



International Association of Geomorphologists

The Young Geomorphologist Training Program at the SAAG 2023 Biennial Conference

Hogsback, Eastern Cape of South Africa, 28–30 September 2023



Report

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IAG Young Geomorphologists Grant Holders

Back, left to right: Jason le Roux, Nkosingizwile Bongiwe Ndlovu, Mthobisi Masilela, Lukho Goso, Febe Jansen van Vuuren, Thandeka Ndlela

Front, left to right: Renée Grundling, Marike Stander

Through the gracious sponsorship from the International Association of Geomorphologists, eight young geomorphologists and early career researchers were able to attend the 2023 Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) conference.

These successful applicants took part in a two-part training program facilitated by SAAG. Part 1 formed part of the SAAG 2023 Biennial Pre-Conference Excursion where the young geomorphologists learned about wetland degradation, rehabilitation, and wetland types of the Amathole Mountains. A portion of the training focused on peatlands: the identification and description of peat; sampling of cores, water, and soil from wetlands for subsequent laboratory analyses, and the meaning of their results. Instruments such as piezometers and wells were also prepared and installed in the field with hands-on demonstrations. Mr Jason le Roux, a PhD student studying peat fires, facilitated this process.

Part 2 consisted of administrative duties where the young geomorphologists received training in aspects of organizing and hosting a successful conference. These activities included the processing of abstracts, constructing the conference program and chairing conference sessions under the guidance of established researchers.

Not only were these students able to learn and experience ‘behind-the-scenes’ conference duties but were also able to share their own work and network with established researchers and other members of the Southern African Young Geomorphologists (SAYG) group.



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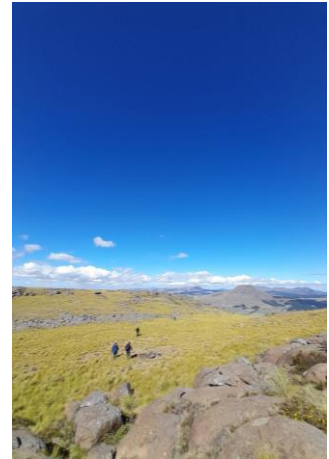
Preparing for our 10km hike!



Discussing the visible strata in the road cut.



Professor Ian Meiklejohn discussing the landscape processes of the area.



On our way to the peatland at the top of the mountain.



Jason Le Roux explaining the peat auger and how to take core samples.



Describing the peat profile.



Practicing using the peat auger.



Preparing the piezometer and well.



Installing the piezometer and well



Jason le Roux demonstrating soil sampling methods.



Measuring temperature and electroconductivity of the water.



Reflecting on a good day and excited for the SAAG conference!



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A very successful pre-conference excursion and Young Geomorphologists training event! (Photo: Jay le Roux).

I was able to attend the SAAG conference and present my recent work on anthropogeomorphological wetlands in South Africa. There, I gained valuable insight from established geomorphologists and researchers at the poster session where we had time to share ideas, discuss similar research and brainstorm on how to proceed with further research.

The SAAG community consists of a diverse group of geomorphologists who are passionate about their fields of expertise, sharing their knowledge and supporting upcoming young geomorphologists. I am thankful to be part of the IAG through SAAG and SAYG and I look forward to future collaborations!

