



## Peer-Review Statements

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All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the *International Symposium on African Sustainable Energy Solutions (AfriSusEnS)*, during *August 25th to 28th, 2024* in *Sun City, South Africa*. These articles have been peer reviewed by the members of the *Scientific Committee* and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

### 1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were *double-blind*. Each submission was examined by *at least 2* reviewer(s) independently.

The submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitability. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, taking into account any competing interests. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable recommendations from the two reviewers.

Authors of a rejected submission were given the opportunity to revise and resubmit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

All efforts were made to ensure a fair, unbiased, and ethical peer-review process. Reviewers were carefully selected based on their expertise and were recused from handling manuscripts where any potential conflicts of interest, such as close personal or professional relationships with the authors were identified. The editorial team took deliberate steps to minimize unconscious bias by employing a double-blind review process and by adhering to the journal's guidelines on diversity, equity, and inclusion in peer review. These measures ensured that all submissions were evaluated solely on scholarly merit.

## 2. QUALITY CRITERIA

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions:

Pertinence of the article’s content to the scope and themes of the conference;

1. Clear demonstration of originality, novelty, and timeliness of the research;
2. Soundness of the methods, analyses, and results;
3. Adherence to the ethical standards and codes of conduct relevant to the research field;
4. Clarity, cohesion, and accuracy in language and other modes of expression, including figures and tables.

In addition, all of the articles have been checked for textual overlap in an effort to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

## 3. KEY METRICS

<i>Total submissions</i>	40
<i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i>	33
<i>Number of accepted articles</i>	22
<i>Acceptance rate</i>	55%
<i>Number of reviewers</i>	12

*[Any additional information about article statistics belongs to this section, but the listing should suffice in most situations. More rows can be added if necessary, but please do not delete any existing row. Numbers are for example only. “Acceptance rate” is (number of accepted articles) divided by (number of total submissions).]*

## 4. COMPETING INTERESTS

The Editor-in-Chief and some members of the editorial team contributed articles to this issue. To maintain the highest standards of editorial integrity and to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, all submissions from editors were handled independently. The editorial team members who were authors were completely recused from any involvement in the peer-review or editorial decision-making processes related to their own manuscripts. Each submission was managed by an impartial editor and reviewed by qualified external reviewers through the journal’s standard double-blind peer-review

process. These measures ensured that all contributions were evaluated fairly and ethically, solely on the basis of their academic merit.

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