

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa

Advancing environmental assessment practice in South Africa



EAPASA NEWSLETTER

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EAPASA welcomes you to 2021



EAPASA welcomes you to a year filled with positivity, with the hope of a better future. 2020 was one of the most challenging years for many of us. Some lost their loved ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic and there were severe job losses in the South African formal sector. Some organisations were forced into liquidation, while others managed to sail the storm.

As a caring Professional Body, we urge everyone to take care of themselves in the midst of this pandemic. Please ensure that you wear masks in public spaces, wash or sanitize your hands and practice social distancing.

Despite all these challenges, we remain positive and wish all our Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) and stakeholders a successful year. In 2021, EAPASA is looking forward to receiving more applications from prospective EAPs in order to advance environmental assessment in South Africa and also meet the February 2022 deadline.

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Reminder: First submission of EAPASA CPD Record Sheet



The first submission of the EAPASA CPD Record Sheet is due on **28 February 2021**. EAPs are therefore requested to record CPD credits guided by the three (3) categories described in the document 'EAPASA CPD Categories and Record Sheet' which can be downloaded from our website.

We are in a process of developing an online CPD system which will enable you to upload your CPD Record Sheet and the associated Portfolio of Evidence online. In the meantime, you are required to make your submissions manually to Ms Lorraine Mthethwa at Lorraine@eapasa.org. Please remember to attach your Portfolio of Evidence when making submissions.

Many organisations are offering virtual webinars hosted locally and internationally at a lower rate making it easier to accumulate credits. We encourage all our EAPs to make use of these opportunities to accumulate points and to learn new skills and knowledge within the profession.

International Environmental Calendar for 2020

World Wetlands Day:
02 February 2021

World Water Day:
22 March 2021

Earth Day:
22 April 2021

International Day for Biological Diversity:
22 May 2021

World Environment Day:
05 June 2021

World Oceans Day:
08 June 2021

International Day for the Preservation of
the Ozone Layer:
16 September 2021

World Rivers Day:
27 September 2021

International Day for Natural Disaster
Reduction:
13 October 2021

CPD



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EAPASA & SACNASP



The Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) and the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) have signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The intention is to work together in the interests of both parties as statutory Professional Bodies, recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The parties have agreed to share best practices solely in an advisory capacity in the following areas:

- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) implementation and overlap between EAPASA and SACNASP's CPD requirements;
- Professional conduct policy and regulation; and
- Mentorship Guidelines and programme roll-out.

The ground rules for implementation of the MOU are established at the level of the EAPASA Board and the SACNASP Council. The MOU will ensure synergies within the boundaries of applicable legislations since there are some areas of overlap between EAPASA and SACNASP registered professionals. EAPASA was appointed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs in 2018 as a Registration Authority in terms of Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 as amended, while SACNASP is established in terms of the Natural Scientific Professions Act 27 of 2003 as amended. Individuals practicing as EAPs and/or Natural Scientists (whose field of practice are gazetted by the Minister of Science and Technology), may not practice unless registered with EAPASA and SACNASP respectively.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process typically involves numerous specialists, including scientists, economists, engineers, etc, who provide reports that are submitted as part of a standard EIA Report. These professionals submitting the reports as Specialists, should be registered with their professional councils, where applicable. On the other hand, the EAPs who are responsible for compiling the EIA Reports are regulated by EAPASA. In instances where a professional submits both a specialist scientific report (as gazetted) and also acts as an EAP for an EIA, then registration with both EAPASA and SACNASP is required.

EAPASA and SACNASP commit to working together and sharing experiences as well as best practices guided by principles of co-operation and goodwill.

Deadline for registration with EAPASA 08 February 2022



Potential EAPs are reminded to make their registration submissions as the deadline approaches. 08 February 2022 has been set as the statutory deadline for all practicing EAPs in South Africa to ensure that they are registered if they intend to continue practicing in the environmental sector.

Registration with EAPASA will allow a practicing EAP to conduct their own projects and sign-off their own reports without requiring review by a Registered EAP. This approach ensures consistency in the application of standards across all the professions involved in this field. EAPASA aims to promote ethical conduct by the practitioners and ensure quality assurance of the environmental impact assessment reports.

We urge those who have not completed their applications to continue with their registration process. We also encourage potential Environmental Practitioners to stop procrastinating but start with the registration process so as to avoid last minute submissions.



World wetlands Day

**World
Wetlands Day**

2 February 2021

Wetlands and water



On 02 February 2021, South Africa celebrated World Wetlands Day. EAPASA continues to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands as sources of freshwater and pleads with the EAPs across the country to protect and preserve these wetlands.

The theme for this year is “Wetlands and Water”. In South Africa, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) continues to invest more than R83 million of their current financial budget in the rehabilitation and maintenance of at least 75 wetlands through the Working for Wetlands Programme which is an Expanded Public Works Programme that focuses on remedial interventions for maintaining healthy wetlands.

All over the world, we are facing a growing freshwater crisis that threatens people and our planet. Professionals and ordinary citizens should educate themselves as part of this global awareness.

To read more on Wetlands, visit <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org>



Survey Monkey Questionnaire: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS



Please follow the link below to take part in our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D3JGRQW>

You can also visit our website www.eapasa.org and take part in the survey before the deadline of 10 March 2021.

The intention of the survey is for EAPASA to gain insight on how our EAPs have been affected by the pandemic through obtaining information that will allow us to understand the obstacles which EAPs faced during different levels of lockdown. We can then use the information to see how we can assist especially in our engagements with government and other relevant Stakeholders.

Please note your responses will remain anonymous and your participation will be highly appreciated.



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