

# 2015 SAIIA SASOL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT



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## REGISTER NOW!

### PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) would like to invite your school to participate in the 2015 SAIIA Sasol Environmental Sustainability Project (ESP)!

The goal of the ESP is to equip South African youth with knowledge and understanding of the local and international issues connected to environmental sustainability so that they might be able to put forth their ideas on how to tackle the challenges facing our world today. It is a competition that requires teams of learners to research topics related to global environmental sustainability, provide case examples, and to consider what possible recommendations or solutions they would propose at a local and international level. In the process learners develop valuable content knowledge, as well as research, writing, public speaking and critical thinking skills.

Participants of the programme are provided unique and often life changing opportunities to engage with different stakeholders from academia, civil society, government, media, and the United Nations. 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, Grade 10-12 learners write a research paper of up to 12 pages on selected topics related to global environmental sustainability issues.



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 to government and the United Nations.



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## ABOUT SAIIA

SAIIA is a research think tank focused 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.

## YOUTH@SAIIA

Youth@SAIIA refers to all youth programmes at the South African Institute of International Affairs. We currently run 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 and newly developed Youth Policy Committee.

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.

## 2015 PROGRAMME

### PART 1: RESEARCH PAPER

Working in teams of three, Grade 10-12 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 on environmental sustainability on a local and international level.

To determine your research focus you will need to select **one** of these main themes:

- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Sustainable Development

AND

**one** of these topics:

- ✓ Air pollution and air quality
- ✓ Chemicals and wastes
- ✓ Cities and human settlements
- ✓ Consumption and production
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Environmental governance
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Forests
- ✓ Freshwater
- ✓ Oceans and seas
- ✓ Soil, land use, land degradation and desertification

***Please note that Grade 11 Life Sciences learners are also welcome to draw from the 'Human Impact on the Environment' curriculum to determine their research focus.***

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**In your research papers teams will need to select:**

- One **local** case example to demonstrate and discuss how your selected topics connect.

AND

One **international** case example from another country or region of the world to demonstrate and discuss how your selected topics connect.

## CASE EXAMPLE 1:

Local example from your community, city or province

Demonstrates

- ✓ Theme
- ✓ Topic

## CASE EXAMPLE 2:

International example from any place outside of South Africa

Demonstrates

- ✓ Theme
- ✓ Topic

Learners are welcome to incorporate other themes and topics into their research, but are asked to start with one theme and one topic to help focus their attention. Detailed research paper guidelines and a rubric will be provided to schools when you submit your 2015 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 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 expert 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 2015 SAIIA Young Leaders Conference where they will attend workshops and discussions, and hold their own environment focused youth negotiation session.

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## PART 3: SAIIA YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE

Top learners will be invited to participate in youth negotiation sessions as delegates of the SAIIA Young Leaders Conference during 6-11 December 2015. Using principles of Model United Nations and formal real-world negotiations, participants will represent different sectors or interest groups from each of the areas in which they researched. At the close of the youth negotiations learners will have drafted their possible recommendations and solutions in the form of the 2015 SAIIA Young Leaders Declaration to be shared to UN and government officials at a special event in Pretoria.

All expenses will be covered by SAIIA.

### 2015 PROGRAMME TIMELINE

- ✓ Environmental Sustainability Project **Workshops** for educators and learners:
  - 18 April 2015 – Western Cape (TBC)
  - 25 April 2015 – KwaZulu-Natal (TBC)
  - 9 May 2015 – Gauteng and Mpumalanga (TBC)
- ✓ **School registration** forms due by 11 May 2015.
- ✓ **First draft** of research paper to be submitted for feedback by 5 June 2015. Learners will be given feedback, and can work to improve their papers for final submission.
- ✓ **Final written submissions** deadline is 17h00 on 21 July 2015.
- ✓ **Announcement of top submissions** will be done by early August 2015.
- ✓ **Presentations by finalists** to be done at a provincial level event during the months of September and October. Please note that the dates will differ in each province.
- ✓ Top learners will be brought, all expenses paid, to SAIIA at Wits University in Johannesburg to participate in the **2015 SAIIA Young Leaders Conference**, 6-11 December.

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## 2015 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 FOCUS

**Group 1**

**Group 2**

**Theme:**

**Theme:**

**Topic:**

**Topic:**

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY NO LATER THAN 11 MAY 2015. EMAIL TO  
YOUTH@SAIIA.ORG.ZA OR FAX 086 295 1064.