

Introduction to the Proceedings of the peer-reviewed Academic Track of the AfricaGEO 2018 Conference

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The **AfricaGEO 2018 Conference**, with the theme *Developing Geomatics in Africa: Data fusion – Driving Value and Policy*, was held at the Emperors Palace Convention Centre, City of Ekurhuleni, South Africa, from 17 to 19 September 2018. The conference consisted of a peer-reviewed academic paper track, an industry paper track, plenary presentations, workshops, tutorials, lightning talks, demonstrations and an exhibition. The selection for the Industry Track was made on abstracts submitted and some authors also submitted full papers. These abstracts and papers have been published online at: <http://www.africageoproceedings.org.za/industry-papers-2018/>

The ring-fenced, peer-reviewed Academic Track of AfricaGEO 2018 is independent of the Industry Track. Submissions for the Academic Track underwent a double-blind peer review based on full papers. Papers were reviewed by at least two independent reviewers each, on the basis of significance, contribution, relevance, correctness, originality, clarity and structure. Initially, 26 papers were submitted and of these, 4 were rejected as not being suitable for the Academic Track (some of these were passed on to the Chair of the Industry Track for their consideration). The results and comments from the referees were sent back to the authors, for them to revise their papers appropriately and to resubmit their papers. After evaluating the resubmitted papers, the editors rejected a further 3 papers because the authors did not submit papers that had been revised suitably.

This review process resulted in 21 papers considered suitable for inclusion in the Proceedings of the peer-reviewed Academic Track of AfricaGEO 2018. Of these papers, eight were selected (though one was subsequently rejected) for a special issue of the *South African Journal of Geomatics*, Volume 7, Number 2, published in September 2018. The papers included in the journal have not been included in the Proceedings of the Academic Track here, because the journal is a fully open-access journal, available online at: <http://www.sajg.org.za/>

The ISBN for the Proceedings of the Academic Track of the AfricaGEO 2018 Conference is 978-0-620-80873-6.

The proceedings are available at: <http://www.africageoproceedings.org.za/academic-papers-2018/>

Finally, we would like to thank all the authors who submitted papers to AfricaGEO 2018, because we need quality submissions to ensure the conference is a success. We are pleased by the overall quality of the papers submitted and we hope that you will find the conference rewarding. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the anonymous reviewers for their hard work in refereeing papers for the Academic Track of AfricaGEO 2018 and for the special issue of the South African Journal of Geomatics.

