

Youth@SAIIA

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT 2013**



African Insights. Global Perspectives.

REGISTER NOW!



PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) would like to invite your school to participate in the 2013 SAIIA Environmental Sustainability Project (ESP) sponsored by Sasol!

The project is a schools outreach competition that requires teams of learners to research an assigned topic related to environmental sustainability, and to consider what possible recommendations or solutions they would propose at a local, national, regional and/or global level. Tutoring, workshops, and resource materials are provided to each of the participating schools, and regardless of competition results, each school is invited to be involved in various programme activities throughout the year.

The Environmental Sustainability Project is divided into three parts:

1. **Research paper** – Working in teams of three learners write a research paper of up to 12 pages on selected topics related to environmental sustainability.
2. **Presentation** – Teams with the best research papers are invited to present their research findings in a provincial or regional event organised by SAIIA.
3. **Youth Negotiations at the SAIIA Young Leaders Conference** - Each year in December, top learners who have excelled in the ESP are brought to Gauteng for the SAIIA Young Leaders Conference in which they participate in their own negotiation sessions to propose possible recommendations for global environmental sustainability issues.

About SAIIA

SAIIA is a research think tank focussed on the importance of learning about international affairs and Africa's relationship with the rest of the world. We were founded in 1934 and are an independent institute.

Some of our research focus areas include:

- Climate Change and the Environment
- Emerging Powers, BRICS and Africa
- Foreign Policy
- Global Development
- Global Governance and International Institutions
- Governance, Democracy and Accountability
- Trade, Investment and Finance
- Natural Resources and Energy
- Peace and Security
- Regional Integration

Youth@SAIIA

“Youth@SAIIA” refers to all youth development and programming at the South African Institute of International Affairs. Youth@SAIIA currently runs three programmes: the Environmental Sustainability Project, Model United Nations, and Inter-school Quizzes. Each of these programmes now feed into our annual SAIIA Young Leaders Conference.

Our programmes reach a wide range of schools, creating a forum where young people and educators from various cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds are able to come together to not just identify issues, but to also start creating solutions.

2013 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT THEME

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, world leaders came together to adopt the [United Nations Millennium Declaration](#). Nations committed to eight targets, known as the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs, and agreed to a deadline of 2015. The eight MDGs range from halving extreme poverty (MDG 1) to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7). Each year the theme of the Environmental Sustainability Project is designed to reflect global trends as related to broader themes around climate change and sustainable development. **The theme for the 2013 programme will focus on the global priorities for environment sustainability after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deadline of 2015.** Topics around climate change adaptation and the possible creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the forefront of global conversation, and we want our learners to be able to contribute to this dialogue.

2013 PROGRAMME

PART 1: RESEARCH PAPER

Working in teams of three, learners will write a research paper of up to 12 pages that will examine the cross cutting and interconnected issues of environmental sustainability. The ultimate goal of your research is to put forward recommendations and possible solutions for the post-2015 global strategy on environmental sustainability.

To determine your research focus you will need to select three topics from this list below. At least one of your topics must be BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE or SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air pollution and air quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Forests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemicals and wastes | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cities and human settlements | <input type="checkbox"/> Oceans and seas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil, land use, land degradation and desertification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumption and production | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental governance | |

In your research papers teams will need to select:

- *One* case example in South Africa or the Southern African region to demonstrate and discuss how your selected topics connect.
- *One* case example from another country or region of the world to demonstrate and discuss how your selected topics connect.

Detailed research paper guidelines and rubric will be provided to schools when you submit your 2013 SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM.

Schools are welcome to enter up to two teams. We encourage schools with more interested learners to host their own school level competition to determine the top two papers for submission to SAIIA. Teachers are also welcome to make this an assignment for class work.

PART 2: PRESENTATIONS

All research papers will be assessed by qualified markers and returned to participating schools. Top learners from each province will be invited to present their findings and possible solutions at a function hosted by SAIIA. Each team will have 10-15 minutes for their presentation, and will be encouraged to make use of any relevant visual aids or technology. Presentations will be done in front of an audience of adjudicators and sponsors, together with invited VIP guests, family, and friends of the presenting schools. All participants in the project are invited to attend the presentations.

The top team from each province, as well as three other outstanding learners who impress adjudicators will be chosen to attend the 2013 SAIIA Young Leaders Conference where they will attend workshops and discussions, and hold their own environment focussed youth negotiation session.

PART 3: SAIIA YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

Top learners will be invited to participate in Youth Negotiation sessions as participants of SAIIA's Young Leaders Conference during 8-13 December 2013. Using principles of Model United Nations or formal debate, participants will represent different sectors or interest groups from each of the areas in which they researched. At the close of the Youth Negotiation Session learners will have drafted their possible recommendations and solutions in the form of the *2013 SAIIA Young Leaders Declaration* to be shared to UN and government officials.

KEY PROGRAMME DATES

- School registration forms due by **31 May 2013**.
- Written submissions of no more than 12 pages (double spaced), to be submitted electronically to youth@saiia.org.za or by fax 086 295 1064 by 17h00 on **17 July 2013**.
- Announcement of top submissions per province will be done by the **end of July 2013**.
- Presentations by finalists to be done at a provincial level **during the month of September**. Please note that dates will differ in each province.
- Top learners will be brought to SAIIA at Wits University in Johannesburg to participate in the 2013 SAIIA Young Leaders Conference, **8-13 December**. All expenses will be paid.

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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT SPONSORED BY SASOL
2013 SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM**



SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone: _____

School Fax: _____

Does your school have access to the internet? YES NO

SUPERVISING TEACHER(S)

Name(s): _____

Subject(s) You Teach: _____

Cell Phone Number(s): _____

Email(s): _____

RESEARCH TOPICS

(Please refer to the list in PART 1: RESEARCH PAPER to select your research topics. Remember at least one of your topics has to be BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE or SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

1st Topic:

2nd Topic:

3rd Topic:

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY NO LATER THAN 31 MAY 2013. EMAIL TO
YOUTH@SAIIA.ORG.ZA OR FAX 086 295 1064.**