



Conference: 5 – 10 September 2021

Call for Sponsorship

Background:

The conception of what is today the Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) as a professional body to represent the growing number of wildlife management and research scientists in the region was born during an informal gathering of a few young and enthusiastic scientists in Pretoria in 1968/1969. These founding members were Dr Bob Brain (Director of the then Transvaal Museum), Dr John Vincent (Formerly from the then Natal Parks Board), Dr Naas Rautenbach (also of the Transvaal Museum) and Dr Dave Simpson (then a research fellow and lecturer at Texas A&M University). They were soon joined by other scientists in the field of wildlife research who felt strongly that wildlife management needed to develop as a science on its own. The result was the formal constitution of SAWMA on 22 August 1970. By the end of 1970, the association had 77 members. An inaugural meeting to launch the association took place at the Transvaal Museum on 3 April 1971 and a committee was elected to hold office until the first AGM in 1971. Dr Dave Simpson was elected as the first president. By then the membership had increased to 171.

In 2020, SAWMA (now boasting nearly 450 members) celebrated its 50th anniversary. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the conference to commemorate this auspicious milestone was postponed to 5 – 10 September 2021. The theme of the Conference is “**Wildlife Management in the 21st century: adapt or die?**”. The conference will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Eugène Marais Chair of Wildlife Management, Mammal Research Institute, University of Pretoria. The conference will be co-hosted by the School of Biology and Environmental Sciences, University of Mpumalanga and the Eugène Marais Chair of Wildlife Management.

The sub-themes and invited plenary speakers of the conference are:

- **People & Conservation** – Plenary speakers: Louise Swemmer (SANParks) and Tutilo Mudumba (Michigan State University, USA)
- **Conservation Physiology: Adaptations for a Changing World** – Plenary speaker: Robyn Hetem (University of the Witwatersrand)
- **Wildlife Management/Conservation Challenges & Opportunities** – Plenary speaker: Matt Hayward (University of Newcastle, Australia)
- **Wildlife Management/Conservation Success Stories** – Plenary speaker: Xolani Funda
- **The Future of Wildlife Management & Conservation** – Plenary speaker: Hugh Broders (University of Waterloo, Canada)

The format of the conference will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual presentations, streamed live from Bergen-Dal rest camp and under strict COVID-19 prevention protocols.

The broader SAWMA community consists of conservation managers, scientists and students conducting basic and applied research in several aspects of conservation and wildlife management. This research aligns directly with several national and international imperatives, including biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience and human dimensions of wildlife. The SAWMA Conference provides a key mechanism for facilitating discourse between scientists, managers and the general public.

As an association, SAWMA recognises that we need to be looking forward and investing in our collective conservation future. To this end, SAWMA offers free membership to all registered students. Students, as our future scientists and decision-makers, are also charged significantly lower registration rates for our annual conferences to allow as many as possible to benefit from attending the events. We can proudly say that our annual conferences provide an ideal opportunity for students to further their knowledge, gain confidence in scientific presentation and network with other students, managers and academics. It also opens possibilities and opportunities for future employment and research projects. However, like all investments, our emphasis on student opportunities and involvement comes at a cost to the association and this is where we would like to request your assistance.

We would therefore like to invite you to consider supporting the 2021 conference by either having an **exhibition stand** of R2000 for the week (accommodation and meals excluded), and/or by sponsoring an element of the conference.

Sponsorship opportunities and benefits

SAWMA has identified the following sponsorship opportunities:

Description	Cost	Recognition
Platinum Conference Sponsor	R100 000-00 or more	Platinum Sponsor
Gold Conference Sponsor	R50 000-00 – R99 000-00	Gold Sponsor
Silver Conference Sponsor	R20 000-00 – R49 000-00	Silver Sponsor
Bronze Conference Sponsor	R10 000-00 – R19 000-00	Bronze Sponsor
Anchor Sponsor of Conference	R100 000-00	Platinum Sponsor
Conference Gala Dinner	R60 000-00	Gold Sponsor
Opening function on first night	R40 000-00	Silver Sponsor
Branded 50th Anniversary Delegate Gifts	R30 000-00	Silver Sponsor
Student “quiz night” function	R27 000-00	Silver Sponsor
Branded conference bags	R20 000-00	Silver Sponsor
Branded thermal travel mugs	R10 000-00	Bronze Sponsor
Branded Conference pens	R5000-00	Bronze Sponsor
Branded Conference notepads	R5000-00	Bronze Sponsor
Wine for the social functions (open offer)		Depending on the sponsorship
Cash Donations to assist with reduced student registration fees (@ R2500-00 per student)		Depending on the amount sponsored

You would be recognised as a named sponsor in the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Conference Programme and on all other media platforms used to promote the Conference. You would also be welcome to display any promotional material during the Symposium. SAWMA is a Non-Profit (077-639-NPO).

It is our firm belief that your support represents an investment in the future of conservation and wildlife management in Africa and we would be honoured if you would accept our invitation to be an integral part of the Southern African Wildlife Management Conference.

If you are interested to support the conference in the form of any of the above sponsorship opportunities, we invite you to contact:

Elma Marais

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Upon receipt of your sponsorship proposal, written confirmation of the sponsorship, benefits, invoice for payment and all necessary information will be provided by the secretariat.

Should you wish to cancel your sponsorship, notification will be accepted in writing.

We look forward to hearing from you.

SAWMA 2021 Organising Committee