



COMESA Green Industries Connect

19 October 2026

Harare International Conference Center

Co-funded by the European Union

PROGRAMME

07:30 – 08:30	**REGISTRATION**
08:30 – 09:00	**WELCOME & ORIENTATION** Brief orientation by the Master of Ceremonies; overview of the day's agenda
09:00 – 10:00	**OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY** DIRECTOR OF CEREMONY Ms. Linda Muriro **Anthems:** Zimbabwe, COMESA and African Union Anthems **Welcome Remarks** Advocate Christopher Mugaga *CEO, Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce* **Remarks** Dr. Sheriff El Gabaly *1st Vice President, COMESA Business Council* **Lead Partner Remarks** Ms Lana Zutelija *Team Leader - Environment & Climate, Agriculture, Private Sector & Trade, Partnership Section, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Zambia and COMESA*

Remarks
H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe
Secretary General, COMESA

Remarks
Hon. Nqobizitha M. Ndhlovu
Minister of Industry and Commerce, Zimbabwe

Remarks
Hon. Lee Kinyanjui
Chairperson, COMESA Council of Ministers, Kenya

Keynote Address
Hon. Prof. Amon Murwira
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Zimbabwe

Vote of Thanks:

10:00 – 10:20 **GREEN INDUSTRIES SECTOR MARKET SNAPSHOT AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Trade and Investment Opportunities for Leather and Circular Economy
Professor Gift Mugano
Africa Economic Development Strategies

MOU SIGNING ZIMTRADE AND AFRICA LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INSTITUTE

10:20 – 10:40 **Group Photo Session**
TEA / COFFEE BREAK

10:40 – 12:00 **SESSION 1: LEATHER SECTOR- BUILDING COMPETITIVE REGIONAL BRANDS THROUGH VALUE ADDITION AND CIRCULARITY**

Deepen local value addition, build competitive regional leather brands, and identify the investment and policy priorities needed to scale sustainable, circular leather manufacturing across COMESA.

Promoting a green and sustainable leather value chain in Africa- Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI)
Mr. Nicholas Mudungwe
Executive Director

PANELISTS:
Mr. Wondu Legesse, *Anbessa shoe Company General Manager (Ethiopia)*
Mr. Fungai Zvinondiramba, *Cluster Secretary General, Bulawayo Leather Cluster*
Mr. Sileshi Lemma, *the Deputy General Director of the Manufacturing Industry Development Institute, Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia*
Mr. Yassin Awale, *Leather Value chain Transformation and Development Specialist*
Ms Yolanda Odida, *CEO Pure Purple Kenya*
Mr. Clement Shoko, *Chairperson, Zimbabwe Leather Development Council*

12:00 – 13:20	**SESSION 2: Building a Circular Economy in ESA: Turning Circularity Principles into Policy and Action** MODERATION: GIZ AND EXPERTISE FRANCE **Circular economy and why it matters for the ESA region.** Mr Tarun Shesh *Senior Technical Expert on Circular Economy* **Panel Discussion: Accelerating circularity in the ESA** Emerging initiatives to foster circularity at REC level. **Mr. Lotfi Hamza,** *Industry and Agriculture Division, COMESA Secretariat* Status: where are we now with our transition to a circular economy? **Ms Katharina Gihring,** *ACEN Chief Environmental Officer* How ready are regulatory institutions in Championing the CE Agenda **Mr. Boniface Kyaruzi,** *National Environment Conservation and Management Council of Tanzania* The role of a PRO in supporting the circularity agenda: challenges and opportunities. **Mr James Odongo,** *Kenya Extended Producer Responsibility Organization, Chief Executive Officer* **The role of ESO's in fostering a circular economy: challenges and opportunities** **Mr Sebastian Gruss,** *Project Manager Social Entrepreneurship, E-Mobility & Circularity, Siemens Stiftung* **Questions and Answers**
13:20 – 14:20	**LUNCH BREAK (Refreshments and Networking)**
14:20 – 14:35	**FIRE SIDE CHAT** Dr. John Mukuka *CEO, Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)*
14:35 – 16:00	**SESSION 3: CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ACTION – pitches on business models or projects related to circular business models; green job creation; women and youth; blended finance; SME access to circular markets.** Explore business models, circular economy business cases, and projects. Showcase private sector opportunities, investment entry points, and business model innovation; showcase real impact and identify gaps and support areas. CONTEXT SETTING AND MODERATOR Chandirekera Sarah Mutubuki-Makuyana *Board Member, Impact Hub Harare,* PANELISTS: **Mr. Olivier Mbera,** *General Manager, EnviroServe Rwanda Green Park* **Desire Ndudzo,** *Supply Chain and Marketing Manager, Petrecozim, Zimbabwe* **Mr David Ng'ambi,** *Director, Astanah* **Mr Muyunda Kaonga,** *Founder and CEO, Ebusaka, Zambia* **Ms Christiane Haziyo,** *Programme Manager, European Union Delegation*

16:00 – 16:30	**CIRCULAR ECONOMY KEY PRIORITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING CEREMONY** **Summary of the Key Recommendations** Amb. Dr. Mohamed Kadah *Assistant Secretary General (Programmes), COMESA* **Closing Remarks**
16:30 – 17:00	**NETWORKING TEA**