



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

NPA Presentation: GEF 7 DPP ECWG



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INTRODUCTION

DPP Environmental Crime Working Group

- The group consist of prosecutors delegated by their provincial Directors of Public Prosecutions(DPP) and DFFE members to assist and coordinate environmental crimes committed in South Africa and over provincial and international borders.
- The Working group is co-chaired by DFFE and the NPA



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

Purpose: To assist in addressing challenges in prosecuting environmental crime.

History: Prosecutors, representing all provinces in South Africa were delegated by their respective DPPs' to represent their province on the forum, for hotspot crimes in their provinces.

Reason: South Africa have a serious environmental crime reputation, recognised by the international community. (Grey list)



Strategic importance/ significance in dealing with environmental crimes

- All prosecutors involved have practical experience in prosecuting environmental crime.
- Our nodal point is in NPA Head Office and allows direct access to new caselaw, strategies, new developments and overall communication.
- Points of interest are discussed on a regular basis.
- Syndicates are identified, exposed and prosecuted.
- With the close interaction between DFFE and NPA at this forum, new approaches to fight environmental crime are exploited.



MEMBERS OF THE FORUM/ FREQUENCY OF ENGAGEMENTS

- The DPP ECW meet biannually for two consecutive days.
- We aim to rotate destinations and visit all provinces.
- Our last meeting was our sixth meeting in Skukuza, Mpumalanga.



Focus areas

- Prosecution driven investigations.
- Intelligence supported investigations.
- Opposing Bail for arrested accused.
- Link different cases committed by same syndicate.
- Identify syndicate members and the part they play in the syndicate.
- Assist with new legislation and SOP for new cases



ACHIEVEMENTS

Arrest and convictions in Abalone cases-country wide

Arrest and convictions in theft of succulent plants in Northern Cape, Free-state and Western Cape.

Arrests and convictions made in KZN, North-West, Eastern Cape.
(Rhino)

Arrest made in Pangolin cases- Limpopo, Gauteng etc.

Centralisation of cases where syndicates were active across provincial borders.

Identifying syndicates with the use of DFFE analyst team.



AREAS/ OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE WORK OF THE INITIATIVE

- Investigating methods should become the norm in all investigations regarding environmental/organised crime.
- Information and successful prosecutions go hand-in-hand.
- The project is scheduled for 5 years, it will be in the interest of all nature conservation to extend the project.



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THANK YOU

Remember!

“Convictions are found in the details”



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