



Society of Spanish Researchers in Southern Africa /
Asociación de Científicos Españoles en el Sur de Africa

October 2023

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PRESENTATION

The Society of Spanish Scientists in Southern Africa (ACE Sur de Africa) brings together approximately 80 Spanish scientists and researchers based in Southern Africa. It was created on December 3, 2019 and is a member of the Network of Societies of Spanish Researchers Abroad (RAICEX, <https://raicex.wordpress.com/>), together with 18 other similar associations distributed throughout the world that group to more than 4500 Spanish scientists and researchers. ACE South Africa is the only one of them in the entire African continent and, together with Australia (SRAP), one of the two located in the Southern Hemisphere. The association is non-political, non-profit and only pursues scientific, research and cultural purposes.

Also, at the moment, ACE Sur de Africa encompasses researchers based in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to bring together Spanish researchers working in those Southern Africa countries.

ACE Sur de Africa intends, among others, to contribute to the exchange of information between the different scientific stakeholders and researchers with interests in South Africa, Spain and the global Southern Africa, increase the public visibility and scientific prestige of its associated members, facilitate access to funding plans, plans to return to Spain and research mobility between the two countries. Likewise, ACE South Africa includes among its objectives greater permeability between the academic-scientific fields and the R&D&I sectors of companies with interests in both countries.

The disciplines represented by our associates at the present time include Pure Mathematics, Spanish and South-African Languages and Literature, Statistical Ecology, Solar Energy and Sustainable Development, Theoretical Physics, Wildlife Conservation, Zoology, Archaeology, Botany, Chemistry, Climate Change, Clinical Psychology, Astronomy and Cosmology, Immunology and Virology (HIV, TB and Covid), Ornithology, Oceanography, Paleontology and Political Science.

The executive committee is as follows

- President: Dr. Álvaro de la Cruz Dombriz, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics, U. of Cape Town and SKA collaboration.
- Deputy President: Ms. Fabiola Quesada-Fernandez, Fundación Wildlife Conservation Medicine Foundation & Wild Spirit Fund, South Africa
- General Secretary: Dr. Alba Gómez Arias, Institute of Groundwater Studies, University of the Free State.
- Director of the Communication Area: Antonio Blanco-Montero, School of Engineering. University Kwazulu-Natal, SACAP Professional Architect (ZA).
- Treasurer: Dr. Francisco José Maldonado Torralba, Cosmology and Gravity Group, University of Cape Town & Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics, University of Oslo (Norway).

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

To date, ACE Sur de Africa has collaborated with and/or received funding from the following institutions: Embassies of Spain to South Africa, Namibia-Botswana and Mozambique, Consulate General of Spain in Cape Town, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), RAICEX Consortium, Ministries of Science and Universities - Spain, National Research Foundation - South Africa, The **Department of Science and Innovation** - South Africa, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa, Alliance4Universities (UAB, UAM, UC3M, UPF), Women for Africa Foundation, Government of Catalonia and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in South Africa, Casa Africa Consortium and Foundation Ramon Areces.

ACTIVITIES

Launch event in Cape Town, December 3, 2019, Centre of the Book.

Series of Webinars in 2023 on scientific topics from our associates, www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfuAUSXKY08&list=PLd48BPZLcDEwkUqtk4q6vHzin63cbcWVY

WORKSHOP: GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE "Promoting equitable technical environments" Spain-Mozambique-South Africa, February 21st 2023 <https://en.cismmanhica.org/vgenomica>

Series of Webinars in 2022 on scientific topics from our associates, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLRZK10eeCU&list=PLd48BPZLcDEyXk0-iKXtcG0kufZ6dXG25>

Series of Webinars (six in 2020 and six in 2021) on scientific topics from our associates, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd48BPZLcDEyZCpdnsqdyACvdJG5e_4_N

Webinar Series (three) 2020 bilateral Spain - South Africa on Covid19 issues, <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd48BPZLcDEyagFo3Pk2oMHZiPMDGIlyT> Announcements attached.

Creation of a Covid-19 crisis scientific group to advise various institutions and the Spanish community on the evolution of the pandemic in South Africa.

Participation on the Session Science Forum South Africa 2021, 1-3 December 2021, Global Change Grand Challenge (GCGC) session run by our Society. Programme attached.

First Research Forum South Africa - Spain, 2021. Programme and Concept Note attached.

Participation on the South African Science Festival (SciFest) 2021 with two presentations by our members, Prof Nico Orce (UWC) and Carmen Martinez Vargas (UFS). Announcements attached.

Webinar **Challenges and Achievements of Women in Science / Focus Africa**, February 2022, [youtube.-com/watch?v=eLRZK10eeCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLRZK10eeCU) Announcement attached.

Creation of the **ACE del Sur de Africa-frA Early-Career Talent Alkebulan Award 2022 and 2023 (two editions)** aims to **recognise the extraordinary research trajectory** of both an early-career ACE del Sur de Africa associate and an early-career researcher from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia or Zimbabwe. Outcome to be announced on November 01 2022. Announcement attached.

Creation of the **ACE del Sur de Africa - frA Visiting Lecturers Grants Program (2022 and 2023, two editions)** intended for two Alliance 4 Universities (A4U) Consortium Faculty members to visit South African Universities. Outcome to be announced on November 01 2022. Announcement attached.

Participation in the Erasmus+ BAQONDE Project (2020-2023) is made up of three European universities (University of Salamanca - Spain, Trinity College Dublin - Ireland and University of Groningen RUG - Netherlands) and four South African universities (University of the Western Cape UWC, North-West University NWU, Rhodes University UK and University of KwaZulu-Natal UKZN), being led by the University of Salamanca. BAQONDE attends to one of the national priorities designated by the South African authorities: the development of indigenous African languages as a medium of instruction and as languages of higher academic discourse. In this regard, note the absolute absence in the Spanish Education Space of degree studies in African Languages/Philologies/Literatures, beyond the studies of Arabic Philology, understanding this as a quasi-African language.

<https://baqonde.usal.es>

Research Forum 2022 Spain - Southern Africa, Pretoria 25 November 2022. Booklet and Concept Note Attached.

Social networks: <https://acesda.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/AceSurAfrica/>
<https://twitter.com/acesurafrica>
YouTube Channel @acesurdeafrica7314

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