



*SOUTHERN AFRICAN NETWORK FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
ON THE ENVIRONMENT*

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

1ST SANTREN CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

**“CHALLENGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES”.**

GRAND PALM INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
GABORONE, BOTSWANA

19 - 21 MAY 2004

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SANTREN Network:

The Southern African Network for Training and Research on the Environment (SANTREN) was formed and launched in September 1996 in Ndola, Zambia, as a collaborative training project between the then Carl Duisburg Gesellschaft (CDG) of Germany (now InWent) and various research and educational institutions and professionals within the SADC region. The programme involves demand-oriented contribution to the improvement of environmental information and training courses in the SADC region in order to support efforts towards environmentally sustainable development. Network activities are coordinated by a Management Board whose secretariat is currently hosted by the Institute of Environmental Studies (IES) at the University of Zimbabwe in Harare. The project was formed with an initial membership of 50, which has grown to more than 350 to date, organised into 13 technical groups working throughout the SADC region. Members in each technical group are drawn from each of the member countries of SADC and represent a multi-disciplinary core of professionals. Meetings, workshops, courses and research activities facilitate intensive exchange of information and the promotion of new ideas towards training and capacity building to deal with the ever challenging environmental issues arising in the region and beyond. Individual membership to any person from the region sharing these ideals is set at only US\$15.

Objectives of SANTREN

The objectives of SANTREN are:

- (a) To bring together individuals, universities, industrial organisations and other institutions in Southern Africa in a financially sustainable programme of environmental research, training and professional services.
- (b) To design, deliver and facilitate training courses on the environment and natural resource protection in Southern Africa, based on regional problems and experiences.
- (c) To support research and training activities and projects geared to promoting sustainable development in the region and internationally.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

1. Participation at the Conference:-

All players and stakeholders in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources are invited to participate at the 1st SANTREN Conference and Exhibition. These include among others:-

- Government Ministries and Departments
- Local Authorities and Interested Agencies
- Regional and Local NGOs and CBOs
- Research and Training Institutions
- Environmental Practitioners/Consultants
- Individuals from both the public and private sectors.

2. Conference Theme

The purpose of the conference is to provide an international forum for the exchange of state of the art information on the challenges faced in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources and how these can be addressed. The overall theme of the 1st SANTREN Conference and Exhibition will be **“Challenges in Environmental Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources”**

3. Conference Topics (Sub-themes)

The aim is to bring together earth, social and life scientists reflecting the multiplicity of environmental issues we meet in this region and beyond. Papers addressing challenges in operation, maintenance and management issues on the following topics will be discussed:

- Air Pollution and Monitoring
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Water Resources Management
- Mining and the Environment
- Natural and Land Resources Management
- Industrial Environmental Management (Cleaner Production & Waste Management)
- Environmental Information Management and Data Exchange
- Marine and Inland Coastal Zone Management
- e-Learning and the Environment
- Research and Development, Capacity Building

The sub-themes underline our intention to bring together people who are active in different practice areas and disciplines, to provide a forum to discuss and set the “state of the art” in environmental protection and sustainable development. The innovative scientific programme will be complemented by a dynamic trade exhibition and an enjoyable social programme, to ensure that you have the opportunity to network with friends and colleagues in a relaxed environment.

4. Conference Format/Structure

The conference will comprise of three days of oral and poster presentations complemented by a trade exhibition. Each day starts with a plenary session focused on two out of the six objectives, per day. The plenary begins with two keynote addresses by distinguished invited speakers, followed by papers under the relevant two objectives. The plenary is then followed by parallel sessions for the rest of each day, covering particular sub-themes out of the broad themes underlying all six objectives. The official language for the conference will be English. Technical talks will be 15 minutes long with 5 minutes for discussion. Preferred presentation format is Microsoft PowerPoint or 35mm slides. Posters will be 1 x 2 m in size, and will be on display for one half or full day with a dedicated time slot for presentation. The posters will be grouped by session as the oral presentations.

5. Call for Papers

Oral and Poster Papers that address aspects of any of the above topics or themes are keenly invited for presentation and discussion at the Conference. Although the focus will be on Southern Africa, submission of papers of international interest is encouraged. The reported research may conform to any of the following characteristics: fundamental, field-based, applied, conceptual, or case studies.

Abstracts of not more than 350 words providing a sound overview of the research being reported as well as a summary of findings and conclusions must be submitted to the Conference Secretariat by **31 October 2003**. E-mail and fax submissions will be accepted. Please indicate clearly what theme you are addressing and whether it is an oral or poster presentation. An international review panel will screen the submitted Abstracts and the subsequent completed oral Papers. Authors of the papers selected for both oral and poster presentations will be informed by email, fax or telephone.

Full papers not exceeding 8 A4 pages must be submitted not later than **27th February 2004** in accordance with the prescribed format which will be made available with the notice of acceptance. Abstracts and full papers should include full names and contact details of the author(s). The successful papers will be post-published as a Conference Proceedings. Posters need not be submitted prior to the Conference.

6. Exhibitors' Information and Sponsorship Opportunities

The conference organizing committee is delighted to invite your organization to participate as an exhibitor in the trade exhibition being held in conjunction with the conference. The exhibition will feature the latest products, services and state-of-the-art information technology available to environmentalists. Limited exhibition space will be available in the Conference Centre as from 22 April throughout the conference period. The exhibition booths are in principle 2 x 3 m (but other sizes can be considered) and include 1 table, 2 chairs, 1 power point, 2 spotlights and a company name board.

Additional equipment can be hired. Cost per booth will be ~US\$1200. The fee also includes conference lunches and sponsored social functions for one person. Additional persons will be charged at US\$150 per person (they must register).

Sponsorship opportunities are available at four different levels: gold sponsor, silver sponsor, bronze sponsor and sponsor, and these will be recognised in both the Final Programme and the Volume of Abstracts. Details can be obtained from the conference secretariat.

7. Conference Fees

The conference registration fee will be US\$250 per person for international participants and US\$200 for SADC participants, US\$150 for SANTREN members and US\$50 for students. Payment details and refund policy will be made available in the second circular. The conference fees will cover the following:-

- Conference Bag and Stationery
- Final Programme and Volume of Abstracts of Papers
- Morning and Afternoon Tea/Coffee.
- Conference Icebreaker/Dinner.

8. Important Dates & Deadlines

9.

31 October 2003: Closing date for Abstracts

15 December 2003: Successful authors notified by Review Panel

30 January 2004: Closing date for Early Registration.

27 February 2004: Closing date for completed Oral and/or Poster Papers

9. Field Excursions and Local Tours

Field trips to the Okavango Delta and other local Environmental sites are planned but will be paid for separately and depend on response by participants (details in second circular).

10. Travel and Accommodation

Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements from their hometown to Gaborone. It is advisable for all delegates to check with their nearest Botswana Diplomatic Mission or travel agent on VISA and Health requirements. The recommended accommodation is at the conference venue, The Grand Palm Hotel and International Convention Centre (<http://www.grandpalm.bw>; info@grandpalm.bw). Participants are advised to arrange for their own accommodation directly with the hotel, but should indicate SANTREN Conference as the Secretariat is negotiating special rates. There are also three pleasant hotels within 5 km from the venue, larger hotels a few kilometers further, and a wide range of guest houses and lodges within a similar radius. Most hotels provide a free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel.

11. **Host Institutions.**

The Institute of Environmental Studies (IES) and the University of Botswana (UB).

12. Further Information.

For more information please contact SANTREN Conference Secretariat at santren@mopipi.ub.bw. This announcement, as well as general information about SANTREN, is available at: <http://www.santren.ac.zw> or <http://www.santren.com>