

# EAPAN



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROFESSIONALS OF NAMIBIA

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Newsletter 1

July 2012

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Dear Environmental Assessment Practitioners,

The executive committee of EAPAN is pleased to announce that EAPAN is now open for business! It has taken a while, but the committee has been busy putting in place all the mechanisms that are needed to have a well structured and functioning organisation that can serve its members. In this first newsletter we want to tell you about what has been done to date, and to invite you to join EAPAN!

### **Your committee**

The following people were elected at the Windhoek EA practitioner's meeting in February 2012:

Chris Brown	President
Pierre Botha	Vice President
Stephanie van Zyl	Secretary
Simon Charter	Treasurer
Don Muroua	Member
Peter Tarr	Member
Mark Stanton	Member

The committee has held three formal meetings.

### **EAPAN website**

A new website was commissioned for EAPAN. This is on [www.eapan.org](http://www.eapan.org). Please look at it and give feedback. You are also invited to submit relevant photographs to liven up the website. These should be sent to Alice Jarvis at [tr\\_aj@mweb.com.na](mailto:tr_aj@mweb.com.na).

### **The constitution**

The Committee reviewed the constitution in light of comments provided at the February meeting. The Constitution has been finalised and signed, and is available on the EAPAN website. Also available on the website are our "Mission, Vision & Values" document and our "Code of Conduct".

### **Logo**

You will see from this letterhead that we have a EAPAN logo. The idea behind the logo is to link environment and development, local to global and to emphasise that individuals can make a difference.

## Bank account

A bank account has been opened in the name of EAPAN at Nedbank Namibia. The account is administered for us by the Namibia Nature Foundation. Three members of the Committee have authority to approve expenditure on the account: Simon, Stephanie and Chris, any two of whom must authorise together.

## Membership

A membership application form has been developed, and this can be completed on line. Please follow the links on the website. The constitution recognises four categories of membership, Ordinary member, Apprentice member, Student member and Associate member. The Associate member category has not been activated, as the Committee would like to discuss this with Members before proceeding.

The annual membership fees for the association are as follows:

Membership category	Annual fee
Ordinary member	N\$500
Apprentice member	N\$250
Student member	N\$100
Associate member	Not activated

Within the Ordinary member category, three technical categories are recognised (see website for details:

Membership category	Technical category	Description
Ordinary member	Lead practitioner	Co-ordinates, leads, manages and integrates components of the EA throughout the process.
	Practitioner	Sector specialist. Gives input to particular stages of an EA according to his/her expertise.
	Reviewer	Undertakes an independent review of a completed Scoping, EA and/or EMP report.

## Meeting with the Environmental Commissioner

A very constructive meeting was held with Mr Theo Nghitila, the newly appointed Environmental Commissioner, and Dr Freddie Sikabonga, head of the EA Unit in the DEA. Copies of our background documents were provided. Theo was very supportive of the establishment of EAPAN and called for close collaboration with his Commission and the EA Unit. It was agreed that there would be regular meetings, and that questions and issues of mutual interest should be channelled through EAPAN so that answers could be provided to all EAPAN members and posted on the website.

In this regard, we mentioned that there were many questions from practitioners related to the Environmental management Act and the new Regulations. We discussed asking practitioners (our future members) to submit all their issues, concerns and questions to the committee. We would consolidate these and meet with the Environmental Commissioner and his staff to discuss and get answers, which we would then feed back to the practitioners and also place on the EAPAN website for future reference.

We would invite you to submit your questions and concerns on the Act and Regulations to [info@eapan.org](mailto:info@eapan.org).

### **Communications with EAPAN**

For all communications with EAPAN please use the following e-mail address: [info@eapan.org](mailto:info@eapan.org)

### **Circulation of this newsletter**

Please help us reach all the Environmental Assessment Practitioners in Namibia by sharing this newsletter with anyone that we might have missed.

### **Upcoming events**

Annual Conference and AGM

An annual EAPAN Conference, linked to our AGM is planned for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012, starting at 12h00 in Windhoek and running into the evening. Please put this into your diary now. Further information will be circulated at a later date.

Kind regards,

EAPAN Executive Committee