



The South African  
Council *for* Planners  
S A C P L A N

# SACPLAN Bulletin

e-Newsletter for the South African Council for Planners

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## It is MapAble!

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**MapAble™**  
Visualize . Map . Collaborate

MapAble™ is a cloud based GIS that brings spatial analysis, mapping and reporting, backed by a feature rich and extensive development database, into the daily work environment of the non-GIS specialist. It aims at bringing back high level spatial analysis capabilities into the armoury of the planner. We are therefore very excited to introduce you to MapAble™.

After nearly two year's intensive preparation, brainstorming, code writing, legal advice, nights on the internet, we are ready to launch an exciting addition to the range of mapping facilities available on the internet. However, the history is much longer. MapAble™ is based on the more than 70 years practical planning, GIS and application development of its partners. The forerunner technology from which we develop MapAble™ exists for many years already and has been applied by a number of institutions in South Africa. We have used our experience to re-engineer and repackage our product into flagship technology which is now at the disposal of anyone interested in maps, spatial analysis and planning.

MapAble™ was born out of sheer frustration from our side as a practicing town and regional planners who do not have access to tools to do proper spatial analysis. When we studied many years ago spatial analysis was done manually and with very limited data and analysis options available to the town and

regional planner. However, with the advent of modern computers and information technology spatial analysis rapidly developed as a specialist field and specialized spatial analysis soon became the domain of the GIS specialist. Software became very sophisticated and often out of reach of the mortal town planner both in terms technical requirements and skills as well as the cost of dedicated specialized software. This has led to a situation where, every time spatial analysis needs to be done a GIS specialist must be sourced. It has led to an absurd situation where in reality a spatial planner could not do proper in-depth spatial analysis. The net result was that our planning become more and more dependent on postulating outcomes in terms of faraway visions of what we wish the future should hold and plans became less based on facts and empirical analysis.

This untenable situation has led to the birth of MapAble™ which aims to lowering the entry barriers to spatial analysis by bridging the gap between skills,

### In this Issue

- ◆ It is MapAble!
- ◆ Know your Council Member
- ◆ News from the SAACPP - Character Referencing: "Struck off the proverbial roll"
- ◆ News from the Gazettes
- ◆ February Tweets on @SACPLAN1

technology and available data. MapAble™ was established about two years ago between Burgert Gildenhuys as town and regional planner, Willem Badenhorst a town planner but practicing as GIS specialist and Johan du Toit a software programmer specializing in developing spatial analysis tools.

MapAble™ is so much more than a web based mapping facility. We have launched MapAble™ to bring you affordable high-end, cutting edge, cloud based mapping and geographic information system (GIS) technology. The key is that we bring this technology to users that are not GIS experts but who use maps and do spatial analysis as an integral part of their core business activities. Simply, we want to take GIS out of the backroom, demystify it and present it as a day to day tool without which the spatial planner, researcher or analyst cannot work.

Our experience has shown that many organisations want a GIS. The route is normally buying very expensive hardware with the surprise that you need to pay license fees for the software and once ready you still need a “GIS expert” to run the system. Low and behold, if everything is now in place the next surprise is that you need good and relevant data to run your GIS. Should you overcome this, the next challenge is the fact that your GIS expert is a GIS expert and not a subject specialist, so he or she can only act as an interface between you and the GIS. Eventually you end up using a multi-million Rand system to generate very basic maps. We would like to change this. Our aim is not to get rid of GIS specialist but rather to free up the GIS specialist from the day to day mundane requests for maps and bits and pieces of spatial information. The organisation’s GIS expert now has the opportunity to really become the expert in spatial analysis and problems solving while operational users of spatial information are empowered to do basic analysis and mapping that suits their particular needs. MapAble™ recognises and underwrites the importance of GIS and GIS experts in any organization. MapAble™ cannot exist without the GIS expert but we want you to be able the able to do your own spatial analysis and mapping as any good planner should be able and expected to do. At the end of the day the only aim is better decisions based on better information.



### Totally Concrete Expo

The Totally Concrete Conference and Expo is the definitive African educational and networking platform for insights into the latest developments and technologies associated with the concrete and construction industry.

The event is designed to address the challenges that come with industry growth and change such as market demand and client demand driving green initiatives in the African built environment, the entry of new and foreign cement manufacturers into the marketplace, internationalisation, and significant new opportunities for improved profitability through cross-border deals.

Highlighting the macroeconomic factors and global trends that are now shifting the face of Africa’s construction industry, this platform is uniquely positioned to provide manufacturers, transporters, and processors of concrete with access to Africa’s most influential project owners to build relationships, evaluate new technologies, overcome industry challenges and identify new and future commercial partners.

[www.totallyconcrete.co.za](http://www.totallyconcrete.co.za)

12 – 14 May 2015, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

In terms of bridging the three gaps (skills, cost and data) we have done the following.

We have developed web based GIS that is easy and accessible to everybody. As our tag line indicates the emphasis is on mapping, the visual presentation of data through maps and reports and collaboration through the web between planners and clients irrespective of where they are located. MapAble™’s main features include:

- View, edit and manage maps/data
- Load up your own data securely
- Metadata catalogues
- Collaborate and analyse with other subscribers online
- Generate and print maps
- Sketch new features
- Geo-Analytical Tools

- Generate Custom line point and area reports directly from the database without the need to render it first
- Support available

The technical capabilities are usually the objectives of existing web based mapping applications. We go further. Our technology is backed by access to data available in the public domain. Through MapAble™ we currently provide access to more than 300 national data sets which allows to user to map more than an estimated 4 000 layers. This enriches the usability of our technology. The availability of national data sets is only the starting point. Users can load their own spatial data that is only accessible to them on the system.

MapAble™ offers a basic package on an annual subscription basis. Being a cloud based web application it has the added benefit that users have continuous access to additions, updates and improvement. Furthermore MapAble™ can be supplemented or extended to meet user specific requirements. The base package includes full functionality with access to all data and collaboration tools. Full functionality includes, web administration, the ability to upload and edit data, editing layers and create custom reports, printing maps.

Should you have any specific requirements please feel free to contact us by calling Burgert Gildenhuys on 083 450 0077 or e-mail us on [info@mapable.co.za](mailto:info@mapable.co.za) or visit website at [www.mapable.co.za](http://www.mapable.co.za)

We would like you to take note of an initiative that has started to roll MapAble™ out to all planning students, at a greatly reduced price. We have already reached an agreement with the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Pretoria but the subscription are open on our website to any bona fide student at any educational institution in South Africa.

We will make this a regular feature in the SACPLAN Bulletin and bring your more about maps and



### Housing for Africa Conference and Expo

With the continent now experiencing the world's fastest economic growth and highest urbanisation rate, this much needed forum will highlight the latest technologies, thinking, approaches and strategies in construction to build and meet the demand for housing in Africa

[www.housingforafrica.com](http://www.housingforafrica.com)

12 – 14 May 2015, Johannesburg, South Africa

mapping. Unit next time, happy mapping!

## Know your Council Member



Prof. Verna Joan Nel qualified at with a Bachelor's Degree in Town and Regional Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand. She later completed a master's degree (with distinction) and a doctorate through Unisa.

On completing her bachelor's degree she was employed for four years at Johannesburg Municipality, and later worked for a private firm and



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then a state department, again being involved in a range of tasks including structure plans and layouts for new developments. In 1987 she was appointed to the Verwoerdburg Town Council. As a senior town planner she undertook the entire ambit of town planning work. She was thus responsible for spatial development planning and all scales, urban design aspects, land use applications and spatial /land use policy formulation. She was also responsible for the outdoor advertising policy, informal trading policy and economic development portfolio of the local authority.

In 1998 Verna Nel was appointed as Chief Town Planner in Centurion Town Council.

With the creation of the City of Tshwane she was requested to co-ordinate the local economic development function and later the city planning function. She acted as head of City Planning from July 2001 until August 2008.

In 2008 she received the City of Tshwane's Top Achiever's Award for her leadership and management abilities.

She left the employ of the City of Tshwane and joined the University of the Free State in February 2009. She is currently a Professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Department at the University of the Free State. Her research interests are land use management in a South African context, developmental local government and complex adaptive systems as applied within urban and regional planning.

She is married with 2 children and a grandchild. Her hobbies include reading and bird watching.

### Call for Articles

**SACPLAN Bulletin** urge all registered persons to contribute to this newsletter and to share interesting news, dates, facts, happenings, projects, etc. regarding planning and development issues.



**SAACPP**  
SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSULTING PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS



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**News  
from  
SAACPP**

### CHARACTER REFERENCING

#### "Struck off the proverbial roll"

The steady growth in registered persons in terms of the Planning Profession Act, 2002 (Act 36 of 2002) (the Act) has brought with it a commensurate increase in the level of "visibility" or recognition of the regulator of the planning profession and, in particular the right of an aggrieved party (typically a client of a planner) to seek some form of relief by way of disciplinary proceedings, where a planning practitioner is alleged to have overstepped the boundaries of professional conduct. Peter Dacomb of the South African Association of Consulting Professional Planners (SAACPP) reports on a number of important court judgments which inform these matters.

The SACPLAN is authorised in terms of the Act to, inter alia, remove the name of a registered person from the proverbial "roll" on its database, with the effect that the person so removed may not practice as a professional planner from such effective date. Although this does not often occur, the growing number of disciplinary complaints raised against practising professional planners looms large and there is every possibility of certain of such cases (under consideration by SACPLAN) resulting in the

*"the growing number of disciplinary complaints raised against practising professional planners looms large"*

**SACPLAN Motto:**

***Reinventing Planning, Changing Lives***

cancellation of the registered status of a professional planner in terms of the Act.

The question which often arises in this context is "what then"? Is the removal as a registered person permanent or is there a cure with the prospect of possible reinstatement?

In this regard a recent court judgement by a full bench of the Pretoria High Court in the matter of *Tkwane vs the Law Society of the Northern Provinces 2014 (5) SA 513 (GP)* may be of some assistance.

Once a registered person is found to have committed improper professional conduct which leads to his/her removal from the list of registered persons in terms of the Act, it does not preclude such a person from reapplying for registration. On the part of the SACPLAN, such application for reinstatement requires to be considered against the general requirement of such person having to be "fit and proper".

In the aforesaid court judgement, where the person was previously found guilty of certain misconduct, attention eventually focused on the character of the person in order to prove that he was "fit and proper" to be so reinstated. The court found that the applicant would, at least, have to prove to the satisfaction of the Law Society (read the SACPLAN) that such person had undergone a complete and permanent reformation in respect of the required professional conduct and accompanying character defects which caused such person to be removed from the list of registered persons in the first instance.

*"... that such person had undergone a complete and permanent reformation..."*

On its part, the SACPLAN will be faced with the unenviable task of being "satisfied" that such person has indeed undergone the requisite complete and permanent reformation in respect of the prior professional misconduct and associated character defects which would, in turn, result in the reinstatement of the person's registered status.

This remains largely within the discretion of the SACPLAN, with no specific statutory or regulatory prescripts which may inform such a decision. the

**African Roads Evolution Forum**

Investment in road infrastructure is key to the continent's development. This forum will focus on the construction elements in road infrastructure such as road design, construction, investment and maintenance. In addition, cost effective technologies will be explored in order to fast-track and future-proof development of this much needed infrastructure in Africa.

[www.roadsevolution.com](http://www.roadsevolution.com)

12 – 14 May 2015, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

SACPLAN has recently been confronted with cases of alleged fraudulent action by applicants seeking to be registered in terms of the Act. The aforesaid "test" pertaining to complete and permanent reformation will therefore guide and inform the decisions to be taken by the SACPLAN in the above regard – albeit a difficult and quite often unthankful task.

The SACPLAN is often confronted with arguments to the effect that the accused person may suffer career related and financial consequences to his/her direct detriment in the event that the application to reinstate his/her status as a registered person in terms of the Act is denied by the SACPLAN. Against this background the SACPLAN is expected to be confronted with increasingly difficult questions to grapple with, specifically with regard to the SACPLAN's primary obligation to protect the public interest in as far as it may be possible.

In a further judgement by Judge Goosen of the

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Mthatha High Court in the matter of Mtshabe vs The Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope 2014 (5) SA 376 (ECM), the following was placed on record as part of the judgement:

*"Public interest necessarily plays a critical role in the decision to readmit to practice a person previously struck off the roll— . The protection of the public against unscrupulous .... practitioners, goes hand-in-hand with the court's obligation to protect the integrity of the court and the profession. Public confidence in the ... profession and in the courts is necessarily undermined when the strict requirements for rehabilitation are diluted. In our view, considerations of public policy and legal policy are critical in determining whether, as a matter of principle, ..... may be readmitted to the role of ..."*

*\*Omissions by author*

What follows from the above examples taken from the legal profession, is a renewed focus on the important role played by professional planners serving as "supervisors" to candidate planners hoping to register as professional planners. The mere signing off of the practical training report of a candidate planner by the registered supervisor is simply not sufficient.



*"The mere signing off of the practical training report of a candidate planner by the registered supervisor is simply not sufficient"*



The supervisor is required to ensure that the person applying for registration meets the critical requirement of being a fit and proper person which is not likely to bring the profession into disrepute. By

## AFRICAN CONSTRUCTION EXPO

### African Construction Expo

African Construction Expo is a one-stop-shop to showcase, experience and learn about the latest building and construction methods, products, tools and technologies in just three days. African Construction Expo is co-located with Totally Concrete Expo.

[www.construction-week.com](http://www.construction-week.com)

12 – 14 May 2015, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

completing and signing the affidavit which accompanies the application by a candidate planner, the registered supervisor submits to the SACPLAN that he/she has ensured that the candidate planner indeed meets the aforesaid requirements to the extent that the Act prescribes. Registered persons acting in the role of supervisors, are therefore cautioned to take the aforesaid to heart and, if in doubt, to contact the office of the Registrar of the SACPLAN for advice.

### News from the Gazettes

The following is a list of publications found in National and Provincial Gazettes that might be in interest:

- **General Notice No. 175 - National Environmental Management Act (107/1998) » Regulations for admission of guilt fines. National Gazettes, No 38517 of 27 February, 2015**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, gave notice of intention to make regulations pertaining to the identification and setting of admission of guilt fines in terms of Section 34G of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) for

## SACPLAN's VISION

**To pioneer the founding spirit of innovation in the facilitation of sustainable and inclusive development in the planning profession.**

certain offences listed in Section 67 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), set out in the Schedule thereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within 30 days after the publication of the notice in the Gazette, written comments or inputs to the following addresses:

*By post:*

The Director-General  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Mr Mark Jardine  
Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001

*By hand:*

Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road,  
Pretoria, 0001

*By email:*

mjardine@environment.gov.za; or by fax to 012 320 1781  
Enquiries: Mr M Jardine  
Telephone no.: 012 399 9497

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

- **General Notice No. 136 - National Environmental Management » Final draft Environmental Management Framework for the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape world Heritage Site. National Gazettes, No 38478 of 20 February, 2015.**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, gave notice of intention to adopt the Environmental Management Framework for the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site, under regulation 5(4) read with regulations 3 and 4 of the Environmental Management Framework Regulations, 2010.

The Environmental Management Framework for the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site is now available for public.

Members of the public are invited to submit to the Minister, within 30 days after publication of the notice in the Gazette, written representations or comments to the following addresses:

*By post to:*

The Director-General: Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Mr Bradley Nethononda

Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001

*By hand at:*

Ground floor (Reception), Environment House,  
473 Steve Biko, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

*By fax to:*

012 399 3620, or email to  
bnethononda@environment.gov.za.

Any inquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Mr Simon Moganesti at 012 399 9318.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

- **Government Notice No. 107 - National Water Act (36/1998) » Proposal for the establishment of the Vaal River Catchment Management Agency in terms of section 78 (3). National Gazettes, No 38478 of 20 February, 2015**

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, proposed -

- a) the establishment of a catchment management agency, situated in the Vaal water management area
- b) that the agency be named the Vaal River Catchment Management Agency.

A proposal for the establishment of the Vaal River Catchment Management Agency, as contemplated in section 77 of the National Water Act, 1998, will be lying for inspection at:

Department of Water and Sanitation  
285 Bothongo Plaza East Building, Schoeman  
Street, PRETORIA, 0001

and

Department of Water and Sanitation  
Bloem Plaza Building, Cnr Maitland and Charlotte  
Maxeke Street, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300

and

Department of Water and Sanitation  
28 Central Road, Beaconsfield, KIMBERLEY,  
8300

and

Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation  
185 Francis Baard Street, PRETORIA, 0001

or

www.dwagov.za, click on sites/ Institutional Oversight/ Catchment Management Agencies/ CMA establishment processNaal CMA.

All interested persons are invited to comment in writing on the business case, which is available for comment for a period of 60 days. All such comments must be addressed to:

- **Government Notice No. 96 - Spatial Data Infrastructure Act (54/2003) » Base Data Set Custodianship Policy. National Gazettes, No 38474 of 16 February, 2015.**

In terms of Section 11(2) of the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, 2003 (Act No. 54 Of 2003), the Minister of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, approved the Base Data Set Custodianship Policy and the Policy on Pricing of Spatial Information Products and Services as made by the Committee for Spatial Information under the section 6 of the Act. The policies will come into operation one month from the date of publication hereof in the Gazette.

- **General Notice No. 130 - National Environmental Management » Waste Act (59/2008) » Amendment to the list of waste management activities that have, or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the environment**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, gave notice of intention to amend the list of waste management activities that have, or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the environment, published under Government Notice No. 921 in Government Gazette No. 37083 of 29 November 2013 as amended by Government Notice No. 332 of 2 May 2014, under sections 19(2)(a), 19(3)(a) read with sections 19(10)(a), 72 and 73 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) set out in the Schedule.

Members of the public are invited to submit to the Minister, within 30 days of publication of the Notice in the Government Gazette, written comments to the following addresses:

*By post to:*

The Director General  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Mr Anben Pillay

Private Bag X447, PRETORIA, 0001

*By hand at:*

Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, Arcadia, 0082.

*By email:*

apillavy@environment.gov.za, or by fax: 086 608 0755 or Tel: 012 399-9830.

The Draft Regulations can also be accessed at <http://sawic.environment.gov.za> under "Draft documents for comment" or obtained at the Department's offices.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.



**February Tweets on  
@SACPLAN1**



The following are some of what was trending (tweets and retweets) on the SACPLAN twitter @SACPLAN1 during February 2015:

- City, Volume 19, Issue 1 is now available online <http://ow.ly/lkpeN>
- Joan Clos @UNHABITAT: #wastewater management must be an integral part of urban planning. <http://bit.ly/1y2zd4x> #WhyWaste
- How to build government capacity in a low income fragile state: <http://wrlid.bg/leYHH> #goodgov
- 3000+ article views in 2 weeks! @RobKitchin @TraceyLauriault & G McArdle on urban indicators and real-time dashboards <http://rsa.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21681376.2014.983149> ...
- Megacities Are Growing So Fast We Need Satellites To Study Them <http://fb.me/6pmEV9BDc>
- disP - The Planning Review, Volume 50, Issue 4 is now available online <http://ow.ly/lxxeR>
- Bugs and blackouts: what are the risks for high-tech #cities? <http://wef.ch/1zaCfXg> #risks2015
- Can new technologies improve public service delivery? <http://bit.ly/citizensengage> #citizensengage cc @opengovpart
- The Regulation of Land Holdings Bill will be submitted to Parliament this year.



- How the Internet of Things is affecting urban design <http://fb.me/271Zp0L7Q>

SACPLAN LinkedIn group was established on 31 March 2011.

## SACPLAN and Social Media

The SACPLAN is currently active on LinkedIn, Facebook as well as Twitter.

The SACPLAN Facebook page was established on 7 September 2012 and have obtained 633 likes thus far. The Facebook page was established as a platform for planners to share their projects, events, etc. and to upload photos of these events and projects.

The SACPLAN LinkedIn group is a closed group for planners registered with the SACPLAN. The group was established and is aimed at professional networking among registered planners, to serve as a discussion forum, to facilitate the sharing of experiences, views and opinions between young and mature professionals, and as a platform for the seeking of advice.

The SACPLAN Twitter page is the youngest in the group with 174 followers. This page was created to share information from new publications in Gazettes and the like, are a platform for commentary during events, etc.

Members of this group have been urged to use this forum to network with other registered planners, to discuss issues, experiences, views and opinions.

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The SACPLAN LinkedIn group is currently the most active social media platform with 1176 members. The

## For Contributions to the SACPLAN Bulletin

Please contact Martin Lewis at [planner@sacplan.co.za](mailto:planner@sacplan.co.za)

### To contact SACPLAN

International Business Gateway Office Park

PO Box 1084

Cnr New Road & 6th Road

Halfway House

Midridge Office Park

Midrand

1st Floor, Block G

1685

Tel: 011 318 0460 / 0437



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[www.sacplan.org.za](http://www.sacplan.org.za)

**The individual opinions raised in the newsletter is not that of SACPLAN or its Council Members.**