

# Implementation of Continuing Professional Development for Animal Scientists

by

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Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is an internationally recognised tool which professionals use to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills. CPD is essential in supporting professionals not only in their current role but also in their career progression. CPD is vital if a professional is to remain effective and more importantly compliant to regulatory requirements as set out in the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No 27 of 2003).

In South Africa a significant number of professions are encouraging practitioners to follow the CPD route. This includes professionals working in the Health Professions, Engineering, Project Management and Financial Services. Within SACNASP's broad spectrum of fields of practice already there is a drive from Geological Scientists, Statistical Scientists and Extension Scientists to implement CPD.

### Why Animal Science?

Animal Scientists play an important role in the livestock and agricultural industry. It is important that SA Animal Scientists will keep up with the newest developments and technologies used in the livestock industry and CPD can play a major role to ensure that required skills and knowledge are acquired and updated. The growing world population is demanding more protein that needs to be produced in a sustainable and highly efficient manner. As the world changes there are constant developments that can only be acquired through a managed process of learning and development as encouraged by CPD.

### Role of SACNASP


SACNASP's definition of CPD is very adaptable so it is relevant for all registered scientists at all stages of their career. SACNASP will provide the portal through which training programmes can be accredited by experts in the field (phase 1) and where an individual's CPD points can be maintained and tracked (phase 2). Phase 1 has already been implemented and phase 2 will be completed by the end of 2015. Registered Scientists can already attend accredited conferences and courses and gain their CPD credits.

### The Process:

Over a 5 year period 25 CPD credits need to be accrued in order to be eligible for renewal of registration as a registered scientist. This is achieved by gaining CPD credits across 3 broad categories of which category 1 is compulsory.

There are 3 categories in which CPD points can be gained.

Category	Activities	Credits per annum
<b>Category 1:</b> Developmental Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attendance of animal science related conferences, congresses, symposia, seminars and workshops</li><li>• Presentation of seminars, courses, workshops and papers (both preparation &amp; presentation)</li></ul>	1 credit / 10 hours ( <i>max 4 credits</i> )

<b>Category 2 :</b>  Work based Activities	a) Going to work  b) Mentoring	a) 1 credit / 400 hours (max 2 credits)  b) 1 credit / 50 hours
<b>Category 3 :</b>  Individual Activities	a) Belonging to a SACNASP recognised voluntary association. b) Individual activities – that includes but not limited to, part-time lecturing; Publications; Subscription to animal science related magazines; informal learning; Participation in statutory and professional, institutional, science committees or task groups.	a) 1 credit  Max 3 credits (30 hours)

### What is required by Animal Scientists

It is important that Animal Scientists register with SACNASP as required by Act 27 of 2003 to be able to practise as a Professional Animal Scientist. Animal Scientists need to engage in the process of CPD to ensure that the profession remains competitive and contribute to the development of the South African livestock industry. There are opportunities for Animal Scientists in private practise and industry to become involved in CPD activities not only attending workshops and training, but organising and presenting relevant training for the specialised disciplines within Animal Science.

In summary the goals of the SACNASP CPD programme are in line with SACNASP's principle values that professional scientists provide a service to the public and that the public has a right to be protected. The converse of that is that the profession also has a right to be protected. Ensuring that a well-managed and documented programme of professional development is implemented goes a long way towards achieving both these objectives.

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