

## ***A Sustainable Home For All – Now and Forever!***

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

**22 June 2005, Cape Town**

#### **Preamble**

##### **We, the conference delegates**

1. Recognise that the UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992) provided the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. This was reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to the Rio Principles, the full implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We also commit ourselves to achieving the internationally agreed sustainable development goals, including those contained in the UN Millennium Declaration and the numerous multilateral environmental agreements that South Africa has ratified.
2. Recognise that the South African Constitution enshrines social, political, environmental and economic rights for all who live in South Africa. We, the citizens and social partners gathered at the Western Cape Sustainable Development Conference, reaffirm our commitment to Section 24 of the Constitution which provides that "... everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well being".
3. Note with deep concern the recent findings of the United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and the South African National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment (2004). We accept the findings of these reports which together provide concrete evidence that the future viability of our socio-economic systems are dependent upon the sustainability of ecosystem services, including in particular in the Western Cape Province where livelihoods in agriculture, mariculture and tourism are at stake, and where threats to water and energy supplies could significantly impact on current models for socio-economic development.
4. Endorse the national governance and policy framework that has been put in place to promote sustainable development, in particular the Bill of Rights, the National Environmental Management Act, the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, the Biodiversity Act, the National Government's draft Medium Term Strategic Framework, the Extended Public Works Programme, the National Skills Development Strategy, and the various relevant sector policies that are specifically aimed at poverty eradication with special reference to job creation, housing and infrastructure provision, health, welfare and education.
5. Actively support the overarching Western Cape governance and policy frameworks, in particular the Constitution of the Western Cape, the Western Cape Growth and Development Framework Agreement, the *iKapa elihlumayo* strategies, as well as the Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process that seeks to integrate sustainability principles into policy and practice.

6. Welcome and support the 2002 Gauteng Declaration on the Role of Regional Governments in Sustainable Development that was adopted by Regional Governments from around the world.
7. Commit to undertake concrete measures and actions to achieve specific targets within agreed time-frames to promote sustainable development in the Western Cape. In particular, we commit ourselves to a process that will lead to the formulation of a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan for the Western Cape within 12 months. This process will be managed by the Western Cape Provincial Development Council.
8. Recognise that there are enormous inequities in wealth and land distribution in our province, and that active intervention is required to increase affordable access to land, speed up the land reform process, drive the integration of our towns and cities, and unlock commercial value of land owned by emerging agriculture and business. Unless collaborative action is undertaken by the social partners to reduce inequities, address poverty and safeguard natural resources, we will have failed in our duty as custodians of the future of our Province to ensure that present and future generations are able to live sustainably. In particular, we commit ourselves to the identification and implementation of a set of lead projects that will demonstrate in practice at the local level what it means to build a *sustainable home for all*.

## **Guiding Principles**

The following principles will guide the way we conceptualise, design and implement plans to achieve our vision of the Western Cape as a *sustainable home for all*.

- Promoting greater equity in wealth and land distribution.
- Satisfaction of fundamental human needs.
- Job creation through economic development and investment strategies.
- Incorporation of biophysical and ecological limits in planning and decision-making.
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and other natural resources.
- Sustainable living within peaceful economically viable communities.
- Recognition of the innate cultural beauty and spiritual healing value of nature for all.
- Adoption of the precautionary principle in decision-making.
- Internalisation of environmental and social costs in the design and operation of production and consumption systems.
- Co-operative governance through vertical and horizontal co-ordination.
- Promotion of partnerships between social partners.
- Promotion of access to information, transparency, and accountability.
- Empowered participation by civil society.
- Promotion of environmental, social and economic justice.
- Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Promotion of education and capacity building for sustainable development.
- Mainstreaming sustainability principles into all policies, plans and decision-making.

## Vision

Based on our commitments and principles, our vision for the Western Cape Province is as follows:

*A sustainable home for all – now and forever*

For us, sustainable development is a process that can be conceptualised as follows:

*For the Western Cape Province, sustainable development will be achieved through implementing integrated governance systems that promote economic growth in a manner that contributes to greater social equity and that maintains the ongoing capacity of the natural environment to provide the ecological services upon which socio-economic development depends.*

## Western Cape Context

We recognise that the Province of the Western Cape is at a crossroads. While progress and opportunity abound across many sectors, and whereas many of us in the public, community and private sectors are exploiting these opportunities to great effect, many challenges remain.

Our Province has 4,5 million citizens, of whom 90% live in cities and towns. Our economy is growing and our unemployment rate is lower than the national average. We have in place coherent Provincial Policies such as the Growth and Development Framework Agreement, the *iKapa elihlumayo strategies*, a draft Provincial Spatial Development Framework and various sectoral policies, and our Municipalities have formulated Integrated Development Plans. We have some of the most valuable biodiversity and natural resource locations in the world, which, in turn, are critical to sustaining our tourism industry. The challenges we face include the following:

- **Economy:** embedding sustainable development in growth, trade and tourism strategies to overcome poverty by building job-creating local economies; developing human capital and broadening the skills base to embrace sustainability principles in economic development and job creation.
- **Human settlements:** building sustainable human settlements that will overcome homelessness and social divisions in a way that ensures that investments in public infrastructure and planning processes result in accessible and dignified human settlements that are more eco-efficient, financially affordable (water, energy and waste systems) and safe, offering socio-economic opportunities.
- **Energy and climate change:** ensuring energy security, promoting clean and safe energy for economic growth, introducing energy efficiency initiatives and promoting alternative energy sources aimed at reducing our dependency on fossil fuels and providing affordable energy to all, diversifying the energy mix, promoting renewable energy and more efficient public transport systems.
- **Water and waste:** increasing and sustaining the number of households with access to sufficient, affordable clean water and sanitation while reducing overall consumption, coupled to the promotion of a zero waste approach to the management of liquid and solid wastes, recycling to promote job creation.
- **Biodiversity and natural resource management:** safeguarding the Province's remarkable biodiversity and natural resources; mainstreaming biodiversity into decision-making, and ensuring that citizens of the Western Cape have equitable access to natural resources and socio-economic benefits from their use.

- **Governance:** developing effective integrated co-ordinated governance systems that ensure meaningful participation by citizens and social partners, institutional arrangements for an integrated approach to governance, and aligning planning, heritage and environmental legislation to give effect to such governance systems.
- **Indicators:** establishing an agreed set of sustainable development indicators to monitor progress and trigger appropriate action.

## Priority Implementation Actions

We, the conference delegates represented here, have identified the following implementation actions for priority attention. These actions have been derived from the conference dialogue sessions on seven thematic areas which highlighted issues and challenges for attention. A more detailed list of challenges and actions are attached in the accompanying Appendix to this Declaration.

This Declaration of Intent forms the basis for the formulation of a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (SDIP) to be facilitated by the Provincial Development Council (PDC) and which will be ready for adoption by the social partners within 12 months.

## Cross-cutting Issues

- **Land** – Mindful of the constitutional imperatives, it is recognised that land remains a critical issue and an irreversible link within the context of sustainable development. To this end, the social partners commit themselves to fast track appropriate interventions which shall be identified and implemented under the auspices of the PDC by no later than 31 July 2005.
- **Education** – Work with educational institutions at all levels building on the recently launched UN Decade for Education and linked to other communication activities with a clear commitment from the Provincial Department of Education to integrate sustainability into curricula.
- **Capacity building** – Build understanding of sustainable development amongst communities, across all spheres of government, social partners and the media, and enhance capacity to implement sustainable practices.
- **Participation** – Enhance opportunities for effective participation, especially amongst vulnerable groups such as the poor, women and the youth.
- **Job creation** – Recognise that job creation and poverty eradication are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development goals.
- **Women** – Recognise their central role in the family, the community and as custodians of natural resources and social capital, empower women to participate and contribute to the promotion of sustainable development.
- **Indicators** – Use and communicate sustainable development performance indicators to reflect the sustainable development approach to provincial growth and development, and to encourage sustainable practices through suitable incentives and sanctions.
- **Health** – Recognise the devastating impact of HIV/Aids and other debilitating diseases on the community, the economy and the environment, support ongoing efforts to address this pandemic.

- **People with disabilities** – Recognise and make provision for vulnerable groups, in particular people with disabilities, to engage in processes and projects relevant to sustainable development.
- **Research** – Encourage and support ongoing research that enhances our ability to implement sustainable approaches and practices.

## **Integrating Sustainable Development and Governance**

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 products, 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.

## **Embedding Sustainable Development in Growth, Trade and Tourism Strategies**

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

- Require all forthcoming sector summits facilitated by the IDC to include agreements oriented towards adopting sustainability practices and approaches (for example fair trade initiatives).
- Urgently integrate and strengthen sustainable development principles into the Proudly South African campaign.
- Identify and supporting new opportunities offered through sustainable development with an emphasis on local opportunities and the poor.
- Encourage communities to embrace sustainable development through, for example, greening and cleaning their neighbourhoods and minimising and recycling wastes.
- Encourage 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, 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).
- 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.
- 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.

## **Energy and Climate Change**

*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.
- Provide an enabling environment that stimulates greater investment in renewable energy and that promotes energy efficiency in an integrated manner through all sectors.
- 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.
- 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).

## **Sustainable Water and Waste Management**

*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, water management 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.

## **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, recognise the need to take actions in the following areas:*

- 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.
- Review and enhance legal and financial mechanisms that provide incentives for biodiversity conservation and penalties for unsustainable practices.
- 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.

## **Adopting and Using Sustainable Development Indicators**

*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.
- Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Premier's Office to strengthen co-ordination of sustainable development in the Growth and Development Strategy.
- Ensure a common data base 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.
- 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.

## **Making it Happen**

We, the conference delegates, agree to embark upon a process over the next 12 months to formulate a Sustainable Development Implementation Plan that will provide concrete action plans for achieving agreed-upon sustainable development targets that are consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the targets contained within the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Gauteng Declaration and other national and provincial commitments towards sustainable development, and in so doing will ensure that the Western Cape fulfils its promise of **‘A sustainable home for all – now and forever’**

Consequently we commit to the following actions:

- Involving social partners in a process of identifying issues and areas requiring action.
- Identifying practical ways of mainstreaming sustainability principles into all policies, programmes, plans and projects.
- Agreeing on appropriate institutional arrangements for furthering sustainable development goals.
- Establishing reporting mechanisms on progress towards agreed targets.
- Designing and implementing a set of provincial sustainability indicators.
- Taking forward the recommendations and issues arising from this Conference into the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.