

Declaration of Intent to develop a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (SDIP) for the Western Cape

22 June 2005, Cape Town

APPENDIX – REPORT OF THE DIALOGUE SESSIONS

This Appendix to the Declaration of Intent to Develop a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (SDIP) for the Western Cape provides a comprehensive record of the challenges and actions that were identified during the conference dialogue sessions that were held on seven thematic areas. This record forms the basis for the identification of the Priority Implementation Action contained in the Declaration.

Integrating Sustainable Development and Governance:

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- There is no common understanding of the concept, principles and approaches of sustainable development.
- This lack of understanding, together with limited capacity at all levels of government inhibits the implementation of sustainable approaches and practices.
- There is a lack of coherence amongst the policy frameworks governing economic development, social progress and environmental management.
- Policies and government functions with respect to sustainable development are fragmented and there is insufficient co-ordination between them.
- Public participation processes are not working optimally and have led to stakeholder fatigue. The capacity and potential within civil society has not been adequately harnessed.
- There is lack of continuity and long term planning in development and delivery projects.
- Many policies and laws are in place to promote sustainable development but are not being effectively implemented or operationalised at a local level.
- There is lack of innovation in exploring alternative technologies, designs and modes of delivery so people revert to conventional and often unsustainable practices.
- Business has an important role to play in operationalising sustainable development but is largely driven by short-term financial interests.
- There is lack of accountability of government officials and other role players in advancing progress towards sustainable development.
- HIV/Aids is having devastating effects on our economy and society and should inform how we prioritise budget allocations.
- Our progress towards Sustainable Development is not effectively monitored or evaluated.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Build a common understanding of sustainable development through awareness-raising campaigns, capacity building programmes, and reviewing and revising curricula of professionals to include sustainable development concepts, approaches and practices.
- Encourage experimentation with alternative, environmentally sound technologies, designs and systems and encourage a real costing of such approaches and systems.

- Build the capacity of institutions and individuals from all sectors. In particular, government must invest in the Western Cape youth as they are tomorrow's leaders.
- Institute a value and awareness shift within government, business, labour and civil society which incorporates ethical considerations and tackles inertia due to fear of change.
- Identify appropriate actions and mechanisms to change attitudes to make decisions appropriate to sustainable development. This includes influencing personal choices in terms of consumption and life-styles, as well as work related decisions and practices whether in business, government, labour or civil society.
- Institutional arrangements that clearly outline responsibilities of different government departments; ensure progress on harmonisation of national, provincial and local plans and policies, especially in relation to spatial planning. Ensure mainstreaming of sustainability principles and approaches and equip officials to execute their functions in a co-ordinated and integrated manner. Build and use networks of social partners more effectively at a local and global level.
- Institutionalise social dialogue at a district and local level, especially around information dissemination, joint problem solving, joint learning, building on civil society initiatives, strengthening of Civil Society networks, points of contact between government and communities, and shifting power relations. Explore the possibility of a social compact.
- Develop mechanisms to ensure continuity of projects and programmes, so that knowledge and capacity is maintained within institutions and processes.
- Develop a strategy for education on sustainable development and sustainable consumption, not just in the classroom, but in all sectors of society at all levels, including government, civil society, business and labour, accompanied by a strategy for funding. Enhance partnerships between government and civil society as part of efforts to implement participatory governance.
- Move from reactive to proactive planning by developing a shared vision using participatory tools and methods to involve civil society in shaping their own environment.
- Promote the use of codes of practice (such as the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative) to leverage change towards sustainable development in the business sector, including incorporating the polluter pays principle. Engage the business sector to become more transparent about the sustainability of their product, processes and activities, and to adopt other sustainable practices.
- Encourage government to develop monitoring and reporting systems which report on progress with respect to good governance and sustainability indicators and targets.
- Recognise and make provision for vulnerable groups, in particular people with disabilities, to engage in sustainable development processes and projects.

Embedding Sustainable Development in Growth, Trade and Tourism Strategies

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- Insufficient understanding of the 'triple bottom line' approach to sustainable development in order to embed the principles in growth and development.
- Lack of knowledge in the economic sector of appropriate tools and mechanisms that are necessary for proactive environmental management and to predict environmental risks of development initiatives.
- A need for stronger local government commitment to sustainable development and capacity to engage in sustainable development.

- Partners are not mainstreaming the sustainable development approach into functions, so it remains an 'add-on' and not integral to core functions.
- Lack of a single policy framework for economic development in the Province.
- A tendency to focus on economic 'quick returns', rather than longer term sustainable strategies.
- Pursuit of growth at all costs, leading to greater levels of inequality and income disparity with environmental implications.
- Untapped financial resources and inefficient resource use could be channelled into social development projects.
- Improving the environment for SMME development to promote equitable growth and poverty alleviation.
- The significant impact of in-migration on poverty, growth, addressing unemployment and resource use.
- A lack of local knowledge and awareness about tourism.
- The lack of balance between mass tourism and niche tourism.
- Infrastructural constraints to potential tourism growth.
- Lack of awareness and knowledge about sustainable development and the economic, social and environmental impacts of projects.
- Need for the promotion of education for sustainability.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Enhancing sustainable tourism growth and practices.
- Enhancing SMME development and tourism growth within the sustainable development paradigm.
- Job creation while ensuring sustainable development, targeting disadvantaged groups, women, youth and people with disabilities.
- Promoting education and awareness-raising for sustainable development - within government, local communities, entrepreneurs, industry and youth.
- Exploring an integrated strategy for innovative technologies for sustainable development.
- Introducing proactive environmental planning instruments and information sharing including monitoring systems and ensuring compliance.
- Better co-ordination between economic development planning and environmental management authorities.
- Requiring all forthcoming sector summits facilitated by the PDC to include agreements oriented towards adopting sustainability practices and approaches (for example fair trade, initiatives).
- Providing incentives to promote sustainable practices.
- Encouraging private sector reinvestment into townships.
- Supporting local councils and municipal governments as the key interface with communities, to integrate sustainability principles into Integrated Development Plans, project planning and implementation.
- Local and provincial capacity-building towards ensuring participation in planning and decision-making.
- Urgently integrate and strengthen sustainable development principles into the Proudly

South African campaign, and educate people about the importance of buying locally and ethically produced goods.

- Strategically developing innovative technologies that promote sustainable development.
- Facilitating SMME development through streamlined approval processes, training, opening opportunities to new entrants and providing financial support.
- Identifying and supporting new opportunities offered through sustainable development with an emphasis on local opportunities and the poor.
- Developing education, awareness-raising and empowerment programmes about sustainable development and its themes (i.e. responsible tourism, fair trade, human rights, consumer rights) for all stakeholders.
- Encouraging communities to embrace sustainable development through, for example, greening and cleaning their neighbourhoods and minimising and recycling wastes.
- Encouraging government to promote sustainability principles by developing and implementing a green procurement policy, through the design, construction, retrofitting and management of public buildings, and promoting environmentally sustainable practices within government administration (e.g. through waste minimisation and recycling practices).

Building Sustainable Human Settlements

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- The massive effort that has gone into policy and strategy formulation, without sufficient investment in the capacity to deliver in a way that fits with the intentions of policy – there is a gap between policy intentions and delivery mechanisms.
- Governance capacity: need for a strong centre and decisive leadership, businesses and households need a clear set of rules.
- The tension between a technocratic project preparation approach and grassroots development processes.
- How to link social and environmental processes in viable and practical ways.
- Trade-offs between short-term gains and long-term benefits, e.g. approval of projects beyond the urban edge because it extends the tax base and generates developer contributions versus densification which is more difficult, time consuming and costly.
- The need to design risk reduction into new developments.
- Qualitative focus on integrated human settlements and communities, inclusive of land, infrastructure planning, biodiversity and natural resources.
- Long-term urban and infrastructure planning must take into account key resource thresholds such as peak oil, water shortages, climate change, ecosystem services, and how these will impact on the costs of doing business and operating households in different parts of the city.
- The need to reinvigorate community planning and participatory processes by making this possible in the way government relates to communities, building the capacity of communities, and in education.
- A simplistic focus on building houses ignores the nexus between livelihoods, local economics, affordability, subsidies, welfare mechanisms, a green and safe environment, and ongoing operation and maintenance.

- Tension between the basic duty of the state to deliver maximum shelter as fast as possible to the largest number of the poorest people versus the slow and possibly financially costly project level innovations required to deliver integrated and sustainable human settlements.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Urgently address the unlocking of well located pieces of land, both public and private, across the province, for integrated housing development focusing on both greenfield and brownfield developments. Priority should be given to such sites as Wingfield, Culemborg, Youngsfield, Woodstock hospital, Tygerberg hospital, Oude Molen and Klipfontein – these developments must be aimed at building socially mixed communities in the City and towns across the Province, that meet the needs in particular of the urban poor and are designed in accordance with sustainability principles (such as energy saving, zero waste, re-use of water, recycling, densification, increased use of public transport, urban agriculture, and greening).
- Formulate and agree on a process to define and implement authentic community-driven participatory housing processes which reflect economic development, social equity and ecological integrity.
- Design of an integrated public transport system that links all people to key parts of the city
- A substantial communication and education system is required to empower people to understand sustainable development and to fully participate in grassroots development processes.
- Improved communication between departments, spheres of government and between government and communities about what sustainable development means, using in particular social learning processes, policy review and monitoring.
- Provide incentives for innovations to create integrated and sustainable human settlements.
- A broad range of empowerment mechanisms are needed for localising and internalising financial and resource flows to ensure that housing delivery generates development and not just profits for contractors and consultants.
- Joint team and working approaches are required to generate learning, rather than the traditional consultant approach with no integration between consultants and officials.
- Financial modelling systems reflecting the ‘triple bottom line’ approach are needed to inform decision-making.
- Build on the city’s current initiative to mainstream sustainability principles and approaches into planning and infrastructure delivery, and encourage and support similar sustainability initiatives in other local authorities.
- A clear and agreed set of indicators are needed to guide monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Trans-disciplinary learning that cuts across different forms of knowledge and across disciplines and sectors.
- Strengthen the current law reform process, which streamlines and rationalises the environmental, heritage and planning approval processes, and link it to other sectoral policy processes and frameworks.
- Strengthen leadership, governance and decision-making processes in government to ensure that there are clear and fair rules that everyone understands and which remain stable and consistent over time.

We, the conference delegates, commit ourselves to these actions, as required by our relevant constituencies, emanating from the Western Cape Sustainable Development Conference:

- A process of consultation, dialogue and negotiation to reach agreement on implementation targets and processes.
- Cooperation where necessary at the project-level to speed up housing delivery.
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure learning and policy review.
- Improved mutual communication and education programme and activities.

Energy and Climate Change

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- That electricity in the Western Cape is largely supplied through coal and nuclear energy sources, with limited generation capacity within the province; the resulting dependency on imported electricity impacts on the current quality of power; at the same time the Western Cape has a significant potential for viable renewable energy sources.
- The particular vulnerability of the Western Cape to water scarcity, energy security, and climate change, all of which have profound implications for agriculture, biodiversity and tourism, and in turn for economic growth.
- The need for a “rethinking” of the current economic growth paradigm that predominates in current policy formulation, and the need to integrate energy concerns more effectively within the *Ikapa elihlumayo*; associated with this is the need to address the challenge of current consumptive lifestyles that are often fuelled by inappropriate pricing of resources.
- Growing populations in the Western Cape associated in particular with rural depopulation and migration from other provinces; this growth places increasing demands on job creation and the provision of transport, housing and energy services, which in turn places greater pressure on already depleted existing ecosystem services.
- Ensuring effective communication in an accessible manner on the nature of the challenges and opportunities relating to energy and climate change, and on the progress being made in addressing these challenges through visible publication of regularly updated indicators.
- The need to identify and address concerns associated with conflicting incentives and perverse subsidies that constrain the implementation of effective energy and climate change policies.
- The lack of sufficient data on current emission level of greenhouse gases; there is a recognised need to update the national greenhouse gas inventory so as to inform policy.
- The need to make provision for the outcome of post-Kyoto international negotiations which may have significant implications for current economic growth patterns.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Develop an Integrated Energy Strategy and Programme of Action through a structured process of stakeholder consultation, with the aim of ensuring that the provincial government plays a stronger facilitation role between and amongst the various spheres of government and external partners on energy and climate issues.
- Setting challenging performance targets relating, inter alia, to the composition of the energy mix, the promotion of greater use of renewable energy sources and the increased adoption of energy efficiency measures.
- Establishing appropriate institutional mechanisms aimed at ensuring effective

prioritisation, co-ordination and implementation of the energy strategy and programme throughout the province.

- Developing a clearly articulated and compelling vision aimed at generating excitement and guiding parties as to what constitutes a “sustainable province”; this vision should be based on a sound assessment of the carrying capacity for the Western Cape Province with the aim of ensuring appropriate planning for uncertainty and resilience.
- Provide an enabling environment that stimulates greater investment in renewable energy and that promotes energy efficiency in an integrated manner through all sectors.
- Promoting energy efficiency and demand side management, inter alia, through government procurement practices.
- Ensure that, in the process of determining an appropriate energy mix for the Western Cape Province, the identified options are based on an assessment of their costs as determined by full cost accounting throughout their life cycle.
- Ensuring that additional nuclear power is introduced into the Western Cape Province only if it can be shown that it is the preferred option based on an assessment of the costs of nuclear as determined by full cost accounting throughout its life cycle; and pending the outcome of a fully independent, international and transparent assessment of the extent to which nuclear energy may serve as a transition to a more sustainable energy path.
- Focusing on the development of an effective, efficient and affordable public transport system that moves away from reliance on individual cars with a focus on promoting more effective public transport, with a particular specific focus on greater investment on railway transport as well as integrating energy consideration on the taxi recapitalisation initiative.
- Promoting collaboration with regional governments on energy options.
- Further enhancing the existing scientific capacity on energy and climate issues in the Western Cape.
- Support high-leverage projects and activities aimed at effectively communicating the nature of the challenges and opportunities associated with meeting energy needs and addressing climate change; these projects could include for example effective integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives within the N2 Gateway initiative and the 2010 Soccer World Cup, as well as supporting additional high profile energy and climate-related projects (building for example on the recent success within Kuyasa).
- Making specific provision for job creation, the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and the welfare of low-income households.

Sustainable Water and Waste Management

Water is the key driver for sustainable development. In this regard water underpins economic, social and environmental sustainability.

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- Identifying and meeting basic needs.
- Facilitating inter sectoral interaction (government, industry, business, agricultural, civil society).
- Communication and awareness.
- Appropriate spatial development planning (human settlement).
- Move from legislation and policy to appropriate action.

- Implementation of the decentralisation of management of water resources and service delivery.
- The impacts of climate change on rainfall patterns and the availability of water.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Encourage and provide support to local authorities to integrate waste minimisation, reuse and recycling approaches in the development of the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) processes with the aim of promoting job creation.
- Develop a suitable mix of regulatory and incentive-based tools to manage scarce water resources including the use of aquifers, desalination and reuse.
- Identify and audit the top ten water-users and waste generators with the aim of identifying opportunities for modifying current practices.
- Support the development of community-based recycling and sanitation programmes that result in environmental, social and financial benefits and reduce risks, in particular to women and girl children, and encourage replication of successful projects.

Identifying and meeting basic needs:

- Community involvement in the early planning phase.
- Identify and consider alternative solutions.
- Identify both rural and urban needs.

Facilitating inter-sectoral interaction (government, industry, business, agricultural, civil society):

- Strengthen the IDP process with respect to water and waste.
- Break down barriers between government departments.
- Improve the channels of communication between civil society, business and government.
- Promote community ownership of initiatives and projects.

Communication and awareness:

- Promote community ownership of initiatives and projects.
- Ensure that language usage is accessible and appropriate.
- Promote civic education regarding water and waste.
- Use existing structures e.g. ward committees.
- Introduce water and waste management programmes in the school curriculum.
- Education and awareness-raising must focus on modifying and changing behaviour.

Appropriate spatial development planning (human settlement):

- Strengthen the IDP process with respect to spatial implications of human settlement patterns on water and waste.
- Manage catchment areas related to human settlements.

Management of water resources and waste:

- Promote strategies to augment water resources and manage demand.
- Have a suitable mix of regulatory and incentive-based tools to manage demand for water and promote waste minimization, recycling and reuse.

- Identify, focus and audit the top ten water users and waste generators.
- Collect reliable data to benchmark, monitor and evaluate.
- Identify both rural and urban needs.
- Develop strategies to address the impacts of climate change.

Effective Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management

We, the conference delegates, cognisant of the significant initiatives in the province to develop biodiversity plans, and aware of the commitments made within these plans note the following challenges:

- The Western Cape is endowed with remarkable and unique biodiversity assets. These are however threatened by a range of activities such as alien invasive species, genetically modified organisms, habitat transformation, pollution and overexploitation.
- Biodiversity considerations are not routinely mainstreamed into economic development and poverty reduction strategies and decision-making. Cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity considerations is weak.
- Our natural resources and ecosystem services are not adequately valued and the environmental costs of development actions are not sufficiently reflected and internalised in decision-making. There is inadequate attention paid to the long-term financial sustainability and viability of projects prior to their implementation.
- Economic opportunities associated with biodiversity use and conservation are not optimised and benefits are not fairly distributed.
- Climate change threatens the long-term survival of our biodiversity.
- Inadequate regulatory and financial tools exist that reward and promote actions that conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and other natural resources, and penalise unsustainable practices.
- Biodiversity users and society are often exploited by corporate interests and unregulated trade. This is aggravated by the existence of certain policies that promote unfair trade and unsustainable practices.
- Inequitable access to biodiversity resources prevents users from obtaining benefits. Rights of access, use, ownership and intellectual property are also often unclear.
- Indigenous knowledge systems and local cultures are not adequately protected, promoted and valued, nor are they integrated into existing planning and decision-making processes.
- There exists considerable human resources and potential in the province but there are significant capacity constraints and government lacks the resources to tackle biodiversity management alone.
- Levels of awareness and understanding on biodiversity issues and management are limited across a range of sectors and stakeholders.
- There are gaps in our knowledge that require research attention to equip us to better understand and manage our biodiversity heritage.
- The voice of civil society needs to be better articulated and integrated in planning and policy-making processes.

We, the conference delegates, cognisant of the significant initiatives in the province to develop biodiversity plans, and aware of the commitments made within these plans, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Build on and prioritise existing strategies and action plans (eg CAPE, STEP, SKEP, LandCare) in the biodiversity arena and put in place mechanisms to ensure they become concrete projects and have effective outcomes.
- Use existing plans and develop appropriate levels of support to enable local governments to mainstream biodiversity in IDP processes.
- Establish mechanisms to protect agricultural biodiversity, including traditional and indigenous genetic resources.
- Take stock of the budget allocations for biodiversity management in the Western Cape, and ensure that adequate financial resources are provided to enable implementing agents to deliver on required and mandated targets.
- Integrate local knowledge into existing biodiversity management and agricultural systems to improve productivity and conservation.
- Create and enhance economic opportunities that deliver both biodiversity and socio-economic benefits, for example through job-creation schemes that rehabilitate and restore biodiversity and promote public-private partnerships.
- Explore creative ways to redress current inequities of land ownership and access to biodiversity resources.
- Expand and enhance awareness, education and training about the value of biodiversity.
- Review and enhance legal and financial mechanisms that provide incentives for biodiversity conservation and penalties for unsustainable practices.
- Undertake applied research to enhance our effectiveness in managing biodiversity, especially in priority areas, and disseminate these findings to decision-makers and implementers.
- Develop systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to enhance biodiversity management and modify management approaches accordingly.
- Develop a suite of adaptive responses to cope with the potential impacts on biodiversity of climate change and support research to investigate these impacts and identify mitigating strategies.
- Prevent the further loss of biodiversity in priority areas until further research is undertaken to understand the effects of these actions.
- Build capacity in biodiversity management at all levels, including within government departments, communities, the private sector, landowners, resource users, and among learners.
- Broaden societal awareness about the importance and value of biodiversity.
- Forge partnerships across sectors to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Identify lessons emerging from successful partnership projects and develop mechanisms to replicate these projects elsewhere.
- Where appropriate, foster co-management arrangements among biodiversity resource users, government and other stakeholders.

Adopting and Using Sustainable Development Indicators

We, the conference delegates, note the following challenges:

- The need for a common development paradigm in order to agree on sustainable development indicators.
- Ensuring Western Cape vision and our specific goals are integrated with national vision and reflect the sustainable development goals of South Africa's commitments.
- The need to communicate sustainable development indicators to all stakeholders and communities in an accessible way.
- Community dialogue is required to unpack specific issues to people (with explanation of indicators, issues and trends).
- Each sector needs to overcome personal barriers and prejudices, and to appreciate differing faith-based perspectives.
- The need to make the set of indicators realistic and reduce their number.
- Addressing the balance between quantitative and qualitative aspects.
- Ensuring indicators are linked to goals.
- Obtaining buy-in from all three spheres of government and social partners.
- Enabling access to common databases and ensuring sufficient resources to manage the process.
- Ensuring learning from international and other best practices.
- Ensuring relevance of indicators to Western Cape context.
- Financing capacity for data gathering, collation, interpretation and communication and the need to invest in and maintain e-technology, the upgrade and integration of appropriate databases.
- Locating an institutional home for sustainable development promotion, monitoring and evaluation.
- Noting that the next census is only in 2011, and allowing for the rapid demographic and urbanisation changes which prevail.
- Identifying of sources of capacity building and knowledge sharing.

We, the conference delegates, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:

- Agree on the way forward to derive a set of Sustainable Development Indicators within a targeted time frame.
- Develop a systematic process to ensure that the results of measurement is fed back to improve policies and to achieve sustainable development.
- Identify studies needed to compensate for not holding a census in 2006.
- Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Premier's Office to strengthen co-ordination of sustainable development in the Growth and Development Strategy.
- Through indicators, communicate to stakeholders, communities and individuals the need to contribute to a sustainable future through their lifestyles and aspirations.
- Identify training courses and other resources for sustainable development, and identify existing gaps.

- Promote international best practice and use international networks and conferences (eg nrg4SD and ICLEI).
- Determine and communicate the sustainable development paradigm (*A Home for All*) for the Western Cape Provincial Growth and Development strategy.
- Ensure an integrated approach to Sustainable Development between the three spheres of Government to ensure that highest level national (eg MDGs and JPOI targets) and provincial goals inform local development and that local realities can also shape provincial and national goals, with an agreed set of Sustainability Indicators to inform IDPs and other municipal policy and strategy documentation.
- Ensure a common database for information in the Western Cape accessible to all stakeholders and ensure appropriate communication to stakeholders in regards to the aims and objectives around sustainable development goals and associated indicators.
- Translate all Sustainable Development theme goals into appropriate Sustainability Indicators to ensure all goals are measurable.
- Allocate sufficient resources to collect, co-ordinate and collate information and establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit for Sustainable Development (within the Premier's office) to co-ordinate the establishment and implementation of appropriate sustainable development indicators.