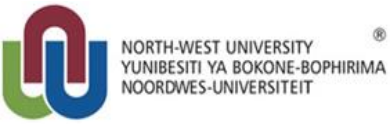
IAIAsa Students

Annual National Report

2016



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Kusasalethu Sithole

(IAIAsa National Student Representative)

1. Foreword

I'm honoured to present what should be the first of many more IAIAsa Students Annual National Reports.

With the IAIAsa NEC strategic objectives; the support of IAIAsa committee and general members; the student committee members, and friends of IAIAsa; I can personally say that 2016 and beyond looks very exciting for the IAIAsa student body. On behalf of IAIAsa students I would like to thank all these key aforementioned stakeholders for their roles they continue to play in terms of IAIAsa students.

Of specific acknowledgment are the IAIAsa Student Mentorship Programme (ISMP) 2016 mentors who are the first set of mentors in this first year of the ISMP – **Dave Cox** (Institute of Natural Resources), **Francois Retief** (North-West University), **Jan-Albert Wessels** (North-West University), **Johan Botha** (Phala-Environmental), **John Richardson** (Jeffares & Green), **Marélie Griesel** (environamics, Inc), **Sandile Nkomonde** (Jeffares & Green), **Sian Oosthuizen** (Institute of Natural Resources), and **Tandi Breetzke** (Royal Haskoning DHV).

IAIAsa has made a lot of progress in terms of setting up strategic objectives for students, establishing IAIAsa student structures and organising activities which enhance professional development of students. I am excited by the 5-year IAIAsa strategic objectives towards 2020, and this report should provide an overview of my reasons for this excitement.

2. Introduction

This report aims to provide an overview of student structures and activities within the *International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa* (IAIAsa). This report will hereof introduce the IAIAsa student branch structure, and then provide the IAIAsa national student aim (or theme), the national student objectives for 2016 and beyond 2016, the current student branch committee portfolios and their local events (2015 and potential 2016 events), and a photo collage from some of the student events.

3. Structure of IAIAsa student branches

The structural model of IAIAsa Student Branches is unique and simple. Since the IAIAsa student members have to be fully registered students at tertiary education institutions, IAIAsa student branches have tended to be based at one of the local university campuses (this has promoted a healthy sustainable relationship between IAIAsa structures and the base universities). The IAIAsa student branch (i.e IAIAsa North-West Student Branch) forms part of the local provincial IAIAsa structure (i.e IAIAsa North-West Branch), which is part of the national IAIAsa. IAIAsa is the South African affiliate of the international organisation, IAIA – through signing a memorandum of understanding.

4. IAIAsa National Student Aim

To professionally develop students towards work in diverse fields of environmental management.

5. National Student Objectives

5.1 2016 National Student Objectives

i.	**Improve student participation at IAIAsa national conference** - Have reasonable student prices for conference registration fees. - IAIAsa to organize means to sponsor some students to conference. - Have a student portfolio in conference organising committee. - Have either parallel sessions or block of side events which students chair and present (driven by the student in the conference organising committee).
ii.	**Improve organisational effectiveness and outcomes of events in current student branches** - Assist branches through improved information sharing and resources to continuously improve their processes and benefits.
iii.	**Establishment of new student branches in other regions of South Africa** - Target provinces for 2016: Western Cape, Limpopo and Free State. - In 2016 generate interest in Guateng and Eastern Cape in preparation for 2017.
iv.	**Improve national communication between national student representative and student provincial chairs; amongst student provincial committees; and amongst IAIAsa students nationally.** - All student branches to have active facebook pages where all student events and significant student activities are published. - Establish a whatsapp group for interaction of student branch chairs. - Compile an IAIAsa Students Annual National Report.
v.	**Kick start the IAIAsa Students Mentorship Programme** - In 2016 have a minimum of 10 IAIAsa students mentored. - For 2016, target North-West and KwaZulu-Natal. - Put in place systems for sustainability of the ISMP and ensure that it is self-perpetuating.

5.2 Beyond 2016 National Student Objectives

- Establish student branch committees in all provinces of South Africa (specific addition to targets will be Gauteng and Eastern Cape).
- Be part of hosting the IAIA18 international conference which IAIAsa is currently bidding for.

6. Student-related Updates

6.1 Student Fees

- Students refer to persons registered at tertiary educational institutions for a fulltime diploma or degree study in the current calendar year. This includes undergraduates and postgraduates (postgraduates referring to honours, masters, PhD and Post-doc).
- These changes are effective as of 06 March 2016.
- Student Membership fee (only applicable to fulltime students): Postgraduates – R240 and Undergraduates – R100.
- The IAIAsa student financial year will now be aligned to the calendar year - 01 January and ends on 31 December (unlike the IAIAsa year FOR EMPLOYED IAIAsa members which starts on 1 July and ends on 30 June).
- Only for all new students members, a quarterly pro-rata membership fee will apply (i.e. if you join in 1st quarter of year – you pay 100% of year fee; 2nd quarter – 75%; 3rd qarter – 50%; and 4th quarter – 25%).
- All renewing student members have to pay the full amount of membership fee at the start of each year.
- NB: To NON PAID-UP students members

  - If you are already a student member but have not paid up for the IAIAsa year July 2015 – June 2016, you are required to sorted this out urgently.

  - If you have not currently paid-up your membership and want to update or are not sure of your current membership status, please contact the national office (operations@iaiasa.co.za).

- NB: To PAID-UP UNDERGRADUATE student members

  - At the beginning of 2016 undergrads were already on a calendar year membership system. Therefore the current change to a calendar year for the rest of the IAIAsa student system will not affect current undergrad members.

- NB: To PAID-UP POSTGRADUATE student members

  - All postgrad students members should be currently paid up to 30 June 2015.

  - Therefore to align the postgrad students to the calendar year, they will only have to pay 50% (R120) of the annual membership fee to make up for the remaining months of the student calendar year-based membership period.

- Whenever a new student applies or a current student member is renewing IAIAsa student membership, the following should be emailed to the national offices (operations@iaiasa.co.za):

New student member	Renewing student member
1. Completed membership application form (acquired from IAIAsa website or national offices).	1. Completed membership update form (acquired from IAIAsa website or national offices).
2. Proof of IAIAsa membership fee payment.	2. Proof of IAIAsa membership fee payment.
3. Proof of registration at tertiary institution.	3. Proof of registration at tertiary institution.

- Grace period after graduation

  - IAIAsa realizes 1) that when students graduate at the end of their calendar year and now aim to go into the working world in the following calendar year, there will be a 6 months vacuum period between the previous student IAIAsa (ends 31 Decemeber) year and the IAIAsa year for workers (ends 30 June). Therefore IAIAsa will allow for a grace period of 6 months for the student member to upgrade his/her IAIAsa membership (Strictly 01 January to 30 June).

- In this 6 months grace period, this IAIAsa member will enjoy all benefits of being an IAIAsa member.

6.2 Membership database update

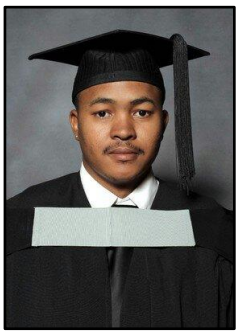
The IAIAsa NEC as of 2016, have appointed Sue George on a fulltime contract as National Operations Manager (congratulations Sue). As prioritised by the NEC as of the 2016 Midterm meeting, she will now focus on the update of the membership database – and this will mean well for the IAIAsa student structures.

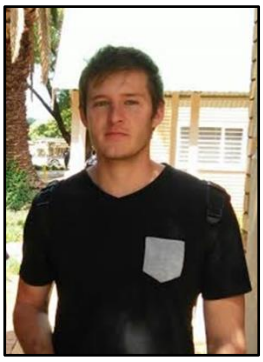
7. Current Student Branches

7.1 North-West Student Branch

7.1.1 2016 Committee

Student Chair	
 Donne van der Westhuizen (donnevdwest@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: B.Sc. Honours in Zoology and Geography. ➢ Interests: geography, zoology, botany, photography.

Vice chair Lauralee Koekemoer (lauralee.algae@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc in Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Tourism, Botany and Geography, nature, photography.
Outgoing Chair  Jason Chabalala (Jason10368@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc in Environmental Science ➢ Interests: EIA Public Participation
Secretary Auguste Brits (augustebrits@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: Postgraduate Ngos ➢ Interests: environmental science

Marketing & Communication  Lourens Steytler (jacobuslourens@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc Geography and Botany student ➢ Interests: environmental change & mitigations
Job opportunities and news Kelly Lourens (kellylourens3@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc honors in urban ecology ➢ Interests: Outdoors, Hiking, Travelling, GIS, Botany.
Social Media Coordinator Janette Murray (25060384jm@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BA Psychology Geography and Environmental Studies. ➢ Interests: EIA process, GIS, outdoors, travelling, music

Inter- campus Communication Onicca Obedience (oniccaobey@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BA in psychology, geography and environmental studies ➢ Interests: integrated environmental management

7.1.2 2015 Events

i. Careers Day
ii. Medupi Excursion
iii. Waste Management Excursion
iv. Ikageng Community Outreach
v. Introduction to IAIAsa

7.1.3 2016 Potential Events

i. Careers Day
ii. Medupi Excursion
iii. Waste Management Excursion
iv. Ikageng Community Outreach
v. Introduction to IAIAsa

7.2 KwaZulu-Natal Student Branch

7.2.1 2016 Committee

Student Chair Sam Singh (samiksha25.singh@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: water quality assessment, conservation of the environment, GIS and remote sensing.
Vice Chairperson Salona Reddy (salonareddy@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: climate change and palaeoclimatology.
Staff Rep Dayle Trotter (trotterd2@ukzn.ac.za)	➢ Current: UKZN Lecturer ➢ Interests: Environmental Management, assessment tools (EIAs, SEAs, EMFs, etc)

Durban Area Rep Sizwe Nkambule (sizwe.nkambule@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Socio-Ecological Systems, Community based natural resource management, Climate change mitigation and adaption at community level.
Secretary Simone Pillay (pillay.simone21@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Climate change, food security,photography.
Incoming Secretary Tarryn Frankland (tarrynfrankland@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc Honours in Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Palaeoenvironments, environmental change, environmental management and auditing, conservation and Biogeography.

Membership Officer Adwoa Awuah (adwoa.awuah@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: freshwater and terrestrial ecology
Events Officer 1 Nosipho Makaya (nosiphomakaya@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: soil erosion/land degradation, Coastal Management, GIS & Remote Sensing.
Events Officer 2 Laila Hansrod (Lhansrod@yahoo.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc Honours in Geography and Environmental Management ➢ Interests: Change in climate and the effects on food security in female headed households.

Fundraising Officer 1 Victoria Soutar (victoriasoutar@yahoo.com)	➢ Current Studies: Post Graduate Diploma In food security ➢ Interests: Climate change, impacts of climate change on local farmers
Fundraising Officer 2 Leeth Singh (singhleeth@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: EIAs, Environmental Auditing and Control, GIS and Remote sensing.
Public Relations Officer Matthew Dickey (dickey.matthew1@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: MSc Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Soil erosion, Environmental Impact Assessments, EIA follow up

Postgrad Rep Ntombifuthi Nzimande (nzimandentombifuthi@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc Honours in Geography and Environmental Management ➢ Interests: social impacts assessments
Undergrad Rep Anke Scharlach (ankescharlach@gmail.com)	➢ Current Studies: BSc in Environmental Science ➢ Interests: Grassland Science, Impact of Alien species on our natural systems, Vegetation change, Biogeography, Environmental Systems, Wildlife Conservation and Conversation in general.

7.2.2 2015 Events

i. Career Evening
ii. South African Youth for Climate Coalition event (collaborated event)
iii. Documentary Screening Evening
iv. Tree planting initiative at the XIV World Forestry Congress (collaborated event)
v. Life Cycle Analysis presentations
vi. Environmental Compliance Officer event (collaborated event)

7.2.3 2016 Potential Events

i. Meet & Greet
ii. The Clean-Up Fun Walk (collaborated event)
iii. Citizen Science Mini-workshop (collaborated event)
iv. Documentary Screening Evening
v. Careers Day
vi. CV Writing & Interview workshop
vii. Life Cycle Analysis presentations
viii. Field Trip to Umngeni Reserve (EIA in practice)

8. 2015 IAIAsa Student Photo Collage

Medupi Excursion

Collaborating with the South African Youth Climate Coalition

Environmental Awareness Initiative

At the XIV World Forestry Congress, Durban ICC

At the IAIAsa 2015 National Conference

Careers Day

Waste Excursion

Careers Day

9. Friends of IAIAsa Students (Year 2015)

The professional development of IAIAsa students has been maximized by the great relationship that IAIAsa student structures have been with our company friends. Below is a compilation of only the company friends which have contributed in a trackable way towards professional development of IAIAsa students in the 2014 and 2015, this includes and not limited to sponsorship of IAIAsa students through IAIAsa student structures, financial sponsorship or resource provision towards IAIAsa student structures and/or events, sending a speaker to present or facilitate for free at an IAIAsa student event, or providing any other trackable professional development benefit towards IAIAsa students. *In no particular order:

10. Conclusion

This report is the first IAIAsa Students Annual National Reports. It serves to improve knowledge sharing within and between IAIAsa student structures, provide a concise track of changes in IAIAsa student decision-making, structures and activities, and lastly provide a snapshot view of IAIAsa student state to external stakeholders.