



US AFRICA
COLLABORATIVE

Pan African City SYMPOSIUM+EXPO

June
22-29
2026
Eastern Cape
South Africa

SMART FUTURES



FROM SMART VILLAGES TO SMART ECONOMIES -

Exploring models that create resilient, equitable, regenerative, and thriving communities.

HOSTED BY

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY



WE ARE PROUD TO PARTNER WITH
FRONTIERS MEDIA, LLC, AN AWARD-WINNING
OPEN SCIENCE PLATFORM AND LEADING
OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY PUBLISHER.

Frontiers in Sustainable Cities

A journal by frontiers

Frontiers in Sustainable Resource Management

A journal by frontiers



About the 2026 PACSE

The 2026 Pan African City Symposium & Exposition (PACSE) is a premier global platform connecting decision-makers, innovators, investors, and community leaders committed to advancing regenerative, equitable, and future-ready development. PACSE enables partners to exchange ideas, form strategic alliances, and showcase impactful solutions across housing, human settlements, climate resilience, and economic development.

usafricacollaborative.org



CLICK OR
SCAN TO
REGISTER



Welcome

Dear Colleagues, Friends, Partners, and Future Attendees,

On behalf of the US Africa Collaborative (USAC) and the Pan African City Symposium & Exposition (PACSE), it is our honor to invite you to join us for the 2026 Pan African City Symposium & Exposition, taking place **June 22–29, 2026, in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, South Africa at Nelson Mandela University.**

PACSE was created as a dynamic, solutions-driven convening space where African and diaspora innovators, policy-makers, academics, investors, entrepreneurs, community leaders, artists, planners, and creatives come together to exchange ideas, build partnerships, and explore transformative models for the future of human settlements and sustainable development.

Our 2026 theme, **“Smart Futures: From Smart Villages to Smart Economies – Exploring Models that Create Resilient, Equitable, Regenerative, and Thriving Communities,”** reflects both the urgency and the opportunity before us. Across Africa and the global African Diaspora, communities are navigating complex challenges related to housing, infrastructure, climate resilience, economic inequality, food systems, technology, education, health, and inclusive growth. PACSE creates space for meaningful dialogue, practical collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions grounded in both indigenous wisdom and emerging innovation.

Throughout the week, attendees will engage in thought-provoking plenaries, collaborative workshops, practitioner and academic presentations, cultural experiences, networking opportunities, exhibitions, and cross-sector conversations focused on sustainable communities, infrastructure, enterprise development, creative placemaking, innovation, and regional transformation.

PACSE 2026 is intentionally designed to bridge research, policy, professional practice, investment, and community engagement. More than a conference, it is a platform for implementation, partnership-building, and collective action. Our goal is not simply to imagine better futures, but to help shape practical pathways toward resilient, people-centered, and economically sustainable communities. Participants will also experience the beauty, history, culture, and spirit of South Africa’s Eastern Cape region through curated cultural activities, site visits, and opportunities for deeper engagement with local communities and institutions.

As we gather in Gqeberha, we invite you to contribute your voice, expertise, vision, and leadership to this growing international movement. Whether you are joining as a presenter, sponsor, exhibitor, researcher, entrepreneur, artist, policymaker, student, or attendee, your participation will help strengthen global connections and advance shared solutions for thriving futures across Africa and the diaspora.

We look forward to welcoming you to PACSE 2026.

With appreciation and anticipation,



Elizabeth Scott Glenn, Chair Emeritus

US Africa Collaborative (USAC)

Convenor, 2026 Pan African City Symposium & Exposition (PACSE)

elizabethscottglenn@gmail.com



**CLICK OR
SCAN TO
REGISTER**





The US Africa Collaborative (USAC) is a global brain trust connecting academics, practitioners, policymakers, community leaders, and diaspora partners committed to innovation, sustainability, and equity across the United States and the African continent.

About 2026 PACSE

The 2026 Pan African City Symposium & Exposition (PACSE) is a global convening designed to explore innovative, people-centered, and sustainable approaches to the future of human settlements, infrastructure, economic development, and regional transformation.

Hosted at Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, South Africa, PACSE brings together leaders and participants from across Africa, the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and the broader African Diaspora to exchange ideas, share solutions, and strengthen international collaboration.

PACSE was intentionally created as both a symposium and exposition, bridging the gap between academic research and real-world implementation. The conference creates opportunities for scholars, practitioners, government leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, artists, students, developers, planners, technologists, and community organizations to engage in cross-sector dialogue and collaborative action.

The conference theme, **“Smart Futures: From Smart Villages to Smart Economies,”** explores how communities can build resilient, equitable, regenerative, and thriving futures through innovative development models grounded in sustainability, cultural identity, technology, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth.

Why Attend PACSE 2026?

PACSE is more than a conference. It is a collaborative platform focused on advancing practical solutions, meaningful partnerships, and long-term impact.

Attendees will have opportunities to:

- Connect with global leaders, innovators, and decision-makers
- Share research, strategies, projects, and best practices
- Explore investment, policy, and partnership opportunities
- Showcase products, services, initiatives, and creative work
- Participate in cross-sector conversations shaping sustainable development
- Engage with emerging ideas related to smart villages, smart economies, and future-ready communities
- Experience the culture, creativity, and heritage of South Africa’s Eastern Cape region



ABOUT THE EXPOSITION + EXPERIENCES

Signature Forums and Experiences



PACSE 2026 will also feature a rich schedule of special events, including:

- **WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM**
A signature convening focused on women's leadership, innovation, equity, sustainable development, and the role of women in shaping the future of human settlements.
- **AFRICAN DIASPORA FORUM**
A special dialogue exploring collaboration across Africa, the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the broader African Diaspora, with emphasis on policy, trade, culture, education, housing, health, and development.
- **HOMEGROWN HABITAT: GLOBAL HOUSING FUTURES 2050 DESIGN COMPETITION**
An international design competition highlighting bold, culturally grounded, sustainable, and future-facing approaches to housing and community development.
- **ECO ART EXHIBIT AND INSTALLATION**
A creative placemaking and cultural expression component featuring artists, designers, and cultural practitioners whose work explores sustainability, land, memory, identity, environment, and community.
- **PACSE AWARDS GALA**
A celebratory evening recognizing leaders, institutions, and innovators whose work advances social justice, sustainability, housing excellence, policy leadership, civil and human

rights, collaboration, and regional innovation.

- **PLENARY SESSIONS AND KEYNOTE CONVERSATIONS**
Daily plenaries will bring together distinguished leaders and subject-matter experts to address the major questions shaping smart villages, smart economies, sustainable human settlements, and inclusive development.
- **EXHIBITION HALL AND INNOVATION SHOWCASE**
The 2026 PACSE will include an Exhibition Hall showcasing organizations, businesses, institutions, innovators, artists, designers, and community-based initiatives whose work aligns with the conference theme. The Exhibition Hall will create space for networking, product and service visibility, institutional partnerships, sponsor engagement, and cross-sector collaboration.
- **SITE VISITS AND DEVELOPMENT TOURS**
Participants will have opportunities to engage with local and regional development contexts through curated tours and field-based learning experiences.
- **CULTURAL PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCES**
While attending PACSE 2026, participants are encouraged to experience the beauty and culture of Gqeberha and the Nelson Mandela Bay region. Highlights

include Route 67, the Donkin Reserve and Lighthouse, the Nelson Mandela Bay beachfront, local arts and heritage experiences, and optional excursions to Addo Elephant National Park. Together, these sites offer participants a deeper connection to the history, creativity, natural beauty, and democratic legacy of the Eastern Cape.



Special Activities in the Eastern Cape

We are excited and privileged to announce a range of curated Eastern Cape experiences available to PACSE 2026 delegates during their visit to South Africa.

Beyond the conference itself, delegates will have the opportunity to explore Big Five (7 actually) safari experiences, cultural events, coastal tourism attractions, automotive manufacturing tours, sustainability initiatives, and innovation showcases that highlight the unique beauty, industry, and future potential of the region.

We encourage delegates to make the most of their time in the Eastern Cape and experience everything the region has to offer from a tourism, wildlife, economic, and sustainability perspective.

To explore and reserve experiences, please visit [GROW SOUTH AFRICA EVENTS](#) and shared prosperity.



PACSE PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE + HIGHLIGHTS

22 to 29 June 2026, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8
MON. JUNE 22	TUE. JUNE 23	WED. JUNE 24	THU. JUNE 25	FRI. JUNE 26	SAT. JUNE 27	SUN. JUNE 28	MON. JUNE 29
Official Opening Plenary	Morning Plenary	Morning Plenary	Morning Plenary	Morning Plenary	Cultural and Development Tours	Cultural and Development Tours	Kouga Municipality Development Sites Tour
	Morning Concurrent Sessions	Morning Concurrent Sessions	Morning Concurrent Sessions	Women's Leadership Forum & Luncheon			
Lunch	Lunch	International Smart Village Design Awards Luncheon	Lunch/ Research Prize Awards	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners South Africa (IHSP-SA) Official Launch	Afternoon I Concurrent Sessions	Afternoon I Concurrent Sessions	Afternoon I Concurrent Sessions	African Diaspora Forum	Site Development Tours	Site Development Tours	Kouga Municipality Development Sites
	Afternoon II Concurrent Sessions	Afternoon II Concurrent Sessions	Afternoon II Concurrent Sessions				
Welcome Reception				USAC Awards Gala			Farewell Reception

Conference Tracks:

- Track 1:** Housing Policy, Affordable Housing Solutions
- Track 2:** Sustainable Urban and Rural Development
- Track 3:** Climate Resilience and Human Settlements
- Track 4:** Creative Placemaking, Human Centered Design, Culture & Arts
- Track 5:** Technological Innovations, Artificial Intelligence, and Infrastructure Development
- Track 6:** Smart Villages, Regenerative Approaches and Circular Economies
- Track 7:** State Capacity, Social Equity and Entrepreneurship

Special Events:

- *Launch of the Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners South Africa* (22/06/2026 at 14:00 to 16:30)
- *Reception Cocktail Dinner* (22/06/2026 at 18:30 to 21:00)
- *International Smart Village Design Competition Awards* (24/06/2026 at 12:00 to 14:00)
- *Frontiers Media Research Awards* (25/06/2026 at 12:00 to 14:00)
- *US-Africa Collaborative (USAC) Awards and International Gala Dinner* (26/06/2026 at 18:30 to 22:00)
- *Delegates Farewell Cocktail Dinner* (29/06/2026 at 18:00 to 22:00)

USAC 2026 Awards:

- Nelson Mandela 'Madiba' Social Justice and Equity Award
- Rev Jesse Jackson Civil and Human Rights Award
- Elijah Cummings Excellence in Housing Development Award
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Excellence in Sustainability Award
- Eric Molobi Housing Innovation Excellence Regional Award
- Joe Slovo Housing Policy Excellence Regional Award
- Yes, We Can Award for Excellence in Collaboration

Logistics and Travel Information

Nelson Mandela University lists the **South Campus** street address as **University Way, Summerstrand, Gqeberha, 6001**, and the **North Campus** as **Gardham Avenue, Summerstrand, Gqeberha, 6001**.

Airport Destination

CHIEF DAWID STUURMAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Travel time from the airport to the Summerstrand university area is generally short by car, depending on traffic, final campus destination, and hotel location. City Lodge Hotel Gqeberha, located in the beachfront/Summerstrand area, is listed by Trip.com as approximately 7.1 km from Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport, about 12 minutes by car.

Hotel Accommodations and Participant Discounts

PACSE participants may access special accommodation discounts through participating City Lodge Hotel Group properties in Gqeberha. To receive the conference rate, participants may:

BOOKING OPTIONS

OPTION 1

Email the hotel directly and reference:

PANAFRICAN

OPTION 2

Book online at: citylodgehotels.com

Using promo code:

AAUN2026

Participating Hotels

HOTEL	STAR RATING	DISCOUNT	BOOKING EMAIL
Courtyard Hotel Gqeberha	★ ★ ★ ★	20%	cyygqeberha.resv@citylodgehotels.com
City Lodge Hotel Gqeberha	★ ★ ★	20%	clgqeberha.resv@citylodgehotels.com
Town Lodge Gqeberha	★ ★ ★	20%	tlgqeberha.resv@citylodgehotels.com
Road Lodge Gqeberha	★	10%	rlgqeberha.resv@citylodgehotels.com

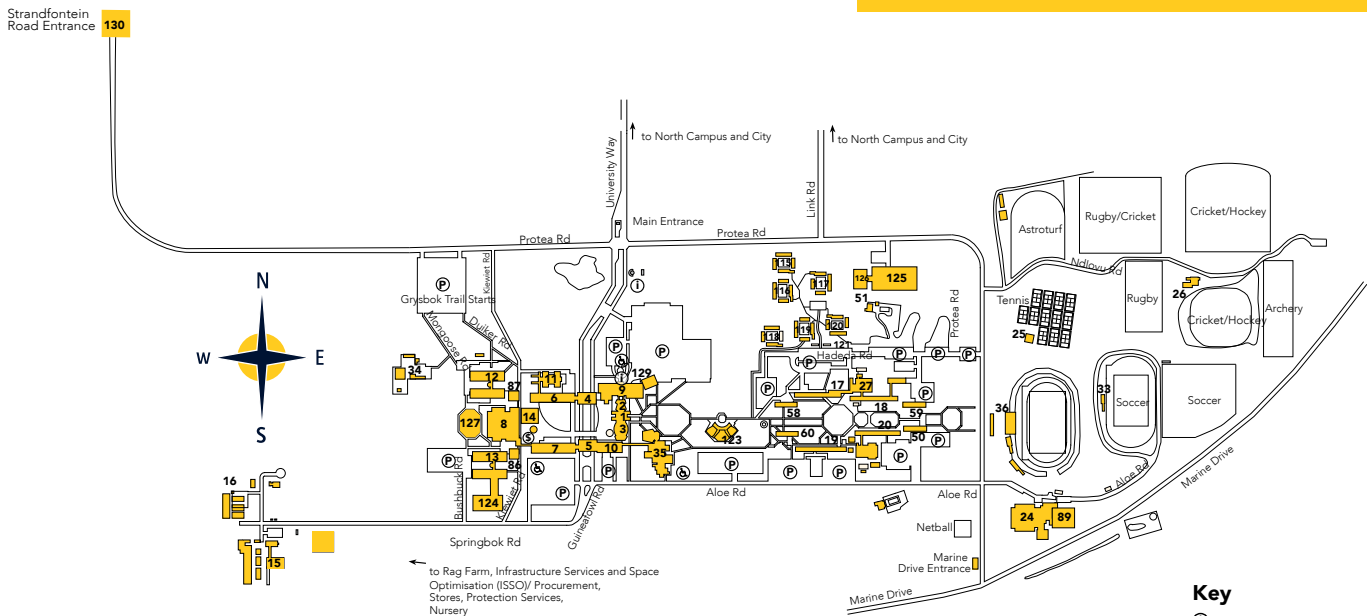
IMPORTANT TRAVEL NOTE

Hotel rooms are subject to availability. Participants are strongly encouraged to book accommodations early and confirm cancellation policies, airport transfer options, transportation arrangements, and check-in requirements directly with their selected hotel.

South Campus, Summerstrand

Nelson Mandela University
Nelson Mandela Bay

[Click here to download larger map](#)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Main Building | 13 Katherine Johnson (Physics & Chemistry) |
| 2 Senate Building | 14 Food Court |
| 3 Auditorium | 15 Infrastructure Services and Space Optimisation (ISSO)/ Procurement |
| 4 Old Mutual Lecture Halls | 16 Horticulture |
| 5 Sanlam Lecture Halls | 17 Solomon Mahlangu Residence |
| 6 Isivuno (Education), Imbewu (Resource Centre), Writing Centre & ABSA Computer Lab | 18 Lilian Ngoyi Residence |
| 7 M & P Building | 19 Claude Qavane Residence |
| 8 Library & School of Architecture | 20 Sarah Baartman Residence |
| 9 Embizweni | 24 Indoor Sport Centre & Sport Offices |
| 10 Ingoma (Music) | 25 Tennis Clubhouse |
| 11 Education | 26 Cricket Clubhouse |
| 12 Mvezo (Biological Sciences) | 27 Study Centre (Lilian Ngoyi Res) |
| | 33 Soccer Clubhouse |
| | 34 Animal Unit |
| | 35 Nomhle Nkonyeni Lecture Halls |

- | |
|--|
| 36 Stadium & Clubhouse |
| 50 Sarah Baartman Annex |
| 51 Mahlangu/Ngoyi Clubhouse & Pool |
| 58 Solomon Mahlangu Annex |
| 59 Lilian Ngoyi Annex |
| 60 Claude Qavane Annex |
| 89 Underwater Clubhouse |
| 86 Goldfields South |
| 87 Goldfields North (International Office) |
| 115-120 Postgrad Student Village |
| 121 Housing Administration |
| 123 Ulwazi Lecture Hall |
| 124 Centre for High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy (CHRTEM) |

Key

- ① Information
- P Parking
- ♿ Disability Parking
- ATM

- 125 Human Movement Science
- 126 Dietetics
- 127 Inkanyezi (Life Sciences)
- 129 Pius Langa (Law)
- 130 Strandfontein Road Entrance

Please note that buildings are numbered according to their numbers in the university's computerised record system.

The 2026 PACSE will be hosted at Nelson Mandela University's Summerstrand campus area in Gqeberha. Nelson Mandela University provides official campus maps for its Summerstrand campuses, including North Campus, South Campus, and Ocean Sciences Campus. The North Campus map identifies University Way, Gomery Road, parking areas, the main entrance, and the route toward South Campus and the airport/city.

Join the Movement

PACSE 2026 is an invitation to collaborate, innovate, and help shape sustainable futures across Africa and the global Diaspora. Whether you are joining as a presenter, sponsor, exhibitor, policymaker, researcher, entrepreneur, student, investor, artist, or attendee, your participation contributes to a growing international movement focused on resilient communities, equitable development, innovation, and shared prosperity.

Additional conference room assignments, venue locations, and detailed campus navigation information will be provided as the final conference schedule is released, please visit our site for the latest updates.

usafricacollaborative.org