

# Berenice Lue Marais

Governance | Strategy | Performance | Enterprise Development |  
Advocacy | Expert Mentor ~ Innovation, Industrial, Academic, NPO  
Sectors

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

## Summary

Berenice has extensive governance, performance, strategic business development, and international resourcing experience. She has held key positions across the Public, Private, NPO, and Academic Sectors.

Berenice's expertise spans the Innovation, Industrial, Academia, and Social Impact spheres.

Berenice is currently the Deputy Chairperson of Save the Children South Africa, and a Member of the REPSSI Country Advisory Board.

[www.linkedin.com/in/berenicelue](https://www.linkedin.com/in/berenicelue)  
(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Sustainability  
Business Strategy  
Strategic Leadership

## Languages

Swati (Elementary)  
English (Native or Bilingual)  
Mandarin (Elementary)

## Certifications

Business Case Development for  
Infrastructure Projects: International  
Guidance Practitioner Course  
PFMA Training  
SACDA Member  
Fellow  
Mentorloop Certified

Berenice is an Examiner for UCT Graduate School of Business MBA Industry Reports, and serves on the Teaching Faculty of the Da Vinci University of Innovation and Technology. Berenice served on the Nominations Committee as an Independent Member of the Discovery Medical Health Scheme, and was appointed to provide technical support to Infrastructure South Africa through the National Business Initiative. Berenice has held various Board leadership positions including; Non Executive Director: National Library of South Africa, Board Member: South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), appointed by Minister of Trade & Industry; Board Member: Ethics Institute of South Africa; Member: SARS Audit Committee, appointed by the Minister of Finance; Board Member: HOPE Worldwide, appointed by Dr Mark Ottenweller; Board Member: African Thought Initiative, appointed by Mr Govan Mbeki (late); Board Member: The South African Sports Information & Science Agency (SISA), appointed by Minister of Sports and Recreation.

Berenice is a South African national. After living in Washington DC for eight years she moved to live in Pretoria and Cape town, while travelling extensively globally. Berenice relocated for a two-year stint to the Shunyi district, Beijing China, where she continued as a Non

Executive Director. Berenice has returned to South Africa where she is involved in governance, contract related assignments, lecturing and mentoring and coaching of businesses, enterprise development, women and youth.

Berenice studied at the American University KOGOD School of Business, where she was awarded an MBA in International Finance. Under a United Nations Fellowship, Education and Training Program for South Africans she obtained a BA in Economics, specializing in Sub-Saharan African Development.

#### Core Competencies

Governance

Strategy and Execution

Organisational Performance

Market and Business Development

Enterprise Development

International Cooperation; African Development

Stakeholder Engagement; Strategic Alliances

Advocacy and Communication

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## Experience

Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

Mentor

January 2026 - Present (3 months)

Save the Children South Africa

7 years 7 months

Deputy Chairperson

November 2020 - Present (5 years 5 months)

South Africa

Key Attributes

Diverse experience across sectors

Broad expertise in governance, performance, and business development

Ability to drive innovation and impact in various arenas

Member of the Social and Ethics Committee, and Member of the Board of Directors

January 2025 - Present (1 year 3 months)

Sustainability and Integrated Performance

Chairperson of the Nominations Committee

January 2019 - Present (7 years 3 months)

Chair Board Panel - Appointments, Succession, Evaluation, Improvement Plan, Training and Development

Chair of the Governance, HR and Remuneration Committee, and  
Member of the Board of Directors

August 2020 - Present (5 years 8 months)

Chair of the Fundraising, Programmes and HR Committee, and  
Member of the Board of Directors

September 2018 - July 2020 (1 year 11 months)

Board of Directors Secondment to SCSA

April 2019 - October 2019 (7 months)

Strategy; Governance, International Cooperation, Business Development;  
Stakeholder Engagement; Communications, Marketing, Branding

Rio Tinto

Sokhulu Trust, Independent Member of the Board

2025 - Present (1 year)

REPSSI

4 years 1 month

South Africa Country Advisory Board

March 2022 - Present (4 years 1 month)

Non Executive Director, Member of the Board of Directors

March 2022 - Present (4 years 1 month)

Southern Africa

Governance. Performance. Ethics. Risk

Graduate School of Business - University of Cape Town

UCT Graduate School of Business Examiner: MBA Industry Research

January 2024 - Present (2 years 3 months)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

Industrial application

BLM GLOBAL

Contractor/Advisor - Strategy, Business Development Enablement

~Innovation, Industrial, NPO Sectors

October 1997 - Present (28 years 6 months)

Global

Governance Strategy and Performance, Business Development, Advocacy and Communication, Enterprise Development, Mentoring and Coaching, Stakeholder Engagement

DaVinci Business School

Teaching Faculty

April 2021 - Present (5 years)

South Africa

School of Business Leadership

WAITRO

21 years

WAITRO Alumni Network

2005 - Present (21 years)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

African Regional Representative and SADC Regional Focal Point

May 2005 - July 2016 (11 years 3 months)

South Africa

WAITRO – World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations

Discovery Limited

## Independent Committee Member

January 2022 - January 2025 (3 years 1 month)

Nominations Committee

## National Business Initiative

Technical Assistance, Mentorship and Development (TAMDEV)

February 2021 - May 2024 (3 years 4 months)

The National Business Initiative (NBI) is a voluntary coalition of South African and multinational companies, working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa and the shaping of a sustainable future through responsible business action, thereby demonstrating business action for sustainable growth. Since our inception in 1995, the NBI has made a distinct impact in, amongst others, the spheres of housing delivery, crime prevention, local economic development, public sector capacity building, further education and training, schooling, public, private partnerships, energy efficiency and climate change.

The NBI is a global network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a partner of the CEO Water Mandate, We Mean Business (WMB) and of CDP.

The NBI's strategy is addressing issues of Economic and Social Transformation through Thought Leadership, Capacity Building and Collective Action programmes and projects. To achieve our strategic objectives the NBI work is divided into core work streams of strategic projects, environmental sustainability and social sustainability.

## National Library of South Africa

Director, Member of the Board, Audit & Risk Committee, Finance, Fundraising & Marketing Committee

December 2018 - December 2021 (3 years 1 month)

Governance, Oversight, Strategy, Risk, Finance, Fundraising

## Ethics Institute of South Africa

Board of Directors, and HR & Remuneration Committee  
January 2009 - April 2019 (10 years 4 months)

South Africa

Governance, Ethics, HR and Remuneration

South African National Accreditation System (SANAS)

Board of Directors, and Member of the Finance Audit  
and Risk

Committee

January 2010 - December 2018 (9 years)

## Education South Africa

An agency of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

20 years 10 months

GM: Strategic Alliances and

Communications January 2011 - July

Leadership 2014 (3 years 7 months)

Group Head: Strategic Partnerships

January 2011 - December 2012 (2 years)

Johannesburg Area, South Africa

Strategic Partnerships: Public Sector, Private Sector, State Owned  
Companies and Funding Agencies

Group Manager: Contract Research & Development

January 2006 - January 2011 (5 years 1 month)

Manager: Strategic Market and Business Development June

1996 - June 2006 (10 years 1 month)

Manager: Africa Business Development & Parliamentary Affairs

October 1993 - October 1996 (3 years 1 month)

American University

Master of Business Administration - MBA, International Business

University of the District of Columbia

Bachelor of Applied Science - BASc, Economics

Aspen Global Leadership Network

Durban University of Technology

Hotel Management and Administration