



Tracey  
Laban

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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Date of Birth: 15 November 1971  
Languages: English (Excellent), Afrikaans (Fair)  
Years' Experience: 20 years  
Countries worked in: South Africa

## CONTACT INFO

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Mobile: +27 84 517 3134  
Email: traceyl@pdg.co.za

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

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- PhD (Atmospheric chemistry), Thesis: Factors influencing surface ozone variability over continental South Africa and implications for air quality and agriculture, North-West University, South Africa, 2014-2018
- MPhil (Atmospheric Chemistry), Thesis: Development and application of gas chromatographic techniques in the measurement of atmospheric trace gases for stratospheric ozone research, University of Cambridge, UK, 1999-2000
- BSc Hons (Chemistry), University of Pretoria, South Africa, 1998-1999
- BSc (Chemistry & Mathematics), University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 1990-1993

## FIELD OF SPECIALISATION

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Tracey is an experienced environmental specialist who has held various technical, strategic and management roles in the public and private sector. Her experience is largely in air quality management, leading atmospheric emissions sampling and analysis teams to determine the environmental footprint, undertaking baseline studies for environmental improvement projects, research and data interpretation, report writing, shaping air quality policies, engaging with government on law reforms, key stakeholder management and sustainable development reporting. She has published studies on surface ozone variability in South Africa and implications for air quality and agriculture. Tracey has also worked in the area of climate change adaptation, assisting government with the implementation of the National Framework for Climate Services to help guide future adaptation planning.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Nov 2021 – present**

PDG, Cape Town, South Africa  
Senior Consultant

### **Apr 19 – Oct 2021**

South African Weather Service, Centurion, South Africa  
Senior Manager: Climate Services

### **May 13 – Jul 14**

Sasol Group Services, Rosebank, South Africa  
Principal Specialist SHE: Environment

### **Dec 07 – Apr 13**

Sasol Technology R&D, Secunda, South Africa  
Senior Scientist Gr. 1

### **Jul 01 – Nov 07**

Sappi Saiccor Mill, Umkomaas, South Africa  
Product Application Specialist

### **Feb 95 – Jun 01**

South African Council for Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Department of Trade and Industry, Pretoria, South Africa  
Techno-Economist

## KEY PROJECTS

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### **South African Weather Service**

- Providing climate information services such as climate data, lightning verification reports, drought monitoring maps, rainfall down-time reports, rainfall return periods, climate statistics, state of the climate reports etc. to individuals and organisations to assist them in decision-making and build resilience to climate change
- Custodian of the national meteorological and climatological database; managing the climate data value chain from acquisition, quality control, research and analysis and dissemination of the data to users.
- Assisting the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) with the implementation of its National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, particularly the National Framework for Climate Services and the National Climate Change Information System
- Providing scientific leadership to the organisation and advice to the Executive Management on scientific aspects of the operation of the South African Weather Service
- Acting as spokesperson for the South African Weather Service's climate services and undertaking high level consultation on policy issues with government departments, universities, development organisations etc.
- Collaborating with relevant national and international organisations and representing South Africa at appropriate World Meteorological Organisation constituent body sessions
- Collaborating with the UK Met Office under the Weather and Climate Science for Service Partnership (WCSSP) programme and the German Meteorological Service under the SA-EU Dialogue Facility initiatives

### **Sasol Group Services**

- Providing a strategic specialist service on air quality and climate change matters to the Sasol Group; integration with water, waste, and sustainability issues
- Contributing to the environmental strategy and roadmap development and supporting execution of the environmental strategy by the Business Units

- Supporting the implementation of appropriate governance mechanisms (e.g. policy, standards, scorecards etc.) throughout Sasol
- Contributing to Sasol's air quality regulatory compliance through review of atmospheric impact reports, conducting toxicological reviews, public participation inputs and submission to government for all South African facilities
- Facilitating the scoping of capital investment projects by prescribing standard methodologies for capital effectiveness evaluation (scrubbing) of environmental improvement projects
- Guiding Sasol in developing strategic responses to air quality related questions on VOCs, mercury, ozone, secondary aerosols, health and ecosystem impacts used by communications department, legal and other
- Tracking environmental performance in terms of environmental incidents, external complaints, environmental legislation activities and external engagements and reporting into appropriate governance structures
- Contributing to the annual sustainable development report for external stakeholders and air quality risk factors to the NYSE 20F Forms; a listing requirement
- Enhancing relations with business associations, governments and other companies

### **Sasol Technology R&D**

- Sampling, analysis and assessment of atmospheric emissions to determine the environmental footprint and risk to employees and communities
- Baseline studies for the improvement of existing designs or proposed abatement technologies to mitigate atmospheric emissions
- Improving and updating the atmospheric emissions inventory for the Secunda plant
- Developing in-house sampling and analytical capacity for measuring hazardous air pollutants
- Keeping abreast of regulatory trends in air quality (nationally and internationally) and how they may impact on operations
- Collaboration with universities (NWU, UKZN, Wits), external companies (Eskom) and consultants on joint research initiatives
- Training of technicians and new personnel in sampling, data interpretation and report writing
- Advising management on new and upcoming technological developments

### **Sappi Saiccor Mill**

- Providing global technical application support to dissolving pulp customers
- Working with mill operations to improve on dissolving pulp quality and performance in customer processes
- Six-monthly customer technical visits to Europe and Asia to assess product performance and discuss tailoring of product to meet customer needs
- Project leader in viscose research for the development of new products; conducting pilot plant trials and working directly with customers on innovation and technology development programmes leading to full scale plant trials
- Participation in full scale trials of new technologies at customers' plants abroad
- Part of multidisciplinary teams (Sales, Marketing etc.) to take new products to market
- Managing the laboratory and pilot plant in compliance with all laid down Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality policies and procedures, approval of staff shift schedules, maintenance of pilot plant equipment, provision of chemical and equipment resources, laboratory analyses and QA/QC control, development and implementation of standards and best practices

### **South African Council for Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Department of Trade and Industry**

- Part of Secretariat staff to the Non-Proliferation Council, providing technical inputs into meetings of the Council's committees and undertaking Council tasks
- Providing support in implementation of the South African Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act; involved in the drafting of regulations related to the Chemical Weapons Convention in South Africa, which included a registration and permit system for controlled goods
- Liaison with local stakeholders (industry, government departments and other role-players) on chemical regulations and notices

- Conducting industry visits to guide them in implementing a compliance programme related to obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention
- Part of the national inspectorate engaged in national inspections and facilitating international inspections of the chemical industry
- Part of the South African delegation, as technical advisor to conferences of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons held in the Netherlands

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed publications

LABAN, T.L., BEUKES, J.P., AND VAN ZYL, P.G.: Measurement of surface ozone in South Africa with reference to impacts on human health (Commentary). *Clean Air Journal*, 25, No 1, 9-12, ISSN: 1017-1703, 2015.

LABAN, T.L., BEUKES, J.P., VAN ZYL, P.G., AND BERNER, J.M.: Impacts of ozone on agricultural crops in southern Africa (Commentary). *Clean Air Journal*, 25, No 1, 15-18, ISSN: 1017-1703, 2015.

LABAN, T.L., VAN ZYL, P.G., BEUKES, J.P., VAKKARI, V., JAARS, K., BORDUAS-DEDEKIND, N., JOSIPOVIC, M., THOMPSON, A.M., KULMALA, M., AND LAAKSO, L.: Seasonal influences on surface ozone variability in continental South Africa and implications for air quality. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 18, 15491-15514, 2018.

LABAN, T.L., VAN ZYL, P.G., BEUKES, J.P., MIKKONEN, S., SANTANA, L., JOSIPOVIC, M., VAKKARI, V., THOMPSON, A.M., KULMALA, M., AND LAAKSO, L.: Statistical analysis of factors driving surface ozone variability over continental South Africa. *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences*, 2020.

### Publications in peer-review and preparation

LABAN, T.L., VAN ZYL, P.G., BEUKES, J.P., BERNER, J.M., AND VAN HEERDEN, P.D.R.: Growth and physiological responses of two sugarcane varieties exposed to elevated ozone: a case study. *In preparation*, 2020.