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PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE: EVALUATION AND WAY FORWARD REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. BACKGROUND

The *Public-Private Sector Dialogue for Enabling a Thriving Biodiversity Sector* took place on 21-22 November 2024 at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg, bringing together key stakeholders from South Africa and neighbouring countries. Participants included government officials, industry associations, community leaders, SMEs, civil society, academics, and researchers, all committed to advancing South Africa's biodiversity economy. The event highlighted two decades of progress since the adoption of NEMBA in 2004, focusing on information sharing and research, industry organization and governance, regulatory compliance, benefit-sharing, market access etc. The dialogue stimulated collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthening the sector and unlocking future opportunities.

II. KEY OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The following table outlines the main objectives of the Dialogue and feedback on the most valuable aspects according to the participant evaluation.

Objectives	Most valuable aspects according to participant evaluation
To strengthen the platform for dialogue and collaboration	<p>Openness and safe space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many respondents felt the event provided a welcoming and open environment for sharing ideas and expressing opinions. They appreciated the respectful and inclusive atmosphere that encouraged honest conversations. <p>Representative Quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The level of openness of the participants." "It felt like a safe space to enter into dialogue." "Some deep exchanges with participants inside conversations (during dinners or breakfasts)."
To strengthen our formal and informal relationships and networks	<p>Networking and Relationship building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Networking emerged as the most frequently mentioned benefit, with respondents emphasizing the value of connecting with diverse stakeholders. Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet industry, government, community members, and innovators in one place.

	<p>Representative Quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Networking - listening - being able to express myself with a feeling of being heard." • "Good attendance made personal network possible." • "The Networking. Meeting and building new relationships in this sector." • "Being informed and meeting several stakeholders."
To celebrate our individual contributions and confirm our common goals	<p>Sector Insights and Shared Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents appreciated how the event illuminated sector challenges, potential solutions, and differences in industry and government priorities. • This helped some participants better understand the biotrade sector's complexities and ongoing efforts. <p>Representative Quotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Challenges were identified and possible solutions shared." • "The gap between industry and government priorities and needs was highlighted."
To celebrate our successes and share solutions we have found to overcome the gaps, hurdles and challenges on the way	

III. INSIGHTS FROM THEMATIC SESSIONS

1. Information, research and industry development
 - Clarify type, purpose and target audience
 - Identify precompetitive priorities, strategy and resources
 - Balancing growth, competition and transformation when developing strategy
2. Inclusion, transformation and industry governance
 - Change takes time: time to understand, time to adapt, time to try new ways, time to integrate learning
 - Emerging organizations are in development phase and dependent on external resources
 - Managing opportunity and risk when trying to develop an industry
3. Improving market access and developing the market
 - Many activities, opportunities and resources available at many levels
 - Many possible quick wins and contributions to the generic marketing of the sector
 - Maintaining the market through quality testing
 - Growing the market through safety and efficacy research and testing
4. Understanding the complexity of our biodiversity economy
 - Diversity of opportunities and challenges – at times even in tension or in conflict with one another
 - Focus on some key challenges, while others are overlooked

- Although there is progress, it is often fragile
- Need deeper engagement and systems thinking to collaborate on socio-economic and environmental sustainability

5. Regulation and policy environment

- Regional implications of interdependence because of regional, cross-border resources and South African leadership to date
- Unusual and fortunate to have diverse stakeholders in the value chain, the landscape, the regulator and the supporting environment in the same room
- The opportunity to make the best of the formal and informal relationships that shape the future of the sector

IV. KEY LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROCESSES

- Balance personal reflections and focused discussions on technical topics
- Structure and time management could improve
- Need more opportunity for dialogue (i.e. discussion between different stakeholders on specific topics)
- Better understanding of factors enabling public sector representatives' participation
- More participant input and preparation on specific topics prior to dialogue events

V. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

Category	Details
Information management and strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directory of Biotrade enterprises • Directory of Biotrade resources inclusive of area of occurrence, status, etc. (knowledge products, multimedia, etc.) • More focused and strategic communication – less but more specific, targeted at the right audience • Clarity about the purpose of information, context, and constraints of target audience
Strengthening industry organization and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-learning and further exchange opportunities for industry associations • Sharing resources for common challenges (e.g., guides, policies, templates, etc.) • Coordinate efforts for support, data collection, and public comment processes
Active inclusion of indigenous knowledge holders and local community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific strategies to include indigenous knowledge holders and local community leadership in broader sector developments and future dialogues (i.e., beyond ABS negotiations as partners in activities) • Find innovative solutions to enable indigenous knowledge holders and local community leadership to set the agenda and represent themselves
Active integration of climate change and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders need to develop a holistic view of environmental challenges and the need for proactive environmental protection

other environmental challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify specific role players that can be consulted to expand the network to include technical expertise Review micro, meso- and macro strategies, programs, and plans to ensure specific environmental risks/priorities are addressed
Broad promotion of biodiversity-based products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad utilization of available material Utilize innovative, low-cost marketing and distribution channels (websites, social media) Involve the youth (social media, local and regional festivals and trade fairs) Lessons from sectors implementing successful generic marketing strategies Creating an identity for the SA Biotrade sector
Explore processes to improve legislation, regulation, and policy dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the public sector to inform and raise awareness among private sector stakeholders on the steps and specific units involved in legislative and regulatory development and review Improve capacity of private sector to provide input/comment that provides the key information needed in legislative processes¹ Capture lessons on successful government and industry collaboration that streamlines regulatory compliance

¹ See Regulatory Impact Assessment process that could guide coordination and preparation of industry input:
https://d7.westerncape.gov.za/assets/departments/premier/office_premier/regulatory_impact_assessment_brochure_2019.pdf

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Public-Private Sector Dialogue for Enabling a Thriving Biodiversity Sector was held on 21-22 November 2024 at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg. The Dialogue was attended by a variety of key stakeholders in the Biodiversity Economy in South Africa and neighbouring countries, including public officials from key government departments and government agencies, leadership and staff members of industry associations and professional bodies, community leaders, SME beneficiaries of development programs, civil society, service providers, academics, researchers etc.

Since the adoption of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) in 2004, the country has played a leading role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The event recognized the significant environmental and economic value of South African biodiversity and highlighted the collective efforts of public and private stakeholders to create an enabling environment for sustainable biotrade. Notable successes in recent years include industry-wide benefit-sharing agreements, the formation and strengthening of industry associations, the first African Biotrade Festival in 2023, and the establishment of BioPANZA clusters to enhance cooperation between public sector entities.

The dialogue provided a platform to share and celebrate achievements, strengthen relationships, and honestly reflect on the challenges and their root causes. The event reinforced the sense of opportunity, commitment and camaraderie among the stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of ongoing collaboration to drive future progress in advancing the biodiversity economy.

1.2. OBJECTIVES AND THEMATIC AREAS

The Public-Private Sector Dialogue was designed with two broad aims in mind: 1) to strengthen the platform for collaboration among stakeholders in the biodiversity economy and 2) to engage on key topics in the sector by asking participants to respond to key questions posed by the presenters and facilitators, as opposed to having a question-and-answer session with the presenters.

Participants from a wide range of stakeholder groups and with varying levels of involvement in the sector attended the dialogue and a key objective was to create an environment where participants had the opportunity to share their own experience, achievements, challenges and hopes. By creating opportunities for open, inclusive participation, the event sought to advance commitment to collective action and increase cohesion of the group of stakeholders that are often isolated in their specific areas of work or responsibility. The principles of inclusivity and mutual respect allowed participants to exchange a diversity of ideas and experiences. The program facilitated opportunities for participants to share their knowledge and successes and solutions and strategies they have employed to overcome obstacles, strengthening both formal and informal networks and build relationships that could support further collaboration.

The dialogue focussed on five broad thematic themes where increased collaboration and partnership can meaningfully contribute to long-term impact in the sector. The workshop methodology focussed on setting the scene through short presentations and then allowing participants to contribute from their experience in an emergent manner rather than setting topics for discussion in a prescriptive way. The thematic themes included: 1) data collection, research and innovation, 2) transformation, representation and Indigenous Knowledge, 3) market access and growth, 4) value chain diversity and inclusivity and 5) policy on ABS and compliance.

1.3. DIALOGUE PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

The dialogue adopted principles of inclusivity, equity, and active listening, to enable all participants to feel heard and valued. Transparency was central to the approach, encouraging participants to recognize the unique value their contributions bring to advancing collective understanding among stakeholders. By fostering an environment of mutual respect, participants were encouraged to tolerate diverse viewpoints and approach differences with curiosity and openness. This created a space where individuals could explore and understand perspectives that might differ from their own, enriching the overall quality of discussions and potential outcomes.

A strong focus on the potential of collaboration and partnership, with an emphasis on shared ownership of challenges and opportunities within the biodiversity economy, formed the foundation of the dialogue. Participants were reminded of their common goals and the mutual gains to be achieved through cooperation. Flexibility and adaptability, as is needed in partnerships, were also emphasized, encouraging open communication and trust among participants. Accountability was a key principle, with participants urged to commit to realistic actions, no matter how small, as even incremental progress can contribute to meaningful and lasting change.

1.4. HOPES FOR WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED INDIVIDUALLY AND FOR THE GROUP COLLECTIVELY

Fifteen participants specifically responded to the request to articulate what they hoped could be achieved for themselves individually and for the group collectively. Participants highlighted a strong desire for personal growth, inspiration, and actionable outcomes from the dialogue. Many sought to understand diverse perspectives within the sector and to learn from others. A key theme was the need for actionable strategies rather than superficial solutions, with several individuals expressing hopes to transform ideas into tangible, impactful actions and outcomes. Networking opportunities were also a priority, with individuals aiming to establish meaningful connections and build alliances across various fields of interest to enhance their contributions to the sector.

Another recurring aspiration was gaining clarity and focus on future goals. Participants emphasized the importance of understanding the broader context and aligning personal efforts with collective visions. Many wanted to use the dialogue to identify where they could add unique value to ongoing initiatives, particularly those that are under-resourced or undercapitalized. There was also a desire to leave the dialogue with practical tools, contacts, and insights that could inform inclusive and sustainable approaches, ensuring no voices or stakeholders were left behind.

Collectively, the dialogue was seen as an opportunity to foster trust, collaboration, and synergies across the sector. Participants envisioned working together to reduce duplication of efforts and overcome competition by streamlining solutions along the value chain. Many expressed the need for inclusive platforms where government, private sector, and community stakeholders could engage empathetically to tackle challenges such as benefit-sharing, conservation, and climate justice. Building on existing partnerships while creating new collaborations was identified as a priority to address critical issues effectively and sustainably.

Additionally, participants emphasized the importance of developing bold, innovative solutions that integrate the diverse strengths of all contributors. There was a call to align efforts with shared priorities, ensuring that everyone's contributions are acknowledged and valued. The collective aim was to create actionable, long-lasting solutions that incorporate lessons learned and avoid inefficiencies in the sector. By focusing on pragmatic outcomes and fostering a shared vision, the dialogue was seen as a step toward systemic change that balances economic, environmental, and social goals.

1.5. OVERALL EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNT

The overall sentiment from participants reflected a blend of constructive criticism and positive feedback. Many expressed gratitude for the event while suggesting areas for improvement. Specifically, there was a clear desire for deeper engagement through more in-depth discussions, concrete next steps, and systemic thinking. Participants noted, "We still need more in-depth discussions and solutions..." and "I found the components of the PP Dialogue useful... What I missed is a common thread..." In response it could be considered to implement future dialogues where for example the whole session is dedicated to one theme inclusive of the development of implementable actions as raised by participants in feedback.

In terms of event structure, session management and organization were highlighted as areas for improvement. Participants noted time management issues, with some sessions running overtime, which disrupted the overall flow of the event. Improved housekeeping and stricter adherence to schedules were recommended. The introduction process was another point of feedback, with lengthy participant introductions detracting from valuable discussion time. Instead, using name tags or a more streamlined introduction format was suggested to maximize engagement. By addressing these organizational aspects, future dialogues can run more efficiently, allowing for deeper, more productive conversations.

To enhance future events, several recommendations emerged: 1) sessions should be designed with clear, action-oriented goals, 2) better representation of indigenous knowledge holders and local leaders should be ensured and 3) environmental considerations and climate change should be integrated as a cross-cutting theme.. Moreover, fostering meaningful cross-sector engagement through targeted discussions would strengthen collaboration. This could be achieved through including breakaway groups where it is ensured that the diversity of participants is reflected in the group. This analysis highlights appreciation for the event's organization while emphasizing the need for more structured, broadly inclusive representation, and action-driven dialogues.

2. THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

2.1. GENERAL REFLECTIONS ON NETWORKS, PLATFORMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

VALUE OF TOGETHERNESS

In the context of the Public-Private Sector Dialogue for enabling a thriving biodiversity economy, fostering a sense of togetherness through networks, platforms, and partnerships is crucial. Stakeholders must clearly understand each other's roles and responsibilities to drive collective progress. Purposeful networking and peer learning can strengthen relationships and create collaborative synergies. Feedback from these engagements should be integrated into actionable strategies that address sector-specific challenges. Transparent communication across all levels builds trust and facilitates meaningful partnerships. For Sustainable Development Program (SDP) implementers, structured peer-learning opportunities are essential for exchanging knowledge and fostering innovation. Addressing collaboration gaps among diverse sectoral groups can unlock new avenues for shared success and economic growth.

REFLECTING AND IMPROVING

Achieving a unified vision is essential for the Public-Private Sector Dialogue, though institutional frameworks may sometimes hinder seamless collaboration. Ongoing reflection and adaptive approaches are necessary to identify and resolve bottlenecks. Recognizing achievements and utilizing available data can inform evidence-based policy-making and strategic implementation. Sector development relies on targeted, collaborative actions with measurable outcomes. Strengthening relationships begins with mutual understanding and respect among stakeholders. Creating a "Friends of the Biotrade" initiative could formalize partnerships and increase collective impact. Additionally, fostering inter-departmental collaboration within government can close service delivery gaps and address diverse sectoral needs. Promoting mutual learning and empowerment helps dismantle hierarchical perceptions, fostering a culture of inclusion and shared responsibility.

2.2. DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

The presentation by Fran Patsika, Secretariat of the African Baobab Alliance (ABA), and Chimwemwe Tembo, Associate of Kruger, Swart Associates, emphasized enhancing public-private collaboration in the biodiversity economy through improved industry development, governance, and data management. Key points included the importance of data collection for monitoring and evaluation (M&E), identifying industry baselines, and setting targets. Challenges such as competition, confidentiality concerns, and limited data-sharing willingness were addressed by ensuring anonymity and clarifying data-collection purposes. Notable achievements included the first large-scale data collection for the global baobab industry, though response rates were still below 50%. Lessons learned highlighted the significance of communication, flexibility in survey design, consistent requests for data, and adapting tools while preserving data relevance. These insights aimed to foster sustainable industry growth and improve the biodiversity economy's strategic direction.

Dr. Sunita Kalan's presentation in the "Data Collection, Research, and Innovation" session highlighted the critical role of the Sector Innovation Fund (SIF) as a strategic initiative to bolster research, development, and innovation (RDI) across South Africa's industries. Aligned with the National White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation, as well as the Decadal Plan for Science, Technology, and Innovation, the SIF focuses on modernizing industries, fostering inclusion within the National System of Innovation (NSI), and tapping into new economic growth opportunities such as the circular and digital economies. This program incentivizes private sector investment in RDI, enabling industries to identify their challenges, drive innovation agendas, and build the necessary skills and knowledge for long-term competitiveness. Managed by industry associations, the SIF operates with clear impact, outcome, and output measures, contributing to human capital development, intellectual property generation, transformation, and improved competitiveness within participating sectors.

A notable example of the SIF's impact is the South African Rooibos Council (SARC) initiative, which leverages RDI to build a scientific evidence base for marketing claims that enhance the competitive positioning of Rooibos as a leading herbal tea globally. Dr. Kalan underscored the importance of long-term RDI strategies, emphasizing the need for deeper and more meaningful investigations into Rooibos's mechanisms and broader applications, such as its potential health benefits. Lessons from the initiative highlighted the significance of fostering collaborative research, improving governance, and integrating rural economies into knowledge transfer and capacity-building efforts. Dr. Kalan further noted the need for enhanced vertical integration within industries to better capitalize on economic opportunities, alongside adopting sustainable agricultural practices and promoting biodiversity preservation. Lastly, the presentation called for a whole-of-society approach by expanding public sector partnerships, aligning government priorities, and strategically directing RDI efforts to address industry-specific pain points while contributing to South Africa's broader socio-economic and environmental goals. Through these coordinated efforts, the SIF aims to drive innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable development across the biodiversity economy.

Following the presentation, participants were prompted to reflect on key aspects of information sharing, knowledge management, and collaboration. The discussion centred around how to effectively share the valuable information available, request the critical information needed, and identify successful communication channels and relationships. The first focus area, knowledge generation and dissemination, highlighted the importance of clearly understanding the purpose of information versus raw data and effectively sharing this knowledge with relevant stakeholders. Participants emphasized the need to define the rights and responsibilities associated with information use, starting with identifying the information required. They also recognized the importance of balancing confidentiality with transparency, determining what information must remain proprietary and what can be shared to foster collaboration and innovation.

Trust and information sharing were identified as essential for sustainable collaboration. Trust, as noted, develops over time through consistent and reliable interactions between stakeholders. In terms of information sharing, participants posed critical questions, such as how to produce goods, identify market needs, and focus on specific species or product groups. A strong message emerged: “If you don’t share, then you don’t get.” The discussion further emphasized the importance of answering fundamental questions such as “What?” “Who?” and “Why?” when engaging in information sharing. Communication and targeting were also key themes, with participants underscoring the need to identify appropriate communication channels, focus on different points along the value chain, and ensure that information is concise, specific, and relevant to the target audience. Confidentiality was reiterated as a priority to protect sensitive company information, but not at the expense of fostering collaborative opportunities.

A strong emphasis was placed on maintaining a local focus, ensuring that strategies are informed by localized data and conditions. Participants highlighted the potential for replication and scalability of locally driven initiatives while stressing the importance of engaging with stakeholders in a meaningful way. This includes ensuring that the right plant is grown in the right place by the right people, thereby aligning biodiversity initiatives with community needs and environmental sustainability. By fostering trust, ensuring accurate and targeted information sharing, and maintaining a local focus, the dialogue provided actionable insights to strengthen collaboration and build a thriving biodiversity economy.

2.3. TRANSFORMATION, REPRESENTATION, AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Dr Andile Grootboom from the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) about their Indigenous Knowledge (IK)-Based Bio-Innovation Programme, which aims to integrate indigenous knowledge systems into the national science and innovation framework. The initiative leverages the country's rich heritage of traditional medicinal plant knowledge to develop commercially viable products while promoting socio-economic growth. Key achievements include the development of six traditional health products through collaborations with traditional practitioners, ensuring their safety, efficacy, and market readiness.

The programme also emphasizes capacity building by training traditional health practitioners in business management, enabling them to commercialize their products effectively.

Infrastructure development plays a critical role, with centers of excellence established at institutions like the University of Limpopo, focusing on research and innovation. Additionally, policy alignment with South Africa's Bio-Economy Strategy ensures the inclusion of indigenous knowledge across sectors such as agriculture, health, and environmental sustainability, fostering community empowerment and sustainable development.

The interview with two board members of the South African Honeybush Tea Association (SAHTA) in the session on "Transformation, Representation, and Governance" highlighted the organization's journey to restructure and address key industry challenges. The board members noted that the reformation of SAHTA between 2022 and 2024 arose from tumultuous relationships and fragmentation within the Honeybush tea industry. A lack of transformation and a need for self-reflection led to a reimagining of SAHTA's role, aiming to justify its existence and ensure representation across the value chain—from harvesters to brand owners. The organization acknowledged that the industry is highly concentrated around processors, presenting both structural and transformational challenges.

Key challenges included limited capacity to support all members, especially harvesters and emerging farmers, as well as issues related to funding and administrative experience among board members. To address these, SAHTA adopted a developmental approach, established a working board from diverse backgrounds, and introduced a new Memorandum of Incorporation aligned with its vision. Flexibility and long-term commitment were emphasized as critical strategies for navigating industry realities. Opportunities included building board capacity to access diverse funding and leveraging developmental financing. The interview underscored the importance of collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and a willingness to invest time and resources in the association's activities to build momentum and ensure continuity. Key success moments included overcoming financial challenges through collective decision-making, demonstrating the board's ability to manage crises and maintain progress. Recommendations for similar organizations included adopting a developmental approach, prioritizing collaboration, and maintaining flexibility to address dynamic industry needs.

The discussion following the presentations emphasized the importance of trust and collaboration to bring together indigenous knowledge holders, local communities, industries, academics, and government in shaping industry agendas. Participants highlighted the need to identify key strategic partners and build trust by ensuring fair benefit-sharing mechanisms. Bridging divisions requires strong ethical principles and appropriate structures that promote inclusivity. A compact of collaboration between the public and private sectors was proposed, fostering mutual understanding even when stakeholders may "row in different directions." Industry associations were seen as critical intermediaries to connect networks with local communities, ensuring broader inclusion and representation.

Addressing basic needs and improving industry organization were also considered essential to supporting public-private and civil society partnerships. Participants noted the importance of meeting practical needs, such as access to phones and travel support, while ensuring that industry organizations act as effective vehicles for these actions. Radical transparency was

emphasized to build credibility and trust, with suggestions to institutionalize an annual session for sharing strategies and updates across all stakeholders. This approach could strengthen partnerships and ensure the prioritization and execution of strategic actions that align with the interests of all parties involved. These steps aim to create a cohesive, inclusive, and effective framework for advancing industry goals.

2.4. SUSTAINABLE SECTOR GROWTH

This session explored initiatives that can increase market access and market demand for biodiversity-based industries. Georges Bauer's input highlighted the opportunity of Geographical Indications (GIs) as a tool for industries to protect and communicate the uniqueness and rich stories of biodiversity-based products. He also pointed out that although common goals are important to align to, different industries, different products and different businesses have different contexts, realities and priorities. Marthane Swart shared insights from the Buchu Association, emphasizing the steps taken to establish a collective identity for the Buchu industry. This included participation in the African Biotrade Festival 2023, where camaraderie and a team-spirit were evident. She also described the realities of corporate identity development and the significant achievement of signing an industry-wide benefit-sharing agreement, the association's foundational goal.

Adrie El Mohamadi reflected on the success of the African Biotrade Festival 2023 in raising awareness both within and beyond the biotrade sector. The event demonstrated a significant interest in the sector as well as the potential of these types of platforms to grow the sector. She emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships, cooperation, and coordination to sustain the event in the future. Natalie Feltman underscored the potential of BioPANZA clusters to streamline dialogue between public and private sectors, creating opportunities for future initiatives in the biodiversity economy. Together, these inputs emphasized collaboration, innovation, and sector-wide alignment as critical to driving sustainable growth.

Participants emphasized several practical recommendations to enhance marketing and market access for biodiversity-based businesses. Industry associations and business support organizations were identified as critical drivers of market access and generic marketing initiatives. Visual storytelling, including the use of video footage, was highlighted as a powerful tool for effectively communicating the value and origin of products, strengthening connections between producers and markets. Key resources, such as SAEOPA production guides, the b-TAF.org database, and the Buchu Association's Sustainable Harvesting videos, were noted as contributions to support these efforts.

The importance of understanding the business landscape was underscored, with participants citing successful examples like the South African Rooibos Council (SARC) and the South African Association for the Flavour and Fragrance Industry (SAAFFI). Associations with strong international networks serve as models for fostering growth and learning. Participants recommended identifying specific target groups and tailoring marketing strategies to their unique requirements for maximum impact. Ensuring accuracy of information and the validity

of claims when addressing specific value chain segments was highlighted as essential for building trust and credibility. Streamlining marketing messages to make them concise and focused was also noted as critical to improving engagement and ensuring biodiversity-related products resonate with intended audiences, ultimately driving strategic, sustainable, and high-value market growth.

Collaboration and knowledge exchange were emphasized as cornerstones of a sustainable biodiversity economy. Participants noted the vital role of associations and networks in facilitating exchanges between stakeholders. Peer-to-peer learning among harvesters and community organizations was seen as an effective mechanism for sharing knowledge and enhancing practices. These interactions were viewed as essential for empowering communities, strengthening local networks, and building collective capacity. Participants also stressed the need to actively promote local ingredients to locals, leveraging organizations like the South African Association for Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) to showcase South African biodiversity. Engaging harvesters and small producers in promoting, speaking about, and selling their own products was identified as a way to create visibility, direct market connections and pride in local biodiversity-based resources.

2.5. VALUE CHAIN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

The presentation by Dr. Rhoda R. Malgas explored the complexities of biodiversity-based value chains, using Honeybush (*Cyclopia spp.*) as a case study. The primary objective was to highlight key challenges, successes, and potential solutions found in the Honeybush industry which could encourage collaboration, deeper and broader dialogue and strengthen networks within the sector. The presentation acknowledged progress in reducing wild-harvest pressure, increasing stakeholder engagement, improving production capacity, and expanding export markets over the past two decades. Additionally, partnerships, resource assessments, and product diversification have contributed to the industry's growth.

Despite these successes, several key challenges remain. Issues such as land access, conservation benefits, market entry barriers, and an under-resourced permitting system create major obstacles for stakeholders. There is also uncertainty about benefit-sharing mechanisms (ABS), particularly regarding who should benefit from the commercialization of Honeybush. Furthermore, concerns about price-making versus price-taking, illegal harvesting, climate change, and the loss of traditional knowledge threaten the sustainability of the industry.

Dr Malgas emphasized that progress has been slow and fragile, with benefits emerging inconsistently due to lapses and failures along the way. It points out that different stakeholders experience different challenges, requiring both technical and relational solutions. Production inefficiencies and cultivation issues demand technical fixes, whereas governance and equity concerns require broader systemic and policy-based interventions.

To understand and manage these complexities, she introduced Elinor Ostrom's Social-Ecological Systems Framework (SESF), which examines human-nature interactions through four core subsystems. This framework facilitates cross-disciplinary collaboration and helps stakeholders communicate using a shared language. The discussion also raised critical

questions about accountability, common goals, and balancing diverse perspectives within the sector. The session emphasized the need for even deeper dialogue and more diverse engagement to ensure sustainable and equitable development of the sector. By recognizing the interconnectedness of landscapes, plants, and people, stakeholders can work toward long-term resilience in biodiversity-based value chains.

Some participant reflections reinforced many of the key challenges she outlined regarding the complexities of biodiversity-based value chains. Participants expressed concerns about inequities in the system, particularly how those at the beginning of the value chain—such as primary producers and harvesters—often remain in poverty despite their crucial role. This reflects the broader issue of governance and benefit-sharing, where access to resources, fair trade practices, and economic opportunities remain unevenly distributed. Establishing clearer rules of engagement and ensuring equitable distribution of benefits were seen as necessary steps toward a more just and sustainable system.

Climate change emerged as a major oversight in current sector discussions on biodiversity-based industries. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices into cultivation and trade policies, recognizing that environmental shifts could significantly impact production, resource availability, and long-term sustainability. The absence of structured dialogue around climate resilience was viewed as a critical gap that must be addressed to ensure the future stability of the biodiversity-based industries and the sector.

Another key point was the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Traditional Knowledge (TK), which are often undervalued in formal trade and conservation frameworks. Participants noted that these knowledge systems should not be seen purely through an economic lens (i.e. limited to benefit-sharing negotiations but should be acknowledged for their cultural, historical, and ecological significance. A major challenge lies in the practical implementation of Benefit Sharing Agreements (BSA), which often lack real impact for local communities and the environment.

Overall, the discussion reinforced the need for systemic improvements in transparency, inclusion, representative governance, and equity within biodiversity-based industries. Participants called for a more integrated approach that considers social, economic, and environmental dimensions holistically, ensuring that all stakeholders—not just commercial entities—benefit from the growth and development of the sector. Addressing these gaps requires both technical and relational solutions to create a more resilient and inclusive value chain.

2.6. POLICY DIALOGUE: ABS AND COMPLIANCE

Prof. Neil Crouch's presentation explored the evolution and challenges of implementing Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) policies under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) in South Africa. Using the metaphor of a space journey, Prof. Crouch conveyed the transformative shift in the country's biodiversity economy as it adapted to the requirements of ABS policies.

He outlined the key achievements of the ABS regulatory framework, which included educating stakeholders, sensitizing industries to their responsibilities, reorienting business practices, and correcting historical imbalances in benefit sharing. Despite initial resistance from industry, which expressed concerns about disruptions to conventional business practices, the framework has succeeded in promoting fair and equitable benefit-sharing principles. Prof. Crouch emphasized how cooperative governance has improved legal certainty, which in turn bolsters investment confidence and supports the long-term success of South Africa's biodiversity economy.

The presentation also underscored the need for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between regulators, industries, and other stakeholders to address the complexities of ABS implementation. Prof. Crouch concluded with a call for stakeholders to embrace the "new reality" of a post-ABS world, where the principles of fairness, equity, and sustainability underpin the biodiversity economy. His use of David Bowie's *Major Tom* metaphor served to highlight both the challenges and opportunities of navigating uncharted territory in biodiversity governance.

The Public-Private Sector dialogue highlighted the critical need for a collaborative approach in addressing regulatory and policy challenges. Participants emphasized the importance of identifying and sharing bottlenecks with relevant authorities to uncover the root causes of delays and inefficiencies. A key takeaway was the need to establish clear communication channels between associations in the sector and to streamline processes between different stakeholders and ensure accountability. The dialogue also stressed the role of regulatory impact assessments in evaluating policies and aligning them with both national and provincial legislation to create a cohesive and enabling regulatory framework.

The discussion underscored the value of inclusive development in policy formulation. Policies must be linked to tangible benefits for communities, ensuring that the most vulnerable stakeholders are included in decision-making processes. Collaboration with institutions like CSIR and regional bodies such as the SADC Secretariat was highlighted as a way to enhance policy design and implementation. The involvement of diverse stakeholders, including community representatives, was seen as vital in ensuring policies reflect on-the-ground realities and promote both social and economic development.

A strong emphasis was placed on the importance of robust systems that can adapt to diverse challenges. Participants noted that policies and frameworks must be rigorously tested—through unit and beta testing, for example—to identify and address potential weaknesses. Participants advocated for a "Back to Basics" approach to simplify and strengthen regulatory initiatives to ensure that they are not only effective but also sustainable over time.

Finally, the dialogue highlighted the potential of regional integration to drive economic growth. Expanding access to African markets and ensuring equitable trade practices were identified as priorities. Regional policymakers were called upon to participate actively in candid discussions to align strategies and harmonize regulations. This approach, combined with

enabling partnerships between public and private sectors, was seen as a way to create policies that support inclusive growth and sustainable development across the region.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRUCTURE OF FUTURE DIALOGUES

One key limitation identified by participants was the need for more interactive engagement. While the event successfully brought together diverse stakeholders, many respondents felt that the time allocated for meaningful dialogue and participant contributions was insufficient. Participants expressed a desire for longer and more interactive sessions, emphasizing the value of creating space for individuals to share their experiences, insights, and knowledge. Breakout sessions were frequently suggested as a way to address this, allowing smaller groups to engage in more focused discussions on specific topics. This approach could help ensure that all voices are heard and foster deeper exploration of shared challenges and potential solutions.

Another limitation was the event structure and organization, with feedback highlighting the need for a more solution-oriented framework. Participants suggested that the dialogue could benefit from better structuring aimed at producing clear, actionable outcomes. Incorporating smaller, thematic breakout sessions was recommended to facilitate more targeted and productive conversations. This format would enable participants to delve deeper into priority areas, collaborate more effectively, and align on practical next steps. In addition to alternative structuring, a preparatory process prior to the workshop could be beneficial. Discussion topics / themes and broad questions could be shared with participants prior to the workshop to allow them to prepare for optimal engagement in these sessions.

By addressing these structural and engagement gaps, future dialogues could maximize their impact and better meet the expectations of participants.

Recommendations for Future Events

1. **Increase Interactive Time:** Include fewer topics and allocate more time for participant discussions, including interactive Q&A sessions.
2. **Use Breakout Sessions:** Create smaller thematic groups of relevant but diverse actors for focused discussions on key issues such as sustainability, collaboration, and trust-building.
3. **Expand Stakeholder Representation:** Involve diverse civil society organizations, government departments, policymakers and community-led groups.
4. **Enhance Event Structure:** Design sessions with clear goals and action-oriented methodology and discussions.
5. **Avoid Content Saturation:** Limit repetitive presentations and focus on new insights and actionable topics.

4. ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Category	Details
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Information management and strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directory of Biotrade enterprises • Directory of Biotrade resources inclusive of area of occurrence, status, etc. (knowledge products, multimedia, etc.) • More focused and strategic communication – less but more specific, targeted at the right audience • Clarity about the purpose of information, context, and constraints of target audience
Strengthening industry organization and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-learning and further exchange opportunities for industry associations • Sharing resources for common challenges (e.g., guides, policies, templates, etc.) • Coordinate efforts for support, data collection, and public comment processes
Active inclusion of indigenous knowledge holders and local community organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific strategies to include indigenous knowledge holders and local community leadership in broader sector developments and future dialogues (i.e., beyond ABS negotiations as partners in activities) • Find innovative solutions to enable indigenous knowledge holders and local community leadership to set the agenda and represent themselves
Active integration of climate change and other environmental challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders need to develop a holistic view of environmental challenges and the need for proactive environmental protection • Identify specific role players that can be consulted to expand the network to include technical expertise • Review micro, meso-, and macro strategies, programs, and plans to ensure specific environmental risks/priorities are addressed
Broad promotion of biodiversity-based products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad utilization of available material • Utilize innovative, low-cost marketing and distribution channels (websites, social media) • Involve the youth (social media, local and regional festivals and trade fairs) • Lessons from sectors implementing successful generic marketing strategies • Creating an identity for the SA Biotrade sector
Explore processes to improve legislation, regulation, and policy dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the public sector to inform and raise awareness among private sector stakeholders on the steps and specific units involved in legislative and regulatory development and review • Improve capacity of private sector to provide input/comment that provides the key information needed in legislative processes² • Capture lessons on successful government and industry collaboration that streamlines regulatory compliance

² See Regulatory Impact Assessment process that could guide coordination and preparation of industry input:

https://d7.westerncape.gov.za/assets/departments/premier/office_premier/regulatory_impact_assessment_brochure_2019.pdf

5. TOPICS FOR FUTURE EVENTS

5.1. SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY INTEGRATION

Future events should place a strong focus on sector development and policy integration, addressing key areas such as biodiversity, sustainable resource use and production, environmental considerations and climate change. Participants emphasized the need for creating an enabling business environment by simplifying regulatory frameworks, particularly in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), but also other legislation and policies impacting the biodiversity economy. Such discussions could explore how to support community self-sufficiency within the industry while growing the sector through shared opportunities and how to cultivate increasingly collaborative relationships between regulatory authorities and industry organisations to streamline regulatory compliance. Structured sessions involving government, industry, and communities could help align policies with practical strategies for sustainable growth.

5.2. STRATEGIES FOR TRUST AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Building trust and relationship building among stakeholders was highlighted as a critical enabling factor. Stakeholders called for deeper engagement between Traditional Knowledge holders, research institutions, private industry, and government agencies. Workshops and guides focused on trust and relationship building strategies (the 'how to?'), as well as case studies on successful partnerships, could foster stronger relationships and collaboration. Addressing trust issues directly and providing opportunities for honest dialogue on industry-regulator, industry-community relationships, and Traditional Knowledge Holders and the regulator would pave the way for more cohesive and cooperative sector development.

5.3. FOCUS ON TECHNICAL ISSUES

Practical and technical discussions was another area identified for future focus. Participants expressed interest in events focused on specific technical issues. Specific sessions could address streamlining funding processes, regulatory compliance, joint strategies to improve market access, generic marketing and developing innovative, sustainable industry solutions to addressing the opportunities and challenges facing the biotrade sector. These workshops would provide stakeholders with actionable insights and tools to overcome practical challenges and capitalize on new opportunities within the biodiversity economy.

5.4. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Greater emphasis on knowledge sharing and peer exchange was also recommended. Future events could include sessions featuring research, case studies, and best practices that can be shared by peers and also between different stakeholders. Facilitating knowledge and experience exchange between academics, industry leaders, and Traditional Knowledge holders would allow for the development of evidence-based strategies and innovations for collaboration. These discussions could also explore how research and innovation can directly support community-driven projects and enhance sector sustainability.

5.5. INCLUDING COMMUNITIES AND THE YOUTH

Finally, youth engagement and community empowerment were emphasized as priorities for future events. Participants called for strategies to involve young people in agriculture and biotrade, as well as initiatives to empower local communities by integrating them into biotrade value chains. Workshops on localized business development models, capacity building, and sustainable funding mechanisms would ensure that youth and community stakeholders play an active role in the biodiversity economy. By fostering inclusivity and providing targeted support to these groups, future dialogues can help ensure long-term sustainability and equitable sector growth.

6. CONCLUSION

The Public-Private Sector Dialogue successfully delivered on its promise of fostering meaningful connections and shared insights across a diverse group of stakeholders. Networking and relationship building emerged as the event's most valuable aspect, with participants appreciating the rare opportunity to engage with individuals from various sectors, including industry, government, academia, and communities. The environment facilitated active conversations, allowing attendees to feel heard while building connections that could drive future collaborations. Many highlighted the quality of interactions and the accessibility of stakeholders as instrumental to strengthening their personal networks and advancing shared goals within the biodiversity economy.

Another significant achievement of the dialogue was knowledge sharing and learning. Attendees found the presentations and discussions to be insightful and relevant, with specific praise for key presentations by Dr. Kalan and Prof. Malgas. For many, the event served as an eye-opener to bioprospecting and the operational intricacies of the sector. The ability to gain new perspectives and a deeper understanding of sector dynamics was widely appreciated, underscoring the value of bringing together experts and practitioners to share their expertise and experiences in a collaborative setting.

Finally, the event's focus on creating an open, inclusive, and respectful space for dialogue was frequently mentioned as a highlight. The diversity of participants was pivotal in fostering rich discussions and uncovering shared challenges and potential solutions.

Recommendations for Future Events

1. **Continue Fostering Networking Opportunities:** Allocate more time for informal networking and one-on-one discussions.
2. **Expand Knowledge-Sharing Sessions:** Include more expert presentations and deep-dive panels on sector-relevant topics.
3. **Maintain Open, Inclusive Dialogue:** Ensure future events continue fostering a safe space for open discussions.
4. **Ensure Diverse Stakeholder Participation:** Maintain or even increase the diversity of participants, including more community-led and grassroots organizations.
5. **Highlight Sector Challenges and Solutions:** Continue emphasizing sector challenges while promoting actionable solutions through collaborative dialogues.

Attendees valued the safe space provided for honest and respectful conversations, which allowed for deep exchanges both during formal sessions and informal side discussions. By bridging gaps between industry, government, and community perspectives, the event offered a comprehensive understanding of the biodiversity sector's challenges and opportunities, setting the stage for continued collaboration and action.

Participants identified several key themes for improving the effectiveness of future dialogues. A notable concern was the need for action and practical solutions, as some participants felt that discussions did not culminate in clear, actionable outcomes. Suggestions included structuring sessions to prioritize agreement on concrete tasks or collaborative projects to ensure tangible results. Addressing this gap by integrating action-oriented discussions could enhance the sense of purpose and progress. Furthermore, allocating more time to fully explore topics and achieve consensus on solutions was highlighted as an area for improvement.

Representation and inclusivity were also flagged as critical for strengthening the dialogue. Many participants expressed a need for greater involvement of indigenous knowledge holders and local community leaders to reflect the diverse voices within the biodiversity economy. This inclusion would help bridge trust issues among stakeholders and enrich discussions with localized expertise and perspectives.

Additionally, participants emphasized the importance of integrating environmental and climate change considerations into future dialogues. Climate-related challenges and responsible and proactive measure to protect biodiversity are central to the sector's sustainability, and their absence was seen as a missed opportunity to align development plans with environmental realities. Expanding future discussions to encompass these critical dimensions will enhance the dialogue's relevance and impact.

ADDENDUM A: PROGRAM

Public-Private Sector Dialogue for an Enabling and Thriving Biodiversity Economy:

21 – 22 November 2024,
Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg

Thursday, 21 November	
Time	Session
8:15 – 9:00	<i>Registrations and networking</i>
9:00 – 9:30	<i>Opening</i> Acknowledgements Welcome by partners in the Biodiversity Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Lauchenauer (Head of Cooperation, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), South Africa) • Natalie Feltman (Director: Bioprospecting and Biodiversity Economy, Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, DFFE) • Raoul Du Toit (Board member South African Honeybush Tea Association, SAHTA) • Adrie El Mohamadi (Component manager ABioSA and BioInnovation Africa, Germany Agency for International Cooperation, GIZ)
9:30 - 10:30	<i>Purpose and introductions</i> This session will include an overview of the purpose of the dialogue and orientation through the program, the approach and the physical space in which the dialogue will be taking place. The inclusive, participatory approach will be discussed to ensure collective commitment from all the participants to the principles that will enable the dialogue. The session will include a round of introductions of each participant. Guidelines will be given on the day.

10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><i>Objectives and priorities</i></p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to organize and position their objectives, priorities and contributions within the physical space of the room based on questions for stakeholder preparation and physical space created for the main pillars/clusters within the sector (e.g. regulation, research and development, sustainable supply etc).</p> <p>The session will also include the opportunity for participants to write down and share their hopes for what can be achieved personally and collectively through the Dialogue.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p><i>All aboard part 1 – industry information, research and innovation</i></p> <p>The session will include inputs on data collection and information management to improve strategies for industry development, and public-private partnership to fund research and innovation.</p> <p>Inputs will be made by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franciska Patsika (Secretariat of African Baobab Alliance) and Chimwemwe Tembo (Independent contractor and associate of Kruger, Swart Associates) • Dr Andile Grootboom (Deputy Director IK-based Technological Innovation, Department Science, Technology and Innovation) <p>The purpose of the inputs is to stimulate engagement and dialogue between participants and an uptake of insights and learning. Questions will be posed to participants.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><i>All aboard part 2 – transformation, representation and innovation</i></p> <p>The session will include inputs on tackling transformation and representation of stakeholders in an industry association and opportunities for Indigenous Knowledge based technological innovation.</p> <p>Inputs will be made by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yolande Le Roux and Matt Sephton (Board members South African Honeybush Tea Association) • Sunita Kalan (Director Sector and Local Innovation, Department Science, Technology and Innovation) <p>The purpose of the inputs is to stimulate engagement and dialogue between participants and an uptake of insights and learning.</p>
15:00 - 15:30	<i>Tea break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<i>We dream the same dream - sustainable sector growth</i>

	<p>This session explores increasing market access and market demand for biodiversity-based industries, including the opportunities of protecting and promoting geographical uniqueness, the first steps in generic marketing for a growing industry association, and highlights and lessons learnt from the African Biotrade Festival 2023</p> <p>Inputs will be made by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georges Bauer (Project coordinator Sustainable Development and International Cooperation, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property) • Marthane Swart (Secretariat of the Buchu Association) • Adrie El Mohamadi (Component manager ABioSA and BIA, GIZ) • Natalie Feltman (Director: Bioprospecting and Biodiversity Economy, DFFE) <p>The purpose of these inputs is to stimulate specific interest and discussion among participants on potential for their industry or the sector as a whole.</p>
17:30 – 20:30	<i>Drinks and networking dinner</i>

Friday, 22 November 2024	
Time	Session
8:30 – 9:30	<p>Retrospective on Day 1:</p> <p>Share new connections, new insights, new information, lessons from others' experience</p> <p>Online survey to capture stakeholder priorities, opportunities for collaboration and cross-sector actions.</p>
<p>Focus for day 2: <i>How can we strengthen our network and work together to ensure a thriving, compliant and equitable biotrade economy?</i></p>	
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Part 1: Imagine - beauty, diversity and complexity</p> <p>Input from Dr Rhoda Malgas to start the session (School of Natural Resource Science & Management, Nelson Mandela University)</p> <p>Input from Shamiso Mungwashu (Independent consultant in Southern Africa) towards the end of the session</p> <p>[Themes/questions for this session will be determined by the retrospective of Day 1 of the dialogue, and the priorities that emerge from the discussion.]</p>

10:30 – 11:00	<i>Tea break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Part 2: Ground control to Major Tom...ABS policy dialogue in an odd South African space</p> <p>Input from Prof Neil Crouch (South African National Biodiversity Institute) to start the session</p> <p>[Themes/questions for this session will be determined by the retrospective of Day 1 of the dialogue, and the priorities that emerge from the discussion.]</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of 'low-hanging fruit' • Short-term action towards 'common goals' • Evaluation

ADDENDUM C: HOPES OF WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED

FOR YOU PERSONALLY:

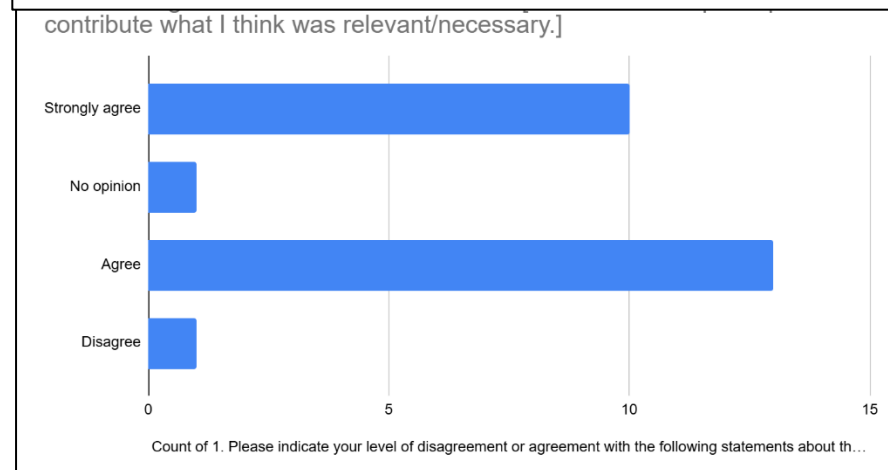
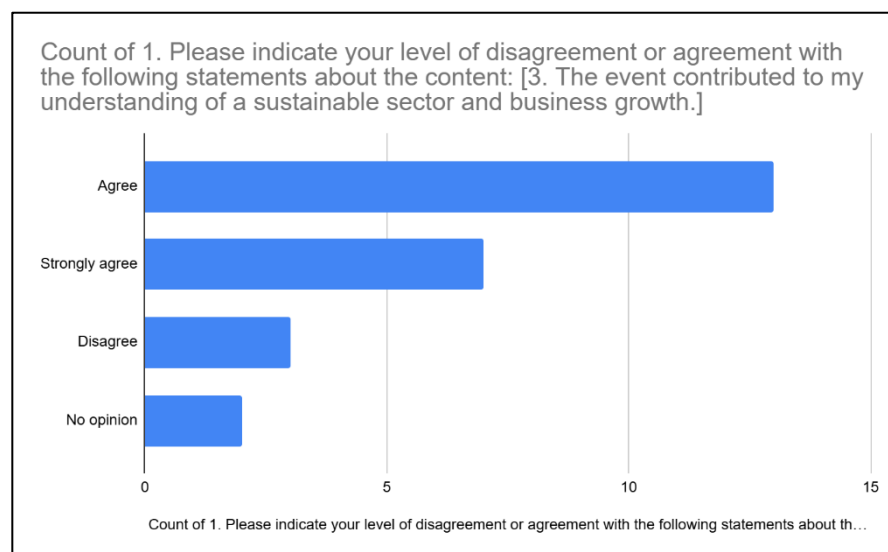
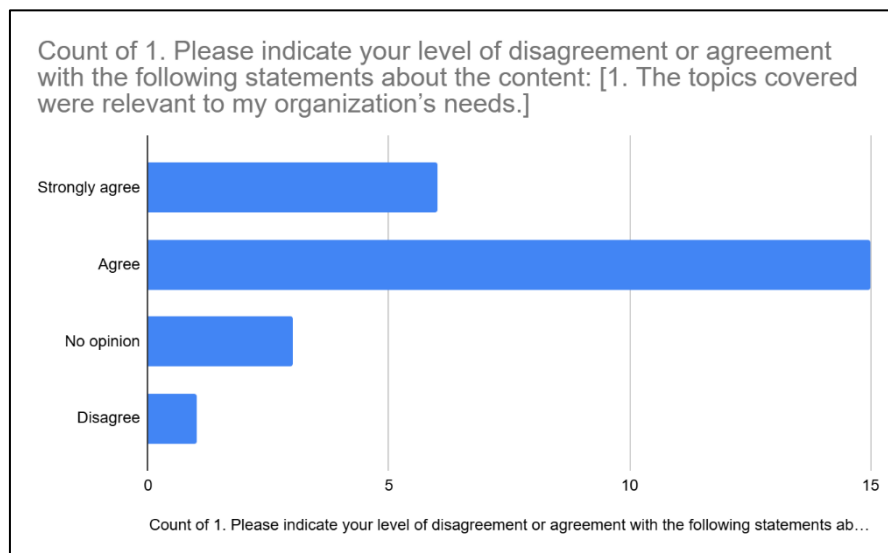
1. To find inspiration for writing a guideline document for a sustainable rooibos industry.
2. An understanding of the international and regional obligations placed on government departments and private corporations and researchers to acknowledge, affirm, and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and ensure sustainable use of biodiversity for present and future generations.
3. Build relationships that will lead to tangible outcomes.
4. My hope is to influence from political levels and turn talk into action. Pumping money is not enough; there needs to be actionable items, fewer tick boxes, and more collaboration.
5. To let go of politics and focus on the growth of the sector.
6. To build a series of sessions to ensure inclusivity – leaving no one behind.
7. To learn from the experiences of South Africa, to celebrate the great strides it has had, and to investigate if there is room for collaboration on transboundary species.
8. Make concrete contacts for future collaborations and projects and to be able to bring more colleagues next time.
9. That everyone will leave with something of value to them.
10. To understand the diverse perspectives of different role players in the sector.
11. Acknowledgment of work done already in the sector at all levels, before.
12. To know which direction our focus should take in the future. To determine if the focus of the dialogue can correlate with our vision.
13. Understand where we (as individuals and organizations) can add value/resistance to existing movements with momentum that are undercapitalized.
14. Networking and creating linkages between different fields of interest.
15. To form new alliances/working groups to move critical agenda points forward.

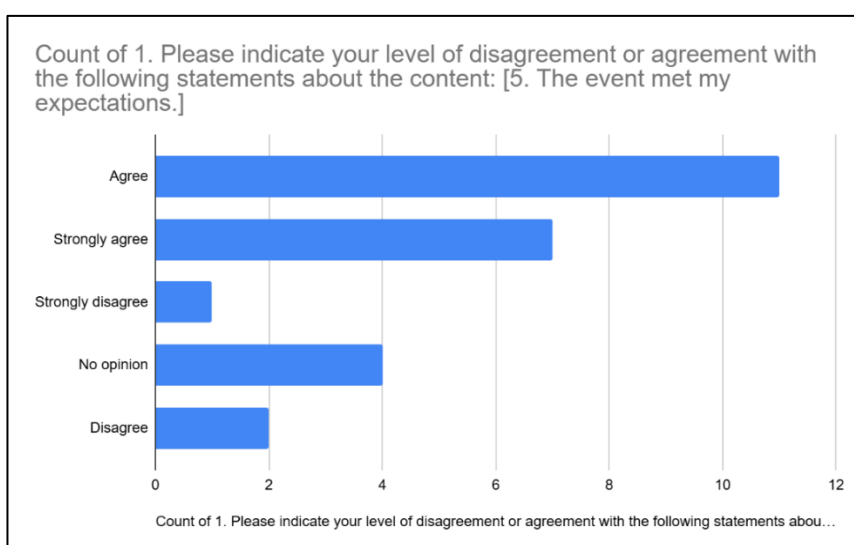
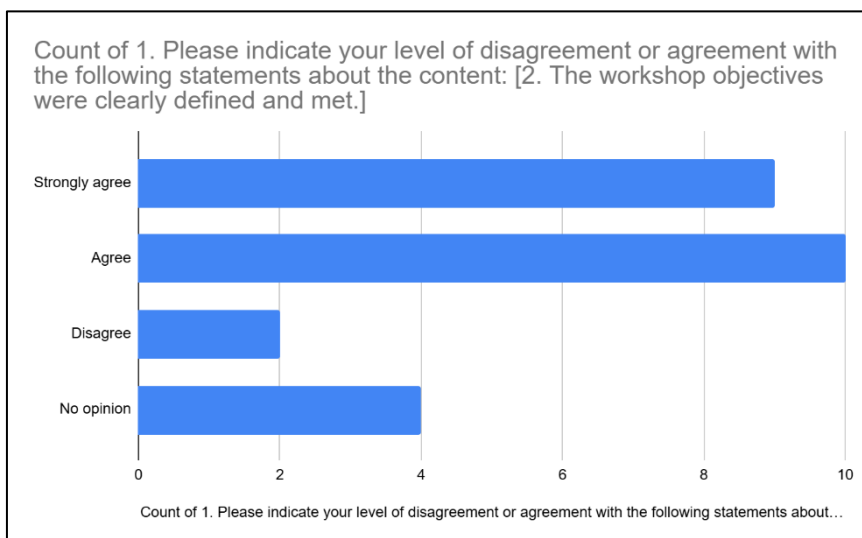
FOR THE GROUP COLLECTIVELY:

1. To find a balance among parties in terms of ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing), biodiversity economy, the need not to over-regulate, and finding common goals without having to "enforce" much.

2. Collaboration with all stakeholders, and support of communities in decision-making platforms regarding critical issues concerning biodiversity use, conservation, and sustainable use, and climate and environmental justice.
3. Find collective trust that enables meaningful, long-lasting collective outcomes/actions.
4. For businesses and government to speak frankly and empathetically about potential and obstacles in biodiversity and commit to finding a pragmatic way forward.
5. Understand that your contribution is valuable and needed. To integrate what you do into the bigger picture of the sector.
6. Create synergies and partnerships that reduce duplication of interventions, wasting time, and learning lessons that have been "learnt" by others.
7. I hope that the government agencies stay committed and come together for a concerted effort of support of the sectors.
8. A clear, jointly agreed activity linked to a jointly identified and agreed challenge.
9. Build on existing partnerships, start new collaborations, and make new friends.
10. Connectivity not linked to funding only.
11. That we decide on a way forward which incorporates our strengths best.
12. How to better collectively coordinate/execute solutions across the entire value chain.
There seems to be a lot of repetition and competition to reach the same solution, which is inefficient.
13. Collaboration for sustainable industries with uniquely South African products that facilitate poverty alleviation through equitable benefit sharing.
14. To identify a list of priorities and identify key players who can move these issues further.
15. Think out of the box to formulate bold aims without being facetious.

Addendum D: Event Evaluation summary Section 1: Content and topics



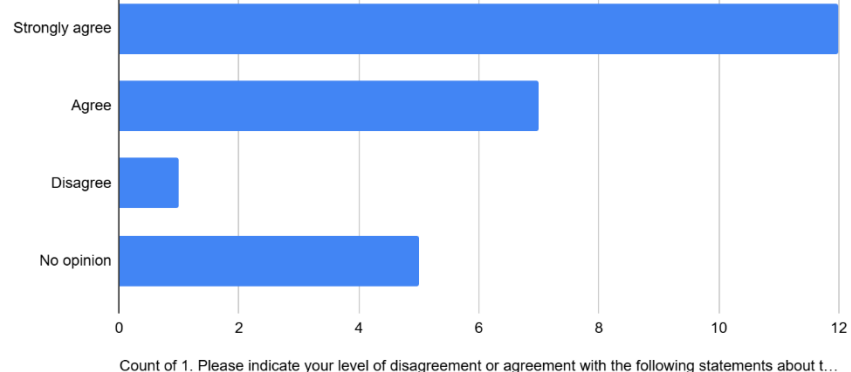
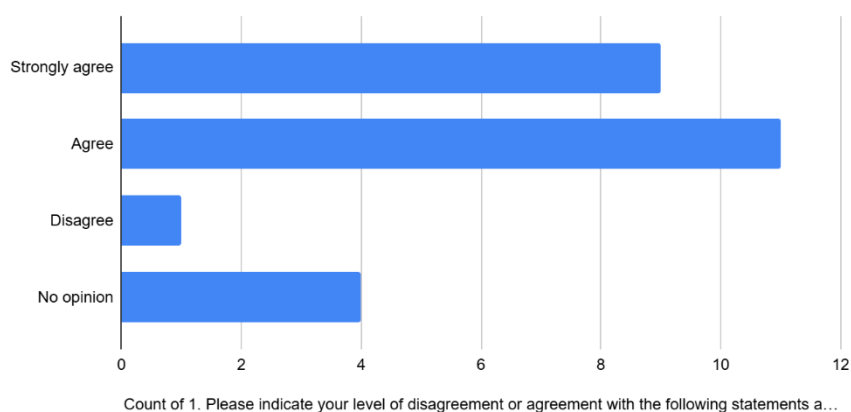


Overall Satisfaction with the Event

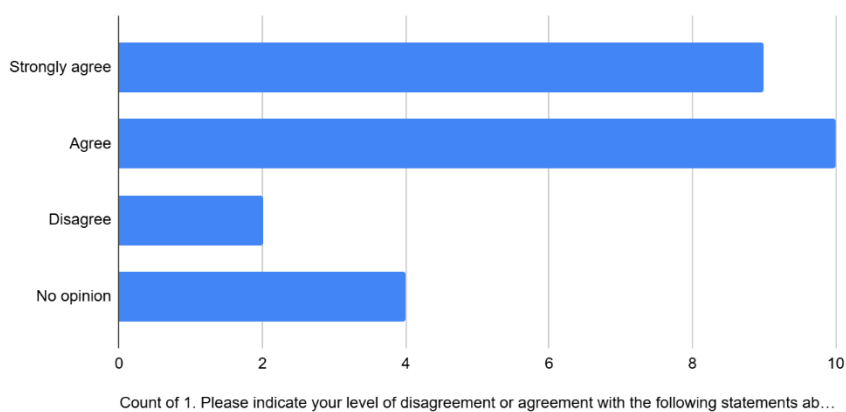
Overall Satisfaction	No. of responses
1 - ★	-
2 - ★★	-
3 - ★★★	5
4 - ★★★★	11
5 - ★★★★★	9
Average Rating	4.16

Section 2: Speakers and Approach

Count of 1. Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements about the speakers and approach: [3. The Q&A sessions were informative and helpful.]



Count of 1. Please indicate your level of disagreement or agreement with the following statements about the speakers and approach: [4. The quality of the dialogue materials and resources was good.]



Section 3: Organization and Logistics

