

2022/23

Annual Report To Citizens

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

VOTE NO. 32



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT

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Chief Directorate: Communication

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1. WHO WE ARE

The legal mandate and core business of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is to manage, protect and conserve South Africa's environment and natural resources and promote sustainable development.

Vision

A prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with our natural resources.

Mission

Providing leadership in environmental management, conservation and protection towards sustainability for the benefit of South Africans and the global community.

Values

We are driven by our **Passion** as custodians and ambassadors of the environment, and we have to be **Proactive** and foster **Innovative** thinking and solutions to environmental management premised on a **People-centric** approach that recognises the centrality of Batho-Pele, for it is when we put our people first that we will serve with **Integrity**, an important ingredient for a high **Performance-driven** organisation such as ours.

2. WHAT WE DO

Constitutional Mandate

The legal mandate and core business of the DFFE is to manage, protect and conserve South Africa's environment and natural resources and promote sustainable development. The mandate of the department is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Chapter 2 (Bill of Rights) and section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic guarantee everyone the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or wellbeing; and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:

- Prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
- Promote conservation; and
- Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

Legislative Mandate

To give effect to its Constitutional mandate of protecting the environmental and promoting sustainable development, the department has over a period of time developed a comprehensive environmental management legislative/regulatory framework. This regulatory framework consists of acts of parliament (environmental laws), regulations, policies, norms and standards and other regulatory tools which are aimed at promoting sound environmental management practices in order to protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

The Department's outcomes are implemented by the following programmes:

Programme 1: Administration

Purpose: Provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the department.

Programme 2: Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring

Purpose: Promote the development of an enabling legal regime and licensing authorisation system that will promote enforcement and compliance and ensure coordination of sector performance.

Programme 3: Oceans and Coasts

Purpose: Promote, manage and provide strategic leadership on oceans and coastal conservation.

Programme 4: Climate Change, Air Quality and Sustainable Development

Purpose: Lead, promote, facilitate, inform, monitor and review the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, low carbon emissions, climate resilience and air quality in South Africa's transition to sustainable development.

Programme 5: Biodiversity and Conservation

Purpose: Ensure the regulation and management of biodiversity, heritage and conservation matters in a manner that facilitates sustainable economic growth and development.

Programme 6: Environmental Programmes

Purpose: Implement the expanded public works programme and green economy projects in the environmental sector.

Programme 7: Chemicals and Waste Management

Purpose: Manage and ensure that chemicals and waste management policies and legislation are implemented and enforced in compliance with chemicals and waste management authorisations, directives and agreements.

Programme 8: Forestry Management

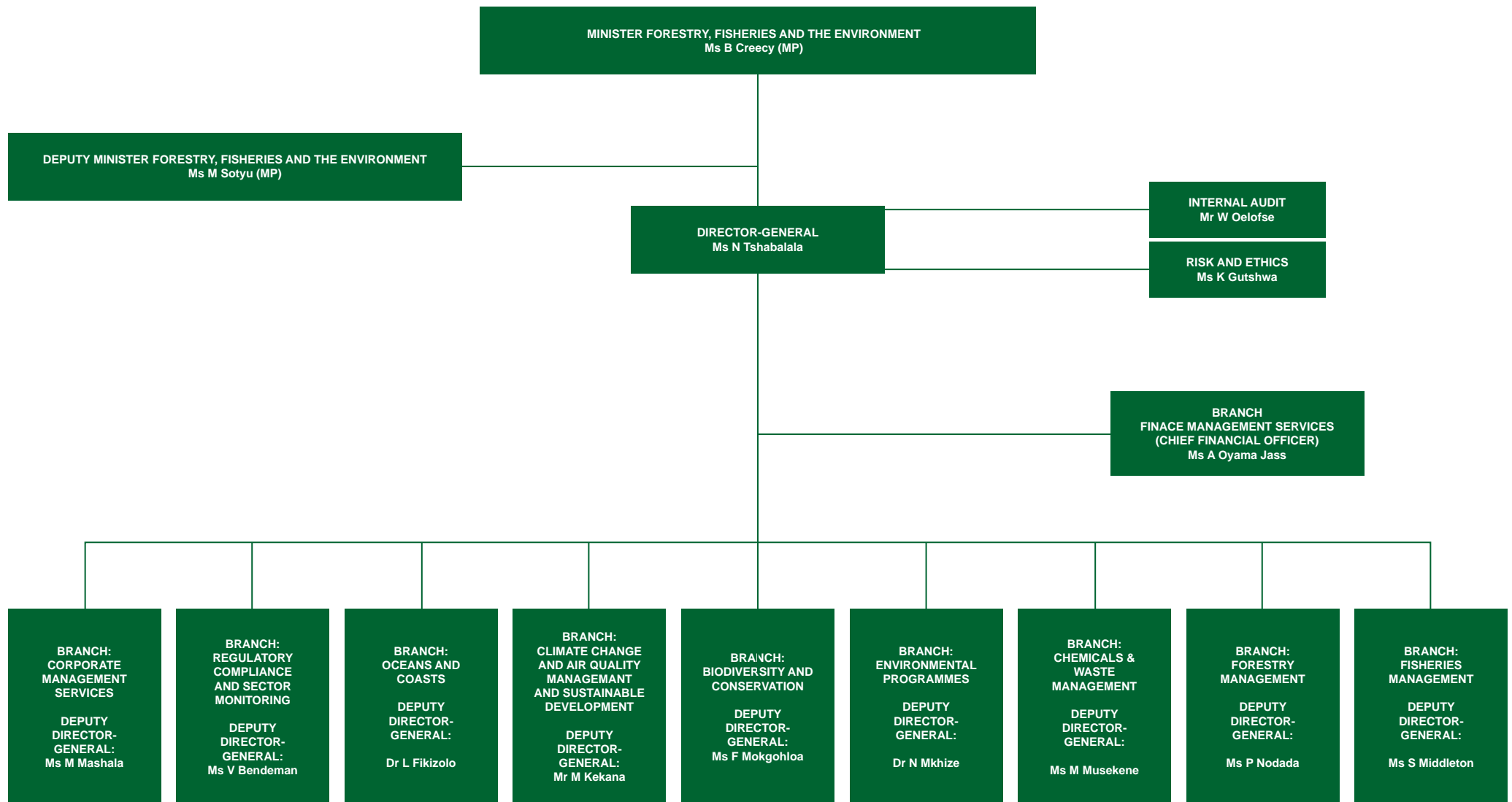
Purpose: Develop and facilitate the implementation of policies and targeted programmes to ensure the management of forests, the sustainable use and protection of land and water, and the management of agricultural risks and disasters.

Programme 9: Fisheries Management





Purpose: Ensure the sustainable use of and orderly access to marine living resources through improved management and regulation.

3. WHO IS IN CHARGE

Organisational Structure (As at 31 March 2023)



Entities reporting to the Minister

NAME OF ENTITY	LOGOS	LEGISLATIVE MANDATE	FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP	NATURE OF OPERATIONS
iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority		iSimangaliso Wetland Park ("Park") was inscribed as South Africa's first world heritage site in December 1999 as an area of exceptional and outstanding universal heritage significance	Transfer payment	The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority in recognition of its exceptional natural beauty and unique global values, is responsible for managing the affairs of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The 332 000 ha park contains three major lake systems, eight interlinking ecosystems, 700-year-old fishing traditions, most of South Africa's remaining swamp forests, Africa's largest estuarine system, 526 bird species and 25 000 year-old coastal dunes – among the highest in the world. iSimangaliso also contains four wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
South African Weather Services (SAWS)		SAWS was established in terms of the South African Weather Service Act, 2001 (Act No. 8 of 2001)	Transfer payment	The mandate of SAWS is to provide useful and innovative weather, climate and related products and services for all South Africans and the African continent through the following, namely enhancing observational data and communications networks; effectively developing and managing talent in the sector; enhancing collaborative partnerships and effectively disseminating weather services products to users; utilising cutting edge technology to convert data into meaningful products and services for risk mitigation; advancing the science of meteorology, research and relevant applications; and enhancing fiscal discipline and resource mobilisation to ensure sustainability
South African National Parks (SANParks)		SANParks was established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003)	Transfer payment	The mandate of SANParks is to oversee the conservation of South Africa's biodiversity, landscapes and associated heritage assets through a system of national parks. The core areas that provide a fundamental basis of the mandate of SANParks are conservation management through the national parks system, constituency building and people focused eco-tourism management
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)		SANBI was established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)	Transfer payment	The mandate of SANBI is to play a leading role in South Africa's national commitment to biodiversity management. In partnership with the DFFE and the biodiversity sector, SANBI is tasked to lead the biodiversity research agenda; provide knowledge and information; give policy support and advice; manage gardens as windows to our biodiversity for leisure, enjoyment, spiritual upliftment and education; and engage in ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation programmes and best-practice models to manage biodiversity better
Marine Living Resources Fund	None	Marine Living Resources Fund was established in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act of 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998)	Grant funding	The mandate and core business of the fund is to manage the development and sustainable use of South Africa's marine and coastal resources, as well as protecting the integrity and quality of the country's marine and coastal ecosystem

4. WHAT ARE OUR STANDARDS AND HOW WE MET THEM

Service Delivery Improvement Plan

As required in accordance with Part III.C.1-2 of the Public Service Regulations, the DFFE has an approved Service Delivery Improvement Plan in place. Compliance with the approved service standards is monitored internally on a quarterly basis and reported to Parliament and the general public in the annual report of the DFFE.

Main Services and Standards

MAIN SERVICES	BENEFICIARIES	CURRENT/ACTUAL STANDARD OF SERVICE	DESIRED STANDARD OF SERVICE	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION				
Legitimate invoices from suppliers paid within 30 working days	Members of the public	97% legitimate invoices from suppliers paid with 30 days	100%	99,7% (34 729/34 832) of legitimate invoices from suppliers paid within 30 working days
Presidential Hotline queries responded to within 3 working days	Querier	100% queries received, and all responded to on time	90%	93% (14/15) Presidential Hotline queries responded to within 3 working days
PROGRAMME 2: REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND SECTOR MONITORING				
Complaints and incidents responded to through a compliance and/or enforcement action within 20 working days set in the referral protocol	Members of the public	96% DFFE environmental complaints and incidents responded to within 20 working days	95%	98% (185/189) complaints and incidents responded to through a compliance and/or enforcement action within 20 working days
Environmental impact management applications for priority projects finalised within 45 working days (Strategic Integrated Projects, Invest South Africa, Green Economy and post Covid recovery initiatives)	Applicants	99% environmental impact management applications for priority projects finalised within 45 working days	100%	No environmental impact management applications for priority projects received during the period under review
National environmental impact management applications finalised within the set time frames (applications within gazetted Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Corridors: 57 working days; other applications within 107 working days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developers • Environmental assessment practitioners • Industry • Interested and affected parties 	99% Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) applications finalised within time frames	100%	99% (229/231) national environmental impact management applications finalised within gazetted SEA Corridors: 57 working days; other applications within 107 working days

MAIN SERVICES	BENEFICIARIES	CURRENT/ACTUAL STANDARD OF SERVICE	DESIRED STANDARD OF SERVICE	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT
PROGRAMME 3: OCEANS AND COASTS				
Applications for marine research permits finalised within 90 working days	Industry/ Government Entities	100% marine research permits issued within 90 working days	100%	100% (55/55) applications for marine research permits finalised within 90 working days
Applications for off-road vehicle permits finalised within 90 working days	Researchers working on protected species and within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)	100% off-road vehicle permits issued 90 working days	100%	98% (64/65) off-road vehicle permits finalised within 90 working days
Applications for dumping permits finalised within 90 working days	Applicants	100% dumping permits issued within 90 working days	100%	89% (8/9) dumping permits finalised within 90 working days
Applications for permits for activities within MPAs finalised within 30 working days	Applicants	92% permits issued within 30 working days	95%	99% (162/164) applications for permits for activities within MPAs finalised within 30 working days
PROGRAMME 4: CLIMATE CHANGE, AIR QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Atmospheric Emission Licenses applications issued within 60 working days	Applicants	100% Atmospheric Emission Licenses with complete applications processed and issued within 60 working days	100%	100% (12/12) Atmospheric Emission Licenses applications issued within 60 working days
PROGRAMME 5: BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION				
Applications for Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permits assessed and decision issued within 25 working days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders • Exporters or importers of CITES listed species • Scientific Institutions 	100% received CITES applications assessed and decision issued within 25 working days	100%	100% (29/29) applications for CITES permits assessed and decision issued within 25 working days
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government departments; and parastatals 			

MAIN SERVICES	BENEFICIARIES	CURRENT/ACTUAL STANDARD OF SERVICE	DESIRED STANDARD OF SERVICE	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT
Applications for Threatened or protected species (TOPS) permits assessed and decision issued within 25 working days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders • Exporters or importers of TOPS listed species • Scientific Institutions • Government Departments; and Parastatals 	100% received TOPS applications assessed and decision issued within 25 working days	100%	100% (56/56) applications for TOPS permits assessed and decision issued within 25 working days
PROGRAMME 7: CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Waste licence applications finalised within 107 working days	Applicants	93% waste management licences were issued within 107 working days	95%	100% (21/21) waste licence applications finalised within 107 working days
Remediation orders finalised within 90 working days	Applicants	100% remediation orders issued within 90 working days	95%	100% (11/11) remediation orders finalised within 90 working days
PROGRAMME 8: FORESTRY MANAGEMENT				
Licenses applications (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the National Forest Act (NFA) processed within 90 working days	Applicants	94% licenses (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the NFA) issued within 90 working days	100%	1 179 license applications (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the NFA) issued

Batho Pele arrangements with Beneficiaries

CURRENT/ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS	DESIRED ARRANGEMENTS	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS
Regular stakeholder consultation events on work of DFFE	Maintain current arrangements	19 events facilitated
Media relations programme		114 media statements and speeches issued
Facilitation of public education and awareness campaigns		4 public education and awareness campaigns implemented

Service Delivery Information Tool

CURRENT/ACTUAL INFORMATION TOOLS	DESIRED INFORMATION TOOLS	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>DFFE website (www.dffe.gov.za)</p> <p>DFFE Call Centre (086 111 2468)</p> <p>Information Centre (walk-in centre)</p> <p>Use of regional and national media (print media, radio and television)</p> <p>Capacity to respond to media queries</p>	Maintain use of current tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 114 media statements and speeches issued • 7 opinion pieces issued • 19 events facilitated, including Ministerial events • 5 stakeholder publications produced and published (Environment Quarterly) • 90% media queries finalised. 440 media queries received, of which 397 were completed while 43 are incomplete • Total number of visitors to the Information Centre was 82 762

Complaints Mechanism

CURRENT/ACTUAL ARRANGEMENT MECHANISM	DESIRED COMPLAINTS ARRANGEMENTS	ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>Regular stakeholder consultation events on work of DFFE</p> <p>Facilitation of regular environmental campaigns</p>	Maintain current mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 events facilitated including Ministerial events • Public education and awareness campaigns implemented • 93% (14/15) Presidential Hotline queries resolved as per service delivery standards • Total number of visitors to Information Centre was 82 762 • 99.1% of matters received and responded to through the Call Centre resolved within set service standard of 48 hours • 1 637 requests received in the Call Centre which consists of 158 calls, 1 249 emails, 196 Facebook and 34 twitter queries

5. HOW WE INTEND IMPROVING OUR SERVICES

The approved DFFE Service Delivery Improvement Plan (SDIP) indicates the services that the department plans to make improvements on during the 2023/24 – 2024/25 financial years. Below are the key services and targets from the 2023/24 – 2024/25 SDIP:

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT KEY SERVICES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC SET STANDARD	BASELINE: 2021/22	OVERALL SDIP CYCLE TARGET (2023/24 – 2024/25)
PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION				
Legitimate invoices from suppliers paid within 30 working days	Percentage of legitimate invoices from suppliers paid within 30 working days	100%	97% (19 403/19 978) legitimate invoices from suppliers paid within 30 working days	100%
PROGRAMME 2: REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING				
National Environmental Impact Assessment applications finalised within stipulated time frame (Applications within Gazetted SEA Corridors: 57 working days; and other applications not within Gazetted Strategic Environmental Assessments: 107 working days)	Percentage of National Environmental Impact Assessment applications finalised within stipulated time frame (Applications within Gazetted SEA Corridors: 57 working days; and other applications not within Gazetted Strategic Environmental Assessments: 107 working days)	100%	99% (183/184) Environmental Impact Assessment applications finalised within stipulated time frames (Applications within Gazetted SEA Corridors: 57 working days; and other applications: 107 working days)	100% applications within Gazetted SEA Corridors: 57 working days 100% applications not within Gazetted Strategic Environmental Assessments: 107 working days
PROGRAMME 3: OCEANS AND COASTS				
Applications for permits for activities within Marine Protected Areas finalised within 30 working days	Percentage of permits for activities within Marine Protected Areas finalised within 30 working days	95%	92% (122/132) applications for permits for activities within Marine Protected Areas finalised within 30 working days	95%
PROGRAMME 7: CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT				
Waste management license application finalised within 107 working days	Percentage of waste management license applications finalised within 107 working days	95%	94% (29/31) waste management licenses were issued within 107 working days	95%
PROGRAMME 8: FORESTRY MANAGEMENT				
License applications (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the National Forests Act [NFA]) processed within 90 working days	Percentage of license applications (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the NFA) processed within 90 working days	100%	91% (1 035 / 1 134) licenses (in terms of section 7, 15 and 23 of the NFA) issued within 90 working days	100%

6. OUR ORGANISATION AND STAFFING

The organisational structure has 4 148 posts on the approved establishment. The table below reflects the total number of posts filled as at 31 March 2023.

OCCUPATIONAL BAND	MALE					FEMALE					TOTAL
	AFRICAN	COLOURED	INDIAN	MALE, TOTAL BLACKS	WHITE	AFRICAN	COLOURED	INDIAN	FEMALE, TOTAL BLACKS	WHITE	
Senior Officials and Managers	69	10	7	86	8	56	4	10	70	13	177
Professionals	208	25	8	241	32	221	25	8	254	25	
Technicians and Associate Professionals	329	42	9	380	34	410	33	12	455	37	906
Clerks	164	16	3	183	7	378	36	6	420	17	627
Service Shop and Market Sales Workers	225	26	2	253	25	100	7	0	107	1	386
Craft and Related Trade Workers	4	2	0	6	0	0	1	0	1	0	7
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	47	6	0	53	1	3	0	0	3	0	57
Labourers and Related Workers	320	8	0	328	0	305	6	0	311	1	640
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Total	1 366	135	29	1 530	107	1 474	112	36	1 622	95	3 354
Employees with disabilities	16	1	1	18	7	25	2	0	27	10	62

The staff of the department is diverse and able to communicate in all the South African official languages.

7. OUR BUDGET

The DFFE received a total budget of R8 994 839 for the 2022/23 financial year. The table below provides a breakdown of how the budget was spent:

PROGRAMME NAME	FINAL	ACTUAL	(OVER)/UNDER	% SPENT
	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURE	EXPENDITURE	
	R'000	R'000	R'000	
1. Administration	1 218 904	1 208 150	10 754	99,1%
2. Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring	243 476	243 476	-	100%
3. Oceans and Coasts	519 859	504 678	15 181	97,1%
4. Climate Change, Air Quality and Sustainable Development	678 762	662 308	16 454	97,6%
5. Biodiversity and Conservation	1 225 116	1 206 089	19 027	98,4%
6. Environmental Programmes	3 216 587	3 166 263	50 324	98,4%
7. Chemicals and Waste Management	626 966	617 329	9 637	98,5%
8. Forestry Management	632 550	585 905	46 645	92,6%
9. Fisheries Management	632 619	632 619	-	100%
TOTAL	8 994 839	8 826 817	168 022	98,1%

8. WHERE CAN WE BE FOUND

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