



MINERALS COUNCIL  
SOUTH AFRICA



Women in Mining

## DAPHNEY TSHEHLA

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT

### THUNGELA

**Daphney Tshehla, Head of Environment at Thungela, has been a driving force behind the company's commitment to sustainable mining. With 24 years of experience in environmental management, she has played a pivotal role in integrating sustainability into Thungela's long-term vision, ensuring that environmental considerations go beyond compliance to set new industry benchmarks.**

Under her leadership, Thungela has successfully embedded environmental sustainability across all levels of operation. She has championed collaboration among internal teams, external stakeholders, and regulatory authorities to address pressing environmental challenges. Her strategic approach has led to the implementation of advanced environmental solutions, including Donga Locks and Wetland Systems to mitigate water pollution, phytoremediation techniques for soil and water restoration, and reverse osmosis water treatment plants to manage acid mine drainage. She has also spearheaded the exploration of passive treatment alternatives, offering cost-effective and sustainable water management solutions beyond mine closure.

Daphney's impact extends beyond technological solutions, as she actively promotes a culture of sustainability within the organisation. Under her leadership, Thungela's environmental department—comprised of 80% women—has pioneered waste management initiatives such as gumboot recycling programmes and waste vending machines, reinforcing the company's circular economy efforts.

Her vision for the future includes rigorous environmental impact assessments and cross-sector partnerships to minimise mining's ecological footprint. Through her dedication and expertise, Daphney continues to set the standard for responsible mining, ensuring long-term environmental resilience and community well-being.

**WOMEN  
IN MINING**  
SUSTAINABILITY  
HEROES  
**2024**

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