



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE POSTER COMPETITION OF THE SAEON GRADUATE STUDENT NETWORK AT THE SECOND SAEON SUMMIT

### Background information on SAEON and the October 2010 Summit

The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) is an emerging National Facility that establishes and maintains nodes (environmental observatories/field stations with sites) linked by an information management network to serve as observation and education platforms for long-term studies of the ecosystems. The research results will provide for incremental advances in our understanding of ecosystems and our ability to detect, predict and react to environmental change. Find out more about SAEON's nodes and primary observation themes at [www.saeon.ac.za](http://www.saeon.ac.za)

The second SAEON Summit will be held from 5-6 October 2010 in Kirstensbosch, Cape Town to provide a forum for stakeholders to contribute to the continued development of environmental observation in South Africa. The Summit will also address another major challenge facing SAEON, namely a comprehensive information management system. However, the Graduate Student Network poster competition event will take place on 7 October 2010, after the Summit. In essence the SAEON Summit will differ from other scientific conferences in that it will be focused on *observation science*, rather than research. Invited papers will deal with monitoring systems. Poster papers should deal with both monitoring systems and findings based on those systems.

### The SAEON Summit Students' Poster Competition

Full-time students are invited to participate in the first SAEON Summit by submitting a poster paper for consideration by the organisers. The selected posters will be on display throughout the Summit, and there will be specific opportunities for discussion and engagement with delegates. Poster abstracts will also be published in the refereed summit proceedings.

### Objectives of the SAEON Graduate Student Network Poster Competition

- To provide for the presentation of current, historical and proposed projects based on long term environmental and Earth observations;
- To strengthen the SAEON Graduate Students' Network;
- To encourage wider participation in the SAEON Summit;
- To provide for discussion and engagement between delegates;
- To grow the cadre of young ecologists and environmental scientists

### Participating in the poster competition

- Submit your poster abstract of not more than 400 words to Monako Dibette: [monako@saeon.ac.za](mailto:monako@saeon.ac.za) no later than 13 August 2010: The abstract must include the full name(s) of the author(s), institution, postal and street address, full contact details and web address (if relevant). You will be informed by 20 August 2010 whether your poster has been accepted for display at the SAEON Summit. If your poster is accepted, at least one author must attend the Summit.
- Those students whose posters have been accepted will be provided with the necessary accommodation and travel arrangements. However, students should note that they still need to register in order to be a part of the SAEON Summit.
- Technical details about size and format of the posters, and where/when to set up your poster will be communicated to the authors of accepted posters.
- Most importantly, the content of the posters should comply with the seven themes of the Summit, which are: Approaches and methods of long term environmental observation; Atmosphere-Biosphere-Geosphere linkages; Environmental change and people; Measuring changes in ecosystem function; Marine and coastal ecosystems; freshwater ecosystems; terrestrial ecosystems.

### **Poster Competition prizes**

- There will be a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize of R5 000, R3 000 and R2 000 respectively. The winning posters will be selected by a panel of judges on the basis of their **overall impact, clarity, creativity and relevance to SAEON**.
- **Please note that only full time students (up to postdoctoral level, studying full time during 2010) can be considered for these prizes.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information about the SAEON Summit Students' Poster Competition. Monako Dibebe, SAEON: ([monako@saeon.ac.za](mailto:monako@saeon.ac.za))  
For further information go to: [www.saeon.ac.za/summit](http://www.saeon.ac.za/summit)