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Environmental Assessment Practitioners: Eastern Cape  
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## **REVISION OF EASTERN CAPE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN [ECBSAP]: PRESENTATION AT DEDEAT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT FORUM 8 NOVEMBER 2017**

You may be aware that the Department is in the process of finalizing the new ECBSAP for the Eastern Cape. You will also be aware that such a systematic biodiversity conservation plan, and in particular the Critical Biodiversity Areas [CBA's] delineated in such a plan, plays a key role in determining in which areas of the province EIA Listing Notice 3 activities will apply, and in addition provides important guidelines on the consideration of biodiversity issues in EIA processes. Our service provider, Dr Greer Hawley from EOH, and her team is close to finalizing new CBA maps for the Eastern Cape. In this regard:

1. The next quarterly meeting of the DEDEAT Environmental Quality Management [EQM] Forum is taking place in East London on 7-8 November 2017, venue to be confirmed. As part of the forum agenda Dr Hawley will be making a presentation on the current status of the ECBSAP at **09h00 on Wednesday 8 November 2017**. This will be a good opportunity for EAP's to engage with this plan before it is formally gazetted for public comment.
2. Also on Wednesday 8 November 2017 and after the ECBSAP presentation the National Department of Environmental Affairs will be offering initial training for EAP's and other stakeholders on the screening tool that is currently under development. EAP's will be aware that once it has been completed this tool will become a formal part of EIA processes, as provided for in the 2014 EIA Regulations.
3. Unfortunately the EQM Forum can only be held in East London, due to its central location in the Province. It is nevertheless hoped that as many EAP's as possible will make use of this opportunity to engage with two key processes. Please also bear in mind that the first day of the forum, i.e. Tuesday 7 November 2017. Is also relevant for EAP's, as it deals with air quality and climate change issues.
4. Please confirm attendance with Ms Nickelwa Gqokoma at [Nikelwa.gqokoma@dedea.gov.za](mailto:Nikelwa.gqokoma@dedea.gov.za).

**C.G.PIENAAR: SENIOR MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT**

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