



**Upcoming EAPASA GM
17 November 2020
General Meeting**



EAPASA will host its first General Meeting (GM) as a Professional Body. The event will take place on **17 November 2020** and it will be a combination of a face-to-face meeting and online streaming.

A limited number of guests will be allowed at the venue due to the current COVID-19 government regulations.

This is indeed an auspicious occasion and we would like to invite you to be part of the meeting.

The business of the GM will include the following:

1. The presentation and consideration of the report of the Chairperson covering the activities of the Association.
2. The presentation and consideration of the audited Annual Financial Statements of the Association in respect of the period March 2018 to February 2020.
3. Adoption of the EAPASA Constitution by members.
4. The election of new Board members.

Please Note:

The time and venue of the event will be announced closer to the time.

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Importance of Sustainability Assessment and EIAs in South Africa



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is instrumental to effective environmental management. EIAs are conducted by Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) who analyse and report on the environmental impacts of development activities. Findings from impact assessments in turn inform decisions on activities that should or should not take place, subject to measures to mitigate and manage those impacts. Decision making in an EIA seeks to ensure that human society continues to benefit from the goods and services provided by the natural environment which includes air, land, water, plants and animals in a sustainable manner.

EAPs can readily conceptualise their work as sustainability assessments, directing decision-makers towards sustainable development.

EAPASA plays a critical role as the Registration Authority to ensure a regulated, consistent and improved standard of EIA.

Through the Amendment of the Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations, from 08 February 2022 no person other than a registered EAP may hold primary responsibility for the planning, management, coordination or review of EIAs and associated environmental management programmes (EMPrs).

International Environmental Calendar for 2020

World Wetlands Day:
02 February 2020

World Water Day:
22 March 2020

Earth Day:
22 April 2020

International Day for Biological Diversity:
22 May 2020

World Environment Day:
05 June 2020

World Oceans Day:
08 June 2020

International Day for the Preservation of
the Ozone Layer:
16 September 2020

World Rivers Day:
27 September 2020

International Day for Natural Disaster
Reduction:
13 October 2020



Addressing matters of Waste Management



The National Waste Management Strategy 2020 was approved by the South African Parliament with the aim of promoting the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles, while achieving both socio-economic benefits and the reduction of negative environmental impacts. Key to this are the three pillars of the National Waste Management Strategy which are: promoting waste minimisation, efficient and effective waste services and awareness raising, compliance monitoring and enforcement.

The waste management sector has the potential to innovate and improve socio-economic conditions. For instance, the plastics recycling industry provides income to many families in South Africa and at the same time, reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Waste management also contributes to sustainable development as waste can be converted into a finished product for consumption thereby contributing to the economy.



EAPSASA Heritage Day Celebrations



Heritage Day was celebrated on 24 September 2020 across the country and in different workplaces.

EAPASA Staff took a moment to embrace and celebrate their different cultures that make up of the South African population. It was pleasant to see staff members wearing beautiful and colourful traditional attires representing their cultures.



Response to EAP comments on Continuous Professional Development (CPD)



In our last newsletter, Registered EAPs were kindly requested to keep an EAPASA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Record Sheet, to be submitted annually, with the first submission due in February 2021.

Some EAPs have queried why this is required when compulsory registration is only due by 08 February 2022. It is important to note, that EAPASAs responsibilities are not only prescribed by the Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). EAPASA is also a statutory Professional Body recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and, as such, is required to implement the SAQA requirement that registered EAPs undertake CPD. SAQA has indicated that EAPASA will be audited in 2021 against this commitment. There are associated benefits for EAPs being a member of a statutory Professional Body, one of only 19 in South Africa.

Two further concerns raised were the cost of obtaining CPD credits given the recent economic downturn, and the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the ability to attend workshops and conferences. The EAPASA CPD Guidelines outline three CPD categories which do not require attendance at conferences. Since the onset of Covid-19, numerous free virtual webinars and meetings have been hosted, locally and internationally, through which it is possible to obtain credits at minimal cost. Furthermore, while the CPD categories have some compulsory requirements in each year, EAPs can do less in the earlier years (e.g. under conditions of Covid-19) and more in the subsequent years of the 5-year period leading up to re-registration, subject to the specified minimum annual requirements.

In summary, EAPASA is implementing the requirement that registered EAPs undertake CPD in line with our responsibilities as a Professional Body recognised by SAQA.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 13 October 2020



International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is celebrated annually with the aim of promoting a global culture of disaster risk reduction. This Year's theme is "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020".

Increased awareness helps in tracking the progress being made toward reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in March 2015.



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