



1 PEOPLE AND PARKS IN A SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

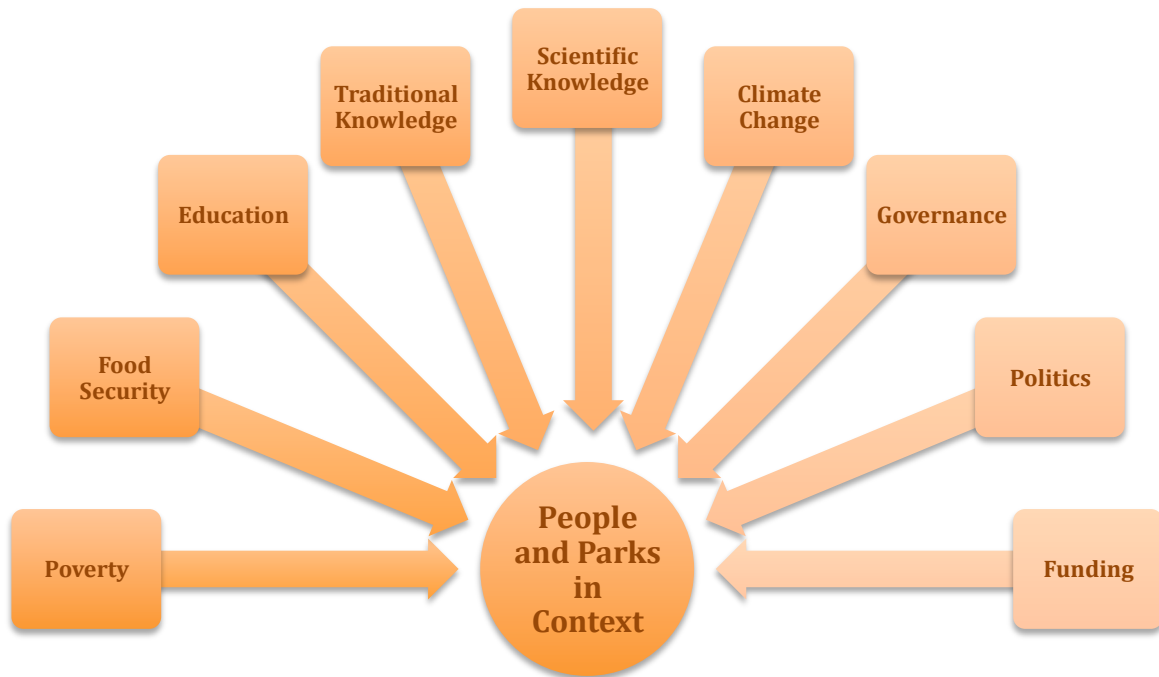
Several presentations were made on Day 2 outlining the context within which the People and Parks take place. The Honourable Minister, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica, and the Honourable Deputy Minister, Mme Rejoice Mabudafhasi, outlined details of the governments transformation agenda on biodiversity and conservation and the history of the People and Parks Programme. Presentations were also made regarding the need for linkages between the national agenda for people and parks, and the national agenda for basic education, rural development and land reform, and fundraising. The Chief Operations Officer of South African National Parks (SANParks) provided a summary of the interrelationships between people and parks in his presentation 'healthy people, healthy parks'.

Together, these presentations outlined the contextual issues facing People and Parks Programmes in South Africa, as well as ways to move forward on creating sustainable responses to contextual concerns. The above presentations are summarized below:

1. The governments **transformation agenda** on biodiversity and conservation;
2. An **overview** of the People and Parks Programme;
3. **Healthy people, healthy parks** – SANParks;
4. The role of **education** in conservation;
5. People and Parks **fundraising** avenues;
6. **Land reform** and conservation.

These presentations outlined the importance of understanding and addressing contextual issues such as poverty, food security, capacity, traditional knowledge, scientific knowledge, climate change, governance, politics and fundraising. These issues all impact directly on the success of People and Parks Programmes as they determine the context within which the programmes are implemented. Without co-ordinated and sustainable responses to contextual issues, programmes will struggle to achieve their overarching goals for conservation, poverty relief and a vibrant and healthy rural socio-economic and ecological landscape.

The honourable Minister launched the National Co-Management Framework, and signed an MoU with the Department of Basic Education, Pick and Pay and SANParks regarding future partnerships for the Kids in Parks Programme. The Deputy Minister launched the department's new publication outlining best practice case studies from successful People and Parks Programmes across South Africa.



1.1 People, Parks and the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs

1.1.1 Government's Transformation Agenda on Biodiversity and Conservation

The honourable Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs' keynote address contextualized the goals of the people and parks programme in relation to the government's broader agenda for transformation in the biodiversity and conservation sectors. The keynote address is provided in Appendix 2. The Minister noted South Africa's liberation history, biodiversity richness and need for a viable green economy as being central to the national and international importance of People and Parks Programmes. Within this context, the Minister launched the National Co-Management Framework and outlined issues needing to be addressed in finding a way forward.

This summary focuses on outlining the key points in the Ministers address regarding:

1. Liberation, **democracy** and conservation;
2. **Convention** on Biological Diversity;
3. The **Green Economy**;
4. National **Co-Management** Framework;
5. The way **forward**.



1.1.1.1 Liberation, Democracy and Conservation

South Africa's struggle for liberation and democracy was articulated in the Freedom Charter signed in 1955 in Kliptown. The slogan "the people shall govern" was a critical driving force behind the movement towards democratic governance and it remains a guiding force behind the Department of Environmental Affairs efforts to place people at the centre of all policies and programmes.

The advent of democracy in 1994 saw a shift in land ownership policies across the country as well as a recognition of the processes through which the majority of South Africans were forcibly removed from their land. The establishment of protected areas on communal rangelands and villages under Apartheid saw the removal of many people from their homes. Through the land restitution process, thousands of communities have subsequently claimed back this land.

Previously communities were excluded from playing a role in protecting the environment, and the government is now faced with the challenge of managing land reform, rural development and conservation concerns. These concerns are addressed in the Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003), but a lot of progress still needs to be made to ensure that communities benefit from agreeing to leave claimed land under conservation. Without concrete benefit to claimants, conservation concerns will lose significance to rural communities and come under threat of alternate land use options.

The People and Parks Programme is a direct response to these concerns, embodying the department's efforts to address land reform, conservation and rural development in a coordinated manner.

1.1.1.2 Convention on Biological Diversity

Internationally, increasing attention is being paid to the significance of biodiversity and conservation to the global community. The Convention on Biological Diversity, however, recognises more than just the ecological importance of biodiversity and specifically notes that conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity are as important as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the conservation and utilisation of these resources. South Africa subscribes to these objectives and the sustainable utilisation of natural resources is at the forefront of South Africa's approach to development as articulated in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

South Africa's biodiversity heritage has been internationally recognized and it is ranked the third largest home to biodiversity in the world. Without proper co-management and benefit sharing, however, the fruits of the liberation struggle and the wealth of the country will not reach the poorest of the poor.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and will see the hosting of the tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan. South Africa is proud to be part of a global community celebrating these events.



1.1.1.3 The Green Economy

One of the department's primary objectives is developing a sustainable interface between ecological sustainability and socio-economic development. At the heart of this is the recognition that the Green Economy is central to job creation, rural development and a green future for the country. The department is actively engaged in using international platforms to advance positions that support a move towards the implementation of economic instruments including, where appropriate, market-based mechanisms, for biodiversity conservation. New and innovative financial instruments, particularly those targeting the poor, need to be developed.

The department strongly believes that the environment portfolio has a substantial role to play in economic development, and it is actively engaged in strategies to develop sustainable economic opportunities related to biodiversity conservation. The transformation of the hunting industry is an example of ways in which income can be generated and shared by the conservation sector. In 2007, a total income of R650 million was realised by the hunting industry, demonstrating the importance of conservation related industries to the national economy.

The department is in the process of finalising Hunting Norms and Standards to ensure that hunting activities adhere to the principles of sustainable utilisation of resources, and that hunting related activities takes place lawfully and are regulated uniformly throughout the country.

1.1.1.4 National Co-Management Framework

The Biodiversity White Paper of 1997 did not address transformation issues per se, but it set out a number of goals, strategies and priorities for conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit sharing. The Protected Area Act (Act 57 of 2003), however, consolidated these initial strategies into concrete recommendations.

The access and benefit sharing section of the Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) outlines the need for redress and the equitable access to natural resources. The Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003) also makes provision for the People and Parks Programme and has made it possible for co-management agreements to be developed between claimants and protected area management authorities.

In 2007, the then respective Ministers of Environmental Affairs and Land Affairs concluded an agreement that provided a mechanism to facilitate a co-operative national approach to the resolution of land claims within protected areas, the environmental protection of protected areas under claim and the optimum participation and benefit sharing of claimants and communities.

The development of co-management agreements aimed to allow communities to play a critical role in the management of protected areas as well as take an active role in creating economic opportunities in and around protected areas. The National Co-Management Framework has now been finalised, and will act as a guiding framework to ensure the proper implementation of these agreements.



1.1.1.5 The Way Forward

In conclusion, the Minister noted a few key concerns that have been flagged by the department as being key to the transformation of the biodiversity and conservation sectors. These include concerns regarding the need for urgent capacity building in communities and the exclusion of women from many community related processes. Internal departmental concerns include the ineffectiveness of having eighteen institutions dedicated to conservation concerns, resulting in a duplication of efforts as well as excessive costs. This concern is being actively addressed and solutions are being sought to improve the management effectiveness of protected area management authorities and other biodiversity related institutions.

The department is also in the process of developing a Biodiversity Charter to guide stakeholders on the appropriate way of conducting business. This is meant to support partnerships between government, communities, the private sector and NGO's. The department is investigating a Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) scorecard specifically for the conservation sector to address transformation issues.

1.2 Healthy People, Healthy Parks

Dr David Mabunda, CEO of South African National Parks (SANParks), delivered a presentation titled 'Healthy people, healthy parks' which outlined some of the achievements of the SANParks to date. The presentation outlined achievements made in the establishment of park forums and public participation forums; environmental education; cultural heritage; the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP); SANParks special projects; small and medium sized enterprises (SMME) and projects aimed at the sustainable utilization of resources found within National Parks.

1.2.1 Park forums and public participation

New park management plans have been developed for national parks through a range of stakeholder engagement processes. Eighteen parks now have established representative forums to ensure public participation in park management. The Garden Route is currently in the process of consolidating into one forum. There are two parks with functioning joint management boards, namely the Richtersveld and the Kgalagadi National Parks.

1.2.2 Environmental education

Over 300 000 learners have enjoyed free access to national parks over the past three years. The Kids in Parks programme has provided free tours and accommodation for disadvantaged learners in various national parks and has been considered a great success. In addition to the Kids in Parks programmes, the Imbewu & Junior Rangers Programmes focuses on further increasing the participation of youth in national parks, and the Kudu Green School has been established as a new initiative for Gauteng schools.



1.2.3 Cultural heritage

In addition to participation forums and environmental education projects, SANParks have included cultural heritage repatriation and access in their programme of work relating to people and parks. The repatriation and reburial of human remains at Mapungubwe was a great success, done in collaboration with affected communities from Tshivhula, Lemba, VhaNgona, Leshiba, Machete and the San. To further access to such cultural heritage projects, interpretive facilities are being developed to facilitate access for schools and the public to such sites at Mapungubwe and Addo Elephant National Park. Heritage sites including graves are now being promoted and managed in most national parks.

1.2.4 Expanded Public Works Programme

The EPWP is a government initiative to provide poverty relief through creating temporary work opportunities to the unemployed to carry out useful activities. The main focus of the programme is on job creation and community development across a number of public works processes and there are four programmes specifically dedicated to creating employment opportunities in the environmental sector:

1. **People** & Parks (Infrastructure)
2. Working for **Wetlands** (Wetland rehabilitation)
3. Working for **Water** (Alien vegetation removal)
4. Working on **Fire** (Fire control and prevention)

The EPWP aims to create jobs through labour intensive models that transfer skills and develop contractor capacity in participating communities. The key deliverables of the environmentally oriented programmes are enhanced biodiversity through alien clearing and rehabilitation, the building of conservation related infrastructure (roads, fences, rest camps, etc) and the development of secondary industries.

In total 2,000 – 8,000 people are employed per year through conservation related EPWP's. This translates into an average of 5,100 people per year. The EPWP has also facilitated the development of small and medium sized enterprises and local contractors able to provide services to national parks.

SANParks & EPWP Success Stories

A labourer in an EPWP team started DTM Construction Company in Mapungubwe. He then set up his own company (DTM Construction) and tendered for his first contract in 2005 to remove a redundant structure in the park. This contract brought in R175 000. DTM Construction then tendered for a R1 million project to construct a camp site in the park, and is are now able to handle projects worth up to R4 million both inside and outside the park.



Contractor **Trevor Homu** in Kruger National Park started as an alien-clearing contractor in 2000. Trevor now owns his own company offering alien clearing and waste removal services and has entered into the property market. Trevor currently employs 46 permanent and 20 temporary employees.

The EPWP has also led to the development of several secondary industries to support park related projects. Some examples include the Knysna Furniture Factory which produces furniture for SANParks tourist units as well as school desks and benches; the Mata Mata fence contractor and stacked poles supplier who supplies poles to parks for fencing; community curio outlets around the country; several car washes in Kruger; hop-on guides in Addo Elephant National Park and the outsourcing of retail opportunities to several communities across the country.

1.2.5 Sustainable resource use projects

In addition to job and contractor creation activities, SANParks is engaged in sustainable resource use projects that assist communities harvest resources from national parks in sustainable, economically beneficial ways.

Successful projects include the Khomani San Cultural Heritage use project; the Struisbaai Suurvy Plukkers Vereniging (Suurvy harvesting at Agulhas for making e.g. jam); the KNP Sustainable Utilisation of Plant and Animal Products e.g. Traditional healers Makuya project; the KNP Grass Harvesting Project; the Mopane Worm Harvesting (Mapungubwe preparing for implementation); the Rastafari Rooiwortel (Bulbine latifolia) Nursery; the Outeniqua Eco Honey Bee Farming Project – Tsitsikama; and fern harvesting has recently been approved on the Garden Route.

Together these projects provide examples of the many ways in which healthy parks can help sustain healthy livelihoods for people living near protected areas.

1.3 People, Parks and Education

Environmental education strategies are central to the sustainability of People and Parks Programmes. A representative for the Minister of Basic Education, Prof Linda Chisholm delivered a presentation on the importance of education to conservation in the broader context of basic education in South Africa. This was followed by presentations by Mr Gareth Ackerman, the chairperson of Pick 'n Pay, and Professor Nevhutanga, the chairperson of the National Lotteries Board – both of whom spoke about the importance of sustainable financing for education initiatives and committed financial resources to supporting the Kids in Parks and People and Parks Programmes.

Within the Department of Environmental Affairs, environmental education is primarily facilitated through the Kids in Parks Programme, and following the presentations regarding education and conservation and funding for education and conservation, the Minister presented a Memorandum of Understanding for signing by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Basic Education, SANParks, and Pick n Pay.



The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the roles and responsibilities of each partner with regard to the management and funding of the Kids in Parks Programme.

1.3.1 The importance of education in the conservation of Natural Resources

Professor Linda Chisholm, an advisor to the Minister of Basic Education, spoke on the Ministers behalf about the need for education to be geared towards meeting the goals of sustainable development. Prof Chisholm reminded delegates that conservation should be seen within the broader goals of sustainable development, and that education for conservation is directly linked to education for sustainable development.

Prof Chisholm outlined the need for education for sustainable development and the new national curriculum to be draw on existing environmental legislation in South Africa and on international agreements for content and guidance. She also outlined that integrating these principles into the national education strategy, together with facilitating a multi-sectoral approach to People and Parks Programmes will ensure that education priorities are aligned with the needs of capacity building for conservation. Prof Chisholm outlined the following as being crucial to education for conservation:

1. Education informed by national and international conservation **policy**;
2. **Multi-sectoral** approach and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);
3. National **curriculum** development in line with education for sustainable development;
4. **Kids** in Parks Programme.

1.3.2 Education and Policy

Education for conservation extends beyond issues regarding protected areas to include all issues relevant to the sustainable development of South Africa. It is only through a holistic approach to environmental education that the value of conservation can properly be recognized and located within a broad range of environmental issues. The Department of Basic Education is guided in this thinking by institutions such as the South African National Parks, who have clearly outlined their mission to “develop and manage a system of national parks that represents the biodiversity, landscapes and associated heritage assets of South Africa for the sustainable use and benefit of all”.

The department is also guided by international agreements on the implementation of sustainable development principles and practices, such as those signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. Other relevant international agreements include regional declarations, such as those made by African Ministers of Education in 2006 to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) in the context of the Second Decade on Education in Africa.

The African ministers statement of commitment emphasises the need to situate UNDESD activities within key policy initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals, the African



Union's Second Decade on Education Plan of Action and the Dakar Framework for Action aimed at achieving the Education for All goals.

1.3.3 Multi-sectoral approach

The Department of Basic Education's approach to education for conservation is further underpinned by embracing a multi-sectoral approach to education. This includes working closely with SANParks, the Ministry of Water and Environmental Affairs and the private sector.

The Kids in Parks programme is an example of such multi-sectoral collaboration, and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding provides a platform for the Department of Basic Education to support broader efforts in environmental education through the conceptualisation, planning and support of initiatives to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Kids in Parks programme. The department's support is particularly useful in relation to the curriculum dimensions, the choice of participants and monitoring and evaluating of the Kids in Parks programme.

1.3.4 National Curriculum Development

The Kids in Parks programme is "a stepping stone towards making the learners environmentally responsible citizens". This is achieved through the National Curriculum Statements for Grades R-12 that incorporate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development within a human rights and social justice framework. The National Curriculum Statements were completed in 2002 and implemented from 2003. In 2009 implementation was reviewed and recommendations made for the improvement of implementation. Education for sustainable development remains firmly embedded in the curriculum – through the geography, science and tourism curricula in particular but also in other subjects.

1.3.5 Kids in Parks

The Kids in Parks programme seeks to sensitise young people living in the vicinity of the parks to understand why it is important to conserve the surroundings of the parks.

When the Kids in Parks programme was launched, excitement about it was derived from the possibility it provided for bringing the environmental learning component of the national curriculum to life. What was and remains valuable about the programme is that learning about the environment is not restricted to theory; it brings it to life in an active way. It is through active and real engagement in and with the environment that children can deepen their understanding of the relationships between poverty and sustainable development and need to conserve our national heritage.

Prof Chisholm was extremely gratified to note that the extension of the programme from 2008-2010 substantially augmented the 11610 learners and 707 teachers who had participated in the programme by the end of 2007. The extension of the programme for five years and to all national parks was welcomed as it invites expansion of the reach of the programme to another 5000



learners and 200 teachers annually, i.e. 25,000 learners and 100 teachers over the five year period.

The department is pleased that teachers are also participating in the programme and are confident that they too acquire experiences whose value will go beyond the programme itself. The Kids in Parks programme is as much about the continuing professional development of teachers as the creation of environmental ambassadors who will work side by side with government inculcating caring and responsible values and attitudes towards our environment, our common heritage.

1.4 People and Parks Funding

1.4.1 National Lotteries Board

Professor Nevhutanga, Chairperson of the National Lottery Board presented an outline of the work of the Distributing Agency for Arts, Culture and National Heritage in providing financial support for non-governmental work in these sectors in South Africa. Prof Nevhutanga focused his presentation on the agencies legacy of funding to date, with a particular emphasis on the contribution made to environment and wild life related projects.

In order to make the funds more accessible to a broader range of projects, particularly communities participating in People and Parks Programmes, Prof Nevhutanga then outlined the procedures and regulations governing funding applications, as well as some of the obstacles faced by applicants and the central applications office.

This summary focuses on the following elements of Prof Nevhutanga's presentation:

1. **Legacy;**
2. Application **procedures;**
3. **Obstacles.**

1.4.2 Legacy

In the past financial year (ended 31 March 2010) the Distributing Agency for Arts, Culture and National Heritage, Charities and Sport and Recreations allocated R3,4 billion to 2 316 beneficiary groups with a payout of R1,9 billion to the beneficiary groups. The remaining funds have been set aside and will be paid out according to the allocation schedule agreed on with each project.

In the Arts, Culture and National Heritage sector, R1,2 billion was allocated to 188 beneficiary groups and R0,5 billion was paid out.

Of these allocations, R288 million was allocated to projects directly related to People and Parks related programmes, with the following organizations having received financial support:



Allocation to People and Parks related organizations			
Resource Africa	SANParks	West Coast Fossil Park	World Wide Fund for Nature
Freedom Park Trust	Peace Parks Foundation	Duzi Umgeni Conservation Trust	My Acre of Africa

1.4.3 Application Procedures

Grants made by the Distributing Agency for Arts, Culture and National Heritage are made by an application process adjudicated by a committee of experts in each respective sector. The application process is strictly limited to organizations that meet the advertised requirements and submit their applications according to the advertised time frames.

The Government initiated the National Lottery in order to have an outside source of funding for non-profit organisations. These sectors, however, operate independently and have their own operational requirements in addition to those stipulated by the distributing agencies.

In order to be considered for funding applicants must submit the following:

1. Proof of registration as a non-profit organisation (NGO, Section 21 company or non-profit trust).
2. A constitution in which your key activities are outlined. This will help clarify whether your activities are in line with the mandate of the sector.
3. For new and first time applicants, two years financial statements prepared by an independent accounting officer. For organizations that have been previously funded, we require the most recent years' audited financial statements. This will give an indication of your organisations ability to manage funds.
4. A project implementation plan.
5. A carefully costed budget.

National Lotteries Application Requirements				
Proof of registration as non-profit	Constitution outlining key activities	Financial statements	Project implementation plan	Costed budget

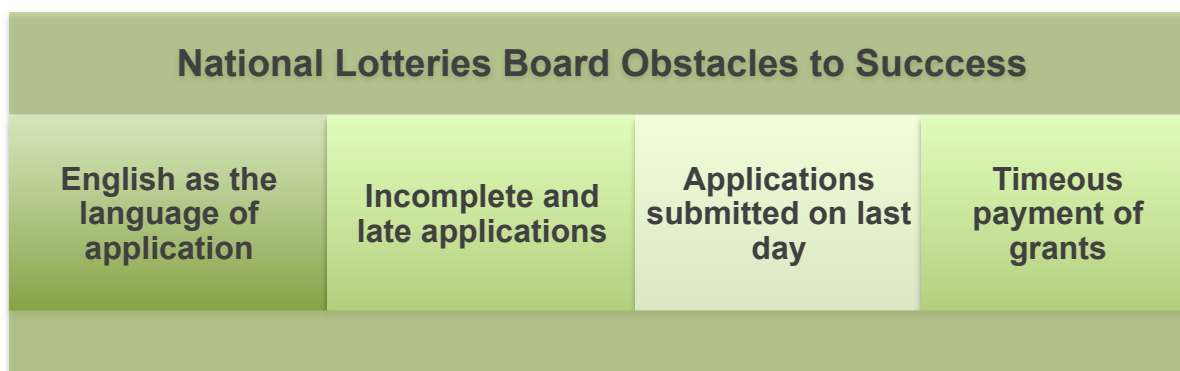


1.4.4 Obstacles

Several factors prevent the National Lotteries Board from successfully supporting those organisations most in need of financial support. Applicants whose first language is not English have noted that they struggle to understand the call for applications and the application form. In response to these concerns the board has set up an Information Centre to provide guidance to applicants. The Board is in the process of setting up more offices around the country.

Incomplete and late applications are another factor preventing organisations from receiving funds. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that applications are submitted on time and completely. Furthermore, on the last day for applications the board receives a flood of applications. Applications are approved chronologically, according to the date on which they are submitted, so submitting applications early increases the chance of being successful.

The Board has some internal obstacles regarding making payments to grantees on time. The Board is making every effort to pay out grants as soon after approval as possible, but this is not always possible.



The National Lotteries Board wants to facilitate more partnerships with People and Parks related programmes, and the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs in general.

To apply phone 012 432 1300, or go to www.nlb.org.za to download forms.

1.5 “Doing Good is Good Business” Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Projects by Pick ‘n Pay

Mr Gareth Ackerman, the chairperson of Pick ‘n Pay made a detailed presentation showcasing the company’s corporate responsibility and sustainability projects in South Africa. Today, the Pick ‘n Pay Group has a total of 775 stores, made up of Hypermarkets, Supermarkets and Family Stores (which are franchise stores). Pick ‘n Pay employs over 38 000 people, and generates an annual turnover of USD6.76-billion. As such, Pick ‘n Pay is an important force in South Africa’s economy.



Pick 'n Pay believes that sustainability businesses have an important role to play in the building of sustainable communities – a responsibility Pick 'n Pay embraces wholeheartedly. They state “It is not simply a philanthropic way of thinking; it is an act of enlightened self-interest. In our case, the more economic freedom that exists within South African society, the more scope there will be for growth in the retail market.”

Pick 'n Pay believes that big business must work together towards securing the economic security and social wellbeing of generations to come. As such, they provide an important example of how corporate sustainability projects can drive poverty alleviation strategies and economic development.

Mr Ackerman provided short summaries of a number of Pick 'n Pay projects, outlining the diverse range of projects they support. These included projects related to supporting climate change education and environmental education through the Kids in Parks programme, to running a green business through recycling, waste management, the use of organic produce and supporting sustainable fisheries. Mr Ackerman also listed some of the business development initiatives they support, including the sale of eco-shopping bags, the small business initiative, the Flower Valley Trust, and the Daily Bread Bakery. These initiatives are all community-based businesses that support communities to develop and grow sustainable businesses.

The presentation by Mr Ackerman set the scene for the potential scope of involvement of the private sector in supporting People and Parks Programmes. Pick 'n Pay's involvement in education, business development, green business practices and fairtrade sets the standard for collaboration between big business and community initiatives. Mr Ackerman encouraged government, communities and business sectors to pursue opportunities to work together.

1.6 Land Reform and Conservation

The honourable Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform was unfortunately unable to attend the conference. He passed on his regrets to the delegates and sent a senior representative from the Gauteng and North West Land Claims Commission, Ms Tumi Seboka to speak on his behalf.

Ms Seboka presented a detailed outline of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reforms Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). In doing so, she outlined the relationship between the CRDP and Outcome 7: ‘Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all’. Ms Seboka's presentation addressed issues of rurality, and the challenges facing rural areas. Ms Seboka also addressed two principle components of the departments rural development strategy, namely the departments job creation model and the National Rural Youth Service Corps concept. In conclusion, Ms Seboka outlined some of the challenges and opportunities to be addressed in finding a way forward.

This summary focuses on the following elements of Ms Seboka's presentation:

1. **Outcome 7** and the CRDP **strategic planning framework**;
2. **Rurality** and the **challenges** facing rural areas;



3. **Job creation** through CRDP;
4. The **National Rural Youth Service Corps**;
5. CRDP in **conservation** areas;
6. The way **forward**.

1.6.1 Outcome 7 and the CRDP strategic planning framework

Outcome 7 of President Jacob Zuma's National Development Goals presents the creation of 'vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all' as an issue of national importance. Outcome 7 outlines the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform's approach to implementing a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and identifies and discusses key outputs and actions towards achieving vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all.

The outcome provides a sample of contributions of other cluster outcomes and programmes in promoting objectives of Outcome 7 and provides the framework for the implementation of the CRDP within the conservation context.

The CRDP's vision is directly aligned with Outcome 7 and seeks to create vibrant, sustainable and equitable rural communities. The strategy aims to create an agrarian transformation, meaning the rapid and fundamental change in systems and patterns of ownership and control of land, livestock, cropping and community. The objective of the CRDP is to promote social cohesion and sustainable development in rural areas.

Four strategies have been identified to achieve Outcome 7 as shown in the table below.

Four strategies to achieve Outcome 7
1. Social mobilization of rural communities to take initiatives
2. Strategic investments in economic and social infrastructure
3. Increased economic activity and rural livelihoods
4. Sustainable land and agrarian transformation through the sustainable conservation and use of natural resources

1.6.2 Rurality and the challenges facing rural areas

The Rural Development Framework, adopted by the Government in 1997, defined rural areas as:

"Sparsely populated areas in which people farm or depend on natural resources, including villages and small towns that are dispersed throughout these areas. This includes large settlements in the former homelands, created by apartheid removals, which depend on migratory labour and remittances for their survival." As such, the



department uses the notion of “rurality” to understand socio-economic processes in a diverse landscape. “Rurality” refers to a way of life, a state of mind and a culture which revolves around land, livestock, cropping and community.”

Lessons from the CRDP sites indicate that there are many challenges facing rural areas. Under utilisation and/or unsustainable use of natural resources coupled with a lack of access to socio-economic infrastructure and services, public amenities and government services leaves rural residents with few resources from which to generate sustainable livelihoods. Lack of access to water sources for both household and agricultural development further exacerbates this problem, as do low levels of literacy and skills.

Migratory labour practices and lack of socio-economic opportunities has facilitated the decay of the social fabric of many households and villages (child-headed households, crime, family disputes and lack of Ubuntu). Unresolved restitution and land tenure issues further complicate these issues and the formation of townships not formally established thus hindering service provision and development.

In such circumstances dependence on social grants and other forms of social security and unexploited opportunities in agriculture, tourism, mining and manufacturing are crippling the rural economy.

Challenges Facing Rural Areas

- Under utilisation and/or unsustainable use of natural resources.
- Poor access to socio-economic infrastructure and services, public amenities and government services.
- Lack of access to water or lack of water sources for both household and agricultural development.
- Low literacy, skills levels and migratory labour practices.
- Decay of the social fabric (child-headed households, crime, family disputes and lack of Ubuntu).
- Unresolved restitution and land tenure issues.
- Townships not formally established thus hindering service provision and development.
- Dependence on social grants and other forms of social security.
- Unexploited opportunities in agriculture, tourism, mining and manufacturing.



1.6.3 Job creation through CRDP

Job creation through CRDP initiatives is central to achieving vibrant rural communities and food security for all. In order to achieve this, the department has identified several key activities to facilitate the development and success of a comprehensive job creation programme.

These activities include the profiling of households to determine their needs, skills and employability through the National Integrated Social Information System (NISIS). Once households have been profiled, employment creation opportunities can be identified in line with planned interventions (e.g. rural infrastructure projects) and opportunities in neighbouring areas. Targeted training and development in line with identified job creation opportunities will then be necessary, particularly training in basic technical skills.

The aim of the department is to place one member of each household in a job on a two-year contract in line with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and contribute 50% of income to household development priorities.

In order to achieve these goals, communities will need to be organized and proactively participate in cooperative development initiatives and local opportunities. Once programmes are operational, their impact will need to be evaluated to determine their impact, particularly with regard to issues such as teenage pregnancy, HIV/ AIDS, reduced dependence on social grants and increased productivity.

Job creation through CRDP

- Profiling households to determine their needs, skills and employability.
- Identification of employment creation opportunities in line with planned interventions.
- Targeted training and development in line with identified job creation opportunities.
- Place one member of household per job on a two-year contract in line with the EPWP and contribute 50% of income to households' development priorities.
- Mobilize communities to participate in cooperative development initiatives and local opportunities.
- Evaluate impact (e.g. delayed teenage pregnancy, HIV/ AIDS, reduced dependence on social grants, increased productivity)

1.6.4 National Rural Youth Service Corps

The vision for the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) is "Stretching the Horizons of Rural Young People". The programmes objectives are to facilitate nation building through the construction of district youth life skills hubs that serve as rural youth empowerment centres.



These centres will enable rural youth to play a strategic and significant role in the transformation of rural communities by participating in the roll out implementation of the CRDP. The intention is that such activities will create a major countryside revolution for socio-economic freedom and promote a result oriented national rural youth service thus building patriotism and social cohesion.

The strategy includes a six point plan for rural youth:

Six point plan for rural youth
1. Civic education and training;
2. Household and community profiling;
3. Youth employment programme;
4. Young farmer programme;
5. Rural arts and culture programme;
6. Rural youth services.

1.6.5 CRDP in protected areas

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme is a holistic strategy to meet the needs of all rural communities, including those living in the vicinity of protected areas. Within this strategy is an awareness of the importance of the implementation of the co-management framework for meeting the basic human needs, conservation sustainability and transformation of the rural economy. Critical to achieving this is aligning the rural development strategy with the objectives of the people and parks principles and objectives.

1.6.6 The way forward

The department outlined the need for further work in several areas of CRDP policy and implementation to be informed by lessons learned in existing CRDP sites. Finalising the policy on comprehensive rural development is an important starting point for ensuring the programmes are successful.

In relation to People and Parks Programmes, it is important that national and provincial rural development plans are aligned with relevant park management plans. It is also important that the department participate in the implementation and monitoring of co-management arrangements in protected areas. In this regard, implementation protocols are needed to ensure the integrated implementation of CRDP. In particular, timeframes and indicators are needed for the remaining land claims in conservation areas.



The way forward for comprehensive rural development

- Refine lessons from the CRDP sites to inform policy.
- Finalise the policy on the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme.
- Align national and provincial rural development plans with relevant park management plans.
- Implement and monitor the implementation of co-management and other institutional arrangements in protected areas.
- Implement protocols to ensure integrated implementation of the CRDP.
- Agree on timeframes and indicators for the remaining land claims in conservation areas.

In conclusion, Ms Seboka outlined the department's intention to roll out the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme to 160 wards across the country - with conservation areas in these wards forming part of the programme. Job creation models are to be implemented in all wards.

Ms Seboka emphasized that the roll out would include the prioritization of youth development through a special programme currently being refined as well as by focusing on youth participation in conservation.

“Working together we can do more by improving the quality of life for all our people living in rural areas”