



HOSTS

Ministry of
Communications
and Innovation

Botswana International
University of Science
and Technology

African Astronomical
Society

22ND - 27TH MARCH 2026

African Astronomical Society Conference

ASTRONOMY ON SAFARI

KASANE, BOTSWANA

Photo credit: www.botswanasafari.co.za



📍 Kubu Island, Makgadikgadi Pans, Botswana

The 2026 African Astronomical Society Conference

The African Astronomical Society (AfAS) is a Pan-African Professional Society of Astronomers, registered in South Africa, **as a non-profit, voluntary society**. Its primary aim is to develop astronomy and human capacity throughout Africa. In pursuit of this mandate Botswana is proud to host the **2026 African Astronomical Society Conference**, which will take place in Kasane **from 22 to 27 March 2026**, co-hosted by the Ministry of Communications and Innovation and the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST). The conference will advance astronomy, foster innovation, and build STEM capacity in Africa, strengthening the pipeline of students, policymakers, scientists, engineers, and enthusiasts from across the continent and the world to explore state of the art developments in astronomical science and engineering.

We are delighted to invite your organisation to be part of Africa's Astronomy Milestone as an **Official Conference Sponsor**. This is a unique opportunity to gain visibility and connect with a diverse global audience while contributing to **Botswana's Vision 2036** of becoming a knowledge-driven economy, the **Millennium Development Goals in education, innovation, and scientific capacity building**, as well as the **African Union's Agenda 2063**, which envisions a prosperous, technologically advanced, and globally competitive Africa. By partnering with leading institutions at the forefront of innovation, your organisation will be positioned alongside global thought leaders, demonstrating your commitment to shaping the future and expanding your influence across Africa and beyond.



About AfAS

AfAS is a professional society for astronomers in Africa. It has members from across the continent and it is based in Cape Town, South Africa. The society's primary aim is to develop astronomy and human capacity throughout the continent. This is achieved through:

- **Capacity Building:** The society supports training, research collaboration and the development of astronomy infrastructure across Africa.
- **Policy Advocacy:** AfAS engages with governments and international bodies to promote astronomy for development and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

AfAS actively promotes **collaboration** between institutions, researchers and students across Africa and the global community.

About BIUST

BIUST is a public University registered in Botswana (CAP57:05). It is a premier research-based University of Science, Engineering and Technology (STEM), internationally recognised for its quality and excellence, research and innovation, and engagement. Primarily, BIUST was established to assist to the Government of Botswana in its economic diversification strategy. The university is mandated to **develop astronomy in Botswana**. At present, it is establishing a radio astronomy observatory that is designed to co-locate multiple observational instruments. Additionally, through its Physics and Astronomy department, BIUST is fostering theoretical and observational research, driving innovation in the field of study.



Conference Programme

The conference programme is set to offer an engaging experience that is designed to inspire innovation and knowledge exchange. The following will be featured:

- Talks
 - Plenary talks by seasoned professionals and industry leaders
 - Science and engineering sessions led by lecturers and students
 - Community engagement and outreach talks
- Poster presentations
- Networking sessions and dedicated meetings
- Public outreach events
- Workshops

In addition to intellectual pursuits, the conference will encourage collaboration and unity through these social events:

- Welcome reception
- Opening ceremony
- Game drive and boat cruise excursion
- Stargazing and culture night
- Gala dinner

Value Proposition

“Turn Vision into Impact, Back Africa’s Astronomy Milestone”

Sponsoring this historic conference positions your brand as a driver of STEM growth, innovation, and global collaboration that will shape generations.

Strategic Value Pillars

Global Visibility: Showcase your brand alongside leading institutions and global thought leaders, gaining prominent exposure across media channels and digital platforms throughout Africa and beyond.

Innovation Leadership: Position your organisation at the forefront of cutting-edge astronomical research and STEM advancements, demonstrating your commitment to driving scientific discovery and technological progress.

Human Capital Development: Support the growth of Africa’s future scientists, engineers, educators, and technical professionals through knowledge exchange, mentorship, and skills development initiatives.

Economic & Social Impact: Contribute to Botswana’s Vision 2036 of a knowledge-driven economy while fostering opportunities in emerging sectors such as astro-tourism and knowledge-based industries that benefit communities and stakeholders.

Strategic Partnerships: Build lasting relationships with policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, creating opportunities for collaboration and influence that extend far beyond the conference.

As a **PARTNER**, your brand will stand at the forefront of Africa’s scientific future, gaining global visibility, direct access to top scientists and policymakers, and the chance to showcase your leadership in driving science, education, and sustainable development.

Botswana Astronomy Program Partners



How You Can Get Involved

Exhibit with us

Partitioned Shell Exhibition Stall

Items included with the stand:

- 1 Table
- 3 Chairs
- 1 Electric outlet
- 1 Bin

Optional:

- Reception desk
- Digital display unit



Custom Exhibition Stand

Select a prime exhibition spot, where you will be provided with a power outlet. Customise your space according to your preference with the following:

- Branded graphics
- Furniture
- Digital display units
- Welcome desk
- Interactive elements
- Lighting
- Flooring
- Interactive stations
- Audio-visual equipment
- Promotional materials

Benefits



- Exhibitor logo, profile and website url will be placed on the AfAS conference website.
- 2 Complimentary full registration tickets with access to conference talks, meals and activities.

Cost Options



- Partitioned Shell Exhibition Stall: \$800.00 (P10 000.00)
- Custom Exhibition Stand Floor Space & Power: \$800.00 (P10 000.00)

How You Can Get Involved

Partner with us

Service Provider Sponsor

Hospitality Sponsor

The Ask

- Discounted accommodation rates for 150 conference attendees catering for:
 - VIP suites
 - Standard rooms
 - Shared rooms

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Accommodation rights to conference visitors
- Recognition as Official Hospitality Partner
- Preferred provider status for future AfAS events in Botswana

Media Partner

The Ask

- Media coverage:
 - Advertising space and promotions
 - Conference coverage in-terms of live broadcasting and interviews

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Exclusive rights for coverage and interview slots
- Recognition as the official media partner during opening and closing ceremonies
- Access to networking with policymakers and international visitors.

Logistics Partner

The Ask

- Discounted rates for transporting participants to the conference and its activities:
 - Flights
 - Shuttle services
 - Game drive and boat cruise for 150 conference attendees

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Recognition as the Official Transportation Partner in all event materials
- Opportunity to offer package deals to conference attendees

How You Can Get Involved

Partner with us

Refreshment Sponsor

The Ask

- Provision of beverages for the welcome reception, stargazing night and the conference gala dinner

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Acknowledgement as Official Refreshment Partner in all printed and digital media
- Product placement during networking sessions and receptions

Connectivity Sponsor

The Ask

- Provision of high speed internet access (~200 mb/s uplink and downlink) for hybrid conference activities, such as: live-streaming, talks and poster presentation broadcasting and free-event wifi.

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Prominent branding on live-streamed sessions and Wi-Fi login page
- Recognition as the Official connectivity Partner
- Opportunity to showcase Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aligned with STEM and education

Venue Sponsor

The Ask

- Discounted rates for conferencing facilities for the pre-conference workshops and the conference itself.

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Recognition as Official Venue Partner
- Media coverage highlighting contribution to hosting a major international event
- Opportunity to market what the establishment offers

Branding and Marketing Sponsor

The Ask

- Discounted rates for branding material and exhibition stalls.

The Benefits

- Branding on the conference website and posters
- Recognition as Official Branding Partner
- Opportunity to showcase Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aligned with STEM and education

How You Can Get Involved

Partner with us

Financial Provider Sponsor

Diamond Sponsor

\$75 000.00 (P1 000 000.00 +)

Benefits

- Long term advertising and marketing strategy. Involvement in all build up media interviews to show true partnership in impacting student lives, their educators, the research community and the public.
- Naming rights, "The 2026 AfAS Conference in Partnership with the **Diamond Sponsor.**"
- Exclusive recognition, only one Diamond Sponsorship package available.
- Priority branding at all conference materials and digital platforms
- Speaking opportunity during opening ceremony
- Full-page advertisement in the conference program
- Reserved VIP seating and networking opportunities with key stakeholders for 5 tickets
- Complimentary exhibition booth

Gold Sponsor

\$20 000.00 (P300 000.00 +)

Benefits

- Gold Sponsor recognition in printed/digital materials
- Half-page advertisement in the conference program
- Complimentary exhibition booth
- 4 VIP networking dinner tickets

Silver Sponsor

\$10 000.00 (P150 000.00 +)

Benefits

- Silver Sponsor recognition on conference platforms
- Logo placement on the conference website
- Discounted exhibition space
- Recognition during conference sessions
- 3 VIP networking dinner tickets

Bronze Sponsor

\$5 000.00 (P50 000.00 +)

Benefits

- Bronze Sponsor recognition on selected digital and printed materials
- Logo inclusion in the conference program
- Opportunity to include branded merchandise for delegates
- 2 VIP networking dinner tickets



 Kazungula Bridge, Botswana

2026 AfAS Conference Partnering Organisations

Join these leading institutions



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