

Dear Members and Colleagues,

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to the outgoing committee of the South African Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-SA). Dr Kevin Pietersen and his team's dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation for our continued success, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions.

At the same time, I warmly congratulate the newly elected committee. I look forward to working closely with you as we continue to promote the science and practice of hydrogeology in South Africa through research and understanding proper management and protection of groundwater for the common good.

South African National Chapter – Executive Committee 2026 – 2029

Chairperson: Dr Roger Parsons

Treasurer: Dr Amy Allwright

Secretary: Kwazikwakhe (Kwazi) Majola

Regional Representatives:

“North”: North-West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo – Dr Kym Morton

“South”: Western Cape and Eastern Cape (west of East London) – Dr Nicolette Vermaak

“East”: KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape (east of East London) – Mark Schapers

“West”: Northern Cape – Danita Hohne

“Central”: Free State – Dr Francois Fourie

Members without portfolio:

Julian Conrad – to serve the above portfolios and grow the linkage with IAH Central,

Aqeela Parker-Isaacs – Chair of the IAH ECHN and to promote and build this linkage in South Africa

Dale Barrow – to provide the linkage to the Geological Society's, Groundwater Division and assist the above portfolios

Our first major initiative together is already underway: the IAH-SA Symposium on *Groundwater Quality: Assessment, Emerging Challenges and Sustainable Solutions* - to be held in Stellenbosch from 26 – 28 August 2026. This event promises to be a highlight of the year, bringing together experts, practitioners, and students to explore critical issues in groundwater quality. More details are available here: <https://iah.org.za/symposium-2026/>

The Local Organising Committee, led by Julian Conrad, is preparing an exciting program. We already have several keynote and invited speakers confirmed, and we are planning a field excursion to the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) treatment works on the Cape Flats Aquifer. In addition, two social events are scheduled for the Wednesday and Thursday evenings, offering excellent opportunities for networking and collaboration. The conference will end after lunch on Friday to allow delegates to enjoy what the Cape has to offer over the weekend.

To make this symposium a success, we need your support:

- Submit abstracts by 2 June 2026
- Register early to take advantage of discounts before the end of May 2026
- Consider sponsorship to help us deliver a world-class event

I encourage all members to participate actively and help us showcase the importance of groundwater science in South Africa and the challenges thrown at us by natural and contaminated groundwater.

Best regards

Dr Roger Parsons

Chair, South African Chapter

International Association of Hydrogeologists



IAH-SA Symposium 2026

REGISTER *Now*

GROUNDWATER

Southern Africa's Lifeline - be part of the conversation that protects

Nearly 70% of southern Africa depends on groundwater, with 400 municipalities across South Africa relying on it to some degree. Yet growing contamination threats are putting this vital resource at risk.

Be part of critical conversations with leading experts as we tackle urgent challenges:

- Groundwater treatment and management
- Anthropogenic contamination from urbanisation, agriculture, and mining
- Emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and microplastics

Share your research, experiences and insights

- Exchange ideas with peers and thought leaders
- Contribute to shaping sustainable water solutions and policy across the region

Register now at <https://iahsa.ereg.co.za/>

Book now to receive the early bird discounted rate.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

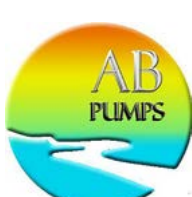
Deadline
2 June 2026

Submit your abstract and help drive real-world impact. Together, we can protect and secure groundwater for generations to come.

Submission deadline: 2 June 2026

Sponsorships and Exhibits

Thank you to our sponsors and exhibitors



Secure your sponsorship or exhibition space today by contacting confetal2@iafrica.com

Visit our website for more information: <https://iah.org.za/symposium-2026/>

Event Organizer: Conferences et al – confetal2@iafrica.com