



ANNUAL GSSA CONGRESS GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

(Please also see platform and poster guidelines)

The Scientific Committee's main aim is to ensure a stimulating programme of platform presentations for the Congress. Abstracts submitted earlier will have a greater chance of being included in the platform paper programme, but the final criterion for acceptance of platform papers is quality and relevance to the audience. Posters will be given prominence at the venue and enough time will be allocated so that authors can explain their posters during poster sessions.

As a general guideline, platform papers should report findings of original research or novel synthesis and review of existing information. Very preliminary findings and research proposals should be presented as posters. The closer interaction with the audience that the poster session affords will facilitate discussion and feedback on research proposals. When selecting papers for platform presentations, priority will be given to new findings and novel synthesis. The Scientific Committee who review abstracts may encourage changes from poster to platform presentations and *vice versa* based on the content of the abstract.

It is, therefore, essential that abstracts are as informative as possible about the aims, methods and key findings of the study. We encourage authors to submit extended abstracts of up to one A4 page which may include a table or figure showing key data. Excessively brief abstracts make it difficult to judge whether a paper is suitable for a platform presentations. When an abstract is too brief to judge the scope of the work to be presented, authors of such abstracts will be requested to expand them or downgrade to a poster presentation.

Please use the following format when sending in your abstracts:

- Spacing: single
- Font: 12pt Times New Roman
- Margins: 20mm all round
- Length: not more than one (1) A4 page

Please feel free to send tables and figures, but ensure that the entire abstract must not be more than one A4 page. If longer submissions are received, the Scientific Committee will either send it back for revision, or will edit it to reduce its length.

Please email to congress@grassland.org.za.