

Celebrating the Advancement of Entomology in Africa: XXIII International Congress of Entomology, Durban, 6–12 July 2008

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XXIII ICE was hosted by the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA), which was founded in 1937. The main emphasis of the society is to promote entomology within the African context by hosting biennial national congresses and publishing its peer-reviewed journal, *African Entomology*.

The Executive Committee of ESSA in 2003–2004, made up of Shirley Hanrahan (journal editor), Robin Crewe (president), Helmuth Zimmermann and Jan Giliomee (vice presidents), decided that the society should put in a bid to host the next ICE. The bid was presented by Shirley Hanrahan, who was the main driving force. Considering its relatively small membership (only about 350 individual members at any given time) and limited infrastructure and resources, the society was evidently punching above its weight in winning the bid and going forward to host a successful international event. Sadly, Shirley Hanrahan passed away in 2018.

The Organizing Committee

Having secured the services of Turners Conferences and Conventions, one of South Africa's foremost professional congress organizers, the society wanted the various committees to be kept small to easily interact with Turners. With this in mind, the management of the congress was structured as shown in Table 15.1.

The main function of the Management Committee (Fig. 15.1) was the overall strategic planning, management, and monitoring of all activities pertaining to the hosting of the congress. The additional members of the Management Committee acted as the chairpersons of subcommittees. The Scientific Program subcommittee was responsible for compiling the science program and editing the abstracts. The members of the Social Events subcommittee planned all of the social events, other than those offered by commercial companies in collaboration with Turners Conferences. The Financial and Sponsorship subcommittee served as a link between the management committee and Turners Conferences, who managed the congress budget, finances, and sponsorships. Realizing the importance of involving colleagues from across Africa in the congress, the purpose of the African Liaison subcommittee was to work with these colleagues about issues related to hosting the congress on the African continent. The Local Organizing