

20 Years of Environment Impact Assessment in South Africa

Date: 16 May 2018
Venue: Durban International Convention Centre

"20 Years of Environmental Impact Assessments in South Africa"

For the past 10 years emanating from the 10 years of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) conference which was held in 2008, in Cape Town to celebrate 10 years of EIA in South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has done a lot of work to improve EIAs in South Africa. This includes among others, the promulgation of the new regulations which came in to effect on 8 December 2014 as well as the launch of "One Environmental System". The regulations sought to streamline the process while addressing concerns raised by stakeholders over timeframes, duplication and inter-governmental cooperation.

This year's theme is: **20 Years of Environmental Impact Assessments in South Africa**, the theme seeks to profile the EIA's as an environmental management tool in South Africa.

The conference will focus on EIA's in South Africa over the past twenty (20) years. The theme seeks to analyse the role, successes and failures of EIA's in South Africa through showcasing the implementation over the past two decades, in order to influence a new strategy for impact management moving forward in to the next 10 years.

The EIA process is a crucial mechanism used to regulate the impact of development activities. The DEA as well as provincial environmental departments are responsible for EIA processes and ensuring the timely and accurate execution of EIA's since 1997 when Environmental Impact Assessments became compulsory in South Africa

Despite the strides made towards an improved efficient and effective EIA system, there are criticism and perceptions of inadequacy about the success of the current EIA system as a tool for environmental impact management.

The conference will try to dispel these misperceptions that exist around the EIA process by:

- Correcting the incorrect perception that EIA's delay projects
- Creating continued awareness around the EIA process and its importance as an environmental management tool.
- It will shed light on the challenges that still face DEA and the provinces around EIA regulations.

TARGET AUDIENCE / STAKEHOLDERS

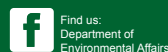
Stakeholders such as Environmental Assessment Practitioners (both government and private) as well as CBO's, NGOs, business and industry, academic institutions, government institutions and statutory bodies will be participating in the conference.

We invite all stakeholders to join us as we build on the successes of EIA, together let us find solutions for the problems.



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