



# 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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I attended my first South African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG) conference in 2021, albeit virtually, wherein I gave a presentation on my Masters research. The 2023 SAAG conference, therefore, was my first experience of an in-person conference. Often being the only researcher/student from Eswatini, I don't often get opportunities to interact with other wetland researchers in South(ern) Africa. Though it was a bit nerve wrecking, I found all professors / researchers and fellow students alike to be extremely approachable and there did not appear to be a barrier between students and accomplished researchers. It was also a definite confidence booster for others to interact with and show a genuine interest in the work that I presented. Something that is not often talked about is how lonely the PhD journey can be. I genuinely appreciated the effort that went into ensuring that as many students as possible be able to attend the conference. This provided an opportunity for myself and other students to interact with each other, as well as exchange contact information - and I am sure that we will continue to support each other throughout our respective academic journeys. And who knows? We might even work with each other in the future! In sum, thank you thank you, to the IAG for giving me an opportunity to attend this amazing and well-planned event. I hope to see all the connections that I made at the SAAG conference in 2025!





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Figure 1: Day 1 - Fieldwork in Hogsback, Eastern Cape, South Africa





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Figure 2: Students from Eswatini at the SAAG conference in Hogsback, Eastern Cape, South Africa