



South African Wood Preservers Association

SAWPA AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2026 REGIONAL MEETINGS

Please note the dates **and times** for the 2nd round of SAWPA regional meetings for 2026 below.

Regional Meeting Schedule – August / September 2026

Mpumalanga	Monday, 24 August, 10:00 am	Badplaas
Southern/Eastern Cape	Wednesday, 26 August, 10:00 am	Pine Lodge - George
Gauteng & Northwest	Friday, 28 August, 10:00 am	SAWPA Office, ISANDO
Limpopo	Monday, 31 August, 10:00 am	Pietersburg Club
Western Cape	Wednesday, 2 September, 10:00 am	Vredenheim
KZN	Friday, 4 September, 9:00 am	Victoria CC

Members are reminded that each region need to appoint a Chairman at the upcoming meetings. To be transparent and fair, members are invited to submit nominations, agreed on by nominees, to admin@sawpa.co.za before the date of each meeting. Current regional Chairmen that confirmed their willingness and availability will form part of the nominations.

An official e-mail notice of each meeting will be circulated at least 30 days prior to a meeting so that members can RSVP whether they will attend for seating and catering arrangements. The notices will include a reminder for nominations and for any additional matters for discussion at each meeting.

IRG 57 Held in China



The 57th meeting of the International Research Group on Wood Protection was held in Beijing, China from 25 to 28 May 2026. The conference was attended by 204 delegates from 26 countries. A total of 120 papers and posters were presented under the following category sections and applicable working parties:

- Section 1 Biology: *WP 1.1 Microorganism, and WP 1.2 Insects & Marine borers*
- Section 2. Test Methodology and Assessment: *WP 2.1 Wood preservatives, WP 2.2 Fire retardants, WP 2.3 Other protecting chemicals, WP 2.4 Treatability of wood & quality control of processes & materials, and WP 2.5 Wood protection by design & new protection concepts*
- Section 3. Wood Protecting Chemicals: *WP 3.1 Thermal modification, WP 3.2 Chemical modification, WP 3.3 Other penetrating modifications, and WP 3.4 Surface modification*
- Section 4. Process and Properties: *WP 4.1 Laboratory & field performance, WP 4.2 Service life, WP 4.3 Wood-based composites, and WP 4.4 Analysis and standards*
- Section 5. Sustainability & Environment: *WP 5.3 Environmental impact, Health & safety aspects, and WP 5.4 Circular economy of wood products*

Special Session 1. *Bamboo and other Non-wood Building Materials*

Special session 2. *Plantation Timbers: Properties, Modification and Wood Protection*

The following are some of the papers of interest that were presented:

- 26-11088: Impact of termite-induced damage on the mechanical performance of timber
- 26-11093: The role of hemicellulose degradation in incipient wood decay by brown-rot and white-rot fungi
- 26-20761: Impact of secondary oil treatments on long-term wood preservative performance
- 26-20766: Development of smouldering inhibitors for copper-based preservative treated softwoods
- 26-20775: Preliminary development of an interpretable machine learning tool to verify treated timber penetration compliance
- 26-20779: Current status of wood protection in China
- 26-20784: Microwave treatment of *Eucalyptus grandis* × *urophylla*: Effects of comprehensive chemical and structural changes on the hygroscopic behaviour of eucalyptus
- 26-30835: Comparative analysis of weathering resistance in densified and thermally modified wood
- 26-30838: Overcoming the dimensional stability of compressed wood: An innovative strategy for structural materials
- 26-30848: A review of the manufacture, properties and performance of charred wood cladding
- 26-41050: 12-Year performance of polyurea-coated Douglas-fir timbers exposed in Hilo Hawaii
- 26-41052: Effect of preservative penetration and heartwood content on long-term above-ground durability of *Pinus radiata*
- 26-41057: Performance of self-tapping screws under climate-induced degradation in Australian chemically treated timber: Experimental evaluation and preliminary insights
- 26-41071: Field evaluation of ground contact durability and mechanical performance of boron-treated Scots pine CLT panels
- 26-41072: Field performance and mechanical behaviour of copper azole treated Scots pine CLT panels in ground contact conditions
- 26-50422: End-of-life utility poles in Australia: Quantifying the resource and pathways for timber circularity

Attached is a list (IRG 26-60578) of all the papers and poster that were presented. Members who are interested in any of the papers can contact us at admin@sawpa.co.za

The next IRG58 meeting will be hosted in Venice, Italy from 13 to 17 June 2027, and more information of the meeting can be viewed at <https://www.irg-wp.com/IRG58/index.html>

STANDARDS PUBLISHED

The SABS Standards webstore shows that SANS 10324:2026 Ed2, *Inspection and supplemental treatment of treated wooden poles used in ground contact* is available for sale, and according to the information in the webstore preview it was already approved in April 2026.

If there are members that are interested in obtaining a copy of the standard, SAWPA is willing to purchase a user license for the number of copies based on interest shown. The user license pricing works on a sliding scale according to number of copies of the user license, and pricing is discounted accordingly. Members can contact bruce@sawpa.co.za if interested in obtaining an electronic copy through SAWPA.

Kind Regards

SAWPA accepts no responsibility for any statement or claim made in this newsletter.