



**CONCEPT PROPOSAL # 3**

**TOWARDS DEVELOPING**

**A PROFESSIONAL REGISTER**

**OF CORE ENVIRONMENTAL**

**ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS AND**

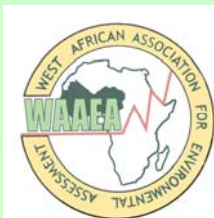
**SPECIALISTS IN SUB-SAHARAN**

**AFRICA**

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## Introduction

This proposal is part of a broader initiative to build Environmental Assessment<sup>1</sup> (EA) capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), so that Africans can play a greater role in the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. Currently, SSA relies heavily on foreign expertise to guide and review development activities. This reduces the sense of ownership over sustainable development tools and EA processes, limits professional development and results in considerable leakage of development aid and local capital. Whilst this proposal is specifically centred on the maintenance of a professional register, its broader objective is enhanced EA capacity and the promotion of sustainable development.

## Aim

1. To give all African EA practitioners the opportunity to become registered.
2. To expand two existing, complementary, registers of environmental practitioners for southern Africa, to serve SSA via a single Secretariat.
3. To set up a full-time secretariat to maintain the registers and service the community needing the information and products in the register.
4. To promote (through the existence of the registers) the use of African expertise in development planning processes

## Background

In order to achieve sustainable development, Africa needs to integrate environmental issues into development planning processes. Whilst the links between environment and development have been recognised for decades in the developed world, a great variety of unfavourable circumstances have slowed the adoption of tools such as EA in Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Assessment in this context refers to a suite of tools including strategic, cumulative, social, ecological and health impact assessments.

The recent initiative by African leaders to improve governance and the development of the continent, needs to be supported at technical levels. For this to be achieved, Africa's high-level decision makers must feel a greater sense of ownership over tools such as EA. This can partly be achieved by promoting the use of African experts who have a deeper understanding of local circumstances, to advise political processes rather than relying on expatriates.

Non-governmental initiatives, motivated and supported by professional and sectoral bodies, have in the past produced registers of peer-reviewed professionals in environmental fields in southern Africa. The value of these registers is that they have gone through an ontogenic process, are maintained by relatively stable bodies, are already being used as references by the broad and diverse EA community. They can be expanded to SSA with relatively modest external support and they would within a foreseeable period become entirely self-supporting.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) requires internal African initiatives to develop the resources of the continent by increasing the capacity of its own citizens. A process of developing the capacity of environmental assessment practitioners in Africa would therefore support the aims of NEPAD.

The bodies currently involved in maintaining registers and/or databases include:

- SAIE&ES– see [www.saie-es.za.org](http://www.saie-es.za.org) is a professional institute, which maintains a register of more than 150 professional ecologists and environmental scientists. Admission as professional scientists to the institute and register is dependent on a prescribed level of education and experience as well as rigorous peer review. Professional members are subject to high standards of ethics and conduct.
- IAIAAsa (the International Association for Impact Assessment's South African branch) – see [www.iaia.za.org](http://www.iaia.za.org) This is a networking forum for anyone in the field of impact assessment.

- EAPSA (The Interim Certification Board for Environmental Assessment Practitioners) – see [www.eapsa.co.za](http://www.eapsa.co.za). This new body is the primary initiative of SAIE&ES and IAIAsa. SAIE&ES serves as the custodian of EAPSA. EAPSA’s activities are endorsed by seventeen bodies associated with impact assessment, which are all represented on its Board. It has, since 2002, certified and kept a register of environmental assessment practitioners who have reached a prescribed level of education and experience as well as rigorous peer review. Professional members are subject to high standards of ethics and conduct.
- SAIEA– see [www.saiea.com](http://www.saiea.com) is a non-profit environmental trust geared to ensuring a high standard of impact assessment in the region. It uses local expertise to guide and review EA processes and products, as well as providing human capacity development programmes. SAIEA currently has over 150 experts registered on its database.
- A number of other bodies, representing planners, architects, engineers, landscape architects and others would also consider themselves to be associated with environmental assessment. In the main they are also represented on the Board of EAPSA.

Most of these bodies are non-governmental and regional, rather than national in their structure. Discussions between them have confirmed their desire to work together in a collaborative network under the CLEIAA<sup>2</sup> banner.

## The relationship between SAIE&ES and EAPSA

EAPSA’s role is to certify the professional competence of environmental assessment practitioners (EAPs), who have the skills to co-ordinate, manage and integrate the various components of environmental assessment throughout the planning process.

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<sup>2</sup> CLEIAA is the umbrella network of EA nodes in Africa. It stands for Capacity Development and Linkages in Environmental Impact Assessment in Africa, and is based in Dar Es Salaam. The nodes are independent of each other but collaborate as a pan-African network. Current nodes include the West African Association for Environmental Assessment (WAAEA), the Eastern Africa Association for Impact Assessment (EAAIA), the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA), the Secretariat for the Central African Association for Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIACA) and the Indian Ocean Islands Association for Environmental Assessment (IOAEA)

*[The term EAP therefore does not apply to specialists in particular fields, who may be involved in, or asked to give input to, particular stages of an EA from the perspective of his/her field of expertise.]*

SAIE&ES's role is to certify the professional competence of ecological and environmental specialists in particular fields, who have the skills to analyse the science in their specialist fields.

Therefore the two professional bodies are complementary. EAPSA is concerned with the core competencies required for the environmental assessment process, while SAIE&ES is concerned with the competencies of specialists, who would be called in by those with the core competencies as required.

These two bodies, being closely complementary and cooperative at present, would easily share a secretariat, which would maintain and service the registers as they grow and serve a greater region than at present.

Presently, both bodies are served by part-time secretaries, paid for by membership fees. No government or other subsidies are received.

### Project implementation

This project will be implemented under the banner of CLEIAA, supported at a technical and administrative level by SAIEA and the SAIE&ES, and will initially run for a one year period. By the end of year 1, a second phase proposal will be presented for consideration by donors.

### Key activities:

It is anticipated that the first phase of the project will require approximately 12 months to complete, even though the time required for actual activities is considerably less. Enough time needs to be left for individuals and organisations to respond to the survey questionnaire and for organisations, including Regional Economic

Communities, to consult their respective constituencies before providing their opinion on the project.

### **Lessons learnt**

The first activity will be assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the current registers, and the difficulties experienced in maintaining them. An assessment will be made on how well the registers are being utilised and who the main clients are. The various organisations involved in maintaining registers, the professionals who are already registered as well as users of these registers, will be consulted with a view to improving the services currently being offered. Other registers in the region (non-EA) will also be consulted to see what has worked and what has not.

### **Needs assessment**

Thereafter CLEIAA will undertake a needs assessment in SSA to determine the extent to which practitioners and clients are likely to support the “African EA register”. This will be done by means of an electronic questionnaire survey and telephone interviews with key persons.

### **Feasibility study**

The last activity is a feasibility study, which draws on lessons learnt, needs, an assessment of maintenance costs and a projection of likely income from membership and use. This will include the development of various funding options, including donor kick-start, membership fees and user fees. This study will culminate in a proposal for phase 2 of the project, which is likely to require donor seed funding.

### **Expected benefits**

- Building capacity.
- Building stability in the industry (environmental assessment practice).
- Developing local (African) ownership.



## Budget for year 1

#	Activity	Implemented by	US\$
1	Short term consultancy to assess the strengths and weaknesses of current EA registers, and other registers in southern Africa that offer comparable services	SAIE&ES 1 person x 25 days @ US\$500 per day	12 500
2	Needs assessment electronic and telephonic survey	SAIEA 1 person x 25 days @ US\$ 500 per day	12 500
3	Economic assessment of costs and income, and formulation of discussion paper on expansion options	SAIEA & SAIE&ES 1 person x 14 days @ US\$ 500 per day	7 000
4	Brainstorm meeting of key persons to develop phase 2 proposal	CLEIAA Airfares for 10 persons @ average cost of US\$ 800 per fare  Accommodation for 5 persons @ US\$ 60 per day x 3 days  Per diem for 10 persons @ US\$ 25 per person per day x 3 days	8 000  900  750
5	Write phase 2 proposal	SAIEA & SAIE&S 1 person x 5 days @ US\$ 500 per day	2 500
6	SAIE&S administrative, office and communications costs		3 000
7	SAIEA administrative, office and communications costs		3 000
8	CLEIAA administrative, office and communications costs		3 000
	Contingency		1850
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55 000</b>