



9 – 12 JANUARY 2018

Venue: Sanlam auditorium, Hatfield campus, University of Pretoria

The Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Pretoria, in association with South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), are proud to host the 44th Annual Conference of the South African Association of Botanists. This conference also once again brings botanists together with mycologists as we are also partnering with the African Mycological Society.

The conference provides a forum for research presentations, interaction with fellow academics and biodiversity economy stakeholders and an engaging atmosphere for informal discussion. We encourage delegates to bear the conference theme in mind when preparing their abstracts and presentations. Our theme for 2018 is 'Botany for the Biodiversity Economy'.

SAAB 2018 will also include an enjoyable programme of social events that will give delegates opportunity for relaxation, networking and enjoying Pretoria's hospitality.

We look forward to seeing you in Pretoria in 2018!

LOCAL CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

Chairperson:	Prof Nigel Barker
Conference organizers:	Going Africa Conferencing (GAC) Mrs Kathy Knott (Conference Operations) Mrs Marcia Mabuza (Registrar)
Members:	Prof Namrita Lall (Sponsorship) Prof Dave Berger (Adjudication and awards) Prof Wilhelm de Beer (African Mycological Association liaison) Dr Quenton Kritzinger (Scientific programme and abstracts) Dr Joseph Sebola, Dr Marianne le Roux, Mr Pieter Bester, Ms Ntombifikile Phaliso (SANBI liaisons) Dr Bridget Crampton (Social programme) Dr Gary Stafford (General liaison) Mrs Angelique Kritzinger (Workshop: ' <i>Plant Science Education to address Plant Blindness</i> ') Ms Miekie Human (Student liaison) Mrs René Fryer (Secretariat) Mr Nicky Olivier (IT)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Early bird registration: 7 August to 21 October 2017
- Standard registration: 22 October to 15 November 2017
- Late registration: 16 November to 8 December 2017
- Submission of abstracts opens: 7 August 2017
- Abstract submission deadline: 30 September 2017

REGISTRATION

Please visit the SAAB 2018 website www.saab2018.co.za for further information regarding registration costs and to register online.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

There is a wide range of accommodation options close to the Hatfield campus, and there is considerable information available on web sites.

We have sourced two types of accommodation, both within walking distance of the conference venue.

1. Protea Hotel Pretoria Hatfield - please note that booking for the option is to be done through our SAAB 2018 online registration system, which you will find on our website
2. Pumbas Backpackers - booking to be done directly

Please visit our conference website (www.saab2018.co.za) for more details on location, costs, travel tips, maps etc.

ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission opens on 7 August 2017 and closes on 30 September 2017. Please submit your abstracts via email only to Dr Quenton Kritzinger: quenton.kritzinger@up.ac.za

Abstracts that do not adhere to the specified format will be returned to the authors for corrections. You will receive confirmation of abstract receipt. All abstracts will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee. Final acceptance for either an oral or poster presentation will be communicated to the authors before or on 22 October 2017. Authors whose oral presentations cannot be accommodated will have the opportunity to present their work as a poster.

Please visit the website (www.saab2018.co.za) for abstract submission guidelines.

ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

In addition to the invited keynote presentations, there will be two types of oral presentations. **Standard** oral presentations will be 12 minutes long with an additional 3 minutes allocated for questions. **Lightning** oral presentations will be 5 minutes long. These short format sessions are intended to provide speakers with an opportunity to present the findings from smaller studies, and would be ideal for Honours or MSc students, or researchers with focused data sets and findings. These short talks would be focused on results and discussion rather than include detailed methods. These are not to be used to present data already presented in a poster.

Poster presentations: There will be dedicated poster viewing sessions during which the author must attend to his/her poster to answer questions. Each poster will also be presented as a 2 minute oral presentation using a maximum of three PowerPoint slides during a dedicated poster presentation slot in the main programme.

Oral and Poster categories

All fields of botanical research are covered by the conference themes. Oral sessions will be compiled based on interest and abstracts received. The following categories are proposed:

- ❖ Invasion Biology
- ❖ Ecology
- ❖ Plant Conservation
- ❖ Savannah Ecology
- ❖ Ecophysiology, Physiology and Biotechnology
- ❖ Systematics / Taxonomy
- ❖ Ethnobotany / Medicinal Plant Science
- ❖ Plant Anatomy, Development and Structure
- ❖ Mycology

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES

For the latest information and updates, please visit the website at: www.saab2018.co.za. Information concerning the keynote speakers, conference scientific and social programmes will be posted as it becomes available.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all general queries regarding registration, accommodation and travel:

Marcia Mabuza: marcia@saab2018.co.za

For all queries regarding the scientific programme:

Dr Quenton Kritzing: quenton.kritzing@up.ac.za