



# ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS



The Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) as a Professional Body exercises its responsibilities under Section 24H of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA). Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) are required to uphold the Code of Ethical Conduct and Practice they signed as part of the registration process, in order to ensure proper planning, management, coordination and review of Environmental Impact Assessments and Environmental Management Programmes.

EAPs working for government, parastatals and private consulting practice should have a better understanding of their professional work and make sound decisions when assessing projects which have an impact on human life.

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EAPASA encourages registered EAPs to uphold ethical norms in their professional practice by:

- Recognising the need to collaborate with qualified persons in subject areas where they are inexperienced or unspecialised.
- Analysing and presenting information on social systems, and interacting with people, in ways that are sensitive to the social, cultural and aesthetic values of others.
- Respecting indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, while upholding the scientific imperative to subject all knowledge claims to critical testing.
- Presenting information in reports that is fair and inclusive of the interests of all stakeholders, thereby contributing to openness and transparency.
- Acting to ensure objectivity and impartiality when carrying out professional activities, thereby demonstrating that they have served society with skill and sufficient independence to give honest and impartial advice.
- Building relationships of commitment and trust and managing conflicting interests and power dynamics.
- Placing the integrity of the biophysical and social environment above duties to a particular client, authority or politician, and above undue pressure from individuals, organisations and special interest groups; in other words, carrying out their professional activities showing ethical responsibility towards the environment and the health of others, in upholding the principles of sustainable development.

## **International Environmental Calendar for 2020**

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**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



# COVID – 19: Returning of EAPASA Office Staff



Since the declaration of the national state of disaster, EAPASA staff members have been working from home. Under level 3 lockdown, EAPASA has implemented a phased return to the office with staff members taking turns. EAPASA has followed the Health and Safety regulations to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus.

To minimise the risk of infections and spreading of the virus, the following steps were taken:

- Ensuring social distancing of at least 1.5 meters apart while working
- Providing staff with hand sanitisers and encouraging frequent washing of hands
- Sanitising workstations on a regular basis
- Providing staff with masks to cover their nose and mouth.

Staff members using public transport are counselled to take extra care and exercise responsibility for their own health. The EAPASA office is based in Gauteng, which remains one of the provinces with a high number of COVID-19 infections and fatalities.

These are challenging times and we urge all EAPs to take care of themselves.

# Continuing Professional Development (CPD)



CPD can be defined as the systematic maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skills, the ongoing development of personal qualities necessary for the execution of professional and technical duties, and contributions to capacity building in the field, throughout the working life of Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs).

Some of the benefits of CPD include maintaining and increasing one's level of technical competence, extending one's range of skills, developing an area of expertise and establishing links and networks with fellow professionals which thereby increases one's career opportunities and prospects.

As a Professional Body recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), EAPASA is required to ensure that registered members undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

In order to meet the SAQA requirement, registered EAPs are reminded to undertake, record and save a Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) of CPD activities. You are kindly requested to keep an EAPASA CPD Record Sheet, to be submitted annually, with the first submission due in February 2021.

Please note that EAPASA is not yet accrediting CPD activities (but intends to in the near future). EAPs are therefore requested to record CPD credits guided by the three categories described in the document 'EAPASA CPD Categories and Record Sheet' which can be downloaded from the EAPASA website at <https://www.eapasa.org/index.php/cpd>

A MS Word version of the 'EAPASA CPD Record Sheet' is also available at the same site, that you can populate with relevant information regarding your CPD activities on an ongoing basis as and when you participate in events or activities.

EAPASA is developing an online CPD system in parallel to the current online registration system. Once live, you will be able to upload your CPD Record Sheet and the associated Portfolio of Evidence. In the interim, please keep your record sheet and evidence required for submission on file for later submission to the online CPD system in February 2021.

## EAPASA to host Q & A Sessions



Dear EAPs

EAPASA cordially invites you to two Virtual Question and Answer Sessions to help prospective Environmental Assessment Practitioners understand the Registration Process.

The first Q & A Session is dedicated to prospective registered EAPs and the second to prospective Candidate EAPs.

Please submit questions for candidate EAP Session before 27 August 2020 to [pradmin@eapasa.org](mailto:pradmin@eapasa.org)

### Registered EAPs (First Session)

Date of the event: 20 August 2020

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30am

Venue: Microsoft Teams (Virtual Meeting)

### Candidate EAPs (Second Session)

Date of the event: 31 August 2020

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30am

Venue: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)



# CONTACT EAPASA

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