ANNUAL REPORT 2025

SAWEA

South African Wind Energy Association

FROM GRIDLOCK TO GROWTH

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CHAIRPERSON FOREWORD

Stewardship in a year of grid constraints and strategic transition

The year 2025 marked a pivotal moment for South Africa's energy transition and for the wind energy sector in particular. As grid constraints intensified and delivery pressures mounted, the role of strong institutional leadership, credible advocacy, and strategic alignment became more critical than ever.

Against this backdrop, SAWEA continued to provide steady leadership, informed oversight, and a clear sense of direction for the industry.

From a governance perspective, the Board remained focused on ensuring that the Association was well positioned to respond to both immediate sector challenges and longer-term structural shifts in the electricity market.

Throughout the year, we prioritised sound governance, financial sustainability, and organisational resilience — recognising that a strong Association is essential to a strong industry.

While grid capacity constraints remained a defining challenge in 2025, they also sharpened focus and collaboration across the sector. Encouragingly, the year saw meaningful progress in policy dialogue, regulatory engagement, and institutional reform. SAWEA played a constructive role in these processes, consistently advancing solutions that balance urgency with long-term system integrity, and investment certainty with public interest.

The Board is particularly encouraged by the Association's growing influence and credibility across government, regulators, and industry stakeholders. SAWEA's contribution to national and international platforms — including its engagement with the IPP Office, Eskom, NERSA, Business Unity South Africa, and global industry bodies — reflects the maturity of the organisation and the trust placed in it as the voice of the wind sector.

2025 also underscored the importance of inclusive growth and transformation as non-negotiable pillars of sector sustainability. Initiatives focused on skills development, youth participation, gender diversity, and community impact are no longer peripheral considerations; they are fundamental to building a resilient and future-ready industry.

The Board supports SAWEA's continued investment in these areas and recognises their long-term value to both the sector and the country.

The launch of SAWEA's flagship knowledge products during the year further strengthened the Association's role as a source of credible, independent insight. These initiatives reflect a deliberate shift toward evidence-based leadership — providing the data, frameworks, and guidance required to support informed decision-making across the value chain.

As Chairperson, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer and the Secretariat, whose commitment, professionalism, and strategic clarity were instrumental in navigating a demanding year. I also extend my appreciation to fellow Board Members, Standing Committee participants, and SAWEA's diverse membership for their continued engagement and contribution.

Looking ahead, the Board remains confident in SAWEA's strategic direction. The coming years will require decisive action to translate policy intent into infrastructure delivery and project execution. With continued collaboration, disciplined governance, and shared purpose, the wind energy sector is well positioned to play a central role in South Africa's energy security, economic growth, and just transition.

Sunette Smith

Chairperson: South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)

CEO FOREWORD

Year of the grid: from gridlock to growth

2025 will be remembered as a defining year for South Africa's wind energy sector — a year in which the conversation decisively shifted from constraint to opportunity. Under the theme "From Gridlock to Growth," this Annual Report reflects a period of intense engagement, institutional strengthening, and purposeful leadership as SAWEA worked alongside government, industry, and partners to unlock the next phase of sectoral growth.

Grid capacity and transmission infrastructure remained the single most material constraint to scaling renewable energy in South Africa. Yet, rather than stalling progress, this challenge catalysed unprecedented collaboration, policy reform, and technical engagement. Throughout the year, SAWEA played a central role in shaping discussions on grid access, planning, market reform, and investment certainty — ensuring that wind energy remains a cornerstone of South Africa's energy transition and energy security agenda.

Our advocacy in 2025 was both deliberate and evidence-based. Through formal policy submissions, high-level stakeholder engagements, and participation in national and international platforms — including the B20, G20 Energy Transition Working Group, and key government-led processes — SAWEA consistently advanced practical solutions to unlock grid capacity, accelerate procurement, and enable private investment. These efforts reinforced the Association's position as a trusted, credible voice within South Africa's evolving electricity market.

Beyond policy leadership, 2025 was a year of institutional maturity for SAWEA. We strengthened governance, expanded capacity, enhanced internal coordination, and maintained financial discipline, ensuring that the Association remains resilient, responsive, and member focused. While the year presented a challenging operating environment for the broader sector, our membership base continued to reflect strong engagement across developers, financiers, service providers, and emerging participants — underscoring SAWEA's enduring relevance and value.

Sector development remained a strategic priority. The launch of SAWEA's inaugural Market Intelligence Report, alongside the Project Development Guideline and Gender Diversity Guideline, marked a significant step forward in strengthening industry capability, transparency, and inclusivity.

These flagship knowledge products provide practical tools for investors, developers, and stakeholders, while reinforcing the sector's commitment to long-term sustainability and transformation.

Transformation, inclusion, and social impact were not treated as peripheral ambitions, but as integral to sector growth. Through initiatives such as the Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP), the Work Readiness Programme, energyDRIVE, and women-focused leadership development, SAWEA continued to invest in future skills, equitable participation, and community impact — building the human capital required to sustain the industry's expansion.

Windaba 2025 further demonstrated the sector's growing momentum. Under the theme "Break the Gridlock. Wire for Growth," the conference convened policymakers, industry leaders, and global partners at a critical moment for South Africa's energy future. The quality of dialogue, depth of participation, and level of alignment achieved during Windaba reinforced the collective resolve to move decisively from planning to delivery.

As we look ahead, the path forward is clear. Policy certainty, grid expansion, market reform, and inclusive growth will determine the pace and scale of wind energy deployment in the years to come. SAWEA remains committed to working constructively with all stakeholders to ensure that wind energy delivers reliable power, economic opportunity, and long-term value for South Africa. I extend my sincere appreciation to the SAWEA Board, Standing Committees, Members, Partners, and the dedicated Secretariat team for their leadership, commitment, and collaboration throughout the year. Together, we are not only navigating complexity — we are laying the foundations for a resilient, competitive, and inclusive wind energy future.

Nivesh Govender

Chief Executive Officer: South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)

2025: THE YEAR OF GRID

2025 was defined by the realities of grid constraint and the urgency to unlock transmission capacity to enable sector growth. In response, the Board set four strategic priorities to guide SAWEA's work during the year. These priorities shaped the Association's advocacy, engagement, institutional focus, and member value creation, and are reflected across all five pillars of this Annual Report.

FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **1.** Foster collaboration between SAWEA and key stakeholders
2. **2.** Establish a financially resilient and sustainable association
3. **3.** Build a membership of choice with exclusive benefits and opportunities
4. **4.** Enhance member engagement and active participation

PILLAR 1

ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2025, SAWEA strengthened its institutional foundations through improved governance processes, enhanced coordination across internal structures, and continued financial discipline. With active leadership from the Board, Executive, and functional teams, the Association advanced its operational maturity, refined internal systems, and ensured that resources were managed responsibly in support of strategic objectives.

Membership stability, transparent financial reporting, and strengthened organisational structures positioned SAWEA for long-term sustainability and increased operational effectiveness. This pillar directly responds to the Board's priority of establishing a financially resilient and sustainable association, while strengthening SAWEA's institutional capacity to lead the sector through a period defined by grid constraint.

SAWEA's work throughout the year was guided by a clear organisational purpose. Its mission — to champion a sustainable and resilient wind industry in South Africa while serving stakeholders with impartiality and integrity — and its vision of being the leading voice and catalyst for wind energy, driving socio-economic development and a just, inclusive energy future, continued to frame strategic decision-making and stakeholder engagement in 2025.

These commitments were reinforced by the Association's core values of professionalism, resilience, influence, diversity, and excellence, which shaped both internal conduct and external representation during a challenging year for the sector.

SAWEA AT A GLANCE

MISSION
To champion a sustainable and resilient wind industry South Africa, serving its stakeholders with impartiality and integrity.

VISION
To be the leading voice and catalyst for the wind industry in South Africa, driving socio-economic development while aligning with the country's energy needs. Through wind power, we aim to enable a just, inclusive, and sustainable energy future for South Africans.

VALUES
P: We are **professional**, with a well-established presence in the renewable energy sector

R: We promote a **resilient** industry by showcasing wind as a reliable, clean and affordable source of energy

I: We **influence** policy development through targeted, impactful stakeholder engagement, driving sustainability in the sector

D: We champion **diversity** and inclusion across the wind energy value chain through strategic diplomacy and advocacy

E: We are driven by **excellence**, anchored in the extensive industry expertise

GOVERNANCE

SAWEA's governance framework in 2025 supported effective oversight, accountability, and strategic alignment during a year defined by grid constraint and sector reform. The Board provided active leadership, ensuring that the Association's activities remained aligned to its mandate, strategic priorities, and fiduciary responsibilities.

During the year, the Board comprised 6 elected Board members, 5 co-opted Board members (due to A1 membership category) directors and met for 4 Board meetings, 3 Tactical meetings and for the Mid-year Strategy, with an average attendance rate of 71%.

The Board was supported by 5 standing committees, which met regularly to provide focused oversight across priority areas including Market Development, Project Development, Project Implementation, Social Impact and Asset Management.

SAWEA maintained a structured governance and policy framework, with 7 approved policies in place covering areas such as governance, financial management, risk, and organisational procedures.

Key risks, including grid constraints and delayed procurement timelines, were monitored through regular reporting and informed strategic and operational decision-making.

Overall, SAWEA's governance structures in 2025 provided a stable foundation for leadership, accountability, and continuity, supporting the Association's role as a credible representative of the wind energy sector.

From a governance perspective, SAWEA maintained strong oversight through an active Board and Standing Committee structure aligned to its strategic priorities of organisational sustainability, sector credibility, and inclusive growth.

Standing Committees remained central to the Association's operating model, providing structured platforms for technical input, member participation, and alignment across priority focus areas.

In 2025, all five Standing Committees met quarterly, resulting in 20 formal committee meetings supported by consistent participation from members, partners, and invited experts.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Institutionally, SAWEA continued to refine its internal structures and operating model. Improvements to systems, workflows, and internal coordination strengthened execution capability and enabled the Secretariat to manage increased engagement demands across policy advocacy, events, transformation programmes, and knowledge outputs.

Clear reporting lines and disciplined internal processes ensured alignment between strategy, operations, and delivery. The Secretariat's structure and composition further supported organisational effectiveness and transformation objectives. In 2025, women represented 75% of staff, youth accounted for 58% of the team, and the average age was 36.

Racial diversity within the organisation reflected national demographics, reinforcing SAWEA's credibility as a transformed and representative industry body. This commitment to inclusion was further demonstrated through the Association's improved BBBEE status, advancing from Level 4 in 2024 to Level 1 in 2025 — a significant governance and transformation milestone aligned to Board priorities.

DEMOGRAPHICS

SAWEA BOARD

CHAIRPERSON
Sunette Smith

TREASURER
Nontokozo Nkosi

BOARD MEMBER
Titania Stefanus-Zincke

BOARD MEMBER
Kevin Minkoff

BOARD MEMBER
Lance Blaine

BOARD MEMBER
Caroline Nhlane

A1 CO-OPTED BOARD MEMBERS

Lea Giroux

Robert Timmers

Stephen Koopman

Janek Winand

Novani Ganess-Johnson

ORGANOGRAM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Niveshen Govender

CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Vincent Kok

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Morongoa Ramaboa

POLICY ADVISOR
Talent Duma

TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Santosh Sookgrim

OFFICE MANAGER
Marilize Stoltz

INITIATIVES MANAGER
Kim Thomas

COMMUNICATIONS & DESIGN SPECIALIST
Mafiwa Ramalebana

TECHNICAL INTERN
Mellissa Pholoholo

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Zimbili Xulu

INITIATIVES COORDINATOR
Agnes Lekula

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
Tshiamo Nare

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN
Shaun Mashaba

MEMBERSHIP

SAWEA's members are the driving force behind the growth of wind energy in South Africa. Through their expertise, investment, and commitment to best practice, they help shape policy, advance socio-economic development, and strengthen the sector's contribution to a sustainable energy future.

MEMBERSHIP VALUE PROPOSITION

Guided by SAWEA's overarching vision — to be the leading voice and catalyst for the wind industry in South Africa while driving socio-economic development and supporting national energy security — the Association is focused on building a membership base that reflects the growth trajectory of the local wind sector.

The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2025 provides strong policy certainty for the expansion of renewable energy, identifying wind as a core component of South Africa's future energy mix. This direction establishes a clear foundation for industry growth over the next decade and positions SAWEA to expand its membership in line with anticipated investment, procurement and project development activity.

MEMBERSHIP PILLARS

POLICY ADVOCACY AND MARKET ALIGNMENT

SAWEA will continue to advocate for a stable, transparent and enabling policy environment that unlocks investment and accelerates project development. By aligning closely with national energy planning objectives, the Association strengthens its value to developers, financiers, service providers and original equipment manufacturers entering or expanding within the sector.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Membership growth will prioritise transformation and skills development through the inclusion of youth, women and previously underrepresented groups. A diverse and future-ready membership base remains central to building a resilient industry with the human capital required to support long-term sector growth.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION AND VALUE CREATION

Through Standing Committees, technical working groups, events and strategic partnerships, SAWEA will continue to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing and collective problem-solving. Membership will be positioned not only as affiliation, but as a platform for influence, participation and industry leadership.

2025 MEMBER OVERVIEW

A1 MEMBERS

NEW ENERTRAG

enel Green Power

ENGIE

MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE POWER SOUTH AFRICA

NORDEX

acciona Windpower

SIEMENS Gamesa RENEWABLE ENERGY

Vestas

A2 MEMBERS

NEW GLOBELEQ

AMEA POWER

INFINITY POWER A MASDAR INFINITY COMPANY

NEW PELEGREEN ENERGY

RG REATILE GROUP

G7 renewable ENERGIES

SASOL

EDF renewables

A3 MEMBERS

NEW genesis eco-energy

AFRICAN CLEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS

AURORA WIND POWER

GOLDWIND

GRI Renewable Industries

JUWI

Scatec

voltalia

A4 MEMBERS

- ENERGY RENEWABLES
- ABO ENERGY
- acciona
- GREEN VENTURES AFRICA
- ARUP
- AIIM (NEW)
- AURIK Enterprise Development (NEW)
- ATLANTIC ENERGY PARTNERS
- BUREAU VERITAS
- BLUECRANE ENVIRONMENTAL
- cainmani
- CARBO FERRUM Making sparks fly
- cennergi
- CES
- CORIA PKF INVESTMENTS 28 (PTY)LTD
- Noblesfontein Wind Farm
- CSIR
- DNV
- Dorper Wind Farm
- EDPLATFORM
- EQ MZANSI TOMORROW'S ENERGY
- EIMS AFRICA
- energie TEAM
- Envision (NEW)
- GEO NET
- GeoWIND
- GREENSTREET MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- H!
- iTOO RENEW RISK
- KHOBAB WIND FARM
- LOERESSONTEIN WIND FARM
- MERCHANT ENERGY (NEW)
- mulilo
- NOUFOORT WIND FARM
- noa
- OWC An ABL Group Company
- PLAN8 INFINITE ENERGY
- RMB
- redcap (NEW)
- AFRICOAST ENERGY
- SAICA Enterprise Development
- sarens academy (NEW)
- SARCO (NEW)
- SERITI Green
- SLR
- SWIRE RENEWABLE ENERGY
- PERDEBERGEN EAST WIND FARM
- tnei
- Sintech
- TÜV SÜD PRO-TEC
- VIGO ENERGY GROUP (NEW)
- WEBBER WENTZEL in alliance with > Linklaters
- WEO
- wsp

B1 MEMBERS

aid Renewables
BLULEVER EDUCATION
Cape Access (NEW)
ENVASS GROUP OF COMPANIES (NEW)
eta energy SERVICES (NEW)
HARMATTAN renewables (NEW)
inlexso
JOHNSON CRANEHIRE
OFFSHORE AFRICA TRAINING CENTRE (NEW)
SANY
SARETEC
selani (NEW)
sanedi
savannah environmental
Sika
SALO
TESMEC (NEW)
umweltsolutions (NEW)

B2 MEMBERS

BOLT TORQUE
Roc (NEW)
Renew-e Green + Sustainable Energy
KAYLDAN (NEW)
INSPIRE i
GLOBAL MEDICAL Safety & Risk Solutions
LIGHTHOUSE LAW (NEW)
Kromme Enviro-Trust St Francis
Artemis GROUP HOLDINGS (NEW)
SiVEST Established 1952
Ikamvalethu (NEW)
AMDA developments
SUSTAINABLE TRANSACTIONS
ECDC
Pink Drive (NEW)
MASTERDRIVE (NEW)
Angels RESOURCE CENTRES (NEW)

SNAPSHOT

27 NEW MEMBERS

79% RETENTION RATE

1 UPGRADE

3 DOWNGRADES

19 CANCELLATIONS

116 TOTAL IN 2025

PILLAR 2

POLICY REFORM AND SECTOR LEADERSHIP

POLICY REFORM AND SECTOR LEADERSHIP

SAWEA deepened its role as a trusted voice in South Africa's energy transition, actively shaping policy and regulatory frameworks to unlock wind energy's full potential. Through strategic engagements with government, regulators, and industry stakeholders, the Association advanced critical reforms in procurement, grid access, and planning. In line with the Board's priority to foster collaboration between SAWEA and key stakeholders, this pillar reflects the Association's leadership role in shaping regulatory reform and advancing coordinated, delivery-focused solutions to grid and market constraints.

POLICY & REGULATORY LANDSCAPE UPDATE

ELECTRICITY REGULATION ACT (ERA)

- Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill
- South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM)
- Independent Transmission System Operator (TSO) establishment

Work underway

- SAWEM School cohorts planned until Q1 2026
- Market Operator Licence issued, Market Code to be submitted to NERSA
- Liberalised market commences on 01 April 2026

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN (IRP)

- IRP 2025 gazetted
- Tx Regulations for Energy Projects gazetted
- Private Procurement

Work underway

- GWEC funded Analysis report concluded, member consultation and position to commence
- Respective Section 34 determinations to follow
- REIPPPP Reform Survey conducted and member inputs distributed to IPPO

GRID CONNECTION FRAMEWORKS

- NERSA Grid Capacity Allocation Rules gazetted
- Batched Generation Connection Framework (BGCF) consultations still underway

Work underway

- Advocacy for greater transparency still underway, which includes: Grid queue visibility from CEL to BQ phase and frequent GCCA updates and a centralised Grid Access Unit

TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENT PLAN (TDP)

- Independent Transmission Projects (ITPs)
- South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey (SAREGS) 2025
- Congestion Curtailment Framework issued to market

Work underway

- SAREGS 2025 results webinar work done example
- ITP advocacy for EC & WC
- ITP build-rate to complement Congestion Curtailment
- SAREGS 2025 results indicate 60GW pipeline of wind amongst a 220GW RE project pipeline

POLICY ENGAGEMENT AT SCALE

Policy engagement in 2025 was characterised by both scale and depth, reflecting a year defined by grid constraint and accelerated reform.

SAWEA submitted 15 formal policy and regulatory responses to key institutions, including the DEE, NERSA, Eskom, National Treasury, the IPP Office, ITAC, and environmental authorities.

These submissions addressed priority issues spanning electricity market reform, grid capacity allocation, congestion curtailment, transmission planning, environmental permitting, cost-recovery mechanisms, and carbon markets, reinforcing SAWEA's position as a technically credible and solutions-oriented industry representative.

NUMBER OF POLICY RESPONSES AND TOPICS

#	SUBMITTED TO	TOPIC
1	ITAC	Tariff Review on Renewable Energy Components
2	DOT	RFI on Private Sector participation in Rail and Port Infrastructure
3	Eskom (RETEC)	MPE Generation Code Review Report
4	DMRE (DEE)	DRAFT Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Regulations
5	DEL	Draft Construction Regulations
6	SANBI	Greater Addo-Amathole Biodiversity Node Masterplan
7	DFFE	NEMA Substation Exclusion Norms and Standards
8	NERSA	Consultation Paper on Ancillary Services
9	NERSA	Consultation on Grid Capacity Allocation Rules
10	DFFE	Draft Second NDCs
11	IPPO	Carbon Credits and Environmental Attributes
12	NERSA	Market Inquiry into Electricity Charges TORs
13	NERSA	Cost Recovery Rules for ITPs
14	NERSA	Generator Losses Charge Amendment
15	National Treasury	Development the SA Carbon Credit Market

GRID ACCESS REFORMS

Grid access reform emerged as a defining focus area in 2025. SAWEA played a substantive role in advancing dialogue on congestion curtailment, and transparent grid allocation processes. Engagements focused on the implementation of the NERSA Grid Capacity Allocation Rules, and congestion curtailment mechanisms, with advocacy grounded in international best practice while responsive to South Africa's system realities.

PLANNING, REGULATION AND MARKET REFORM

SAWEA engaged extensively on national planning and regulatory reform, including the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP 2025), reforms to the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme, and the implementation of the Electricity Regulation Amendment Act. Engagements with the IPP Office, Eskom Grid Access Unit, NECOM, and Business Unity South Africa supported alignment between policy intent, system planning, and project delivery realities.

TRANSMISSION PLANNING AND SYSTEM READINESS

Transmission planning formed a further pillar of engagement. SAWEA contributed to discussions on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP), Independent Transmission Projects (ITPs), and the findings of the South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey (SAREGS 2025). These inputs supported advocacy for prioritisation of congested corridors, particularly in the Eastern and Western Cape, and for coordinated planning approaches capable of unlocking wind deployment at scale.

SUSTAINED REGULATORY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond formal submissions, SAWEA maintained a consistent presence in regulatory and stakeholder forums throughout the year. This included participation in IRP consultations, SAREM-related processes, NERSA hearings, grid allocation workshops, and technical engagements focused on capacity constraints and market readiness. This sustained engagement enabled SAWEA to provide real-time technical input and to advocate for pragmatic, delivery-oriented solutions as reforms progressed from policy design toward implementation.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

International and multilateral engagement further strengthened SAWEA's policy leadership. In 2025, the Association participated in the B20 South Africa process and G20 Energy Transition–related forums, positioning South Africa's wind sector within a global reform context while drawing on international experience to inform domestic grid and market reform discussions.

Capacity building complemented advocacy efforts. Through partnerships with NTCSA and global partners, SAWEA supported the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM) School, strengthening industry readiness for market reform and the operational realities of a liberalised electricity system.

GRID ACCESS FOCUS AREAS: PROGRESS-TO-DATE

GRID CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

		CONTEXT / WHY?	WHERE ARE WE	NEXT STEPS
INCREASE CAPACITY	**Congestion Curtailment**	Unlocks 1.5 GW of wind projects in WC & EC	Eskom GAU Workshop on 28 Oct: Practice Note and GCCA update, registration started on 01 Nov	Advocacy to extend principle into future MYPD rounds and provinces
INCREASE CAPACITY	**TDP/ITP**	IRP & SAREGS guided figures, aggressive TDP roll out required	1164km of ITPs in Phase 1, RFP commenced on 01 Nov 2025	Future ITP rounds to provide a 10-year plan and consistent rounds Align TDP with gazetted IRP
INCREASE CAPACITY	**Global Best Practices**	Applying global best practice contributes to energy security and sustainability	Global expert participation in SAWEM, potential to workshop across the entire utility value chain	Study tours (Feb 2026), MoUs and more industry 'workshopping'
ALLOCATION	**Transparent Grid Allocation Queues**	Transparency in grid allocation offers prospective generators foresight to be grid ready, offers investors security	MDSC + PDSC TT Inputs SAWEA submission to NERSA GCAR consultation on 29 July 2025	Approved by NERSA on 27 Nov, immediate implementation earmarked
ALLOCATION	**IGCAR + BGCF Changes**	Appropriate rules for grid allocation paves the way for investor certainty, rapid implementation and quicker roll out of Gx	IGCAR under review by industry associations BCGF is under development	IGCAR recommendations submitted in Aug 2025, BGCF consultation still underway

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Strategic communication supported SAWEA's policy work by translating complex regulatory developments into accessible insight for members and stakeholders. Through Policy Pulses, structured updates, and thought-leadership outputs, SAWEA ensured shared understanding across the sector and reinforced alignment during a period of rapid regulatory change.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PIECES (POLICY PULSES)

- Congestion Curtailment
- Electricity Regulation Amendment Act: A New ERA for Wind
- IRP & PPP
- Congestion Curtailment Approved, Now What?
- Wheeling Framework Approval: Reinventing the Wheel(ing)
- When Wires Inspire (How a Trade Ta(riff) Sets the Tune) (ITPs)
- From Enron to Electron – Building Smarter Markets from SAWEM to SAPP
- Wake loss, Policy draw, Dispute Wins
- Preview Pulse (Part 1-3) – Windaba
- Winds of Cha(lle)nge - Entering Entropy
- Section 53 | Area 51 - Navigating the Unknowns in SA's Energy Transition
- The BESS of both worlds

Collectively, SAWEA's policy and regulatory engagement in 2025 contributed to improved policy clarity, greater transparency in grid access and system planning, and more constructive engagement between industry and the state. While implementation challenges remain, the year marked a clear shift from abstract reform discussions toward actionable frameworks capable of unlocking wind energy deployment at scale.

Looking ahead, SAWEA will continue to focus on translating policy intent into delivery, strengthening regulatory certainty, and supporting stakeholders as reforms move into implementation. By sustaining its evidence-based advocacy approach and deepening collaboration with policymakers and regulators, SAWEA is positioning the wind sector to play a central role in South Africa's evolving electricity market and energy transition.

SECTOR COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP

SAWEA played an active coordination and leadership role across key national, industry and international platforms, ensuring that wind energy perspectives were consistently represented in energy reform, market transition and skills development processes. Through structured participation in formal forums and targeted engagements, SAWEA contributed technical input, policy insight and sector coordination during a year defined by grid constraints and accelerated reform.

KEY INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND MULTILATERAL PLATFORMS IN WHICH SAWEA PARTICIPATED DURING 2025 INCLUDED:

- National Energy Crisis Committee (NECOM) – Workstream 2.2
- B4SA–NECOM Workstreams (Energy Council–coordinated):
  - Workstream 2: New Generation Capacity
  - Workstream 3: Market Reform
  - Workstream 4: Strengthening and Expanding the Transmission Network
  - Workstream 5: Reforming the Electricity Distribution Industry
- Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) – Energy Subcommittee
- BUSA Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Working Group (NEDLAC process)
- PowerUp Skills Platform – Project Steering Committee
- Africa Energy Forum (AEF)
- B20 South Africa
- G20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG)
- Department of Electricity and Energy – Gender Diversity in Renewable Energy initiative
- SAREM Project Steering Committee
- Eastern Cape Provincial Investment Committee
- GWEC Africa Task Force
- NBI JET Skills Workshop

Complementing this formal participation, SAWEA also convened and co-hosted industry networking and engagement platforms with other organisations and associations, supporting collaboration, knowledge exchange and alignment across the wind energy value chain. Collectively, these engagements reinforced SAWEA's role as a credible, trusted and solutions-oriented sector leader at a critical point in South Africa's energy transition.

SAWEA NETWORKING EVENTS

SAWEA's networking events provided purposeful spaces for engagement across the wind energy value chain. By convening industry leaders, policymakers, partners, and emerging professionals, these gatherings encouraged constructive dialogue, relationship-building, and shared insight. In a dynamic and evolving sector, these connections supported collaboration and reinforced a collective commitment to advancing wind energy in South Africa.

TARGET 6 → ACTUAL 11 → TARGET EXCEEDED 183%

WEBINARS

Youth in Energy Conversations
Youth in Energy Conversations-Webinar Series
NAVIGATING THE ENERGY SECTOR AS A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
Register Now
Shela Sekhasembe
Reliability Engineer at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station, focusing on the performance and maintenance of nuclear systems. Holds a BSc in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering and is committed to operational excellence.
Cecilia Bassog
BSc graduate with experience in automotive quality management. Passionate about upskilling, training, and applying quality systems to advance careers in STEM and manufacturing.
Linina Bedhesi
Senior Analyst at Necsa, specializing in neutronics and radiation safety analysis. With 9+ years of computational modeling experience, she holds degrees in Physics and Energy Leadership
Bianca Michaeline Jordan
SAWEA Social Impact Standing Committee Member and Social Specialist at AMEA Power focusing on environmental, social and governance and Economic Development in the renewable energy sector in Southern Africa.
IN COLLABORATION WITH
SAWEA
SANEA
@EnergyConvos
7 August
6 pm -7 pm
RSVP : ZOOM

INDUSTRY WEBINAR
TURBINE TALKS:
BALANCING
BLADES & BIRDLIFE
14 NOVEMBER 2025
ONLINE:
MICROSOFT TEAMS
13:30 - 15:30
SAWEA
In partnership with
BirdLife

#SAREGS2025
INDUSTRY WEBINAR
4th Annual 2025
SOUTH AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY GRID SURVEY (SAREGS)
Results
This webinar is the culmination of the process to present the results of the 2025 SAREGS to the industry and public.
Date
27 October 2025
Time
13h30 - 15h00
REGISTER NOW >>>
Results To Be Presented By:
Supported By:
RONALD MARAIS
DR RETHABILE MELAMU
NIVESHEN GOVENDER
ZAYD VAWDA
SINETHEMBA MNGUNI
SURVEY PARTNERS:
Eskom
SAPVIA
SAWEA

SAWEA
INDUSTRY WEBINAR
TURBINE TALKS:
End-of-Life Pathways for Wind Energy Assets
14 & 16 OCTOBER 2025
ONLINE:
MICROSOFT TEAMS
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
FACILITATOR
SPEAKER
SPEAKER
SPEAKER
MAFIWA RAMALEBANA
Communication & Design Specialist
SAWEA
MISHELLE GOVENDER
Chief Director: Waste Management & Licensing
DFFE
DECLAN MORKEL
Renewable Energy Engineer
DNV
ROCHELLE BLOEMHOF
Principal Associate: Mine Closure Specialist
WSP

SAWEA
INDUSTRY WEBINAR
TURBINE TALKS:
End-of-Life Pathways for Wind Energy Assets
14 & 16 OCTOBER 2025
ONLINE:
MICROSOFT TEAMS
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
FACILITATOR
SPEAKER
SPEAKER
MAFIWA RAMALEBANA
Communication & Design Specialist
SAWEA
MARK WILLIAMS-WYNN
Chief Technology Officer
EWaste Africa
THEIS VON BARNAU SYTHOFF
Project Lead
Blade-Made

2025 South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey (SAREGS)
CLOSING
INDUSTRY WEBINAR
4th Annual
SOUTH AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY GRID SURVEY (SAREGS)
Results
#SAREGS2025
SURVEY PARTNERS:
Eskom
SAPVIA
SAWEA
Niveshen Govender

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

SAWEA champions the growth of wind energy by actively engaging with policymakers, industry leaders, and communities. Through participation in events, forums, and industry discussions, we ensure the voice of the sector is heard and its impact amplified.

PILLAR 3

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY INTELLIGENCE

The Association advanced sector development by strengthening market intelligence, improving coordination across the wind energy value chain, and providing credible, data-driven insight to support informed decision-making. As grid constraints, market reform, and evolving procurement pathways reshaped the operating environment, access to reliable information and shared understanding became critical to sustaining momentum and positioning the sector for future growth.

SAWEA's work under this pillar focused on translating complexity into clarity and aligning stakeholders around evidence-based priorities.

Aligned with the Board's strategic priorities of sector credibility, delivery readiness, and long-term growth, SAWEA deepened its role as a central knowledge hub for the wind industry. Through structured research, sector-wide data collection, and technical coordination, the Association supported improved planning alignment, strengthened investment confidence, and enhanced the quality of engagement across policy, infrastructure, and market reform processes.

This work supports the Board's priority of building a membership of choice by providing members with credible data, shared insight, and sector intelligence that strengthens decision-making and collective readiness during a constrained market cycle.

A cornerstone of this work in 2025 was the launch of SAWEA's inaugural Market Intelligence Report. The report consolidated data on installed capacity, project pipelines, policy developments, system constraints, and emerging opportunities, providing a comprehensive and accessible overview of the state and outlook of the wind sector. By bringing together disparate data sources into a single, structured publication, the report strengthened transparency and consistency, and provided a common reference point for developers, investors, policymakers, and system planners.

LEADING IN INTELLIGENCE

Market Intelligence Report

In 2025, SAWEA launched its inaugural Market Intelligence Report, providing a comprehensive, data-driven view of the state, performance and outlook of South Africa's wind energy sector.

Project Development Guidelines

In 2025, SAWEA advanced sector capability through the development and publication of the Wind Energy Project Development Guideline, designed to support both new and emerging developers in navigating the technical, regulatory, environmental and financial complexity of project development in South Africa.

Gender Diversity Guideline

Developed in partnership with SAPVIA and led through SAWEA's Social Impact Standing Committee, the Gender Diversity Guideline for the Renewable Energy Industry were launched by DEE Deputy Minister Samantha Graham-Marè at Windaba Connect, aligning with DEE transformation objectives and WEGE Strategy. The Guideline provides a practical framework for embedding gender inclusion across organisational policies, operations and workplace culture.

STANDING COMMITTEES

SAWEA's five Standing Committees bring members together around the issues that most directly affect the performance and growth of the wind sector. By concentrating technical expertise, market insight, and collective industry experience, the committees enable coordinated positions, informed advocacy, and credible engagement with decision-makers. Each committee is led by a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, providing direction, accountability, and recognised industry leadership. All 5 Standing Committees held 4 meetings for 2025 i.e. 20 quarterly meetings in total.

	MARKET DEVELOPMENT	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	ASSET MANAGEMENT	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	SOCIAL IMPACT
	CHAIRPERSON Boitumelo Kiepile; DEPUTY Braam Botha	CHAIRPERSON Matthew Law; DEPUTY Andrea Gibb	CHAIRPERSON Wendy Parsons; DEPUTY Jason de Beer	CHAIRPERSON Nthabiseng Jonas	CHAIRPERSON Celiwe Mabaso; DEPUTY Mamoso May
REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	101	166	118	91	92
PARTICIPATION RATE	31.1%	39.3%	31.6%	40%	42.4%
TASK TEAMS	**1.** Grid Access **2.** SAWEM	**1.** Grid Allocation **2.** ADLS **3.** Birds and RE Task Team	**1.** OEM **2.** Technological Innovations	**1.** Grid Compliance **2.** IPP	**1.** JET Position **2.** Skills
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED	Eskom / NTCSA, DEE, DFFE, National Treasury, NECOM & BUSA, NERSA, IPPO	DFFE, EOSS, DTIC, CSIR, BLSA, CAA, SAWS	ALTC /DoT & SAAFF, ITAC, Provincial DEDEAT, DEL, DFFE Waste Directorate	GCAC (RETEC), NERSA, IPPO, DEL, Eskom Group, SAWS	EWSETA, PCC, GIZ & INSPIRE, NBI, Greencape & Arete, SARETEC, DEL

STANDING COMMITTEE | 2025 FOCUS AREAS

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- Industry Response to IRP2024 and Preparation for Implementation
- Evolving Power Sector under ERA Act
- Transmission Development
- Grid Allocation
- New Markets – Offshore Wind

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Grid Capacity Allocation Process and Transparency
- Project Development Guideline
- Streamlining Permitting Processes
- Best Practice for Avifaunal Mitigation
- Regulatory landscape

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Grid Compliance
- AI in operational plants
- Curtailment
- Asset Register Update
- Asset Performance Best Practice
- Asset Manager's Forum

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Logistical Interventions
- Localisation and Supplier Development
- EPR and Rehabilitation
- Legislation and Codes for Construction
- Technological Innovations

SOCIAL IMPACT

- Just Energy Transition
- JET-IP and Wind's Response
- SAREM – Industry efforts for supplier development localisation
- Diversity and Inclusion (Charter, Industry Codes)
- Programmatic Approach
- Independent Forums

KEY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Providing guidance for industry on best practices through the development and distribution of regulatory and developmental guidelines, hosting of knowledge sharing webinars and expert presentations.

Presentations from strategic partners and key stakeholders in SC meetings such as:
DEE (SAREM), IPP Office – Shane Prins, DFFE (Waste Directorate), Energy One Stop Shop (dtic), GWEC, South African Weather Service (SAWS), Eastern Cape DEDEAT, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and DARDLEA, Trader (NOA), Offshore Mapping (ARUP), Regional Markets (SAPP), ETA Energy, Sebenzana App, Anakata, Cape Access, Johnson Crane Hire, Grail Security, DNV

High impact meetings with key stakeholder such as:
- RETEC: Discussions on resolving industry challenges on grid compliance matters
- Energy One Stop Shop: Presenting key industry challenges to the EOSS for intervention
- DFFE Review of existing challenges and responses on environmental permitting with DFFE
- Presentation to ALTC on the transport and logistics challenges
- Engagement with IPP Office on Environmental Attributes
- Participation from our CEO at IPP Conference (Eskom Grid Access Unit)

TOP THREE PROGRESS AREAS

15 INDUSTRY RESPONSE SUBMISSIONS

30 EXPERT SPEAKERS AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARUP, NOA, SAPP, GWEC, RMB, IPPO, EC DEDEAT, SAWS, DARDLEA, EOSS, Birdlife South Africa, GWI Group, Johnson Crane Hire, Grail Solutions, DFFE (WD), DEE (SAREM), ATLC (TBC), Oilwatch Labs, DNV, Cape Access, Sebenzana App, ETA Energy, Anakata, Selani M&D, Eye of the Tiger, GreenCape, Aurik ED, Accelerate, Sarebi, Vibranium Group

9 TANGIBLE OUTPUTS

Market Intelligence Report , GD & PD Guideline , IRP 2024 Analysis Report, ADLS Guidelines, SAREGS 2025 Results and , REI4P Reform Survey, IPPO letters on EAs

Supply chain coordination and localisation formed a core component of SAWEA's market development work. Engagements with manufacturers, logistics providers and policymakers supported dialogue on local manufacturing potential, infrastructure readiness and skills alignment, contributing to broader discussions on industrial development, job creation and the strengthening of domestic value chains.

Market intelligence and knowledge-sharing platforms supported this work by translating research, project data and operational insight into practical sector guidance. Targeted sessions and technical discussions convened through SAWEA platforms informed dialogue on grid reform, transmission investment, market design and industrialisation, supporting alignment between industry, policymakers and system planners.

These efforts strengthened the sector's information base, improved coordination across the value chain and enhanced readiness for future growth. As grid reform and market liberalisation progress, SAWEA will continue to refine its market intelligence capabilities, deepen supply chain collaboration and support informed decision-making to accelerate project delivery and enable a resilient and competitive wind energy sector.

PILLAR 4

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SAWEA strengthened trust, influence and alignment across the wind energy ecosystem through sustained stakeholder engagement, high-impact convening platforms and strategic partnerships. As policy reform accelerated, grid access constraints intensified and market transition progressed, effective engagement became central to maintaining sector coherence and ensuring that industry perspectives informed decision-making across institutions.

Aligned with the Board's strategic priorities of sector credibility, collaborative leadership and effective advocacy, SAWEA maintained an active engagement presence across government departments, regulators, system operators and industry bodies. These included the Department of Electricity and Energy, NERSA, NTCSA, Eskom, the IPP Office, NECOM and Business Unity South Africa. Through bilateral and multilateral engagements, SAWEA supported informed dialogue on grid access, transmission planning, market reform and implementation challenges, reinforcing its role as a trusted intermediary between industry and the state during a period of heightened system pressure.

Member engagement underpinned SAWEA's external advocacy and stakeholder engagement efforts throughout the year. Structured interaction through standing committees, technical forums, webinars, newsletters and bilateral engagements enabled members to contribute operational insight, technical expertise and evidence to policy positions, regulatory submissions and stakeholder dialogues. This ensured that SAWEA's engagement with public institutions was grounded in project-level realities and reflective of broader industry conditions.

Strategic communication reinforced engagement outcomes by ensuring coherence, visibility and continuity across media and digital platforms. Extensive coverage across print, broadcast and online channels strengthened SAWEA's credibility as an authoritative industry voice during a year of accelerated policy reform and grid constraint. Digital platforms extended the reach of SAWEA's engagements beyond physical forums, with LinkedIn remaining the Association's primary professional engagement channel. LinkedIn followers increased from 21,615 to 25,107 during the year, supporting policy discourse, industry updates and event amplification, while Facebook supported community-facing awareness and X (formerly Twitter) enabled real-time sector commentary.

MEMBER COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH SNAPSHOT

21 615 → **25 107**	6 674 → **6 724**	5 533 → **5 446**
+ 3 492	+ 50	- 87

LINKEDIN REMAINS SAWEA'S PRIMARY PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

WEBSITE ANALYTICS

MONTHLY AVERAGE

8 061	4 017	3 639	1m14s
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS	TOTAL VISITORS	NEW VISITORS	AVERAGE TIME ON SITE

100 DIRECT MAILERS SENT

11 NEWSLETTERS SENT

WEEKLY TRENDS & INSIGHTS FOR A1 – A3 MEMBERS

46 RECIPIENTS

38 MAILERS

The Weekly Trends update remained a core member information service, providing A1–A3 members with a curated snapshot of key developments across the wind and broader energy sector. By consolidating policy developments, market activity, project updates, and member news into a single briefing, SAWEA reduced the need for stakeholders to track multiple information sources. The consistency of this communication ensured members had regular visibility of issues shaping the operating environment. In a period of rapid reform and market uncertainty, the update reinforced SAWEA's role as a reliable source of sector intelligence.

MEDIA AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Media and digital engagement worked in tandem to amplify key narratives on grid reform, energy security, skills development and the strategic role of wind energy. A notable highlight was Global Wind Day 2025, which generated strong national and regional visibility, achieving an estimated Advertising Value Equivalent of R1.9 million and reaching over 38.5 million people across leading national, regional and sector media platforms.

MEDIA AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

WINDABA COVERAGE

WINDABA 2025: INDUSTRY CONVENING AND SECTOR LEADERSHIP

WINDABA

BREAK THE GRIDLOCK!
WIRE FOR GROWTH!

Industry convening and partnerships further amplified SAWEA's impact. Strategic collaborations with organisations including EWSETA, the Danish Energy Agency, GWEC, the IPP Office, DTIC, academic institutions and municipalities supported skills development, policy alignment and institutional capacity building. Flagship platforms such as Windaba 2025, alongside the Mandela House Dinner, IPP Roundtables and industry dialogues, continued to serve as critical spaces for coordination, relationship-building and alignment during a defining year for the sector.

This year's event was widely regarded as the most impactful and successful Windaba to date, setting a new benchmark for collaboration, insight, and industry momentum.

The **14th Annual Windaba Conference and Exhibition**, held under the theme "Break the Gridlock. Wire for Growth," took place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC 2) from 21–23 October 2025. The conference convened senior government representatives, regulators, system operators, industry leaders, financiers, and international partners at a critical moment for the sector, reinforcing Windaba's role as South Africa's premier wind energy convening platform.

The programme featured **129 speakers**, including **Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa**, who delivered the opening keynote, and **Deputy Minister Samantha Graham-Maré**, who headlined both Windaba Connect and the Gala Dinner. High-level participation included contributions from **Monde Bala** (CEO, NTCSA), **Rivoningo Mnisi** (Eskom Group Executive: Renewables), **Thembani Bukula** (Chairperson, NERSA), **Precious Edward** (Head, IPP Office), and **Subesh Pillay** (Director-General, DEE), underscoring the conference's strategic influence and policy relevance. Windaba 2025 was widely regarded as the most impactful edition to date, setting a new benchmark for collaboration, insight, and sector momentum.

KEY CONFERENCE STATISTICS

1 473 DELEGATES AND ATTENDEES ACROSS THREE DAYS

129 SPEAKERS

35 EXHIBITORS

390 EXHIBITION VISITORS

29 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

22 PARTICIPANTS AT THE IPP ROUNDTABLE

25 PARTICIPANTS AT THE INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE WITH MINISTER RAMOKGOPA

15 8 INDUSTRY AWARDS AND 7 STAKEHOLDER RECOGNITION AWARDS PRESENTED

The **Mandela House Dinner**, hosted at Amare Restaurant and moderated by **Mr Rudi Dicks**, brought together 50 senior industry leaders for focused, forward-looking dialogue on priority sector issues. The dinner continues to serve as one of Windaba's most valued thought-leadership and networking platforms.

Windaba also intentionally advanced inclusive leadership through the introduction of **women-only moderated panels**, led by experienced women professionals from across the wind energy value chain. These panels focused on priority themes including grid reform, market design, investment and implementation challenges, reinforcing SAWEA's commitment to professional inclusion and leadership development within sector-shaping dialogue.

SAWEA INDUSTRY AND STAKEHOLDER RECOGNITION AWARDS

The 2025 Windaba Industry Recognition Awards celebrated excellence across the wind sector, highlighting organisations and individuals making a tangible difference. Categories included Bright Spark, Environmental Stewardship, Exceptional Service Provider, Gender Diversity Enabler, OEM Market Leader, Raising Communities, Safety Net, and Watt-A-Woman. Complementing these, the Stakeholder Recognition Awards acknowledged partners and collaborators whose contributions advanced sector development. Together, the awards reinforced SAWEA's commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusive leadership across the value chain.

INNOVATION ON DISPLAY: WINDABA EXHIBITIONS

SAWEA's work in 2025 was supported by strong collaboration with industry sponsors, strategic partners and media partners, reflecting broad-based confidence in the Association's role as a credible sector convenor and industry voice. Sponsors represented the full wind energy value chain, including developers, OEMs, financiers, service providers and development partners, enabling the successful delivery of flagship platforms such as Windaba, sector engagements, skills initiatives and knowledge-sharing programmes.

Strategic partnerships with public and institutional stakeholders, including government departments, regulators, system operators and international organisations, supported alignment on policy reform, system planning, market development and capacity building. Media partnerships further strengthened SAWEA's reach and influence, enabling consistent, informed coverage of wind energy developments and industry priorities across national, regional and sector platforms. Collectively, these partnerships enhanced SAWEA's ability to convene, inform and mobilise stakeholders across the energy ecosystem during a year defined by grid constraints, accelerated reform and the need for coordinated industry leadership.

CONFIRMED SPONSORS

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

MEDIA PARTNERS

141

ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS 42 STAKEHOLDERS

Collectively, SAWEA's stakeholder engagement efforts in 2025 strengthened alignment across the wind energy ecosystem, enhanced trust between industry and the state, and reinforced the Association's role as a credible and collaborative sector leader. Through convening stakeholders, enabling informed dialogue and sustaining open channels of communication, SAWEA supported both immediate sector priorities and longer-term transition objectives.

This foundation of trust and alignment enabled SAWEA to facilitate a series of high-impact stakeholder engagements and deepen strategic partnerships throughout the year. As policy reforms increasingly shifted from design toward implementation, these platforms and relationships became critical to driving coordinated action, unlocking progress and sustaining momentum across the wind energy sector.

HIGH IMPACT STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Stakeholder	Purpose(s)
electricity & energy	Petroleum Product Bill Consultation; Petroleum Production Bill Consultation 2; PCEE – Update on National Solar Water Heater Programme (NSWHP); PCEE – Gas Industry & Gas Exploitation Briefing SAREM Strategic Alignment, SAREM PSC Meeting; 2025 Budget Vote Stakeholder Engagement; Gender Diversity Study
forestry, fisheries & the environment	Environmental Task Team – Regulatory & Compliance Engagements Affecting All Wind Project Development; Regulatory Campaign: Net Zero Pathways for a Good Life Engagement
nersa	Briefing on Eskom MYPD6 Revenue Application (2025/26–2027/28); Business Leadership on Grid Capacity Allocation Engagement; Chairperson & SAWEA CEO Mid-Year Reflections Call; ELS Public Hearing on GCAR
Eskom	GAU Briefing on Accelerated IPP & Generator Conference; IPP Conference: CEO Presentation; Biodiversity & Renewable Energy Workshop; NRS116 Working Group Consultations; IGCAR Review Engagement; JET SEP Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting; 3rd Eskom Clean Energy Conference
Eskom National Transmission Company South Africa	SAREGS 2025 Survey Review and Planning; Rated Power Clarification Meeting with RETEC, SAWEM School Cohorts Sponsored by SAWEA
	SAWEA-IPPO Engagement and REIPPPP Reform Survey Results Sharing; SAWEA & IPPO (Environmental Attributes) Pre-alignment; SAREM EOC Meeting; REIPPPP Reform Implementation Meeting
GWEC GLOBAL WIND ENERGY COUNCIL	Strategic Alignment: Activity Update, Contract Renewal & Scoping for Capacity Building; Board Meeting & AGM; Global Associations Summit 2025: CEO Panel Contributions; Study Tour Planning
NECOM NATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS COMMITTEE	CEO Participation in Work Stream New Generation 2.2: Private Generation and Enablers (BGCF Review, GCAR Review); Advisors Participation in WS2: New Generation Capacity, WS3: Market Reform; WS4 & 5: Strengthening and Expanding Tx Network
the dtic	Advisor Participation in Awareness Event on Project Development Challenges; Enabling Land Use for IPPs – Workshop with members and key stakeholders on permitting and regulatory challenges.
BUSA	Phase 2 Carbon Tax Discussion Workshop; Employment Equity Sectoral Targets Preparation Session; Energy Subcommittee Meetings (Monthly); Meeting on the Expropriation Act; IRP 2024 Working Group
SACAA	ADLS Guidance & Procedures; ADLS Guidance Material Review and Process

HIGH IMPACT STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

SAPVIA South African Photovoltaic Industry Association	CEO's Bilateral Meeting; SAREGS 2025 Planning; SAPVIA/ SAWEA Position on Eskom Challenges & Next Steps
BirdLife South Africa Giving Conservation Wings	Alignment & Knowledge Sharing; Strengthening Operational EMPrs Working Group; Partnership & Sponsorship; Prep for Standardisation Workshop. MOU and Strategic Alignment.
CSIR Touching lives through innovation	Research Partnership: Potential Research Topics Presented; Wind Turbine Online Dataset Representation; SAWEA & CSIR MoU Update Discussion
South African Weather Service	Pre-alignment for Standing Committee presentations on radar approach and asset protection
NBI National Business Initiative	Building Skills for JET Workshop; Exploring NBI Support for WIIP Expansion; Advisor Participation in Solar, Wind & EE Working Group
	Stakeholder Engagement Session; JET PMU Progress Update
BWE Bundesverband WindEnergie	Bi-Monthly Industry Alignment & Initiatives Planning; Alignment on KVP Project (South African and German Industry Associations Joint Initiatives) ; KVP Project Planning
BEE German Renewable Energy Federation	KVP Project Structure Finance; KVP Project Activity Plan
B20 South Africa 2025	Employment & Education Taskforce
G20	Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) Side Event on Energy Planning & Principles

Province of the Eastern Cape Republic of South Africa	Participation in Premier's Investment Council
Province of the Eastern Cape Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism	Status of Wind Development in Eastern Cape and Alignment on Presentation to Standing Committees
education Department of Education Free State Province	Strengthening STEM & ICT Learning Outcomes
agriculture, rural development, land & environmental affairs Mpumalanga Province Republic of South Africa	Process and Challenges of RE Development in MP
atlantis special economic zone	Feasibility Study – Local Testing and Certification
South African National Parks	Greater Addo-Amathole Biodiversity Economy Node Masterplan Engagement and Impact on Wind Development
sanedi South African National Energy Development Institute	Wind Atlas for South Africa 4 (WASA4) Project Steering Committee
EW SETA Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority	Ongoing Joint-Initiatives Participation: Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP), Work Readiness Programme (WRP), Management Development Programme (MDP), PowerUp Project Steering Committee
KFW	Discussion on Skills4JET Developments Research and Skills Capacity building
INSPIRE	Strategic Partnership Discussions for maximising social impact

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SAWEA strengthened its role as a convenor and collaborator through targeted strategic partnerships, memoranda of understanding (MoUs), and project-based collaborations. These partnerships supported policy advocacy, sector capacity building, knowledge exchange, and coordinated action to address system constraints, particularly in relation to grid access and market reform.

GLOBAL WIND ENERGY COUNCIL (GWEC)

In 2025, SAWEA partnered with the GWEC to support advocacy, capacity building and high-level industry engagement. Through funding and technical support, GWEC enabled SAWEA to facilitate engagement with international experts on grid integration, transmission expansion and electricity market design, strengthening sector readiness for reform. The partnership supported strategic platforms such as the CEO Breakfast in March 2025 and preparations for a GWEC–SAWEA International Study Tour (31 January – 8 February 2026), focused on electricity trading markets, system integration and transmission planning, reinforcing knowledge exchange and global best practice learnings between Denmark-Germany and South Africa. The tour will consist of 12 South African delegates represented by Eskom and SAWEA colleagues, and one GWEC representative.

This partnership between SAWEA and GWEC also supported an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) analysis report (Phase I), which provided a comprehensive review of the draft IRP 2024 to outline the opportunities, challenges, and risks associated with scaling up of renewables, especially wind energy deployment in South Africa. The report critically examined the structural constraints, policy misalignments and implementation gaps to present a list of actionable recommendations to support effective realisation of the wind energy targets.

Phase II of the IRP 2024/25 analysis report will now analyse the gazetted IRP 2025 with a specific focus on wind energy allocations and implementation feasibility; Test IRP assumptions against real-world industry, grid, procurement and financing constraints; and undertake structured industry consultations to capture on-the-ground insights from developers, OEMs, financiers and system stakeholders.

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY SOUTH AFRICA (NTCSA) – SAWEM SCHOOL

In partnership with the National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA) and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), SAWEA supported the delivery of additional cohorts of the South African Wholesale Electricity Market (SAWEM) School in 2025. The programme equips industry professionals with a practical understanding of the structure, processes and operation of the wholesale electricity market ahead of its planned launch in 2026, including evolving market structures, trading rules and system operations. By supporting participation and attendance, SAWEA contributed to sector readiness for market reform, strengthened institutional capacity across the value chain and supported leadership development within the wind energy industry.

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY SOUTH AFRICA (NTCSA) – SOUTH AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY GRID SURVEY (SAREGS)

SAWEA partnered with NTCSA and SAPVIA to conduct the fourth annual South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey. SAREGS remains a critical tool for industry and policymakers, providing insight into the renewable energy development pipeline and informing proactive transmission planning. The survey supports evidence-based input into the Generation Capacity Allocation Assessment (GCAA) and Transmission Development Plan (TDP), benefiting REIPPPP projects, private generation, and wheeling investments.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs)

SAWEA continued to implement and advance existing MoUs, focusing on practical collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives

COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)

Now in its third year of implementation following signature in 2022, the CSIR MoU supported collaboration on research prioritisation, data processing and visualisation for the wind industry asset register, and knowledge sharing. CSIR also participated in the Scientific Advisory Committee for the WindAc conference and collaborated with SAWEA on event-based engagements.

BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA (BLSA)

In its second year of implementation following signature in 2024, the partnership with BirdLife South Africa deepened collaboration on environmental management and avifaunal mitigation. Building on the 2024 Blade Patterning Guidelines, SAWEA and BLSA jointly hosted a Turbine Talks webinar on balancing blade efficiency and birdlife protection, as well as a three-event roadshow focused on industry implementation of Environmental Management Programmes. These engagements aimed to gather insight to support the standardisation of avifaunal mitigation approaches.

BUNDESVERBAND WINDENERGIE (BWE)

Signed in 2024, the MoU with Germany's wind energy association entered its second year of implementation in 2025. Collaboration focused on knowledge sharing, event participation, and capacity building. BWE also supported SAWEA in the planning and coordination of the 2026 study tour to Germany and Denmark.

ADDITIONAL MOUs

SAWEA also maintains additional MoUs that establish strategic collaboration frameworks supporting future-focused workstreams, research cooperation, and coordinated advocacy. These include partnerships linked to the ACCELERATE and KVP initiatives, among others, with implementation activities at various stages of development. These MoUs are activated on an outcome-driven basis and aligned to priority objectives related to grid reform, market readiness, institutional strengthening, and sector intelligence.

PROJECT-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

KVP PROJECT

Launched in July 2025, the KVP Project is a German–South African partnership aimed at strengthening institutional capacity within renewable energy industry associations. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project brings together SAWEA, SAPVIA, and SABIA. The project focuses on coordinated advocacy and capacity building to improve the policy environment and accelerate renewable energy integration, particularly wind energy. Preparatory work commenced in 2025 for activities including a technical study, a perception study, and complementary media initiatives to be implemented in subsequent years.

ACCELERATE PROJECT

SAWEA endorsed the ACCELERATE Project, an international research collaboration between the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University, and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), supported by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The project focuses on addressing acceleration challenges in South Africa's energy transition, with particular attention to labour absorption capacity, regional impacts, and social sustainability, especially in coal-dependent regions. In 2025, the project remained in the data-gathering phase, with several SAWEA members participating in direct engagements.

PILLAR 5

TRANSFORMATION, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL IMPACT

TRANSFORMATION, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL IMPACT

SAWEA expanded its transformation and social impact footprint through targeted interventions that supported youth, women, learners, and communities across South Africa. Through programmes such as WIIP, the Work Readiness Programme, WindAc and energyDRIVE, the Association delivered meaningful training, exposure, and opportunities to build capacity within the wind energy value chain.

These initiatives advanced sector-wide inclusion, strengthened future talent pipelines, and improved the visibility of renewable energy in previously underserved communities. SAWEA also continued to support broader social impact efforts through sustainability initiatives, outreach activities, and industry partnerships focused on gender equity and community upliftment.

Aligned with the Board's focus on inclusive growth and active participation, this pillar reflects SAWEA's commitment to building a diverse, skilled, and future-ready workforce while ensuring that the benefits of the energy transition extend into communities.

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET): SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Through the Social Impact Standing Committee, SAWEA advanced skills development in 2025 as a core enabler of the Just Energy Transition. This included contributions to the QCTO-approved NQF 3 Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme and inputs into the review of the NQF 5 Wind Turbine Technician curriculum, supporting alignment between accredited qualifications and industry needs. The Committee also provided skills-related inputs to JET research and planning processes, including contributions through the National Business Initiative (NBI).

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Also led through the Social Impact Standing Committee, SAWEA advanced diversity and inclusion through targeted research and practical guidance. In partnership with SAPVIA, SAWEA developed the Gender Diversity Guideline for the Renewable Energy Industry and contributed to the Gender Diversity in Renewable Energy study, strengthening the evidence base to support inclusive participation across the sector.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE

QCTO
Quality Council for Trades & Occupations

OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION/PART QUALIFICATION/SKILLS PROGRAMME
CURRICULUM DOCUMENT
IN LINE WITH THE OQSF POLICY (2021) OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION TYPE (NOMENCLATURE)

QUALIFICATION/PART QUALIFICATION/SKILLS PROGRAMME	TYPE (NOMENCLATURE)	TITLE (DESCRIPTOR)	NQF LEVEL	CREDITS
Skills Programme		Wind Turbine Operator	3	56

CURRICULUM CODE	90027-000-00-000-00-00			
PARTNER DETAILS	ORGANISATION NAME	WEBSITE ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	LOGO
QUALITY PARTNER - DEVELOPMENT	The Energy & Water Sector Education Training Authority (EWSETA)	https://ewseta.org.za/	+27 11 274-1700	EWSETA
QUALITY PARTNER - ASSESSMENT (NOT APPLICABLE FOR SKILLS PROGRAMME)				

Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme approved

	External Assessment Specifications Document		
Curriculum Code	Qualification Title	NQF Level	Logo
313110000	Occupational Certificate: Wind Turbine Service Technician (Wind Turbine Service Technician)	5	QCTO

	Name	Email	Phone	Logo
Assessment Quality Partner	merSETA	SMgidi@merseta.org.za	(010) 219 3457	merSETA

NQF 5 Turbine Technician Course in review phase

PowerUp

Arete progress on PowerUp platform via EWSETA

SAWEA & SAPVIA GD Guideline

JET Position (Skills)

DEE GD Study Inputs from SAWEA

NBI Study Inputs from SAWEA

CONTRIBUTIONS

- NQF3 Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme
- Skills Mapping for Wind
- Gender Diversity Baseline Study
- JET SEP Research
- Review of NQF5 Wind Turbine Technician Curriculum
- PowerUp Support

PARTNERS IN IMPACT

SAWEA continued its partnership with EWSETA to deliver targeted skills and development programmes across the wind sector. With EWSETA sponsorship, the Association implemented the Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP), Wind Renewable Professionals Programme (WRP), Manager Development Programme (MDP), and the NQF3 Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme (Grade 11 equivalent).

These initiatives support practical, workplace-aligned training, develop future industry leaders, and strengthen the sector's pipeline of skilled professionals. Through these programmes, SAWEA contributes directly to national workforce readiness while promoting inclusive access to high-demand energy careers.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme
(NQF Level 3 – Grade 11 Equivalent)

This accredited course provides unemployed youth with a pathway into the wind energy sector, offering career opportunities for individuals with no prior technical experience.

WIND INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (WIIP)

3 200 Over 3 200 applicants since inception

122 Interns placed

48 Host companies

36 Permanently Employed

EW SETA — Funding partner

2025 PROJECT VALUE **R4 725 000**

WORK READINESS PROGRAMME

120 Interns completed training

53 Enrolled Participants

arete — In Pursuit of Excellence — Implementation partner

KAIROS — Accredited Training partner

EW SETA — Funding partner

2025 PROJECT VALUE **R600 000**

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

245 Over 245 applicants since inception. 123 in 2025

68 Enrolled Participants

41 Graduates

30 Member companies' participation

Wits Business School — Implementation partner

EW SETA — Funding partner

2025 PROJECT VALUE **R1 305 000**

YOUTH IMPACT

WIIP

The Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP) is a flagship skills-development initiative led by the South African Wind Energy Association, in collaboration with the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority. Launched in 2022, WIIP entered its fourth consecutive year in 2025, demonstrating sustained growth and increasing industry participation.

The 12-month programme places graduates within leading wind-energy organisations, providing practical, workplace-based experience across a broad range of disciplines, including engineering, energy, finance, law, communications, environmental studies, governance, and social sciences. WIIP enhances graduate employability while supporting SAWEA members by expanding a diverse, future-ready talent pipeline essential to South Africa's clean-energy transition.

122 Interns
48 Host Companies
3 257 Applications
78 Placements

WRP

The Work Readiness Programme (WRP) was first initiated in 2023, in collaboration with EWSETA. This skills programme enhances recruitment in the renewable energy industry by equipping WIIP interns with essential skills for a seamless transition into the professional working environment. The programme aims to bridge the foundational skills gap for interns who may not have acquired these skills prior to their WIIP placement. SAWEA emphasises the importance of these skills for immediate and long-term professional growth.

In 2025, the Work Readiness Programme (WRP) enrolled 50 learners. Under the current MOU with SAWEA, Arete Skills led programme implementation, with Kairos Training appointed as the accredited training provider. The programme followed a two-part delivery model, comprising a 10-day online training component followed by in-service practical training at host companies.

Together, the Wind Industry Internship Programme (WIIP) and its supporting Work Readiness Programme (WRP) have demonstrated strong and sustained growth, reinforcing SAWEA's commitment to building a job-ready renewable-energy workforce. WIIP expanded intern placements from 17 in 2022, to 29 in 2024, and 53 in 2025, while WRP participation increased from 28 learners in 2023 to 50 learners in 2025.

Collectively, these programmes strengthen intern preparedness, improve employability, and enable smoother transitions into permanent roles across the wind and broader clean-energy sector.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
TOTAL NO OF INTERNS	17	23	29	53
EMPLOYED IN RENEWABLES	5	6	12	TBC
EMPLOYED INTERNS	6	6	22	TBC

energyDRIVE
Clean energy for tomorrow

energyDRIVE is the South African Wind Energy Association's flagship education and awareness initiative, designed to inspire high school learners to engage with renewable-energy technologies and sustainable development. Since its launch in 2017, the programme has delivered interactive, hands-on learning through a custom-built mobile education unit showcasing wind energy components, solar PV, battery storage, biogas systems, and energy-efficiency solutions. In 2025, the energyDRIVE Cape Route Edition continued its upward growth trajectory, expanding both learner reach and school participation. The programme engaged 4,353 learners across 34 schools and 15 communities, building on the 2,896 learners reached across 31 schools in 2024, reflecting sustained growth and deepening impact along the established Cape Route footprint. Supported by 8 sponsors, energyDRIVE continues to strengthen renewable-energy awareness, inspire future career pathways, and contribute meaningfully to South Africa's clean-energy transition.

LEARNERS
4 353

SCHOOLS
34

COMMUNITIES
15

SPONSORS
8

DIAMOND SPONSORS

EDF power solutions

enel Green Power

PERDEKRAAL EAST WIND FARM

Scatec

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Dorper Wind Farm

Noblesfontein Wind Farm

SILVER SPONSORS

KHOBAB WIND FARM

LOERIESFONTEIN WIND FARM

WindAc Africa, held alongside Windaba, marked its 8th annual conference in 2025 and continues to serve as Africa's leading academic wind energy platform focused on advancing research, innovation and skills development across the sector. The conference brings together universities, TVET institutions, students, researchers and industry professionals to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry, link research to real-world application, and support the development of future wind energy leaders.

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) played a key role in ensuring the academic quality and strategic relevance of WindAc Africa 2025. Appointed by the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA), the SAC is an independent body of academics, researchers, and industry experts representing a broad range of wind-energy and related disciplines. In 2025, the Committee was chaired by Prof Gareth Erfort (Stellenbosch University/EDF Power Solutions) with Khetsiwe Dlamini (EWSETA) serving as Vice Chair. Together with SAC members drawn from universities, research institutions, industry, and public entities, the Committee provided scientific guidance across the full conference lifecycle.

This included setting the conference theme and programme, overseeing the Call for Papers, reviewing and selecting abstracts and papers, and advising on presentations and publication pathways. Through its collective expertise, the SAC ensured that WindAc Africa maintained high academic standards, strengthened collaboration between academia and industry, and supported capacity building for students and early-career researchers across the wind-energy sector.

Participation and academic engagement continued to grow in 2025, with WindAc recording its **highest attendance to date**, hosting **96 participants**, up from 74 in 2024. The programme featured **12 expert speakers**, **19 abstract submissions** and **10 research presentations**, reflecting increasing interest in research-led dialogue. Engagement also extended across the skills pipeline, with participation from **5 universities**, 1 **FET college**, **12 learners** and **4 high school educators**, reinforcing WindAc's expanding role in building a skilled, future-ready wind energy workforce.

THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

PARTICIPANTS	SPEAKERS	SUBMISSIONS	PRESENTATIONS	UNIVERSITIES	FET COLLEGE	LEARNERS	EDUCATORS
96	12	19	10	5	1	12	4

MAIN CONFERENCE SPONSORS

EWSETA – Creating a Sustainable Tomorrow – Today

Danish Energy Agency

SITE VISIT SPONSOR

UMOYA ENERGY – Empowered by Nature

COFFEE SPONSOR

BLUECRANE ENVIRONMENTAL

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Rapula Mogajana
Harmattan Renewables (WIIP 2024 Cohort)
"The WIIP gave me the opportunity to gain practical finance experience in the renewable energy sector and grow professionally. Through the programme, I developed the skills and confidence to take on greater responsibility, which ultimately enabled my transition into a permanent role as a Graduate Accountant. WIIP played a meaningful role in shaping my career and supporting my professional development."

Owen Strub
University of Reunion Island (WindAc 2025 Research Presenter)
"Presenting at WindAc Africa 2025 was a highly enriching experience that strengthened my research communication skills and exposed me to a wide range of perspectives within the wind-energy field. Conferences like WindAc are essential for building connections, fostering collaboration, and advancing research that drives progress in renewable energy."

Yaaseen Samuels
Scatec (WindAc 2025 Delegate)
"Attending WindAc Africa 2025 was a career highlight for me. The conference demonstrated how collaboration between research and industry strengthens innovation, while site visits provided valuable insight into the real-world operation and community impact of wind energy. Experiences like this are essential for professional development and for inspiring the next generation of renewable-energy practitioners."

PROMOTING YOUTH

WIIP Spotlight (March – April 2025)
The WIIP Intern Spotlight 2025 campaign reflected SAWEA's commitment to youth employment and skills development within the wind energy sector. The content resonated strongly with audiences, generating 38 779 impressions across SAWEA's social media platforms, with particularly high engagement on LinkedIn. The campaign helped raise awareness of early-career pathways and the importance of talent development as part of South Africa's just energy transition.

 # YouthMonth Campaign
During Youth Month, SAWEA delivered a dedicated social media campaign focused on amplifying youth participation and career pathways within the wind energy sector. The campaign highlighted young professionals, emerging talent, and skills development opportunities across the industry. Through purposeful digital storytelling, the initiative supported awareness-building, encouraged youth engagement, and reinforced SAWEA's commitment to developing a future-ready workforce aligned with South Africa's just energy transition.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Designed by the Wits Business School, the Management Development Programme for Women in Renewable Energy was launched in March 2023. The programme is led by SAWEA through a collaborative effort with the SAWEA Social Impact Standing Committee, SAPVIA and EWSETA. The programme aims to bridge the skills gap and accelerate the growth of senior female leadership in the renewable energy sector

Gender equity and professional inclusion remained a strategic focus area in 2025. Through the Management Development Programme, SAWEA supported women professionals in strengthening leadership capability, confidence, and peer networks across the renewable-energy value chain. Participation has grown consistently since launch, increasing from 19 participants in 2023 to 24 in 2024, and 25 women enrolled in 2025, with representation expanding across 15 member companies. This sustained growth reflects rising demand for structured leadership development and reinforces SAWEA's commitment to advancing gender representation and inclusive leadership across the sector.

WOMENINWIND CAMPAIGN

The #WomenInWind 2025 social media campaign formed part of SAWEA's ongoing efforts to promote gender diversity and increase the visibility of women across the wind energy value chain. Through 19 posts per platform, the campaign highlighted women's expertise, leadership, and career pathways within the sector.

The campaign achieved a combined 34 222 impressions, driven primarily by LinkedIn (30 985 impressions), with additional reach across Facebook (2 557) and X (680). These engagements support SAWEA's continued commitment to creating inclusive industry platforms where women's contributions are recognised and amplified.

SAWEA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Additional outreach activities throughout the year reinforced SAWEA's commitment to social responsibility and community upliftment. Mandela Day initiatives, environmental education efforts, and biodiversity-related engagements provided opportunities for members and partners to contribute beyond core operations, strengthening the sector's social footprint and reinforcing shared responsibility for inclusive development.

Sustainability and environmental stewardship were further embedded through collaboration on ESG-linked initiatives. Engagements on blade recycling, biodiversity protection, and environmental best practice supported responsible project development and reinforced the wind sector's commitment to long-term ecological sustainability alongside socio-economic impact.

Collectively, SAWEA's transformation, inclusion, and social impact initiatives in 2025 supported learners, interns, professionals, and communities across South Africa. By aligning skills development, equity, and outreach with sector growth objectives, SAWEA reinforced the principle that the energy transition must deliver broad-based and lasting value.

Looking ahead, SAWEA will continue to expand and refine its social impact initiatives by deepening partnerships, scaling proven programmes, and aligning skills development efforts with emerging sector needs. As the wind industry grows, these initiatives will remain central to building a diverse, capable, and future-ready workforce while ensuring that communities share in the benefits of South Africa's energy transition.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 reporting year reflected both the scale of challenge and the depth of opportunity facing South Africa's wind energy sector.

Against a backdrop of accelerated policy reform, grid constraints and evolving market structures, SAWEA focused on strengthening coordination, improving sector readiness and supporting informed decision-making across the wind energy value chain.

Throughout the year, the Association advanced its mandate through evidence-based policy engagement, market intelligence, stakeholder convening, skills development initiatives and structured member participation. These efforts contributed to greater clarity on reform pathways, improved alignment between industry and public institutions, and a more coordinated approach to addressing system-level constraints.

Importantly, 2025 marked a continued shift toward implementation-oriented engagement, reflecting the sector's transition from planning toward delivery.

The work undertaken across SAWEA's strategic pillars highlights the importance of collaboration, transparency and technical credibility in enabling progress within a complex and evolving energy landscape. While structural challenges remain, the foundations laid during the year have strengthened the sector's capacity to respond to reform, unlock investment and contribute meaningfully to national energy security and economic development objectives.

As the sector moves into a critical phase of implementation, SAWEA remains focused on supporting practical outcomes through coordinated action, informed engagement and sustained sector alignment. The Association's work in 2025 positions it to continue playing a constructive role in enabling wind energy deployment at scale and supporting South Africa's long-term energy transition goals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) extends its sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the Association's work and impact throughout 2025. We thank our members for their continued commitment, engagement, and trust. Your expertise, collaboration, and active participation across SAWEA's standing committees, working groups, events, and advocacy efforts remain central to the Association's ability to represent the wind energy sector with credibility and authority.

Our gratitude extends to the SAWEA Board and its sub-committees for their leadership, strategic guidance, and governance oversight during a complex and consequential year for the sector. Your stewardship has ensured that the Association remains resilient, principled, and future-focused. We acknowledge the constructive engagement and collaboration with government departments, regulators, and public institutions, including the Department of Electricity and Energy, Eskom, the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, the Independent Power Producer Office, and other state and multilateral partners. These engagements are vital to advancing policy certainty, system reform, and investment confidence.

SAWEA also thanks its strategic partners and peer associations, both locally and internationally, whose collaboration strengthened knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and sector alignment throughout the year. In particular, we recognise the contributions of partners supporting skills development, research, market intelligence, and transformation initiatives across the value chain.

Special recognition is extended to the sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and participants who contributed to the success of SAWEA's events in 2025, including Windaba, stakeholder roundtables, technical forums, and training programmes. Your participation enriched dialogue, strengthened relationships, and advanced collective solutions.

Finally, we acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the SAWEA Secretariat. Their commitment, expertise, and tireless efforts underpin the Association's operations, advocacy, and impact, and are fundamental to delivering value to members and stakeholders alike.

Together, these collective contributions continue to strengthen the wind energy sector and support South Africa's journey toward a secure, inclusive, and sustainable energy future.

SAWEA

South African Wind Energy Association

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