

100 YEARS OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE NAMAQUALAND DIAMONDS – SOURCE TO SINK

11 - 20 MARCH 2025



First Circular and Call for Papers

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 us in celebrating some 100 years of diamonds on the 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? A conference (with oral and poster presentations) and associated fieldtrip is planned for 11-20 March 2025.

Preliminary Programme

Pre-Conference site visit (Monday 10th March 2025)

- Details still TBC

Technical/Scientific Sessions

Tuesday 11th March

- Arrive at Conference Venue (Letsatsi Lodge in Vanrhynsdorp).
- Own transport and accommodation arrangements.
- Icebreaker function

Wednesday 12th March

- Technical session
- Poster session and finger supper

Thursday 13th March

- Technical Session
- Dinner

Post Conference Fieldtrip

The fieldtrip has a maximum capacity of 40 persons. Transport from Vanrhynsdorp, accommodation, dinner & breakfast; packed lunches included in the field-trip cost.

Friday 14th March

- Quaggaskop/De Punt
- Overnight at Vanrhynsdorp (own arrangements)

Saturday 15th March – Thursday 20th March

- Based at the Port Nolloth Country Club.
- Site visits are planned to the following historic locations (access will be subject to prevailing circumstances and security arrangements, and may change due to unexpected conditions)
 - Hondeklip Bay/Kooingnaas, Alexkor, Kleinsee/Buffels River, LOR alluvial deposits and Oranjemund.
- The fieldtrip will end at Vanrhynsdorp on the evening of 20th March. Delegates will need to arrange their own accommodation for the evening and transport onward.
- Since there is a cross-border component to the fieldtrip, delegates are reminded that it is their own responsibility to ensure that their international travel documents are in order.

Conference Venue

The conference and Trade Show will be held at the Letatsi 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 with valid Symposium ID tags will be admitted to the technical sessions, the trade, 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 Letatsi Lodge has accommodation ranging from luxury double/single units to tented chalets. Vanrhynsdorp itself, and all of 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.

Weather advisory

The weather in Vanrhynsdorp 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.

Health & Safety

Conference participants, partners, spouses and colleagues may be undertaking field trips and 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.

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.

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 | FREE |
| Students | R500.00 |
| Retired Members / Academics | R1 000,00 |
| Accompanying Party or Partner (social Events only) | R750.00 |
| Pre-Conference Site-Visit | TBC |
| Post-Conference fieldtrip (7 days – registration, accommodation and transport included) | R15 000 (TBC) |

Important Dates

- Abstract submission opens 31 January 2024
- Registration opens 1 June 2024
- Abstract submission closes 28 June 2024
- Early registration 1 June – 31 August 2024
- Registration closes 31 January 2025
- Late registration closes 28 February 2025.

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

Book your sponsorship package early in order to avoid disappointment.

Student Sponsorship

All presenting students' conference registration will be sponsored. Accommodation costs and transport costs cannot be covered by the event organisers. However, if sufficient sponsorship is obtained, then cash assistance may be offered, where possible. This will be entirely at the discretion of the conference organising committee.

A limited number of additional students' conference registration sponsorships will 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.

A limited number of sponsorships for the fieldtrip will be available for students, if sufficient sponsorship is obtained. Such discounted fieldtrip places 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

100 years of the Discovery of the Namaqualand Diamonds – Source to Sink (11-20 March 2025)

• 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

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| | 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 |

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| | 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 | | | |

Call for Papers/Posters

Please submit your abstract for a paper/poster by **Friday 28 June 2024**.

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).
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).
4. Presentations/poster 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.

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 or editorial reports.

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.

Further details and submission procedures to be provided in due course.

Contacts

- Please check the conference website ([West Coast Centenary 2025 - GSSA](#))
- For all queries, please contact Tania R Marshall (marshall.tania@gmail.com).
- For all sponsorship related queries, please contact Loni Gallant (LoniGallant@icloud.com)