



## **Guidelines for the recognition of Fields of Practice**

**Approved by Council on 29 May 2019**

### **PREFACE**

The South African Council for the Natural Scientific Professions is a registration and regulation authority for natural science professions in South Africa as established by the Natural Scientific Professions Act (Act no. 27 of 2003) as amended, hereby referred to as the NSP Act. SACNASP strives to establish, direct, sustain and ensure a high level of professionalism and ethical conduct, that is internationally acceptable and in the broad interest of the community as a whole and the natural sciences.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Scientists are registered in the natural sciences in fields of practice. These fields are listed in Schedule 1 of the NSP Act and are amended from time to time, as published in the Government Gazette. According to Section 19(2)(a) of the NSP Act, “the Council may determine fields of practice in the natural sciences which are generically the same as those mentioned in Schedule 1 and recommend to the Minister that such fields of practice be included in Schedule 1.”

Submissions to amend Schedule 1 are received from various sources and such applications have to be considered on their merits and accepted, rejected or amended prior to a recommendation to the Minister of Science and Technology to amend Schedule 1.

The guidelines that will apply to a recommendation from Council for a change to Schedule 1 are as follows:

### **RULES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF FIELDS OF PRACTICE**


1. Schedule 1 is published in the Government Gazette and the latest published Schedule is the valid Schedule that Council needs to consider when applications for amendments to fields or sub-fields of practice are made.
2. Only the Council appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology may request a change to Schedule 1. No Committee or Sub Committee may bypass Council in this regard.

3. A submission for a change to Schedule 1, from Council to the Minister shall not come into effect until it has been published in the Government Gazette.
4. There has to be a formal Council resolution that clearly shows the change requested, and the submission from SACNASP must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer.
5. If the Minister requests an explanation for the change requested, the CEO and Chairperson (or designated representative) of Council shall make the submission. Other representatives, as approved by the Chairperson can be included in this process.
6. Requests for changes to Schedule 1 can be received from Members of Council, the CEO, Chairpersons of Registration Committees, Chairpersons of recognised voluntary associations, and government departments and state bodies.
7. All submissions are to be supported by a motivation clearly explaining the need for the change. The person making the request should indicate the constituency being represented (including copies of minutes pertaining to the recommendation) and should provide their full contact information. .
8. A new field should be identified if it is clearly a separate area of natural science, and further if it makes economic, quality and safety related sense to create this new field.
9. A sub-field can be introduced if it is clearly a sub- division of an existing field of practice that makes economic, quality and safety related sense to be a stand-alone sub-field.
10. A field of practise or sub-field may be deleted if changes in the professional environment in relation to the field/sub-field make such changes necessary.
11. Sufficient consultation must take place with relevant voluntary associations (VAs) and stakeholders.
12. All applications, are to be presented to the Registration Committee. After having considered the application, the committee is required to make a recommendation to Council.
13. SACNASP EXCO, on behalf of Council will appoint a task team consisting of members with expertise in the field of practise in which amendments are being proposed and chaired by a Council member. The task team will evaluate the application, taking into account the Council's views on amendments to fields of practice, whether the amendment will benefit South Africa and Natural Science in general, and consider any national policy or document it deems relevant to make an evaluation.
14. This task team is empowered to contact any person or voluntary association to obtain the information it requires to make a recommendation.
15. This task team will provide a written recommendation to SACNASP EXCO for consideration and subsequent transmission to Council.
16. The decision of the Council regarding the proposal will be final.

**AUTHORISATION**

This Guidelines Document for the recognition of Fields of Practice was approved by the Council of SACNASP on 29 May 2019 and signed by the Chairperson of Council and the CEO on behalf of Council.

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<b>Signature</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairperson of Council</b></p> 
<b>Date</b>	<b>29 May 2019</b>
<b>Signature</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chief Executive Officer</b></p> 
<b>Date</b>	<b>29 May 2019</b>

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