

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The process of compiling an EMF is a highly technical one based on scientific data recorded in a spatial database or GIS tool. Generally speaking the level of public participation is weak. For this study a deliberate attempt was made to involve the public, interest groups and stakeholders.

The process raised several challenges, including an apparent reluctance to attend meetings. During the Status Quo phase an innovative Participatory GIS methodology was introduced which allowed members of the public to draw attention to, and give information regarding, environmental features which they regard as important. This contributed to the groundtruthing of information from other sources as well as providing new information.

After adjusting the methodology being used to try and overcome the apparent reluctance of the public to attend meetings valuable information was received during the Desired State of the Environment phase from those affected, particularly those who are often excluded. In summary this information indicated a high level of desire for apparently mutually contradictory outcomes of any development, viz. the creation of jobs alongside the preservation of access to environmental goods and services. It is suggested that the only satisfactory meta-narrative that allows these two to be reconciled is one that proposes to

1. Promote, or at least not reduce ecosystem functioning across the whole study area;
2. Promote labour intensive production processes, with appropriate skills development;
3. Take advantage of potential down stream beneficiation of existing products generated in the area;
4. Promote sustainable use of the natural resource base;
5. Promote, or at least not restrict, access to natural resources;
6. Promote, or at least not further militate against, social cohesion; and
7. Contribute to joint action on environmental issues by other enterprises in the area.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BID	Background Information Document: A short description of the proposed activity giving sufficient information for members of the public to understand the proposal and make an informed judgment about potential impacts.
EMF	Environmental Management Framework: The EMF is essentially a framework of spatially represented information (maps) connected to parameters. The level of sensitivity of the environment determines these parameters. The parameters provide a framework within which development should proceed in order for it to be environmentally sustainable. The EMFs are developed on a comprehensive base of environmental information as well as socio-economic priorities. It should be noted that the EMF is not a plan, which assign activities to certain areas, but rather a guiding framework within which development activities must take place.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment: A process of assessing the potential environmental impact that must be followed for certain types of development before they are granted development consent. The procedure requires identifying the likely significant effects of the development on the environment and proposed mitigation measures. The assessment together with any comments must be taken into account by the competent authority before it may grant consent.
GIS	Geographic Information System. A system of hardware and software used for storage, retrieval, mapping, and analysis of geographic data. Spatial features are stored in a coordinate system (latitude/longitude, state plane, etc.), which references a particular place on the earth. Descriptive attributes in tabular form are associated with spatial features. Spatial data and associated attributes in the same coordinate system can then be layered together for mapping and analysis. GIS can be used for scientific investigations, resource management, and development planning (http://www.nwgis.com/gisdefn.htm).
IAIA	International Association of Impact Assessment: An association of professionals to advance the state of the art and science of impact assessment in applications ranging from local to global to develop international and local capability to anticipate, plan and manage the consequences of development to enhance the quality of life for all.
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party: Any person or organisation who is potentially affected by the proposed development and who requests that they be registered as such.
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998: A framework act that establishes principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state; and to provide for matters connected therewith
SD	Sustainable Development: addresses the need to pursue and assess the key stated objective of increased economic growth via environmental integrity, social equity and economic development. Higher growth must put South Africa on a higher development trajectory that ensures overall improvement in people's quality of life, and that protects our natural resource base for future generations.

SLA

Sustainable Livelihoods Approach: The sustainable livelihoods approach is complex and often misunderstood. However, it is invaluable in informing development and project planning at different scales, and in strengthening and monitoring the effectiveness of development initiatives, especially in communities at risk. The 'livelihoods framework' is a tool for understanding how households draw on capabilities and assets to develop livelihood strategies made up of a range of activities. It defines and categorises the different types of assets and entitlements which households have access to, examines the different factors in the local and wider environment that influence household livelihood security and studies the connections between the local or micro situation and actors, institutions and processes active in the wider world.
