

SASS5 AQUATIC BIOMONITORING TRAINING COURSE

Venue:

The Boardroom
9A Quarry Road, Hilton
KwaZulu Natal

Dates:

15 – 18 April 2024
CBD points - 4



GroundTruth

Water, Wetlands and Environmental Engineering

Head Office KwaZulu-Natal

P.O. Box 916, Hilton 3245, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 343 2229 - Fax: +27 86 599 2300
admin@groundtruth.co.za
www.groundtruth.co.za

PRESENTERS

- Juan Tedder – SASS5 Accredited with 15 years of SASS5 experience and Department of Water & Sanitation Accredited Provincial SASS5 Auditor – KZN.
- Catherine Meyer – SASS5 Accredited with over 10 years SASS5 experience.
- Dr Mark Graham - over 30 years of experience in the field and Department of Water & Sanitation Accredited Provincial SASS5 Auditor – KZN. Mark is also co-author of the SASS version 5 rapid bioassessment method for rivers.

COURSE OUTLINE

The 4-day course (15th – 18th April 2024) is designed to provide participants with the basic skills necessary to conduct SASS5 aquatic biomonitoring techniques. The key elements of the training course offered include the following:

- Introduction and overview of biomonitoring
 - Principles, theory, advantages, disadvantages, limitations of the methods. Comparison with classical "wet chemistry" water quality monitoring. Alternative biomonitoring tools/methods. Correct/minimal sampling equipment. Safety associated with field work
 - Aquatic invertebrates. Adaptations to living in water. Sensitivity and adaptation to pollution. Aquatic ecoregions. Preservation of "live" samples - how, when, where. Overview of using scientific/taxonomic keys. Theory and discussion about preservation of specimen samples. Labelling and curation of samples
 - Site selection - characteristics of what constitutes a good aquatic biomonitoring sampling site. Reference and monitoring sites - the key differences and needs of both. Correct/standardised sampling procedures.
- The various major aquatic orders likely to be found in the river systems, i.e. mayflies (Ephemeroptera), caddisflies (Trichoptera), aquatic beetles (Coleoptera), aquatic bugs (Hemiptera), dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata), flies (Diptera), stoneflies (Plecoptera), and Crustacea and Mollusca
- The course includes a daily practical component comprising of comprehensive field work covering:



- Practical sample collection as per the SASS5 method (depending on numbers it may be necessary for some delegates to use their own transport to site, all sites are easily accessible by sedan)
- The development of identification skills - including microscope work
- Data interpretation and reporting
 - Calculation of SASS indices/metrics
 - Field data (Dallas bands, aquatic ecoregions)
 - Methods and examples of different types of reports and monitoring
- Understanding and selecting reference and monitoring sites
- Requirements for accreditation of practitioners
 - Quality control

PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTENDING THIS COURSE DOES NOT INCLUDE OR GUARANTEE SASS5 ACCREDITATION.



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Please note that this course has been accredited by SACNASP and is valid for 4 CPD Points.

COST

The cost of the course will be **R8 500.00 (excluding VAT)**. This includes all course material, a copy of the latest WRC standard SASS5 biomonitoring DVD, teas and lunches (**excludes accommodation**). All course material as well as all electronic data sheets will be provided, on a memory stick, to all delegates. An **early-bird** discounted rate of R8 100.00 (excl VAT) is available if payment is received before 22 March 2024.

It is **mandatory** for delegates attending the course to have their **own SASS5 equipment**. This equipment will be used from day one. This basic kit consists of a SASS5 net, sorting tray, magnifying glass and tweezers and can be purchased from GroundTruth at **R2004.00 (excluding VAT)**. **Stopwatches are essential and a waterproof wrist one is recommended. Cell phones are not an acceptable alternative.**

We have experienced difficulty in previous courses with delegates not having this basic equipment and being unable to fully participate in the practical training. GroundTruth does not have equipment available for loan and sharing severely limits your involvement. Additional aquatic biomonitoring field resources, such as water clarity tubes, waders and transparent velocity head rods (velocity plank), will be available for delegates should they require them also.

Delegates must bring appropriate field clothing suitable for working in rivers for the daily practical component. Ideally waders, but minimally gumboots (which are needed if working with SASS), or alternatively river shoes, a change of dry clothing, hat, and sun cream.

BOOKINGS

Interested delegates should complete the attached booking form and email it together with your purchase order or proof of payment to admin@groundtruth.co.za by no later than Friday 05 April 2024. Any delegates wishing to cancel their bookings, without a minimum of 14 days notice, are liable for a 50% cancellation fee. Please note that **GroundTruth reserves the right to cancel this course should there be insufficient numbers by the cut-off date.**

An accreditation day will be held separately from the course, please contact admin@groundtruth.co.za if you wish to be accredited and we will provide you with further with more details.



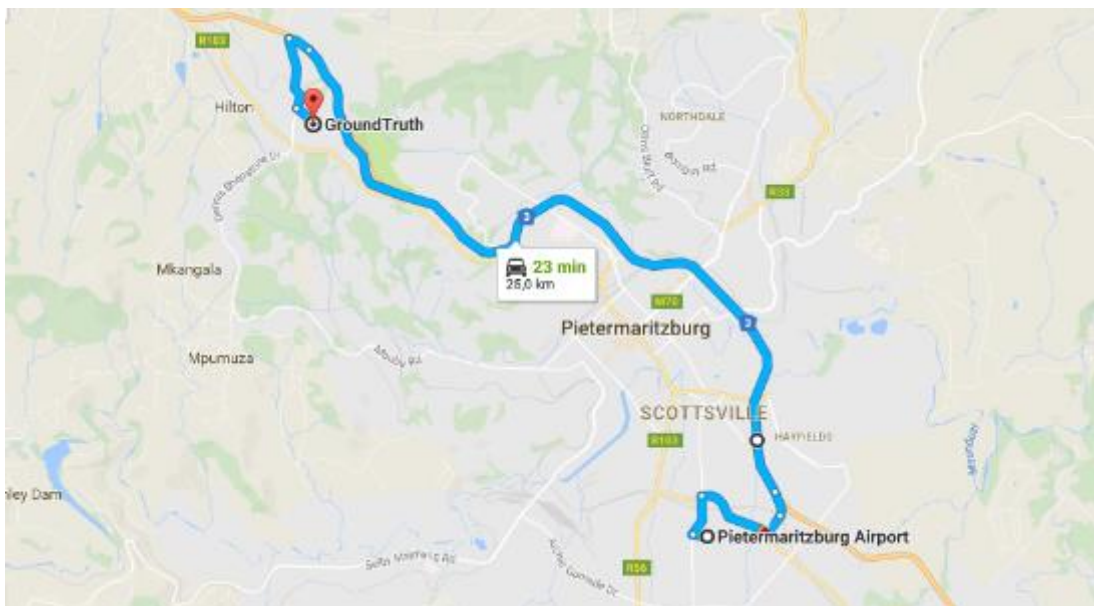


DIRECTIONS TO GET TO VENUE

From: Pietermaritzburg Airport (29 38' 32.37" S; 30 23' 36.08" E)

To: GroundTruth Offices, Hilton (29 33' 34.33" S; 30 18' 17.01" E)

- (1) On exiting the airport, turn right onto Oriibi Rd.
- (2) At the robot, turn right onto Washington Rd/R103.
- (3) Turn left at the next robot onto Market Rd.
- (4) Merge onto the N3 via the ramp to Harrismith.
- (5) Take exit 94 at Hilton.
- (6) From off ramp turn left into Hilton Avenue.
- (7) Take the fourth turning left into Quarry Road.
- (8) Continue along Quarry Road passed Build It and continue up the hill.
- (9) Turn left into 9 Quarry Road, just before Gateside Guest House.
- (10) Park your vehicle on the top 2 terraces.





GroundTruth

*Water, Wetlands and
Environmental Engineering*

P. O. Box 916, Hilton, 3245, South Africa
Tel: 033 343 2229 • Fax: 086 688 6297
E-mail: admin@groundtruth.co.za
Web: www.groundtruth.co.za

SASS5 AQUATIC BIOMONITORING TRAINING COURSE

BOOKING FORM

Name of Delegate : _____
Company : _____
Postal Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____
Email Address : _____
Fax Number : _____
Company Vat Number : _____

Signature of Delegate

Date

SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT

Name : _____
Postal Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____
Email Address : _____

Placement on the course will not be confirmed until such a time as we receive proof of payment or a copy of a purchase order.

Signature

Date

Please note that ONLY proof of payment or valid purchase order number PRIOR to 05 April 2024 will secure your place on the course.