Policy Analysts work to influence political and social events, raise public awareness of environmental issues and shape policy and legislation.

Policy Analysts assist public decision-making processes by providing accurate and actionable research and information to address complex political, social and ecological problems. Policy Analysts aim to improve decision-making through effective generation, analysis and communication of information.

Policy Analysts work in offices, libraries and through interaction with people in various contexts. They may also spend some time teaching at universities.
Skills

Policy Analysts require a high level of science-based research and analytical skills coupled to strong advocacy skills. Key skills required by a Policy Analyst include:

- Logical reasoning ability
- Superior research and analytical skills
- Strategic thinking
- Highly energetic and committed
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Project management skills
- Ability to pro-actively interact with management and team members
- Ability to handle multiple tasks in both individual and team environments

Tasks

Policy Analysts identify issues or policy areas to explore, collect and analyse information then report their findings and propose new policies for addressing problems.

Studies

BA Human Ecology is one possibility. Economic Geography is offered at Stellenbosch University. Other useful courses are Public Management and Administration and Public Policy. Stellenbosch University offers a BA in Decision Making and Policy as a useful entry point into this career field.

Employers

- Research Institutions (e.g. Human Science Research Council)
- Parastatals (e.g. SANBI)
- National Government agencies (e.g. DEA, DWA)