

Provincial Gazette

Free State Province

Provinsiale Koerant

Provinsie Vrystaat

Published by Authority

Uitgegee op Gesag

No. 25	FRIDAY, 13 June 2014	No. 25	VRYPDAG, 13 Junie 2014
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PROVINCIAL NOTICE

[No. 48 of 2014]

FREE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, 2014

The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) requires a province to compile an Environmental Implementation Plan ("EIP"). The EIP, 2014 is hereby published.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FREE STATE PROVINCE**



the detea

the department of economic
development, tourism and
environmental affairs
FREE STATE PROVINCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In terms of the National Environment Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), each province must prepare an Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) on a four yearly cycle. The EIP is a key strategic tool that gives effect to co-operative governance at the intergovernmental level.

The first EIP was compiled by the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and, Environmental Affairs (formerly the Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs) (DTEEA) during 2000. Since 2000, various national and provincial documents have been issued that guide strategic environmental planning within the Province. In addition, the results of a recent review undertaken on behalf of Department of Water and Environmental Affairs (formerly the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism) of a sample of current provincial EIPs identified that the use of the EIP to guide strategic leadership and management is limited as the Plan does not provide sufficient detail of the bottlenecks regarding horizontal and/or vertical integration and the co-ordination challenges faced by government. Consequently, this revised and updated EIP takes due cognisance of new developments and sets out the mechanism to more effectively manage the identified environmental issues of concern and strengthen co-operative and environmental governance in the Province.

Mainstreaming environmental management into policies, strategies and programmes will ensure an integrated and systematic approach to the challenges that require longer-term solutions. The establishment of an enabling environment is necessary for the effective environmental management in the Province. The National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa provides direction for the requisite strategic interventions. Three key interrelated, priority issues for the establishment of an enabling environment are identified.

1. *Strengthening Co-operative Governance:* Existing consultative mechanisms need to be strengthened to ensure environmental governance is functional and that sustainable development is fully integrated into government decision-making. It is recommended that an Intergovernmental Forum, the Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee, be constituted to specifically address environmental issues that reports to the Provincial Policy Unit. Six technical committees are proposed to provide technical support to the Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee focusing on Biodiversity and Conservation, Water, Planning and Development, Information and Knowledge Management, Agriculture and Environmental Quality and Protection.
2. *Planning Frameworks:* Environmental issues of concern can only be addressed when environment is integrated within strategic planning at both provincial and local spheres of government. The Free State Growth and Development Strategy sets out the framework for planning within the Province but currently does not

specifically address environmental issues. The Strategy should be reviewed and revised to ensure that an integrated and co-ordinated approach to sustainable development is set out. Priority areas identified in the National FSD and the issues and recommendations identified through the SoER process should be used as the basis for updating the Strategy. The strategic direction set out in the revised Growth and Development Strategy should guide the municipal integrated development planning process. Awareness of the importance of integrating environmental issues into planning needs to be raised within all stakeholder sectors, including politicians and senior management, as well as civil society.

3. *Monitoring Environmental Compliance:* Access to reliable information that is appropriately maintained and reported will enable decision-makers to develop appropriate policies and strategies to manage the environment and to evaluate progress towards goals and objectives. A comprehensive and integrated monitoring programme needs to be developed that addresses the issues of concern identified in the SoER. All information and documentation relevant to environmental management and sustainable development, needs to be maintained on the DTEEA GIS in order to facilitate a standardised approach to decision-making and planning based on the latest available information. Progress with implementing more effective environmental management should be measured against a set of performance indicators that focus on the priority issues and proposed actions that have been identified in the State of Environment Report. Workplace skills plans at DTEEA, other provincial departments and the district and local municipalities must be revised to reflect environmental training requirements to ensure longer-term sustainable capacity development.

The EIP is developed over for a four year period after which it is revised based on experience and to incorporate new developments. It is anticipated that the key focus of this EIP will be the development and operationalisation of appropriate mechanisms and systems to ensure the implementation of effective environmental management and sustainable development within the Province. Associated with this focus area, will be the requisite awareness raising and training and ensuring participation of all stakeholders with a common understanding of what is required to meet the overall objectives.

Timeframes and responsibilities have been allocated in an implementation programme to realise the objectives of this EIP over the next four years.

Approved by


M. Z. Z. Z.

Member for Executive Council

Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs

20 March 2014

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GLOSSARY

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AsgiSA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
CEC	Committee for Environmental Co-ordination
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
dlg&h	Provincial Department of Local Government and Housing
DME	Department of Minerals and Energy
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoE	Department of Education
DoH	Department of Health
DPLG	Department of Provincial and Local Government
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DETEA	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State
DTEEA	Department of Tourism, Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Free State
DWEA	Department of Water and Environmental Affairs
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Environmental Implementation Plan
EMPR	Environmental Management Plan Report
GIS	Geographical Information System
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
JlpSA	Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition
MEC	Member of the Executive Committee
MINMEC	Minister and MEC Committee
MINTEC	Ministerial Technical Committee
NCCC	National Committee on Climate Change
NEMA	The National Environment Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NFSD	National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa
TB	Tuberculosis

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996) is the supreme law in South Africa. Chapter 2 of the Constitution sets out the Bill of Rights, which enshrines the rights of all people and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Section 24 of the Bill of Rights includes an environmental right, which states that:

“Everyone has the right:

- a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- b. to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that
 - i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - ii. promote conservation; and
 - iii. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development”.

To give effect to the Bill of Rights, a suite of national legislation and policy addressing environmental functions has been implemented since 1994 (national legislation attached as Annexure 1). The aim of current legislation is to incorporate both human rights and sustainable development in terms of the environment. Sustainable development can only be achieved if the three pillars of environment, society and economy are integrated and equally considered.

The National Environment Management Act (NEMA) (No. 107 of 1998) is the foundation for environmental management in South Africa. The purpose of NEMA is “To provide for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state”. The principles of NEMA that are set out in section 2 provide a framework within which environmental management and implementation plans are to be developed. These principles apply to all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment. Principles include inclusivity, representivity, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, social equity and justice.

In terms of the National Environment Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), each province must prepare an Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP) on a four yearly cycle. The purpose of the EIP is to give effect to co-operative governance and more specifically to:

- (a) co-ordinate and harmonise the environmental policies, plans, programmes and decisions of the various national departments that exercise functions that may affect the environment or are entrusted with powers and duties aimed at the achievement, promotion, and protection of a sustainable environment, and of provincial and local spheres of government, in order to—

- (i) minimise the duplication of procedures and functions; and
- (ii) promote consistency in the exercise of functions that may affect the environment;
- (b) give effect to the principle of co-operative government in Chapter 3 of the Constitution;
- (c) secure the protection of the environment across the country as a whole;
- (d) prevent unreasonable actions by provinces in respect of the environment that are prejudicial to the economic or health interests of other provinces or the country as a whole; and
- (e) enable the Minister to monitor the achievement, promotion, and protection of a sustainable environment.

The EIP is a key strategic tool that gives effect to co-operative governance at the intergovernmental level. The information which must be contained in an EIP is:

- A description of policies, plans and programmes that may significantly affect the environment;
- A description of how these policies, plans, and programmes will comply with the principles set out in section 2 of NEMA, as well as any national norms and standards envisaged by the Constitution;
- A description of the manner in which the Department will ensure that its functions are exercised so as to ensure compliance with legislative provisions, the principles.

The first EIP was compiled by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) (formerly the Department of Tourism, Environmental and Economic Affairs (DTEEA)) during 2000 (DTEEA, 2000). The Plan was informed from the outcomes of a series of workshops, where the priority environmental issues of the Free State were identified to provide focus areas for improved co-operative governance. An action plan was adopted that required all departments to incorporate environmental management into their activities (Annexure 2).

The Free State EIP was gazetted on the 13 December 2002 and became a statutory document, which all the provincial departments and national departments in the province have to implement and comply with. However, progress has been limited which can be attributed to various factors and constraints including; ineffective provincial co-ordinating structures, inadequate allocation of resources and lack of an identified champion for implementation of the EIP.

Since 2000, various national and provincial documents have been issued that guide strategic environmental planning within the Province. These include; The Free State Growth and Development Strategy (Free State Office of the Premier, 2005), The South Africa Environment Outlook: A report on the state of the Environment (DEAT, 2006), A National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa National (DEAT, 2008),

and the Free State Environment Outlook: A report on the state of the Environment (DTEEA, 2008).

This version of the EIP, takes due cognisance to the relevant policy documents including those mentioned above, as well as the recent review of a sample of provincial EIPs (DEAT, 2008a) commissioned by the National Environmental Advisory Forum (NEAF). The main concern highlighted in the review, is that the EIPs do not provide sufficient detail of the bottlenecks regarding horizontal and/or vertical integration and the co-ordination challenges faced by government. The review identified specific areas that have not been adequately reported thus limiting the use of the EIP to guide strategic leadership and management. The areas include:

- Identification of areas of duplication and recommendation of ways in which to overcome them thereby giving effect to the principle of co-operative governance, as envisaged in the Constitution;
- Prevention of unreasonable actions by provinces in respect of the environment and;
- Enhancement of the mechanisms of co-operative governance within the province and between the various spheres of government.

This EIP sets out the mechanism to effectively manage the identified environmental issues and to strengthen co-operative and environmental governance in the Province.

2. FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is formally defined in NEMA as "the integration of social, economic and environmental factors into planning, implementation and decision-making so as to ensure that development serves present and future generations."

The "National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa" (DEAT, 2008) provides the national vision for sustainable development and includes strategic interventions to effectively achieve this objective. It is anticipated that the Framework will guide all sectors and organs of state to "progressively refine and realign their policies and decision-making systems in order to establish a coherent and mutually consistent national system aimed at promoting sustainable development". Five priority areas for strategic intervention are identified:

1. Enhancing systems for integrated planning and implementation:
 - Ensuring sustainable resource use is embedded into activities of all clusters and intergovernmental structures, including the actions of the Premier's Co-ordinating Committee;

- Strengthening integration of sustainability criteria within planning frameworks including the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies and Integrated Development Plans (IDPs);
 - Monitoring and evaluating progress towards sustainability against indicators;
 - Improving the integrated nature of policy development and implementation.
2. **Sustaining our ecosystems and using resources sustainably:**
- Ensuring that the economic value of ecosystems are an integral part of development planning (IDPs and Provincial Growth and Development Strategies) and decision-making and informs policies, strategies, programmes and actions;
 - Improving aquatic ecosystems, water availability and water quality;
 - Investing in protecting and enhancing ecosystems;
 - Reducing resource consumption per unit of production and waste generation;
 - Improving air quality through various strategies including improved air quality monitoring, clean coal technologies and renewable energy sources;
 - Improving energy efficiency;
 - Enhancing food security and natural resource-based livelihoods;
 - Implementing economic and fiscal instruments to promote sustainable development;
 - Implementing international agreements that relate to natural resource use and ecosystem management.
3. **Investing in sustainable economic development and infrastructure:**
- Increasing investment in infrastructure to address poverty and unemployment;
 - Developing and implementing mechanisms, methods and criteria to promote sustainable infrastructural investment;
 - Developing skills and capacity for building and maintaining sustainable infrastructure;
 - Implementing interventions to promote a "second economy".
4. **Creating sustainable human settlements:**
- Ensuring a shared approach to sustainable human settlements;
 - Implementing an integrated approach to addressing HIV, AIDS and TB;
 - Linking sustainable resource use, poverty eradication and local economic development;
 - Ensuring a safe and efficient public transport;
 - Reinforcing rural sustainable developments;
 - Improving waste management.
5. **Responding appropriately to emerging human development, economic and environmental challenges:**
- Responding to issues of climate change;
 - Rising energy prices;

- Increasing rate of unemployment and poverty levels in the province as a result of an economic growth that is lower than the national average.
- Increasing migration to urban areas in search of economic opportunities mainly due to negative growth in the mining and agricultural sector resulting in increasing informal settlements that are often under serviced and extending urban sprawl.
- Overloaded water and wastewater treatment facilities contributing to the deteriorating condition of the rivers and ultimately water quality. This situation is exacerbated by municipal resource constraints and inadequate operations and maintenance.
- An increasing demand for water by all sectors from a resource that is augmented by importing water. Effective and efficient use of water is essential to ensure economic growth and development.
- The agricultural sector, which is currently the largest consumer of water in the province, also faces the challenge of increasing input costs and changing policy framework that threatens the financial viability of the sector.
- Biodiversity and ecosystems issues are inadequately considered and integrated into social and economic development due to inadequate information and planning to guide informed management decisions.
- Climate change is expected to impact on all sectors threatening food security, water resources and biodiversity, as well as economic growth and development.
- Integrated development plans that do not adequately address environmental issues of concern.

4.2 Co-operative Governance

4.2.1 Provincial Co-ordination

Current intergovernmental mechanisms have been established in accordance with the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (No 13 of 2005). The object of this Act is "to provide within the principle of co-operative government set out in Chapter 3 of the Constitution a framework for the national government, provincial governments and local governments, and all organs of state within those governments, to facilitate co-ordination in the implementation of policy and legislation".

The Premier has the overall responsibility for co-ordinating relationships between the three spheres of government. A Premier's Inter-governmental Forum (Provincial Executive Committee) comprising provincial MECs, local government MECs and Mayors meet regularly to consult on provincial activities and to co-ordinate and align strategic planning.

- International co-operation for sustainable development;
- HIV and AIDS.

Cooperative governance is identified as the key to ensuring the achievement of sustainable development.

3. MANDATES AND FUNCTIONS

The Government of South Africa comprises the three spheres of government, national, provincial and local, which are interdependent and interrelated. The specific competencies of the three spheres of government are set out in the Constitution and are given effect by various legislation (competencies attached as Annexure 3). National government is responsible for designing and developing national environmental management policy and legislation. National departments that exercise functions which may affect the environment are listed in Schedule 1 of NEMA:

- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Tourism
- Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
- Department of Human Settlements
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Water Affairs
- Department of Transport
- Department of Defence

The provinces are co-responsible for implementing national policies and legislation on a regional basis, together with the other tiers of government, as well as to perform certain functions assigned to it. Although environmental management is a cross-sectoral function, the mandate for the environment is assigned to DETEA in the Free State.

Local government is responsible for service delivery, as well as, promoting social and economic development, and a safe and healthy environment.

4. FREE STATE STATUS QUO

4.1 Challenges to Sustainable Development

The Free State is experiencing various challenges with implementing sustainable development. The following challenges were identified when compiling the Free State of Environment Report (DTEEA, 2008):

Technical working groups that are based on a cluster management model comprise four focal areas of:

1. Economic, Employment and Investment Cluster
2. Social and Human Development Cluster
3. Governance Cluster and Administration Cluster
4. Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster.

This model aims to promote and facilitate co-operative governance between the sector departments and local government.

An Advisory Environmental Management Committee has been established at DETEA to specifically address the review and assessment of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Management Plan Reports (EMPRs). In addition to DETEA, other sector departments participate, when required. The Committee meets bimonthly to advise the Head of Department regarding the consideration and approval of Records of Decision and Environmental Authorisations.

4.2.2 National and Provincial Co-ordination

Co-ordination with national environmental activities of DWEA is facilitated by the participation of DETEA at various co-ordinating fora including:

- *The Committee for Environmental Co-ordination (CEC):* A statutory body established by the NEMA to promote the integration and co-ordination of environmental functions by the relevant organs of state and specifically to promote the achievement of the purpose and objectives of environmental implementation plans and environmental management plans. Sub-committees have been established on law reform, biodiversity, and environmental management plans and implementation plans.
- *The Ministerial Technical Committee (MINTEC):* The technical working committee of Minister/DG and Provincial Heads of Departments for Environmental Affairs.
- *The Technical Working Committee of the Minister and MEC Committee (MINMEC):* A forum comprising the Minister and Deputy Minister of DWEA and provincial members of the Executive Council.
- Working groups have been established that meet regularly to discuss and advise on issues of environmental management. Recommendations are then tabled to MINTEC for further consideration.
- *The National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC):* Established to advise on matters relating to national responsibilities with respect to climate change, and in particular in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto protocol.

- *The National Steering Committee of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*: Forum overseeing the Implementation of the National Action Plan for combating desertification.

4.3 Strategic Planning

The Free State Province faces the challenge of implementing a developmental agenda to meet the needs of the people within the framework of sustainable development. The alignment and co-ordination of provincial and local strategic planning that addresses sustainable development is therefore essential to realising the expectations of all the citizens of the Free State.

4.4 Free State Growth and Development Strategy

The Free State Growth and Development Strategy (Free State Office of the Premier, 2005) provides the overall framework for integrated development planning within the Province. It provides the vision, strategic objectives and direction to achieving development and guides the provincial and local government planning process. Four priority areas for the Province are identified:

1. Economic growth, investment and employment.
2. Human and social development.
3. Justice, crime prevention and security.
4. Stable and well-managed governance and administrative structures.

Four provincial clusters have been established to ensure coordination, integration and implementation of programmes for the successful achievement of the strategic objectives (Table 1).

Core Committee Member	Support Team	Key Issues
<i>Environmental Quality and Protection</i>		
DETEA (lead) DWEA DME Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership,& Human Settlement DoH District municipalities	Local municipalities Private sector DoE Researchers	Waste management Air quality Water quality Mining pollution

5.2 Planning Frameworks

Environmental issues of concern can only be addressed when environment is integrated within strategic planning at both provincial and local spheres of government. The NFSD states that sustainable development requires "a coherent approach to planning and management and a break with sectoral thinking". This importance of integrated planning across all spheres was identified as one of the Apex priorities (project 16) announced in the State of Nation address in 2008 (www.info.gov.za/otherdocs/2008/apex-priorities0208.pdf)

The Free State Growth and Development Strategy sets out the framework for planning within the Province. With an emphasis on economic development within the Province to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment, it is essential that the concept of sustainable development (environment, social and economic) is fully incorporated into the Strategy. A greater awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable development, as well as a political commitment with regard to the role of environmental management in the growth and development within the Province is essential.

The Strategy should be reviewed and revised to ensure that an integrated and co-ordinated approach to sustainable development is set out. Priority areas identified in the NFSD and the issues and recommendations identified through the SoER process should be used as the basis for updating the Strategy.

The strategic direction set out in the revised Growth and Development Strategy should be guide the municipal integrated development planning process. Awareness of the importance of integrating environmental issues into planning needs to be raised within all stakeholder sectors, including politicians and senior management, as well as civil society.

Implementation of the Environmental IDP toolkit throughout the Province is urgently required together with associated awareness raising to ensure that environmental issues of concern are appropriately addressed and the full participation of municipalities within the environmental management process.

5.3 Monitoring Environmental Compliance

It is the responsibility of DETEA to ensure that provincial departments and municipalities comply with the EIP and the principles of NEMA when developing any policy, programme or plan. Environmental sustainability can only be achieved through rigorous monitoring of compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation. Despite the promulgation of progressive environmental legislation since 1984, the status of the environment is deteriorating and unlicensed and poorly operated and maintained facilities exacerbate the situation.

Access to reliable and updated information is essential for effective environmental management and compliance monitoring. Reliable information that is appropriately maintained and reported also enables decision-makers to develop appropriate policies and strategies to manage the environment and to evaluate progress towards goals and objectives. More specifically there is need to have technical information that provides the link between economic and social activities and the environment.

A comprehensive and integrated monitoring programme needs to be developed that addresses the issues of concern identified in the SoER. Roles and responsibilities of the various levels of government and departments should be clearly defined and agreed through the Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee. The programmes must be co-ordinated and integrated to optimise resources and to ensure a common approach to reporting on environmental sustainability and sustainable development. The DETEA GIS tool needs to be strengthened and operated as a centralised database/library for storage of information and documentation relevant to environmental management and sustainable development. Access to the centralised database by stakeholders will facilitate a standardised approach to decision-making and planning based on the latest available information.

Progress with implementing more effective environmental management should be measured against a set of performance indicators that focus on the priority issues and proposed actions that have been identified in the State of Environment Report. DWEA has developed a set of environmental indicators designed for integration into the IDP process, provincial EIP and EMPs, and State of Environment Reports (DEAT, 2004). Further consultation on the proposed indicators was held during 2006 resulting in a revised list of indicators for local level reporting that have been taken into account in this EIP (DEAT, 2006).

A phased approach to implementation of performance monitoring against a set of environmental indicators is proposed. As more effective systems are adopted through the implementation of this EIP, it will be possible to report against additional indicators. The proposed indicators and timeframe for their implementation that need to be adopted by

stakeholders are listed in Table 3. The set of indicators can be revised as required based on experience from their implementation.

Appropriate capacity (skills, human resources and funding) needs to be allocated to implement a well designed monitoring programme and to enforce corrective actions, where necessary. Ongoing enforcement by government agencies is essential to strengthen their credibility and to ensure that the environmental requirements are taken seriously by society to promote compliance.

Informed by the requirements of the monitoring programme, a skills audit should be undertaken to establish the shortfall in environmental capacity within the province to meet the various responsibilities. Based on the skills audit, an environmental capacity building programme should be developed and implemented that strengthens capacity to manage the environment and monitor and enforce environmental compliance.

Workplace skills plans at DETEA, other provincial departments and the district and local municipalities must be revised to reflect environmental training requirements to ensure longer-term sustainable capacity development and to access SETA funding. A co-ordinated approach to the development of scarce skills identified within Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JipSA) and Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (AsgISA) is needed to ensure that environmental management and sustainability are incorporated into the strategies.

Table 3: Set of indicators to monitor progress with regard to environmental management

Sphere of Government	Focus Area	Commencement of Reporting on Indicator		
		2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016
			IDP and SDF aligned to the National Biodiversity Strategy	Energy and climate change strategy adopted and integrated and aligned to the IDP
			Invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plan adopted and integrated and aligned to the IDP	
			Strategic environmental assessment conducted on the spatial development framework	
		Local Government	Planning	For each of the following there is a current and adopted plan integrated and aligned to the IDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality Management Plan • Water Services Development Plan • Integrated Waste Management Plan • Oil spill contingency plan
	Waste	Percentage of households receiving weekly kerbside waste collection services	Total amount of waste per capita per annum disposed of within the municipal area	
		Number of incidents of illegal dumping per year	Total amount of waste diverted from landfill disposal to other more sustainable practices	Number of staff employed by the municipality for environmental management

Sphere of Government	Focus Area	Commencement of Reporting on Indicator		
		2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016
			annually	
		Amount (tonnes) of illegally dumped waste removed by the municipality annually	Amount and type of hazardous waste disposed within the municipal area per year	Percentage of municipal budget allocated to environmental management (capital, operating, personnel, training)
		Percentage of landfill sites with valid and current licences	Air Quality	Number of complaints about ambient air quality received by the municipality annually
	Water and Sanitation	Percentage of households receiving RDP level of services for I) water and II) sanitation		Percentage of cases in which the municipality took action in response to a complaint about air quality
		Percentage of municipal budget allocated for operations and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment facilities		
		Percentage of I) water and II) wastewater treatment facilities with valid and current licences		
	Biodiversity and ecosystem health	Area of land identified as having conservation importance which is approved and declined for development annually		
		Area of municipal land under local protected area status		
		Percentage of local protected areas with a currently assigned management plan and associated budget		
		Percentage of municipal land cleared of invasive alien species		

Sphere of Government	Focus Area	Commencement of Reporting on Indicator		
		2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2015 - 2016
Provincial		Area of municipal parks and recreation areas within the municipal area per capita		
	Biodiversity	Area of threatened veld types		
		Threatened and endemic species per taxonomic group		
		Area and percentage land-cover categories		
	Land	Area of sensitive, vulnerable, highly dynamic and stressed ecosystems		
		Percentage of provincial department budget allocated to environmental management (capital, operating, personnel, training)		
	Planning	Nature and number of listed activities approved in each municipal area annually		
	Air quality	Ambient air pollutant concentrations recorded at industry-related monitoring stations		
		Percentage of effluent quality analyses from wastewater treatment facilities that exceed permit conditions for COD, conductivity, faecal coliforms, total nitrogen and total phosphorus		
	Water			

6. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The EIP is developed over for a **four year period** after which it is revised based on experience and to incorporate new developments. It is anticipated that the key focus of this EIP will be the development and operationalisation of appropriate mechanisms and systems to ensure the implementation of effective environmental management and sustainable development within the Province. Associated with this focus area, will be the requisite awareness raising and training and ensuring participation of all stakeholders with a common understanding of what is required to meet the overall objectives.

The first set of indicators have been selected against which progress can be reported and monitored, which can be refined to meet additional issues identified as this EIP is implemented.

It is **absolutely essential that a champion** for the environment is identified within the DETEA to provide direction and enthusiasm for implementation of the EIP.

The following actions, timeframes and responsibilities have been allocated to implement this EIP over the next four years. The following actions are proposed to address identified issues of concern and to strengthen environmental governance. Timeframes and responsibilities have been allocated to the proposed actions.

Table 4: Implementation Programme

Activity	Primary Responsibility	Actions			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
Environmental Governance					
Establish Intergovernmental Forum	Office of the Premier	Secure political commitment Agree composition of Forum Finalise ToR for each technical committee Awareness raising Implement SoER actions Monitor Forum performance	Implement SoER actions Awareness raising	Implement SoER actions Awareness raising	Implement SoER actions Awareness raising
Planning Frameworks					
Free State Growth and Development Strategy	Office of the Premier	Revise and update the Free State Growth and Development Strategy to address environmental issues of concern Secure political commitment Awareness raising	Monitor implementation Awareness raising	Monitor implementation Awareness raising	Monitor implementation Awareness raising

Activity	Primary Responsibility	Actions			
		2013	2014	2015	2016
Strengthen Integrated Development Plans to address environmental issues of concern	DETEA Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement	Awareness raising Implement Environmental IDP toolbox Assist municipalities to identify and incorporate environmental issues of concern Monitor environmental compliance	Monitor environmental compliance Awareness raising	Monitor environmental compliance Awareness raising	Monitor environmental compliance Awareness raising
Compliance Monitoring					
Monitor environmental compliance	DETEA	Develop and Implement monitoring programme Strengthen DETEA GIS as planning tool to monitor environmental compliance and progress with regard to sustainable development Agree and Implement environmental monitoring indicators Awareness raising Undertake environmental management skills audit	Implement monitoring programme Incorporate environmental training into workplace skills plans Awareness raising	Implement monitoring programme Incorporate environmental training into workplace skills plans Awareness raising	Implement monitoring programme Incorporate environmental training into workplace skills plans Awareness raising

7. CONCLUSIONS

This Environmental Implementation Plan fulfils the legislative requirement of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs as set out in the National Environment Management Act. It is aligned with the National Framework for Sustainable Development and provides direction for decision-makers and role players to facilitate more effective environmental management within the Free State Province. The Implementation Plan covers a four year horizon (2009 – 2012) after which it will be revised and updated based on implementing experience and to reflect specific environmental challenges. A phased implementation of activities over the four year period is proposed.

The development and implementation of the following key activities are recommended to mainstream environmental management within government systems in the Province:

1. **Strengthen co-operative governance** to facilitate an integrated and co-ordinated programme of action through the establishment of a Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee that reports to the Provincial Policy Unit. Roles and responsibilities of role players are to be clearly defined.
2. **Identify an Environmental Champion** who is mandated to take decisions and has the requisite competencies to drive the implementation process.
3. **Integrate environmental** issues within provincial and municipal planning frameworks, specifically the Free State Growth and Development Strategy and municipal IDPs.
4. Strengthen, maintain and implement more widely the **DETEA GIS system** as a centralised database of relevant information to minimise duplication and to ensure a uniform approach to integrated planning.
5. **Monitor progress** of implementation against an agreed set of indicators.
6. Implement actions identified within **the Free State SoER**.
7. **Increase environmental capacity** within the province by identifying skills gaps at the provincial and local spheres of government incorporate training needs within the workplace skills plans.

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ANNEXURE 1

National legislation with the Implications for the environmental management function

Department	Act	Objective
Environmental Affairs and Tourism	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)	To provide for co-operative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state
	Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations provided for in the second amendment of NEMA (No. 8 of 2004)	To provide for the formulation of environmental management frameworks for designated geographic areas that allow local and provincial environmental departments to decide whether development can or cannot take place.
	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004)	To provide the framework, norms, and standards for the conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of South Africa's biological resources
	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (No. 57 of 2003)	To provide for the protection and management of ecologically viable areas that represent biological diversity and natural landscapes and seascapes
	National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (No. 39 of 2004)	To provide for the basis for setting standards for both ambient air quality and emissions, to be made in consultation with national, provincial and local partners and for the establishment of air quality monitoring stations
	National Environmental Management: Waste Act (No. 59 of 2008)	To reform the law regulating waste management in order to protect health and the environment by providing reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation and for securing ecologically sustainable development
Agriculture	The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No. 43 of 1983)	To conserve the natural agriculture resources of the Republic by, amongst other things, maintaining the potential of the land and combating and preventing erosion
	The Fertilizers, Farm feeds, Agricultural remedies Act (No. 36 of 1947)	To provide for the registration of fertilisers, farm feeds, agricultural remedies, stock remedies, sterilising plants and pest control operators; to regulate or prohibit the importation, sale, acquisition, disposal or use of fertilisers, farm feeds, agricultural remedies and stock remedies
	Agricultural Pests Act (No. 36 of 1983)	To provide for measures for control over plants and for the prevention of plant diseases (agricultural pests)

Department	Act	Objective
	The Genetically Modified Organisms Act (No. 15 of 1997)	To provide for measures to promote the responsible development , production, use and application of genetically modified organisms; to ensure that all activities involving the use of genetically modified organisms (including importation, production, release and distribution) shall be carried out in such a way as to limit possible harmful consequences to the environment
Water Affairs and Forestry	The National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)	To ensure the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources in a sustainable and equitable manner
	The Water Services Act (No. 108 of 1997)	To provide a regulatory framework for local authorities to supply water and sanitation services in their respective areas
	The National Forest Act (No. 84 of 1998)	To provide for sustainable forest management and the restructuring of the forestry sector
	The National Veld and Forest Fire Act (No. 101 of 1998)	To provide for measures to prevent and combat veld, forest and mountain fires throughout the Republic
	The Mountain Catchment Areas Act (No. 63 of 1970)	To provide for the conservation, use, management and control of land situated in mountain catchment areas
Land Affairs	The Development Facilitation Act (No. 67 of 1995)	To introduce measures to facilitate and speed up the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes; It lays down general principles governing land development throughout the Republic
Minerals and Energy	The Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act (No. 28 of 2002)	To provide for the equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation's mineral and petroleum resources
	The Nuclear Energy Act (No. 46 of 1999)	Sets out the Minister's responsibilities regarding source material, special nuclear material, and restricted material. Radioactive waste and the storage of irradiated nuclear fuel
	The Mine Health and Safety Act (No. 29 of 1996)	To provide for the identification of hazards and the elimination, control and minimisation of risks relating to health and safety in mines
Health	The Hazardous Substances Act (No. 15 of 1973)	To provide for the control of substances that may cause injury, ill health or death to human beings by reason of their toxic, corrosive, irritant, strongly sensitising or flammable nature or by generation of pressure
Arts and Culture	National Heritages Resources Act (No. 25 of 1999)	To introduce an integrated and interactive system for the management of national heritage resources

ANNEXURE 2

Government Competencies

Government Competencies

The mandates and functions of the three spheres of government are set out in the Constitution (Act No. 108 of 1996).

Functional areas of concurrent national and provincial legislative competencies are defined in Schedule 4 of the Constitution. Schedule 5 defines the functional areas of exclusive provincial competency. Competencies that are exclusive to local government are set out in Section 155 (6)(a) and (7).

The functional areas for each sphere of government as defined in the Constitution are tabulated below.

Concurrent National and Provincial Competence	Exclusive Provincial Competence	Exclusive Local Government Competencies
Administration of indigenous forests	Abattoirs	Air pollution
Agriculture	Ambulance services	Building regulations
Airports other than international and national airports	Archives other than national archives	Child care facilities
Animal control and diseases	Libraries other than national libraries	Electricity and gas reticulation
Casinos, racing, gambling and wagering, excluding lotteries and sports pools	Liquor licences	Fire fighting services
Consumer protection	Museums other than national museums	Local tourism
Cultural matters	Provincial planning	Municipal airports
Disaster management	Provincial cultural matters	Municipality planning
Education at all levels, excluding tertiary education	Provincial recreation and amenities	Municipal health services
Environment	Provincial sport	Municipal public transport
Health services	Provincial roads and traffic	Municipal public works only in respect of the needs of municipalities in the discharge of their responsibilities to administer functions assigned to them under the Constitution or any other law*
Housing	Veterinary services, excluding regulation of the profession	Pontoons, ferries, jetties, piers and harbours, excluding the regulations of international and national shipping matters related thereto

Concurrent National and Provincial Competence	Exclusive Provincial Competence	Exclusive Local Government Competencies
Indigenous law and customary law, subject to Chapter 12 of the Constitution		Stormwater management systems in built-up areas
Industrial promotion		Trading regulations
Language policy and the regulation of official languages to the extent that the provisions of section 6 of the Constitution expressly confer upon the provincial legislature legislative competence		Water and sanitation services limited to potable water supply systems and domestic waste-water and sewage disposal systems
Media services directly controlled or provided by the provincial government, subject to section 192 of the Constitution		Beaches and amusement facilities
Nature conservation, excluding national parks, national botanical gardens and marine resources*		Billboards and the display of advertisements in public places
Police to the extent that the provisions of Chapter 11 of the Constitution confer upon the provincial legislature legislative competence		Cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria
Pollution control		Cleansing
Population development		Control of public nuisances
Property transfer fees		Control of undertakings that sell liquor to the public
Provincial public enterprises in respect of the functional areas in Schedule 4 and Schedule 5		Facilities for the accommodation, care and burial of animals
Public transport		Fencing and fences
Public works only in respect of the needs of provincial government departments in the discharge of their responsibilities to administer functions specifically assigned to them in terms of the Constitution or any other law		Licensing of dogs
Regional planning and development		Licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public
Road traffic regulation		Local amenities
Soil conservation		Markets
Tourism		Municipal abattoirs

Concurrent National and Provincial Competence	Exclusive Provincial Competence	Exclusive Local Government Competencies
Traditional leadership, subject to Chapter 12 of the Constitution		Municipal parks and recreation
Urban and rural development		Municipal roads
Vehicle licensing		Noise pollution
Welfare services		Pounds
		Public places
		Refuse removal, refuse dumps and solid waste disposal
		Street trading
		Street lighting
		Traffic and parking

ANNEXURE 3

**Actions to address environmental issues of concern Identified in
the Free State of Environment Report**

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
Strategic planning: There are various integrated environmental management tools available to promote sustainable environmental management. Strategic planning needs to be strengthened to ensure that priority environmental issues of concern are identified and action plans developed to mitigate negative impacts.	Incorporate environmental issues into all planning frameworks at the two spheres of government	2012 /13	All provincial departments and municipalities Lead department - DETEA
	Update provincial EIP and develop EMP	2013 /14	DETEA
	Finalise Conservation Plan that is linked to GIS planning tool to guide social and economic development	2013/14	DETEA
	Develop provincial Air Quality Management Plan	2012 - 14	DETEA
	Finalise development of provincial Integrated Waste Management Plan	2013/14	DETEA
	Maintain a GIS data base to facilitate informed environmental management	Ongoing	DETEA
Cooperative Governance: Establishment of appropriate consultative fora will ensure an integrated and co-ordinated approach to environmental management by all role players and that sustainable development is fully integrated into government decision-making.	Strengthen provincial environmental fora	Ongoing	All provincial departments and municipalities Lead department - DETEA
	Support municipalities to strengthen environmental component of IDPs and interaction with the community	Ongoing	Municipalities Lead department - DETEA
	Monitor compliance with environmental legislation	Ongoing	DETEA
Resources: Resource constraints at the provincial and local spheres of government are negatively impacting on sustainable environmental management within the province.	Restructure the Environmental Affairs and Conservation to comply with National Treasury Environmental Affairs Strategic Planning Framework.	2013/14	DETEA
	Develop and implement formal training programme within work place skills development plan for DETEA	2013/14	DETEA

LAND

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
<i>Climate change:</i> Scenario modelling of possible changes in climate predicts significant impacts on the agricultural sector. Mitigation measures will minimise the impacts.	Review and implement appropriate mitigation measures within the agricultural sector	2013 - ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions Researchers DETEA Lead department - DoA
	Increased awareness of issues regarding climate change and provide appropriate support	Ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions DETEA Lead department - DoA
	Strengthen modelling and planning tools and implement early warning mechanisms for drought, cold spells, fires and floods	Ongoing	Researchers DETEA Lead department - DoA
<i>Chemical Usage:</i> Poor management of agricultural chemicals can impact on the environment and human health. Information is required on chemical consumption and the level of obsolete pesticides to guide proper management.	Establish current pattern of chemical usage, obsolete chemicals and management mechanisms	2013/14	Farmers Agricultural Unions DoH DETEA FS DoA Lead department - National DoA
	Develop a programme of action to address obsolete pesticide stockpile	2013/14	Farmers Agricultural Unions DoH DETEA FS DoA Lead department - National DoA
	Increased awareness of optimum chemical usage and management	Ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions DoH DETEA FS DoA Lead department - National DoA
	Increased awareness of alternative farming methods to reduce chemical consumption	Ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions DETEA Lead department - DoA

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
Irrigation: Irrigated water is the largest water user in the Free State. With an increasing demand for water by each sector it is imperative that irrigated water is used in the most efficient way and wastage is prevented.	Ensure optimum and effective utilisation of irrigation water	Ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions SA Irrigation Institute DETEA Lead department - DoA
	Develop and Implement Water Conservation and Water Demand Management programmes	2013/14	Farmers Agricultural Unions SA Irrigation Institute DETEA DoA Lead department - DWEA
	Increased awareness of issues regarding irrigation and water management	Ongoing	Farmers Agricultural Unions SA Irrigation Institute DETEA DoA Lead department - DWEA
Land reform: Ensure that beneficiaries are fully supported to effectively manage farms to minimise environmental degradation and mitigate impacts on food security.	Strengthen support to emerging farmers to ensure effective management of farms	Ongoing	Agricultural Unions Land Affairs Lead department - DoA
	Facilitate access to financial institutions and provide skills needed for effective financial management	Ongoing	Agricultural Unions Land Affairs Lead department - DoA
Land degradation: Degraded land will eventually become unproductive areas. Measures to ensure that degradation is curtailed will ensure agricultural sustainability and minimise environmental degradation.	Increased awareness of impact of poor land management	Ongoing	Agricultural Unions DoA
	Implement monitoring and assessment programme to inform planning and interventions	2013/14	Agricultural Unions DoA
	Implement initiatives to reverse impacts of land degradation	2013/14	Agricultural Unions DoA

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
Veld fire management: Mitigation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of wildfires requires the effective implementation of Integrated veld fire management.	Provision to be made in the municipal IDPs for appropriate veld fire control resources	Ongoing	Fire Protection Associations DWEA Municipalities
	Improved understanding of the link between climate and wild fires and implementation of mitigation measures	Ongoing	Researchers Fire Protection Associations DWEA Municipalities
	Integrated Fire Management Plan to be developed for the Free State	2013/14	Fire Protection Associations DWEA Provincial roads department Municipalities

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
Planning: Inadequate planning impacts on the management of conservation areas and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. Issues of biodiversity need to be incorporated into planning frameworks at provincial and local government.	Establish conservation areas needed to protect various ecosystems through the Conservation Plan and develop and implement action plan	2013/14	Municipalities Researchers DETEA
	Ensure that biodiversity issues identified within provincial and municipal planning frameworks	Ongoing	Municipalities DETEA
	Develop and implement biodiversity management plan for private reserves	2013/14	Private sector Researchers DETEA
	Increased awareness of the role of biodiversity in socio-economic development and available management tools	Ongoing	DoA Lead department - DETEA
	Ensure possible impacts of climate change are addressed within planning frameworks	Ongoing	Researchers Municipalities DETEA
	Develop and implement a tool to assess terrestrial ecosystem integrity to inform planning and decision-making	2013/14	Researchers DETEA
	Update the departmental data base with a land-use cover – and vegetation map	Ongoing	GIS specialists DETEA
Aquatic ecosystems: The overall assessment of river health in the province is fair to poor. Wetland health is also negatively impacted by detrimental factors. Management of aquatic systems needs to be optimised.	Integrated approach to the management of catchments to improve water quality and ecosystems	Ongoing	DETEA Municipalities Researchers Lead department - DWEA
	Establish current status of wetlands, rehabilitation requirements and management options	2013/14	DETEA Researchers
	Identify priority wetlands for protection of biodiversity	2013/14	DETEA
Invasive alien species control: Invasive alien species displace indigenous species and impact on the genetic integrity of species. Alien invasive plants are	Integrated approach to removal of invasive alien vegetation	Ongoing	DoA DWEA Lead department - DETEA
	Strategy developed to manage the introduction and re-introduction of large mammal species in the	2013/14	Researchers DETEA

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
responsible for a reduction in water runoff.	province		
	Strategy developed to promote genetic integrity of species in the province	2013/14	DETEA
<i>Trade in biodiversity resources:</i> High demand and intensive harvesting of indigenous plants is accelerating the extinction of species outside of protected areas.	Establish measures to mitigate the large scale harvesting of indigenous species	2013/14	Researchers DETEA
	Strengthen programmes to minimise harvesting of indigenous vegetation for fuelwood	Ongoing	DoA DETEA Lead department - DWEA
<i>Problem animal species:</i> The negative impacts of problem species to be identified and addressed	Identify and implement priority research and action plans	2013/14	Researchers DETEA Farmers Users Associations Lead department - DoA

WATER

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
Water conservation and demand management: With an increasing population, increased human activities, and decreasing water quality, equitable access to a sustainable water resource is threatened. A more efficient use of available water resources is essential.	Develop WC&DM programmes for implementation by all sectors	2013/14	All sectors Municipalities DME DoA DETEA Lead department - DWEA
Water resource management: An Integrated and co-ordinated approach to water management will facilitate the equitable access and sustainable use of water by all stakeholders.	Integrated approach to managing water resources through catchment management strategy	2013/14	All sectors Municipalities DME DoA DETEA Lead department - DWEA
	Strengthen support to municipalities to improve quality of wastewater discharge to within acceptable norms and standards	Ongoing	DWEA
	Address Impacts of diffuse pollution	Ongoing	All sectors Municipalities DME DoA DETEA Lead department - DWEA
	Develop and implement adaptation strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on water resources	2013/14	DWEA
	Streamline and fast track water user registration and monitoring and evaluation	Ongoing	DWEA

ATMOSPHERE

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
<i>Coal and wood burning:</i> Communities are exposed to air quality that is harmful to their health and the quality of life. Alternative technologies will reduce smoke emissions and result in saving in energy costs.	Increase awareness of the health impacts and promote alternative technologies	Ongoing	Municipalities DME Lead department - DETEA
<i>Air quality monitoring:</i> Legislation requires significant emission sources to be identified and targets set to improve air quality. Baseline information needs to be gathered and compliance monitoring with targets strengthened.	Strengthen compliance monitoring	Ongoing	Municipalities DETEA
	Improve information management system	2013/14	Municipalities DETEA
<i>Climate change:</i> Models predict significant negative impacts on the climate should there be a doubling of carbon dioxide equivalent concentrations.	Promote cleaner technology and emissions reduction	Ongoing	Private sector DETEA

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Issue	Action	Timeframe	Responsibility
<i>Spatial development:</i> Fragmented planning negatively impacts on the environment. It is essential that socio-economic infrastructure and services are aligned with housing development.	Ensure Integrated sustainable human settlement strategies implemented	Ongoing	Municipalities DoT DETEA DWEA Lead department – Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement
<i>Transport:</i> Transport systems are fundamental to socio-economic development. Poor road conditions are impacting on the environment, as well as the quality of life of households dependent on public transport.	Improve public transport system, including rural areas	Ongoing	Municipalities DoT
<i>Planning:</i> Proper Integrated planning is essential to ensure that population growth and migration are addressed and sustainable service delivery implemented in order to minimise environmental impacts.	Strengthen Integrated development planning to ensure sustainable services delivery	Ongoing	Municipalities DETEA DWEA Lead department – Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement
	Strengthen support to municipalities to improve water quality to within acceptable norms and standards	Ongoing	DWEA
	Increased awareness of environmental management	Ongoing	Municipalities DETEA
<i>Waste Management:</i> Baseline information on the current status of waste management within the province is limited. A provincial integrated waste management plan will guide the proper management of all waste streams. Currently, free basic services are not extended to waste management due to the lack of policy, which negatively impacts on the environment.	Develop and implement a policy regarding a basic level of waste management services	2013/14	Municipalities DETEA Lead department – Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement
	Develop a provincial integrated waste management plan (hazardous and general waste)	2013/14	Municipalities DETEA

ANNEXURE 4

Summary of Outcomes from the Environmental Summit, 2008

Table 1: Clusters addressing the four priority areas of the Free State Growth and Development Strategy

Clusters	Priority Areas	Departments
Economic, Employment and Investment Cluster	Investment promotion MIG & LED Implementation Developing key sectors of the economy, e.g. manufacturing, construction Tourism promotion Agro processing Investment in public Infrastructure SMME development and support EPWP Spatial Development Initiatives	Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) Public Works Agriculture Finance Sports, Arts and Culture Premier (Policy Unit)
Social and Human Development Cluster	Poverty alleviation programmes Provision of basic services Community development support HIV and AIDS prevention and support Provision of housing Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP): Social Sector Access to formal education	Education (chair) Local Government and Housing Health Social Development Sports, Arts and Culture Safety and Security Premier (Policy Unit)
Governance Cluster and Administration Cluster	Integrated Development Planning Project Consolidate Communication with stakeholders and clients Batho Pele principles Intergovernmental Relations Anti-corruption and fraud Integrated human development Information management	Agriculture (chair) Premier Education Sports and Culture Local Government and Housing Treasury DETEA
Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster	Integrated criminal justice system Service Charter for victims of crime Victim support programmes Border control and security Visible police services Rural safety prevention Effective disaster management Social crime prevention Road Incident Management	Treasury (chair) Safety and Security Social Development Public Works Education Health Local Government and Housing Premier (Policy Unit)

Although the Strategy states that development should take place within the existing environmental framework and the concept of sustainable development, no specific actions proposed speak to current environmental issues and constraints to ensure proper environmental management. Consequently, the provincial position is not defined and adequate mechanisms or resources allocated to specifically address environmental challenges.

4.5 Integrated Development Plans

Municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) are a legislative requirement in terms of the Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000). The plans address the development of municipal infrastructure, budgets and service delivery in an integrated manner. IDPs incorporate sectoral plans, including the water services development plan, integrated spatial development framework, integrated transport plan, integrated waste management plan, air quality management plan, and integrated environmental programme.

Local government has to adhere to environmental principles (as defined by NEMA) and take environmental considerations into account in its planning process (IDP Guidelines). IDPs have to be aligned with environmental management measures developed by other spheres of government, including the EIP. To assist municipalities to comply with this requirement, an Environmental IDP toolkit has been developed by the DWEA in consultation with the DETEA (DEAT, 2008b).

Currently, the level of municipal compliance to environmental legislation and addressing environmental issues within the IDP planning process is limited. During the development of the IDP toolkit, an analysis was undertaken of selected IDPs the results of the assessment included (DEAT, 2008b):

- The IDPs contained very little environmental related information.
- Where environmental related sectoral plans were compiled, the findings and recommendations were not fully integrated within the IDP.
- Very few IDPs include a summary statement of key priority environmental issues and challenges within the municipality.

4.6 State of Environment Report for the Free State

The State of Environment Report for the Free State Province was compiled during 2008. It highlighted the challenges that the Province is facing with regard to the current state of the environment and the need for implementation of a developmental agenda without negatively impacting on the environment. The state of the environment is described through a review of the focus areas of environmental governance, land, biodiversity and ecosystems, water, atmosphere and human settlements. Actions are proposed to address

identified issues of concern together with timeframes and allocated responsibilities (Annexure 3).

4.7 Environmental Summit

An Environmental Summit was held on 16 and 17 September 2008, which was attended by the various provincial stakeholders. The overall objective of the Summit was to raise the profile of role of environmental management in achieving sustainable development within the Province. Discussion groups were also held to debate and discuss the issues of concern with regard to the five focus areas of water, energy, environmental health, agriculture and biodiversity. The outcomes of the discussion groups are summarised in Annexure 4.

The key resolutions of the Summit include:

- Another Summit to be held next year to review progress achieved over the next 12 months.
- Intergovernmental relations need to be strengthened to ensure an integrated approach to environmental management.
- Strengthen collaboration between all role players. Appropriate fora should be established to address priority issues, including water, food security, climate change, biodiversity.
- Environmental management to be incorporated into the Free State Growth and Development Strategy.
- Increase municipal environmental capacity to ensure that appropriate planning and actions implemented to address issues of concern.

4.8 Geographical Information System (GIS)

In order to facilitate a more rapid and effective analyses and monitoring of diverse data and information regarding the environment, the DETEA is currently operating a Geographical Information System (GIS) database. GIS enables the integration of diverse spatial and non-spatial data from local, provincial and national levels to more effectively monitor activities and to inform the decision-making process. Of benefit is that the management and standardised of the information can be used by the different sectors, thus minimising duplication of effort and ensuring an integrated approach to planning and environmental management.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE:

Mainstreaming environmental management into policies, strategies and programmes will ensure an integrated and systematic approach to the challenges that require longer-term

solutions. However, mainstreaming cannot be done in isolation. The responsibility for improving environmental management lies with all stakeholders through the development and implementation of an integrated and co-ordinated programme of action that gives effect to environmental governance.

The establishment of an enabling environment is necessary for the effective environmental management in the Province. The National Framework for Sustainable Development in South Africa provides direction for the requisite strategic interventions. The key interrelated, priority issues for the establishment of an enabling environment are described below.

5.1 Strengthening Co-operative Governance

Existing consultative mechanisms need to be strengthened to ensure environmental governance is functional and that sustainable development is fully integrated into government decision-making.

The National Framework for Sustainable Development states that a "robust institutional framework is needed that operates within the existing policy context" that facilitates partnerships and ensures that all "participants co-operate, work together and add value to each others' contributions, rather than duplicate or compete with one another" (DEAT, 2008).

Provision is made in the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act for the establishment of forum "for any specific functional area to promote and facilitate effective and efficient intergovernmental relations between the province and local governments in the province with respect to that functional area". This Forum may establish technical support structures to provide the necessary technical support to the Forum.

It is recommended that an Intergovernmental Forum, the Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee, be constituted to specifically address environmental issues. Draft Terms of Reference for this Committee are attached as Annexure 5. The proposed structure that will promote an integrated and co-operative approach to environmental management in the Free State is depicted in Figure 1.

Key to the success of this proposed Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee, is that a champion is identified to oversee the establishment and functioning of the Committee to ensure the objectives are successfully achieved.

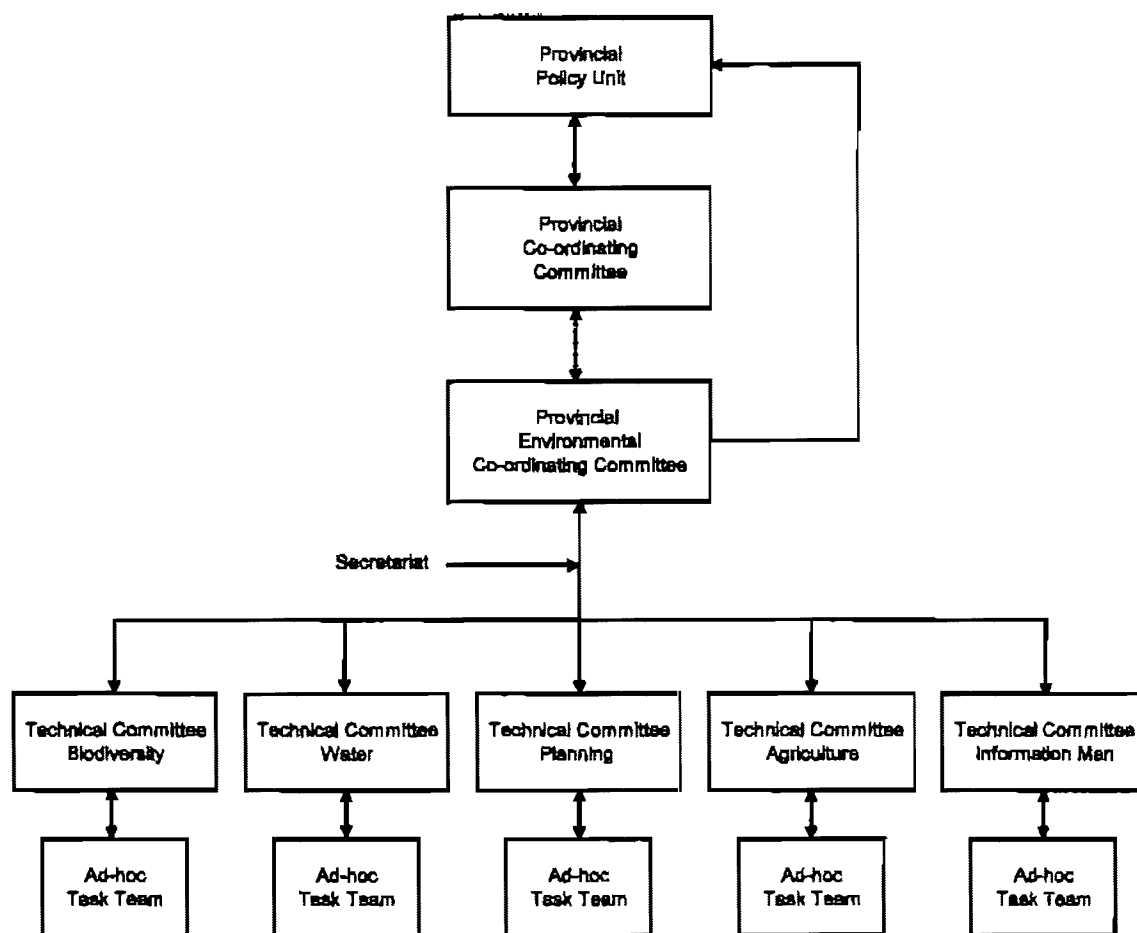


Figure 1: Proposed environmental co-ordinating structure

Six technical committees are proposed to provide technical support to the Provincial Environmental Co-ordinating Committee focusing on Biodiversity and Conservation, Water, Planning and Development, Information and Knowledge Management, Agriculture and Environmental Quality and Protection. The committees will comprise a core team supported by specialists ad hoc task teams, where appropriate. The proposed structure of the technical committees and the key issues to be addressed are tabulated in Table 2.

Table 2: Technical Committee composition

Core Committee Member	Support Team	Key Issues
<i>Biodiversity and Conservation</i>		
DETEA (Lead) Provincial DoA DWEA District Municipalities Researchers	Local Municipalities Farmers Private sector	Planning frameworks Climate change Aquatic ecosystems Invasive alien species Trade in biodiversity resources Problem animal species

Core Committee Member	Support Team	Key Issues
Water		
DWEA (Lead) DETEA Provincial DoA Provincial DME District Municipalities	Local Municipalities Provincial DoH Farmers Private sector Researchers	Water resource management Water conservation and demand management Climate change
Planning and Development		
Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement (Lead) DETEA Provincial DoA Provincial DME DWEA District municipalities	Local municipalities Provincial DoH	Strategic planning Spatial development Service delivery Strengthen support to municipalities Skills development Climate change
Information and Knowledge Management		
DETEA (Lead) Corporate Governance, Traditional Leadership, & Human Settlement Provincial DoA Provincial DME Provincial DoH DWEA District municipalities	Local municipalities DoE	Information management Knowledge management Monitoring Compliance and enforcement Awareness raising
Agriculture		
Provincial DoA (Lead) DETEA	DWEA Farmers Agricultural Unions Provincial DoH Researchers Private sector SA Irrigation Institute Land Affairs Fire Protection Associations Provincial roads department Municipalities	Climate change Agricultural chemical management Irrigation Land reform Land degradation

Focus Area	Summary of Discussion	Outcomes of Discussion
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is considered to be a source of life by humans and animals. Water is also closely associated with cleanliness. • The focus of the commission was that every citizen has a right to access clean water • The relevant authorities need to put in place mechanisms that compel all stakeholders to manage water effectively. • Water systems like any other system influence each other, that is if the one part of the system is disturbed it disturbs the others. • Municipalities do not give priority to sanitation as it does to water, hence the poor infrastructure. • Proper sanitation is one way of protecting water resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of current strategies as proposed by DWEA • Improvement of sector collaboration. • Improvement of Human Resource Management • Improvement Inter-governmental relations. • Improvement of public participation. • Strengthening Compliance and Enforcement
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Increase in demand for energy • Energy security • Necessity for research and development into new technologies – local conditions • Diversification of the generation mix to lower carbon emitting technologies • Energy efficiency measures to reduce demand and greenhouse gas and other emissions • Innovation through research, demonstration and development • Investment through carbon market mechanisms • Adaptation to the negative impacts of climate change • Progress through advocacy, partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement to address “unfavorable organisational behavior”, Irrational decision making resulting from fragmentary behavior • Alternative government mechanisms to reduce load on inspectors using taxes and voluntary agreements • Use integrated Environmental Assessments, energy, water usage and pollution control • Awareness of costs and benefits of load reduction technologies, hot water services • Energy and Climate change • Address competitiveness for jobs and trade barriers against high carbon production • Mandate for energy efficiency

Focus Area	Summary of Discussion	Outcomes of Discussion
Environmental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It must be in a state that it does not harm the livelihood of other humans • ISO 14001 was discussed intensively as a tool to promote environmental health • ISO 14001 certification needs to be propagated and implemented and eventually be enforced • It was alluded that the Free State is not included in national hazardous waste recycling and storage programmes • The non compliance to environmental legislation and standards leads to poor environmental health • Non compliance to environmental decisions • Increasing water pollution and degradable river systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generic approach to addressing common environmental health problems • The different challenges faced in dealing with waste, water, pollution and sewerage problems • The ISO 14 001 is a means of addressing existing environmental health problems and achieving compliance • The ISO 14 001 certification needs to be propagated and implemented and eventually be enforced • Recycling including that of hazardous products needs to be promoted • Recycling needs to be subsidised by National Government • The Free State Province is not included in national hazardous waste recycling and storage programmes • The Free State is going to have to overcome trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste by propagating the implementation of a hazardous waste landfill site • The Free State should send a fact finding mission to other Provinces in connection with the management of hazardous waste products • Municipalities need to address and manage sewerage systems properly • The Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) main aim is the infra-structure development in Southern Africa and municipalities should tap into this
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-fuel production can be good for the country managed well with the use of relevant technologies. The increased production of bio-fuels in South Africa has the potential to be either a bane or a blessing to the poor. On a negative note, it is feared that crops such as maize, sorghum, sugarcane and sunflower meant for food production are now being used for bio-fuel • It is important to note that if the bio-fuel process is handled badly, it could drive up the price of food in both urban and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify development and package investment opportunities in the Province • Ensure that all the developments identified meet the needs of the Free State communities. • There is a need for adequate infrastructure for projects • In terms of Tourism development it is important that the products meet the tourism demand

Focus Area	Summary of Discussion	Outcomes of Discussion
	<p>rural areas and deprive the rural poor of the benefits from the land such as growing vegetables and maize for maize meal, fuel wood, local wild fruits and berries, insects, thatching grass and wood and grass for brooms and utensils that they get from currently underutilised land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural Hazards: Increased natural hazards such as floods, veld fires, cold spells and droughts in combination with higher temperatures could have a serious impact on food productions that can lead to food shortage. The impact of drought extends beyond food shortages and negatively affects national economies and reduces the country's ability to export crops and generate foreign currency • Food Security: There are 2.2 million households in South Africa who are regarded as food insecure and vulnerable. This group utilises more than 60% of their income on purchasing food alone. The current food price hikes is impacting on these groups and the majority is in rural areas. Section 27 (1b) of the Constitution clearly makes provision for the right to safe and nutritious food. Statistics SA food price inflation year-on-year February 2007 to February 2008 was 14.1%. Locally, the price increases for major commodities on the market • Food security under threat because of climate change conditions • Environmental degradation e.g. desertification and the move away from communal agrarian production systems to supplement developing countries agriculture systems needs to be revisited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to plan and work in such a way as to ensure sustainable development of South Africa's economy without compromising environmental integrity • There is a need to improve communication between farmers and government in terms of programme and projects from government
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africa is a country rich in biodiversity, arguably the third highest in the world ▪ Terrestrial & aquatic ecosystems are under pressure due to changing climate • Extinction rates of organisms will increase • Migration of rates of systems and organisms will increase • Certain organisms will "seek refuge" in remaining or new suitable habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for focus on policies and strategies on both National and Provincial Level. We need to improve legal and political protection areas • Focus on identifying Biodiversity hotspots and essential Biodiversity area for conservation • Promote the development of regional corridors between protected areas • Need for integrated environmental management plans

Focus Area	Summary of Discussion	Outcomes of Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats greatly destroyed by human activity • Climate change negatively affects biodiversity support ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to recognise all role-players in the Bio-conservation initiatives • Need to improve and expand national and Transfrontier Initiatives • There must be a standardisation of methodology and protocols at all levels of Bio-diversity and research • Improved funding for priority research programmes. Environmental Awareness Programmes must become a priority • A single National environmental authority with Regional authorities at Provincial levels • Establish mechanisms to share expertise and collaborate at all levels – National/Provincial/Private