

South African Accessible Tourism Summit 2026

THEME: AFRICA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TOURISM: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE DAY 1 (19 March 2026): TRANSFORMING THE SECTOR - INDUSTRY, POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION MORNING SESSION

08:00 - 08:30 | Registration & Networking

08:30 - 09:30 | **Setting Industry Context and opening**

- Welcome remarks and summit objectives
- Message of support
- Keynote: "Why Accessible (disability-inclusive) Tourism Matters Now" **Dr Ivor Ambrose, Managing Director-European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) 09:30 - 11:30** | **DIALOGUE SESSION 1**

Objective: To establish how accessibility of persons with disabilities and other individuals with access needs can be mainstreamed throughout the Tourism, Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation and Wildlife Conservation (THLRC) value chain from a consumer market perspective?

11:30 – 11:45 | Stretch Break

11:45 – 13:00 | **DIALOGUE SESSION 2**

Objective: To establish how accessibility of persons with disabilities and other individuals with access needs can be mainstreamed throughout the THLRC value chain from a labour market perspective?

13:00 – 13:50 | Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION 13:50 - 14:30 | **DIALOGUE SESSION 3**

Objective: To co-create pathways and collective commitments as THLRC an ecosystem

Day 1 Outcomes:

*Stakeholder views for a disability-inclusive competencies recommendations to the THLRC education and skills development and priority interventions.

*Stakeholder commitments, pledges, partnership and collaboration opportunities and academic output

14:30 - 15:30 | Sharpeville Memorial & Boipatong Monument Students' Tour (Blind fold, earplugs)

Note: This event will be recorded and photos may be taken. This material may be disseminated within the framework of the project, without commercial purposes.

DAY 2 (20 March, 2026): PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE – CURRICULUM, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-CREATION OF PATHWAYS TO TRANSFORMATION MORNING SESSION

08:00 - 08:30 | Registration & Networking

08:30 - 09:45 | Welcome remarks and summit objectives

- Message of support
- Keynote: ‘Student-Centric disability inclusive Tourism, Hospitality, Leisure, Recreation and wildlife Conservation (THLRC) education as pivotal to transformation’: a pilot stance- **Director General’s Office: Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD)**

09:45 - 11:00 | **DIALOGUE SESSION 4**

Objective: To examine how tourism and hospitality curricula can embed disability inclusion to produce a workforce capable of driving accessible tourism growth. **11:00 – 11:30** | Tea Break

11:30 - 13:00 | **DIALOGUE SESSION 5**

Objective: To get insights on how to shift Attitudes to Skills: ‘What should future THLRC professionals know throughout the value chain?’ **13:00 – 14:00** | Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION 14:00 – 15:00 | **DIALOGUE SESSION 6**

Objective: Experiential Learning Demonstrations (e.g. stuffed animals, accessibility/ disability simulation exercises and showcasing assistive devices) and THLRC sharing perspectives and perceptions on disability inclusion from a consumer and workforce/labour lens.

15:00 | **Day 2 Close by visiting Sharpeville Memorial & Boipatong Monument**

Outcome of Day 2:

*Commitment and pledges on THLRC sector capacity development (e.g. training of staff and adaptation of UDL)

*Pathways (e.g. review of curricula and content) to co-creating disability inclusion for the system-wide transformation as a pilot project, THLRC policy briefs and academic output.

Panelists for sessions: Department of Higher Education and Training, Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Tourism, Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities, Industry role players (with and without Disabilities), Higher Education Institutions, Accessible/Disability-Tourism Researchers, Disability sector representatives (ODPs/DPOs), Students with Disabilities (studied tourism/hospitality/recreational and conservation), THLRC student representatives, Parks Authorities.

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