



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2886 {NW3314E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22 OF 2025

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#### **Ms N Makasi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether, noting that parts of Athlone are industrial zones, thereby making it susceptible to challenges relating to pollution and waste management, his department has worked with local stakeholders to adopt and advance more eco-friendly and sustainable practices; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

#### **2886. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

Environmental management is a concurrent function between the national and provincial spheres of government. Matters relating to general waste pollution are under the provincial mandate.

The National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS), 2020, which was developed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), provides government policy and strategic interventions for the waste sector and is aligned and responsive to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. It is also aligned and responsive to South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030, which is South Africa's specific response to and integration of the SDGs into its overall socio-economic development plans.

The NWMS, 2020, outlines an outcome-based planning approach premised on three pillars, namely- Waste Minimisation; Effective and Sustainable Waste Services; and Compliance, Enforcement, and Awareness.

Numerous environmental and waste management programmes are being implemented across the country. In terms of waste management and diversion of waste away from the landfill, the DFFE collaborates with various partners such as the National Cleaner Production Centre -South Africa (NCPC-SA), provincial government, and the City of Cape Town to address current waste management challenges and, wherever applicable, share resources and lessons learned on common initiatives.

As one of the interventions related to cleaner production and industrial symbiosis, the NCPC-SA is implementing a Global Eco-Industrial Park Programme (GEIPP), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO); the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition; and the GreenCape in Atlantis and Montague Gardens, to assure the creation of synergies and the trading in waste across businesses. However, due to resource constraints, the programme has not been able to be implemented in the Athlone area, but whenever it was possible, businesses across the Western Cape, including Athlone, were invited for workshops to share best practices, lessons learned, and tools developed by seven countries, namely Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Ukraine, and Viet Nam that are piloting eco-industrial parks.

Furthermore, the DFFE has partnered with the NCPC-SA to strengthen the capacity and national reach of the NCPC-SA by establishing waste symbiosis programmes in all provinces. However, in the Western Cape, the GreenCape and the City of Cape Town are well established and have been conducting extensive engagements with the business networks within the province on trading in waste (industrial symbiosis); hence, the NCPC–DFFE programme initiated industrial symbiosis outside the borders of the City of Cape Town to eliminate the duplication of work and resources.


The Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP) have contributed through the following initiatives to mitigate pollution in the Athlone area:

1. The iThemba Phakama 4Ps project – an initiative of the Western Cape DEADP and the DFFE.
  - This school-based recycling project is managed by the Director of Sustainability at the DEADP.
  - This model has since been replicated at more schools in Mitchells Plain, Athlone, and Langa.

Here is the link to the article: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-07-09-cape-town-learners-are-turning-junk-into-money-to-upgrade-their-schools-and-cleaning-up-their-neighbourhoods/>

2. Regenise Recycling – React Now initiative – Private non-governmental organisation, partnering with the Western Cape Provincial Government (WCPG).
- The React Now initiative does not strictly work in Athlone, but is active in its surrounding suburbs, such as Kewtown, Bridgetown, and Silvertown, as well as Rondebosch, Rosebank, and Claremont, among others <https://www.reactnow.africa/>.
  - The City's Waste Warriors 2 (WW2) project – This is a new/planned collaborative initiative between the City of Cape Town and the WCPG aimed at reducing landfill dependency by establishing school-based recycling hubs in selected schools.
  - Under a cost-sharing model, the project will provide schools with the following:
    - o Storage infrastructure (containers/roof structures) – funded by the province
    - o Recycling Equipment (manual bailers, sorting tables, scales, tricycles, PPE, bags) – funded by the city.
    - o EPWP Workforce (two workers per school) – funded by the city.
  - One of the schools earmarked for inclusion is Hazendal Primary School, in the close vicinity of Athlone (on the southern edge of Hazendal).

Regards



DR D T GEORGE MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 3/6/2025