



2nd Southern African Mountain Conference

17 – 20 March 2025

You are invited to SAMC2025!

Photograph Courtesy of Enslin Gardiner



It is a pleasure to invite you to:

The 2nd Southern African Mountain Conference (SAMC2025)

Building on the highly successful 1st Southern African Mountain Conference (SAMC2022), SAMC2025, to be held at the Champagne Sports Resort in the Maloti-Drakensberg Mountains, from the 17th to 20th March 2025, is organised by the Afromontane Research Unit (ARU – University of the Free State) in partnership with the African Mountain Research Foundation (AMRF), and Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS – United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, and Eurac Research).

Focusing on mountains in the southern African region, SAMC2025 will be a fully face-to-face event, bringing together academics, researchers, early career professionals, practitioners, policymakers, postgraduate students and government officials, amongst others, to engage and exchange experiences, research findings, problem-solve and foster partnerships toward the transboundary and transdisciplinary sustainability of southern African mountains.



SAMC2025 is intentionally multi-disciplinary, with a strong impetus to link science, policy and practitioner realms, and thus all approaches are encouraged. The programme will include plenary sessions, parallel oral paper presentation sessions, poster sessions, panel discussions, and sessions for special interest groups – **with separate review tracks for abstract submissions from**

science, policy and practitioner sectors that accommodate those sectors to their best advantage. The programme will include an exclusive **Royal Mountain Indaba**, aimed at fostering dialogue that links customary law + mountains + the Sustainable Development Goals.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the Abstract/Proposal submission and review process before submitting your abstract/proposal

The theme of SAMC2025 is:

“Southern African Mountains – Overcoming Boundaries and Barriers”

The Call for Abstracts and Proposals for Panel Discussions/Workshops is open to any discipline – single, multi-, inter- or trans-disciplinary, and may be submitted in any of the following categories: (i) Science; (ii) Policy; and/or (iii) Practitioner. The final programme of sessions will be determined by the subjects of the abstracts received and accepted.

Bearing in mind that SAMC2025 focuses on the **mountains of southern Africa**, topics of interest could include, amongst others:

- Agriculture and rural development
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Communities and livelihoods (including e.g. education and training, health, youth, services, crime)
- Economics and Investment
- Energy
- Geo-landscapes and geoscience
- Governance (including law and order)
- History, culture and heritage
- Indigenous knowledge
- International cooperation and inter-relations
- Natural and man-made risks
- Protected areas and conservation
- Social justice (including gender and inclusion)
- Tourism
- Water resources

High-quality abstracts that speak to the overarching theme of SAMC2025 but do not necessarily fall within any of the sub-themes above, will be considered for a possible ‘open track’ conference session. Abstracts should be submitted via the [online submission system](#) by 1st September 2024. Each abstract will be reviewed through a double-blind online review process which will be handled on an “as received basis” – thus the earlier the abstract is submitted, the earlier an outcome can be communicated and attendance planning by each delegate can begin.

