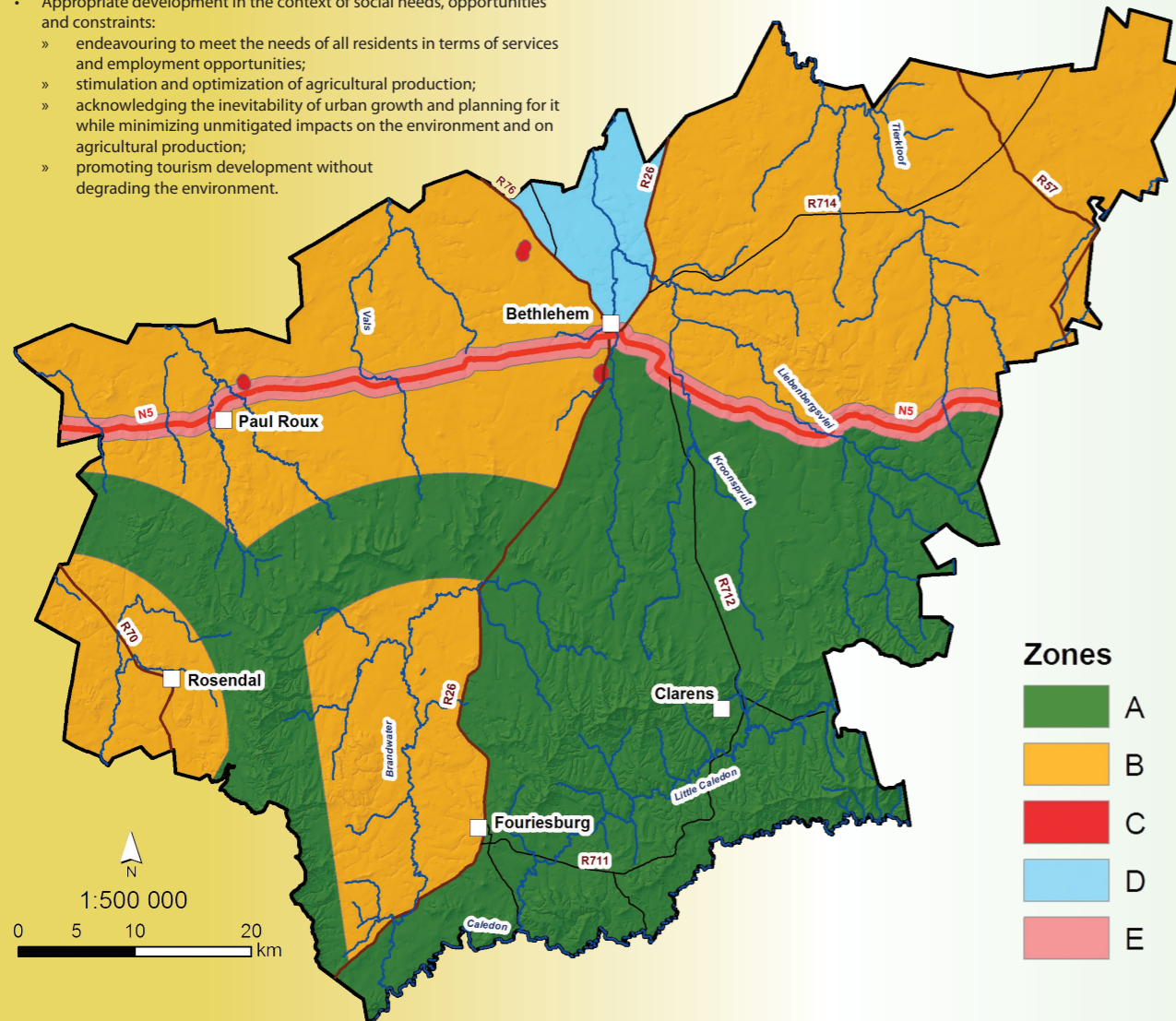


ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

for the Dihlabeng Local Municipality

The principles which guide this EMF are:

- Promoting sustainable development that:
 - enhances the social and economic welfare of all the inhabitants without excessive unmitigated impacts on the environment;
 - does not compromise ecosystem function;
 - contributes to the conservation of biodiversity;
 - combines concern for the environment with social and economic issues so that human health and natural and cultural resources are not harmed.
- Appropriate development in the context of social needs, opportunities and constraints:
 - endeavouring to meet the needs of all residents in terms of services and employment opportunities;
 - stimulation and optimization of agricultural production;
 - acknowledging the inevitability of urban growth and planning for it while minimizing unmitigated impacts on the environment and on agricultural production;
 - promoting tourism development without degrading the environment.
- Support for local priorities, plans and policies including:
 - promoting social and economic development within a safe and healthy environment;
 - land use change which optimizes use of the natural resource base;
 - protection and conservation of all environmentally sensitive areas;
 - discouraging urban sprawl and maintaining an open space system within the urban areas;
 - protection of endangered species and all biodiversity.



MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

General guidelines for the whole EMF area:

- Adherence to policies and legislation and ensuring compliance monitoring and enforcement;
- Coordination of legislative requirements to ensure that they do not contradict one another;
- Use of the EMF in conjunction with other municipal plans and policies.

EMF principles:

The EMF should be used as a proactive management decision support tool and the EMF principles should guide all decision making on development in DLM.

Guidelines for the environmental management zones

The EMF has delineated specific areas with different biophysical, economic and social characteristics and development and conservation use and potential. In light of these differences, management interventions required to support future development so that it is sustainable and does not compromise environmental integrity have been determined for each area.

Zone A: The Ecological zone (includes conservation)

Lies in the south eastern part of DLM, extending from the southern edge of Bethlehem and includes the Clarens area, Maloti-Drakensberg conservation area and the Golden Gate Highlands National Park.

Environmental Management Objectives:

- Maintenance of ecological and conservation functions.

Development objectives:

- Contribution to biodiversity protection and enhancement of the ecological and/or conservation status of the area;
- Contribution to the conservation of natural resources;
- Maintenance of ecosystem functions and services in the area.

Desirable activities (no environmental authorization required):

- Nature based tourism;
- Conservation and recreation activities that are not disruptive to the ecology of the area.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Conservation related facilities and infrastructure;
- Essential infrastructure such as roads, rail and pipelines.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Residential developments;
- Industrial and commercial developments;
- Agricultural activities;
- Landfill sites and sewerage treatment works;
- Mining activities;
- Cemeteries;
- Golf course and golf course developments.

Management guidelines:

- Adherence to principles of sustainable development - ensuring that developments are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable;
- Implementation of legislation and policies for protection of the environment;
- Compliance with monitoring and evaluation schedules and ensuring enforcement.

Zone B: The Agricultural Zone

This zone occurs in the northern parts of DLM to the east and west of Bethlehem including Paul Roux, and incorporates the southwest of DLM around Rosendal and Fouriesburg.

Environmental management objectives:

- Maintenance of environmental integrity in areas under agricultural use.

Development objectives:

- Maintenance of a mix of different agricultural land uses as made possible by the ecological conditions;
- Support of small scale agriculture and availing land for small scale agricultural activity within easy access of high density residential areas.

Desirable activities (no environmental authorization required):

- Rain-fed crop cultivation;
- Irrigated crop cultivation where the requisite water use rights have been satisfied;
- Livestock rearing including dairy farming;
- Livestock grazing.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Agricultural infrastructure such as dams, farm buildings;
- Agriculture related commercial activities such as warehousing, grading and packing facilities;
- Retail activities to serve farming communities;
- Agro industrial activities;
- Essential infrastructure such as roads, water reticulation etc.
- Subdivision of land for conservancies, leisure, residential and other developments related to tourism.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Industrial and commercial developments;
- Housing developments.

Management guidelines:

- Implementing legislation and policies to protect the environment for activities that require environmental authorization;
- Implementing policies and legislation relating to agricultural assessments and ensuring that agricultural functions are not compromised;
- Compliance with monitoring and evaluation schedules as laid out in the EMF and ensuring enforcement.

Zone C: The mining zone

Mining is a minor activity in DLM and the mining zone caters for both current and projected future mining activities. The zone lies to the north and south west of Bethlehem.

Environmental management objectives:

- To confine mining activities to designated areas in order to contain the environmental and health impacts of mining;
- To maintain the integrity of the environment in areas under mining.

All developments in the mining zone should be subject to environmental authorization.

Development objectives:

- To derive economic and social benefits from the exploitation of mineral resources.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Prospecting, mining, quarrying and extraction;
- Infrastructure and buildings associated with mining related activities;
- Storage of ore and other materials pertaining to mining;
- Manufacturing of coke and bricks;
- Cement manufacturing.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Residential developments;
- Commercial developments and office parks;
- Retail developments and shopping facilities

Management guidelines:

- Adherence to principles of sustainable development;
- Implementation of all legislation and policies pertaining to mining and protection of human health and the environment;
- Compliance with all prescribed monitoring and evaluation schedules including enforcement.

Zone D: The possible expansion zone:

This zone, located north of Bethlehem has low agricultural activity, low conservation significance and low urban spread. The area could be utilised for the expansion of Bethlehem which is experiencing rapid growth.

Environmental management objectives:

- Maintenance of environmental integrity through preservation of open spaces, protection of ecologically sensitive areas and general conservation of natural resources.

All developments taking place in this zone should be subject to environmental authorization.

Development objectives:

- Provision of retail, commercial, administrative, residential, industrial and recreation services and facilities;
- Mixed land uses in accordance with local plans.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Residential developments;
- Commercial developments and office parks;
- Retail developments and shopping facilities;
- Industrial developments;
- Infrastructure development;
- Manufacturing, warehousing, bottling and packaging facilities.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Mining;
- Agriculture.

Management guidelines:

- Adherence to principles of sustainable development;
- Implementation of legislation and policies for protection of the environment and human health;
- Compliance with all applicable monitoring and evaluation schedules including enforcement.

Zone E: The N5 Highway Transport Corridor

This zone occurs along the N5 highway (one kilometre buffer on either side of the N5).

Environmental management objectives:

- Maintenance of environmental integrity through preservation of open spaces, protection of ecologically sensitive areas and general conservation of natural resources.

All natural resources in the zone should be subject to environmental authorization.

Development objectives:

- Provision for a mix of commercial activities that require easy or fast access to a transport route.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Agro-processing and packaging;
- Manufacturing, bottling and packaging;
- Warehousing and storage facilities;
- Various industrial activities;
- Commercial activities.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Agriculture;
- Heavy industries with potential noxious impacts.

Management guidelines:

- Adherence to principles of sustainable development;
- Implementation of legislation and policies for protection of the environment;
- Ensuring compliance with monitoring and evaluation schedules as prescribed by applicable environmental management requirements including enforcement.

The Urban zone

*The urban zone is not shown on the accompanying map. Please refer to the detailed EMF for an explanation.

The zone is made up of the five urban areas of DLM.

Environmental management objectives:

- Maintenance of environmental integrity through maintenance of open spaces, protection of ecologically sensitive areas and general conservation of natural resources.

All developments in the urban zone should be subject to environmental authorization.

Development objectives

- Provision of retail, commercial, administrative, residential, industrial and recreation services and facilities;
- Mixed land uses in accordance with local plans.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization:

- Residential developments;
- Commercial developments and office parks;
- Retail developments and shopping facilities;
- Industrial developments;
- Infrastructure development;

Manufacturing, warehousing, bottling and packaging facilities.

Activities which should not be permitted:

- Mining;
- Agriculture.

Management guidelines:

- Adherence to principles of sustainable development;
- Implementation of legislation and policies for protection of the environment;
- Adherence to compliance monitoring and evaluation including enforcement.

The tourism zone

*The tourism zone is not illustrated on the map as it overlaps with both the ecological and urban zones.

In the area south of Bethlehem including the Clarens area, the ecology of the area underpins the environmental conditions on which tourism is based.

Environmental management objectives:

- Maintenance of environmental integrity through maintenance of open spaces (where the zone occurs in urban areas), protection of ecologically sensitive areas and general conservation of natural resources;

- Preservation of ecological and conservation functions.

All developments in the tourism zone should be subject to environmental authorization.

Development objectives:

- Deriving social and economic benefits from the natural and social environment while maintaining environmental integrity.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization (where the zone overlaps with the ecological zone):

- Construction and/or refurbishment of infrastructure and facilities for hospital-

- ity and recreation purposes;
- Establishment of sport and recreation facilities for tourism;
- Subdivision of land to accommodate tourism activities.

Activities which may not be permitted (where the zone overlaps with the ecological zone):

- Residential developments;
- Industrial and commercial activities.

Activities which may be permitted subject to environmental authorization and undesirable activities where the tourism zone overlaps with the urban zone:

- The activities listed for the urban zone are applicable.

