Environmental Assessment Practitioners work predominantly outdoors collecting data and in consultation with stakeholders. Some of the work is office based in processing data and generating reports and advice.

Also known as Environmental Impact Assessor and Restoration Analyst

Environmental assessment is an evolving field emerging from developing legislation to support environmental compliance.

Environmental Assessment Practitioners work as part of a team of experts to conduct environmental impact assessments, to determine the effect that developments are likely to have on the environment and society. They work within a framework of standards and regulations of the newly established Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa that ensures ethical conduct in this profession.

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Skills

Environmental Assessment Practitioners require excellent research and analytical skills and:

- An ability to think logically, analytically and independently
- Excellent research skills
- Good communication skills
- Report writing skills
- An understanding of social and environmental policy and legislation

Tasks

- Undertaking field assessments depending on whether the assessment focuses on the social or ecological context
- Undertaking interviews with communities and heritage assessments to inform social EIAPs
- Ecologically focussed EIAPs using scientific research methods to collect species data
- Reporting findings and recommending whether a development or activity goes ahead or not

Studies

BSc degree in Environmental Science, Geography, Natural Science or Social Science. Some universities offering these courses include UP, UFS, UFH, UKZN, UZ, NWU, Wits, UP, SU

National Diploma in Environmental Management offered at CPUT, MUT

Employers

- Private consultancies (e.g. Anchor Environmental Consultants)
- Provincial environmental agencies (e.g. DEADP, DETEA, NWPG)
- Provincial Conservation agencies (e.g. EKZN Wildlife, ECPTA, CapeNature)