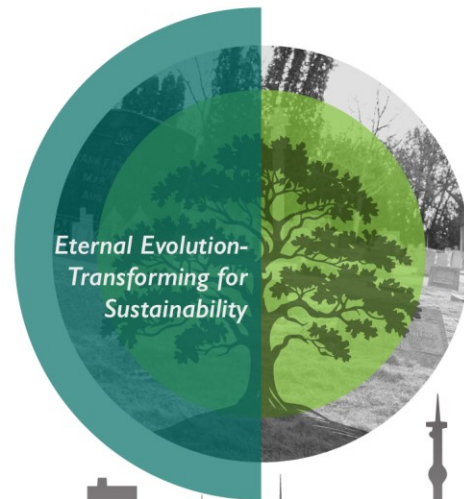




SOUTH AFRICAN CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025, 25-27 AUGUST

Brixton Multipurpose Centre, 78 Foyle Ave, Mayfair West, Johannesburg



SACA FAQ'S

1. What is the South African Cemeteries Association (SACA)?

SACA is a registered non-profit organisation that brings together volunteer municipal cemetery and crematoria officials, policy-makers, environmental planners, funeral industry professionals, researchers, and other stakeholders. Its mission is to promote dignity, sustainability, and innovation in cemetery and crematoria services through knowledge-sharing, policy development, training, and advocacy.

2. What is the SACA National Conference?

The SACA National Conference is a three-day platform for thought leaders, industry professionals, and community stakeholders to share insights, best practices, and solutions for the future of cemetery and crematoria management. The 2025 conference will be held from 25–27 August 2025 at the Brixton Multipurpose Centre in Johannesburg under the theme “Eternal Evolution – Transforming for Sustainability.”

3. What are the current challenges facing cemetery and crematoria management in South Africa?

- Land Scarcity – Many municipalities are running out of burial space, particularly in urban centres.
- Environmental Pressures – Traditional burial practices can contribute to land degradation and environmental pollution.
- Vandalism & Security Issues – Increased incidents of vandalism and theft in cemeteries compromise safety and dignity.
- Policy Gaps – Outdated regulations can slow the adoption of sustainable alternatives.
- Cultural Sensitivities – Balancing modern solutions with deeply held cultural and religious traditions.

4. How do these challenges compare to global trends?

Globally, cities are facing similar challenges:

- In Europe and Asia, land shortages have led to innovations such as vertical cemeteries and re-usable burial plots.
- In North America, cremation rates now exceed traditional burials, driven by cost and environmental considerations.



- In Australia and New Zealand, green burials and natural memorial parks are increasingly common.
- South Africa's situation mirrors these global patterns but is compounded by unique cultural diversity and the legacy of unequal urban planning.

5. What are some alternative and sustainable burial practices?

- Green/Natural Burials – Using biodegradable coffins or shrouds without embalming chemicals.
- Biodegradable Urns – Containing seeds or plants that grow into trees, turning remains into living memorials.
- Aquamation (Alkaline Hydrolysis) – A water-based process that is more energy-efficient than cremation.
- Human Composting (Natural Organic Reduction) – Transforming remains into nutrient-rich soil for environmental restoration.
- Digital Memorials – Reducing physical space needs by creating virtual remembrance spaces.

6. What topics will be discussed at the 2025 conference?

Key presentations will cover:

- Sustainable cemetery innovations in major South African cities.
- Eco-friendly memorial alternatives.
- Green infrastructure to combat vandalism.
- Integrating cultural heritage with modern cemetery management.
- Climate resilience and cemetery design.
- Burial space innovations in Zimbabwe.
- Forensic pathology challenges in handling unidentified bodies.

7. Who should attend the SACA National Conference?

Municipal leaders, urban planners, environmental specialists, cultural heritage practitioners, funeral service providers, academics, policy-makers, and community representatives.

8. How will the conference help address these challenges?

It will:

- Encourage collaboration between sectors.
- Share case studies and innovative solutions.
- Provide a platform for policy alignment.

- Promote inclusive, sustainable, and respectful practices for burial and memorialisation.

9. How can I register or get more information?

Visit www.sa-cca.org.za or email admin@sa-cca.org.za. Media and delegates should register early to secure their participation.