



environmental affairs

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Supporting
evidence
in decision
making

Towards sustainable development and green economy evidence strategy: Final workshop report

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1. Introduction

This report documents the workshop engagements and recommendations to provide inputs into the Sustainable Development and Green Economy (SD&GE) Evidence Strategy. The workshop was hosted on 30 May 2016 at the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in Pretoria.

The Evidence Strategies are developed as part of implementing the environment sector research, development and evidence (R,D&E) framework¹ approved by the Environment Minister and Members of Executive Council (Minmec) in 2012. The R,D&E framework identified a number of themes in line with the sector's policies. Since the framework approval, the national biodiversity research and evidence strategy was approved in 2015 by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and its implementation is underway. The four thematic evidence strategies drafts are in place for (1) chemicals and waste, (2) oceans and coasts and (3) sustainable development and green economy and (4) air quality management. The other themes identified in the framework are climate change, impact management and lastly compliance and enforcement. The R,D&E framework was developed to provide a high-level guide towards a common approach to evidence based policy making and science policy interface, while encouraging each of the themes to outline their strategies or plans in their specific context.

The two themes (biodiversity and SD&GE) Evidence Strategies are developed as part of the VakaYiko project's support to DEA on evidence based policy making and implementation. A previous workshop was held in February 2016 with Biodiversity and Conservation (B&C) theme to pilot the approach. This May 2016 workshop was held to scale up the biodiversity lessons by supporting the SD&GE Evidence Strategy.

The B&C pilot had the benefit of a prior consultation across the sector to identify the wider sector's views of what evidence would be needed to inform policy. However, the B&C pilot had not specifically asked policy teams what their needs were. Hence a survey was sent out within DEA and to members of Working Group 1 to identify such policy evidence needs. The survey answers were used as raw material for guiding the biodiversity workshop content. We could characterise the process of developing the B&C evidence strategy as an external→internal one, thus, engaging external stakeholders first and then internal ones second.

¹ https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/environmental_research_framework.pdf

Like the B&C, the SD&GE theme had developed a draft evidence strategy. However, it had been drafted wholly internally based on policy commitments such as National Development Plan (NDP), National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), Global Change Research Plan and the South Africa Outlook Report rather than by external science and evidence providers. A survey was drafted for SD&GE and sent out to Working Group members, but the response rate was far too low to be useful. The decision was therefore taken to make this process an internal→external one, focusing on identifying policy's evidence needs first and only then going out to the sector.

An overview of the R,D&E framework, NDP, NSSD (aspects which are already incorporated in NDP Chapter 5) and nine focus areas of the green economy was given at the workshop. The process and content towards the SD&GE evidence strategy are discussed in the following sections of the workshop report.

2. Workshop: purpose and outline

The purpose of the workshop was threefold:

1. to engage people from across the sector in the evidence strategy process as a precursor to more detailed engagement;
2. to work out the best way to 'cut the evidence cake' – how to structure the evidence strategy; and
3. to develop an initial idea of key topics and questions around that structure.

Since the draft evidence strategy for SD&GE was not as well developed as that for B&C, the workshop was planned to give more opportunity for plenary discussions on the process and guide on content approach than for detailed group work.

The workshop process, which followed three steps, is described in Annex A. Other highlights in terms of procedures were:

- A plenary session conducted to discuss how to structure the evidence strategy;
- Group work to identify the key topics and questions for each part of the structure; and
- A final plenary wrap-up session.

About 90 people were invited from across the sector, of which 36 attended. These participants included 15 from DEA, 7 from other national departments, 7 from provinces, 6 from academia and research institutions and one from private sector. This represented a range of expertise across the sector with a good engagement by members of the Working Group 3 (WG3) and Environmental Implementation Plan (EIP)/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Subcommittee. The WG3 and Subcommittee are important to policy planning and coordination in government to guide SD&GE evidence needs. The workshop attendees list is presented in Annex B.

3. The workshop

3a Structuring the SD&GE evidence strategy

The first plenary session focused on how to structure the evidence strategy. This was a key part of the workshop. The concurrent nature of the environment function among spheres of government and the degree of cross-sectoral interest in the SD&GE issues meant that it was vital that the structure emerged and was not imposed by DEA. The question the participants were asked was:

How do we organise the evidence for SD&GE such that it makes sense? Such evidence needed to:

- *Collate the evidence in such a way that it makes it clear how SD&GE policy priorities are being addressed;*
- *Communicate this to others in DEA, other departments, people outside government so that they know what the sector's priority questions are in order to meet those policy priorities; and*
- *Whether to "cut the cake" by sector, by province, by actor, or by something else?*

Discussions noted that evidence priorities and needs could be structured around either sectoral or provincial issues. However, the key would be the ultimate integration. This implied finding a way to pull out the integrated issues that are often at the core of SD&GE. Some participants noted that SD&GE is a process rather than a set of policies. The process is for integrating economic, social and environmental considerations into South Africa's development policies.

Furthermore, participants noted that many of these discussions had been elaborated during the processes leading to the development of the NDP and that in turn the NDP had informed South Africa's approach in shaping the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was also recognised that there was a natural harmonisation in terms of time frames between the NDP and SDGs which have targets to 2030. The real issue for the SD&GE evidence strategy was to develop the evidence base for domesticating the SDGs. The discussions further revealed that the

process of domesticating the SDGs can happen at all levels (sector, national/provincial/municipal/local) and much of the integration being sought in SD&GE will emerge from this process.

It was also asked whether DEA had any form of a task team for the SDGs and how this sort of evidence would be collected through the existing structures and processes. The Environmental Implementation Plans (EIPs)/ Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and Socio Economic Impact Assessment Model (SEIAS) were discussed, though both were felt to have limitations in terms of how well they were filled in and whether there was sufficient focus on the actual evidence. The final decision was taken by the plenary group to structure the SD&GE evidence strategy around the SDGs. Participants agreed to focus on five SDGs for which the environment sector holds primary responsibility, while consideration is made of other cross-cutting SDGs. The SDGs identified included the following:



- **SDG12 to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**



- **SDG13 to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**



- **SDG14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**



- **SDG15 to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**



- **SDG17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development**

3b: Group work and plenary presentation: identifying the key issues and important questions

After the identification of the SDGs, participants were divided into five groups to discuss key impact areas and questions around the selected five SDGs (Figure 1 and Figure 2).



Figure 1: Five groups



Figure 2: SDGs discussion

Participants self-selected into the five groups based on their interests or expertise. The intention had been to encourage participants to move between groups, but the discussion about how to structure the SD&GE evidence strategy took far longer than anticipated. In the end participants stayed in the original groups until the finalisation of the discussions (figure 3). Furthermore, the group selected representatives presented in the plenary the outcomes of the discussions (figure 4).



Figure 3: Discussing SDG 12



Figure 4: Presenting SDG 14

The initial workshop outputs were presented by the groups. The following “big issues” were identified, with key questions further outlined in the Annex C.

- SDG12 “big issues” were identified as behaviour change, beneficiation & innovation, investment, incentives and green procurement
- SDG13 “big issues” were identified as national communication, mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing, capacity development, international reporting and education and awareness
- SDG14 “big issues” were identified as sustainable harvesting of marine resources, food security, climate change impacts, and evidence of job opportunities: what kinds of green jobs?
- SDG15 “big issues” were identified as contradiction between conservation and resource exploitation, population growth and conflicting mandates of government departments
- SDG17 “big issues” were identified as sustainable partnerships, monitoring & evaluation (M&E), silos and interests of partners

The group presentations that took place in the plenary allowed participants to see the overlaps between the different groups and give additional inputs and points of clarity. It emerged that some of the issues being raised had already been picked up in the biodiversity workshop that as was confirmed by Kiruben Naicker, who led the B&C evidence strategy process and was one of the SD&GE workshop participants.

3c: Final plenary session

Due to time limitations, the workshop was only able to discuss the “big issues” in five SDGs for which the environment sector has primary responsibility. There was not enough time to discuss the other SDGs (such as SDG 6 on Water, SDG 7 on energy, etc.) which are ‘mandates’ of other departments. Two points were, however, made:

- this was the beginning of a process that may take time to get right and continuous engagements across the sector were key and it would be important to work out how to achieve the evidence approach without overburdening people and duplicating efforts
- the SD&GE evidence strategy would not ‘own’ the evidence for issues that were led by other branches or departments. It should concentrate instead on the truly cross-cutting issues that did not cause duplication, while the direct issues are to be dealt with and influenced or mainstreamed through such themes or sectors processes. This would keep the SD&GE evidence strategy manageable and strategic.

4. Towards finalising the evidence strategy

The workshop outputs form a good basis for further discussions and have identified some important issues. The post-workshop process was revised as a result. After the workshop it was decided that it would be important to ask participants and broader stakeholders to look into all the SDGs. This would allow participants to express the detail of their individual evidence needs. This would be done via a structured survey, based on the B&C survey but structured around the SDGs. As such, the post-workshop process follows four steps:

- Sending out the draft workshop report for workshop participants to give input into the report and ultimately sending the final workshop report to all relevant stakeholders;
- Sending out the SD&GE survey, based on the biodiversity survey but structured around the SDGs, asking relevant stakeholders to add details on big issues and questions and comment further on whether the evidence needs are short- medium- or long-term;
- Synthesising the workshop big issues and survey responses to work out which evidence needs should be retained by the SD&GE evidence strategy and which should be handed over to other branches or other departments or stakeholders;
- Sending the draft SD&GE evidence strategy document to participants for comment, reflection and further consultations; and
- Final SD&GE evidence strategy document circulated to relevant stakeholders

As with B&C, the idea is to update the SD&GE evidence needs on a regular basis such as annually. It is not yet clear whether this means having separate documents for the evidence strategy and implementation plan. This will be decided as the strategy document is being finalised with stakeholders' inputs.

5. Conclusions and reflections

The SD&GE theme is at a much earlier stage of development. It was never anticipated that the context would be as complex due to the concurrent nature of the environment function among spheres of government and the degree of cross-sectoral interest in the SD&GE. Unlike SD&GE, the B&C had a clear structure for the strategy in the form of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Strategic Outcomes, but SD&GE did not. Hence it was important to spend sufficient time discussing this with participants. This took the time for the group work. However, participants accepted that this was a fairly experimental process and we were unlikely to be able to get into the real detail in the short workshop. It was agreed that the team would be further engaging with the stakeholders in the coming months.

Structuring the evidence strategy around the SDGs made good sense: as it is in line with NDP (including chapter 5 and its link to NSSD) and government will be required to report on SDGs every year. Hence this will become part of the process of domesticating the SDGs. However, some of the comments on SDG17 need to be borne in mind: how to market the SDGs in the South African context, and how to develop a vision for the SDGs that works for all partners?

This workshop was facilitated through the VakaYiko project support to the DEA on a structured approach to evidence based policy making and science-policy interface. It is hoped that since participants now understand what the evidence needs prioritisation process is about, they will be more likely to fill in the SD&GE survey. It seems that both are needed, but the order in which they are used will depend on whether there is a strong science base already (as with B&C) or not. Engaging other spheres of government around SD&GE evidence needs will be an important part of the strategy process. However, this will be particularly difficult for this theme because of its breadth. Finalising the first iteration of the SD&GE evidence strategy might therefore take quite a long time – to the end of the financial year.

Annex A: SD&GE workshop outline

Time	Session	Purpose of the session	Notes
0900	Introduction	Mapula introduces the workshop: SD&GE and RD&E Framework	Leave sufficient time for latecomers
0915	Q&A		
0930	Cutting the evidence 'cake'	To get an idea of how to organise the GE&SD evidence strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By province? • By sector? • By actor? • Other? 	Facilitated discussion
1040	Identifying the key questions	Take the framing from the previous exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group works on one issue • Identify the key questions for the Short Term (ST) (1-2 years), Medium Term (MT) (3-5 years) and Long Term (LT) (5-10 years) 	Short Term/Long Term may be difficult to identify at this early stage
1200	Plenary wrap-up: coverage and next steps	Plenary discussion: did we cover all the issues? What might have been left out?	
		Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Mapula • For participants 	
1230	Thanks and close	Mapula leads the closure	

Annex B: SD&GE evidence strategy 30 May 2016 workshop attendees

Name	Details
1. Gavin Cowden	Mpumalanga
2. Tinyiko Malungani	Limpopo
3. Tharina Boshoff	North West
4. Basani Ndindani	Gauteng
5. Ndivhudza Nengovhela	Gauteng
6. Mdu Zondo	KZN
7. Sifiso Nkontwana	KZN
8. Peter Mohasoa	DMR
9. Lebeau Labuschange	DMR
10. Amanda Nyingwa	DMR
11. Bhekithemba Langalibalele	NDT
12. Phillip Ninela	DTI
13. Pumla Myeki	DTI
14. Magamase Mange	DST
15. Mac Makwarela	DEA-CC
16. Kiruben Naicker	DEA- B&C
17. Mahamba Khuthatso	DEA-B&C
18. Santhuri Naidoo	DEA-B&C
19. Edward Moeketsi	DEA- LACE
20. Nhlanhla Sithole	DEA- EP
21. Mashudu Gavhi	DEA-EP
22. Arthur Leshaba	DEA-COO
23. Anna Mampye	DEA-EAS
24. Stuart Mangold	DEA-EAS
25. Sukie Paras	DEA-EAS
26. Sibusisiwe Hlela	DEA-EAS
27. Godfrey Nyakulalini	DEA-EAS
28. Zamaswazi Nkuna	DEA-EAS
29. Mapula Tshangela	DEA- EAS
30. Vuyani Lindela	Mavareck
31. Chipo Mukonza	UNISA
32. Godwell Nhamo	UNISA
33. Nikki Funke	CSIR
34. Lorren Haywood	CSIR
35. Louise Shaxson	ODI
36. Ajoy Datta	ODI

Annex C: Worked outputs²

Annex C1: SDG12

SDG	'Big issues'	Specific questions
SDG 12: responsible consumption & production	Behaviour change	Are we aware of the sustainable consumption options available to us as consumers?
		How can education be used to promote responsible consumption?
		What can we do to stimulate behaviour change, i.e. green consumption?
		How do we/can we enhance manufacturers to improve the uptake and/or adoption of green technologies?
	Beneficiation & innovation	Commercialising new products: how to enhance the process to the advantage of South Africa (SA) implementers?
		How can we stimulate new green growth opportunities from end products / waste (beneficiation)
	Investment	How to enhance partnerships between SA and global players, making global value chains friendly to locally produced green products and services
		What are the investment opportunities and constraints to consumption and production?
	Incentives	What instruments can government use to stimulate local growth and responsible production?
		What can be done to make local and green produce more available and more competitive to the everyday person?
		What instrument(s) can be used to make responsible production more competitive?
	Green procurement	What can government do to secure national procurement in relation to international procurement?
		How do we procure green products?
		How does government create an environment for small green players in government procurement?

² This annex reflects key issues and specific questions in some instances- these still require unpacking by relevant and affected stakeholders outside of this workshop report

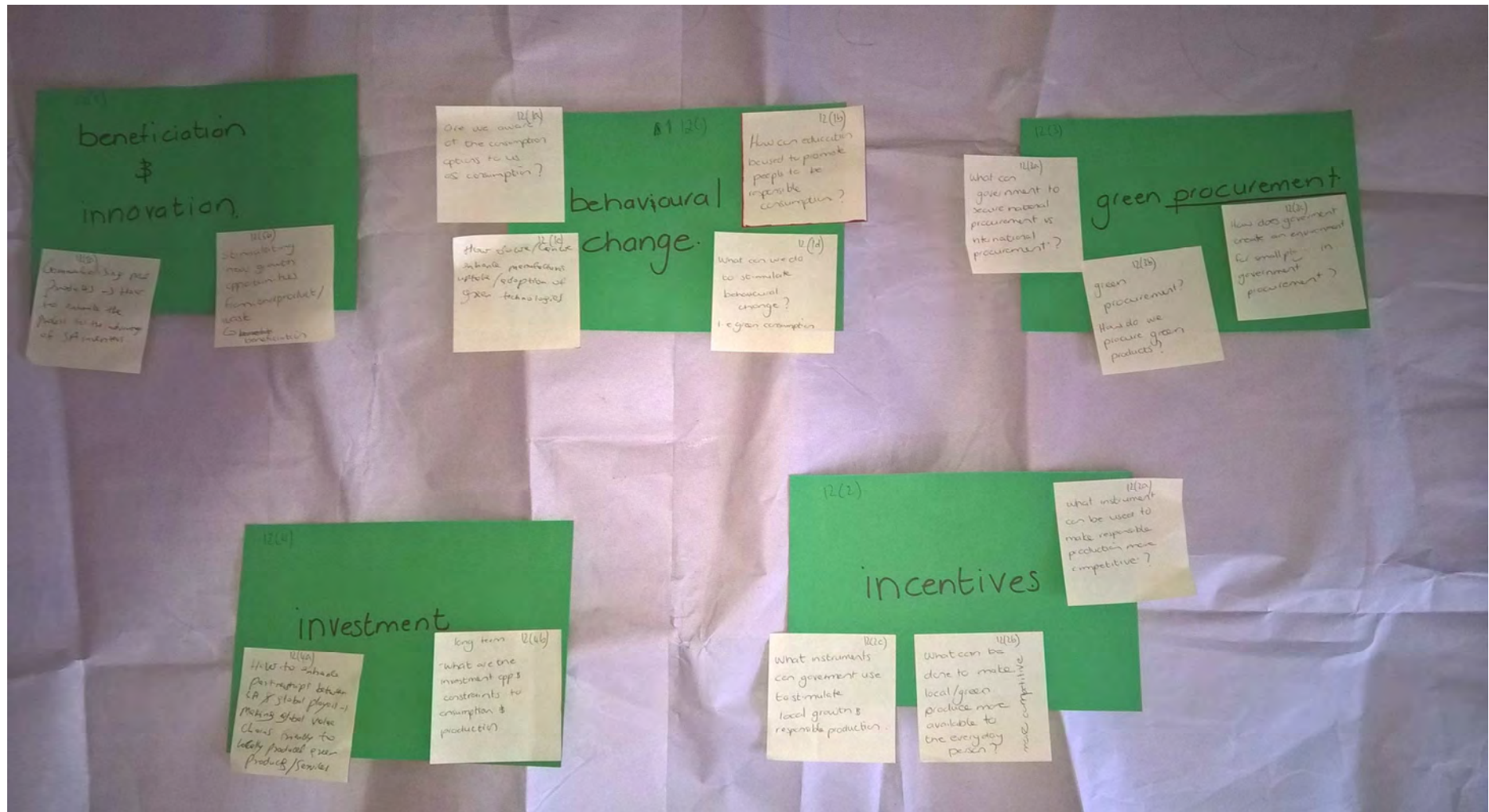


Figure C1.1: SDG12 big issues and questions

Post-workshop input received from participants to contextualise some of the issues around the SDG 12

SDG12 addresses the level of education and awareness of the consumers of all sectors of the society. The awareness ensures that there is understanding of sustainable development of economy, without degrading the quality of the environment and depleting the natural resources while growing the economy. As consumers of various products produced on a daily basis, our behaviour has an impact on the environment and puts more pressure on the natural resources to reproduce for our ill-informed heavy consumption of mostly non-renewable resources.

Government need to incentivise and capacitate actors to move toward clean technology, sustainable production, tax for pollution and subsidise actors to recycle and putting in place strategies. Responsible production and consumption will start by the creation of green and sustainable jobs, addressing poverty and inequalities, people accessing basic service and infrastructure, efficient use of energy and bulk production to reduce more use of resources and save energy.

All manufacturers to be mandated to demonstrate how business sustainability is being embedded in their operational processes, evidence of how their production process take into account the sustainability principles of socially just, environmentally friendly and economically sound, also including operational efficiencies and effectiveness which protects the receiving environment and developing economies. All this should be based on scientifically proven methods and approaches.

At a national level, there is a need to elevate the polluter pays principles from Small and Medium Enterprises to multi-internationals at proportionate scales. This will ensure that some level of responsibility and accountability is shown in the processes of product design, packaging and the recyclability of the products manufactured.

Industrial symbiosis is a powerful mechanism to perpetuate sustainable use of environmental resources. Currently Industrial Symbiosis is centred on resource efficiency while it has broader agenda linking it to the fields of innovation, climate change, green economy, and material and energy security as well as local, regional and national welfare.

Annex C2: SDG13

SDG	'Big issues'	Specific questions
SDG 13: Climate action	National communication	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)
	Mitigation	ST: What kind of renewable energy uptake is there in emerging markets?
		ST: Do we have adequate information and data on inventories of climate related policies in trade destination countries for SA goods and services?
		ST: What are the impacts of research that has already been done on climate mitigation?
		LT: What forms of climate mitigation innovations that are coming up?
		LT: How much renewable energy has been connected to the grid and off the grid?
		ST: What feasible energy efficiency measures are put in place to reduce reliance on fossil fuels such as coal powered stations?
	Adaptation	ST: What are the roles of ecosystem based adaptation and is this working?
		ST: How much of climate resilient infrastructure is coming up and is industry adjusting accordingly to supply such?
		How much capacity development and awareness on the impacts and causes of climate change is taking place?
	Technology	ST: What technologies should South Africa be investing in to ensure more climate compatible practices, especially in the agriculture and water sectors as well as in local government?
	Financing	Are current South African policies stimulating investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions?
	Capacity development	Do we have the capacity?
International reporting	What are the existing and proposed future reporting mechanisms on climate governance?	
Education & awareness	What appropriate education systems are needed in order to address the challenge of climate change now and into the future?	



Figure C2.1: SDG13 big issues and questions

Post-workshop input received from participants to contextualise some of the issues around the SDG 13

The current system that deals with the issue of climate change needs to be reviewed. Climate change has to be treated in a sensitive way in order to develop a policy that will ensure that industries, motor vehicle companies and general communities are aware and comply with emission levels as per the policy. Incentives can be another way to use to encourage the industrial sector as the largest polluter to lower their carbon footprint. We must continue to engage all spheres in government department that are mandated to protect and conserve the environment to come up with new mitigation strategies. One problem that government needs to address sooner is the challenge of not implementing policies and developing policies on top of policies addressing same problems.

South Africa has many good policies addressing emission and polluter paying but there is no enforcement and practicing. Early warning must be the key through awareness and education, planning must start addressing climate change strategies, mitigation and policies. The focus must reach the ground woman and girls.

The implementation of the Greenhouse Gas related Tax is one of the key evidence that should stand out in addressing climate change impacts in the country. The fact that the tax commencement has been postponed quite a few times does not help the government in sending a strong message about the seriousness of government in addressing the issue.

DEA is to provide leadership and support to struggling municipalities and provincial departments in implementing the climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies at all levels of government to ensure cohesion and scaling of action and reporting from local to national as well as international level.

As a country, we already had a first-hand experience on the impacts of drought and water shortages recently witnessed in the country and also the resultant impact of the phenomenon on the lower segment of our society, government's efforts in targeted education and awareness raising initiatives to change behaviour from consumptive society to a replenishing society should be evident in many ways.

Drought and extreme heat dramatically reduced production of key crops recently in the country. The introduction of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) system as an effective means of 'making space for water', adapting to possible climate change and helping communities become more flood and drought resilient.

There is lack of understanding about the existence and function of Suds. There must be consultation regarding solutions during SuDS planning and installation. Ongoing dialogue afterwards could usefully be explored as a means to improve local awareness of and satisfaction with SuDS and promote greater understanding of their function. This may in turn encourage behavior change to improve longer-term functionality of SuDS and increase community resilience to flooding and drought.

We need to see a forceful drive towards the use of alternative fuels that are environmentally friendly and yet useful. The harvesting of methane gas from the landfill site, the use of photovoltaic solar panels for geysers and lighting in residential and industrial areas. Government incentives should be clearly structured to attract the users to convert to renewable sources of energy.

Annex C3: SDG14

SDG	'Big issues'	Specific questions
SDG14: Life below water ³	Sustainable harvesting of marine resources	Status of the marine resource
		Monitoring pollution levels
		Compliance monitoring & enforcement
		Subsidies – proportion of beneficiation?
		Monitoring, exploring and harnessing indigenous knowledge
		Incentivise companies that promote (the environment) or do not overfish
	Food security	Production volumes
		Community dependency
		Aquaculture opportunities
		Threats
	Climate change impacts	Impacts on aquatic ecosystems
		On-going events: impacts on coastal cities, disaster management
	Evidence of job opportunities: what kinds of green jobs?	Research
		Tourism & recreation
		Aquaculture
		Fishing
		Food processing
Infrastructure & services (harbours)		

³ Specific questions were not set at the workshop- work still to be done by the relevant and affected stakeholders outside of this workshop report

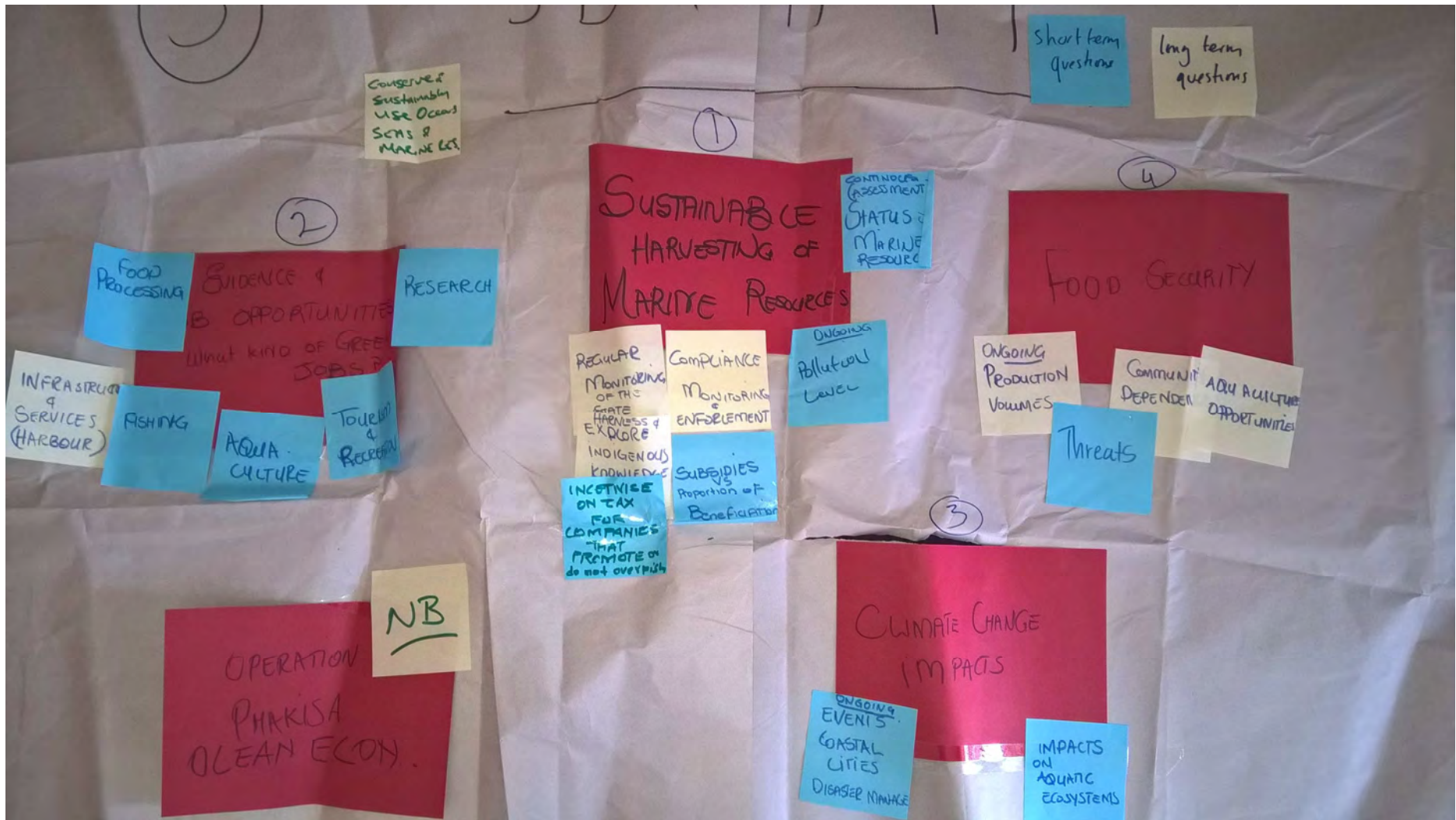


Figure C3.1: SDG14 big issues and questions

Annex C4: SDG15

SDG	'Big issues'	Specific questions
SDG 15: Life on land	Contradiction between conservation and resource exploitation	How can we harmonise the need to exploit our natural resources from the need to conserve them?
	Population growth	What technologies should we be developing and promoting to minimise our impacts on natural resources?
	Conflicting mandates of government departments	How can we reconcile the different mandates of the three spheres of government and related departments?

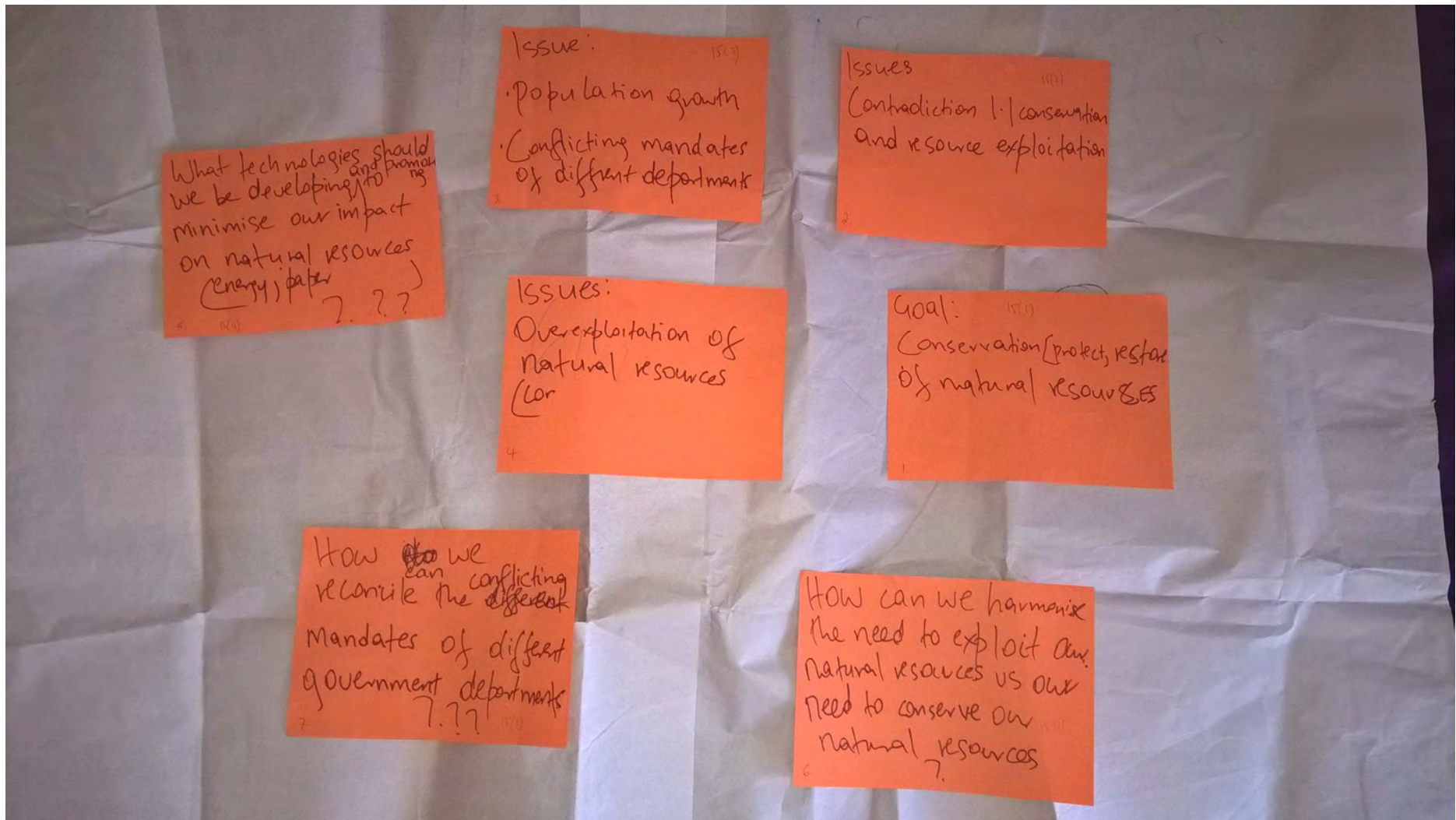


Figure C4.1: SDG15 big issues and questions

Post-workshop input received from participants to contextualise some of the issues around the SDG 15

Healthy environment supports the quality of life for the people. Prevention of environmentally sensitive land degradation is important in ensuring that people receive the life supporting services they need from the environment. Provision of adequate waste management infrastructure coupled with the awareness and education in the communities is also important in ensuring that the incidents of littering and illegal dumping are eliminated. The level of law enforcement activities needs to be improved greatly at all tiers of government to discourage the occurrence of environmental criminal activities by all from community members to multinational companies.

Support for agricultural food gardening activities and afforestation with indigenous and fruit trees where possible should be promoted through the improved funding for community outreach programmes.

The impact of previous mining activities on the environment has left for example the Gauteng province with the Acid Mine Drainage which is now a threat to the surrounding communities, agricultural activities in close proximity to the AMD localities, investment of required resources (financial, human, infrastructure etc.) and an action plan with regular progress update to the affected people.

The protection of biodiversity from development and crime such as poaching is important. Afforestation must be promoted as it contributes to mitigating climate change and equal access to resource in order to take people out of poverty. Policies must address land and soil restoration. One thing that will contribute to the country moving forward is investment on the environment.

Illegal developments: government is in the process of tackling the problem of illegal buildings and occupation of private and public land. A review of the existing policies to be more stringent enough on the issue of illegal buildings and occupation of land must be done to ensure compliance. Further improvement of existing policies and amendments thereof is important to ensure that the issue of non – compliance is dealt with accordingly.

Annex C5: SDG17

SDG	'Big issues'	Specific questions
SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals	Sustainable partnerships	How do we enhance existing structures to include the SDGs?
		Can austerity measures in government lead to better co-ordination and a flatter and less hierarchical government structure?
		How do we improve communication between government departments, and between government, business and civil society?
	Monitoring & evaluation (M&E)	How do we promote standardised governance (planning, M&E and reporting) across structures and sectors?
		How can we streamline issues of a consistent and effective M&E related to the SDGs, standardised processes across government departments
		What processes are available to track the changes of interests of all organisations and implications thereof?
	Silos	How do we integrate planning and decision making between different parts of government?
		How can we create an enabling environment that is conducive for co-operation to happen?
		How do we streamline the timeframes around authorisation processes – e.g. mining rights vs. water licences?
		What kind of issue resolution body is needed to solve conflicts re-intergovernmental co-operation and integrated decision making?
		How do we develop an integrated permitting system? Maybe need a facilitator to make outcomes happen?
	Interests of partners	How do we market the SDGs in the SA context?
		Who needs to be made aware of the SDGs?
		How can we identify a vision for the SDGs that work for all partners?
		What is the incentive for business & civil society to participate in terms of working to attain the SDGs?
To what extent were different stakeholders consulted as part of the SDG process? Lessons learned...		



Figure C5.1: SDG17 big issues and questions

Post-workshop input received from participants to contextualise some of the issues around the SDG 17

A successful sustainable development can only work if there are partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Working relationships of government departments needs to improve and aligned in terms of work functions. The delay in signing of concurrence agreements must be addressed, as it affects the implementation of environmental protection plans. National departments must always take into consideration concerning the mandates and goals vested upon them.

The mandates have to relay a clear and easy to understand message to officials on lower levels and departments to insure that the mandates will be implemented and further enhance environmental protection positively. The issue of capacity on Provincial and Municipal levels needs urgent intervention. More work needs to be done on the current issues of policy development, impact assessment, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, biodiversity protection and pollution on all government levels. National sphere of government must channel more funds to ensure increased capacity and available funds for development of policies to enhance sustainable development.

There is a conflict between the three spheres of government, Local, National and Provincial. Developers submit one application to different departments and end up not knowing who will issue the Environmental Authorization (EA). The conflict between different departments need to be addressed whether it's the Province or National Department to issue EA. The different departments must work together and promote the Integrated Permitting System to reduce the timeframes for EA.

Partnerships need to address sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, as well as information and communications technologies in order to attract investments and reinforce sustainable development. Support is also needed in terms of finance, capacity building and technology.

Pollution (water resources pollution)

More substantive research must be done on the primary causes of pollution in the various provinces. There is a need to have an accessible database of companies that are currently in operation detailing their methods of production and the type of waste produced as an end product. The problem of water resources pollution, we have to assess progress that we have made to treat and control alien invasive species and outline current challenges in the treatment of water sources pollution. The issue of point of source in terms of water pollution needs a working strategy. There are still industries and residential developments depositing their waste directly into fresh water bodies.

Non- compliance with the existing policies

There is an increasing demand for social housing due to migration of people from rural to urban areas and to economic centres in the provinces. Most of the people build their houses in the flood line (sensitive areas) due to lack of knowledge of policies related to the biodiversity and protection of the natural resources.