Bongiwe Beja-Ntsiko, CDFA, is a development finance and partnerships professional with over 15 years of experience spanning investment management, youth development, entrepreneurship and enterprise development across Africa. She holds a Master of Commerce in Development Finance (Cum Laude) from the University of Cape Town and is a Chartered Development Finance Analyst (CDFA) and *GrowthWheel* Certified Business Advisor. She is the Regional Director – Southern Africa at the African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA), where she leads regional engagement, strategic partnerships and ecosystem development to advance impact investing across the region.

Prior to joining AVPA, Bongiwe was Senior Regional Manager Africa at *beVisioneers*: The Mercedes-Benz Fellowship, leading regional partnerships and supporting a network of over 500 young entrepreneurs and green economy innovators. She previously held senior leadership roles at the Youth Employment Service (YES) and Silulo Ulutho Technologies, driving business development, partnerships, youth employment and enterprise growth. Bongiwe has extensive board and governance experience and currently serves as Chairperson of REGIVE Capital. She is also a former Youth Trustee Fellow of the FirstRand Empowerment Foundation and former Observer Non-Executive Director at Mineworkers Investment Company.

Her contributions to youth development and social impact have been recognised through the Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans (2022) and SADC Top 100 Trailblazer (2018).

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