

Call for Abstracts

The Southern Africa Regional Science Association (SARSA), in collaboration with the Regional Science Association International (RSAI - Nurturing New Talent Programme) and the Department of Land and Spatial Sciences at NUST, announces the

4th Annual Southern Africa Regional Science Association Conference Reimagining Regional Development Futures: Pathways to Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Growth in Southern Africa

22 – 24 July 2026
Namibia University of Science and Technology
Windhoek, Namibia

Conference Themes

The conference will specifically focus on the complex development challenges shaped by urbanisation, climate change, inequality, migration, and economic transformation. Regional development debates increasingly emphasise the need for inclusive and resilient approaches that can address structural inequalities while fostering competitiveness and long-term sustainability.

- Economic Resilience, Finance, and Regional Development
- Urbanisation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability
- Society, Labour, and Inclusion
- Poverty, Inequality, and Informality
- Transportation and Mobility in Urban Areas
- Governance, Policy, and Institutions
- Technology, AI, and Digital Futures
- Land Governance, Tenure, and Administration
- Land Use Planning, Property Markets, and Spatial Development

Conference Registration

- Early Bird Conference Registration Opens: **20 March 2026**
- Late Conference Registration: **17 April 2026**
- Conference Registration Closes: **30 June 2026**
- Early Bird Registration: **N\$ 2000**
- Late Registration: **N\$ 2 500**
- Students: **N\$ 1000**
- A discounted group rate will be considered for students or early-career academics submitting co-authored papers.

Submission Details

- Abstracts (maximum 300 words) for papers should contain the purpose, objective(s), methods, findings, and implications/significance.
- Keywords (up to five) should be included.
- Full papers should contain an abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, findings and discussion, and conclusion.
- Papers and abstracts should be submitted online using this link [<https://forms.gle/awxbMdER56YG1ewBA>].
- For more information, visit the conference website at <https://sarsa2026.weebly.com/>
- Accepted papers will also be considered for special issue publication
- Note that papers will only be accepted on the programme if the author/co-author will attend the conference
- If you have any questions relating to your submission, please contact us on sarsa2026@nust.na

Important Dates

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 27 February 2026

Notification of Accepted Abstracts: 16 March 2026

Submission of Full Papers: 30 April 2026

Notification of Full Paper Acceptance: 21 May 2026

Resubmission of Revised Papers: 30 June 2026

Conference Dates: 22 - 24 July 2026



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The Southern Africa Regional Science Association (SARSA), in collaboration with the Regional Science Association International (RSAI - Nurturing New Talent Programme) and the Department of Land and Spatial Sciences at NUST, announces the

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Windhoek, Namibia

About SARSA

As a regional science association in Southern Africa, we are a community of scholars interested in the impacts of national or regional economic and social change processes. Regional science cuts across urban and rural regions - regions under analysis can be in urban or rural areas or a comparison of urban and rural regions. In short, the phenomena under study can be economic, social, political, environmental, behavioural or any other phenomenon with a spatial dimension. The overarching aim of our conference is "Reimagining Regional Development Futures: Pathways to Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Growth in Southern Africa". For more information visit <https://sarsa2026.weebly.com/>

Publications and Awards

Accepted full papers (peer-reviewed and presented at the conference) will be published in Conference Proceedings with an ISBN number. Papers will also be considered for publication as a Special Issue in a scopus- indexed journal.

Prizes will be awarded for the best paper in the various conference themes. Details: TBA

Organising Committee

- **Prof Eric Yankson** (Chair Scientific Committee, Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Prof Oluibukun Ajayi** (Scientific Committee Member, Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Mr Sam Mwando** (Conference Chair, Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Prof. Harmony Musiyarira** (Executive Dean: Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Ms Royal Mabakeng** (Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Ms Elina Teodol** (Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Ms Toini Angula** (Namibia University of Science and Technology)
- **Dr Tazviona Richman Gambe** (University of the Free State)
- **Dr Elizabeth Mirika Musvoto** (University of Cape Town)

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Travel and Accommodation Guide

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ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Delegates must book directly with providers. Conference organisers bear no responsibility. Early reservations strongly recommended.

Budget-Friendly (Walking Distance to NUST):

- **NUST Hotel School:** A hotel operated by the university itself.
- **Tilla's Guesthouse:** Simple lodging near Beethoven Street, walking distance to NUST.
- **Windhoek Gardens Guest House:** Comfortable accommodation with good amenities, short walk to campus.

Mid-Range to Premium:

- **Protea Hotel Windhoek Fürstenhof:** International chain with modern facilities, near NUST.
- **AVANI Windhoek Hotel & Casino:** 4-star hotel, central location, ~17-minute walk to NUST.
- **Hilton Windhoek:** 5-star luxury in city center, ~10-15 minutes' drive from NUST.
- **Windhoek Palm Hotel:** Comfortable mid-range option, ~15 minutes' walk to NUST.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Airport Transfer: Hosea Kutako International Airport is 40 km from Windhoek (45-60 min travel). Options: Airport shuttles (City Cab, Tok Tokkie, Dial-a-Cab), car rentals (Avis, Hertz, Europcar, Budget), or taxis (book via hotel).

Local Transport: Walking is safe during daylight (5-15 min distances). Metered taxis, Yango app, Uber, and Bolt are available. Car rental is excellent for independent exploration. Avoid walking at night; use registered taxis.

NUST CAMPUS & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Campus: NUST is in the Windhoek West suburb, accessible from all accommodations. Modern conference facilities, free WiFi, secure access (ID badges), on-campus dining, and parking are available.

Responsibility: Conference organisers are NOT responsible for travel, visas, accommodation, or insurance. These are your responsibility.

Pre-Departure: Confirm visas, book accommodation, arrange airport transport, secure insurance, confirm all bookings 48 hours before travel, carry document copies, arrive 3 hours early for flights.

We look forward to welcoming you to Windhoek for the SARSA Conference 2026!

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Category	Details
Visas	Arrange your own visa. Contact the Namibian Embassy/High Commission in your country. Visit www.mirt.gov.na
Insurance	Travel insurance essential & required. Covers medical, cancellation, personal items.
Currency	Namibian Dollar (NAD), pegged to the South African Rand. ATMs are widely available. Notify your bank of travel dates.
Weather	Semi-arid climate. Summers 25-30°C, winters 10-20°C. Pack light clothing, jacket, sunscreen, hat.

