



# THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL PALAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IPC7)

30 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2026

BAXTER THEATRE, RONDEBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA



# WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to be hosting the 7th International Palaeontological Congress (IPC7) in South Africa in 2026. This is the second time that this meeting will be held in the global South and the first time in Africa. The meeting will be held during the height of our very pleasant summer season at the Baxter Theatre Complex and the University of Cape Town between the 30 November – 3 December 2026. The venues have the capacity to host hundreds of delegates, both in large rooms and smaller breakaway rooms.

The fossil heritage of South Africa is renowned globally for its importance in understanding the history of life on Earth and extends from the very beginnings of life on Earth to the world-famous hominin relatives that have been recovered here. We will soon be inviting submissions for symposia topics, and we expect the meeting to offer a wide range of symposia, as well as space for general talks. We are also organising a series of fieldtrips to give delegates a feel for the rich fossiliferous rocks in South Africa that span significant periods of time. Furthermore, delegates attending the IPC7 will have the opportunity to visit important museum collections in South Africa.

We look forward to hosting palaeoscientists from around the world, and we hope to see you in 2026 in Cape Town.

Yours sincerely,

PROF. ANUSUYA CHINSAMY-TURAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The fossil heritage of South Africa is renowned globally for its importance in understanding the history of life on Earth. Our over 4-million-year record of hominin fossil history gives us a unique glimpse of how our relatives originated, and how human culture began and developed into the modern societies that exist these days. However, the significance of South Africa's fossil record extends far beyond our hominin relatives to much deeper into geological time - to the very beginnings of life on Earth. Our unique South African fossil record extends some 3.8 billion years into the past and tell the world about how both plant and animal life originated and diversified from the Precambrian to the present.

Our Palaeozoic and Mesozoic rocks have been of great importance in giving a uniquely South African window onto the Ordovician, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic and Jurassic worlds. In the Cape Basin, the latest Ordovician-Silurian Soom and Disa fossil assemblages have shed much light on the last remnants of the Hirnantian invertebrate faunas in the wake of the Late Palaeozoic Ice Age. Devonian fossil assemblages of the Early-Middle Devonian Bokkeveld and Middle-Late Witteberg groups have been important in establishing the Malvinohosan bioregion as a unique high-latitude faunule, as well as providing glimpses in the story of early vertebrate evolution and terrestrialisation at the South Pole. Fast forward to the Carboniferous-Jurassic, vertebrate fossils from the Karoo Basin narrate the incredible story about the diversification of reptiles from about 300 million years ago, and how therapsids increasingly became more mammal-like over a span of about 120 million years, whilst bearing testament to major extinction events such as the End Permian extinction event that occurred about 252 million years ago (and led to the extinction of about 95% of all life that existed). In the Late Triassic, some of the world's earliest dinosaurs roamed South Africa, and we can track how some basal bipedal sauropodomorph dinosaurs transitioned to become the iconic quadrupedal giants of the Mesozoic. Besides bringing in palaeoscientists from around the world to attend the conference, this meeting will also stimulate and encourage palaeotourism to places such as the West Coast Fossil Park, Blombos Cave, Karoo National Park, the Kitching Exploration Centre, Waterloo Farm museum a Witteberg Palaeotourism Centre in Makhanda, and to the Cradle of Humankind. Without a doubt, general tourism will also be stimulated since many delegates will explore the dramatic landscapes and game parks of South Africa.

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The gathering of palaeoscientists from around the world will foster and encourage international collaboration and will benefit the scientific endeavour in our country by offering opportunities for emerging South African palaeoscientists. The engagement will not only be restricted to scientists but the wider public would be encouraged to be involved. Science communication would also be given a boost since we envision Palaeosciences communication to the wider public as an important theme in IPC7. This will allow for the development of new strategies to encourage interest in science and in palaeosciences.

Since we will have high calibre scientists visiting South Africa, we would also be able to host public lectures to engage with the wider public about the significance of fossils and how they inform us about life on Earth from the distant past. The fossil record tells us about life on Earth, but it also tells us about times when life on Earth faced serious catastrophes, such as the 5 mass extinction events that punctuated the history of life on earth. The fossils preserved allow us to understand the dire consequences of each of these extinction events and in the face of the threat of the 6th mass extinction event, give us hope that life is resilient as it had recovered in the aftermath of each extinction event.

South Africa has significant geographical advantage for palaeosciences research, and hosting the IPC7 will focus the world's attention on the richness of our fossil heritage. Additionally, the IPC has never been held in Africa, and the time is ripe for Cape Town to host this esteemed gathering of palaeoscientists. The reach would be far and great in terms of scientific advancement, palaeotourism and science communication within South Africa and across the African continent.

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

2002, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
2006, BEIJING, CHINA  
2010, LONDON, UK  
2014, MENDOZA, ARGENTINA  
2017, PARIS, FRANCE  
2021, KHON KAEN, THAILAND

# IPC7 PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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The congress will bring together a wide variety of palaeontologists and geologists who work in the field of palaeoscience. Many of these scientists will participate in themed symposia (see below), but we will also have general sessions that fall outside the scope of the proposed symposia. We intend having 1-2 high profile plenary speakers per day (total of 8 speakers) – at the start and close of each day. In addition, each of the symposia will have a Keynote speaker.

## Confirmed Symposia

- 1- Major biotic events during the Ordovician and Silurian and their dynamics.
- 2- Paleoneurology, cognition, and behaviour of vertebrates, from fish to hominins.
- 3- The History and pre-history of palaeosciences, geomyths, and indigenous palaeontology
- 4- Recent advances in Mongolian Cretaceous Palaeontology and Geology
- 5- Life in the Phanerozoic Oceans: Evolution, diversity and ecology in deep time marine ecosystems
- 6- The Precambrian: The earliest chronicles of life on Earth.
- 7- Ichnology – traces as multi-disciplinary lenses into the deep past
- 8- 'Biogeography: ranging through a dynamic Earth'
- 9- The Evolution and Diversification of Life in the Neoproterozoic and Cambrian
- 10- Devonian of Gondwana
- 11- Filling knowledge gaps in the Early Palaeozoic Biodiversification
- 12- Recent advances in vertebrate taphonomy
- 13- Ichthyosaur evolution and biology
- 14- Origins Triassic and Early Jurassic dinosaurs
- 15- Paleobionics the biomechanical factors that drive evolution
- 16- Pangea in crisis life on land during the Permian–Triassic
- 17- Recent Advances in Dinosaur Egg and Reproduction
- 18- Palaeopathology-disease in the fossil record symposium
- 19- Advances on the histology of the mineralised tissues of vertebrates
- 20- Flight evolution in vertebrates
- 21- Communicating paleo sciences
- 22- New directions in palaeoanthropological research in Southern Africa
- 23- Cenozoic vertebrates of Africa
- 24- New Eocene faunas from Southwestern Morocco: paleoenvironmental and paleogeographic implications
- 25- Neogene primates and the origin and evolution of Hominidae
- 26- Freshwater paleoecosystems
- 27- Vegetation change and plant-insect interaction from the Palaeozoic until modern times -Case studies from Africa and beyond
- 28- Evolution of Brain and Cranial Anatomy Through Five Major Extinctions
- 29- General

# WHY SPONSOR?

This is the first time this congress will be held in Africa, and it provides an exceptional opportunity to create visibility for your organisation. You will have the opportunity to market your offerings to over 500 international and local palaeontologists and geologists from around the globe. As a sponsor you will gain exposure to scientists at all levels of their careers, as well as administrators and educators. You will also build a lasting relationship with students.

## SEVERAL OPTIONS TO FIT YOUR SPONSORSHIP BUDGET AND GOALS

*CONTACT US FOR A TAILORMADE PACKAGE.*

- Increase your exposure through pre-symposium marketing coverage (web site / mailers/ social media /newsletters)
- Promote your offering to a global audience
- Raise your company profile above that of your competitors
- Increase recognition and drive traffic to your exhibition / table stand (should you participate)
- Network with international delegates from around the world
- Marketing platform through branding and acknowledgement
- Increase your company's perceived image and gain the respect and credibility of your target audience



## WHO WILL BE ATTENDING?

Palaeontologists (including vertebrate palaeontologists, invertebrate palaeontologists, palaeobotanists, palaeoecologists, palaeoanthropologists), geologists, sedimentologists, museum curators and educators, University educators, and palaeoscience communicators from around the world.

# SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

Benefits	Level 1 R200 000 USD \$11 111	Level 2 R150 000 USD \$8 333	Level 3 R100 000 USD \$5 555	Level 4 R50 000 USD \$2 777	Level 5 R25 000 USD \$1 388
Complimentary registrations to the conference, welcoming cocktail and social dinner	3	2	1	-	-
Display space available at the conference	1 x 18sqm	1 x 9sqm	1 x 9sqm	-	-
Pull-up banners to be placed in and around the plenary venue. Sponsor to supply banners. Final positioning of the banners to be determined by the organizer.	3 banners – one in each venue	2 banners	1 banner	1 banner	-
Sponsor logo to be placed on the symposium website with a direct link to the sponsor website. URL link and company description (where applicable)	Yes with 200 words	Yes with 150 words	Yes with 100 words	Yes with 50 words	Yes logo only
Sponsor logo to be placed on the sponsor holding slide that will be displayed during breaks in the plenary venue.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsor will be acknowledged on the general sponsor banner on site at the symposium registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo on the APP	Yes with an advert or video link	Yes with an advert	Yes	Yes	Yes
Social media spotlight posts	4 posts	3 posts	2 posts	1 post	1 post

# ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The IPC7 Conference offers a wide spectrum of opportunities of exposure by providing opportunities for support in the scientific, social and cultural aspects of the symposium. A list of items available for support follows. Quantities and grant requests will be available per request. We encourage you to contact us if something of interest to you is not currently listed.

## SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Sponsors will have their logos on the programme on the APP for the session or speaker they support. You will also be entitled to have your logo on the website and on the sponsor slide and banner at the conference.

- Plenary/Symposium keynote speaker
  - African: R28 000 (\$1555)
  - S. African: R18 000 (\$1000)
  - Outside Africa: R42 000 (\$2333)

## SPONSORING POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

We would like to offer students from Developing Countries the opportunity to apply for sponsorship (either in full or in part, dependant on sponsorship). This will allow students the opportunity to submit an Oral or a poster presentation and be present at the conference. If you would like to contribute towards costs, please indicate what your budget will allow and we will apply this to the funds and distribute accordingly. You will receive recognition in the talk that is presented as well as on the website and on the APP as a sponsor

- International student (esp. from Africa): R38 500 per student (\$2138)
- South African PG student: R15 000 per student (\$833)
- African: R25 000 per student (\$1388)

## SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

There will be branding opportunity and a short speech allowed at each of these events. You will receive branding on the website and at the conference on the dedicated sponsor slide and sponsor banner.

- Welcome icebreaker function at Iziko Museums of Cape Town R100 000 (\$5 555)
- Gala dinner Contribution towards costs and entertainment R100 000 (\$5 555)
- Provide an upgraded morning/afternoon refreshment for delegates R20 000 (\$1 111)



## DELEGATE GIFTS

Each of these opportunities will allow the sponsor to co-brand the element they choose to sponsor.

● Lanyards	R20 000 (\$1 111)
● Name badges	R10 000 (\$555)
● Shweshwe bags	R80 000 (\$4 444)

## REGISTRATION DESK / AREA

*R100 000 (\$5 555)*

The registration desk is the first area delegates are received and welcomed which will be co-branded with the sponsor. This sponsorship will allow for registration desks with computer equipment to receive our delegates and will be in a prominent place at the Baxter Theatre for the full duration of the conference.

## NETWORKING APP

*R30 000 (\$1 666)*

A perfect opportunity to have your company logo and profile advertised on the networking app which all delegates will download and use to access the programme, view abstracts, view posters and network with each other.

## CONTACT US FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to take any of these sponsorship opportunities, please contact the conference organiser, [crystal@centeqevents.co.za](mailto:crystal@centeqevents.co.za). These sponsorship options are mainly for guidance, and they can be discussed to accommodate your needs.

## EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

The conference will be able to host limited exhibition stands at the Baxter Theatre and this will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Floor space with a table, 2 chairs and power will be supplied as part of the package. Sizes will be dependent on the number of requests we will need to accommodate.

Prices offered:           R10 000 (\$555) – 9sqm  
                                  R18 000 (\$1000)– 18sqm

To book your space, please email Crystal Kasselmann on [crystal@centeqevents.co.za](mailto:crystal@centeqevents.co.za)

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