



CALL FOR PAPERS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY
BUILDING FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE
MINING (ASM) IN SADC COUNTRIES

Dates:

23rd – 25th September 2026

Venue:

Midlands State University and/or Virtual

Local Organizer:

Midlands State University,

Conference Websites:

<https://conferences.msu.ac.zw/>

Call for Papers

The growing global transition toward green energy systems and digital technologies has significantly increased demand for critical minerals such as lithium, copper, cobalt, graphite, manganese, nickel and rare earth elements. Southern Africa possesses vast reserves of these strategic minerals, placing the region at the centre of emerging global mineral value chains and industrial transformation opportunities. Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) continues to play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of many Southern African countries by contributing to employment creation, poverty reduction, rural livelihoods and mineral production. However, despite its importance, the ASM sector faces persistent challenges including limited formalisation, environmental degradation, unsafe working conditions, inadequate access to finance and technology, weak institutional support systems, and limited participation in downstream value addition processes.

At the same time, the increasing global focus on responsible sourcing, environmental sustainability, climate resilience and inclusive development presents new opportunities for transforming ASM into a more productive, formalised and sustainable sector. There is therefore an urgent need for strengthened regional collaboration, policy harmonisation, capacity building, technological innovation and inclusive participation of women and youth in critical mineral value chains across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

It is against this background, that the symposium on **“Sustainable Development and Capacity Building for Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in SADC Countries”** seeks to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, research dissemination and policy engagement on sustainable ASM development within the context of critical minerals. The symposium will bring together policymakers, academics, researchers, mining practitioners, development partners, private sector actors, civil society organisations and community representatives to explore practical solutions and strategic partnerships for advancing responsible, inclusive and climate-resilient ASM systems in the region.

The symposium further aims to stimulate evidence-based discussions on governance reforms, environmental management, technological innovation, local beneficiation, gender inclusion, youth empowerment, financing mechanisms and regional integration in critical mineral supply chains. Through this engagement, the conference seeks to contribute toward sustainable mineral resource governance and inclusive economic transformation in SADC countries.

The Organising Committee warmly invites scholars, researchers, innovators, policymakers, civil society organisations, industry leaders, and students to submit original papers for presentation and discussion. We welcome contributions from different theoretical, philosophical, policy and practical perspectives. Contributors may submit completed papers, or posters, position papers, panel discussion topics, and exhibition posters on topics which include the following:

- Governance, Policy, Regulation, and Formulation
- Knowledge Management
- Economic Development and Value Chain (includes Financial Inclusion)
- Gender (includes Inclusion and Social Protection)
- Environment, Technology, and Innovation
- Best Case/Good Practice of ASM reforms within/outside SADC

Abstract Submission

Abstracts between 200–300 words should be submitted [through the portal](#) by 31st July 2026

Abstracts should include author(s) full names, affiliation, postal address, email addresses and between 4 to 7 keywords. All submissions must be original and not previously published.

Paper submissions will be subjected to double-blind reviews by at least two Programme Committee members. Accepted papers will be considered for publication in a special edition of Dyke Journal, a Midlands State University Journal

<https://thedyke.msu.ac.zw/index.php/thedyke>.

Submission of full papers

All submissions should be sent as MS Word attachments to [be submitted through the portal](#). Full papers will be circulated anonymously to reviewers for evaluation and will be published in a book of conference proceedings. Prospective contributors are specifically requested to ensure that the language and technical aspects of their papers are of high standard. Papers should be typed in 12pt Times New Roman and should not exceed 8 000 words. APA reference style should be used for referencing.

Conference Fees

Conference fees only (excluding accommodation and transport)

Conference Fees

Local Student (Non-presenting)	\$50
Local Presenter (Student or Professional)	\$75
Regional Participant (Non-presenting)	\$150
Regional Presenter (Student or Professional)	\$150

Additional Information

23rd - 25th September 2026	Conference Days
09 July 2026	Call for Submissions
31 st July 2026	Acceptance Notification
15 th September 2026	Deadline for submission of Camera-ready Papers

Programme Committee

Dr M Mugwati	Executive Dean Faculty of Business Sciences Midlands State University
Ms N.G. Moyo	Midlands State University, Chairperson, Centre for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
Ms J Moyo	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr P K Gurira	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr K Sakuwaha	Geologist, Lecturer in the University of Zambia School of Mines
Dr M Kaonda	Lecturer University of Zambia (Metallurgist)
Engineer R Moyo	Lecturer MSU Mining and Engineering

Dr S Nhorito	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr E Mutenheri	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr L Poperwi	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr T Tsokota	Lecturer Midlands State University
Ms F Mudzurandende	Lecturer, Midlands State University
Dr M Zhou	Lecturer Midlands State University
Ms E Mbuyisa	Lecturer Midlands State University
Prof T Nyamwanza	Lecturer Midlands State University
Dr F Makoza	Lecturer, Cape Peninsula University of Science and Technology

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS

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ENQUIRIES

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