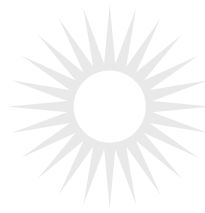


Tourism is an important source of income

**Tourism programme:** This branch creates conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development for the benefit of all South Africans.



# Building wealth through tourism development

## TOURISM

Tourism has been identified as one of the country's key economic sectors, with excellent potential for growth. It is a sector that has managed to create jobs, while increasing its contribution to GDP.



For every 12 new tourists, one new job is created. By 2010, South Africa plans to accommodate 10 million foreign visitors annually.

The Tourism Branch contributes to the department's strategic objective of creating conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development in South Africa. The functions of the branch include tourism industry development through tourism research, business development and regulation, as well as tourism industry promotion through international tourism relations, human resource capacity-building and national tourism support services.

During the year under review, there has been an increase in international and domestic tourism. This was achieved by developing appropriate products and marketing strategies.





## TOURISM

As a contribution to the country's development objectives, the tourism industry development initiatives focused on the implementation of tourism investment programmes. A number of initiatives were achieved as part of tourism development. These include the Tourism Enterprise Programme (TEP), product development and the 2010 Tourism Plan, the development of the Tourism BEE Charter and information management services. These initiatives support the department's ideal of growing the tourism industry, while at the same time ensuring meaningful transformation within the sector.

The tourism promotion achievements include the finalisation of the Tourism Sector Skills Plan (TSSP), the development and approval of the Airlift Strategy and other land transport plans, and the development and implementation of a national tourism safety and awareness strategy.

The department's tourism mandate is supported by the activities of two statutory bodies: South African Tourism, the national tourism agency tasked with marketing South Africa internationally as a preferred tourist destination, and the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa, a public-private partnership tasked with developing and managing a quality assurance system for the tourism industry in South Africa.

### Tourism enterprise development

The department institutionalised its Tourism Enterprise Programme as a Section 21 company. The appointment of a board and CEO set the process in motion to deliver on





its newly defined mandate. This mandate is supported by a strategy to facilitate economic growth and transformation through tourism and to promote access to tourism opportunities. In this regard, the branch focuses on enterprise development interventions in the second economy in conjunction with key stakeholders. This included the provision of funding to both the Tourism Enterprise Programme and the Tourism Grading Council to facilitate the grading of non-hotel accommodation establishments so that they too can benefit from the 2010 World Cup.

### **Product development**

Key to the sustainable growth of the tourism sector is the improvement and development of new products that meet the demands and expectations of tourists. In this regard, the recommendations of the second phase of the Global Competitiveness Project (GCP2) have been approved. A process has been initiated to drive implementation through bottom-up partnerships with provincial and local government, as well as with the private sector. A tour operator programme has been allocated R20 million to support emerging entrepreneurs to access capital to invest in infrastructure that will enable them to capitalise on the hosting of the World Cup.

### **Marketing and awareness**

In the branding of South Africa as a preferred tourist destination, it is essential to establish brand symmetry between the three spheres of government. By pursuing this marketing and branding initiative, the branch has built marketing and branding relationships with public entities such as the Airports Company of South Africa, South African Airways, the International

Marketing Council, Transnet and Proudly South African. This marketing and branding drive is also supported by other marketing opportunities, including the annual Tourism Month event, which was celebrated in Port Elizabeth during September 2007, and the annual National Tourism Conference, which was held in Gauteng in October 2007.

### **Transformation**

The Tourism BEE Charter has been institutionalised and operates as the Tourism Empowerment Council of South Africa. The process of gazetting the charter as a code of good practice to be legally binding on all organs of state is underway.

### **Information management**

The branch has developed a Tourism Satellite Account project to capture tourism trends and statistics in the form of tourism sub-sector reports. These reports are used to inform the development of the full Tourism Satellite Account statement, to update the tourism fact sheet for 2006/07 and share information and tourism statistics with external users, and to develop an aircraft and passenger movement fact sheet, which was distributed at the Tourism Aviation Conference.

### **Tourism human resource development**

As an element of the skills development programme, the Tourism Sector Skills Plan (TSSP) was finalised in partnership with the Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education and Training Authority (THETA) and launched on 25 January 2008. The TSSP



outlines the state of education and training in the sector, as well as the interaction between training supply and demand. It provides guidelines for the THETA business plan, as well as for businesses in the sector to compile their Workplace Skills Plans. The implementation of these plans will address skills gaps and enable businesses to effectively use the Skills Levy financing mechanisms.

Other initiatives of the skills development programme – in collaboration with both THETA and the provinces – are focused on SMME development and a review of the training provider accreditation system. In this regard, 108 previously disadvantaged individuals have been trained as tour guides in the nodal areas of the nine provinces, and 10 SMMEs have been included in a mentorship programme with large, established businesses in KwaZulu-Natal. International partnerships also formed part of the skills development programme. In this regard, 16 SMMEs were trained in hospitality management in partnership with the government of Singapore, 17 unemployed tourism graduates were placed in the United Arab Emirates for experiential learning in partnership with the Independent Development Trust (IDT)/Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA), 22 mid-career professionals were placed in the Netherlands for a two-month project management course in partnership with the IDT/JIPSA, five tourism officials at national, provincial and municipal level attended sponsored training courses in Malaysia, China and Japan, and 11 tour guides were placed in Vichy, France, for one month's experiential learning in French language training following 180 hours of training phased in over a three-year period since 2005.

### **Tourism transport**

To enhance tourism growth and address the transport needs of the tourism sector, the branch – together with the Department of Transport – has established a steering committee. A number of multi-stakeholder consultations on tourism-related transport issues were held and these consultations generated a range of possible solutions.

The department has identified target markets to be pursued through its agencies between 2008 and 2010. The Department of Transport has considered these markets in the development of the Airlift Implementation Plan. As a result, frequencies were increased for countries such as Angola, Spain, Swaziland and the United Arab Emirates. The department is also a member of the Airlift Strategy Planning Committee and has participated in a number of planning sessions for bilateral air service negotiations with countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Korea, the Netherlands, Nigeria and the UK.

### **Tourism safety and security**

The National Tourism Safety and Awareness Strategy and Implementation Plan were approved by the MIPTECH and MINMEC forums respectively. The strategy comprises both proactive and reactive approaches to tourism safety and embraces a partnership approach to dealing with tourism safety and awareness issues. Implementation of the strategy is coordinated through the National Tourism Safety and Awareness Forum, which comprises the department, the provinces, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and industry, represented by the Tourism Business Council of South Africa.



The strategy was jointly launched by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk) and the Minister of Safety and Security (Mr Charles Nqakula). The two ministers hold regular discussions to review progress and provide strategic and political leadership. Furthermore, the Western Cape government has appointed a provincial champion (MEC Ms Lynn Brown) to act as the key spokesperson on all matters pertaining to tourism safety.

In partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism, the branch facilitated a Tourism Monitor Project together with the provincial Department of Safety and Liaison. A total of 150 people were identified from different districts, trained as safety monitors and deployed to hot spots at 26 attraction sites to provide tourists with information and to address incidents of crime.

### **International tourism relations**

In order to achieve South Africa's tourism growth, development and transformation objectives in a global context, the department has maintained active participation in the international and regional governance of the tourism industry and has developed mutually beneficial partnerships and bilateral agreements with key countries and markets. The department participates in activities of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and focuses its involvement in the UNWTO's key decision-making structures, including the General Assembly, the Commission for Africa, the UNWTO-FIFA 2010 Steering Committee (as chair) and the UNWTO Committee on Budget and Finance. During 2007/08, South Africa hosted the UNWTO training on destination management.

In relation to the proactive development of mutually beneficial bilateral agreements with key countries and markets, the department has focused its energies on three areas of activity.

The first entails the development of new and emerging priority international tourism markets, specifically through bilateral agreements with countries in the Middle East (where South Africa hosted SAA middle management in October and a business delegation at Indaba 2007), China (where it facilitated the placement of students for experiential training and negotiated an Approved Destination Status (ADS) agreement) and India (where it promoted tourism at the SA/India investment forum and in the trilateral developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)).

The second area of activity involves the mobilisation of international support and resources for national tourism development and skills projects, including bilateral projects with Italy (where South Africa hosted a tourism conference), Spain (where it has negotiated the funding and roll-out of a second phase of the South African Tourism Institute and a language training project for the Western Province), Singapore (where it facilitated the implementation of experiential training), Ireland (where it is negotiating support for integrated tourism development planning) and France (where it negotiated and signed an agreement to facilitate a language training project).

The third area involves the removal of barriers to realise the full potential of South Africa's existing tourism markets, especially its African markets in Nigeria (where it is negotiating an agreement for the unblocking of visa challenges), Angola (where an agreement on tourism cooperation has been



signed) and Malawi (where the branch hosted a delegation to explore potential areas of cooperation).

### Tourism 2010 Plan

The hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup presents a huge opportunity to accelerate the development of the country's tourism industry for the benefit of both South Africa and its neighbouring countries. In order to optimise this opportunity, the department has developed and finalised an integrated 2010 strategy – known as the 2010 Tourism Organising Plan. Implementation will continue until 2010, with the aim of creating a lasting legacy for the tourism sector.

A consumer web portal has been established and 50 000 products have been registered on South African Tourism's website, which is directly linked to the 2010 web portal. A database with 700 events has been placed on a global events website for planning and organising purposes.

A total of 55 000 rooms are required to meet the 2010 demand. To date, 35 000 rooms have been signed up with large hotel establishments and 6 000 with non-hotel establishments. To address the shortfall, a Tourism 2010 Nationwide Grading Strategy has been developed to promote the grading of further SMME establishments to enable them to sign a contract with MATCH (the company that facilitates ticket sales and accommodation on behalf of FIFA for the 2010 Soccer World Cup) to cover the pricing and grading issues.





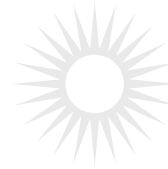
The Tourism Enterprise Programme will support the grading of SMMEs over the three years leading up to 2010.

A foreign language training programme that focuses on French, German, Spanish and Mandarin has been developed. This has already benefited more than 400 people across all provinces. A tourism ambassador strategy and plan has also been developed, which led to the training of 220 volunteers across all provinces (at least 20 per province) on tourism awareness and customer service.

Tourist transport is a matter of concern for 2010. In order to ensure the general safety of tourists, MATCH was requested to appoint international and national tour operators. The department has allocated funding for previously disadvantaged tour operators to take advantage of the opportunities brought about by 2010. The Aviation Strategy has been developed in partnership with the Department of Transport. The support and commitment of key stakeholders for this initiative was obtained at the Tourism Aviation Conference of 2007.

The department has identified transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) as a vehicle to improve incrementally the benefits of South Africa's hosting of the World Cup across the SADC region by marketing these areas as favourable tourism and investment destinations. This strategy to position TFCAs as premier international tourist destinations in southern Africa for 2010 and beyond has been endorsed by the tourism ministers of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As a first step to implementing this strategy, the department established a TFCA Development Unit in 2007/08 to oversee implementation and to provide support to all the countries. Major outputs of this initiative include a brand that will position TFCAs in the marketplace and an investment catalogue containing information on investment opportunities, guidelines and incentives. The catalogue will be used as a tool to attract investment in these areas, thereby unlocking the investment potential of TFCAs.



The department's tourism  
mandate is supported  
by the activities of South  
African Tourism and the  
Tourism Grading Council  
of South Africa.

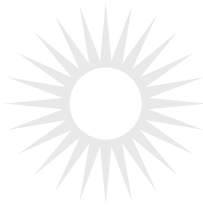




Everyone has the right to live and work in a safe environment

**Environmental Quality and Protection programme:** This branch develops and implements policies and measures to protect and improve the quality and safety of the environment to give effect to the right of all South Africans to an environment that is not harmful to their health and wellbeing.



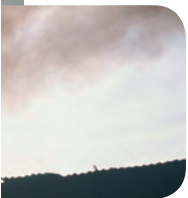


Enhancing

# quality of life

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PROTECTION

The Constitution grants all South Africans the right to live and work in a safe and healthy environment. Such an environment benefits all industries and citizens and enhances the quality of life.



Through its Environmental Quality and Protection Branch, the department aims to uphold this constitutional mandate by addressing issues of waste management, pollution, air quality, climate change, environmental impact management and environmental law enforcement. The branch sets the standards for a safe and healthy environment and ensures that these standards are upheld through policy, legislation and enforcement actions. This branch addresses what are commonly referred to as 'brown' issues: the environmental management of urbanisation and industrialisation. Its four main areas of focus are pollution and waste management, environmental impact management, air quality management and climate change, and regulatory services.

Pollution and waste management focuses on developing and implementing pollution and waste management policy and legislation, as well as permitting and authorisations related to





## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PROTECTION

waste stream management and disposal. It also facilitates the rehabilitation of dangerously polluted sites, and engages in pollution and waste-related monitoring and information management. Providing waste management services to all citizens and ensuring that there is adequate capacity across government for proper waste management is an additional focus area of the branch.

Environmental impact management focuses on environmental impact evaluation, developing environmental impact management systems and tools, managing environmental impact assessment authorisations, and providing impact management capacity and support to provinces and local government. This is a key function central to managing and mitigating the potentially detrimental environmental impacts of developments.

Air quality management and climate change focuses on establishing and managing atmospheric quality information systems, developing air quality policy, regulation and plans, air quality permitting, and coordinating the country's climate change programme.

Regulatory services focuses on environmental law enforcement and compliance monitoring.

### **Pollution and waste management**

In order to strengthen the regulatory framework for pollution and waste management, a key activity has been the preparation of the National Environmental Management: Waste Bill. The Bill embodies the policy approach, sets out the respective roles of the different spheres of government and provides for the regulation of land contamination. The Bill was tabled in Parliament in June 2007 and is likely to be enacted before the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

In 2006, the function of licensing waste disposal sites was transferred from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) to this department in an effort to promote the implementation of integrated pollution and waste management. During 2007/08 a memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the two departments was signed. The agreement allows for the permitting of disposal sites to be managed with input from both departments. Substantial progress has been made in eliminating the permitting backlog. A draft strategy has been developed to deal with the backlog of 580 waste disposal sites without permits. Substantial funds have been set aside to deal with the backlog. In 2006/07, it was estimated that it would take at least three years to eradicate this backlog. Already, 8% of the backlog has been dealt with during the 2007/08 financial year and it is anticipated that a further 30% will have been processed by the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

Delivering domestic waste collection services and developing adequate waste disposal sites remains a key challenge in many municipalities. As a basis for the development of a coherent strategy to deal with these backlogs, the branch completed a study to quantify the backlogs experienced by municipalities. This study forms the basis of work to develop a waste sector plan and a strategy that will extend the provision of adequate waste management services to all.



Asbestos regulations were promulgated on 28 March 2008, which generally prohibit the import or export and use of asbestos or asbestos-containing materials or waste. Tyre regulations were also developed in 2007/08, which will encourage and support the efforts of the tyre industry to manage the problem of waste tyres. An African Stockpiles Project has been developed and donor funding obtained. This project is aimed at addressing the problem of obsolete pesticides. A pilot programme to collect obsolete pesticide stock was completed in Limpopo in partnership with the Department of Agriculture. Work has been done to close the current gap in policy guiding the incineration of waste, as well as co-processing alternative raw fuels in cement kilns. The branch initiated the development of a national policy to guide these initiatives.

## Environmental impact management

South Africa is a rapidly urbanising and industrialising country. It is essential for the national effort to increase economic growth, create jobs and eradicate poverty. At the same time, however, rapid growth has environmental impacts that must be managed and mitigated. The Environmental Impact Management unit is responsible for ensuring that this happens.

During 2007/08, 125 environmental impact assessment (EIA) applications were evaluated and finalised by the branch. Of the applications submitted to the department (those finalised and those in the process of being finalised at the end of the 2007/08 financial year), 95% were processed within agreed or prescribed time frames – exceeding the target of 50% EIAs processed within the required time frames. The Appeals' Administrator and the Ministry

processed 11 EIA appeals during 2007/08. A series of working agreements with regulatory bodies such as the National Nuclear Regulator, the South African National Roads Agency Limited and South African National Parks (SANParks) has been developed and coordination forums established with state-owned enterprises (Eskom and Transnet) to ensure structured coordination in relation to EIA administration.

The department is committed to ensuring that environmental planning takes place in a proactive manner in the decision-making phase of individual projects. In order to achieve this, seven DEAT-supported provincial environmental management frameworks (EMFs) were developed.

Amendments to Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), which deals with environmental impact management, are currently before Parliament. These amendments focus on streamlining systems, creating enabling legislation to give legal recognition to environmental planning tools and making allowance for a range of other environmental impact management tools, such as risk assessments and strategic environmental assessments, to be used where appropriate, in addition to the EIA system that currently exists.

The branch will continue to develop and implement mechanisms and systems aimed at an improved EIA system. This includes developing guidelines, norms and standards, and standard operating procedures, as well as structured coordination with organs of state and the capacity development of EIA administrators. A specific area of focus is the finalisation and implementation of a strategy and guidelines for EIAs.



### Air quality

Poor air quality is an increasing problem in South Africa. In addition, as part of the global community, climate change has been identified as a priority for national action, both in relation to the need to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to ensure that residents adapt to its likely impacts. The Air Quality and Climate Change unit addresses these issues.

The 2007 National Framework for Air Quality Management in South Africa was published in September. It provides a detailed implementation plan to deal with air quality management and the effective implementation of the Air Quality Act. The publication of this National Framework will be followed by further detailed plans for the roll-out of key elements, such as air quality management planning and the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS). As part of the roll-out of the Air Quality Act, the Minister declared a second national cross-boundary air quality management priority area during 2007/08: the Highveld Air-shed Priority Area. The other key, cross-boundary air pollution hot spot under coordinated air quality management control is the Vaal Triangle Air-shed Priority Area. A draft air quality management plan was compiled for this area (the first national priority area air quality management plan to be developed in terms of the new Air Quality Act).

In implementing the Air Quality Act, it is necessary to review air quality permits issued under the 1965 Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act. The department has taken a systematic approach to this review process by addressing it sector by sector. The initial review of prioritised registration certificates was completed, including petrochemical (seven operations), primary







steel manufacture (nine operations), ferro-alloy industries, specifically chromium, vanadium and manganese production (30 operations), pulp and paper industries (nine operations) and all coal-fired power stations. This is the first coordinated review of all industries responsible for over 80% of South Africa's atmospheric emissions.

An annual air quality governance lekgotla was hosted in 2007/08. This is the premier event for all government air quality officers to get together to discuss the effective implementation of the Air Quality Act. The hosting of this lekgotla will continue as an annual event.

In line with the requirements of the Air Quality Act, the department has developed cost-effective interventions to meet the monitoring and information requirements of the Act. A key intervention in this regard has been the rolling out of the South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS). The objective of this information system is to provide all stakeholders with easy access to all relevant information about air quality in South Africa and to provide different stakeholders with useful online applications to support the effective and efficient management of air quality. Phase 1 of the SAAQIS development project will be completed in the 2008/09 financial year, as well as the Greenhouse Gas Information Management Project (GHG Inventory) and the Air Quality Management Planning Support Project. The Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network in the Highveld Airshed Priority Area will be fully operational in the next financial year. The first draft strategy and action plan will also be in place for the development project to address air pollution in dense, low-income communities.

## Climate change

Climate change has become one of the greatest threats to global sustainable development and is now widely considered as a key priority for action. South Africa, along with other countries, has committed itself to addressing the challenge of climate change. A research and scenario planning process, the Climate Change Long-term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) process, was undertaken to ensure that South Africa has a sound evidence base on which to plan its climate change response. This research and scenario planning is currently being consulted with key stakeholders and its conclusions will be presented to Cabinet in 2008, with a view to its endorsement and subsequent development of national climate change policy.

The current electricity supply crisis also links to action on climate change. Two 'inconvenient truths' are quite evident. Firstly, as South African citizens, we have abused the privilege we have enjoyed for so many years of having the cheapest electricity in the world by becoming one of the least energy-efficient nations in the world. Secondly, the mega-power station development options – whether coal-fired or nuclear – that have been the country's fall-back position for increasing electricity supply, cannot address the current crises as it takes five to ten years to commission such mega-stations. Thus, in the short to medium term, the only real solution is to be more energy efficient, thereby reducing energy demand. The department sees this as a major opportunity for the country and is participating in key government-wide initiatives in this regard.



### Regulatory services and enforcement

An Environmental Management Inspectorate was established as a nationwide, cross-sphere inspectorate with policing powers. This ensures proper compliance with environmental legislation, as well as the opportunity to sanction those who transgress. This work is conducted by the Regulatory Services unit.

The training of environmental management inspectors (EMIs) was launched in June 2005 to build national enforcement capacity. The first 14 EMIs to be trained were designated to come from only DEAT and SANParks. By 7 March 2008, there were 866 EMIs from DEAT and 14 other institutions (including provinces and provincial parks boards) on the EMI register. A challenging basic training course has been developed, which will be presented by the University of Pretoria and the University of South Africa (Unisa) from May 2008. The course is also expected to be presented by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology later in 2008. The number of designated EMIs is expected to increase by at least 40 by June 2008, and by an even greater number after that, as more officials attend the basic training course.

During 2007/08, 152 officials attended the basic training course. Another 121 attended specialised training. A national EMI brand and clothing range have been developed to enhance the visibility of these inspectors.

In 2007, the branch launched and led the first strategic national environmental compliance and enforcement projects (Operation Ferro and the National Refineries Environmental Compliance Project). As part of these projects – which were jointly implemented by the provincial departments of environmental affairs and affected municipalities – 10 baseline compliance inspections were completed. Seven inspection reports had been issued by 22 February 2008. More than 65 investigations resulted in reports of non-compliance. More than 10 major criminal investigations were conducted and dockets handed to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). These streamlined and refocused investigations ensured that only major criminal investigations were undertaken. More than 18 notices or directives were issued to violators and one civil court application was launched. This is a significant increase in notices issued in relation to previous years. A highlight was the launch of the department's first civil application to enforce environmental legislation.

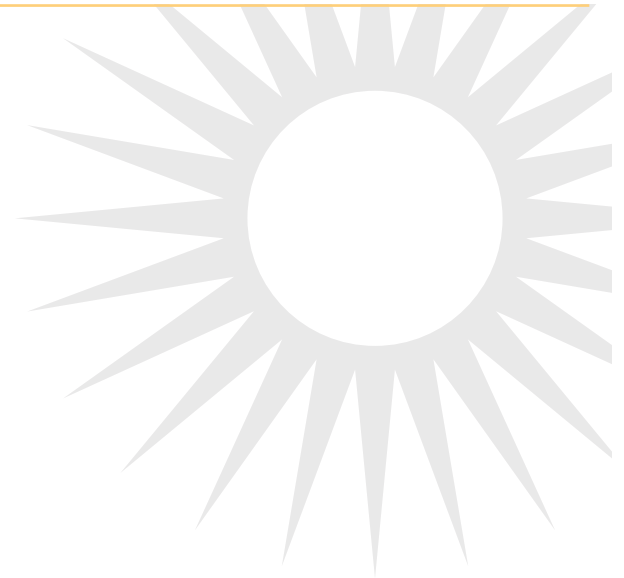
A total of 950 designated EMIs are targeted countrywide and an additional 100 EMIs and justice officials will be trained in compliance monitoring and enforcement in 2008/09. The issuing of at least 15 notices or directives and/or civil court applications are planned, as well as at least 20 prioritised investigations into non-compliance. At least 10 new criminal dockets will be handed over for prosecution.

### Challenges

The branch faced a number of challenges during 2007/08. The first relates to the very high expectations that exist with regard to service quality and delivery, and maintaining the current high standards. This places a major strain on all officials. Staff training and



motivation sessions are held to meet this challenge, as well as training programmes for other spheres of government. The need for greater support in the case of criminal investigations from the SAPS and the NPA, whose members are themselves overstretched, is an ongoing challenge. A draft standard operating procedure between EMLs and the SAPS is nearing completion. A formal proposal for dedicated environmental prosecutors has been submitted to the NPA. The delayed finalisation of the National Environmental Management Amendment Bill has hindered the implementation of mechanisms to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EIA processes and to correct deficiencies in the EIA system introduced in 2006. The branch is, however, working closely with its implementing partners in the provinces and key stakeholders to develop and implement innovative measures to overcome obstacles that are standing in the way of an efficient and effective EIA system.



Climate change has become one of the greatest threats to global sustainable development and is now widely considered as a key priority for action.





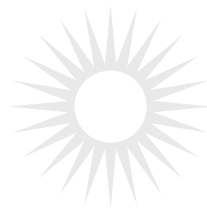


Survival depends on healthy ecosystems

**Biodiversity and Conservation programme:** This branch promotes the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources to improve economic growth and poverty alleviation.







Integrating

# humankind and nature

## BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

South Africa relies on healthy ecosystems and the sustainable use of natural resources as a foundation for the livelihood of its population. The Biodiversity and Conservation Branch promotes the conservation and utilisation of these resources in a manner that will contribute to improving economic growth and alleviating poverty.



The functions of the branch entail biodiversity and heritage conservation (including the management and development of world heritage sites, transfrontier conservation areas and protected areas). Its activities for 2007/08 were in support of these strategic objectives of the department.

Work in the field of biodiversity and heritage aims to promote and conserve South Africa's biological and cultural heritage of international and national significance, and to ensure the sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits derived from these resources for the benefit of all the people of South Africa. The department does this by developing legislation, policies, programmes and plans, and managing and coordinating the implementation of relevant international agreements.



## BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Managing South Africa's transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) and protected areas takes place by ensuring the effective establishment and development of TFCAs in each of the areas identified by government, and coordinating the activities of all government departments with the implementing agencies. The effective consolidation, establishment and management of protected areas in each of the identified priority bio-regional areas is also an area of focus.

### **Biodiversity conservation**

A number of milestones were achieved in 2007/08 in respect of conserving biodiversity, its components, processes and functions.

A draft National Biodiversity Framework, providing for an integrated, coordinated and uniform approach to biodiversity management in South Africa, was published for public comment in June 2007. It highlights the major pressures on biodiversity in South Africa, identifies priority actions for the next five years for conserving biodiversity (a subset of actions identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) and sets out the implications of these priority actions for agencies, which will lead their implementation. The National Biodiversity Framework forms the blueprint for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa.

A key element of the department's approach to the sustainable management of biodiversity is a species conservation approach. In this regard, the finalisation and promulgation of the amendments to the Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) Regulations, which came into force on 1 February 2008, will make great advancements in mitigating threats to biodiversity. The regulations introduced a uniform national system for the permitting of listed species, the registration of captive breeding operations, commercial exhibition facilities, game farms,







nurseries, scientific institutions, wildlife traders, sanctuaries and rehabilitation facilities. This is the first set of regulations that will regulate the movement and subsequent activities involving listed wildlife species on a national basis. In addition, the branch developed Norms and Standards for the Sustainable Management of Elephant Populations to provide a framework for the uniform management of these animals in South Africa. An essential issue that needed to be considered in developing these norms and standards was the fact that the population density of elephants' current range has increased to such an extent in South Africa that there is concern about their impact on the landscape, the viability of other species, and the livelihood and safety of people living in elephant ranges.

The Regulations on Bio-prospecting, Access and Benefit Sharing were finalised. These regulations aim to ensure that those benefits derived from bio-prospecting that involve South Africa's indigenous biological resources and the use of traditional knowledge are shared equitably with the relevant communities.

One of the key objectives of the department is to ensure the optimal health and integrity of ecosystems and their processes. Conserving the biodiversity of the country's sensitive wetlands was the focus of attention on International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2007, when two additional Ramsar sites were designated in South Africa. This will promote the conservation and wise use of the wetlands in the Makuleke section of the Kruger National Park and the Prince Edward Islands. In addition, the branch has developed a number of conservation management tools. These include the National Biodiversity Framework, the draft criteria for the listing of threatened ecosystems, draft regulations on alien and listed invasive species, guidelines for

the publishing of bioregional plans, and norms and standards for the biodiversity management plans for species. These were all drafted during the period under review, and are expected to be gazetted for implementation in 2008/09.

In order to prevent or manage potential negative impacts, the Environmental Risk Assessment Framework for Genetically Modified Organisms was finalised, and will strengthen the department's regulatory oversight role.

The promotion of the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources was enhanced with the finalisation of a Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) toolkit. This toolkit was developed to assist local government authorities, community representatives and civil society structures, as well as the CBNRM stakeholders, to use their natural resources in a sustainable manner for community development, while at the same time enhancing rural livelihoods.

### **Transfrontier conservation areas**

Ecosystems and ecological processes operate at large scales and over large areas of land. Therefore, the department has developed a focused Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) programme, in partnership with South Africa's neighbouring countries, to achieve the establishment of conservation areas at this large scale. Benefits include conserving globally significant biological diversity and ecosystems, their components, processes and functions such as re-establishing the seasonal migration routes of wildlife. The establishment of TFCAs also encourages linkages between conservation and economic development through activities such as cross-border tourism, cultural tourism, infrastructure development and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

It also creates opportunities for sustainable tourism growth and development for the benefit of all South Africans. Agreements to establish TFCAs serve as a legal platform that enables the participating countries to work together to harmonise their policies and implement joint projects in terms of the relevant areas. TFCAs also present an opportunity for the region to work together, thereby strengthening regional integration and cooperation and promoting peace and harmony.

Six TFCAs are in various stages of development: !Ai-!Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (South Africa/Namibia), Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (South Africa/Botswana), Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area (South Africa/Botswana/Zimbabwe), Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe), Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area (South Africa/Mozambique/Swaziland) and Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park (South Africa/Lesotho).

The memorandum of understanding for the establishment of the Limpopo-Shashe Transfrontier Conservation Area, signed by the ministers of South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe in 2006, was developed into a draft treaty for the establishment of this TFCA in 2007/08. A strategic plan to address issues such as the joint management of the elephant population had to be developed before the treaty could be finalised.

In further efforts to promote sustainable tourism growth and development for the benefit of South Africa, as well as its neighbouring countries, developments took place in some of the TFCAs. This included the opening of the Sendelingsdrift tourist access facility in the !Ai-!Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park and the opening of the Mata Mata tourist access facility in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. These facilities increase the access of tourists to the parks, thereby enhancing tourism in the TFCAs.

The TFCA programme is well aligned to the objectives of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan, particularly Programme 6, which emphasises cross-border conservation or the management of natural resources as an important vehicle for strategically building on the biodiversity and economic linkages of sustainable development, as well as strengthening cooperation.

Future proposed developments in existing TFCAs include the dropping of further fences in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park to re-establish the traditional animal migratory routes by creating corridors for animal movement across country borders, upgrading the Sani Pass road in the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park from the Lesotho Border Post (Sani Top) to Mokhotlong and implementing a wildlife translocation programme in this TFCA, developing a sanctuary area in the Futi Corridor of the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation and Resource Area to enable the free movement of game, and constructing a one-stop border post facility at Twee Rivieren in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

### Protected areas

Protected areas have been recognised globally as the most effective means of conserving biodiversity. They are essential for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological



Diversity), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. Protected areas provide a range of goods and ecological services, while preserving natural and cultural heritage. In addition, they also provide opportunities for environmental education, tourism and recreation, in addition to opportunities for research that include adaptive measures for climate change.

The National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment undertaken by the department some time ago confirmed that the current national system of protected areas does not afford sufficient protection to the majority of biomes and marine bioregions. This has necessitated the development of a national strategy for the expansion of protected areas. The draft strategy, which has been developed using globally supported systematic biodiversity planning tools, provides a national framework for an integrated and uniform framework for the expansion and consolidation of the national system of protected areas. This strategy provides an overarching strategic framework for the establishment of a national system of protected areas that conserves a representative and adequate sample of biodiversity and maintains ecological processes across the landscape and seascape. Associated with this effort, has been the development of a Biodiversity Stewardship Programme for South Africa to increase the percentage of land under conservation in agreement with private owners.

A lot of effort was invested into land acquisition for the expansion of national parks during 2007/08. This entailed consultation and the conclusion of agreements to expand the borders of national parks such as Tankwa Karoo, Tsitsikamma, Agulhas, Augrabies, Namaqua,

Mapungubwe and Table Mountain. Further, an agreement was reached with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to transfer the management of protected areas along the Garden Route to SANParks to facilitate the management of these areas as part of the national park system.

The Mokala National Park was proclaimed in June 2007. This national park, which covers an area of approximately 19 000 hectares about 80km south-southwest of Kimberley, will replace the former Vaalbos National Park, which was given back to communities as part of a successful land claim. Towards the establishment of the park, 863 animals were moved from the de-proclaimed Vaalbos National Park to the new national park.

The inclusion of marine protected areas into the national park system is also being considered. The current South African system of biosphere reserves was expanded in 2007/08 with the addition of the Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve as a fifth biosphere reserve. Approval was granted by the United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 2007 and the reserve has been inscribed in its World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Although it was envisaged that the declaration of the Blyde River Canyon National Park, the amalgamation of the Qwa-Qwa National Park into the Golden Gate National Park and the development of the Wild Coast National Park would take place during 2007/08, this could not be concluded, to a large extent due to lack of consensus with key role-players. The declaration of the Blyde River Canyon National Park has been rescheduled for 2008/09, pending resolution of the land claim by the Department of Land Affairs,



## BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

while the Qwa-Qwa project will be revived shortly based on a recent in-principle agreement with the Free State province. The department, in collaboration with the Eastern Cape province, is exploring innovative, effective and widely acceptable means of conserving the globally significant biodiversity of the Wild Coast area. In this regard, a full-sized project, aimed at establishing an effective network of protected areas that provide for a wide range of tested protected area governance models with communities, is being implemented under the custodianship of the Eastern Cape Parks Board. Co-funding of this project to the value of US\$6,5m has been secured from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). This project is based on detailed conservation planning that was undertaken by government in 2004, in collaboration with the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

A key element for the success of using a protected areas strategy to conserving a representative sample of South Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems is the development of an equitable approach to dealing with land claims in existing protected areas. In this regard, a memorandum of agreement was concluded with the Department of Land Affairs and the Land Claims Commission providing a coherent framework for the settlement of land claims in protected areas. A draft guideline for the development of co-management agreements with the new land owners who are beneficiaries of the land reform programme within protected areas is being finalised, while the framework for post-settlement support will be completed in 2008/09.

### World Heritage Sites

The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape in the Northern Cape was declared as South Africa's eighth World Heritage Site at the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee that was held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in June 2007. It covers an area of 160 000 hectares of succulent Karoo vegetation that is communally owned and managed and demonstrates the harmonious interaction between man and nature. It is nestled between the Richtersveld National Park to the north, the Nababiep provincial nature reserve to the east, and communal grazing areas to the south and west owned by the Sida !hub Community Property Association.

The recognition of the outstanding universal value of the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape represented a major transformation in the World Heritage Committee towards acknowledging the practices of indigenous people to ensure biodiversity conservation.

Other sites that have been proclaimed as world heritage sites in terms of South Africa's domestic law include the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein (comprising the Cradle of Humankind, the Taung Skull Fossil Site and Makapan Valley), the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park and Robben Island. These sites are tourist attractions in themselves, and their inclusion on the World Heritage List elevates South Africa's tourism profile globally. This promotes investment in tourism infrastructure, with job creation opportunities for communities around these sites.

Successful public hearings were also conducted towards the appointment of management authorities for Richtersveld, Ukhahlamba Drakensberg, Makapan Valley and Taung. These



management authorities will be proclaimed in 2008/09. Discussions are also currently underway with key roleplayers to resolve outstanding issues in the declaration of Vredefort Dome and the appointment of a management authority for the Cape Floral Region.

## Challenges

Challenges experienced by the branch range from lack of performance management tools for protected areas to financial constraints and limited support and buy-in with regard to departmental programmes by key roleplayers. A training session on international best practice on the development of a performance management system will be held in April 2008. This session will be followed by a process of developing the necessary tools. In terms of developing TFCAs, the lack of funding or resources across South Africa's borders result in partner countries not being able to develop their components of the TFCAs. Alternative sources of funding are being sought through different NGOs, funds and societies, like the African Renaissance Fund.

Tools also need to be developed for the conservation of biodiversity in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. This requires thorough and rigorous stakeholder engagement and public participation processes, which will present a further challenge for the future.

The Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape in the Northern Cape was declared as South Africa's eighth World Heritage Site.



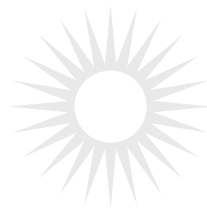




The country's marine and coastal resources feed the nation

**Marine and Coastal Management programme:** This branch promotes the development and management of South Africa's marine and coastal environments in a way that ensures the sustainability of the marine resources, while maximising economic opportunities and employment creation.





# Nurturing our living waters

MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The Marine and Coastal Management Branch is tasked with promoting the development and management of South Africa's marine and coastal environments in a way that ensures the sustainability of the country's marine resources, while maximising economic opportunities and employment creation.



Its activities are governed primarily by the Marine Living Resources Act of 1998, and many of its operations are financed by the Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF).

Its activities for 2007/08 supported the department's strategic objective of improving equity and stability in the fishing sector by allocating long-term commercial fishing rights, and improving access and service to subsistence and recreational users of the South African coast.

Its functions are concentrated on marine resource research and biological status of fish and other marine resource stocks (which includes logistical support to Antarctic research),



## MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities (including compliance and environmental protection vessels), marine resource management (both offshore and inshore fisheries management), as well as integrated coastal management.

### Marine research and Antarctica and Islands

In support of the department's commitment to building a sound scientific base for the effective management of natural resources, the branch provides advice on the sustainability of consumptive and non-consumptive marine resource use. Routine monitoring of all marine living resources that are harvested by the major fishing sectors promotes the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resources. In addition, the health of the ecosystem is monitored through research and assessments of marine biodiversity and the coastal ecosystem.

Stock assessments and surveys of all major fisheries resources were undertaken during 2007/08 to ensure the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources to promote economic development. The continual rise in the price of fuel remains a challenge for ongoing and new research as it impacts on the deployment of vessels. The appointment of new researchers in various research fields ensures that scientific research informs and guides the sustainable utilisation and conservation of the country's marine and coastal ecosystems. The focus for 2008/09 will be on developing integrated motivations for research equipment recapitalisation and expansion.

The branch also maintained a strategic research presence in Antarctica and South Africa's Antarctic Islands in 2007/08, by managing the research and supply vessel, the SA Agulhas, and the bases in Antarctica. The department plans to replace the vessel, which is now 30 years old. Detailed motivations for the replacement of the ship were approved by National Treasury in 2007. This is a three-year project with the planning and design being undertaken in the first year.

### Monitoring and enforcement

The department is committed to protecting and improving the quality and safety of the marine environment and, as such, ensures proper compliance with the environmental management system. The branch therefore monitors landed fish at harbours, slipways and fish-processing

A strategic research presence is maintained on Marion Island





establishments on an ongoing basis to ensure that permit holders comply with the marine coastal regulations by staying within their limits and declaring all their catches. Non-adherence to permit conditions, non-compliance with the Marine Living Resources Act and the payment of levies on fish and fish products are closely monitored and are dealt with in the appropriate manner.

The branch has made progress with efforts to reduce poaching – especially with regard to abalone – through the policing of identified critical abalone zones in collaboration with the SAPS and other law enforcement partners. Memoranda of understanding have been concluded with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the NPA.

The branch supports the implementation of the marine and coastal programmes of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) by undertaking joint annual patrols in the SADC region.

Future plans include ensuring that the abalone closure is enforced, as well as around-the-clock monitoring and enforcement at identified areas. Further strengthening of working relations with the SAPS and other law enforcement partners remains a priority, as well as the effective utilisation of the Marine Administration System (MAST) for data. Posts were established and two prosecutors appointed during 2007/08 to assist with the facilitation and timely conclusion of marine-related cases along the South African coast.

## Marine resource management

The management and regulation of the sustainable use of marine living resources is an important priority for the department. In support of this objective, the branch finalised the allocation and management of long-term fishing rights in 20 commercial fishery sectors

during 2007/08. These rights (which are valid for eight to 15 years) are allocated following annual scientific assessments to determine the status of fish stocks. Transformation, investment and job creation are all important considerations in the allocation process. The challenge, however, is to balance environmental sustainability with the high demand for access to marine living resources.

A process is underway to establish a policy and management regime for subsistence and small-scale fishers to ensure that valuable resources are not depleted, while still granting these communities access to the natural resources on which they depend for their livelihood. These fishers, who harvest resources mainly for food and bartering, are currently fishing under exemptions and will be brought within the formal management regime for fisheries in future.

A draft Policy for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights has been published to guide the transfer of commercial fishing rights and ensure adherence to the objectives of the respective fishery sectors. The decline in abalone, due mainly to ecosystem effects and illegal harvesting, has resulted in the indefinite closure of the fishery until such time as it has shown some recovery. A diving ban was implemented in critical areas where the resource has potential for recovery.

Pelagic species are an important component of marine biodiversity, and the Policy on the Management of Seals, Seabirds and Shorebirds provided the overall framework for the conservation of these species, and the mitigation of threats to their survival.

Hake is the country's largest fishery and the only hake fishery worldwide with Marine Stewardship Council Certification of sustainable management practices. A hake management strategy, which takes account of research, monitoring control and surveillance,



policy and fisheries management, has been implemented to ensure the continued sustainability of this valuable resource. An important milestone has been the implementation of a vessel capacity management system that is commensurate with the tonnage allocated to rights holders.

### **Integrated coastal management**

The Portfolio Committee approved the Integrated Coastal Management Bill in 2007/08. It was tabled in Parliament at the end of March 2008. This Bill was introduced to preserve the integrity of South Africa's coastline by managing and developing the coast in a way that makes optimal use of its resources. This is the first Integrated Coastal Management Bill to be passed in Africa and will improve the protection and appropriate development of South Africa's coastal zone, while maximising economic and social opportunities for wealth creation and equity.

### **Marine aquaculture**

In view of the national priority to alleviate poverty and create new economic opportunities, marine aquaculture (farming with fish and other aquatics) is seen as a way to create job opportunities and contribute to economic development. The Marine Aquaculture Policy, which was gazetted in September 2007, aims to promote the growth of the marine aquaculture industrial sector in South Africa.

During 2007/08, marine aquaculture pilot projects were initiated in the country's four coastal provinces. These projects are being established as viable models of marine aquaculture businesses that are sustainable and satisfy the objectives as specified in the Marine Aquaculture Policy, which include facilitating the robust growth of the industry, transforming the industry and avoiding or minimising adverse environmental impacts. The Marine Aquaculture Sector Development Plan has been adopted as one of the key projects in the 2008 Government Programme of Action.

### **Marine protected areas**

South Africa has 19 marine protected areas (MPAs), which have been established to protect biodiversity, build up fish stocks and ensure that the activities of different users (such as scuba divers and fishers) are not in conflict with each other. Contrary to widespread public perception, certain fishing activities are allowed in controlled zones in more than 50% of the MPAs (both by number and by coastline length). However, both the number of MPAs and the percentage of coastline under protection needs to be increased. This entails involving the broader public and engendering stakeholder support. Memoranda of agreement were signed with several nature conservation agencies to provide funding and to mandate CapeNature, Eastern Cape Parks, Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife and the iSimangaliso Greater Wetland Park to provide integrated management for 11 of the 19 MPAs. Six of the remaining MPAs are managed by SANParks.

The management of estuaries falls under a number of different sets of laws and policies, including the Marine Living Resources Act, the Integrated Coastal Management Bill and the National Water Act. Consequently, the Integrated Coastal Management Bill has provided for a coordinated and harmonised approach to their management. The major achievement



for 2007/08 was the cooperative process whereby draft estuarine management plans are being drawn up with input from all stakeholders under the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) Estuary Programme. Plans for six estuaries are nearing completion and another five have commenced. These are supported by formal guidelines for various activities that have been developed through the programme.

### **Pollution management**

In its management and regulation of coastal resources, the branch is developing a National Programme of Action (NPA) to protect the marine environment from land-based pollution and activities. This includes setting up a National Advisory Forum comprising various key stakeholders from other government departments at national, provincial and local level, as well as industry partners, NGOs and technical experts. The draft NPA will consider input gained at provincial consultative workshops held throughout 2007/08. The NPA will be implemented once it has been endorsed at a national workshop to be held in 2008/09. A review process forms part of the implementation plan. New projects or activities will be identified and incorporated into the programme as the need arises.

Coastal communities and the environment will benefit from this, as will the broader South African public through a coast that is better managed in terms of environmental protection, coastal development, public health and recreational enjoyment. The public will also benefit from coastal resources that are better managed for economic and other uses.

### **Marine Living Resources Fund**

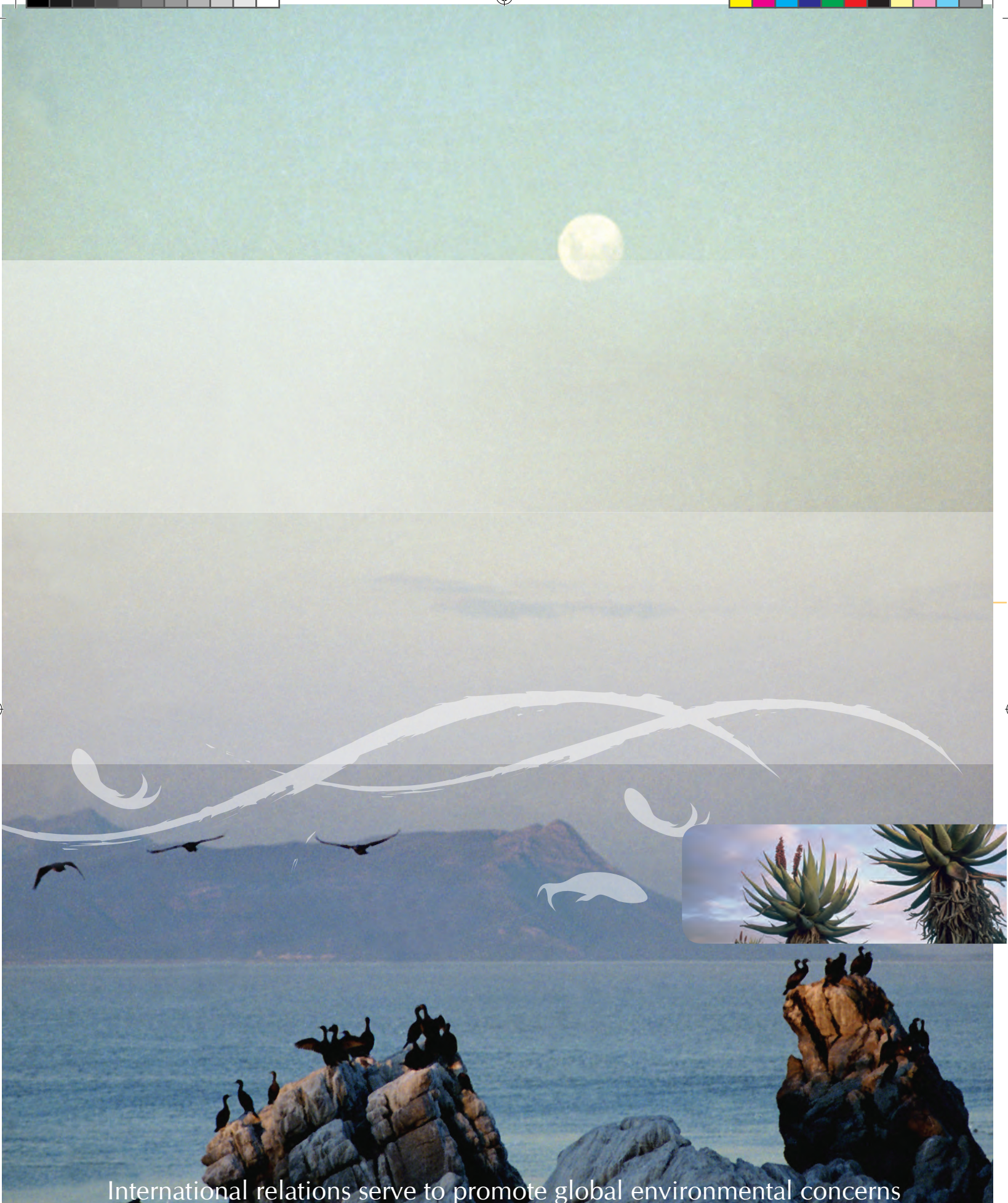
Many operations and activities of the branch are financed from the Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF). In 2005/06, the

MLRF received a disclaimed audit opinion (no opinion expressed on the annual financial statements of the MLRF) from the Auditor-General. In the following financial year, it had only seven qualifications and the Auditor-General expressed an opinion (a vast improvement from the previous audit).

In this financial year, special attention was paid to strengthening the financial accounting skills and capacity of the entity and the fund is moving towards an unqualified audit opinion. The major target for 2008/09 is to achieve an improved audit opinion for the 2007/08 financial year and to ensure that systems and controls are in place to achieve an unqualified audit opinion for the following financial year. Additional revenue streams will be explored and internal controls and processes will be streamlined to meet international standards. This will enhance service delivery to stakeholders. The MLRF implemented the new Oracle-based financial management system in 2007/08. This system was utilised to implement a new budget management system and is continually being enhanced to meet the internal control requirements of the MLRF. The fund also enhanced its information management in terms of cash flow reports and management accounts. It is important to strengthen the fishing sector's confidence in the MLRF, as it manages funds from levies and fees paid by rights holders, as well as Medium-term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) funds from National Treasury.

Capacity constraints pose a challenge, especially in the field of accrual accounting skills, as opposed to the historic cash basis of accounting. In addressing this challenge, the MLRF provides in-house training to its employees, embarks on partnerships with the South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI) for financial management training, and provides bursaries for employees to further their studies and improve their skills.



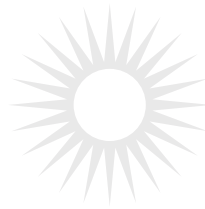


International relations serve to promote global environmental concerns

**Sector Services and International Relations programme:** This branch provides planning, coordination and business management services, manages the implementation of poverty alleviation projects, and manages the department's international cooperation obligations and commitments.







Promoting South Africa's

# international priorities

## SECTOR SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Sector Services and International Relations Branch provides planning, coordination and business management services to the department. It also manages the implementation of poverty alleviation projects, as well as the department's international cooperation obligations and commitments.



Its activities for 2007/08 supported the department's strategic objective of job creation through environmental and tourism projects and promoting a global sustainable development agenda.

In a globalising world, the environmental and tourism sectors in South Africa are strongly influenced by international competition, trade and governance regimes. In order to achieve South Africa's ambitious growth, development and transformation objectives in this global context, it is strategically important for South Africa to protect and promote South Africa's interests through active participation in the international and regional structures and



agreements. Further, in order to advance the national interest, it is important to vigorously develop mutually beneficial partnerships and bilateral agreements with key countries and markets. The branch's Specialist Unit for International Cooperation aims to manage and direct the department's international cooperation programme. The unit focuses on multilateral agreements related to marine and biodiversity management and sustainable development (including agreements on chemicals, waste, ozone, environmentally related trade and climate change issues), as well as international governance, resource mobilisation, bilateral relations and relations with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Africa.

### **Sustainable development and trade**

Endeavours related to promoting a global sustainable development agenda are aimed at managing, planning, coordinating and leading South Africa's engagement in multilateral sustainable development and environmental sector trade agreements and related international cooperation.

South Africa hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development and consequently plays a leading role internationally, particularly through the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In 2007/08, South Africa actively prepared for its participation in both Session 15 and Session 16 of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD15 and CSD16). Through a multi-stakeholder process, negotiation positions were developed for CSD15. However, despite South Africa's efforts to achieve a compromise, negotiations broke down on the final day of the meeting due to intractable positions by the EU and USA on the climate change issue. This precedent presents a challenge for a successful outcome of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> sessions in 2008 and 2009.

The CSD16 and CSD17 cycle is critical for Africa as it addresses key issues of land, agriculture and rural development, drought and desertification, Africa, as well as water resource management. In this regard, the unit participated and played a leadership role in key regional meetings such as the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM), which sought to consolidate an Africa position going into CSD16.

In preparation for the review session at CSD16 and the policy session at CSD17 (2009), South Africa has drafted a CSD country report through a multi-stakeholder process. The country report provides an overview of the country's performance in the delivery of sustainable development in the areas of land, agriculture and rural development, including efforts to manage the impacts of drought and desertification, as well as water resource management. In addition a South African position paper has been prepared in consultation with stakeholders. It outlines broad objectives to be pursued at CSD16, progress made, and constraints and challenges in the implementation of Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) targets in the thematic issues that were addressed.





There is an increasing trend for the developed countries to link multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to international trade, particularly using environmental standards as trade barriers, and defending bio-piracy practices that compromise the intellectual property rights of indigenous communities. Consequently, trade and environment issues also form part of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). These include negotiations on the prohibition of those fishery subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity, the relationship between the WTO and multilateral environmental agreements in terms of specific trade obligations, and trade liberalisation in environmental goods and services. These negotiations have been ongoing since 2002 and are expected to be concluded during 2008.

The department has been actively participating in the technical negotiation

meetings to ensure a coherent and integrated position between the departments of trade and the environment. This has highlighted the importance of close coordination between these two departments in other forums. These negotiations are critical in terms of achieving the overall goal of sustainable development by ensuring a balanced approach between the impact of trade on development and the environment. It is, however, also important that developed countries do not use environmental standards against developing countries for protectionist means.

The fisheries sector has been identified as a priority, given its importance to the livelihood of many small-scale fishers. The WTO negotiations must therefore ensure a credible outcome in terms of sustainable fisheries' management, as well as allow for policy space for developing countries to assist their subsistence fishing communities.

## Climate change is a strategic priority





## Climate change

Climate change has emerged as one of the priority issues on the global political agenda. As one of the large emerging economies in the developing world, South Africa is under severe pressure to take on legally binding international commitments. In this context it has played and continues to play a leading role in the international climate negotiations, particularly in the Africa and Group of 77 (G77) + China blocks.

South Africa's position on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol was researched and drafted with all stakeholders through the National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC). These negotiation positions were approved by Cabinet. In the negotiations, South Africa led the G77 in the negotiations of further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and worked with Brazil to push for a conversion of discussions under the convention into formal negotiations.

At the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Meeting of the Parties (MOP) in Bali in December 2007, an agreement was reached on the Bali Road Map and Bali Action Plan to negotiate a new comprehensive international climate regime by 2009. Additional key achievements emanating from these negotiations include the operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund and discussion of technology under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC.

South Africa was involved in various climate change research and communication initiatives during 2007/08. The first phase of the post-2012 options/packages research project was completed, and a presentation on climate change was delivered to both top management and the Portfolio Committee on Environment and Tourism, in collaboration with the department's Environmental Quality and Protection Branch. A presentation on climate change politics was also delivered to the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Mid-term Review Committee. In addition, the office of Denmark's Prime Minister was briefed on the political dynamics in the climate negotiations in preparation for their hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) in 2009.







## Chemicals and waste management

The department's involvement in national and international engagements on chemicals and waste management policies forms part of its endeavours related to sustainable development and trade. South Africa is a party to and is actively participating in negotiations under five chemicals and waste conventions dealing with trade and trans-boundary movement (Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions), sound chemicals management (the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) of the UNEP) and the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances (Montreal Protocol).

Pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals have potentially harmful environmental consequences, and their use must be managed internationally. South Africa's international engagements in this regard are based on mandates, which are researched, consulted on and approved by management and the Minister.

During 2007/08, South Africa successfully negotiated an exemption for the continued use of DDT for malaria control purposes at the Stockholm Convention.

The establishment of regional training and capacity-building centres were a key issue under negotiation at the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG6) of the Basel Convention. In addition, preparation on the governance arrangements for the Basel regional centre to be hosted by South Africa was completed.

At OEWG27 and MOP19 of the Montreal Protocol, South Africa lead negotiations for the Africa Group on Illegal Trade. In addition, a decision was negotiated to allow South Africa access to the multilateral fund, particularly to finance efforts for the phasing out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

South Africa was also nominated by the Africa Group to co-chair OEWG28 and MOP20, which will take place in 2008.

## Coastal management

South Africa is party to a wide range of multilateral agreements and is a member of international organisations aimed at the protection and sustainable management of the marine environment, including the London Convention on Dumping at Sea, the Marine Pollution Convention, the Antarctic Treaty, the UN Law of the Sea, the International Marine Organization and the Seabed Authority and the African Abidjan and Nairobi conventions.

In 2007/08, South Africa negotiated key international issues relating to the sustainable management of the marine environment, including the continental shelf-related extension of exclusive economic zones, the approval of carbon capture and storage under the seabed, land-based sources of pollution, and the demonstration and adoption of the ecosystem management approach in transnational management of large marine ecosystems (LMEs) (for example, South Africa's involvement in the Benguela Current LME and the Agulhas Current LME).

The unit successfully hosted the Abidjan and Nairobi Conferences of the Parties in November 2007.

South Africa is also a party to or is an observer at many international organisations dealing with the international extraction and use of fish stocks, whales and other marine living resources, including the International Treaty on Whaling, numerous regional fisheries organisations, the UN Straddle Fish Stocks Agreement, the International Tuna Fisheries Agreements and the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Committee

on Fisheries. Key issues under negotiation include the future of the International Whaling Commission, tuna rights allocations, regional fishing rights allocations and sustainable fish stock management.

### **Biodiversity**

South Africa is party to a number of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biodiversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (genetically modified organisms), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its numerous memoranda of agreement (MoUs) related to turtles, sharks and birds, and the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

South Africa's position was researched, drafted and approved for COP14 of CITES. Stakeholder consultation and preparatory meetings were held. South Africa led the negotiations on ivory trade, as well as the black rhino export quotas for Namibia and South Africa. South Africa is currently conducting ivory stock verification in order to dispose of the available stock with the trading partners identified by CITES.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee, South Africa facilitated stakeholder consultation and preparatory meetings with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It also successfully negotiated the listing of an additional South African world heritage site: the Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape in the Northern Cape.

In preparation for the CBD negotiations to be held in 2008, the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA12) of the convention and the CBD working group on the implementation of the convention (WGRI-2) met during 2007/08. South Africa's position was researched, drafted and approved, based on the stakeholder consultation and a preparatory meeting in May 2007. The dominant international issue going forward is the approaching WSSD target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010. This will inform a number of key negotiations in 2008, including the Access and Benefit Sharing regime and its related approaches to liability, redress and traditional knowledge at CBD COP9 in 2008. Further critical issues will include the implementation of the CBD Programmes of Work on Protected Areas (including marine), Inland Waters, Agricultural Biodiversity and Island Biodiversity, as well as linkages with international trade, finance, development and climate change.

### **Multilateral relations and resource mobilisation**

The unit focuses on establishing multilateral relations and mobilising resources to protect and promote South Africa's interests through active participation in the international and regional governance and financing structures.





In terms of accessing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding, South Africa has a national portfolio of projects amounting to approximately US\$80 million and is participating in regional and global programmes that total over US\$300 million. In 2007/08, approximately US\$30 million in GEF funding was mobilised for national and regional projects. Under the GEF's fourth replenishment cycle, South Africa has become a GEF donor and, as such, is an active member of the Replenishment Committee. It is therefore able to influence the policies, programming and procedures of the GEF. In September 2007, South Africa hosted the GEF International Waters Conference in Cape Town.

South Africa has positioned itself to become one of the key developing country players in international environmental governance debates. It has been actively participating in various forums related to international environmental governance, such as the governance meetings held in May 2007 at CSD15, the Ministerial meeting on the environment and sustainable development governance held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2007, and the Ministerial panel and round-table meetings held during the 10<sup>th</sup> special session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) held in Monaco in February 2008. South Africa is also a member of the Bureau of the UNEP and is a major contributor to the UNEP's Environment Fund.

Furthermore, the unit has created a platform for engagement with the European Union (EU) on the issue of international environmental governance through the SA-EU Environment and Sustainable Development Forum. A future work programme on potential areas of

cooperation with the EU was agreed to during the first meeting of this forum that was held in Brussels, Belgium, in October 2007. In addition, the department has actively engaged in various forums related to the UN and the World Bank, resulting in the environmental priorities of South Africa being captured in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for South Africa and the World Bank's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for South Africa for 2007 to 2011.

As the alternate member on the GEF Council for the SADC GEF Constituency, South Africa has been lobbying for the reform of both the GEF governance structure and its Resource Allocation Frameworks (RAFTs). The RAFT is a system adopted by the GEF during its fourth replenishment cycle, designed to determine the ex ante allocation of resources to countries for the focal areas of biodiversity and climate change. South Africa believes the system to be inequitable and to disadvantage many developing countries, especially those in Africa. The GEF will initiate a mid-term review of the RAFT in 2008 and the department will play an active role in this process to ensure greater equity.

## Bilateral relations

The unit focuses on establishing bilateral relations aimed at advancing South Africa's national interest through mutually beneficial partnerships and bilateral agreements with key countries and markets. In this regard, the unit manages and coordinates policy position research, preparing for, negotiating, lobbying, monitoring and reporting on international south-south, north-south and bilateral cooperation and the related mobilisation of bilateral resources.

## SECTOR SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The department mobilised bilateral financial and technical resources amounting to approximately US\$8 million from countries like Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the UK, Australia, Spain and the EU in 2007/08.

South-south cooperation was enhanced with countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia. The branch intensified its cooperation with China in the field of tourism and the environment by reaffirming its commitment to the continued implementation of the Approved Destination Status MoU related to tourism, and the negotiation of potential future MoUs on the environment and marine sectors. Issues related to the environment and tourism have been elevated and prioritised in the India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Forum and an IBSA working group on environment and climate change was established at the IBSA Summit held in South Africa in October 2007.

In terms of north-south relations, the unit negotiated fisheries cooperation with Australia and New Zealand through the signing of a letter of intent and an agreement with both countries respectively. It also agreed on a work programme for climate change in cooperation with Australia. The department has engaged with Spain on potential future cooperation in the areas of tourism, focusing specifically on tourism, capacity-building, SMME development and language training. Discussions have been held with Ireland on cooperation in skills development and planning in the tourism sector. The UK-SA high-level dialogue on sustainable development was established, which incorporates a work programme with concrete areas of cooperation in climate change, environmental enforcement, mainstreaming sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production.

Other bilateral agreements include the SA-EU Trade Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA), where the branch played an important role in amending the articles on both the environment and tourism to reflect South Africa's priorities. The department also participated in developing a joint EU-Africa strategy and provided inputs on both the environment and tourism to ensure that these are adequately captured. This strategy was deliberated at the EU-Africa Summit held in Portugal in 2007.

### **SADC and Africa**

A key priority for South Africa is the strengthening and consolidation of the African agenda in all international relations, in particular to mobilise support for the programmes of the African Union and SADC.

During 2007/08, the unit developed an African engagement strategy for implementation in 2008. This strategy has a focus on the priority of mobilising financial and technical resources to support initiatives in the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme and the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Some of the initiatives for which resources have been mobilised include the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem, Sustainable Land Management, the Global Ballast Programme, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway, the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Programme, the Global





Pollinators Project and the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Programme.

During 2007/08, political support was obtained for the establishment of the African Environment Facility in the African Development Bank and the SADC Environment and Sustainable Development Unit in the SADC Secretariat. A process was initiated to develop an environmental protocol for SADC (where South Africa is part of the coordinating team), which aims to address brown environmental issues such as pollution and waste.

In addition, the unit has focused on strengthening the SADC GEF constituency and the SADC Ministers of Environment Forum. South Africa has been on the forefront of promoting the integration of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) into the AU, which has culminated in a formal AU decision. South Africa has already started preparing for the 12<sup>th</sup> session of AMCEN, which it will be hosting in June 2008.

## Challenges

One of the key challenges facing South Africa is the trend toward donor transformation. Most donors have expressed the view that, given South Africa's middle-income status, official development assistance funding will be diminished after 2010.

In terms of SADC and Africa, the lack of capacity and funding presents further challenges. South Africa is confronted by differing agendas among the African and G77 countries (SADC and Africa, GEF and UNEP international environmental governance), resulting in a weak position for Africa and G77.



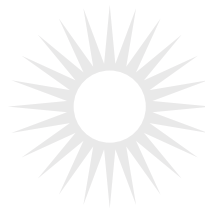




Effective support structures are vital for a prosperous society

**Administration and Support programme:** This branch provides strategic leadership, corporate services, cooperative governance and information management.

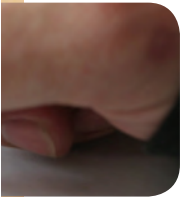




## Supporting the achievement of strategic goals

### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Efficient and effective administrative support structures are vital for the department to achieve its vision for a prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with its natural resources. The Administration and Support Branch provides strategic leadership, corporate services, cooperative governance and information management.



The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Corporate Affairs are the administrative support structures that provided a combined support function to assist the various branches to fulfil their mandates in support of the department's strategic objectives for 2007/08.

The Office of the COO plays an important role in coordinating and managing the strategic functions and operations of the department. It comprises the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (responsible for financial and supply chain management), as well as the functions of planning, coordination and information management, business performance (strategic management and policy coordination), and social responsibility, policy and projects (including quality management and project implementation).



## CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Corporate Affairs provides for the strategic leadership of the department, interprets legislation and regulations, formulates departmental policies and renders operational and procedural support. Its functions are concentrated on information technology and administrative support, human resources management and transformation, strategic human resource development, legal services and communication.

### Financial status

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer provides a financial and supply chain management support function to all the line functions in the department. Although the Report of the Auditor-General for 2007/08 will only be finalised after the publication of this annual report, the interim audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor-General indicates that the department will have an unqualified audit report.

### Strategic management

The work of the Office of the COO is compliance-based, as it develops and ensures the implementation of the department's strategic plan to be tabled in Parliament. In its facilitation of corporate governance, it must ensure that the department and its statutory bodies and public entities table their annual reports in Parliament on time. The Office of the COO met all compliance targets in the 2007/08 financial year.

The Office of the COO manages the overall performance of the department, and is driven by the objective of developing a culture of high performance. Performance management is therefore a key function of its activities. The department is migrating towards a balanced scorecard approach to performance management. This process was





finalised in 2007/08 and will be automated in 2008/09, when a performance management policy will be implemented. As the process is essentially iterative, the automation of the system will be a challenge. However, it is envisaged that this will enhance the performance management of the entire department, as it will align individual and organisational performance across the department. The balanced scorecard approach will also support public entities with their performance management.

### Social responsibility

The department's Social Responsibility Policy and Projects (SRPP) Programme aims to facilitate the creation of job opportunities and promote skills development through the provision of accredited training. It particularly targets designated groups such as women, the youth and people with disabilities. The programme also promotes the use of SMMEs in the implementation of labour-intensive environment and culture Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects. The projects are carefully selected to ensure that they contribute to the delivery of the department's mandate, while achieving the objective of the EPWP. Projects are funded in areas such as

tourism development, waste minimisation, alternative technology usage and greening initiatives. This programme also manages the infrastructure development projects across the department and its public entities.

The programme continues to make a difference in the lives of the people of South Africa, in particular the poorest members of society. The department achieved more than double the number of temporary jobs originally targeted (13 000) for the entire financial year. Other targets that were significantly exceeded were in the areas of skills development and the number of SMMEs used in the implementation of projects.

On the cooperative governance front, during the past year, the department deployed 42 community environmental workers in district municipalities to assist local government with the Urban Renewal Programme and Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme. These workers also supported the skills audits that were undertaken on projects funded by the department and supporting provincial sphere of government as part of the EPWP in relation to cross-cutting environmental and tourism matters. This support will be continued over the medium-term period.

### Actual performance against key performance indicators and set targets

Key performance indicators	Targets 2007/08	Achieved 2007/08
No of job opportunities	13 000	29 277
No of permanent jobs	450	430
No of person training days	140 000	Non-accredited: 47 184 Accredited: 137 369 Total: 178 619
SMMEs used	300	523

## CORPORATE AFFAIRS

The bar was raised in terms of the implementation of the environment and culture EPWP projects during 2007/08.

### **Development of marine aquaculture**

The department has allocated R150 million for the MTEF period 2008/09 to 2010/11 for the promotion and development of a marine aquaculture programme in five coastal areas. The funding will be utilised for the implementation of pilot projects at selected sites. The sites were selected based on a need to invest in areas (high unemployment and lack of economic opportunities) affected by abalone closure and the need to unlock the potential for aquaculture. The target or main beneficiaries will be second-economy individuals who have a history of involvement in fishing and/or who are dependent on coastal resources for their livelihood.

### **National Youth Service (NYS) Programme**

As part of the government's initiative to engage young South Africans in community service activities in order to strengthen service delivery, promote nation-building, foster social cohesion and assist the youth to gain the occupational skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities, a National Youth Services (NYS) programme has been established. In support of this national programme, the department has approved funding to the amount of R25 million, for the MTEF period up to 2009/10 for a DEAT NYS programme to focus on the mandate of the department. Three service providers have been appointed for the

### **Duinepos Community Based Tourism**

— a success story —

The Duinepos project, situated on the West Coast, is one of many other projects funded in 2008/09. The project, which has been approved at a total value of R2 803 000, was officially launched on 28 February 2008, and has been singled out for the purpose of this annual review to demonstrate the impact of SRPP interventions at a single project level. The project involved the construction of an office/reception complex, an additional three chalets, a swimming pool, associated landscaping and roads/parking areas, as well as other related services infrastructure. The project implementation achieved 6 941 temporary jobs during the rollout phase, as well as six permanent jobs and accredited training for 37 participants, five of whom have already been guaranteed employment at the Duinepos Chalets. Eight SMMEs were used during implementation. The project is now being operated by an SMME management company that is managed by five black women. The company was established during the life cycle of the project. These members progressed from being ordinary labourers at the start of the project to becoming managers of a successful tourism facility that is now self sustainable. This tourism product has become the catalyst to establish supporting SMMEs. Furthermore, this led to the establishment of laundry, cleaning and catering SMMEs in the Langebaan area. The facility is fully booked during the high season and over weekends. Some of the women trained on the project are now employed as artisans in the new housing development taking place in Langebaan and the surrounding area. Innovative, environmentally friendly building methods were used and most of the material was sourced from local suppliers. Discussions are currently underway with Saldanha Steel Company to assist with the development of a conference centre. Overall, the smooth cooperation between all three spheres of government, as well as the private sector, could be identified as the key factor in this particular success story.





implementation of the NYS with the target for 500 youths enrolled in the programme per financial year.

### **Coast Care Programme**

The funding of the SRPP Coast Care Programme has also been extended for a further three years. This programme ensures that the South African public and tourists can enjoy clean and pristine beaches during holiday periods and also provides temporary jobs for the unemployed.

### **Information Technology and Administration**

As a major service delivery component focused on improving access to information for the department's internal and external clients, the Chief Directorate: Information Technology and Administration Support is responsible for connectivity to all information systems and knowledge management. It also has the obligation to ensure a safe and clean work environment.

The first phase of the Master Systems Plan (MSP) has been implemented. This plan is aimed at improving and automating the organisation's internal and external business processes. A sub-set of the MSP is the Marine Administration System (MAST) to be implemented in the Marine and Coastal Management Branch in Cape Town. This system will consolidate all independent databases for fishery permits. It comprises an administration module (which was already operational in 2006/07) and a catch system module (which was finalised during 2007/08). The next phase is to link MAST to back data and convert that to the new system.

In an endeavour to integrate and improve access to the department's information

systems, the development of a common platform was initiated. The consolidation of the environment databases will ensure a common platform and portal for all the department's databases. New business requirements and workflow processes are being investigated and implemented to address the needs of the department.

New software was installed during 2007/08 to address the virus and spam e-mail attacks in the department. Various IT policies were also drafted, approved and implemented, and a start was made to cascade the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) to all levels of staff.

### **Transformation**

Recruitment is focused on establishing a department that is representative of the population profile of the country and transformation in the department is well on target. Females in senior management positions increased from 39% in April 2007 to 45% at the end of the financial year, while the target was 48%. In lower management levels, the target was 42%, and 44% of women now hold such positions. The percentage of disabled employees (2%) is not on target yet, but increased from 0.5% to 1.3% in 2007/08. The number of black employees is at 77%, which is very close to the target of 82%.

A culture audit was performed to obtain a clear sense of the current organisational culture. Subsequently, a culture architecture was developed, on the basis of which a culture change intervention plan can be developed. This architecture needs to be translated into concrete plans for implementation in the future as it is proposed to benefit the department in the long term. Its implementation is scheduled for 2008/09.

## Human Resource Management

In its efforts to develop and retain a representative and performing team, the department achieved a reduction of the vacancy rate in 2007/08 from 25.4% to 20%. This means that the department is acquiring and retaining the required capacity to deliver on its mandate, with resulting improved service delivery by the entire department.

A guideline was developed on the Policy and Procedures on Incapacity Leave and Ill-health Retirement (PILIR) to strengthen control of the management and administration of sick leave. The policies on special leave and on working hours were also revised to align them with the latest developments and to accommodate the needs of employees. A policy of leave without pay was implemented for employees who participated in strike action. Work also commenced on the job evaluation policy, but this still needs to be finalised.

The department's organisational structure was also finalised in 2007/08, based on the institutional review report, and the structure approved by the Director-General.

## Training and development

Human resource development is the foundation on which South Africa's national agenda for the sustainable development of the second economy, poverty alleviation and the strategic objectives of the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGI-SA) will be achieved. Based on the national human resource development imperatives of South Africa, the department initiated various skills development interventions that were aimed at equipping the unemployed youth, graduates, individuals and communities – including municipal officials – with the opportunities and skills that are required to participate fully in the environmental and tourism sector, in particular, and the global market in general. This was done through the implementation of skills development programmes, internship programmes, learnerships and bursaries to meet the need for critical and scarce skills.

## Education and outreach

Several education and outreach initiatives were conducted during 2007/08 that focused on skills development and learning. These included the implementation of environmental management internships in collaboration with the provincial departments of environment affairs, the Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) and the Environmental Educators, Training and Development Practice (EETDP) Learnership at NQF Level 5.

The environmental management internship programme for 2007/08 was successfully implemented in collaboration with colleagues from the North-West and Limpopo. Some 43 newly qualified graduates were exposed to productive work opportunities and mentorship in the areas of environmental policy and implementation, environmental education, environmental management, nature conservation and sustainable development. At least 16 of these interns have been recruited and are now gainfully employed in provincial departments.





The IWMP was successfully developed and implemented in 2007/08 in response to the outcomes of the Infrastructure Development Programme (IDP) hearings of 2004/05, where waste management was identified as one of the challenges facing most municipalities. The project aimed at improving the capacity of local municipalities to deal with waste management by providing technical training and practical experience to respond effectively to the country's growing waste management challenges and to build an environment that is not harmful to human health and wellbeing. The programme covered policy, technical skills and practical areas and 362 people benefited from it, including municipal officials, politicians and technical staff in all nine provinces.

The EETDP learnership was successfully implemented. This programme recognised the significant need for capacity-building in the field of the environment and sustainable development. At least 60 unemployed learners were enrolled in the programme and placed in municipalities, parastatals, government agencies and provincial departments to obtain practical work experience. These learners all completed their workplace assignments and have submitted their portfolios of evidence. Once declared competent by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and qualified with the National Certificate in EETDP (Level 5), they will be able to implement environmental learning programmes and action projects in their work contexts.

## Employee wellness

In support of the department's commitment to improving the quality of its employees' work life, an employee wellness strategy

was developed and implemented in 2007/08. According to this strategy, Human Resources support the department's employees in various ways, including the provision of nutritional supplements and counselling services. Approximately 25 to 30% of employees benefit from these nutritional supplements and an uptake of 40% has been recorded for counselling and support services. However, funding to maintain this service remains a challenge.

The occupational health and safety of employees is also a high priority for the department. A policy was developed and occupational health and safety standards were set. Regular audits and assessments are conducted as a matter of compliance and to create a safe and healthy environment. A reference group was identified for the implementation of the policy and the members of this group were capacitated through training. An HIV/AIDS reference group was also launched and is currently aligning the HIV/AIDS policy with the new national strategic plan.

Human Resources encourage staff of the department to lead healthy lifestyles by providing healthy recreational activities in which they can participate. This includes the interdepartmental leagues for soccer, netball and volleyball and the choir.

The department aims to maintain healthy relations with its staff and unions. During 2007/08, only eight grievances were lodged and there were only three cases of misconduct related to issues of employee/ employer relations.

## Legal Services

The Appeals Unit finalised 34 cases in 2007/08. The chief directorate is mandated

to facilitate requests related to the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) (Act 2 of 2000) and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Act in the department (such as reviewing the PAIA manual in terms of Section 14 of the Act). In order to promote awareness of PAIA requirements, a workshop was held with officials in the department.

Legal Services excelled in supporting the reform of the legal framework in which the department operates. The Integrated Coastal Management Bill was introduced in Parliament, giving effect to the White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development in South Africa.

Other Bills that were introduced to Parliament in 2007/08 include the Waste Management Bill, the National Environment Laws Amendment Bill and the National Environmental Management Amendment Bill. During 2007/08, the directorate also drafted a comprehensive amendment to the National Environmental Management Act and other specific environmental management acts.

The declaration of the Highveld Priority Area took place in terms of Section 18(1) of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, together with the final publication of the national framework. Proposed guidelines were developed to determine bioregions and prepare bioregional plans, as well as national norms and standards for the development of a biodiversity management plan for species in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act. These were published for comment. The draft Alien and Invasive Species Regulations and the draft lists of exempted alien species, prohibited alien species and invasive species for which a permit is required under certain circumstances, were also published for comment. The Environmental Conservation Act Regulations for the Prohibition of the Use, Manufacture, Import and Export of Asbestos-containing Materials was finalised and published. The Amendment Regulations under the Marine Living Resources Act relating to the West Coast rock lobster recreational season and the squid closed season were published, as well as the Regulations for the Protection of Wild Abalone.

Other activities in support of the legal function for 2007/08 included the following:

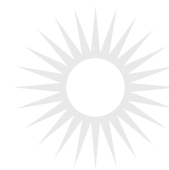
- ‡ Publication of the National Norms and Standards for the Sustainable Management of Elephant Populations in South Africa
- ‡ Publication of the Policy for the Management of Seals, Seabirds and Shorebirds for general information
- ‡ Publication of the draft policy and forms concerning the allocation and management of long-term fishing rights in the large pelagic sector in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act for comment
- ‡ Amendment of the critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and protected species lists in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
- ‡ Drafting of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations and Amendment Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
- ‡ Publication of the Policy on the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act for comment
- ‡ Proclamation of the fossil sites of South Africa (Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai, Taung and Makapan) as world heritage sites in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act





- ‡ Publication of the Waste Tyre Regulations for comment
- ‡ Publication of the Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit-sharing Regulations
- ‡ Policy for the Development of a Sustainable Marine Aquaculture Sector in South Africa
- ‡ Internal finalisation of an Australian fisheries cooperation agreement for presentation to the Australian Government for comment
- ‡ Successful recovery of levies owed to the Marine Living Resources Fund.

his decision was flawed. The court found no evidence to support these allegations. It found that the scientific data had not been manipulated and that the Minister's decision had been properly taken. The court found in favour of the Minister and dismissed the application with costs.



In the matter between Oscar Delmore Fisher and the South African Abalone Industry Association against the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Minister implemented the closure of the wild abalone fishery as a result of an emergency that threatened the abalone resource with commercial extinction. Oscar Delmore Fisher and the South African Abalone Industry Association challenged the Minister's decision in the Cape High Court. The applicant contended, inter alia, that the Minister had acted irrationally, that the scientific studies on which he had relied had been manipulated and ultimately that

### The Integrated Coastal

Management Bill was introduced

in Parliament giving effect to

the White Paper for Sustainable

Coastal Development.





## Communications

The Chief Directorate: Communications provided a cost-effective information management service to the department and media and liaison support to the Minister. It coordinated capacity-building programmes for environmental management and tourism and promotes awareness and literacy through environmental education and capacity-building programmes, while coordinating communication in the Ministry and the department.

The department commenced with a project to review its websites and associated applications with the aim of consolidating and integrating all of the department's websites in the design of a new web portal by 2009. The migration of the department's websites and associated applications to the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) took place in 2007/08. SITA has commenced with a systems audit of all the department's websites and associated applications as the next phase of the project.

Joint communications programmes with the provinces and government agencies were implemented on identified activities and events such as National Environment Week, Marine Week, Tourism Month, the Tourism Indaba, Africando, the Green Scorpions Enforcement Plan and communication on CITES.

Stakeholder relations were built and managed and progress was made in improving the profile of the department by way of media interventions.

Corporate identity and branding guidelines, together with a corporate identity manual, were completed with the objective to communicate the department's corporate identity and

## Communication programmes promote awareness of the environment







brand strategy. This strategy is expected to be rolled out in 2008/09. The development of a manual formed part of this process. An internal communications strategy was also implemented in 2007/08. A monthly staff newsletter, staff imbizo's, and the department's intranet improved internal communication with staff.

## Challenges

The challenges faced by the Office of the COO and Corporate Affairs in 2007/08 were varied and were related to the nature of the diverse functions involved in providing administrative support to the various branches in the organisation.

Challenges experienced by the Directorate: Human Resource Management related primarily to the personnel budget, which posed a serious challenge in terms of recruitment and selection activities and the reduction of the vacancy rate. As far as training and development were concerned, the main challenges involved cooperation from stakeholders like provinces and municipalities, as well as the availability of time and resources.

A major challenge for the Directorate: Litigation and Law Reform lies in the fact that it is often only consulted in the final stages of a matter, and experiences tight time frames in which to respond. To resolve this issue, protocol documents and guidelines were developed, which indicate the desired turnaround times for legal matters to be addressed satisfactorily. Other challenges related to document control mechanisms not being in place and delays caused by external processes.

## Targets

Within the sphere of human resources, the department aims to reduce the vacancy rate even further, revise service benefit policies, review job descriptions in terms of public service regulations, approve the organisational structure and finalise the job evaluation policy. Other targets for 2008/09 include the development of the Sector Skills Plan for the environment and the development of training and learnership programmes.

During 2008/09 the Chief Directorate: Legal Services Management plans to expand the Appeals Unit. It aims to hold four legal education sessions each year and to assist the department in reviewing certain departmental policies (such as the policy on losses and theft of state property), bearing in mind the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Treasury Regulations. It also hopes to provide a better contract management system in the department in 2008/09 and to pass the four Bills before Parliament and introduce the draft National Environmental Laws Amendment Bill, 2008.

