



## THE SCIENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE : EVIDENCE-BASED ACTIONS FOR EMIS

10TH ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT LEKGOTLA | 18 - 21 NOVEMBER 2024 | KZN

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME FORUM

Eastern Cape Environmental Crime Working Group



Call centre: +27 86 111 2468  
[www.dffe.gov.za](http://www.dffe.gov.za)



# INTRODUCTION

- Established in the early 1990's.
- Following conflict that arose around a case docket... affected stakeholders were invited to a meeting around a three legged pot over a fire at Swartkops Inspection Quarters.
- This hot meeting evolved into the Environmental Crime Task Team (ECTT). The membership rapidly grew and involved representation from the SAPS specialized units and the National Prosecuting Authority
- The meetings were held quarterly and the venues rotated throughout the province in the provincial protected areas.
- The initial focus was on green matters, quarterly meetings



## INTRODUCTION

- The ECTT evolved into the current Eastern Cape Environmental Crime Working Group (ECECWG), after the establishment of the “Environmental Management Inspectorate”
- With the name change the focus also changed to include brown and blue environmental crimes.
- The attendees increased as other Organs of State with an environmental mandate were invited and began to contribute.
- Other Provinces visited the ECECWG to emulate the concept in their provinces.
- The DPP and Provincial Commissioner of SAPS gave their full support
- Has been meeting quarterly, consistently since inception as a WG in 2007



# PURPOSE OF THE FORUM/HISTORY/REASONS WHY IT WAS ESTABLISHED

- Co-ordinate responses to alleged environmental crime between different Organs of State that had a concurrent environmental enforcement mandate.
- Provide a forum where challenges related to prosecution were discussed and investigative techniques improved.
- Provide a conduit for Working Group IV and other environmental crime related initiatives
- Building camaraderie and teamwork!



# Strategic importance/ significance in dealing with environmental crimes

- Collaboration platform with law enforcement role players
- Information sharing – intelligence for operations
- Augmenting capacity through joint effort
- Reporting platform for progress on prosecutions – DPP & the NPA
- Awareness of environmental crime – building role-player confidence



## Linkages with other environmental crime initiatives

- Held over 2 days to include the ProvJoints Wildlife Priority Committee and Phakisa planning meetings
- PBIF and NBIF
- WGIV
- WCIDTT





## MEMBERS OF THE FORUM/ FREQUENCY OF ENGAGEMENTS

- Environmental Management Inspectorate, (DEDEAT.)
- Director of Public Prosecutions,
- National Prosecuting Authority,
- Statutory conservation bodies:
  - South African National Parks,
  - Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency.
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:
  - Environmental enforcement staff including Oceans and Coasts,
  - Fisheries Branch;
  - Forestry Branch; Forestry Regulation and Indigenous Forest Management
- SAPS:
  - EMI Co-Ordinator (Provincial Office,)
  - DPCI,
  - Priority Crime Specialised Investigations
  - STES
  - District DOC's (six Districts.)
- SANDF (EP Command.)
- Department of Mineral and Energy Resources
- Municipal EMI's
- Honorary Nature Conservation Officers.
- Private Rhino Owners Association (by invitation)



## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Early days:
  - Smuggling; birds, cycads, rhino products...
  - Protected species poaching... kudu, buffalo theft...
- ECECWG:
  - Rhino prosecutions, (100 years per suspect plus.)
  - Cycad prosecutions, (10 years direct imprisonment.)
  - Succulents, Clivias,...
  - Racketeering certificates for cycads and clivias. (First in RSA.)
  - Municipal Manager prosecution, (Maletswai and Cradock.) Another first in RSA.
  - Demolition of unlawful structures consequent to administrative actions.





## AREAS/ OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE WORK OF THE INITIATIVE

- Greater involvement of SAPS Crime Intelligence.
- Regular attendance of specific role players...
- Innovative ways of tracking/catalyzing prosecutions
- Cost-saving options for continuing with physical meetings
- Participation of local authority EMIs – platform for reporting and obtaining assistance with enforcing compliance with their legislative mandate



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# THANK YOU

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