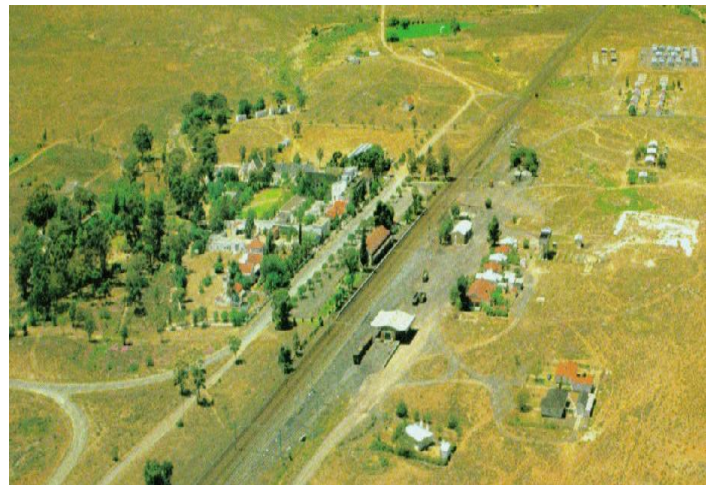


LAINGSBURG MUNICIPALITY

REVIEW OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STATUS QUO REPORT



VOLUME 1

JULY 2007

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Laingsburg Municipality
Spatial Development Framework
Review

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Brief

BKS (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the Central Karoo District Municipality to review the existing Spatial Development Framework (SDF) of the Laingsburg Municipality.

1.2 Purpose of Review of SDF

Section 26 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act (MSA), Act No. 32 of 2000 determines that “a spatial development framework which must include the provision of basic guidelines for a land use management system” and ...“should be one of the core components of an Integrated Development Plan of a municipality”.

Section 34 of the MSA determines that the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) must be reviewed and amended annually in accordance with an assessment of its performance measurements (in terms of section 41 of the MSA) and to the extent that changing circumstances demand. The SDF should therefore also be reviewed in accordance with the annual review of the IDP.

A SDF as part of an IDP should indicate the spatial implications of an integrated development plan and lay down strategies, proposals and guidelines for the future spatial development of the area to which it relates so that the general principles contained on Schedule IV (Section 5(1) (a-c) of the WCPDA, 199 (Act 7 of 1999), and the general well-being of the particular community and orderly planning of the area are promoted in the most effective manner.

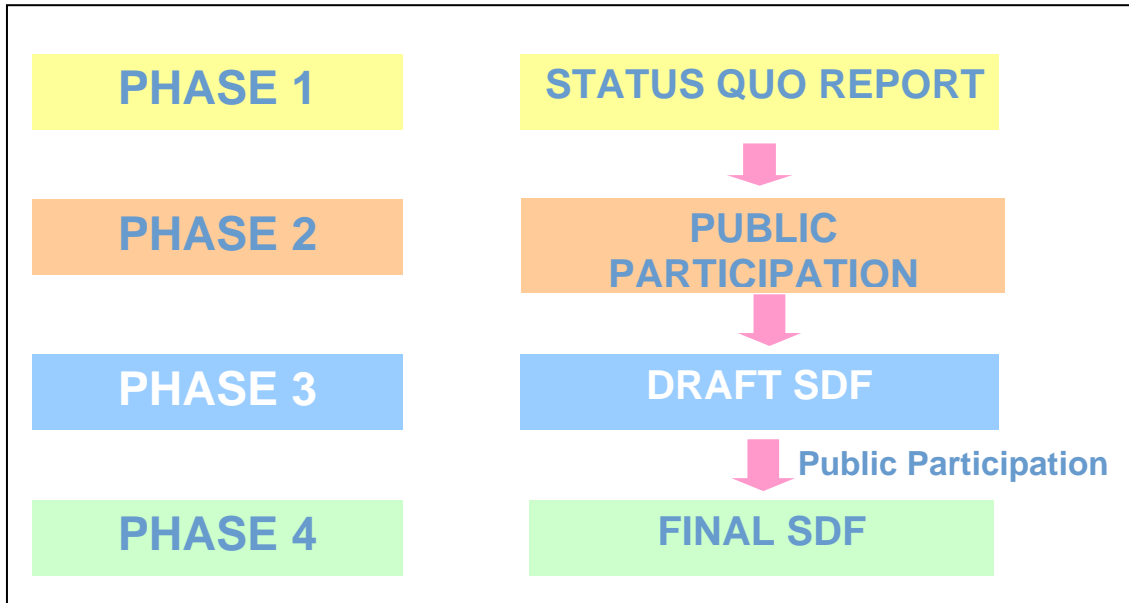
The purpose of the revised SDF is the following:

- Integration of the Laingsburg SDF (LSDF) with the Central Karoo SDF and the Beaufort West SDF;
- Alignment of current SDF with the Western Cape Provincial SDF (WCPSDF) and the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP);
- Updating of the SDF to reflect new legislation, proposals and conceptual planning subsequent to the adoption of the current SDF;
- Review current spatial planning proposals and guidelines in response to economic and social trends in the region and its towns; and
- Identification of vacant land and proposals to promote densification and discourage urban sprawl, including the identification of and urban edge.

1.3 Project and Planning Process

In order to submit the revised SDF simultaneously with the revised IDP in June 2007 a strict timeframe was set up for the completion of the Draft revised SDF. In order to keep within the timeframe the following process was agreed upon:

Figure 1: Phases of SDF Review Process



Phase 1:

In order to compile the Status Quo report the following steps were taken:

- Background research;
- Identification and consultation with the Steering committee; and
- Identification of key developmental and planning issues, contradictions in the LSDF, Central Karoo SDF and Beaufort West SDF, and communication with Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs).

Phase 2:

The Status Quo report will be presented to IAP through a public participation process (PPP) as described in section 1.4.

Phase 3:

This phase entails the integration of comments, proposals and strategies arising from the PPP with the strategies put forth in the PSDF in order to compile a draft SDF representative of the needs of the community.

Phase 4:

The draft SDF will undergo another round of public participation before the final SDF is submitted for final approval.

1.4 Public Participation

The Municipal Systems Act, Act No. 32 of 2000 prescribes that a structured public participation process should be followed as part of the IDP process and would therefore also apply to the review of the SDF.

As part of the review of the SDF, two rounds of public participation is included, the first being feedback on the status quo report followed by the second round of PP with the commenting on the draft SDF.

Previous experience has shown that the broader community is to attend general open house meetings. It was therefore decided to have separate structured meetings targeting active institutions representing the community as well open house meetings.

To ensure a transparent process, BKS in consultation with and with the approval of the IDP Forum placed an informative notice in the local newspaper, "Die Courier" to inform the general public. The wording of the notice is provided in Annexure A.

In addition to the article in the local newspaper, letters of information have been posted to all the members of the IDP Forum. The purpose of the information letter that has been sent to the members of the IDP Forum was to:

- Ensure that each member is informed;
- The process is explained; and
- That all inputs are appreciated.

The name list of the members of the IDP forum and a copy of the letter is also included in Annexure A.

1.5 Future Status of SDF

The revised and updated SDF will have the status of a Spatial Development Framework and will be adopted and approved by the Council of Laingsburg Municipality in terms of Section 30 of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (MSA).

Furthermore “a spatial development framework contained in an integrated development plan prevails over a plan” as defined in section 1 of the Physical Planning Act, 1991 (Act No. 125 of 1991).

It should also be noted that an approved SDF does not provide or withdraw any rights of a legal entity. Where applicable, detailed specialist studies will be required. Decisions of the council will still be subject to relevant policy and legislation with development proposals having to be considered in view of these.

Lastly, this review of the SDF should be followed by regular updates to ensure its relevance and sustainability in the longer term.

2. LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

2.1 NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2.1.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996)

The Constitution states that everyone has the right:

- (a) To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- (b) To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-
 - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - (ii) promote conservation; and
 - (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

2.1.2 Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000)

As discussed in section 1.2, the MSA sets out the requirements for the establishment of an IDP and SDF.

The aim of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 is to:

- To provide for the core principles, mechanisms and processes that are necessary to enable municipalities to move progressively towards the social and economic upliftment of local communities, and ensure universal access to essential services that are affordable to all;
- To provide for community participation; and
- To establish a simple and enabling framework for the core processes of planning, performance management, resource mobilisation and organisational change which underpin the notion of developmental local government.

2.1.3 Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)

The regulations made in terms of Section 21 of the Act, list the activities that may have a detrimental effect on the environment. When undertaking the strategic assessment of the proposed developments/projects, the listed activities should be borne in mind. Detailed studies must be done where listed activities are involved. It is important to note that the SDF does not

grant or withdraw any rights of a legal entity. Detailed environmental studies should still be undertaken where needed.

2.1.4 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)

This Act (NEMA) makes provision for integrated environmental management, which is geared to inform all decisions that may have a significant effect on the environment, socio-economic conditions and cultural heritage, in order to ensure the negative impacts are minimised. NEMA enables the achievement of sustainable development by establishing:

- Principles for decision making on all matters relating to the environment; and
- Environmental implementation plans (EIP) and environmental management plans (EMP).

Chapter 2 of NEMA provides principles which apply to “the actions all organs of state that may significantly affect the environment” to guide the decision making processes relating to the “protection of the environment, and guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of NEMA, and any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment.”.

2.1.5 National Land Use Bill (21 June 2002 – 2nd Draft)

Section 26(1) of the Land Use Bill gives a comprehensive list of components, which should be included in a SDF (See Annexure B for a list of these components). The Bill is still in draft form and subject to a national process, which could imply that the Bill might still change. The following principles contained in the Bill are however not likely to change; the principles of:

- Equality;
- Efficiency;
- Integration;
- Environmental sustainability; and
- Fair and good governance.

2.1.6 National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Provincial heritage resources authorities have been given the task of compiling and maintaining a heritage register. This is a listing of the heritage resources in their province which are considered to be conservation-worthy in terms of the assessment criteria set out in Section 3 (3) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999).

According to the Section 31 (1) of the Act “A *planning authority must at the time of compilation of a town or regional planning scheme, or the compilation of a revision of a spatial plan, or at the initiative of the provincial heritage authority where the opinion of the provincial heritage resources authority the need exists, investigate the need for the designation of heritage areas to protect any place of environmental or cultural interest*”. Those heritage resources, which fulfill the assessment criteria, will then be listed in the heritage register.

In order to help local municipalities with heritage issues, Heritage Western Cape was established to give assistance in identifying assets to be added to the heritage register.

2.1.7 Less Formal Township Establishment Act, 1991 (Act 113 of 1991)

This act was promulgated to expedite the process of establishing townships, less formal residential settlements and residential tribal land. When a critical need for less formal (informal) settlement exists, the Premier is empowered to designate land on which to settle individuals in a less formal manner. The Premier is further empowered to suspend servitudes or conditions of title if these are considered to be inconsistent, undesirable or if the cancellation thereof through formal procedures will cause undue delays in the opening of a township register. The Premier is further authorised to establish or cause the establishment of a township if there is a justifiable demand for housing in the designated area and may further make State land (controlled by him through purchase, expropriation or any other means of acquisition) available. Typical town planning restrictions and building standards are not applicable to less formal settlements.

2.1.8 National Spatial Development Perspective (March 2003)

The National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP) was published by the President’s Office in 2003, which suggests inter alia that Provinces determine the potential for economic growth and human need in towns in the Provinces. The Growth Potential of Towns in the Western Cape research study (2004) was undertaken as part of this initiative and is discussed in more detail under section 2.2.5.

The main purpose of the NSDP is to guide the alignment of investment in social and economic infrastructure across departments and spheres of government in order to tackle development challenges effectively. It also provides national objectives for spatial development and addresses the changing spatial economy and its impact on commitment to social reconstruction, sustainable growth, social justice and environmental integrity. Lastly, it responds to spatial trends in terms of impact on infrastructure investment and development spending.

2.1.9 Minerals Act, 1991 (Act 50 of 1991)

The Minerals Act, Act 50 of 1991 constituted the first substantial mining legislation aimed at environmental conservation. The Act determines that considerations relating to surface rehabilitation may operate as a prerequisite to the granting of prospecting permits or mining authorisation. The Act also subjects any land user to the rehabilitation plan of the relevant authority. The definition of mining and prospecting includes quarrying as it also results in the disturbance or removal of vegetation and thus requires rehabilitation.

Section 63 of the Minerals Act, 50 of 1991 relates to water pollution, rehabilitation and other environmental management aspects. The Act requires all operating and prospecting mines to submit an Environmental Management Programme Report (EMPR) which includes pollution management strategies. According to section 24 of this Act, mineral rights and other rights in land may be expropriated in the public interest against compensation.

2.1.10 Spatial Information Infrastructure Bill (Final Draft – 27 January 2003)

As part of the SDF review process, BKS has to establish a Geo-graphic Information System data base for the municipality. This is inline with some of the main objectives of this Bill, as set out below.

Three of the main objectives of this legislation, as extracted from the Bill itself, are to:

- Provide for the establishment of a South African Spatial Information Infrastructure in order to facilitate the capture, management, maintenance, integration, distribution and utilisation of spatial information;
- Provide for the establishment, composition, functions and powers of a Committee for Spatial Information to facilitate, promote and safeguard an environment supportive of efficient capture, management, distribution and utilisation of spatial information; and
- Provide for the establishment and maintenance of an electronic metadata catalogue to enable users of spatial information to search for and gain access to such information.

2.1.11 National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Bill (2003)

The objectives of this legislation, as extracted from the Bill itself, is:

- To provide, within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, for :
 - (i) the management and conservation of biological diversity within the Republic;
 - (ii) the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner; and

- (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the commercialisation through bioprospecting of traditional uses and knowledge of genetic resources;
- To give effect to international agreements relating to biodiversity which are binding on the Republic;
- To provide for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation; and
- To provide for a National Biodiversity Institute to assist in achieving the above objectives.

2.2 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

2.2.1 Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework (2005)

One of the main purposes of the Western Cape Provincial Spatial Development Framework is to guide the municipal (district, local and metropolitan) Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and provincial and municipal Spatial Development Plans (SDPs) and also to redress the spatial legacy of apartheid.

The WCPSDF puts forth policies and action plans necessary to implement objectives and strategies identified in the WCPSDF. These policies are grouped under three main areas of intervention:

- Socio-economic Development;
- Urban Restructuring; and
- Environmental Sustainability.

This document will aim to align the objectives and strategies identified in the PSDF with those objectives and strategies listed in the Integrated Development Plan.

2.2.2 Western Cape Planning and Development Act, 1999 (Act 7 of 1999)

The purpose of this Act is to replace racially based planning and development legislation, to establish a system of development planning in the province; consolidate planning and development into one law; to regulate, monitor and support planning and development at provincial, regional and municipal levels for urban and rural areas and to provide frameworks, norms and standards in planning and development. The Act contains similar provisions to LUPO with regard to rezoning, departure and subdivisions. The most striking difference is the removal of discretion relating to advertising. This Act will remove the discretionary power permitted with regard to advertising departure and subdivision application in terms of LUPO. Provisions for accelerated development as provided for in the Less Formal Township Establishment Act have

been included to address situations where land has to be made urgently available (Abrahams, 2005)

2.2.3 Land Use Planning Ordinance (Ordinance 15 of 1985)

The Land Use Planning Ordinance (LUPO) provides the guidelines for, amongst others, the:

- Purpose, preparation and continuation of structure plans;
- Establishment of private townships, the sub-division and lay-out of land for building purposes or urban settlement and the preparation and carrying out of town planning schemes; and to provide for other incidental matters;
- Establishment of the Planning Advisory Board;
- Basis of approval or refusal of applications; and
- Process to appeal.

2.2.4 Provincial Urban Edge Guideline (2005)

Urban edges contain outward growth of urban areas so as to enable the restructuring thereof and eradicate the functional urban inefficiencies that occurred as a result of urban sprawl. These inefficiencies relate to insufficient thresholds to support viable business, public transport and community facilities, and sub-optimal use of well-located land for subsidy or social housing. Urban edges are seen as pro-active growth management tools to contain, control, direct or phase growth in order to promote more compact, contiguous urban development and to protect the agricultural, biodiversity, heritage and other resources from development.

2.2.5 Growth Potential of Towns in the Western Cape (2004)

This study provides insight into:

- The leading growth criteria and indicators for urban development;
- The growth performance of rural towns in the Western Cape;
- Evaluation of towns in terms of their development potential and human needs;
- Comprehending the observed growth dynamic, economic base and place of identity of towns; and
- Investment opportunities available for each town.

In terms of this study, both Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein are seen as towns with low development potential and high human need. This implies that there is a high need for social investment rather than investments in the town's infrastructure.

2.2.6 Bioregional Planning Framework for the Western Cape (2000)

The principles of bioregional planning are contained in the "Bioregional Planning Framework for the Western Cape: towards the application of Bioregional Planning Principles and implementation of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve Programme in land-use planning within the framework Act 7 of 1999.

Both the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the Department of Housing and Local Government, support the implementation of UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve Programme. Biosphere reserves are defined as *"areas of terrestrial and coastal / marine ecosystems, or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognised within the framework of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MaBP). A bioregion is a "geographical space that contains one whole or several nested ecosystems characterised by landforms, vegetative cover, human culture and history as identified by local communities, governments and scientists"*.

In broad terms the bioregional planning framework focuses on planning and land development management that will ensure sustainable development through an underlain philosophy of the relationship between the conservation of biodiversity, the well-being of communities (humans) and economical efficiency within a geographical area. It provides for:

- A basis for compiling an SDF;
- Identification of areas with different development potential and status; and
- Ensures the long-term sustainability of the natural environmental integrity.

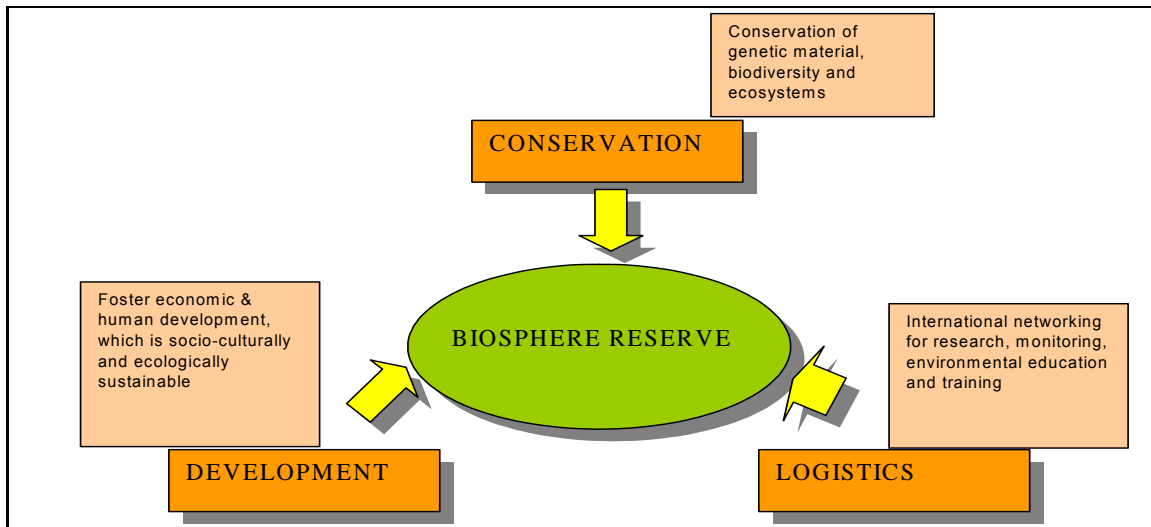
The Bioregional Planning Framework aims to:

- Provide a framework to enable planners in the Western Cape to reach consensus with respect to the management of resources in a sustainable manner;
- Support Category B and C Municipalities in the preparation of Development Plans and Sectoral Plans as described in Act 7 of 1999 and to promote cross border co-ordination in respect of bioregional planning and management;
- Serve as a framework for the demarcation of bioregions, in accordance with bioregional planning principles, within the Western Cape; and

- Provide guidelines for land-use classification of the total land area included in the Western Cape Province according to Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs), based on a broad spectrum of environmental parameters.

The three primary functions of biosphere reserves are summarised in Figure 2 below.

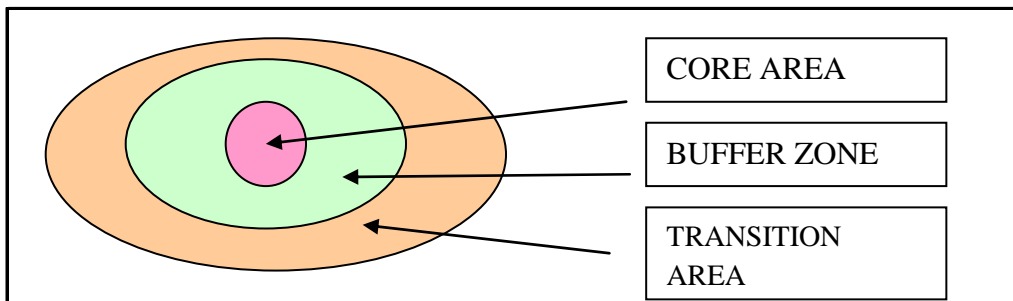
Figure 2: The three primary functions of biosphere reserves



Source: Bioregional Planning Framework for the Western Cape, October 2000

The three land-use zones that form a biosphere reserve are indicated in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Land-use zones contained in a Biosphere Reserve



Source: Bioregional Planning Framework for the Western Cape, October 2000

The Core Area is a statutory protected site designated for conserving biodiversity, monitoring ecosystems, and non-disruptive, non-consumptive land-uses, such as outdoor recreation, benchmark research, and environmental education, e.g. the Karoo National Park.

The Buffer Zone usually surrounds, or adjoins the core area. This zone 'protects' the core area against consumptive human activity and is used for co-operative non-consumptive activities, including environmental education, eco-tourism, benchmark research, and specific sustainable activities.

The Transition Area, or 'area of co-operation', accommodates a variety of non-consumptive and consumptive activities, such as agriculture, settlement development and other disruptive land-uses. In this zone local communities, management agencies, scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), cultural groups, economic interest groups and other stakeholders work together to manage and develop the area's resources in a sustainable manner.

Spatial planning categories have been developed to provide guidelines for all local land uses. These SPCs are consistent with the principles of bioregional planning and should be interpreted to include all zonings that are included under current Zoning Scheme Regulations. SPCs should be applied for land-use classification at all levels of planning in the Western Cape, including Sectoral Plans, Spatial Development Plans and SDFs. Local Authorities are expected to reflect firstly the six broad planning categories to be determined as part of the District Municipal SDF (listed below) and secondly the 32, more detailed planning categories (listed in the following table below) where applicable.

Table 1: Broad Spatial Planning Categories

| CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | BASIC PURPOSES |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Category A | Core Area (Consistent with UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve 'Core Areas'). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprising areas of high conservation importance that must be protected from change. • Only non-consumptive land-uses may be allowed conditionally. |
| Category B | Buffer Zone (Consistent with UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve 'Buffer Zone' and 'Transition Zone 1'). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving as a buffer between Category A Areas and Category C Areas. • Sustainable small-scale development and non-consumptive land-uses may be allowed conditionally. |

| CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | BASIC PURPOSES |
|------------|---|---|
| Category C | Agricultural areas (Consistent with UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve 'Transition Zone 2'). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constituting rural areas where extensive and intensive agriculture is practiced. Including forestry areas. |
| Category D | Urban-related areas (Consistent with UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve 'Transition Zone 3'). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing a broad spectrum of nodal urban-related settlements and associated services and infrastructure. |
| Category E | Industrial areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing the industrial areas where the highest intensity of human activity occurs. |
| Category F | Surface infrastructure and buildings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constituting all surface infrastructure and buildings not catered for in the above categories. Including roads, railway lines, power lines, communication structures, etc. |

Table 2: Sub Spatial Planning Categories

| SUB-CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| CATEGORY A: CORE AREAS | |
| A.a Wilderness areas | Statutory and <i>de facto</i> wilderness areas serving as a "benchmark" for environmental health and providing primitive, non-consumptive, non-mechanised outdoor recreation. |
| A.b. Other statutory conservation areas | Statutory conservation areas, e.g. national parks, provincial and private nature reserves (zoned Open Space II), etc., providing for biodiversity conservation, outdoor recreation and limited sustainable resource use. |
| CATEGORY B: BUFFER ZONES | |
| B.a Public conservation areas | Public conservation areas with statutory conservation status - not qualifying for A.a status, surrounding, or within Core Areas, e.g. contractual national parks, national monuments, local authority nature reserves. |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| B.b | Private conservation areas | <i>De facto</i> conservation areas in private ownership, no statutory conservation status, but ideally within registered conservancies - protecting integrity of core areas. |
| B.c | Ecological corridors/areas | Natural linkages between ecosystems that contribute to the maintenance of natural processes, e.g. rivers, continuous tracts of natural vegetation. |
| B.d | Rehabilitation areas | Areas designated for rehabilitation (i.e. conservation-worthy areas previously degraded by agriculture, mining, and forestry). |
| CATEGORY C: TRANSITION ZONES | | |
| C.a | Extensive agricultural areas | Agricultural areas covered with natural vegetation, providing for sustainable low-impact agriculture-related land-uses, e.g. indigenous plant harvesting, extensive stock-farming, game-farming, eco-tourism, etc. |
| C.b | Intensive agricultural areas | Agricultural areas used for multiple agriculture-related resource uses, including cultivated areas, forestry areas, etc. |
| CATEGORY D: URBAN-RELATED AREAS | | |
| D.a | Metropolitan City/District Town | Category A Municipality and the location of a Category C Municipality authority. |
| D.b | Main Local Town | Location of a Category B Municipality. |
| D.c | Local town | Town that previously had municipal status, now forms part of a Category B Municipality and has a municipal office. |
| D.d | Rural settlements | Rural settlements that fall under the jurisdiction of a Category B Municipality (settlements that have had no municipal status in the past, or settlements that have lost such status). |
| D.e | Institutional settlements | Nodal settlements and infrastructure associated with institutions, such as educational centers, prisons, etc. |
| D.f | On-farm settlements | On-farm settlement nodes comprising more than 5 units, together with the communal infrastructure, e.g. school, church, etc. |
| D.g | Farmsteads | Main farmsteads including on-farm infrastructure required for farm logistics, e.g. sheds, packing facilities, etc. |
| D.h | Resorts & Tourism-related areas | Resorts and tourism-related developments and areas, including hotels, motels etc. |
| D.i | Other urban- | Urban-related areas not included in Sub-Category D.a - D.h (e.g. |

| | |
|---|--|
| related areas | settlements within District Management Areas under the jurisdiction of a Category C Municipality). |
| CATEGORY E: INDUSTRIAL AREAS | |
| E.a Agricultural industry | Agriculture-related industrial developments, such as silos, wine cellars, packing facilities, dairies, saw-mills, etc. |
| E.b Light industry | Areas designated for light industrial activities, such as small factories, brick-yards, saw-mills, metal-works, etc. |
| E.c Heavy industry | Areas designated for heavy industrial activities, such as steel mills, etc. |
| E.d Extractive industry | Settlements and infrastructure associated with multiple consumptive resource extraction, e.g. mining. |
| CATEGORY F: SURFACE INFRASTRUCTURE & BUILDINGS | |
| F.a National roads | National roads proclaimed in terms of the National Roads Act, 1998 (Act 7 of 1998). |
| F.b Trunk roads | Provincial and regional roads proclaimed in terms of the Roads Ordinance, 1976 (No. 19 of 1976). |
| F.c Main roads | Provincial and regional roads proclaimed in terms of the Roads Ordinance, 1976 (No. 19 of 1976). |
| F.d Divisional roads | Provincial and regional roads proclaimed in terms of the Roads Ordinance, 1976 (No. 19 of 1976). |
| F.e Minor roads | Provincial and regional roads proclaimed in terms of the Roads ordinance, 1976 (No. 19 of 1976). |
| F.f 4X4 trails | 4X4 trails within Category B and C Municipalities. |
| F.g Railway lines | Railway lines and associated infrastructure. |
| F.h Power lines | Power lines and associated sub-stations and infrastructure. |
| F.i Communication structures | Cellular network towers, radio towers, telecommunication infrastructure, etc. |
| F.j Dams & reservoirs | Major dams and reservoirs. |
| F.k Other buildings & infrastructure | Buildings & infrastructure not included in Sub-Category F.a - F.j. |

2.2.7 iKapa Elihlumayo : Towards a Provincial Growth & Development Strategy

Ikapa Elihlumanyo comprises of a system of strategies enabling the formation of a framework to the assist the sustainable growth and development of the Western Cape.

The strategies include eight key developmental programs:

1. Building Social Capital with an emphasis on Youth;
2. Building Human Capital with an emphasis on Youth;
3. Strategic Infrastructure Plan;
4. The Micro-Economic Development Strategy;
5. The Provincial Spatial Development Framework;
6. Co-ordination and Communication;
7. Improving Financial Governance; and
8. Provincialisation of municipal-rendered Services.

The goal of these programs is to:

- Increase economic growth;
- Increase employment and economic participation;
- Reduce geographic and socio-economic inequality; and
- Provide a sustainable social safety net.

2.2.8 Breaking New Ground Housing Plan, 2005

This is a national plan for the delivery of homes and the development of human settlements. The main objective is to ensure integrated and sustainable human settlements by redressing the legacy of racial and social divisions, combating urban sprawl, ensuring accessibility / centrality for the poor and creating empowered and vibrant communities through social capital formation.

Key aspects of the Plan include:

- The integration and building of secure communities;
- A three tier categorizing of housing beneficiaries; and
- Redefining the role of government in the housing market.

2.2.9 Policy for the Settlement of Farm Workers (September 2000)

The policy is focused on the variety of settlement needs in the Western Cape farm worker community. It groups settlement options into two broad models, namely “on the farm” and “off the farm” options. “Off the farm” settlements can either be in an existing town / node or in an agri-

village (new node) - which could include forestry as the reason for deviating from the no-new-node principle. These settlements should be so located that they would result in the development of sustainable communities and should promote rural and agricultural (inclusive of forestry) development.

Over the last few years an increasing number of farmers prefer to provide housing for their employees in nearby towns rather than on the farm. This will have an impact on the demand for housing especially in Laingsburg.

2.3 DISTRICT LEGISLATION

2.3.1 Central Karoo Integrated Development Programme

The IDP sets out the 5-year term vision for the district, where the Growth and Development strategy sets out the long-term strategic course.

The Central Karoo district is the poorest district in the Western Cape. The low levels of income and the poor living conditions of the communities in the district are seen as the main problems affecting Central Karoo. The IDP has identified the following as potentials in helping to address these issues:

- The SMME sector;
- Woman and Youth;
- Tourism;
- The Agriculture sector;
- The Infrastructure sector; and
- Health sub-sector.

The complete list of IDP projects is attached as Annexure C.

2.3.2 Central Karoo Spatial Development Framework, 2004

The focus areas and strategies with spatial significance proposed in the SDF are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Central Karoo Spatial Development Framework Focus Areas and Strategies

| FOCUS AREA | STRATEGY |
|---|--|
| NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | |
| Insufficient information for priority natural and conservation worthy areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritise areas; • Extend areas which currently has conservation status; • Establish new statutory conservation areas; • Identify rehabilitation areas. |
| Uncontrolled farming practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify conservation worthy areas for rehabilitation purposes. • Establish conservancies. |
| Outdated land use management measures limit effective conservation and management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare updated, integrated zoning schemes for each local municipality - Sectoral SDFs to serve as a basis. |
| General environmental degradation due to littering and illegal waste disposal practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, monitor and manage problem areas and establish accessible and centralised waste disposal sites. |
| Removal of alien vegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and conserve natural habitats |
| Capacity and use of groundwater resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate and develop in accordance with water resource availability. • Conservation of water resources through effective management; • Protect and conserve water catchment areas. |
| URBANISED AREAS | |
| Lack of co-ordinated structure planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordinate structure planning in the district. |
| Insufficient land use management control measures impede administrative processes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare updated, integrated zoning schemes for each local municipality - Sectoral SDFs to serve as a basis. |
| Infrastructure provision is under pressure due to the settlement (urbanisation) of farm workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine impact and provide for in Sectoral SDFs. |
| Expansion of housing in economically marginalised towns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a study on the carrying capacity of settlements and towns - update Sectoral SDFs. |
| Evaluate urban structure components | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop areas specific planning and design guidelines for each settlement and apply. |
| Conserve cultural, historical and archeological elements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify elements and prepare a database • Develop areas specific planning and design guidelines for each such elements. • Promote restoration, rehabilitation and conservation. |
| Job creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply CSIR Rapid Review Study 2002 proposals. |
| Improve the image of Beaufort West as "capital" of the district. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify significant elements and formulate planning and design guidelines. |

| FOCUS AREA | STRATEGY |
|--|---|
| Insufficient information on spatial needs for social service uses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify need and provide in land use requirements via Sectoral SDFs. |
| ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT | |
| Improve economic development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an economic development strategy for the district and for each sector individually. |
| Sustain the agricultural sector as the primary economic basis of the region. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate, promote and support alternative agricultural uses through effective land use management guidelines i.e. consider the subdivision of land in accordance with current legislation. |
| Develop tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the place specific planning and design guidelines. Maintain tourism routes, facilities and infrastructure; Establish informal markets (promotion of arts and crafts) and develop supportive land use management guidelines. |
| Identify alternative development measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply "CSIR Rapid Review Study, 2002". |
| Empower local communities to promote job creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a small farmer settlement study and propose suitable locations; Assess need for provision of land for small-scale industry. |
| INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT | |
| Integrate environmental considerations and decision making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Bioregional planning as basis for a; development planning and management. |
| Maintain integrated planning principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise SDFs and IDPs regularly |

2.3.3 Central Karoo District Growth and Development Strategy (2007-2022)

The Western Cape – Provincial Growth and Development Strategy is defined as an overarching strategy that encapsulates the mixture of all development potential in the Western Cape. The District Growth and Development Strategy provides a more detailed view of development and growth potential at a district level and is the overarching policy framework and strategy for realizing shared growth and integrated development in the Province by 2014, through development activities that further the principles of economic growth, environmental integrity, equity and empowerment.

Various strategies are proposed, of which the following is or may be of significance to the Laingsburg Municipality:

- Wind Power Generation Project;

- Cold Storage Facility Project;
- Water Demand Management Strategy ;
- Economic Development Agency;
- GAP-Housing Development Project;
- Uranium Mine
- Desert Knowledge, Research & Development Hub; and
- Tourism Expansion Project.

2.4 LOCAL LEGISLATION

2.4.1 Laingsburg Municipality Integrated Development Plan, 2007

The 2007-2011 IDP was completed in March 2007. The vision for the Laingsburg Municipality is to create a desirable place to live, invest and visit, and where all people will enjoy a sustainable quality of life by 2011. The objectives for achieving this vision are described in the Laingsburg IDP:

- To create a stable social environment conducive to empowerment, social development and community care;
- To increase the majority of households income from the current estimated average of R1000 to the national average minimum living income of R2400 per household;
- To ensure a stable social environment conducive for empowerment, social development and community to eradicate poverty;
- Extend basic infrastructure and service to all residents in Laingsburg; provide all indigent households with basic services according national standards and income;
- To create and institution with skilled and inform employees who can provide a professional and effective service to its clientele guided by the BATHO PELE Principles;
- Improvement / maintenance of Environmental Status of the Municipal area; and
- To achieve a strong financial position to withstand local and regional economic impact in short and long-term for the implantation of responsible and sustainable development and economic growth.

2.4.2 Laingsburg Municipality Spatial Development Framework

The review Spatial Development Framework Plan (SDF) is compiled concurrently with the IDP. During the IDP process, needs are identified by the community and other stakeholders. As the

SDF is a spatial reflection of the IDP, the SDF includes those aspects of the budget, which have spatial implications. The purpose of an SDF is as follows:

- It should spatially reflect the vision of how the municipal area should develop in the broad sense;
- It should reflect the needs (partly through projects) identified in the first stages of the IDP process;
- It should spatially integrate the strategies of the various sectors;
- It provides a legally binding spatial framework, which promotes sustainable environmental, economic and social development in a municipality;
- Sets out objectives that reflect the desired spatial form of the area; and
- It should serve as an information source and guide to inform and direct land use management.

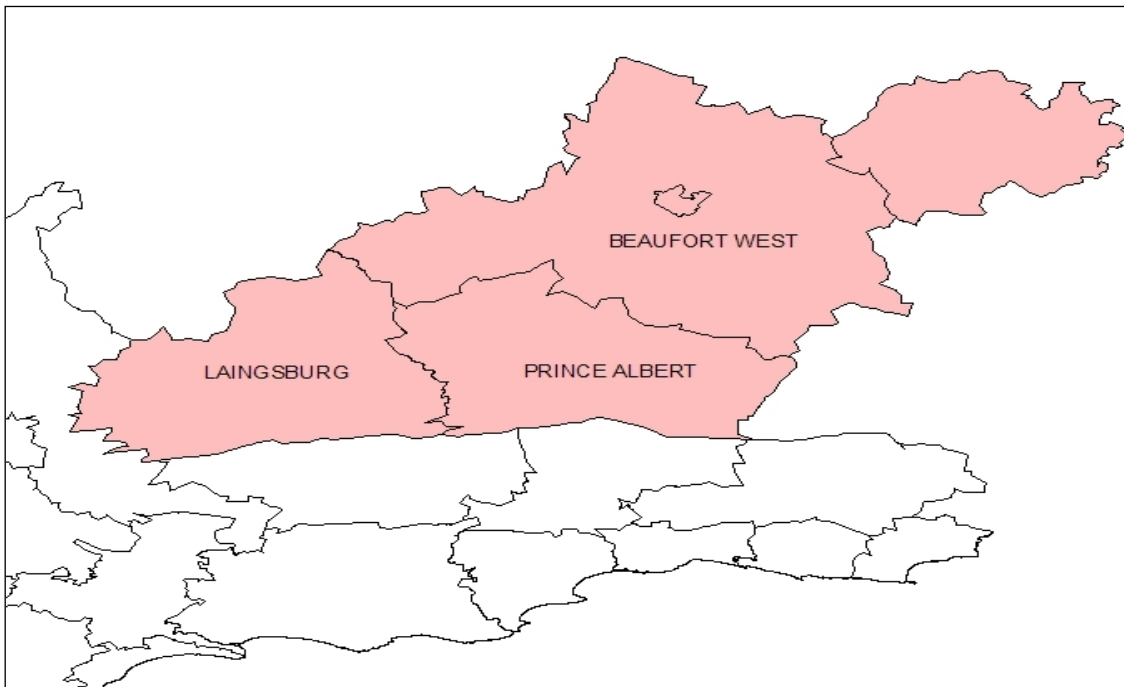
Ultimately, the SDF serves as an information source and guideline for officials and stakeholders such as developer and community groups.

3. DESCRIPTION OF AREA

3.1 Location

Laingsburg Municipality is a Category B Municipality situated in the Central Karoo District in the Western Cape Province (see Figure 4 and Plan 1). The municipality covers an area of $\pm 8781\text{m}^2$ and is abutted by the municipal areas of: Beaufort West-, Prins Albert-, Kannaland-, Boland- and the Karoo Hoogland Municipality. The municipal area includes the towns of Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein, both situated along the N1 (see Plan 1).

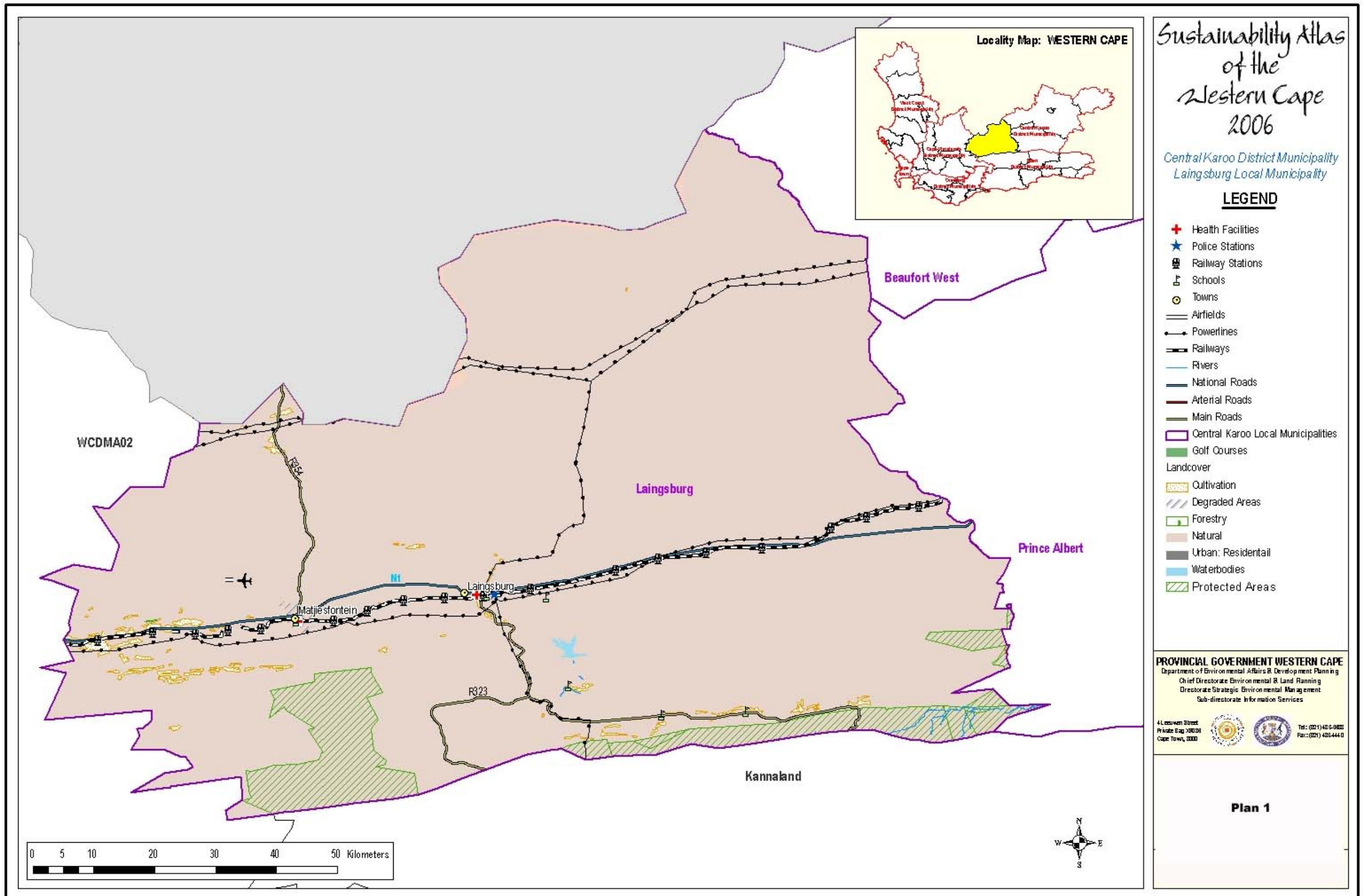
Figure 4: Laingsburg Municipality in context of Central Karoo District⁷



3.2 Historical Background

Laingsburg

Laingsburg Town is the largest node/town in the municipal area. The town, located $\pm 280\text{km}$ north east of Cape Town, was founded around 1881 as a trading post. The town was initially called Buffelo, then Nassau and later Laingsburg, in honour of John Laing, Commissioner of Crown Lands. Laingsburg became a municipality in 1904 with the town expanded periodically with infrastructure and services systematically following to meet demand. The National Road from Cape Town to Johannesburg (N1) through Laingsburg was completed in 1942.



Sustainability Atlas of the Western Cape 2006

Central Karoo District Municipality
Laingsburg Local Municipality

LEGEND

- + Health Facilities
- ★ Police Stations
- Railway Stations
- Schools
- Towns
- Airfields
- Powerlines
- Railways
- Rivers
- National Roads
- Arterial Roads
- Main Roads
- Central Karoo Local Municipalities
- Golf Courses
- Landcover
 - Cultivation
 - Degraded Areas
 - Forestry
 - Natural
 - Urban: Residential
 - Waterbodies
 - Protected Areas

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Plan 1

In 1981, one hundred years after its founding, a devastating flood destroyed the town. Although little evidence of the destruction exist, Laingsburg is ensured its place in South African history as being host to the country's most destructive natural disaster.

It originally served as a center for Dorper sheep farming and merino-wool production, as well as the growing of fruit and vegetables. The National Road from Cape Town to Johannesburg (N1) and its resultant road traffic also contributes to the sustainability of the town.

Matjiesfontein

Matjiesfontein was founded in 1884 by the legendary James Douglas Logan in the early stages of the Anglo-Boer War. The hotel was used as a military hospital during the conflict by the British forces, with the hotel turret used as a lookout post. By 1899, it became a watering place, attracting those who could afford to seek relief for chest complaints in the clear, bright air. It has become well known for its splendid historical buildings and in testament the entire Village was restored in 1970 and declared a National Historic Monument.

3.3 Current Overview

Laingsburg

The primary economic base for Laingsburg town is the agricultural sector. The town serves the daily needs of the surrounding farming and residential community. With the exception of the towns identity as a flood survivor, few other attractions, economic incentives or opportunities currently exist. Furthermore, there are limited human resources present to develop the town.

Laingsburg plays an essential role as a service centre for the region by providing basic services to the surrounding farming community. Due to *economies of scale* and *critical threshold* necessary to make businesses sustainable, the region only provides its community with a limited choice of opportunities. The town itself is therefore by-passed in favour of larger towns for greater variety or for higher order services. A limited number of commercial enterprises have established themselves in the town with little to no private investment ensuing.

The local economy has been affected by the decline in available employment opportunities and natural increase in its population growth rate. The Laingsburg region has further been identified as one of the towns in the Western Cape with a low development potential and a high human need (Growth Potential of Towns in the Western Cape, 2004). This study suggests that the region requires serious social development aid and social investment (e.g. in the form of poverty

alleviation and education) and no significant infrastructural investment or development to enable its sustainability.

The Provincial Treasury Department (2006) provides the following statistics for the region:

- Known for production of apricots, dried yellow peaches, pears, plums, quinces and tomatoes;
- Economy concentrated in three sectors: agriculture, forestry and fishing (23.2%), transport and communication (22, 6%) and the wholesale and retail trade (19,3%); and
- Laingsburg contributed 9.6% or R66.8 million of the Karoo District's R705 million in 2004.

Matjiesfontein

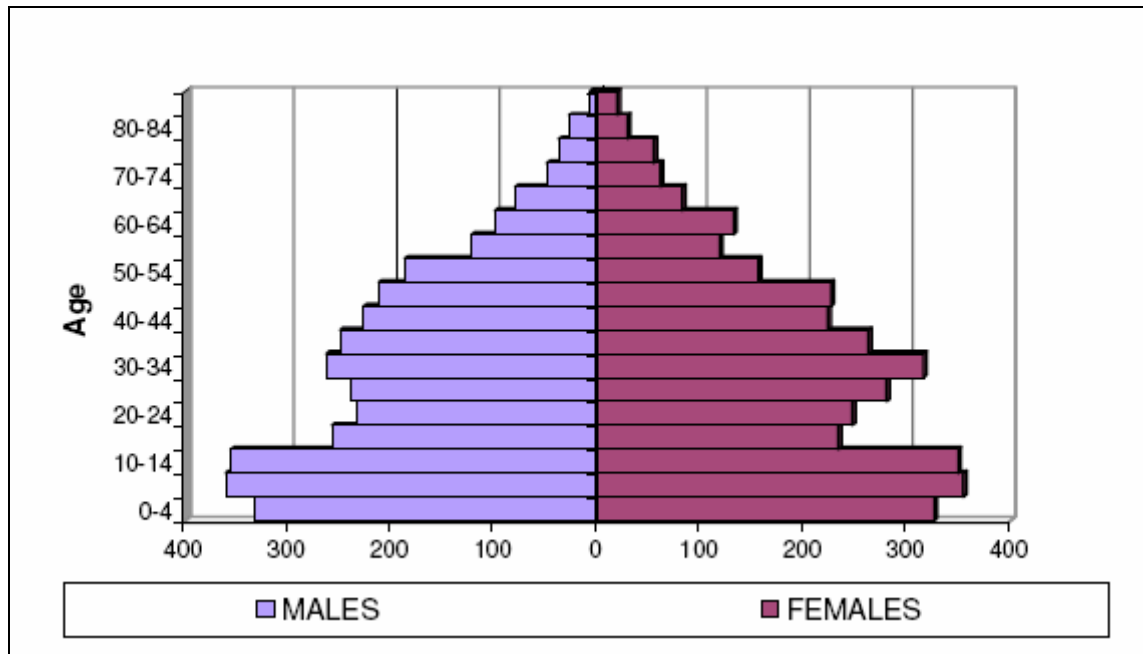
Tourism is Matjiesfontein's economic base, where visitors and travelers visit the town for its history and unique Victorian sense of place. This causes an inflow of new money to the area. Considering its sense of place, Matjiesfontein has been granted heritage status. Major development in the area is rejected in order to retain the areas character. The current informal residential settlement is in need of formalization. An additional 95 low-income residential units are required. This should however be done in a sensitive manner so as to add value to the Victorian character of Matjiesfontein.

4. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP

4.1 Population

Figure 5 below depicts the municipality's demographic profile in 2006.

Figure 5: Laingsburg Population Pyramid, 2006



Source: CARE 2005 (extracted from Provincial Treasury Department, 2006)

The analysis of Figure 5 presents the following:

- The broad base presents a large young population between the ages of 5 to 14;
- That there is a decline in population growth; and
- That there is a significant decrease in population numbers between the ages of 15 to 30, which may be contributed to out-migration or death (especially HIV/Aids and Tuberculosis)

Demographic statistics derived from the Provincial Treasury Department (2006) states:

- A total number of 8100 households live in Laingsburg, of which 91.3% lives in urban areas with 8,7% living in rural areas;
- The population growth rate between 2001 and 2006 was 1,5%, with the projected growth rate between 2006 and 2010 being 1,3%; and
- That there is going to be a continued in-migration of Coloureds and Whites to the region until 2025.

The above analysis indicates that there is a substantial number of young people within the community that will enter the economically active sector within in the next few years. The younger generation increases the pressure on those members of the community supporting them to earn an income, however, there has been a slight decline in the dependency ration between 2001 and 2006. The substantial number of young people indicates the high need for schooling facilities, community facilities, i.e. sport and recreation facilities and after school care.

In an environment where the unemployment rate is substantial and the need to support the younger generation is high, strategies and interventions should focus on the economically active segment.

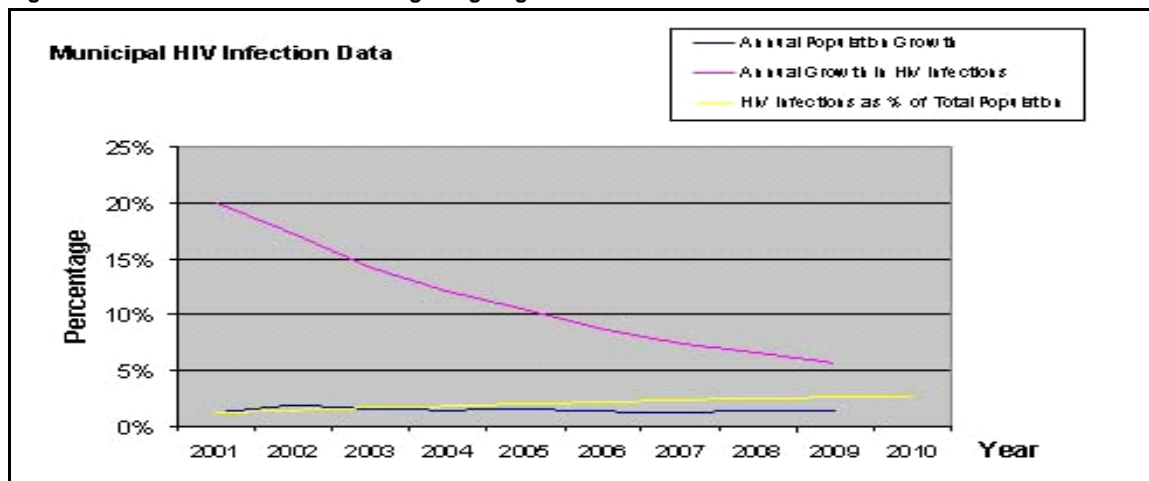
4.2 Impact of HIV/AIDS

Figure 6 illustrates the municipal area's infection rate. The information sourced from the IDP (2007-2011) states the following:

- High rate of HIV/Aids;
- 60% of HIV deaths in the Province happens in the Karoo; and
- High percentage of teenage pregnancies, and with increased HIV/Aids related deaths, there is an increase in child headed households.

The Antenatal HIV prevalence measured in the district in 2000 was 5.6% as opposed to a provincial percentage of 8.7%. There is no District Aids Council or equivalent body to co-ordinate the integrated response to HIV/AIDS in the District. There are however a number of organisations active in a number of programmes in the area.

Figure 6: HIV infection Rate for the Laingsburg Region



Source: Census 2005

4.3 Socio-Economic Status

Employment opportunities within the municipal area are limited, with self-employment and entrepreneurship largely absent. As a result, the unemployment rate within the Laingsburg Municipal district is relatively high at 26.2%. Due to the stagnant local economy and gradual increase in the local population growth rate (1% -1.5% per annum), Laingsburg is experiencing a decline in employment opportunities. Low self-employment rates, the lack of entrepreneurship and the resultant high dependence on formal employment can be associated with the lack of educational opportunities and empowerment initiatives within in the area. Although educational programmes (e.g. ABET) are offered, the manner and extent to which they are presented has added little value to those who require it. Although the area is not well served with educational facilities, education (e.g. training) is imperative in increasing the areas human resources to a level where they help grow the local and provincial economy.

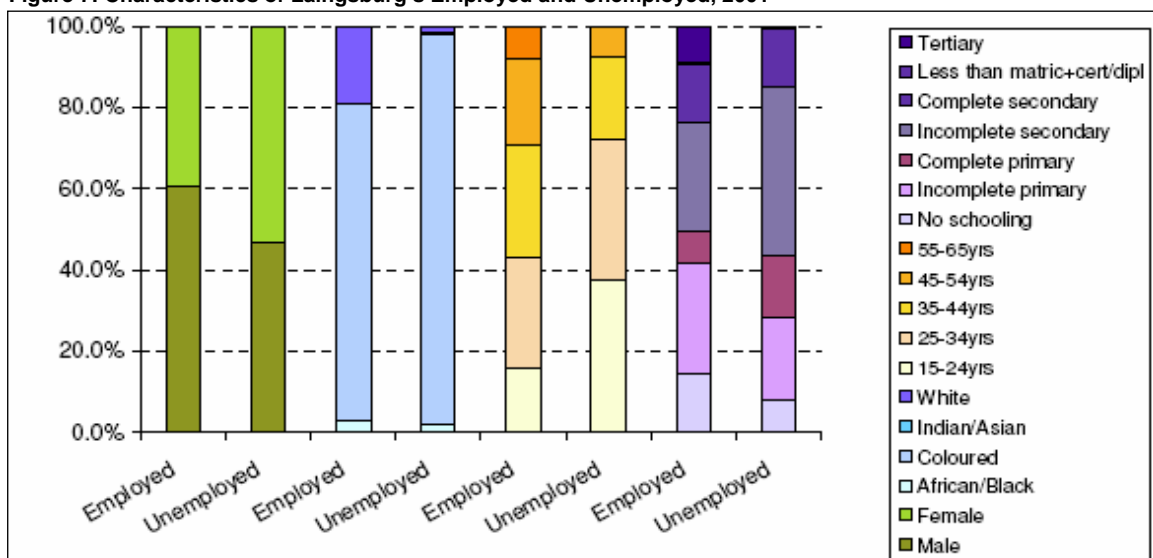
The lack of employment opportunities consequently leads to the migration of especially the youth to the big cities. The nature of the migration to the cities is not expected to have any significant benefits or spin-offs for the area itself.

Extracted from the IDP, the main socio-economic concerns for the Laingsburg Municipal area are the:

- Lack of employment opportunities; and
- Insufficient level of self-employment within the region

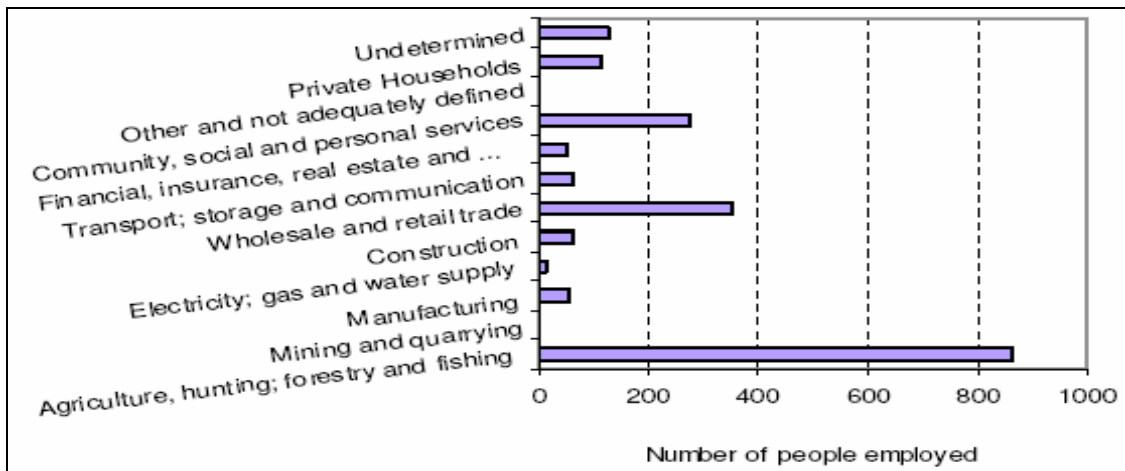
The characteristics of Laingsburg’s labour market are shown in Figures 7, 8 and 9.

Figure 7: Characteristics of Laingsburg’s Employed and Unemployed, 2001



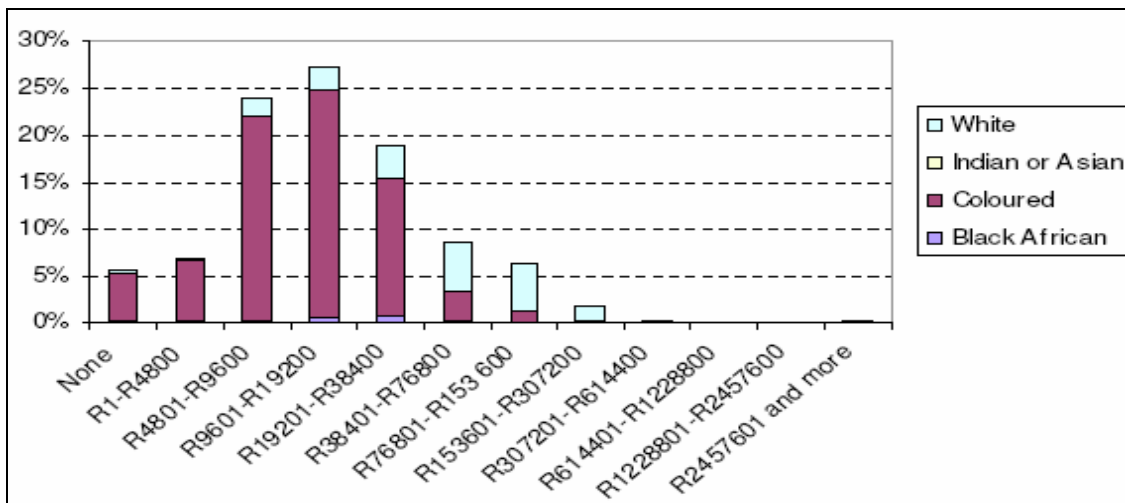
Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001 (extracted from Provincial Treasury Department, 2006)

Figure 8: Laingsburg Municipality employment by sector, 2001



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001 (extracted from Provincial Treasury Department, 2006)

Figure 9: Laingsburg Income Distribution by Population Group, 2001



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2001 (extracted from Provincial Treasury Department, 2006)

From the diagrams shown above, the Provincial Treasury Department highlights the following:

- Males and persons in older age groups make up a larger part of the employed;
- Whites are over-represented within the ranks of the unemployed, given the racial profile of the municipality;
- The rate of unemployment within the Coloureds and the youth (15-24years) is high;
- The majority of the employed population (76,2%) had incomplete secondary education;
- In 2001, the biggest job creating sector was agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (43,8%), followed by wholesale and retail trade (18%) and community, social and personal services (13,9%); and
- The majority (70.1%) of household earned between R4801 and R38 400 per annum (or R400 – R3200 per month).

5. ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

5.1 Climate

Laingsburg is characterised by its arid climate, comprising hot dry summers and cold, relatively dry winters. The mean annual rainfall for the central and eastern portions of the region is 0-200mm, while that of the northern and western portions is 200mm-400mm (see Figure 10 and 11). The mean maximum annual temperature for the majority of the region ranges between 29°C - 35°C, with the mean minimum annual temperature ranging between 2.1°C – 6°C (see Figure 10). This low aggregate rainfall together with a high evaporation rate results in periods of drought. The area also experiences frost during the winter season.

Figure 10: Average Rainfall and Temperature

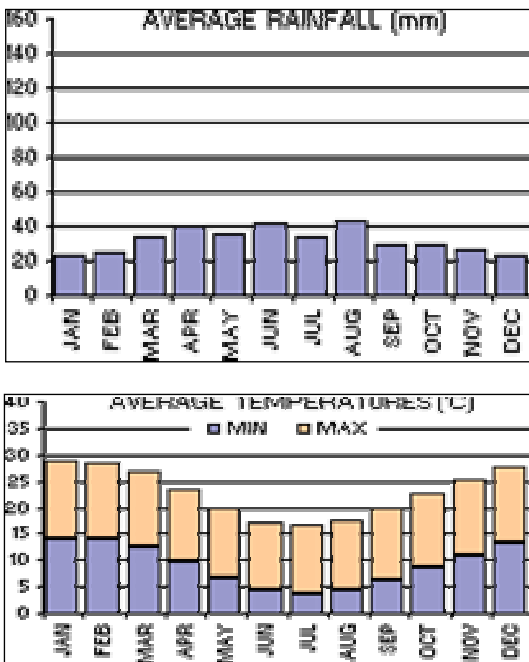
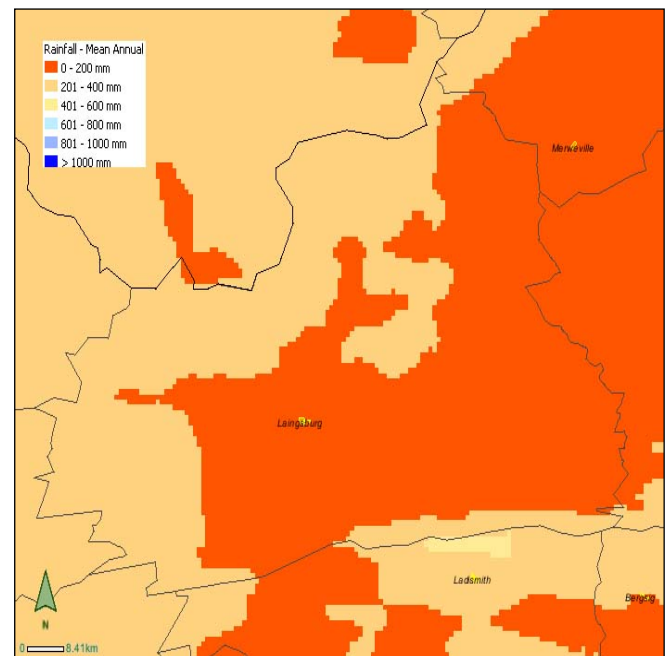


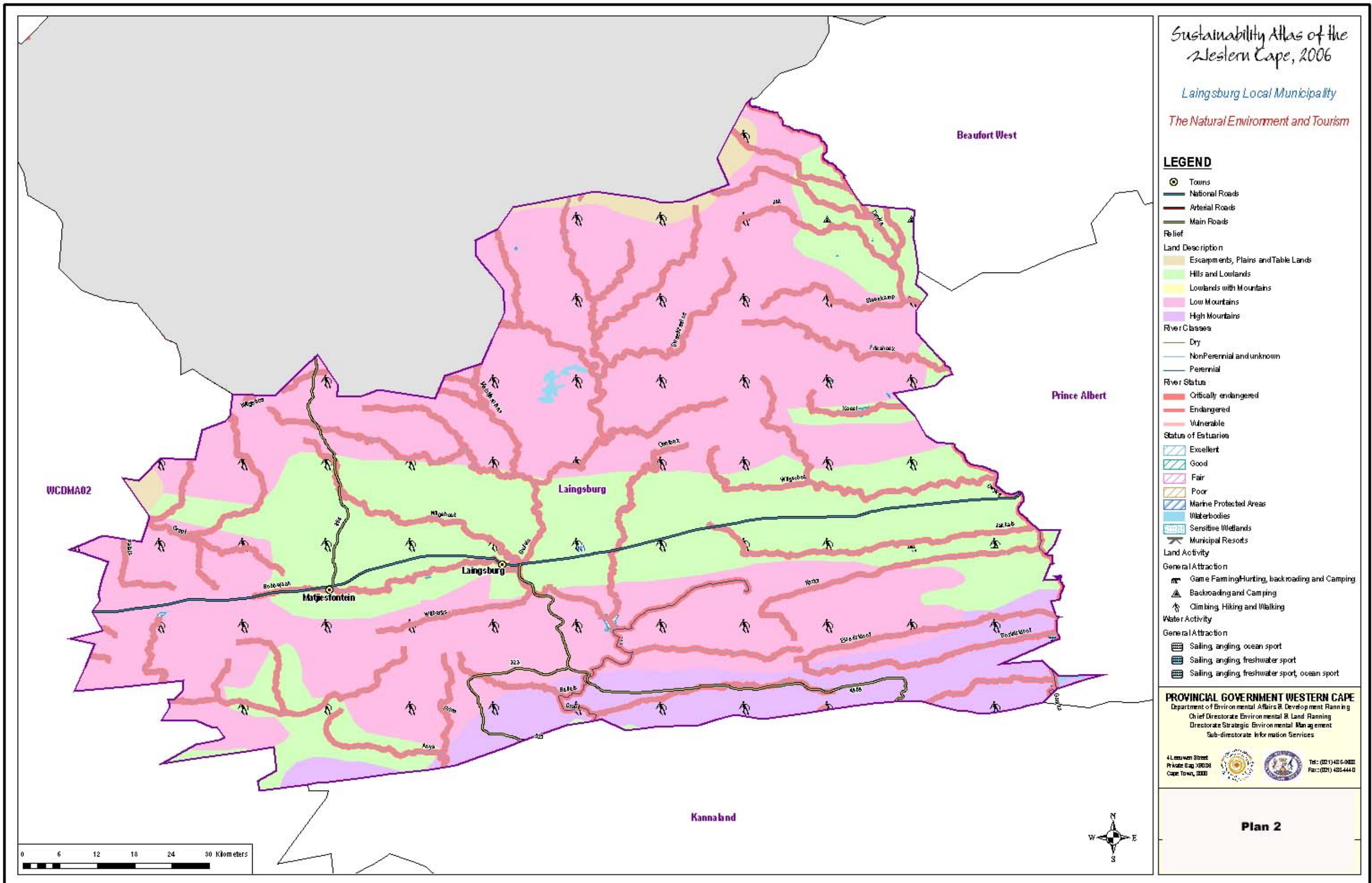
Figure 11: Annual Rainfall Areas



Source: AGIS

5.2 Ground Characteristics

The geological landscape of the study area generally comprises of the Bokkeveld-, Witteberg-, Dwyka-, Eccla- and Adelaide Formation. Plan 2 and Plan 3 displays the biodiversity, agricultural characteristics and natural environment of the Laingsburg region. The Adelaide, Dwyka and Eccla Formation generally occur on flat slopes (i.e. less than 8%) and is characterized by Nama Karoo vegetation. Although Nama Karoo has high species diversity, it is generally of low to medium



Sustainability Atlas
of the
Western Cape
2006
Laingsburg Local Municipality
Biodiversity and Agriculture

LEGEND

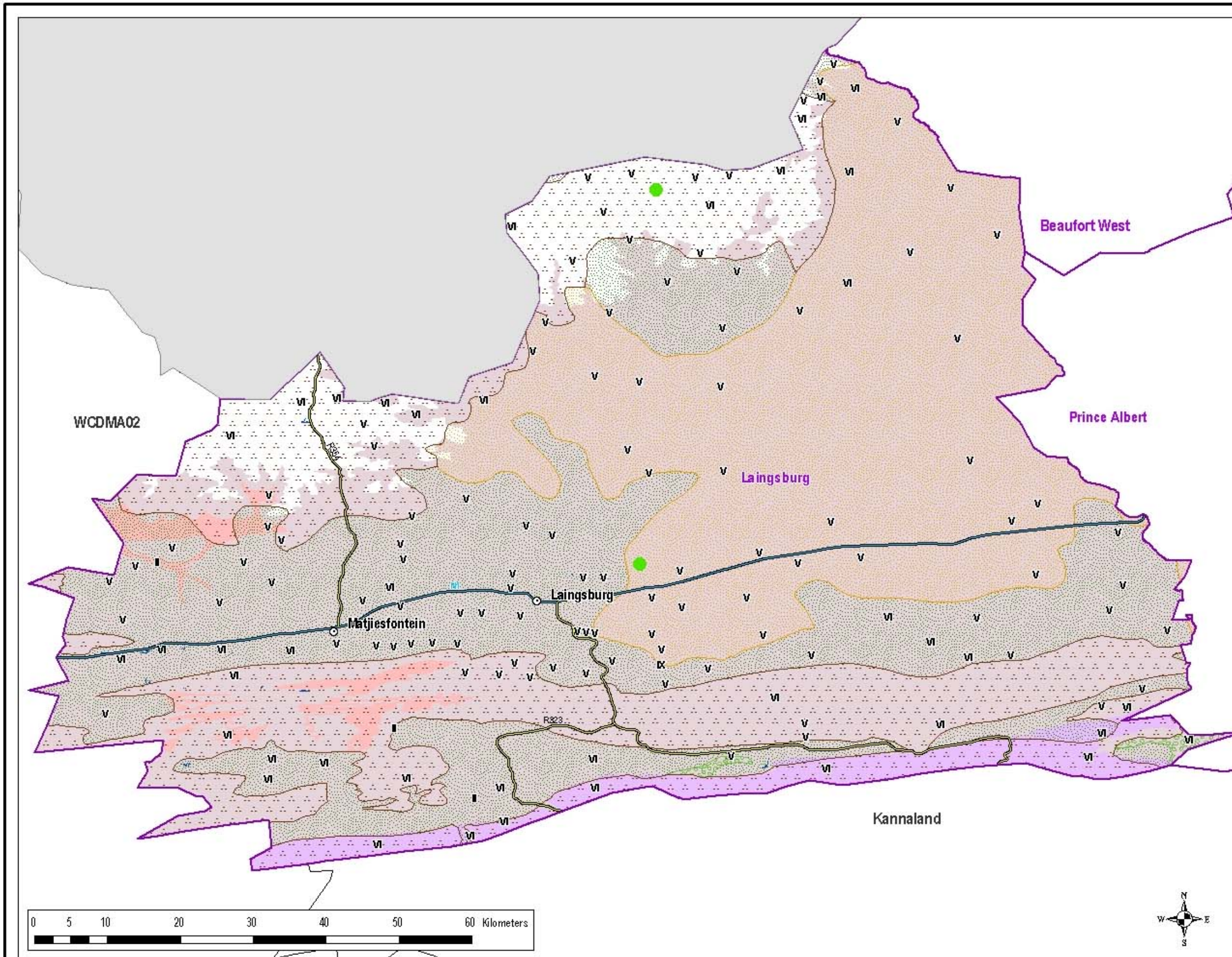
- Towns
- National Roads
- Arterial Roads
- Main Roads
- ▭ Central Karoo Local Municipalities
- Biomes
 - ▭ Forest
 - ▭ Fynbos
 - ▭ Grassland
 - ▭ Nama Karoo
 - ▭ Savanna
 - ▭ Succulent Karoo
 - ▭ Thicket
- Ecosystem Protection Level
 - ▭ Not Protected
 - ▭ Poorly Protected
 - ▭ Moderately protected
 - ▭ Well protected
- Status of Ecosystem
 - ▭ Critically Endangered
 - ▭ Endangered
 - ▭ Vulnerable
- Alien invasive plantcover
 - 0 - 30 %
 - 31 - 60 %
 - 60 % +
- Intensive agriculture
- Land Capability for Agriculture
 - I, II: Arable Land, few limitations
 - IV: Arable Land with limitations
 - V, VI: Nonarable, Grazing and Forestry
 - IX: Wildlife

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Plan 3



grazing quality, with a carrying capacity of between 41-80 hectare per animal unit per annum (ha/AU - see definition at the end of this section) and is mainly suitable for livestock farming with conservation of most of the indigenous plant species. Overgrazing is a problem in some areas. As in many Nama Karoo vegetation types, riverine areas are heavily invaded by Mesquite *Prosopis glandulosa* and Threethorn *Rhigozum trichotomum*, which may form dense thickets in parts which are heavily grazed. The aforementioned formations have a low water retention capacity (21-40mm) and, depending on the slope, have a low to moderate level of erosion.

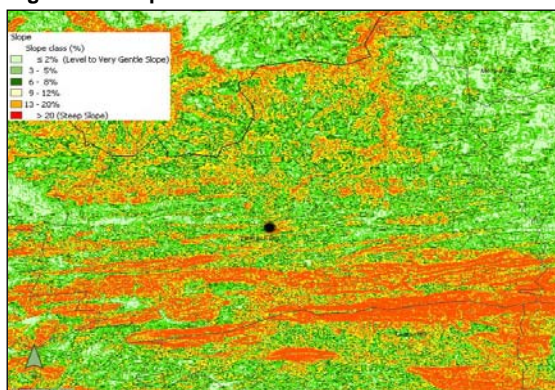
The Bokkeveld and Witteberg Formation occurs on the steeper slopes (i.e. greater than 9%) and is characterized by Fynbos vegetation. Fynbos has high species diversity, is generally of low grazing quality and has a carrying capacity of between 18-30 ha/AU. These formations have an extremely low water retention capacity ($\leq 20\text{mm}$) and due to its rocky nature, is not susceptible to erosion.

A general analysis (Table 4) of the physical characteristics of the region, with accompanying diagrams (Figure 12 & 13) are provided below. When considering a change or intensification of land use, detailed analysis pertaining to its geological and environmental impact on the relevant parcel is needed.

Table 4: General physical characteristics of the Laingsburg region

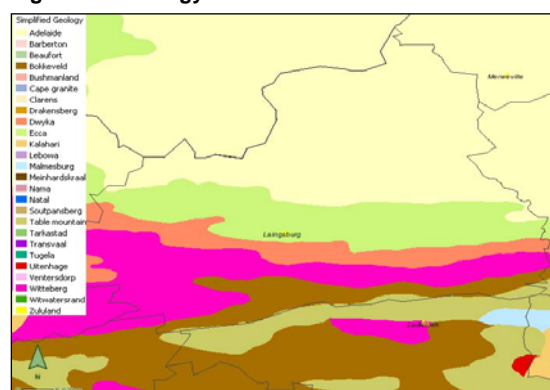
| Slope (%) | Simplified Geology | General Soil Patterns | Grazing Capacity (ha/AU) | Water Erosion | Land Capability | Vegetation Biomes | Water holding capacity (mm) |
|-----------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| <8 | Adelaide, Ecca, Dwarka | Soils with minimal development, usually shallow, on hard or weathering rock, with or without intermittens diverse soils, lime generally present in part of most of the landscape | 41-80 | Soils have moderate erodibility | Non-arable; low potential grazing land | Nama Karoo | 21-40mm |
| >9 | Bokkeveld, Witteberg | Rock with limited soils | 18-30 | Steep slopes causes severe erosion hazard, although soils have low erodibility | Wilderness | Fynbos | ?20mm |

Figure 12: Slope



Source: AGIS, 2007

Figure 13: Geology



Source: AGIS, 2007

Definition of ha/AU

In order to ensure a feasible and sustainable use of land, the stocking rate of the various game species needs to be balanced with the grazing and browsing capacity of the available forage. The grazing capacity of the grazeable portion of a homogeneous unit of vegetation is defined as the area of land required to maintain a single animal unit (AU) over an extended number of years without deterioration of the vegetation or soil (ha/AU).

5.3 Conservation Areas

The Karoo is considered a wonder of the scientific world and is therefore of immense national and international conservation importance. The region is integral to the work of scientists, botanists, archaeologists, geologists, palaeontologists, and ecologists from all over the world. This is mainly due to the fact that the Karoo is an ancient, fossil-rich land with the largest variety of succulents found anywhere on earth. Plan 1 shows the Cape Nature protected areas within the Laingsburg region.

The South African Heritage Resource Agency and Heritage Western Cape are currently in the process of compiling a heritage register. Matjiesfontein and the Dutch Reformed Church in Laingsburg already has heritage status. The other sites for heritage consideration are Laingsburg's:

- Lutheran Church Complex
- Town center
- Municipal Cemetery
- Dutch Reformed Church Hall

National Monuments and Provincial Conservation sites within the Laingsburg Municipality include:

- Anglo-Boer Blokhuis adjacent to the Geelbek River
- Railway station at Matjiesfontein
- Anysberg Nature Conservation
- Gamkaskloof
- Pieter Meintjies Fontein

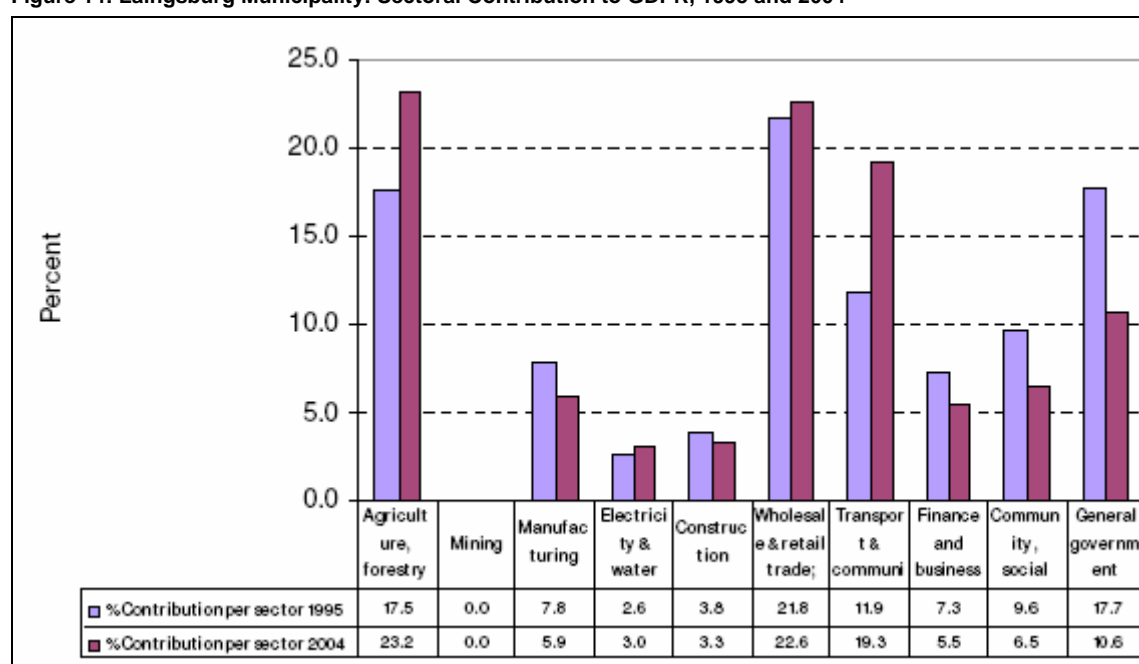
6. ECONOMIC

The section presents the current status and composition of the economic activities (sectors) of the region within the greater Central Karoo District context.

6.1 Gross Geographical Product

The economic sectors contributing to the Gross Geographical Product (GGP) for the Laingsburg region is provided in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Laingsburg Municipality: Sectoral Contribution to GDP, 1995 and 2004



Source: Provincial Treasury Department, 2006

Agriculture is one of the main sectors providing employment opportunities in the Laingsburg region. Processing is seen as a major opportunity for employment creation as raw materials are currently being exported to neighboring regions such as the Cape Winelands Districts in the Western Cape and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape. There is however other potential areas within the agriculture sector, such as fruit, which have potential for expansion. Tourism is a further sector which can have an immense contribution on employment and the GGP.

6.2 Agriculture

The agricultural sector is the largest contributor to the local economy. This is not expected to drastically change within the next five years. The agricultural sector is however not optimally

exploited, as natural resources are sold in their raw form and processed elsewhere. Considering that the agricultural sector accounts for 23.2% of Laingsburg's GDP and has an average annual growth of between 6-8%, there are thus various opportunities to add value to these raw materials prior to it leaving the region.

In terms of the IDP, the expansion and exploitation of opportunities within the agricultural sector should be directed at:

- Agro-processing;
- Agribusiness;
- Cold Storage Facility
- Hydroponics; and
- Creation of SMME's so as to add value to raw materials.

The challenges facing the expansion of the agricultural sector can be summarized as:

- Creation of SMME's;
- Skills development / education;
- Technology; and
- Investment.

6.3 Wholesale & retail trade; catering and accommodation

Wholesale & retail trade; catering and accommodation, contributing 22.69% to the regional GDP, is the second largest sector in the Laingsburg region. The real growth rate for this sector in 2004 was 9.5%.

6.4 Transport

This sector accounts for 19.3% of the regional GDP and experienced a real growth rate of 7.2%. This is attributed to the road traffic traversing the N1 between Cape Town and Johannesburg. There is however concern that only a small portion of the population benefits from the business propelled by the traffic on the N1. This is directly related to all the current economic opportunities being concentrated on the N1. This is perceived to limit economic development in other sections of the town and thus promote skewed development.

Matjiesfontein, situated adjacent to the N1, strongly relies on its history and character to attract passerby trade from passenger vehicle traffic for passer-by trade. Due to its high accessibility and visibility from the N1, it serves as a "watering hole" for passerby traffic.

6.5 Tourism

Tourism is expanded upon as it is identified as an opportunity for growth and employment within the region. This section is derived from a study: *The Tourism Potential of Beaufort West: A Study Based on Visitor Demand, compiled by the University of Free State's Centre for Development Support.*

The tourism industry plays a key role in the South African economy. It is estimated that at a national level, tourism contributes approximately 8.2% to the GDP, it contributes a total of R 53.2 billion, directly and indirectly, to the South African economy and employ 7% of the country's workforce (Department of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Tourism, 2002). It is important to note that approximately 55% of the domestic visitors to Western Cape destinations originated within the province. This implies that fewer external, non Western Cape domestic tourists visit the province than what the figures might suggest.

Post Apartheid South Africa has been characterised by an increased awareness of Local Economic Development (LED) as a response to poverty and poor economic performance. At the same time, tourism has in the recent years been closely associated with LED and is viewed as a key strategic component thereof. Despite the favourable view of tourism as a major thrust for LED, the ability of the tourism sector to contribute significantly to employment creation and entrepreneurship development is, however, crucially dependent on a number of variables including the nature and location of the tourism project, the size and source of investment, the policy intentions (if any) accompanying the investment and the levels of support available to entrepreneurs. Contributing to the above variables, another important variable - the importance of demand with regard to tourism products or offerings. The responsibility of promoting, or initiating, LED initiatives in South Africa are increasingly cascaded down to local government level, which is evident from the Constitution and the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act.

The impact of the N1 route through Laingsburg was also confirmed through the significant expenditure emanating from the high levels of through traffic. Within the local context, tourism can play an increasingly important role in boosting the local economy. The primary motivator for driving tourism is the ±14 000 vehicles passing every day, the town's iconic status as hosting the largest natural disaster and the need for economic diversification and development. In order for tourism (as part of a LED strategy) to make significant impact on community level, it must address the plight of the poor. Pro-poor tourism, in essence, aims to unlock tourism related opportunities at all levels and scales of operations, including eco-tourism and community based tourism initiatives. Proper tourism promotion should be at the core of any tourism related government initiative. Despite the importance of pro-poor tourism initiatives, it is often difficult to ensure the participation of the poor in practice. A lack of knowledge, poor human capital, non-existent

support structures, a lack of training and physical assets are the main constraints for tourism orientated LED initiatives to reach the poor.

Tourism planning is central to tourism, as it organises “the future to achieve certain objectives”. Strategic tourism frameworks often form the core of tourism planning. Central to the development of any strategic tourism framework is the concept of tourism products. These components are attractions (natural, built and cultural), accessibility (infrastructure, operations and government regulations), amenities (accommodation, restaurants, entertainment and retail) and ambience (friendliness, way of life, history and service levels).

6.6 Commerce

Laingsburg produces fruit and vegetables of exceptional sun ripe quality especially down stream from the Floriskraal dam. The region is known for its seasonal production of apricots, dried yellow peaches, pears, plums, quinces and tomatoes and produces 300t to 400t of apricots; 200t to 300t yellow peaches dried 200t; 100t pears, 50 t plums 20t quinces and 200t tomatoes. Farmers are currently processing fruit in small quantities or sell fruit in bulk that impact on the season. The profit they make as well as their ability to provide more employment opportunities have lead farmers to pledge their support to a central processing facility. A survey has revealed high interest and skills in the Laingsburg community regarding jams and preserves. The central processing facility will sort and process fruit and vegetables into dried products, juice, jam, chutney, sugar fruit and preserves. The project will, through its cooling facility, ease the seasonal problems farmers have to flatten out peaks and obtain labour. Public Private Partnerships; Black Economic Empowerment (SMME Development) and equity ventures could ensue.

6.7 Manufacturing and Mining

Manufacturing is the sixth largest sector in the region accounting for 5.9% of the regional GDP and is growing at a rate of 3.0%. In 2005, Uranium was discovered at Ryst Kuil (55 km from Beaufort West) and Ruitkuil (60-80km from Merweville). The Toronto-based company, UraMin, has been granted twelve of fourteen prospecting licences for the Ryst Kuil channel and are hoping to have a mine up and running by 2010. An estimated 3000 job opportunities are expected to be created, thereby providing Beaufort West Municipality and neighbouring municipalities with direct and indirect job opportunities.

7. HEALTH

Health services within the Laingsburg region are performed through three mediums:

Table 5: Health facilities in Laingsburg region

| Facility | Type | Authority |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Laingsburg Clinic | Clinic | Central Karoo District Municipality |
| Laingsburg Hospital | Provincial Aided | Provincially Aided Board |
| Laingsburg Mobile | Mobile Service | Central Karoo District Municipality |

The Laingsburg Hospital is a provincially aided, relatively new building comprising of 21 beds and sees a large number of trauma patients due to its location along the N1. It is the only hospital on this road between Worcester and Beaufort West and is particularly busy in holiday periods. Unfortunately its operating capacity is limited by the fact that there is only one Doctor in the town. This doctor's duties comprises of: operating a local professional practice; drug dispensation from the only local facility, daily support to the local clinic as well as managing the medical aspects of the hospital care. No actual medical-professional alternatives exist in the region. The Laingsburg Municipal clinic is combined with the District Council Clinic and is attached to the hospital. They see the outpatient cases in office hours and they run the mobile service for the sub-district.

The Central Karoo has a hospital in each sub-district as well as a specialized hospital. For a district with a low population, this provides an above average ratio of hospitals per population. This situation will mean high health care costs. However, given the long distances of about one-and-a-half hours between the main towns, this situation can be justified as it promotes easy access to hospital where few people have their own transport and public transport is almost non-existent. The location of the Laingsburg Hospital is particularly important because of the high accident rate on the road between Laingsburg and Beaufort West. Although the hospital has a theatre, it is not able to perform operation required to effectively deal with accident victims, as it does not have the staff. Critically injured motor vehicle patients have to be transported via ambulance or airlifted to Worcester, George or Beaufort West which is not ideal as the "Golden hour" for treatment is lost. A voluntary roadside emergency service is available during the accident season.

Tuberculosis

Until recently, there was no-one in the Central Karoo District itself who was responsible for the management of TB in the whole district. TB remains poorly controlled in the district. The Central Karoo area has one of the highest incidences of TB in the country. In 2001, an incidence of 735 per 100 000 was recorded, which is severe as the World Health Organisation regards an incidence of 300/100 000 as an urgent problem.

HIV/Aids

There is no District Aids Council or equivalent body to co-ordinate the integrated response to HIV/AIDS in the District. There are however a number of organisations active in a number of programmes in the area.

The HIV epidemic has necessitated numerous changes to the health system. The most important of these include the provision of VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing), a package of care for persons with HIV/AIDS, a PMTCT (prevention of mother to child transmission) programme, and a HBC (Home Based Care) programme. Whilst it is not necessary that every health facility provides each of these, it is important that each major population has access to each of these services.

General

The overall management of pharmaceutical services is done in the Regional office in George. A pharmacy depot has been constructed at the Beaufort West Hospital and now serves the district. Currently each clinic has a stock card system and stock levels are reviewed on a weekly basis. Any necessary drugs are then ordered on a weekly basis directly from the Beaufort West Hospital which then sends transport out on a weekly basis to replenish drug stocks.

An important element of a well functioning district is having a good working relationship between clinics and hospitals. It is important to explain the relationship between clinics and hospitals within the district and also the mechanisms for referral of patients to secondary or tertiary centers. Laingsburg has a referral policy in place whereby patients are referred to either Worcester hospital or Laingsburg hospital, with feedback given to relevant medical professional.

One of the biggest health problems outlined is that of widespread poverty, unemployment and underemployment. Although the Laingsburg municipal district is considered to be one of the 5 poorest districts in the Western Cape, the extent of the provision of basic service is considered acceptable. Improvements for the provision of sanitation are still warranted, specifically in Matjiesfontein.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

The Laingsburg municipal district is considered to be well serviced in terms of the extent and level of infrastructure available. The capacity of the existing infrastructure is however dependent on the scale of future developments, especially housing development. The feasibility of large scale residential development necessitates further investigation to ascertain its compatibility with current infrastructure.

8.1 Stormwater

Although the stormwater system in Laingsburg needs continuous upgrading and maintenance, it is deemed adequate in meeting the needs of the community.

No stormwater drainage system exists at Matjiesfontein, with stormwater overflowing during the rainfall season. The lack of stormwater provision is of great concern to local residents. The IDP has made provision for the implementation of a stormwater system for Matjiesfontein.

8.2 Water

The Laingsburg region generally has an acceptable availability of water from its existing reservoirs and boreholes. Distribution and management of water in particularly the farming area is however poor. There are no foreseeable water shortages expected, even when considering future expected residential development. Currently, no water is distributed to the existing industrial stands. With cognizance given to the proposed future development of the Laingsburg town, to ensure continuous and interrupted water supply to the region, further water sources needs to be explored or the protection and management of existing sources managed.

Water is presently provided by the Lord Milner Hotel for the Matjiesfontein community via two boreholes. Although deemed adequate in terms of bacteriological quality, water here is not disinfected. Two new boreholes were drilled and commissioned for future water supply to Matjiesfontein.

8.3 Electricity

Eskom delivers electricity and manages bulk infrastructure to the entire region. Although electricity is readily available, sporadic blackouts occur regularly in the Matjiesfontein and Bergsig area. Although farms primarily depend on solar energy, electricity is provided to $\pm 30\%$ of farms.

Although Matjiesfontein currently has no street lighting, provision therefore has been made in the IDP.

8.4 Sewerage

Sanitation in Laingsburg is above the Basic RDP standard, while sanitation in Matjiesfontein is below the Basic RDP standard. The majority of houses in Matjiesfontein use ventilated improved pits (VIP) with 90% of the Spoomet houses using the bucket system. 30% of households on farms have access to adequate sanitation facilities, while 10% use VIP toilets, 5% the bucket system and everyone having access to water and sanitation. A Sewage Master Plan for Matjiesfontein is addressed in the IDP.

8.5 Solid Waste Disposal

Laingsburg's household refuse removal and garden and builders rubble occurs on a weekly basis, with business refuse removal biweekly. Matjiesfontein's refuse is combined prior to being collected to be deposited at the landfill. A registered landfill site with sufficient capacity is situated west of Laingsburg town, with the removal services provided by the municipality itself.

8.6 Cemetery

Laingsburg has four cemeteries and Matjiesfontein, one. These are deemed to be adequate to meet the needs of the region.

8.6 Roads

Road infrastructure in Laingsburg is adequate, and is reported to be above the national norm. There is a high level of ongoing maintenance on road infrastructure. The maintenance of the two roads leading to the R62 is crucial and requires tarring to stimulate economic development and tourism. As these roads are likely to flood during the rainfall season, maintenance costs are considered to be high. There is a general need for maintenance and improvement of access routes and internal roads in the rural areas. Gravel roads in the Kleinberg area is considered to have a negative impact on fruit production.

9. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Refer to Plan 1 for the illustration of region's transportation network.

9.1 Road Based Transport

A good transport network, comprising of various classes of road, serves the Laingsburg region, the most important road being the N1 between Laingsburg and Beaufort West. The upgrading of the N1 in and around the Laingsburg area is currently underway.

No public transport system exists in the area. The community desires a form of public transport to increase accessibility to opportunities and services within the region and abutting towns (e.g. Worcester or Beaufort West). The facilitation of public transport infrastructure (i.e. local and long distance taxi rank) has been adopted in the IDP.

9.2 Rail Based Transport

The railway line connects Matjiesfontein and Laingsburg with other towns further north and south along the Cape Town to Johannesburg line. The railway is currently used for passengers and goods transport.

9.3 Airport

The Laingsburg region has one landing strip, situated within close proximity to Matjiesfontein.

10. SPATIAL

10.1 Housing

Laingsburg

Laingsburg town has been designated as the node for urban development. Laingsburg has recently completed the development of an informal residential settlement adjacent to the N1, comprising 108 low-income houses. There is however still a waiting list for ±600 houses. A further 300 GAP housing is required for those who do not qualify for RDP housing.

The spatial characteristics of housing in Laingsburg follows the trend of urban sprawl. The lower income settlements are situated within reasonable walking distance of the town centre, but in terms of access is considered fairly isolated. These low income settlements, situated at the entry/exit points of town, appear unsightly as no consideration was given to urban design. As a result, these developments adversely affect the character of the area.

Matjiesfontein

Considering the state of the current informal housing, the majority of the existing houses in the informal settlement need to be demolished and rebuilt. The development of 95 low-income units are planned adjacent to the railway line on the Spoornet-owned land. Spoornet is currently in the process of transferring the property to the municipality. Residential development in the town is obliged to happen with extreme thoughtfulness as Matjiesfontein's unique Victorian character is of economic importance (via tourism) to its livelihood, cognizance given to its low development potential and lack of opportunities. Urban sprawl and inappropriate housing development can, and will negatively affect the character of the area. The town should only accommodate future housing development within the existing town's boundaries and implement architectural guidelines which relate to the existing Victorian architecture.

10.2 Land Use

Most of the residential units area within walking distance from the town center. The town is however expanding outwards and the municipality should take care not to follow the same trend of urban spread that is visible in other towns. The municipality should aim to densify appropriate areas in line with the WCPSDF densification policies.

The main commercial activities in Laingsburg are concentrated along the main road (N1). In order to stimulate tourist activity in the lower income areas the tourism center, was built next to the N1 at the town entrance. The tourism center creates indirect (by advertising opportunities in-

and providing information about the region) and direct (the arts and crafts center is established as a part of the tourism hub) employment opportunities.

10.3 Community Facilities

The Laingsburg tourism centre is currently in completion.

- **Tertiary Education**

There are no tertiary institutions in region. The closest institution is in Oudtshoorn.

- **Primary and Secondary Schooling**

Laingsburg has two primary schools and one secondary school. Matjiesfontein and Vleiland each has one primary school which only goes to Grade 6.

- **Day-care/crèche/pre-primary schooling.**

Approximately 3 to 4 crèches known crèches are in Laingsburg.

- **Old age facilities**

The old age home in Laingsburg is situated in the town adjacent to the N1.

- **ABET and other educational programmes.**

Educational and training programmes are offered to the community after hours. However, it has been noted that these educational programmes are not sustainable and in the long term, does not add significant value to the community.

- **Sports Facilities**

Matjiesfontein, Laingsburg and Vleiland have a sportsground with and an adjacent sportshall.

- **Ownership**

Land that is owned by the State, creates an opportunity to determine what and how the land could and should be utilised to achieve various objectives. Through interventions land could be made more attractive or more cost effective for Council, Industry and potential developers to utilise. An assessment of the ownership of land in Laingsburg gives an indication where potential land for housing or community facilities are available, where land could be used as a tool for negotiation with industry and developers, or where changes could be made to the town's structure without incurring large costs for land acquisition.

BKS (Pty) Ltd is in the process of undertaking this ownership survey. Furthermore, Council has made funds available for the acquisition of suitable privately owned land.

10.4 Urban Conservation

The WCPSDF recommends that the visual impact of urban settlements structures and activities with the environment should enhance and respond to the natural environment and built heritage in which they are located.

Human settlement need to be understood in the context of the natural place that “contains” them and therefore it is important that more emphasis is put of defining guidelines for the appropriateness of different forms of human settlement with landscapes. The WCPSDF states:

- Areas with exposure to large numbers of people, especially passing tourist traffic, require special consideration; and
- The preparation of guidelines for site planning and choice of building materials and their implementation, including settlement on farms needs to be prioritized, especially in areas identified as pure cosmic romantic or classic landscape areas.

Laingsburg

Though Laingsburg does not have a definitive urban character or design guideline, consideration should be given to the existing town’s urban landscape so as not to detract from the general Karoo character of town. The 108 recently completed RDP homes is the antithesis of what the WCPSDF recommends. Appropriate and inappropriate Karoo-style architecture is shown in Pictures 1 and 2.

Picture 1: Appropriate Karoo-style Architecture



Picture 2: Inappropriate Architecture



Matjiesfontein

Of the biggest attributes of Matjiesfontein is its well preserved Victorian architecture. In order to conserve the urban character of the area, any further development is obligated to have similar design guidelines as that of the existing town.

11. ANALYSIS

The information gathered in the status quo report is analysed below.

Table 6: Laingsburg Municipality Analysis

| Information | Result/Concerns | Way forward | Opportunities |
|---|--|---|--|
| Economic | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily dependent on agriculture Biggest employment provider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any adverse affect on agricultural sector consequently leads to significant impact on employment opportunities and sustainability of local economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek diversity in local economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold-storage Fruit processing Abattoir Karoo Branding Tannery Project |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of SMME development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy reliance on Agriculture sector and Council employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of SMME's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts & crafts center Pallet-making Project Business support center Glass blowing project Cactus & herb project Turksvy Project |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for tourism/eco-tourism not taken advantage of ±15000 vehicles pass per day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited income generated from Laingsburg biggest opportunity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N1 B&B Zoutekloof Guesthouse Flood Route Development Fly fishing Project Flood scale-model Construction of Flood Route Information Walls Mini-Telescope |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of perceived service from Red Door | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expectation created, but little realisation No feedback from Red Door officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More intense effort for Red Door to assist community on an on-going basis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurship Employment creation |
| Housing | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow delivery of houses and increasing housing backlog No choice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing backlog No provision of GAP housing Increases pressure on Municipality to provide housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing plan for area is required Provision of choice of housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of unique Laingsburg/Karoo character Provide alternative type (higher density) of housing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matjiesfontein housing inadequate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement/redevelopment of area | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of architectural guidelines Lack of densification strategies due to natural topography Land available is limited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detracts from character of area Lots of restrictions in fulfilling urban strategies Insufficient land for meeting IDP needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDF to consider impact of farming community housing requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a sustainable built environment |

| Information | Result/Concerns | Way forward | Opportunities |
|---|--|--|---|
| Business / Industry | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice for grocery shopping is limited No private investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of competition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop local economy to enable private investment | ? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient industrial stands available | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No investment/spin-offs from agriculture sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage investment/spin-offs from agricultural sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold-storage Fruit processing Abattoir Karoo Branding Tannery Project |
| Infrastructure | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of basic infrastructure in Matjiesfontein | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Conditions Bucket system Standing water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of basic infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment creation Infrastructure provision |
| Solid Waste Removal | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate service provide to both Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A larger/more dumping site required in Laingsburg A dumping site in Matjiesfontein is needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of recycling project Identification of potential sites along with EIA process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment Recycling |
| Education | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of functional and practical education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community would like proof of skills acquired e.g. certificates Lack of information (feedback) to community Little garnered from educational initiatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating community Provision and assistance of information and opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABET Literacy campaign Learnerships Computer Center Skills development strategy |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient amount of creche's (early childhood development centers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of education at grass roots level - education problem is therefore far reaching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating for the future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth center Early Childhood Development Center Life Skills Programme |
| Health | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food is a basic necessity "A hungry tummy is a hungry mind" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty Alleviation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Garden & Borehole Soup kitchen |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/Aids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further spread of Aids | ? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/Aids Strategy |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of Medical professionals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closet professional service is ±2hours away | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives for medical professionals Improved access to medical professionals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to professional services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate medical services to rural areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase/spread of diseases/bad health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to medical facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health |

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