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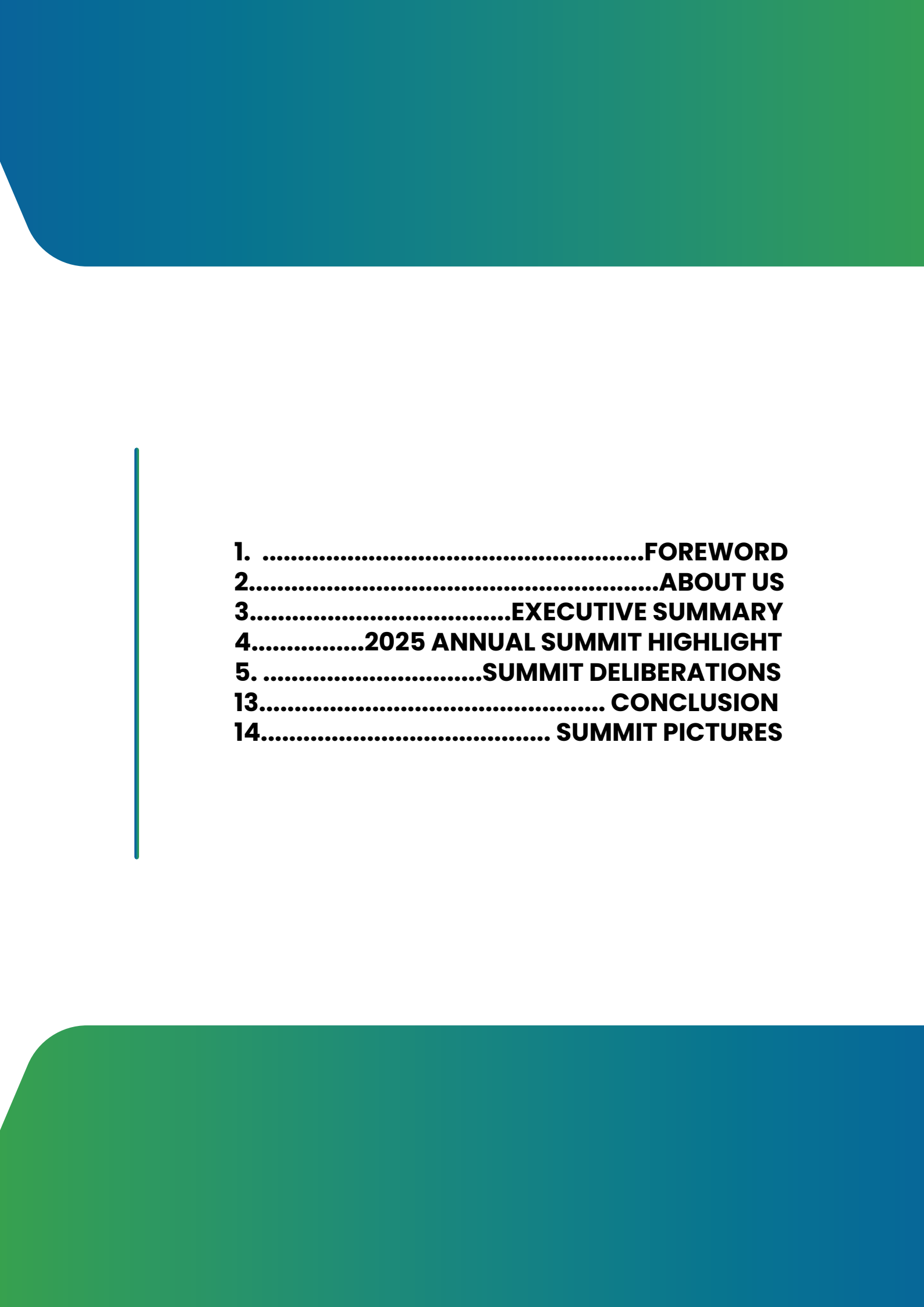
**2ND ANNUAL
SUSTAINABLE RECYCLING
& WASTE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT
REPORT**

**THEME :
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT – HARNESSING
NOVEL ADVANCES IN RECYCLING
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**





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FOREWORD

By the Directors, Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd

It is with great pride and a deep sense of responsibility that we present the proceedings and outcomes of the **2nd Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit**. Convened at a critical moment in Botswana's development trajectory, the Summit was designed as a platform for reflection, knowledge exchange, and collective action on one of the most pressing environmental and socio-economic challenges of our time: the management of waste within a rapidly urbanising and resource-constrained context.

As organisers, **Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd** was guided by the conviction that waste management must no longer be viewed as a peripheral municipal function, but as a strategic development lever with direct implications for public health, environmental integrity, climate resilience, job creation, and economic diversification. The Summit therefore intentionally brought together policymakers, local authorities, technical experts, private sector actors, civil society organisations, community leaders, and youth representatives to foster dialogue that transcended institutional and sectoral silos.

The richness of the discussions confirmed that Botswana possesses both the intellectual capital and practical experience necessary to transition towards more sustainable and circular waste systems. Across the sessions, delegates interrogated persistent structural challenges—including capacity constraints, behavioural barriers, financing gaps, and fragmented governance—while also showcasing innovative technologies, community-driven models, and emerging economic opportunities linked to recycling, resource recovery, and waste-to-energy solutions. Of particular importance was the consistent emphasis on leadership, behavioural change, and community participation as foundational pillars for long-term success.

The Summit further reinforced the alignment between improved waste governance and national development frameworks such as Vision 2036 and National Development Plan 11, especially in relation to sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, inclusive development, and improved quality of life. The discussions demonstrated that advancing environmental quality is not a trade-off against development, but rather a prerequisite for a resilient, competitive, and socially equitable economy.

We are especially encouraged by the strong call from delegates for practical follow-through. The Issues and Recommendations emerging from the Summit reflect a shared commitment to move beyond dialogue towards implementation, through strengthened partnerships, coordinated policy reform, targeted investment, and measurable performance monitoring. This report is therefore not merely a record of proceedings, but a contribution to ongoing national and regional policy discourse, intended to inform decision-making, guide programme design, and inspire sustained collaboration.

Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd extends its sincere appreciation to all partners, speakers, and participants whose expertise and engagement gave the Summit its depth and credibility. We also acknowledge the leadership of government institutions, local authorities, and community stakeholders whose continued commitment will be essential in translating these insights into tangible outcomes.

It is our hope that this Summit marks not an isolated event, but a milestone in a longer journey towards integrated, inclusive, and forward-looking waste management systems. The responsibility now lies with all of us, public and private institutions, communities, and individuals alike, to sustain the momentum and collectively steer Botswana towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

The Directors

Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd

ABOUT US

Rolink Noble Health (Pty) Ltd is a 100% citizen-owned enterprise established to reposition waste management as a strategic driver of environmental quality, economic opportunity, and sustainable development. The organisation operates through an integrated model that combines locally manufactured green technology, targeted environmental education, and high-level policy and stakeholder engagement platforms such as the Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit.

A core component of Rolink Noble Health's innovation lies in the local engineering and manufacture of advanced emission control systems, including the smoke absorption unit, the most critical component of modern incineration technology. This approach delivers cleaner, safer, and more cost-effective emission management solutions tailored to Botswana's operational and regulatory context, while reducing reliance on imported technologies.

Beyond infrastructure and technology, Rolink Noble Health's model is deliberately designed to catalyse behavioural change, stimulate demand for green innovation, and strengthen pathways towards a circular economy at both national and regional levels. By integrating community engagement, skills development, and market-based solutions, the organisation supports the transition from linear waste disposal practices to systems that prioritise resource recovery, environmental protection, and inclusive economic participation.

Rolink Noble Health therefore extends beyond conventional waste management. It advances a scalable, community-driven, and sustainable framework that addresses the root causes of waste generation while enabling long-term environmental resilience and green growth across Botswana and the wider region.

VISION

Dignity & well-being for all

OUR MISSION

To create a cleaner, healthier environment through innovative green technologies that transform waste management practices, empower communities, and promote sustainable living.

OUR CORE VALUES

INNOVATION • Continuously developing creative, technology-driven environmental solutions.

SUSTAINABILITY • Promoting eco-friendly practices that preserve resources for future generations.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT • Engaging and uplifting communities through green technology initiatives.

INTEGRITY • Upholding transparency, accountability, and ethical practices in all we do.

EXCELLENCE • Delivering quality, reliability, and impact in every solution we provide.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **2nd Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit** served as a high-level platform for advancing practical and policy-relevant solutions to key challenges in the waste management and recycling sector. Held over two days, the Summit brought together stakeholders from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society to promote coordinated action and knowledge exchange.

The programme focused on priority thematic areas, including alignment with national policy frameworks, adoption of innovative recycling technologies, management of emerging waste streams, and strengthening leadership and governance for effective sector delivery. Emphasis was placed on implementation, with discussions highlighting operational best practices and the behavioural shifts necessary to support long-term environmental sustainability.

With participation from over 45 delegates, the Summit facilitated constructive dialogue through expert presentations, moderated discussions, and interactive engagement. Economic inclusion within the circular economy was positioned as a strategic opportunity, underscoring its role in job creation, enterprise development, and inclusive growth.

PURPOSE

The Summit was convened to bring together national and regional stakeholders to examine critical challenges within the waste management and recycling sector, advance dialogue on emerging and next-generation recycling technologies, and strengthen multi-sector coordination. The strategic objective was to support Botswana's transition toward a circular, low-carbon, and environmentally resilient waste management framework aligned with national development priorities.

The Summit concluded with clear, forward-looking commitments and policy-relevant reflections, demonstrating stakeholder readiness to progress from incremental improvements to systemic reform. Going forward, emphasis will be placed on implementation and measurable outcomes, with delivery serving as the key indicator of success.



2025 ANNUAL SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

The **2025 Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit** provided a high-level platform for strengthening environmental governance and accelerating action across Botswana's waste management and circular economy landscape. Convened over two days of evidence-driven dialogue and senior-level participation, the Summit focused on priority challenges and opportunities within recycling, waste management, and circular economy development, underscoring the need for measurable outcomes and coordinated implementation.

Key data presented during the Summit highlighted a 19 per cent increase in mixed municipal waste across major urban centres, revealing systemic gaps that require urgent and coordinated responses between local authorities and national institutions. The rapid growth of electronic waste emerged as a critical concern, driven by an estimated 14 per cent annual technology turnover rate. Discussions emphasised the need for dedicated e-waste treatment infrastructure, strengthened regulatory frameworks, and the effective implementation of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** mechanisms.

A central theme throughout the Summit was the importance of consistent leadership, community-based environmental stewardship, and adequately resourced local authorities as foundational elements for sustainable environmental improvement. Participants engaged with practical and technology-enabled solutions, including artificial intelligence-supported monitoring systems, integrated waste management facilities, and low-emission recycling technologies, demonstrating the potential impact of modernised and data-driven waste management systems.

To ensure continuity beyond the Summit, delegates endorsed an Issues and Recommendations Paper intended to translate deliberations into concrete policy and operational actions. This mechanism is designed to anchor commitments within institutional frameworks and support accountability for implementation.

In summary, the Summit affirmed that Botswana has moved beyond agenda-setting toward action-oriented reform. With strengthened policy alignment, adoption of appropriate technologies, and sustained behavioural change, the country is well positioned to transform current waste management pressures into opportunities for circular economy growth, environmental resilience, and inclusive economic development.

SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS

The two-day Summit offered a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder assessment of Botswana's recycling and waste management landscape, drawing insights from policymakers, local authorities, private sector innovators, traditional leaders, and civil society. It reframed waste management as a national development priority tied to public health, service delivery, competitiveness, and social cohesion, rather than a narrow environmental issue. Presenters highlighted escalating pressures: a 24% rise in hazardous waste over five years, rapid growth in e-waste driven by 18–36 month technology turnover, and municipal waste backlogs affecting over 41% of urban settlements. This context set a clear mandate for systemic realignment: harmonizing national policy frameworks, strengthening local authority capacity, and directing targeted investment into infrastructure and technology. Delegates agreed incremental fixes are inadequate; a transformative, coordinated approach is essential. The path forward centers on robust leadership, active community participation, and integrated systems that tackle both root causes and consequences of waste accumulation. In effect, the Summit evolved from a forum of presentations into a strategic laboratory for reimagining waste governance in Botswana, aligning environmental stewardship with economic opportunity and governance reform, and charting a practical agenda for accelerated, system-wide improvements in waste management outcomes.

OPENING SESSION

WELCOME REMARKS

The Opening Session of the **2nd Annual Sustainable Recycling and Waste Management Summit** formally commenced with welcome remarks by the Deputy District Commissioner, **Ms Mpho Bungile**, who welcomed delegates and set the context for the discussions that followed. In her remarks, she highlighted the strong interlinkages between environmental quality and the socio-economic wellbeing of the Chobe District. She noted that effective and sustainable waste management systems are essential to safeguarding public health, conserving biodiversity, and sustaining tourism, which remains a critical economic sector for the district and the country.



Ms Bungile further observed that fragmented approaches among government institutions, private sector operators, and communities have historically constrained progress in waste management. She cited that approximately 63 per cent of community-level waste remains unmanaged, largely due to weak waste segregation practices and limited public awareness. She therefore called for coordinated and inclusive action based on shared accountability, underscoring the importance of aligning local interventions with a collective national vision.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Opening Session was followed by a keynote address delivered by the **Director in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Ms Ingrid Chite**, representing the Minister of Environment and Tourism, Hon. Winter Mmolotsi. In her keynote address, Ms Chite positioned the Summit within Botswana's broader development agenda and ongoing national policy and regulatory reform processes. She highlighted efforts underway to review and strengthen waste management regulatory frameworks and to enhance enforcement capacity at the local authority level.



Ms Chite provided a candid assessment of existing implementation challenges, including limited recycling infrastructure, inconsistent waste collection coverage in rural areas, and the absence of specialised facilities for the safe management of medical waste, industrial chemicals, and electronic waste. She emphasised that the transition toward a circular and low-carbon economy is a strategic imperative aligned with global economic and environmental trends, rather than an aspirational objective. In this regard, she underscored the need for innovation, technological, institutional, and behavioural, as a critical enabler of sector transformation.

Collectively, the welcome remarks and keynote address reinforced the central message of the Summit: that effective waste governance is a foundational enabler of environmental sustainability, economic diversification, and climate resilience. Delegates were encouraged to strengthen cross-sector collaboration, support policy commitments with effective enforcement, and accelerate the adoption of modern waste-to-resource approaches to advance a credible and inclusive transition toward a circular economy in Botswana.

SESSION 1:

POLICIES, FRAMEWORKS AND STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

Session 1 examined the policy, institutional, and structural dimensions shaping Botswana's waste management system. The session was delivered by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), represented by Director Ms Ingrid Chite, and provided a critical assessment of existing policy frameworks, governance arrangements, and implementation constraints affecting sector performance.

The presentation noted that while Botswana has established a range of policies and regulatory instruments governing waste management, their effectiveness is undermined by institutional fragmentation and weak coordination across implementing agencies. The absence of a unified national waste data management system was identified as a significant constraint, resulting in municipalities applying non-standardised data collection and reporting methodologies. This has led to inconsistent and, in some cases, unreliable waste statistics, which in turn compromise national planning, investment prioritisation, and resource mobilisation.

Empirical evidence presented during the session highlighted that only 27 per cent of municipalities currently maintain up-to-date waste audits, while landfill compliance levels remain below 50 per cent nationally. These performance gaps were attributed to a combination of limited technical and human resource capacity, constrained operational budgets, and outdated monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. The session emphasised that without strengthened institutional arrangements, modernised oversight tools, and harmonised data systems, existing policy frameworks will continue to underperform.

The presentation concluded that achieving meaningful progress in waste management requires a shift from fragmented implementation toward consolidated governance structures, standardised national data systems, and enhanced regulatory enforcement capacity. These reforms were positioned as prerequisites for improving service delivery, environmental protection, and the overall effectiveness of Botswana's waste management framework.

Table 1: Structural Gaps Identified in Session 1

CHALLENGE AREA	KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED	IMPLICATIONS
Policy Alignment	Fragmented agency mandates; inconsistent enforcement	Weak national coordination and duplication of efforts
Infrastructure	Limited recycling facilities; ageing landfill infrastructure	Increased environmental leakage and inefficient waste handling
Governance	Underutilisation of traditional leadership structures	Reduced community participation and public awareness
Data Management	Absence of standardised national waste reporting systems	Poor national planning and unreliable projections
Settlement Planning	Waste management not integrated into spatial and settlement planning	Emergence of peri-urban waste hotspots

SESSION 2

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY WASTE LANDSCAPE

Session 2 focused on emerging and persistent challenges confronting waste management systems in the context of rapid urbanisation, changing consumption patterns, and the transition toward a circular economy. The session was led by **Mr Mokgothu**, Chief Environmental Officer at the Chobe District Council, who provided a critical analysis of the current state of recycling infrastructure and its implications for sustainable waste management in Botswana.

In his presentation, Mr Mokgothu highlighted that Botswana currently recycles less than 15 per cent of its total waste, a performance level that remains significantly below regional benchmarks.

He identified the limited availability and uneven distribution of recycling infrastructure as a major constraint to improving recovery rates and advancing circular economy objectives. In particular, the absence of reliable and consistent supply chains for recyclable materials was cited as a key barrier, as fluctuating waste volumes and inconsistent segregation practices undermine the commercial viability of recycling operations.

Mr Mokgothu further noted that these structural weaknesses deter private sector participation and investment, particularly in capital-intensive and low-carbon recycling technologies. To address these challenges, he called for the development of structured municipal–private sector partnerships aimed at stabilising recyclable material supply chains, improving waste segregation at source, and creating predictable operating conditions for investors. Such partnerships were presented as a critical mechanism for unlocking private capital, supporting technology adoption, and accelerating Botswana’s transition toward a more inclusive and resilient circular economy.



SESSION 3

PRACTICAL PATHWAYS TOWARD EFFECTIVE WASTE GOVERNANCE

Session 3 marked a strategic shift from the identification of systemic and structural challenges toward the articulation of practical, solution-oriented pathways capable of strengthening waste governance and accelerating Botswana’s transition toward a circular economy. The session was characterised by a forward-looking and implementation-focused tone, with presentations emphasising leadership reform, policy coherence, and inclusive economic participation as key enablers of sustainable waste management.

The session was opened by **Ms Miracle K. Selling**, representing the Department of Maps & Surveys, who addressed the rapidly escalating challenge of electronic waste (e-waste) in Botswana. She noted that the volume of discarded consumer electronics has increased by an estimated 31 per cent over the past four years, driven by accelerated technology turnover, with households replacing devices such as smartphones and laptops approximately every 18 to 30 months. Ms Seljlitz highlighted that current e-waste generation exceeds national handling and treatment capacity by an estimated 600 tonnes annually, posing significant environmental and public health risks.

Ms Seljlitz emphasised that, in the absence of targeted legislative and regulatory reforms, particularly the introduction and enforcement of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms, Botswana risks a substantial increase in toxic waste accumulation. She drew attention to the heightened vulnerability of peri-urban and informal settlements, where discarded electronic devices are often disposed of in open dumpsites, leading to soil and water contamination. Her presentation underscored the importance of aligning spatial planning, data management, and waste tracking systems to support effective e-waste governance and informed decision-making.



Table 2: Key Practical Pathways Highlighted in Session 3

INTERVENTION AREA	KEY PROPOSAL	EXPECTED IMPACT
E-Waste Management	Extended Producer Responsibility; establishment of specialised collection hubs	Reduction in toxic accumulation; strengthened e-waste recycling industries
Circular Economy	Promotion of repair and refurbishment markets; life-cycle extension incentives	Job creation; reduced pressure on landfill infrastructure
Youth and Women Inclusion	Formation of cooperatives; vocational skills development; micro-enterprise support	Inclusive economic growth; enhanced community-level mobilisation
Policy Alignment	Harmonisation of local and national regulatory frameworks	Consistent enforcement and improved operational stability
Leadership Development	Institutional leadership training; continuity and succession frameworks	Reduced project disruption; improved long-term planning



Building on this analysis, **Mr Douglas Musiringofa**, Director of the Pristine Victoria Falls Society, a Zimbabwe-based community-based organisation (CBO), delivered a presentation on circular economy models and cross-border learning. He advocated for a fundamental reorientation of Botswana’s waste sector, noting that the prevailing linear model, characterised by extraction, production, consumption, and disposal, is both economically and environmentally unsustainable.

Mr Musiringofa demonstrated that transitioning to circular systems could unlock new revenue streams through product life extension, repair and refurbishment industries, and materials recovery enterprises. He cited practical experiences from community-led initiatives where small-scale enterprises engaged in appliance repair and refurbishment achieved profit margins exceeding 28 per cent, while simultaneously diverting significant volumes of waste from landfill disposal. He emphasised that circular economy approaches should be understood not only as environmental interventions, but also as viable engines for employment creation and economic diversification, particularly in contexts where youth unemployment exceeds 33 per cent.

Collectively, the presentations in Session 3 reinforced the importance of integrated policy reform, market-enabling mechanisms, and inclusive economic strategies. The session underscored the potential of practical, locally grounded solutions to transform waste from an environmental liability into a driver of sustainable and inclusive development.

SESSION 4

SMART TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS TRANSFORMING WASTE MANAGEMENT

Session 4 provided one of the most forward-looking engagements of the Summit, focusing on the role of smart technologies and innovation in responding to increasingly complex and diversified waste streams. The session highlighted the growing importance of technology as a critical enabler of efficiency, environmental compliance, and the transition toward sustainable and circular waste management systems.

The session opened with a presentation by **Mr Haroon Witi**, President of the Waste Management Organisation of Zambia and Chief Executive Officer of HW Solid Waste Company. Mr Witi outlined emerging technologies applicable to both industrial and domestic waste treatment, with particular emphasis on advanced thermal processing solutions. He presented evidence demonstrating that technologies such as low-emission incineration and plasma arc processing can achieve waste volume reduction efficiencies of up to 93 per cent, while significantly minimising hazardous residues and atmospheric emissions. Mr Witi further shared insights from pilot deployments in industrial settings, where the integration of automated waste segregation systems capable of processing mixed waste at rates exceeding 12 tonnes per day resulted in average operational cost reductions of approximately 18 per cent. He noted that Botswana's limited uptake of such technologies is primarily attributable to constrained capital investment frameworks and insufficient technical capacity at municipal level, rather than a lack of technological availability.



Table 3: Technological Innovations and Their Potential Impact

TECHNOLOGY / MODEL	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL IMPACT
Plasma Arc Treatment	High-temperature waste destruction technology	Over 90% waste volume reduction; reduced emissions
Automated Segregation	AI-enabled waste sorting systems	Increased recycling rates; reduced labour intensity
Integrated Facilities Management	Coordinated, facility-wide waste management systems	Operational efficiency gains; reduced contamination
Digital Monitoring Platforms	Sensor-based, real-time waste tracking tools	Improved accountability, data accuracy, and planning
Green Tourism Certification	Environmental performance rating systems	Enhanced visitor satisfaction and destination competitiveness



The session continued with a presentation by **Mr Michael Mafa**, President of Botswana Facilities Management Association and FM Consultant at Dikago Facilities Solutions, who introduced Facilities Management – the profession, Sustainable Facilities management and, Integrated Facilities Management (IFM) as a comprehensive approach to improving waste management performance within large institutions. Mr Mafa presented data indicating that IFM models, when applied to facilities such as hospitals, university campuses, industrial parks, and commercial complexes, can improve waste handling efficiency by up to 41 per cent. He illustrated how facility-wide waste audits, combined with real-time monitoring and coordinated service delivery, enable institutions to identify inefficiencies, optimise waste segregation, and reduce overall operational costs. He emphasised that waste management should no longer be treated as a standalone function, but rather as an integral component of broader institutional management systems underpinned by data, coordination, and accountability.



The final presentation was delivered by **Mr Richard Malesu**, a renowned tourism and environmental management consultant, who examined the interlinkages between waste management and sustainable tourism development. He noted that Botswana’s international tourism competitiveness is increasingly influenced by environmental cleanliness and waste management performance, as global travellers demonstrate heightened sensitivity to issues such as littering, illegal dumping, and polluted waterways. Mr Malesu presented survey findings indicating that 72 per cent of tourists consider waste-free environments a primary determinant of overall visitor satisfaction. He proposed the adoption of green tourism certification schemes, under which lodges, protected areas, and tour operators would be assessed against criteria including recycling compliance, energy efficiency, and waste minimisation practices.

The session concluded with a moderated discussion in which delegates emphasised that while technological innovation is essential, its impact depends on enabling policy frameworks, targeted regulatory incentives, effective public–private partnerships, and continuous skills development. Participants agreed that aligning technology adoption with governance reform and capacity building is critical to realising long-term improvements in waste management outcomes.

SESSION 5

RESOURCE RECOVERY, ENERGY TRANSITIONS AND EMERGING ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

Session 5 introduced a strongly economic and systems-oriented perspective, positioning waste management as a strategic lever for resource recovery, energy transition, and inclusive economic development. The session emphasised the role of waste as a productive input within circular economy systems, capable of generating fiscal savings, reducing environmental externalities, and stimulating new market opportunities.

The session was opened by **Ms Orabile Baisi**, Director at Rolink Noble Health, who presented an analysis of material recovery strategies and their potential to transform the economics of waste management. She demonstrated that when recovery systems are properly structured and supported by appropriate policy and infrastructure, material reclamation rates can exceed 52 per cent, resulting in substantial cost savings for municipalities that would otherwise incur high landfill disposal expenditures. Ms Baisi highlighted that key waste streams—including metals, plastics, paper, and organic waste, represent significant untapped economic value, estimated at approximately BWP 110 million annually in Botswana. She argued that waste should be reconceptualised as a strategic resource base capable of supporting local manufacturing, reducing dependence on imported raw materials, and contributing to national economic diversification objectives.



Building on this economic framing, **Mr Geof Khwarae**, Executive Director of Champs Botswana, expanded the discussion by examining the environmental and socio-economic benefits of integrated waste-to-resource initiatives. He underscored that sustainable resource use is inseparable from environmental integrity, noting that poorly managed waste degrades soil quality, contaminates water resources, and contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Khwarae further shared practical insights from Champs Botswana's used oil recycling plant, which processes waste lubricating oils collected from automotive workshops, transport operators, and industrial clients. He explained that the facility recovers and re-refines used oil for safe industrial reuse, significantly reducing the release of hazardous substances into the environment. The plant not only diverts thousands of litres of used oil from improper disposal annually but also contributes to emissions reduction and supports local industrial supply chains. Mr Khwarae noted that the initiative has demonstrated the commercial viability of hazardous waste recovery, while creating skilled employment opportunities and strengthening private sector participation in Botswana's circular economy.

In addition, Mr Khwarae presented evidence indicating that communities and institutions implementing structured organic waste recovery and composting programmes recorded soil quality improvements exceeding 17 per cent over two agricultural seasons, resulting in improved crop yields and enhanced land productivity. He emphasised that integrating waste-to-resource models into both urban and rural economies can strengthen climate resilience, promote ecological restoration, and support diversified and sustainable livelihoods.

The session concluded with reflections emphasising that resource recovery and energy transition initiatives require policy coherence, market-enabling incentives, and cross-sector collaboration to scale effectively. Participants agreed that positioning waste management as an economic development instrument—rather than solely an environmental obligation—is essential to achieving long-term sustainability, competitiveness, and inclusive growth.

SESSION 6

COLLECTIVE INSIGHTS FROM CLOSING SPEECHES AND REFLECTIONS



The closing session of the Summit brought together the key insights, commitments, and priorities that emerged over the two days of deliberations. In his closing remarks, Chobe District Council Chairperson, **Mr Johane Chenjekwa**, highlighted the strengthened collective understanding of the interconnections between waste management, environmental stewardship, and socio-economic development. He noted that many of the challenges discussed are rooted in long-standing structural fragmentation and capacity constraints; however, the Summit demonstrated that these barriers are not insurmountable when addressed through coordinated, aligned, and collaborative approaches grounded in shared responsibility.

The Chairperson observed a notable shift in perspective, with waste management increasingly recognised as more than a municipal service function. Instead, it is now understood as a strategic development opportunity with implications for job creation, public health protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation. He emphasised that effective waste governance requires integrated institutional arrangements, stressing that no single institution can deliver environmental improvement in isolation. In this regard, he called for strengthened inter-ministerial coordination, particularly across the environment, local government, sanitation, tourism, and education sectors, to ensure that waste-related challenges are addressed holistically rather than through fragmented interventions.

A key theme of the closing remarks was the importance of behavioural change at community level. The Chairperson referenced research indicating that approximately 64 per cent of environmental violations, including illegal dumping, open burning of waste, and improper handling of recyclables, are driven primarily by behavioural norms rather than gaps in policy or legislation. He stressed that without addressing these behavioural dimensions, technological innovations and regulatory reforms will have limited impact. Accordingly, he advocated for the integration of waste literacy and environmental stewardship into schools, workplaces, and traditional governance structures, positioning responsible waste management as a societal norm rather than solely an administrative obligation.



The Summit concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by **Mr Boniface Madietsa**, Director of Rolink Noble Health, who acknowledged the collective efforts that enabled the successful organisation and delivery of the Summit. He recognised the leadership and continued engagement of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, noting that sustained participation despite operational constraints reflects strong institutional commitment to advancing Botswana's waste management and circular economy agenda. The Vote of

Thanks further highlighted the importance of diverse stakeholder participation, including traditional leaders, local authorities, private sector actors, youth representatives, and community organisations, reinforcing the Summit's role as an inclusive platform for dialogue and collaboration.

Mr Madietsa also emphasised the significance of the proposed Issues and Recommendations Paper as a key Summit output. Delegates were encouraged to contribute actively to its development to ensure that the Summit's discussions are translated into actionable guidance for policy formulation, municipal planning, and investment decision-making. This call for collective authorship underscored a shared commitment to accountability, continuity, and measurable impact beyond the Summit.

CONCLUSION

STRATEGIC VALUE AND WAY FORWARD

The Summit demonstrated significant strategic value by consolidating national perspectives, reinforcing shared commitments, and generating actionable insights capable of shaping Botswana's waste management and environmental quality agenda. Deliberations clearly established that waste management challenges cannot be addressed through fragmented or linear interventions. Instead, a systems-based approach is required—one that integrates institutional reform, socio-cultural transformation, innovative financing, and appropriate technology adoption. By combining technical expertise, policy dialogue, leadership reflections, and community voices, the Summit created a holistic platform that deepened understanding of the complex and interconnected nature of environmental quality improvement.

A key contribution of the Summit was its clear linkage between waste governance and broader national development priorities, including economic diversification, climate resilience, public health, gender inclusion, and sustainable tourism. Delegates underscored that effective waste management has far-reaching co-benefits, ranging from reduced environmental contamination and improved service delivery to enhanced community resilience and increased investment in green industries. The discussions also clarified existing policy gaps, capacity limitations, and infrastructure deficits, providing a credible evidence base to guide future budget prioritisation, institutional strengthening, and targeted resource mobilisation.

The Summit further reaffirmed that sustainable solutions must be grounded in local realities. Contributions from traditional leaders, community trusts, and youth groups highlighted that participatory governance significantly improves implementation outcomes, particularly in rural and peri-urban contexts where waste challenges are most pronounced. These perspectives reinforced the understanding that communities are not passive recipients of policy, but active partners in driving behavioural change, local innovation, and environmental stewardship.

In closing, the Summit affirmed that improving environmental quality in Botswana requires decisive leadership, sustained coordination, and a collective shift towards circular systems of production and consumption. Waste management challenges were recognised not merely as operational inefficiencies, but as structural weaknesses requiring coordinated action across governance, technology, financing, and community engagement. With rising waste volumes, expanding urban centres, and increasingly complex waste streams—particularly hazardous and electronic waste—the need for modernised systems and infrastructure is both urgent and unavoidable.

Delegates agreed on the importance of developing a coordinated national roadmap that integrates policy reform, capacity development, and strategic investment. To ensure accountability and continuity, stakeholders committed to establishing monitoring mechanisms anchored in annual performance reviews, focusing on key indicators such as waste segregation, recycling rates, and the uptake of modern treatment technologies. Momentum generated by the Summit will be sustained through ongoing dialogue, strengthened partnerships, structured community education programmes, and the phased introduction of innovative solutions, including waste-to-energy initiatives and automated material recovery systems.

Ultimately, the Summit reaffirmed that environmental stewardship must evolve from a periodic engagement into a continuous national commitment, underpinned by shared responsibility, evidence-based planning, and transformative leadership capable of guiding Botswana towards a resilient, low-carbon, and environmentally secure future.





ROLINK
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