

WATERBERG RESEARCH CONFERENCE 27-29 JAN 2027



SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL



WATERBERG RESEARCH SUPPORT CENTRE (WRSC)

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Address Vaalwater, Limpopo, 0530

MABULA

Private Game Reserve



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TOPICS OF THE PROPOSAL



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About Us

Research With Impact

The main focus of WRSC is the collation, coordination, facilitation and implementation of research in the Waterberg Bio-Region.

Appointed as the research implementing agent for the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve



Waterberg Research Support Centre NPC was founded in September 2021 (**Reg. No: 2021 / 904894 / 08**). WRSC is registered as a Public Benefit Organization and under **Section 18A (Exemption Ref. No: 930076068)**.

MISSION

To support, manage, facilitate, and undertake environmental and social research that informs and inspires sustainable development, management, conservation, and education in the Waterberg region.

VISION

To leave a thriving and sustainable Waterberg for future generations through world-class research, education, and collaborative action

AIM

To expand and strengthen collaborations with local, national, and international institutions to amplify our vision and mission into the future.



Sponsorship Proposal

Waterberg Research Conference 27-29 Jan 2027

"Don't miss out! Be part of the 2ND Waterberg Research Conference showcasing FOUNDATIONS FOR A RESILIENT WATERBERG."

The Waterberg landscape is one of South Africa's most **ecologically significant regions**, supporting **globally important biodiversity, strategic water catchments, productive agricultural systems, thriving wildlife economies, and communities whose livelihoods depend on healthy natural ecosystems**. However, the region is increasingly vulnerable to escalating climate extremities, lack of knowledge on the impact of land management practices, alien invasive species, infrastructure expansion, and changing socio-economic pressures. Responding effectively to these complex challenges requires coordinated, interdisciplinary research that informs practical conservation and development decisions. It also requires stronger collaboration between scientists, conservation practitioners, government, private landowners, funders, and local communities.

The Waterberg Research Conference 2027 has been conceived as a research and knowledge-sharing platform that will unite these stakeholders around a common vision for a resilient Waterberg.

Rather than functioning as a traditional academic conference, the event will serve as a **collaborative working forum where research is translated into practical solutions, strategic partnerships are established, and priority projects are developed for implementation and investment**.

The conference is structured around the current developing **Waterberg Research Framework**, which integrates ecological science, water security, climate resilience and adaptive conservation into a common research agenda capable of delivering measurable conservation and socio-economic outcomes.

The organisers invite government departments, research institutions, development agencies, conservation organisations, foundations and corporate partners to support this initiative through strategic sponsorship, collaborative partnerships and project investment.



THEME: FOUNDATIONS FOR A RESILIENT WATERBERG

The theme reflects the need to strengthen the scientific foundations that support resilient ecosystems, sustainable landscapes, and adaptive conservation practices across the Waterberg. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based discussions, participants will explore solutions that are relevant and impactful both within the Waterberg and in comparable landscapes elsewhere.

CONFERENCE AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- **Showcase** high-quality scientific research conducted within the Waterberg.
- **Promote** interdisciplinary collaboration across ecological, hydrological and socio-ecological disciplines.
- **Facilitate** dialogue between researchers, conservation practitioners, government and industry.
- **Identify** priority research needs that support long-term resilience.
- **Strengthen** the development and implementation of the Waterberg Research Framework.
- **Develop** collaborative research initiatives and conservation projects.
- **Present** innovative projects requiring strategic partnerships and funding support.
- **Establish** a shared roadmap for future research, monitoring, and conservation action.

WATERBERG RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The conference is structured around four core pillars that underpin the developing Waterberg Research Framework

1. Ecological Foundation
2. Water & Landscape Resilience
3. Climate & Socio-Ecological Sustainability
4. Adaptive Conservation & Monitoring

WHY INVEST?

Investment in the Waterberg Research Conference extends beyond sponsoring an event. It represents an opportunity to contribute directly to the scientific knowledge and partnerships that underpin sustainable landscape management in one of South Africa's most important ecological regions.

Sponsors and funding partners will help to:

- **Ensure lowest possible cost to attendees and the sponsorship of Keynote speakers and promising students**
- Advance evidence-based conservation.
- Support climate resilience initiatives.
- Strengthen water security research.
- Build national and international scientific collaboration.
- Develop future conservation leaders.
- Generate practical solutions with measurable environmental and socio-economic benefits.

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PROF. J DU P (KOOS) BOTHMA

DAY 1: 27 JANUARY 2027 **BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGICAL** **FOUNDATION**

The opening day will focus on ecological processes that underpin biodiversity conservation within the Waterberg.

Key discussions:

- Species research and biodiversity conservation
- Fire ecology and management
- Alien invasive species
- Ecological connectivity and landscape conservation

DAY 2: 28 JANUARY 2027 **WATER, LANDSCAPE RESILIENCE &** **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The second day examines the interconnected natural systems that influence landscape resilience, together with the role of infrastructure in sustainable environmental management.

Key discussions:

- The interconnected hydrological cycle of the Waterberg
- Water resource studies
- Soil health and erosion
- Roads and infrastructure impacts on ecological systems

DAY 3: 29 JANUARY 2027 **BUILDING THE WATERBERG RESEARCH AGENDA**

The final day is designed as a collaborative workshop aimed at translating research into action.

Key discussions:

- Review of key outcomes from Days 1 and 2
- Interactive discussions with delegates
- Identification of research priorities and collaborative opportunities
- Development of future projects and partnerships
- Presentation of projects requiring funding and implementation support
- Agreement on next steps for the Waterberg Research Framework

DAY 1 & 2 PROGRAMME

Conference Sessions: 08:00–15:00

Field Excursion: 15:30–17:30

Networking / Free Time: From 18:00

Dinner: 19:00 (Day 2 – Gala Evening and Awards)

DAY 3 PROGRAMME

Conference Sessions: 08:00–12:30

Closing Ceremony

Field Excursion: 13:00–15:00

#WRC2027

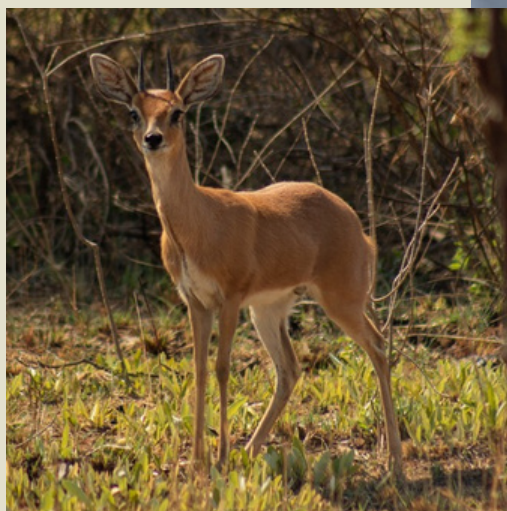
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A **strengthened network** of researchers and conservation practitioners working in the Waterberg.
- **Strengthened collaboration** between academia, government, NGOs, landowners, and the private sector.
- A **prioritised regional research agenda**.
- **Identification of priority research and monitoring needs** aligned with the Waterberg Research Framework.
- **Development of multidisciplinary research initiatives addressing regional conservation challenges**.
- A portfolio of collaborative projects positioned for **funding and implementation**.
- **Enhanced capacity** among emerging researchers.
- A **framework** for long-term ecological monitoring.
- **Increased investment** in Waterberg conservation and research.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The conference will bring together:

- Private landowners and reserve managers
- Researchers and academics
- Conservation organisations
- Environmental practitioners
- Government departments
- Protected area managers
- Students and emerging researchers
- Environmental consultants
- Funding agencies and development partners
- Community representatives and other interested stakeholders



BENEFITS TO SPONSORS

Partners will receive opportunities for:

- **Brand visibility** throughout the conference.
- **Recognition** in conference publications and media.
- **Engagement** with leading scientists and conservation experts.
- **Networking** with government and private-sector decision-makers.
- **Participation** in collaborative research initiatives.
- **Association** with nationally significant conservation outcomes.
- **Demonstration** of environmental leadership and sustainability commitments.

SECTION 18A CERTIFICATES

Sponsorship Packages



Donations

Donations tax deductible in terms of and subject to the limitations presented in Section 18A of the Income Tax Act

MIN R5000



Sponsor a Session

"Sponsored by" for session of choice

Digital & physical marketing

Handouts to delegates

Brand Awareness

MIN R15000



Sponsor a Student

Give a student the opportunity to attend

Digital & physical marketing

Handouts to delegates

Brand Awareness

MIN R6000



Sponsor a Lunch/ Dinner

"Sponsored by" for lunch/ dinner of choice

Digital & physical marketing

Handouts to delegates

Brand Awareness

**BREAKFAST
MIN R45 000**

**LUNCH
MIN R45 000**

**DINNER
MIN R85 000**



Sponsor a Networking Session

"Sponsored by" for session of choice

Digital & physical marketing

Handouts to delegates

Brand Awareness

MIN R15000

**BANKING DETAILS:
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
ACC TYPE: Business
Account
ACC NR: 62938287647
BRANCH CODE: 210835**

If one of the above options does not suit your needs, we are open to discussing other ideas or more suitable options with you. Please contact us at info@waterbergresearch.org.za or WhatsApp 079 457 8644 (Marilize Greyling).

CONCLUSION

The **Waterberg Research Conference 2027** represents an important opportunity to **strengthen scientific collaboration** and **build a shared research agenda** for one of South Africa's most significant conservation landscapes.

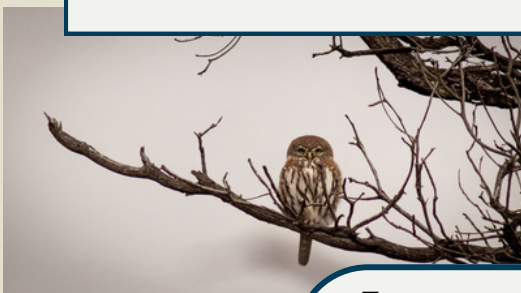
By bringing together science, conservation practice, government, industry and funding partners, the conference will **strengthen the knowledge and financial base required to address current environmental challenges while creating practical pathways for collaborative action.**

Through the **Waterberg Research Framework**, the conference seeks to **establish lasting partnerships, generate investment-ready projects and contribute meaningfully to biodiversity conservation, water security, climate resilience and sustainable development.**

We invite organisations that share this vision to partner with us in building the scientific foundations for a **resilient Waterberg** – one that is ecologically connected, climate resilient, and sustainably managed for future generations.



By adopting a **WATERBERG COLLECTIVE** approach, we can transform research into action and secure a sustainable and resilient future for the Waterberg and beyond.



For more information related to the Waterberg Research Conference 2027, please visit

waterbergresearch.org.za

THANK YOU!