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## NEWSLETTER – November 2005

### 1. Conference first announcement

From Victor Wepener:

SASaQs and the Phycological Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) will be holding a joint conference in Maputo, Mozambique from 19 to 23 June 2006 at then Pestana Rovuma Hotel in Maputo. The theme "Source to Sea" has been chosen in keeping with the fact that Mozambique receives water from most southern African countries. Key conference themes are broad and cater to freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems as well as land-ocean interactions, management and aquaculture. Details, including a call for interest, are attached. Direct enquiries to Dr Richard Greenfield at [rgr@na.rau.ac.za](mailto:rgr@na.rau.ac.za)

### 2. Journal access

NISC inform us that only 15 members have activated their online access to the Journal. Access instructions from NISC are repeated here.

*Your online access to the African Journal of Aquatic Science is through Ingenta. To access this subscription please go to [www.ingentaconnect.com](http://www.ingentaconnect.com) and register issuing yourself with a UserID and Password.*

*To activate your subscription, log on using your UserID and Password, search for the African Journal of Aquatic Science using the title option for searching, when you have reached the Home page of the Journal you can click on "Add to personal subscription". You will then be asked for a reference, please use "AQUATIC SOCIETY" as your reference.*

*Please remember that your reference is private and should not be given out to non-members or people who have not subscribed.*

*If you have any difficulties accessing your journal subscription please do not hesitate to contact us on [journals@nisc.co.za](mailto:journals@nisc.co.za).*

### 3. South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity – two posts available

From Linda Coetzee:

#### **Manager: SAEON Node for the Coastal-Inshore Zone (Grahamstown)**

The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON, [www.saeon.ac.za](http://www.saeon.ac.za)) is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology, the National Research Foundation and national Earth observation stakeholders. SAEON aims to deliver long-term reliable data for scientific research, and which will inform decision-making at all levels of governance. Through its activities SAEON will promote a knowledge society and improved quality of life. It is an institutionalised network of organisations that operates through permanent nodes (field stations).

The SAEON Node for the Coastal-Inshore Zone is hosted by the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB). The Node must develop a set of observing facilities,

consisting of at least one core site, several affiliated sites, and a significant number of sample locations, jointly spanning the range of coastal-inshore ecosystems of South Africa. Three monitors will be deployed to execute an appropriate monitoring programme. A Node Liaison Committee consisting of organisations that already have active monitoring programmes in the Node's domain will provide for coordination of activities and strategic planning. SAIAB will employ the Node staff and provide administrative services and supervision under a long-term contractual agreement with SAEON.

**Purpose:** To lead, facilitate, develop and implement the Node in accordance with SAEON strategies and to the satisfaction of stakeholders.

**Requirements:** SAIAB and the National Office of SAEON want to recruit a resourceful, strategic thinking Node Manager who thrives on having diverse management responsibilities. We require an experienced multi-disciplinary scientist with a strong observation science background and excellent data management skills. Applicants must be disciplined self-starters and able to form lasting and productive relationships with the Node's stakeholders.

**Responsibilities:**

- Deliver and integrate long-term environmental data
- Create a science-policy link by delivering information products based on node data
- Manage the relationships with collaborating partners
- Chair the Node Liaison Committee
- Support local environmental science education outreach programmes
- Manage a small staff component, finances, equipment and related facilities
- Support and coordinate monitoring and training programmes
- Deliver periodic business plans, reports and node information
- Promote SAEON objectives

This is a renewable contract based on a 4 year cycle.

Applicants should submit a brief CV, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees as well as a covering letter in support of the application. These should be either mailed, e-mailed or faxed to Mrs Linda Coetzee, General Manager, SAIAB, Private Bag 1015, Grahamstown, 6140, Fax No: 046-6222403; Telephone No: 046-6035801; e-mail: [L.coetzee@ru.ac.za](mailto:L.coetzee@ru.ac.za), to reach us no later than **15 December 2005**. Correspondence will be conducted with short-listed candidates only.

**SAEON is committed to employment equity and redress.**

## **The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity**

invites applications from suitably qualified people for the position of

### **COLLECTIONS MANAGER**

The **South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)**, based in Grahamstown, is a National Research Facility of the National Research Foundation. The Institute is a world-renowned centre for the study of aquatic biology with particular emphasis on ichthyology.

**The successful candidate's responsibilities will include:**

- Management of the Collections Division including the control, curation and development of the National Fish Collection and ancillary collections
- Other duties will include the control and implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

**Candidates should have the following qualifications and attributes:**

- A minimum qualification of a BSc Honours (biology) degree and experience of at least three years in the field of biology and/or museum collections is required
- Proven management skills and ability to work well with people in a team environment
- Accomplished computing, database and information skills is an important consideration

Interested persons who meet the requirements, can obtain application forms and further information about the post from Mrs Linda Coetzee, General Manager: phone: 046-6035800; fax 046-6222403; email [L.Coetzee@ru.ac.za](mailto:L.Coetzee@ru.ac.za). Additional information on the Institute can be viewed on the website: [www.saiab.ru.ac.za](http://www.saiab.ru.ac.za).

Correspondence will be conducted with short-listed candidates only.

**Closing date:** 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005

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**INTRODUCTION TO MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WATER QUALITY, 6-10 February 2006.**

This is an opportunity for anyone involved in water resource management: researchers, scientists, managers who plan procedures, as well as those who will soon be conducting toxicity tests to satisfy DWAF policy changes in industrial waste water management, soon to be implemented (see below). This course will allow participants to plan new procedures in advance, and be prepared when policy does change.

This course is a repeat of the 2005 course but, in response to requests, there is an even greater emphasis in 2006 on case studies and application of toxicology in integrated water quality management, as well as risk assessment, than previously presented. Those completing the Practical Course will receive a Rhodes University Certificate of Attendance; those completing the Theory and Policy Course and passing the short written test will receive a Rhodes University Certificate of Competence.

Applied aquatic ecotoxicology forms the basis for managing environmental water quality, along with biomonitoring and chemical monitoring. This course will demonstrate how these key concepts are utilised to provide the necessary essential information to managing environmental water quality.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) are working towards a change in policy regarding the management of complex industrial wastewater. The principles will apply to mining effluents as well. Presently, water pollution is only controlled by managing levels of single substances in wastewater. However, a source directed control will be introduced (possibly in 2006) in the form of toxicity testing of complex industrial wastewater (Direct Estimation of Ecological Effect Potential = DEEEP). This policy involves looking directly at the effect a mixture of substances may have on the environment.

In preparation for this policy change, the Unilever Centre for Environmental Water Quality (Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University, Grahamstown) is offering a repeat of their successful Introductory Course on Managing Environmental Water Quality:

**VENUE:**

Resource Quality Services, DWAF, Roodeplaat Dam, Pretoria.  
Directions are available at <http://www.dwaf.gov.za/IWQS/iwqsmap/>

**COURSE CONTENTS AND COST:**

**A) THEORY COMPONENT (registration fee R4000)**

How ecotoxicology, biomonitoring and environmental water quality data are best used for effective water resource management.

**Included:**

- Introduction to Aquatic Toxicology. What is Toxicology including concentration response relationships. This will be closely integrated with the Practical Component of the course and the 4 standard toxicity tests to be completed. However attendance at the Practical course is not a requirement.
- The water laws, and strategies for wastewater and water quality management.
- Application and Context of Toxicology, in the context of policy development of recent years including the introduction of the Direct Estimation of Ecological Effect Potential (DEEEP).
- Planning and evaluating an ecotoxicological programme.
- Freshwater toxicity tests including acute and chronic tests and how these are to be linked with the physico chemical data accumulated by e.g. DWAF and industry; together with biomonitoring which is being introduced by DWAF into more and more areas through the River Health Programme.

- Case studies, including from a Water Board and an industrial perspective.
- Risk assessment, theory, application and implementation.

Presentations will be by staff of the UCEWQ and invited experts from industry and DWAF.

**SIMPLIFIED SCHEDULE THEORY & POLICY COMPONENT:**

Tuesday 7th February 08h00 to Friday 10th February 12h30.

Details on request or with confirmation of registration.

**B) PRACTICAL COMPONENT (registration fee R1800)**

Four of the standard toxicity tests recommended for the DEEEP policy will be completed; invertebrate, fish, algal, bacterial. Laboratory techniques within toxicological tests including sample preparation are included.

**SIMPLIFIED SCHEDULE PRACTICAL COMPONENT:**

Monday 6th February 10h00 to Friday 10th February 13h30. Details on request or with confirmation of registration.

More information regarding the course, including registration forms and payment requirements can be found at website <http://www.ru.ac.za/institutes/iwr/ucewq.html>  
OR write to us at [course@iwr.ru.ac.za](mailto:course@iwr.ru.ac.za).

NOTE: the registration forms need to be FAXED back to us as we require a signature to confirm attendance.

## **AQUATIC BIOLOGIST**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of aquatic biologist. The incumbent of the above position will be responsible for the facilitation, execution and administration of research and consulting projects, with specific emphasis on aquatic ecosystems. The candidate must be willing to travel.

### **Job requirements**

- BSc (hons) degree in Natural Sciences or related field
- At least two years experience in biomonitoring and/or ecological research
- Drivers license
- Must have a sound knowledge of routine biomonitoring indices (including SASS, FAII, IHAS), the purpose, procedures and methods of these indices and must be competent to evaluate and interpret monitoring results

### **Authority & Responsibility**

- Administrate, organize and execute ecological research and biomonitoring projects
- Must reach agreed monthly target

### **Primary Duties**

- Plan, prioritize and schedule ecological research and biomonitoring activities
- Participate in fieldwork relevant to projects
- Equipment maintenance
- Data processing, interpretation and management. This includes verifying the accuracy of calculations, examining information for accuracy and quality, evaluation of research findings and making appropriate recommendations.
- Compile reports and present results based on sound scientific methods
- Publish research findings
- Establish network with relevant individuals and organizations to share latest developments and technology

Salary negotiable, depending on qualifications and experience

*Curricula vitae* must be submitted to:

ECOSUN  
PO Box 2131  
Florida Hills  
1716

Attention: Veronica Rall

Fax: (011) 672-0008 or e-mail to [veronica@ecosun.co.za](mailto:veronica@ecosun.co.za)

Tel: (011) 672-0666

Closing Date: 15 December 2005