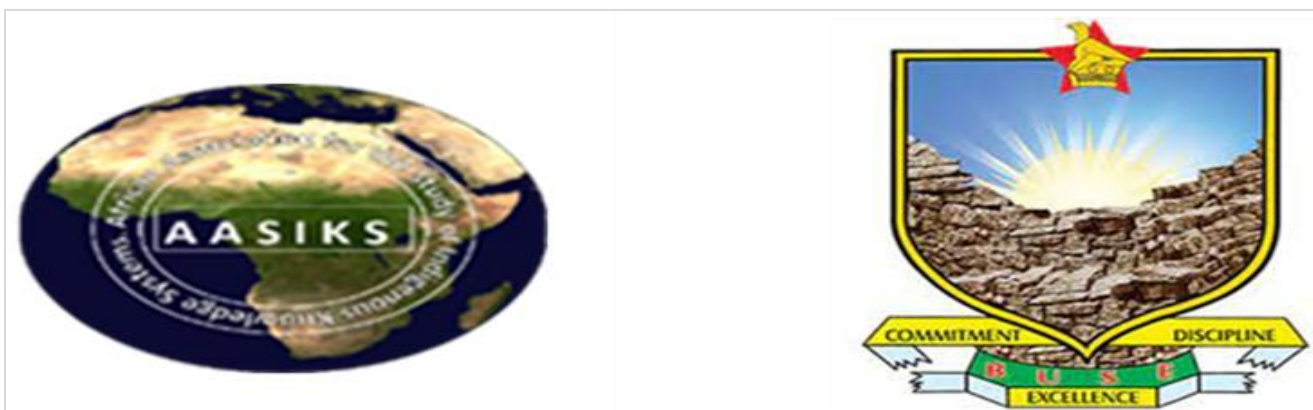


1ST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

9th Annual International Conference

African Association for the Study of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AASIKS)

18-21 August, 2026



Hosted by

**BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
BINDURA, ZIMBABWE**

CONFERENCE THEME

Centring African Indigenous Knowledge: Navigating Global Shocks and Technological Frontiers for Resilient Futures

Amid escalating global shocks - from climate change and pandemics to economic volatility and geopolitical shifts - and rapid technological change, African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS) remain vital, living assets. They contribute directly to resilient societies, sustainable development, economic competitiveness, and social justice across the continent. As African countries navigate these pressures, integrating AIKS across national sectors has become increasingly urgent. Doing so supports citizen needs, strengthens responses to technological change, and shapes labour markets that draw on local knowledge and context. Engaging AIKS provides innovative, culturally grounded, and environmentally sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges. This 2026 AASIKS conference will showcase best practices, identify success factors, examine enabling conditions, address challenges, and highlight opportunities unique to Africa. Ultimately, it seeks to strengthen collaboration and excellence in higher education, research, and policy - positioning AIKS at the centre of Africa's path toward a resilient, self-determined future.

Rationale

Globally, communities face climate change, environmental degradation, persistent inequality, food insecurity, youth unemployment, and systemic exclusion in knowledge production - challenges that expose the limits of dominant and hegemonic paradigms and underscore the urgency of recentring Indigenous epistemologies to shape just, resilient, and sustainable futures. Concurrently, emerging technologies - including AI, big data, and digital preservation - pose risks of cultural erasure while also creating opportunities for revitalisation, documentation, and sovereignty when guided by Indigenous values and governance. This conference situates Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) as co-equal, future-making knowledge for policy, education, innovation, and sustainable development.

The conference also advances the African Union Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration 5: “An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics.” It further impacts Aspirations 1 and 6, as well as Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) priorities under continental frameworks, by fostering dialogue among Indigenous knowledge holders, researchers, technologists, and policymakers to co-create hybrid knowledge systems suited to African realities. In essence, the conference seeks to deepen the advancement of Indigenous Knowledge Systems not as outdated traditions, but as significant pillars of Africa’s knowledge economy, epistemic transformation, and sustainable development agenda.

Conference Aims & Objectives

- Position IKS as a robust paradigm for social, cultural, educational, economic, and ecological transformation.
- Nurture inclusive innovation ecosystems that recognise communities as co-producers of knowledge.
- Deepen ethical and methodological standards for IKS-centred scholarship and community-engaged decolonial research.
- Shape governance and policy frameworks that protect intellectual property (IP), data sovereignty, and community rights.
- Strengthen inter-, multi-, and trans-disciplinary collaboration among communities, academia, government, and industry.
- Position Africa as a thought leader in global exchanges on decoloniality, sustainability, and knowledge pluralism.

Expected Outcomes

Upon completion of this conference, participants and stakeholders can anticipate the following tangible outcomes:

- A comprehensive set of policy recommendations for integrating AIKS into national development frameworks across Africa.
- Enhancement of the pan-African research network on Indigenous Knowledge Systems, facilitating collaborative research projects and knowledge exchange across institutions.
- Development of ethical guidelines and best practices for community-engaged IKS research, to be adopted by participating universities and research institutions.
- Publication of an edited volume featuring peer-reviewed papers from the conference, targeting publication with reputable academic publishers.
- Formation of thematic working groups to advance specific areas of IKS research and application beyond the conference.
- Enhanced visibility and recognition of Indigenous Knowledge Systems in global academic and policy discourse.

Tracks & Sub-Themes

Track 1: Indigenous Knowledge, Epistemologies & Decolonial Research

- Foundational theories, philosophies, and methodologies of IKS.
- Decolonial, community-engaged, and ethical research practices.
- Intergenerational transmission and gendered/youth perspectives.

Track 2: Technology, Digital Futures & Data Sovereignty

- Digital transformation and AI in relation to IKS.
- Indigenous data governance, intellectual property, and digital rights.
- Cybersecurity and the ethical protection of archives and repositories.

Track 3: Climate Change, Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

- Indigenous ecological knowledge and stewardship.
- Climate mitigation, adaptation, and food systems.
- Land-based knowledge and holistic ecological wisdom.

Track 4: Governance, Rights, Policy & Social Justice

- Indigenous governance systems and institutions.
- Rights-based approaches and comparative policy analysis.
- Land, identity, equity, restorative justice, and conflict resolution.

Track 5: Cultural, Creative & Economic Expressions of IKS

- Arts, crafts, heritage, language, tourism, and creative industries.
- Indigenous entrepreneurship, livelihoods, and community economies.
- Makers' innovations and cultural markets.

Track 6: Quality Education & Knowledge Transmission

- Integrating IKS across STEM, social sciences, humanities, commerce, and educational curricula.
- Inclusive education, heritage-based education, and community learning systems.
- Indigenous Knowledge Integrated Quality assurance in across educational fields.
- Revitalising endangered languages, oral traditions, and knowledge transfer.
- Diaspora participation, and transnational exchanges.
- Translation challenges and epistemic loss.
- Multilingual publishing and scholarly communication in African languages.
- Sign languages and Indigenous deaf communities.

Track 7: Safety, Health and Wellness

- Traditional healing knowledge and practitioners
- Ethnobotany and medicinal plant sovereignty
- IKS in public health responses (including pandemics)
- IKS in public health responses (including pandemics).
- Mental health and indigenous wellbeing frameworks.
- Bioprospecting ethics and benefit-sharing
- Indigenous nutrition and food sovereignty

Contribution & Presentation Formats

AASIKS invites **scholars, researchers, practitioners, community knowledge holders, policymakers, students, artists, and innovators** to submit abstracts for the 2026 Annual International Conference. To encourage inclusive participation, the conference welcomes the following submission types:

- **Research Paper - Progressing Paper** (≤6,000 to ≤ 8,000 to words including references when complete)
- **Research Paper - Full Paper** (≤6,000 to ≤ 8,000 to words including references)
- **Posters, Panels & Roundtables:** thematic groupings, debates, and collaborative dialogues.
- **Symposia:** multi-presentation sessions organised around a unifying problem, method, or region.
- **Community-Led Presentations:** contributions from elders, knowledge holders, practitioners, and case-based storytelling.
- **Practice & Case Studies:** applied insights drawn from community or sector projects.
- **Cultural & Makers Showcase:** curated demonstrations, performances, crafts, and innovation exhibits.

Abstract and Submission Guidelines

We invite you to submit abstracts for symposium, individual paper, and poster presentations by 30 April 2026.

Abstract Requirements (Extended)

- Length: summary of the key components of the paper in 500-700 words.
- **Insert title, track/sub-theme**
- **List all authors, affiliations, and contact details as required Please indicate the corresponding author if there is more than one author.**
- **Provide background, context, significance, and purpose of the study. Objectives / Problem Statement and State the main research question(s) or objective(s) or hypothesis, Summarize the methodology inclusive of design data sources, tools, or analytical techniques,**
- Present key findings, trends, or outcomes without figures or tables with discussions or separately and conclusion.
- Include: 3-5 keywords.
- Formatting: APA 7th Edition; Times New Roman 12 pt; MS Word (.doc/ .docx) only (no PDFs).

File-Naming Convention

| Submission Type | File Name Format |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Progressing Paper | AASIKS2026_PP_SurnameInitial |
| Full Paper | AASIKS2026_FP_SurnameInitial |
| Poster | AASIKS2026_PO_SurnameInitial |
| Roundtable | AASIKS2026_RT_SurnameInitial |
| Symposium | AASIKS2026_SYM_SurnameInitial |

How to Submit

- Email aasiks@buse.ac.zw
- Subject line: aasiks2026 submission - [surname] - [format]
- All submissions will undergo **double-blind peer review** by a panel of seasoned academic scholars. Communication on abstract decision will be send to you by **14 May 2026**.
- **Registration and submission of the revised abstract, following acceptance of the original abstract, will be completed through a registration link that will be provided in the notification of acceptance.**

Important Dates

| Milestone | Date |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Abstract Submission Deadline | 30 April 2026 |
| Notification of Acceptance | 14 May 2026 |
| Revised Abstract Final Submission | 5 June 2026 |
| Early Bird Registration Deadline | 31 May 2026 |
| Deadline for Registrations | 31 July 2026 |
| Full Papers for Journal Publication | 30 October 2026 |

Publication Opportunities

Accepted and presented works will be included in the **AASIKS 2026 Book of Proceedings** (electronic). Selected high-quality submissions will be considered for **edited volumes** or **special journal issues** aligned with the conference theme.

A handbook on Centring African IKS: Navigating Global Shocks and Technological Frontiers for Resilient Futures publication by Routledge or Palgrave or any other publishers of repute.

Additionally, the conference provides authors with an opportunity to develop and publish their work as full journal papers. Presenters receive constructive feedback during conference sessions, which they can use to strengthen their manuscripts for journal submission. Full papers follow standard academic journal requirements, including: abstract, introduction, literature review or conceptual framework, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, discussion, and conclusion.

Conference Registration Fees

Register in one of our four membership categories and be part of an exciting IKS knowledge-sharing community you won't want to miss!

| Participant Category | Fee (USD) |
|---|------------|
| SADC and International Participants | USD 250.00 |
| Participants from AASIKS Member or Associated Member Institutions | USD 225.00 |
| Local Participants | USD 225.00 |
| Students | USD 150.00 |
| Early Bird Registration | USD 200.00 |

- **Details for payment will be provided in the registration link.**
- Request for an invoice from: bursar@buse.ac.zw copied to tshateyi@buse.ac.zw

AASIKS Membership & Fees

Join or renew your AASIKS membership. Choose from the available four categories subscribe for 2026.

| Membership Category | Annual Fee (ZAR) |
|--|------------------|
| Student Member | R300.00 |
| Ordinary Member (Affiliate) | R350.00 |
| Associate Member (Organizations e.g. Educational Institutions across levels) | R1 500.00 |
| Lifetime Member | R 5000.00 |

Direct deposits and electronic transfers must be made payable to AASIKS. Please use your “**SURNAME NAME**” as the deposit reference .After making payment, kindly email your proof of payment with the following reference format: **Ref: AASIKS2026_Surname Initials, Institution**

Banking Details

| Information | Details |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Bank | STANDARD BANK |
| Branch | TYGERMANOR |
| Account Name | African Association for the Study of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AASIKS) |
| Account Number | 270899960 |
| Account Currency | ZAR |
| Branch Code or Universal | 050410/051001 |
| Swift Code (International Banking) | SBZAZAJJICM |
| Physical Address | Tyger Manor, Marshalltown 2107, Cape Town, Western Cape, South Arica |
| Correspondent Bank Swift Code | SBZAZAJJ |
| Account number | 270899960 |

Visas, Travel & Accommodation

Conference Venue:

Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) is located approximately 88 km northeast of Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. The university's Multipurpose Hall provides modern conference facilities with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, and accessible infrastructure for all participants.

Travel Information:

- Nearest Airport: Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport (HRE) in Harare, with regular connections to major African cities and international hubs.
- Ground Transportation: Shuttle services will be available from Harare to Bindura. Detailed transport schedules will be provided in subsequent announcements.

- Visa Requirements: Many African nationals do not require visas for Zimbabwe. International participants are advised to check visa requirements with the nearest Zimbabwean embassy or consulate. The conference secretariat can provide invitation letters to support visa applications upon request.
- Participants are advised to **check visa requirements early**.

Accommodation Options:

Accommodation information will be available starting end of May 2026. Alternatively, you may contact us via email addresses. aasiks@buse.ac.zw copied to pnyszayo@buse.ac.zw; tchifamba@buse.ac.zw; suushona@unam.na

Social & Cultural Events

The conference will feature a rich cultural programme that celebrates African Indigenous Knowledge traditions

Exhibition Opportunities

Organisations, publishers, and institutions are invited to exhibit at the conference. Exhibition spaces will be available for:

- Academic publishers and book displays.
- Indigenous crafts and cultural products.
- Institutional showcases and recruitment.
- Technology demonstrations related to IKS documentation and preservation.

For exhibition inquiries, please contact the conference secretariat at: aasiks@buse.ac.zw

Contact & Further Information

AASIKS LOC 2026 Secretariat: aasiks@buse.ac.zw

Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) Website: <https://www.buse.ac.zw>

AASIKS Website & Updates: Under upgrading

About AASIKS

AASIKS is a continental scholarly community committed to centring Indigenous knowledge paradigms in research, education, policy, and practice - advancing rigorous, ethical, and transformative scholarship in partnership with communities across Africa and the diaspora.

