

IERM CONVENTION PROGRAMME 2025

3 – 5 September 2025 Hosted by eThekweni Municipality

Convention Day 1:

Time	Title	Speaker
08h00-09h00	Registration & Refreshments	
09h00 - 09h15	Opening National Anthem	Local School Choir
09h15 - 09h30	Opening Remarks by IERM President	Dr Elize van Staden <i>IERM President</i>
09h30 - 10h00	Welcome Address by Host City	Councillor Cyril Xaba <i>Executive Mayor, eThekweni Municipality</i>
10h00 -11h00	Keynote Address	COGTA
11h00-11h30	REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION VIEWING	
Theme 1: Trees and Park Use Session Chair: Dr Joseph Ndou		
11h30-11h50	Nature and use of public open space in the city of Tshwane: The cases of urban Soccer and Richard Street park in the Hatfield neighbourhood	Reabetswe Masombuka City of Johannesburg
11h50-12h10	The illegal tree removal how does the Park Rangers and JMPD protect trees. Case study in City of Johannesburg, South Africa.	Bishop Ngobeli and Robert Tshishonge Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo
12h10-12h30	Spatial street tree assessment to inform tree management strategy for eThekweni Municipality	Nondumiso Mokwena Durban University of Technology
12h30-13h00	Q & A	
13h00-14h00	LUNCH	
Theme 2: Funding & Health Session Chair: Ms Tammy Leibrandt		
14h00-14h20	Public-Private Partnerships for Funding and Innovation: A Case Study of Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo	Dr Joseph Ndou & Mmankwe Sebatjane Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo
14h20-14h40	How to apply for funding for projects	SALGA
14h40-15h00	Q & A	
15h00-15h15	REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION VIEWING	
15h15 – 15h45	Connecting People with Nature for a Healthier Mind	Grant Aggett-Cox eThekweni Municipality
15h45-16h00	IERM Membership & Closing Session	Dr Elize van Staden <i>IERM President</i>
16h00	DAY CLOSURE	
18h00	MAYORAL COCKTAIL FUNCTION HOSTED BY eThekweni MAYOR	

Day 2: Chainsaw Competition		
09h00 – 15h00	Competition to be held at the People’s Park	

Convention Day 3:		
08h00-09h00	REGISTRATION	
Theme 3: Technology Session Chair: Ms Andiswa Mbongwe		
09h00-09h30	The use of GIS mobile applications for managing parks and open spaces.	Jaco Nieman Green Industry Solutions (Pty)Ltd
09h30-10h00	eThekwini Bat Monitoring Project: The Role of Recreational Spaces in Urban Bat Conservation	Leigh Richards eThekwini Municipality
10h00–10h30	Investigation of <i>Celtis africana</i> and <i>Searsia lancea</i> growth dimensions, of trees planted during the Greening Soweto Project, Johannesburg, South Africa.	Mahloke Uriah Mogale UNISA
10h30-11h00	Refreshments & Exhibition Viewing	
Theme 4: The future Session Chair: Mr Edward Hutamo		
11h00-11h30	Arbor City Winners: How we did it!	To be confirmed
11h30-12h30	Panel Discussion: How to deal with challenges in local government	Facilitated by Dr Leslie Hoy, Randwater
12h30-13h00	Chainsaw Competition Winners and Exhibitors	To be confirmed
13h00 – 13h30	Convention Overview & Closure	Dr Elize van Staden IERM President
13h30	Lunch & End of Convention	