

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF BOTANISTS**

**aims  
and  
activities**



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The Association is established for the advancement of Botany, to promote and uphold the status of this profession, and to do all things which may be desirable for the attainment of these objects. It aims to unite all professional Botanists in southern Africa. Membership is open to all Botanists who meet the required qualifications. SAAB was founded in September 1968 and held its first independent annual congress in January 1975. It is managed by a Council elected by the members, numbering about 500 at present.

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## MEMBERSHIP

The Association consists of Honorary Members, Ordinary Members, Life Members, Affiliate and Student Members, duly elected by the Council, as well as Institutional Members.

### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Members, Ordinary Members and Life Members are entitled to the rights and privileges of Corporate Membership. Only Corporate Members in good standing are entitled to vote.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary members are persons whom the Association specially desires to honour in consideration of exceptional services rendered by them to the Association or to Botany.

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

An Ordinary Member has completed at least a four year Honours degree in Botany or an equivalent qualification. He is normally engaged in the practice of Botany.

### LIFE MEMBERS

Ordinary Members may, on payment of a fee as laid down in the By-laws, become Life Members and will be exempt from payment of any further subscriptions.

### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

An Affiliate Member is any person whose work is connected with Botany or who has an interest in Botany, but who does not have the necessary qualifications and/or experience for Corporate Membership.

### STUDENT MEMBERS

A Student Member is a *bona fide* student training with the object of qualifying for the practice of Botany. Student Membership shall be valid only until the end of the Association's year in which the Student Member attains the age of 25 years.

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## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

An institution may on payment of a fee as laid down in the By-laws become an Institutional Member. Institutional members of the Association are entitled to send two delegates to congresses, workshops or other functions at the normal charges applicable to ordinary members.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are as follows:

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GRADE	FEE
Honorary Member . . . . .	Nil
Life Member . . . . .	20 times Ordinary membership fee
Ordinary Member . . . . .	R15,00
Affiliate Member . . . . .	R12,00
Student Member . . . . .	R10,00
Institutional Member . . . . .	R40,00

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## SUBSCRIPTION ON RETIREMENT

A member in good standing who has attained the age of sixty-five years may apply to Council for adjustment in the amount of his subscription.

## REGIONS

There are six regions namely: Northern Transvaal (including Zimbabwe, Venda, Botswana and Bophutatswana), Southern Transvaal (including Swaziland), Orange Free State (including Northern Cape, South West Africa and Lesotho), Natal, Eastern Cape (including Transkei and Ciskei) and South Western Cape. Active Regional Branches exist in the Northern Transvaal, Orange Free State, Eastern Cape and South Western Cape. These branches organize lectures, meetings, excursions and workshops.

## PUBLICATIONS

The official journal of SAAB is the 'South African Journal of Botany'. Members receive this free of charge, together with the Association's newsletter 'Forum Botanicum'. The pamphlet 'Careers in Botany' is distributed to all interested persons and institutions.

## **MEDALS and AWARDS**

There are three Medals for Botany and one Certificate of Merit awarded by the Association namely:

### **THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDAL FOR BOTANY**

This gold medal is the premier award for Botany in South Africa and is awarded solely in recognition of outstanding contributions to botanical research.

### **THE SAAB SENIOR MEDAL FOR BOTANY**

This silver medal is awarded on the ground of distinguished research and/or other contributions to the advancement of Botany in South Africa.

### **THE SAAB JUNIOR MEDAL FOR BOTANY**

This bronze medal is awarded for the best thesis on a botanical subject which during the previous calendar year resulted in the conferment of a doctorate at a Southern African University.

### **THE SAAB CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

The certificate is awarded for outstanding contributions in the scientific, technical, artistic, educational or any other botanical field, made by persons not in possession of a university degree in Botany.

## **CONGRESSES, MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS**

The Association holds its Annual Congress in alternating venues during the latter half of January. Research papers may be read by any member of the Association, as well as by non-members. Botanical excursions as well as social functions are arranged. The Annual General Meeting of the Association takes place during the Annual Congress. Workshops are organized by the Regional Branches, but may be attended by any member.

## **AFFILIATIONS and REPRESENTATIONS**

The Association is a member of both the 'Habitat Council' and the 'Joint Council of Scientific Societies'. As SAAB is an associate society of 'The Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa', members can apply for income tax reduction for post-graduate studies. It is represented on the Flora Conservation Committee of the Botanical Society of South Africa, as well as on the Advisory Committee for Botanical Research to the Minister of Agriculture. The Council of the Association appointed a Conservation Committee which makes representations to the authorities on Nature Conservation matters. SAAB makes regular surveys on topics concerning Botany and Botanists and is often asked by other bodies to assist with various surveys.

## **TRUST FUND**

The Association has established a Trust Fund to further specific objects which cannot be financed from the regular sources of income.

Membership forms and Information available from:  
S A A B, Private Bag X101, Pretoria, 0001.