

Sustainability Practitioner Programme (SPP)

Devon Valley Hotel, South Africa

22-25 June 2025

Essential Preparation Material

Welcome to the Sustainability Practitioner Programme. In preparation for this online course, you are asked to undertake the following **Essential Preparation**. Specific sessions of the seminar will assume that you have undertaken this preparation, and we will ask you to share insights and engage in group discussion based on these pieces of content.

We think you will find the following material stimulating in preparation for the thinking we will do together at the seminar. We encourage you to spend the necessary time to read all the pieces. A list of **Additional Material** is also provided on the microsite.

Remember that a CISL certificate of completion is dependent on your full attendance, participation and completion of activities and tasks. Reading the material not only enriches your perspective – it helps you to participate fully in the relevant session discussions.

Workshop session	Reference and location	Guidelines	Estimated time
Before Sunday 22nd June			
1.2 The World in 2025 – global systems, pressures and trends	Climate Pledges Dropped	This Bloomberg article highlights the reversal of climate action commitments rippling through private sector.	10 minutes
	Role for aid in countries with or without development bargain	A policy consideration of development aid as the landscape shifts in this decade.	30 minutes

Before Monday 23rd June 2025

2.2 Tensions and dilemmas of our time	<u>Can Economics grasp what Ecology says – Duncan Austin Feb 2021</u>	PDF This read makes us consider such things as “The double role of living systems as parts and wholes requires the interplay of two opposite tendencies: an integrative tendency to function as part of a larger whole, and a self-assertive, or self-organizing tendency to preserve individual autonomy.” <i>Fritjof Capra</i>	30 minutes
	<u>Exploring artificial intelligence's growing environmental impact and paths to sustainability</u>	This blog invites you to explore AI's role in sustainability impacts as well as its sustainability pathways	10 minutes
	https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/news-andresources/publications/global-leadership-age-turbulence	CISL Global Leadership in the Age of Turbulence	10 minutes
2.4 Thinking Tools & Frameworks	<u>Sustainability Models & Frameworks, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership</u>	Read through the descriptions of various frameworks/models	30 minutes
2.6 How Organisations are responding	<u>Survival of the Fittest: From ESG to competitive sustainability</u>	CISL report talks to the prevailing tension between profitability and sustainability	1 hour
	<u>Organisational sustainability schemes align with weak sustainability</u>	This research article analyses business internal practices in relation to weak vs strong sustainability	15 minutes
2.7: What is required, and who is doing it?	<u>Case Studies</u>	Review of these case studies is required for session 2.7 and the exercises that are part of this session	15 minutes

 Before Tuesday 24th June 2025

3.2 Integrating sustainability / ESG into your	<u>Sustainable-value-creation-report-closing-the-gap</u>	A global report reflecting on the gap between commitment and action. <i>Preparatory question for delegates:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When reading Sustainable Value Creation please consider how you would assess your company in 	40 minutes
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organisation		terms of each of the four identified gaps	
3.3 Aligning with stakeholders' ESG expectations	<u>Edelmann Trust Barometer 2025</u>	<i>Preparatory questions for delegates:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the findings in the <i>Edelman Trust Barometer</i> that “business remains the most trusted institution” (page 39), and that “only business is seen as both competent and ethical” (page 24) and compare this with the findings in the different findings in the <i>Globescan Beyond the Backlash report</i>. Where do you stand on this issue? Which institutions do you trust most to act in society’s best interests? Please briefly review <i>your company’s latest annual integrated and sustainability reports</i>: how would you rate the quality of your company’s disclosure on its most material sustainability-related impacts, risks and opportunities? What are some of the key disclosure gaps and opportunities for improvement? 	1 hour
3.3 Aligning with stakeholders' ESG expectations	<u>Globescan Beyond The Backlash Report 2025</u>		
3.5 Sustainability as a framework for innovation	<u>ØRSTED: Our green transformation</u>	Orsted, a little over a decade ago, was generating 85% of profit from Coal operations and had carbon intensity of 350g CO2e/kWh. By 2020 they have completely sold out of their last fossil fuel assets and are ranking as one of the largest renewable energy producers in the world. They are well on target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025.	20 minutes
	<u>Innovation in Africa</u>	An oldie but a goodie, a reminder that ‘modern’ innovation has been taking place for ages on the African continent.	8 minutes
	<u>The Circular Economy in Detail</u>	An introduction to the notion of a Circular Economy, by the Ellen Macarthur Foundation.	15 minutes – 60 minutes

	<p>Biomimicry: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf4oW 80taPY</p>	<p>Watch this introduction to Biomimicry and Life Principles...</p> <p>Biomimicry, the practice of looking deeply into nature for solutions to engineering, design and other challenges, has inspired a film about its groundbreaking vision for creating a long-term, sustainable world. This film covers how mimicking nature solves some of our most pressing problems, from reducing carbon emissions to saving water.</p>	22 minutes
3.6 Inspiration from the field	https://www.flamingosanitation.org/ https://www.compostkitchen.com/	Browse the websites of The Flamingo Project and The Compost Kitchen, for context before tomorrow's session.	20 minutes

Before Wednesday 25 th June 2025			
	Is this the time of monsters or miracles?	A thoughtful TED Talk reflecting that <i>“History doesn't have a moral arc. Progress isn't a rule. It is contested terrain, fought for daily by millions of people who refuse to give in to despair.”</i>	11 minutes
	Activating business in an age of disruption	Enabling business to shape the future we need	45 minutes
	The Embedding Project – Becoming an Agent of Change	Read this guide, prepared by Cecile Feront, Stephanie Bertels and Ralph Hamann (PDF)	45 minutes
	We Are Futerra: Sell the Sizzle	A good background communicating our messages. (PDF)	15 minutes

