



#Inno4dev # LetsTalk_BathoPele
#CitizenParticipation



UNDP SOUTH AFRICA 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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Published by: UNDP South Africa Country Office

Research, text and editing: Rhulani Lehloka, Communications Analyst, Bobby Shabangu, Wikimedian in Residence and Knowledge Management; UNDP team. Additional source: UNDP Kenya 2017 Annual Report for inspiring some of the infographics.

Design and Layout: Tshoane Graphix Centre and James Neuhaus, Partnerships Specialist, UNDP team.

Photos:

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About UNDP South Africa

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society

to help build nations that can withstand crisis and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspectives and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

UNDP South Africa works with the Government and people of South Africa,

the private sector, academia, Civil Society Organisations, and other partners

to address the triple development challenges of poverty, income inequality, and unemployment.

This is done through promoting better governance, inclusive and people-centred growth, energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

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Foreword



Dr. Ayodele Odusola, UNDP Resident Representative

This year marked 25 years since the dawn of democracy in South Africa. UNDP celebrates the country for its liberal constitution, near gender balance in political leadership, improved educational attainment, increased life expectancy, and expansive social safety nets. These accomplishments are a demonstration of the South African Government improving the lives of its people.

As South Africa moves towards attaining the United Nations Agenda 2030, it wrestles with high poverty (40% of the population)¹, rising unemployment (29%, with over 60% affected)² and high inequalities (a Gini-coefficient of 0.65)³ complicated by an all-time low economic growth of 0.5%⁴, energy shortages, a rising wave of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) as well as xenophobic attacks and growing impacts of climate change.

The Presidential election in May 2019, the revised National Development Plan (NDP) and the preparation of the next Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) rekindle the hope and vigour to address these challenges and reorient the country for achieving the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs). The measures taken in this regard include those aimed at revitalising the economy, restoring the integrity of the country, as well as fortifying regional and global images. South Africa's membership in the BRICS, G20 and non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council demonstrate how far the country has come since the dawn of its democracy; and as such, its continental and global influence.

This year saw the UN reforms take shape. This strategic organisational change saw the delinking of the Resident Coordinator's function from that of the UNDP Resident Representative; these are now two separate roles. Such strategic developments had a significant effect on the formulation of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the new UNDP Country Programme Document providing the UN in South Africa an opportunity to align with the government's new Medium-Term Strategic Framework.

As we move into the decade of action, we are inspired by South Africa to reflect on UNDP's two and half decades of our contribution to the democratic journey. This review will be available in 2020; however, some of those highlights can be found in this annual report and it is my pleasure to invite you to reflect with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ayodele Odusola', written over a horizontal line.

Signature: Resident Representative

UNDP Programmatic Outlook

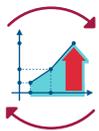
The United Nations, and UNDP in particular, has played a key role in fostering inclusive development in post-apartheid South Africa through its longstanding relationship with the government. This partnership is underpinned by UNDP's commitment to advance South Africa's strategic priorities outlined in the National Development Plan; as guided by the UN's Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF now SDCF) 2013 – 2017 (extended to June 2020) upon which UNDP's Country Programme Document (CPD) is anchored. The country programme seeks to contribute to South Africa's social and economic transformational aspirations through support to policy innovations and movement from policy to implementation.

It brings knowledge of global best practices to South Africa and helps share South Africa's best practices with the world. To this end,

anchored on evidence-based research and other knowledge products such as the Human Development Reports (HDR), UNDP engages the government on development related policy dialogues affecting the lives of the people. UNDP programmes in South Africa are centred around four key priority areas with gender equality and women empowerment, rights and HIV treated as cross-cutting issues mainstreamed across the four key priority areas, although in some cases they may have stand-alone substantive programmatic activities which are then programmed under priority area 3: *strengthening democratic governance*.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) is a GEF funding mechanism supporting civil society organisations with small grants of up to USD 50,000 to implement environment and climate change related projects.

Priority areas



Enhancing Inclusive Growth and decent work

Supporting the South African Government to address the triple threat of poverty, unemployment and inequality



Climate Change and Greening South Africa's Economy

Supporting the South African Government to grow its ecological footprint, elaborating its intent to contribute to a cleaner and greener global environment.



Supporting South Africa's Regional and Global Engagement

Supporting South Africa's role regionally and globally to promote South-South cooperation and raising Africa's voice on development issues in the UN and other multilateral fora.



Strengthening Democratic Governance

Assisting the South African Government to reposition the public sector to enhance the quality of service delivery through innovation, with emphasis on services to historically disadvantaged communities.



Global Environment Fund Small Grants Programme

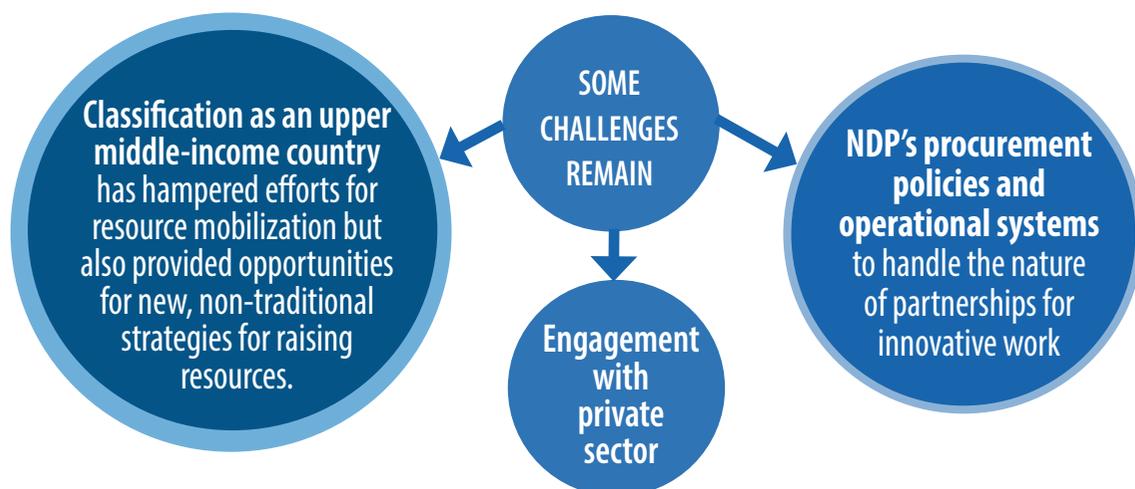
Supporting civil society organisations to implement environmental initiatives within biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forest management, chemicals and waste management, international waters and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

UNDP Programmatic Outlook

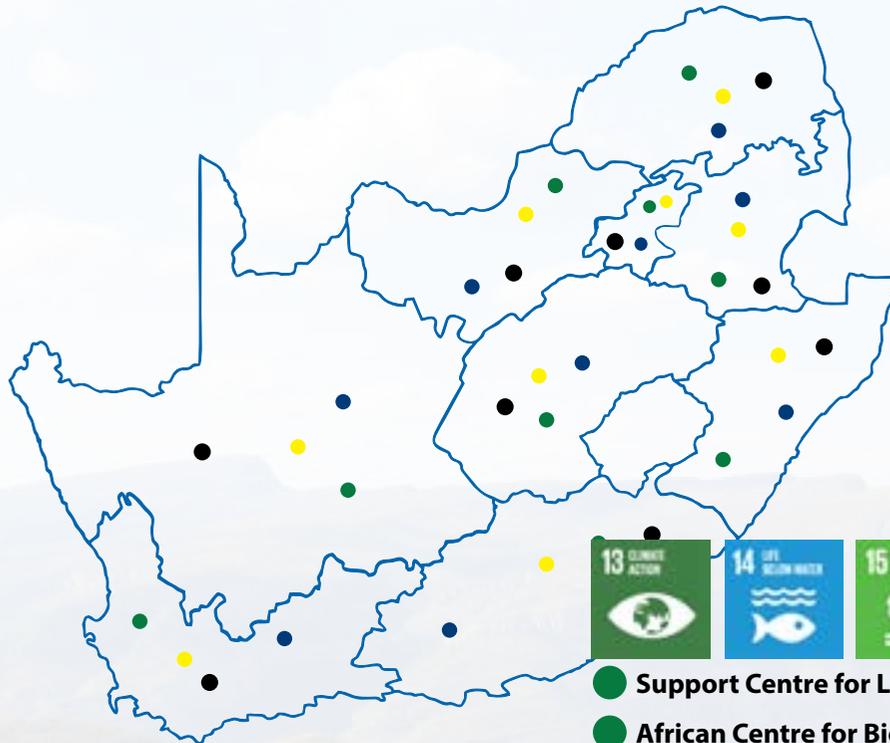
This year, UNDP has striven to provide quality technical assistance to government, on multilateral aspects, and on regional, national and subnational aspects in the areas of environment and energy, democratisation and good governance, inclusive growth, South-South cooperation with a strong Africa agenda, HIV, gender equality and women's empowerment. All these efforts are geared towards contributing to efforts to address the key development challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment in the context of a slow growing economy and rising wave of climate change impact.

The office was also designated as a "Regional Hub," creating a platform to enable knowledge and experience exchange on SDG financing. This has resulted in the placement of a special advisor for the private sector and SDG finance as well as a finance for development and South-South team leader who will be supported by additional staff in 2020.

Since policy mapping and policy alignment are amongst the prerequisites of harmonised cooperation, the UNDP South Africa CO has provided the technical assistance to the Office of the President in the alignment of the Agenda 2030, National Development Plan, and the African Union Agenda 2063. The precursor to this corpus of work has been the CO's efforts on South Africa's voluntary national review (VNR) on the implementation of the Agenda 2030. UNDP has established the institutional architecture to elaborate this vision through the formation of the UNDP Regional Hub. To give further effect, the CO has mobilised resources, in partnership with Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and European Union, for interventions not normally funded (INNF) related topics. The CO led the process for a MAPS mission. However, this did not materialise as the election of the new Government and changes in officials led to inevitable delays in decisions with the Minister for Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the RC.



Snapshot of UNDP South Africa in 2019



● Support to the Health Sector in Limpopo Phase IV



● Transformational leadership Mandela
● Institute of Natural Resources



● Enhancing Inclusive Growth in South Africa



● Market Transformation through Energy Efficiency Standard
● South African Wind Energy Project Phase II
● Leapfrogging energy efficient market development for LED lights and transformers

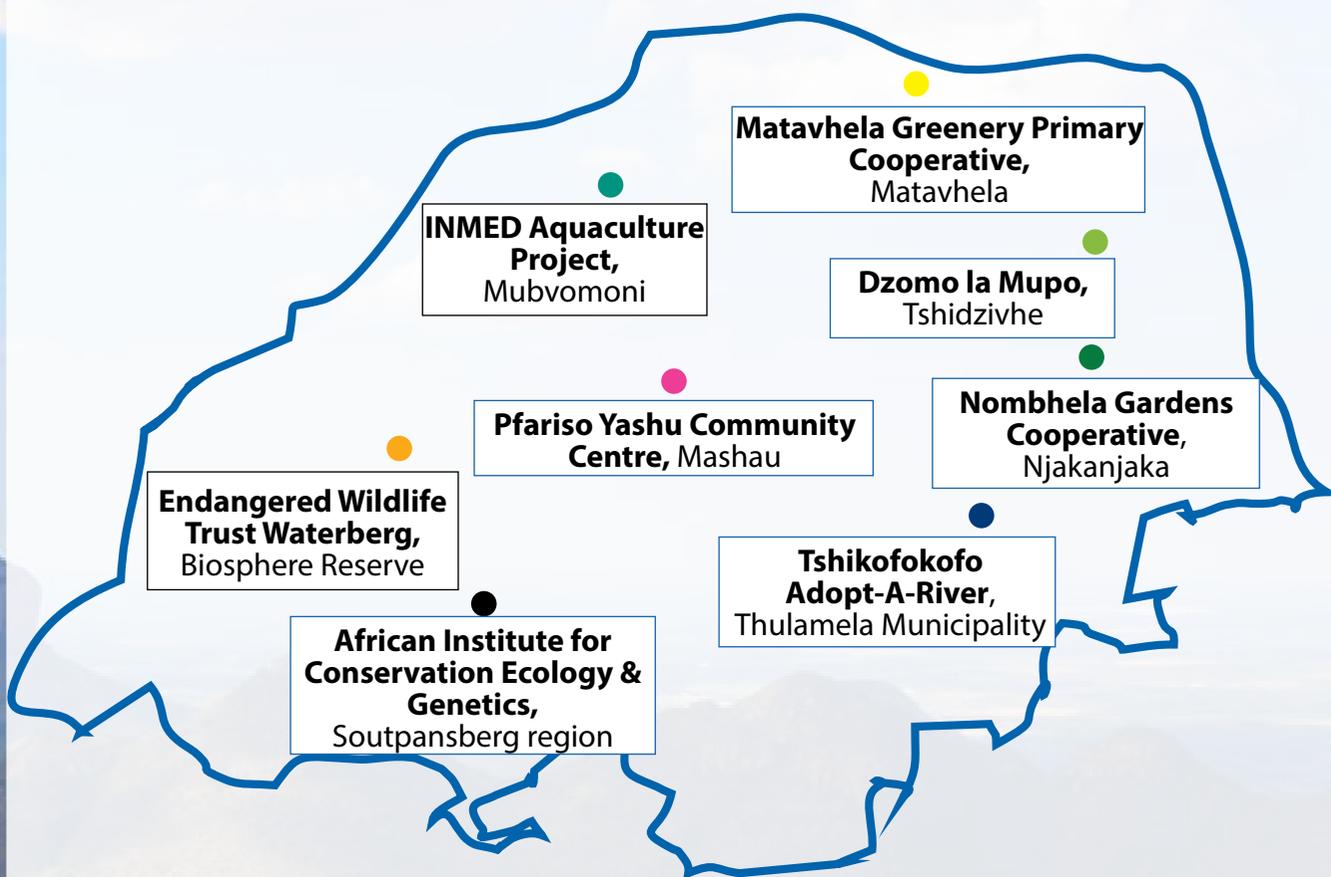


● Development of Value Chains for Products
● Partnership for action on green economy



- Support Centre for Land Change
 - African Centre for Biodiversity
 - Duzi-Umngeni Conservation Trust
 - Biowatch
 - Rucore
 - Mmaleroba Farmers' Cooperative
 - Securing multiple ecosystems benefits through sustainable land management in degraded but productive landscape
 - Improving Management Effectiveness of The Protected Area
 - Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Regulation
 - African Institute for Conservation Ecology & Genetics
 - Tshwane University of Technology
 - Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action
 - Biodiversity finance initiative (BIOFIN Phase 2)
 - Biodiversity value chain development of genetic plant resources
- Strengthening Democratic Governance
- National Development Plan

Snapshot of UNDP South Africa in 2019: Limpopo Province

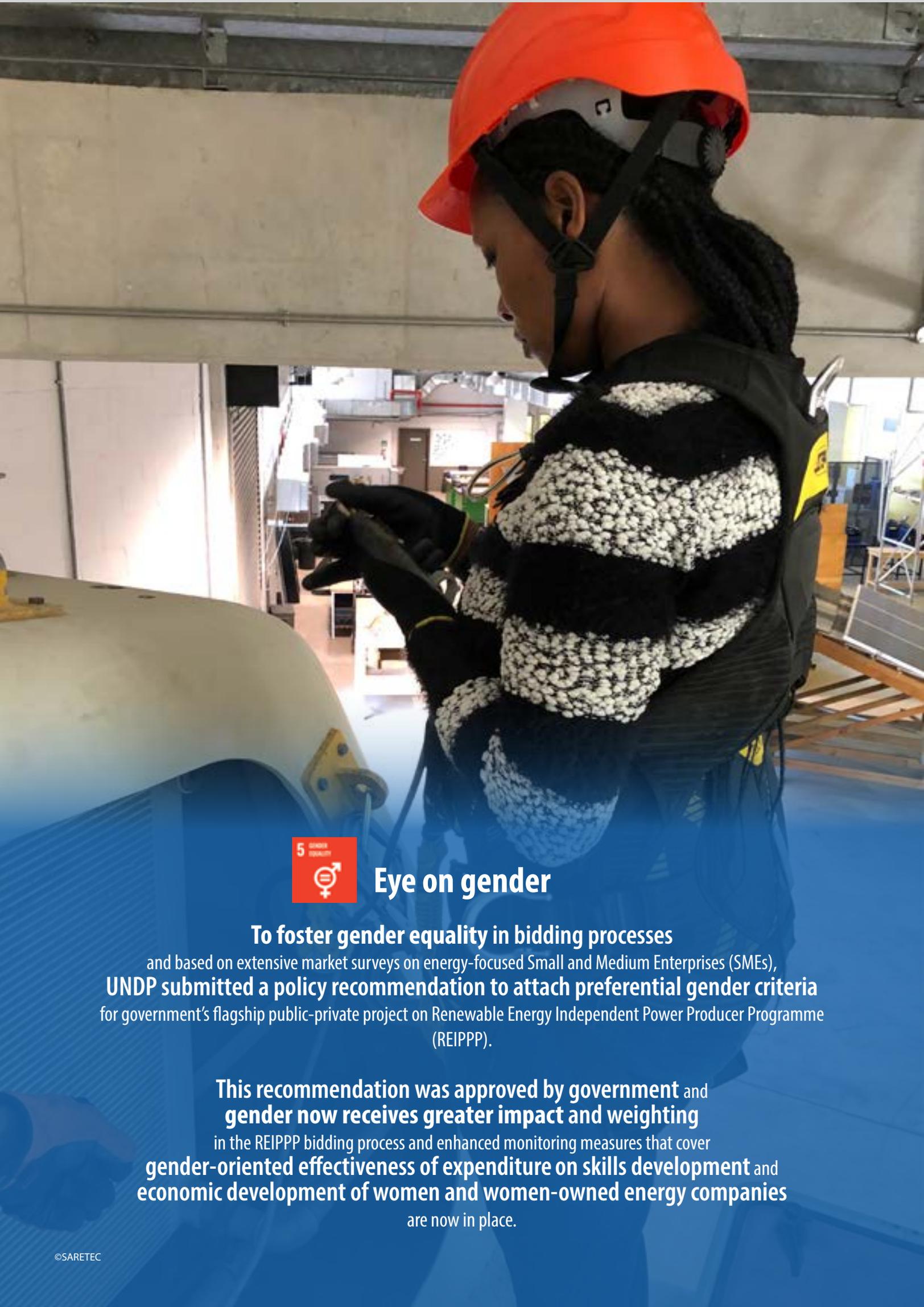


Pfariso Yashu Community Centre



- **Dzomo la Mupo, Tshidzivhe**
- **Endangered Wildlife Trust Waterberg**
- **INMED Aquaculture Project**
- **Matavhela Greenery Primary Cooperative**
- **Nombhela Gardens Cooperative**
- **Tshikofokofo Adopt-A-River**
- **Rural Development & Land Reform**

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Eye on gender

To foster gender equality in bidding processes

and based on extensive market surveys on energy-focused Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), **UNDP submitted a policy recommendation to attach preferential gender criteria** for government's flagship public-private project on Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP).

This recommendation was approved by government and gender now receives greater impact and weighting

in the REIPPP bidding process and enhanced monitoring measures that cover **gender-oriented effectiveness of expenditure on skills development and economic development of women and women-owned energy companies** are now in place.

Inclusive Growth

Context

The Inclusive Growth programme responds to challenges of **unemployment, inequality and poverty** by analysing the **root socio-economic causes** of these challenges to **provide technical expertise** and **evidence-based policy interventions** to key stakeholders to **achieve development impact**.



UNDP Actions

UNDP South Africa **works with the Government** to support **inclusive economic participation** and **growth opportunities** for youth and women.



UNDP's Impact

Expanded Public Works Programme

With the ILO and the Government

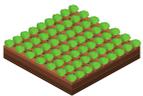
997,286
job opportunities
were created in 2019



a **22%**
increase
from 2018

Reviewing land reform policies

- supporting more evidence-based and informed decisions
- contributing towards the amendment of section 25 of the Constitution
- tabling of an Expropriation Bill to outline the circumstances under which expropriation of land without compensation would be permissible.



Support to drafting the Minimum Wage Bill

- With the National Economic Development Labour Council
- Expected over time to positively impact **6 million livelihoods** and **reduce income inequality**



For the Youth and by the Youth Challenge Fund (YEAH)

- Partnered with the government to implement a youth vocational, technical training, and entrepreneurship programme
- To be scaled up and expanded to link more youth entrepreneurs to entrepreneurial skills, funding, and markets.

YEAH!
Youth Entrepreneurship Action Hub
20
young people
for the pilot



Climate Change and Greening South Africa's Economy

Context

The **Climate Change and Greening South Africa's Economy** programme mobilises a **blend of technical and financial assistance** designed to support Government to realise its national priority of **becoming a low carbon and climate change resilient economy** by 2030, in the following broad areas:

1. **Increase the number of green jobs** created in the economy
2. **Stabilise and reduce carbon emissions** and **mitigate climate change**
3. **Enhance biodiversity** management through **policy support** and strengthening **institutional capacities**.

UNDP Actions

Biodiversity and Land Use (BLU) Project

Through the Ecological Infrastructure Challenge Fund, the BLU project supported the Ehlanzeni District Municipality to invest in the rehabilitation of a main road leading to a rural community prone to flooding. Large dongas (dry eroded watercourses which only run during times of heavy rains) were forming along the road which were a public safety risk and were prone to pollution and siltation of the nearby river due to erosion.

Rehabilitation is expected to improve the status and functioning of the freshwater ecosystem, **improve water quality and quantity**, as well as **enhance public safety** through the installation of **disaster risk preventative infrastructure**.

Environmental Impact Assessment Training

SANBI, in partnership with a few EIA competent authorities as well as conservation agencies, has developed a course entitled, "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development." The course is now being offered to EIA competent authority staff, as well as specialists and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) in the project target districts uMgungundlovu, Amathole, Ehlanzeni, and the Cape Winelands District Municipalities.

The course provides useful guidance on how to integrate biodiversity information during the pre-application and application review processes as well as how to formulate defensible decisions.



©SANBI





Eye on gender

UNDP supported the training and accreditation of women for wind engineering training courses at the South Africa Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC)

to support the country's efforts to transition to more climate-friendly renewable energy technologies and energy efficient solutions.

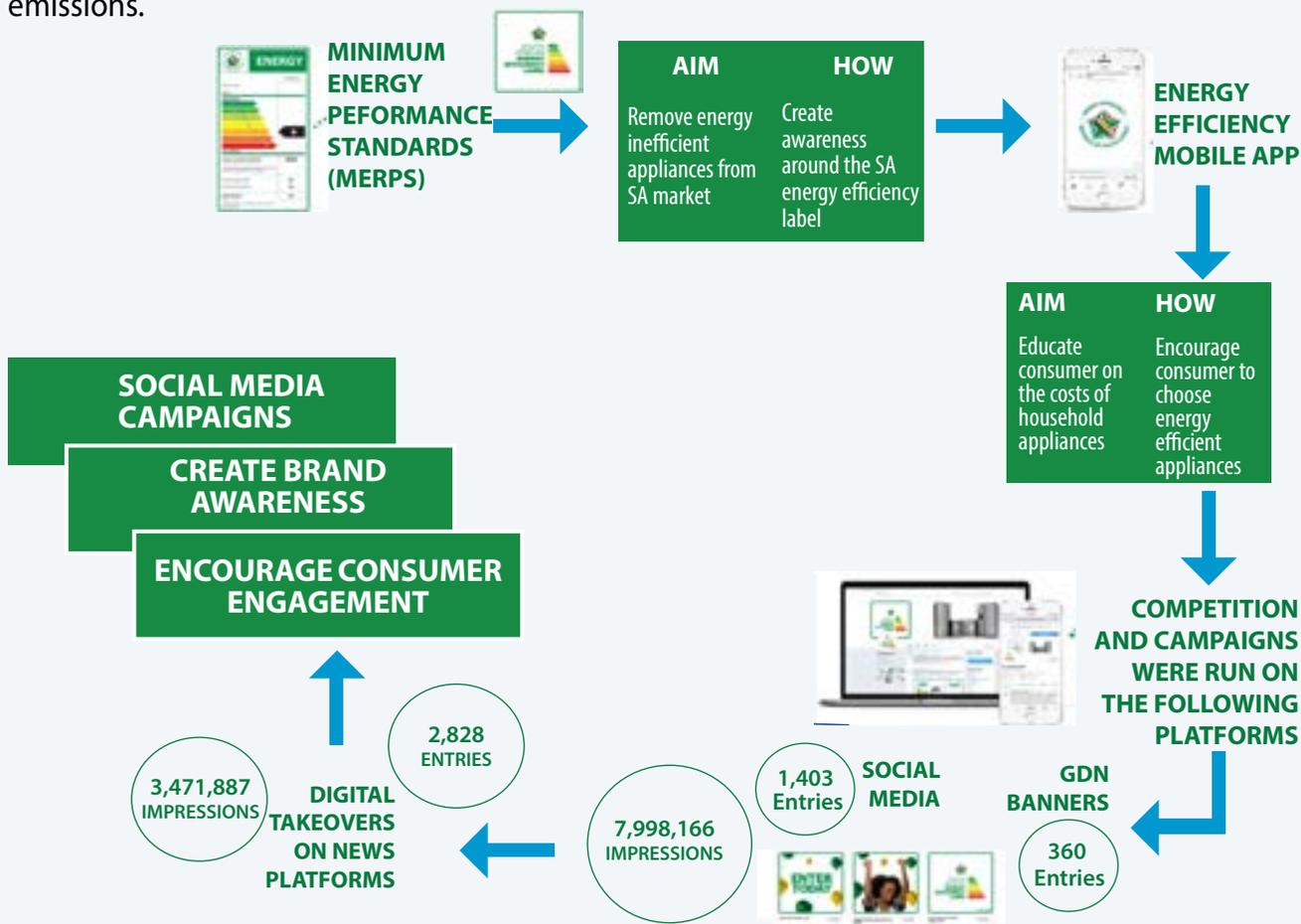
This intervention resulted in Africa's premier academic event on wind energy (WINDABA) seeing an increase in the attendance of female wind academics in physics, coding, mathematics, science and engineering.



UNDP Actions

Promoting energy-efficient appliances

UNDP helped to upgrade the testing facilities at the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS); and strengthen the capacity of test-centre operators. The activities have enabled the drive to transform the market of twelve energy-efficient household appliances, with the expectation to reduce carbon emissions.



The public participated in energy-efficiency promotion efforts to raise awareness on saving electricity through buying energy-efficient appliances using new technologies (mobile phone app, QR Codes) geared towards empowering consumers to make informed purchases of these appliances.

Climate change debates

Several policy dialogues, based on some 'think pieces' on the green economy and the just transition, were held particularly to listen to women, youth and labour – all of whom were given a platform to give inputs into the formulation of policy recommendations towards the enhanced implementation of the National Development Plan. These dialogues were held in partnership with the Wits School of Governance and the O.R. Tambo Foundation through Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE) – an inter-agency global programme.



UNDP South Africa advocates for innovation for conservation

GEF5 Sustainable Land Management project, in close collaboration with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries; Western Cape Department of Agriculture and Endangered Wildlife Trust hosted a Drone Users Conference to promote the use and application of drones as a monitoring and assessment tool in the agriculture and conservation sector.



E-learning for local farmers in the Northern Cape

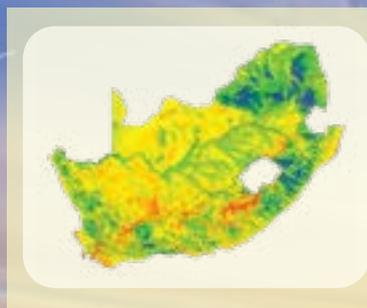
The Endangered Wildlife Trust, through the GEF5 Sustainable Land Management funds, released a website (www.karoo forever.org.za) to provide e-learning materials for local farmers in the Northern Cape.

Other learning products developed under this partnership include the below guidelines.



UNDP Actions

Creation of Wind Atlas Map



Continuous support to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) has yielded new knowledge and tools on wind patterns, thus enabling accurate energy generation forecasts and enhanced stability of the national electricity grid. To this end, the DMRE has launched the Wind Atlas, a high-resolution wind resource map, covering all provinces to enable thorough planning for the increased uptake of wind energy.



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Loxton Clean Energy Project

The Loxton Women's Empowerment and clean energy project was developed as an extension to the GEF 5 SLM Project to make specific investment in activities around the economic empowerment of women and youth through capacity building, economic empowerment, and investment in clean energy and recycling initiatives.

A refurbished income generating shipping container to serve as a workshop and strategically positioned in a tourist thoroughfare in Loxton provided for local women to sell their goods and generate incomes for their households.



©UNDP South Africa

©RawFilm on Unsplash



UNDP's Impact

The UNDP wishes to congratulate students funded under the GEF5 Sustainable Land Management Project from the Department of Environmental Science at Rhodes University for their outstanding achievement at the recent Community Engagement Awards at the University.

Post-graduate students, Buhle Francis and Menelisi Falayi from Zimbabwe and Monde Duma from South Africa, jointly won the "Student Researcher of the Year" Award for their work within the Machubeni community in the Eastern Cape. The community is within one of the four landscapes that the project works to address land degradation and reduce livelihood vulnerability to climate change through capacity building and SLM approaches and technologies.



GEF SLM Manager Lehman Lindeque awards trophy to Buhle, Menelisi, and Monde

Land restitution

In anticipation of a successful land claim, the four community property associations (CPAs) representing villages situated along the Mpumalanga escarpment chose to have their land included in the iconic Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. They represented the communities of Mahubahuba, Morarabjang, Sethlare and Moletele – these communities committed to conserve their natural heritage.

The restitution of land involves setting up management committees where communities are represented as part of the communal property association – they would co-manage the reserve with the Mpumalanga tourism agency, SANBI supports these processes which now involves the expansion of the nature reserve by 16,000 hectares to include additional portions of the land that has been claimed by the community.

UNDP's Impact

Role as SDG Integrator

The Machubeni communal lands in the mountain ranges of the Cacadu River Catchment in the Eastern Cape are one of four project landscapes of the GEF5 SLM Project.

Through long-term overgrazing from overstocking and poor rangeland management, communal livelihoods are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the current drought. The Machubeni landscape is plagued by the indigenous invasive plant, locally called "Lepesi" which has invaded valuable rangeland and the ecosystem impacts of overgrazing have reduced water availability in the catchment.



©UNDP South Africa

Through a multi-stakeholder forum and constant engagement with the traditional authorities and local, provincial and national government, the GEF5 SLM Project has built trust and rapport with the community over the last three years with great effort placed on supporting livelihoods and building on existing knowledge and capacity. This is just one example of the role of UNDP as an integrator for the achievement of the SDGs.

UB Minigrid

The Eastern Cape Province of South Africa and the Lower Saxony State of Germany have been engaged in a longstanding twinning partnership arrangement resulting in a mini-grid pilot that was initiated to electrify the small village of Upper Blinkwater (UB) in the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (RMLM). The village is comprised of approximately 70 households, a school and a church and surrounded by mountains. The project represents a model for supplying high quality energy to deep rural villages which are not due to be connected to the national electricity grid in the foreseeable future, providing improved living conditions and economic opportunities for inhabitants.

The Eastern Cape Government, through the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) is collaborating with South Africa Wind Energy Project (SAWEP) to add the wind component into the UB mini-grid project. SAWEP is supported by the United Nations Development Programme with resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and implemented by the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) on behalf of the Department of Minerals Resources and Energy (DMRE), will fund the integration of small scale wind turbines, between 21 to 24 kW capacity for Phase 2 of the project.



Through the UNDP-GEF funded project titled:
“Support to the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme Implementation”

UNDP is offering support for the implementation of the **Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme**, a regional international waters project involving South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Lesotho. Through community-based **sustainable land management**, this support will contribute to the

- **enhanced transboundary basin planning**
 - **joint management of the basin**
- **quality of water resources improved land productivity improved living conditions**

The purpose of the project is to **inculcate joint management capacity** for **implementation of the basin-wide Integrated Water Resource Management Plan**, and demonstrating environmental and socioeconomic benefits of **ecosystem-based approach to water resources management** through the implementation of priority actions in the **Orange-Senqu River basin** covering the four countries (2019-2024)



Strengthening Democratic Governance

Context

This programme area supports government in **strengthening service delivery** and **democratic governance** through programmatic interventions that address the **medium-term strategic priorities** and **national development outcomes**.

UNDP Actions

Building future leaders

Building future leaders who subscribe to the ethos and values of ethical leadership through the incorporation of the Leading Like Mandela leadership programme into the curriculum – two leadership schools now offer the package. This work is carried out in partnership with the public service commission and the Thembekile Mandela Foundation.

Raise awareness on voting among youth

UNDP helped the IEC to raise awareness on voting among young people who would be voting for the first time. A stage theatre road show was commissioned to augment the youth voter campaign, and the performance attracted young people from different communities in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and the Eastern Cape.



©Jackson Hayes on Unsplash

Promote and entrench electoral democracy

To promote and entrench electoral democracy, domestic elections observers were empowered to discharge their duties before and during the 2019 elections.



Train elections observers

UNDP and the IEC produced the observers handbook to assist both domestic and international observers with the Electoral legislation that guides South African National and provincial Elections. The handbook also provides processes and regulations leading up to the elections from Delimitation of voting districts to counting and results.

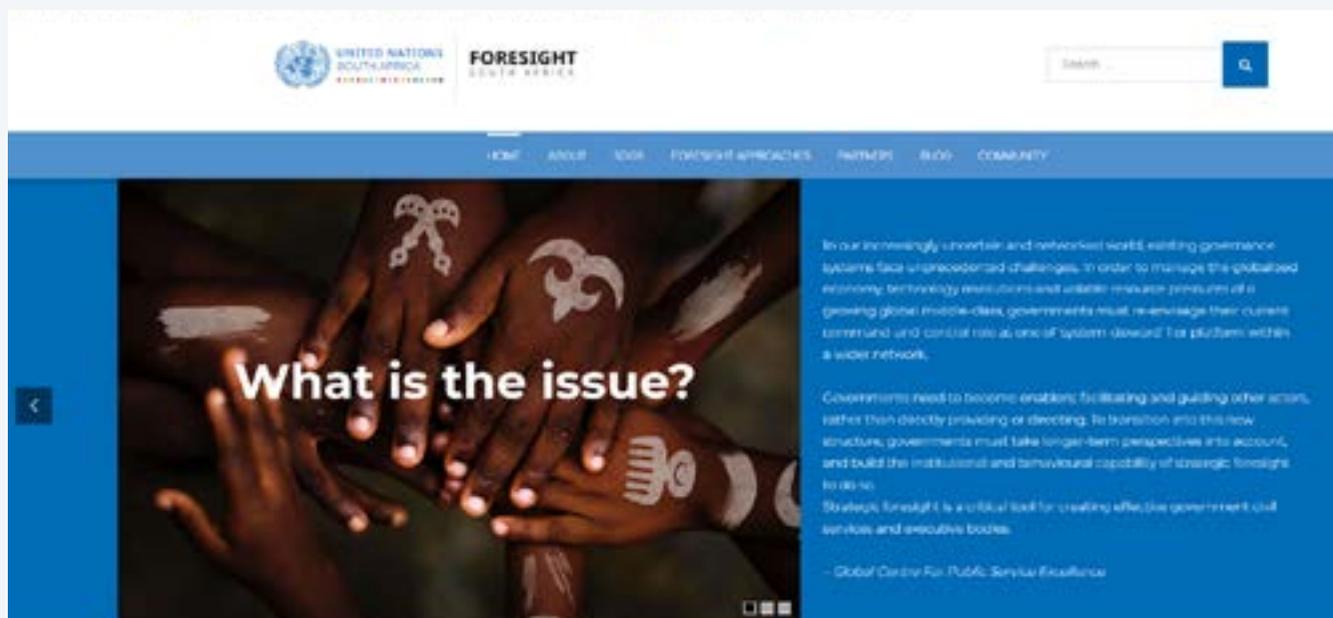
Strengthen cooperation in the Africa Peer Review Mechanism

UNDP partnered with APRM, South African Government and the national general council to bring together 120 civil society representatives to develop a roadmap for the next generation review and setup of a new governing council as well as a whole-of-society outreach and communication strategy. This initiative strengthens civil society contribution in the African Peer Review processes.

UNDP Actions

Foresighting portal

A South African Foresighting portal was created - www.foresight.org.za/cop – and a community of practice page set up to be used by practitioners in government, private sector, civil society, research and academia, as a platform for knowledge sharing on how to improve planning in an agile and anticipatory way to realise the SDG and National Development Plan goals.



Improve communication between citizens and government

The UN supported implementation of the “Personal Premier Project- Let’s Talk Batho Pele”. The project, which uses technology to improve communication between citizen and government and provides a platform for citizen-generated data regarding service delivery issues. Quite literally, putting people, and their needs, first. This action is one of the first UNDP South Africa has taken at a municipal level and lessons can be drawn for other projects and the Accelerator Lab.



Finalize the Voluntary National Review

UNDP worked together with the DPME to finalise the Voluntary National Review for presentation at the high-level political forum on SDGs. Support was also extended to Swaziland and Botswana for completion of their economic diversification strategies.



UNDP's Impact

Ethical leadership and anti-corruption

Over 800 public servants at all levels of government benefited from ethical leadership and anti-corruption approaches which has enabled them to strengthen the capacity of the state and increase accountability. UNDP's inputs influenced the revamping of the leadership development and orientation programme of the Public Service Commission.

Use of foresighting tools

The Country Office continued to advocate for the use of foresighting tools for labour market planning, and provincial budgeting & resource allocation in a tight fiscal environment in the Eastern Cape. This resulted in increased use of foresighting for medium term planning, starting with the review of the format for strategic plans by the provincial Treasury.

Improving service delivery through simplified and non-hierarchical communication



Over 50,000 government officials and community members of ten wards in the Thulamela Municipality in the Vhembe District in Limpopo Province have access to a communication platform aimed at improving service delivery through simplified and non-hierarchical communication between government and citizens. The fact that the platform is developed by a young South African entrepreneur demonstrates the commitment of young people and the desire to see South Africa do better for its people.

Voting turnout

86% of first-time voters who had registered turned up to vote. Although this was an achievement, the low number of voters of this age still needs attention.

Smooth voting process

Elections reports pointed to a free and fair elections, and fewer incidents of violence and disturbances, except technical glitches on voting day.



Support to South Africa's Regional and Global Engagement

Context

As a member of BRICS, South Africa and other mini-lateral groupings promote **South-South Cooperation**. Since 2013, UNDP South Africa has supported activities to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SS&TrC), including

- Sharing knowledge and tools with Mexico to **build local capacity of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs)** to address unemployment and poverty
- Sharing experiences on **land reform** by SADC countries
- Exchanging **electoral information** with Egypt and electoral logistical support to the Central African Republic
- Sharing **health and gender** information within the SADC countries

UNDP Actions

Building South-South and Triangular Cooperation engagements

Institutionalized SS&TrC coordination arrangements both within government and the UN system remain nascent. The CO continues to engage systemically with government and to improve coordination and build capacity of the country's outward oriented development cooperation efforts.

Advancing access to quality education for all persons of African descent

UNDP facilitated the country's participation in High Level side events at the margins of the 2019 General Assembly, particularly the participation of the Minister in the Presidency (Hon. Jackson Mthembu) on International Summit of Colleges, Universities, and Ministers of Education themed "Advancing Quality Education for All Persons of African Descent."



© Photo Copyright

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Secretary General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, 2nd from left with Sir (Dr) Clarence Jones, the living lawyer of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, 3rd from left and Honourable Jackson Mthembu, Minister in the Presidency in South Africa, 3rd from right - At MoU signing ceremony

UNDP Actions

Learning exchange opportunities

Fostering country exchange learning opportunities by hosting of study tour on media architecture in South Africa with high delegates from ministerial organ of Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority (EBA), in a bid to position UNDP as a partner of choice.

Box. 1 Kagera Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project

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The Kagera Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project

On 10 September 2016, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 Richter scale hit Kagera Region on the shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania. The quake's epicenter was 23 kilometers (15 miles) east of the northwestern Tanzanian town of Nsunga, in Bukoba district, and was felt in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya. A total population of 117,721 in the six districts of Bukoba Urban, Bukoba rural, Muleba, Misenyi, Kyerwa, and Karagwe were severely affected by the earthquake. The Joint Needs Assessment conducted by the Government of Tanzania and the UNDAC team reported that 168 schools and 220 health centers/clinic and 44 government offices sustained various degrees of damage.

In its Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2014-2019, South Africa has committed itself to continue to support regional and continental processes to respond to and resolve crises, promote peace and security, strengthen regional integration, significantly increase intra-African trade and champion sustainable development in Africa; and continue to promote mutually beneficial South-South cooperation by utilizing engagements with formations and groupings of the South.

Based on this commitment above and with UNDP brokerage and mediation, South Africa has made available a financial contribution of R 10 million (US\$ 715,000) towards relief efforts in Tanzania related to the rehabilitation of destroyed and damaged infrastructure in schools and health facilities.

The main aim of the Tanzania-South Africa–UNDP Cooperation project, through the Kagera Earthquake Reconstruction Project, is to support reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged public infrastructure in schools and health facilities so that the learning environment can be restored and basic health services provided to the affected communities. UNDP will implement a programme of recovery which is focused on rebuilding selected schools and health facilities through a 'building back better' concept. All the activities of this project will be implemented in Tanzania, however, there has been prolonged delay in rolling out the project.



GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Context

The Small Grants programme of the **Global Environment Facility** is implemented by UNDP and focuses on **locally managed projects** that can **serve the environment** and **develop sustainable livelihoods for communities**.

Funded community-based projects must meet **environmental objectives** whilst supporting **poverty reduction** and **local empowerment objectives**. The funding is also used to support **skills and capacity development, project demonstration, civil society networking, policy dialogues** and **sharing lessons learned** across various sectors.

This **community-centred approach facilitates community action** resulting in real lasting global impact. Initiated in 2001 in South Africa this programme is now in operational Phase VII.

UNDP Actions

This report focuses on impact stories from Phase VI, which ended this year. During Phase VI, the SGP supported **21 projects** and spent **USD \$775,000** of the allocated funds with the remainder earmarked for creating knowledge management products.

UNDP's Impact

Installation and maintenance of biogas digesters

After receiving training, a group six young men in Mmakgabetlwane Village in the North West Province were able to install two of the eleven biogas digesters in households in the area. This has resulted in **monthly electricity savings of about R300 per month**.

Biodigesters were also installed in a plot of land allocated by traditional authorities where they have now combined the digesters with an **agro-ecology communal garden** with vegetables as well as **free-range chicken sold to the local retailers and communities for an income**. This project also supported the drilling of a **community borehole** following long spells of drought in the area and impact on the garden and bio-digesters.

Nombhela Gardens Project, Njakanjaka, Limpopo

I am one of the experienced elders in the cooperative supported by the GEF SGP who mentor the younger generation on traditional farming approach. The essence is to keep our farming systems seething and to cut cost of mechanise farming. Agro-ecology helps those without start-up capital to be involved in farming for a living given that the agro-farming required little or non-financial resources. There is a strong believe that if everyone is empowered to be independent, the country will grow.

Mr. Shirindza Elias Grayne

“

Climate change interventions have made a mark in South Africa through SGP-funded projects. Successes in communities like Makgabetswane in the North West where Mmaleroba Farmer's Cooperative introduced biogas digesters to the community, have generated interest at provincial government level to replicate the project in other villages.”

”



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Key lesson

Impact of drought on project implementation cannot be underestimated as other households had to forgo the maintenance of bio-digesters as a result of the drought and chose to use the little water for key household needs like cooking, drinking and washing as well as saving water for livestock.

“

Mathavhela Project, Limpopo

The GEF Small Grants Programme funding made all the difference! So much was achieved in a short space of time. It was so surreal. We managed to fence the 1.5 ha land which we attained from the Chief. We built a two roomed office/storage facility, a lavatory and water tank stand. We also bought a water pumping machine, two water storage containers and an irrigation system that is now being used in the field. We have built a nursery which is functional with seedlings. We received some technical support from the consultant who was assigned to us. The team from the University of Venda also helped open our eyes by constantly monitoring and evaluating our work and money management skills. All of this revived us and gave us hope for the future. We are very excited about the future”

Project Chairperson Ms Luwisa Nyatheli

”



Creating green jobs for young people



©GEF SGP

As part of government's drive for green jobs, 35 unemployed youth from Philippi and Bardale townships (18 female & 17 male) in Cape Town were trained on plumbing for solar water installation and maintenance.

The training was combined with practical installation of solar water heaters for government's new low-income settlements in partnership with a private developer, VHP and the provincial departments of Environmental Affairs and Human Settlements.

Eight of the trained youth are now employed (six female and two male) at the Provincial Department of Human Settlements for apprenticeship and further training. Other youth are self-

employed sourcing plumbing work from their communities.

Climate change adaptation projects

SGP supported seven agro-ecology projects which reached out to 1,020 (82% women) small-scale farmers in Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape. The projects supported in-field training on agro-ecology approaches and aquaponics in areas hard hit by drought that ravaged the provinces. The project also included policy advocacy for government support for agro-ecology and finalisation of the agro-ecology strategy in the country. Farmers provided over 1,000 submissions on the Plant-Breeders' and Plant Improvement Bills which had an impact on selling and exchange of traditional seeds – resulted in revision of wording of some of the Bills' clauses.



©Biowatch



©GEF SGP

In KwaZulu Natal, some farmers recorded improved yields for drought-resistant and nutritious crops: cowpeas; finger millet; jugo bean; maize; and sorghum of an average 340% increase between 2016 and 2018. Farmer groups are supplying retailers like Pick & Pay, Spar and Boxer with their vegetables for an average income of R3,000 per month/farmer. Farmers reported that food security at the household level has improved and are able to diversify their diets through the food that they produce, with some farmers reporting that they now only buy maize meal and oil from the shop, enabling them to divert their income to other household needs.

Key lesson

Engaging government on a significant issue like GMOs in support of traditional / indigenous food crops is challenging and required wider and stronger networks of like-minded organisations across the country and the region.



Land degradation

SGP supported the introduction of an incentive-based market access for 200 communal livestock farmers in Matatiele, Eastern Cape Province through negotiated stewardship agreements for improved rangeland management and specified livestock supply in exchange for market access through mobile auctions. The farmers experience challenges with accessing the market due to lack of or high transportation costs. The project worked with an NGO and a private company called Meat Naturally Initiative (MNI) to bring mobile auctions and husbandry-linked benefits to the farmers for grass-fed beef. The project supported the training of farmers on rangeland managed practices such as alien plant clearing, erosion control, monitoring of grassland and water quality and animal husbandry. MNI, through mobile auctions supported the sale of 52 cattle sold at an average price of about R6,000 each with total income of R300,000. To date, over 100 households realised an average sale of ZAR16,000 per household, per auction and improved rangelands in over 200 hectares. The project model is being scaled up by government and other partners in Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal provinces.



©Institute of Natural Resources

Key lessons

Further work is needed to educate small-scale livestock farmers on the beef market i.e. understanding the market dynamics and how they affect the pricing e.g. during drought seasons prices are low which affects their incomes.

Biodiversity conservation



©Tshwane University of Technology

In partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Tshwane University of Technology, SGP provided community environment-related awareness programmes to address human-wildlife conflicts, poaching, and other environmental challenges affecting the nearby community game reserve, Ndumo Game Reserve and their livelihoods. The project worked with eight schools in five villages, reaching 3,718 children in Grades 3, 7, and 8 exposing students to the importance of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services through in-field training.

Also included in the awareness programmes were teachers and parents, most importantly on addressing the traditional beliefs and superstitions attached to the killing of animal species such as owls, hyena and crocodiles – usually linked to witchcraft.

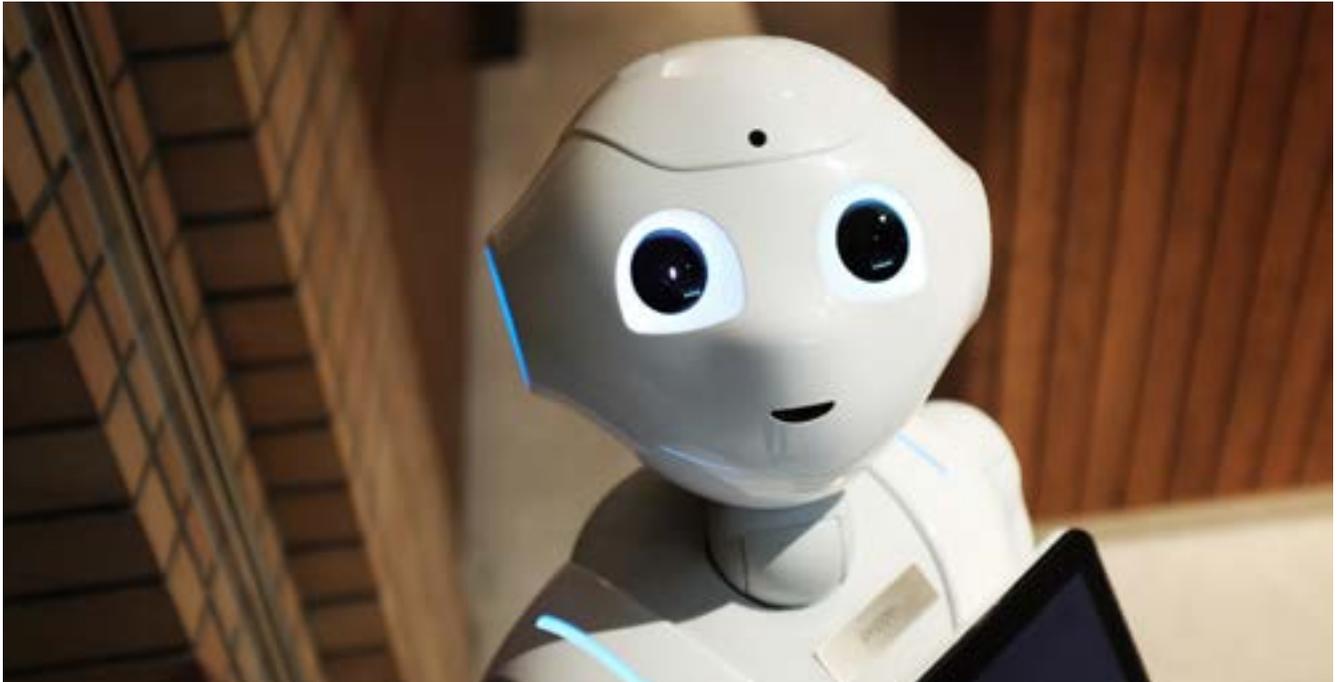
By the end of 2018 (from 2016), the project reported a remarkable improvement in knowledge about faunal species in the area from 41% in 2016 to 81% in 2018; poaching incidents went down from 54% to 43%, reduction in waste littering by 20% and reduction in deforestation of indigenous plants from 65% to 49%. Tolerance towards owls is important due to their role in reducing rodent population. To respond to drought, community members are designing water harvesting methods using innovative ways such as using two litre cold drink bottles to make gutters and other contraptions to capture water.

Key lessons:

Changing traditional beliefs of communities takes time. However, if it is addressed through a different lens (e.g. seeing the value of owls for their households) it may yield results.



2020 and Beyond



©Alex Knight on Splash

In 2019, a global network of UNDP Accelerator Labs (AccLab) were launched as the way to build the “Next Generation UNDP.” The goal of these labs will be to strengthen the capacity of UNDP country offices to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. A pilot initiative, the Accelerator Labs were set up in 60 countries globally, with 27 in the Africa region.

As one of the countries selected to host an Accelerator Lab, UNDP South Africa will work with key stakeholders from national to local levels on a range of initiatives aimed at developing critical capacities (technical knowledge, innovation methods, mapping solutions), reforming the enabling environment (policy, tax, regulatory space), growing networks (partners, mentors, social entrepreneurs, disruptors), leveraging new sources of finance (outcome-based finance, impact investment, equity, others) and strengthening communication and advocacy.

UNDP South Africa will continue to support the Government of South Africa to tackle the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. To achieve this, we will support legislation for land reform for agricultural development and food security; promote youth entrepreneurship and small businesses. A South Africa Human Development Report focusing on employability is in the pipeline. UNDP’s efforts to strengthen regional water security on the critical catchment area of the Orange-Senqu Basin and deployment of resources to enable wind energy uptake are some of the areas which will strengthen South Africa’s climate change response.



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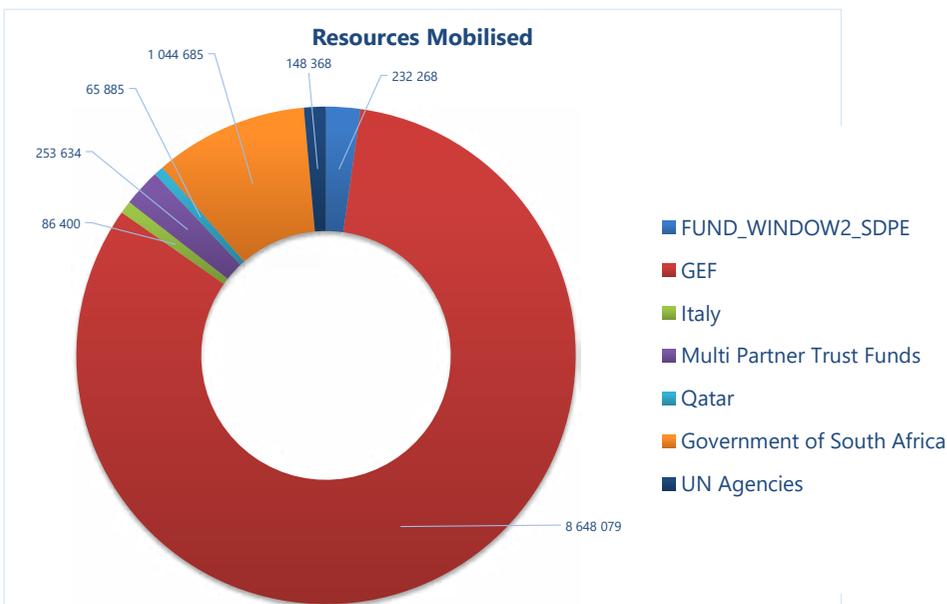
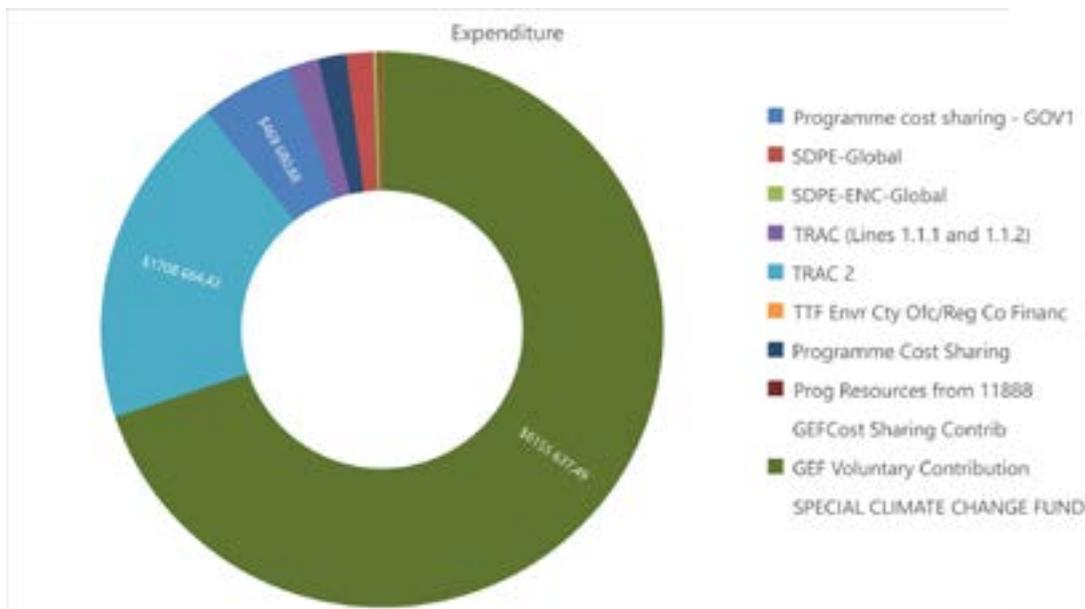
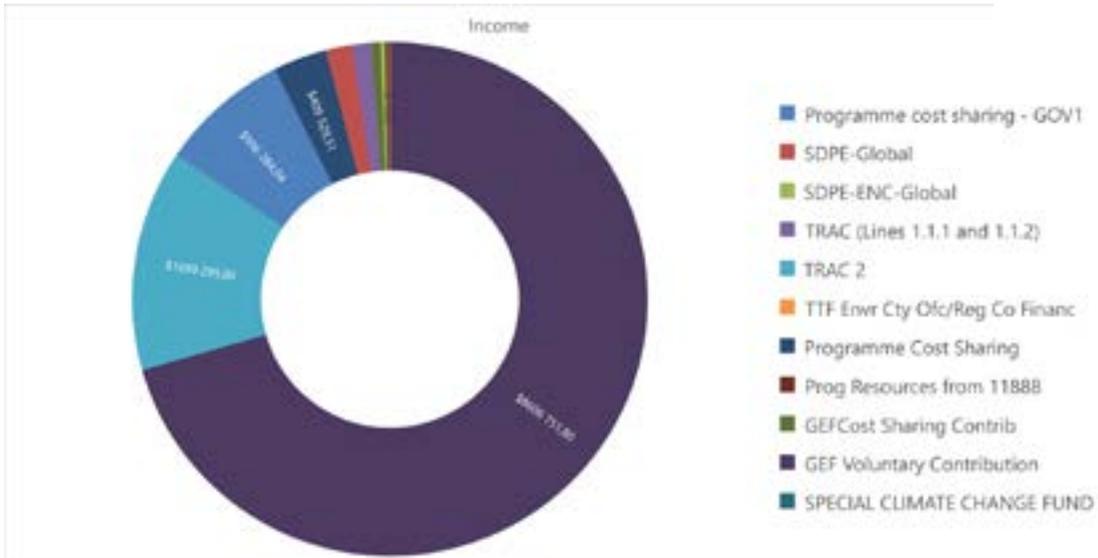
All this should happen within a gender-responsive framework of strengthened governance and improved capacity of local structures which promote social cohesion.

With our strengthened regional capacity, we can support our neighboring UNDP Country Offices, but also to strengthen South Africa’s response to the region.



Resources

UNDP Country Office Financial Resources 2019



Thanks to our staff and partners



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10. Acronyms

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| AccLab | Accelerator lab |
| AU | African Union |
| CO | Country Office |
| CPD | Country Program Document |
| CPS | Country Programme Strategy |
| DEA | Department of Environmental Affairs |
| DEFF | Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries |
| DMRE | Department of Mineral Resources and Energy |
| DTI | Department of Trade and Industry |
| EBA | Ecosystem-based Adaptation |
| EPWP | Expanded Public Works Programme |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GHG | Green House Gas |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| ORASECOM | Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission |
| PAGE | Partnership for Action on the Green Economy |
| REIPPP | Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme |
| SABS | South African Bureau of Standards |
| SARATEC | The South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre |
| SGP | Small Grants Programme |
| SMEs | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| SMME | Small Medium and Micro-sized Enterprise |
| SS&TrC | South-South and Triangular Cooperation |
| UNDP | United National Development Programme |
| VNR | Voluntary National Reviews |

Endnotes

¹<http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=12075>

²<http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0211/P02112ndQuarter2019.pdf>

³<http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-19/Report-03-10-192017.pdf>

⁴<http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/mtbps/2019/mtbps/FullIMTBPS.pdf>



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