

Conference Venue:

Dates: 11-04-2019

Compiled by: **Lesedi Senamele Matlala**

Introduction

This report presents the key highlights and contributions from the conference "SHAPING M&E FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE" held at the Emperors Palace from the 23rd to 25th October 2019, South Africa. This conference was part of the 7th Biennial South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association Conference Hosted by SAMEA. The conference focused on how monitoring and evaluation efforts can support the kind of transformative and responsible innovation needed to tackle critical questions for society.

Pre Conference Workshops

Highlights: Workshops attended include the following;

Use of Qualitative Analysis Software for Evaluations (Qualitative Data Management, Analysis & Visualization Using NVIVO), the workshop was insightful, it provided participants with a thorough understanding of qualitative evaluation data and a pragmatic step-by-step process for conducting qualitative data analysis and visualization using NVIVO.

Networking and the use of ICT and Social Media for Effective Monitoring and Evaluation, - the training provided participants with an understanding of the importance of networking, and use of information communications technology and social media in monitoring and evaluation practice. The use of technology is particularly important in a data-driven profession.

Challenges: Presenters had limited time to share most information with attendees. SAMEA must extend time or days for presenters. Each workshop must have a certificate of attendance for those attended as a proof for attending the workshop.

Conference

Lessons learnt: Evaluators of all levels will have deepened their knowledge and skills to apply evaluation findings or evidence in policy and decision-making to deliver better outcomes for society and ultimately improve service delivery issues in the country.

In terms of the process, participants called for integrating monitoring with evaluation, from the onset of any initiative with the theory of change as an important starting point. M&E for responsible innovation needs to focus on questions that are critical for the future, such as related to sustainability, scaling up, and potential scenarios. Such forms of M&E consider not just accountability needs, but also internal learning so that responsible decisions can be made for the future.

Challenges: Conference should run for 3 full days, other sessions were cut off because of time.

Networking: Networking was not effective due to time constrain.

Next steps: SAMEA must put in place mitigation measures for presenters who cancel without giving proper notice.