SOUTH AFRICA’S DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers us as a sector and the Department of Environmental Affairs continue to endeavour for the full realisation of the right to an environment that is not harmful to the health and well-being of South Africans and all those who live in our country. As the sector and the Department, we aim to radically transform our approach to environmental protection, while also balancing it with socio-economic development – crucial pillars on which sustainable development rests. As a nation we adopted the National Development Plan, which maps out the vision of the country for the 20 years ahead. In the environment sector, we will implement related aspects of the priority areas that deal with environmental protection and sustainable development.

Also in our quest to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we continue to promote various initiatives that galvanise unprecedented efforts to make South Africa a better country for all who live in it. The department therefore aims to provide leadership in environmental management, utilisation, conservation and protection of ecological infrastructure.

Mandate and core business
The Department of Environmental Affairs is mandated to give effect to the right of citizens to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing, and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. To this end, the department provides leadership in environmental management, conservation and protection towards sustainability for the benefit of South Africans and the global community.

Vision
A prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with our natural resources.

Mission
Providing leadership in environmental management, conservation and protection towards sustainability for the benefit of South Africans and the global community.

Values
Driven by our Passion as custodians and ambassadors of the environment we have to be Proactive and foster innovative thinking and solutions to environmental management premised on a People-centric approach that recognises the centrality of Bafokeng Pele, for it is when we put our people first that we will serve with Integrity, an important ingredient in a high Performance driven organisation such as ours.
**DURBAN**  
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Durban is a natural paradise known for its gorgeous coastline of sun-kissed beaches and subtropical climate, situated on the eastern seaboard of Africa. The City is built around one of the busiest ports in Africa and our people are our pride. The city focuses on providing visitors with a unique set of experiences that go beyond the beach and into the realm of Durban’s diverse culture, urban lifestyle and scenic diversity. Durban is a gateway to the Kingdom of the Zulus, which boasts world heritage sites, uKhahlamba Drakensburg Mountain ranges and iSimangiliso Wetland Park and numerous unique game parks within 3 hours’ drive. The City of Durban is an elegant, mature and ambitious city. It is a trendsetter in offering great lifestyle, speckled with adventure activities, blessed with natural beauty and is an astonishingly liveable city. Whether you are here as a business delegate or a leisure traveller, there is a warm African flavour that will capture your heart forever.

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Africa’s award-winning Professional Development Fellowship Program in Impact Assessment (PD Fellows Program) provides practical training and mentorship to the continent’s most promising young and mid-career environmental and social impact assessment and management professionals. Implemented by the pan-African network Capacity Development and Linkages for Environmental Assessment in Africa (CLEAA), the program has been supported by multiple international donors, including USAID, the World Bank, and Sida.

Program fellows learn by doing, participating in a professional impact assessment team, applied training and/or appropriately-tailored engagement for a period of 2 to 6 months to gain practical impact assessment experience in specialized fields of their own choosing. The experience is also intended to connect fellows firmly to the impact assessment professional community, including travel to and participation in a relevant impact assessment conference such as IAIA 2018.

For the 2017–2018 program cycle, USAID has generously provided support to reboot the program by funding the first fellows class since 2009, as well as outreach and planning to place the program on a sustainable, multi-donor funding basis under African leadership. Fellows from this year’s program will present on their experiences and lessons learned at a panel discussion session during this year’s IAIA.

The PD Fellows Program requires engagement from the IA community to sustain its mission—supporting sustainable development in Africa by supporting the professional development of the most promising young African IA professionals:

- African and international businesses, developers, banks, foundations, philanthropists, and governments are urged to support this highly successful program to strengthen the ranks of highly qualified African IA specialists.
- Fellowship candidates, host entities able to offer practicum placements, and potentially interested private-sector sponsors/hosts and international donors for the next year’s program cycle are urgently sought!

To learn more at IAIA 2018, please:
Attend the PD Fellows conference session.
Attend the CLEAA-Africa interests side meeting (to be announced).
Talk with CLEAA Trustees:
Prof. Dieudonné Bitondo, Secrétaire Exécutif Secrétariat pour l’Evaluation Environnementale en Afrique Centrale (SEEAC)
Email: info@seeaconline.org
Dr. Peter Tarr, Executive Director Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA)
Email: peter.tarr@saiea.com

CLEAA gratefully acknowledges core support from USAID for the 2017–2018 Fellows class.
IAIA and IAIAsa gratefully acknowledge these companies and organizations for their generous financial and in-kind support of IAIA18.

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