



Departmental vision & mission

Our vision is a prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with its natural resources

Mission

Our mission is to lead sustainable development of our environment and tourism for a better life for all by:

- creating conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development;
- promoting the sustainable development and conservation of our natural resources;
- protecting and improving the quality and safety of the environment;
- promoting a global sustainable development agenda; and
- transforming the department, statutory bodies and economic sector for which we are responsible.

Values

- People-centred
- Integrity
- Performance
- Sustainability

Overview

DEAT in a nutshell

The department's mandated responsibilities are performed within the framework of the following six integrated branches:

- **Administration and Support** provides strategic leadership, corporate services, cooperative governance and information management.
- **Environmental Quality and Protection** 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.
- **Marine and Coastal Management** 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.
- **Tourism** creates conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development for the benefit of all South Africans.
- **Biodiversity and Conservation** promotes the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources to improve economic growth and poverty alleviation.
- **International Relations** provides planning, coordination and business management services, manages the implementation of poverty alleviation projects, and manages the department's international cooperation obligations and commitments.

The work of the department is also supported by the following public entities:

- South African Tourism
- South African National Biodiversity Institute
- South African National Parks
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- South African Weather Service

This annual review reflects the work of the department's branches and public entities in the 2008/09 financial year.



Building wealth through tourism development

Tourism has been identified as one of the country's key economic sectors with excellent potential for growth. It has managed to create jobs, while increasing its contribution to GDP. The global competitiveness of the tourism industry is a critical success factor in growing the industry and is addressed by developing skills, expanding the product range and promoting a culture of service excellence.

The Tourism Branch contributes to tourism development, while promoting the tourism industry through functions such as tourism research, business development, sector regulation, international tourism relations, human resources capacity-building and national tourism support services. The activities of this branch are aimed at achieving the medium-term strategic objective of creating conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development. During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- Ensuring the competitiveness of the tourism sector by developing human resources to improve the skills of the sector and improving the quality of tourism products and services
- Improving intergovernmental cooperation and coordination by providing support to provincial and local government
- Sustainably growing the tourism sector through product development and tourism enterprise development
- Transforming the tourism sector through compliance with the Tourism BEE Charter
- Ensuring efficient information and knowledge management through tourism research

Tourism enterprise development

By the end of 2008, the Tourism Enterprise Programme (TEP) had assisted 745 tourism enterprises. The value of these transactions was R316 120 247. The small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) that have been assisted employ 2 571 people, of which 2 035 are historically disadvantaged individuals. Approximately 723 tourism businesses were also supported to access tenders and secure business. Its quarterly and annual reports indicate that the TEP met all its targets and even exceeded some. A draft document and implementation plan to support 20 enterprises in the second economy were completed and will be implemented in the next year.

Product development

In order to remain competitive in the global tourism arena, especially with the worldwide economic downturn, South Africa consistently improved its existing tourism products and developed new ones. The Tourism Branch is in the process of implementing the recommendations of the second phase of the Global Competitiveness Project. A draft report was circulated to all provinces for comment and for them to identify their priority activities. Site visits were conducted in various provinces. Furthermore, a brochure to promote investment in tourism products is in the process of being finalised. At a meeting with the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area, proposals were made to include the area's holiday route signage project as part of the Global Competitiveness Project.

Marketing and awareness

Mechanisms to market and promote the South African tourism sector included the celebration of Tourism Month in November with a theme that correlated with that of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO): *Tourism*

responding to climate change. The World Tourism Day celebrations were held at Crooke's Lake in Mafikeng, North West, and attracted 500 guests. The annual National Tourism Conference, held in Ekurhuleni on the East Rand in November 2008, was attended by more than 600 delegates and 23 journalists. The department also developed and distributed an industry-specific quarterly newsletter, *Tourism at a Glance*.

Transformation

The department's Tourism Enterprise Programme, which was established in 2004 to empower SMMEs, developed into an independent Tourism Enterprise Partnership that aims to facilitate the growth and development of SMME tourism businesses in South Africa so that they can become internationally competitive.

The Tourism Charter, which was launched in 2005, has been institutionalised and operates as the Tourism Empowerment Council of South Africa (TECSA). A process has been initiated to gazette the Tourism Charter as Codes of Good Practice, so that it would be legally binding on all organs of state. The targets of the TECSA are currently being aligned with those of the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Charter, which was gazetted as a sector code, coupled with the BEE Scorecard.

Information management

An Integrated National Tourism Knowledge Database was developed by Grant Thornton. Research on the status of tourism has been done and a report has been completed. The research information will be loaded on a research library. The technical part of the library will be available at the end of April 2009.

The department held two UNWTO capacity-building workshops on tourism statistics and the Tourism Satellite

Account (TSA) in June 2008 and February 2009. In order to provide the first and second economy with useful information, an annual tourism trend report has been developed. It will be finalised and published by the end of May 2009. This report contains information such as tourism statistics and spend, length of stay, geographic spread of tourists, as well as trends for competitor's markets.

Work on the TSA with Statistics South Africa and other key organisations continued, and eight TSA tables have been completed. The draft Tourism Satellite Account will be launched at Indaba 2009.

The grading of accommodation establishments and the credibility of the grading system was reviewed by KPMG, and the findings presented to the MIPTECH and MINMEC forums. The Tourism Grading Council of South Africa (TGCSA) is developing an implementation plan to address the recommendations of the review.

Furthermore, a process to facilitate the mapping of graded establishments for placement on the 2010 information system has been completed. The second phase of this project has been approved. This will involve the mapping of all products and services listed on SA Tourism's product database.

Tourism and the environment

There is an increasing realisation that all human activities impact on the environment. The country's power crisis in 2008 prompted all citizens to contribute to saving electricity. The tourism sector committed itself to a 20% reduction in electricity consumption. The branch is in the process of developing information material on the importance of energy efficiency in partnership with the Department of Minerals and Energy, Eskom and the Tourism Business Council of South Africa. A steering committee has been established to develop a Framework for Responsible Grading. Draft National Minimum Standards for Responsible Tourism and a proposed accreditation process for tourism certification agencies are available.

Tourism human resources development

The Tourism Human Resources Development Strategy was finalised and launched at the National Tourism Career Expo in October 2008. This strategy aims to encourage industry players to compete on the basis of excellence in human resources. Road shows were held in provinces to communicate the strategy to the relevant stakeholders.

As part of the skills development programme and in partnership with the Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Education and Training Authority (THETA), five programmes were identified to address the following critical and scarce skills: customer care, foreign languages, management development, adult basic education and training (ABET) and computer literacy training. Training programmes in customer care, management development, ABET and computer literacy were implemented, but foreign language training could not be implemented due to financial constraints.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) and a service level agreement were signed with THETA for the training of 4 000 tourism ambassadors. Some 92 volunteers were trained for the Confederations Cup draw and 4 500 volunteers were interviewed for the Confederations Cup. Furthermore, 47 facilitators were trained on *Know Your City Know Your Country* modules, while 1 155 volunteers were trained in Johannesburg in *Know Your City Know Your Country*. An MoU was also signed with Dora Tamana cooperatives to manage a six-month project for which the key deliverables are training interventions that focus on life skills, customer care, food preparation and tour guiding.

International partnerships have also been established for skills development. From the set target of 100, 134 local and international training opportunities were created for officials and industry personnel. Six middle managers underwent project management training in the Netherlands and one DEAT official attended training in Japan. An official from the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority attended a course on island and coastal tourism in Malaysia, and two managers from the Free State were trained in sustainable tourism management in Belgium. Twenty tourism

sector employees were trained on policy development and management.

A draft agreement for SMME training in the Spanish language has been negotiated between the Spanish government and the Tourism Enterprise Partnership. The areas of development have been agreed upon and an MoU has been signed with the Spanish government. A group of 1 203 provincial tourism officials – exceeding the target of 1 000 – travelled to Spain for a month-long experiential learning course on the Spanish language.

As part of a drive to increase awareness of career options in the tourism sector, a survey on tourism was conducted in schools to gain a better understanding of what should be done to encourage more school-leavers to study and work in the sector. A report on the survey has been drafted. The annual National Tourism Career Expo in October 2008 was attended by 17 000 people, and all workshops at the event were fully booked.

Some 624 graduates have entered the National Skills Fund Top-Up Programme and 60% of them have already found employment. Furthermore, 439 have entered the THETA Graduate Development Programme.

The Tourism Service Excellence Strategy was launched at the annual National Tourism Conference in November 2008, and an implementation plan is underway. The strategy focuses on the upskilling of those involved in service delivery, including behaviour and attitude alignment at all service touch points, as well as appropriate training programmes and other interventions to achieve sustained changes in behaviour and attitude. The strategy also focuses on public awareness initiatives related to service excellence, which will aim to educate consumers on what world-class standards entail, and to motivate

The V&A Waterfront in Cape Town attracts shoppers from all over the world.



South Africa to be a hospitable and welcoming nation. Delegates and representatives of various departments, associations and organisations signed a Tourism Service Excellence Pledge, whereby they committed themselves to ensuring the provision of quality service at all times.

With regard to improving the skills of tourist guides from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, 193 guides had been upskilled by the end of the financial year, exceeding the target of 145.

Tourism creates conditions for sustainable tourism growth and development for the benefit of all South Africans.

Two Tourism Leadership Dialogue sessions were held in 2008/09. The first took place in Mafikeng on 25 September 2008 and focused on positioning tourism in the media, while the second was held at The Grace in Rosebank on 26 March 2009 and focused on 2010 and the impact on tourism. Both sessions were attended by participants from the public and private sector.

Tourism transport

Transport is a major part of tourism. In order to increase tourism to South Africa, access to the country should be continuously improved. In the financial year, a schedule was developed for bilateral air services negotiations, which include portfolio markets. Fourteen bilateral services negotiating mandates were approved. Three bilateral air services agreements were concluded with Cameroon, Nigeria and Malaysia, and negotiations were held with Korea, Gambia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. A bilateral air services agreement, granting South Africa more frequent flights, was also signed with Brazil in August 2008.

The Tourism Branch cooperated with the Department of Transport to develop the Tourism Land Transport Strategy. The draft Land Transport Bill, which includes tourism, will be tabled in Parliament in 2009/10. The department is a member of the Route Numbering and Road Traffic Signs Subcommittee, which started a process of rationalising and reviewing tourism symbols to make them more user-friendly.

Tourism safety and security

Following on the launch of the National Tourism Safety and Awareness Strategy in 2007, provinces were assisted in finalising their own strategies, and six provinces have adopted the strategy. Tourism safety tips and a handbook for tourism practitioners were distributed in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, the Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape. An agreement was reached with the South African Police Service to collaborate on the implementation of the Tourism Monitor Project. Liaison also took place with the Department of Social Development to obtain its support in developing a national framework for tourist victim support.

International tourism relations

The department has maintained its active participation in the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). The UNWTO Speaker was hosted in South Africa during the annual National Tourism Conference. The department participates in various bilateral forums and coordinated a grading workshop in Lilongwe and Blantyre, Malawi, in October 2008. It also coordinated the signing of a tourism agreement between South Africa and Saudi Arabia and finalised the return of the SA Tourism attaché from China.

Furthermore, the department is involved in the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA), and held a

planning meeting in preparation for the Tourism Ministers' Meeting in February 2009. It also hosted two meetings in preparation for the tourism promotional and investment workshops in the Gulf region in February 2009.

In an attempt to make inroads into the new Chinese leisure market, interviews were conducted with tour operators in China. The branch participated in the 10th anniversary celebrations of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa. It also participated in the Ekhaya Project, which was aimed at showcasing South Africa's readiness for 2010 at the Beijing Olympics.

Tourism 2010 Plan

The department continued with the implementation of the 2010 Tourism Organising Plan to maximise the tourism opportunities brought about by the 2010 World Cup. The first Tourism 2010 Cluster meeting was held in May 2008. The branch participates in various

forums and committees related to the event. It participated in the National Communication Partnership Conference in July 2008. The branch held a meeting with the TGCSA on issues relating to the 2010 accommodation sign-ups, and participated in a geographical information system (GIS) mapping meeting with service providers on establishments graded for 2010.

More than 90% of graded establishments have been geo-coded and mapped. The department participated in a special national joint meeting dealing with 2010 safety issues. It also participated in the Sports and Recreation South Africa Economic Cluster, 2010 Business Opportunity Workshop and 2010 Gauteng Public Passenger Transport.

A social tourism project is being planned in conjunction with the North West Parks and Tourism Board. A Tourism 2010 Stakeholder Portal was launched and stakeholders were trained to use the portal.



The Tourism 2010 Plan is well on track.



Improving quality of life

A safe and healthy environment is key to the very survival of life on this planet. Environmental sustainability can only be achieved if pollution and waste are managed and prevented, if the environmental impact of development is assessed and mitigated, if the global issues of air quality and climate change are addressed, and if compliance with environmental legislation is monitored and evaluated.

The department's Environmental Quality and Protection branch contributes to upholding the constitutional mandate by addressing the issues of waste management, environmental pollution, air quality, climate change, environmental impact management and environmental law enforcement. The activities of this branch are aimed at achieving the medium-term strategic objective of protecting and improving the quality and safety of the environment. During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- o Preventing and managing potentially negative impacts on the environment by implementing the environmental impact management provisions of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations
- o Ensuring compliance with environmental legislation by monitoring and reporting on compliance with the conditions of selected environmental authorisations
- o Preventing and reducing pollution and waste, and improving air and atmospheric quality by developing enabling frameworks for pollution and waste management, implementing an air quality management system and initiating a national climate change policy process

Pollution and waste management

The National Environmental Management: Waste Bill, which was tabled in Parliament in June 2007, was voted in by the Portfolio Committee during the financial year. The bill was subsequently processed through Parliament and assented to by the President on 10 March 2009. It is now the National Environmental Management: Waste Act of 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008) and will come into effect on 1 July 2009.

The act, with its focus on the waste hierarchy, will drastically but positively change the way waste management is dealt with in this country. South Africa will move away from being a 'throw-away' society that focuses on end-of-pipe waste management solutions to one that is much more responsible and cognisant of the need to minimise waste and to dispose of it as a last resort.

The legislation provides for the drawing up of a National Waste Management Strategy within two years of promulgation. As implementation of the legislation will not happen overnight, the next financial year will focus on the development of the National Waste Management Strategy, which will be the master plan to guide the implementation of the act. In anticipation of the act, 300 municipal officials, as well as officials from provincial departments of environment affairs, have been trained on waste management, as well as permitting and the civil design aspects of landfill sites.

During the financial year, 84 permit decisions were issued and 353 permit-related queries were attended to. Of these, 80% were dealt with within 14 days. A service provider was appointed to assist with the processing of the applications that would come out of the 581 unpermitted waste disposal sites. A database of the 581 sites was created, and maps generated and placed on the

South African Waste Information System (SAWIC) website. In terms of the waste service provision backlogs identified at municipal level, a service provider has been appointed to assist with the development of a policy on free basic refuse removal, a waste sector plan and national domestic waste collection standards.

The implementation of the Asbestos Regulations, which were promulgated in 2007/08 to prohibit the use, manufacture, import and export of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, has progressed well and plans to phase out asbestos are processed as they are received.

The Waste Tyre Regulations, which regulate the management of waste tyres, were approved on 1 April 2008. An implementation plan has been drafted and a database of tyre producers generated. A consultation process has been initiated for the Waste Information System Regulations, as well as the Health Care Risk Waste Regulations. These regulations are expected to be finalised during the next year.

Good progress has been made with the African Stockpiles Project, a project to dispose of obsolete pesticide stocks that have been stockpiled in Africa. Approval is in place to dispose of the general waste associated with these stocks and draft agreements were developed for the final disposal of the hazardous component of these stocks. The disposal process will be finalised during the next year. Industry has been successfully engaged to take ownership of the management of obsolete pesticides and an industry waste management plan for pesticides should be forthcoming during the following year.

The national policy on the thermal treatment of hazardous and general waste has been finalised and will be implemented in the following year.

Environmental impact management

One of the core functions of the Chief Directorate: Environmental Impact Management is to process environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and regulate the related processes. The department exceeded the target it had set for itself by processing 90% of national EIAs according to standard procedures within the stipulated time frames throughout the year. The requirement for EIA appeals was to provide 95% of technical input within the stipulated time frames for feedback on appeals. This requirement was met and input was given timeously on the EIA appeals for the Dube Trade Port, the Zeus transmission powerline and the Bravo (Kusile) power station in Gauteng and Mpumalanga, as well as the Chapman's Peak Drive tolling infrastructure.

The legislative and regulatory aspects of environmental management and EIAs received considerable attention in 2008/09. The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Amendment Bill was enacted on 9 January 2009, following its second submission to the National Assembly and briefing of the Select Committee and National Council of Provinces (NCOP).

The National Environmental Management Amendment Act (Act No 62 of 2008) improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the environmental impact management (EIM) system. It makes improved provision for cooperative governance and makes provision for environmental management instruments other than EIAs, including exclusions based on norms and standards, as well as the adoption of existing norms and standards and the development of new ones. It provides for the integration and alignment of regulatory processes, while also strengthening the use of spatial environmental management instruments in EIM. The act further

empowers the Minister of Minerals and Energy to implement environmental matters in terms of NEMA in so far as it relates to prospecting, mining, exploration or related activities, and aligns the environmental requirements in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) with NEMA.

Environmental Quality and Protection 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.

Amendments have also been made to the EIA Regulations, which were published in the Government Gazette, inviting comments from stakeholders and interested parties. Comments were captured from approximately 85 institutions. The regulations were republished in June 2008 after editing and adding a draft schedule on sensitive areas. Following the enactment of the NEMA Amendment Act in January 2009, the EIA Regulations needed to be amended to incorporate mining activities. This resulted in them being published again in February 2009.

The enforcement of the NEMA Amendment Act will be strengthened through the implementation of the findings of the Review of Efficiency and Effectiveness (REE). The REE is an independent study that was commissioned to review the efficiency and effectiveness of EIAs in South Africa in an effort to improve the department's EIM strategy. It was completed in July 2008 and comments and contributions have been invited from interested parties. These will be incorporated into the final report.

The efficiency and effectiveness of EIM in South Africa will also be improved through the implementation of the National Environmental Authorisations System (NEAS). This is a web-based system that is being developed to track progress on all EIA applications in the country. Provincial and national users have been trained in the use of the system and plans have been made to deploy additional staff to provincial offices with capacity constraints to assist in capturing the backlog of applications. It is anticipated that all EIA applications will have been captured on the system by July 2009.

The use of EIA as a tool to regulate developments with a potentially harmful impact on the environment was initiated in 1997. To celebrate ten years of EIA in South Africa, the department hosted the Ten Years of Environmental Impact Assessment Conference in Stellenbosch in November 2008. The conference provided a retrospective view of EIA as a regulating tool for EIM in South Africa and showcased the outcomes of the REE. It also provided a platform for discussions on matters related to EIA and addressed the overall future of EIM.

EIA was also identified as a tool to address the national energy crisis. The department, in cooperation with the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Eskom, drafted guidelines on the energy crisis response related to strategically important infrastructure developments. The guidelines were completed in November 2008 and comments will be invited from interested and affected parties. The establishment of a panel of external/expert reviewers for EIAs and appeals on Nuclear 1 power stations was approved.

The technical capacity and knowledge of EIA administrators is of utmost importance for the efficient processing of EIAs. The chief directorate aimed to build the capacity of at least 150 officials in EIA administration by October 2008. This target was exceeded with 352 officials having received accredited EIA training. In addition, informal training was provided to 150 provincial officials in matters related to EIA reviews, decision-making and capacity-building.

Strategic spatial environmental management is facilitated through

Climate change has an enormous effect on the environment.





Smoke from coal fires is the primary source of pollution in rural areas.

the development and implementation of tools such as environmental management frameworks (EMFs). These enable the prompt processing of applications and may facilitate possible exclusions as they provide environmental decision-making information on potential development areas. Several EMFs were developed and initiated in 2008/09, including the Coega Integrated Development Zone (IDZ), the Olifants River Catchment Area and the Garden Route. Terms of reference have been completed for Coega exclusion and inclusion, a service provider has been appointed for the Olifants EMF and a second round of public participation has been completed for the Garden Route EMF. A new EMF was initiated in Wakkerstroom, and the EMFs for the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga were finalised. A process has also been initiated to identify sensitive areas, which will be linked to EMFs. These will be mapped for the purpose of determining possible inclusions and exclusions. The department is also facilitating the co-regulation of offroad activities, together with vehicle owners and users, to minimise the environmental impacts of their activities.

An important function of the chief directorate is to monitor and report on compliance with conditions of selected environmental authorisations. This is done, among others, by participating in environmental monitoring committees (EMCs) or authority committees (ACs), reviewing audit and monitoring reports, and monitoring environmental authorisations for compliance. In the financial year, the chief directorate participated in four EMCs or ACs: those for the De Hoop Dam, the Coega IDZ, the N2 Tsitsikamma and for Saldanha Phase B. The audit reports of four projects were reviewed and compliance notices were issued for repeat contraventions. The environmental authorisations of 12 projects were monitored and compliance notices were issued for Dube Trade Port and the N1 in Limpopo.

The chief directorate is also responsible for the implementation of the EIM components of protocols and treaties related to Antarctica and the Prince Edward Islands. It is a member of the Prince Edward Islands Management Committee and reviews all EIA applications for listed activities under NEMA on these islands. It has also

reviewed the environmental management plan (EMP) for the Prince Edward Islands. Work related to Antarctica included both the review of the initial environmental evaluation and the comprehensive environmental evaluation for the 2008/09 Antarctic relief voyage. Scientific research and other international environmental activities in Antarctica were also evaluated. The chief directorate participated in the international intersessional group under the Council for Environmental Protection (a subcommittee of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting) to evaluate environmental management plans for all activities on Antarctica.

Air quality and climate change

Air quality remains an important and challenging environmental issue in South Africa, especially as it influences the health and welfare of the population. Many pollutant concentrations exceed recognised thresholds, and have reached unacceptable levels in a number of suburban areas.

Smoke from coal fires in residential settlements is the primary source of pollution in suburban areas, particularly in dense, low-income communities. This problem escalates in the winter months. For this reason, the department launched the Winter Cleaner Fires Campaign in July 2008 in collaboration with the Department of Minerals and Energy and the Central Energy Fund, among others. The first campaign was conducted in the Vaal Triangle Air-shed Priority Area, which has been identified as the country's first priority area under the new Air Quality Act.

The campaign is aimed at promoting the top-down *Basa Njengo Magogo* fire-making methodology in national priority areas. This methodology has a proven track record of reducing smoke from coal-burning fires by up to 80%, and is being promoted by various municipalities and industry as a means of reducing

pollution in households that burn fossil fuels for space heating and cooking. The campaign will be repeated in the winter of 2009.

The 2007 National Framework for Air Quality Management in South Africa was updated and amended. It has been approved by the Minister, and will inform the new Air Quality Act, which will be brought into full effect on 11 September 2009. This final amendment of the national framework will include new emerging work on climate change monitoring and modelling.

The air quality management plan for the Vaal Triangle Air-shed Priority Area was finalised and published for public comment. The chief directorate also drafted second-generation ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants, which were published for public comment in March 2009. The Model Air Quality Management By-laws were completed.

The South African Air Quality Information System (SAAQIS) is an essential resource in improving the country's air quality. The Chief Directorate: Air Quality Management and Climate Change aims to set up 18 ambient air quality monitoring stations that will provide information to the SAAQIS. In March 2009, the SAAQIS ambient air quality information modules were fully operational and embedded in the South African Weather Service (SAWS), and 10 stations were fully operational. The Vaal Triangle and Highveld Air-shed ambient air quality monitoring networks were installed, and are fully operational. The terms of reference for Phase 2 of the SAAQIS Emission Inventory Project are in the first draft stage.

A function that should not be overlooked is the department's support to provincial and local government. Key municipalities were assisted in the compilation of their first-generation air quality management plans and by-laws. To provide further assistance, the Air Quality Management

Planning Manual was launched at the 2008 Annual Air Quality Governance Lekgotla, an event at which all government air quality officers convene to discuss the effective implementation of the Air Quality Act. Furthermore, the department is working with business and industry sectors to update the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. The first draft of the third national GHG inventory (base year 2000) was presented at the Climate Change Summit in 2009.

Climate change is one of the most serious and urgent sustainable development issues to face not only South Africa, but the global community. Because South Africa ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its associated Kyoto Protocol, much of the department's work was driven by responding to the obligations of this convention. In addition to this, the department undertook the Climate Change Long-term Mitigation Scenario (LTMS) process. This is a research and scenario-planning process to ensure that the country has a sound evidence base on which to develop its climate change response policy and international negotiation positions. The LTMS process was concluded and the LTMS, together with a set of national policy direction themes, was approved by Cabinet in July 2008. A policy process has been initiated.

During March 2009, the department hosted a successful National Climate Change Summit in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology. The summit initiated a participatory national climate change policy development process. Its purpose was to develop a common understanding of the most recent climate change research and other South African climate change response initiatives and interventions among all key climate change response stakeholders, and to provide a platform to develop a framework for a national climate change response policy.

Regulatory services and enforcement

The ongoing monitoring and enforcement of national environmental legislation continues to be a priority as the emphasis slowly shifts from legislative and policy development towards implementation. The Chief Directorate: Regulatory Services undertakes both operational compliance and enforcement activities, as well as capacity-building initiatives for the Environmental Management Inspectorate.

The year 2008 marked the first year in which the basic training for environmental management inspectors (EMIs) was successfully provided by three tertiary education institutions (the University of South Africa, the University of Pretoria and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology) in terms of a three-year agreement with the department. Over 140 officials received accredited training at these three institutions during this period. In addition, a specialised EMI course was offered to 53 designated EMIs on interviewing skills and techniques in Cape Town and Durban in July 2009. The ongoing input of the United Kingdom Environment Agency has ensured that the capacity-building initiatives have been in line with international best practice.

Besides the training of EMIs, the department has been forging close relationships with key role-players in the criminal justice system. The partnership with the Justice College aims at raising the awareness of magistrates and prosecutors on the nature, scope and impacts of environmental crime, and resulted in three magistrates' and two prosecutors' workshops across the country. A standard operating procedure (SOP) was also signed between the South African Police Service and the inspectorate and will guide the investigation of environmental crimes. Time frames for the implementation of

this SOP will take place by agreement between these two law enforcement authorities.

On the operational front, the chief directorate continued to undertake strategic compliance inspections into prioritised industrial sectors: the ferroalloy sector (four), the production component of the cement sector (twelve), the petrochemical sector (three), as well as the paper and pulp sector (two). All major facilities in the petrochemical, refinery and cement sectors have now been subjected to environmental compliance inspections.

Approximately 110 cases are being investigated by the national department for criminal or administrative enforcement, including investigations into the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) fuel spill of 2006, and the illegal storage and dumping of medical waste by several companies. Administrative enforcement resulted in the shut-down of three facilities that were operating without the requisite authorisations or in contravention with the conditions of their permits. This included a metal foundry in Roodepoort, Johannesburg, which was causing serious adverse health conditions in the surrounding community through the release of air emissions. Criminal enforcement has led to the handing over of seven criminal dockets since the beginning of 2008, with a total of 21 finalised criminal dockets currently with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for prosecution.

An overall, national picture of compliance and enforcement activities was released through the publication of the 2007/08 Annual Compliance and Enforcement Report. This document was compiled through statistics provided by all environmental compliance and enforcement institutions. This is only the second year that such statistics are being compiled on a national basis.

Furthermore, the department received 206 complaints from the environmental crime and incident hotline, of which 77 were attended to and closed and 129 are still outstanding. A worrying trend is the increase in the number of reported non-compliances by organs of state and parastatals.

In February, 2009, the department hosted the third Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Lekgotla, in which over 200 representatives from international, national, provincial and local environmental authorities participated. Awards of excellence were presented to environmental inspectors, investigators and prosecutors who had performed exceptionally in 2008.

The links in the regulatory cycle were fortified by the inclusion of significant compliance and enforcement provisions in two national amendment bills. These amendments were developed through a consultation process with EMIs, prosecutors and magistrates and show the importance of feedback from the implementers of the law to policy- and law-makers.





Living in harmony with nature

A healthy ecosystem and the responsible use of natural resources form the foundation of sustainable livelihood systems. Therefore, there is a need for policies, strategies and legislation that will ensure that the natural environment and its resources are preserved for current and future generations.

Through its Biodiversity and Conservation Branch, the department aims to promote the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resources in a manner that will contribute to economic growth and alleviate poverty. The functions of this branch relate to the conservation of biodiversity and heritage resources (including the management and development of world heritage sites, transfrontier conservation areas and protected areas). During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- Ensuring the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources by establishing systems to standardise the trade and utilisation of threatened, protected or commercial species
- Conserving and mitigating threats to biodiversity by developing measures to manage threats to biodiversity, and expanding the conservation estate to ensure ecosystem representivity and viability
- Building a sound scientific base for the effective management of natural resources to support conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation

In terms of its biodiversity, South Africa ranks third in the world (behind Brazil and Indonesia). Its incredibly rich biodiversity has earned it the status of being a 'mega-diverse' country. It is one of only 17 countries that collectively contain two thirds of the world's biodiversity.

These resources support the livelihood of South Africans through the provision of ecosystem services and contribute significantly to the country's economy. However, as is the case throughout the world, our biodiversity is increasingly being threatened by human activity, and its vulnerable components should be protected. In addition to developing legislation related to biodiversity conservation, the department also develops tools for their implementation, such as regulations, policies, and norms and standards.

The branch is divided into two areas of responsibility: biodiversity management and transfrontier conservation and protected areas.

Biodiversity Management has to ensure the effective implementation of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) (Act No 10 of 2004), as well as key conventions, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) 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. A guideline document has been developed to provide stakeholders with more information pertaining to implementation, as well as compliance monitoring.

The National Scientific Authority and the Elephant Research Steering Committee were established and held their first meetings. South Africa sold ivory, which generated an income for elephant conservation and community conservation and development programmes in or adjacent to the elephant range.

Following the finalisation of the Regulations on Bioprospecting, Access and Benefit-sharing, a roll-out plan was developed together with the provinces, which is providing the framework for implementing the regulations. An expert group is being constituted to provide technical support in the evaluation of submitted permit applications. A bioprospecting, access and benefit-sharing permit application database has been developed and the process to assess the existing bioprospecting agreements between organisations and communities was initiated. The department received applications and agreements for review and registration on the database at the close of the transition period, as provided for in the regulations.

Rapid population growth has led to urbanisation, the intensification of agricultural production and industrialisation to meet the demand for food, energy and other commodities. These processes have an impact on terrestrial ecosystems through degradation, altering processes or transformation, and ultimately threaten these ecosystems. A draft list of threatened terrestrial ecosystems was drawn up for publication.

Work on the Alien Invasive Species (AIS) Regulations continued and is currently in the final consultation stage. The regulations have been developed to address the management and control of alien and invasive species. Alien and invasive species spread out of control because they originate from other countries and therefore do not have natural enemies in South Africa, or are translocated between provinces without risk assessments being done prior to their introduction in the new environment. They may therefore pose a threat to biodiversity through hybridisation, for example. The lack of management and prevention, and continued encroachment by alien and invasive species pose a serious threat to indigenous species and biodiversity in general.

The Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) Framework for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was published and implemented in the review of new applications. Rapid developments in the field of biotechnology necessitated the initiation of an ERA framework for genetically modified fish. A database of GMO applications for tracking applications and monitoring environmental releases is in place.

The implementation of the National Biodiversity Framework (NBF), which identifies priority actions for biodiversity management for the next five years, commenced with the identification of initial monitoring indicators against which the implementation of the NBF can be measured. A further milestone was the finalisation and publication of a guideline regarding the determination of bioregions and the preparation and publication of bioregional plans, as well as Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management Plans for Species. Work was also done on the development of national 2010 biodiversity indicators for ecosystems and species, and the finalisation of a 2010 road map.

A stewardship programme was identified as a potential mechanism to promote the conservation and sustainable management of resources outside formal state-owned protected areas, in order to contribute to the national conservation targets as identified in conservation plans. This is achieved through cooperative frameworks between conservation authorities and landowners. A draft biodiversity stewardship guideline document was developed, providing a framework for use by conservation agencies.

The department is in the process of developing a biosafety research programme that will be implemented through a national centre of excellence for environmental biosafety. This is a collaborative programme involving the departments of Science and Technology and Agriculture, as well as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Plantbio, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) in the development of the Biosafety Research Strategy.

Following the finalisation of the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) toolkit in 2007, a regional CBNRM-related model was developed and circulated to members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The toolkits are being distributed to municipalities, parastatals and provincial and national government departments to enable effective implementation of CBNRM at local or community level. In addition, CBNRM training, capacity-building and awareness-raising campaigns were conducted in 10 municipalities, which included the Waterberg, Vhembe and Capricorn districts of Limpopo, while awareness-raising campaigns were conducted in the Greater Giyani Municipality, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the Mtubatuba Municipality.



Transfrontier conservation areas support cross-border conservation.

Transfrontier conservation areas

The development of transfrontier conservation areas, including South Africa, proceeded with major hurdles to maintain the momentum it had achieved during the financial year. The completion of the construction of an additional tourist access facility (one-stop border post) in the Kgalagadi Transfonteir Park bears testimony to the department's commitment to ensure the facilitation and promotion of cross-border tourism and SADC integration. The process of the establishment of the animal migratory corridors by dropping the fences and translocating game in various components of the TFCAs has progressed well, to the extent that a linkage has been established between the Pongola Nature Reserve in South Africa and the Maloti-Drakensburg Transfrontier Area in Lesotho. The planning process for the expansion of the TFCAs has also progressed well and an integrated conservation and development plan for the !Ai-!Ais/ Richtersveld Transfrontier Park have been completed.

The implementation of the TFCA Strategy for 2010 and beyond picked up speed in 2008. The strategy is designed to facilitate the positioning of

the transfrontier conservation areas as southern Africa's premier international tourism destination through the consolidation of marketing, infrastructure and investment.

A strategic brand for TFCAs, 'Boundless Southern Africa', was developed and launched at the Tourism Indaba in May 2008. The brand has established the basis for awareness-raising campaigns and the active marketing of TFCAs. One of the big tour operators, Thompsons Tours, has already started to sell packages that promote the brand.

On the tourism investment side of TFCAs, there has been limited awareness among the investor community about tourism investment opportunities. There has also been a lack of packaged investment opportunities from the TFCAs. To address this, 50 investment opportunities were identified and packaged in an investment catalogue across the seven TFCAs, and distributed. During the investor conference held in October 2008 to promote the opportunities to potential investors, a number of investors expressed an interest, and two investment deals, worth R70 million, have already been concluded between investors and project owners.

Protected areas

South Africa has a long-term strategy to expand the conservation areas under formal protection from 6% to the international standard of 10% of the total area of the country. The department has developed mechanisms for the establishment and expansion of protected areas. Emphasis has been placed on the expansion and consolidation of protected areas, as well as the settlement of land claims in protected areas. These efforts have resulted in the establishment of a new national park and the addition of large areas to existing national parks.

The conservation estate is further complemented by ex-situ conservation tools such as the establishment of botanical gardens. An additional botanical garden, the Hantam Botanical Garden, just outside Nieuwoudtville in the Northern Cape, was proclaimed during the year.

The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) was completed in 2008. The NPAES uses systematic conservation planning approaches to ensure the establishment of comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed terrestrial and marine areas that address ecosystem-wide needs and reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss. In the next five years, in order to move a quarter of the way to meeting the 20-year protected area targets, 2.7 million hectares or 2.2% needs to be added to the terrestrial protected area network (in order to achieve an additional 2.4% of land surface of South Africa under protection). This includes all protected areas, and not only national parks. A further 88 km needs to be added to the inshore marine protected area network, while 52 500 km² needs to be added to the offshore marine protected area network in South Africa's mainland exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In terms of the Prince Edward Islands' EEZ, which

forms part of South African territory, 23 300 km² needs to be added to the offshore marine protected area network. The plan will be complemented by provincial implementation plans to ensure action at local level.

Ongoing work is being done to expand national parks. Almost 30 000 hectares of additional land was declared for the expansion of the Addo Elephant, Agulhas, Mokala, Tankwa Karoo and Table Mountain national parks. The amalgamation process of the Qwa-Qwa Park and Golden Gate Highlands National Park progressed when the amalgamated park was declared in the Government Gazette on 21 November 2008.

The declaration of the Blyde River Canyon National Park was delayed in 2007/08 because of unresolved land claims. Following this, a draft settlement agreement was drawn up for the proposed park and presented at the Blyde River Community Land Claimants' Workshop that was convened by Mpumalanga's Regional Land Claims Commission in November 2008.

The Garden Route National Park, estimated to cover 121 000 hectares, was declared in March 2009. It consists of approximately 52 500 hectares of land that was previously state forest, newly declared as a national park, as well as 68 500 hectares of the Wilderness and Tsitsikamma national parks.

Legislative development during the financial year included the publication of the Draft Regulations for the Knysna-Wilderness Lakes Protected Environment in the Government Gazette in January 2009, the finalisation of the Draft Regulations for Nature Reserves, as well as supporting annexures, and the enactment of the Protected Areas Amendment Bill.

The department is in the process of developing a Protected Areas Perform-

ance Management System and most of the efforts were on researching best practices in this regard. Two systems are being considered for implementation in South Africa: the rapid assessment and prioritisation of protected areas management (RAPPAM) and the management effectiveness tracking tool (METT). The METT will be tested for national parks.

An application for the listing of Vhembe as a biosphere reserve was submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) in October 2008. Vhembe is situated in the northern part of Limpopo, and shares borders with Zimbabwe in the north, Mozambique, through the Kruger National Park in the east and Botswana in the northwest. Vhembe has a wide variety of wildlife and cultural attractions. It has ethnic links with the Great Zimbabwe civilisation, is home to a world heritage site (the Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape) and provides a gateway to two major national and cross-border game parks.

An immediate priority for the future is the development of the Performance Management Framework for Protected Areas to ensure management effectiveness. This will include the development of performance indicators and norms and standards to aid the evaluation of the effectiveness of protected area management and governance. This tool will be developed to supplement the national strategy for the expansion of protected areas. A capacity-building workshop for all conservation agencies and neighbouring countries was held in April 2009, with training conducted by international experts. This was followed by a fact-finding mission to Australia to look at international best practice in the management of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

World heritage sites

The South African Tentative List of Potential World Heritage Sites was

reviewed by the South African World Heritage Convention Committee in February 2009. Among others, the new additions to the tentative list included Makhonjwa/Barberton Mountain Land and the Liberation Heritage Route.

Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape and the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas were proclaimed by the Minister in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act (Act No 49 of 1999) to increase the number of proclaimed sites on the Unesco World Heritage List, located in South Africa to seven.

Furthermore, the Minister established management authorities for uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape and the Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, as well as for the two extensions of the Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (Taung Skull Fossil Site and Makapan Valley).



Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape



Nurturing our marine and coastal environment

South Africa's coastline is a unique part of our environment. It is a narrow zone that supports many human activities. Preserving the integrity of this sensitive environment through integrated management is of vital importance for the wellbeing of all the people of South Africa.

Maintaining the biodiversity of the marine and coastal ecosystems is essential to the survival of species and ecosystems. The Marine and Coastal Management Branch is tasked with promoting the development and management of the country's marine and coastal environments in a way that ensures the sustainability of its marine resources, while maximising economic opportunities. The activities of this branch are aimed at achieving the medium-term strategic objective of promoting the sustainable utilisation of natural resources and enhancing economic growth. During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- o Ensuring the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources by managing a regulatory framework for the utilisation of marine and coastal resources
- o Building a sound scientific base for the effective management of marine and coastal resources by providing scientific information for resource utilisation
- o Sustainably growing the marine fisheries sector by rebuilding depleted fish stocks, assessing the feasibility of new fisheries, and creating an enabling environment for the growth and development of marine aquaculture
- o Conserving and mitigating threats to biodiversity by developing measures to prevent and reduce marine pollution and improve the environmental quality of the coast

Research, Antarctica and Islands

The primary function of the Chief Directorate: Research, Antarctica and Islands is to conduct appropriate research to advise management on the sustainable utilisation of marine and coastal resources. Research is aimed, among others, at determining the state of fish stocks and the total allowable catch (TAC) and/or total allowable effort (TAE) for important commercial fish species (TAC and TAE refer to scientifically determined safe levels of exploitation), as well as at understanding the dynamics of those resources.

Fieldwork, at-sea surveys and stock assessments were carried out using the department's fleet of three research vessels. These included surveys on hake and other bottom-living (demersal) species, sardine and anchovy (pelagic or surface-swimming species), south coast sole, west and south coast rock lobster, squid and abalone. Furthermore, rock lobster tagging and tuna research trips were undertaken, and shark tagging and age validation were carried out in collaboration with anglers. A *State of Resources* report was produced for all important resources in November 2008.

A hake and abalone strategy has been developed to give these stocks an opportunity to recover from over-utilisation and to ensure their sustainability. In order to take the pressure off existing fisheries, ongoing work is done to establish the feasibility of new fisheries to utilise previously unexploited resources, such as for octopus, Natal deep-water rock lobster, oysters, white mussels and whelks. Fisheries for oyster and white mussel have been established, but potential participants in the octopus fishery are not making use of the permits. Attempts are being made to relaunch the initiative to bring new stakeholders into the fishery. A study on the feasibility of Natal deep-water rock lobster suggested that this resource would be unlikely to support a sustainable fishery.

Marine and Coastal Management aims to help the marine aquaculture industry to overcome certain problems related to the growth of this relatively new industry. In this regard, it is investigating the use of indigenous species such as kob, scallops and sea urchins for aquaculture. Feed optimisation experiments were conducted on kob with the aim of switching their feed from fish-based meal to plant-based meal, which is more cost-effective, making potential investors more competitive.

Advances were made in understanding the reproductive cycle of scallops, as well as broodstock conditioning and essential aspects of culturing these animals. An experiment was done to determine the optimal temperature for growing and spawning scallops. Broodstock collection of sea urchins was completed along the east coast, which will be used to advance research on this species. These animals have now been taken through a complete life cycle in the laboratory. A report on an aquaculture research frontier programme was completed in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology. This will provide the basis for further research, which will be used to develop a strategic plan for aquaculture.

A *State of the Marine Environment Report* was published during the financial year. This report documents what is happening in the marine environment in order to inform research and management action in relation to marine resources, such as the distribution of fish stocks. It includes trends in the physical environment (temperature, wind and other variables) of South Africa's territorial waters.

The department produced one volume (three issues) of the *African Journal of Marine Science*. It is rated as one of the top natural science journals in Africa and attracts contributions and articles from across the continent and elsewhere. The number of scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals by the department's Marine and Coastal Management scientists increased by 18% during 2008/09.

Work on a joint research strategy on the optimal non-consumptive use of seals, seabirds and sharks is underway in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and South African National Parks (SANParks). Great white shark population identification and stock definition research has been undertaken. The research data was captured in a database and will be analysed in an MSc dissertation in the next financial year.

The department is a regular participant in regional engagements and plays an important role in activities related to the management of resources in regional waters. Research programmes that benefit the entire region include that of the Benguela Current Commission, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem and the South West Indian Oceans Fisheries programmes. These programmes primarily address issues related to cross-boundary ecosystems.

In 2008/09, Marine and Coastal Management provided the logistics to support research in Antarctica, Gough Island and the Prince Edward Islands, which includes Marion Island. Replenishment voyages were successfully undertaken to Marion and Gough islands, as well as SANAE IV, the country's base in Antarctica. The process of replacing the research and supply vessel, *SA Agulhas*, is underway and initial bids were assessed. The design specifications, needs analysis and user inputs have been discussed and finalised. Further progress was made with the construction of a new base on Marion Island.

Monitoring, control and surveillance

The Chief Directorate: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance is responsible for protecting and preventing illegal marine activity and ensuring compliance with legislation. During the financial year, the Hake Protection Strategy was implemented to give this resource an opportunity to recover from over-utilisation and to ensure

its sustainability. The implementation of this strategy, together with a strategy for the protection of abalone has delivered some successes. The tonnage of poached abalone decreased from 64 in 2007/08 to 43 in 2008/09, and arrests increased with 195% from 185 to 514.

The monitoring of fish landings was increased in three target species: hake, west coast rock lobster, and pelagics. To monitor resource use by various sectors, port-based and factory-based processing establishments and restaurants, compliance task teams were established on the west and southwest coast to monitor activity related to target species. Strategies implemented to monitor resource use resulted in an intensification of enforcement activities. The increase in the number of patrols and investigations conducted resulted in an increase in the number of cases registered, as well as confiscations. Confiscations for 2008/09 included that of 129 215 units of abalone, 36 975 west coast rock lobsters, R9 471 worth of overcaught kingklip, six boats and seven vehicles. Furthermore, three major rightsholders in the hake sector were investigated. This led to two recommendations in terms of section 28 administrative and criminal proceedings. Three rightsholders in the west coast rock lobster sector were also investigated. Charges of the possession of illegal diving gear were laid and illegally caught lobsters were confiscated.

In addition to the inspection of at least ten fishing vessels at sea per sector every month, a number of special operations were conducted. These inspections and operations led to several successes. Illegal abalone storage and processing plants in the Strand, Table View, Kuils River, Blackheath, Touws River and Sandton (Gauteng) were closed down. Storage and drying equipment was also seized. Numerous units of abalone were seized and a number of people were arrested for illegal activities related to the harvesting, possession and transportation of abalone.

The success of the department's monitoring and enforcement depends to a large extent on its partnerships with law enforcement, conservation and other agencies. The branch has an ongoing partnership with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) on sharing resources and facilities for environmental protection vessels. It also has cooperative initiatives with the Organised Crime Prevention and Crime Intelligence units of the SAPS in the Western and Eastern Cape, and Gauteng. The partnership with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality resulted in the closure of Swartkops for boats over six metres. South Africa had a joint patrol that was undertaken with much success in Tanzanian and Mozambican waters. A zero-tolerance approach was taken to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone. Six arrests were made and 41 vessels inspected.

Marine resource management

The Chief Directorate: Marine Resource Management is responsible for regulating and managing the utilisation of marine living resources through the administration of fishing rights, permits and licences to ensure sustainable and equitable utilisation. In order to grant communities access to the natural resources on which they depend for their livelihood, while still ensuring that these resources are not depleted, the allocation of commercial fishing rights was largely concluded.

The Subsistence/Small-scale Fisheries Policy was scheduled for finalisation in September 2008. However, a number of delays were experienced, including court challenges, stakeholder resistance and a decline in available stocks for allocation. The department, therefore, embarked on a further extensive public consultation process, including the convening of a National Summit, the formation of a National Task Team to participate in the drafting process. Interim relief measures were granted on

three separate occasions to alleviate the plight of some 1 000 fishers. The Draft Subsistence Fisheries Policy was gazetted for public comment on 12 December 2008 and the consultation period was extended to the end of March 2009.

In mid-2008, the department initiated the Performance Review Process for the commercial fishery sectors and a service level agreement was concluded with a dedicated service provider. The Policy on the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights, which aims to guide the transfer of commercial fishing rights and ensure adherence to the objectives of the respective fishery sectors, was finalised. The Policy on the Management of Seals, Seabirds and Shorebirds makes provision for the mitigation of threats to their survival. Following on the policy, a National Plan of Action for reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries (NPOA for Seabirds) was developed and published in August 2008. The National Plan of Action for Sharks is being developed. A Policy for the Management and Allocation of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic (Tuna and Swordfish) Fishery was finalised and this will guide the allocation of rights process.

To ensure the sustainability of hake and abalone stocks, a protection plan was developed for these species to address the continuing depletion of these fisheries. The existing abalone fishery was closed in February 2008 to allow these resources a chance to recover. A management plan was put in place to abate unsustainable utilisation and monitor the recovery of these resources. Because hake is such an important resource, the Hake Protection Strategy was developed and implemented. This entails management, research and monitoring, control and surveillance activities. The department continued its involvement and participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) to broaden access to fish resources on the high seas.

Integrated coastal management

The Chief Directorate: Integrated Coastal Management is responsible for managing a variety of human impacts on the coastal environment by regulating activities along the coastline. Its activities involve coastal planning and environmental protection, marine aquaculture, fishing harbours, non-consumptive resource use and regulating the development of marine protected areas and estuaries. South Africa's coastline is tremendously valuable and needs to be managed effectively to ensure that the pressure on the environment caused by many threats, including unsustainable developments along the coast, is mitigated. In this regard, the Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No 24 of 2008), which was signed into law by the President in February 2009, aims to establish a system of integrated coastal and estuarine management in South Africa, including norms, standards and policies, and to promote the conservation of the coastal environment and the ecologically sustainable development of the coastal zone. Ongoing work is undertaken on environmental protection, including the development of legislation to control and regulate activities, for example, the use of 4x4 vehicles in the coastal zone.

To address non-consumptive resource use activities such as boat-based whale-watching and white shark cage-diving, which, in the past, had developed in an unregulated manner, policies were gazetted during this financial year, with a rights allocation process underway. Research has also been conducted to explore the optimal use of fishing harbours. In this regard, feasibility studies aimed at improving the management of 12 proclaimed fishing harbours have been finalised and management options will be identified for the future management and operation by National Treasury, the Department of Public Works and the department.

Marine aquaculture has been identified as a developing sector that could contribute

significantly to the country's food security; notwithstanding the need to manage and regulate the marine aquaculture industry in a manner that would advance environmental sustainability, industry growth and contribution towards economic growth. The department has an important role to play in terms of policy development and establishing a regulatory framework for the marine aquaculture industry. Following the approval of the Marine Aquaculture Policy, the Draft Marine Aquaculture Policy Implementation Plan was developed to establish a viable aquaculture industry. Various guidelines have been developed, including guidelines for sea ranching (the release of identifiable aquaculture products into the sea area where exclusive access is confined to a limited number of harvesters). These guidelines have been published for comment by the broader public and stakeholders. Other guidelines include those for stock enhancement (the release of stock for the public good without the intention of directly benefiting an exclusive user group). A Marine Aquaculture Advisory Forum (MAAF) has been established to effectively implement the policy plan. The MAAF is supported by a number of working groups aimed at structuring the development of implementation plans around a number of key focal areas. Furthermore, feasibility studies were undertaken in the four coastal provinces to identify potential sites and species for marine aquaculture development in each province. Finally, research is being conducted on three species to ensure that marine aquaculture is managed in a sustainable manner that is not detrimental to the environment.

Integrated Coastal Management is also responsible for the management, protection and monitoring of South Africa's marine protected areas and estuaries, and aims to protect biodiversity, build up fish stocks and regulate the activities of users. During the financial year, the Still Bay Marine Protected Area was established, bringing the total number of marine protected areas

in the country to 20. By extending the marine area that is brought under protection, the department can ensure the effective management, monitoring and surveillance of promulgated marine protected areas through partnerships with other conservation agencies and the development of management plans.

Most of South Africa's estuaries are heavily impacted on by a variety of human activities. Six estuarine management plans were completed in the Cape region: for the Gamtoos, Knysna, Heuningnes, Breede, Klein and Olifants rivers. The development of two estuarine management plans (for Mtentu and Mbashe) in the Eastern Cape is underway, and a further nine management plans are being developed through cooperation with the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE) and local municipalities. The major threats to estuaries include oil pollution and land-based sources of pollution. The Marine Pollution section of Integrated Coastal Management aims to protect and enhance the quality of South Africa's coastal and marine waters to a standard that is suitable to support beneficial uses and sustainable coastal development. This is achieved through the development of policy, legislation and other initiatives targeted at controlling pollution from both land-based and offshore sources. A National Programme of Action has

been developed in collaboration with key roleplayers to protect the marine environment from land-based activities such as municipal waste water and sewage, industrial effluent and agricultural run-off. The National Programme of Action has identified 14 priority areas that will be addressed over the next few years. Increasing an understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on the marine environment is another priority.

Marine Living Resources Fund

The Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF) finances many of the operations and activities of Marine and Coastal Management. Two focus areas for the financial year were the investigation of new revenue streams for the fund and the turnaround of the audit opinion on the annual financial statements of the fund. A feasibility study into potential revenue streams was conducted and a procedural framework was completed during the financial year. Two new revenue streams were approved. Furthermore, risk registers were updated quarterly and the fund's top five risks were mitigated by enhancing internal controls. The management of the final phase of the turnaround strategy during the regulatory audit of the 2007/08 financial statements by the Auditor-General resulted in a clean audit report.





Promoting South Africa's international environmental and tourism priorities

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 its interests through active participation in international and regional structures and agreements. The activities of the department's International Cooperation and Resources Branch are aimed at achieving the medium-term strategic objective of creating conditions for effective international cooperation. During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- Promoting a global sustainable development agenda by effectively managing and facilitating the department's international relations and engagements
- Ensuring the financial resourcing of the departmental strategy through the mobilisation of international resources to support the implementation of priority sustainable development, environmental and tourism projects and programmes
- Ensuring service delivery and systems improvement by providing the department with international relations support services

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. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, negotiated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, is a key instrument in this regard. In addition, trade provisions in multilateral environmental agreements and environmental provisions in multilateral trade agreements provide the basis for the department's work on the linkages between trade and the environment in the international context.

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) monitors and reports on the implementation of sustainable development. Its mandate was reaffirmed by the WSSD in 2002. The CSD programme is organised in two-year cycles on selected themes. The first year of the cycle entails a review of progress with implementation. The second year of the cycle entails the negotiation of policy actions to address constraints to implementation.

The third implementation cycle of the CSD focuses on agriculture, desertification, drought, rural development, sustainable land management and sustainable development in Africa. The review session (CSD16) was held in New York in May 2008. It identified challenges related to the theme. This was preceded by multistakeholder meetings to formulate policy positions. The department also participated in the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for CSD17 that took place in New York in February 2009. The focus was on the development of policy issues to be discussed at the policy session that will take place in May 2009.

There is an increasing trend by developed countries to link multilateral environmental agreements to international trade. Consequently, trade and environment issues also formed part of the Doha Development Agenda Negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) conference. The fisheries sector has been identified as a priority sector in this regard. The WTO negotiations must therefore ensure that developing countries are granted sufficient policy space to assist their subsistence fishing communities, even while eliminating those subsidies that contribute to over-fishing and overcapacity. An updated fisheries position paper was drafted and a process of consultation was initiated with Marine and Coastal Management. The paper was shared with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti). South Africa also participated in the WTO fishery subsidies meetings in April and May 2008.

The department has been actively involved in several technical negotiation meetings to ensure a coherent and integrated position between departments of trade and environment. An intergovernmental seminar on trade and environment was organised in September 2008, where a longer-term process was launched to build mutual understanding in all departments of the common trade and environmental issues in various international forums.

Climate change

Climate change, linked with energy security, has emerged as one of the priority issues on the global political agenda, alongside issues such as international trade negotiations and global peace and security.

The urgency and complexity of forging a comprehensive agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions was highlighted at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations



Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2007. COP 13 achieved a new spirit of optimism and cooperation, with agreement on the Bali Roadmap and the Bali Action Plan launching a new round of negotiations to strengthen the climate change regime after 2012, with an end date of December 2009. At COP 14, which was held in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008, parties agreed to move into full negotiating mode by adopting detailed work plans with concrete milestones that will ensure that negotiations are concluded at COP 15 in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

International Relations manages the department's international cooperation obligations and commitments.

South Africa is participating actively in this process, with a view to achieving an inclusive, fair and effective international climate change regime that achieves a balance between adaptation and mitigation, as well as a balance between development and climate imperatives, and a comprehensive international programme on the implementation of adaptation (with massively scaled-up and predictable

funding). It is also important to achieve ambitious, quantified, legally binding greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments for Kyoto Protocol Annex I Parties, and comparable mitigation commitments by non-Kyoto developed countries such as the USA. This will also set the framework for mitigation actions by developing countries that are measurable, reportable and verifiable, and conditional on commitments by developed countries on financial resources, technology and capacity-building in a manner that is also measurable, reportable and verifiable. Massively scaled-up, stable and predictable means of implementation for developing countries, including technology, finance and capacity-building, are essential to support this.

South Africa's participation in the international climate change negotiations is informed by a comprehensive process of consultation with all key government departments and stakeholders, and is based on detailed research, including the Long-term Mitigation Scenario study, which defined a set of mitigation options, their potential and their costs.

Chemicals and waste management

South Africa is a party to and actively participates in negotiations related to several international chemicals and

waste management conventions: those dealing with trade and the transboundary movement of chemicals and waste (the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions), sound chemicals management (the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) and the phasing out of ozone-depleting substances (Montreal Protocol).

During 2008, South Africa successfully participated in various international preparatory processes and negotiations on chemicals and waste management. Key achievements included the following:

- A decision to enhance cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agreed at Basel COP 9 and Rotterdam COP 4).
- A decision at Basel COP 9 to provide additional institutional support to regional centres for the implementation of the Basel Convention. South Africa is host to the Africa Institute for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Chemicals for 'English-speaking' African countries.
- A decision at the United Nations Environmental Programme Governing Council (UNEP/GC) to initiate an intergovernmental negotiating process on the development of a legal instrument for the international control of mercury, which is a hazardous heavy metal.
- A decision at the 21st Meeting of the Parties (MOP 21) of the Montreal Protocol on the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund by \$490 million. The meeting was co-chaired by South Africa. The replenishment negotiations were particularly important, given the recent agreement by developing countries to accelerate the phasing out of HCFC production and use by 2030.

South Africa's position for these negotiations was informed by

consultation with key government departments and stakeholders through the Multistakeholder Committee on Chemicals Management.

Biodiversity

South Africa is party to a number of multilateral environmental agreements related to both the protection of ecosystems and the protection of species. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (genetically modified organisms) (CPB), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The department's Chief Directorate: International Biodiversity and Marine Cooperation continued to play an important role in the international arena during 2008/09 in terms of representing South Africa and articulating the country's position at key meetings, where it negotiated issues taking the national and regional interest into account, put forward South Africa's position, and shaped and contributed to international agreements.

In terms of the CBD, the South African position was successfully negotiated at COP 9, as well as at the COP/MOP 4 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in May 2008. The country also successfully chaired Working Group 1 of the CBD COP 9. As one of the mega-diverse countries of the world, South Africa has an important role to play in this convention. Some of the key issues that are in the national and regional interest include liability and redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol and the establishment of world heritage sites and negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing. Contentious issues that were discussed

include the relationship between climate change and biodiversity, and what countries can do to mitigate and adapt to climate change, particularly as it relates to biodiversity. A technical group was established on biodiversity and climate change to further explore the relationship between climate change and biodiversity.

The chief directorate also articulated South Africa's position on ecosystem management and sustainable utilisation as it relates to wetlands in terms of the Ramsar Convention, and approved the 10-year strategic plan to ensure the effective implementation of the UNCCD. Stakeholder meetings were held in preparation for CBD COP 9, the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention 7 (CRIC), Access and Benefit-sharing and Liability and Redress. The country's position and issues were incorporated into the final outcomes of the meetings. The South African Development Community (SADC) UNCCD workshop focused on assessing, mapping, understanding and preventing natural resource degradation and desertification. This led to an improved understanding of the causes and drivers of land degradation in southern Africa.

Stakeholder meetings were also held in preparation for the MOP 4 of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and for COP 9 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). An MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey was concluded and signed at the CMS COP 9 in Rome in November 2008. The CMS National Report was submitted to the CMS Secretariat. An important contribution was also made at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in Barcelona in October 2008, where the chief directorate influenced the outcome on biofuels.

Ocean resources and the marine environment

South Africa is a signatory to a range of multilateral agreements related to marine resources and protecting the marine environment. In terms of protecting the marine environment, these include the London Convention on Dumping at Sea, the Marine Pollution Convention, the Antarctic Treaty, the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Regions and Related Protocols, and the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the East African Region and Related Protocols. The sustainable use of the oceans is governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. South Africa is also a member of several international organisations aimed at the sustainable management of the marine environment, such as the International Marine Organisation and the International Seabed Authority.

The Chief Directorate: International Biodiversity and Marine Cooperation continued to play an important role in the international arena during 2008/09. International cooperation related to South Africa's conventions aimed at protecting the marine environment included the department's participation in the Abidjan Bureau meeting. It also chaired the Abidjan Special COP and Expert Meeting. Successful participation took place in the Nairobi Convention Meeting for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Eastern African region. The chief directorate also attended the 30th Consultative Meeting of the London Convention and the third Meeting of the London Protocol, where it successfully negotiated its position. It was elected as a Regional Member of the Compliance Group for the London



Protocol. A submission was drafted on the key strategic issues, as well as an analysis and resolutions for the IUCN. The country's position on Antarctica was drafted and negotiated at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. A discussion document was drafted on the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. This was circulated for consultation with the department's Environmental Quality and Protection Branch.

Recommendations were made for carbon sequestration to be carried out at the level of research. The department attended and participated in the World Ocean in Globalisation, Challenges for Marine Regions. This resulted in an improved understanding of marine and fisheries policy issues and global challenges.

The country's position on fishing in international waters was drafted following stakeholder consultation and was negotiated at the 60th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The chief directorate successfully participated in the Regional Workshop Development of the Land-based Source and Activities (LBSA) Protocol and Revisions. A Strategic Action Programme

(SAP) on LBSA was developed for the Western Indian Ocean. Preparations for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) involved stakeholder consultations with the South African long-line fisheries and Marine and Coastal Management. A position was researched and drafted for the CCSBT, which was successfully negotiated at the meeting in October 2008.

A meeting was held with Japan, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the fishing industry regarding a proposal to enter into an MoU to assist with training and the provision of vessels to South African fishermen to fish tuna in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and high seas. A bilateral contract and two protocols on fisheries were coordinated, facilitated and consolidated between Mozambique and South Africa.

Consultations were held with the Department of Foreign Affairs on a working relationship between the two departments on international marine and fisheries cooperation. Meetings were held with the Department of Trade and Industry on fishery subsidies and the trade policy development process. Active participation also took place to prepare for the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

International environmental governance

The Chief Directorate: International Governance and Relations plays an important role in ensuring that balanced and equitable governance structures prevail or are established in multilateral institutions and bodies and that these governance structures can advance both national and regional interests. Its engagement with international environmental governance structures in bodies such as the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), among others, contributes to promoting a global sustainable development agenda.

It plays an important role in supporting the United Nations (UN) process on system-wide coherence, especially in terms of streamlining the UN to avoid duplication around the environmental pillar of sustainable development. As such, it was a key player during the UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) in establishing the intergovernmental ministerial committee on international environmental governance (IEG), and is on the forefront of debates related to international environmental governance.

During the year, South Africa was positioned to play a leading role in the IEG debate, with the Minister making a keynote address on IEG during the UNEP (GC/GMEF) conference. The department contributes to the UNEP Environment Fund and has emerged as a key developing country player in the UNEP GC/GMEF, where it was in a position to make recommendations related to important environmental policy issues that affect the region. The chief directorate also engaged with the European Union on issues related to IEG and climate change through the South Africa-European Union (SA-EU) Environment and Sustainable Develop-

ment Forum. A climate change declaration was signed at the SA-EU Summit held in Bordeaux, France in July 2008.

During 2008, South Africa was an active participant in the development process of the World Bank Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and was a key player in ensuring that the governance structure of the fund was balanced and equitable in order to take the interests of developing countries into account. This fund, which was launched in July 2008, comprises international investment instruments that are designed to provide interim, scaled-up funding to help developing countries in their efforts to mitigate rises in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Donors have pledged over US\$6 billion to the fund, which will be used to finance clean technologies for energy, as well as a special pilot project on climate change.

South Africa, through representation by the chief directorate, is one of the eight committee members of the Trust Fund of the World Bank Clean Technology Fund, and the chief director has been appointed as co-chair of the Trust Fund Committee until the end of 2009. The Trust Fund approves policies, guidelines and investment plans and allocates funding to the value of \$5 billion for projects related to solar and wind energy, renewable energy and clean transport, among others. The country also plays a leading role in the G8+5 debates on climate and Africa, as well as in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) climate change debates.

South Africa has been awarded extended engagement status with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). As such, it was able to present its position on climate change at the Ministers of Environment meeting of the OECD that was held in Paris in April 2008.

Key challenges for the chief directorate relate to dealing with the differing agendas and lack of trust between developed and developing countries in terms of international environmental governance. Future priorities include continued engagement in the IEG debates and supporting the development of a G77 position on IEG. Continued engagement will also be sought with the G8, G20, UNEP, the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the UNGA.

Bilateral relations

The chief directorate focuses on establishing bilateral relations to advance South Africa's national interest through mutually beneficial partnerships and bilateral agreements with key countries and markets. In this regard, it manages and coordinates policy position research and prepares, negotiates, lobbies, monitors and reports on international south-south, north-south and bilateral cooperation and the mobilisation of bilateral resources.

During the year, financial and technical resources to the value of approximately US\$20 were mobilised from the Nordic countries, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, Spain and the European Union. Environmental cooperation was enhanced with Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, Argentina, Chile, Nigeria, Egypt, Brazil and Iran, among other countries. The level of environmental cooperation with China was also raised through the hosting of a visit by the China Environmental Protection Agency and the China Fisheries Administration. A bilateral agreement on the environment and fisheries has been drafted, which is due to be signed in the next financial year.

Future priorities in terms of bilateral relations include the continued mobilisation of financial and technical resources, exploring new ways of

cooperation with donors, developing increased partnerships with new developed countries such as Australia and New Zealand, increased and enhanced south-south cooperation with countries like China, Argentina, Brazil and India, as well as increased engagement within Africa.

The department's involvement in the trilateral initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) has contributed to elevating the importance of the environment and tourism within IBSA. An MoU on environment was signed at the IBSA Summit in New Delhi, India, in October 2008. An IBSA Working Group has been established on the environment and climate change. Translating the political will into actionable initiatives and strengthening relations within IBSA on the environment and climate change will be a major priority for the future.

Africa and SADC

South Africa successfully hosted the 12th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in June 2008. It also assumed presidency of AMCEN for the period 2008 to 2010. Specific roles were defined for the AMCEN Presidency and Secretariat and an earmarked fund was developed within the AMCEN Trust Fund to receive funding from donors to finance the activities of AMCEN.

An important outcome of AMCEN 12 was the adoption of the AMCEN Johannesburg Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development. South Africa also supported AMCEN by initiating a process to develop a common African position on key issues such as the implementation of NEPAD's Action Plan of the Environment Initiative and the development of a climate change implementation framework to strengthen Africa's role in multilateral agreements

related to this issue. This process will galvanise Africa's position to be taken at COP 15 of the UNFCCC to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. Furthermore, a road map, budget estimates and funding proposals were prepared for AMCEN's Framework of African Climate Change Programmes. The Africa Climate Change Working Group met in Algiers in November 2008.

The African Union (AU) approved the integration of AMCEN into the AU as a specialised technical committee at ministerial level. The implication of this decision is that AMCEN will be positioned as the environmental arm of the AU. Key challenges for the future will include adequate resourcing of AMCEN and ensuring that all countries contribute financially to the AMCEN Trust Fund. Strengthening the role of AMCEN as an AU institution is a priority.

International Governance and Relations co-hosted and co-chaired the Conference of the Parties meetings of the Abidjan and Nairobi conventions and participated in the SADC International Consultative Conference on Poverty and Development in Mauritius in April 2008. It prepared a position paper for the SADC Integrated Council of Ministers (ICM) meeting, which took place in Swaziland in June 2008, and attended the SADC Directors of Environment meeting in Windhoek in July and August 2008. Political support was obtained for the African Environment Facility, and the SADC Environment and Sustainable Development Unit was established.

Numerous environment and tourism protocols have been signed within SADC, including protocols for wildlife, fisheries and tourism. During 2008, the chief directorate was part of a coordinating team to initiate a process to develop the SADC Environmental Protocol to capture the elements of pollution, waste, air quality control and climate change.

A key challenge for the future is to address the lack of capacity or commitment within SADC. Priorities for South Africa include strengthening and consolidating the African agenda in all international relations, as well as mobilising support, and financial and technical resources for the programmes of the AU and SADC, such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP) and NEPAD's Action Plan of the Environment Initiative.

Resource mobilisation

The chief directorate facilitates the mobilisation of resources to protect and promote South Africa's interests through active participation in the international and regional governance and financing structures.

South Africa is a donor and active member of the Replenishment Committee of the GEF. It is a key developing country player and has succeeded in coordinating and strengthening the SADC GEF constituency, as well as the SADC Ministers of Environment Forum.

Its active involvement in the Replenishment Committee enables it to influence the policies, procedures and programming of the GEF. South Africa has been lobbying for some time for the reform of the GEF governance structure and Resource Allocation Frameworks (RAFs), and this year has been critical in these negotiations. A position was developed for the renegotiation of the RAF, and the council agreed that the RAF had to be revised and reformed. Approval for South African projects was obtained and submissions were drafted for a second round of RAF allocations.

The GEF provides secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund (AF) Board. The AF was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country parties to the Kyoto

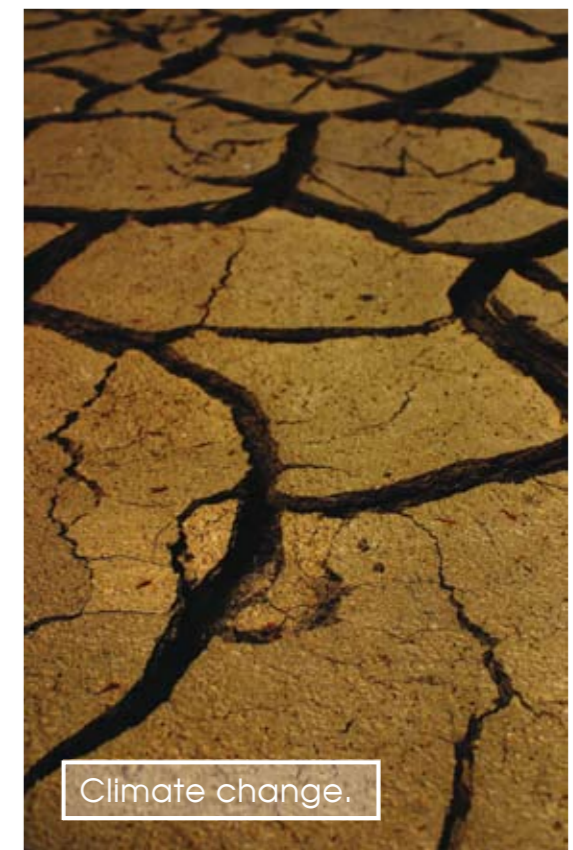
Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The World Bank serves as its interim trustee. The chief directorate participated in Adaptation Fund (AF) Board meetings and represented the board at the World Bank's CIF meetings in Washington DC. Its participation has been instrumental in obtaining agreement by the board on climate change issues.

Key challenges for the future include reforming both the RAF and the GEF governance system to ensure that balanced and equitable structures are in place to manage South Africa's governance portfolio. The Climate Change Adaptation Fund also needs to be operationalised. Priorities include continued engagement on both GEF governance reform and RAF reform, participation in the GEF Adaptation Fund Board, the continued mobilisation of the GEF for national, SADC, African and global projects, and participation in the GEF replenishment process.

South Africa's GEF portfolio is approximately US\$80 million, while the regional and global portfolio amounts to US\$300 million. GEF funds mobilised for 2008/09 amount to US\$27 million nationally and US\$10 million is in the pipeline, while regional and global funds amount to US\$188 million. Projects that have received GEF funding include St Lucia (\$9.3 million), the development and adoption of a strategic programme for water use and the management of sustainable natural resources in the transboundary basin of the Upper Orange/Senqu River (\$7 million), and the implementation of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme to restore the depleted fisheries and coastal resources in Namibia and Angola (\$5.4 million). Projects to the value of \$13 million have already been endorsed for the next GEF cycle.

Particular emphasis is placed on programmes that will benefit the entire region, such as the BCLME, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem, Sustainable Land Management, the Global Ballast Water (Glo-Ballast), the Western Indian Ocean Marine Highway, the South Western Indian Ocean Fisheries, the Global Pollinators and the Transfrontier Conservation Area programmes.

Additional funds have been mobilised from Denmark to support Africa's climate change negotiation preparatory process and the African Institute, the Basel Regional Centre. The chief directorate is currently negotiating new environmental cooperation programmes, which include the post-2010 cooperation with Norway, cooperation with Germany on the new focal area of climate change and energy, and future environmental cooperation with Sweden. The mobilisation of resources does not just involve financial resources, but also technical resources in the form of training and capacity transfer.





Supporting the achievement of strategic goals

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

The Office of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) plays an important role in coordinating and managing the strategic functions and operations of the department. Corporate Affairs supports the strategic leadership of the department. The activities of these branches are aimed at achieving the medium-term strategic objectives of providing strategic leadership, administration, executive support and corporate services. During the financial year, its key performance areas and outputs were focused on the following:

- Ensuring equitable and sound corporate and cooperative governance by ensuring the financial resourcing of the departmental strategy
- Enhancing efficient service delivery by improving business processes, and ensuring efficient information and knowledge management
- Positioning the department as an employee of choice through adequate human capital, providing a secure, efficient and pleasant working environment
- Developing and interpreting legislation and regulations, assisting in the formulation of departmental policy and rendering operational and procedural support

Financial status

The Office of the CFO provides a financial and supply chain management support function to all the line functions in the department. The department received a report from the Auditor-General with no significant emphasis of matters for the financial year. An audit implementation plan is being developed, and the monitoring of implementation continues.

Strategic management

The Office of the COO 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 its compliance targets for 2008/09.

The Office of the COO is also responsible for the performance management of the department. The migration to the balanced scorecard approach was completed in 2007/08, and 2008/09 was targeted as its implementation year. The draft balanced scorecard and key performance dashboard system functional specifications were published for comment and input. An organisational Performance Management Policy and draft guidelines were developed. A project to determine a robust performance management system has been initiated. A base document on performance auditing and the auditing of performance information is being developed.

Access to information

The department initiated the development of a research-integrated knowledge management system to improve the availability and accessibility of tourism and environmental decision-making information. Terms of reference were developed for the project in

cooperation with Library Services.

A website on seven nodal areas was established. Information for most of the provincial nature reserves was sourced and will be captured on the Geographic Information System (GIS). Thirty-eight maps and 22 graphs were compiled for the State of the Air Report.

Greening framework for 2010

The Office of the COO is tasked with maximising tourism and the development potential of the 2010 FIFA World Cup, and – more specifically – developing a greening framework for 2010. The National Framework for Greening is in place, and 150 copies of the document have been printed and 150 CDs produced. Furthermore, greening business plans for the host cities Mbombela, Polokwane and Rustenburg are in place. The development of project proposals for greening is underway.

Social responsibility

The Chief Directorate: Social Responsibility, Policy and Projects (SRPP) in the Office of the COO is responsible for the implementation of poverty alleviation and job creation programmes, as well as infrastructure development. Job creation and skills development is facilitated through the provision of accredited training. It targets designated groups, particularly women, the youth and people with disabilities. The chief directorate also promotes the use of small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) in the implementation of labour-intensive Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) projects related to the environment and cultural heritage.

In the financial year, 10 learnerships were allocated. The programmes generated 85 567 accredited and 36 146 non-accredited training days. Some 12 849 job opportunities were created and 883 permanent jobs were established. For these projects, 550 SMMEs were used. As part of the department's gender,

disability, youth and children's (GDYC) programmes, it held a Women's Day celebration at Burgers Park, participated in the Clean Fires Campaign (Basa Njogo Magogo) at the Atteridgeville Old Age Home and took part in the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, and World Aids Day. Furthermore, the DEAT Festive Grocery Donation was launched on 25 November 2008. The DEAT Men and Women's Dialogue was held in November 2008, and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities was celebrated with a Sho't Left tour for the Lebuwe Centre for People with Disabilities.

Administration and Support provides strategic leadership, corporate services, cooperative governance and information management.

Information technology and administration

Ensuring connectivity to all information systems is the responsibility of the Chief Directorate: Information Communication and Technology. The chief directorate is in the process of implementing Phase 2 of the Master Systems Plan (MSP). One of the projects during the year, the development of the e-portal for DEAT applications, has been delayed because of poor performance by the service provider. It will be managed by a new development team in the next financial year. The CITES user requirements have been completed and signed off by the business unit and development can now commence. User requirements for the tourist guide application have also been signed off and it is envisaged that development will begin in the next financial year.

An analysis of additional catch systems on the Marine Administration System (MAST) is in progress. Virtualisation

technology has been introduced in the department. This will start to introduce open platform standards into the organisation and will create the basis for future services implementation, while optimising the current investment in infrastructure. Bandwidth optimisation devices were implemented to improve the department's wide area network performance. Additional requirements were discussed with the service provider and beta testing will be done once this has been finalised.

In order to ensure that the department's information resources remain secure, new rule sets were implemented for the firewalls. No hacking took place and no data was compromised on the network during the year. A project is underway to integrate the department's information systems and develop a common platform. The scoping proposal for the website integration was approved, and the scoping of branch user needs has commenced. The intranet was redesigned and relaunched, and weekly newsletters were sent out electronically.

Transformation

The department has ensured that the implementation of the strategy on staff demographic representivity, employment equity (EE) and transformation are streamlined, and appointments in designated EE positions are facilitated, especially for people with disabilities. At present, 47% of the department's staff complement consists of women (against a target of 50%), 82% of staff members are black (against a target of 79%) and 1.4% are people with disabilities (against a target of 2%).

Following a culture audit that was completed in the previous financial year, a report was compiled and branch engagements on the findings and culture architecture have been held with Tourism, Environmental Quality and Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation, Corporate

Affairs and International Cooperation and Resources. The terms of reference were developed for the implementation of the second phase of the culture audit.

Human resource management

The Chief Directorate: Human Resources and Transformation developed service standards for the department, which were printed and put on display at DEAT service delivery points. A Human Resources Plan was finalised and approved, and a workshop on human resources and transformation policies was held.

In an attempt to reduce the vacancy rate in the department, the chief directorate accelerated recruitment and selection processes. In 2008/09, 295 posts were advertised, 238 appointments were facilitated (of which 62 were internal), three lateral transfers took place, 13 senior management service contracts were extended and 19 posts were filled. Line managers were supported with 213 shortlisting meetings and 205 interview sessions. By the end of March 2009, the vacancy rate was at 19% and 1 423 out of 1 764 posts were filled. Staff turnover was reduced by facilitating the retention of 26 officials. The turnover rate was 20.7% at the end of the financial year. During the course of the year, there were 45 terminations of service and 32 exit interviews were held.

An organisational design investigation on climate change was conducted during the financial year. Research was done on the climate change structures of 11 countries, and interviews were held with deputy directors-general and the CEOs of the South African Weather Service and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on their focal points of work on climate change. An organogram on a climate change focal point structure in the department was finalised and provided to the Minister.

Training and development

During the financial year, the Human Resource Development Strategy was approved, and an implementation plan is being drafted. Draft policies have also been developed for learning and development planning, the attendance of skills courses, bursaries, internships, adult basic education and training (ABET), and executive coaching and mentorship. A management development framework is being developed.

In keeping with the implementation of the Workplace Skills Plan (WSP), several officials attended training interventions. DEAT facilitated 90% of the planned training in the financial year. The department facilitated an ABET programme for 29 learners at the national head office in Pretoria and 41 at the Marine and Coastal Management Office in Cape Town. An induction framework was developed for the senior management service. Bursaries were allocated to 113 part-time and nine full-time beneficiaries in 2008, and 119 new part-time and 26 new full-time bursaries were awarded in 2009.

Education and outreach

Several education and outreach initiatives that focused on skills development and learning took place in 2008/09. Advertisements for the recruitment of 50 learners for the Environmental Education, Training and Development Practice (EETDP) learnership were placed in national newspapers. The seven host employers have completed the shortlisting process and will complete interviews early in the next financial year.

The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) preliminary results of the previous group of EETDP learners were released and captured in the learner record database system for the quality



Staff Imbizo 2008.

assurance of the learnerships. The draft Environmental Education Strategy was completed and will be circulated to provincial stakeholders for input.

Employee wellness

The goals of the department's Employee Wellness Strategy are to raise employee awareness of the importance of health and wellness matters, promote a healthy lifestyle through active participation in sport and recreational activities, highlight the importance of self-care and ensure the implementation of wellness programmes.

Counselling and support, as well as the distribution of vitamins, form part of the implementation of the strategy. Thirty-two employees were offered on-site counselling, of which two were referred to a psychologist and one to a trauma centre. Counselling was also offered on substance abuse and the employees concerned were referred for rehabilitation. Furthermore, 166 packs of nutritional supplements were issued to employees to strengthen the immune systems of these employees and their families. Eleven employees gave positive feedback on how the supplements improved their wellbeing.

Two wellness clinics were held, including at coastal stations, where health

screening, debt management, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), eye testing, massage and physical fitness services were offered. A reproductive health awareness session was held in Pretoria, and Cancer Awareness Day was observed. Two events on sexually transmitted diseases and Condom Week events were also held.

As part of an HIV/Aids awareness campaign, VCT services for HIV were provided to employees. A total of 34 employees had themselves tested. Counselling and support were offered to four infected and affected employees. The HIV/Aids Policy was reviewed and aligned with the National Strategic Plan.

Legal services

The chief directorate provided legal advice and support on contracts, international instruments and negotiations, appeals, debts and losses, records of decision, permits and alternative dispute resolution. In order to ensure the standardisation of contracts signed by the department with other stakeholders and thereby minimise the risk to the department, the chief directorate has developed contract templates and a manual that explains the various clauses in templates. In the financial year, the following matters were finalised by the chief directorate:

343 contracts, 396 legal opinions, 23 debts and losses matters and 35 administrative appeals.

With regard to the management of litigation, several litigation matters brought by or against the department are still in process. Sixteen fishing reviews were finalised. There were initially 42 fishing reviews that were pending at the end of the financial year, but of these, nine matters were not pursued, eight were successfully finalised and petitions for leave to appeal in all the matters were refused. Therefore, 30 fishing reviews are still pending, in addition to 41 other litigation matters.

Legal Services is mandated to facilitate requests related to the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2000 (Act No 2 of 2000) (PAIA), and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this act in the department. In order to promote awareness of PAIA requirements and provide legal education, a PAIA workshop was held at the Marine and Coastal Management

Office in Cape Town in April and at the national head office in Pretoria in August 2008. A separate electronic document management workflow has been developed specifically to deal with PAIA requests. In this way, requests are tracked and monitored to ensure that the department complies with the prescribed time frames in terms of PAIA.

To coordinate legislation across different national and provincial departments that impact on the environment, four meetings of the Committee on Environmental Coordination (CEC) took place.

As part of its task to review and recommend policies, the Chief Directorate: Legal Services reviewed the Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management Plans for Species and the Policy on Interim Relief for Subsistence Fisheries. The following bills were passed by Parliament, assented to by the President and published in the Government Gazette:



Employee wellness clinics are held.

- o The National Environment Laws Amendment Bill (B35 of 2007): The President signed the National Environment Laws Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No 44 of 2008), on 3 December 2008 and it was published in the Gazette on 5 December 2008.
- o The National Environmental Management Amendment Bill (B36 of 2007): The President signed the National Environmental Management Act, 2008, on 5 January 2009 and it was published in the Gazette on 9 January 2009.
- o The National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Bill (B40 of 2007): The President signed the bill on 9 February 2009 and it was published in the Gazette on 11 February 2009.
- o National Environmental Management: Waste Bill (B39 of 2007): The President signed the bill on 6 March 2009 and it was published in the Gazette on 10 March 2009.

The following bills were adopted by Parliament and await the assent of the President:

- o The National Environment Laws Amendment Bill (B66 of 2008)
- o The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Amendment Bill (B67 of 2008)

The Knysna Lakes Area Regulations were finalised. The regulations on White Shark Cage-diving, Boat-based Whale-watching and the Protection of Turtles were published on 4 July 2008. Regulations for the Proper Administration of Nature Reserves are being reviewed and amended. The Threatened or Protected Species Second Amendment Regulations were finalised during the year. The Alien and Invasive Species Regulations are also in the process of being reviewed by SANBI. The Admission of Guilt Fines Regulations for the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act were finalised. The

CITES Regulations have been drafted. The Vredefort Dome Regulations were drafted and stakeholders were consulted on these regulations. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and list of restricted activities are being reviewed. The Waste Tyre Regulations were finalised and are ready for publishing. The Norms and Standards for the Management of Damage-causing Animals were reviewed and referred back for amendment. The Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management Plans were redrafted and referred back for amendment.

Communications

The Chief Directorate: Communications provides an information management service to the department, as well as media and liaison support to the department and the Minister. In the financial year, the chief directorate updated its communication policy, which is being reviewed by management.

Corporate identity and branding guidelines and a manual were produced and distributed to senior managers and the relevant line officials. All departmental events were branded and promotional items were produced according to the branding and communication strategies. Staff participated in 12 exhibitions at national and departmental events. The draft Internal Communications Strategy was completed, and consultations in this regard are taking place. Eight information sessions were held, seven editions of the internal publication, *Lekgotla*, were published and year-end functions were organised in Cape Town and Pretoria. The development of the community media engagement strategy will be prioritised in the 2009/10 financial year.

In addition, the chief directorate is busy with a public perception survey with the aim of compiling an internal and

external perception index. The ultimate goal is to improve client satisfaction. A simultaneous stakeholder strategy is also being implemented.

As part of its engagement with stakeholders, the chief directorate supported the following stakeholders:

- o The KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape Tourism departments on the results of the global competitiveness study
- o The Office of the Director-General on the Environmental Non-governmental Organisations' Forum
- o The Office of the COO on the third National Women and Environment Conference
- o Environmental Quality and Protection on the 10-year Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Conference
- o Biodiversity and Conservation on the People and Parks Conference
- o The Department of Science and Technology on its Indigenous Knowledge Expo

The chief directorate coordinated and successfully implemented provincial clean-up campaigns in Hoedspruit and Thohoyandou (Limpopo), Mafikeng

(North West), Umtata and Butterworth (Eastern Cape) in partnership with Indalo Yethu, Buyisa-e-bag and the relevant provincial offices. Various other activities and campaigns were undertaken with provinces. The chief directorate was also involved in national campaigns, such as the National Clean-up Campaign and Tourism Month.

Communication strategies and/or media plans were implemented for, among others, the third National Women and Environment Conference, the launch of the National Action Plan on Seabirds, the launch of the national pilot project on illegal tour-guiding, the National Climate Change Summit, the South African sale of stockpiled ivory (a media monitoring analysis was also conducted), the National Tourism Conference and the 10-year EIA Conference. The media were also taken to visit the seized Taiwanese vessel and the Sarah Baartman offshore protection vessel on its return to South Africa after a multinational enforcement patrol. The key media issues for the financial year were the sale of ivory, EIAs and mining, enforcement issues, rhino horn poaching, damage-causing animals and gin traps.

Stakeholder engagement is an important part of communication.

