



5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028

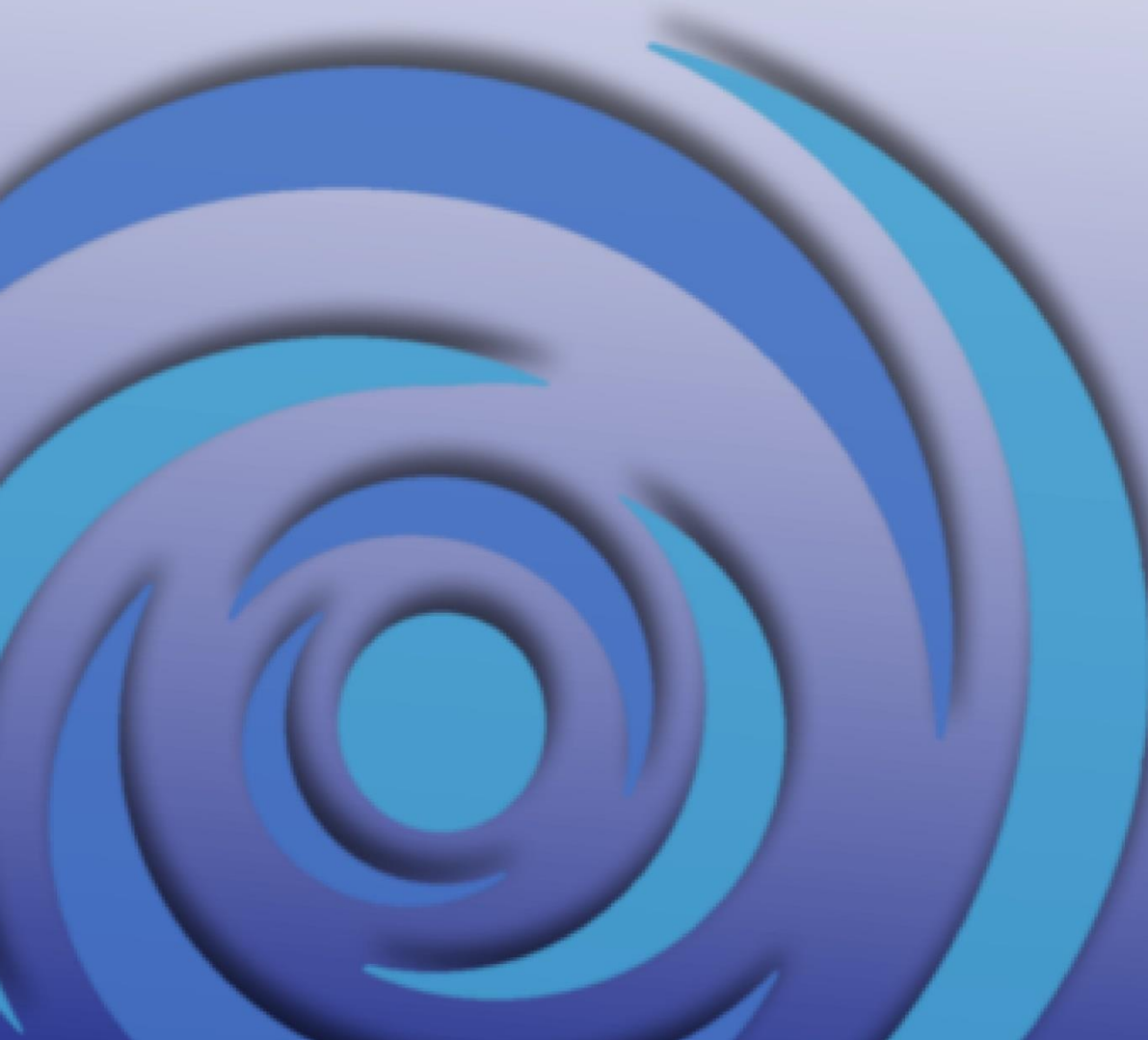


Table of Contents

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION	3
SECTION 2: PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT	3
2.1. Action planning	3
2.2 SWOT ANALYSIS	6
SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS	8
SECTION 4: FINANCING (HISTORIC AND CURRENT)	8
SECTION 5: STRATEGIC OFFERING OF SAHS	8
5.1 Vision	8
5.2 Mission	8
5.3 Mandate	9
5.4 Tagline	9
5. Key Strategic Focus Areas	9
SECTION 6: RISK ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION	10
SECTION 7: TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION	11
SECTION 8: SAHS' COMMUNICATION STRATEGY	11
8.1 Website	12
8.2 Newsletter	12
8.3 Social Media	13
8.4 Conferences and Workshops	13
8.5 Awards	13
8.6 Partnerships	13
8.7. Outreach	14
Review and endorsement	14
Conclusion	14

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The South African Hydrological Society (SAHS) was formally established last year in October 2022 to promote the science and practice of hydrology in South Africa. It is expected that it will become a leading voice in the hydrological sector in South Africa. It serves as a platform for sharing knowledge, building capacity, and fostering collaborations among practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers in the field of hydrology and other cross-cutting disciplines.

The hydrological sector is critical for the sustainable development of South Africa. It is essential for ensuring water security, managing water resources, mitigating the impacts of floods and droughts, and protecting the environment. The SAHS plays a crucial role in advancing the hydrological sector in South Africa through various activities such as conferences, workshops, publications, and networking opportunities.

This strategic plan document outlines the roadmap for the SAHS for the next five years (2023-2028). The plan aims to provide a clear direction for the Society, with specific objectives and actions to achieve its vision of becoming a leading hydrological society in Africa.

SECTION 2: PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT

The development of this strategic plan involved a consultative and participatory process, which included the following steps:

2.1. Action planning

The SAHS developed a set of specific actions for each strategic objective, with timelines, responsible parties, and performance indicators. It will focus on increasing knowledge, disaster risk reduction, local capacity building, and public engagement to achieve its goals. The implementation plan outlined in the table above will guide the SAHS in achieving these objectives and contributing to the sustainable management of water resources in South Africa.

The table below outlines the objectives, strategies, and actions that the SAHS will undertake to achieve its goals.

FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	ACTION
a) To accelerate hydrological understanding of hydrological processes at local and regional scale, and how they interact and affect water resources	Increase knowledge base	Research collaboration	Partner with research institutions to conduct joint research on hydrological processes
		Awareness creation	Organize seminars and workshops to raise awareness of hydrological processes and their effects on water resources
b) To contribute to managing current crises and to avoid or reduce future water crisis	Promoting the use of innovative hydrological tools and technologies to contribute to Disaster Risk Reduction	Contribute to development of Early warning system	Contribute to development and participate in platforms to promote early warning systems for potential water-related disasters
		Emergency response	Participate in emergency response plans and train emergency responders on water-related disasters
c) To build capacity in local societies and learn from local experience for solutions acceptability, affordability, accessibility, and equitability	Local capacity building	Training and Education	Provide training and education on hydrological processes to local communities
		Partnerships	Develop partnerships with local organizations to build capacity and improve the acceptability, affordability, accessibility, and equitability of solutions
d) To reinforce communication	Public engagement	Outreach programs	Develop and implement outreach programs to engage

skills and engage with the general public and citizens			the public on hydrological processes and water resources
		Social media	Develop and maintain social media platforms to disseminate information and engage the public on hydrological processes and water resources

2.2 SWOT ANALYSIS

The SAHS conducted a SWOT analysis to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Society. This analysis will help us identify areas of improvement and potential growth for the SAHS. The following is a SWOT analysis of the SAHS:

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strong Membership Base: The SAHS has a strong and dedicated membership base of hydrologists, water resource managers, academics, and other professionals working in the field of hydrology.▪ Reputation and Credibility: SAHS has a strong reputation and credibility in the field of hydrology in South Africa and beyond. The society has been active for over 40 years and has established itself as a leading organization in promoting excellence in hydrology.▪ Active Engagement: SAHS engages actively with its members through conferences, workshops, and other events, as well as through its website and social media platforms.▪ Collaboration with Other Organizations: The SAHS collaborates with other organizations and institutions, such as the Water Research Commission, to promote research and innovation in the field of hydrology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Limited Funding: The SAHS relies on membership fees and sponsorship for its activities and events. Limited funding may hinder the society's ability to organize and host conferences and workshops.▪ Limited Diversity: The SAHS membership is predominantly made up of white, male professionals. There is a need to promote diversity and inclusivity within the society.▪ Limited skills pool: The hydrological sector is faced with a skills shortage, especially within the government sector.▪ Limited Engagement with Young Professionals: The SAHS may struggle to engage with young professionals who may not be aware of the benefits of joining the society.▪ Limited Outreach: The SAHS may struggle to reach out to stakeholders outside of the society, such as government agencies and the general public, to promote the importance of hydrology.

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration with International Organizations: The SAHS has the opportunity to collaborate with international organizations, such as the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, to promote research and innovation in hydrology. ▪ Government Partnerships: The SAHS has the opportunity to partner with government agencies to provide expert advice and guidance on hydrological issues. ▪ Technology Advancements: The advancement of technology in hydrology provides opportunities for the SAHS to promote research and innovation in the field. ▪ Growth in the Hydrological Sector: The growth in the hydrological sector in South Africa provides opportunities for the SAHS to expand its membership base and influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change: Climate change poses a threat to hydrological systems and may lead to changes in hydrological patterns and water availability. This may require the SAHS to adapt its activities and focus on emerging hydrological issues. ▪ Competition from Other Organizations: The SAHS may face competition from other organizations and institutions in promoting hydrology in South Africa. ▪ Limited Awareness: Limited awareness about the importance of hydrology and the role of the SAHS may hinder the society's ability to reach out to stakeholders outside of the society.

The SWOT analysis highlights the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the SAHS faces. The society can use this analysis to develop strategies to overcome its weaknesses, capitalize on its strengths, and take advantage of emerging opportunities in the field of hydrology. It is important to note that the success of these strategies will depend on the active participation and contribution of our members, and we look forward to working together towards this shared vision.

SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The SAHS is governed by an Executive Committee, which is elected by the members of the Society. The Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to five additional members. The Executive Committee is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Society, including the implementation of the strategic plan.

The SAHS is a non-profit organization and is registered as a Section 21 company under the South African Companies Act. The Society is also recognized as a professional association by the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).

SECTION 4: FINANCING (HISTORIC AND CURRENT)

The SAHS relies on membership fees, sponsorships, and conference income to finance its activities. The Society has a track record of financial sustainability, with a balanced budget and positive cash flow in recent years.

The SAHS has also secured funding from various sources to support specific initiatives such as research projects, capacity-building programs, and outreach activities. The Society will continue to explore opportunities for securing funding to support its strategic objectives.

SECTION 5: STRATEGIC OFFERING OF SAHS

5.1 Vision

To become a leading hydrological society in Africa, advancing the science and practice of hydrology for sustainable development.

5.2 Mission

To develop a society for knowledge and experience sharing, focusing on investigating the relationship between hydrology and society, identifying, and reconciling all water-related factors in a coordinated

manner, and formulating and implementing water management strategies and policies using systematic approaches.

5.3 Mandate

To promote the science and practice of hydrology in South Africa through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and networking amongst practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers in the field of hydrology.

5.4 Tagline

“Leading the way in hydrological science and practice”

The tagline is to be consistently used as follows:

“The South African Hydrological Society, leading the way in hydrological science and practice.”

5. Key Strategic Focus Areas

a) To accelerate hydrological understanding of hydrological processes at local and regional scale, and how they interact and affect water resources through:

- Promoting the integration of hydrological knowledge and skills in related disciplines
- Promoting the use of hydrological information and data for decision-making
- Advocating for the recognition and value of the hydrological sector in South Africa
- Providing mentorship and support for emerging hydrological professionals
- Strengthening the SAHS brand and reputation as a leading hydrological society in Africa

b) To contribute to managing current crises and to avoid or reduce future water crisis through:

- Promoting excellence in hydrological research and practice.
- Promoting the use of innovative hydrological tools and technologies.
- Strengthening organizational sustainability and governance.

- Ensuring effective and efficient management and administration of SAHS.
- Maintaining financial sustainability and diversifying funding sources.
- Promoting good governance and ethical conduct in all SAHS activities
- Facilitating the dissemination and uptake of research findings in the hydrological sector.

c) To build capacity in local societies and learn from local experience for solutions acceptability, affordability, accessibility, and equitability through:

- Enhancing hydrological education and capacity building.
- Expanding the membership base and stakeholder networks of SAHS.
- Engaging with and involving stakeholders in the hydrological sector.
- Fostering stakeholder engagement and participation.

d) To reinforce communication skills and engage with the general public and citizens through:

- Fostering collaboration between hydrological researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers.
- Enhancing the visibility and impact of SAHS.
- Developing and promoting hydrological education and training programs.
- Increasing the reach and impact of SAHS activities and initiatives.

SECTION 6: RISK ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION

The SAHS has identified the following risks to the successful implementation of its strategic plan and has developed corresponding mitigation actions:

Identified Risk	Risk Description	Mitigation Plan
1. Financial sustainability	The SAHS relies on membership fees and sponsorships for its funding, which may not be sufficient to support all planned activities.	Mitigation actions: Explore alternative funding sources, such as grants and donations, diversify revenue streams, and ensure efficient and effective use of resources.
2. Capacity	The SAHS may not have sufficient human resources to implement all planned activities	Develop and implement a volunteer program to engage members in activities, partner with other organizations to share resources, and prioritize activities based on available capacity

3. Stakeholder engagement	The SAHS may not be able to engage and involve all relevant stakeholders in its activities.	Develop targeted communication and engagement strategies for different stakeholder groups, build partnerships with relevant organizations to expand reach and influence, and regularly evaluate stakeholder feedback and adjust strategies as needed
4. Governance	The SAHS may face challenges in ensuring effective governance and ethical conduct in its activities.	Establish and adhere to robust governance and ethical codes and policies, regularly review, and assess governance processes and structures, and ensure transparency and accountability in all activities.

SECTION 7: TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

The successful implementation of the SAHS strategic plan will require a coordinated and collaborative effort from all stakeholders. The Society will take the following steps towards implementation:

- Develop a detailed implementation plan with specific actions, timelines, responsible parties, and performance indicators for each strategic focus area.
- Assign clear roles and responsibilities for implementation and establish mechanisms for regular reporting and monitoring of progress.
- Regularly review and evaluate progress against the implementation plan and adjust strategies as needed to ensure alignment with the overall vision and objectives.
- Engage and involve members and stakeholders in the implementation process through communication, consultation, and participation in activities.
- Establish a culture of learning and improvement by regularly reflecting on lessons learned and best practices from other organizations and sectors.

SECTION 8: SAHS' COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The communication strategy of the Hydrological Society of South Africa (SAHS) is to ensure that our members are effectively engaged and informed about the latest developments, opportunities, and challenges in the field of hydrology. Communication is key to achieving this objective, and thus, a comprehensive communication strategy for the SAHS is imperative.

The strategy is aimed at enhancing the engagement, collaboration, and impact of our members. By providing a range of platforms and opportunities for communication and knowledge sharing, the SAHS will be able to advance the science and practice of hydrology in South Africa and beyond. The success of the strategy will depend on the active participation and contribution of our members, and we look forward to working together towards this shared vision.

The communication strategy comprises a series of activities and initiatives that aim to enhance the visibility, credibility, and impact of the SAHS, as well as to foster a sense of community and collaboration among our members. The following sections describe the key components of the strategy:

8.1 Website

The SAHS website will serve as the primary platform for communication and information sharing. The website will be designed to be user-friendly, easy to navigate, and accessible on all devices. It will include the following sections:

a) About Us	This section will provide an overview of the SAHS, including our mission, vision, and values.
b) Membership	This section will contain information about membership benefits, fees, and how to join the society.
c) Events	This section will feature details about upcoming conferences, workshops, seminars, and other events related to hydrology.
d) Publications	This section will showcase the latest research articles, reports, and publications by our members, as well as the SAHS newsletter
e) Resources	This section will provide access to relevant hydrological data, tools, and software.
f) Contact Us	This section will include contact details of the SAHS office bearers and staff.

Any additional sections may be added when required and fully approved by the relevant authority.

8.2 Newsletter

The SAHS will publish a quarterly newsletter that will be distributed to all members via email. The newsletter will feature articles on recent developments in hydrology, member profiles, event updates,

and other news related to society. Members will be encouraged to contribute articles and share their research findings and experiences.

8.3 Social Media

The SAHS will maintain an active presence on social media platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. The social media pages will be used to share news, updates, and interesting articles related to hydrology. Members will also be encouraged to share their own research findings and engage in discussions on these platforms.

8.4 Conferences and Workshops

The SAHS will organize and host biennial symposiums, workshops, and seminars on a regular basis. These events will provide opportunities for members to network, share their research findings, and learn from each other. The events will be advertised on the SAHS website, newsletter, and social media pages.

8.5 Awards

The SAHS will introduce awards to recognize the achievements and contributions of our members. These awards will include categories such as Best Paper, Best Poster, and Outstanding Contribution to Hydrology. The awards will be presented at our symposium, and winners will receive a certificate and other prizes/ rewards.

8.6 Partnerships

The SAHS will seek partnerships with other organizations and institutions that share our vision and goals. These partnerships will provide opportunities for collaboration, joint research projects, and funding opportunities.

8.7. Outreach

The SAHS will engage with stakeholders outside the society, such as government agencies, NGOs, and the general public. This will be achieved through public talks, media interviews, and participation in relevant forums and events. The outreach activities will aim to raise awareness about the importance of hydrology and the role of the SAHS in promoting excellence in this field.

Review and endorsement

The strategy will be reviewed every five years or as and when required. All necessary approval processes by the Council will be adhered to.

Conclusion

The SAHS is well-positioned to contribute to the advancement of the hydrological sector in South Africa and Africa as a whole. This strategic plan provides a clear direction for the Society, with specific objectives and actions to achieve its vision of becoming a leading hydrological society in Africa. The successful implementation of this plan will require a coordinated and collaborative effort from all stakeholders, and the Society is committed to working towards this goal.