

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

Inviting Conservation NGOs/NPOs, Community-Based Organisations/Associations and Private Companies/Businesses to Participate in the:

## SADC WILDLIFE-BASED ECONOMY (WBE) CHAMPIONS TRAINING



Co-funded by  
the European Union



DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by:  
**giz**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
WILDLIFE COLLEGE

in partnership with



**AWEI**  
African Wildlife  
Economy Institute



## Call for Applications

### Inviting conservation NGOs/NPOs, community-based organisations/associations, and private companies/businesses to participate in a **SADC Wildlife-Based Economy (WBE) Champions Training**

The Southern African Wildlife College in collaboration with African Leadership University - School of Wildlife Conservation (ALU-SOWC) and Stellenbosch University - African Wildlife Economy Institute (AWEI) has a fully-funded opportunity for **One (1) individual from each SADC member state** involved in implementing Wildlife Based Economy and livelihoods related projects/programmes within the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s **at National Level** to participate in a **5-day WBE training programme** aimed at fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and best practices in **wildlife-based economies and livelihoods**.

The German Government and the European Union through the Joint Action NaturAfrica/Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management (C-NRM) project, implemented by the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** supports this initiative. The programme seeks to unlock the potential of wildlife economies for improved livelihoods and regional prosperity.

#### Purpose of the Training

This fully funded training programme is designed to strengthen national capacity, cross-sectoral collaboration, and leadership in advancing wildlife-based economic development, value chains, and sustainable livelihoods within SADC Member States. The Wildlife-Based Economy Champions Training aims to:

- Build a cadre of national champions who can drive implementation of wildlife-based economy strategies in collaboration with governments;
- Strengthen coordination between environment, wildlife, trade, tourism, and economic development sectors;
- Support Member States in translating wildlife resources into inclusive economic opportunities while promoting sustainability and conservation.

#### Important Dates and Info

Application closing date:	<b>28 April 2026</b>
Announcement of selected candidates:	<b>7 May 2026</b>
	<b>27 July – 31 July 2026</b>
Programme date:	
Venue:	<b>Johannesburg, South Africa</b>
Language:	<b>English</b> (with translation – SADC official Languages)

We invite qualified stakeholders who meet the following requirements to express their interest in participation:



## To be eligible, applicants should:

1. **Be working with/for either non-governmental organisation (NGO), Community-based Organisation/Association, OR private sector, actively engaged in wildlife-based economy initiatives at National Level**
2. Be actively involved in the design, implementation, or oversight of wildlife-based economy or biodiversity economy initiatives in their respective countries
3. Demonstrate alignment with national development priorities, biodiversity economy strategies, or sectoral plans
4. Be available to participate in pre-training and post-training virtual meetings (minimum of four (4) 2hours sessions between May and October 2026)
5. Clearly articulate how participation will strengthen national or regional wildlife-based economic outcomes
6. Have no criminal record
7. Be in possession of a valid passport to travel to South Africa which is valid for at least six months from the programme start date

**NB: Visa costs to be covered by the organization of the participants**

## 1. Required Documents

- 1.1. Filled in [online application form](#)
- 1.2. **Summarized Organizational strategy** – demonstrating alignment with the SADC Wildlife Based Economy Strategy or National Biodiversity Economy priorities.
- 1.3. A contactable reference(s) (email & Telephone) from a credible organization or government official in the country of operation
- 1.4. Copy of the applicant's valid passport (must be valid for at least six months from the programme start date)

## 2. Selection Criteria:

The selection criteria will feature a broad selection in the following composition and preference:

- 2.1. **Relevance and alignment** (40%): Ability and proven record to amplify WBE concept in country and alignment to national plans and strategic frameworks.
- 2.2. **Diversity and inclusion**: Representation of women, youth.
- 2.3. **Self-motivated to undertake training/learning experience outside their home country** and show prior knowledge of the SADC Wildlife-based economy strategy.

## 3. General Rules

- 3.1. Only application forms completed correctly, in full and accompanied by the required supporting documents will be considered.

## 4. Support Provided

Successful candidates will benefit from the following (Ts&Cs apply):

- 4.1. Return Flights to South Africa (O.R. Tambo International Airport).
- 4.2. Accommodation and Meals for the duration of the training

## 5. How to Apply

- 5.1. If you meet the above criteria and are interested in participating in this programme, kindly click [Online Application form](#) to apply by **28 April 2026 at 16:00 SAST**.

For Enquiries **ONLY** contact **Dr. Thabang Teffo** email: [tteffo@sawc.org.za](mailto:tteffo@sawc.org.za)  
and **Ms. Mara Gellner** email: [mara.gellner@giz.de](mailto:mara.gellner@giz.de)