



## **INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONERS OF NIGERIA (IEPN)**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND PRACTITIONER LICENSURE GUIDELINES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Becoming a member and licensee of the Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria (IEPN) is an important step for practicing environmental and sustainability professionals. It formally validates the practitioner's knowledge, skills, and experience in environmental management, sustainability practice, and associated fields.

It is a clear demonstration of a minimum level of proficiency and accountability to employers, clients, regulators, and the public that the professional meets minimum industry standards that can be relied upon.

Licensure by the IEPN offers several benefits to Nigerian practitioners, including but not limited to:

- i. Consideration for senior roles in environmental consulting, regulatory compliance, sustainability leadership, or project development.
- ii. Positioning for promotions, leadership roles, or assignments in sustainability studies and/or initiatives that are relied upon by decision makers (e.g., Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, Audits, Due Diligence, Pollution Studies, GHG accounting, Climate Change Risk Assessments, among others)
- iii. Access to technical resources, professional recognition, training, networking opportunities;
- iv. Authority to certify reports; and
- v. Increased reward associated with the licensure.

Given the multi and inter-disciplinary nature of the environment, the IEPN issues licenses across specific areas of demonstrated expertise. All licensed practitioners are bound by a code of ethics and standards of conduct.

#### **STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP AND LICENSURE**

##### **Step 1- Create Account**

All intending members and licensees are required to create an account on the IEPN portal.



## **Step 2 - Read Eligibility Criteria and Choose the Appropriate Membership Category and Practice Areas**

Applicants must read through the eligibility criteria and appreciate the various membership categories and practice areas in respect of which licenses are issued.

## **Step 3 – Fill Out and Submit Application Form and Supporting Documentation**

All intending members should complete and submit (upload) the form together with all supporting documents and information as indicated in the application form. A copy of the membership application form is available on the IEPN website.

## **Step 4 – Pay Application Fee**

The non-refundable membership application fee is N20,000 (Twenty Thousand Naira only). This fee should be paid online and evidence uploaded together with the application form and supporting documents.

## **Step 5 - Conduct Proficiency Tests**

All applicants will be required to take IEPN proficiency tests and achieve a pass mark of no less than 70%. Applicants are allowed a maximum of two attempts in one year.

## **Step 6 – Application and Documentation Review**

IEPN Council reviews recommendations made by the admission and registration committee, together with documents submitted by applicants, and proficiency test scores. If satisfactory, Council approves membership and licensure for specific membership categories and practice areas.

## **Step 7 – Notification of Acceptance**

Successful applicants will be notified of their acceptance and provided guidance on the next steps.

## **Step 8 – Payment of Membership Fee**

The final step before induction and license issuance is payment of the membership fee of N330,000 (Three hundred and thirty thousand Naira). Payment is made online and evidence uploaded.

## **Step 9 – Induction and License Issuance**

Successful applicants who have fulfilled all required financial obligations will be onboarded and issued licenses and their practitioners' seals at an induction ceremony or other process



as authorized by IEPN Council. All licensed practitioners are also required to sign attestation to the guidelines for the use of the seal.

## **CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS**

Successful applicants will be required to:

- i. Renew their membership and pay dues annually or periodically as determined by IEPN Council
- ii. Embark on Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- iii. Abide by the Institute's Code of Ethics or Conduct

## **IEPN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

**Fellow** – This is the highest professional category, which signifies a high level of expertise in one or more areas of sustainability. It also demonstrates leadership, mentorship, and commitment to the cause of sustainability. Other eligibility criteria include:

- Individual has spent 10 years as a Member
- Contributed significantly to environmental practice and management

**Members** – This Category includes practitioners who have not attained Fellow Status and Graduate Members, i.e., tertiary institution graduates with 5 years or more, post-qualification experience practicing. A Member practitioner demonstrates a high level of knowledge of sustainability issues and more importantly, professional experience evaluating, recommending, and/or implementing practical solutions to today's sustainability challenges. Other eligibility criteria include:

- Applicant would have spent 6 years as an Associate or demonstrates equivalent experience
- Applicant is adjudged by the Council to possess adequate knowledge of environmental practice and management

**Associates** – This Category of members includes those at entry level or who are in the early years of their career and yet to attain Full Membership status. As associates, they participate in the Institute's activities but do not have all the full privileges and rights. It includes students, technicians, and affiliates. Other eligibility criteria include:

- Holder of a tertiary institution qualification (University Degree or Higher National Diploma) qualification, or its equivalent, or who has spent at least 4 years in an affiliate category.



- Holder of tertiary institution qualification (University Degree of Higher National Diploma) or its equivalent in environmental science or any related discipline or a person who has performed duties at a senior level in environmental practice and management continuously for at least six (6) years.
- A graduate of the Institute who has competently discharged executive or advisory duties at a senior level in environmental practice and management for at least four (4) years since election to the membership category
- A non-graduate who has spent at least 10 years in an affiliate grade and possesses standard knowledge and qualities essential for successful environmental practice and management.

**Honorary Fellow** – This membership category is open to people who, in the opinion of the Council, have contributed immensely to the development of the environmental sector in any capacity.

## **PRACTICE AREAS**

IEPN Council has approved the following practice areas.

1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Studies (PA1)
2. Environmental and Social Due Diligence (PA2)
3. Environmental Audit (PA3)
4. Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy development (PA4)
5. Sustainability Plan Development (PA5)
6. Environmental Education (PA6)
7. Environmental Law (PA7)
8. Environmental Monitoring (includes Env. and Social Baseline Surveys) - (PA8)
  - a. Geomorphology (PA 8a)
  - b. Coastal Erosion (PA 8b)
  - c. Soil Quality (PA 8b)
  - d. Water Quality (PA 8c)
  - e. Air Quality and Ambient Noise (PA 8d)
  - f. Groundwater/Hydrogeology (PA 8e)
  - g. Socio Economic Surveys (PA 8f)
  - h. Fish and Fisheries (PA 8g)
  - i. Vegetation/Flora Studies (PA 8h)
  - j. Wildlife (PA 8i)
  - k. Community Health Surveys (PA 8j)



- l. Others – specify (PA 8k)
- 9. Waste Management (PA9)
  - a) Waste Planning and Strategy (Waste Pollution Survey; Waste Characterization and Treatability Analysis; Waste Economics; Waste Law & Waste Audit) (PA 9a)
  - b) Waste Recycling and Pollution Control (PA9b)
  - c) Waste Handling & Collection (PA 9c)
  - d) Waste Facility Design and Construction (PA 9d)
  - e) Waste Facility Operation & Supervision (PA 9e)
- 10. Biodiversity Action Plans and Management (PA11)
- 11. Environmental Remediation (PA12)
- 12. Environmental Laboratory Operations (PA13)
- 13. Climate Change (PA14)
- 14. Environmental Economics and Natural Capital Accounting (PA15)
- 15. Environmental Toxicology (PA16)