



**2nd GIB Meeting
and Side Events**

25-29 May 2025

G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy May 2025 Administrative Note

**University of Mpumalanga, Mbombela,
Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Updated, 28 March 2025

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ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE

G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB)

ABOUT

This Administrative Note is designed to provide all delegates with essential information regarding logistical and administrative arrangements for the meeting.

Updates on this document will be communicated to delegates via email.

1. Introduction and Venues

The South African G20 Presidency welcomes you to Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

The 2nd G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB) meeting will be held on Monday, 26 to Wednesday, 28 May 2025 at the University of Mpumalanga (UMP), the official venue for this meeting. The GIB meeting will be preceded by side events on Sunday, 25 May 2025 and succeeded by another event on Thursday, 29 May 2025.

The University of Mpumalanga is one of two new universities in South Africa, the other being Sol Plaatje University (previously provisionally known as the University of the Northern Cape) in Kimberley. It was established in 2014, initially accommodating a modest intake of one hundred and sixty-nine students. In January 2025, UMP had a student enrolment of about thirteen thousand students across its two campuses. The University is based in Mbombela and in Siyabuswa, South Africa. It incorporates the infrastructure of three existing institutions – the Lowveld College of Agriculture, the Hospitality School at Ka-Nyamazane and the Siyabuswa Education Campus.

Mbombela, formerly Nelspruit, is the Capital of South Africa's Mpumalanga Province. It is a gateway to the Kruger National Park, home to the “Big Five” animals (lions, leopards, rhinos, buffalos and elephants) and many other wildlife animals. The city's Lowveld National Botanical Garden, one of the nine National Botanical Gardens in South Africa, features a man-made rainforest. Located north-west of Mbombela are one of the oldest caves in the world, the Sudwala Caves, notable for their unusual rock formations. Located south of Mbombela is Umhloti Nature Reserve, which contains the Jane Goodall Institute's Chimp Eden sanctuary.

2. Proposed Programme

DAY 1 - SUNDAY, 25 MAY 2025

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Venue: University of Mpumalanga (Exact venue to be communicated)

09:00 – 12:00 **African Science Leaders' G20 Dialogue** (*To be attended by all delegates*)

12:45 – 13:45 **Lunch**

Venue: University of Mpumalanga Stadium

14:00 – 16:00 UMP Africa Day Celebrations

17:15 – 17:30 Summary and Closing Remarks

EVENING PROGRAMME

18:00 – 21:00 Dinner: Bioeconomy Finance Stakeholders (closed meeting, by invitation only)

.....End of Day 1.....

DAY 2 - MON, 26 MAY 2025

Venue: Great Hall, University of Mpumalanga

08:00 – 08:30 Arrival & Registration

Session 1: Importance of Financing the Bioeconomy: Setting the Scene

08:30 – 08:45 Welcoming Remarks

08:45 – 09:00 Opportunities in the Bioeconomy

Session 2: Catalysing Investment and Pipeline Development

09:00 – 10:00 Investment Pipeline: Engagement with Enterprises

10:00 – 10:20 Existing and Emerging Financial Instruments for Sectors of the Bioeconomy

10:20 – 10:40 **Q&A**

Session 3: Policy Landscape: Conducive Environment for Investment

10:40 – 11:00 Translating Policy for the Bioeconomy

11:00 – 11:20 **Q&A**11:20 – 12:30 **Interventions by Delegates on the “Existing Gaps, Traditional and Innovative Instruments and Application Thereof to Driving Scaled Investment into the Bioeconomy”**

Comments by the Troika (3 min each)

Comments by the G20 Members (2 min each)

Comments by invited guests (2 min each)

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch****Session 4: Bioeconomy Finance: Key Capacity Gaps and Targets**

13:30 – 13:50 Building Financial Capacity and Infrastructure in Bioeconomy Finance

13:50 – 14:10 Socialising Bioeconomy Data, Metrics and Standards in the Financial Sector

14:10 – 14:30 **Q&A**14:30 – 16:00 **Interventions by Delegates on the “Existing Gaps, Possible Solutions and Feasible Targets for the GIB’s First Five-Year Period”**

Comments by the Troika (3min each)

Comments by the G20 Members (2min each)

Comments by invited guests (2min each)

16:00 – 16:30 **Tea Break****Session 5: Bioeconomy Finance Hub**

16:30 – 16:50 Proposal for a Bioeconomy Financing Hub

16:50 – 17:20 Group Discussion and Feedback on the Proposed Bioeconomy Financing Hub

17:20 – 17:30 Closing Remarks

.....*End of Day 2*.....

DAY 3 – TUE, 27 MAY 2025**Venue: Great Hall, University of Mpumalanga****Session 6: Towards the Implementation of High-level Principle 7**

08:30 – 08:45	Agenda Setting
08:45 – 09:20	Roundtable Discussion on G20 Trade and the Bioeconomy
09:20 – 09:50	Q&A
09:50 – 10:30	Interventions by Delegates on the “implementation of High-level Principle 7” Comments by the Troika (3min each) Comments by the G20 Members (2min each) Comments by invited guests (2min each)
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break
11:00 – 11:50	Interventions by Delegates on the “Implementation of High-level Principle 7” Comments by the G20 Members (2min each) Comments by invited guests (2min each)
11:50 – 12:20	Comments on the Way-Forward
12:20 – 12:30	Concluding Remarks on Financing the Bioeconomy
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch

Session 7: Metrics and Standards: Setting the Scene

13:30 – 13:45	Setting the Scene: The Importance of Metrics and Standards in Driving Bioeconomies
13:45 – 14:10	FAO & Partners: Bioeconomy Metrics; Mapping onto the Bioeconomy High Level Principles
14:10 – 14:30	Q&A
14:30 – 16:00	Interventions by delegates on “Mapping of Metrics onto the Bioeconomy High-level Principles”

Comments by the Troika (3min each)
 Comments by the G20 Members (2min each)
 Comments by invited guests (2min each)

16:00 – 16:30

Tea Break

16:30 – 17:30

Closing Remarks

.....*End of Day 3*.....

DAY 4 – WED, 28 MAY 2025

Venue: Great Hall, University of Mpumalanga

Session 8:

Simplified Model for the Application of Metrics

09:00 – 09:15

Agenda Setting

09:15 – 09:35

Application of Metrics

09:35 – 10:00

Q&A

10:00 – 10:30

Tea Break

10:30 – 12:00

Interventions by delegates on the “Simplified Model for the Application of Metrics”

Comments by the Troika (3min each)

Comments by the G20 Members (2min each)

Comments by invited guests (2min each)

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

13:00 – 13:30

Way forward and concluding remarks on Standards and Metrics

14:00 – 21:00

Tentative: Visit and Dinner at Kruger National Park

.....*End of Day 4*.....

DAY 5 – THU, 29 MAY 2025

Venue: Mdluli Safari Lodge, Kruger National Park

06:00 – 08:00	Tentative: Morning Game Drive
08:30 – 10:00	Breakfast
10:00 – 12:00	Building the Bioeconomy: Mdluli Community Engagement- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ecotourism- Sugarcane biorefinery vision in South Africa- Forest bioeconomy: A South African perspective
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
..... <i>End of Day 5</i>	

THU, 29 AND FRI, 30 MAY 2025 Departure of Delegates

3. Accommodation



Stayeasy Hotel Mbombela

Contact: +27 13 757 0000

Location: White River Road, Emnotweni Ave, Mbombela, 1200S

Site: <https://www.southernsun.com/> - Mbombela

Star rating: 3

Prices per night: 72.1401 USD ~ 1310 ZAR

Distance from the University: 4.1km ~ 7 minute drive



Southern Sun Hotel, Mbombela

Contact: +27 13 757 3000

Location: 15 Government Blvd, Riverside Park, Mbombela, 1200

Site: <https://www.southernsun.com/>

Star rating: 4

Prices per night: 80.9511 USD ~ 1 470 ZAR

Distance from the University: 2.5km ~ 6 minute drive



Chill Pepper Boutique Hotel

Contact: +27 13 757 0370

Location: 8 Ripple Crescent, Riverside park, Mbombela, 1200

Site: <https://chillpepperhotel.co.za/>

Star rating: 4

Prices per night: 80.9511 USD ~ 1 470 ZAR

Distance from the University: 4.3 km ~ 8 minute drive



ANEW Hotel and Resort

Contact: +27 51 444 4321

Location: Farm 64, White River, 1240

Site: <https://anewhotels.com/hotels/white-river/>

Star rating: 3

Prices per night: 72.85 USD ~ 1323 ZAR

Distance from the University: 13.5 km ~ 16 minute drive

4. Airport Transfers

South African authorities will expedite immigration procedures for all foreign delegates attending the G20 meetings in 2025.

The South African Government will provide appropriate transport in Mbombela from the airport to the hotels and return for all GIB delegation as per the registration and accreditation allowance. Shuttles from the airport to hotels listed on this Administrative

Note will be available for arrivals on **24 and 25 May 2025** and departures on **29 and 30 May 2025**.

Mbombela is served by Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (MQP), with direct flights to major cities within South Africa, including Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban. International delegates will first enter the country through OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (JNB) or Cape Town International Airport (CPT), both of which serve as key international gateways with connections to major global cities such as London, New York, Dubai, and Frankfurt.

Please Note:

- OR Tambo International Airport and Cape Town International Airport may experience longer waiting times due to increased international passenger traffic. It is recommended that delegates allow extra time for connecting flights to Mbombela.
- If you are connecting via another city in South Africa, you must collect your luggage at the first port of entry for customs clearance. After clearing customs, you will need to re-check your luggage for your domestic flight to Mbombela.

Shuttle services will be provided for delegates from the Airport to the designated hotels and the University of Mpumalanga, the official venue for G20 meetings.

5. Accreditation

Participation at the 2nd G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy meeting is strictly for registered delegates only. The registration and accreditation process for all official G20 events hosted in South Africa will be done via an **online platform**. The portal for accreditation will be **opened 20 days** before the meeting in May 2025. Each country/organisation will be requested to nominate a representative (Delegation Accreditation Officer) to capture information of their delegation. The link to the portal will be communicated to all delegates.

6. Immigration

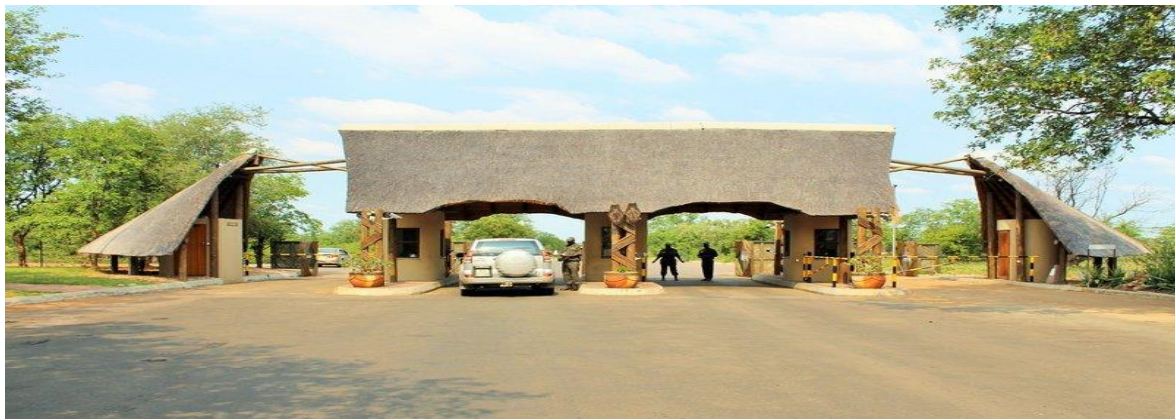
Passports of guests should be valid for at least 30 days beyond the expected date of arrival and departure from South Africa and should have at least two unused pages when presented for endorsements.

A valid visa (if applicable) should be obtained from the nearest South African Embassy or High Commission in each country. **NO** visas will be issued upon arrival in the Republic of South Africa.

For more information on visa requirements and exemptions, visit the Department of Home affairs- <https://www.dha.gov.za/>

7. Places of Interest

Kruger National Park



The Kruger National Park is a South African game reserve that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. It is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. The park is about 360 kilometers long and 65 kilometers wide at its widest point. It is larger than Israel and about a third of the size of Ireland. The park is home to over 147 mammal species, including the Big Five: lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and buffalos. It is also home to many other animals, including cheetahs, wild dogs, giraffes, hippos, and zebras. The park is home to many bird species, including the Birding Big 6: saddle-billed stork, southern ground hornbill, kori bustard, martial eagle, lappet-faced vulture, and Pel's

fishing owl. The park was originally known as the Sabi Game Reserve. It was established in 1898 by Paul Kruger, the then President of the Transvaal. The park was renamed Kruger National Park in 1926 after Paul Kruger. The park is a year-round destination with each season offering its own highlights. Game viewing is best during the dry winter months. The wet summer season brings full waterholes and many newborn wildlife. The park has self-catering rest camps with budget-friendly campsites, bungalows, cottages, and more.

God's Window



God's Window, a renowned viewpoint along South Africa's Panorama Route in Mpumalanga, offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Lowveld, including the Kruger National Park and the Lebombo Mountains, earning its name for its seemingly divine vistas. The name reflects the awe-inspiring, seemingly endless vistas and the feeling of looking out of a window into the vastness of creation. God's Window is a prominent stop along the scenic Panorama Route in the eastern Mpumalanga province. It is situated within the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, offering views of the canyon's lush, indigenous forests and cliffs that drop 700 – 900 meters.

Bourke's Luck Potholes



Bourke's Luck Potholes and God's Window are iconic attractions on South Africa's Panorama Route, with Bourke's Luck Potholes marking the beginning of the Blyde River Canyon and God's Window offering panoramic views of the Lowveld. These unique geological formations are the result of swirling water eroding cylindrical holes into the bedrock where the Treur River meets the Blyde River. They are named after Tom Bourke, a gold prospector who staked a claim nearby, although he didn't find gold, he correctly predicted the presence of gold in the area. A visitor's centre, a 700 meters winding pathway leading to waterfalls and bridges over the canyon, and a curio and craft market are available.

Lowveld National Botanical Garden



The Lowveld National Botanical Garden, located in Mbombela (Nelspruit), Mpumalanga, is a must-visit destination for nature lovers and researchers alike. The garden plays a crucial role in plant conservation, boasting one of the largest collections of South African fig trees and a significant cycad gene bank, preserving these ancient plants. The Lowveld gardens is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, where the Crocodile and Nels Rivers converge, creating dramatic waterfalls visible from the Cascades and Nels viewpoints. Visitors can explore a man-made African Rain Forest which has its own climate due to tree canopies, cross the iconic suspended bridge over the Crocodile River, and discover a variety of themed plant collections, including medicinal plants and indigenous species. The garden's extensive walking trails allow guests to immerse themselves in its lush surroundings, making it an ideal location for both leisure and education. As a flagship SANBI site, the Lowveld Garden actively supports environmental education, research, and conservation efforts, making it an important resource for students, scientists, and tourists. Click [here](#) for more information on the garden.

8. Immunisation

South Africa is signatory to the International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR, 2005) and is committed to safeguarding the health of both citizens and persons travelling to the country.

- To ensure compliance with the IHR 2005 policies and legislative prescripts, health measures will be applied to delegates entering the country.
- All travellers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials at the point of entry which will include temperature screening.
- Persons who, during screening, are found to have signs and symptoms consistent with communicable diseases, will be subjected to further assessment, which may include medical examination at the delegate's cost. This exercise is conducted as a preventative measure at the ports of entry against the spread of communicable diseases like yellow fever, hepatitis A and B, malaria, etc.
- Should a delegate experience any signs or symptoms consistent with a communicable disease while in South Africa, they are advised to seek medical attention and inform the medical practitioner of their travel history.
- In line with the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations, aircraft arriving from a yellow fever or malaria endemic area must be disinfected for the control of mosquito vectors.
- On arrival at the point of entry, proof of disinfection must be provided to the health specialists prior to disembarkation of delegates.

Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirements In South Africa

In line with the IHR 2005 and the country's Yellow Fever Policy, South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens over one year of age:

- travelling from a yellow fever-risk country; and
- having been in transit exceeding 12 hours through an airport of a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission.

Therefore, travellers arriving in the country from an area determined by the WHO to be at risk of yellow fever transmission are required to produce a valid International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever.

Travellers who are not in possession of a valid certificate of vaccination against yellow fever may be refused entry or placed under quarantine-surveillance for a period not exceeding six days or until their certificate becomes valid.

Travellers who, for medical reasons, cannot have a yellow fever vaccine, must be in possession of a signed, valid waiver letter from a travel health practitioner.

Travellers who are in possession of a waiver letter will be required to report any fever or other symptoms to a health practitioner and be placed under quarantine surveillance.

9. Environmental Health

- The tap water in South Africa is safe to drink.
- Food safety is a priority and all food supplies to the event will be monitored from preparation to distribution.
- Smoking policies with regard to public places are enforced.

10. On-site arrangements

The venue for the 2nd G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy will be at the Great Hall at the University of Mpumalanga in Mbombela, Mpumalanga Province. All the official sessions and welcome receptions will be held at the Multipurpose Hall and venues closer to the University.

11. General Information

Payment Methods and Currency

In South Africa, credit and debit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are widely accepted at most businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail stores. However, it is important to note at some smaller vendors, particularly at markets or rural areas, may only accept cash. It is advisable to carry South African Rand (ZAR) for such situations.

Currency Exchange services are available at airports, major hotels, and dedicated currency exchange offices like Travelex and Western Union. These services offer cash exchange from various currencies into Rand. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are readily available throughout the country, making it easy to withdraw cash using international debit or credit cards.



Voltage And Power Sockets

South Africa operates on 230V electricity with a frequency of 50Hz. The power sockets used are primarily Type M (the large three-pin plug), although Type C (the standard European two-pin plug) is sometimes used. It is advisable for visitors to bring a universal adapter, as plug types may vary across regions and accommodation options.

For safety, many of South Africa's electrical sockets are recessed, requiring the plug to be fully inserted before connection is made. Portable voltage transformers are available if needed.



Climate

South Africa has a diverse climate, ranging from temperate in the interior regions to subtropical along the eastern coastline. In Mbombela, where the G20 meetings will be held, the climate is subtropical with warm, humid summers and mild, dry winters, and is part of the Lowveld region, known for its mild winters. During the month of May, the temperature typically ranges from 13°C to 26°C, with warm days and cool nights. Delegates are advised to bring light clothing for the daytime and warmer layers for the evenings.