

AZEF 2018

16-18 October 2018
Robertson, Western Cape

15 October 2018: Parallel workshops on Funding & Land Stewardship



Workshop Venue: Graham Beck Skills Centre, R60 Riverside/Goree Road.

Conference Venue: Callie de Wet Sport Centre, 8 Kerk Street, Robertson, Western Cape.

Meet & Greet: Evening of 15 October @ Graham Beck Skills Centre, R60 Riverside/Goree Road. Early registration available from 5-7 PM. Finger snacks will be provided.

Conference Dinners: Various venues in & around Robertson on 16, 17 & 18 October 2018.

AGM: AZEF's Annual General Meeting will be held during the conference. Details will be included in the conference programme.

Prizes & Awards: Best paper & best poster presented by young scientists with priority given to postgraduate students.

Students: Limited student sponsorship opportunities are available to cover registration & accommodation costs. Please email gill@azef.co.za for application procedures.

Registration: Request a form from gill@azef.co.za or download from the [AZEF website](#).

* During the conference, Clement Cupido will auction a photograph from the arid zone to raise funds for future student participation at AZEF – watch this space!



IMPORTANT CUT-OFF DATES

Abstracts: 31 August 2018

**Early Bird Registration
Sponsorship application**
31 August 2018

Registration:
14 September 2018

Website: www.azef.co.za

Email: gill@azef.co.za



INVITED THEMES

We invite papers & posters on the topics of:

- Alien invasion biology
- Animal & plant ecology
- Biodiversity stewardship
- Developments in the arid zone
- Drought-related impacts
- Rehabilitation & restoration
- Rangeland ecology
- Socio-Ecology

SPECIAL SESSIONS

OPENING ADDRESS by PROF. ADAM WEST

1. Drought

Understanding the nature of drought, its persistence, frequency, & mitigation, has become of greater concern in South Africa after a recent & severe drought has left large dams around the country dry. Large gaps remain in understanding basic drought-related issues. We invite speakers to address ecological & social drought-relevant topics.

Keynote Address: Prof. Beatrice Conradie, an agricultural economist from the University of Cape Town.

2. Aliens & Invasives

Hot off the press is the first National Status Report on Biological Invasions in South Africa! We invite speakers to address a multitude of invasion biology related research in the arid zone, not limited to plants. Understanding the socioeconomic impacts of alien taxa on human wellbeing is becoming closely aligned to assessments of the environmental impacts of alien invasions, & we invite speakers to address topics around this theme too.

Keynote Address: Prof. John Wilson, an invasion biologist from the Centre for Invasion Biology at Stellenbosch University.

3. Animal-Plant interactions

We invite presentations on topics related to animal-plant interactions in the arid zone.

Keynote Address: Prof. Allan Ellis, an evolutionary biologist from Stellenbosch University.

*Special Farmers Sessions

Farmers are critical to conservation efforts in South Africa. To bridge a major gap between science and the farming community, we will have several consecutive sessions of interest to farmers in South Africa.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

parallel sessions sponsored by

Show me the Money:

Project proposals and funding

Expanding the Conservation Estate:

Challenges and Opportunities in South Africa's Arid Zone



FIELD TRIPS

Some exciting field trips are planned for the afternoon of Wednesday, 17 October 2018, choose from:

Rooiberg Breede River Conservancy: Conservation in Action

Established in November 2006, the RBRC aims to support resource sustainability & conserve local fauna & flora & their habitats through active community participation, communication & education.

WFW Breede River Alien Clearing: Conservation & Community

The Working for Water Programme has led a successful alien invasive clearing project throughout the Breede River Catchment where training of workmen & women was carried out at the Graham Beck Skills Centre. Join the trip to work sites where heavy machinery is being used instead of regular clearing methods, and see how the logs and chips are being produced to subsidise clearing costs.

Special Habitats: Robertson Area

A BioBlitz will take place in Robertson's special habitats! Join us as we explore & document fauna & flora in the area.

Biodiversity Stewardship: Farmers & Conservation

The Robertson landowners are proudly conservation-minded individuals working towards promoting biodiversity stewardship & local community betterment.

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