



ADRI MEYER

ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTANT

AT LEGACY ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING
(LEGACY EMC)

BSc Conservation Ecology
(SU) & MPhil Environmental
Law (UCT)

MY STORY

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I have always had a passion for nature, the environment and sustainable development, and therefore the choice to pursue Conservation Ecology was an easy one. **However, I am not exactly cut out for life in the bush, therefore taking steps to become an Environmental Assessment Practitioner and conducting environmental impact assessments was the next logical thing.** In my role I am able to facilitate sustainable development and waste management practices.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR YOU?

My work is a standard 8 – 5 office job, with some twists. I am mainly responsible for report writing (Basic Assessments and Environmental Impact Reports) which includes project management, liaising with authorities, clients, specialists (e.g. freshwater; botanical, visual, heritage) and stakeholders, doing the actual impact assessment using our company's methodology and notifying the public of our projects. I am also the main Environmental Control Officer (ECO) at my company, meaning I go to construction sites and monitor compliance with the approved Environmental Management Programme (i.e. I check their waste management is up to scratch and that they are not harming the environment during the construction phase).

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

I enjoy working with a wide range of specialists and learning every day. Site visits (either for proposed projects or for my ECO work) takes me across the Western Cape – from Saldanha to Worcester to Stellenbosch. Luckily I enjoy writing, so the report writing is a fun bonus and I get to apply my mind daily to new challenges and projects. I also really enjoy the feeling when one of my projects gets approved and gets Environmental Authorisation – **best feeling ever!**

SOME ADVICE

1. It is very **unlikely** that you will be able to **land a job** as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner straight from your BSc.
2. You will need some kind of **Environmental Management or Environmental Law postgraduate qualification.**
3. The job market is incredibly tough, and **postgraduate qualifications are crucial** in this industry.

DO I FIT THE PROFILE?

You definitely need a thorough understanding of local environmental legislation, specifically NEMA and the EIA Regulations, but also the National Water Act, Waste Act and Biodiversity Act.

FOCUSED



PATIENT



TIME MANAGEMENT



PEOPLE SKILLS



LOVE NATURE



IS THERE A FUTURE in this career?

YES

As long as there are construction projects and new developments, there will be a need for Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



BirdLife South Africa: **Working hands on** with wild African Penguins on their breeding islands and organizing the International Oceans of Life Photographic Competition and Exhibition at Iziko Museums.

Getting my **first Environmental Authorisation** for an Environmental Impact Report I did for the Waste Facility (aka landfill site) in Ashton.

Earning enough **responsibility and respect** at my current company to manage my own projects, despite being a junior member of staff.

CHALLENGES

When I finished my BSc at Stellenbosch I **had NO IDEA what I wanted to do.** I knew I would only pursue an MSc if I was truly passionate because I am not the "sit in the wild bush of Africa with no humans around" kind of person.

" Luckily a fellow classmate made me aware of the MPhil Marine and Environmental Law course at UCT, which then launched my career."