

FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference



Nov 5-6, 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

Schedule of Events

The FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference is intentionally structured as an unconference-style gathering, moving beyond presentations to prioritise peer-led sessions, breakout discussions, and collaborative dialogues. This highly interactive format is designed to facilitate openness, co-creation, and the exchange of practical, real-world solutions.

Join us to strengthen key relationships, build shared understanding, and drive collective action toward a resilient, gender-intentional, and climate-smart early-stage finance ecosystem in Africa.

DAY ONE
Wednesday, 5th November 2025

2:00PM–5:00PM	<p>Capital Provider – Investor Matchmaking</p> <p>Hosted in partnership with I&P to facilitate meaningful connections between capital providers/ asset owners/ limited partners (LPs) and alternative local capital providers (ALCPs)/ fund managers/ asset managers/ general partners (GPs) to foster collaborations, funding opportunities, and new relationships.</p>	<p>Participants:</p> <p>I&P, FSD Africa portfolio of Alternative Local Capital Providers (ALCPs) and LPs including DFIs, local institutional investors, foundations, family office, HNWI, Corporates among others.</p>
5:00PM–7:00PM	<p>ESF Ventures Showcase</p> <p>Highlights investees of ALCPs, providing visibility for portfolio companies and celebrating their innovation and impact. The session focuses on climate (energy, carbon, nature), gender and resilience.</p>	<p>Participants:</p> <p>ALCP portfolio companies.</p>
6:00PM–9:00PM	<p>Cocktail Evening</p> <p>A relaxed networking session to welcome participants, introduce conference objectives, and provide informal engagement. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with peers, showcase portfolio companies, and build community relationships.</p>	

FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference



Nov 5-6, 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

DAY TWO

Thursday, 6th November 2025

8:00AM–9:00AM	Registration & Coffee Informal networking over coffee and collection of conference materials.	
9:00AM–9:10AM	Welcome & Scene Setting Opening remarks to set expectations for the day, recognise participants, and share key logistical information.	
9:15AM–10:45AM	Venture Finance Platform – Year in Review Reflecting on 2025 achievements, challenges, and lessons for the Venture Finance Platform. Includes strategic insights from FSD Africa and ESF, and small-group discussions to explore lessons, collaborations, and emerging opportunities.	Presentations from: Mark Napier Chief Executive Officer, FSD Africa Juliet Munro Director, Early-Stage Finance Small Group Discussions
10:45AM–11:00AM	Tea Break	
11:00AM–12:30PM	Fundraising & Resilience Explores the fundraising journeys of early-stage fund managers and lessons on resilience. LP perspectives are shared on engagement, investment decision-making, and unlocking aligned capital flows.	GP Perspective Speakers: First Circle, Catalyst Fund, Frontend Ventures, Persistent Energy, WIC Capital. Moderated by: Anne-Marie Chidzero, Chief Investment Officer, FSDAi LP Perspective Speakers: Funds of Funds including Ci-Gaba Fund, DFIs, local institutional investors, foundations, family office, HNWI, Corporates among others.

FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference



Nov 5-6, 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

DAY TWO

Thursday, 6th November 2025

12:30PM–1:30PM

Lunch

Networking and informal peer exchange.

1:30PM–2:00PM

Operationalisation: Viability at Smaller Scale

Focuses on practical strategies for operational sustainability at smaller fund sizes. Presenters share lessons on partnerships, resilience, and operational efficiency to strengthen early-stage ecosystems.

Facilitated by:

Include VC, Keyo, Iungo, Mirakap, ATG Samata.

2:00PM–3:00PM

Breakout Sessions – Portfolio Management

Group 1: Self-Liquidating Instruments

Managers share experiences in designing, deploying, and scaling instruments that align with early-stage business cash flows, including challenges, adaptations, and risk management.

Facilitated by:

Nithio, Spark, Emerald Fund, Sayuni, wCap.

Group 2: Equity Investment & VC

Explores sourcing, supporting, and scaling startups for successful exits. Covers pipeline development, value creation, operational sustainability, exits, and emerging trends including gender-lens investing and climate-focused strategies.

Facilitated by:

Holocene, CRAF, ACV, WEAV, 3i Fund.

3:00PM–3:30PM

Coffee / Networking Break

FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference



Nov 5-6, 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

DAY TWO

Thursday, 6th November 2025

3:30PM–4:30PM

Breakout Sessions – Deep Dives

Tech/AI: GenAI for African Finance

Examines practical applications of Generative AI for deal sourcing, portfolio management, and risk assessment in African early-stage finance.

Facilitated by:
Vula

Value Creation

Explores strategies for and share insights on building value and supporting portfolio companies.

Facilitated by:
Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P)

ESG & Impact

Discusses ESG integration and impact measurement and monitoring in early stage investing.

Facilitated by:
FSD Africa ESG & Impact Teams

LP-to-LP Discussion

Discusses collaboration opportunities among LPs to unlock capital flows and mobilise local and international investment into emerging managers.

Facilitated by:
Funds of Funds, DFIs, local institutional investors, foundations, family office, HNWI, Corporates among others.

4:30PM–4:45PM

Report Back from Breakouts

Sharing key takeaways and insights from breakout sessions with the full group.

FSD Africa Early-Stage Finance Conference



Nov 5-6, 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

DAY TWO

Thursday, 6th November 2025

4:45PM–5:30PM

Baraza – Setting the Focus for 2026

A participatory closing session to synthesise learnings, identify priorities for the FSD Africa Venture Finance Platform, and align on actionable steps for investors, fund managers, and ecosystem partners for 2026.

Facilitated by:
Juliet Munro

Director,
Early-Stage Finance

Zee de Gersigny

Investment Head -
Venture & Early-Stage
Financing Vehicles

5:30PM–6:15PM

Closing Reflections

Wrap-up of the day's discussions and setting the tone for the evening awards celebration.

7:00PM–9:00PM

Awards Dinner & Celebration

Celebrates achievements and community impact, recognising outstanding contributions.

Speakers:
Kanini Mutooni
Board Member,
FSD Africa

**Geetha
Tharmaratnam**
Nyala IC
Chairperson

Rob Rudy
FCDO

Friday, 7th November 2025

8:00AM–10:00AM

Informal Breakfast and Guest Departure