

Notice of the SAAG Biennial General Meeting

17 July 2025

14:30-16:00

Kleinplaas Resort, Oudtshoorn, Western Cape, South Africa

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Present

Berlot, N, Dlamini, N, Eckardt, F, Fordham, D, Foxon, N, Greyling, C, Grundling, R, Hansen, C, Hansen, R, Jansen van Vuuren, F, Le Roux, Jay, Mabuza, C, Masilela, M, Meiklejohn, I, Morake, L, Musasa, T, Phela, N, Phinzi, K, Rudolph, E, Serfontein, S, Stander, M, Sumner, P, Van der Zel, K, Weiss, C (25 present)

Quorum (20%) reached: yes

Feedback

Minutes of the 2023 BGM Minutes

LR requested the 2023 BGM Minutes to be accepted.
JLR accepted, RG seconded.

Feedback on SAAG activities

Presented by SAAG President Elizabeth Rudolph.

Membership

46 members, in line with previous years

Registered SAYG members become full members of SAAG without payment due. This is to promote the professional development of young geomorphologists. Voting will be done under Voting Matters.

NPO registration

SAAG is a registered NPO with number 315-823 NPO.

Requirements:

- Audited financial statements are prepared each year.
- Permanent contact person, address associated with the association for NPO registration.
- Four people to be listed with the Association for NPO status.

Benefits:

- Registering SAAG on the CSD of the government.
- Government employees can thus more easily attend SAAG activities.
- This process is ongoing and will be finalised by the new SAAG Council.

SACNASP VA status

SAAG remains in good standing with SACNASP. The current VA registration status expires in July 2026. The new Council will reapply for re-registration in their 2026 term.

LR: SAAG suggests that Young Geomorphologists become full members of SAAG without payment required. This is to meet the 50-member number for SACNASP and to ensure the continuous development of our Young Geomorphologists.

LR: We are not registered as a sub-discipline under SACNASP. A potential threat is when geography and geology start encroaching on our field.

CH: SAAG attended the SACNASP webinar in June 2025. Discussion points were the Candidate Mentor Phase Programme, Continuing Professional Development, and a brief discussion on VA expectations for future collaborations.

IAG

SAAG remains a registered National Scientific Member of the IAG, representing geomorphologists in the region. The annual fees are currently 120 Euro, with the likelihood of increasing in 2026.

The next election of the IAG Executive Committee for the tenure 2026-2030 will take place during the Council Meeting on the occasion of the 11th International Conference on Geomorphology to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 2-6 February 2026.

In addition, decisions on received bids or proposals for (i) the 12th International Conference on Geomorphology in 2030 (ICG 2030), (ii) one (or more) Regional Conference(s) on Geomorphology (RCG) held between ICG 2026 and ICG 2030, (iii) new IAG Working Groups, and (iv) extensions of existing IAG Working Groups will be taken during this Council Meeting.

The IAG sponsored two Young Geomorphologists at 300 Euros each to attend the conference. Recipients were Tatenda Musasa (Zimbabwe) and Celani Mabusu (Eswatini).

Considerations by SAAG members:

- Any member travelling to Christchurch should please let the Council know. This allows SAAG to have a member present for voting.
- Submit nominations of candidatures for the IAG Executive Committee (EC) 2026-2030 (30 November 2025). SAAG will distribute the email from the IAG for consideration.
- Submitting proposals for new Working Groups (31 December 2025)
- Holding a regional conference is an option for SAAG. The current Council (2023-2025) declined the offer by the CT ICC to put in a proposal because it is a long-term commitment. But the current Council recommends that this can be considered. A separate committee should be set up (separate from the Council) to look into this if anyone is interested.

SAYG

Presented by Renée Grundling - SAYG President & Council member

- Membership is still free, but has a more formal application - proof of qualification and/or registration needs to be submitted, and a SAYG membership e-card with a unique membership number is issued.
- 59 current members (fewer than last term because people graduate): 36 students, 23 ECRs.
- Activities at the Colbyn Nature Reserve for World Wetlands Day (2 February each year).
- Febe Jansen van Vuuren served on the Photo & Video competition panel in October 2024.
- International Geomorphology Week (March each year), Colby Weiss presented in 2024, Muchanga Manoah presented in 2025.
- Six regional sub-committees were established in this last term: Stellenbosch, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Krugersdorp, Makhanda and Mbombela. They each have a mandate to organise a local event - events that have been held to date include hikes organised by the Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Krugersdorp sub-committees and a talk by the Makhanda sub-committee.
 - Bloemfontein organised an event coinciding with Biodiversity Day.
 - Urban Geomorphology Hike in Pretoria & walk in the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens.
 - Rock art Weathering event in Makhanda.
 - Stellenbosch event postponed due to weather.
- SAYG on Y20 - AI in education working group.
- The SAYG was represented at the African Climate Stories Fellowship Cohort 2 and was awarded \$200, which was used in the SAAG 2025 conference to fund the best student presentation prize, with the rest to be used by the sub-committees.
- Request to established geomorphologists to encourage their students to become part of the SAYG. Membership is free.
- Request for a seed fund for the SAYG - to be dealt with under Voting Matters.
- Full SAAG membership for SAYG student members for professional development.

State of geomorphology in South Africa survey

Mapping geomorphology research and teaching expertise in Southern Africa (2025) - Presented by Suzaan Serfontein on behalf of Suzanne Grenfell. A PDF of the PowerPoint to be shared, as well as the Google Form and responses.

26 responses of 136 surveys sent. Only 17 usable.

Geomorphology is taught, but no respondents from

- UCT
- NMU
- Fort Hare
- Venda
- UFS

Primary fields of expertise of the respondent

- Fluvial geomorphology
- Process geomorphology
- Applied weathering
- Erosion
- Remote sensing and GIS

No respondents for geomorphology focusing on

- planetary
- historical
- engineering
- tectonic

The primary secondary field of expertise is remote sensing and GIS, with none in historical or tectonic geomorphology.

Fluvial, process, palaeoclimatic, denudation and weathering, tectonic geomorphology taught at undergraduate level (fundamentals of geomorphological science). At the post-grad level, applied geomorphology is the main focus.

Some universities specialise in certain fields (Unisa, UWC), while others teach more fields. Geomorphology is generally taught as part of the curriculum, not standalone course.

A call for academics to contribute data on what is taught at which level within their institutions.

The Google Form will be distributed again.

Join our email list. Go to <https://groups.google.com/my-groups> and search for SAAGeomorph or go directly to <https://groups.google.com/g/saageomorph> to join!

Finances

Presented by SAAG President Elizabeth Rudolph on behalf of SAAG Treasurer David Hedding

- The bank account is now online.
- Almost immediate overview of finances.
- Currently, roughly R60,000 in the bank account.
- Few expenses throughout the year, the bulk of which were from conference attendance.
- Aim to make enough profit to cover annual IAG fees and to pay the auditor for the annual audited statements.
- Aim to keep conference costs low, with students paying cost price.
- The account should be able to cover some SAYG costs.
- No funds to cover student conference attendance but the IAG has supported these for 2025 and previous years.

- Not 'necessary' expenses relate to the creation of banners, but these were for long-term usage.
- PS: Thank you for keeping the account in good order.
- NP: Consider making t-shirts for resale.

SAAG Social Media Update

Presented by SAAG President Elizabeth Rudolph on behalf of Abuyiselwe Nguna.

LR: SAYG is very active (thank you), and SAAG is doing their best. A request to all members to please share our posts to increase our presence.

Facebook

Our Facebook page continues to be our strongest platform in terms of reach and engagement. However, there's room to make it more interactive and dynamic. One simple but powerful step: let's encourage all SAAG members to share our content on their personal profiles. This will help amplify our voice beyond our immediate circle and spark wider interest.

X (formerly Twitter)

We have a respectable following here, too, but recent platform changes have limited our ability to post media without a subscription. A practical workaround would be to link our Facebook posts directly to X, ensuring continuity and visibility across both platforms.

Instagram

We're not on Instagram yet in a meaningful way, although we did create an account. Unfortunately, there's a bit of a hiccup linking it to our existing Facebook page due to a previously associated account. I haven't had a chance to resolve it yet— make this a priority moving forward. This is an exciting space to tap into, especially for visual storytelling and connecting with younger audiences.

LinkedIn

We do have a SAAG LinkedIn account, but we don't have access to the login credentials. If anyone has details or can assist with regaining access, please let us know.

Recommendations for next steps

Here's what I suggest to level up our social media presence:

Instagram Activation: Finalize the account link with Facebook and start posting highlights, behind-the-scenes moments, and member spotlights. **Cross-Platform Sharing:** Automate cross-posting between Facebook and X to ease content distribution and maintain consistency.

Member Involvement: Create short guidelines or toolkits for members to make sharing posts easier and more impactful.

LinkedIn Revamp: Regain access, refresh the profile, and begin posting relevant updates—especially great for engaging professionals and partners.

Content Calendar: Develop a monthly content plan to maintain regular updates and showcase SAAG's vibrance.

Voting Matters

Voting requires a two-thirds majority.

Item 1: Amending the Constitution to allow a second Treasurer onto the Council, with the terms as specified in the Constitution

Proposed by: David Hedding

Seconded: Christel Hansen

Argumentation: We propose having a second Treasurer on the Council. This ensures there are always two signatories to the SAAG bank account, greatly simplifying financial matters.

The new Constitution should reflect

Clause 10.1.4: Two Treasurers

Clause 11.5. The term of the Treasurers can be extended beyond the 4-year period as stipulated in Clause 11.1 and 11.2 until a new Treasurer is elected by the Members at a BGM.

Abstain: none

Against: none

For: all present (24) & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed

Item 2: Providing seed funding for the SAYG from SAAG finances

Proposed by: Renée Grundling

Seconded: Christel Hansen

Argumentation: We propose setting aside an amount of money each year to be considered as 'seed funding' for activities by the SAYG. This amount should be decided upon by the SAAG Council on an annual basis, and not exceed 10% of the bank account balance.

- ND: Is the 10% possible per annum?
- LR: Yes.
- PS: Is 10% enough? 15% sounds better. This can be the maximum.
- RG: It is to help the sub-committees run their events. This should not be to give SAYG members the idea that everything is paid for.
- LM: Perhaps have a small joining fee?
- RG: Then fewer people will join. If we keep it free, it encourages people to join. They can then join what they wish.
- SS: Allow some merchandise to be sold, and the profit can be used to support the SAYG.

LR: We propose setting aside an amount of money each year to be considered as 'seed funding' for activities by the SAYG. This amount should be decided upon by the SAAG Council on an annual basis, and not exceed 15% of the bank account balance. Profit from merchandise sold is to be used to support SAYG activities. SAYG membership should remain free.

Abstain: 1

Against: 0

For: 23 & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed

Item 3: Student SAYG members become full members of SAAG

Proposed by: Renée Grundling

Seconded: Christel Hansen

Argumentation: To promote the professional development of young geomorphologists and to ensure membership counts exceed 50, as required for VA SACNASP status, we propose that registered SAYG members who are still students become full members of SAAG, without any membership dues (currently R50 per annum). SAYG members must provide proof of student registration. ECRs that are part of the SAYG are liable for SAAG membership fees.

- NP: What are the fees for retired individuals?
- CH: It is R100 per annum.
- LR: Do CH and RG have anything to add?
- CH: It is also to ensure closer working relationships between SAYG and SAAG.
- FJVF: Do members of SAYG then have to pay the R50 to be a member of SAAG?
- RG: A student member of the SAYG becomes an automatic member of SAAG at no cost.
- NP: Students are free, ECRs pay R50 until they become established members; thereafter, they pay the normal SAAG fee.

Abstain: 2

Against: 0

For: 22 & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed

Item 4: Confirming the President-Elect as President

ER asks to confirm Martike Sander as the new President of SAAG. Marike Stander was asked to leave the room.

Abstain: 1

Against: 0

For: 22 & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed

Item 5: Confirming new Council Members

Leaving Council: Elizabeth Rudolph, Christel Hansen, Abuyiselwe Nguna, Suzanne Grenfell, Renee Grundling

Staying on Council: Marike Stander, David Hedding and Carel Greyling, Thomas Marambanyika, Mthobisi Masilela

Nominated by the Google Form, everyone has accepted the nomination and has been seconded by a SAAG member.

- Ryan Anderson
- Colby Weiss
- Febe Jansen van Vuuren
- Edmore Kori

FJVF: Busy with MSc from UFS, currently based in Cape Town. Part of the Stellenbosch SAYG subcommittee. Very keen on geomorphology and the opportunities presented during the conference.

CW: A MSc student from UFS. Part of the subcommittee SAYG group. Looking forward to being on the Council.

CG: Ryan Anderson was a student of Jay le Roux. Was a previous member of SAAG. Active in geomorphology, from Unisa.

CH: Edmore is from UNIVEN, has contacted the SAYG to start a subcommittee.

PS: If there are no objections, we can affirm all.

LR: Asked for self-nominations.

Nominations for Council during the BGM

- Lefa Morake (affirmed)

If there are no objections, then all are members of the Council, including those staying on.

Abstain:

Against:

For: all present (24) & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed: all nominations are part of the new Council 2025-2027

Item 6: Voting for the new President-Elect

Candidates are Carel Greyling.

Abstain: 1

Against: 0

For: 23 & 10 proxy votes

Item confirmed

Council 2025-2027

The new Council consists of:

- Marike Stander (President)
- Carel Greyling (President-elect)
- David Hedding (Treasurer)
- Thomas Marambanyika (Zimbabwe)
- Mthobisi Masilela (Eswatini)
- Ryan Anderson
- Colby Weiss
- Febe Jansen van Vuuren
- Edmore Kori
- Lefa Morake

LR: The roles of Secretary, Media Officer, and ECR Representative will be dealt with internally by the new members and communicated to the members.

LR: Propose Ryan Anderson as the 2nd Treasurer. If the members approve, then he will be approached with the option of withdrawing. Members are asked to vote.

Abstain: 3

Against: 0

For: 23 & 8 proxy votes

Conference 2027

LR: We chose not to open the call for Fellowships because two were awarded in 2023. The call will be opened for the 2027 conference.

RG: Are we keeping the July timing?

LR: July set because the September recess wasn't aligned across universities. To also not conflict with the Wetland Indaba and to keep travelling during the week.

FJVV: Prefer to travel in the week.

SS: Host in a coastal area, because of the coastal work being done. Perhaps EL, CT, Gqeberha, with an excursion around coastal geomorphology.

PS: We have been to Namibia, EL, Lesotho, Eswatini, Golden Gate, Hogsback, and now Oudtshoorn. We have not been to the eastern shores. iSimanguliso. Facilities at St Lucia, near Durban airport. Active research area, lots of wildlife resorts.

LR: Preferred location then iSimangaliso

Closing

LR: Reminder of the workshop tomorrow, 18 July at 08:00. Tea and snacks will be served.

CG: Thanks are extended to the previous Council members for their work.

Photos taken of the new Council

BGM closed by LR at 15:53.

END