



RESPONSIBLE  
BUSINESS FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



TRANSFORMING AFRICA'S  
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATION,  
YOUTH AND TECHNOLOGY  
JOHANNESBURG 25 - 27 JUNE 2018



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## RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AFRICA Johannesburg, 25 – 27 June 2018

### A systems approach to plastic waste in the oceans

#### Scheduling

**Date:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Time:** 11:30 – 13:15 (1 hour 45 minutes)

**Venue:** Hyatt Regency, 191 Oxford Rd, Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2132, South Africa

**Room:** Ilanga II

#### Speakers

**Moderator: Tony Ribbink**, Chief Executive, Sustainable Seas Trust

**Akiko Yamamoto**, Regional Programme Specialist, Water and Oceans, Africa, UNDP

**Tatyana von Bormann**, Market Transformation Manager, WWF SA

**Philippa Notten**, Principal Consultant, The Green House

**Feroz Koor**, Sustainability Lead, Woolworths

#### Synopsis

Scope of the challenge: Plastic is an extraordinary material – it's transformed our world. It has also exploded into an unprecedented environmental and business challenge. However, every year 100 millions tonnes – or 40% of global plastic production – is produced for packaging and other single use applications – all of which becomes worthless rubbish more or less instantly.

Environmental challenge: in our wetlands and waterways and ultimately into the sea. The growth in energy consumption and associated growth in greenhouse gas emissions. The increased use of plastic in agricultural production = levels of soil and freshwater pollution.

How serious is this in Africa - responsible for only 1 per cent of all single use plastics produced, but five African nations are listed in the top 20 contributors of plastic waste into the sea. The need for action: There is now heightened focus on the challenge but the question is how to respond and where in the system to intervene.

Recycling: Plastic is currently more difficult to recycle than other materials, such as glass and aluminium. Much of what South African's think can be recycled currently cannot. Reformulation: And many of things that are currently being touted as a solution are not. Bioplastics for instance are not. Reduce: The first step must be to reduce the amount of single use packaging items and the variety of plastics used to make products. Conclusion: recommended actions for business, government and consumers and what's WWF doing.

Why do you think it has so rapidly risen as a global concern?

How does the packaging challenge link into other systems?

How does action in this align with SDG delivery?



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### **Format (1 hour 45 minutes)**

*We kindly request that you do not prepare slides.*

1. **Welcome and introduction:** The moderator will briefly introduce each panellist, and provide a short overview to frame the discussion (**10 minutes**).
2. **Panel discussion:** The moderator will ask each panellist for their views and experiences, with examples drawn from practice and current initiatives, before opening up to a wider discussion between panellists (**40 minutes**).
3. **Audience Roundtable Discussions:** Delegates will discuss, share and finally agree on **three** priority recommendations on how organisations can better support innovation, youth and technology generation to drive development (**25 minutes**).

An example recommendation: "Private sector to provide innovation incubator programmes for youth to help develop business skills at the same time as creative solutions."

Panellists are welcomed to join in a roundtable to support the discussions. The moderator may wish to roam among tables as the point of contact for the recommendations.

4. **Feedback from Roundtables:** Each table will assign a rapporteur to stand and share their recommendations with the room (**20 minutes**).
5. **Wrap up:** Moderator will close with a quick summary of the main discussion points and recommendations and select three of these recommendations to report back in the plenary (**10 minutes**).

Thank you again for joining us, and we look forward to the discussion.

Kind regards,

**Ria Coburn**

Senior Programme Manager  
Global Initiatives