



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



RISA

Research and Innovation  
Support and Advancement

## 4TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL CHANGE

3-6 December 2018



# Sustainable futures through science and innovation



**First announcement**

The Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation, in partnership with the University of Limpopo and the Limpopo Provincial Government, are organising a four-day National Conference on Global Change. The conference will take place in Polokwane from 3 to 6 December 2018

## Message from the Global Change Science Committee

*"South Africa, like the rest of the world, is confronted by uncertainties and complex challenges that require a range of responses. We need to find solutions to inequitable resource distribution, unemployment, climate variability and change, disease, inadequate skills development, and policy concerns, including land issues.*

*We also have advantages that we can turn into opportunities – a vibrant younger generation who are active agents of change, spaces for academic and political dialogue and debate, a global change scientific community that punches above its weight internationally, and an engaged civic society.*

*So what do we need going forward? We invite your contributions to help us, as a community of scientists, business, activists and concerned citizens, to open up a series of conversations on a variety of issues that will enable us to think hard about the role of science and innovation in ensuring a sustainable future"*

**Professor Coleen Vogel**

**Chairperson: South African Global Change Science Committee**



### Strategic context

The National Global Change Conferences are held biennially under the banner of the Global Change Grand Challenge (GCGC) – one of the five focus areas of the Department of Science and Technology's Ten-Year Innovation Plan for South Africa.

The conferences provide a unique platform for networking, knowledge sharing and dialogue among global change stakeholders, bringing together hundreds of representatives from the research and development sector, business, industry, government, and civil society to debate the latest research, technology and other strategic solutions to the GCGC.

### Theme

The central theme for the 2018 National Global Change Conference is "Sustainable futures through science and innovation".

## Objectives

The specific objectives of the 2018 conference are to –

- provide a platform for discussing current South African research and innovation initiatives and interventions aligned with the theme;
- facilitate networking for global change stakeholders to establish and/or strengthen partnerships for the GCGC; and
- drive the process of building the next generation of young scientists by creating a forum for them to present their research and to interact with more experienced scientists.

## Structure

The conference will be structured into six major components, namely –

- an opening plenary session for keynote addresses and a science talk by a guest speaker;
- general plenary sessions for high-level presentations on topics of general interest;
- parallel sessions for oral presentation or selected research/technical papers and case studies;
- poster sessions aimed at displaying scientific findings, and discussing the findings;
- panel discussions at which various sectors will share their perspectives on selected topics; and
- exhibitions of products or services (scientific and non-scientific) related to the conference theme.

## Registration

To enable efficient logistical arrangements, registration to attend or participate in the conference will close on **31 October 2018**. Online registration at <https://www.ul.ac.za/globalchange2018/> is mandatory for all attendees, including delegates, presenters, side-event hosts and exhibition teams. While there is no registration fee, delegates will be expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

## Expressions of interest

The organisers welcome proposals relevant to one of the four pillars of the Global Change Grand Challenge Research Plan. The plan is available at <http://www.gov.za/documents/global-change-grand-challenge-national-research-plan>.

Interested contributors are invited to submit their proposals, indicating the category (oral presentation, poster presentation, side event or exhibition), to [globalchange2018@ul.ac.za](mailto:globalchange2018@ul.ac.za) on or before **3 August 2018**. Guideline documents can be found at <https://www.ul.ac.za/globalchange2018/>

Presenters of oral or poster presentations should submit a paper/poster title accompanied by a short abstract of 300 words at most. If the abstract is accepted, presenters will be asked to submit an extended abstract of no more than five pages. After the peer review of extended abstracts, successful presenters will be requested to submit a final extended abstract that will be published in the conference proceedings.

### Important deadlines

27 July 2018:	Submission to hold a special session or side event
03 August 2018:	Expression of Interest
10 August 2018:	Abstract submission (< 300 words)
24 August 2018:	Abstract acceptance notification
12 October 2018:	Extended abstract (< 5 pages)
31 October 2018:	Registration closes

## Sponsorship for students

Students whose abstracts for oral or poster presentations are accepted will receive sponsorships covering cost-effective travel and accommodation.

## Accommodation

A list of accommodation options will be provided on the conference website.

## Enquiries

Email [globalchange2018@ul.ac.za](mailto:globalchange2018@ul.ac.za) or call +27 15 268 2319 or +27 72 200 9692.