

College of Applied Biology Code of Ethics

A member recognizes that professional ethics are founded upon integrity, competence, and a responsibility to provide sound management and conservation of biological resources. The member shall strive to advance the science and practice of biology in a manner consistent with these principles. In addition, a member must not engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that reflects adversely on the integrity of the biological profession.

1. Relations with the Public

- i. The member who becomes aware of any undertaking that is profoundly detrimental to the sound management and conservation of biological resources will accept responsibility to advise a responsible party; if after reasonable effort no remedy is achieved and the issue warrants, s/he will inform this College in writing of the particulars.
- ii. The member will offer professional services only on matters in which s/he is qualified through professional training and/or experience. S/he will be objective and honest in all estimates, reports, testimony and other matters, and will identify any limitations in data or concepts.
- iii. When presenting any statements, criticisms, or arguments on behalf of a client or employer, the member will clearly indicate on whose behalf they are being made.
- iv. The member will have regard for the safety and welfare of the public in the performance of professional duties.
- v. When publicly presenting a difference of opinion with another member, the member will state the basis for that difference.
- vi. The member will keep informed of advances in his/her field of expertise, and will express an opinion on a biological subject only when that opinion is founded on a sound knowledge base.
- vii. The member will encourage efforts to educate the public on biological issues.

2. Relations with Employers and Clients

- i. In order to maintain professional integrity, the member will not allow his/her professional judgement to be influenced by non-biological considerations.
- ii. The member will serve each employer or client professionally without prejudice or conflict of interest, and will not knowingly engage in illegal work or cooperate with those who are so engaged.

- iii. The member will inform the employer/client of any interests which could impair the objectivity of work undertaken, and will take measures necessary to ensure that such an interest does not affect decisions which s/he may be called upon to make.
- iv. When employed on a full time basis, the member will engage in related supplementary employment or consulting practice only after fully disclosing this activity to the primary employer.
- v. The member will undertake only those assignments for which s/he is qualified and will engage, or advise the employer or client to engage, qualified specialists as necessary.
- vi. The member will advise the employer or client of any adverse consequences to be expected if his/her professional judgement is overruled, and will advise of alternative courses of action.
- vii. The member will not disclose confidential information unless authorized by the present or former employer or client, required by law, or required under Section 1(i) of this Code to disclose information. The member shall refrain from using confidential information for personal gain or the advantage of other parties.
- viii. The member will not seek employment by unethical means.
- ix. The member will levy only those charges which are properly due.
- x. A member involved in the preparation or presentation of environmental assessments or statements for a proposed project shall receive payment independent of the success of the project.

3. Relations Within the Profession

- i. The member shall credit work done by others, and shall take responsibility for his/her own work through authorship or appropriate acknowledgement.

- ii. The member will not sign reports or opinions which involve professional judgement unless they were actually prepared by him/her or under his/her direct supervision.
- iii. The member will support the principle of just compensation for professional services rendered.
- iv. The member will, in the interest of sound management and conservation of biological resources, encourage the employment of qualified persons in professional positions.
- v. A member will take reasonable precautions not to injure the professional reputation of another person through malice or negligence.
- vi. Where the member becomes aware of a contravention by a member of this Code of Ethics, s/he will report it to the College.
- vii. The member who is employed by an institution, agency or corporation will not engage in unfair competition through the unauthorized use of institutional, agency or corporate facilities for personal gain.
- viii. The member will assist the development of the profession by supporting the principles of the College, encouraging biologists and students of biology, and by sharing knowledge and experience. As an employer or supervisor, s/he will encourage high professional standards amongst his/her employees and endeavour to provide opportunities for their professional advancement.

