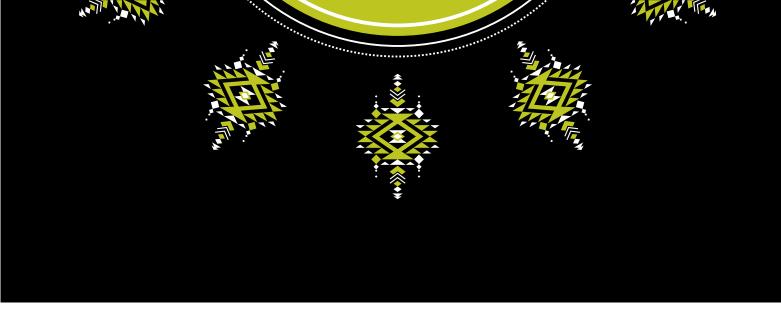
PROF. JOUHAINA GHERIB VC Manouba University, Tunisia and VP IAU



Prof. Gherib is a professor of strategic management at the University of Manouba (UMA) in Tunisia, where she holds a PhD from the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Her research focuses on strategic decision-making, social responsibility, and the SDGs. She currently holds the UNESCO Chair on 'Higher Education for Sustainable Development in Africa' at UMA.

In 2011, Prof. Gherib was elected vice-rector for Research and International Relations, and in 2017, she became UMA's sixth rector, re-elected in 2020 for a second term. She made history as the first woman in Tunisia to hold this position. As rector, she worked to increase the visibility of the university's research and align its education quality with international standards, while prioritising the well-being of the university community.

Prof. Gherib has chaired several committees focused on reforming Tunisia's higher education and research system and was awarded the Knight of the National Order of Merit in Education in 2019. Actively engaged in civil society, she served as executive director of the United Nations Global Compact Network Tunisia from its inception and has been elected vice president of the International Association of Universities, leading its working group on higher education and research for sustainable development.



DR ANDRÉE SURSOCK European University Association



Dr Sursock is senior adviser and former deputy secretary general (2001–2009) of the European University Association (EUA), where she led policy development on quality assurance. She directed the EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme and played a key role in shaping European higher education standards, including the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG), the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) and the launch of the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF).

Since 2009, Dr Sursock has advised universities and governments internationally on a range of higher education policies. She served on three commissions that allocated funding for the French Academic Excellence Initiative and is an active member of advisory and administrative boards of universities and quality assurance agencies.

Her research and publications focus on topics such as diversity and inclusion, student access and success, university governance, quality assurance, internationalisation, doctoral education, academic careers and community engagement.

Dr Sursock holds a first degree in political philosophy from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and a PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley.

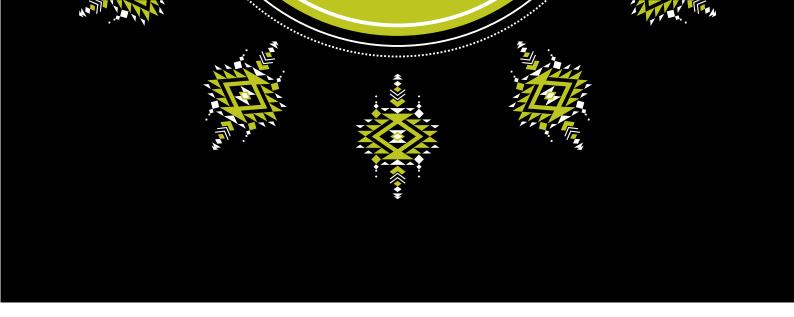
PROF. ROBIN SANNASSEE SADC Secretariat



Dr Raja Vinesh (Robin) Sannassee is currently the senior programme officer for education and skills development at the SADC Secretariat, where he leads the development and implementation of regional education programmes across 16 SADC Member States. His portfolio spans basic education, TVET, higher education, and open and distance learning (ODL).

Before joining the SADC Secretariat, Robin served as professor of international finance and trade at the University of Mauritius, where he was also dean of the Faculty of Finance (2014–2017). In 2018, he held the position of academic director at the Open University of Mauritius.

Robin earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Reading, UK. As a former WTO Chair for six years, he has published extensively in finance, economics and trade. He has also consulted for major international organisations, including the World Bank, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNECA, COL and the African Development Bank (AfDB).



DR PETER WELLS
Head of Education,
Southern Africa, UNESCO



A global leader in higher education policy, Dr Wells has served as head of higher education at UNESCO since 2016, driving international efforts in quality assurance, equitable access and inclusion. Instrumental in shaping UNESCO's global treaties on higher education recognition, Dr Wells has led capacity-building projects across Africa, advised on Bologna Process reforms and championed Al-driven education access. Previously, as director of BPTC Romania and a UNESCO programme specialist, he spearheaded initiatives on graduate employability, transnational education and private sector accreditation. A recognised expert and widely published, Dr Wells contributes to advisory boards and academic publications worldwide.





Conference proceedings

Qualifying papers will be published in conference proceedings.

Important dates

Submission of abstracts and posters 18 April 2025

Notification of acceptance 30 April 2025

Final submission of paper 30 April 2025

SARUA pre-conference workshops 19–20 May 2025

SARUA conference 21–23 May 2025





Conference schedule at a glance

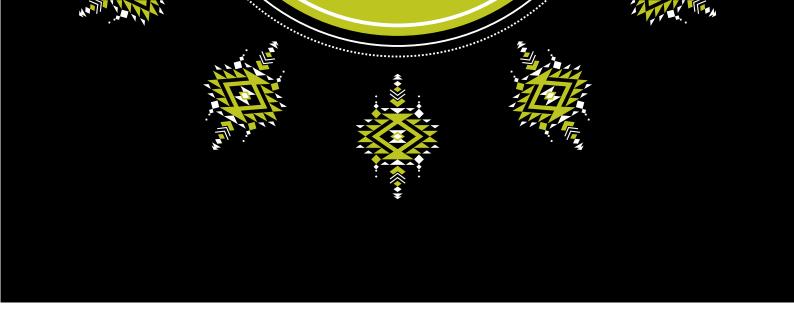
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Day 1: 19 May 2025

Time	Activity	Participants	Venue	Responsible
10:00–12:00	EngageSDG PMC meeting	Consortium members only	Unicaf University	Prof. René Pellissier
13:00–17:00	Workshop: The ART of Academic Scholarship	Open to the public – fee required (USD100)	Unicaf University	Prof. René Pellissier

Day 2: 20 May 2025

Time	Activity	Participants	Venue	Responsible
9:00–16:00	Interregional webinar on deploying participatory approaches in higher education towards community engagement and SDG implementation	Open to the public	Unicaf University	Prof. René Pellissier
13:00 – 17:00	Leading Higher Education in Africa: Navigating the Impact	Open to the public – fee required (USD100)	University of Lusaka	Prof. Birgit Schreiber and Prof. Stephen Simukanga

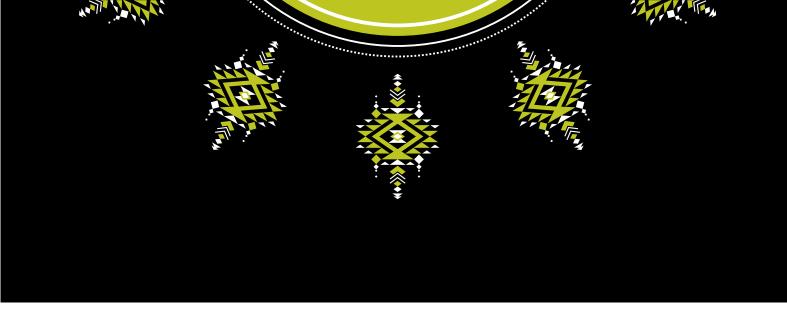


CONFERENCE

The conference programme will be finalised with all speaker details and topics by the end of April.

Day 1: 21 May 2025

Registration
Official opening
Keynote address
Official photo session
Coffee break
SESSION 1: The role of higher education in advancing regional integration, economic development and social cohesion
SESSION 2: Innovation and transformation of higher education institutions in the SADC region
Lunch break
SESSION 3: Best practices and successful models of higher education transformation from within the region and beyond
Coffee break
SESSION 4: Collaboration and partnerships towards impact in SADC higher education
Closing session
Cocktail function (Optional)



CONFERENCE

Day 2: 22 May 2025

Recap	of	Day	1
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Keynote speaker

SESSION 5:

Digital transformation in higher education

Coffee break

SESSION 6:

Higher education leadership as agents for change

SESSION 7:

Knowledge co-production for regional development

Lunch break

SESSION 8:

Quality assurance to support higher education innovation

Conference dinner (Optional)

Day 3: 23 May 2025

Recap of Day 2

SESSION 9:

Sharing experiences from universities in SADC region on some subthemes (poster session) – 15 minutes each. Slots for 8 universities

Coffee break

Closing



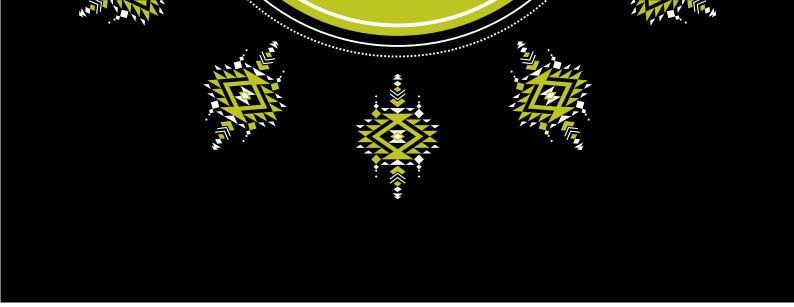
Registration for the workshops and conference will be open upon payment of the appropriate fee as follows: For more information, **visit our website:** https://sarua.africa/sarua-conference-2025/

1. Pre-conference workshop fees:

			In person	Online
19 May 2025	13:00-17:00	The ART of academic scholarship	USD100	USD40
20 May 2025	13:00-17:00	Leading higher education in Africa: Navigating with impact	USD100	USD40
20 May 2025	09:00-16:00	Interregional webinar on deploying participatory approaches in higher education towards community engagement and SDG implementation	NO FEE	NO FEE

2. Conference fee (includes tea and lunch):

Non-SARUA members	USD460
SARUA members	USD440
Host university staff (UNILUS, Unicaf Zambia, UNZA)	USD300
Students	USD200
Online participation fee	USD150



Social events

COCKTAIL FUNCTION - 21 MAY UNIVERSITY OF LUSAKA

CONFERENCE DINNER – 22 MAY VENUE TBC

Venues

The 1st SARUA Conference will take place in Lusaka, hosted by three of Zambia's leading educational institutions, the University of Lusaka, Unicaf Zambia and the University of Zambia. Both universities are committed to advancing higher education in the region through innovative teaching methods, robust academic offerings and a strong focus on accessibility and regional development. As key contributors to the educational landscape in Southern Africa, their involvement in hosting this conference underscores the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in driving the future of higher education across the SADC region.



Venues

THE UNIVERSITY OF LUSAKA (UNILUS)

The University of Lusaka, founded in 2007, is one of Zambia's leading private universities. UNILUS has a strong reputation for offering high-quality education, with a commitment to providing students with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the demands of a dynamic and globalised world. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programmes across various disciplines, including business, law, education and health sciences. UNILUS is known for its innovative approach to teaching and learning, and it is dedicated to contributing to the social and economic development of Zambia and the region.









UNICAF ZAMBIA

Unicaf Zambia is a branch of the Unicaf University network, which operates in multiple countries across Africa. Unicaf Zambia offers students access to globally recognised qualifications through partnerships with universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, and other international institutions. With a strong emphasis on accessible, flexible learning, Unicaf Zambia provides a variety of online and on-campus programmes aimed at equipping students with skills to excel in their careers. The university is particularly noted for its role in expanding access to higher education in Zambia, offering affordable and flexible learning opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

Both universities are central to the advancement of higher education in Zambia and will provide a fitting setting for the critical discussions and collaborations that will take place during the SARUA Conference.





UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA (UNZA)

Established by an Act of Parliament (No. 66) in 1965, the University of Zambia (UNZA) opened its doors to students on 17 March 1966. With the guiding motto Service and Excellence, UNZA has become a pillar of academic achievement and innovation in Zambia.

The university's main campus, Great East Road Campus, is located 6km from Lusaka's city centre, offering a vibrant and dynamic learning environment. The Ridgeway Campus, situated 4km southeast of Lusaka, is home to the university's renowned medical school and is conveniently located opposite the University Teaching Hospital.

UNZA remains committed to providing world-class education and fostering future leaders through cutting-edge research and community-focused initiatives.





VISA REQUIREMENTS:

- Entry into Zambia via Lusaka International Airport requires a passport that is valid for more than six months upon entry to the country. The exemption or the method of obtaining the visa depends on the nationality of the traveller. You can either be exempted or have to apply online for an e-Visa or be allowed to obtain your visa upon your arrival in Lusaka.
- Visitors from very few countries require a visa to enter Zambia.

 This site provides a list of all the countries whose nationals do not require a visa:

 https://www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/nationals-who-dont-require-visa/ (countries that don't require a visa)
- Visitors from the countries listed on this site can obtain visas on arrival: https://www.zambiaimmigration.gov.zm/nationals-who-require-visa/
- Should you require a visa, you can apply using this link: https://www.zambianimmigration.org/apply-visa?action=step1&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwvr--BhB5EiwAd 5YbXqOvb0YH3lm628AgNLYE6VhutojeiydTLopF-_x3mfg1GahCU0_KxoC7TQQAvD_BwE

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

Check with your travel clinic which vaccinations are mandatory as these can change.

Vaccinations generally recommended by the World Health Organization and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include:

- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Tetanus
- Meningitis
- Rabies

INSURANCE

There's currently no legal requirement to take out travel insurance for travel to or through Zambia. However, regardless of whether it's legally required, it's always a good idea to take our health insurance before you travel – whether to Zambia or anywhere else.



Lusaka offers a range of world-class hotels located a reasonable distance from the university campuses where the conference will be held.

We have negotiated a preferential rate for conference delegates with the following hotels. Please mention that you are attending the SARUA Conference when making your booking.

Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere	https://www.sarovarhotels.com/neelkanth-sar	ovar-premiere-lusaka/
Nataizya Nanyangwe	sales2@neelkanthsarovarpremiere.com	+260 971 273 155
Albert Shoko	sm@neelkanthsarovarpremiere.com	+260 971 273 154

Cargo88 Hotel https://cargo88-hotel.com/

Mukesh Shikabeta reservations@cargo88-hotel.com +260 973 579 396

Ciêla Resort https://cielaresort.com/

Alternatively, the following hotels are on offer nearby:

•	Radisson Blu Hotel	http://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-lusaka
•	Asmara Hotel	https://asmarahotelzm.com/
•	Protea Hotel Lusaka Tower	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/luntw-protea-hotel-lusaka-tower/
•	Protea Hotel Lusaka	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/lunls-protea-hotel-lusaka/
•	Grand Palace Hotel	https://grandpalace.co.zm/
	The Venice Hotel and Casino	https://ms.hotels.com/en/ho2979814144/the-venice-hotel-lusaka-zambia/
	Le Elementos Hotel	https://leelementos.com/

Keep an eye on our website for updates:

https://sarua.africa/sarua-conference-2025/



TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

- Kenneth Kaunda International Airport serves the city of Lusaka
- Taxis are available 24 hours a day at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport. They have an orange band so that they are easily identifiable.
- Several car rental companies offer their services in Zambia. Some of them have an office in the airport where you can hire a car on arrival.
- Several companies offer VIP transport service at the airport.
- Many hotels offer a shuttle service, so be sure to enquire when you book your accommodation.

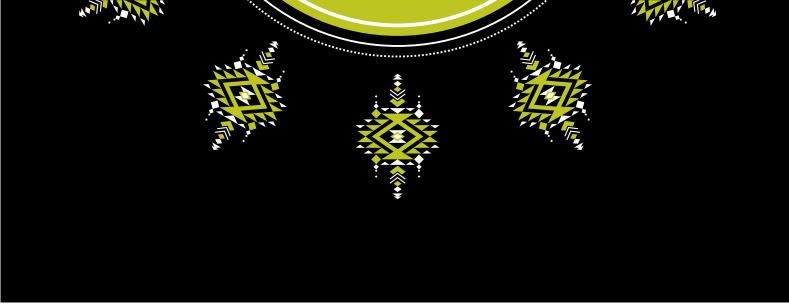




Currency, banking and payment tips

- National currency: Zambian kwacha
 - 1 Zambian kwacha = 0,66 South African rand
 - 1 Zambian kwacha = 0,036 US dollar
 - 1 Zambian kwacha = 0,034 euro
- The kwacha is typically used for all domestic transactions.
- Credit cards are accepted but they are mostly used in high-end dining establishments, hotels and a few stores. Visa and Mastercard are the most accepted cards.
- ATMs are available in cities and towns and allow you to withdraw kwacha using international credit or debit cards, though transaction fees may apply. It's advisable to carry some local currency for smaller purchases, transportation, and tipping, as card payments may not always be an option. Always inform your bank of your travel plans to avoid issues with international transactions and consider carrying a backup payment method for added security.
- Tipping in Zambia is generally appreciated, though not always expected. 10–15% is reasonable in a restaurant while a ZKW5–10 would be appreciate by a taxi driver and ZKW10–20 would be appropriate for a porter.





Climate info

May is an ideal time to visit Lusaka for a conference, with mild temperatures ranging from 15°C in the mornings to 25°C during the day. The weather is dry and comfortable, so light layers are recommended, along with a jacket for cooler mornings and evenings. The lower humidity makes it a pleasant time for outdoor activities and sightseeing after the conference.

Plugging in



In Zambia, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type C, type D and type G are used. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.



Local attractions and cultural information

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- Lusaka National Museum: This museum is a great spot for those interested in Zambia's history, culture, and art.
- Munda Wanga Environmental Park: A beautiful sanctuary for wildlife, Munda Wanga includes a zoo, botanical garden, and nature reserve.
- Freedom Statue: Located in the heart of Lusaka, the Freedom Statue commemorates Zambia's independence from British colonial rule in 1964.
- Zambia National Park: Lusaka's proximity to national parks like Lower Zambezi National Park makes it a great base from which to organise safaris and wildlife viewing experiences.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

- Etiquette is an essential aspect of Zambian culture, and it is important to observe the local customs and traditions when visiting the country. One of the most important aspects of Zambian etiquette is respect for elders and those in positions of authority. It is customary to address older people and those in positions of authority with titles such as Mr, Mrs or Miss and to show deference and respect in their presence.
- Another important aspect of Zambian etiquette is dress code. In Zambia, it is customary to dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites or attending formal events. Women are expected to cover their shoulders and wear skirts or dresses that cover their knees, while men are expected to wear long pants and shirts with sleeves.



Contact numbers

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Lusaka Central Police Station +260 211 220 006

Lusaka Central Fire Station +260 211 220 180

Lusaka Ambulance Service +260 211 220 180

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Phiwo Kgatla	SARUA	+27 87 630 1185	
Sisipho Zweni	SARUA	+27 61 262 2486	
Sarah Coetzee	SARUA	+27 83 287 0079	
Dr Lupiya Mpolomoka	Unicaf Zambia	+260 977 753 725	l.mpolomoka@zambia.unicaf.org
Dr Moses Changala	Unicaf Zambia	+260 977 676 800	m.changala@zambia.unicaf.org
Abigail Chalwe	Unicaf Zambia	+260 979 052 420	a.chalwe@zambia.unicaf.org
Lubasi Munalula	Unicaf Zambia	+260 776 020 002	l.munalula@zambia.unicaf.org
Saviour Chibeti	UNILUS	+260 962 886 934	schibeti@unilus.ac.zm
Lombe Chipampe	UNILUS	+260 979 129 254	clombe@unilus.ac.zm
Prof. Trywell Kalusopa	UNZA	+260 965 992 306	trywell.kalusopa@unza.zm



1. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT OPTIONS

As we come together to share ideas and collaborate, let's also keep our impact on the environment in mind. Here are some simple, yet effective, ways to make your conference experience more sustainable:

- Use the conference shuttle bus: We are providing a dedicated shuttle bus for attendees to travel to and from the conference venue. By using this shared transport, you'll help reduce the number of individual vehicles on the road, lowering carbon emissions.
- **Use public transport or shared rides:** If the shuttle bus is unavailable, consider using public transport or taxis and share rides with other delegates when possible.

2. CHOOSE ECO-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

• **Support sustainable hotels:** Select accommodation that is committed to sustainability, whether through energy-saving initiatives, water conservation or waste reduction efforts.

3. MINIMISE PAPER USAGE

- **Go digital:** Avoid printing conference materials. Use the conference website to access schedules, session details and speaker information. Take notes digitally to reduce paper waste.
- **Bring a reusable notebook:** If you prefer handwritten notes, bring a reusable notebook or eco-friendly stationery.

4. REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

- **Bring a reusable water bottle:** Avoid single-use plastic bottles by carrying a refillable water bottle. Many venues will have refill stations available.
- Pack a reusable shopping bag: Bring a reusable bag for any shopping or take-away food items.



5. EAT SUSTAINABLY

- **Opt for local, sustainable food:** Choose food options that support local farmers and producers. This helps reduce transportation emissions and promotes the local economy.
- **Avoid excess packaging:** When buying food or drinks, opt for minimal packaging or choose reusable containers where possible.

6. USE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

- **Pack green products:** Bring biodegradable toiletries, reusable coffee cups or bamboo straws to limit your environmental impact during the conference.
- Limit disposable items: Try to reduce the use of disposable items such as napkins, cups and utensils.

7. OFFSET YOUR TRAVEL EMISSIONS

• **Carbon offset your flight:** Consider offsetting the carbon emissions from your flight by contributing to carbon-reduction projects. Many airlines offer this option.

8. LEAVE NO TRACE

- **Respect local environments:** Be mindful of the natural environment. Dispose of waste properly and take care not to leave trash behind at the venue or in public areas.
- **Use the conference facilities responsibly:** Refrain from wasting resources like water or electricity in hotel rooms or conference spaces.

By following these tips, you help us make this conference a more sustainable event, contributing to a greener future for Zambia and beyond.



Useful websites

www.zambiatourism.com

www.unicaf.org

www.unilus.ac.zm

www.unza.zm









