



Southern African Young Geomorphologists (SAYG)

Guidelines and Code of Conduct

Modelled after IAG and SAAG

[IAG Network of Young Geomorphologists' Groups - IAG](#)

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Southern African Young Geomorphologists

The Southern African Young Geomorphologists (SAYG) are a subsection of the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG), an IAG National Scientific Member. We are a network of students, post-grads, post-docs, researchers, and career scientists interested and/or engaged in geomorphologic research and related topics in southern Africa.

Definitions

In these Guidelines, unless inconsistent with the text:

1. The term "SAYG" means the Southern African Association of Young Geomorphologists.
2. Words imparting the masculine gender include females.
3. Words in the singular number include the plural, and words in the plural number include the singular.
4. We define **young geomorphologists** as based on the definition given by the IAG. As such, a young geomorphologist is an undergraduate or postgraduate student or scientist who has received their highest degree (*i.e.* BSc, BScHons, MSc or PhD) within the past seven years. Provided parental leave fell into that period, up to one year of parental leave time may be added per child, where appropriate.
5. The highest degree must be from an accredited and recognised institution of higher education.

Style

1. The SAYG is a non-government, non-political, non-profit institution, at all times free of racial, gender or national prejudice.
2. The SAYG is maintained in as informal a style as possible, facilitating academic and professional interaction and networking.

SAYG Year

The operational year of the SAYG is from the 1st day of January in each year to the 31st day of December of that year.

Vision

Mission

We focus on supporting and representing early career scientists in the field of geomorphology and related scientific fields, especially advocating stronger representation in the field of geography. We provide a platform where young geomorphologists can communicate their ideas, discuss topics and receive advice from peers from different southern African universities and research institutions.

To support networking, an annual Symposium of the Young Geomorphologists is held at varying locations throughout southern Africa in joint collaboration with SAAG and, if feasible, SSAG conferences on alternating years. During these meetings, members are encouraged to present their research projects. Workshops, field excursions and talks will be hosted to further engage members and promote the sharing of geomorphological knowledge and skills.

Objectives

We aim to:

- create networking opportunities in the field of geomorphology among young geomorphologists and established researchers and professionals,
- promote collaboration, exchange and networking with international groups of young scientists,
- provide a platform to discuss current issues of geomorphological research and topics,
- provide an opportunity to present and discuss research projects at the biennial SAAG conference,
- present and represent geomorphologic research in southern Africa's youth by increasing the exposure of young researchers to both local and international science practice and advancement,
- host activities to broaden knowledge and further develop interest such as field trips, excursions, and in-person or online workshops,
- create awareness and support participation in International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) activities and events, and
- support social events among young geomorphologists.

Code of Conduct

SAYG Committee members and ordinary SAYG members agree to represent the best interests of SAAG and SAYG members. SAYG Committee members will conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times, to not bring SAAG nor the

SAYG into disrepute, and to step down from their role (if required) once biennial voting has been completed.

Organisational Structure

Membership

Membership to the SAYG is free and can be terminated at any point. Interested members should be registered at or affiliated with a southern African institution. Members sign up to the SAYG by completing the membership form available from the SAAG website. Such membership does not qualify for any CPD credits.

Members of the SAYG may become full paid-up members of the SAAG by paying the annual SAAG membership fee (in the appropriate category). SAAG student members automatically become part of the SAYG. Such membership, where applicable, qualifies for CPD credits with relevant associations.

Members that contravene the SAAG Constitution and/or bring SAAG and the SAYG into disrepute may lose their membership to the SAYG.

Committee

The affairs of the SAYG are managed by the Committee, which is made up as follows:

1. One Chair;
2. Up to two Co-Chairs;
3. One Ex-Officio (previous Chair); and
4. Up to 6 Ordinary Members.

Any member of the Committee who does not attend at least two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the Committee meetings may, at the discretion of the Committee, forfeit his membership of the Committee.

Terms of Office

1. Members may serve on the Committee for up to two (2) years.
2. No member of the Committee who has been a member thereof for four (4) consecutive years can be eligible for re-election until a period of one year has elapsed since his last having been a member of the Committee.
3. Members may terminate their role on the Committee at any time, subject to point 4 below.
4. Any member ceases to be a Committee member if:
 - a. He ceases to be a member of the SAYG, or the Committee ; and/or
 - b. He tenders his resignation in writing and such resignation is accepted by the Committee.

Election of the Committee

1. Members of the Committee are elected once every two (2) years.
2. A call for nomination with a given nomination deadline will be disseminated digitally by members of the incumbent Committee.
3. Members may be nominated or self-nominated to serve on the Committee.
4. Nominations must include the name of the proposer, and the consent of the nominee.
5. If more nominations than there are vacancies on the Committee are received and accepted by the incumbent Committee by the specified nomination deadline, a digital form containing a list of all nominees must be sent to all SAYG members for voting.
6. The incoming Committee is announced at a meeting called specifically for this purpose.
7. The incoming Committee assumes office immediately upon conclusion of the meeting at which it was announced.
8. The Committee has the power to co-opt any member or members of the SAYG to fill vacancies occurring on the Committee.

Powers and Duties of the Committee

1. The Committee directs and manages all the affairs of the SAYG and does what it considers conducive to the interests of good management and the furtherance of the aims of the SAYG.
2. The Committee meets whenever necessary but at least once a year during the term of its office.
3. Notice of meetings of the Committee is given to all its members by a Committee member at least one week prior to such a meeting.
4. The quorum at any meeting of the Council half the elected members thereof.
5. All meetings of the Committee are presided over by the Chair or, in his absence, by the Co-Chair(s). In the absence of both these members, the Committee shall appoint a Chair from among those members present.
6. The Chair of any meeting of the Committee has a deliberate and a casting vote.

Duties of Committee Members

Chair

1. The Chair presides at all meetings of the Committee at which he is present.
2. The Chair annually submits a report on the SAYG's activities over the immediate past year. Such a report is published on the SAYG's page on the SAAG website.

3. The Chair, or a person delegated by the Committee on his behalf, is the official representative of the Committee to the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) and serves on the SAAG Council, if requested to do so by the SAAG Council.

The Co-Chair(s)

1. In the event of the Chair being indisposed or unavailable for any reason, the powers vested in him devolve upon the Co-Chair(s).

Ex-Officio

1. The Ex-Officio assists the Chair in its duties and ensures succession.

Ordinary Members

4. Duties performed by Ordinary Members include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Organising meetings;
 - b. Notifying the Council of upcoming meetings;
 - c. Taking minutes at meetings;
 - d. Assisting in compiling the report on the SAYG's activities over the immediate past year; and
 - e. Managing social media platforms.

Website, Social Media & Outreach

Website & Social Media

- The SAYG have a dedicated page on the SAAG website (www.saageomorph.wixsite.com).
- The SAYG are listed under IAG's Young Geomorphologists Network on their website (<http://www.geomorph.org/iag-network-young-geomorphologists-groups/>).
- The SAYG may maintain several social media sites including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Details of these accounts are published on the SAAG website.
 - Facebook: **Sayg Geomorphologists**
 - Page: **Southern African Young Geomorphologists:**
@sa.young.geomorphologists
 - Instagram: **@sa_young_geomorphologists**
- Email: **sayg.group@gmail.com**

Outreach

SAYG events include upskilling, networking, and scientific communication events. These can be organised by the SAYG, SAAG, IAG, or any other reputable and affiliated organisation or member(s). Outreach activities include, but are not limited to, participation at:

- SAAG's biennial conference
- SSAG's biennial conference (if possible)

- SSAG's annual student conference (if possible)
- IAG events
 - conferences/workshops/symposia/courses
 - events held under the auspices of IAG
 - joint initiatives with other associations/institutions
 - meetings of the IAG Network of Young Geomorphologists' Groups
- Field trips/excursions
- Workshops (online or in-person)