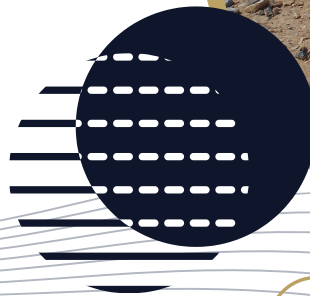


Northern Cape Branch
Geological Society of South Africa

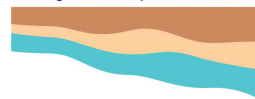


NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY SECOND CIRCULAR & CALL FOR PAPERS

14-20 March 2025



www.gssa.org | Events
info@gssa.org.za



In 1908 the first diamonds were discovered along the west coast of southern Africa at Kolmanskop near Lüderitz. This led to the subsequent discovery of the rich diamond deposits mined by Consolidated Diamond Mines along what is now the Namibian Coastline.

It was not until 1925 that the first diamond was discovered (Jack Carstens) in Namaqualand on the Port Nolloth Reserve. Shortly thereafter, concentrated prospecting operations began between The Cliffs north of Port Nolloth and the Orange River estuary with only minor activity taking place to the south towards Kleinsee. In 1926, the rich deposits at Alexander Bay were discovered (Hans Merensky). These deposits proved so rich that in 1927 the Government prohibited all further diamond prospecting on state owned land in Namaqualand. During this time prospecting operations at Kleinsee were laying the foundation for what was to become the De Beers Namaqualand Mines. In 1928 the South African Government started mining operations at Alexander Bay (now Alexkor). Later diamonds were also discovered and mined elsewhere along the vast coastline.

It was not until 1954 that the first offshore diamond prospecting was started and between 1961 and 1965, a Texan entrepreneur (Sam Collins) through the Marine Diamond Corporation (now De Beers Marine) gave the impetus needed for geological exploration on the continental shelf by exploring diamonds offshore along the coastline of then South West Africa. This has manifested itself into a growing industry with diamonds having been discovered and mined in the nearshore and offshore environments along the coastline from south of the Olifants river in South Africa to some 120km north of Hottentots Bay in Namibia

Join the **Geological Society of South Africa** (GSSA) and the **Northern Cape Branch** (NCB) in celebrating some 100 years of diamonds on the Namaqualand West Coast of South Africa - the people, the science, the history, the environment and the geology - where did the diamonds come from, how did they get there and where did they go to?

For all registration and additional information, please visit the website at [Namaqualand Diamonds Centenary 2025 - GSSA](#)

Important Dates

- Abstract submission opens 31 January 2024
- Registration opens 1 June 2024
- Abstract submission closes 30 September 2024
- Early registration 1 June - 31 August 2024
- Registration closes 31 January 2025 (fieldtrip delegates MUST submit their police clearance certificates at this time).
- Late registration closes 28 February 2025.



Programme

Pre-Conference (Tuesday 11th March 2025)

- Arrive at Conference Venue (Letsatsi Lodge in Vanrhynsdorp).
- Delegates must please make their own transport and accommodation arrangements for the duration of the conference.
- Wine tasting and lunch at Lutzville Vineyards (booking is essential)
- Set up of posters and exhibition

Technical/Scientific Sessions

Wednesday 12th March

- Technical session
- Poster session and finger supper

Thursday 13th March

- Technical Session
- Dinner

Post Conference Fieldtrip

The fieldtrip comprises seven days visiting prospects and mines from Quaggas Kop in the south to Namdeb in the north (See below for more details). The fieldtrip has a maximum capacity of 40 persons. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Conference Venue

The conference and Trade Show will be held at the Letsatsi Lodge in Vanrhynsdorp (<https://ncfamouslodges.com/letsatsi-lodge/>). Vanrhynsdorp, some 300km north of Cape Town is located within the Matzikama Municipality of the Western Cape, which also includes the picturesque towns of Vredendal, Klawer and Lutzville.

In the interests of ensuring safety and security, only registered delegates/exhibitors with valid Symposium ID tags will be admitted to the technical sessions, the trade show, social functions, and field trips. Secure parking is available in the grounds of the Convention Centre. Although there will be security guards on the premises, delegates are advised to take care not to leave valuables visible in their vehicles.



Accommodation

Accommodation in and around Vanrhynsdorp is plentiful and varied. The Letsatsi Lodge has accommodation ranging from luxury double/single units to tented chalets and will be offering discounted accommodation to all delegates – use Code NDC25, when booking. Accommodation is limited at the lodge, so book early to avoid disappointment.



Vanrhynsdorp itself, and all the surrounding towns, offers a wide variety of accommodation venues – bed & breakfast, self-catering, guesthouses, hotel, camping and more. Nonetheless, the event has attracted considerable local and international support and participants are advised to make their accommodation arrangements sooner rather than later.

Transport

Cape Town is the nearest city with air, rail and road transport links. Vanrhynsdorp can be reached from Cape Town by road only – car or bus, via the N7. The distance on the N7 is 303km.

Weather advisory

The weather in Vanrhynsdorp in March is warm (daytime temperature 22-30°; nighttime temperature 13-17°) and generally dry.

Health & Safety

Conference participants who will be delegates on the field trip will be visiting various active mine sites. In the interests of upholding the highest standards of health and safety, all participants are requested to adhere to instructions issued by Conference organisers, tour leaders, and other officials and individuals and parties that may be associated with the Conference. Overseas participants are advised to ensure that their medical insurance policies are valid for travel and medical care in RSA and Namibia (if participating in the field trip).



The organisers, companies, and organisations involved in the running of the Conference, and all allied functions, trade show, and field excursions, and in any way associated with the Conference and field trips will not be liable for any illness, or injury sustained by participants during the course of attending the symposium and subsequently thereto.

Keynote speakers

NAMAQUALAND DIAMOND CENTENARY

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR JOHN WARD

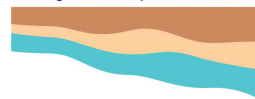
DR JURGEN (JJ) JACOB

BRETT VAN COLLER

DEON BOWERS

GSSA
Geological Society of South Africa

Northern Cape Branch
Geological Society of South Africa



Call for Papers

The scientific committee is pleased to call for **both oral and poster presentations**. Such presentations may be purely scientific or technical in nature or may also be historical or editorial commentaries. Purely commercial content will not be considered for oral presentations but may be submitted for poster presentations. A special session has been set aside during the conference for the viewing of posters, which are accorded equal importance with the oral sessions.

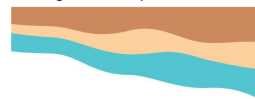
Please submit your abstract for a paper/poster by **Friday 30 September 2024**. It will assist the planning of the sessions if prospective authors would send a **notice of interest, with a preliminary topic**, as soon as possible.

Abstract submission

1. Email your abstract to Dr Tania R Marshall (marshall.tania@gmail.com)
2. Include in your email whether you prefer an oral or poster presentation (we will try to accommodate your preference, but should we receive too many applications for oral presentations, we may request that a poster be presented instead). The final decision will be made by the scientific committee.
 - a. Also indicate if you would like to submit a full peer-reviewed paper for this conference or if you will be doing a stand-alone presentation (oral or poster) only.
3. Indicate in your email whether you are a student (and include your university and degree for which you are currently registered, as well as the name and contact details of your supervisor or Head of Department).

Special Issue of the South African Journal of Geology (SAJG)

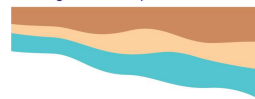
It is planned to publish as many as possible of the papers presented at this conference in a Special Issue of the SAJG. More specific details will be provided in due time, but prospective authors are requested to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the [Journal](#). Please note that all submissions to the Journal must be scientific in nature, as opposed to purely technical reports or editorial commentary.



Registration

Registration opens 1 June 2024, closes 31 January 2025

Early GSSA, SEG, SAIEG, FFF, SAIMM, SAGA, GASA, GSA, SADPO members (1 June – 31 August 2024)	R3 500.00
Early Non SADPO/GSSA, SEG, SAIEG, FFF, SAIMM, SAGA, GASA, GSA, SADPO members (1 June – 31 August 2024)	R4 000.00
GSSA, SEG, SAIEG, FFF, SAIMM, SAGA, GASA, GSA, SADPO members (1 Sept 2024 – 31 January 2025)	R4 000.00
Non GSSA, SEG, SAIEG, FFF, SAIMM, SAGA, GASA, GSA, SADPO members (1 Sept 2024 – 31 January 2025)	R4 500.00
Late registration	R5 000.00
Presenters (both oral and poster)	FREE
Students (a number of students will be able to obtain full sponsorship – please see below for application procedure)	R500.00
Retired Members / Academics	R1 000,00
Accompanying Party or Partner (social Events only)	R750.00
Lutzville vineyard trip (Tuesday 20 th March 2025)	R200.00
Post-Conference fieldtrip (7 days – registration, field guide, dinners & lunch packs) (accommodation and transport not included – this must be organised by the delegates directly)	R7 000.00



Post Conference Fieldtrip

The post conference fieldtrip comprises seven days, looking at the alluvial and onshore diamondiferous deposits from Vanrhynsdorp to Oranjemund. Your field guides are experts in their field and have worked extensively on the various deposits that they will be showing you.

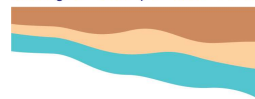
The first day of the fieldtrip will be based at Vanrhynsdorp where we will return for the evening of 14th March (overnight accommodation arrangements are for the delegates own responsibility. However, dinner will be provided at the Letatsi Lodge).

From Saturday (15th) evening to Wednesday (19th) evening, the trip will be based out of Port Nolloth (overnight accommodation is to be organised by the delegates directly). The convoy will leave the Port Nolloth Country Club (PNCC) every morning. Dinners will be provided at the PNCC each evening. No alcohol will be provided – all bar bills are the responsibility of each delegate. Lunches and water will be provided each day.

Site visits are planned to various historic and current locations (access will be subject to prevailing circumstances and security arrangements and may change due to unexpected conditions). The provisional programme is detailed in the **Fieldtrip Information Document**.

Important Notes

- The fieldtrip has a maximum capacity of 40 persons. Book early to avoid disappointment.
- Dinners in Port Nolloth and all packed lunches are included in the field-trip cost.
- Accommodation and transport are NOT included in the fieldtrip arrangements and need to be organised by each delegate (see below for further details).
- All delegates to please bring their own PPE (especially reflective vests), where possible.
- We will be visiting three operational mining areas. According to MHS regulations, NO SHORTS may be worn in these areas and proper safety field boots (steel capped) must be worn (no takkies or sandals of any sort). **The organisers take no responsibility if you are refused entry into a mine property for being incorrectly attired.**
- Since there is a cross-border component to the fieldtrip, delegates are reminded that it is their own responsibility to ensure that their passports and/or other international travel documents (where applicable) are in order. Delegates requiring letters of invitation to acquire Namibian visas are requested to request such timeously.
- Delegates are also required to be in possession of a Police Clearance Certificate in order to obtain a permit to access the Namibian diamond area.
 - **Delegates must please obtain such Police Clearance Certificate and forward to the organisers by end January 2025.**



Field trip transport

Field trip delegates are reminded that they need to provide their own transport for the duration of the fieldtrip. Four-wheel drive vehicles are not required, although much of the travelling will be on unpaved gravel roads. Delegates are advised to share vehicles as far as possible to limit the number of vehicles in the convoy. Secure parking will be available at the Letatsi Lodge for those who will leave their vehicles there for the duration of the fieldtrip.

A limited number of places may be available in one hired vehicle – please contact the organisers directly to enquire of availability and cost.

Fieldtrip accommodation

Accommodation both in Vanrhynsdorp and in Port Nolloth must be arranged by the delegates themselves. A variety of accommodation is available in both towns, catering to all tastes and pockets. See the website for further details.

Weather advisory

The weather along the West Coast in March is warm (daytime temperature 22-30°; nighttime temperature 13-17°) and generally dry. Field-trip participants are advised to ensure that they have sunhats and sunscreen on hand. A warm jacket and/or raincoat is recommended as mornings and evenings can be cool, especially along the coast.

Photograph competition

All delegates are invited to submit up to three photographs for the photo competition. Photographs should showcase the wide variety of the Southern African West Coast scenery (geological, diamonds, social, historical, environmental impact, geoheritage, etc).

Winners will be announced at the closing of the conference. Prizes will be given, including having your photo used as the cover page for Geobulletin. *Please submit your photographs via the website.*



Sponsorship

A key objective is to keep the event as affordable as possible and to attract as many students, researchers and industry professionals as possible. We invite you to support this effort by taking up one or more of the sponsorship options outlined below.

If you do not find one that meets your needs, please contact us for a tailor-made solution. You will reach a broad range of geoscientists and potential employees through your support.

Special packages will be made available for

- Promotional materials
- Field trip support
- Social Event Partners
- Student Sponsorship
- Speaker gifts

Book your sponsorship package early in order to avoid disappointment

Confirmed Sponsors

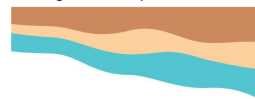


Council for Geoscience



KIMBERLEY INTERNATIONAL
DIAMOND SYMPOSIUM (KIDS 2023)
23-27 AUGUST 2023



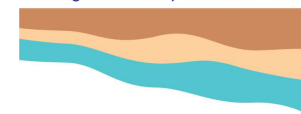


Student Sponsorship

- **All presenting students' conference registration will be sponsored.** This does NOT include accommodation costs and transport costs, which must be covered by the delegates themselves.
- **A limited number of students will be offered full sponsorship** (registration /accommodation/transport and fieldtrip). This has been made possible by moneys provided by the Kimberly International Diamond Conference (KIDS 2023) and the GSSA REI Fund.
 - Such sponsorships will only be available on application AFTER 1 August 2024
 - Students presenting papers/posters at the conference and/or who are working on related projects will receive preferential consideration.
 - Issuance of such sponsorships will be at the discretion of the organising committee.
 - Students wishing to apply for such sponsorships must apply through the website on the prescribed form (see website for details).
- **A limited number of additional students' conference registration sponsorships** may be offered depending on the level of sponsorships received. This will be made available on application, on a first come-first served basis (application opens in August 2024). Such sponsorship excludes transport and accommodation costs.
- **Additional student sponsorships for the fieldtrip** may be made available, if additional sponsorship is obtained.

Contacts

- For all queries, please contact Tania Marshall (marshall.tania@gmail.com) and/or Loni Gallant (LoniGallant@icloud.com).
- For all sponsorship related queries, please contact Kate at sponsorship@gssa.org.za
- Please check the website ([Namaqualand Diamonds Centenary 2025 - GSSA](#)) regularly for updates and further information



• R100,000

- Logo on website with URL link & company description
- Logo on all marketing materials
- Complimentary delegates (3+2)
- Infomercial slot in programme
- Exhibition space (prime)
- 4 banners
- 4 inserts in delegate packs

Diamond Sponsor



• R 50,000

- Logo on website with URL link & company description
- Logo on all marketing materials
- Complimentary delegates (2+1)
- Exhibitor space
- 3 banners
- 3 inserts in delegate packs

Platinum Sponsor



• R30,000

- Logo on website with URL link & company description
- Logo on all marketing materials
- Complimentary delegates (2)
- 2 banners
- 2 inserts in delegate packs

Gold Sponsor



• R10,000

- Logo on website with URL link
- Logo on all marketing materials
- Complimentary delegates (1)
- 1 banner
- 1 insert in delegate pack

Silver Sponsor



• R5,000

- Logo on website
- Logo on all marketing materials

Event Partner



• R7,500

- Logo on website
- Logo on all marketing materials
- Exhibition space
- 2 exhibitor delegates
- 2 banners

Exhibitor



• Upon Request

- Delegate packs
- Student sponsor
- Catering & events
- Speaker gifts
- Other

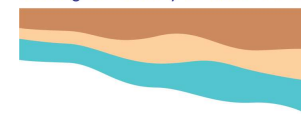
Additional Sponsors



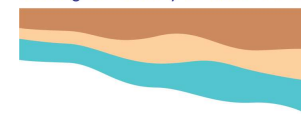
Northern Cape branch
Geological Society of South Africa



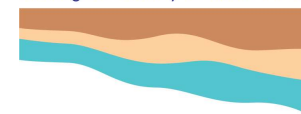
NORTHERN CAPE BRANCH



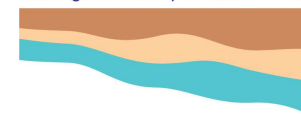
	DIAMOND (R100,000 incl. vat)	PLATINUM (R50,000 incl. vat)	GOLD (R30,000 incl. vat)
Logo on Event Website	Logo on Event website with URL link and company description - 500 words	Logo on Event website with URL link and company description - 300 words	Logo on Event website with URL link and company description - 100 words
Logo on all marketing materials	YES	YES	YES
Logo in Event Programme (printed)	YES	YES	YES
Exhibitor Stall (Table & 2 chairs)	Yes - in prime location	Yes - in prime location	
Complimentary Delegates	3 conference delegates; 1 fieldtrip place; Group discount; 2 Exhibitor delegates.	2 conference delegates; Group discount; 1 Exhibitor delegate.	2 conference delegates and Group Discount
Company free standing roll up banner (to be provided by company)	2 banners inside on stage and 2 banners outside	2 banner inside, 1 banner outside	1 banners inside and 1 banner outside
Branding at social events (to be provided by company)	YES (non-exclusive)	YES (non-exclusive)	YES (non-exclusive)



Five Minute infomercial during the technical programme	YES		
Acknowledgement in plenary venue (includes Logo on looped presentation at main venue).	YES	YES	YES
Informational items / brochures to be included in delegate pack	4 inserts	3 inserts	2 inserts
Advertisement (to be provided by sponsor) in final (digital) programme	Double page (prominent position)	Full page	Half page



	SILVER (R10,000 incl. VAT)	Event Partner (R5,000 incl. VAT)	Exhibitor Tables (R7,500, incl VAT)
Logo on Event Website	Logo on Event website with URL link	Logo on website	Logo on website
Logo on all marketing materials	YES	YES	YES
Logo in Event Programme (printed)	YES	YES	YES
Exhibitor Stall (Table & 2 chairs)			Yes
Complimentary Delegates	1 conference delegate		2 exhibitor delegates (no conference access)
Company free standing roll up banner (to be provided by company)	1 banner outside		2 banners at exhibition stand
Branding at social events (to be provided by company)			
Five Minute infomercial during the technical programme			



Acknowledgement in plenary venue (includes Logo on looped presentation at main venue).	YES	YES	Yes
Informational items / brochures to be included in delegate pack	1 insert		
Advertisement (to be provided by sponsor) in final (digital) programme			



100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF
THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS

11-20 MARCH 2025