

SAIEA at IAIA 2005

The Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment was well represented at IAIA'05, with Peter Tarr, Peter Croal, Bryony Walmsley and Nico Willemse all attending and participating in various sessions.

SAIEA organized and facilitated two of the meetings' 14 Theme Forums, one on Transparency in Decision Making and the other on Quality Enhancement through Peer Review. SAIEA was also responsible for facilitating the side event for African EA networks which was attended by sub-regional nodes from across the Continent. Over 600 practitioners, academics, donor and development agencies and EA administrators attended the IAIA conference, which was held in Boston USA, from 31 May-3 June 2005.



OKACOM training course

In collaboration with the University of Plymouth, SAIEA organized, prepared and partly delivered a 6 day training course on Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Planning (TDA/SAP) for shared river systems. The course was attended by 20 officials of the Okavango River Basin Commission (a SADC body) and took place in Windhoek from 9-14 May 2005. The officials were from Angola, Namibia and Botswana. The outcome of this very successful course is improved knowledge of how to better manage a shared river system and to use the river's resources for improved livelihoods and sustainable development.

"A Guide to Opportunities for Public Participation in Environmental Assessment Processes in the Southern Africa Development Community" has recently been developed by the Calabash Project. The handbook can be found by going to http://www.saiea.com/calabash/pp_rights/pp_rights_guide.pdf and then click on Calabash Project.

This handbook contains a clear description of all the rights that communities and the public have to participation in environmental decision-making as conferred by international, regional and SADC region conventions, laws and policies related to environmental impact assessment and decision-making. This document has approached the rights issue from "an opportunity to participate" perspective, and is formatted around several key questions for each SADC country.

The Calabash Project has recently developed a wall poster on Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making in collaboration with the Centre for Public Participation in Durban. The poster may be accessed on the Calabash website.



Ongoing projects

Demand for guide-and-review services remains strong and SAIEA is currently involved in a number of ongoing projects. These include tourism, power supply and transmission, urban infrastructure, waste management and agriculture sectors.

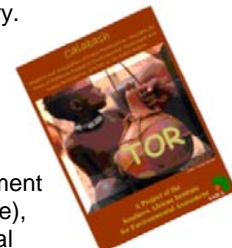
CBBIA

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) recently launched a three year project aimed at improving the integration of biodiversity conservation into decision making processes, using environmental assessment as the key mechanism. Three pilot areas are being targeted, namely South America, South East Asia and Southern Africa. SAIEA was recently contracted by IAIA to coordinate the Southern African programme. If anyone would like to be involved in this exciting project, please contact nico.willemse@saiea.com.



The main products that will be developed through this project are a situation assessment of the integration of biodiversity issues in EA processes (lessons from best practice), a guidance document on how to do it better, and a training course.

The Calabash Project has also developed **Generic Terms of Reference** for civil society engagement involved in a point EIA (e.g. mine site), linear EIA (e.g. pipeline) or a regional strategic environmental assessment. Also included in the document are guidelines and tips on how to develop **Terms of Reference** that ensure that all contracting parties achieve maximum satisfaction and results throughout the duration of the relationship for a particular project. This is also included on the Calabash website.



www.saiea.com/calabash/poster/Get_Involved.pdf

Recently delivered was a **pilot course on EIA and PP** in Windhoek on May 24/25 for 27 participants from across the SADC region and Africa. The course was based on all the work, outputs and research conducted through Calabash over the last two years. Participants rated the course as excellent. It is hoped this course will be offered to a wide range of stakeholders when additional funding is secured. The Trainers and Participant manuals will be ready in 4 weeks.

The latest Calabash Newsletter

(May 2005, Issue #3) has been published.

It too is on the website and contains a summary of all Calabash outputs developed to date.

<http://www.saiea.com/calabash/images/html/news3.pdf>

The move of our website to a more secure server resulted in a missing link on our "Register as an Expert" page. Therefore no new registrations are recorded. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused. **The problem is fixed now!**

All the above activities are underway and SAIEA welcomes your feedback!