



environment & tourism

Department
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



2006/07

ANNUAL

Department Of Environmental Affairs & Tourism

REVIEW



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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER MARTHINUS VAN SCHALKWYK

2006/7 has been another hectic yet ultimately productive year for the Department. Our challenge has been to balance responsible stewardship of the environment with the national priority of economic development and poverty alleviation. To this end, we achieved many successes, some of which had literally taken years of effort, consultation and development.

The revised Environmental Impact Assessment regulations, which came into effect in July, serve as a prime example of balancing development and environmental needs. Streamlining the EIA application process to remove bottlenecks in development, while maintaining stringent environmental protection, was an exceptionally successful outcome.

Climate change action embodies the challenges and opportunities of the development/environment balance. As Chair of the G77 negotiating bloc for 2006, South Africa enhanced its reputation as a progressive force and leading voice in climate change internationally. The Informal Ministerial Indaba on Climate Action at Kapama Lodge was an important preparation for the Nairobi Conference in November. At the conference itself, the South African delegation did sterling work to achieve our national outcomes in five key areas.

The finalisation of appeals around the allocation of long-term fishing rights concluded a major multi-year programme to strengthen and transform the commercial fisheries - again without compromising the sustainability of our marine resources.

Tourism continues to lead the way in terms of 2010 preparedness, and the increased tourism arrivals statistics are cause for justified celebration. Projections indicate that in 2006, and for the first time ever, South

Africa will have broken the eight (8) million barrier in foreign visitor arrivals. More than doubling the year's growth target is measurable reward for the resources and effort that the Department has put into promoting the country internationally. Equally satisfying has been the extension of benefits to other areas, in particular our national parks. The securing of R181 million funding to expand the parks, and another R574 million for infrastructure development, will yield benefits way beyond 2010.

The unacceptable crime rate continues to plague tourism and the mood of the general public. However, the threat of crime is not limited to muggers, car thieves and housebreakers. Poachers, polluters and other illegal or unethical operators also harm the national interest. During the year, the delivery of the interceptor vessel Florence Mkhize rounded out the Environmental Protection Vessel fleet and provided a highly visual deterrent to coastal poachers. Inland, the Hunting Norms and Standards put a stop to unethical hunting, in particular the reprehensible practice of canned hunting.

My profound thanks go out to all who have contributed to our successes in 2006/7. In particular, I would like to single out our Director General, Ms Pam Yako, for the exemplary way in which she drives the Department's diverse activities. Despite limited resources, she continually delivers above expectations, and her commitment and performance sets the standard for all.

As 2010 draws closer, and efforts intensify to achieve our national priorities of poverty alleviation and sustainable development, the pressure on the Department will increase even further. I am fully confident that, whatever the nation asks of us, we have the people, the professionalism and the passion to respond and deliver.

Marthinus van Schalkwyk
Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

PREFACE BY THE
DEPUTY
MINISTER
REJOICE MABUDAFHASI



To many, the environment and tourism sectors may seem dominated by the high-level work of scientists, policy makers and delegations to international events. Yet our focus on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and tourism promotion are not driven by aesthetics or the need to project a positive image internationally. Instead, they go to the very heart of our national priorities to alleviate poverty and create a better life for all.

It has been gratifying to note the keen interest that communities have shown in our Department's work during the period under review, and the valuable input that they have provided. It is especially encouraging to see women and youth groups making their voices heard on these key issues. The excellent attendance and contributions to the Women and the Environment conference was just one example which stands out as a highlight. Another has been the enthusiastic response to the South African National Parks People and Parks initiative.

The Department has matched this community commitment by recording noteworthy successes to ensure the sustainability of the ecosystem services on which communities depend. The gazetting of the new National Waste Management Bill, after years of consultation and development, was another significant step forward to fulfilling the Constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to our health.

This central focus was also boosted by the launch of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the development of the draft Regulations on Alien Invasive Species, and chemicals management initiatives like the African Stockpile programme to dispose of obsolete and banned pesticides. On the international front, the declaration of 2006 as the Year of Deserts and Desertification was particularly significant for us, as most of our land

area is classified as 'dry land'. As expected, South Africa made a very positive contribution to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification.

Our poorer communities are particularly vulnerable to weather-related disasters. The South African Weather Service's recapitalisation programme will serve to improve forecasting and warning systems, and SAWS must be commended on its outreach programme to ensure accessible and relevant warning services to marginalised communities.

The FIFA decision to include non-hotel accommodation during the 2010 Soccer World Cup has provided a tremendous boost for SMME establishment owners. Spreading the 2010 benefits to emerging entrepreneurs will entrench the tourism sector as one of opportunity and hope, well beyond 2010.

The Department's own Social Responsibility programme to create jobs has enjoyed another successful year, and continues to exemplify our commitment to improving the lives of South Africans.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to DEAT colleagues who have worked tirelessly to record another successful year. I would also like to thank and congratulate the many community, women and youth groups who share our vision and show such commitment to achieving our common goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rejoice'.

Rejoice Mabudafhasi
Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism



INTRODUCTION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

P A M Y A K O

The period under review was marked by a perceptible improvement towards closer cooperation with all our stakeholders and a clearer vision of how our responsibilities contribute to the national goals. This shift arises from,

and is reflected by, a range of initiatives and responsibilities - the President's Cluster approach, the need for the Department to engage and capacitate provinces and local authorities, the strategic realignment of our international engagements in line with national priorities, our own makgotla and internal processes and, finally, our continuous engagements with industry and society.

While this greater engagement has helped to further our goals, and also allowed us to assist in speeding up service delivery across national government, it has placed even greater strain on our limited capacity. One year after the Institutional Review, the Department still has a vacancy rate of almost 30%. In light of the increased workload on incumbent staff, it was a major internal achievement to reduce the Department's staff turnover rate significantly during the year.

In terms of external functions, there were also key highlights. The inaugural Air Quality Governance Lekgotla brought together air quality managers from all spheres of government for the first time, to discuss the best way forward in ensuring that minimum air quality standards are enforced.

The Department has also contributed greatly to the training and capacity-building of Environmental Management Inspectors at provincial level and in public entities like SANParks. The extension of the programme to municipal EMI's in the next reporting period will go a long way towards achieving effective environmental inspections capacity at all levels of government.

The development of the draft National Framework on Sustainable Development was another highlight. This framework affects almost every sector and Department, and will guide the national development path into the future. It is also a prime example of how DEAT's work impacts upon other Departments.

The move towards more cooperative governance has placed an extra burden on Marine and Coastal Management. With their own capacity and financial constraints, they are also situated far away from most Cluster meetings and activities in Pretoria. Despite these handicaps, MCM recorded significant achievements in gazetting the new Integrated Coastal Management Bill and drafting Small-scale and Subsistence fishing policies.

While income from tourism continues to grow year on year, the expectations of thousands of new jobs created must be tempered by the realisation that we face critical skills shortages in the sector. The Department again played a leading role in this regard, by hosting the National Tourism Skills Development conference in October, followed by establishment of the National Tourism Skills Development Forum.

In his State of the Nation Address to open Parliament in 2006, President Thabo Mbeki spoke of South Africa entering the 'Age of Hope'. It is this spirit of hope, and of believing that our efforts are making a significant difference in the lives of South Africa's people, that characterises DEAT's people. I would like to thank all for their tremendous team effort, and I am sure that we can raise the bar again in 2007/8.

In closing, I would also like to thank the Minister and Deputy Minister for their outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment during the year, as well as the Chairpersons of both the Portfolio and Select Committee.

Pam Yako
Director-General of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

OVERVIEW

A GLIMPSE OF DEAT

At a quick glance, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism may appear to be just another government department doing a little bit of everything.

Looking deeper, one finds a suite of functions, roles and responsibilities, not only entrenched through a number of legislations but our supreme law, the constitution of our country.

DEAT's primary aim is that of leading the sustainable development of South Africa through environment and tourism towards a better life for all.

This aim is carried through six integrated departmental programmes championed by organisational units referred to as branches and supported by dynamic public entities and statutory bodies.

These programmes are:

Administration - This is our mechanism of making things happen through overall strategic leadership, centralized administration and executive support and corporate services. It mobilises the human resources, finances, the logistical support and the communications functions to support the delivery of our goals.

Environmental Quality and Protection - Charged with the responsibility of protecting and improving the quality and safety of the environment, the programme gives effect to the right of all South Africans to a safe and healthy environment.

Marine and Coastal Management - With fish stocks depleting and a pristine coastline of more than 3000 kilometers under continuous human and other threats, this programme promotes the conservation and sustainable use of our marine and coastal resources.

Tourism - Maintaining our "new gold" stocks mean this programme must ensure that conditions for sustainable

tourism growth and development are created. The support of our agencies like SA Tourism, Tourism Grading Council and others like the International Marketing Council, Tourism and Hospitality Education and Training Authority and Statistics South Africa, are key to our success.

Biodiversity and Conservation - Responsible for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources, the programme leads our flagship portfolio of protected areas, biodiversity research, plant and animal species protection, and Transfrontier conservation amongst others.

Sector Services and International Relations - This programme is the nerve centre of corporate and cooperative governance, organisational performance management and project implementation, and international relations. These functions enhance our operations and sustain our increasing roles in global environmental governance and cooperation.

The public entities and agencies who continue to provide impetus through tourism marketing, research, resource accounting, and product development amongst others are:

- South African Tourism (SAT)
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Authority (GSLWP) (Isimangaliso)

This annual review reflects on the work of programmes and public entities in the past year, the progress they have collectively made and the challenges experienced, it also highlights priority areas for the next financial year.