

SA Node of the Millennium 2023 Report

Geci Karuri-Sebina | 26 November 2023, Dubai

Introduction

- We have been registered in South Africa as a regional Public Benefit Organisation since 2004
- We have a voluntary, fiduciary Board which acts as trustees and advisors
- It is still the mission of the SA Node to:
 1. Spread the culture of futures thinking in the region
 2. Deepen expertise in futures amongst institutions and individuals in southern Africa and
 3. Galvanise and mobilize southern African experts and networks to participate in the activities of the Millennium Project.
- We have been relatively less active in past year due to capacity and funding constraints, but have had one major regional project reported herein.

Deepening futures
expertise in
Southern Africa



<https://samnode.org.za/>

2024 Highlights

- Eastern & Southern Africa Youth Futures Project (IDRC)
 - <https://foresightfordevelopment.org/youthfutures/>
- ForesightForDevelopment.org suspended
 - Hosting Youth & Capacity to Decolonise project
- Other Connectivity:
 - Masterclass with Future Africa – Geci, Koffi & Riel
 - Linkage - SOIF NGFP basketweavers
 - Linkage - UNESCO Chair - Tanja
 - Linkage - ICESCO Chair - Geci
 - Tayarisha / ICEGOV 2024 in South Africa

FFD has been our Flagship Project

The screenshot displays the homepage of foresightfordevelopment.org. At the top, the browser address bar shows the URL. The website header includes navigation links for Home, Contact Us, and Sitemap, along with a search bar and a Library Search link. The main navigation menu consists of buttons for SUBSCRIBE, FOCUS, READ, WATCH, SHARE, and PARTICIPATE. A featured 'FUTURIST PROFILE' for Lubabalo Mgudlwa is highlighted with a right-pointing arrow. To the right, a 'NOTICEBOARD' section lists 'The Future Energy Show Africa 2023' and a 'Good Living 2050 contest'. Below this, a 'LATEST FEATURES' section is titled 'Climate Change III' and features a collage of images related to climate change, including a hand holding a globe, a thermometer, wind turbines, and a sunset. A 'FFD BLOG' section at the bottom right features the article 'Simply sustainable 'living narratives'' by Nirmala Nair.


foresightfordevelopment.org


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FUTURIST PROFILE
Lubabalo Mgudlwa 


NOTICEBOARD

 **The Future Energy Show Africa 2023**
The Future Energy Show Africa 2023...

 **Good Living 2050 contest**
Good Living 2050 contest - Bett...

LATEST FEATURES

Climate Change III 



FFD BLOG

Simply sustainable 'living narratives'
by Nirmala Nair - Director: School of Practical Sustainabili...

Aug 2023: FFD Newsletters suspended

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For the very latest information on African foresight, Foresight For Development has it all.



SOUTHERN AFRICA NODE
of the millennium project

FFD is an initiative of the SA Node of the Millennium Project

The SA Node wishes to notify you that we will be suspending monthly FFD newsletter after this issue. Funding to sustain the project has been a challenge for the past few years, and we have finally come to the decision to put the new work on hold for now. The FFD website will still be functioning with all its archival resources and sub-sites. We would like to thank all our loyal readers and contributors over the past twelve years, and hope you have benefited from this project as much as we have. The Node also thanks the back-end team that has done the work to sustain the resource over the years. - Southern African Node of the Millennium Project Management



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GROW FORESIGHT IN AFRICA

PREVIOUS EDITIONS

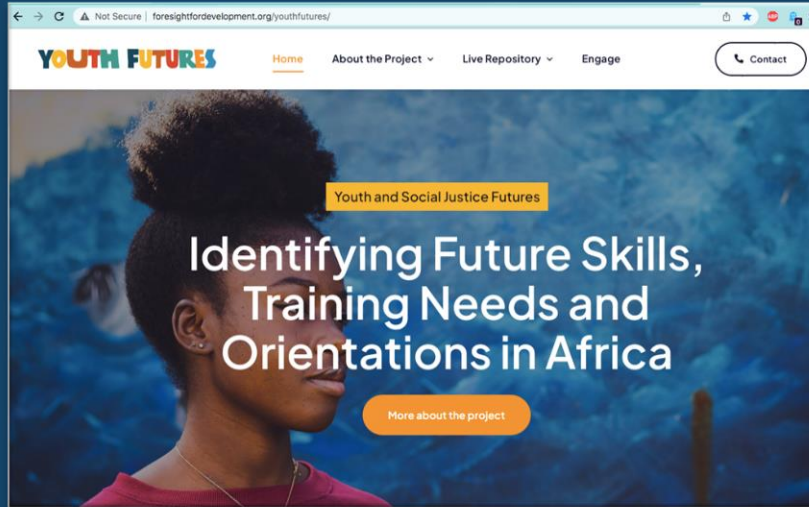
- » Aug '23 - Farming
- » July '23 - Banking II
- » June '23 - Politics
- » May '23 - AI Ethics
- » Apr '23 - Recycling
- » Mar '23 - Medicine
- » Feb '22 - Water
- » Jan '22 - Creativity
- » Dec '22 - Solar Energy
- » Sep '22 - Fashion
- » Aug '22 - Humans
- » Jul '22 - Money
- » Jun '22 - Urban Futures
- » May '22 - Ageing
- » Apr '22 - Space
- » Mar '22 - Governments
- » Feb '22 - Metaverse

Eastern & Southern Africa Youth Futures Project

- **IDRC invited SA Node to bid for this project. We successfully won the bid in partnership with SAIIA.**
- **Project aim:** Identify and address youth skills needs in ESA by employing futures thinking, collaborating with various stakeholders to foster youth-led agency for social justice.
- **Context:** Post-COVID-19 and climate crisis era presents a dynamic landscape for African youth, marked by rapid changes in the economic, education, technology, and social domains, offering both new opportunities and challenges.
- **Problem 1:** African youth lack the knowledge and skills of how to catalyse their change agency to play a key role in tackling both the opportunities and challenges, requiring a comprehensive approach to address gaps in knowledge, policy engagement, and collaboration with experts
- **Problem 2:** African youth lack futures literacy and strategic foresight capabilities to address the gaps in content knowledge, policy engagement, and project implementation that will reframe their thinking and change agency to develop proactive strategies, intersectional approaches, and meaningful collaboration with experts and decisionmakers.



We created a Youth Website linked to FFD - An Active Online Platform for Youth Advocacy



<http://foresightfordevelopment.org/youthfutures/>

- A dedicated microsite was created as a live and open platform, serving as a repository for project knowledge and fostering structured engagement following workshops.
- The platform includes a multi-format discussion forum and is integrated into the existing African foresight for development platform for sustainability and will be linked to the project page on the SALLA website.

YOUTH FUTURES



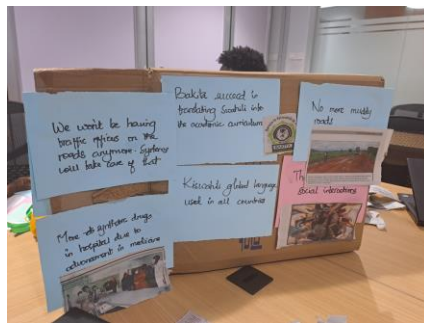
A futures initiative designed for youth, led by youth

Youth researchers are leading peers in co-creation: present and participating in all phases of the research, agenda-setting, and policy advocacy strategy development



From research to policy advocacy: a participatory, action-oriented journey

Qualitative data from workshops informed our collective agenda-setting. Learn more about advocacy strengthening efforts and our policy recommendations to national stakeholders



Beyond skills: capacity-building for flourishing African youth futures

Fostering cultures of access, inclusion, and innovation are essential to realising sustainable African futures. Foresight enables brighter possibilities for all generations



Anticipatory Governance Masterclass (Pilot)

- Node Directors Koffi Kouakou and Geci Karuri-Sebina collaborated with Future Africa to pilot a first Masterclass offering on Futures Literacy and Anticipatory Governance.
- The idea is to revise and offer the course into the future at both University of Pretoria and University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg)




<https://futureafrica.science/our-programmes/literacy-incubator>

Futures Literacy Masterclass

AUGUST 15TH - 18TH 2023
In partnership with WITS School of Governance

VENUE	Offered in person at Future Africa Campus
COURSE DESCRIPTION	Participants will learn how to better harness the significant, but often hidden, power of the future to shape what people see and do, anticipate and govern. This four-day course offers participants an innovative, intensive, and extensively field-tested learning-by-doing voyage. They will discover both why it is important and how to practically distinguish different kinds of futures. Professionals from every field will gain a broader and deeper appreciation of the powerful implications that different reasons and methods for imagining the future have on their activities. Course participants acquire a greater awareness of the origins of people's hopes and fears, motivation and inspiration. As a result, after taking this course, participants are better able to invent and take advantage of change, in particular innovation. This is because futures literacy as a general competency makes it easier to reap the rewards of experiments, both successes and failures, with significant benefits for policy making and governance for agility.
	The course is designed as a mix of lectures and participatory workshops. Participants will have the chance to think through, discuss, debate and present ideas on how to think about the future and how to integrate futures literacy into their pragmatic day-to-day activities at a personal and organisational level. This includes understanding futures literacy in relation to scenario planning, horizon scanning, strategic foresight, risk management etc. and how to make use of these diverse ways of imagining the future.

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<https://futureafrica.science/our-programmes/literacy-incubator>

Futures Literacy Masterclass

AUGUST 15TH - 18TH 2023
In partnership with WITS School of Governance

COURSE TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anticipatory systems and processes theory• Anticipatory governance• Futures literacy laboratory planning, design, and execution• Integrating futures literacy into day-to-day activities
LEARNING OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to detect and initiate change in day-to-day activities by becoming more sensitive to the roles that imagined futures play in determining perceptions and choices in the present.• Ability to match the reasons and methods for imagining the future to specific tasks, from formulating strategy to leveraging uncertainty to nourish innovation and improvisation.• Ability to become more effective and efficient at taking advantage of the power of imagined futures to facilitate shared meanings and aspirations within and across communities.
PRE-REQUISITES	None
CERTIFICATION	Participants will get a certificate of completion at the end of the course

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ICEGOV 2024 to be hosted 1-4 October, @Pretoria



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[CONFERENCE INFO](#) [PAPERS](#) [REGISTRATION](#) [PROGRAMME](#) [COMMITTEES](#) [FAQ](#)

Digital Governance for Democratic, Equitable, and Inclusive Societies

26 – 29 September 2023

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

SHORT NEWS

ICEGOV 2024

Pretoria, in South Africa, will host the next **ICEGOV** conference in October 2024.



NEXT IMPORTANT DATES

20 SEP 2023

PRESENTATION
SUBMISSION DEADLINE

26 SEP 2023

OPENING CEREMONY

26 SEP 2023

WELCOME RECEPTION

26 SEP 2023

WORKSHOPS

26 SEP 2023

DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM

28 SEP 2023

CONFERENCE DINNER

ICEGOV 2024 to be hosted 1-4 October, @Pretoria

- ICEGOV is the foremost digital / e-government conference in the world (according to the UN)
- South Africa has been invited to host the 17th edition
- It presents an important opportunity for the MP to consider submitting papers and participating as a space for learning and influence with public and private sector digital leaders
- <https://www.icegov.org/>



SA Node Priorities going forward

- Infuse new energy in Node, purposefully including Youth
- FFD Resume, Revive & Refresh:
 - Expand platform and activity into more African countries and issues
 - Partnerships/ MoA's with other organizations: e.g. regional universities, African Union initiatives, UNESCO
 - Growth beyond Africa (network of partnered FFD regional platforms?)
- Improve participation in MP activities
- Cooperation with other Nodes where possible, particularly solidifying contact with African nodes
- Secure SA Node financial position



Youth Futures project participants in Nairobi, April 2023

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