



Eliminating malaria from southern Africa: Message from NSTF Executive Director

According to the World Health Organisation, approximately 429 000 people died of malaria in 2015; the majority of victims were young children in Africa. The commemoration of [World Malaria Day 2017](#) on 25 April once again focused attention on the ongoing challenges in the fight to eradicate the disease. In South Africa, resistance to malaria drugs and control of mosquitoes that operate outdoors remain major problems. [Read more](#).



NSTF News

Proceedings of discussion forum now available

Delegates at the [discussion forum](#) on the implications of the US President's actions and policies for science and scientists agreed that the local science community should consider issuing a statement of support on relevant themes, such as resistance against the curtailing of US scientific endeavour. Factual information in response to the 'post-truth' phenomenon should also be disseminated, while promoting science communication and science activism. [Click here](#) to view the proceedings of the meeting.

2016/2017 NSTF-South32 Awards: Finalists to be announced soon

Over 130 nominees in 13 categories are once again competing this year for the prestigious annual [NSTF-South32 Awards](#). Seventeen awards will be made this year.

The adjudication panel of independent judges will announce the finalists around mid-May, so keep an eye on your mailbox.

Bursary Directory (sponsored by the Fuchs Foundation)

Learners and students interested in joining the exciting world of SET are encouraged to start applying early for 2018 bursaries. Opportunities currently available include bursaries from civil engineering firm [Jones & Wagener](#), the CSIR and [Transnet](#).

Visit the [NSTF Bursary Directory](#) to view the type of bursaries made available each year and read [inspiring stories](#) of bright individuals in SET.

Upcoming Discussion Forums

The [Discussion Forum](#) on Sustainable Tourism for Development, aligned with #IY2017, will take place on 13-14 June in Gauteng. Invitations will be sent out soon, so watch your mailbox.

Further topics for discussion in the NSTF programme for 2017 are planned as follows:

- Sustainable Development Goals 2030, September 2017, hosted by the [NSTF Science Councils sector](#)
- Language Issues in Schools, October 2017, during the school holidays so all educators are welcome to attend (for free)

Getting to know our award winners: Prof. Suprakas Sinha Ray

More than 80 researchers, engineers and technologists work under Prof. Ray's leadership at the [National Centre for Nano-structured Materials](#). The centre plays a leading role in the development of nanoscience and nanotechnology research and development in SA. Prof. Ray won the 2015/2016 [NSTF-South32 Award for management and related SET activities](#) over the past 5-10 years. [Click here](#) to read more about his work.



Featured SET policy: National Biodiversity Offset Policy

The National Biodiversity Offset Policy gives effect to the National Biodiversity Framework (2009), which explains it as follows:

"...A biodiversity offset involves setting aside land in the same or a similar ecosystem elsewhere, at the cost of the applicant, to ensure no net loss of important biodiversity.

Biodiversity offsets are particularly important in securing threatened ecosystems and critical biodiversity areas. They are already being implemented to some extent in South Africa, but in the absence of a legal or policy framework and thus with little consistency. Systematic application of biodiversity offsets could provide significant benefits at little cost to the fiscus".

Members of the public have until 31 May 2017 to submit comments on the policy to the Minister of Environmental Affairs. [Read more](#).

Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [National Environmental Management Act: Procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for large-scale wind and solar photovoltaic development](#) (Comments by 13 May 2017)
- [Higher Education Act: Report of Ministerial Task Team to develop a support and funding model for poor and 'missing middle' students: Extension of comments](#) (Deadline: 15 May 2017)

SET-related policy news

- [DMR to brief Western Cape communities on shale gas development](#) (Engineering News)
- [End to Eskom stalemate will unleash wind market in 2017](#) (Polity)
- [Minister Blade Nzimande announces new investment in university infrastructure](#) (Polity)
- [Gigaba slams Eskom's contradiction of government policy on renewables](#) (Engineering News)
- [Government sets ambitious target for R&D investment](#) (IT Web)
- [Solar body urges Energy Minister to provide revised PPA signing date](#) (Engineering News)
- [Unesco paper shows governments not keeping pace with growing demand for higher education](#) (en.unesco.org)



Upcoming SET Events

- [Pollution and Waste Technology Africa](#): Johannesburg, 6-8 June 2017
- [2017 Manufacturing Indaba](#): Ekurhuleni, 27-28 June 2017
- [66th Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities \(AMEU\) Convention 2017](#): Port Elizabeth, 8-11 October 2017
- [55th National Congress of the South African Association of Physicists in Medicine and Biology](#): Durban, 25-30 September 2017



proSET News

- [More South Africans are getting qualified, big jump in number of black learners in further education](#) (TimesLive)



SET Community News

Universities

- [Three SA varsities score top marks in world subject rankings](#) (TimesLive)

Industry Development

- [SA's hydrogen fuel cell programme making steady progress](#) (Engineering News)
- [Start-up developing SA's first production metal 3D-printer following \\$1.23m govt investment](#) (3ders.org)

Medicine

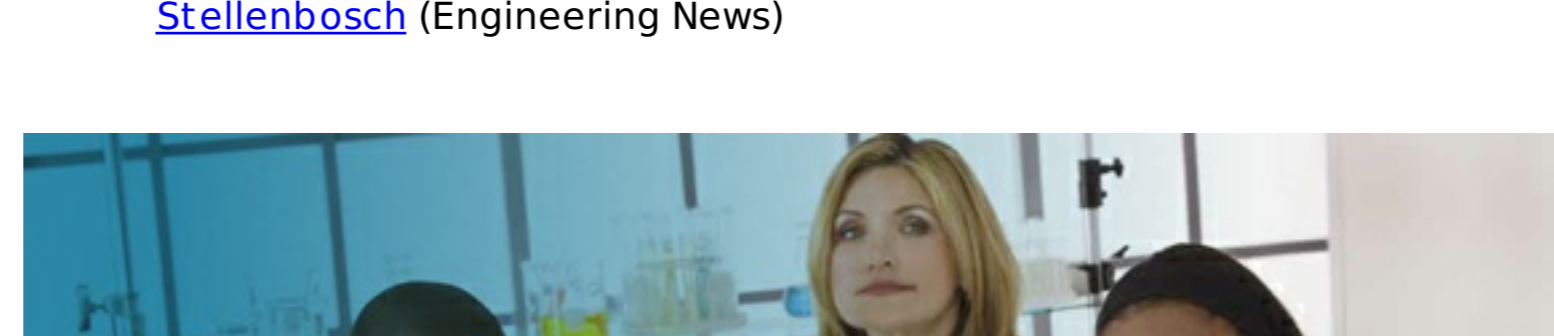
- [Researchers map prostate cancer tumour in new study](#) (Citizen)

Space science

- [SA researchers discover unusual planet](#) (Techcentral)
- [SA's space agency to support key Nepad programmes](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA nanosatellites to be launched soon as part of international project](#) (Engineering News)
- [International space project puts SA on the satellite-industry map](#) (screenafrica.com)
- [CSIR warns global shake-up in earth observation will affect SA sector](#) (Engineering News)

Environment, climate change and energy

- [Hot and dry weather after wildfires leads to decreased plant diversity](#) (buffalo.edu)
- [Online tool aids resilience to climate-change impacts](#) (scidev.net)
- [Eskom pumps R4m into renewable-energy research at Stellenbosch](#) (Engineering News)



People in SET

- [Wits academics featured in Time magazine](#) (Engineering News)

Please forward this e-mail to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons!

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to enquiries@nstf.co.za

Feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please e-mail the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za.

About the NSTF

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SET and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The [science bursaries](#) page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary.

Privacy: Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

For more information

www.nstf.co.za
 E-mail: enquiries@nstf.co.za
 Tel: 27 12 841 3987
 Fax: 27 12 841 3025
 Non Profit Company Registration Number: 2007/029165/08
 NPO Registration Number: 92042
 Donor tax exemption for all donations to the NSTF