

ARID ZONE ECOLOGY FORUM 2020

Virtual Conference: 5 – 8 October 2020



Guidelines for Presentations and Abstracts

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. The purpose is to ensure a high quality and stimulating programme. The key criteria for acceptance of full presentations is quality and relevance or interest to the audience.

Things we would like to see in presentations:

- Results of original research
- Reviews that include novel synthesis
- Clear explanations of why the work/results are important or interesting
- Implications for current practice/lessons learnt

Things we do NOT want to see:

- Lecture-style presentation on the current state of knowledge within a field
- Presentations which amount to research proposals or which do not present any data
- Presentations of data that do not lead to any useful conclusions
- Excessively long explanations of your methods or statistics – please focus on the interesting parts

If you are a student beginning a study and you do not yet have sufficient data to warrant a full presentation, then we suggest that you submit a speed presentation, which is equivalent to a conventional poster presentation. The author must be available to answer questions from the delegates. Further details are provided below.

The Scientific Portfolio may encourage changes from speed to full presentations and vice versa based on the content of the abstract. It is, therefore, essential that abstracts are as informative as possible about the aims and key findings of the study. Excessively brief abstracts make it difficult to judge whether a paper is suitable for a full presentation. When an abstract is too brief to judge the scope of the work to be presented, authors of such abstracts will be requested to expand them or switch to a speed presentation.

Invited & keynote speakers:

1. Title slide separate from the rest of the presentation (as per AZEF template that will be provided)
2. The final slide must contain a **take home message** from your presentation
3. Presented in a **25 minute** pre-recorded narrated PowerPoint slide show
4. Speakers must be available to answer questions (~**10 mins**) immediately after their presentation has been presented to delegates

Full presentations:

1. Title slide separate from the rest of the presentation (as per AZEF template that will be provided)
2. The final slide must contain a **take home message** from your presentation
3. Presented in a **10 - 12 minute** pre-recorded narrated PowerPoint slide show
4. Speakers must be available to answer questions (~**5 mins**) immediately after their presentation has been presented to delegates

Speed Presentations (Poster equivalent):

1. Title slide separate from the rest of the presentation (as per AZEF template that will be provided)
2. Maximum **4** slides consisting of the following:
 - introduction
 - brief methods
 - results/findings
 - conclusions/summary
3. Presented in a **3 minute** pre-recorded narrated PowerPoint slide show
5. Speakers must be available to answer questions (~**5 mins**) immediately after their presentation has been presented to delegates

GUIDELINES FOR VIDEOS

A step-by-step tutorial for preparing narrated presentations will be sent to delegates whose abstracts have been accepted for full or speed presentations.

1. Presentations must be PowerPoint slides with audio narrations, saved as a PowerPoint slide show (.ppsx)
2. PowerPoint show file sizes should not exceed:
 - 100 MB for speed presentations
 - 600 MB for full presentations
 - 800 MB for keynote addresses

3. Presentations should be recorded using the “Record slide show” function in PowerPoint
4. Presentations must be submitted using [WeTransfer](#) (upload to WeTransfer, copy the given link and submit it via [this Google Form](#))

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACTS: (*Full & Speed Presentations*)

Please submit abstracts via email to gill@azef.co.za by **Friday, 14 August 2020**. Only abstracts using the following guidelines will be accepted.

The abstract should contain the title, three key words, names of authors, and co-authors where relevant, and their addresses. The text of the abstract should be **no more than 300 words**, prepared in Arial font, 11 pt and 1.5 line spacing. See below for an example.

AN EXAMPLE OF AN ABSTRACT

FOR FULL & SPEED PRESENTATION:

(with permission from its author)

Cape Town: a Biodiversity Megadisaster

Key words: threatened ecosystems, conservation, development pressures

Surname, A.B.^{1*}, Surname, C.D.² and Surname, E.¹

¹ Biodiversity Management Branch, Environmental Resource Management Department, City of Cape Town

² Threatened Biodiversity Programme, South African National Biodiversity Institute

*Your email address:

The City of Cape Town sits at the heart of the Cape Floral Kingdom. Although covering an area of only 2200km², it contains 9 of the 24 Critically Endangered ecosystems (as defined by the National Environmental Management, Biodiversity Act of 2004) in South Africa. In this area some 13 plant species are globally extinct (at least in the wild), out of a total of 47 in South Africa: Thus 3.4% of the world's 380 extinct plant species occur within Cape Town; only a few countries exceed Cape Town's figure. A further 152 threatened species (Red Data List: Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable) occur in the area. Although there are many initiatives to conserve and manage the biodiversity, critical areas are being lost at a faster rate than conservation measures can counter. Land transformation and invasive alien plant species pose the biggest threats. Severe pressure to provide land for upmarket suburban and coastal developments and low-cost housing for Cape Town's rapidly growing low-income sector, to obtain building materials (primarily sand), and to provided shaded landscapes for walking dogs are in direct conflict with national objectives to conserve representative ecosystems. Even within the Table Mountain National Park - established in 1997 as the largest conservation area in the city - it is evident that alien control is slipping behind and ecosystem conservation is being compromised by social pressures,for recreation. Without further international pressure and funding, efforts by local conservation officials will fail to slow the rate of degradation.