

AZEF 2020 - Virtual Conference

5–8 October 2020



DEADLINES EXTENDED to 28 August 2020:

- Early bird registration – R1400 & student R1000
- Abstract submission – full & speed presentations
- Student sponsored attendance – amended criteria
Postgrad students can still apply for sponsorship if their research work is based in the arid zone. The requirement to submit an abstract no longer applies for AZEF 2020.
- Non-student sponsored attendance is still available to individuals whose conference budgets have been cut due to COVID-19 and whose work is based in the arid zone.



Register online, go to www.azef.co.za for further details and the Google form link.

If you wish to apply for sponsorship, select a sponsorship option under the fee section and application forms will be emailed to you.

Session Themes

COVID-19 pandemic: Implications for the arid zone

Keynote speaker:

Prof. John Donaldson, Chief Director, Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division (SANBI)

Reflecting on conservation progress in the Succulent Karoo

Keynote speaker:

Dr Philip Desmet, consultant & researcher, ECOSOL GIS

Current research in the arid zone

Keynote speaker:

Prof. David Ward, Kent State University, Ohio (USA)

Poaching in the arid zone

Keynote speaker: TBC



SESSION THEMES

COVID-19 pandemic: implications for the arid zone

We welcome talks discussing the current and predicted impacts of COVID-19 on research (e.g. scientific fieldwork, observations, etc.) and conservation efforts in the arid zone, possible environmental consequences of COVID-19, the links between zoonotic diseases, illegal trade in wildlife and biodiversity conservation, and/or potential opportunities to improve arid zone conservation practices and theory.

Poaching in the arid zone

Expanding on last year's discussion on the species targeted by poachers, national policy and highlights/successes in the South African arid zone, we welcome presentations that elaborate on these, as well as further discussion on the economic drivers, international policy issues, and possible solutions.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS & PRESENTATIONS

All submissions for full presentations (platform equivalent) or speed presentations (poster equivalent) at this year's virtual conference will be reviewed by the Scientific Portfolio. Abstract guidelines will be sent to those who register and indicate their intent to submit an abstract.

On acceptance of abstracts for inclusion into the programme, authors will be required to submit a pre-recorded narrated slideshow of their presentation by the **19 September 2020**. An AZEF tutorial on preparing presentations will be provided to guide authors through the process.

For more information contact gill@azef.co.za or go to www.azef.co.za

Reflecting on conservation progress in the Succulent Karoo

Over the past 25 years the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust (LHST) has made substantial investments within the Succulent Karoo biome in an attempt to secure the biome's unique biodiversity. We welcome talks from conservation practitioners and researchers, funded by the LHST or otherwise, working within the Succulent Karoo biome to showcase achievements, discoveries, challenges, threats and opportunities for conservation and research across the region.

Current research in the arid zone

We welcome talks on the following broad topics: botany, zoology, rangeland and restoration ecology, arid-wetland biology, behavioural and reproductive ecology, human-wildlife conflict, social studies and the socio-ecological nexus.

