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DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

MARCH 2016

PREPARED BY: DITAU GEO-INFORMATICS SOLUTIONS
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<td>AP</td>
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<td>Agricultural Policy Action Plan</td>
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1 SECTION ONE – BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The District Rural Development Plan (DRDP) for Mopani district seeks to contribute to the transformation of the rural economy. In many ways, the DRDP forms part of the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP), as Chapter 6 of the NDP calls for a radical transformation of rural economies. Informing this call for economic transformation is the pressing need to address the persistent triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and socio-economic inequalities in Mopani as well as other rural districts identified as priority intervention areas.

The DRDP forms part of a range of strategic spatial planning instruments as well as other sector plans aimed at transforming the apartheid space economy. In achieving the goal of economic inclusivity and transformation, agricultural development has been identified as one of the critical sectors that can unlock development. The appreciation of agricultural development in Mopani and other rural municipalities should be located within an appreciation of the country's agrarian transformation agenda. In other words, the development of an inclusive and competitive agricultural sector is informed by the appreciation of the on-going land reform processes as well as land tenure systems that continue to evolve.

While agricultural development is important, the DRDP also takes into account contributions made by various sectors within the Mopani region. These include:

- Mining;
- Manufacturing;
- Tourism (including cultural and eco-tourism); and
- Related Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors.

The diversification of the district’s economy is intrinsically dependent on the interplay between ‘sunset’ sectors (i.e. manufacturing and mining) as well as ‘sunrise sectors’ (particularly tourism and ICT related industries). The objectives of the DRDP are to:

- Improve competitiveness in the agriculture sector
- Improve mining, manufacturing and tourism sectors
- Target, invest and market non-agricultural economic activities
- Promote the revitalization of rural towns and villages
- Promote competitive and sustainable rural businesses
1.2 Vision for District Rural Development Plans

All the strategic spatial and sectoral plans for Limpopo point to the fact that agriculture is at the heart of rural economic transformation. Furthermore, the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) as well as the Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) for instance attests to the fact that rural areas are faced with triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and lack of service delivery.

To this end, while acknowledging the uniqueness of Limpopo’s districts with regard to population dynamics and economic development, it should be noted that the aforementioned triple challenges cut across all municipal boundaries. Moreover, all five of Limpopo’s districts (i.e. Mopani, Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Vhembe, and Waterberg) are characterised by the dominance of at least four economic sectors, namely agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing.

The vision for rural development can therefore be shared across these five districts as it is informed by national objectives as espoused in the NDP, CRDP, APAP and other related strategic initiatives and policies. Moreover, it emerged from the multi-stakeholder engagements that all of Limpopo’s five district municipalities were predominantly rural. As such, issues of infrastructure provision, service delivery, harnessing of agricultural development, mining and tourism cut across all five district municipalities. While there exist district-specific nuances with regard to development priorities, a shared vision for rural development for all five district municipalities can be couched in one of the following ways:

**OPTION 1:** Limpopo Province should be characterised by sustainable, integrated, competitive and inclusive rural economies that fully benefit local communities. To this end, district municipalities should act as a nexus to ensure that the economic comparative advantage of each district is maximised.

**OPTION 2:** By 2050, all of Limpopo’s district municipalities should act as engines for rural economic, social, spatial and environmental transformation. This holistic rural transformation should be anchored in sound development planning principles underscored by environmental integrity, spatial justice and inclusive socio-economic development.

**OPTION 3:** By 2050, Limpopo District Municipalities should have a thriving economy, driven by agriculture, mining, tourism and service sectors. People residing within all district municipalities should have access to basic services and amenities, including housing, water, education and food security.

In realising the aforementioned vision(s), district municipalities in Limpopo would have to ensure that DRDPs are meaningfully aligned to the existing district strategic spatial plans.
notably the district Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). In the same vein, DRDPs should be viewed as complementing existing district plans, while at the same time anchoring rural development objectives as articulated at provincial and national levels of governance.

1.3 Methodology

This report was formulated through the distillation and synthesis of the following sources of information:

a) Existing strategic spatial planning instruments and initiatives located at provincial, district and local levels of government. These include the National Development Plan (NDP), Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), Limpopo Development Plan (LDP), Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP), district and local Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Local Economic Development (LED) strategies, Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and other related sector plans.

b) Inputs and discussions from multi-stakeholder engagements. These included comments, concerns and insights from traditional leadership, political leadership, administrative leadership and officials from provincial and local spheres of government.

c) Using various data sets, spatial maps were generated to determine the following:

- Location of water, gas and electricity;
- Location of agricultural land;
- Spatial layout of towns and villages across the province;
- GVA contribution for mining and quarrying;
- GVA contribution from manufacturing;
- Accessibility index;
- Traditional authority land with high land capability; and
- State land with high land capability.

d) In loco/ground truthing inspections: Inspections/site visits were conducted in all the district municipalities as part of the ground truthing exercise. Meetings were held with various stakeholders in order to find out the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed in the identified intervention areas. Ground truthing informed the formulation of proposals and strategies to address the existing challenges related to rural areas.

The analysis of strategic planning documents, maps and inputs from the stakeholders for each district were categorised and presented in a table format as strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses. Emerging from this synthesis was a synoptic situational analysis.
The situational analysis will inform the strategic thrust as well as the implementation plan of the DRDPs.

1.4 DRDP's and Rural Economic Transformation

From the discussions held with DRDRLR and the inputs emerging from multi-stakeholder engagements held in June 2015, it became apparent that DRDPs must put emphasis on agriculture as the cornerstone of rural economic transformation. This sentiment was also echoed by the President of the country during his 2015 State of the Nation Address. Thus DRDPs must be characterised by the following:

- Emphasis on agriculture as the most critical sector that can transform rural economies: the presence of a vibrant and competitive agricultural sector plays an important role in generating and/or stimulating additional economic activities such as, food processing, agro-tourism and trade.
- Promotion of agricultural businesses: these agri-businesses contribute immensely to economic growth and food security.
- Creation of sustainable jobs: agriculture is one of the major employers in all of Limpopo’s five district municipalities. It is imperative therefore for the DRDPs to ensure that all agriculturally bases economic activities are optimally exploited.
- Promotion of sector-specific, targeted funding and investment: sector specific strategies have a propensity of yielding high returns in investment. Leveraging the potential of agriculture therefore is likely to result in rural economic transformation.

1.5 Rural Development Priorities

Rural development priorities are driven by the National Development Plan (NDP), the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and Outcome 7 of the MTSF. Read together, these aforementioned strategic documents aim to revitalise rural economic life primarily through agriculture by:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture and forestry in rural areas
- Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability
- Promoting food security and risk management in agriculture
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry
- Promoting the green economy through resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors.
Rural development priorities are underscored by the realisation that, in lagging regions, the agricultural sector is complimented by other primary industries such as mining, tourism, manufacturing and other labour intensive economic activities that can create employment for semi-skilled and unskilled population groups. The unlocking of rural economic potential will be done through:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and beneficiation in mining, manufacturing and tourism
- Mapping out the mining and manufacturing value chain
- Harnessing the capacity of the energy sector through diversification of energy resources
- Ensuring meaningful transformation and broad-based participation in the mining industry through empowering emergent black businesses in this sector
- Ensuring that there is beneficiation within the mining and manufacturing sectors, leading to the improved quality of life for rural communities

The unlocking and/or harnessing of economic potential of these sectors is envisioned to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. The DRDPs for Limpopo provide a unique platform and opportunity to support the sustainable management and optimal utilisation of natural resources, growth of rural business and improvement of the well-being of rural communities. The DRDPs are designed to be innovative, adaptable and integrated with other strategic spatial plans as a means of ensuring maximum value from investments.

The identification of agriculture business as a catalyst for revitalising rural economies does not neglect the vulnerability of this sector to climate change, drought as well as adverse global market forces. To this end, DRDLR and other departments responsible for rural development have put emphasis on non-agricultural sectors. DRDPs for Limpopo therefore will employ a targeted approach to key sunrise sectors, notably tourism, creative industries and the service sector. Such an approach will create opportunities for small businesses to collaborate with established ones and contribute to the growth of rural economies.

Investment in education and entrepreneurship also forms an integral part of the Limpopo DRDPs. In addition, building of physical infrastructure such as road networks as well as the provision of decent housing, schools, hospitals and places of entertainment and socialisation has been identified by participants in DRDP formulation as pivotal in promoting rural development. Therefore, rural development is predicated not only on developing places, but also on people. DRDPs will therefore act as catalysts for transformational medium to long-
term change, creating resilient rural economies based on sustainable development principles, notably green growth.

1.6 Purpose of District Rural Development Plans for Limpopo

1.6.1 DRDP as an Instrument for Coordinating Rural Strategic Spatial Planning

DRDPs are envisioned to act as critical levers for coordinating strategic spatial planning, specifically in rural municipalities. From 2009 onwards, South Africa’s development planning praxis has been steered towards harnessing rural development. This deliberate focus on rural development stemmed from the state’s quest for transforming the apartheid space economy.

While Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) still remain the fulcrum of strategic spatial planning within the local government sphere, DRDPs are aimed at reinforcing strategic planning. Put succinctly, DRDPs will act as a platform for harnessing cross-sectoral development (Figure 1). Existing sector-specific planning instruments such as Local Economic Development Plans (LEDs), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and Agricultural Development Plans (ADPs) for instance, will find a more nuanced expression within District RDPs.

1.6.2 DRDPs as Rural Economic Transformation Instruments

As articulated above, DRDPs are viewed as strategic instruments for transforming the apartheid space economy. Informing this transformation of the apartheid space economy is the identification of key levers of economic transformation; notably land reform and restitution and the identification of transformative economic sectors. In light of this, DRDPs have identified the agricultural sector as one of the key sectors with potential to unlock integrated and inclusive rural economic development. To this end, the Department of Rural Development & Land Reform (DRDLR) has identified strategic sites for Agricultural Parks (Agri-parks). Moreover, in the interest of promoting economic diversity and complexity, the DRDP’s will attempt to unlock other sectors such as tourism, mining and manufacturing in Limpopo.
1.6.3 Promoting Land Use Management & Productivity

Linked to the district RDPs' objective of rural economic transformation is the promotion of optimal utilisation of land in rural areas. This is tied to the application of sound land-use management principles in rural areas. District RDPs therefore are envisioned to assist the state as well as other stakeholders operating within Limpopo's development planning milieu to optimise land productivity. The optimal utilisation of land in rural areas takes into account a suite of other land uses i.e. economic, social, environmental as well as institutional factors.

1.6.4 Promoting Rural-Urban Functionality

District RDPs take into account existing as well as potential linkages and/or flows of an economic, social, institutional, cultural and environmental nature that promote regional (i.e. urban and rural) development. As the aforementioned factors coalesce and/or intersect, they result in the emergence of specific rural development trajectories. Thus, DRDPs take into account existing and potential development nodes emanating as a result of urban-rural linkages. Limpopo’s geospatial positioning for instance (i.e. its proximity to Gauteng, Mpumalanga and other neighbouring countries), renders it one of the most important sites for regional development.

1.6.5 Alignment of District Rural Development Plans with Existing Planning Instruments

In identifying rural development issues at district level, there is an acknowledgement of a range of strategic spatial plans, strategies and policy initiatives located within all the three
levels of government. These include the National Development Plan (NDP), Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), Limpopo Development Plan (2015-19), district IDPs, LED strategies, SDFs and sector-specific plans. The directive from the DRDLR on the formulation of Agri-Parks for all economically distressed rural regions also informs the DRDP formulation process. The aforementioned plans and development initiatives clearly spell out the developmental vision of the state which then finds expression in provincial and subsequent district municipalities.

1.7 Agri-Park as an Anchor for Agrarian Reform

The Mopani DRDP is aimed at targeting specific sectors that will revitalise rural economies. As such, it is defined by sector-specific projects, thus acting as a critical platform for multi-sectoral programmes and projects. Some of the key areas of intervention that the DRDP will focus on include the establishment of an Agri-Park (AP) as a means of stimulating rural economic growth.

An Agri-park is defined as a networked innovation system of agro-production, processing, logistics, marketing, training and extension services located at district level. As a network it enables a market-driven combination and integration of various agricultural activities and rural transformation services. The AP comprises of three basic units:

- The Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) – this a rural outreach unit connected with the Agri-Hub. The FPSU does primary collection, storage, processing for the local market, and extension services including mechanisation;
- Agri-Hub Unit (AH) – this is a production, equipment hire, processing, packaging, logistics and training unit;
- The Rural Urban Market Centre Unit (RUMC) – it has three main purposes;
  a) Linking and contracting rural, urban and international markets through contracts;
  b) Acts as a holding-facility, releasing produce to urban markets based on seasonal trends;
  c) Provides market intelligence and information feedback, to the AH and FPSU, using latest Information and communication technologies.

Agri-Parks therefore are catalytic sites for agrarian reform. Responding to the National Development Plan’s (NDP) call for rural economic transformation as well as outcome 7’s emphasis on promoting food security through agrarian reform, Agri-Parks will act as
agricultural industrial hubs. These hubs will be linked to existing rural villages and towns, providing key institutional, financial and spatial mechanisms for harnessing agro-related value chain belts and functional regions. The government has already set aside over R2 billion for kick-starting the Agri-Parks programme across the country. The objectives of establishing Agri-Parks are as follows:

- To promote growth of the smallholder sector by contributing 300,000 new small-scale producers and 145,000 new jobs in agro-processing by the year 2020 (as set out in the NGP);
- To promote the skills of and support to small-holder farmers through provision of capacity building, mentorship, farm infrastructure, extension services, production inputs and mechanization inputs;
- To enable producer ownership of the majority of Agri-parks equity (70%), with the state and commercial interests holding minority shares (30%);
- To bring under-utilized land (especially Communal Land and land reform farms) into full production over the next three years and expand irrigated agriculture; and
- To contribute to the achievement of the NDP’s objective of fostering an inclusive rural economy and target of 1 million jobs created in agriculture sector by creating higher demand for raw agricultural produce, primary and ancillary inputs, as well as generating increased downstream economic activities in the sector.

In Mopani, the location for the Agri-Hub site has been identified in Tzaneen. This hub will be supported by the FPSUs located in various parts of the district municipality. Within this Agri-Park the following activities will take place:

- **Knowledge Transfer & Innovation** – this will include development and training of farmers as well as people involved in agri-business, food and forestry sectors as well as agro-tourism. There will also be vertical and horizontal learning between emerging and established agri-business entrepreneurs. Agri-Parks will act as hubs for harnessing competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental consciousness of agricultural research centres and firms.
- **Advisory Services** – Agri-Parks will be centres of excellence where experts disseminate information related to markets, investments, funding and other agriculture-oriented modalities.
- **Cooperation** – there will be incubation of small-scale farmers as well as cooperatives within the district. This will allow for small-scale agri-business
operators to forge a critical mass that would enable them to compete in both local and global markets.

- **Investment in Physical Assets** – the introduction of Agri-Parks in Limpopo will be accompanied by massive investments in physical infrastructure i.e. road, pack-houses and other related supporting amenities. Tied to this is the provision of basic services such as water and electricity.

- **Agri-Business Development** – Agri-Parks will act as critical hubs for the identification and harnessing of agricultural belts as well as agricultural value-chains. The spin-offs from agri-business development will transform rural towns and villages into vibrant economies.
2 SECTION TWO – STUDY AREA

Mopani District Municipality (MDM) is one of the five District Municipalities of Limpopo. The District was named “Mopani” due to the abundance of nutritional Mopani worms in the area. The MDM consists of five local municipalities, namely:

- Ba-Phalaborwa
- Greater Giyani
- Greater Letaba
- Greater Tzaneen
- Maruleng

Mopani is located within the north-eastern quadrant of the province approximately 70km away from the capital city of Limpopo – Polokwane and covers an area of ±20 011km². Mopani District Municipality’s area is shared amongst the five local municipalities with Ba-Phalaborwa occupying the majority of the area with an area of approximately 7 462 km², followed by Greater Giyani with an area of approximately 4,172 km², Maruleng covering ±3 244 km², Greater Tzaneen covering ± 3 243 km² and lastly Greater Letaba with approximately 1 891 km².

The district is bordered in the east by Mozambique, along the north by Vhembe District Municipality (VDM) and Zimbabwe, in the south by Mpumalanga province through Ehlanzeni District Municipality and along the west by Sekhukhune and Capricorn District Municipalities.
Map 1: Mopani District Municipality
3 SECTION THREE – POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

There are national, provincial and municipal policy frameworks in place that will influence and guide rural development planning for the Mopani District Municipality. The national policy framework includes principles that underpin the rural development agenda whilst the provincial policy framework translates this into an agenda for the Limpopo Province.

Mopani District Municipality aligns with these policies at the municipal level and requires a District Rural Development Plan to further enable it to contribute to the achievement of targets and objectives outlined for the country and province and to also deal directly with economic development and job creation in the district.

3.1 National Policies and Strategies

A review of the relevant national policies is outlined in the following sections, with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district level. The following documents are considered:

- National Development Plan ‘vision 2030’ (NDP);
- The New Growth Path (NGP);
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF);
- Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP); and

3.1.1 National Development Plan 2030 (NDP)

The National Planning Commission was appointed in May 2010 by President Jacob Zuma to draft a vision and national development plan. The National Development plan is a framework that aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030¹. The plan outlines the challenges faced by South Africa in achieving this vision and sets out a holistic approach for its fulfilment.

This approach is based on six interlinked priorities, namely:

- Uniting South Africans around a common programme;
- Citizens being active in their own development;
- Faster and more inclusive economic growth;
- Building capabilities;

¹ National Development Plan 2030
• A capable and developmental state; and
• Leadership and responsibility throughout society.

The third priority – faster and more inclusive economic growth – is supported by plans to create an inclusive and integrated rural community. It is based on the premise that South Africa’s rural communities should have the opportunity to participate in the economic, social and political life of the country with successful land reform, job creation and rising agricultural production contributing to the development of an inclusive rural economy.

The overall objective is to create an additional 643 000 direct jobs and 326 000 indirect jobs in agriculture, agro processing and related sectors by 2030 thereby placing agriculture as a driving force behind this priority.\(^2\)

South Africa’s rural areas experience high levels of poverty and joblessness with limited employment in agriculture. To address this, the NDP proposes a multifaceted approach:

• Creating more jobs through agricultural development based on effective land reform and growth of irrigated agriculture and land production;
• Providing basic services that enable people to develop capabilities to take advantage of opportunities around the country and enabling them to contribute to their communities through remittances and skills transfer; and
• Developing industries such as agro processing, tourism, fisheries and small enterprises where potential exists.

The Mopani District Rural Development Plan will align the Mopani District Municipality to the National Development Plan and by boosting investment in agriculture, play a key role in promoting this approach.

3.1.2 Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA)

The DRDPs are guided by four principles of spatial planning as articulated in SPLUMA. These include spatial resilience, spatial justice, spatial equity and spatial transformation. SPLUMA also provides succinct guidelines on how spatial planning ought to be approached in all three spheres of government. It also seeks to transform the apartheid space economy towards a more integrated and equitable rural development planning.

\(^2\) National Development Plan 2030
3.1.3 New Growth Path (NGP)

The New Growth Path framework although preceding the NDP is twinned in its priorities for generating economic growth, alleviating poverty and inequality, and promoting job creation. Its overarching objective is to create 5 million new jobs between 2010 and 2020\(^3\).

According to the framework, achievement of this objective can be reached if there is a consistent focus on areas that have the potential for creating employment on a large scale. These areas are known as job drivers and include:

- Substantial public investment in infrastructure both to create employment directly in construction, operation and maintenance and production of inputs, and indirectly by improving efficiency across the economy;
- Targeting more labour-absorbing activities across the main economic sectors – agricultural and mining value chains, manufacturing and services;
- Taking advantage of new opportunities in knowledge and green economies;
- Leveraging social capital in the social economy and the public services; and
- Fostering rural development and regional integration.

In their application, these drivers must leverage and reinforce each other based on their inter-linkages.

The second job driver which includes agricultural value chain is seen as a key priority for job creation in rural areas with opportunities for employment creation through smallholder schemes, processing and sale of agricultural products\(^5\). The Mopani District Rural Development Plan by focusing on inclusive agricultural projects that are spatially diverse will align itself closely with the New Growth Path.

3.1.4 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) – 2014 to 2019

The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) is the Government’s strategic plan for 2014-2019 electoral term. It reflects the commitments made in the election manifesto of the governing party including the commitment to implement the NDP. The MTSF sets out the actions Government will take and targets that need to be achieved. It also provides a framework for the other plans of national, provincial and local government\(^4\).

The MTSF is structured around 14 priority outcomes that cover the focus areas identified in the NDP. These are made up of the 12 outcomes that were the focus of the 2009-

\(^3\) New Growth Path: Framework

\(^4\) Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019
2014 administration as well as two new outcomes that include social protection, nation building and social cohesion. The outcomes are as follows:

1. Quality basic education;
2. A long and healthy life for all South Africans;
3. All people in South Africa are feel safe;
4. Decent employment through inclusive growth;
5. A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path;
6. An efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network;
7. Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all;
8. Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life;
9. Responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government;
10. Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources;
11. Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better Africa and a better world;
12. An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service;
13. A comprehensive, responsive and sustainable social protection system; and

In its focus on these priorities and their elaboration into fourteen key outcomes and associated activities and targets, the MTSF has two over-arching strategic themes – radical economic transformation and improving service delivery.

The outcomes of the MTSF are directly translated into the Limpopo Development Plan.

3.1.5 Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) – 2009

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) forms part of the Government’s Medium Term Strategic Framework and is aimed at being an effective response against poverty and food insecurity that will maximise the use and management of natural resources to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities. This comprises three distinct components, namely:

- Coordinated and integrated broad-based agrarian transformation;
- Strategically increasing rural development; and
- An improved land reform programme.

5 The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework - July 2009
Agrarian transformation is characterised as rapid fundamental change in the relationship between land, livestock, cropping and community. It focuses on, amongst others, initiatives that support establishment of rural business initiatives, agro-industries, co-operatives and empowerment of rural people and communities.

Rural development is about enabling rural people to take control of their destiny thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources. Land reform is a national priority and is further entrenched in Section 25 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No.108 of 1996).

The Mopani DRDP will provide a detailed program for the implementation of agrarian transformation in the district which will be aimed at stimulating agricultural production and bringing about improvements in all institutions concerned with rural development.

3.1.6 Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)

The APAP is a programmatic response to key policy documents including the NGP, the NDP and the MTSF in respect of the following outcomes:

- Outcome 4 - Decent employment through inclusive growth;
- Outcome 7 - Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all; and
- Outcome 10 – Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources.

This policy provides a long-term vision and focused interventions in a 5-year rolling schedule to be updated annually. The key outputs from APAP are well documented and have been broadly incorporated into the various provincial and district plans that are in place.

3.2 Provincial Policies and Strategies

A review of the relevant provincial policies is outlined in the following sections with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district level. The following documents are considered:

- Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS)
- Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan (PEGDP)
- Limpopo Development Plan (LDP)
- Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

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3.2.1 Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2011 (PGDS)

The Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy is aimed at providing the province and all its stakeholders with a vision and pathway for development that reflects the priorities of the province. It is a strategic framework for accelerating and sharing economic growth through developmental interventions. It lays the foundation for attracting and instilling confidence from potential investors in the province and seeks to provide the guidelines for developing social contracts that address the challenges faced by the Province.

The Limpopo PGDS is informed by policy at the national, provincial and local levels. Its overarching objectives can be found in the MTSF’s fourteen outcomes, the NGP and the NDP. There are great similarities between the issues identified in these policies at the national level and those identified at the provincial level i.e. increasing unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The Limpopo PGDS sets out five key economic development goals with related strategic objectives for the province, namely:

- **Objective one**: The need to improve the quality of life in Limpopo aligned to outcome 2 of the MTSF. This includes elimination of poverty and unemployment as well as improved life expectancy;
- **Objective two**: Growing the economy of the province, sustainable job creation, innovation and competitiveness aligned to outcome 4 of the MTSF. This includes access to technology;
- **Objective three**: Improve the institutional efficiency and effectiveness of government aligned to outcome 9 of the MTSF. This includes service delivery improvement;
- **Objective four**: Address priorities that cut across the three objectives above such as black economic empowerment, HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction, issues of land and environment, etc.; and
- **Objective five**: Attain regional integration by harnessing Limpopo’s strategic location as a gateway to Africa.

These objectives are aimed at facilitating economic growth and capital investment in the province and whilst the Provincial Government of Limpopo is leading the process of embedding these objectives, their success depends on smart partnerships with labour, civil society and business. It is critical that all stakeholders be synchronised in the pursuit of

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7 Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2004-2014
8 Ibid
shifting Limpopo’s growth path towards shared growth and integrated sustainable development.

Agriculture has been established as a priority sector for the Limpopo province to drive economic development, and in support of key outcomes of the NDP:

- Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth;
- Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all; and
- Outcome 10: Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced.

The ability of agriculture to contribute to job creation makes it a key focus of the New Growth Path and core to the Limpopo PGDS.

3.2.2 Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan (PEGDP) 2009-2014

The Limpopo PEGDP is set out to enable the province to address the challenges facing it as set out in the PGDS. It includes specific programmes that are designed to achieve structural change in critical areas of the provincial economy and ultimately provides a framework for the provincial government, municipalities, private sector and all organs of civil society to make hard choices in pursuit of the priorities encapsulated in the MTSF.\(^9\)

The Limpopo PEGDP contextualised ten priority areas contained in the MTSF into key strategic priorities for the province that will guide service delivery. These include:

- Ensuring more inclusive economic growth, decent work and sustainable livelihoods; and
- Rural development, food security and land reform.

The PEGDP states that the province has excellent agricultural potential, mineral reserves and tourism resources, and these sectors can be used to underpin the actions needed to drive these strategic priorities in the province.

The Limpopo PEGDP put forward key action programmes in support of the five economic development goals outlined in the PGDS, and the strategic priorities from the PEGDP. Selected interventions that can be leveraged by the Mopani District Municipality include:

\(^9\) Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan 2009-2014
Objective two, growing the economy of the province: proposed interventions include industrial development programme for priority growth sectors including promotion of more labour-absorbing industrial sectors such as agriculture; Enterprise development programmes including sectoral SMME growth initiatives such as agro-processing; Agricultural and rural development programme including the development of profitable small scale commercial farming in the province.

Objective five, attain regional integration: proposed interventions include the establishment of regional and local economic corridors and export processing zones.

In order to ensure that the Mopani District Municipality achieves the intended growth and development envisaged within the Limpopo Development Plans, the policies and legislatives mentioned above should serve as tools for the coordination of interventions. They will ensure that the synergies that exist between various government departments as well as the private sectors are exploited to their full potential in order to ensure that the investments of government have the maximum impact possible.

3.2.3 Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2015-2019

The Limpopo LDP reflects the efforts made by the province to improve standards of living, reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality. Through this, the quality of life of Limpopo citizens will be improved. It further outlines how these objectives will be achieved by focusing on economic development in mining, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing amongst others\(^\text{10}\).

Given this backdrop, the purpose of the Limpopo Development is therefore to:

- Outline the contribution of Limpopo province to the National Development Plan (NDP) and Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for this period;
- Provide a framework for the strategic plans of each provincial government department as well as the IDP’s and sector plans of each district and local municipalities;
- Create a structure for constructive participation of private sector business and organised labour towards achievement of provincial growth and development objectives; and
- Encourage citizens to be active in promoting higher standards of living in their communities.

\(^{10}\) Limpopo Development Plan 2015-2019
The strategy outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan builds on the foundation laid out in the PGDP and the PEGDP and is based on the 14 development outcomes contained in the MTSF. The strategies include the following:

- Decent employment through inclusive growth (aligned to outcome 4) – a long term vision for dealing with the challenges of unemployment, inequality and creating a more inclusive society; and
- Comprehensive rural development (aligned to outcome 7) – developing rural areas that are spatially, socially and economically integrated with the aim of increasing the contribution of agriculture to the GGP of Limpopo.

Included in the implementation plan is the concept of growth points or nodal development based on spatial targeting. These are defined as areas where resources are coordinated and directed to selected areas in response to development opportunities. There are ten growth points selected in the province and these include Greater Tzaneen and Ba-Phalaborwa in Mopani District Municipality.

### 3.2.4 Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF) 2007

Environmental vulnerability, social need and economic development are not evenly distributed in Limpopo and spatial disparities will always exist due to the spatial distribution of natural resources, historical influences and cultural factors.

Past spatial planning has often aggravated these spatial disparities. This has resulted in a disjuncture between where people live and where social and economic opportunities are concentrated. This spatial marginalization from economic opportunities of the majority of the population needs to be addressed in order to reduce poverty and inequality and ensure shared growth and the protection of vulnerable bio-resources.

The Limpopo SDF states that the future spatial pattern for the province will be determined by political and economic forces and processes. Further, the availability of resources will have a direct impact on economic development in the area and will be the most important factor for development in the province in the future.

Some of the key development factors for future development in the province include\(^{11}\):

- Land: availability, ownership and use; and
- Physical infrastructure: roads, transportation, water, etc.

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\(^{11}\) Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework 2007
The Limpopo Provincial SDF has been developed in order to achieve the spatial development objectives of the province in a targeted and spatially co-ordinated manner. The Provincial SDF objectives set out to:

- Formulate a spatial framework which will guide and encourage equitable distribution of investment in terms of a functional settlement hierarchy;
- Achieve spatially balanced development across Limpopo province and support investment in sustainable settlements;
- Establish an optimal and functional spatial pattern for districts and the Limpopo province over time;
- Rationalise and promote the optimal use of land and protection of natural resources;
- Establish a functional spatial pattern with a hierarchy of settlements which provides a sound basis for long term sustainable economic growth;
- Provide guidelines for the development of transportation and utility networks; and
- Successfully integrate planning across national, provincial and local levels.

The Limpopo SDF identifies several areas of agricultural potential within the province. This is seen as key to addressing poverty since most areas of poverty are rural. The focus on agricultural development initiatives in the Limpopo SDF will be supported by the Mopani District Rural Development Plan.

### 3.3 District and Local Municipality Policies and Strategies

A review of the relevant district and local municipality policies is outlined in the following sections with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district and local level. The following documents are considered:

- Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- Mopani District Municipality (SDF);
- Mopani District Municipality LED Strategy;
- Greater Giyani Local Municipality IDP;
- Greater Letaba Local Municipality IDP;
- Greater Tzaneen Mogale Local Municipality IDP;
- Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality IDP; and
- Maruleng Local Municipality IDP.
### 3.3.1 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2012/13

The vision of the Mopani District Municipality is to be “the Food Basket of Southern Africa and the Tourism Destination of Choice”. This is supported by the deliverables of the Mopani District Integrated Development Plan.

The Mopani DM IDP seeks to align and integrate with policies at the national and provincial level through the following key performance areas and the envisaged outcomes:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Government KPA</th>
<th>Strategic Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Transformation and Organisational Development</td>
<td>Develop entrepreneurial and intellectual capability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Service Delivery</td>
<td>Improve Community well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop and maintain infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide clean and safe water</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Effective coordination of public transport systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Grow the economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Financial Viability and Management</td>
<td>Become financially viable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Governance and Public Participation</td>
<td>Manage through information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Democratic and accountable organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Rationale</td>
<td>Plan for the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The key performance areas are driven by strategic intent and supported with developmental priorities or focus areas for the MDM which with the right levels of investment will provide opportunities for rural development related to agriculture amongst others. These include:

- To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;

- To ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner: priority areas include - water conservation and demand management, infrastructure development and maintenance of assets to improve service delivery;

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12 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012/13
13 Ibid
• To promote social and economic development: priority areas include - environmental management, comprehensive rural development and growth point development;

• To promote a safe and healthy environment;

• To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matters of local government: priority areas include - co-ordination and alignment of municipal processes

The Mopani District IDP acts as a broad business plan for the Mopani District and aims to tackle the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality it faces. Emphasis in the financial year will be put on projects linked to budgets that support the opportunities it outlines.

3.3.2 Mopani District Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

The spatial fabric of the Mopani District Municipality is characterized by displaced urbanization and a settlement pattern that is distorted, fragmented, unequal, incoherent and inefficient. This fragmented spatial pattern results in inefficient duplication of infrastructure networks - bulk services have to be constructed over long distances to supply outlying settlements with relatively small population numbers. Spatial reconstruction is therefore required in the Mopani District to address these critical spatial issues and imbalances.

The Mopani SDF is therefore an integral part of the district integrated development plan and is used as a tool to implement the IDP. It guides and informs all decisions of the municipality relating to the use, development and planning of land.  

The Mopani SDF identified spatial development objectives and strategies for the MDM. These are aligned to the Limpopo SDF and include the following:

• The establishment of an optimal and functional spatial pattern for the municipal area over time;

• The establishment of a spatial pattern to provide a framework for the provision of social facilities and physical infrastructure on a cost effective basis and to provide a sound basis for economic growth to increase income and employment in both the formal and informal sectors;

• Establishing sustainable settlements that are able to generate economic activities and create jobs for their residents; and

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14 Ibid
15 Ibid
• Areas currently utilised or earmarked/identified as areas with potential for specific utilisation in future, e.g. areas for mining, agricultural development, tourism, trade and industry, residential development, should be protected from any development that will sterilize or negatively impact on existing and future utilisation of such areas for that specific use.

Further, the Mopani District SDF has identified strategic corridors in the region that have a potential to offer opportunities for development. The main corridors affecting the district municipality include:

**Ba-Phalaborwa Spatial Development Initiative (SDI)**

This corridor is particularly well endowed with mining deposits with a number of mining operations already underway. The corridor also offers opportunities in eco-tourism and game farming due to its proximity to Kruger National Park. The corridor is anchored on the Southeast of the district by Phalaborwa and on the Southwest by Tzaneen.

**Tzaneen – Letaba Agricultural Hub**

This is the hub of the extensive activities within the District Municipality where most of the citrus fruit, sub-tropical fruit and vegetables in the district are produced. This immediately offers opportunities for beneficiation from fruit produce. Eco-tourism is also significant in this sub-region.

**Giyani sub-region**

The sub-region is also potentially rich in good agricultural soils and mining deposits. While the agricultural sector is still largely based on subsistence farming practices, the mining deposits are beginning to be exploited with huge potential spin-offs such as job opportunities and infrastructure development. The Eastern part of Greater Giyani offers tourism opportunities in game farming given its proximity to the Kruger National Park.\(^\text{16}\)

Although there are spatial development challenges in the Mopani District Municipality, key areas for economic growth have been identified in the region as well as spatial development objectives and strategies which have been put in place.

**3.3.3 Mopani District Municipality LED Strategy**

The Mopani District Municipality Local Economic Development strategy provides the District Municipality with guidelines to create and facilitate economic development, realise the

\(^{16}\) Ibid
underlying economic development potential and encourage private sector investment and job creation.\textsuperscript{17}

The Mopani DM LED strategy identifies the municipal economy’s key sectors, describes its development constraints and the opportunities it can pursue. Development constraints that must be addressed if sustainable economic growth is to be achieved in the district include:

- Lack of education and skills;
- Poverty;
- Lack of infrastructure;
- Lack of municipal capacity; and
- Lack of funding.

There are also a number of opportunities identified for economic development in the MDM, these comprise:

- Agro-processing;
- Small scale mining; and
- Tourism.

Based on these opportunities and constraints, seven strategic thrusts for economic development were developed in the LED strategy. These are supported by key projects. These strategic thrusts and projects include\textsuperscript{18}:

- Economic infrastructure support;
- LED Development;
- Irrigation and farming;
- Agriculture and Mining Development; and
- Tourism development.

Based on the opportunities identified in the district and the strategic thrusts and projects outlined, the Mopani LED plan highlights agriculture as one of the region’s main opportunities with the agricultural sector set to play a strong role in the district’s economy.

3.3.4 \textbf{Greater Giyani Local Municipality IDP 2013/14}

The Greater Giyani Local Municipality shares borders with two local Municipalities within the Mopani District and another two in Vhembe District Municipality. Its economy is underpinned

\textsuperscript{17} \textit{Ibid}

\textsuperscript{18} Mopane District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012/13
by four economic sectors namely agriculture (small scale), tourism, retail and transport. However, it remains primarily rural in nature. The bulk of economic activity is concentrated around Giyani town which is the largest centre of population concentration, employment opportunities, shopping and recreational facilities.\textsuperscript{19}

The Greater Giyani LM IDP outlines the key challenges the municipality is currently facing. Some of these are summarized as follows\textsuperscript{20}:

- Spatial Rationale – including unstructured development and lack of land use management;
- Roads and Transportation – including lack of resources and poor storm drainage systems;
- Infrastructure Development and basic service delivery – including shortage of water and inadequate infrastructure for water and sanitation;
- Local Economic Development – including lack of investment strategies and lack of land for development

The development of Strategies demonstrates that all needs and challenges identified in the Greater Giyani LM IDPO will be addressed. These strategic objectives include:

- Spatial Rationale: To develop an effective spatial framework that promotes integrated and sustainable development;
- Infrastructure development and basic service delivery: To develop sustainable infrastructure networks which promotes economic growth and improves quality of life;
- Local Economic Development: To create and enabling environment for sustainable economic growth.

**3.3.5 Greater Letaba Local Municipality IDP 2013/14**

The Greater Letaba Local Municipality is situated in the northeastern quadrant of the Limpopo Province and is bordered by Greater Tzaneen to the south, Greater Giyani to the east, Molemole to the west and Makhado to the north. The Greater Letaba Municipality incorporates the proclaimed towns of Modjadjiiskloof, and Ga-Kgapane, situated in the extreme south of the municipal area, and Senwamokgope towards the northwest of the area of jurisdiction.\textsuperscript{21}

\textsuperscript{19} Greater Giyani Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
\textsuperscript{20} Ibid
\textsuperscript{21} Greater Letaba Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
The Greater Letaba LM is predominantly rural with significant areas of land owned by the state under custodianship of tribal/traditional authorities. The main economic sectors include agriculture with large areas of the land in the LM taken up by agricultural activity.

The main thrust of the Greater Letaba IDP is to put in place strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and it outlines the key challenges that the municipality is currently facing when looking at development. These challenges include:

- **Land Claims:** Approximately 48% of the land contained within the boundaries of the Municipality is currently the subject of land claims;
- **Lack of Funding or Financial Support:** Due to the large areas of land (approximately 50%) registered in the name of the state and under the custodianship of traditional authorities, small farmers are farming on communal land to which they cannot get title deed. This precludes them from accessing finance;
- **Lack of Skills:** The majority of the labour force in the Greater Letaba Municipal area has no or very limited basic skills, necessitating the need for job training.
- **Access to markets:** Most of the small-scale farmers and manufacturers in the area do not have access to the larger markets outside of the municipal area;
- **Agricultural potential and lack of adequate water:** A further constraining factor is lack of water, particularly in the northern parts of the Municipality.

The MDM has strategic objectives aligned to the national and provincial frameworks and operationalized through projects that will enable the municipality to deliver on its commitments to the community. These strategies include:

- **Improved human resources:** capacitated and skilled personnel within the municipality;
- **Integrated Sustainable Development:** to address challenges regarding land claims and shortage of land, etc.;
- **Integrated sustainable human settlement:** creating human settlements that are self-sustainable and integrated; and
- **Improved Local Economy:** including job creation initiatives.

### 3.3.6 Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality IDP 2014-15

The Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality is situated in the west of the Mopani District. It borders Greater Letaba in the north, Ba-Phalaborwa and Maruleng in the east and Lepelle-
Nkumpi Local Municipality (situated in the Mopani District Municipality) in the south. The municipality is predominantly rural in nature with vast areas of land being state land in the trust of traditional authorities.

The Greater Tzaneen Municipality area encompasses the proclaimed towns of Tzaneen, Nkowankowa, Lenyenye, Letsitele and Haenertsburg and is characterised by extensive and intensive farming activities (commercial timber, cash crops, tropical and citrus fruit production); Mountainous, inaccessible terrain in the west and south, and un-even topography (gentle slopes) to the north and east; It also has areas with exceptional natural beauty which have considerable untapped tourism potential.\(^{23}\)

The Greater Tzaneen IDP indicates the key challenges that the municipality is currently facing. These include local economic development, tourism demand well below what would be expected and land claims likely to impact agricultural development. Other challenges are summarized as follows\(^{24}\):

- Land use management;
- Water Supply challenges;
- Roads including maintenance and storm water challenges; and
- Public transport including disputes.

Despite these challenges, the Greater Tzaneen LM has identified sectors with economic potential in the municipality; these are agriculture, tourism and agro-processing. In order to take advantage of this economic potential and others, the LM has identified ten strategic thrusts that will enable it to achieve its strategic mission. These are as follows:

- Economic development;
- Good governance;
- Partnerships;
- Sustainable infrastructure development;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Integrated human settlements;
- Financial viability;
- Environmental management;
- Capacity building; and
- ICT.

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\(^{23}\) Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\(^{24}\) Ibid
3.3.7 Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality IDP 2014-2015

The Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality is situated to the northeast of the Mopani District. It is located east of the N1 highway, Groblersdal and Polokwane. It borders Greater Tzaneen in the west, Greater Giyani in the north, Maruleng in the southeast and Ehlanzeni District Municipality (situated in the Mpumalanga province) in the South. Mozambique lies to the east of the LM, bordering the Kruger National Park.

The LM is predominantly rural in nature with private farms covering an enormous area as well as tribal land that is under the control of traditional authorities. Unemployment and poverty are rife. However the LM includes Kruger National Park in its borders and hence tourism is a prime opportunity. Agriculture, mining and manufacturing also offer opportunities for economic development in the region. 

The Ba-Phalaborwa IDP indicates the constraints to development that the municipality is currently facing. These include:

- **Decline in mining activity and output**: causing a risk to the local economy and consequently to the municipality due to possible erosion of the revenue base;

- **Uncoordinated development**: Informal businesses are mushrooming in rural areas which defeats attempts at an integrated approach to spatial planning and land use management;

- **Non-sustainable service delivery**: If development is not planned for, services cannot be provided;

- **Land ownership**: most of the land in the LM is owned by Traditional Authorities and the municipality does not have the financial resources to purchase the land from them. Further, 70% of land within the LM is under land claims.

The Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality is predominantly underlain by what is commonly known as the Phalaborwa Complex, a combination of various geological components that form the basis for the mining industry in the area. The most important minerals mined in Ba-Phalaborwa are copper, phosphate and vermiculite. Magnatite, zirconium, nickel, uranium -

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25 Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

26 Ibid
iron and gold are by-products mined in smaller quantities. Mining is therefore the largest economic sector in the LM and an important driver of the economy of the region.\textsuperscript{27}

With this and the constraints it faces in mind, the LM has identified the following municipal key objectives, for 2014/15 IDP review period. These are as follows:

- Promotion of the local economy;
- Provision of sustainable integrated infrastructure services;
- Sustaining the environment;
- Improve financial viability;
- Good corporate governance and public participation; and
- Attract, develop and retain human capital.

3.3.8 Maruleng Local Municipality IDP 2014/15

The Maruleng Local Municipality is located in the South of the Mopani District. It borders Ba-Phalaborwa and Greater Tzaneen in the north, Lepelle-Nkumpi (Mopani district Municipality) to the west, Greater Tubatse (Mopani district Municipality) and Bushbuckridge (situated in the Mpumalanga province) to the south. Also to the south of the municipal area is Drakensberg escarpment.

The LM is predominantly rural in nature and is wedged between some of the Limpopo provinces prime tourist attractions including Kruger National Park, Timbavati Private Reserve and Blyde River Canyon. The region has limited mining opportunities at the southern edge around Hoedspruit, tourism activities centred on the Blyde River Canyon in the Southern quadrant, game reserves and private lodges situated in the eastern quadrant.\textsuperscript{28}

The Maruleng IDP indicates the key challenges that the municipality is currently facing with land ownership being one of the largest constraints to economic development in the area. These challenges include\textsuperscript{29}:

- Spatial Challenges: including scattered settlements, large tracts of privately owned land not available for development and state owned land under the custodianship of traditional authorities leading to insecure land ownership;
- Environmental Challenges: including water pollution and deforestation; and
- Skills shortages: general shortage of technical skills in the area.

\textsuperscript{27} Ibid
\textsuperscript{28} Maruleng Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
\textsuperscript{29} Ibid
In order to address the challenges identified, the Maruleng LM has identified strategies for the short, medium and long term. The main strategic objectives are:

- Effective and efficient community involvement;
- Grow the economy and provide livelihood support;
- Plan for the future;
- Build integrated human settlement; and
- Improve community wellbeing through accelerated service delivery.

Tourism and agriculture are seen as cornerstones of the Maruleng economy with agriculture currently and likely to remain a key economic sector and employment generator in Maruleng. The LM has large game farms from which the municipality can grow its tax base from significant tourist related activities.\(^{30}\)

### 3.3.9 Summary

The policies mentioned introduce a set of principles that are intended to influence the substantive outcomes of planning decisions in relation to the alleviation of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment in South Africa, Limpopo Province and Mopani DM.

The overall aim of these principles is to achieve planning outcomes that:

- Promote sustainable development and use of natural resources;
- Channel resources to areas of greatest need and development potential thereby redressing the inequitable historical treatment of marginalized areas;
- Take into account the fiscal, institutional and administrative capacities of role players, the needs of communities and the environment; and
- Stimulate economic development opportunities in rural areas and support an equitable protection of rights to and in land.

Rural development has a common thread from the National and Provincial policy level through to the District and Local Municipality policy level and is seen as core to the achievement of stated policy outcomes.

Mopani, a largely rural district municipality will therefore benefit from the implementation of a rural development plan that will guide the application of policy in the communities it serves.

The objectives of the Mopani DRDP are therefore:

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\(^{30}\) Ibid
• To establish and outline a long term vision and direction for rural development in the district;
• To provide an overarching and coordinating framework for planning and rural development initiatives within each of the local municipalities and across municipal boundaries;
• To provide a spatial context and justification for priority interventions;
• To develop institutional arrangement for an effective implementation of the Mopani rural development plan;
• To align and integrate departmental strategic plans at a district level; and
• To facilitate commitment of resources (human, financial, etc.) towards the implementation of strategic objectives, catalytic projects and other district priorities.
4 SECTION FOUR – SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This section is informed by inputs from stakeholder engagements held in the month of June 2015 in Limpopo Province as well as inputs from various strategic spatial plans located at the provincial and local level. It provides an analysis that will inform the strategic thrust and the implementation plan of the Mopani district rural development plan.

4.1 Demographics

Data acquired from the 2011 census indicates that Mopani District Municipality has a total estimated population of 1 092 507 people with Greater Tzaneen having the highest population at approximately 390 095 people (35.71%), followed by Greater Giyani with about 244 217 people (23.35%), Greater Letaba with at least 212 707 people (19.48%), Ba-Phalaborwa with 150 637 people (13.79%), and lastly Maruleng with ±94 857 people (8.68%).

When looking at these figures over the period 2001 to 2011, there is an indication of a decline in the population growth of the MDM from approximately 2% in 2001 to 0.3% in 2011. Census 2011 also shows that the district with regards to gender population has more females than males and that the population is still young and a majority of it is aged below 35 years of age.

The Mopani DM consists of 16 urban areas which include towns and townships, 354 villages (rural settlements) and a total of 125 wards. With the Kruger National Park (KNP) being part of Ba-Phalaborwa and Greater Giyani local municipalities, Mopani is part of the Great Trans-frontier Park incorporating South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Trans-regional as well as intra-regional migration patterns have a dual effect on the rural space economy. On one hand, rapid urbanisation and migration are likely to exert pressure on existing infrastructure. In the same breath, these movements can result in urbanisation of the district thus enriching the socio-cultural fabric and the economic vibrancy of the district. It is critical for the DDRP to take cognisance of the complexities and opportunities emanating from the aforementioned population movements.

According to the STATS SA data 2011 the number of indigent households for each local municipality are as follows: Greater Tzaneen (35215), Greater Giyani (26994); Greater Letaba (22595); Maruleng (9194); Ba-Phalaborwa (11776).
Map 2: Indigent Households
4.2 Employment

According to the Census 2011 Limpopo Municipal report, Mopani District municipality has an approximate unemployment rate of 39.8%. This has decreased by at least 5.2% from the estimated 45.0% in 2001. Residents of Mopani DM are employed in the following sectors: mining, farming, trade, government, transport, tourism, manufacturing, construction and energy.

The public sector employs the majority of the people. In Greater Giyani for instance, the public sector employs approximately 39% of the population. The agricultural sector is the second largest employer, absorbing approximately 25.9% of the people. The mining sector concentrated in Ba-Phalaborwa employs at least 19.5% of the population. Notwithstanding these figures, Greater Giyani still has the highest unemployment rate in the MDM, averaging approximately 47%. Women and the youth constitute approximately 60% of the unemployed.

4.3 Key Economic Drivers

Mining and agriculture are the two main economic sectors in Mopani. The mining sector sustains the economy, with copper and phosphate being the two main minerals. Copper is smelted in Phalaborwa while phosphate is transported in its raw form and processed in Richards Bay primarily for exports. The agricultural sector is the fourth largest economic contributor after mining, government and community services, wholesale and retail. Most of the agricultural activities take place in Tzaneen, Maruleng and Letaba. The main agricultural produce includes sub-tropical fruit such as tomatoes, bananas, mangoes, oranges and pineapples. The bulk of these crops produced are exported.

The tertiary sector dominates the MDM economy with a GVA contribution of R25.41 billion in 2013. The key driver of the primary sector over the period 1995 to 2013 has been the marginal growth of the mining and quarrying sector which grew in GVA contribution from R1.48 billion in 1995 (83% of primary sector GVA contribution) to R7.86 billion in 2013 (85% of primary sector GVA contribution). The agricultural sector has thus been declining from 17% GVA contribution in 1995 to 15% GVA contribution in 2013.

4.4 Agriculture

The most households involved in agricultural activity in the respective local municipalities in descending order is, Maruleng (39%), Greater Letaba (38%), Greater Tzaneen (34%), Greater Giyani (31%) and Ba-Phalaborwa (26%). The nature of agricultural activity by households shows a diversity of production mainly confined to livestock production and major cropping in citrus, vegetables and subtropical fruit.
Among the agricultural households, those headed by females dominate across most of the local municipalities, with the exception of Ba-Phalaborwa local municipality where the male gender dominates (59.2%). Delineating the district demographics of the agricultural households shows that 37.7% of these household heads are between the ages of 46-64 years. This does have inferences on the type and intensity of agriculture to be undertaken, especially with regard to mechanisation of agriculture. This is depicted in the figures below.
There is a low level of formal education in the MDM, with approximately 83% of agricultural household heads with no schooling past grade 11. This confines them to the semi-skilled and unskilled as well as informal employment categories. This level of education makes agriculture to be the most viable economic activity with the best absorption due to its low skill requirements and capacity to absorb large segments of the population, albeit in low value occupations or jobs.
This situation invariably limits their revenue generation capabilities hence 88% of these agricultural households fall in the no income and R1-R38 400 income levels. This creates challenges in enabling them to achieve living wages that are sustainable hence the need for social interventions to mitigate poverty. This perspective is noted in the figure below.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

Figure 4: Level of Education and Incomes of Agricultural Household Heads

The type of agricultural activity generating agricultural incomes is mainly confined to animals only, crops only or mixed farming. Maruleng is engaged more in animal farming while Ba-Phalaborwa is engaged more in crop production. This is illustrated in the figure below.
Livestock ownership in the MDM is dominated by poultry only ownership with all local municipalities in the district showing this as their main source of livestock. Cattle production is mainly in Greater Giyani. This is depicted in the figure below.
The scale of livestock production is also a significant inference on the sophistication of livestock value chains in the MDM. In cattle production, subsistence farming (1-10 cattle) is the mainstay in the district especially in Maruleng and Greater Letaba local municipalities. Commercial cattle production (+100) is marginally practiced in Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Tzaneen and Greater Letaba local municipalities. Smallholder cattle production is mainly done in Ba-Phalaborwa and Greater Giyani local municipalities.
Sheep production is mainly done at subsistence level in Greater Letaba and Greater Tzaneen local municipalities. Commercial sheep production is practised mainly in Ba-Phalaborwa, Greater Tzaneen and Maruleng. This is illustrated in the figure below.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

Figure 7: Agricultural Households Owning Cattle and Sheep

Goat and pig production in the district is high at subsistence level. Pig production shows greater potential of commercial production in the district especially in Ba-Phalaborwa and Maruleng local municipalities.
The agricultural capability of the district is highly dependent on the availability and consistency of water supply. Ba-Phalaborwa local municipality has the best water reticulation in the district. Greater Tzaneen, Maruleng and Greater Giyani local municipalities experiences the most challenges in water access. This is depicted in the figure below.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

Figure 8 : Goat and Pig Production in Mopani District
Figure 9: Water Access and Sources in Mopani District

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011
Agricultural potential in the district has been identified. This is noted in the table below.

**Table 2 Agricultural Potential**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Agricultural potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citrus, and subtropical fruit</td>
<td>Citrus farming and subtropical fruit value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Horticultural product value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>White meat cluster value chain enhancement (broiler and day-old chick production)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key lessons from the agricultural sector situational analysis include:

- The MDM is largely rural with activity confined mainly to agriculture, mining and tourism. The sector with the lowest barriers to entry and enhanced food security is the agricultural sector.
- Water access is central to developing and enhancing agricultural value chains in the district especially among emerging subsistence farmers, as it will enable consistent production away from rain fed agriculture.
- Agricultural activity is mainly subsistence hence challenges in creating living wages for households that could see growth in indigent households.
- Low levels of education among the local population make initiatives in agriculture one of the key means to enable food security and the creation of employment opportunities in semi and unskilled employment.
- There is a need to harness commercial production to stimulate the development of value chains that are inclusive to emerging subsistent farmers in the district, thereby enabling access to market and education on good agricultural practices.
- Land tenure management systems are critical to the growth of subsistence farmers into smallholder farmers as it enables access to finance, markets and education.
4.5 Slow Pace of Land Reform

The relatively slow pace of land reform and restitution hinders progress in most rural areas. This is primarily because land reform forms an integral part of agrarian transformation. In the case of Mopani, pending land claims are likely to delay development. There is an estimated number of 44 land claims that are still waiting to be processed and they cover an approximate area of 185 497 ha, furthermore an estimated 146 claims are still under investigation. However, some of the areas are not surveyed and are still to be determined. Claims that are valid and those that need to be validated include the following:

Table 3: Land Claims in Mopani

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Municipality</th>
<th>Valid claims in Progress</th>
<th>No. of claims yet to be validated</th>
<th>% of Municipal Area claimed (Valid)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number  Extent (Ha)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Giyani</td>
<td>1 1 410.14</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Letaba</td>
<td>16 80 639.92</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Tzaneen</td>
<td>12 24 286.94</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ba-Phalaborwa</td>
<td>11 77 178.37</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maruleng</td>
<td>1 1 982.32</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Mopani IDP 2014/15.

4.6 Environmental Issues

The Mopani District Municipality is renowned for its abundance in wildlife (including the 'Big Five'), craggy mountains, huge man-made and indigenous forests, trout streams and cascading waterfalls. The Mopani region provides easy access to the northern section of the Kruger Park including towns such as Phalaborwa, Tzaneen, Modjadikloof and Giyani. The area also boasts a plethora of historical, cultural and ethnic attractions. The contrasts in climate, scenery and landscape within this region are striking and dramatic. Highlights include Modjadji Cycad Reserve and the 'Big Hole' open-cast mine in Phalaborwa.

Mopani District Municipality has good comparative advantage on Eco-tourism due to its proximity to Kruger National Park which is an Eco-tourism hotspot of international
importance. It boasts of indigenous forests, biospheres, wetlands, endangered species (Modjadji cycads) as well as cultural heritage.  

4.6.1 Sites of Cultural, Heritage, Religious and Historical interests

Apart from the eco-tourism opportunities offered by the proximity of Mopani District Municipality to Kruger National Park, there are numerous other environmental conservation areas or natural areas of importance including Wolksberg Wilderness area re-known as an important biodiversity hotspot, Debenengi waterfalls, Letaba Ranch, Geothermal springs in Hans merensky Nature Reserve and Soutini Baleni (African Ivory Route in the district were traditional salt making activities takes place), Tingwadzi Heritage centre, Lekgalameetsse and Muti wa Vatsonga.

Registered natural heritage sites include Westfalia Estates, Manotsa, Madrid and Shiluvane. To promote the wealth of heritage activities, Mopani DM has established a District Heritage Council which still needs to be strengthened.

4.6.2 Nature Reserves and Game Parks

Apart from the natural areas mentioned above, Mopani District Municipality boasts several private owned game farms and nature reserves around Ba-Phalaborwa and Maruleng Local Municipalities such as Klaserie, Thorny Bush and Timbavati. Mopani District is also considered the home of the big five due to the abundance of such animals in Kruger National Park and the surrounding private game farms and nature reserves. Other parks and reserves include:

Table 4: Other Parks and Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game Parks</th>
<th>Nature Reserves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kilima Private Game reserve</td>
<td>Man’gombe Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaongwe Private Game Reserve</td>
<td>Hans Merensky Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makalali Private Game Reserve</td>
<td>Miotlatse Canyon Provincial Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapama Private Game Reserve</td>
<td>Modjadji Nature reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phuza Moya Private Game Reserve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kruger National Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31 http://www.mopani.gov.za
32 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012
33 Ibid
4.6.3 Protected Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The following environmental problems have been identified in most parts of the Mopani District Municipality:\n
- Waste Management and refuse removal;\n- Water Pollution;\n- Alien invader Plants;\n- Veld and Forest Fires;\n- Air pollution;\n- Deforestation and overgrazing; and\n- Soil erosion

The Mopani District Municipality contains a number of protected areas and conservancies including:

- Indigenous Tree Park;\n- Kruger National Park;\n- Kgopolowe Koppie;\n- Letaba Ranch Conservation area; and\n- Gaselati Conservancy.

A conservation area in general requires a low impact approach towards land development that is sensitive towards the environment. It primarily includes developments such as hiking trails, movement, accommodation, recreation, cultural facilities and basic infrastructure.\n
Protected areas, conservancies and environmentally sensitive areas must therefore be given the necessary consideration when formulating the Mopani Rural Development Plan, as well as taking account of the existing environmental concerns in the region.

Grasslands

The dominant plant species, Mopani plant and the existences of forestry plantations and grassland in the district make the district vulnerable to fire hazards especially during winter due to the flammability of fragile vegetation.

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34 Ibid
35 Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
Map 3: Environmentally Sensitive Areas
4.6.4 Topography

Mopani District Municipality encompasses a wide range of topography, with its elevation varying between 600m and 900m above sea level. Each local municipality within the region has slightly different characteristics. Some of these are outlined below:

**Ba-Phalaborwa**

The Ba Phalaborwa LM is dominated by a high lying ridge complex that runs from west to east through the centre of the municipality. This ridge complex and is characterised by a series of dominant kopies and rock outcrops, which form topographical highpoints through the municipal area. The topography defines the different water catchment areas with the ridge complex forming the major divide between drainage towards the Letaba River to the north and the Olifants River to the south.\(^{36}\)

**Greater Tzaneen**

Topography in the Greater Tzaneen LM is characterized by mountainous, inaccessible terrain in the west and south, and un-even topography (gentle slopes) to the north and east. A large percentage of land area within the municipality cannot be considered for development due to both the mountainous nature of the terrain and the riverine areas.\(^{37}\)

**Greater Letaba**

The Greater Letaba Local Municipality is characterized by contrasts such as varied topography, population densities and vegetation.\(^{38}\)

4.6.5 Water Resources (Hydrology, Water Catchment Areas)

The Mopani district is characterised by low rainfall, especially in the lower-lying areas of the district, namely, Greater Giyani and Ba-Phalaborwa. This results in limited water resources culminating in severe water shortages and regular drought conditions. The main surface water resources for the Mopani DM are the Letaba River catchment and all its tributaries. There is a huge potential for usage of borehole water as an augmentation to the surface water resources.

There are over 20 large dams in the district with 9 being used for primary consumption (domestic, industrial and commercial) and most of the other dams used for irrigation purposes. Some private small dams also exist and are used for irrigation purposes as well. The total yield from the dams for primary usage is 273 million \(\text{m}^3\) per annum. The agricultural

\(^{36}\) Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\(^{37}\) Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\(^{38}\) Greater Letaba Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012/13
sector uses the greatest portion of the available yield in the district, which is estimated at 70%, leaving 30% for other water users.39

Bulk water supply in Mopani is characterized by numerous surface water schemes in various stages of full development to all consumer points. Water supply scheme clusters are well defined and the service area boundaries are well established. Major upgrading and refurbishment are needed at most localities. The Middle Letaba Sub Scheme area and Modjadji areas are in need of extensions to the existing bulk supply systems. In general, the MDM is well provided with bulk water supply infrastructure.

4.6.6 Vegetation

The vegetation of the Mopani District Municipality is diverse ranging from sub-tropical, tropical to bushveld, with vegetation denser in the south (timber) than in the north (Bushveld).40

4.6.7 Geology and Soil Types

The geology of the Mopani District Municipality is characterized by a variety of landscapes including, undulating landscapes, plains and lowlands with low to moderate relief. The geology of the MDM is not uniform and is characterized by sandstones, shale, grit, conglomerate, quartzite and basalt. The type of geology in the Mopani District is highly favorable for minerals such as copper, gold, manganese etc. and this is confirmed by the existence of several mineral based activities taking place in the region.41

4.6.8 Soil Types

There is a need for detailed environmental analysis to indicate the environmental conservation requirements, environmental sensitivity index, population pressure on scenic resources, land cover, soil types, irrigation potential, dry land potential and rainfall in the Mopani District Municipality.42

39 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012
40 Ibid
41 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012
42 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012
4.6.9 Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the variety of life in an area including the number of different species, the genetic wealth within each species, the interrelationships between them and the natural areas in which they occur. Sensitive vegetation and watercourses should be maintained for both the conservation of biodiversity and for their ecological functioning in water quality improvement and flood control.

The role of biodiversity in agricultural and natural ecosystems is to ensure food security and sustainable agricultural production through the direct or indirect provision of food for humans and their livestock, provision of raw materials and services such as fibre, fuel and pharmaceuticals, and the maintenance of ecosystem functions. Any agricultural plan must therefore take the biodiversity of the region into consideration.

The Mopani DM can boast one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the country, with large areas falling under the Kruger to Canyon biosphere. Maintaining the biodiversity of Mopani District Municipality is therefore critical to agriculture and rural development. Activities such as mining and changes in land-use that occur in the region must be carefully monitored in this respect.

Mopani DM has recently appointed a service provider to assist with developing a Bioregional Plan in alignment with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the National Environmental Biodiversity Act (NEM:BA) and the National Biodiversity Framework (NBF). It will be critical for the district to ensure that recommendations from this plan are implemented in order to ensure that the critical biodiversity areas identified are not in conflict with other land-use activities.

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43 Sekhukhune District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
Map 5: Biodiversity Groups
4.6.10 Climate

Across the globe, environmental stresses and major changes in climate conditions are influencing the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people and communities everywhere. The Mopani District Municipality is no exception to this.

The Mopani DM receives most of its rainfall during summer (85% of its annual rainfall). The rain-fall varies from the mountainous zones in the Drakensberg Mountains (2000 mm/a) to the dry low veld in the Kruger National Park (400 mm/a). The temperature ranges from a high average of 21°C in the mountainous areas to a very high average of 25°C in the dry low veld areas of the Kruger National Park.

Frost rarely occurs in the Mopani DM. The District falls within the Letaba Catchment area and has a mean annual precipitation of 612mm.44

4.6.11 Air Quality

Air pollution is a major environmental problem affecting most areas in the Mopani District. Vehicles, mines and industries, as well as burnings on the refuse dumping sites and onsite incineration by households pollute the air by releasing harmful gasses, especially in urban areas. In the villages, air pollution is caused by the burning of wood and coal to make fire, releasing carbon dioxide. Another source of air pollution is leakage of sewage and companies burning their waste.

The Mopani District Municipality is rated as having potentially poor or deteriorating air quality with Ba-Phalaborwa and Greater Tzaneen municipality’s priority areas for air pollution control. The major contributors to this rating are the mining activities in Ba-Phalaborwa municipality and wood-drying activities concentrated in Greater Tzaneen municipality.45

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44 Mopani District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2012
Map 6: Maximum Annual Temperatures
Map 7: Hydrology
4.7 Inputs from Stakeholder Engagements

Engagements were held in Tzaneen on the 10th of June 2015.

Present were representatives from the Traditional Councils, Mopani DM, as well as sector departments (i.e. DRDLR, Agriculture and LEDET). Below are some of the issues raised therein:

— Traditional leaders present welcomed the DRDP initiative. However, concerns were raised over the underrepresentation of traditional leaders as well as local municipal officials.

— Concerns were raised over the ageing agricultural infrastructure in Mopani DM.

— Responding to the proposed Agri-parks, traditional leaders outlined that Agri-parks must be linked to Agri-villages as this would foster integrated rural settlements.

— Questions were raised on the relevance of proposed DRDPs, particularly in light of existing district and local strategic development plans.

— There was a sense of ‘consultation fatigue’, with some stakeholders raising concerns over the failure of existing plans to deliver basic services, notable roads, housing, water and electricity.

— Water scarcity was highlighted as one of the primary barriers to rural development in Mopani.

— The apartheid legacy of planning and the relegation of black people to unproductive land were highlighted by traditional leaders. There were concerns over the socio-economic plight of traditional leaders in Mopani.

— Irrigation schemes and dams were identified as important for promoting agriculture in Mopani.

46 Note that some of the inputs from stakeholder engagements are embedded in the situational analysis.
4.8 District-Wide Development Challenges

4.8.1 Water Scarcity

Mopani is a district characterized by very little rainfall especially in lower-lying areas of the district such as Greater Giyani and Phalaborwa. This results in severe water shortage and regular drought conditions. The district depends on the Letaba river catchment as its main surface water resource. Ba-Phalaborwa’s main water sources are the Lepelle River and Groot Letaba River. Boreholes also compliment the aforementioned water sources for local municipalities. There are over 20 dams in the district with 9 being used for primary consumption which includes domestic, industrial and commercial while the other dams are used for irrigation purposes. Water supply scheme clusters are well defined and boundaries are well established. Generally, it can be said that the district is well provided with bulk water supply infrastructure.

4.8.2 Sanitation

Uneven delivery of basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation services is a deterrent to sustainable economic growth. High backlog in sanitation particularly in villages is a main cause of ground water pollution. The types of sanitation systems used in the district are water-borne sewerage (Flush Toilet), Septic tanks, Ventilated Improved pit latrines (VIP), French drains and ordinary pit latrines.

The majority of the people in the district use pit latrines and others have no sanitation services at all. Greater Giyani experiences the worst situation with approximately 54% of the households not having any access to basic sanitation services. Moreover, Greater Letaba has the highest usage of pit latrines at approximately 51.5% whilst Ba-Phalaborwa is the one local municipality with flushable toilets approximated at 39.8%.

4.8.3 Waste Management

The Mopani DM still faces major challenges with regards to waste management. Greater Tzaneen and Maruleng are the only municipalities within the district that have authorized waste management facilities/landfill sites. Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality is using an informal site and an application for the authorization of this site is yet to be made.

Human-generated waste is also of huge concern especially in the rural areas of Mopani with the majority of those residing in rural communities using pit latrines. In terms of refuse removal, most rural communities in the MDM do not have access to waste removal services from local municipalities. Residents in these areas often use their own methods of refuse removal and these are uncontrollable and thus result in hazards to environmental health.
In the MDM, refuse removal services are mainly provided to those in urban areas which refers to the towns and townships within the district. The percentage of households that have their refuse collected on a weekly basis increased from 13.5% to 15.2% in 2001. Surprisingly, 81% of the district’s population is concentrated in rural areas where the municipalities have a serious backlog of such services. Therefore, these services should be made more accessible to those that are highly affected.

4.8.4 Low Levels of Literacy

The level of illiteracy within the Mopani district is alarming. There is approximately 27.1% of the adult population (above 20 years of age) that does not have any form of schooling. However, with the introduction of the ABET school programme in the district, a huge improvement in literacy levels has been witnessed. The illiteracy rate decreased form approximately 37.8% to 27.1% between 2001 and 2011. Only an estimated 13.7% have completed primary education. These figures generally imply that more than 40% of the adult population in the district can be regarded as illiterate. Only 12.7% of the adult population have matriculated and approximately 6.5% of them have completed higher education.

There is a shortage of schools and classrooms in almost all the local municipalities in the MDM. It is estimated that 2378 class rooms as well as infrastructure, water and sanitation are needed to address the dire schooling conditions that millions of learners’ experience across the district.
Map 8: Schools
Map 9: Population Growth/Decline & Departmental Projects
Map 10: Health Facilities and Police Points
4.9 SWOT Analysis

Below is a synopsis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) that exist in Mopani, by local municipality. While this is not an exhaustive SWOT outline, it assists in providing a sound appreciation of the district’s main economic, social, environmental and institutional endowments, at the same time allowing for the identification of barriers to inclusive rural development.

4.9.1 Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality

| Strengths | – The mining sector is the most dominant sector in Ba-Phalaborwa and has created a lot of job opportunities.  
| – A significant number of its people are relatively skilled in professional and technical occupations.  
| – The pristine natural environment in Ba-Phalaborwa allows for both tourism and eco-tourism to flourish.  
| – The existence of the Greater Limpopo Trans-frontier Park is an advantage. |

| Weaknesses | – A large amount of land is currently under land claims of which approximately 7.3% are valid.  
| – The mining sector’s lack of transformation as well as low levels of beneficiation is a weakness. Furthermore, the decline in mining activity and output may result on the erosion of the LM’s revenue base.  
| – The weak performance of agriculture due to lack of adequate infrastructure such as roads network and markets for goods remains a challenge.  
| – The agricultural value-chain is dominated by large commercial farmers, leaving emergent farmers to languish in the margins.  
| – Lack of diversification within the economy results in high levels of unemployment. The fact that the government remains one of the dominant employers points to the lack of adequate industries that can employ people.  
| – The rural nature of the municipality may limit its competitive advantage particularly when compared with more urbanised municipalities. |
Informal businesses are mushrooming in rural areas which defeats attempts at an integrated approach to spatial planning and land use management.

**Opportunities**

- The natural capital in the municipality renders it one of the best sites for tourism-led development.
- The existence of mines and mining towns poses an opportunity for emerging SMMEs to tap into the mining value-chain. Moreover, mining activities can result in a range of social and economic spin-offs that can benefit local communities.
- The geographical location of the municipality allows for the harnessing opportunities in existing development corridors such as those identified via the Ba-Phalaborwa Spatial Development Initiative.
- Its proximity to the Kruger National Park offers opportunities for game farming.

**Threats**

- The volatility of the agricultural, mining and by extension the manufacturing sectors put a number of people working within the district at risk of losing their jobs.
- The land claims lodged with the municipality hinder the development process.
- Water scarcity remains a challenge for all economic sectors particularly agriculture.
- Seasonal work within the agricultural sector as well as the infrequency of extended public works programmes (EPWP) both threaten the livelihood and quality of life of people in the Mopani district.
- The dependence of the majority of people on the state for jobs, social grants and other forms of social security burdens the state which is compelled to overextend its resources.
- Rural to urban migration and the subsequent depopulation of rural areas remains a threat to economic development. Linked to that is the brain-drain, as young educated people leave the district for greener pastures elsewhere.
### 4.9.2 Greater Giyani Local Municipality

| **Strengths** | - There is a sustained production of Mopani worms and Marula.  
|              | - Locational advantage  
|              | - Kruger Park and tourism development opportunities |

| **Weakness** | - A large number of rural settlements are scattered and not easily accessible.  
|              | - Shortage of skills.  
|              | - Poor infrastructure. |

| **Opportunities** | - There lies great economic development due to the tarring of the Shangoni Gate in Kruger National Park.  
|                  | - Has potential for tourism and conservation and development due to the existing natural heritage sites in the area namely, Mang’ombe game reserve and heritage site, Baleni Heritage site and Tingwazi heritage site.  
|                  | - The Eastern part of Greater Giyani offers tourism opportunities in game farming given its proximity to Kruger National Park.  
|                  | - Mining deposits in the Giyani sub-region are beginning to be exploited with huge potential spin-offs such as job opportunities and infrastructure development. |

| **Threats** | - Majority of the land forms part of the former Lebowa and Gazankulu homelands and these areas were underdeveloped by the apartheid regime, thus they need infrastructure and further development. |

### 4.9.3 Greater Letaba Local Municipality

| **Strengths** | - Timber production.  
|              | - Tourism potential. |
Letaba has the biggest Baobab tree in the world (24 circumference), for instance.

**Weakness**
- There are a few potential growth points for the economy due to majority of the population residing in rural areas.
- Water scarcity inhibits agricultural production and economic growth.
- Uneven delivery of services such as water, electricity and housing results in relatively poor quality of life for the citizens.
- Most of the small-scale farmers and manufacturers do not have access to larger markets outside of the municipal area.

**Opportunities**
- The agricultural sector has great potential in contributing to the municipality’s economy.
- The Pristine natural environment i.e. dams, waterfalls, vegetation and nature reserves allows for the promotion of tourism-led development.
- This is the hub of the extensive activities within the District Municipality where most of the citrus fruit, sub-tropical fruit and vegetables in the district are produced. This immediately offers opportunities for beneficiation from fruit produce.

**Threats**
- Challenges are experienced in issues of land claims. Approximately 48% of the land contained within the boundaries of the Municipality is currently subjected to land claims. Therefore, there is not much that can be done with the land since there exists uncertainties and claims have not yet been settled.

4.9.4 Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality

**Strengths**
- Identified as one of the sites where an Agri-Park will be located.
- Has the highest percentage of the GDP in agriculture and eco-tourism.
- Tourism is growing as a result of the pristine natural
- The presence of public sector offices as well as big businesses renders it an economic hub for the district.
- The above attracts young people to Tzaneen, as it offers better quality of life.

**Weaknesses**
- Poverty in both urban and rural areas remains a challenge
- Uneven delivery of basic services undermines the economic growth potential of this municipality.

**Opportunities**
- It has a growing agricultural sector, increasing from approximately 55.92% to 59%.
- The existence of tribal land in the municipality might be viewed as an opportunity for development, particularly if the traditional leadership is willing to work with municipalities in harnessing community development.

**Threats**
- Water scarcity threatens the municipality's economic growth potential.
- Slow pace of agrarian transformation results in the marginalisation of emerging black farmers.
- Non-existence and/or limited physical infrastructure.
- The rural nature of the municipality, as well as high levels of poverty and unemployment threatens the economic and social well-being of people and businesses in the municipality.
- There are approximately 25 land claims that are yet to be validated and that slows down development because not much can be done with land that has not yet been proclaimed.

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**4.9.5 Maruleng Local Municipality**

**Strengths**
- Large game farms critical for tourism development.

**Weaknesses**
- There is a shortage of general technical skills within the area.
- Majority of the people in Maruleng are located away from the economic hub of the municipality.
### Opportunities
- Its strategic location in relation to the Maputo corridor positions it as a tourism destination of choice and a node for economic development.

### Threats
- The economic node of the municipality is surrounded by privately-owned land which is not available for new development.
- When land is made available, it is too expensive and the majority of people cannot afford it.

#### 4.10 Key findings from in loco/ ground truthing inspections

On the 9th and 10th of November 2015, inspections in loco were conducted in the entire Mopani District Municipality in order to ascertain the basic information in the rural areas as they are the places targeted by the DRDP.

Meetings were held with various stakeholders in order to find out the challenges and opportunities in the rural areas that need to be taken up. There is a lot of undocumented information that is only seen when visiting the intervention areas and talking to the community to inform proposals and strategies to address the existing challenges and also assist in forward planning.

Projects were visited in the rural area in order to find out the kind of interventions that the government can embark on. It was not possible to visit all the functional regions and areas that needed intervention but the majority of them were visited and this gives a general feel of how things are in the rural setting.
Map 11: Mopani DRDP in Loco Projects
Critical comments raised in the presentation

- Inclusion of Sekgopo and Sekgosese in intervention area 2.
- Selwane agricultural schemes along the Ritavi River need to be supported through connection to the market and also provision of infrastructure such as roads and machinery. Furthermore, it must be included as an area that needs intervention.
- Small-scale mining (sand and gravel) needs to be formalized and regulated since it is damaging the environment.
- Modjadji Nature Reserve (cycad species) needs to be marked for tourists and also be protected since it is a protected plant species.
- There is a cave which is approximately 7m in the Kgapanes Mountains that needs to be marketed and researched.
- Giyani has the potential for mining, there are old mines that need to be reopened and there are also prospected mining potential.
- There is an existing Muyexe CRDP site that is not functional at this moment.
- There is a new gate to be opened/publicized, which will lead to the Kruger national park (Shangoni gate) in the Giyani intervention area. The opening of this gate will lead to the opening of a lot of tourism opportunities.
- There is a Mopani Worms Processing Plant already planned in the Giyani area, this will help create market opportunities for Mopani worms. At the moment the worms are being collected and sold on a subsistence level, but this needs to be commercialized.
- There are entrance and exit points in the municipal area that need to be taken into cognizance i.e. Modjadjisloof, Goerge’s valley, Strydom tunnel, Nwamitwa, Zumeri, Sekgopo, Sekgosese, Giyani, Mokwakwaila, and Xihoko.
4.11 Spatial Depiction of Niche Products
5 SECTION FIVE - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

In proposing development-oriented interventions in Mopani, an attempt was made to take into account the DRDP objectives as articulated in the preceding sections, as well as the findings from the status quo analysis. This provided an opportunity for the formulation of operational strategies that are critical to the realisation of the DRDP objectives. The DRDP objectives are outlined as follows:

Objective 1: Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agriculture sector
Objective 2: Investment in Rural Revitalization
Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements
Objective 4: Improving Tourism Competitiveness
Objective 5: Mining
Objective 6: Conserving the natural environment

5.1 Objective 1: Improving productivity & Competitiveness of the agricultural sector

While Mopani is known for its abundance of wildlife - including the Big 5 - craggy mountains and cascading waterfalls, there is the potential for agriculture in the area which is likely to create jobs for many people residing in the district’s towns and villages. The pressing need for agricultural development should be underscored by a sound appreciation and conservation of the environment and natural capital. Areas around Tzaneen are processing marula oil; therefore, they can be recognized as the processing hub for marula oil. In addition to that there are five facilities in the area that test the marula oil for bugs.

5.1.1 Development Action 1: Optimising the potential of Agri-parks

Agri-parks provide a unique opportunity for the realisation of transformative agricultural development and rural economic transformation in Mopani and beyond. The three components of Agri-parks i.e. Farmer Production Support Units (FPSU), the Agri-hub (AH), and the Rural Urban Market Centre Unit (RUMC) allow for targeted financial, intellectual and infrastructural investment in agricultural development in Mopani. To this end, Agri-parks are presented in this district rural development plan as providing a holistic developmental action for agrarian reform and agri-business development. It is recommended that:
• The Tzaneen Agri-hub as a production, equipment hire, processing, packaging, logistics and training unit, be utilised for strengthening the agricultural commodity value-chain in the entire Mopani district municipality;
• Development of Agri-villages around Dingamanzi and Kokong;
• Provision of agricultural related infrastructure in settlements and villages around Tzaneen, Giyani and Phalaborwa;
• It is suggested that the Farmer Production Support Units (FPSUs) be located close to Greater Letaba, Giyani and Trichardtsdal;
• Identification of new commodities and markets based on Mopani’s competitive and comparative advantages;
• Access to market for Mopani’s unique commodities such as Marula Tree and Mopani worms;
• Access to funding for investment in new machinery and equipment, as well as agriculture and conservation-related research and development (R&D).

5.1.2 Development Action 2: Supporting small-scale farmers

• Improvement of the irrigation schemes through, among other things, investment in irrigation infrastructure to benefit small scale farmers.
• Strengthening/Promoting the participation of small-scale farmers in the Agri-park concept.
• The provision of agricultural implements, seeds, fertilisers as well as irrigation equipment to small-scale farmers.

5.1.3 Developmental Action 3: Optimising the use of high agricultural potential land

• Land claims to be fast-tracked on high agriculture-capable land
• More state-owned land to be made available for agricultural use

5.2 Objective 2: Investment in Rural Revitalisation

Rural revitalisation is critical for the provision of physical and social infrastructure that can allow for the creation of socio-spatial and economic linkages between urban nodes and the rural hinterlands. Integrated rural development is dependent on the strength of economic, social and technological relations between economic nodes such as Tzaneen, Giyani and Phalaborwa as well as the townships and villages surrounding them. To this end, the economic functionality of
the Mopani district must take into account the flow of goods and capital as well as the movement of people within and between urban and rural spaces. The following operational strategies are therefore proposed:

5.2.1 Development Action 1: Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and Villages

- Rural town revitalisation projects must be implemented in all major towns. The renewal of these towns is important as it provides them with an opportunity to attract local and global investments of a financial, business and human capital nature.
- Township revitalisation – projects for the entire district must be implemented to allow for infrastructural investments as well as the provision of basic services such as water, electricity, and decent housing. As rural townships continue to grow, their revitalisation will attract more skilled people, as well as other forms of investment;
- Village revitalisation – projects must be implemented in all densely populated villages. The focus of these projects must be on the provision of water, electricity and other social services critical for the improvement of the quality of life, in accordance with the NDP;
- Develop village place-making and/or branding strategy – this is important as it promotes rural spaces as livable and marketable places that can attract investment, skills and tourism.
- Some of the towns that need to be revitalized include; Sekororo, Hoedspruit, The Oaks, Gravelotte, Ga-modjadji and Giyani.

5.2.2 Development Action 2: Identification of sustainable green energy sources for rural industrialisation and development

With numerous rural development projects underway in Mopani, it is necessary to ensure that;

- Sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms are put in place for all rural development green energy oriented projects;
- Fostering of inter-governmental and inter-departmental coordination of rural development projects for strategic harmonisation and alignment of efforts;
- Consideration of various forms of renewable energy including solar projects, hydro power and micro wind
5.2.3 Development Action 3: Investment in Physical Infrastructure

- The state of the road infrastructure reflects on the development of the region. Due to the potential for development of the district through tourism, road infrastructure is a necessity in the district. Most of the gravel roads in the district are not maintained regularly and do not have route names, nor appropriate road signs. Most importantly, fencing along the routes has been removed, resulting in the wandering of wild animals onto the roads. Most of the affected areas are found around Greater Tzaneen (Boyne/Sedan areas) and Greater Giyani (Nkomo and Matsosela areas) Municipalities. There is a lack of access bridges (Marulang municipality), and they have tarred roads that require storm water drainage. There is need for expansion and maintenance of the Ivory tourism route from Giyani into the Kruger National Park so that it can be viable and support tourism. This route links the Giyani Business centre along the R81 through Punda Maria gate of the Kruger National Park; furthermore it is a famous ivory tourism route.

Below is the table which shows priority roads that need to be upgraded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROAD NO.</th>
<th>ROAD PARTICULARS</th>
<th>KM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D3634, D3778, D3753, D3718</td>
<td>Giyani to Nkuri to Malonga to Hanani to Tshimbulpe to Vuwani to Thohoyandou</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1350</td>
<td>Moruji to Matswe (Deerpark to Moruji to Matswe)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3810</td>
<td>Thomo/Altein (Shangoni KNP gate) to Khakhala to Gawula to Mahlathi to Ndindani to Hlomela to Phalauben to Mbaula to Phalaborwa</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3249, D3248, D3175</td>
<td>Nkambako to Nwajaheni to Mandlhakazi to Deerpark to Tzaneen</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3180, D3837</td>
<td>Sikiming to Bembula to Nkomo(Mojadji - Mokwakwaila-Bembula-Nkomo)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3202, D3198, D3200, D3242, D3205, D3820, D3164</td>
<td>Constatia (D1267) to Marogoma to Ga Wale to Mawa to Lebaka to Jamela to Msengi to Olifantheoek</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3186</td>
<td>Mavele to Moruji</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3246, D3186, D3198, D3187, D3849, D3847, D3982</td>
<td>Nwamitwa to Mavele to Xhoko to Gawale to Gamokgwathi to Dzumeri to Mushiyani to Makhua</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3770, D3771, D2009, D3878, D3898</td>
<td>Rita/Tickyline to Burgerdorp to Juliesburg/Rhulani to Hevenito Balloon to Sekororo</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3880, D4163, D3870</td>
<td>Lenyenye to Thabina to Mogobo ya to lephephane to Khujwane</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3800</td>
<td>Mphambo to Mninginisi to Muyexe</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Provision of roads, rail, freight and ICT infrastructure that can foster intra and inter-district connectivity and mobility within and beyond the Mopani district. Improving access to communication technology, and harnessing the use of new media for promoting urban-rural business interactions and innovation.
- Development of a technology park to foster innovation

5.2.4 Developmental Action 4: Restoration of existing manufacturing plants/ factories

- Conduct assessment study on the viability of the manufacturing plants
- Develop business case and source funding
- Source partners in the development and refurbishment of factories

5.3 Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements

Following the recommendations set out in Chapter 8 of the NDP, there is a need for Mopani to fast-track the provision of adequate public amenities such as schools, clinics, community centres and recreational facilities. Moreover, the provision of water and sanitation has been identified as a priority for the district municipality. The condition of schools in the district municipality has been raised as a major concern which needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, the use of pit latrines is still prevalent in the area and the sooner this is addressed, the better for the communities residing in Mopani.

5.3.1 Development Action 1: Reduction of service delivery backlogs

The provision of adequate municipal infrastructure remains a challenge throughout the district. Most people in the district use pit latrines and most of the populace do not have sanitary
services, especially in the Greater Giyani households. Greater Letaba has high usage of pit latrines. The majority of the households in Ba Phalaborwa do not have access to piped water. On the whole, to address service backlogs there is need for:

- Monitoring of water services backlogs and the development of a water infrastructure plan;
- Installation of new sanitation connections to households;
- Social institutions such as schools, clinics, police stations, Thusong Centres and community halls;
- Improving the Public Transport Network.
- Electrification projects;
- Housing projects;
- Adopting a district-wide Public Transport Network.

5.3.2 Development Action 2: Promoting integrated rural spatial planning

- Strengthening, and monitoring of IDP, SDF and LED implementation processes;
- Standardising land use management and administration thereof across the district municipality, in order to address existing inconsistencies;

5.4 Objective 4: Improving Tourism Competitiveness

5.4.1 Development Action 1: Harnessing the cultural heritage development corridors

- Promotion of the Great Trans frontier Park corridor, as a means of growing the tourism sector in the district;
- Development of tourism-related activities in townships and villages to allow for broad-based participation in this sector, with a specific focus on the participation of women and youth;
- Harnessing the pristine natural environment in and around Mopani to boost eco-tourism;
- Develop village place-making and/or branding strategy – this is important as it promotes rural spaces as livable and marketable places that can attract tourism;
- The inclusion of women and youth in tourism-related opportunities, ranging from tour guides to selling of arts & crafts through craft markets that are strategically located to tourist attraction destinations;
- Taking advantage of the proximity of Mopani to the Kruger National Park.
5.4.2 Development Action 2: Coordinated promotion of the Mopani region and its attractions

- Develop tourism brochures and materials
- Train local tourist guides so that they can actively participate in tourism
- Support the development of community and local tourism
- Strengthen the Mopani district heritage council

5.5 Objective 5: Development of the Mining Sector

5.5.1 Development Action 1: Reviving mining operations

- This can be done through the revival of old mines in Giyani;
- Involving women and the youth in any mining beneficiation programmes;
- Small scale mining of sand and gravel to be regulated;
- Monitoring the negative impact that mining operations may have on the environment.

5.6 Objective 6: Conserving the natural environment

5.6.1 Developmental Action 1: Preservation of the natural environment

- Identifying and updating the databases of protected areas, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive areas in the MDM
- Ensure areas with protected status are properly registered accordingly
- Ensure the department of environmental affairs is represented in relevant forums and committees
6 SECTION SIX – SPATIAL RATIONALE

The district rural development plan for Mopani is informed by a functional regional approach. The salience of this approach to rural development rests in its emphasis on the nodal-hinterland economic and socio-spatial linkages. In other words, economic development of Mopani’s villages and rural townships is intrinsically dependent on these places’ linkages with established nodes. A functional region therefore would typically have established nodes as well as areas in need of various forms of intervention from a development perspective.

Functional regions are defined as ‘a spatial economic system, which consist of a number of economically interdependent nodes (centres) of varying sizes and with varying geographical extensions’.47 From a regional economic development perspective, rural districts can be identified as salient platforms for the harnessing of inclusive and sustainable economic development. What renders districts their functionality is the existence and interplay of a range of economic, demographic, infrastructural, cultural and technological flows and linkages. While administrative boundaries are important, the flow of goods, services, capital and people is not confined within these boundaries.

The market potential of a functional region is defined by its economic complexity i.e. the internal and external concentration of a range of economic activities within a functional space. The harnessing of the competitiveness of functional regions is dependent on the optimal utilisation of both internal and external market potential. In instances where niche commodities and/or skills exist within a functional region, value-chain potential ought to be fully nurtured.

It must be noted that different areas within functional regions have different specialisations. In any given functional region, there exist areas with

a) knowledge-intensive business services,

b) land-intensive and

c) transport-accessibility-dependent economic activities.

Thus, while the centre/surrounding areas relations are important within functional regions, there has been a growing observation in regional economics and rural development discourse that

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functional regions are dependent on the existence of a range of centres or regions with varying specialisations. Thus, there exist a range of regions namely:  

- Diverse/composite service regions;
- Specialised service regions;
- Agricultural regions;
- Manufacturing regions; and
- Consumption regions

Labour market characteristics and behaviour within a given functional region are also worth noting. This is intrinsically tied to the population size, density and levels of literacy. Moreover, the commuting patterns of labour from home to work have a direct effect on the economic productivity as well as the quality of life of the labour-force. Thus, functional regions are interconnected, as they defy administrative boundaries. These regions act as critical units for spatial economic analyses. As district rural development plans attempt to transform rural economies, a functional regional approach is likely to provide a more nuanced understanding of rural development.

The identification of the Mopani Diverse functional regions was informed by the following datasets:

- population count per settlement as the considerable contributing factor as well as other aspects which incorporates;
- population growth and decline,
- accessibility index,
- economic investment areas
- proximity to agriculture-related infrastructure
- Strategically Located Land Index
- Departmental Projects

Tzaneen is a main regional centre in the district and has been recognised as a district gateway. Giyani town has also been identified as a district gateway with Phalaborwa town being a tourism gateway. Gateways allow or necessitate network to and from different settlements with both movements of goods and services. Hoedspruit with extensive agricultural activities has also been identified as a diverse functional region.

_________________________________________________________________

48 Ibid.
The maps overleaf show the spatial distribution of various transport, and agricultural infrastructure as well as various commodities which were considered in locating diverse functional regions and subsequently Intervention areas. Proximity to such commodities, infrastructure and government projects (RID, REID, CASP projects, CDRP sites) contributed significantly in the selection of intervention areas, supplemented by the population count within an area. On the whole, development needs to be implemented where there are people.
Map 14: Population Growth/Decline & Projects
Map 15: Active Mines and Mining Commodities
Map 16: Conservation Areas
Map 18: Agricultural Potential
Map 20: Diverse Functional Regions & Intervention Areas
7 SECTION SEVEN - MOPANI FUNCTIONAL REGIONS AND INTERVENTION AREAS

7.1 DFR1 GIYANI FUNCTIONAL REGION

Giyani is the center of attraction in the functional region with a lot of public services such as malls, shopping centers, government offices and education facilities. People from intervention areas 1 and 2 rely on Giyani for services mentioned above.

The town still needs a lot of revitalization in order to be able to sustain itself economically. Giyani was the headquarters for the previous Gazankulu homeland regime and a lot of people still rely on it for public services. Mopani district offices and Giyani municipality offices are located in this area. Giyani is surrounded by a lot of rural areas that need a lot of intervention in terms of services since they are poverty stricken. The rural areas are selected as intervention areas.
Map 21: Functional Region 1
7.1.1 Intervention Area 1: Muyexe and Surrounding Villages

These are the areas on the north, northeast and west of Giyani area. The villages are scattered with a variety of resources that need to be resuscitated in order to alleviate poverty.

- The intervention area links to Vhembe district on the north and Kruger national park on the east. There is new gate to be opened/publicized which will lead to Kruger national park (Shangoni gate) in the Giyani functional region. The opening of this gate will lead to the opening of a lot of tourism opportunities.

- Muyexe, Mapayeni, Nwazekuzeku and Homu are some of the villages in the area just to mention a few. There is a smallholder irrigation scheme in the area and the availability of a dam can help in starting irrigation on crops which do not require much water since this area is an arid area.

- The potential of the area can be realized by utilizing the Mopani worm which is a source of food that can be harvested and sold as a source of income.

- Giyani has potential for mining as there are old mines that need to be reopened and there is also prospected mining potential.

- There is an existing Muyexe CRDP site that is an initiative from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform which is not functional at the moment and needs to be functionalized for it to operate further.
Map 22: Intervention Area 1
7.1.1.1 Commodities and Niche Products

The intervention area has some commodities or niche products that if harnessed can be beneficial to the local communities.

a) Agriculture

There are agricultural schemes along the perennial rivers that are abandoned and they need to be revitalized so that they can enter the mainstream economy. Most of them produce vegetables and grain products, which are sold to the local markets. Water scarcity and related infrastructure is one of the problems that have led to the collapse of the schemes.

Hudson Ntsanwisi dam needs to be utilized fully to provide water to the schemes since there are plenty of irrigation schemes in the area.

In terms of animal farming, there is an existing opportunity for animal farming but it is still conducted in a subsistence way. A typical example of thriving red meat business is Gaza beef/abattoir although it is privately owned. If the similar model is followed wherein cooperatives are created and farmers sell their animals, it will create a proper and thriving rural economy.

b) Mining

There are many mines that closed down and that led to loss of plenty of jobs for the local people. There is therefore need for feasibility studies to be conducted in order to ascertain if mining can still be revitalized. In addition, there are a lot of minerals prospected in the intervention area that need to be taken further.

c) Tourism

Proximity to Kruger national park makes this area to have high tourism potential. The intervention area must take advantage of the proximity and come up with skills and projects that are compatible with the national park. Shangoni gate which leads to the park needs to be opened for the public and it will therefore attract a lot of investment and business. Tourists will support local business such as guesthouses, lodges, and man-made sculptures.

d) Mopani worms

- Mopani worms are some of the special commodities in the intervention area although there is still a challenge in terms of marketing them. There is a greater opportunity for the
commodity to enter into the mainstream economy. At this moment it is still used in a subsistence manner although there is a greater possibility for commercializing it. However, the municipality has taken an initiative to construct a Mopani worm in Dzumeri village which is not operational at this moment due to administration and management reasons. There is need for feasibility studies to be conducted on the operation of the facility as well as harvesting and storage and processing of the worms in other areas of the district. Mopani Worm programme can be implemented throughout the district and not necessarily localized in Dzumeri of which that will benefit numerous people in the district.

Mopani worms are harvested in the areas close to Kruger National Park by the local community from a Mopani tree. There is a hidden market for this commodity which needs to be tapped into in order to enhance the local economy. So far individuals harvest the worms and sell them to the local markets in the towns and also to the households. If the commodity is well researched and marketed, there could be a greater unique opportunity in the mainstream economy. The research concerned with farming Mopani worms included innovative and inventive methods for breeding, harvesting, processing and storage. Breeding and harvesting strategies need to be developed to increase production and stabilize the periodical harvest yields as well as maintain the wild population levels. Processing and storage techniques aimed to improve the quality of the product and thus potentially increase the financial return from the sale of high quality Mopani worms.

7.1.1.2 Proximity to the Agri-Park and FPSU

There is an existing Muyexe CRDP site that can be used as an FPSU to support surrounding villages.
7.1.1.3 **Challenges**

- Water scarcity that led to collapse of the schemes
- Abandoned agricultural schemes
- Absence of skills and capacity to local farmers
- Closed mines that need revitalization
- Poor condition access roads
- Illegal sand mining along the rivers

7.1.2 **Intervention Area 2: Dzingidzingi, Dingamanzi, Jokong, Ndengedza, Siyandani and surrounding villages**

This area includes Dzingidzingi, Dingamanzi, Jokong, Ndengedza, Siyandani and the surrounding villages. The region is in close proximity to Giyani, which is a district gateway on the Western side. The villages are along R 81 road from Mooketsi and also along R 578 to Elim. It is well serviced by transport infrastructure as it is close to Kruger National Park. Skills development opportunities in relation to art may provide a source of income for the community through the marketing of man-made sculptures to tourists. This intervention area is close to REID projects.

7.1.2.1 **Commodities**

a) **Agriculture**

There is large portion of farms lying fallow and underutilized. The farms were known to produce a lot of products to the market and they had employed a lot of local people. However, due to administrative and resources reasons such as water scarcity, the schemes were abandoned. The schemes are at Maswanganyi, Bobe and Dzingidzingi villages along R 578 road. They need a lot of attention since they can revive the economy of the area. The existence of middle Letaba dam on the west of the scheme can help extensively in providing water to the community.

Similarly, animal farming especially cattle farming has a hidden potential which needs to be unveiled in order to participate in the mainstream economy.
b) Mining

There are many mines that closed down and that led to loss of plenty of jobs for the local people. For example, Gold mines in Siyandani and Mencisi village that has closed needs revitalization and further research. There is therefore need for feasibility studies to be conducted in order to ascertain if the mining can still be revitalized. In addition, there are a lot of minerals prospected in the intervention area that need to be taken further.

Small-scale mining such as sand mining still poses an environmental threat to the environment. It needs to be regulated and managed properly.
Map 23: Intervention Area 2
7.1.2.2 Proximity to the Agri-Hub and FPSU

The intervention area is 85 km away from the proposed Kgapane/Modjadji FPSU and approximately 105 km away from Mosopatsela Agri-Park in Tzaneen. The functional region does not have an FPSU but it is still feasible for it to share or use the FPSU in Kgapane village.

Dzingidzingi FPSU

Dzingidzingi village is located approximately 5km west of Giyani town along the R578 road to Elim and close to the junction. The proposed FPSU will boost the local farmers with services especially along the 578 road. This will assist in reviving the farms that are lying fallow and abandoned.
Challenges

- Abandoned agricultural schemes
- Water scarcity
- Lack of farming skills and infrastructure
- Sand mining
- Stock theft and roaming stock on the roads leading to accidents
- Under-utilised Monane worm factory in Dzumeri

7.1.2.3 In loco projects visited

a) Mopani worms processing plant

There is a Mopani Worms Processing Plant in Dzumeri area which is not functional due to the scarcity of Mopani worms. The building is lying unused. It is therefore suggested that instead of channelling it to single use, it must be used for multipurpose since the worms are seasonal. There is a need for operationalizing the Mopani worms in the area so that they can be linked with the market and mainstream economy. At this moment the worms are being collected and sold at subsistence scale; however, they need to be commercialized.
b) Giyani stone crusher
This facility used to be operational and it had appointed more than 60 people but it collapsed, leading to loss of jobs. At this moment, there is a new investor who is in the process of resuscitating it so that it can be operational. This will therefore have positive impact in creating employment to people.

![Giyani stone crushers project in a state of rehabilitation in IA2](image)

c) Giyani Essential oils
The project has been there for years and the main function is the production of ointments oils, mosquito repellents candles, olive oils and other by-products. The only challenge they have is that the facility is currently using boreholes as a source of water and when they do not have electricity, production stops and that affects output. The facility has appointed a lot of people and this has had an impact on the creation of job opportunities.

d) Oyster mushroom and Bee keeping project
The project is no longer operational and people have lost jobs. The infrastructure is currently used for a local crèche. According to the municipality, the project will no longer proceed since the proposed activity is not feasible. The buildings should therefore be used for something to benefit the community.
e) Maswanganyi, Bode and Dzingidzingi farms
This is a belt of farms in Hlaneki and Dzingidzingi area that are lying fallow. The farms were once functional but due to water scarcity problems, they are now abandoned. The area has a lot of potential but there is a need for infrastructure development. There is a dam close-by which can be used to provide water to the farms and revive the production. The farms are also under the land claims process and this also has impact on the future of the farms.

f) Mencisi Gold mine
The mine used to be active but it has collapsed due to water shortage amongst other problems. There are buildings in the premises that are dilapidated and some are used for accommodation. Revitalization of the mine will provide employment to the people and also boost the local economy. Other related projects that have closed down are Siyandani quarry and Xikukwani mining. There are prospected mining potential in the Homu 14 area (birthday mines).

g) Sisal project
There is a sisal project just outside Giyani town that is lying fallow and the farm is bushy. Sisal was supplied to a lot of areas and the farm is now abandoned and that has affected production and employment opportunities.

h) Gaza Beef
This is one of the successful projects in Giyani, amongst others, and it has employed a lot of people, although it is private.
i) Homu Banana Agriculture Scheme

This is one of the schemes that are not functioning properly. The scheme has infrastructure; it only needs to be revitalized and funded. Water shortage is one of the challenges for the survival of the scheme.

7.1.2.4 Survival Strategies

The following are the strategies for survival in the entire area:

- Subsistence farming
- Brick yards and sand delivery
- Chicken farms projects
- Irrigation schemes
- Mopani worms (seasonal)
- Informal trading
- Selling of firewood

7.2 DFR2 TZANEEN FUNCTIONAL REGION

Tzaneen is the regional centre for the district and it serves the entire district with services and resources. The Agri-Park (Mosopatsela) for the district is located 7km east of Tzaneen town and there is land already reserved for such activity. Tzaneen itself is already capacitated in terms of infrastructure development and other resources. The Agri-Park is well located as it accessible
and is supported by FPSU in the intervention areas. The functional region has more villages on the Northeast and southeast and it has many

Tzaneen is a large town in a fertile region with tropical and subtropical agriculture taking place in a 20,000 km² region. About 650,000 people reside within a 30 km radius with the town itself holding a population of around 30,000.

The Tzaneen area is a subtropical paradise filled with indigenous and exotic plants. Tzaneen itself lies peacefully at the foot of the northern Drakensberg Mountains in the heart of a forestry area and in South Africa's richest sub-tropical fruit-farming region.

It is an attractive subtropical garden town with a colourful profusion of indigenous and exotic plants, and the 'capital' of the picturesque Letaba district. The valley of Tzaneen yields Valencia oranges and grapefruit (such as Star Ruby). Bananas and macadamia nuts are also common crops in the area with the town producing the majority of the country's mangoes, avocado pears, paw-paws, tea and coffee.

Additionally, the town contributes substantially to the total production of timber, citrus and litchis inter alia. The surrounding mountain slopes are heavily forested with pine and blue gum plantations and close on forty sawmills operate in the area. Tzaneen is the second largest town in Limpopo and accommodates some 80,000 residents while serving close on 650,000 people within a radius of 30 km.
7.2.1 Intervention Area 3: Ga-Modjadji, Malubana, and Budza

This area encompasses numerous settlements including Ga-Modjadji, Senwamokgope, Malubana and Budza, just to mention a few. The land in the area has high potential for agricultural activities and the settlements are close to a REID project which can be channelled in fostering development in the area. Ga- Modjadji is a proposed site for an FPSU which can assist in the realization of the agricultural potential of the area.

- This intervention area is defined and structured by its natural topography. This is evident in the Ga-Modjadi area and surrounding villages.
- Accessibility in certain areas is a challenge due to the quality of the existing road infrastructure which consists of a combination of semi-tarred and gravel roads.
- Clear distinctions exist in terms of the socio-economic outlook of the area with a mixture of small informal dwelling units and formal well-built dwelling units. However, the area exemplifies the typical socio-economic profile of rural areas with disjointed economic opportunities and a fairly unplanned development pattern.
- The provision of basic services includes electricity and water through water tankers stationed at strategic points in the area. The nature of the terrain however makes it difficult for certain households to carry drums of water to their dwelling units.
- Social amenities identified include a local clinic and a few schools.
- The Matswi Dam in the immediate area is characterized by the presence of economic opportunities including an active informal market (fruit and vegetable stalls), fuel station; formal locally scaled shops and the availability of public transportation.
- Distinct activities include a fully functional Poultry Farm and land availability in close proximity to the nodal cluster.
- The area between the Poultry Farm (Phakhati Depot and Koope Layer farm and Matswi Dam) is ideal for FSPU development due to its strategic location and proximity to existing agricultural and economic activities. In addition, the FPSU will benefit from good access and centrality within the intervention area.
- The Greater Letaba Municipality SDF has identified the area around the Matswi Dam as a potential recreational area and subsequently conducted a feasibility study.
Tourism and cultural areas need to be marketed and supported further e.g. the Modjadji Nature reserve (cycad), Modjadji Kraal, Balobedu ruins, and Manukwe cave which is approximately 7km long.

7.2.1.1 Mokwakwaila Village

- The Mokwakwaila area plays a critical local function as a central point for activities in the intervention area.
- The area has a proposed township development that translates into a potential higher population threshold area necessary to support any future development interventions in the area.
- Activities identified during the ground truthing inspections include:
  - Operational market stalls (Part of the Mopani District Poverty Alleviation Programme)
  - A taxi rank
  - A Thusong multi-purpose Centre
  - A Stadium
  - Satellite office for the municipality
- The provision of the above-mentioned activities on the periphery of the settlement is a challenge in terms of access and convenience.
- The potential of the area is evident based on existing activities.
- Agricultural activities in the area are largely small scale and subsistence in nature.
The area is on the African ivory route, which is meant to enhance tourism.
Map 26: Matswi Dam and Schemes along it
Map 27: Modjadji Settlement with an Existing Shopping Area and Community Projects
Map 28: Mokwakwaila Municipal Node
7.2.1.2 Mohlabaneng Area

- Mohlabaneng area includes a mixture of housing typologies following a similar development pattern as the Mokwakwaila area.
- Poor road infrastructure presents a challenge to access in the area and all other areas in the intervention area in general.
- Economic opportunities are few and far between with the major economic areas of Modjadjeskloof and Tzaneen not in close proximity.
- The available local scaled nodal point in the area is the intersection of the R81 and the route to Mohlabaneng. The area has a composition of activities including a fuelling station, informal markets, and an RDP settlement and therefore should be considered for intervention due to its strategic prominence.
- The fertility of the soil also presents opportunities through agricultural investment and the potential of an FPSU taking into account all the aforementioned issues.
- Traffic from Modjadjeskloof and the Tzaneen area have direct access to the nodal point.
- There is an existing Market stall in the Maphalle area that is being renovated. Local people sell fruits from the local farms. The stalls are located next to a taxi rank that hosts taxis to Modjadji, Giyani and Rotterdam.

![Market stalls in Maphalle area selling products from local farms](image)

7.2.1.3 CRDP site

There is an existing CRDP site in the intervention area at Sekgoti, Lenokwe, Modjadji and Mohlala villages. This will help in bringing up infrastructure development, supporting and boosting the rural economy.
7.2.2 Commodities in the Intervention Area

a) Agriculture
Crop farming is one if the commodities dominant in the intervention area both commercial and subsistence. Availability of rivers and dams such as Matswi makes it possible for crop farming to be taken forward. There are many schemes that need to be supported through running and operating capital and infrastructure. The dominant crops are maize, tomatoes, potatoes and onions and they are transported to the close markets in Tzaneen and the surrounding areas.

b) Tourism
There are existing tourism potentials in the area that need to be marketed further so that they can boost the local economy. Tourism and cultural activities need to be marketed and supported further e.g. the Modjadji Nature reserve (cycad), Modjadji Kraal, Balobedu ruins, and Manukwe cave, which is approximately 7km long. There is a need for further research on each tourism activity.

7.2.2.1 Proximity to the Agri-Hub and FPSU
There is a proposed unit in the intervention area that needs to be erected in order to support the local farmers.

Kgapane/Modjadji FPSU
The intervention area has an FPSU which acts as a feeder to the Agri-Park in Tzaneen. Furthermore, the FPSU will assist the local farmers with services such as skills, capacity, marketing and other services. The locality of the unit is strategic since it will assist farmers who cannot access the market and Agri-Park. The FPSU is approximately 35km away from the Agri-Park located in Tzaneen.
7.2.2.2 Challenges

- Topography of the area leading to poor road conditions and water scarcity
- Abandoned agricultural schemes
- Tourism areas not sufficiently marketed
- Delays in land claims

7.2.3 Intervention Area 4

Settlements in the area include Burgersdorp and Moime with a population of over 5 000, New-Coop Thabina, Hovheni and Gabaza just to mention a few. The accessibility Index shows that there is an opportunity to develop the area. The region has 9 smallholder irrigation schemes that are close to some restitution claims and land reform programme. The perennial river channel can necessitate the development of more irrigation schemes in order to increase agricultural activity and assist in alleviating poverty in the area. The area is close to two active mines which can provide employment or other initiatives that can be undertaken, by which the mines plough back to the nearby communities from a developmental perspective.

- The intervention area is home to Mopani District Moshupatsela Agri-Hub site located along R71 route 9km east of Tzaneen town. The site measures approximately 2000Ha in extent and is strategically located adjacent to the regional route linking the economic node of Tzaneen to outlying areas such as Phalaborwa and Hoedspruit. Existing infrastructure on the site includes a dilapidated Atchar processing facility together with old disused warehouses.
- In close proximity to the Agri-Park site is the Nkowankowa Industrial Park that has been earmarked by the DTI for revitalization. The area has experienced capital / investment flight over the years with a notable portion of factories lying vacant and in ruins.
- Existing activities in the industrial site include a number of milling sites such as the Letaba Milling which work directly with local farmers in terms of processing and packaging raw crops produced within local agricultural schemes.
- Communities identified in the intervention area include a combination of low and middle-income households residing in Dani Village. The community undertakes limited agricultural activities but can boost the economy by further utilising the groundnut farming in the region which can potentially be viewed as a nichè activity within the area.
The Khujwana area north of the intervention area features mostly barren land parcels with existing agricultural activities in the form of cabbage farming (Khujwana Agricultural Scheme). From the site inspection, it can be concluded that the soil in the area is not ideal for farming. One of the challenges highlighted by officials is lack of fencing to clearly demarcate agricultural schemes.

A Community Development Workers (CDW) initiative was also identified within the area which focuses on promoting small agricultural activities in an effort to empower the local community.

The New Corp agricultural scheme present in the area provides a more positive outlook through its fertile land. The predominant activity is crop farming which is primarily subsistence based. Lack of water was also acknowledged as an issue that is hindering development and agricultural expansion in the area.

The Lepepane and Thabina Agricultural Schemes both provide an opportunity for further investment due to their ideal soil potential. Activities supported in the schemes vary and can open doors for agricultural diversification in the area.

Mining activities in the area focus mainly on titanium, copper and illuminate within the Tivhani Mine.

Key issues identified in the intervention area are lack of water, lack of farming infrastructure, limited/poor connectivity between areas and the lack of functional public transportation in certain areas.

There is a dilapidated sisal factory that has been abandoned. According to the information received, the factory was very successful, even overseas companies used to come and collect Sisal for different uses. The facility has shut down and approximately 300 people have lost jobs. The factory needs to be revamped and renovated since it can create jobs and assist in curbing poverty.
Map 29: Intervention Area 4
Map 30: Abandoned Sisal Project that Needs Refurbishment
Map 31: Agricultural Schemes in Khujwana Area
7.2.3.1 Commodities

a) Agriculture

The area has a vast opportunity in crop farming and it has high rate of rainfall throughout the season. The area already has infrastructure close-by in Tzaneen, Nkowankowa and Khujwana. Crop farming is the dominant form of agriculture in the intervention area and the majority of crops are Grain (Maize), Vegetables (cabbage) and Mango. There is an existing Atchar factory in the area that harvests mangoes from the local farmers and convert them into products such as Atchar and juice. There is also maize storage that assist farmers in storing their maize. However, there are still challenges in terms of the operation of the schemes since most of them are facing challenges such as poor infrastructure, lack of administration skills and lack of support from government.

The area had agricultural infrastructure existing but it has dilapidated because of poor maintenance hence there is a need for further maintenance and revitalization.

Sisal is one of the products that used to be planted in the area and there was a factory that assisted factories wanting to make their products. The collapse of the factory and plantation has led to the loss of jobs.

b) Mining

There is also gold mining belt in the intervention area that needs to be further researched on regarding its feasibility. Platinum, Titanium and Copper are the prospected minerals in the area.

7.2.3.2 Linkage with the FPSU and Agri-Hub

The area is close to the Agri-Park in Tzaneen area so there is a greater linkage with the Agri-Park. The Agri-Park will also assist the local farmers in getting services such as skills, marketing, knowledge and other elements. The intervention area has a lot of infrastructure as compared to other intervention areas and it is accessible via R71, R 36 and R 529 roads. The other access roads need to be tarred or maintained regularly.

7.2.3.3 Challenges

- Abandoned sisal project
- Poor roads linking the commodities to the markets
- Poor agricultural infrastructure
- Dilapidated infrastructure calling for renovations and revamping
7.3 DFR3 PHARABORWA FR

Phalaborwa is a town situated in Mopani District Municipality, Limpopo province in South Africa. It is located near the confluence of Ga-Selati River and the Olifants, halfway up along the eastern border of Kruger National Park in Lowveld. Phalaborwa, Limpopo, South Africa is situated within walking distance of the

Phalaborwa Kruger Park Gateway is definitely the most beautiful airport with lovely sceneries and is in itself a great tourist attraction. Phalaborwa is the wildlife hub of Limpopo, South Africa and is surrounded by all kinds of game farms, lodges and nature reserves.

The Olifants river winds its way past Phalaborwa through Klasserie Nature Reserve (an area of 62 500ha) and into Kruger National Park. Along this river, all the game can be seen, including the Big 5. Beside the Big 5, the Olifants river, being home to an abundance of water creatures and a variety of birds, is another tourist attraction.
Map 33: Functional Region 3
7.3.1 Intervention Area 6: Humulani, Nondweni, Mahale, Matiko-Xikaya, Priska and Selwane amongst others

This intervention area includes Humulani, Nondweni, Mahale, Matiko-Xikaya and Selwane amongst others. The existence of the development node for copper mining in Phalaborwa can be a significant factor in the development of the area, and can act as a source of employment. The area is within close proximity to REID and RID projects and this can go a long way in uplifting the socio-economic wellbeing of the people in the settlements. Phalaborwa, as a tourism gateway can allow for small enterprise trades which can sell art and sculpture to tourists. However, this potential needs to be realised by promoting skill development in arts.

7.3.1.1 Matiko-Xikaya

- The socio-economic profile of the area can be described as constituting low income households with clear employment challenges, lack of investment and community empowerment programs.
- Access to water is through water tanks with no bulk water supply system in place. In other areas, public standpipes are provided.
- The economic commodity focus of the areas revolves around the abundance of the Marula tree which is widely used for numerous goods. From an economic standpoint, this commodity should be strategically managed and used to empower and uplift the local community.
- Public amenities in the area include numerous schools and crèches. There is an absence of other critical amenities such as clinics and community halls. It was highlighted during the site visitation that a Thusong Centre can greatly improve the socio-economic outlook of the area given the existing status quo of limited services.

A site for a Thusong centre and a proposed shopping centre at Metz has been identified. However, there has been no intervention by the municipality and traditional leaders to date.
Map 35: Selwane Agricultural Schemes
7.3.1.2 Selwane, Priska-Eiland area

The area is approximately 45km north of Phalaborwa toward Giyani.

- The Selwane area constitutes 40 – 50 functional irrigation schemes with a diverse agricultural focus.
- The absence of quality road infrastructure is serious constraint in terms of having access to the area and the delivery of products by local farmers to processing centres.
- Current irrigation schemes contribute significantly towards the empowerment of local communities and in women in particular (200 + women currently employed in the irrigation schemes).
- External support for local farmers is through the Department of Agriculture which provides seeds and other start-up products. However, lack of farming infrastructure remains a clear challenge in the area.
- The area is well catered for in terms of water provision. However, sanitation infrastructure is absent with households still utilizing the pit latrine system.
- It was indicated that subsistence farming activities in the area are straining the local water supply due to high water usage that directly impacts the local irrigation schemes.
- Farmers use diesel engines to pump water from the river to the schemes. The average consumption of a diesel engine is 350 litres per day and they obtain diesel approximately 45km away in Gravelotte or Namakgale.
- There are also abundant Mopani worms in the area which need to be marketed further.
7.3.1.3 Commodities and Niches

a) Agriculture
Crop production is dominant in the northern part of the intervention area in Selwane and Prieska villages. The crops that are produced are Peppa dew, tomatoes, Maize, cucumbers and other vegetables. The products are transported to local markets in Phalaborwa and even Tzaneen. Roads conditions are the greatest challenges hindering the marketing of products in this area.

b) Mopani worms
Mopani worms are found in bulk in this intervention area and the intervention area is closer to the Mopani worms plant in Dzumeri village so the plant is in an ideal location for marketing of the worm.

Mopani Worms (Imbrasia Belina) are edible emperor moth caterpillars which are widely used both as a protein food and as a source of income for the rural poor in the district municipality especially in the far eastern part of the intervention area. Despite the widespread utilization of naturally occurring wild populations of Mopani worms, farming methods and sustainable use of this potential mini-livestock had not been developed.

The local community harvests Mopani worms in the areas close to Kruger National Park. There
is a hidden market with this commodity which needs to be tapped into in order to enhance the local economy. So far individuals harvest the worms and sell them to the local markets in the towns and also to the households. If the commodity is well researched and marketed, there could be a greater unique opportunity in the mainstream economy. The research concerned with farming Mopani worms included innovative and inventive methods of breeding, harvesting, processing and storage. Breeding and harvesting strategies need to be developed to increase production and stabilize the periodical harvest yields as well as maintain the wild population levels. Processing and storage techniques aimed to improve the quality of the product and thus potentially increase the financial return from the sale of high quality Mopani worms.

c) Marula tree

This is one of the commodities dominant in the Mopani region especially on the northeastern part of the district. The commodity is well known for making Marula beer which is known in the province entirely and the government is trying to make initiatives about promoting the beer. There is an annual event for Marula beer in Mopani region held in Phalaborwa area. However, there is still little done in terms of making the beer a commodity that will benefit the rural communities. There is need for further research on how to make Marula a commodity that will enter the mainstream economy. Apart from the beer, the nut inside the seed is known for making oils and ointments.

Marula wood has been traditionally used for carving pestles and mortars, bowls, drums, beehives and stools and even canoes in some areas. During colonial times it was even used for tomato boxes and toilet seats. Marula is protected in communal lands under the local chiefs. Because of its leafy foliage and shade-bearing size, it is popular with villages for local meetings and often in a ploughed field will be the only tree left standing. Marula tree is often the spiritual centre for ritual activity in kraals and villages.

d) Tourism

The intervention area borders Kruger national park on the east and this makes the area to have greater advantage in as far as tourism is concerned. People in the area benefit from the national park and other subsidiary activities in the closer range.

Tourism and wildlife play a dominant role in the life of this town. It is the only town in South Africa that borders Kruger National Park while Mozambique border is only two hours drive away. Lately, with the incorporation of various private game reserves into the conservancy area,
Phalaborwa is all but enclaved by nature conservancies.

Nearby natural attractions are Blyde River, Canyon, Rondavels, God's Window and Bourke's Luck Potholes in Mpumalanga province. Tzaneen fruit farms and Hoedspruit game farms can all be visited within a day.

e) Mining

There is little evidence for mining in the intervention area although there are mining activities happening in the Phalaborwa area. Most of the people work for the mining companies in the Phalaborwa area.

7.3.1.4 Proximity to the Agri-Hub and FPSU

Ga-Selwane FPSU

Ga-Selwane is proposed as a host for the FPSU in the Phalaborwa functional region. The FPSU is selected due to the irrigation schemes along the Ritavi river. The presence of the unit in the area will unlock the potential in the area and boost farmers in towns of the skills.
Challenges

- Poor road conditions
- Lack of support in the agricultural schemes
- Lack of social facilities in the intervention areas
- Poor preservation of Mopanin tree
- Illegal Sand Mining

7.4 DFR4 HOEDSPRUIT/MARULENG

Hoedspruit is a small town in Maruleng local municipality. The town is growing in terms of infrastructure and it caters for tourists and farmers in the area. Majority of the villages close-by rely on it for basic services. The town is boosted mainly by game farms and tourism attraction points. This is the last town towards Mpumalanga province on the eastern side. The town, while still small, has grown in recent years. Due to its proximity to private game reserves and Kruger National Park, eco-tourism is a major contributor to the local economy.
7.4.1 Intervention Area 5: Finale, Sekororo, Bismark, Mabins, Lorraine, Madeira, Ofcolaco, Callais, Trichardal, Balloon and other areas including Metz and Oaks

Villages and settlements in the identified area include Finale, Sekororo, Bismark, Mabins, Lorraine, Madeira, Ofcolaco, Callais, Trichardal, Balloon and other areas including Metz and Oaks. Lorraine is categorised as a dense village with over 5,000 people. There are 8 smallholder irrigation schemes in the area which are served by Olifants River. The area has a secondary route, which cuts across the villages and connects to the R36 route, which serves as the basis of the transport infrastructure in the movement of goods and services. The potential of the area can be realised from the agricultural activities, which can be derived from Hoedspruit (tourism and Agricultural) town.

The availability of secondary roads and numerous arterial roads that lead to R531 provide substantial transport infrastructure between the area and Hoedspruit Agricultural town which can allow movement of people between the two areas. The existence of perennial streams which pass through the area, can help support agricultural activities and farming skills can be attained from the existing irrigation schemes. Bismark settlement is a proposed site for an FPSU and can support such infrastructure.

- Agricultural activities in the area are oriented towards mangos and crop production. Thus there is an atchar factory earmarked for the area.
- The NTK Agricultural Facility is the current supply point in terms of agricultural support and also the processing of agricultural goods from local farmers.
- There are more than 10 farms that were restored through the land reform process. However the farms are not fully utilized as most of them are vandalized and are no longer in the state they were at transfer.
- Agricultural Schemes in the areas include the Lebopo Scheme and privately administered schemes such as IMM Farming which focuses on crop production.
- The area has a problem with access since it is a tarred road and poorly maintained. Furthermore, land for farming is being invaded by residential settlements in the Balloon area.
- The Balloon Village enjoys surplus water availability due to its strategic location within a rain-prone region. Similar to other rural areas in the district, subsistence farming is an ongoing reality for most of the poverty-stricken households.
• It was noted that the reviving of inactive farms is required in order to ensure agricultural continuity in the area.
• There is a site reserved for an abattoir at Morupu-Mmola village close to Madiera village.
• Due to the existing facilities and agricultural potential, FPSU is proposed for the area.

Lebopo Agricultural scheme in Balloon area

7.4.1.1 Commodities

a) Agriculture
Crop production is taking place along the main rivers in a subsistence and commercial manner. A large part of land in the intervention area is used for agriculture and settlement. There are farms that were given back to the community through the land restitution programs and most of them are not in use. Maize is the main product in the intervention area.

Animal production is also prevalent in the Loraine and Sekororo area and there is a proposed abattoir in the vicinity, which will assist local farmers in selling their animals to the outside market.

b) Tourism
There are a lot of tourism activities in the area ranging from bush camping and wild life in the proximity. The area is also close to the little Drakensbeg Mountain and that gives it tourism advantage. The tourism competitiveness needs to be enhanced in order to encourage local economic development.
c) Mining

There is little evidence of mining in the area although there is need for further investigation and prospecting.

7.4.1.2 Linkages to the FPSU and Agri-Park

The intervention area is far from the Agri-Park but there is a proposed intervention area in Bismark village.

Bismark FPSU

The FPSU will assist the entire intervention area and even the village in the proximity. It will act as a feeder to the main Agri-Park in Tzaneen area. FPSU is located along the R36 road for proper accessibility. There is still plenty of land in the Bismark area although at this point there is no exact locality of the unit but since there is plenty of state land it will be easier to acquire land.
Challenges

The following are the challenges facing the intervention area:

- Poor road conditions
- Illegal sand mining
- Underutilized restored farms
- Topography hindering installation of infrastructure
- Unplanned settlement extension
Map 37: Intervention Area 6
Map 38: Lebopo Irrigation Scheme
Map 39: Agricultural Schemes in Trichardtsdal (on Restored Land)
Map 40: Thusong Centre and the Proposed Abattoir Site
### 8 SECTION SEVEN – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

#### 8.1 Programmes and Projects Categorization

The criteria for project classification is articulated below.

Table 5: Rural Development Programmes and Projects Categorisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Programmes &amp; Projects</th>
<th>Characterisation</th>
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</table>
| District-wide programme & projects                   | - **District economic game changers** - these are projects that profoundly redefine and/or alter the structure of a given district economy. Examples include Agri-Parks and related physical infrastructure.  
- **District social needs projects and programmes** – these support immediate social needs at a district level.  
- **District development enablers** – projects that provide enabling infrastructure at district levels. These include building of roads, large-scale housing and dams for instance. |
| Village & Household Survival Strategies               | - **Household microenterprises** – these are projects that are located at a village level, with households and/or specific communities participating in small-scale survivalist economic activities. Medicinal herbs gathering, processing and selling, operating Spaza shops, gathering firewood and grass for selling  
- **Village microenterprises** – these are projects that a community usually participates in seasonally. These include picking, processing and selling mopani worms; communal growing of vegetables (small-scale agricultural cooperatives) |
The project identification criteria set above allow decision-makers, development planners and other stakeholders to be able to engage in forward planning. In other words, the categorisation (and in some instances hierarchy) of projects allows for sound financial planning as well as strategic allocation of physical, human and intellectual resources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION/ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIME FRAMES</th>
<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Optimising the potential of Agri-parks</td>
<td>Agri-hub establishment &amp; development of other infrastructure to support the Agri-hub</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Development of the Agri-hub in Tzaneen, Farmer Production Support Units development in Bismark and Modjadji</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>DAFF, Dept. of Small Business, DRDLR, Department of Water Affairs, Private Sector</td>
<td>FPSU locations identified and developed; Agri-hub established and functional; Number of small Scale farmers supported; R&amp;D in the agricultural sector; Markets identification and expansion; Identification of niche commodities</td>
<td>Mopani DM, Functional Region 2, Intervention area 1, Tzaneen, Bismark, and Modjadji</td>
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</table>

<p>| Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Supporting Small-scale Farmers | Investing in agricultural equipment such as irrigation equipment for New Corp Agric Scheme in Khujwana and farming infrastructure | Catalytic - Game Changer | Needs analysis exercise to be conducted in Selwane/Prieska, Development of business, Funding to be sourced for equipment, Irrigation equipment to be acquired for Khujwana | Short Term | Mopani DM | New Corp Agric Scheme, Community, Dept. of Water &amp; Sanitation, DAFF, Dept. of Small Business, DRDLR | Needs analysis study completed; Business plans drafted; Funding sourced; Equipment bought | New Corp Agric Scheme in Khujwana, Intervention area 6, (Selwane/Prieska), AM Farms, Giyani area |</p>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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<th>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
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<th>STAKE HOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Optimising the use of high agricultural potential land | Fast tracking land restitution programme as well as land claims | Catalytic - Game Changer | • Land claims to be fast tracked  
• More state owned land to be made available for agricultural use  
• Negotiations to be held with traditional authorities | Medium Term | Mopani DM | DAFF  
Traditional authorities  
Community members  
Dept. of Small Business  
DRDRLR | Number of land claims processed  
Hectares of state owned land made available for agricultural activities  
Number of meetings held with traditional authorities  
Hectares of land owned by traditional authorities made available for agricultural schemes | Khujwana Area |
| Improving productivity & competitiveness | Agriculture | Supporting small scale farmers | Improvement of security and proper demarcation | Catalytic - Game Changer | • Erecting of fencing in the Khujwana Agricultural scheme | Short Term | Mopani DM | Khujwana Agric Scheme farmers  
DRDRLR  
DAFF | Fence with appropriate dimensions erected around the scheme | Khujwana Area |
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| ess of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Supporting small scale farmers | Revitalisation & Restoration of farms that are part of land restitution programmes; Revitalisation of the Oyster Mushroom and Bee Keeping Project in Giyani area | Catalytic - Game Changer | • 10 farms identified in the Sekororo/Bismark/Balloon require an assessment of constraints/challenges experienced by the farmers • Development of action plans to restore the farms • Training farmers through agricultural learnerships/internships • Establish partnerships for new farmers • Career guidance EXPO's focusing on agriculture as • a career of choice • Allocate | Short Term | Mopani DM | • Small scale farmers; • DRDRL; • Agriculture SETA; • Dept. of Small Business • DAFF • Private sector | • Ten farms restored, active and productive • Small Scale farmers supported • Oyster Mushroom project restored and used for what it was initially set out to achieve | Intervention area 5 (Sekororo/Bismark/Balloon)
<p>| | | | | | | | | | | Intervention area 1 Giyani and surrounding villages |</p>
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Supporting small scale farmers | Address the issue of water scarcity in the MDM | Catalytic - Game Changer | • Needs analysis for water in the Mopani DM  
• Prioritise areas and uses of water  
• Optimise the uses of water in existing irrigation schemes such as Homu Banana Agric Scheme. | Short to Medium term | Mopani DM | • Department of water affairs  
• DAFF  
• DRDLR  
• Community members  
• Small scale farmers  
• Commercial farmers | • Needs analysis conducted and reviewed  
• Prioritisation of areas for water schemes in place  
• Irrigation schemes optimised  
• Number of farmers assisted | Mopani DM & Functional Region 1, Intervention Area 1 |
| Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Supporting small scale farmers | Provide existing and potential farmers with the knowledge of farming required to run successful farming | Catalytic – Major Enabler | • Put in place skills development, Incubator programmes and agricultural colleges in alignment with the economic growth of Limpopo as well as the Agri-parks concept  
• Identify beneficiaries | Medium Term | Mopani DM | • DAFF  
• DRDLR  
• Community members  
• Small scale farmers  
• Commercial farmers  
• Agriculture SETA  
• Universities  
• Farmers | • Number of incubator programmes in place  
• Number of skills development programmes in place  
• Number of beneficiaries of the programmes  
• Relevance of programmes | Mopani DM |
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture | Agriculture | Supporting small scale farmers | Ensure the effective management of existing agricultural Projects in the | Catalytic – Major Enabler | • Develop Partnerships with commercial farmers and private sector entities (e.g. Banks).  
• Conduct a Feasibility study to determine the need for agricultural schools in the province  
• Strengthen & support of the 8 existing agricultural schools  
• Hold career guidance EXPO's focusing on agriculture as a career of choice | with a special focus on youth | Short term | Mopani DM | • Schools  
• Financial services companies  
• Department of basic education | content;  
• Number of career guidance EXPO's held;  
• feasibility study conducted and approved | Mopani DM |
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<tr>
<td>sector</td>
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<td>Mopani DM</td>
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<td>monitoring, support and administration of the schemes • Identify outstanding project and scheme needs • Address and prioritise the needs of the schemes and projects • Address the gaps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Supporting small scale farmers</td>
<td>Expand the number of agricultural schemes in the MDM</td>
<td>Catalytic – Major Enabler</td>
<td>• Identify suitable land for the establishment of agricultural schemes; • identify members of the community in the surrounding areas to participate in the schemes • Source funding for schemes • Source partnerships for schemes</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Traditional Authorities; • DAFF; Dept. of Small Businesses; • Private Sector • Commercial farmers • Community members</td>
<td>• Number of schemes identified • Hectares of suitable land identified • Increase in MDM GDP • Number of small scale farmers supported • Number of schemes invested in</td>
<td>Intervention Area 4 (Burgersdorp / Moime)</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
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<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>Promoting the renewal of rural towns and villages</td>
<td>Investing in the formalisation of rural towns and villages</td>
<td>High Priority Programme</td>
<td>• Identification of priority rural towns and villages to be targeted for renewal; • Branding and Marketing strategies to be developed for these identified towns and villages • Revitalisation of CRDP sites</td>
<td>Medium to long Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>CoGTA, Department of Human Settlements, Department of Public Works, Department of Water &amp; Sanitation, Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Sector, All identified towns and villages, Development agencies</td>
<td>• List of identified towns and villages; • Draft marketing and branding strategy documents prepared • CRDP Sites renewed</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>Promoting the renewal of rural towns and villages</td>
<td>Formalisation of the landfill site in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major social needs projects</td>
<td>• Finalise the usage application for the informal landfill site being used in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality</td>
<td>Short term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>CoGTA, DRDLR</td>
<td>Application submitted and finalised</td>
<td>Ba-Phalaborwa LM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Roads and transport</td>
<td>Investment in physical infrastructure</td>
<td>Improvement of public transport</td>
<td>High priority programm</td>
<td>• Building of a taxi rank in Khujawana</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>Dept. of Public Works, Roads &amp; Transport, CoGTA</td>
<td>Taxi rank in Khujawana built and in use</td>
<td>Intervention area 4 (Khujawana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
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</table>
| Investment in rural revitalisation | Manufacturing | Restoration of existing manufacturing plants/ factories | • Reopening of the Sisal Factory in the Khujwana and a sisal project in the Giyani area  
• Reopening of the Mopani Worms processing plant in Dzumeri area | High priority programme | • Conduct assessment study  
• Develop business case  
• Source funding  
• Source partner | Medium term | Mopani DM | • Community members  
• DTI  
• Community members  
• Private sector  
• LEDET (Local Economic Development)  
• DRDLR | • Sisal factory and project running  
• Marketing strategy created  
• Number of jobs created  
• Mopani Worms Processing Plant reopened and productive | Intervention area 4 (Khujawana) |
| Promoting Integrated Human Settlements | Human Settlements | Reduction of service delivery backlogs | Housing developments to ensure sustainable human settlements | Catalytic - Major Social Needs Project | • Township development for the Mohlabaneng area  
• Public amenities in the areas include numerous schools and crèches.  
• Building of | Medium Term | Mopani DM | • Department of Human Settlements  
• Department of Public Works  
• Department of Water & Sanitation  
• Department of Environment Affairs | • Number of housing units provided  
• New social infrastructure developed/built  
• Suitable land identified for Community Hall & clinic; structures | Intervention area 3 (Mohlabaneng)
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<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION/ACTIVITIES</th>
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<th>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Integrated Human Settlements</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>Promoting integrated rural spatial planning</td>
<td>Building of public amenities including youth development centres</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Social Needs Project</td>
<td>• Building of community halls • Building of Thusong Centre and Clinic for the Matiko Xikaya community</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Department of Human Settlements • Department of Public Works • Department of Water &amp; Sanitation • CoGTA</td>
<td>• Suitable land identified for Community Hall &amp; clinic; • structures erected for all 3 including Thusong centre</td>
<td>Intervention area 6 (Matiko Xikaya)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Integrated Human Settlements</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>Reduction of service delivery backlogs</td>
<td>Improvement/ Provision of proper Sanitation</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Social Needs Project</td>
<td>• Eradication of pit latrines in the Selwane/Prieska/Ellan area</td>
<td>Medium Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Department of Human Settlements • Department of Public Works • Department of Water &amp; Sanitation • CoGTA</td>
<td>• Reduction in service delivery backlog • Increase in flush water toilets • zero pit latrines in the area</td>
<td>Intervention area 6 (Selwane/Prieska/Ellan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promoting Integrated Human Settlements</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>Reduction of service delivery backlogs</td>
<td>identify waste Management sites for Letaba and</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major social needs</td>
<td>• identify land that can be utilised as waste management sites for Greater Letaba and</td>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• DRDLM • CoGTA • Department of Human Settlements • Department of Human Settlements • CoGTA</td>
<td>• Suitable waste management sites for Greater Giyani and Greater Letaba identified and in use</td>
<td>Greater Giyani &amp; Greater Letaba LM's</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
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<td>Water &amp; Sanitation • Department of Environmental Affairs</td>
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<td>Greater Giyani</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Optimising the potential of Agri-parks Supporting small-scale farmers</td>
<td>• Support and promote enterprise development</td>
<td>High Priority Programme</td>
<td>• Enterprise development with a focus on agro-business and cooperative business development • Development of small business incubators and mentorship programmes</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Department of Economic Development • Department of Small business Development • DRDLR • Private Sector • Agriculture SETA</td>
<td>• New SMME’s identified and supported • Jobs created</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Tourism Competitiveness</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>Harnessing the cultural heritage development corridors</td>
<td>Arts and crafts manufacturing • Formulation of skills development programmes for arts &amp; crafts • Identification of learners • Identification of learners</td>
<td>High Priority Programme</td>
<td></td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• LEDET • DRDLR • SA Tourism • Private Sector • SETA’s • Department of education</td>
<td>• Number of individuals trained • Increase in revenue from tourism related activities</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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| Improving Tourism Competitiveness | Tourism | Coordinated promotion of the Mopani region and its attractions | Specific targeting of the great trans frontier park corridor, Kruger national park, Wolksberg wilderness area, Debengeni waterfalls, etc | High Priority Programme | • Develop tourism brochures and materials  
• Train local tourist guides  
• Package and promote tourism destinations  
• Support the development of community and local tourism  
• Strengthen the Mopani district heritage | Medium Term | Mopani DM | • LEDET  
• DRDLR  
• SA Tourism  
• Private Sector  
• SETA's  
• Department of education  
• MDM Heritage council | • Tourism brochures available  
• Community members trained  
• Jobs created  
• Strong heritage council in place | Mopani DM |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</th>
<th>PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS / PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION / ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIME FRAMES</th>
<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>STAKE HOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI</th>
<th>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Establishment of a technology park by through investing in physical infrastructure</td>
<td>• Development of a technology park to foster innovation and enable its commercial application in the Mopani DM</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major enabler</td>
<td>• Develop a feasibility study for Mopani DM to establish the viability of a technology park&lt;br&gt;• Consideration of the infrastructure required&lt;br&gt;• Engage local community&lt;br&gt;• Identify pilot areas&lt;br&gt;• Market and promote the venture&lt;br&gt;• Identify funding opportunities and potential</td>
<td>Medium to Long Term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Department of Science and Technology&lt;br&gt;• Department of Trade and Industry&lt;br&gt;• Agri SETA&lt;br&gt;• Private Sector&lt;br&gt;• Department of economic development and tourism&lt;br&gt;• community</td>
<td>• R&amp;D investigative activities completed and published&lt;br&gt;• Number of R&amp;D pilot projects undertaken&lt;br&gt;• Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Identification of sustainable green energy sources for rural industrialisation and development</td>
<td>• Development of an industrial and business park focused on the development of renewable energy technologies and the manufacturing of renewable energy products.</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>• Develop a feasibility study for Mopani DM to establish the viability of a renewable energy park • Consideration of various forms of renewable energy including solar projects, hydro power and micro wind • Engage local community • Identify pilot areas • Market and promote the venture • Identify funding</td>
<td>Medium to Long Term</td>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
<td>• Mopani DM • DRDLR • Regional and International Development Agencies • Private Sector • ESKOM • Independent power producers • Universities</td>
<td>• R&amp;D investigatory activities completed and published • Number of renewable energy pilot projects undertaken • Funding identified and in place</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
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<td>Investment in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Restoration of existing manufacturing plants/factories</td>
<td>• Access to markets for niche/unique commodities</td>
<td>High Priority Programme</td>
<td>• Assessments study to be conducted</td>
<td>Short to medium term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>• Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPW)</td>
<td>• Business Plan developed and approved;</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
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<td>• Business plan to be drafted</td>
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<td>• Department of Economic Development Environment &amp; Tourism (LEDET)/ DRDLR/ SA Tourism</td>
<td>• Marketing strategy developed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Develop a marketing plan for Mopani worms</td>
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<td>• Private Sector</td>
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<td>Mining</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Reviving mining operations and develop small scale mining ventures</td>
<td>Re-opening of old mines in the area, including the Mencisi Gold Mine</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Conduct feasibility studies for mining prospects with the aim of reopening some old</td>
<td>Medium to long term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>Department of Minerals and Energy/ Private sector mining houses/ financial institutions/ SETA’s</td>
<td>Number of emerging mining operations created</td>
<td>Diverse Functional Region 1 (Giyani)</td>
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<td>Conserving the natural environment</td>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Preservation of the natural environment in the MDM</td>
<td>Ensure that the environment including biodiversity is considered in DM decisions and projects</td>
<td>Key Enabler</td>
<td>Identify and document protected areas, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. in the MDM</td>
<td>short to medium term</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
<td>Department of the environment, All government departments, Private sector, Traditional leaders, community forums</td>
<td>mining sector, Number of mining jobs created, Increase in income levels</td>
<td>Mopani DM</td>
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- mines in Giyani
- Put in place support for small scale mining operations
- Skills training for small scale mining ventures
- Ensure that the environment including biodiversity is considered in DM decisions and projects
- Identify and document protected areas, conservation areas, environmentally sensitive areas, etc. in the MDM
- Ensures areas...
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<td>with protected status are properly registered as such Ensure all government departments are aware of the environmental analysis and outlook. Ensure the department of environmental affairs is represented in relevant forums and committees Finalisation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Registrations of all protected areas completed Environmental analysis developed and circulated to all administrative offices Dept. of environmental affairs properly represented in Mopani DM committees and decision</td>
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<td>and implementation of the Mopani Bioregional Plan</td>
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<td>making bodies Bioregional Plan finalised and implemented</td>
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TIME FRAMES: SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS; MEDIUM TERM 3-5 YEARS; LONG TERM > 5 YEARS

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8.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Mopani DRDP is dependent on the strengthening of the existing institutional framework. As aptly articulated in the NDP (chapter 13) the realisation of all development-oriented objectives is intrinsically linked to the building of a capable state. A capable state therefore is defined by the existence of functional, well-capacitated and well-funded institutions. Put succinctly, a capable, developmental state is characterised by the existence of institutional thickness and resilience primarily within government. As the NDP and the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) also outline, the private sector, as well as civil society also have an integral role to play in the development of communities.

In implementing the identified projects, programmes and initiatives, an integrated approach to development planning will be critical. As the DRDP is located at a district level, the Mopani district will play a leading role in the implementation process. Moreover, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) will be one of the key custodians of the DRDP. The departments engaged in agricultural development, economic development, and social development and environmental planning also have roles to play in realising the objectives of the DRDP.

The DRDP for Mopani is also meant to allow for strategic planning and coordination within the internal branches of DRDLR i.e. Land Reform and Administration (LRA), Rural Enterprise and Industrial Development (REID), as well as Rural Infrastructure Development (RID). Moreover, the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management unit within the DRDLR is mandated with ensuring that there is alignment and harmonisation of spatial planning, land reform as well as rural development initiatives, projects and programmes.

While rural development forms one of the key focus areas of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), the district municipality as well as other sector departments also has a critical for to play in the realisation of rural economic transformation.
This institutional arrangement framework is shown in the figure below:

Institutional issues that may impede on the implementation of the DRDPs include:

- Changes in the demarcation of municipal boundaries;
- Changes in the allocation of municipalities – i.e. moving a local municipality from one district to another, although this can, to a certain extent, be addressed by the functional regional approach;
• The lack of integration in the development and implementation of development projects by the various sector departments;

• Traditional leader’s reluctance to have their role to allocate land and direct its usage diminished

• Land invasion and illegal demarcation of sites in proclaimed areas by traditional authorities

• Lack of local political leadership support of proposed interventions
9 CONCLUSION

What is apparent from the main issues outlined above is the persistence of hallmarks of underdevelopment in Limpopo’s rural areas. These markers of underdevelopment include; lack of basic services such as electricity, water, roads infrastructure and housing. The culmination of these absences is abject poverty, unemployment, frustration and a relatively poor quality of life.

As the DRDP is aimed at transforming rural economies in the MDM, there exist economic, socio-spatial and environmental endowments that can be harnessed. From various policy articulations, focus is given to the potential of the agricultural sector in revitalising rural economies. To this end, the Presidency as well as DRDLR have identified strategic sites for setting up Agri-Parks. These Agri-Parks will be critical hubs where investment in physical infrastructure and human capital will be harnessed to promote agri-business. While agriculture, mining and manufacturing are traditional sectors holding rural economies, there is need to identify sunrise i.e. new economic sectors that can diversify rural economies.

Tourism, as well as the service sector, promise to provide new vistas for rural economic transformation. As rural economic development is taking place in the bedrock of a technological revolution, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has the potential to drive integrated rural development. In achieving this, the rural development approach for Limpopo at large is hinged upon the identification and fostering of urban/rural linkages.

The functionality of urban/rural spaces is dependent on the flow of capital, goods, people and ideas between and within these two spaces in an integrated fashion. The revitalisation of functional rural regions therefore will be dependent on the creation of sector-specific economic hubs, such as Agri-Parks, Techno-Parks and all-purpose community centres. As highlighted above, the vision for rural development in Mopani as well as the issues identified as levers and barriers to rural economic transformation informs the strategic thrust of DRDP’s. These development issues inform the implementation plan of DRDP’s, outlining specific programmes and projects that will act as catalysts for integrated rural development.