

South Africa



Name: South African National Committee on Tunnelling (SANCOT)

Type of Structure: SANCOT operates as a non profit, open association. It has operated as a tunnelling interest group under the umbrella of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) since 2003.

Number of Members: 300

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2021 AND TO DATE

- Held various SANCOT committee meetings, typically one meeting every second month.
- 2-Day Online Webinar, 20th – 21st October 2021- New approach to tunnelling and underground risk: Introduction to the FIDIC Emerald Book
- Held several organising committee meetings, for the SANCOT Symposium to be held in Cape Town/Western Cape in November 2022: Tunnel boring in civil engineering & mining
- Held several bid committee meetings to prepare Expression of Interest for hosting the World Tunnel Congress 2026 in Cape Town, in the Western Cape Province:
- Sustainable Development of Underground Space in an Urbanising World. Rising to the challenge: The role of underground space in shaping megacities of the future

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

Ongoing tunnelling work includes:

- Various micro tunnelling projects, mainly on the various metros.
- Underground development and decline access tunnelling on many mining projects.

New tunnelling work that commenced in 2021 includes:

- Buffalo City metropolitan municipality in the Eastern Cape: Construction of a sewer diversion tunnel using a TBM and associated civil works to allow for the diversion of effluent that flows from the existing Central Wastewater Treatment Works (CWWTW) to the new regional Reeston WWTW.
- Outfitting of the old second bore at the Huguenot Tunnel, on the N1 between Paarl and Rawsonville/Worcester in the Western Cape.

- Master Drilling's Mobile Tunnel Borer (MTB) commenced boring of a decline tunnel at Anglo American Platinum's Mogalakwena Mine

Major underground mine expansions completed/in progress/planned at:

- Venetia underground mine, Alldays/Musina, Limpopo Province
- Finsch underground cave mining, Lime Acres, Northern Cape Province.
- Cullinan underground cave mining, Cullinan, Gauteng Province

EDUCATION ON TUNNELLING IN THE COUNTRY

MSc (Eng) Rock Engineering, taught at the Mining Department at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province.

M Eng Mining Engineering/Rock Engineering & Numerical Modelling, taught at the Mining Department at the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, Gauteng Province.

Note: These are general post graduate programmes in rock engineering in mining, covering a wide range of subject material which also includes the design of mining tunnels and underground excavations in rock.